



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 22

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Elizabeth II became Queen in the United Kingdom in 1952. She has been ruling since.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: Name four days of the week that start with the letter t.
Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How does an Eskimo stick his house together?
Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, February 6

- BBB @ MCM (Montrose)

Saturday, February 7

- 7/8 BBB @ BEC Tourney (Home)

- Wrestling @ BEC-LCC Tourney

Monday, February 9

- Cabin Fever Week

- 7/8/JV Wrestling @ Tri-Valley

- School Board Meeting @ 5:30

Tuesday, February 10

- GBB @ Elkton-Lake Benton (Elkton)

- Wrestling Quad (Home) v. Howard, MCM, Parker

Wednesday, February 11

- FFA Blood Drive

Thursday, February 12

- Early Release—Dismiss @ 1:30

- No PM Pre-School

- Young Hearts Cardiac Screening

- Parent-Teacher Conferences

Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Garretson Student Have Opportunity to Serve as Page

By Beth Schmidt

At the beginning of each year, the South Dakota House of Representatives and the Senate choose eligible high school junior(s) and/or senior(s) that are interested in serving as a page.

A page is someone who serves with the House or Senate for two weeks, learning the ropes of the legislative process. The students will be notified of their acceptance status with a letter mid-December. Shortly after, the selected students receive their term assignment, with the majority of terms lasting two weeks.

To be accepted, each student needs to have a grade point average of at least 3.0, have sent in an application with the required references and also must be sponsored by a South Dakota Legislator or Legislator-elect.

This year Garretson had three students accepted. Junior Peyton Heitkamp, who has already served her term, and seniors Josh Liester and Bailey Willems, who will serve their terms in the upcoming weeks.

Peyton Heitkamp was in Pierre in the middle of January and stated, "I found out most legislators were very kind and easy to work with. They were very understanding if we made mistakes."

She also noted the benefits to her two week experience in the state capitol, "I learned how the legislative process works and what all goes into introduction, changes, and finalization of the bills. It is beneficial if you are interested in the legislative

process and want to get involved in government."

Liester and Willems leave for Pierre next week and will spend the next two weeks there.

Liester noted of what he hopes to learn, "Just more about the govern-

ment and how we actually make our laws."

Liester, whose senior project also focused on government, stated about what he's excited for, "Just a different experience to meet new people and it'll be a good experience to have."

Willems explained, "I am most excited for getting to see how the government works first hand."

Heitkamp advised, "Don't be shy and get to know and hang out with the other pages. Be ready to help whenever help is needed."

Liester suggested to those interested, "It's an opportunity to take an advantage of because you will learn things that you won't learn in school and it's a hands-on experience to government."

Being able to see the South Dakota government in action is an educational experience that will carry with these students beyond the classroom.



Junior Peyton Heitkamp



Senior Joshua Liester



Senior Bailey Willems

Six More Weeks of Winter?

By Sylvia Larson

On Monday, the infamous Punxsutawney Phil crept out of his hide-hole at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob, a rural area about two miles outside of Punxsutawney proper. Guess what? He SAW his shadow. What does that mean for us? Six more weeks of snow and cold!

Groundhog Day is the midway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. The day's history is rooted in the celebration of Candlemas. In 1841, a store keeper in Morgantown, Pennsylvania wrote about February 2nd and referred to it as Candlemas Day; this was the first documented American reference to Candlemas Day.

Storekeeper James Morris: "Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."

For the last two years, Phil has seen his shadow, and both times, his predictions have reigned true. After the particularly brutal winter of 2014, who knows what the weather will do this year?

Punxsutawney Phil has been in charge of telling America how long winter will wear on since 1886, all based on whether or not he sees his shadow on the morning of February 2nd.

That means that Phil is supposedly a sprightly 124 years old! Generally, groundhogs have a lifespan of about six years, so it is *extremely* unlikely that our famous groundhog friend from the eighteenth-hundreds is still alive and well.

Although it is supposed to be kept a secret that Phil is an imposter, it's not really hard to guess. It's publicly unknown how many groundhogs have actively played Phil.

The Philadelphian woodchuck's full name is actually "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." He was named by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club in 1887.

A special group called the Inner Circle takes care of Phil during his down time in the year and also plans the annual ceremony. Members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle are recognizable by their top hats and tuxedos.

When Phil is not busy predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, he lives in the town library with his wife, Phyllis. Yes, Punxsutawney Phil

has his own adorable little groundhog wife, and her name is Phyllis.

Punxsutawney Phil's batting average isn't exactly spectacular. His weather predictions have been accurate approximately 39% of the time since 1887. Because the year's coldest quarter, also known as meteorological winter, runs from Dec. 5 to March 5, Phil predicts a long winter about 80 percent of the time. Members of the Inner Circle claim that predictions are accurate about 75% to 90% of the time.

The forecast for next week holds mild temps, but it's still too early to predict what will happen the rest of the winter. Until then, though, make sure your heater is in working condition.

Just remember, in the words of Hal Borland, "No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn."



Same Sex Marriage Battles in Court

By Lana Braswell

Lately there has been a debate in South Dakota about the same sex marriage being legalized. South Dakota citizens do not know when it will be or even if it will be, but 36 states have made it legal, leaving 14 to put it down, one them being South Dakota.

South Dakota has taken things to the Supreme Court to fight for the legalization of same sex marriage, though some rules, and benefits are a little different towards the same sex relationships. Some of those differences concern tax, veteran/military, social security, and federal employment benefits. But on the other hand, they do have the same rights as other civilians.

On January 12, 2015, when the US District Judge Karen Schreier ruled South Dakota's gay marriage ban unconstitutional, stating that "Plaintiffs have a fundamental right to marry... South Dakota law deprives them of that right solely because they are same-sex couples and without sufficient justification."

This was told to be pending, waiting for approval from the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals which will determine the rights if same sex marriage should be allowed in the state of South Dakota or if it is to be kept the way it is.

For now the license is kept prohibited in the state. However, there has been quite a bit of commotion going on since then.

People have been protesting against it, others are with it. Causing a big riot of mixed opinions in a crowd of people. What will South Dakota do? They will leave it to the court to decide, slightly calming down the uproar of civilians. The state doesn't say when or if this controversial topic will be affirmed.

So until then hang on for now, and we will see how things turn out in the end.

Super Bowl Commercials Bring Back the Amusement

By Abriana Scholl

When it comes to watching television, commercials can be annoying and unnecessary. On the day of the Super Bowl, commercials, in most cases, will make you want to skip the bathroom break and sit through the whole five hour program.

This year, Super Bowl XLIX presented commercials that either made a person feel thirty seconds of depression or so much laughter they dropped their buffalo wings on the living room floor.

Each year, businesses invest tons of money into having their advertisements premiered on the day of the Super Bowl. Prices to air a thirty second commercial during the big game can cost millions of dollars.

The price, however, slowly has begun to rise annually and currently the price for a thirty second spot sits at about four million dollars altogether.

The total cost of money spent for this year's commercials was over four hundred million dollars. Talk about a lot of moola!

There were many inspiring, sad, and hilarious ads that were featured during this year's game. Many people either thought they seemed to lack creativity or find them extravagant and clever.

Middle school teacher, Andrew Ter-Wee, believed, "They're kinda bummers and not as much humor as past years."

One commercial presented an animation of the classic tortoise and the hare

race. The story gave a random plot twist when the tortoise won the race by driving a Mercedes-Benz past his opponent.

McDonald's even featured their own commercial. They took random customers by surprise and gave them the opportunity to get a free meal. The only way they would earn their free meal was with the simple task of calling loved ones or doing kind actions.

With businesses attempting to grab the audience's attention, most of us rarely pay attention to the products they are presenting to us when producers distract it with their highest level of creativity and humor.

Girls Place Fourth in Big East Conference Basketball Tourney

By Tabi Klingenberg

The conclusion of the 2014-2015 Big East Conference ended last Saturday in Garretson.

The girls had to play three games in three days starting with the Flandreau Fliers on Thursday.

The Lady Blue Dragons went up against fourteen different teams including Flandreau earlier this season. They had lost 31-47 in their first matchup against Flandreau. B.E.C. gave Garretson a chance for redemption, which they accomplished, winning 38-36.

The Blue Dragons were seeded fifth in the eight-team conference, Sioux Valley being first.

The win on Thursday earned them a spot on the winner's side of the bracket, but they had to play top ranked Sioux Valley, currently ranked second in the state, to continue to the championship game; however, the Blue Dragons lost 17-52.

"Sioux Valley is a very good passing

team and a very good shooting team. By watching them, they are very disciplined on how they shoot the ball," noted head coach Dave Mudder.

That placed Garretson in the third place game against Chester. The Blue Dragons took on the Flyers earlier this year, dropping the game 36-51.

Unfortunately the results were not very different the second time around, as they fell to Chester by a score of 39-52, securing fourth place for the tournament.

The team was expected to face some difficulty during the game yesterday against McCook Central/Montrose (14-2), who are ranked fifth in the state.

The Fighting Cougars came out swinging, and the Blue Dragons could not stop them, losing 22-73.

"We need to work on consistency. That's where we're at. We need to be able to consistently score, and get all the girls to be confident."



Junior Peyton Heitkamp steps up to guard her opponent from Chester while senior Brianna Mudder readies to step in if necessary.

Photo by Beth Schmidt

The Lady Blue Dragons are currently sitting at six wins and ten losses. With only four games left of the season, they have the potential with a .500 record which would put them in the middle of the pack in the region.

The next time the girls take to the hardwood is Tuesday, February 10 at Elkton-Lake Benton.

ACE Award Recipients Announced



Left: Senior Tristen Wagner, wrestling
Right: Senior Tanner Gutzmer, boys basketball

Far Right: Sophomore Kindra Clark, girls basketball

Photos taken from Garretson school website



It's Already Over

By Zeb Johnson

Well, America's most important day of the year has passed, and it ended in a stupendous fashion. A catch by the Seahawk's Jermaine Kearse led them to almost secure the game against the Patriots. Kearse was the receiver of a deep pass late in the game, in which he juggled the ball while on the ground and finally completed the catch.

A few plays later, the Seahawks were on the one yard line, and about to about to take the game in their favor. That is when disaster struck for Seattle; their offensive coordinator called one of the worst plays in the history of the Super Bowl. A pass play with one yard to win the game failed when rookie Patriot Malcom Butler intercepted the pass. The play was defended not only by Seattle but also Bill Belichick, head coach of the Patriots.

The game concluded in the Patriot's favor, the final score being 28-24. This year cemented both Tom Brady and Bill Belichick in the history books of the NFL.

Brady now holds the record for most career touchdown passes thrown in a Super Bowl, is tied with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw for most Super Bowl wins, and has the record for most times as starting quarterback.

Belichick is now tied for the most Super Bowl wins as head coach of a team. While Belichick is one of the most recognized NFL coaches of all time, ol' Peete just won his first championship in the league.

And while there has been some suspicion surrounding the Patriot's franchise, as in their last playoff game before the Super Bowl, the Patriots were discovered to have slightly deflated balls. This event may have been discounted, but back in 2007 the Patriots were fined \$75,000 for spying on an opposing team.

The game was a chance at redemption for Seattle's head coach Pete Carroll. Carroll was the head coach of the Patriots from 1997 to 1999, when he was replaced



by Bill Belichick. Carroll was also looking for his second Super Bowl win as a head coach in the NFL, but he could not realize his dream. The Seahawks were the first defending champion to lose the Super Bowl since 1997.

This year's Super Bowl was quite the conundrum, as neither team could really be considered the favorite to win. It was the defending champs versus a team that is one of the most successful franchises in the history of the NFL, and they provided quite the show. Super Bowl XLIX will be remembered as a great one, and Super Bowl 50 will have big shoes to fill next year.

Senior Spotlight

NAME: Ben Hanson

SENIOR PROJECT: Building a hay rack

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Football, Basketball, Showing cattle

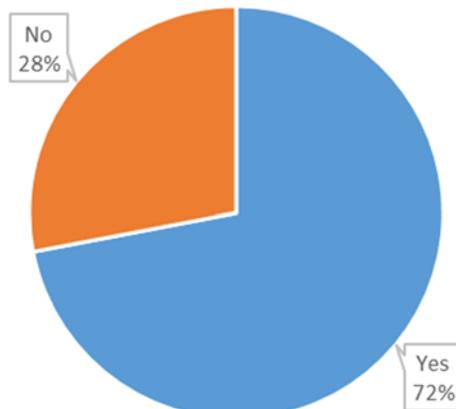
WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: Friends and sports and the one and only time they have crisпитos a year

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Attend Lake Area Tech for Ranch Management



Student Opinion Poll

This week students were asked if they felt the school needed to update or change the textbooks used in class.



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

- 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**
- Alliance Communications Scholarship—Due **Mar 13**
- Home Builders Association of the Sioux Empire Scholarship—Due **Apr 1**

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

