

Blue Ink



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 3, Number 20

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:

Each of these answers have a homophone that is an animal. See how many you can get.

Example: Hair Control Foam—Mousse (Moose)

1. Very exposed
2. Tellin' falsities
3. A lamenting cry
4. A loved one

Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why did the dinosaur cross the road?

Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, January 22

- 7/8 BBB @ Tea Area
- BBB @ Tea Area

Saturday, January 23

- 7/8 GBB @ BEC Tourney

Sunday, January 24

- Quad State Honor Band @ USD

Monday, January 25

- Quad State Honor Band @ USD

Tuesday, January 26

- 7/8 GBB v. Tri-Valley
- 7/8 BBB @ Flandreau
- BBB @ Flandreau

Thursday, January 28

- Wrestling Triangular @ SF Lincoln
- GBB @ BEC Tourney

Friday, January 29

- GBB @ BEC Tourney

Saturday, January 30

- GBB @ BEC Tourney (Chester)
- Wrestling @ Wagner Tourney



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

District Opt Out Up for Vote

By Micaiah Lee Mader

March 22nd marks the date on which the people of Garretson will decide the fate and future of the school district.

As many of you know you know rumors of the “opt out” have been floating around the halls and streets of Garretson. In South Dakota, the taxing authority for local governments is spelled out in state law. There are limits laid out that set maximum tax excises for local governments. With consent of the townspeople, communities are able to “opt out” of these tax limitations.

In the 09-10 and 10-11 school years state legislature lacerated school funding causing districts to either “opt out” of the tax limit and pay the difference in raised taxes, or cut programs and faculty.

The general fund is used in most part to pay for “operational costs” which includes all aspects of the schools education. However about 80% of this fund is used to pay for employee benefits and salaries. It is comprised of state and local money. The cap for this fund is set by the state legislature. The main source of revenue for the general fund is provided by the “Per Student Allocation”, which is the \$4,877 the state pays schools to educate each child.

Within the last 15 years, significant funding went into building a new athletic complex and bus barn respectively. This fact has caused confusion to the uninformed. Although these two purchases were costly, they did not receive their money from the same fund the school uses to operate and pay salaries with. The athletic complex and bus barn were funded through the Capital Outlay

Fund, which is used for buildings, large pieces of equipment, technology and infrastructure, and textbooks.

The district needs to allocate \$500,000 to maintain our current curriculum and co-curricular activities. If the “opt out” does passes this will mean increased taxation to the residents of Garretson. The average increase per household, assuming the property value is about \$150,000, would amount to \$350.74 annually, which means on average each household would pay less than a dollar per day.

Senior Evan Fick saw taxation as a negative stating, “Increased taxation is a significant downside to opting out.”

The district is looking at all possible paths to making this a non-issue, however there are some outcomes that have students worried.

Freshmen Lesly Gonzalez stated, “If programs were cut and faculty were fired, I don't think we'd have a choice but to move to a bigger school who offered these programs”.

The vote will take place at the school March 22nd. Everyone is encouraged to get informed on this highly important decision and talk to friends, neighbors, and family about how you will be voting. Our schools future is ultimately our communities future. Vote wisely!

For more information please [click on this link](#). It has frequently asked questions about the opt-out.



Wrestling Continues Winning Ways

By Alex Uhl

The Garretson Blue Dragon Wrestling team travelled to Tri-Valley on Saturday to compete in the tournament. Though there were a few hiccups and mistakes, the Blue Dragons still managed to pull off many wins and many of the young men were able to place in the top six of their respective weight classes.

Veteran wrestler and senior, Brady Schleuter, placed first in his weight class, and beat out the competition and winning every single one of his matches.

Sophomore Jack Konechne placed second in his weight class and only lost his last match.

"It was a pretty good, I made it to finals and lost a match I should've won" said Konechne.

Junior Brendan Harris placed fifth in his weight class, and sophomore Keaten Wagner placed third.

Girls Basketball Full of Vigor

By Annika Hanson

The Garretson's girls basketball team has had a few upside, and downside games these past days. Some were just against tough competitors, and others the girls won with ease.

On Saturday January 16th the girls played against Murray County Central from Minnesota, the final score was 51-33, leading to the girls second win that week! Their first win was against Baltic on January 15th. The final score ended with 51-29 with Garretson far in the lead.

That was all last week, this week, the girls played against Sioux Falls Christian on Tuesday January 19th and Tea Area on Thursday January 21. The game against Sioux Falls Christian concluded with a final score of 36-38 making a really close and heated game. Garretson girls basketball coach Dave Mudder commented: "It was a game where we had too many possessions and lost opportunities. We probably

When asked about how they would use the experience wrestling on Saturday to help them wrestle at the Garretson Triangular, Konechne said, "I'll have to wrestle a kid I wrestled on Saturday, so I'll have to use what I learned in our match Saturday and use it [Thursday]."

On the other hand, sophomore Erik Hanson remarked, "On Saturday, I had a pretty good mindset going and I think that's what I'll do [Thursday]."

But wrestling isn't just a singular person sport, as there is a team that you must support by winning your matches and contributing to the overall team score. The Garretson Wrestling team overall placed tenth with a total of 108 points.

When asked about how to make the team better, Konechne said, "We need to keep putting in a little extra and start lifting in the morning."

had twice as many turnovers this game then the last two games combined."

Senior player Jaden Bly also believed she could have played better that game, "There is always lots of room for improvement, especially on the defensive end, passing, and transitions"

The Lady Blue Dragons hosted Tea Area last night and while the junior varsity was able to pull out a win, the varsity struggled against Tea, losing 37-58.

The next game for the girls will be at the Big East Conference tourney. Coach Mudder has his speculations about this, "We will be one of the lower seeds in it so we will probably be playing either Sioux Valley or McCook."

On the other hand, Bly said "I am



Ethan Kippes outworks his opponent in last night's dual against O'Gorman.

Photo by Mataya Lines

The Blue Dragons hosted Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls O'Gorman in a triangular yesterday, sweeping both of their duals.

As the end of the season draws near, we can only hope that the Garretson wrestling team will have many of their team members enter into and place at the State Tournament as they have become accustomed to recently.



Morgan Gloe snatches the pass from Jaden Bly, hoping to spark the offense against Tea Area Thursday night.

Photo by Mataya Lines

curious to see if we play Flandreau again," as she is eager to get another crack at the Fliers.

Garretson will be hosting the first two rounds of the Big East conference touney next Thursday and Friday. On Saturday they will travel to Chester for the final championship round.

NFL Playoffs Play Out to be Full of Thrills, Heartbreak, and Hope

By Isaiah Mader

This weekend encompasses some of the best football of the year, the Conference Championship games. Two of the best quarterbacks in NFL history will go head to head as Tom Brady and the New England Patriots travel to Denver to face the Broncos led by Peyton Manning in their quest for the AFC Title. Across the league the NFC Championship will consist of a veteran Arizona Cardinal team that will head east to face off against the 16-1 Carolina Panthers.

Last weekend was the Divisional Round of the playoffs which showcased some nail-biting games as each was decided by a touchdown or less.

The first round started off in Foxborough, as the Kansas City Chiefs looked to extend their 11 game win streak as they visited reigning Super Bowl champs, the New England Patriots. The Chiefs started off hot securing an easy 30-0 road victory, but just didn't come ready to play on Saturday and were defeated 27-20 with offensive help for the Patriots coming from tight end Rob Gronkowski. The Pats

move on to their fifth consecutive AFC Championship.

Next up was the Green Bay Packers who traveled to the desert to play the Cardinals. The game looked promising for the Cards as they were leading by a touchdown in the final seconds of regulations, but as time expired Aaron Rodgers heaved the ball in a last ditch effort to beat the Cardinals.

The 41 yard pass was caught for a touchdown by Jeff Janis to send the game into overtime. After a controversial coin flip Arizona eventually went on to beat Green Bay and advance to the NFC Championship.

Sunday started off dismal for the Seattle Seahawks as they went in to halftime down 31-0 to their competitor the Panthers. The Seattle defense came out fired up in the half and gave Carolina a scoreless half of their own, but the Seahawks offense just couldn't make up the deficit as they fell to Carolina 24-31.

The final game of the Divisional Round featured the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Broncos in a classic quarter-

back matchup of Ben Roethlisberger and Peyton Manning. The Steelers had a victory in their sights as they were up by one and driving in the fourth, but a fumble by Fitzgerald Toussaint put Denver in great position. They scored that drive and with the 2-point conversion went up 7. After Pittsburgh gave it up on downs, the Broncos kicked a field goal and sealed the win.

The Minnesota Vikings may not have been able to beat the Seahawks after losing because of a botched kick by Blair Walsh, but many Minnesota fans, like freshman Brennan Mudder, find themselves rooting for the Panthers.

Although Jacob Liester seems to disagree, stating, "I hope the Cardinals go all the way," the NFL Playoffs continue as the remaining four teams battle for a spot in Super Bowl 50, so tune in for some of the year's best football!



This Saturday at Annie's, Be There or Be Square

By Alyssa Bunde

Our own GHS choir is hosting a showcase this Saturday and it's bound to be quite the spectacle. To begin, volunteers were rounded up amongst the choir cadets. Students were allowed to pick their own music selection to sing. In fact, some are even playing instruments!

Since it is not the whole choir participating, groups were encouraged to come during ICU hours to rehearse as class hours were not completely focused on this production.

Some of the music selection includes sophomore Sylvia Larson, who is performing three songs. One, "Wildest Dreams" by Taylor Swift, is a duo with Caitlyn Trower. Larson is also performing with Tabitha Klingenberg

and Abriana Scholl singing "Pompeii" by the popular indie rock band Bastille.

Trower, one of the entertainers shared her reasoning behind participating, "I actually have terrible stage fright. I don't like singing or talking in front of people. But I do it because I want to get used to it and get better!"

Another entry for the showcase is Jaden Braaten, who is performing two songs with groups. One of the groups include sophomores McKenzie Decker, Peyton Sage, Madi Northrup and Kayla Bottelberghe, entertaining the crowd with the song "Can't Help Falling In Love With You" by Elvis Presley.

This is not the first year that choir has put on an exhibition like this. Last year was the debut and according to last year's entrants it went swimming-

ly! It was stated that the place was packed, standing room only. Although, to combat this issue the performance has been moved from the quaint front room of Annie's to the larger spatial back area in the cafe.

When asked on preparation for Saturday, singer Sylvia Larson stated, "I still haven't memorized my song with Katie, but I'm not scared though."

Choir director Mrs. Robinson shared her sentiment about Saturday, "We pushed it up two months early this year. So we could use a little more time, but it's also put a lot of responsibilities on the kids which is also good too."

The concert begins at noon this Saturday. Music, food and entertainment what else could you ask for?



A Big Thank You

By Mrs. Kelsey Buchholz—Guest Writer, Editorial

I will start by saying that there probably will not be enough space to adequately express my sentiments. I have made a point to not contribute to the paper as I think our journalism students do a splendid job each week, but today is different.

I stepped into the school much like any other day. Maybe a little happier because it was Friday and every teacher knows that Friday is a jeans day. It's the little things that count.

However today wasn't like any other day. I turned 30 which in the long run isn't that old, but it is a milestone. I try to not make a big deal about it as there are things to get done in the classroom and that could just be another distraction. Apparently I didn't have a choice.

This school is blessed with marvelous, brilliant, kind, magnanimous students who do not always get the credit they deserve. Yes, these are the same students that sometimes make us want to pull our hair out. But they are the

same students that make us smile and we look forward to seeing everyday.

My period kiddos "didn't show up" for class this morning. Odd. After about a five minute search and asking a few people, I finally tracked them down. They had put together a surprise party for me: decorations, balloons, pizza, apple juice, and cupcakes.

Maybe because they wanted me to feel okay about turning 30. Maybe because they wanted an excuse to have treats. Maybe because they were trying to bribe me to get out of school work. I don't know; it all worked though.

But what I do know is that I have been taken aback by the benevolence and thoughtfulness



of these students and I know those characteristics are evident in our entire student body.

It is times like these that remind me why I became a teacher. It is times like these that make me happy and thankful to live and work in this town. It is times like these remind me that teaching is more than classwork; it is connections and relationships. It is times like these that give me hope for the future of not only the school, but our community, and our world. We are blessed with amazing kids, Pre-K through Seniors, who can do amazing things and today is one of those days. Thank you.

Senior Spotlight



NAME: Sean Tillma

SENIOR PROJECT: Becoming a firefighter
ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Baseball, Track, Football, Major League Gaming

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: My bed and my family

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Attend a place that offers more education so I can learn stuff

Scholarship Corner

- **Prairie Rose Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must live within the townships of Brandon, Highland, Edison, or Logan. Due January 30, 2016
- **FFA John Deere Scholarship (\$2000)** - Must be an FFA member and plan to attend a 2 or 4 year college. Due February 1, 2016
- **Garretson Community Scholarship (\$ varies)** - Minimum GPA of 2.5. Multiple scholarships available. Due February 26, 2016
- **National Association of Women in Construction Scholarship (\$500-\$1000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Pursuing study in a construction related field. Due February 28, 2016
- **Buick Achievers Scholarship (up to \$25,000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Studying engineering, technology, or design with an interest in the automotive industry. Due February 29, 2016
- **Amateur Softball Scholarship (\$500)** - Multiple scholarships available. Due March 1, 2016
- **American Legion Scholarship (\$500)** - Multiple scholarships available. Due March 1, 2016
- **Entringer Classic Scholarship (\$1000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Participation in HS athletics for at least two years. Due March 1, 2016
- **Tip Top Tux Scholarship (\$1000-\$5000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Due March 1, 2016
- **CHS Easter Farmers Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must be going into an agricultural field. Six scholarships available. Due March 1, 2016
- **Minnehaha Funeral Home Scholarship (\$500)** - High School Senior with a minimum 2.5 GPA who plans to attain a 2 or 4 year degree from an accredited school. Due March 7, 2016
- **Alliance Communications (\$1,000)** - Must be Alliance Communications customer and be a full-time student in the fall of 2016. Due March 11, 2016.
- **South Dakota Firefighter Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must be son or daughter of a member of an SDFD. Due March 15, 2016
- **Build Dakota Scholarship (\$ varies)** - Planning to attend one of four technical schools in South Dakota. Due March 15, 2016
- **Home Builders Association Scholarship (\$1000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Pursuing a Home Building Industry related field of study. Due April 4, 2016
- Please click on this [hyperlink](#) from Epsilon Sigma Alpha for a website that has a list of scholarships available. All are Due February 1, 2016

Please check your email for links to these scholarships.



ANSWERS: Brain Teaser: The word "Wrong"

Joke: Because chickens hadn't evolved yet