

# Blue Ink



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 19

## This Week's

### Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Amendment 18 (prohibition) was ratified in 1919 on today's date: January 16.

**BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:** By removing one letter from the word at each step, reduce the word meatloaf to just the letter E. Each step must generate a new word.

M E A T L O A F

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E

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** Why don't mountains get cold in the winter?  
*Answer on back page*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Friday, January 16**

- GBB @ Baltic

**Saturday, January 17**

- GBB v. Hills Beaver Creek  
- BBB v. Hills Beaver Creek  
- Wrestling @ Tri-Valley

**Monday, January 19**

- No School—MLK Day

**Tuesday, January 20**

- GBB v. Sioux Falls Christian  
- BBB v. Dell Rapids

**Wednesday, January 21**

- Winter Sports Pictures

**Thursday, January 22**

- Wrestling @ O'Gorman

**Friday, January 23**

- BBB v. Tea Area

*Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler*

## Johnson is Garretson's Geography Bee Champion

By Abriana Scholl

Last month, the Garretson Middle School was put to the test with the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Geography Bee.

Students from fifth through eighth grade were asked various questions within their class about famous landmarks, capitals, and other well-known geographical features.

Schools all over the U.S. plus the U.S. Territories have taken part in this event. "The winner of the local has to take a test, and if they qualify, then they

go to the state competition where there are a hundred kids from around the state that compete," stated middle school teacher and Geography Bee organizer, Bob Bennett.

"If you go to state, then you can go to the National Bee which is Washington D.C." Bennett explained. The students who end up winning the national competition are rewarded with a \$50,000 scholarship.

The top students in each grade were chosen to compete against one another on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

The top competitors were fifth graders Lauren Fick, Cadyn Ockenga, Angel Ste-

## Boys Basketball Big East Conference Shows Hope, Potential

By Lana Braswell

The boys basketball team, seeded fifth, took on three teams this past weekend for the Big East Conference tournament: the Chester Flyers, Howard Tigers, and the Flandreau Fliers.

The boys played competitively when they went up against these teams.

Playing hard, they sadly lost their game to Chester, ranked fourth, by a score of 50-62, letting the game slip away in the fourth

quarter. Some boys said that they could have played better. They then matched up against the eighth ranked Howard Tigers.

These 10 students competed one after another, leaving Johnson in first place, Fick in second, and Gullickson in third.

Later on, Johnson was given the test to determine qualification for state. As of now, his results are still pending.

If his results pass qualification, he will be taken to compete in the state Geography Bee which would be held on March 27.

There must have been some kind of magic kicking them in the rear when playing against Howard on Saturday, because they dribbled their way down the court and came away with a 75-25 win.

Later the same day, Garretson played sixth seeded Flandreau.

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Dakota Johnson, eighth grade; Lauren Fick, fifth grade; and Carter Gullickson, seventh grade earned the top three placings at the Geography Bee.

*Photo by Mr. Bob Bennett*



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

## Extra Days of Holiday Break for Garretson Students

By Sylvia Larson

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Hold on—wasn't Christmas vacation supposed to end on the fifth?

Garretson students of all grades caught a break last week with two late-starts, two early-outs, and one full day off due to snowy and icy conditions and Hyperborean-like frigid temperatures. Ok, maybe not *quite* that cold....

The big question is: Will an extra day be added on to the May school days, even though school was in session for a legitimate amount of time? When it comes down to it, it's not that simple.

Superintendent Guy Johnson explained, "There is a lot of confusion as to whether a day 'counts' or not. You may have heard that if you show up at school that it counts as a day. Unfortunately, that is actually based on the old way that the state of South Dakota used to regulate our school years. Now the state of South Dakota actually counts hours."

That sure is disappointing news for some students, it means that even half days could end up being made up. Right now the last day of school is set for May 19, but this date is susceptible to change. And that is what's probably going to happen.

"The bottom line is that, depending on how many more of those days we end up starting late or getting out early, at the time the school board will probably way in on the decision. If you total up the number of hours that we have missed, we've missed about 18 hours

worth of class time so far this year due to late starts or early dismissals. I can't tell you exactly how it's going to work out, but I am concerned about missing 18 hours worth of instructional time," furthered Johnson.

Last week hosted a rare phenomenon, but it hasn't been the only time Garretson has gone a whole week without any full days. Way back in 2013, the infamous ice storm hit South Dakota like a freight train. The storm destroyed trees and power lines; aside from rendering most roads nearly impossible for commute. That fateful week in April left most of town without power and no way to get to school even if it wasn't cancelled.

As far as teachers remember, we didn't have class a single day that week. The ice storm will go down in history as one of South Dakota's weirdest weather occurrences.

"We've had situations in the past where we've missed two, maybe three, days in a row. I can think back to maybe '96 or '97. We've never had a week that I recall where we got out of school [the same as last week]. I can't recall a week like that," commented Mr. Kevin Stecker, who has been teaching in Garretson since 1985.

People's opinions on whether or not school should be cancelled by all means vary. For some, school should be cancelled if there is any sign of snow. Others don't care whether there is an inch or a foot - they'll make it to school either

way.

People's decisions on what is considered "death defyingly cold" also fluctuate. Most people will agree that when the threat of frostbite is eminent within the next few minutes, it's too cold to walk or even drive more than a block or two. Nobody wants to lose a toe on the way to school.

"I look at the weather and current conditions and decide if there's any kind of danger: [when it's cold outside] if something does go wrong with someone's car when they're on their way to school, whether they slide into the ditch or the engine stops working or something like that. Typically if there's a wind chill advisory out that means we're at -30 or lower, which would cause frostbite in ten minutes. You look at some of those safety concerns, and really it's just trying to make the best decision that you can. You have to make sure everybody has a safe way to get to school," voiced Johnson.

For now, students have relished the 'week off' and are looking forward to Monday, January 19th for another free day in honor of Martin Luther King.

No more complaining about not getting enough days off! Knowing good old South Dakota and its confusing weather patterns, the same thing will probably happen again next year. You think you have it bad in December until you see January.



## Boys Basketball Big East Conference Shows Hope, Potential

*Continued from page 1*

It was a close matchup all game, needing overtime to decide the winner. This was the Blue Dragons' third overtime game this season.

They were hoping the third time would be the charm as the failed to pull out the first two OTs. However, the Fly-

ers had other thoughts, pulling away with the extra minutes given. Garretson fell 37-46, finishing sixth in the Big East Conference tournament.

The boys have had quite a few games, and with the wins and close losses, we give a big round of applause to the team

and hope that the rest of their games end with a giant roar of success. The Blue Dragons current record is 3-7 but they hope to get back on the winning track as they face Hills-Beaver Creek on Saturday.

## The Lady Blue Dragons Fall to Fliers

By Beth Schmidt

On Tuesday, the Lady Dragons headed to Flandreau to play against the Fliers. They worked hard but lost 47-31.

Guard, Kindra Clark, noted, "We're working very hard together, and I think we have a good team chemistry. We just can't finish. We have a great defensive team, we just can't finish on offense right now."

The starting line up consisted of juniors Jaden Bly and Morgan Gloe, and seniors were Teisha Carnicle, Mara VanDeBerg, and Brianna Mudder.

In the first quarter, the Lady Dragons were behind 8-10. However, they were only able to score five in the second, trailing 13-17 at half.

After the third quarter, the girls were behind 19-35.

At the end, the Lady Dragons lost to the Fliers 31-47.

Bly led the team with 10 points, Gloe followed with nine, and Carnicle with four.

Clark declared, "We are good at

pushing the ball and penetration and we just need to work on making our shots and following through on offense."



The Lady Blue Dragons huddle up before the start of the game at Flandreau.

Photo by Beth Schmidt

The Lady Dragons are back on the court tonight going against the mighty Baltic Bulldogs and then they host Hills-Beaver Creek on Saturday.

## The Flu Strikes Back

By Zeb Johnson

Pretty much every year there is an epidemic of some sort of influenza otherwise known as the flu. The thing is, every year it's a different strain, so doctors have to work to predict how the DNA of the virus will be sequenced when it hits North America again.

A few months before flu season, doctors study the virus as it is found in southeastern Asia. This is because the flu travels around the globe in an eastern manner, so lower Asia is the last place they will find it before it once again reaches North America. So since we know when the disease will get here, we have time to produce and use vaccines.

The problem with vaccines is that they're not always correct. The influenza virus will mutate and change the arrangement of its genome as it spreads from person to person, making it nearly impossible to make a vaccine with 100% effectiveness.

The fact that the doctors are guessing was evident this year, as the flu vaccine was only 23% effective. That means that the immunization decreases your chance of infection by 23%.

This year's strain is H3N2. From the time scientists began studying it, to the time it made landfall in North America, it had almost completely re-sequenced its DNA.

And with the abnormally low rate of effectiveness, this flu season has been devastating to many people, with the Center for Disease Control already labeling it as a "moderately severe epidemic," meaning the flu is widespread with more than just a few deaths.

Any way you look at it, it's best to make an effort to prevent contracting the flu either way. Most methods take little to no effort, such as washing your hands and avoiding being coughed on by infected people. Perhaps the best method is the vaccine; even if it wasn't effective this year, it's always better than nothing.

## Selland Named Garretson's Latest PRIDE Winner

Taken from the PRIDE Award given to Craig Selland at the January School Board meeting.

Craig was selected as our PRIDE award winner because of his outstanding work in getting our Garretson Local Channel going. He was instrumental in setting up the video camera system for our school's local channel, assisted our instructor for our multimedia design class in understanding how to connect

to, and convert the videos as well as put announcements on the channel.

When we wanted the device moved to the student's classroom so they could see what they were working on, he came out and assisted with moving it and getting it working.

When we were setting up our new bus barn with access for Johnson Control to remote in, he also provided the IT support we needed for this. Craig and

Alliance Communications have been a great source for helping our school communicate better with our community.



Alliance Communications' Craig Selland earned the PRIDE award for his assistance to the school

## Giesler Speaks Her Way to Second in Legion Oratorical Contest

By Tabi Klingenberg

With three years of oral interpretation and acting under her belt, the 2015 American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program was no challenge for junior, Katie Giesler, on Sunday, January 10.

A representative must initially place first in their local competition to move onto districts. First place at districts will then move onto state. First place at state will then go on to Nationals, where the first place winner will receive an \$18,000 scholarship, and second and third place goes down from there.

However, because Giesler was the only student from Garretson up for the challenge, she had ended up going straight into districts.

“The purpose of the program is to make kids more aware of the program and to improve kids in their speaking skills,” Mr. Bob Bennett informed.

The national organization of The American Legion would award scholarships to three finalists, department winners, and first round winners that are eliminated during the second round of the competition.

These scholarships can be used to be able to attend any college in the United States. A contestant must give a prepared oration from the assigned topic discourse to receive a scholarship.

It was necessary for Giesler to give an 8-10 minute speech revolving around the

constitution. After the 8-10 minute speech, there was a 3-4 minute follow up speech, chosen by the judges on either the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 19<sup>th</sup> amendments.

The 5<sup>th</sup> amendment was selected for her, and she spoke of the contents of the amendment after her original speech about how we as can uphold our duties as citizens and to abide by the constitution so we can be a better people.

The event was held in Humboldt, South Dakota and Giesler

went up against one other contestant from West Central. Despite the challenge, Giesler was feeling confident about the event.

Giesler articulated, “I did really well; some of the judges came up and talked to me afterwards; some judges were veterans themselves. They were really hoping that I would say I wasn’t a senior because they said they wanted to see me again next year.”

According to Giesler, it was a close call between her and the other contestant.



Junior Katie Giesler accepts her certificate of achievement for her second place finish at the regional American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Photo by Mr. Bob Bennett

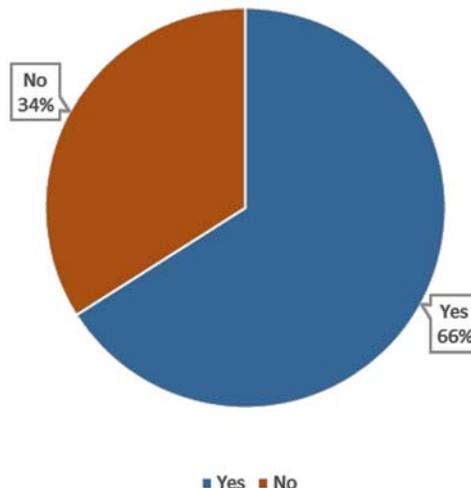
“I give props to the girl that won. She didn’t just go in and wing it like I did. She actually had practice beforehand, and she’d done it before to boot. She did well. I respect that.”

Giesler gained the opportunity for a scholarship and one-hundred dollars from the local region and from placing second in districts.

Giesler noted that she is anxious to take part once again next year and hopefully will finish first.

### Student Opinion Poll

The holiday season just finished and already stores are flooding their shelves with Valentine’s and St. Patrick’s day decorations. Students were asked if holiday/seasonal items were displayed in stores too early.



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.

### Scholarship Corner

- Dakota Corps Scholarship—Due **Feb 1**
- Garretson Community Scholarship Foundation—Due **Feb 27**
- Buick Achievers Scholarship—Due **Feb 27**
- Michael J. Entringer Scholarship—Due **Mar 1**
- South Dakota Agri-Business Association Scholarship—Due **Mar 1**
- Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship—Due **Mar 2**
- Minnehaha Funeral Home Scholarship—Due **Mar 6**
- Home Builders Association of the Sioux Empire Scholarship—Due **Apr 1**

Please check your email for links to these scholarships along with more information.