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

- Dress Up Themes for activities have been decided. Look on social media for each game's theme. TONIGHT'S FOOTBALL GAME is **BUSINESS**.
- **Would You Rather:**
- Have French Toast or Waffles

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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Soccer wraps up season

Team ends playoff hopes in first round to Dakota Valley

The Garretson soccer team wrapped up their regular season with a 4-10-0 record and clinched the #7 seed in the state playoffs.

The Blue Dragons had a difficult schedule this year, playing through a gauntlet of teams that repeatedly find themselves vying for the class A state title. Despite the challenge ahead, Garretson opened their season with a 6-1 win over Belle Fourche.

After a tough two week stretch following the win over the Broncos, the Blue Dragons' next four games were much more successful, taking three of them.

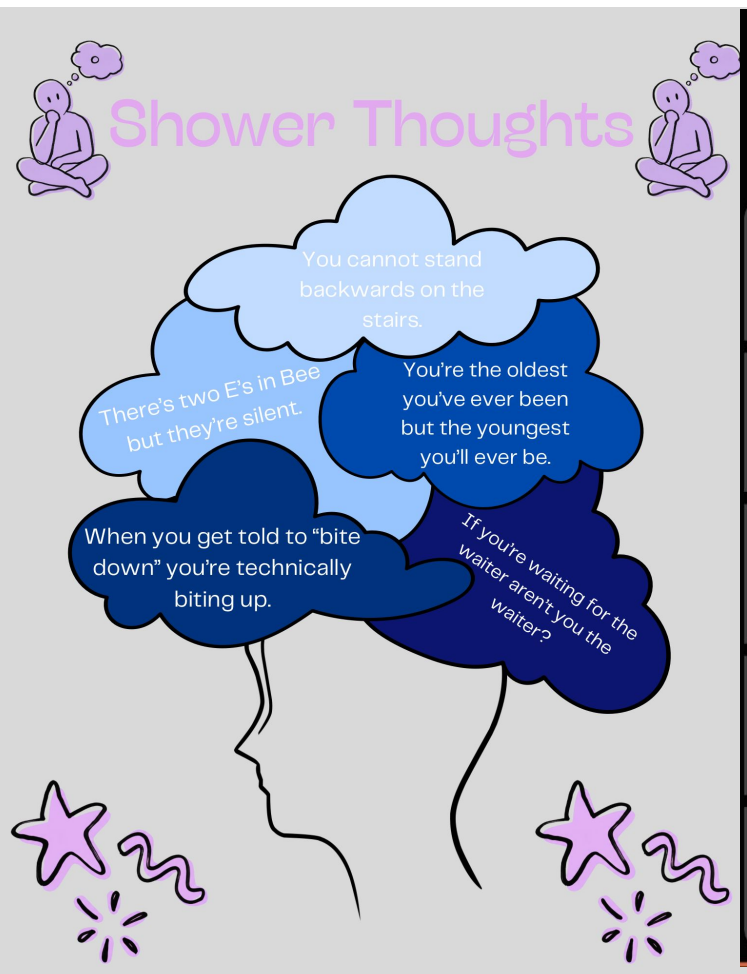
However, that was the last of the wins for the Blue Dragons as their competition tightened up with post-season approaching.

Garretson headed to #2 Dakota Valley for the first round of playoffs and while the Blue Dragons were looking to avenge a loss to the Panthers that happened earlier in the season, the host team had other plans, taking down Garretson 8-0.

Dakota Valley will play tomorrow for the state title against Sioux Falls Christian.

The Blue Dragons were led by a strong senior core who were supported by talented underclassmen.







Build Your Team

Build a lineup. Choose one player from each column to assemble your dream NFL team, but be careful. You only have $15 to spend

Created by Colton Buchholz

The battle of the Pringles

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

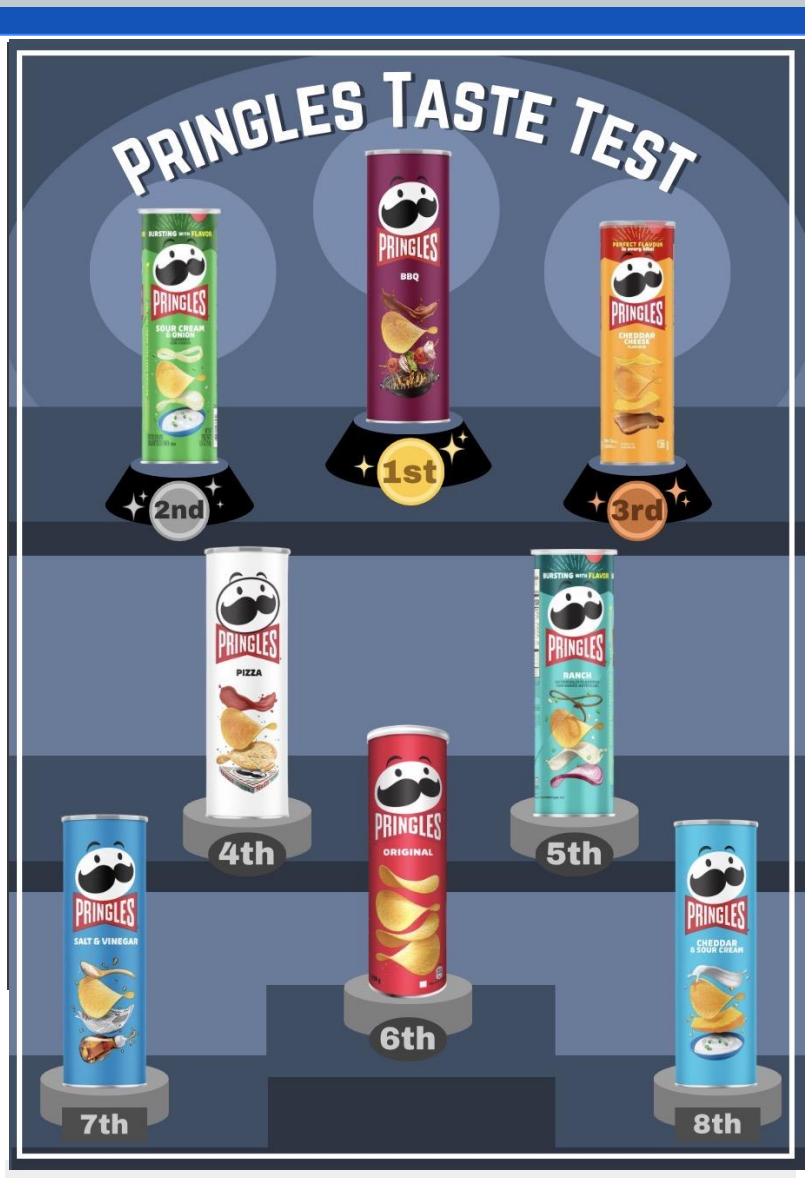
Students taste test various versions of the snack that when you pop, you just can't stop

This Wednesday, the journalism class and a few guest tasters came together to rank their standing of the best Pringle flavors. Out of the eight kinds tested, there were verging results. Some were averse to a taste while others declared the same one their favorite.

At the bottom came Cheddar & Sour Cream, gathering complaints of an unpleasant after taste, with Salt & Vinegar right in front of it, having its own critiques of an overpowering flavor. In sixth came Original, because despite it being a classic, it wasn't flavorful enough to place higher. Ranch placed in fifth with general mediocre reviews, and Pizza almost made it to top three, but landing in fourth for not capturing the essence of pizza well enough.

There was an overall consensus that the best three were BBQ, Sour Cream & Onion, and Cheddar. Coming in third, Cheddar, was considered a reliable pick that had a good taste but no outstanding factor. While being the world's favorite, Sour Cream & Onion came in second, being noted for its perfect amount of flavor. The one ranked highest overall, an unexpected win, was BBQ. It was praised for its taste-likeness to traditional BBQ flavor.

There are 25 flavors currently being produced in the US, with over 280 kinds ever to be made around the world. While those who participated in the tasting might not have done your ranking justice, one thing is certain: Pringles are a beloved snack that has something for everyone.





Congratulations

to

Carter Siemonsma & Ethan McGregor

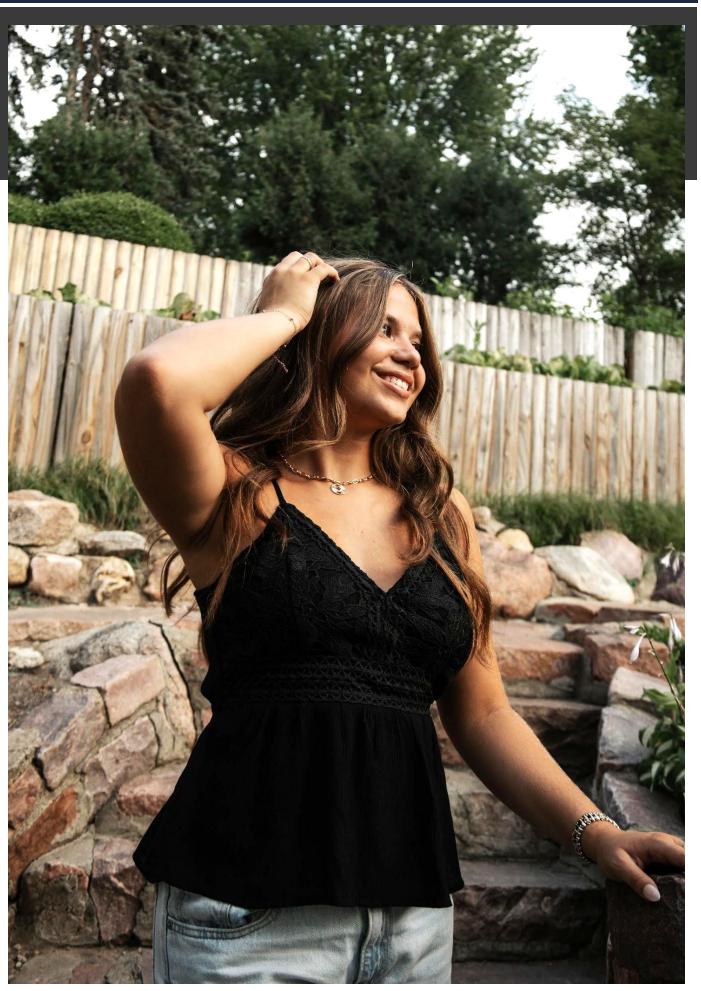
On their STATE CROSS COUNTRY QUALIFICATION

The boys will travel to Rapid City next weekend for the state meet

Regions took place in Madison on Thursday, Oct 15. Siemonsma finished 11th with a time of 17:50. McGregor was 20 seconds behind him in 16th.



Senior Spotlight
Madison Waltman



Activities Involved In:
Volleyball
Cheer
Softball
Marching Band
Drama
FCA
NHS

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
I already miss sitting at lunch with my friends and talking about our day

Favorite School Lunch:
Popcorn Chicken or Polar Bear Pasta

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Anatomy

Plans for Next Year:
Go to college for an undecided major

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 16
- FB @ SF Lutheran (3:30)

Saturday, October 17
- JH VB @ Baltic (9:00)
- Oral Interp @ Brandon Valley

Monday, October 19
- Oral Interp @ Lennox
- State Press Convention @ SDSU (9:00)
- BEC Choral Festival @ Garretson (7:00)

Tuesday, October 20
- End of First Quarter
- VB v. West Central (4:30/6:00/7:15)
- FFA @ National Convention

Wednesday, October 21
- FFA @ National Convention

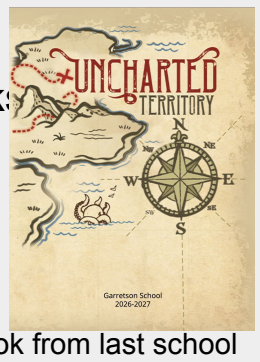
Thursday, October 22
- FFA @ National Convention
- FB @ First Round Playoffs v. TBD (TBD)

Friday, October 23
- Oral Interp @ Washington HS
- VB @ Colman-Egan (5:00/6:00/7:15)

Saturday, October 24
- JV VB @ Parker Tourney (8:00)
- Oral Interp @ Harrisburg
- State XC @ Rapid City

Worth Mentioning

END OF THE 1ST QUARTER is on Tuesday, October 20. Double check your grades.



ORDER YOUR '26-'27 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. If you still want a yearbook from last school year there are a couple left, buy yours before it's gone.

Fighting for Fick

5K is in place to help former Garretson student battling cancer

by **Brielle Weir**
staff writer

Former Garretson High School student Evan Fick was deeply invested in track and cross country during his time as a Blue Dragon and continued that on to college. He met his wife Anna Fick at South Dakota State University, where they were both studying Mechanical Engineering. A few years later Evan and Anna Fick got married and now have two daughters.

Both Evan and Anna were also a part of the cross country and track team in college, which Evan had initially co-found. After noticing his increasing knee pain, Fick scheduled an appointment with his doctor. This is when he heard news that would change his life forever.

In 2024, Fick was diagnosed with bone cancer. Due to his cancer he unfortunately had to amputate one of his legs. With his passion for running, this is something Fick knew he would not be able to let go of. Through lots of physical therapy and prosthetic training he was happy to announce he would be back on his feet in no time.

In July of 2026, the Fick family got the heartbreaking news that the cancer had spread to Evan's lungs. In light of continuing the treatment process again, he and his family are hosting an event called Fick Family 5K. This is a way to provide financial support and hope for Evan Fick all through something he loved.

The Fick Family 5K will take place this Saturday, October 17th, 2026, which will take place at Fishback Soccer Park. Where runners sign up and donate to compete in the race. "All proceeds will go toward helping Evan and his family with the financial challenges that come with this difficult time. These include medical expenses, travel and lodging for treatment, and meals. This will allow them to focus on fighting, healing, and spending time together." (https://fick-family-5k.vercel.app/about.html)



The Fick Family 5K is more than just a race, it is a way for people to come together to support Evan and his family during one of the hardest times in their lives. Through every step, donation, and word of encouragement, the community can help remind the Fick family that they are not fighting alone.

Evan's passion for running continues to inspire others, proving that even when faced with challenges, hope and determination can keep you moving forward.





Pics of the Week

The seniors joined up with the Kindergarteners today to read this morning splitting between Mrs. Leicester's and Mrs. Nelson's rooms. The Kindergarteners picked out the books for the seniors to read to them before having time to ask each other questions.





Oral Interp participants competed in their first meet of the season in Sioux Valley on Monday for the Big East Conference tournament. It was a solid start to the season as the girls all came away with valuable experience as well as solid feedback to continue on in the season. The interpers have six more meets before the end of the month, keeping a busy pace through October.

Big East Conference Placings

Cecelia Fiegen
Poetry - 3rd

Briann Jacobson
Storytelling - 3rd

Abby Fetter
Storytelling - 6th

Abby Fetter
Serious - 4th

Hannah Hummel
Storytelling - Participant





NBA season ready to tip off

Off- and pre-season shake up views of NBA teams

by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer & tier list creator

The new NBA season brings championship expectations, breakout opportunities and major questions across the league. From Miami and San Antonio's title ambitions to Milwaukee and Washington's potential to surprise, the race for basketball supremacy is wide open.

FINALS CONTENDER TEAMS

The road to the NBA Finals is never easy, but the Miami Heat and San Antonio Spurs headline two teams worth watching as the new season begins. Miami has built superstar teams in the past like LeBron and D-Wade, but never centered around two big men. Giannis Antetokounmpo was traded from the Bucks to the Heat for multiple key players, but that didn't stop Miami from picking up key additions in free agency like Klay Thompson. The Heat thrive when games become physical and possessions matter, making them a dangerous opponent in a long playoff series. Their challenge will be maintaining consistency at the guard position throughout the regular season and proving they have enough offensive firepower to compete with the league's top defenses like the Thunder and Spurs.

In San Antonio, the excitement centers on a young team looking to turn get their revenge and finish the job this year, as last year they lost to the Knicks in the finals. With Victor Wembanyama serving as the franchise's best player, the Spurs have the kind of defensive presence and versatility that can change a game in an instant. If their supporting cast including Dylan Harper develops, the team finds consistency against experienced opponents including New York and Miami, San Antonio could become a serious postseason threat. Both teams enter the season with something to prove, and their performances could preview the championship early in the season.

DARK HORSES

Every NBA season has teams that exceed expectations, and the Milwaukee Bucks and Washington Wizards present two very different storylines. Milwaukee is being overlooked because of the Giannis trade, but what they got in return was well worth it. The whole roster is loaded head to toe with young talent and assuming everyone develops normally, Milwaukee will be a tuff team to deal with this upcoming season. The Bucks' success will depend on their ability to stay competitive in a demanding Eastern Conference, and if everything comes together, Milwaukee could be a sneaky difficult matchup for most of the NBA.

Washington, meanwhile, enters the season with a different kind of opportunity. Rather than carrying the pressure of immediate championship expectations, the Wizards can surprise teams this season. The Wizards have usually been the floor mat for other teams in the recent past, but adding the number one overall draft pick AJ Dybantsa and pairing him with experienced vets, Trae Young and Anthony Davis, Washington can definitely surprise a couple teams this season. The Bucks are looking to prove they remain a contender, while the Wizards are looking to prove their rebuilding process can produce meaningful results.

PLAYING FOR DRAFT POSITION

For the Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Clippers, the season could become a difficult test. Memphis has the potential to compete when its core is healthy, but staying on the court and finding a reliable rotation will be very hard. The Grizzlies will most likely drop to the bottom of the Western Conference standings early and will be struggling to find their way out. If results fall short, questions about the franchise's next steps and future priorities could grow as the season progresses.

The Clippers face their own set of questions as they look to balance competitiveness with their roster. Kawhi Leonard was traded after a scandal dealing with the clippers franchise happened, and as a result, they lost multiple key draft picks and a lot of help. Draft positioning is not simply about losing games; it is about understanding where a franchise stands and how it can improve. For both Memphis and Los Angeles, the season could determine whether the next step is a playoff push, or a full reset on their franchise.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Individual storylines can be just as interesting as the team projections, and a LaMelo Ball and Anthony Edwards headline a very interesting pair of young stars to follow. Ball brings creativity, passing vision and an unpredictable offensive style that could bring energy to the Charlotte Hornets. And Ball looks to bring that over to Minnesota to pair with Anthony Edward's. Edwards combines explosive athleticism, scoring ability and a ton of confidence, making him one of the league's most entertaining players to watch with the Timberwolves. These two young stars could make a very intriguing duo and could be something to watch this upcoming season.

Another major talking point is the idea of LeBron James playing for the Philadelphia 76ers. A move of that would reshape expectations in the Eastern Conference and create immediate questions about the team's chemistry and championship potential. LeBron to the 76ers makes them an immediate contender for a championship but is the superstar roster too much to balance out?

Giannis Antetokounmpo joining the Miami Heat is another huge movement among superstars. Giannis was traded from the Milwaukee Bucks for Tyler Herro, Ka'lel Ware, Jamie Jaquez Jr. and a bucket load of young talent, but the heat did balance their roster around him after the trade was finalized. Giannis going to only his second team of his career could be something to get used to, but whatever the team's outcome is, Giannis will change the team's expectations for this season drastically.

As the NBA preseason gets wraps up, there are a lot of emerging stars, energetic rookies, and confident veterans to shock the outlook on the upcoming season. The NBA officially kicks off on Tuesday, October 20 with the Pistons hosting the Celtics, 76ers visiting New York, and the Spurs take on the Thunder in San Antonio. Therefore, there is a lot to look forward to this following week.

