



Preston Bohl continues to pace the boys XC team, with another top ten finish.

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Blue Ink



Please don't take our privs

Class of 2018 received privs this week and hope to keep them the entire year

by **Peyton Sage and Isaiah Miles Mader**
senior writers—editorial

It's the week that every senior dreams of, the week they're given their privileges. The 2018 seniors signed their permission forms on Monday and made sure they had them handed in the following morning.

"I was just trying to get my privs as soon as possible because I'm sick and tired of the school lunches and being at school for eight consecutive hours, so I sent Snapchats to nearly everyone in our class reminding them to turn in their sheets," senior Amyah Ockenga said.

On Wednesday afternoon, the seniors got the go-ahead to go home for lunch and during their study hall period. This is good news for the freshmen as well who will now have more than three minutes to finish their meals.

"I'm literally the slowest eater on the planet so by the time I sit down to devour those crispos, the bell rings and I didn't even get to take one bite of my food," freshman Kaycie King said.

She added, "It's so much nicer because we have a lot more time to eat and talk with friends at lunch."

In order to keep their privs, seniors must avoid vaping, drinking alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, failing classes, "forgetting" to hand in assignments, showing up late to school, committing traffic crimes, TP-ing, insubordination, pouring milk on peers, tweeting vulgar things at faculty, fighting the principal, eg-



Nick Lundberg indulges during senior privileges during Thursday's lunch time. Lundberg along with the rest of the senior class started privs this week. Usually privs start end of September or early October but the Class of 2018 is able to enjoy it a few weeks earlier.

Photo from Garretson Journalism Snapchat (GHS_BlueInk) courtesy of staff writer Isaiah Mader

ging, and so on.

"If our class can avoid any and all illegal activity this year, then there's no real reason our privs could be at stake. We just need to come together, do volunteer work, bake cupcakes, and praise Jesus as much as possible to stay

out of trouble," senior Jaden Flanagan said.

Unlike last year's seniors, the class of 2018 plans on keeping their privileges for the duration of the year because remember, these are privileges not rights.

Ups and downs but improvements are seen with junior high sports

Junior high athletes stay busy throughout the week

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
senior writer

Football:

On Monday the junior high football team battled the Hanson Beavers who were seeking some revenge from their varsity's 41-0 loss. Home field advantage didn't prove to be enough as the Blue Dragons fell 8-38.

Volleyball:

The junior high volleyball team was busy this week with three

games in four days while having to travel to Dell Rapids twice: Dell Rapids Public and Dell Rapids St. Mary's. The middle school squad showed up ready to compete and was able to take home victories against both opponents. However, they were unable to complete the week long sweep as both seventh and eighth grade teams lost to Chester yesterday.

Cross Country:

The junior high cross county runners also took a trip to Dell

Rapids this week and were able to put up some quality times. The boys were able to spot three runners in the top 20 and the solo girl runner did the same.

The top JH speedsters were able to place 19th (Alex Reker), 16th (Acen Olson, and 4th (Sam Schleuter) on the boys side against 34 competitors. The girls competition fielded 32 runners and Garretson's Sarah Welch finished 12th.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Sea otters hold hands while they sleep so they don't drift apart.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Problems with Wi-Fi while charging your iPad at school? Try unplugging then re-plugging your charging cable for a quick refresh.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Where did the boat go when it was sick?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: If there is an electric train is going east at 60 miles an hour and there is a strong westerly wind, which way does the smoke from the train drift?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 22

- FB v. Baltic (7:00)

Saturday, September 23

- Soccer @ Worthington (6:00)

Monday, September 25

- XC @ Darrell Horacek Invite in Hartford (4:00)

Tuesday, September 26

- FFA Blood Drive

- JH/JV FB v. Baltic (4:00/5:15)

- JH VB v. Elkton-Lake Benton (4:00)

- VB v. Elkton-Lake Benton (6:15/7:00)

Thursday, September 28

- Marching Band @ Arlington

- JH VB v. Parker (4:00)

- VB v. Parker (5:00/6:15/7:00)

Friday, September 22

- XC @ Lennox (4:00)

- FB @ Chester (7:00)

Worth Mentioning

Phone Zone Violations are already up to three. When you reach five, phones are no longer allowed during the lunch period.

Yearbooks are still available for the 2016-2017 school year. A limited supply is available on a first come-first serve basis. Just \$45 for a year's worth of memories.

Video game cover feature: blessing or curse?

Madden NFL and NBA2K have cause some controversy with interesting events surrounding feature players

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer—editorial

Being selected as the Madden NFL or NBA2k cover can have some fans very excited or the superstitious ones, very worried. “Why would I be worried if my favorite player was on the cover of my favorite video game?” some may ask. The reason for this, is something called the Cover Curse.

The Madden NFL Curse is the player on the cover of this popular game will either have the worst season of their career the next year or get injured. Whether you believe in curses or not, there have been multiple cases in which this is true.

One of the most notable Mad-den Curses in the history of the game is Marshall Faulk on Mad-den 2003. Faulk is possibly a Top 10 running back of all time, 7x pro bowler was coming off of an amazing 2002 season rushing for 1,000+ yards. After he was featured on the cover he started to slow down and never rushed for

1,000 yards again. On Madden 18, Tom Brady was selected to be cover of the game. Brady did not seem to be worried about it at all. He even made multiple YouTube videos poking fun at the Curse. "I want to let you know that I'm going to be on the cover of Madden NFL 18," Brady says. "Now I've heard there are some of you out there who might be worried about something called the 'Madden

Curse.' There's no such thing as curses. It's a total myth, okay?"

Later in the preseason his number one wide receiver Julian Edelman was injured and will be out for the season. Then after week one his number two wide receiver gets hit

with a couple big blows and is put on concussion protocol. After week two, possibly one of the most dominant tight ends of all time, Rob Gronkowski is questionable for week three with a groin injury. With all those injuries, it may be tough for Brady to achieve the stats he’s recorded previously.

The Madden Curse has a little

bit of justice to it because a player could just crum- ble in the pres- sure of being a cover athlete, but the NBA2K Cover Curse just doesn’t make sense.

The NBA2k Curse is if a play is featured on the cover of this game, that play- er will no longer play for that team the following season or the next. This curse has been true the last four of the last five years, except from 2016 be- cause there were multiple ath- letes featured on the cover.

On 2k14 Lebron James, the G.O.A.T. himself was featured on the cover. Later that year, July 11 2014, Lebron announced that he will be taking his talents back to Cleveland, Ohio.

On 2k15, Kevin Durant was featured on the cover. This curse was a little more delayed but nonetheless still happened. After an incredible season with the Ok- lahoma City Thunder, going to the Western Conference Finals only to lose in game seven against the 73-9 Golden State Warriors. Durant decided to make “the weakest move ever by



a superstar” and join the team that beat him, July 4th of 2016.

The first two were cas- es of players deciding to leave at free agency. These next two, 2k17 and 2k18, are cas- es of players being traded.

Paul George was selected to be the cover of the 2k17 cover after coming back from his gruesome injury, literally snapping his leg in half in 2014. George was later traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder after the 2017 season.

On 2k18 Kyrie Irving was se- lected to be the cover athlete. Just a few weeks later, Irving re- quested a trade to get out of Cleveland, because he didn’t like playing under the spotlight of James anymore. He was then traded to the Boston Celtics in exchange for Isaiah Thomas.

You may have not believed in curses ten minutes ago, but after reading and evaluating the infor- mation, the Cover Curse may be hard to ignore.

Homecoming fun provided opportunities for all but could we do more?

The boys were deeply invested in their participation of volleyball during homecoming week

by **Heather Huether**
staff writer—editorial

This year’s homecoming was a great time for everyone. The king and queen were Jack Konechne and Mikayla Bottelberghe. The juniors won ruff and tuff volley- ball this year. And the seniors de- fended their powderpuff title. The dress up days were color day, classic parent day, g-day, thrift shop day, and spirit day.

Next year there may or may not be many changes to the events. Personally coming from a big school like Roosevelt and talk- ing to a few students here at Gar- retson, one of the changes I think we really need is a homecoming dance. The dance would be a good chance for everyone to get involved and have a great time to hang out with friends. A dance would also provide a safe, super- vised activity in the evenings for students who try to find enter- tainment other ways.

Many people were also a little disappointed that there was no white wash this year. A lot of people really enjoyed being able

to decorate the town with their own little designs a few years ago. Next year would be a great time for that to happen again.

The Dragon Olympics are a fa- vorite for many but because they went so long the scavenger hunt was eliminated this year to the dismay of many, especially the senior class. Also many people don’t want to sit there for that long, if it could involve more peo- ple more frequently and continue to find new games that would add to the entertainment factor.

The lip sync battle was a great idea but since it was the first year some people were too afraid to go up. The ones who did partici- pate set the bar high: from the elementary teachers with the guest appearance from Garth, to the middle school “Wannabes” it was exhilarating for the audience. Hopefully next year there will be more brave souls who are willing to go up and have fun on stage.

Not only should a homecom- ing dance be new, but Garretson should do a talent show. It would be a great experience seeing what your peers are talented at.

Groups or singles could try out and the top ones could perform in front of the school and their parents if they choose. I think it would be a big hit and many peo- ple would enjoy it.

The dress up days weren’t that bad but they could have had more of a variety such as twin day where students dress up to match their friends or even dress up to match with a teacher. Ce- lebrity day/Disney day would be a

good chance for people to dress like their famous Disney charac- ter or their favorite celebrity. Days of the past would be a great time to see people dress up in their favorite century.

This year was a great home- coming and I’m sure many of you are looking forward to next year, and maybe even a few new op- portunities to ramp up the Blue Dragon spirit even more.



The GHS student body shows off their school spirit during the pep rally last Friday, challenging the elementary and community members to see whose got more. Homecoming festivities on Friday concluded with a parade, pep rally, and then football game where the Blue Dragons routed the Hanson Beavers by a score of 41-0.

Soccer wraps up regular season by Saturday

Cross Country and Volleyball hit the midway points in their season

by Greg Arana
staff writer

Soccer:

Coming off a 1-3 loss to Groton on Saturday, the Blue Dragons (1-9-1) were looking to get back in the win column playing Sioux Falls Christian yesterday. Garretson lost to the Chargers earlier in the year, 2-4, and fought for redemption.

They played strong last night but unfortunately they couldn't pull off the win. The Blue Dragons fell to the Chargers with a final score of 2-5.

The soccer team travels tomorrow to Worthington, MN to cap off their season. The Blue Dragons are looking to end the season with a win.

Volleyball:

The volleyball team (0-13) had two games this week. On Tuesday they played Dell Rapids and last night they had a match up against Chester.

They were looking to redeem themselves having played both teams earlier in the season and being unsuccessful. They came out ready to play but couldn't quite come out with a win against Dell Rapids or Chester, falling to both teams in straight sets.

The young team is a little over halfway through their season and they are looking to change the momentum around. The girls come back home next week taking on two more tough teams, Elkton-Lake Benton and Parker.



Kenzie Decker (#18) works the ball around Taylor Koelewyn (#16), Sioux Falls Christian Midfielder) to pass to teammate Peyton Sage (#5). The Blue Dragons scored two goals against the Charger defense but it wasn't enough as they dropped the game 2-5.

Photo by Sylvia Larson



Peyton Hove (#4) sets up the ball to the Blue Dragon offense during Tuesday's match at Dell Rapids. Hove ended with eight assists on the night but rebounded yesterday against Chester with 15.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

22:04. Right behind her was eighth grader, Olivia Mullen who finished 17th with a time of 22:48.

On the boys side of things seventh grader Preston Bohl lead the boys for a fourth time. He placed 8th out of 67 boys. Other finishers were Ryan Fick (28th – 19:39), Matthew Gilbert (33rd – 19:50), Devon Leedy (40th – 20:17), Jayse Miller (46th – 20:47), and Chayce Schleuter (57th - 21:40).

Football:

The Garretson football

Cross Country:

Cross country had a meet on Wednesday in Dell Rapids. There has been some ups and downs for the harriers this year but have pushed through the adversity.

Senior, Carmen Bohl, finished 10th out of 46 girls with a time of 21:42 which is thirteen seconds faster than her time from last year. Sophomore, Rachel Kindt, finished 13th with a time of

team (3-1) hosts their rival, the Baltic Bulldogs (3-1), tonight. The Blue Dragons are on a win streak and they are trying to use that momentum to extend that streak tonight.

They are halfway through their season and are doing well. Despite a fairly young team the Blue Dragons have had a great season so far and are working to continue their winning ways.

Youth and energy are added benefits to this year's FFA members

Between land judging competitions, career development events, and upcoming National Convention FFA is busy in the fall

by Brayden Mutcher
staff writer

According to Ms. Kientopf "FFA is a national organization which enhances leadership skills and prepares students for career opportunities."

Garretson has been the number one chapter in the state out of 13 out of the last 18 years. Right now they are currently in the re-growth stage as membership continuously grows as do our achievements and successes.

"During a rebuilding year," Ms. Kientopf explained, "we are hoping to build community among staff members, to be like a little family." In order to do this the FFA plans on a few extra events including corn husking, family night at a Stampede game, a jitterbug night and possibly even a

barn dance.

"We are a very young group that has many talents and strong leadership skills," noted Ms. Kientopf. "That excitement and youthful energy leads to a lot of promise in our successes of achievements to come in the future. I strongly

The Garretson FFA program has ramped up their event schedule, currently participating in land judging (first competition was Tuesday) and in the fall leadership career development events.

With land judging on Tuesday the students were taken to a

home site where the members judge the soil quality.

During land judging, "We build concepts and understanding of what the soil has to offer if someone were to build homes, landscape, install sewer systems and field crops," explained Ms. Kientopf.

In addition to judging, the FFA contests enhance leadership skills as well as speaking skills within our youth. They are learning the importance of every day life skills from a job interview to working on city councils in addressing issues relating to agricultural management. This is all in addition to the

leadership and community development skills they learn through participation.

Community service is a major component of FFA. The Garretson FFA participates on a wide variety of community service projects such as building race board, building and planting garden beds at the nursing home, and having a community garden where they donate all the produce.

Although they are in a rebuilding year, they still have a busy slate and keep the focus on their community and what they can do to give back. Ms. Kientopf asserted, "I strongly believe that we will be number one chapter in the nation within a few years if these kids dream big, believe big, and achieve big."

