



Boys basketball plays in the Big East Conference Tourney. Look in next week's issue for more.

Blue Ink



Students stress about semester tests

Next week Garretson students wrap up first semester with final exams

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

It's the time of the year that high school students absolutely dread. Semester test week. Semester tests are a biannual trend in Garretson to see what the students have learned throughout the first two quarters and the last two quarters. Although nearly every high schooler hates to take them, it plays an important part in evaluating their knowledge.

Sophomore Hayden Pierret criticized semesters, "I don't understand what the point of taking one long test over everything I've already taken tests on it. Also, I hate studying and my grade is already bad so the tests

make it even worse."

Testing will take place on Monday around ten o'clock. High schoolers start semester week by tackling their second period test from third to fourth period, head to seventh for a review period, and then continue with the seventh period test after lunch until the final bell of the day.

On Tuesday, GHS students will take their first period test at the first bell until the end of second period, have a short break during third period, and then resume with their third period test from fourth to fifth period. Everyone will go to fourth period and then eighth period after lunch.

Junior Hailey Sheppard stated, "I feel like there shouldn't be semester

tests because we already work hard to keep our grades up during the first two quarters. Some people aren't good test takers so it could mess up our grade even though we worked hard to keep our grades up."

For the final day, students will report to class right away in the morning to take their fourth period test, go to their fifth period class for a brief intermission, and then take their fifth period test until lunch. The final test, eighth period, will start after lunch break and go until the end of the school day.

Before everyone breathes a sigh of relief when semesters are over, remember that semester season makes another appearance in mid-May.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: January is named after Janus. This god had two faces, one looking backward and one looking forward.

GERMAN WORD OF THE WEEK: Being stressed out = gestresst sein (guh-shtresst zine)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What is a cow's favorite holiday?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: What never asks questions but is often answered?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, January 6

- BBB @ BEC in Parker v. Flandreau (6:30)

Saturday, January 7

- BBB @ BEC in Garretson v. TBD
- Wrestling @ Dan Pansch-Jesse James in Brandon (9:00)

Monday, January 9

- Bus routes reverse
- Semester Tests (Prds 2 and 7)
- JH/JV Wrestling @ (4:30)
- JH BBB @ (4:30)
- School Board Meeting (5:45)

Tuesday, January 10

- Semester Tests (Prds 1 and 3)
- JH GBB @ Flandreau (3:45)
- GBB @ Flandreau (6:15/7:00)

Wednesday, January 11

- Semester Tests (Prds 4, 5, and 8)
- End of First Semester

Thursday, January 12

- JH BBB v. West Central (3:45)
- BBB v. West Central (6:15/7:00)

Friday, January 13

- JH GBB @ (4:00)
- GBB @ (6:15/7:00)

Scan for a look at the district activities calendar.



Worth Mentioning

First semester ends Wednesday, January 11. If you have schedule changes, please see Ms. Danielsen very soon.

Wrestling saw success over the break at the Floyd Farrand tourney and continued by beating Howard

Businesses quickly pulled from South Dakota

After the November votes came in capping interest rates, local business owner Chuck Brennan makes changes

by **Isaiah Mader**
staff writer

With the passing of Initiated Measure 21 Chuck Brennan, CEO of Dollar Loan Center, has been thrown into a bit of a flurry over the past few months. The Sioux Falls native opted to close all 11 Dollar Loan Centers, Badlands Speedway, the Rock and Roll Academy, and Badlands Pawn in what seems to be an effort to get back at South Dakota. The radio station and gun range will however stay open.

Initiated Measure 21 was detrimental to the payday loan business in South Dakota by bringing their max interest rate to 36%. There was no previous cap on the rates allowing for companies to make a large profit margin off all their customers. With the old system, Dollar Loan Center would make \$7.00 per week on a

\$100 dollar loan, currently they would only receive 69 cents. Brennan felt this was way too minute of profit margin, thus coming to a conclusion to sell his stores in South Dakota.

Senior Tabitha Klingenberg stated, "I feel like it's disappointing for all the people that are losing their jobs and for all the opportunities that aren't there anymore."

Junior Emily Schleuter also added, "Well you know what, it makes me

mad because if you buy something you should be able to afford it and not be like, 'Oh I can't afford it; I'm just gonna get rid of it' and now I have nothing to do on Sunday night's in the summer but sit home with my family."

Brennan has stated that the South Dakota locations are only 10% of his annual revenue. The bulk comes from the southeastern states of Nevada, California, and Utah.

Along with our state losing a huge business, individuals who have worked for DLC will be jobless. Right around 400 will be on the search for new employment in a quickly growing area.

The Sioux Falls region lost a large business, but with Brennan willing to sell to make use of the already existing buildings, hopefully South Dakota will see a new business in the near future.



Blue Dragons hit the hardwood but come up short

Garretson Boys Basketball is staying busy now that their season is up and running

by **Jaden Braaten**
staff writer

The boys had games this week on Saturday, December 31st and Monday, January 2nd. The team played Arlington on Saturday in the Entringer Classic.

Sophomore guard Drew Blosmo said, "I thought the game went pretty good; we played well but just couldn't close it at the end." The crowd was hoping for a win as they saw how hard the boys were working and how badly they wanted it.

Junior Hunter Carver stated, "They were a good team, we let their shooters get hot, and I think that's what mostly lost the game for us." The Blue Dragons fell short of securing the win by three points, 58-61.

The Blue Dragons had a chance to start the new year off on the right

foot as they played Monday night at home; this game was against Vermillion. The team hasn't played Vermillion before but they were preparing for it to be a challenging game as the Tanagers are currently ranked fifth in the state.

"The game didn't really go as planned; our defense wasn't very good, and I fouled out also," said Blosmo.

"Vermillion does have two of the better players in the state, so we were expecting it to be a good game, lack of communication and hustle cost us the game" Carver added.

The team is ready to put those games in the past and focus on their next upcoming games as the Big East Conference tournament plays out. The first game was last night in Chester, where the Flyers soared to a 19 point victory. The Blue Dragons play



Shay Gibson splits the Vermillion defenders on his way to two points for the Blue Dragons on Monday night. Garretson lost 56-84.

Photo by Mataya Lines

Howard tonight before capping off the tournament on Saturday in Garretson.

National icons lost in 2016

From music to movies and space to sports, many notable figures passed on last year

by **Emily Malsom**
staff writer

2016 was the year of many losses. Four major musicians died this past year, along with four Hollywood stars and notable public figures.

Prince, David Bowie, Merle Haggard, and George Michael. Prince died from an accidental drug overdose at the age of 57. David Bowie, a true original in the music industry, died on January 10, 2016 from liver cancer. Merle Haggard, a country legend, died from pneumonia on his birthday. George Michael died recently from congestive heart failure.

Many notable actors and actresses were also lost this past year. Debbie Reynolds passed on one a day after her daughter, Carrie Fisher from the

Star Wars series.

"I was out skiing when my mother texted me saying Carrie Fisher died and obviously I was very devastated because last I heard she was in stable condition. We all thought the 'force' was with her in this case and had hope," said Peyton Sage, *Star Wars* super fan who aspires to be Princess Leia, about the unfortunate passing of Carrie Fisher.

Alan Thicke died on December 13, 2016. He starred on *Growing Pains* and was inducted into Canada's Hall of Fame. Florence Henderson aka Carol Brady from *The Brady Bunch* passed away in November.

Many iconic public figures were taken from us as well this past year. John Glenn as an American astronaut, was the first to orbit the earth



While they physically may no longer be around, the impact they made in their field will be felt for many years to come. (From top to bottom and left to right: David Bowie, Muhammed Ali, George Michael, Prince, and Carrie Fischer)

and not just once but three times. He passed away on December 8th at the age of 95. Muhammad Ali died on June 3rd. He was a professional boxer and activist. He is widely revered as one of the most significant and celebrated sports figures of the 20th century.

Kevin Steckler had this to say about the passing of Muhammad Ali. "Obviously a great sports hero, but also an outstanding humanitarian and fighter for human rights. But yeah I will miss him. I'm not a huge boxing fan but I'm a fan of Muhammad Ali."

Although these figures are no longer with us, we remember and are affected by their lifelong achievements.

Girls basketball team loses chance to gain another win

The Lady Blue Dragons put up a tough fight but fell short in recent hoops action

by **Samantha Gonzalez**
staff writer

The slaps of shoes, the running echo off the gym walls, the roaring of the student section, and the arguments of referees and parents are the aspects that make basketball so thrilling.

On Tuesday, January 3rd, the Blue Dragon's girls basketball team (1-5) went up against the Dell Rapids Quarriers (3-3). Heading with confidence and dedication into the game, the Blue Dragon ladies still suffered a loss with a score of 32-61.

"We've been moving the ball

better, and getting our shots in," Erynn Fink, junior basketball player, said while pointing out some positive outcomes of the game and was the second highest scorer.

During the first quarter, the girls played extravagantly with back and forth shots. But the Quarriers still managed to get a two point lead by the end of the quarter. Wistfully in the second quarter, Dells pulled out twenty-three points with the Blue Dragons only having eight. The score by the end of the quarter was 14-31.

Having a total of 20 defensive rebounds, the Blue Dragon ladies urged the Quarriers to slow down. The

Quarriers netted nineteen points against Garretson's nine and by the end of third quarter, it was 23-50. Morosely, the end of the game ended with a 32-61 score.

"We started off strong with a lot of things, but passes and rebounding were key and we couldn't keep up after the first quarter," Kylee Greenhoff, sophomore, stated about the game against Dells.

The girls' next game is away on January 10 against Flandreau at 6:15 for JV and 7:00 for varsity. The girls are working for a positive outcome and wanting to execute to gain another win.



Kylee Greenhoff drives to the hoop despite a tough Quarrier defense.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

2017—Everything as it was or are you starting fresh?

The new year offers opportunity to continue your successes or to finally try the thing you've been thinking about

by **Victoria Lippert**
staff writer

Why do we even have expectations from a new year? Make new years resolutions that often do not even last a week? I think it's because humans want to have starting points. Like this runner who always starts his run at the same tree or the girl who talks everyday about the idea to start a diet tomorrow, really. Come on, it wouldn't make any sense to change your life on May, 5th - if you really want to make a change you "definitely" have to start on the first day of the year. And if you are disappointed cause you have already thrown over your new years resolutions, I have good news for you: you still have more than 300 days to find

new ones and do nothing in the meantime.

But of course this year will also bring numerous changes and opportunities. Trump fans can look forward to his inauguration on January 20th, and there will also be a live action version of *Beauty and the Beast* that will be released in March. Is there anything better than having personal hopes and goals for the year?

Junior Kristen Cordier's goal is "Being more positive and trying to think happy thoughts instead of thinking the worst all the time".

Thinking positive sounds way easier than it actually is. If you don't believe me then try to catch yourself every time you think something negative. I bet you do it more than seven times a day. It takes eleven positive

thoughts to erase one negative one - so much thinking makes my head hurt! And because I don't know anybody who is a fan of headaches, thinking less might be the solution and caring less when somebody tells you to think more. The only disadvantage? Thinking less is even harder than to think positive, because thoughts are like little kids with ADHD - annoying attention addicts but we love them anyhow.

It's kind of the same with the turn of the year; it might not be something world changing for you like sophomore Molly Houg believes "2017 is gonna be pretty much the same as 2016".

But for some of us, 2017 will bring big changes. "This is my year to graduate and I am excited to see what

this year brings me," said Senior Michelle Fritz. The thing is even if a new year was nothing more for you than an obstacle when you write down a date, you can change this right now. 2017 can be your year.

Junior Caitlyn Trower said, "Hopefully it is 'my year', I've heard people saying so and I'd like to know what this means. 2016 was just another year but in 2017 I hope to try new things and meet new people."

I think a new year is like a newborn baby, beautiful and exciting, but touchy too. Don't scare it away with unrealistic "good" resolutions; enjoy when it smiles and be patient and relaxed when it just doesn't. 2018 will be here before you know it and I then hope you can say 2017 was awesome, or at least really good.

Hannah Frewaldt becomes three time champion

Freewaldt wins the Garretson spelling bee champion on the word "suet"

by **Tabi Klingenberg**
staff writer

A few weeks ago, on December 15th, fifth-grader, Hannah Frewaldt, battled for first place at the local spelling bee.

"We have a class spelling bee, some get eliminated, and then our

top spellers go to the elementary one, and then I won so I go to regionals," informed Frewaldt.

With two championships under her belt, it was no surprise when she became a finalist and claimed her first place title when she successfully spelled "suet". This plucky, ebullient, and stellar speller is currently a three

-time spelling bee champion for Garretson Elementary, winning every year she's been eligible.

"I only spent a couple days [studying] because some of the words I already knew because I've already been in a regional spelling bee and I had to study different languages," Frewaldt explained.

Those who are more adept and daring

enough to spell immensely difficult words and face-off at regional levels, such as Hannah Frewaldt, deserve a round of applause.



New teams enter the playoff picture

Neither the Broncos nor the Panthers have a chance to return to the Super Bowl this season

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

Who would have thought that Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott would lead the Cowboys to a 13-3

regular season record and possibly a Super Bowl? Who would have thought that BOTH of the teams in the Super Bowl last year wouldn't even make the playoffs this year. Who would have thought that the Cleveland Browns would go 1-15 and be considered one of the WORST teams in NFL history. Nobody saw this crazy season coming. Heading into the playoffs, here is a little breakdown of the NFL season up to this point.

Panthers struggle to win games



after Super Bowl appearance last year:

After going 15-1 last season the Panthers were last in the NFC South at 6-10. Redskins CB Josh Norman was traded from the

Panthers to the Redskins during the offseason, but not much else changed with the Panthers other than their record.

Cowboys record improves greatly after picking up key players in draft:

The Dallas Cowboys record improves from 4-12 to 13-3 after Drafting Ezekiel Elliott and Dak Prescott.

Derrick Carr leads Raiders to playoffs, but breaks leg against Colts in week 16:

After going 7-9 last season Derrick Carr stepped up and had an outstanding season to bring the

Raiders to 12-4 only to break is leg in week 16.

Chiefs defense carries them to potential Super Bowl run: The Kansas City Chiefs defense plus the addition of Tyreek Hill to there offense gives them a potential super bowl run.

Matt Ryan has amazing season and brings Falcons to number two seed: Matt Ryan is having a season to remember. He is in discussions of winning the leagues MVP award.

Playoff Picture:

The Raiders and Texans face off in the first game of the AFC Wildcard games on Saturday at 3:35. The Lions and Seahawks also compete Saturday at 7:15.

The Dolphins and the Steelers go head to head in the first NFC Wildcard game on Sunday at 12:05.

Green Bay takes on the New York Giants on Sunday at 3:40.

Jack Lardy believes that the New England Patriots and the Dallas Cowboys will square up in the Super Bowl.

Dakota Johnson agreed half way with Lardy, "I think it will the Patriots and Packers in the Super Bowl and the Packers will win, because as long as they have Aaron Rodgers they have a good chance. I would pick the Dolphins and the cowboys but Dolphins would need a miracle to win it all."

Lucas Fitzgerald believes it will be the Patriots bringing it back to New England because of Tom Brady.

We will find out if these predictions are true on February 5th. But first we have to get past the wildcard games this weekend.

Books I don't hate:

Books I don't hate: Reading recommendations from me, Sylvia Larson

by **Sylvia Larson**
staff writer

I know what you're probably thinking: "Ewww who reads for FUN?!" I know, I know. Unfortunately, most high and middle schoolers would do anything to not have to do AR.

I, along with all the other cool people, think reading is a fun activity and an uplifting and educational way to pass time. After semester tests, people who aren't playing a lot of sports tend to have a lot of free time. You could binge watch *Grey's Anatomy* every day for three months, but reading has a lot more benefits. I want to pass on some of my favorite books to you, so you can enjoy them as much as I do.

For the Lover of All Things Dystopian:

The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
"This is a world divided by blood – red or silver."

The Red Queen is about Mare Barrow, a poor teen from the 'stilts' of a kingdom run by Silvers, people with extraordinary abilities and silver blood. After a bunch of stuff happens, she finds herself in the castle, mixed up with a group that is trying to overturn the government.

To be honest, I like the second book of this series a lot better. Aveyard is a master of imagery - every time someone dies you can physically feel it. I also really like this book because it made me think. It dabbles with Darwin's Theory of Evolution and draws parallels to real life racial tensions with its 'reds are bad; silvers are good: reds are weak; silvers are powerful' mindset.— 3.5/5 stars

For the People Who Want to Read a True Story but Also Want to Feel Good About Themselves:

We Should Hang Out Sometime by Josh Sundquist
"Josh Sundquist only ever had one girlfriend. For twenty-three hours. In eighth grade."

In this memoir written by a Paralympic ski racer, Sundquist goes back to the glory days of high school to visit with his past crushes/date to figure out what went wrong. Told with humor, emotion, and eye-opening

truth, *We Should Hang Out Sometime* is a quick read that leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

My friends recommended book to me, but I didn't read it until I saw it on sale at Walmart for five dollars. I couldn't put it down and ended up reading it all in one night. I think I even cried over how adorable it was.— 3.75/5 stars

For Someone Who Has Time To Read

A 5-Book Series: *Vanished* (or 1-800-WHERE-ARE-YOU) by Meg Cabot

"A gift...or a curse?"

Jessica Mastiani is a sassy teen with an iron fist. Because of her friend Ruth, she gets stuck by lightning and develops the power to find missing people in her sleep.

It's a weird concept, but the sarcasm makes it worth it. I like books with characters I relate too, so that's a pretty big reason I love these the series.—5/5 stars

It's an Award Winner So It Must Be Good: 13 Reasons Why

by Jay Asher
"You can't stop the future. You can't rewind the past. The only way to learn the secret . . . is to press play."

Clay Jensen comes home from school two weeks after his classmate and crush commits suicide to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life, and Clay is one of them. He spends the night walking all over town with Hannah's voice as his guide.

I can't actually remember the end of this book so I can't tell you if it ends happy or not, but I CAN tell you that it was quite a moving experience to read. Although I don't particularly enjoy dual point-of-view stories, the quality of Asher's writing made up for my bias.—3.75/5 stars

For the Everyday Teen: The Duff

by Kody Keplinger
"Seventeen-year-old Bianca Piper is cynical and loyal, and she doesn't think she's the prettiest of her friends by a long shot. She's also way too smart to fall for the charms of the [slimy jock] Wesley Rush. In fact, Bian-

ca hates him. And when he nicknames her "Duffy," she throws her Coke in his face."

The Duff is one of my favorites for a plethora of reasons, mostly because of how sarcastic it is – which I relate to on a personal level. It's a quick read, but maybe I get through it so fast because I love it so much. It explores actual problems but stays mostly within the mind of Bianca, who is struggling with her own personal demons. I love the way it is realistic in its portrayal of a teenager in mental distress.—5/5 stars-not recommended for middle schoolers

For the Person Who Wants To Live Vicariously Through A Risk-Taker:

You Were Here by Cori McCarthy

"On the anniversary of her daredevil brother's death, Jaycee attempts to break into Jake's favorite hideout—the petrifying ruins of an insane asylum. Joined by four classmates, each with their own brand of dysfunction, Jaycee discovers a map detailing her brother's exploration and the unfinished dares he left behind."

Told chapter by chapter by each character, *You Were Here* spits emotion from every corner of the spectrum. I really liked how even the mute character got his time to shine – in the form of a comic strip type thing. Jaycee is an enticing character even when you want to hate her, which is why I opened this book on a whim after a 3 month long dry spell of not reading and books and didn't put it down until I finished it. Her best friend seemed boring in the beginning, but developed throughout the story and became one of my favorite characters. You know you're really in deep with a well written book when you feel the same emotions the character does.— 5/5 stars

For the Ghost Hunter: Anna Dressed in Blood

by Kendare Blake
"Cas Lowood has inherited an unusual vocation: He kills the dead... So did his father before him, until he was gruesomely murdered by a ghost he sought to kill. Now, armed with his father's mysterious and deadly athame, Cas travels the country with

his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat."

Cas moves to Canada to slay the ghost the locals call Anna Dressed in Blood. He expects the usual: track, hunt, kill. What he finds instead is a girl entangled in curses and rage, stronger than he'd ever seen before. Since her brutal murder in the 1950's, Anna has killed any and every person who has dared to step into the deserted and rotting Victorian she used to call home - yet she spares Cas's life.

I LOVE this book. Absolutely LOVE it. I initially picked it up purely because the cover is hauntingly gorgeous. I knew as soon as the first chapter that I was really going to like Cas's cynical personality, and Blake does an amazing job of making sure the reader gets a taste of it ever chapter. Usually supporting characters aren't my favorite, but Cas's physic friend Thomas is so well written that you just have to love him. Same with Anna, but I won't spoil it for you— 10/5 stars

Honorable Mentions: *Heidi* - Johanna Spyri: one of the only classics I can stand; *Me Before You* - Jojo Moyes: an overall sweet love story; *Heir Apparent* – Vivian Vande Velde: my FAVORITE tween book and a must read for everyone; *Popular -Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek* - Maya Van Wagenen: this book was written by a 15 year old!; *Airhead Trilogy* – Meg Cabot: since she appears twice on this list, you can probably tell that Meg Cabot is one of my favorite authors; *The Selection* – Kierra Cass: Hunger Games meets The Bachelor; *The Program* – Suzanne Yung: this dystopian puts a new twist on the world of epidemics; *Dorothy Must Die* – Danielle Page: this book puts an intense twist on a classic story, The Wizard of Oz; last but not least, *The Complete Works of Edgar Allen Poe* and the original *Grimm's Fairy Tales* – self-explanatory: I am fascinated by Poe and the Grimm brother's dark way of writing. Don't let the awful month of Poe in Mrs. Buchholz's English class hold you back from reading more of his writing!