



Wrestlers had a successful joint "home" meet last Saturday with Brandon. They are back in action tonight in Tri-Valley.

Photo by Kylie Uhl

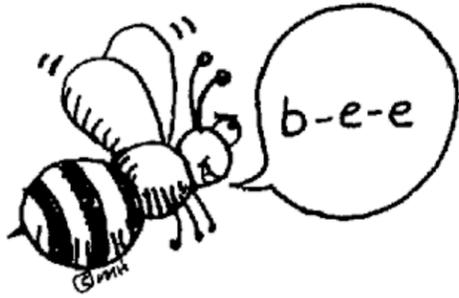
Blue Ink



New elementary spelling bee champion crowned

by Ms. Teresa Johnson contributor

Fourth grader, Carter Siemonsma, is this year's spelling bee champion. Carter was one of 24, third through fifth graders who participated in the event. Carter won the competition with the correct spelling of the word "fugitive."



On Thursday morning, fourth grader Carter Siemonsma correctly spelled "fugitive" after 11 rounds of competition. For winning, Carter received a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble from the Garretson PTO.

Photo submitted by Ms. Teresa Johnson

The spellers went 11 rounds this year. Carter is pictured with Kathi Brady, PTO representative, who awarded him a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. The regional spelling bee is in Sioux Falls on February 2nd.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The annual number of worldwide shark bites is 10 times less than the number of people bitten by other people in New York.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Eating a small bit of chocolate in the morning can actually help you burn more calories and lose weight throughout the day.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why did the teddy bear pass on having dessert?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: I have thirteen hearts but never am alive?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Au revoir Garretson

by Sam Gonzalez senior writer

Imagine waking up and looking outside, only to realize that you are in Paris and will soon be able to see the Eiffel Tower. It



seems like something like that would only happen in your dreams, but can now be a possibility at GHS.

On June 7th, a group of Garretson and West Central students will be joining Garretson High School counselor, Mrs. Pliska, through a company EF Educational Tours to an in-depth tour of Britain and Ireland with a two-day extension to Paris, making the trip a total of 17 days.

EF Educational Tours' goal is to teach students to gain new perspectives through experimental learning. It's known across the globe and is connected with very many educators to ensure students get the best hands on experience. EF Educational Tours has very knowledgeable tour directors with the groups at all times to make sure everything is going smoothly. Along with emergency offices in every surrounding area that students travel to.

GHS counselor, Michelle Pliska has travelled and led groups four times with EF Tours, and was required to do a two-day trip to Paris to learn how to keep students safe and what to do in situations whilst visiting another country. "Safety is one of the reasons that I have stayed with EF Educational Tours, they're extremely mindful of safety, sometimes to the point that it can be an inconvenience. They're mindful by making sure they are not putting us in an unsafe part of the city, they book us out in the suburbs where nightlife and such, is much safer," Pliska said.

The tour to Britain and Ireland costs about \$4,280, that includes airfare, hotel, breakfast and dining along with most tour activities. Most students will have a hotel room with a group of four, most likely with their own school. Most days will consist of activities, but have the offer to have a few nights off along with one hour a day to explore while having lunch.

"A benefit when you think on the learning aspect is

GHS students ready themselves to take dream international trip

problem-solving. You're going to encounter situations that you would not usually encounter and you have to figure a way out. Such as going on the metro and following a map that's written in French. Along with cultural things you can take from this trip. It's one thing to read and see pictures about things, and then you're standing in that spot looking at it" Pliska mentioned.

If anyone is interested, the deadline isn't until approximately February 17. For more information contact Mrs. Pliska or go onto www.eftours.com for Britain and Ireland in Depth.

TRAVEL TIPS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

by Kylie Uhl staff writer

When traveling to a new and unfamiliar place you should always be cautious so nothing too alarming happens. Always try to have safety precautions in a new place even if it's just for a family vacation. Listed below are some tips on how to help you on your next trip even if it's just a neighboring state or across the world.

- * Would advise traveling at night
- * Try not to use public WiFi, but if you do, avoid checking any personal information such as bank accounts
- * When going someplace, ALWAYS tell family and close friends only
 - o This allows someone to know where you are so if you get lost they know where to look
 - o Also keeps the wrong people from knowing where you're going
- * Know your surroundings
 - o Like knowing local scams
 - o Have a map with you, just in case
- * Try not to draw attention to yourself
 - o Knowing that you aren't from the area makes you an easy target
- * Splurge some more money on travel insurance
 - o Getting travel insurance insures you if something were to happen while on your get away; such as an injury
- * Would advise to travel in bigger groups of people
 - o Use the old saying "Safety in numbers"
- * Turn off your location when using social media
 - o Doing this will help keep unwanted people knowing where you are.

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 18

- GBB v. Vermillion (4:00/5:00/6:30)
- BBB v. Vermillion (4:00/5:00/8:00)
- Military Appreciation Night

Saturday, January 19

- JH GBB @ BEC in Volga (9:00)

Monday, January 21

- MLK Jr Day
- No School—Staff Inservice

Tuesday, January 22

- JH BBB v. Flandreau (4:00)
- BBB v. Flandreau (6:15/7:30)
- Wrestling @ SF Lincoln (5:00)

Thursday, January 17

- JH BBB @ West Central (4:30)
- GBB @ BEC vs. TBD (6:00)

Friday, January 18

- GBB @ BEC vs. TBD (6:00)

Worth Mentioning

Choose Kind

- January Precept: "No man is an island, entire of itself." - John Donne
- December Precept: "Fortune favors the bold." - Virgil
- November Precept: "Have no friends not equal to yourself."
- October Precept: "Your deeds are your monuments."
- September Precept: "'When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind.'" - Dr. Wayne Dyer"

Wisconsin girl escaped after 88

by Riley Altman & Jayden Clark
staff writer

Thirteen-year-old Jayme Closs found alive after being held

After 88 days of questions, searching, and investigation, 13-year-old Jayme Closs has been found alive.

Jayme Closs had been missing since October 15, 2018 when both her parents were murdered, and she was abducted from her home. On that tragic night, Jake Patterson broke into Closs' house and shot both of her parents as part of a plan to abduct Jayme. He then tied her up, placed her into the trunk of his car, and took her to his rural home in Wisconsin, approximately 70 miles from her house.

When questioned, Patterson confessed that he did not even know Jayme Closs or her parent's names until he saw the media reports about his crime following his arrest. Patterson admitted that he had simply observed Closs aboard her bus going to school and decided at that moment, he was going to abduct her.

Last Thursday, around 4:30 pm, after Patterson had once again directed her to stay under a bed, warned her not to leave, and left the residence, Jayme made the coura-

geous decision to attempt an escape. After pushing aside the plastic totes which lined the bed to limit her movement, Jayme ran from the residence. She soon contacted Jeanne Nutter, who was out walking her dog at the time. After finding out who she was, Nutter rushed Closs to a neighboring house and called police. Nutter told USA Today Network, "I went to her and she just sort of grabbed onto me and she told me who she was. I've been a social worker my whole life. I was in child protection, so I believe my CPS personality just turned on."

Jayme Closs has now been reunited with her family and friends. After finding out she was safe and alive, Jayme's aunt, Sue stated, "There were rumors earlier today. I prayed and prayed.... they come to be not true and I just shut myself totally down. I thought today was going to be the day and then I find out two hours later that she's found, and I just can't believe it." Another one of Closs' aunts stated, "I've heard she escaped and found a woman walking a dog and asked for help and that's



all I know. I'm so thankful."

The local sheriff, Fitzgerald, told USA Today, "She is doing well as circumstance allow," he then went on to say "Jayme is the hero in this case. There's no question about it."

Jake Patterson was arrested later Thursday evening when his vehicle, which matched the description Jayme provided to law enforcement, was pulled over. Police believe that he was driving around looking for Closs when he was pulled over. Patterson was arrested and faces several charges including two counts of homicide and one count of kidnapping. He is set to appear in court on February 6.

Basketball hits the hardwood

by Oliviyah Thornton & Mataya Trower
staff writers

BOYS BASKETBALL

The season got off to a rough start for the Garretson Blue Dragons. After some promising performances and missed opportunities, just over halfway through the season, their record sits at three wins and nine losses.

The Blue Dragons won against Chester Area 53-36, Baltic 62-51 and Lake Preston 66-60. After the Lake Preston game Garretson Blue Dragons lost their next five games.

In their most recent game on Saturday, January 12 Garretson went up against a border foe, the Luverne Cardinals. Luverne's defense and offense were just too strong for Garretson boys and they lost 61-78.

Garretson Blue Dragon boys (3-9) have a game tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. against Vermillion (5-3) in the Dragons' Lair. The C team plays at 3:00 (old gym) and the JV at 4:00 (Dragons' Lair).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls basketball also faced Luverne Saturday, January 12 losing by 14 points. After being down by 11 points at half, Garretson couldn't make up the scoring differential to get the win. The final score was 55-69.

The Garretson's girls basketball team's record is now 8-5 while Luverne's record is now 11-10. The Blue Dragons play Vermillion tomorrow. Varsity plays at 5:30 p.m. Junior varsity plays at 3:00 p.m in the Dragons' Lair and C plays at 4:30 in the old gym.

Opponent	Score	W/L
Try-Valley	53-77	L
Chester Area	53-36	W
Canton	67-80	L
Colman-Egan	46-47	L
Baltic	62-51	W
Tea Area	52-78	L
Lake Preston	66-60	W
Flandreau	61-69	L
Baltic	66-80	L
Chester Area	43-59	L
West Central	42-51	L
Luverne, MN	61-78	L
Vermillion	Undecided	Undecided

Kristi Noem's plan for South Dakota

by Malia Johnson
staff writer

First ever female governor outlines her vision for the state

Kristi Noem was the first female to be elected governor in the state of South Dakota and took the oath of office on Saturday, January 5th. She stated that it was a "distinct honor" to serve as South Dakota's first female governor. Noem's election came 100 years and 1 day after women's suffrage passed in South Dakota. Although she wants to be remembered as a governor for the next generation she does believe her achievement sends a message that anything is possible.

Governor Noem has a long list of things that she wants to accomplish in her first term: kickstarting the economy, growing the agriculture economy, enhancing tribal relations, helping the state government be more transparent, improving public safety, and developing a better transportation infrastructure are only a few. Noem campaigned on "four pillars" of protection, pledging to not raise taxes or grow state government and fight federal intrusion. She has been encouraged to reach out to those who didn't vote for her and work with Democrats on priorities that include early childhood education funding, and removing the sale's tax on food, and expanding Medicaid.

Noem was quick to reveal her stance on education when she announced her proposal to require all students to pass a US Citizenship test in order to graduate. "It is only fair that, before our young people graduate from high school and

take on their responsibilities as citizens, they also display this basic knowledge of our nation's institutions and its history," she said. Government teacher didn't think he would have to change much in what he teaches to prepare his students to take the test and felt that it is important information for our students to leave high school with.

The state looks forward to what Kristi Noem has to offer as our 33rd governor. Clearly, she has the support of her constituents and has proven herself as a successful leader while serving as a US Representative in Washington for eight years.



Photo via Argus Leader, Loren Townsley