



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 16

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Traditionally in America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Shoes are used instead in Holland.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: See if you can decipher these popular holiday songs. The clues would be synonyms for the typical titles.

- 1) I am experiencing nocturnal visions of a colorless holiday
- 2) Oh holiday conifer
- 3) A Non-summer fairytale area

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why does Santa go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?
Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Friday, December 12**
- Boys Basketball v. Tri-Valley
 - Saturday, December 13**
- GBB & BBB @ Colman-Egan
 - Monday, December 15**
- 7/8/JV Wrestling @ Beresford
 - Semester Test—8th Period
 - Tuesday, December 16**
- GBB & BBB @ Canton
 - Semester Test—1st & 2nd Prds
 - Wednesday, December 17**
- Geography Bee @ 1:30
 - Semester Tests—3rd & 4th Prds
 - Thursday, December 18**
- GBB @ West Central
 - Semester Tests—7th & 5th Prds
 - Friday, December 19**
- Middle School to Pizza Ranch
 - Early dismissal—out at 1:30
- Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler*



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Johnson Selected to Prestigious Football Bowl

By Katie Giesler

It's not every day that a father and son come together and end up leaving a mark in football history; but in 1989, that's exactly what Gus Bell and his son Erik did when they founded the Blue-Grey Classic and Blue-Grey Football.

This large-scale tournament is anything but run-of-the-mill. Top level prospects from regional combines across the country are selected and invited to one of three super combines; the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, the New England Patriots and the Arizona Cardinals host said combines.

Only the best of the best are then selected to move on and participate at either Raymond James Stadium (home of the Buccaneers), or AT&T Stadium (home of the Dallas Cowboys) in the two All-American Bowls.

Here at Garretson, we've had one of our own showcase his impeccable skills, ultimately catching the attention of those sitting high up in the football world. Senior, Matt Johnson, is set to participate in the Texas bowl.

In an interview with Johnson, he provides an insight on what the process was like, his goals and aspirations, and just a little bit more detail in his road to success in football.

Q: How many teams are drawn for this [bowl]?

M: There's two teams [made to play] in my bowl game, and then there's another two teams [made to play] in the other bowl game.

Q: How many people were selected?

M: Around 90 people on each team.

Q: What's the selection process like?

M: Well, I went to a small combine in Sioux Falls. Then I got invited to go to a bigger one in Texas. Then they pick the best people [out] of the big combines to come play at the games.

Q: What are your expectations going into this bowl?

M: It's gonna be different than playing here, but [just] that I do my best.

Q: Is there any benefit collegiately?

M: Maybe; I mean, I think there's going to be scouts at the game!

Q: What's the benefit of going to the bowl [for you]?

M: To get recognition and just to play with people that are better than what I see around here.

Q: What do you hope to get out of it?

M: Just a new experience, and a fun chance to play with new people.

Q: What advice would you give to an underclassman that looks up to you and aspires to be like you, what with your football career and all?

M: To work hard, and hit the weight room.



Staying Safe, Sound, and on the Road

By Tabi Klingenberg

Every driver knows that it can be tough to drive under certain conditions, no matter how experienced you are. When that first snowflake falls along with that last leaf, it's time to start learning how to control your driving habits and to stay safe and on the road.

1. One of the most important tips is to never jerk or slam on the brakes if the roads are too icy and could lead you into an accident. When you feel yourself about to slide into the ditch, it is important to make light movements on the steering wheel and the pedals.

Sophomore Mitchell Erickson commented, "Make sure you have good tires on your car, and make sure you don't push your breaks if you start sliding. It's all about the way you drive. It has some effect if

you have a bad motor or bad tires." 2. Before you are about to begin your drive, start the car and leave it running for sixty seconds or more to warm up the engine. Otherwise if you pressure the vehicle to drive immediately when it's cold outside, it can cause the battery to be killed and/or to break down.

3. Make sure you are checking your fluid, add anti-freeze to prevent your gasoline from gelling. This is extremely important, as this can cause the vehicle to slow down and to come to a complete halt.

4. Depending on the driver, it is best to go the speed limit or slightly under; if you are going too fast, you can lose control and be driven off the road.

"First of all, don't drive super fast when it's icy or snowy; and

don't text and drive," advised senior, Jera Sands.

5. If you do break down, make sure to pack essentials such as blankets, a shovel, a communicating device, and kitty litter for the times you end up getting stuck in the snow (just apply it by the tire where you plan to back out. It will be used as a gravel replacement.)

You can never be sure if things are going to go as well as planned while on the road. So next time you decide to get out, don't forget these useful tips for keeping you and your car safe and sound this winter.



Hometown Christmas Set to Take Place

By Micah Mader

It looks like it's going to be another brown Christmas, but that's not stopping the town from getting into the Christmas spirit.

Garretson's hometown Christmas holds a very special place in many hearts, as it has been a tradition here for many generations.

This Saturday, Garretson will hold its annual home town Christ-

mas on Main Street. The event will begin on December 12 @ 8:00 am and end December 14 @ 5:00 pm.

Horse drawn carriage rides, live music, and visits with Santa are just a few of the many activities taking place this Saturday.

People also have a chance to show of their creativity with a gingerbread house contest.



Freshman Beth Schmidt will be in attendance of the holiday and quoted, "I'm most excited to take the two little kids I babysit around town all day to horse ride and make crafts."

Thanks to countless volunteers and gracious business owners this year's old fashioned Christmas will truly be something to remember.



Girls Basketball Prevails in Season Opener

By Jared Fitzgerald

Another year of girls basketball tipped off last Tuesday. The Lady Dragons squared off against Dell Rapids Saint Mary's. With high hopes on the year, the girls hope to accomplish even more than they did last year.

It'll be a way different team from last year to this year, but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Graduating two major players on the team last year, the lady dragons will be without Haley Edmundson and Telia Carnicle.

But the ladies showed that they could get it done even without their two graduated teammates. Blowing the Cardinals out of the water in every aspect of the game, the girls showed no mercy. Junior Jaden Bly comment-

ed, "It's more exciting starting the year off with a win on our home court."

Toppling the Cardinals, the girls outscored their opponents by double digits. Winning 52 to 40, the ladies never stopped playing their hardest. Junior Peyton Heitkamp was the leading scorer on the night with 12 points, also grabbing two rebounds.

Shutting down the Cardinals in the post, senior Brianna Mudder was a force to be reckoned with, leading the way with seven rebounds on the night and contributing 10 points. Senior Teisha Carnicle and junior Jaden Bly both ended the night with eight points.

Head coach Mr. Mudder stated, "I thought we did some things real well, we played well as a team." It was a

great start to the girls basketball season as they overcame the Dell Rapids Saint Mary's Cardinals. They showed other teams that they are not messing around and get it done on the court.

The Lady Blue Dragons were in action again last night. They hosted Tri-Valley, but unfortunately were not able to repeat the outcome from earlier in the week, dropping the game 53-41 and moving their record to 1-1.

They play again tomorrow against Colman-Egan in a boys/girls double header.



Photo by Mataya Lines



Band and Choir Concerts

By Zeb Johnson

Winter is coming, and even though we don't have the snow to show yet, the band and choir have been getting in the spirit with their winter concerts. Both the band and the choir have had performances in the last week, the band's on the fourth of December and the choir's on the fifth.

The band performed a multitude of songs, not just the holiday tunes we are used to. The students played a total of five songs, including music to represent the seasons and one additional piece just for fun. The band began the show with a song titled "Ascentium", a relatively fast selection with a slow, melodic section in the middle. After "Ascentium", the band began the journey through the seasons beginning with Autumn.

Fall was represented with a song titled "Through Darkened Sleepy Hollow", and it focused on Halloween and

the fear associated with the holiday rather than the season as a whole. After that came winter and "Christmas Festival". The song was a lengthy endeavor with snatches of famous songs interwoven throughout. A selection titled "Among the Clouds" followed the winter song, representing the life and renewal after the cold of winter, and some said that it was the best song of the concert. The band finished their performance with a famous march by John Philip Sousa. This was the shortest of the songs, but was one of the two best songs in the concert.

The choir's concert was more in the spirit of the winter holiday season, featuring almost all traditional Christmas carols. They opened with a song called "Jubilate Deo," which, according to sophomore Abri Scholl, was, "My favorite song. I think it went really well." The second selection per-

formed by the choir was "Fum, Fum, Fum," a popular Spanish carol. Following the two opening songs was a selection for the males in the choir. The men performed a slower rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

The females went after, with a song called "The Snow Has a Song." The finale of the concert was "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and overall the concert was very good. Abri Scholl stated, "I think it went better than expected; one of the best performances I've been in."

With the end of the winter concerts, we can be sure that Winter Break is coming, hopefully fast, and that the Garretson Music programs will continue to put on excellent shows in the future.

Saving Grades Before the End of the Season

By Abriana Scholl

It's near the end of the semester and your grades are looking unpleasant. With semester tests just around the corner, you're probably going to need a comeback.

The first reasonable step to take is to check with your teachers to see if they have any missing assignments from you. Leaving your grades with empty spaces from assignments that have gone MIA could leave your report card with grades that are not so affable.

After you have eased the stress with misplaced homework, it is time to pinpoint the certain subjects you've had complications with.

When you get the time, check in with your teachers or simply look up

your current grades on the school website.

In your planner or a notebook, write down the subjects that you need to put a little more effort into. Don't be afraid to ask your teachers for a little extra help on lessons you find confusing and complicated.

There are plenty of simple techniques. For example, you could "Take your time, put more effort into your work, and study more." expressed freshman Kristen Cordier.

If you have your own ways to do better in school, use them! When you have your own personal tricks to cope with homework, it will feel very comforting and simple.

For senior, Jera Sands, she finds it helpful to "Study really hard and don't

procrastinate" when it comes to preparing for a test.

The #1 thing that is best to avoid are distractions. Just keep in mind that your schoolwork is an important factor when it comes to your future plans. So don't let social media sites like Instagram and Snapchat take up your precious study time.

Other distractions like "All that boyfriend and girlfriend jazz," stated Cordier, TV, video games, and work could be limited as well.

So those thoughts of doubt and complication can say "hasta la vista." It's time to bring out the books and flashcards, because with just a little more focus you are guaranteed to find your next report card a success!



Semester Test Prep

By Lana Braswell

We have dreaded this day since school first began! And now it's here...The semester test.

Some students seem to struggle normally in class, while others seem to do quite well. So how will students keep themselves focused and ready for this test? All night study sessions fueled by Monster energy drinks and skittles? As I thought about this I decided to question some of the students to find out how they will prepare for the upcoming nightmare of..... Semester Tests!

But what is the hardest class? Freshman Sylvia Larson says "My hardest class is physical science, but with a little studying I can pass that."

Though her hardest test she believes will be is creative art, because she accidentally threw away her notes.

"My easiest class will be world geography, because even if I fail the quizzes we take I can learn the correct answer right away. You learn from your mistakes, after all," Larson quoted.

She is sure she will do well on her Algebra test because she does so well in the class. "I'm POSITIVE I'll pass my journalism test because it's not like a full on question and answer test; it tests ability." But she isn't the only one who thinks so.

Other students seem to be going to study with friends, because it's impossible for some to study by themselves.

Some like sophomore Abriana Scholl prefer to study in peace instead of in public.

Honestly some students believe they are going to fail most of these because even if they study hard, they didn't prepare this semester at all. "I will learn from my mistakes this semester and hopefully move on next semester," quoted Scholl.

So will students do well on the upcoming test? I guess we will find out. Study hard, get sleep and make sure that you pay attention in class when you think it's needed most!

Garretson Teacher Earns National Certification, Pride Award

Garretson second grade teacher, Jodi Neugebauer, was recognized on Monday as the PRIDE award winner for the month of December. This is in light of her most recent accomplishment, being nationally board certified.

Receiving national certification is a rigorous process. There are four parts to the process: a content-focused written assessment, a reflection of student work, a self-reflection of one's own teaching process, and docu-

menting impact and accomplishments in teaching.

Congratulations to Ms. Neugebauer.



The Blue Dragons Take the Mat

By Beth Schmidt

Last Saturday on December 6th, the Blue Dragons wrestling team headed to Flandreau for the Flandreau tournament. Head coach Jason Bohl noted, "You know, [even with] the little number we have, they do work hard. We get a lot done during practices; and [though] we're short on numbers, we're not short on work ethics."

The results were the following: Chayce Schleuter (106), 1st; sophomore Jared Fitzgerald (120), 4th; senior Tait Johnson (126), 4th; junior Jacob Fitzgerald (132), 1st; junior Brady

Schleuter (138), 4th; senior Tony Weiland (182), 3rd; and senior Tristen Wagner (HWT), 2nd.

Bohl also asserted, "Well, it's early in the year; and you know that we needed to wrestle. We got to do that, and [got] to see where we're at. I mean, the first match of the year is always looking at where you're at as far as where you need to be in. We're going to work at being there, and different angles at the end of the year."

The Blue Dragon grapplers had a chance to prove themselves on the mat once again. They hosted a triangular with Windom-Mountain Lake and Fulda-Murray County Central.

Garretson lost both matchups, 24-40 against Windom-Mountain Lake, and 22-54 against Fulda-Murray County Central.

The Blue Dragon Wrestlers have over a week off to improve and prepare for their next competition, the Elk-Point Jefferson Tournament.

Boys Basketball Bounces Back into Season

By Tait Johnson

The boys basketball team will be tipping-off against Tri-Valley tonight at 6:15. This is the first game for the new head coach Matt Schrank. The team has been practicing for two weeks now, and feel they are ready for the season opener.

Senior Ben Hanson stated, "I'm excited to get on the court and actually play not just practice."

But before they can get any action on the court, the team and new coaches will have to overcome the loss of the three seniors that racked up over 200 points last year.

Tanner Gutzmer stated about the new starting five, "I know we are young, but I hope that will give us an edge in the fast breaks and playing 'small ball.'"

The team is starting some young guns, Shay Gibson and Riley Nordstrom. The other starters are senior Tanner Gutzmer and juniors Alex Anderson and Cole Fiegen.

The young squad will have their hands full tonight, playing a more experienced team against Tri-Valley, who has seven seniors competing to make one last stand; but don't count out the Blue Dragons!

The Cemetery Club

By Sylvia Larson

Lights, camera, action! The Jesse James players have put on yet another exceptional play, and this time it's The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell. According to visitgarretson.com, 'The Jesse James Players are proud to present The Cemetery Club at the Old Opera House in Garretson, SD.'

Call 605-321-3758 for ticket information. Tickets are \$10 and are also sold at Alliance or The Treasure Chest in Garretson or Family Floors in Brandon, SD.'

Show times include tonight and tomorrow night at 7:00pm, and Sunday at 2:00pm.

"[Last weekend's performances] went very well. Sunday was almost a

full house, there were only four seats open," commented Williamson. "We've sold a lot more tickets for this weekend, so it will be fuller."

In The Cemetery Club, three widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband's graves. Lucille -played by Connie Stiefvater- is the girl who just wants to have fun, Ida -played by Dorothy Williamson- is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life, and Doris -played by Yvonne Larson- is snooty and judgmental. Sam the butcher -played by Dale Mueller- meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida and they are guilt stricken

when this nearly breaks Ida's heart. Also included was Mildred, played by Sandy debates.

"It is SO fun to get involved with the arts and be involved with Oral Interp and plays because it stretches you as a person, it broadens your horizons, and it increases your confidence; but most of all, it's fun," exclaimed Williamson.

Williamson advises you call ahead to get your tickets, because the seats are slowly dwindling into standing room only. This may be your last chance to experience a well executed play by the Jesse James players for quite some time.

Q & A with Matt Johnson Continued

By Katie Giesler

Q: How many honors do you have collectively?

M: The [Argus Leader] Elite 45, All-State [2014], then I got All-State Honourable Mention my junior year; I've been All-Conference the last two years, and uh... yeah, that's about it!

Q: How long have you been pursuing your football dreams?

M: [Since] I started playing in third grade.

Q: What/Who inspired you to play football? What/Who keeps you going?

M: I don't really know. I've just loved it my whole life! I don't think anyone really *makes me keep going*.

Q: What mindset do you keep in order to be able to do the things you do?

M: [I] just always think that there's someone out there who's working harder than you are. (Ergo, push yourself to do better to out-do whoever is currently out-doing *you*.)

Q: Is there a quote or line that sticks in your head that keeps you reminded on why you started or why to keep going?

M: Not really.

Q: What's your ultimate dream regarding football?

M: I just want to be successful in college and see where it goes from there.

Q: Where do you ideally see yourself and football in ten years? Do you hope to keep playing after college?

M: Well, if I can I will!

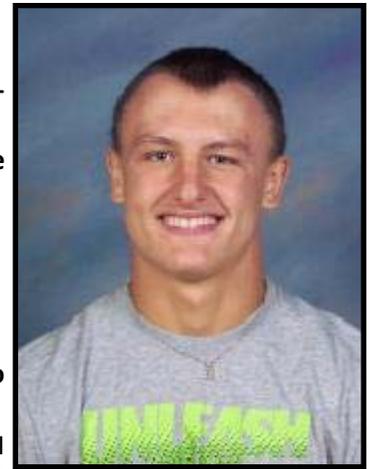
Q: Ideally, is there any "Dream Team" you would like to play for?

M: No; I mean, if I

can play, then I'll keep playing until I can't!

Q: Have you signed to play for anyone yet?

M: No, not yet.



According to the Blue-Grey Bowl website, Johnson is listed as the "quarterback on defense in some ways. He'll call some of the shots before the ball is set in motion.

Johnson is currently down in Texas for the Blue-Grey Bowl. He will play this Sunday at AT&T Stadium.

Senior Spotlight

NAME: Tony Weiland

SENIOR PROJECT: Building an entertainment center

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Football, Wrestling, and Track

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: Friends and Sports

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Join the Marines



Student Opinion Poll

With semester tests around the corner next week for the high schoolers, the students were asked which semester test they thought would be most difficult.

Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.

