

Blue Ink



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

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: One town in Indiana is called Santa Claus. There is also a Santa, Idaho

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: See if you can decipher the order:

Comet behind Rudolph, Prancer and Cupid. Blitzen behind Cupid and in front of Donner, Vixen and Dancer.
Cupid in front of Comet, Blitzen and Vixen. Donner behind Vixen, Dasher and Prancer. Rudolph behind Prancer and in front of Donner, Dancer and Dasher.
Vixen in front of Dancer and Comet.
Dancer behind Donner, Rudolph and Blitzen. Prancer in front of Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.
Dasher behind Prancer and in front of Vixen, Dancer and Blitzen.
Donner behind Comet and Cupid.
Cupid in front of Rudolph and Dancer.
Vixen behind Rudolph, Prancer and Dasher.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What does Santa and his elves eat for breakfast?

Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, December 19

- Middle School to Pizza Ranch
- Early dismissal—out at 1:30

Saturday, December 20

- 9th GBB Tourney @ Tri-Valley
- Wrestling @ Elk-Point Jefferson
- BBB @ Parker
- GBB @ Entringer Classic vs. Elkton-Lake Benton

Monday, December 22

- No School—Winter Break

Tuesday, December 23

- No School - Winter Break

Wednesday, December 24

- No School—Winter Break

Thursday, December 25

- No School—Winter Break

Friday, December 26

- No School—Winter Break

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'Tis the Season of Giving

By Sylvia Larson

What will YOU get for Christmas? What about for Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, or Hanukkah?

You probably got stuff, just more stuff. Now you have stuff from this year, and stuff from last year, and random old toys thrown around because they're too nice to be considered garbage.

Don't get me wrong, you probably like or even love all that stuff. As much as you love it, you probably don't need it.

This year alone, hundreds of families will go without food on their table or presents under the tree. Most of these kids are too young to understand that their families have fallen on hard times or they just don't have the money for a present. A lot of these families can't even afford one toy to keep the kids happy, much less five or six or even more like well-off families might receive.

Imagine the devastation portrayed by a young child Christmas morning to come down stairs and see no gift, and then having to go to the banquet or something similar for Christmas dinner. They might be totally fine with it, but it could also be humiliating having to dodge questions like *"What did YOU get for Christmas?"*

The good news is, you can help. Organizations like Toys for Tots give out thousands of toys to needy families each year, and the demand just keeps on growing. They give kids a chance to get a fun, new toy that their parents otherwise couldn't afford. Local giving trees like the Angel Tree and the Empire Mall do the same thing. You pick a note or letter to Santa and buy the gift, then drop it off and the people who sponsor the tree deliver it to the families in need. Places like Salvation Army give out free toys and clothes to people in need, so you can always donate there too.

If you know you can't afford to buy a gift for a random child or don't have anything to donate, donate your time at The Banquet. If you would like to help serve a meal but are not affiliated with a group, check out their website for more information.

They do ask that you make a small contribution toward the overall cost of the meal, as you

will be assigned with a group that is responsible for funding that meal. The Banquet served 160,600 meal in 2013, but only with the help of kind people ready to volunteer.

Donations to places like the Children's Inn in Sioux Falls are greatly appreciated. People come to the Children's Inn to escape from situations like abuse or worse, and get help from the workers there. The Inn is always in need of donations, and so are places like it.

Feeding America accepts food donations and fund donations to help food-insecure families all around the country. 15.8 million children lived in food-insecure households in 2012. Donating to The Treasure Chest or the Food Pantry is a great way to donate food or funds on a more local level.

Lastly, if you belong to any of the many churches in the area, your pastor or priest will have a list or a family in the congregation in need that you could help out this Christmas which is a great way to give locally.

Let every kid have a good Christmas this year, no matter what the financial stance of his or her parents. Everyone deserves joys, and you're just the person to make that happen.

-Author's Note-

Last night I was wrapping presents with my sister, when my mom came down to give her something to give to the rest of us. (She's ten, she has no ability to buy gifts) When it came to my present she made sure I wasn't looking and wrapped it quickly so I wouldn't see.

I felt a little flutter of excitement wondering what it might be, and it kind of hit me that some kids never get that feeling. I watched my mom order me a Doctor Who blanket and some seasons of Friends and Beverly Hills 90210. Still, Christmas morning, I will be beyond excited to open them and use them.

Some kids won't have anything to open on Christmas or whatever holiday they celebrate, and that makes me sad. Even though it'll be after Christmas, over the break I've decided I'm going to donate almost all of my old toys (that are still nice) to charity so even if it's next year or a little late, somewhere some kid will get my toy and be excited like I am.



Scan for the
full upcoming
event schedule

Sioux Falls to Host NCAA Tournament

By Micah Mader

It's official! Last month, the NCAA big-wigs met with and awarded the city of Sioux Falls with the last of four regional site locations for the 2016 Women's College Basketball Tournament.

The event will be held at the Denny Sanford Premier Center from March 25th through the 28th in 2016. Four teams will make their way to Sioux Falls, playing three games in the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight rounds of the 64-team tournament. The survivor will punch a ticket to the national semi-finals in Indianapolis.

This will be South Dakota's first time holding a Division 1 championship event.

Sports Authority board member and Sanford Health Vice President, Kevin Lam-

pe, explains in an interview with Argus Leader, "This is the first step on a big journey for this little city. Our events center and everything we've got planned – it's starting to come into place; it's starting to happen."

Eight years ago, it was questionable whether Sioux Falls had the facility and tournament capabilities to hold such events, even those of the Summit League level.

In December of last year, Sioux Falls was awarded eight Division 2 championships across a whole board of sports between 2015 and 2018; the first run being the D-2 women's basketball Elite Eight in 2015.

Starting in 2016, Sioux Falls will be hosting a slew of basketball tournaments. Starting in March, there's the Summit League men's and women's tournament, followed by the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference men's and women's tournament, the Division 2 women's Elite Eight, the Division 1 women's regional, and finally the Class AA boys and girls state tournaments.

It's safe to say that with the addition of the Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls will be bringing in a huge amount of new revenue in the near future and for long to come!

Basically Healthy

By Cassy Heath

When someone pictures themselves making goals to eat healthy, they usually visualize nutritious food filled with protein and vitamins.

Foods like meats, vegetables, and fruit are used for healthy meals but the snack-like products (for example: Special K, low-fat candy, and pre-made smoothies or

protein shakes) are also used for "eating healthy."

It's true these foods offers good protein and/or healthy nutrients, but has anyone ever wondered how something that tastes so good could be so healthy at the same time?

Half of the products you see that say things like 100% juice or "freshly made"

are usually the same products that are exaggerating when it comes to how "healthy" the really are.

The amount of sugar and carbs put in those snacks completely cancel out the healthy part of the equation.

So if you're thinking about going on a diet, stick to your vegetables.

Band and Choir Perform at the Bank

By Lana Braswell

Last week, the Garretson band and choir set the mood at the bank! Filling the room with Christmas cheer, as they played away to the music of the angels, celebrating the holiday spirit just a little bit early.

The citizens of Garretson who were there when the band and choir performed gave lots of compliments to them, telling them how they came in, set the mood perfectly for all to hear.

Not only that but some sang along to the tunes of the choir along with the band whose shockingly spirited performance rattled the people of the bank, lifting their spirits on a gloomy day of winter.

One of the performers, sophomore Abriana Scholl, stated "I love how such simple things can cheer up people so easily; honestly, I hope that their Christmas is as cheery as they were when listening to the music."

Scholl also added, "I can bet the band was great, only cause of what I heard from a few people." And correct she was about that, the band had fun.

So giving good cheers to all of the people out there who sang and played at the bank, we hope that spirits were lifted.

And we send to you good luck and well wishes during the holidays for all to enjoy. So have a merry Christmas, and a happy new year to all with good cheer!

Food Insecurity Still Strikes during the Holidays

By Alli Kruger

Think of eight people you know, one of them may go to bed hungry tonight.. One in eight, 15% of the population, suffer from food insecurity.

Children are actually the most visible victims of undernourishment, leading to about 5 million deaths of children alone.

There is certainly enough food to feed everyone., so then why are people star-

ing? Poverty is a pretty big issue when it comes to lack of food, people just don't get paid enough, also climate change (flooding, draught, etc) has responsibility in the crime for lack of food.

As of 2014 about 842 million people now suffer from lack of food. As of 2014 deaths by hunger and hunger problems have risen, we all know what world hunger

is, but most people just act like they have never heard of it before.

If you have a little extra, consider giving this holiday season and make someone's day a little brighter. Donations can be dropped off at the Garretson Food pantry or one of the many facilities in Sioux Falls.

Wrestlers Outdone at Home Triangular

By Tait Johnson

Shake hands, ready? Wrestle! The Garretson wrestling team took on Fulda-Murray County and Windom last Thursday in a triangular also serving as parents' night.

The night started off with the Garretson taking on Windom. On paper Garretson was already down 30 points due to the lack of people on the starting roster, making it an uphill battle.

Garretson was not able to overcome the tough battle ahead and lost the duel 40-24.

Windom would take Fulda with momentum, keeping it rolling. On paper the

teams were evenly matched with only two open spots at different weight

classes giving it an even 6 on 6 differential. Windom took the even match and threw it out the window, besting Fulda 53-10.

Following the Fulda-Windom dual, came parents' night. First to honor the parents were the coaches, followed by the stat girls and student managers, then the freshman all the way up to the seniors.

Subsequently was the last dual of the night, the Blue Dragons vs Fulda-Murray



County. Garretson again fighting with on hand behind the back, had to

make up some ground trying to overcome a 30 point differential. Garretson again fell short losing the duel 54-22.

The Wrestling team heads to Elk Point-Jefferson for the Elk Point-Jefferson Invitational; at this tournament Garretson will be the "small dog in a big pound," but I would not count out any of the Dragon wrestlers.

Boys Basketball Drops First Two Games of the Season

By Jared Fitzgerald

Kick starting their season off against Tri-Valley, the boys were looking for their first W. With the boys' basketball team having high hopes on their season, their home opener was not the start that they wanted.

The game was a thriller from the opening tip off all the way to the ending buzzer. Only having three seniors on the team, the boys looked to the young players to pick up some of the slack.

Having graduated three of the five players from the starting lineup last year this team is way different than last year. That does not mean a bad thing necessarily, because they have a lot of young talent.

Showing no mercy, last Friday night, Shay Gibson picked apart the Mustangs defense scoring 12 points and 4 assists.

Along the way Tanner Gutzmer helped out and added an additional six points to the score.

The game was very intense the whole way through; the Mustangs would score rapidly then shut down momentarily, allowing the boys to fight back and tie it up. The game score differential was like a roller coaster always going up and down.

Unfortunately Tri-Valley was too much for the Blue Dragons to handle during their home opener outscoring them 54 to 48. But on the upside the boys could shoot right back as they traveled to Colman the very next day to take on the Hawks.

The boys could not fire up against Colman-Egan, as exhaustion and fatigue settled in right away. The Blue Dragons were still searching for their first win on the season but the Hawks were not ready to let that happen.

Jumping on Garretson early, the Hawks scored 18 in the first quarter. Shay Gibson and Cole Fiegen tried to slow down their red hot opponents, but even dropping 15 points a piece on the night was not enough to get the job done.

The Hawks stomped out the Blue Dragons 56 to 46 in overtime giving the boys their second loss on the season. It is still early in the season though and the boys are hungry to get their first win. They are ready to bounce back and prevail from their early season losses.

Even though they lost their first two games they showed a lot of talent and skill. They shut down the Canton C-Hawks for their first win on the season.

The boys were able to secure their first win on Tuesday against Canton by a score of 54-50.

Their next game is tomorrow at Parker.

Lady Blue Dragons Bounce on the Court

By Beth Schmidt

The Lady Blue Dragons headed to Colman-Egan on Saturday, playing the first feature of a double header.

The Lady Dragons ended up defeating the Hawks 43-29 but the game was tight in the beginning.

In the first quarter the Lady Dragons were tied, 9-9.

The Lady Blue Dragons went on a 9-0 run in the second quarter, and after half

time Garretson spread the lead to fifteen, 33-18.

The starting line up consisted of juniors Jaden Bly and Peyton Hiekamp and seniors Mara VanDeBurg, Brianna Mudder, and Teisha Carnicle.

Bly lead the team with 12 points. VanDeBerg ended with 11 points including three from beyond the arc, and Carnicle put up seven.

The Garreston girls get back on the court on Saturday December 20th, with the Entringer Classic Tournament. They will be facing Elkton-Lake Benton at 4:30.

The girls are always pumped up so high hopes for them as they travel tomorrow, looking to improve on their 3-1 record.



New Year's Resolutions

By Abriana Scholl

Years pass by so quickly and 2014 is nearing its close. With 2015 just around the corner, we shall take the time to reflect back at the great memories and the mistakes we can learn from.

December, as we know, is flying by awfully quick. At this point we usually sit back and think about our goals from these past 12 months.

As we sit here and think about it, we usually ask ourselves "What did I accomplish?" I'm sure all of us have thoughts about New Year's resolutions, but did we actually accomplish them?

Most people in the world never exactly keep their resolutions with them through a

whole year. In fact only 8% of people ever fully accomplish them.

So, for this upcoming year if you want to put your foot down and make an effort, here are a few ways you could make that resolution a reality.

Staying positive can definitely give you motivation and will help you achieve your goals. If you really feel committed to your goal, then put in your best effort instead of brushing off the idea from the back of your hand.

Make a plan. If you know what you're doing and how you are going to do it, then the struggle will be slightly less of a challenge. Try not to stress out either, because

when that happens it either results in giving up or an unhealthy meltdown of emotions.

Just remember that even if you didn't achieve your goal, there are still opportunities to do so. I mean really; you have the rest of your life. Plus not all goals will be accomplished, so there is no need to get flustered about whether or not you reached a new attainment.

In the meantime let's focus on the present and enjoy the rest of 2014 as it goes away by the second.

So stay positive and enjoy the rest of the year. Happy holidays everyone!

CIA Admits to Using Torture

By Zeb Johnson

Terrorism is a loaded word here in the United States, and after the 9/11 attacks that comes as no surprise. In the years following the attacks, the U.S. launched a campaign to destroy those responsible for the deaths of American citizens.

Recently, the senate uncovered that the government abandoned some of its moral code in an effort to further their efforts in the "War on Terror," chiefly in the use of torture.

The CIA opened secret prisons in nine countries. In those facilities, they resorted to methods of psychological and physical torture, methods outlawed by international law.

Detainees were subjected to beating, being blindfolded, chained to their cell, water-boarded, and were occasionally led to believe that they would die in U.S. custody.

The senate investigation that revealed these findings was conducted over four years and cost \$4 million. The programs were set up during the presidency of George W. Bush, and were "approved" by a court, but that approval was later rescinded.

The investigation has revealed that the torture was sometimes carried out by untrained CIA operatives with at least one prisoner being water-boarded to an unresponsive state, with bubbles rising out of the prisoner's mouth. Other prisoners were forced to stand on broken legs, to spend over 11 days inside a coffin, to play Russian Roulette with an operative, and/or were kept awake for over a week straight.

The Senate findings also revealed that almost 25% of those who were tortured were innocent, which is an astounding margin for error.



One person who was falsely accused was later released with some money for compensation, that seems a little irresponsible coming

from one of the most powerful nations in the world, with access to advanced training programs and the means to determine the validity of accusations.

The U.S. broke international laws that it helped put into place, without punishment for those guilty of what would be considered War Crimes in other nations.

Hopefully, the investigation will serve as cause for an increase in transparency between the government and its people, which becomes an ever greater issue as we learn more about the activities of our government.

Staying Fit during the Holiday Season

By Tabi Klingenberg

What are you looking forward to the most this winter? Is it the snow or the sports? Maybe it could be the food or all the days off school.

That first snowflake represents so much. In this case, it represents three things. First of all, it represents the excuses many kids and adults to stay inside and avoid activity as much as possible.

Secondly, it represents time for the family gatherings where guests are actually allowed to stuff their face.

Finally, it means that it's time to start

buying chocolate or other sweets for yourself and others just in the spirit of the holiday season.

But just because there is snow on the ground, doesn't mean that you can't stay active and eat healthy. Some people forget this which is a contributing factor to obesity in America.

Seventy-five percent of Americans end up gaining weight over the holiday season. So what about the other 25%?

For the few amount of people that gain little to no weight, they probably know just

when and what to eat during the season and how to stay active. It's important to cut back on the holiday meals and sweets like gingerbread cookies and candy canes.

Also, instead of using the snow as an excuse to stay inside, try using it as an excuse to go outside. There are many different activities to try from sledding to snowball fights. So this year when you get back from break. Maybe you'll be the person that actually lost weight and saved money from food instead of the other way around.