



Oral Interp wrapped up their season this week with the Runner's Up tournament and State.

Blue Ink



Christmas prep is a month-long endeavor

December is here and there is plenty to do. Here is how to make those 25 days until Christmas fly by.

by **Jaden Braaten**
staff writer

Don't know what to do before Christmas? Here's some ideas to help during the countdown!

As we now have hit the first of December, people are eager to get ready for the holiday season. Whether it's building a snowman in the yard with family or buying that ugly sweater at the thrift store. Here are some tips to help along the way!

December 1: Bring out your holiday socks to show that the official countdown till Christmas has begun!

December 2: Go ice-skating/sledding with friends!

December 3: Create the perfect Christmas playlist with holiday classics of course

December 4: Go visit Falls Park to see all the Christmas lights!

December 5: Make a DIY Christmas craft, although it looks easier in the picture remember to keep your cool!

December 6: What's Christmas without a little snow? Make some paper snowflakes and hang them up around the house!

December 7: Go Christmas shopping; it's never too early to find the right gift for friends and family!

December 8: Take a picture with Santa! You're never too old.

December 9: Donate a gift to charity or volunteer to serve the less fortunate.

December 10: Camp out under the Christmas tree and sleep by the luminous lights!

December 11: Have a Christmas movie marathon with family and friends! Get hot chocolate and blankets to compliment the holiday movies!

December 12: Have a Christmas photoshoot!

December 13: Take part in secret Santa

December 14: Decorate a gingerbread house with friends and family!

December 15: Drive around and look at all the Christmas lights in your area while blasting "All I want for Christmas is you" of course!

December 16: Make a Christmas Day menu of all the goodies and meals you will be preparing

December 17: Decorate Christmas cookies with loved ones!

December 18: Make snowmen out in the yard then end it with a snowball fight!

December 19: Get those Christmas



cards sent out via mail.

December 20: Go Christmas caroling door to door to get everyone into the holiday spirit!

December 21: Roast marshmallows in the fireplace for homemade s'mores!

December 22: Deliver homemade holiday treats to someone unexpected.

December 23: Start getting those last minute things done before Christmas Eve!

December 24: Read "'Twas the night before Christmas" with the family while sipping on hot chocolate.

December 25: Make a Christmas brunch while you're still in your pj's and start opening up those presents under the tree! All your hard work for this holiday season has paid off!

Amyah Ockenga, a junior, at GHS, is very eager about the holiday season, "My favorite part about the holiday season is seeing everything lit up, the Christmas trees, all the Christmas baking, and spending time with my family! I look forward to watching Christmas movies snuggled up by the fireplace!"

Christmas is coming up faster than you think so whatever you do make sure you make Christmas 2016 unforgettable!



What is your "go-to" movie this holiday season?



Mr. Steckler: *Christmas Vacation*



Jacob Schmidt: *Home Alone 2*



Hayden Olofson: *Elf*



Nate Skillman: *Frosty the Snowman*

Blue Dragon hoops ready to start season fresh

With big numbers, an eagerness, and key veterans, the Blue Dragons are ready for the basketball season

by **Samantha Gonzalez**
staff writer

The sound of the ball swishing into the hoop effortlessly as the buzzer ring blasts your ears. The cheering of screaming fans as one of the Blue Dragon players just scored the winning shot. Ladies and gentlemen, it's time for basketball.

This Monday the boys Blue Dragon basketball team finally started practice and is getting ready for the season to start.

"This season will definitely have a tough schedule, but I think it'll be a lot of fun. We are going to be able to run the floor some more this year. It'll be

exciting." Basketball coach Matt Shrank informed.

Being top three in their conference and a top four in their region is no easy task. The basketball team hopes to keep their position in those top spots, and put a region win under their hoop. The boys also hope to have at least a .500 record this year.

With big goals, comes hard team work. Returning starters will be seniors Shay Gibson, Riley Nordstrom, Aaron Hoon and Noah Reiber. After losing last year's seniors: Cole Fiegen, who was first in scoring, and Micah Mader, the boys will have some great roles to fill.

"Nothing can replace Cole, being as he's my brother, but I hope to try to fill in his role as a player this year," sopho-

more basketball player Trevor Fiegen said.

The spots are open and coaches are looking for anyone willing to step up and take that role. Which will hopefully lead them to have more wins this season.

The basketball teams to beat in our conference will be Sioux Vally, Flandreu, Chester stated Coach Schrank.

Also other tough teams are Dell Rapids, Tea and Sioux Falls Christian. With team work, dedication and fulfilling their goals for the season, the GHS boys basketball team look to have a promising future.

This season is one for excitement and fun. The boys first game will be at home against Tri-Valley on December 9th.

Over \$1,000 raised for CMN in annual memorial

Money donated during CMN Radiothon at Sanford Children's Hospital in memory of Tina Kate Sandbulte

Between a joint effort from the Garretson school students and staff and Alliance Communications, \$1,306 was raised and donated to CMN in memory of Tina Kate Sandbulte. Sandbulte

passed away at the age of 17 in a car crash. She loved volunteering time and money especially to the Children's Miracle Network. "I am so humbled by the caring from the people of Garretson,"

expressed Norinda Sandbulte, Tina's mother. Due to the time that the money was donated last night, the money was triple matched so almost \$4,000 was given to CMN.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What do Santa's elves learn in school?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: The following are the first letters of the first few words of popular Christmas songs. Can you decipher it?

1. RTRNRHAVSN
2. HCSCHCSCRDSCL

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, December 2

- State Oral Interpretation Contest
- JHBBB @ Baltic (4:00)

Saturday, December 3

- State Oral Interpretation Contest
- Wrestling @ Flandreau (10:00)

Sunday, December 4

- State FFA Leadership Conference

Monday, December 5

- State FFA Leadership Conference
- JH/JV Wrestling @ Flandreau (4:30)

Tuesday, December 6

- JV/V GBB v. Vermillion (6:15/7:00)

Wednesday, December 7

- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Thursday, December 8

- Wrestling Quad @ Volga (5:00)
- JH BBB v. Tri-Valley @ 4:00

Friday, December 9

- JV/V GBB v. Tri-Valley
- JV/V BBB v. Tri-Valley

Scan for a look at the district activities calendar.



Worth Mentioning

Nobel Nothstine is the first from Garretson in over 10 years to qualify for the state interp competition. She is competing tomorrow in the Non-Original Oratory division.

Oral Interp finished its season in Yankton. Sylvia Larson (humorous), Tabi Klingenberg (storytelling), and the Reader's Theatre all placed second.

Garretson girls basketball sees change in coaching and numbers

For the past two weeks, the Lady Blue Dragons have been hitting the hardwood to get ready for their upcoming competitive season.

by **Tabi Klingenberg**
staff writer

The GHS girls basketball team is finally beginning their new season with only two weeks of practices under their belt. There is much more to expect this season and the team is looking forward to seeing what's in store.

One of the major ways that this year may be different than other years is that now the team has not one, but two new coaches to offer a refreshing

change of pace to the team's routine.

Senior Brandy Greenhoff said, "I'm excited for the new season, new coaches, seeing how things are going to be different, and how it's going to be a really good season from how practices and everything is starting out so far."

"I think they've done so many things for the team and to the program and they've done a really good job so far and I think it's just going keep continuing throughout the season."

Greenhoff is just one of the three seniors, including Kindra Clark and Macey Bohl, expected to lead and support their team in the upcoming season.

They are joined by a substantial amount of new players to compensate for the lack of players last year. This includes as many as ten new freshmen.

Greenhoff believes

that the new players will be good for the team so they can have a deep bench.

The Blue Dragons will kick off their season Friday, December 6th when they go head-to-head against Vermillion in Garretson, so remember to come and show your support for our GHS players.

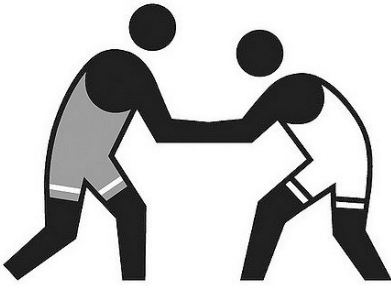


Wrestlers hit the mat with first competition tomorrow

Younger wrestlers step up to fill void left from graduation and seek to continue strong Garretson wrestling traditions

by **Hunter Carver**
staff writer

The 2016-2017 wrestling season officially started on Monday the 14th for the Blue Dragons. Although the grapplers lost some key teammates over the last few years, they are still reaching for the stars in hoping that they



can provide the State Championship with some of Garretson's best.

Last year the Blue Dragons lost Brady Schleuter who wrestled 126 and Jacob Fitzgerald who wrestled 138. The seniors were a great example for what a Blue Dragon should be. They showed pride, and dedication to this sport. Brady went on to compete at the college level and is now attending DWU.

The team roster for the 2016-2017 wrestling season is a little fuller this year: Jayce Miller, Braxton Rozeboom, Tayson Swatek, Dominic Abraham, Hayden Pierret, Lucas Fitzgerald, Kara Ross, Hayden Stoterau, Ben Konechne, Trenton Karli, Dakota Johnson, Jacob Schmidt, Trevor Johnson, Chayce Schleuter, Jack Konechne, Keaten Wagner, Brendan Harris, Alex Uhl, and Jared Fitzgerald.

Second year head coach Francis Ruml stated, "We are set to have a great season, We lost a couple of tough wrestlers to graduation, one

state qualifier and another that is currently wrestling at the college level. With some big shoes to fill, we have some guys that are utilizing the weight room in the off season in preparation for this year. We have a few veterans that are excited to compete this year as well as a few new athletes that will be bringing some new energy to the team. I am excited to be working with this group of athletes and if we can avoid injuries we will have a very successful season."

Cheesecake: a tried and true recipe

This easy to make family-favorite is sure to please everyone this holiday season, contributed by one of your Blue Ink journalists

Ingredients:

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 3 1/2 Tbsp sugar
- 1/2 cup melted butter/margarine
- 4 pkgs (8 oz each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 eggs

Step 1: Combine first three ingredients and press into 9 inch pan

Step 2: Beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla until well mixed. Mixing on low speed, add eggs, one at a time. Pour mixture over crust.

Step 3: Bake 50 minutes—1 hour or until center is almost set

Step 4: Run knife around edge of pan to

loosen. Refrigerate for 4 hours.

Optional: for a little extra holiday cheer add strawberries and fresh mint as topping to get those beautiful holiday colors: red and green.

Or feel free to play around with other toppings such as raspberries, whipped cream, cherries, blueberries or chocolate.



Make some noise

Garretson elementary, band, and choir all had concerts over the past two weeks

by **Sylvia Larson**
staff writer

Garretson has had a very musical past few weeks, starting with the high school and middle school band concert on November 15.

"It was one of the best concerts

we've had," commented Junior percussionist Logan Nussbaum.

The band played a variety of songs, including fan favorite "Shenandoah".

Right before the Thanksgiving holiday break, the elementary school choir and fifth grade band hosted an American Pride themed music show. First pre-

school sang, then elementary, then the 5th grade band played.

Last night was the final event: high school and middle school choir.

They sang a plethora of songs, including "Cross the Wide Missouri" and "Liza". The high school also performed a song the public had already heard at the Vet-

eran's Day program, "United We Stand".

Soon we will hear the band and choirs perform again, except this time Christmas songs, at the music and pie show on December 16th.

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



Cooper Long: Watching movies like *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*



Caeden Bunde: The cheesy games that we play.



Aiden Magnuson: Going up to visit my grandparents



Mikayla Bottelberghe: My family comes down that I never get to see



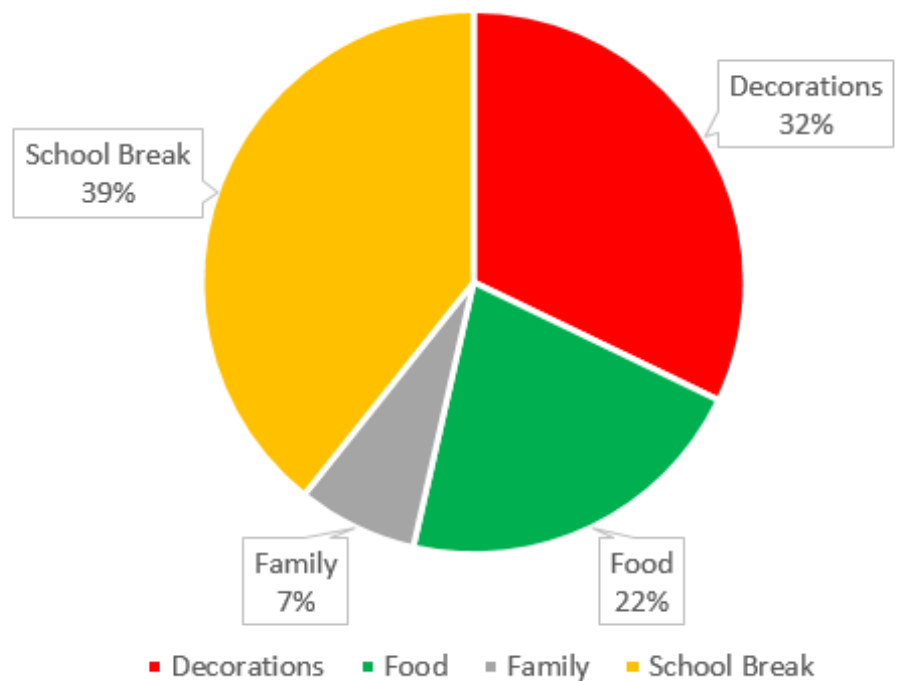
Madisen Northrup: Baking cookies and decorating them with Grandma



Hailey Steffes: Visiting family and watching *Christmas Vacation*

Student Opinion Poll

Students were asked what their favorite part of the holiday season is: Decorations, Food, Family, or the Break



Happy Holidays!