



The 8th Grade Girls Basketball team took first place at the Big East Conference tournament last Saturday.

# Blue Ink



## One-act play returns to the stage

*Novice director led novice performers in one-act play, placed well at regions*

by **Sylvia Larson**  
staff writer

“So in other news, a tree fell in the forest, but no one was there to hear it.” -Frankie

For the first time and a handful of years, Garretson High School has finally put on a play. K-12 Choral teacher Kelby Robinson took on the responsibility.

Robinson has taught in Garretson for four years, but this is her first time directing a play. In order to compete in the regional contest, the chosen play had to be a drama less than 45 minutes. Robinson chose ‘4am’, a dramedy, by Jonathan Dorf. Auditions were held in October, and rehearsals started soon after.

Freshman Mattea Feigen played Frankie, a DJ whose early morning radio show has an audience of few, and the Monster under Sleeper Kid’s bed. This was her first time acting.

Kaci Danforth, a sophomore, played teen boy, Hale; teen girl, Monica, and one of the nightmares. Kara Ross, also a sophomore, played Hale’s companion, Simon and Monica’s companion, Anne. She was also a nightmare.

Seniors Erynn Fink and Jaden Braaten played corresponding characters: Romeo and Juliet, cops, and joggers.

Senior Becca Weiland played the distressed teen Jane and Sleeper Kid.

Rounding out the cast and crew were senior Sylvia Larson as assistant director and freshman Madden Lardy, stage crew.

In the show, all of the characters are awake at 4am for various reasons. Frankie has an early morning radio show, Jane is going through a personal dilemma, the joggers are out running, Simon and Hale are playing video games, Sleeper Kid is trying to sleep after witnessing a fire

from across the street, Romeo and Juliet are texting each other, and Anne and Monica are debating the itinerary of their sleepover. Each character is dealing with their own 4am emotions. The play deals with serious themes but ultimately explores the psyche of what keeps teens up at night.

There were two public performances last weekend: Saturday evening and a Sunday matinee.

The cast and crew headed to Madison for regionals Wednesday and placed 5th overall.

Overall, the cast put their heart and souls into this, and put on an amazing show.



4 A.M. was the school’s first one-act play in four years. Director Kelby Robinson took on her first ever play with a cast and crew of Mattea Feigen, Madden Lardy, Kara Ross, Kaci Danforth, Becca Weiland, Jaden Braaten, Erynn Fink, and Sylvia Larson.

### This Week’s Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** The first use of “Google” as a verb in pop culture was on the TV show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

**LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK:** Febreze kills ants on contact and doesn’t leave your home smelling like poison.

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** What kind of coffee do police officers drink?

**BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK:** A man pushes his car to a hotel and tells the owner that he is bankrupt. Why?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, January 26

- GBB @ BEC Tourney in Chester v. Chester (6:00)

#### Saturday, January 27

- C GBB/BBB @ Flandreau (9:00/10:00)

- Wrestling @ Wagner Tourney (10:00)

- GBB @ BEC Tourney in Volga v. TBD (TBD)

#### Monday, January 29

- Quad State Honor Band @ USD  
- JH BBB v. Parker (4:00)

#### Tuesday, January 30

- JH BBB @ Baltic (4:00)  
- Wrestling Quad @ Freeman v. Marion-Freeman, Elk-Point Jefferson, & Alcester Hudson (5:00)

- BBB @ Baltic (6:15/7:00)  
- GBB v. Tea (5:00/6:15/7:00)

- BBB v. Tea (5:00/6:15/7:00)

#### Thursday, February 1

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

#### Friday, February 2

- JH BBB v. MCM (4:00)  
- BBB v. MCM (6:15/7:00) - PARENTS’ NIGHT

### Worth Mentioning

**8th Grade Girls Basketball** played in the Big East Conference tournament this last weekend. After exhausting and hard fought games, the girls came away as champions of the tournament. They are coached by Nate Beckman.

## Tide POD challenge takes over

### Twitter

*Two weeks ago Tide PODs became more than a laundry detergent...and it’s not good*

by **Peyton Sage**  
staff writer

Before January, Tide PODs were just an innocent product that consumers with dirty laundry invested in.



Recently, however, Twitter users started raving over how appetizing Tide PODs looked, and many users actually started eating them, thus starting the dangerous challenge. Not only is that an incredibly terrible idea, it is poisonous to the severity of death to some who ingest it.

Consuming Tide PODs results in contacting Poison Control or even

immediate hospitalization. Most of the teens taking part in this challenge are well aware of the consequences, but act like they aren’t old enough to know any better.

According to the Poison Control Center, in the first two weeks of 2018 there were 39 cases of intentional Tide POD ingestion reported among 13 to 19 year olds. To put that into perspective, there were 53 unintentional intakes of Tide PODs by younger kids in 2017 and 39 total intakes in 2016. In the first 15 days of 2018, there were just as many intakes as the entire year of 2016.

The Tide POD challenge has caused so much chaos that grocery stores are actually locking up access to the product so people have to get an employee to purchase them, alt-

hough several stores are claiming its due to a high theft on the product. You also have to be 18 years of age to even bring them to the check out. The Tide POD challenge has also been such a concern that YouTube is blocking videos that have anything to do with the product.

With the challenge still going around social media, the Tide company has something to say: “What should Tide PODs be used for? DOING LAUNDRY. Nothing else. Eating a Tide POD is a BAD IDEA, and we asked our friend Rob Gronkowski to help explain.” Rob Gronkowski made a PSA basically saying “NO, NO, NO! Don’t eat Tide PODs!”

In short, STOP EATING TIDE PODS. Seriously. Eat Fruit Gushers or something.

**JOKE:** “Cop”piccino (Cappuccino)

**BRAINTEASER:** He’s playing Monopoly

## Basketball struggles to secure the win

*Both boys and girls team have had a few Ws on their record and had their opportunities but struggle to consistently stay in the win column*

by **Greg Arana**  
staff writer

Last Friday, January 19, the boys basketball team played against the Vermillion Tanagers. They lost 64-54 despite a promising first quarter.

The Blue Dragons led the whole first quarter and by the time it was halftime they had grown the lead to 10. However they couldn't keep the good game going during the second half, as the Tanagers outscored them by 20.

The Dragons couldn't stop the Tanagers' star player AJ Plitzuweit from getting hot in the third quarter but kept him to only 5 points in the

fourth quarter (41 total points). According to Coach Schrank, costly turnovers sealed the Tanagers' win.

Offensively the juniors provided the bulk of the points for the Blue Dragons, Drew Blossmo had 23 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, Brennan Mudder had 12 points and 8 rebounds, and Trevor Fiegen chipped in 11 points.

In the first game of the double header, the Lady Dragons faced off against the Tanagers and struggled to get the lead throughout the game. The Tanagers ended up winning with a final score of 59-24.

Senior Erynn Fink was collecting some firewood by getting 10 boards, three offensive and seven defensive rebounds. Overall the team had 28



Trevor Fiegen runs through the gauntlet after being announced as a starter. The boys were just in action last night in a makeup game against Tea but were doubled up, dropping the game 49-96.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

rebounds.

The team had three steals and six assists but they were hurt by the 21 turnovers they had.

Freshman Lizzie Olson had half of the Lady Dragons points with 12.

The girls continued play last night in the first round of Big East Conference play. The Lady Blue Dragons were ranked seventh going in so they paired up against #2 McCook Central-Montrose. The Fighting Cougars had a considerable size advantage and used it. MCM downed the Dragons, 43-23.

Garretson (4-7) is back in action tonight to face the Chester Flyers in a rematch from earlier this season. Garretson came away with the 66-52 victory the first time and are hop-

ing to do it again.

The boys have had two games since last Friday as well and they have been tough. Opponents Flandrea and Tea are teams that would not surprise anyone to be in the state tourney and they showed why on the hardwood.

The Fliers of Flandreau took advantage of poor Blue Dragon shooting, beating them 32-72 on Tuesday night.

Last night, in a makeup game, the defending state champions, Tea Area Titans, entered the Dragon's lair and came out the victor. They slew Garretson with a final score of 49-96. The Blue Dragons' record now stands at 1-12. Their next game is at Baltic on Tuesday, January 30.

## Nassar sentenced to 235 years in prison

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**  
staff writer

Larry Nassar, ex USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University doctor, was sentenced to 175 years in prison for decades of sexual abuse. In a week long sentencing hearing, Nassar was confronted by 156 girls who spoke about the actions he committed against them. Nassar was sentenced earlier this month with 60 years in prison for child pornography.

The 54 year-old plead guilty on seven counts of sexual misconduct and later gave a statement of apology, one of which could not take back the actions that so wrongly befell the injured athletes.

The USA and MSU athletes attempted to surface the issue through the years of abuse, but their voices were stopped by people in authority. Complaints have been filed against Nassar dating back to 1997 which has caused the MSU President to resign from her position. Many of the accusers said the USA Gymnastics and MSU leaders should have intervened long ago.

Many people were happy to finally see Nassar put behind bars after his years of sexual harassment. The judge on this case was particularly pleased to hand out the sentence stating, "You do not deserve to walk outside of a prison ever again," and "I just signed your death warrant."

USA Gymnastics and the USA Olympic Committee are conducting internal investigations to make sure issues like this never arise in the future.

## Government shuts down amid many disagreements including DACA

This past Saturday, the United States government officially shut down as a result of failing to approve legislation that funded government operations and agencies. The shutdown lasted until Monday night when congress passed a short term spending bill which will run until Feb. 8th.

This three day stretch was caused by disputes over Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and about the proposed funding to the border wall. This is the first time a government shutdown has occurred with the same party controlling the Senate, House of Representatives, and the presidency.

With only a few weeks to get things in Washington D.C. situated, the U.S. could see another shutdown very soon sending the already chaotic Capitol into more turmoil just a year into Trump's presidency.

## Questions come from the chaos

*Surprising shooting at a rural Kentucky school leaves people questioning why and how it could have been prevented*

by **Heather Huether**  
staff writer

The 15-year-old student whose rampage at a rural Kentucky high school left two teens dead, was charged with two counts of murder and 12 counts of first-degree assault amid the many questions that have stemmed since the incident.

The shooters name has not been released because he is a juvenile. He was charged in juvenile court. Some authorities request that the case be transferred to adult court instead.

According to *USA Today*, authorities previously said the teen would be charged with murder and attempted murder, but have since said the assault charge would be

easier to prove than attempted murder and it carries the same penalty.

Students at Marshall High School in Benton described a terrifying scene of gunshots, shock, panic and a wild scramble for safety on Tuesday morning. Bailey Nicole Holt, 15, died at the scene. Preston Ryan Cope, 15, died a short time later at a hospital in Nashville. Eighteen other teens were injured in the chaos, 14 of them from gunshot wounds.

The shooter didn't seem to be targeting any specific person, or group of people. Students were running from the school to nearby restraints and businesses to get away from the shots. By 8:06 a.m., the shooter was apprehended by Marshall County deputies.

After the shooting happened, five male students were airlifted to Vanderbilt. A sixth student, a female, was driven to the Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt later Tuesday.

The female student was released from the hospital Wednesday afternoon. Four male victims were still being treated on Wednesday evening, with three in stable condition and one in critical condition.

Students were able to return to the school Tuesday to pick up their vehicles but have not been let into the school to get their belongings. The school's reopening, and the return of classes, had not been set yet. But, elementary and middle schools were to open as normal Thursday morning.