



Blue Ink



Sicknesses sweep the student body

Flu and other virus ravage the Garretson hallways

by Peyton Sage
staff writer



The sweet sound of sniffles and nasty coughs are filling the classrooms these past few weeks at Garretson school, as several dozen students are battling illnesses. Unfortunately, this bug is not an easy one to beat. Many students have been out sick for more than a few days, and many others have been suffering throughout the day in class.

Some of the symptoms that students are experiencing are stuffy noses, watery eyes, plugged ears, sore throats, phlegmy coughs, weak joints, runny noses, and even fevers.

One sick student, Jazmin Gawarecki, said, "I noticed myself getting sick when one of my classmates was hacking it up behind me in class. It started as a stuffy nose and just progressed from there."

Another student, McKenzie Decker, said, "I started getting sick last Wednesday, I felt really weak. I ended up going to bed at 5:30 because I couldn't handle it. It was the worst night of my entire life."

Luckily, these symptoms are

caused by a sinus infection and can be cured in about a week or two with a round of antibiotics. However, students who are experiencing harsher symptoms could possibly have the flu virus, which is a little bit harder to get rid of. However, taking DayQuil and NyQuil can always help subside the symptoms.

If worse comes to worst, Christmas break is coming up, so those who are sick will have time to rest and recover.

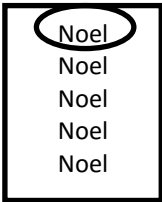
This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Santa would have to visit 822 homes/second to visit every home on Christmas Eve.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Use plastic cups or egg cartons to neatly store your ornaments.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Where do you find reindeer? (submitted by Myranda F.)

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Decipher this Christmas song rebus puzzle.



Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 22

- MS Pizza Ranch Outing
- Early Dismissal @ 1:30

Saturday, December 23

- Start of winter break (through January 2)

Friday, December 29

- Floyd Farrand Wrestling Tourney @SF Lincoln (11:00)

Saturday, December 30

- Floyd Farrand Wrestling Tourney @ SF Lincoln (10:00)

- BBB v. Deubrook @ Entringer Classic in Brookings (3:30)

Sunday, December 31

- New Year's Eve

Monday, January 1

- New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 3

- School Resumes

Worth Mentioning

The doubleheader versus Tea was postponed yesterday due to the wintry weather. A new date has yet to be determined.

Winter break runs from December 23 through January 2. Be safe and enjoy the extra time with family and friends.

Semester Tests will run Monday, January 8 through Wednesday, January 10. Please check your email for the schedule.

Resolutions to change coming soon

New year inspires people to finally make changes they have been thinking about

by Heather Huether
staff writer

People all over the world make New Year resolutions in hope that since it's a New Year it's a new them.

According to The Telegraph, the most commonly made resolutions are to exercise more, lose weight, eat healthier, and to take a more active approach to health.

Others may choose to learn a new skill or hobby, spend more time on personal wellbeing, spend more time with family and friends, drink less alcohol, or stop smoking.

50% of people who set New Year resolutions will not stick to them. 52% of those people said setting a smaller, more achievable goal will help them stick to their New Year's resolution more.

Around one in five people also admitted to setting overly ambitious, potentially unsustainable goals. More women 58% than men 45% say setting smaller and more realistic goals will help them keep their New Year's resolutions. While more men 26% than women 21% say technology is the key to helping them keep their goals on track.

The best way to keep your New Year's resolution is to follow these steps.

1. Is it specific? Instead of saying you want to save money, say you

want to save \$1,800 this year. Specific goals will help you because they give you a clear goal in mind.

2. Can it be measured? For example you could set a small goal to saving \$150 a month. Smaller goals help keep you motivated and help track how far you have come.

3. Is it achievable or attainable? Instead of buying a coffee/candy each day set the money aside and only buy it one day a week. Your goal should be something a little challenging to keep you motivated, but not too hard to where you lose interest.

4. Is it realistic? Plan on setting aside \$75 every two weeks to keep

up with your goal. Having a timeline will help you achieve your smaller goals which will help you achieve the big one in the end.

5. Is it exciting? Saving \$1,800 will get you enough money to go on a trip you've dreamed off. Having goals that excite you will keep you motivated and have something to look forward to.

6. Is your goal recorded? Write down every time you set money aside. Keeping track of what you've done so far will help you remember your goal and help you avoid losing it.

These six steps will help make any New Year's resolution easier to keep. New Year's resolutions are something that needs to be worked for throughout the whole year.



Seven wrestlers earned spot on podium

Varsity wrestlers show successful results during the MVPCS tournament

by Peyton Sage
staff writer

Last Saturday the Garretson wrestlers traveled to Plankinton to compete in their second tournament of the season. Overall, Garretson placed 6th as a team, facing big competitors.

For individual results, Hayden Pierret came out on top, placing 1st in the 120 lb weight class.

Jack Konechne, returning for the first time this season, placed 3rd in the 170 lb weight class.

Dakota Johnson also finished 3rd in the 285 lb weight class, and Keaten Wagner got 5th in the 195 lb

weight class.

Preston Bohl got a chance to wrestle in the 98 lb exhibition weight class, placing 3rd.

Chayce Schleuter placed 5th in the 126 lb weight class and Ben Konechne, who also made a return, placed 6th in the 182 lb weight class.

The wrestlers will now participate in the Floyd Ferrand tournament at Lincoln High School this following Friday and Saturday.

Christmas Playlist

Favorite holiday song



"'The Christmas Song' by Nat King Cole because when I hear it, it fills my soul - Mr. Hughes, HS



"My favorite song is 'Jingle Bell Rock' because it's fast and festive - Ms. McClure, All-Star Sub



"Probably 'Away in the Manger' because we sing it a lot at church and Christmas and I just know that one the best." - Adair, H, 6th Grade



"'Away in a Manger' because it's a Christmas song- Sarah W, 8th Grade



"I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' because it's a cute song." - Trey B, 10th Grade

Dragons fall to birds

Garretson girls basketball couldn't take down the Cardinals during Entringer

by Gregorio Arana
staff writer

Last Saturday, December 16, the girls basketball team had a game against the Arlington Cardinals in Colman, SD. The score when it was over was 47 Garretson, and 53 Arlington.

The first quarter went good for the Lady Dragons with a score of 15-14 at the end. After the first quarter the Cardinals started to take the

lead and the Lady Dragons couldn't stay on the Cardinals heels.

The game stayed close in the second and third quarters. The second quarter ended with a score of 21-27, Cardinals on top. The third quarter was closer with a score of 34-37, Cardinals on top.

The fourth quarter didn't go as smoothly as the rest with a final score of 47-53, Cardinals on top.

Senior, Eryn Fink, could've built a house on Saturday with all the

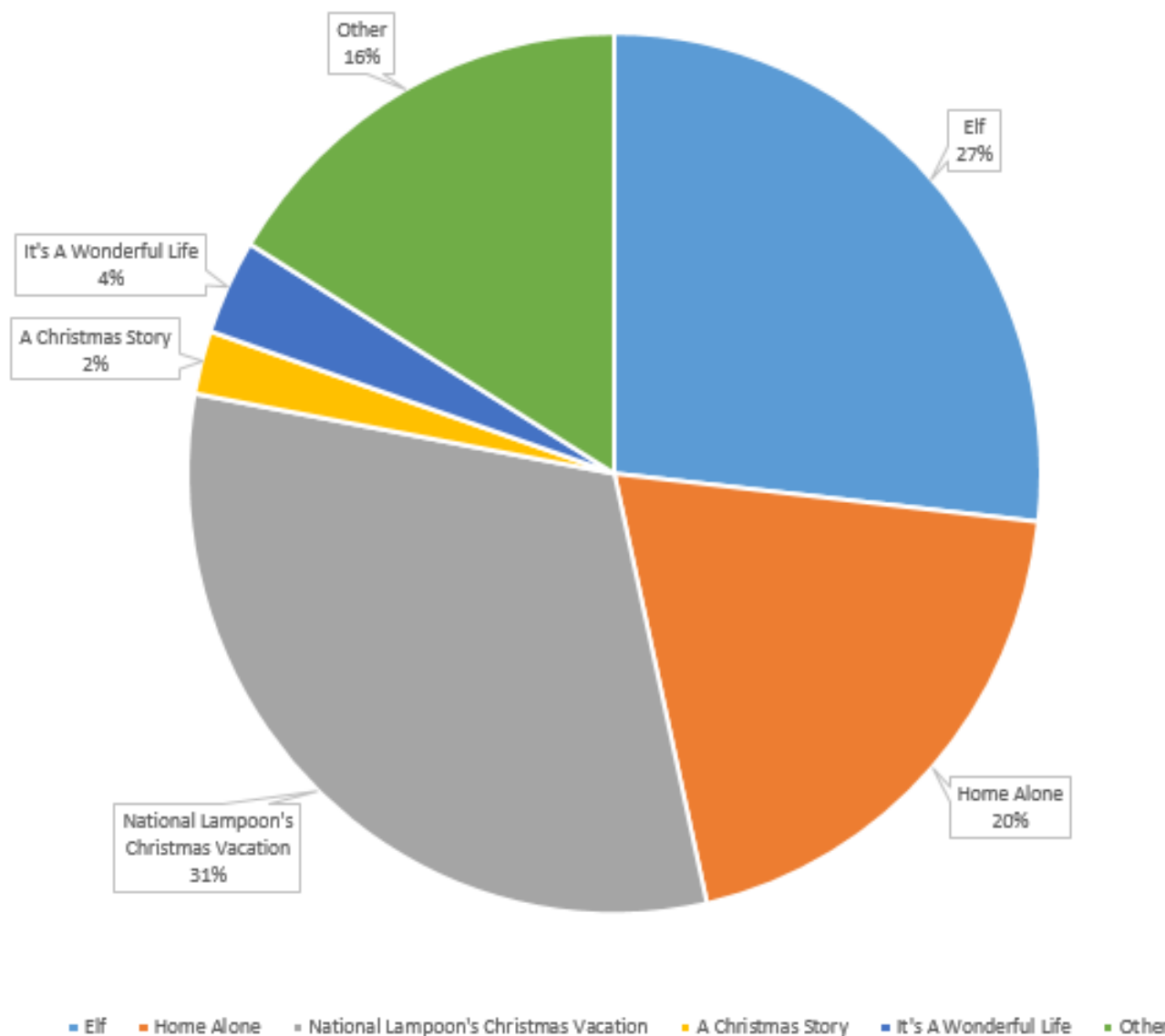
boards she was getting. Fink had a total of 9 rebounds, 8 of those being defensive rebounds. Freshman, Lizzie Olson, tied with Fink but 7 of Olson's were offensive rebounds.

The team had a total of 18 offensive rebounds, 21 defensive rebounds, 9 steals, and 16 assists. They also had 19 turnovers and 18 fouls.

The Lady Dragons (2-2) look to bounce back in their next game against the Dell Rapids Lady Quarrriers (4-0), January 2, in Dells. Hopefully the Lady Dragons bring home the win, January 2.

Student opinion poll

Favorite holiday movies consume much of the free time of high school students. While National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation came out on top, other had a strong showing with write-ins of The Grinch and A Charlie Brown Christmas



■ Elf ■ Home Alone ■ National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ■ A Christmas Story ■ It's A Wonderful Life ■ Other

Sweeping tax reform

The first big overhaul to the nation's tax system in over three decades was approved earlier this week

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
staff writer

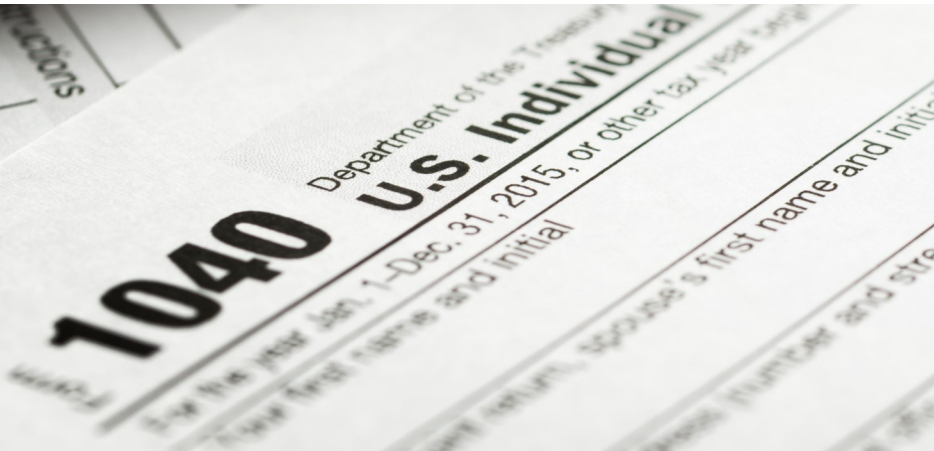
President Trump signed a new tax reform which Congress has been working tirelessly on since Trump was elected. The bill changes tax rates and benefits business owners and the upper class, while giving smaller tax breaks for middle class families. While the bill decreases taxes in the short term, over the next ten years, taxes are expected to rise which Trump says will promote economic growth.

This is the first major legislative win that the first year president has seen and he is receiving lots of praise from the Republican Party, especially from his VP Mike Pence. Congress was able to pass the bill

just before they adjourned for the year making this their top priority.

Some speculation has arisen as they did not allow for the newly elected Democratic Senator to take part which he could have done at the beginning of the next session. The tax reform has also repealed part of the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obama Care. The tax overhaul now does not require health insurance and around 13 million Americans are set to be uninsured.

The tax bill has come with its share of opposition, yet Trump and his fellow Republicans believe it should succeed and should propel them strongly into the new year ready to pass more legislation and Make America Great Again.



Train derailment kills three

Speeds almost three times over the limit, possible distraction, caused derailment

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
staff writer

On Monday, an Amtrak train derailed leaving 3 people dead and over 100 injured. The accident that occurred in Washington state sent rail cars plummeting off the track on a highway hitting several cars and semi's.

The train was traveling at 80 mph in a zone with a speed limit of 30 mph which caused 13 of its 14 rail cars off the track hitting several cars on the road. An investigation is taking place as officials are still uncertain of how this accident took place and why actions were not taken to prevent it from happening.

Automatic braking and systems that slow the train down was not activated in the event which leaves many pondering the situation. Officials do know that one other person was in the engineers cabin during the time of the crash, but it has been reported that they were learning the route. It has also been reported that safety features, like emergency exits, were not working after the crash and victims has to kick their way out of the wreck.

The incident is being investigated by Washington D.C. to find out the real cause of the crash to answer the questions by the rightfully angry people who were affected in this horrific incident.



NFL playoffs starting to shake out

Traditional teams continue to dominate, but a few newcomers may make some waves

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

With only two weeks left of the NFL regular season, the playoff picture looks a lot different than the projections at the beginning of the season. Teams like the Jacksonville Jaguars, who haven't been to the playoffs in years have already clinched the playoffs. Then we also have teams that make it every year and are no surprise like the patriots. No matter what happens in these next two weeks, this is going to be a crazy one.

Many teams have already clinched the playoffs, including..

- Philadelphia Eagles (12-2)
- Minnesota Vikings (11-3)
- Pittsburgh Steelers (11-3)
- New England Patriots (11-3)
- Jacksonville Jaguars (10-4)

The wild west, (AFC West) is getting crazy as three of the four teams are still eligible for the playoffs and there is no division leader at the time. The Kansas City Chiefs (8-6) are looking to win the division this week after struggling after their 5-0 start. The Chiefs have been playing like they did at the beginning of the season and look to go far in the playoffs.

Another big story in the AFC is the AFC south division champions, the Jacksonville Jaguars. Blake Bortles has been on a tear this season, Bortles received lots of hate at the beginning of the season and he has come through when it matters most. But, the main reason the Jags are so successful is because of their defense. The Jags have one of the best defenses in the league, and defense wins championships.

Speaking of Amazing defenses The Minnesota Vikings defense has also brought them the success they've been looking for. The Vikings might be the first team in NFL to have the best

3rd down offense and defense percentages.

Fly eagles fly, a lot of fans thought that the Rams shot down their eagle by injuring QB Carson Wentz. They must have forgot they had Nick Foles on the bench. Foles had 237 pass yards and four TD's as the the eagles beat the giants. A lombardi trophy is still possible for the eagles if Foles keeps up his play.

The Rams (10-4) are also looking to win their division this week. The rams have been talked about as they are the best team in the NFL, this could be true with a solid defense and a explosive young offense with Todd Gurley and Jared Goff.

Speaking of one two punches the New Orleans Saints running back core may be they greatest of all time (for one season statistics) both of the running backs made the pro bowl. This amazing offense is run by experienced QB Drew Brees who is also in the talks for an MVP trophy at the end of the season. This Saints team is the best they've been since 2010 and we all know what happened that year.

Teams who have not clinched but can still make the playoffs..

- Buffalo Bills (8-6)
- Miami Dolphins (6-8)
- Baltimore Ravens (8-6)
- Tennessee Titans (8-6)
- Kansas City Chiefs (8-6)
- Las Angeles Chargers (7-7)
- Oakland Raiders (6-8)
- Dallas Cowboys (8-6)
- Detroit Lions (8-6)
- New Orleans Saints (10-4)
- Carolina Panthers (10-4)
- Atlanta Falcons (9-5)
- Los Angeles Rams (10-4)
- Seattle Seahawks (8-6)

Once again this is going to be a crazy last couple weeks of football and playoffs are right around the corner, may the best team win.

