



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 1, Number 12

## This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Taco Bell's slogan in the mid 1990's was "Make a Run for the Border."

**BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:** What question can never be answered "yes?"

*Answer on back page*

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** What is brown and sticky?

*Answer on back page*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Friday, November 15

- TATU Lock-In (Grades 4 & 5) @ 3:30-8:30

#### Saturday, November 16

- High School Fall Formal @ 8:00 in the Old Gym

#### Sunday, November 17

- Start of American Education Week

#### Monday, November 18

- Oral Interp Region Contest @ SDSU, All Day  
- FFA District Leadership Contest @ West Central, 5:00 p.m.  
- Wrestling Practice Begins

#### Monday, November 25

- Girls Basketball Begins

#### Wednesday, November 27

- Staff Inservice—No School

#### Thursday, November 28

- Happy Thanksgiving  
- No School

#### Friday, November 29

- No School

## Thank You for Your Service

By Teila Carnicle

Veterans' Day, which always falls on November 11, is a day to honor our Veterans'. A Veteran is any person who served in Active Duty in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, or Marines for any length of time. It is someone who fought for their patriotism, love of country, and to serve and sacrifice willingly for the common good of everyone.

Many people have a boundless amount of respect for our Veterans! Conner Blosmo, a senior, said, "Veterans' Day is important to me because it's a day of giving thanks. My great grandpa was in WWII and I wish I thanked him more."

Blosmo went on to say, "I have a lot of respect for Veterans' because they help serve and protect our country."

Kara Ellefson, also a senior, is someone who has an infinite amount of respect for them as well. Ellefson had enlisted in the National Guard, which won't make her a veteran, but still a member of the military.

Ellefson expressed that, "My view on Veterans' Day has changed since I've joined the Nation



Guard. I understand the importance of the day now more than I did before."

Ellefson reiterated Blosmo's thoughts about having a high respect for Veterans. "I do respect them because they are fighting for our country so we don't have to."

Mr. Bennett, a respected veteran and middle school social studies teacher, was very enthusiastic about this day. When asked if it was something he would do all over again, Bennett stated, "Yes, it was a good experience." Bennett went on to say that he was in the Vietnam Era."

Bennett is proud to be a veteran as his final words were, "I'm proud to have served, I feel good about it. Having been through that experience, you appreciate freedom more."

Going up to a Veteran and saying thank you for serving our country means more than one realizes. Remember though, Veterans' Day is a day to remember those who died in service to our country, but also recognize those who continue to serve today!

## Senior Projects in the Eyes of Underclassmen

By Katie Giesler

Do you realize that as of today, there are only 46 days of 2013 left? What does this mean for us?

The freshmen and sophomores are probably just dreaming about the next break, the juniors are most likely hoping for a quicker second semester, but what are the seniors thinking?

Are they excited that their senior projects are completed and they can now ride out the rest of the school year casually and coolly? Or are they in a mad rush to finish their big projects that they put off until Christmas break?

Senior project is a graduation requirement here at Garretson, and ultimately, the biggest assignment of your fourth year of high school. Seniors take up a new challenging activity outside of their comfort zone, write a report about it, and then present in front of judges in the spring before graduation.

This year, the senior projects range from skydiving (Jennie Hegge), learning to play piano (TJ Boland), training your horse to rein (Briana Duerr), and landscaping (Austin Matthiesen).

The very term "senior project" has been labeled with negative descriptions, such as "troublesome," "a pain," "annoying," and "overwhelming." Most of these words come from the seniors themselves.

However, in the eyes of many underclassmen, senior projects don't seem all that intimidating. In fact, they appear to be an important and meaningful piece of homework.

On Tuesday, four freshmen girls: Tabi Klingenberg, Aurora Rouzer, Abrianna Scholl, and Grace Homer talked about why they were looking forward to doing their senior projects.

"Depending on the project," said Klingenberg, "it might be helpful in the future, depending on what future career you [may] have." However, she also added, "it can be really stressful because it is a big grade, and that grade is impactful."

Homer seemed to already be interested in some of the current senior's projects, saying, "Connor Blosmo is doing sign language, and I think that is really cool. I would like to learn it."

## Senior Project Takes a Bad Rap

By Mr. Long and Mrs. Danielsen

In last week's edition of Blue Ink, an editorial piece took aim at the senior experience, which in 2009 was implemented at Garretson High School and in 2011 was made a requirement for graduation. The article - through limited research and a sampling of a few individual opinions - portrayed the senior project in a negative light. Instead of providing insight and knowledge about the project, it focused on the dissatisfaction of having to do one thing...work.

Beginning the spring of 2007, GHS began looking into implementation of a senior experience for our seniors. There were many reasons that this implementation was needed including:

- To increase rigor for our seniors and to more adequately prepare them for post-secondary education.
- The ever expanding need for students to be able to functionally read and write. Our students needed to be better prepared for college, technical schools, military or the work force.
- The South Dakota Department of Education altered their requirements for graduation, adding a Capstone project or Service Learning project as requirements towards high school graduation.
- Data gathered through DSTEP testing showed that students in Garretson (as well as many South Dakota Schools) did not perform well on standards involving informational reading and the research

component of the senior experience directly corresponded to their standards.

Prior to implementation, a group of GHS teachers and administrators visited neighboring schools that had already implemented the senior experience. They determined that it was valuable and a worthy addition to the curriculum at GHS. The group then presented to the school board, who made the final decision to add the senior experience to the curriculum for seniors at GHS. As you can deduce from the information above, there were many questions asked and steps taken during the consideration process of addition the senior experience to our curriculum.

To this point, over 130 GHS graduates have completed a senior experience, a vast majority did so with high quality and with the understanding that this endeavor would prepare them for future rigorous expectations when they begin their post-secondary school life. Some of these projects cost the student hundreds of dollars, some of these projects cost the student \$0 - that part is up to the student.

"The Senior Experience Project helped me in many ways so far with college. The biggest impact though is writing research papers. The paper I wrote for my project prepared me for the numerous papers I have written so far in college" said 2013 GHS graduate Logan Gutzmer. "Every paper I write, I refer

back to the skills I learned when completing my Senior Experience Project."

Gutzmer's project consisted of traveling the state of South Dakota attempting to catch one of every species of fish native to South Dakota. His project even got him mentioned in a recent issue of South Dakota Magazine.

It's also worth noting that prior to the implementation of the senior experience seniors were still required to write a research paper in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade English classes. So, the only true additional expectation placed on the seniors was to select, document and complete a project-based learning outcome in an area of their specific interest.

As you can see, the addition of the senior experience was a decision that was not taken lightly. A student's senior year of high school is the beginning of a transition. Seniors are expected to be more independent and with that independence comes responsibility. It's our goal to prepare every senior for their own respective futures. In order to do this we have to continue to find ways to help them grow and to "stretch" their expectations outside their comfort zones. Then and only then can we say we've done our best as a school.

And to leave you with one last thought about the senior experience...it's hard, so is college, so is life.

- Respectfully submitted by Mr. Long and Mrs. Danielsen

## Senior Projects

*Continued from page 1*

Hopeful about her own future project, Scholl explained, "I would do something to inspire others and let them show their creativity." To me, this statement demonstrates that she would enjoy creating windows of opportunity for others by using her senior project as their starting point, thus proving how beneficial senior projects really can be.

"Plan early, don't procrastinate, and get it done," says high school English teacher, Mr. Hughes. "The time you spend talking about what you don't want to do, is the time you could be spending getting it done." Wise words from a man who has seen many students cram in their work until the very end.

"It could take up a lot of time with school work," said Scholl.

"[But] it's a milestone," Homer refuted. "You have an excuse to learn more about something that's interesting to you."

Nick Irvine, the only freshman boy interviewed, said, "It's kind of a good thing to do to show that we're ready to do bigger things than [at] the high school level... and that we're ready for the real world."

Very well said, indeed. Rouzer also agreed with this, saying, "It helps you know what college is going to be like." Another valid point!

But it's not just a few of the freshmen



who are already preparing for the work. Junior, Tony Weiland, has already started putting pieces together for his own senior project!

Weiland explained that he started working on his project early, rebuilding his dad's 1978 Grand Prix, because it's going to take more than one summer to do it.

He says he will be relieved when it's finished because, "[It's] one less thing I have to do."

Despite some negativity that comes with the topic of senior projects, there are still many students looking forward to the out-of-the-box working experience in their last year of high school.

## Get Your Groove On

By Aaron Dunn

Last Friday, the middle schoolers were able to show off their moves when they attended the dance. Every year the middle school student council sets up a dance for grades 6-8. They hire a DJ for the night and he plays songs requested by the attendees.

Some people had other plans that night, like an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who said, "I was hunting that day."

A certain 7<sup>th</sup> grader who did attend stated

## Oral Interp Meet a Success

By Joshua Liester

The oral interpers were at it again as they traveled to Washington High School last Friday to perform their pieces for a group of judges. There was a large field competing with over 500 entries from 26 different schools in the competition. Garretson was looking to put their best foot forward, even though many of the other participants were from larger schools.

Katie Giesler attended the meet and was feeling confident about her piece. "I just read through the piece and make sure I alter how I say different words. I try to say the piece with different angles and perspectives to see what sounds best," said Giesler.

She also stated that oral interp is another

## Ugly Sweaters

By Morgan Frewaldt

Have you noticed anything strange about the clothing attire on Thursdays? Well every Thursday, starting in the second quarter, the students are beginning a tradition to wear an ugly sweater! This was also a trend last year, and more and more people have started to follow!

Who started this trend? "I and Sam (Powell) were motivated by Christian Mader!" said Austin Etrheim; "In the cold months you just need a nice sweater to keep you warm!"

## No Shave November

By Wyatt Fink

It's that time of the year where everyone doesn't shave, that's right its NO SHAVE NOVEMBER!

There are many interesting facts about facial hair, like the following. The most your hair grows in a month is one centimeter. A person will shave 20,000 times in their lifetime? They also will spend 60 hours of shaving in their lifetime. The longest beard

that "I did not really have fun."

But not everything was a disaster for him, as he also mentioned that "I got to dance with the person I wanted to."

For us high schoolers, we all remember how the middle school dance was for us: fun and something to look forward to at the time. But from our perspective today, it may

way for her to enjoy acting with "no creative restraints." Giesler took second place in one of her four rounds on the day.

Senior Mikaela Gilbert also attended the meet and has participated in oral interp for three years. She is doing a duet piece with fellow senior Mariah Nelson entitled "Thirteen Ways to Screw up a College Interview." Gilbert thinks their season has been very successful so far as they have been practicing almost every day. Their duet placed third in one of their rounds on Friday.

Eighth grader Sylvia Larson also had a strong showing, taking second place in one of the four rounds.

Overall the team had a great day! Oral

not be our first choice of activity. High school brings about a variety of brand new activities that we must be a part of rather than a school dance.

One of the new things is the Fall Formal which is on Saturday. So remember to look good and wear your fancy clothes this Saturday!

Interp coach Mrs. Buchholz said, "It's been difficult to coordinate busy schedules with practice times and meets, but at the meets we've been to, we've seen success."

The region meet is set for next Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Coach Buchholz is looking forward to the meet, saying, "If people get in to practice, we should be able to send at least one to state if not more. The students will get out of it what they put into it."

Gilbert seemed ready for Monday too, saying, "We are very confident about placing in regions."

Break a leg!



How many sweaters do they own you may ask? Powell said, "It is definitely in the double digits."

You can get ugly sweaters from anywhere! The most common place to get the sweaters according to Etrheim and Powell are Savers, and Good Will!

Etrheim said that his favorite and cheapest sweater just happens to be from Kohl's, and Powell, well, his favorites are the ones he gets passed down from his family members.

But as you have probably noticed, it is mainly upperclassmen participating in this. We are encouraging "anyone with a good sense of style," said Etrheim, to get in on it!

Mariah Nelson said, "I support it fully, I am a dedicated member of the sweater club!"

Though most people classify the sweaters as ugly, Etrheim said "They are not ugly, they are fashionable!" So don't forget to wear your "fashionable" sweater every Thursday, for a good laugh!

measured was 5.3 meters long. The average number of hairs a man has on his face is 30,000. The only king in a deck of cards without a moustache is the king of hearts. Sixteen presidents have had facial hair.

Senior Jesse Brockhouse is one of the few men in this school with facial hair. Brockhouse is "not sure if it attracts women but Bryce Wollmann seems to think so".

"More than likely" said Brockhouse when asked if he was going to continue the growth of his beard.

"Of course, beards are the trademarks of men," replied Brockhouse. If beards make you feel manlier, this is the month to make it happen.



## 'Tis the Shopping Season

By Jennie Hegge

It's almost that time of year again, Black Friday shopping! Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving where stores bring in customers by having some insane sales. All of the crazy shoppers are going to be out and about doing whatever it takes to get what they want! Some even go so overboard with trying to get what they want, that they end up hurting themselves and others around them.

In 2008, a woman was trampled to death at a Walmart in Long Island. There was a reported 2,000 people trying to shove their way through the doors as they opened at five a.m. It was so crowded that the cops who came to try and control the crowd, could not even do that.

Also during that Walmart incident, a lady that was eight months pregnant was knocked to the ground and rushed to the hospital. Only later to find out that she had had a miscarriage.

Another fatal event happened in 2009 at a Walmart in Los Angeles. The Walmart actually decided to stay open all throughout the Thanksgiving holiday to help prevent people from getting trampled like they did the year before. It was a good idea, but unfortunately did not work. Impatient customers just came earlier and started opening their things before they even bought them. Those who did that, were kicked out for two hours. But they didn't leave. They just stayed outside of the doors and pounded on them, caused fights, and yelled continuously that they wanted back in! Because of all the chaos it caused, they were forced to close the Walmart and kick the remaining people out.

It just seems that almost all of the serious incidents have been happening at Walmart! In 2011, a Walmart, also in Los Angeles, opened up at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving night and had an area of marked down Xbox's. As

expected, it was quickly crowded over by tons of people. That is when some extremely crazy lady, who must've really wanted an Xbox, thought it would be a good idea to pepper spray her way through all the people. That 'good idea' injured nearly 20 people. She later realized she was in the wrong, and turned herself in!

Moral of the article: if you decide to go black Friday shopping, STAY AWAY FROM WALMART! Or you could just do all of your shopping on Cyber Monday, which is when certain stores provide specific discounts for their online customers only. That way you can stay in your bed, all nice and comfy, don't have to worry about traffic, or getting injured by some crazy shoppers, and you won't even have to take the time to get ready! Sounds perfect, doesn't it?



## Holiday Spirit

The upcoming holidays sometimes add a bit extra stress trying to find that perfect gift for someone on your list.

While out shopping, add an extra per-

son to you list. There are many community members, kids included, that are in need of a little extra generosity.

Many non-profit organizations are

around for you to help bring some cheer to those who may need a little bit more: Salvation Army, Operation Christmas Child, and Toys for Tots just to name a few.

## Senior Spotlight

### HALEY EDMUNDSON

**Activities:** Basketball, Volleyball, Track, LYO

**Favorite Memory:** Making it to Regions for basketball freshman year

**What are you going to miss the most?** High School sports

**Future Plans:** Attend a 4-year university and play basketball, undecided major

**Senior Project:** Photography



### DEREK DECKER

**Activities:** football, track, wrestling

**Favorite Memory:** Football

**What are you going to miss the most?** Seeing my friends everyday

**Future Plans:** Air force

**Senior Project:** Photography



## Student Opinion Poll

This week students were asked what their favorite Thanksgiving food is.



Stop by Mrs. Buchholz's or Mr. Hughes' rooms on Monday to vote in next week's student opinion poll. The polls will be located inside the rooms.

**ANSWERS:** Brain Teaser: Are you asleep? Joke: A stick

