FIND ME IN THE PAPER

- This picture will be hidden in the Blue Ink somewhere.
- Look for it throughout the issue as you read the articles and browse the pictures.
- Thank you Mrs. Granberg for creating the Blue Ink dragon

WORTH MENTIONING

- We are on the brink of another 4-Day grouping at school.
- Next week is a four day week; then off Friday through Monday, and then another four day week.
- Elementary is hosting the "Soup"er Bowl, collecting canned goods for the Food Pantry.

February 6, 2026
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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Four year wait for winter excitement

2026 Winter Olympics need to know



by **Cece Fiegen**
staff writer & infographic creator

The 2026 Winter Olympics, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026, brings excitement across the globe as almost 3,000 athletes from 90 countries gather in northern Italy to compete in a total of 116 events. This year, the games will retain everything that makes them special, with minor changes made to enhance the events. From returning star athletes to new sports, the 2026 Olympics promise to be a memorable one for the books.

Athletes to Watch

The Olympics gather some of the most talented athletes from around the world together to compete and this year is no exception.

Competing in his first Olympics, figure skater Ilia Malinin otherwise known as "Quad God" has high chances of taking home gold for Team USA. Two time gold medalists, Eileen Gu, is returning to compete for China in freestyle skiing.

Famed skier Lindsey Vonn is returning from retirement at 41 years old, and hopes to still compete despite unfortunately tearing her ACL on January 30th. Italy's jewels, siblings Flora and Miro Tabanelli will both be freestyle skiing on their home soil, with both predicted to perform well.

New Sports, Disciplines, & Events

Adding new things to the games is how the modern Olympics have remained relevant for over 130 years. This year ski mountaineering or "skimo" makes its Winter Olympic debut. There will be a total of 36 athletes competing in the sport, with an even split of men and women. The discipline combines a grueling uphill climb and a skillful downhill descent, becoming a fast pace race typically lasting three to four minutes.

While only one new sport is being added, there are many new events and disciplines that are also being included. Luge doubles have traditionally allowed any gender combination, but this year the competition has expanded to include separate men's and women's doubles. Another change unique to 2026 is women's individual large hill ski jumping, adding women's ski jumping events beyond the normal hill. These small differences have made the most gender balanced Winter Olympics, with 47% female participation and a record of 50 women's meddling events.

Multiple Locations

Milano Cortina 2026 is the first Olympics to ever be hosted by two different cities. Milan will host all indoor ice sports and ceremonies, while Cortina d'Ampezzo will host skiing and sliding events, utilizing the city's surrounding Alps. The cities will both host simultaneous opening ceremonies, becoming the first games to have two cauldrons, one for both Milan and Cortina.

Hosting in two cities has enabled the games to focus on sustainability while using existing venues and

Unmatched Anticipation

Only one thing will be able to beat the anticipation leading to Milano Cortina 2026 and that is the games themselves. This year's games have an expected viewership of around 3 billion people. The return of iconic athletes, the addition of a new sport, and the first games to be hosted by two cities ensures an unforgettable Winter Olympics.

2026 WINTER OLYMPICS schedule

✷ Ceremony
○ Training Session
● Regular Event
★ Medal Event

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Ceremonies			✷																✷
Alpine Skiing	○	○	○	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	★		★				
Biathlon					★		★	★		★	★	★		★	★		★	★	
Bobsleigh									○	○	○	●	★	★	○	○	●	★	★
Cross-country Skiing				★	★		★		★	★	★	★			★			★	★
Curling	●	●	●	●	●	●	★	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	★	★	★
Figure Skating			●	●	★	●	●	★		★		●	★	●		★			
Freestyle Skiing				●		★	★	★	★		★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Ice Hockey		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	★	●	★
Luge	○	○	○	●	★	●	★	★	★										
Nordic Combined						○	○	★		○		○	○	★	○	★			
Short Track Speed Skating							★		★		★		★		★		★		
Skeleton						○	○	○	●	★	★	★							
Ski Jumping		○	○	★	○	★	★		○	○	★	★	★						
Ski Mountaineering																★		★	
Snow Boarding		●		★	★	★		●	★	★		★	●	★	★				
Speed skating				★	★	★		★	★	★	★	★		★		★	★	★	

A “Soup”er cause

Elementary students donate to local food pantry

by **Chase Costello**
staff writer - editorial

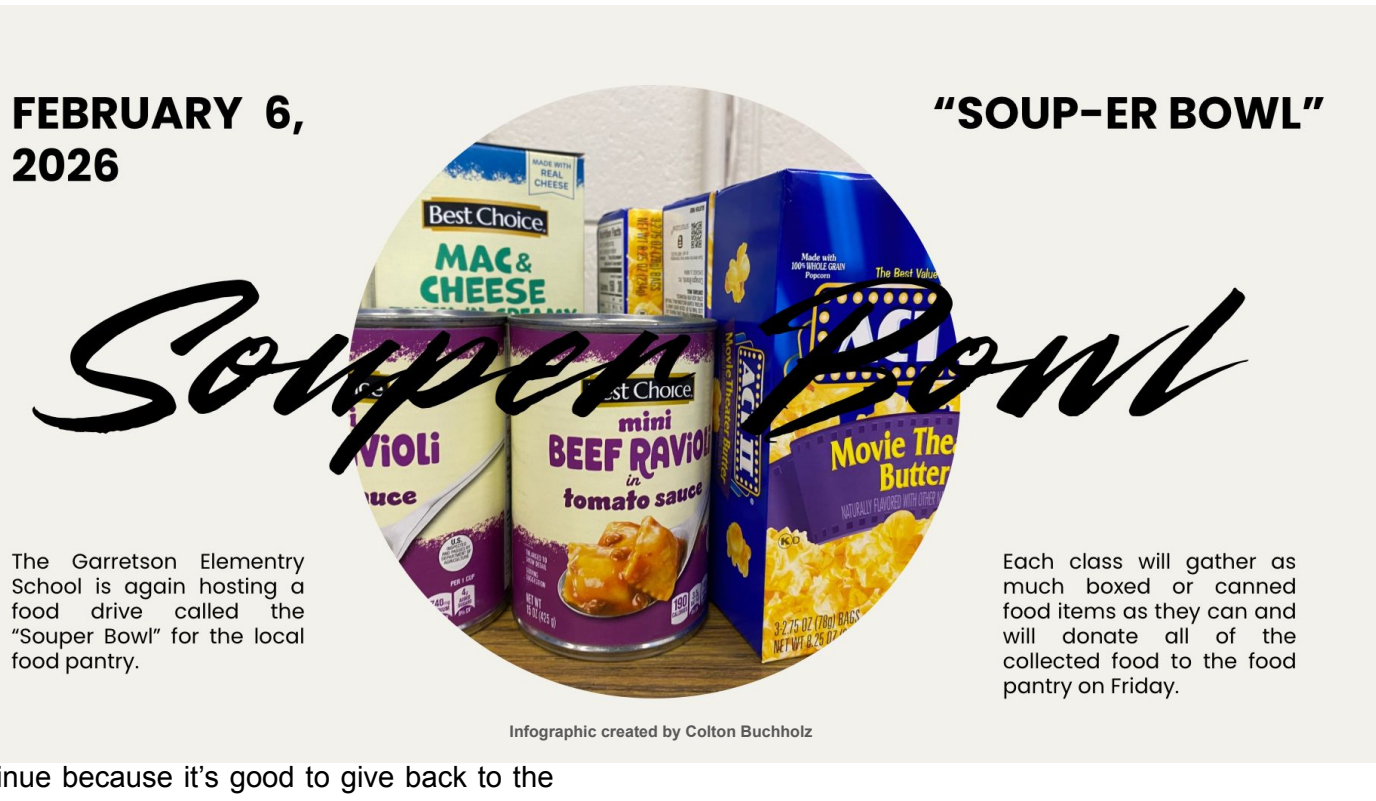
With the NFL season coming to an end the Super Bowl is here. The elementary is also celebrating by doing a SOUPer Bowl to donate to the Garretson Food Pantry. They do it every year k-5.

We asked some of the teachers some questions about the SOUPer bowl. Here are some of their opinions.

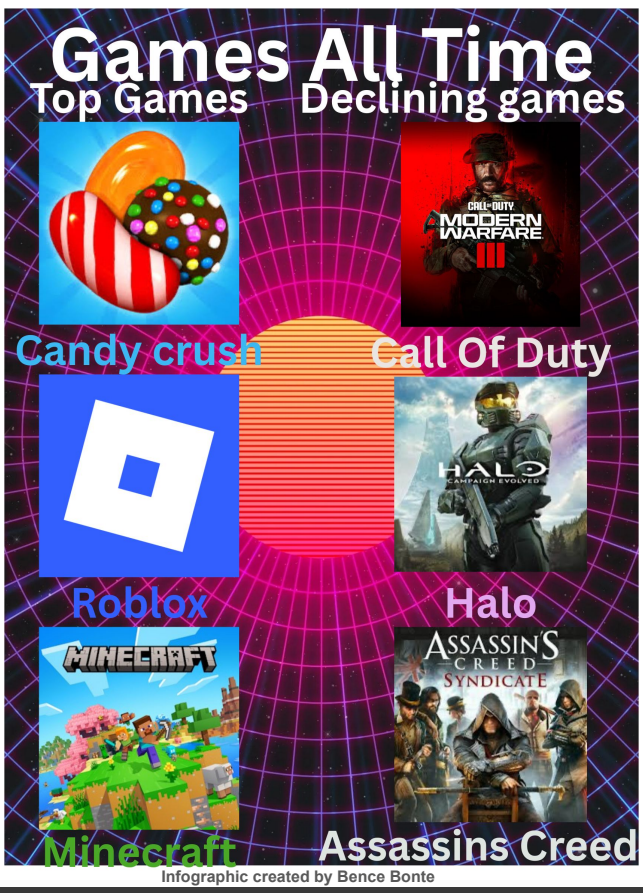
The first question was, “How do you think it has gone in the past years?” Mrs. Danforth said, “I have gotten more in the past years because the kids like it to be a contest between the classrooms.” Mrs. Etrheim said, “In the past it has gone very well and has helped support people in our community.”

The second question was, “Do you think it is a good idea to continue this in the future?” Mrs. Danforth commented, “It’s good to continue because it’s good to give back to the community and help teach our kids.” Mrs. Etrheim echoed Mrs. Danforth’s opinion, “It helps create responsibility with our kids and it should continue.”

The last question was, “If you could change something what would it be?” Mrs. Danforth said, “I would like to go back to it being a challenge and have a trophy the kids could



Infographic created by Colton Buchholz



Infographic created by Bence Bonte



Infographic created by Zach Hermanson

Senior Spotlight
Lucie Frewaldt



Activities Involved In:
Choir

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
All the laughs and the teachers

Favorite School Lunch:
Crispitos

Favorite Class You’ve Taken:
Anatomy

Plans for Next Year:
Attend Southeast Tech for Nursing



This Week’s Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 6
- BBB v. MCM (4:30/5:30/7:00)
- Mini Cheer Camp Performance @ Halftime of BBB
- Youth Basketball Team Recognition @ BBB game

Saturday, February 7
- Powerlifting @ Dell Rapids (8:30)
- Wrestling @ BEC in Clear Lake (10:00)
- Wrestling @ Parker (10:00)
- GBB @ DSU v. Howard (9:00)
- Winter Formal @ Old Gym (8:00-10:00)

Monday, February 9
- JH/JV Wrestling @ Tri-Valley (4:30)
- School Board Meeting @ Library (6:00)

Tuesday, February 10
- GBB v. Beresford (4:30/5:45)
- BBB v. Beresford (4:30/7:15)

Wednesday, February 11
- Science Fair Open House (12:00-1:30)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-6:00)

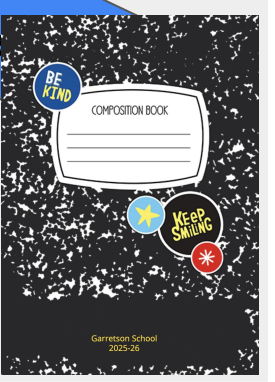
Friday, February 13
- No School - Staff In-Service
- BBB v. ELB (4:00/5:00/7:30)
- GBB v. ELB (5:00/6:15)
- Wrestling @ Dell Rapids Quad with Baltic, Chester (5:00)

Worth Mentioning

NO SCHOOL on Friday and Monday. Enjoy the four day week school week next week, four day weekend, and another four day week.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the students who have been recognized for showing positive ACE qualities (Attitude, Character, Effort). Our five winners from November are Cooper Smith, Alyssa Olson, Drew Chester, Caylix Buchholz, and Bryce Howe. Please see Mrs. Costello in study hall for an extra reward.

ORDER YOUR ‘25-’26 YEARBOOKS today. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made this year. You can order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you have any questions.



Local job opportunities open up

City offers opportunities for high school students to make some summer spending cash

by **Harper Hanisch**
staff writer

Warmer temperatures are approaching, therefore students are beginning to plan their summers including finding a job. Furthermore, many local businesses are searching for seasonal help. The City of Garretson has recently posted employment opportunities that range from working at the parks to life guarding at the pool.

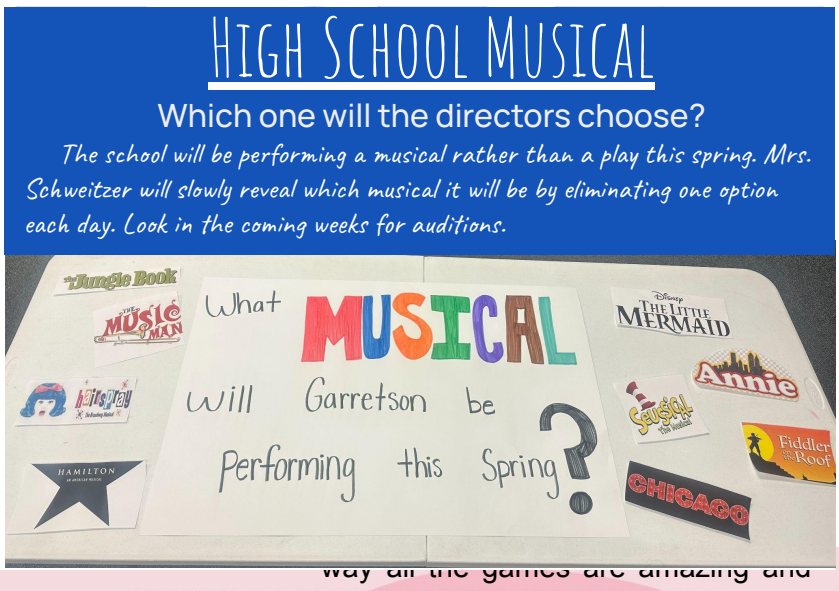
The city's job opportunities are accessible for many students. This is due to the wide age range, central location, and array of responsibilities. Applications are currently available in the city hall building and are open until positions are filled.

Garretson's variety of businesses range from hospitality to everyday needs. These include Palisades State Park, the nursing home, Palisades Propane, Blue Dragon Academy, and the GFC. No matter one's personal interests, there is a suitable local job for anyone.



Infographic created by Shea Smidt







CONGRATULATIONS

ONE ACT CAST & CREW

Who just performed at the region one-act competition last week

ONCE UPON A PLAYGROUND

Directors: Erika Brown & Taylor Schweitzer









REGION

OUTSTANDING ACTORS

Cece Fiegen
Aiden Johnson
Caiden Maack
Briann Jacobson
Jake Jones
Elizabeth Roth
Brooklyn Trudeau



Fairly even playing field heading into Super Bowl LX

Seahawks and Patriots were not pre-season favorites but both teams peaked at the right time to advance to the Big Game



by **Chase Arend**
staff writer & infographic creator

The stage is set, Super Bowl LX is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Lin Santa Clara, California, featuring a matchup between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks. The game kicks off at 6:30 pm.

Going back to the start of the 2025-2026 season, both New England and Seattle were very overlooked as Super Bowl contenders. As the underdogs Seattle had a 60-1, and even up to 120-1 for the Patriots. So having them in the Super Bowl this year was very slim at the start of the year making this a very overlooked game.

The current odds for this game is the Seattle Seahawks are heavily favored by 4.5 points and are expected to win a low scoring game with the over/under at 45.5. ESPN analysts favor Seattle 82% with a common score prediction of 27-17 Seattle.

The story of both teams are significant, but there are some flaws in both teams. As the Patriots quarterback Drake Maye as a sophomore quarterback making this his second year is an amazing accomplishment. Beating the 1 seed Denver Broncos at Denver making it seem like an amazing game two win. Not so fast, against the Bills, Bo Nix the Broncos sophomore quarterback fractured his right ankle taking him out for the season. Making the backup for the Broncos go against the Patriots.

As I was at the AFC championship game both teams started off slow as expected. Making it a cold game in Denver and with a backup quarterback does not go together. The Patriots came out on top 10-7, the Broncos scored on the second drive and didn't score after that. In my opinion, if Bo Nix is healthy Denver comes out on top and beats New England. As a Broncos fan you have to give New England credit for Drake Maye to be the first quarterback in history to beat three top 5 defenses to get to the Super Bowl. Would it be a different game with Bo Nix, yes. Though you still have to give credit to the 3 tough wins in a row.In the NFC championship the Seahawks defeated the Los Angeles Rams 31-27, at Lumen Field in Seattle. Making this a 1 score game the Ram are in the same shoes as the Broncos, having a tough loss to end the season. The Seahawks are no joke as last night Matthew Stafford was named MVP, making it his first MVP award of his 17 year career. Ending the season with 4,707 passing yards and 46 touchdowns. Beating the AFC superstar Drake Maye. Seeing this just shows how strong the Seahawks are. Beating the MVP under pressure is a huge accomplishment, as they will be the favorite for Super Bowl LX.

After the season comes to an end on Sunday. Each team deserves a spot in the big game and only one team will come out on top. Will the Seahawks come out on top or will the patriots be type underdogs and be victorious.

