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 VOLLEYBALL GAME is **BLUE OUT**.
- **Would You Rather:** Build a Snowman or Sandcastle

October 23, 2026
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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

# Blue Ink




# Playing for more than a win on the field




## Breast Cancer Awareness month gives opportunity to not just raise awareness or funds, but celebrate and support those battling

by **Autumn Genzler**
staff writer &
infographic creator

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and teams at Garretson High School are finding ways to show their support for a cause that affects millions of people and their families.

From football players wearing pink tape, socks, mouth guards, etc, to the volleyball team's annual Dig Pink fundraiser, pink jerseys, and a T-shirt fundraiser. Garretson athletes are using their sports to spread awareness, honor loved ones and raise money for breast cancer awareness.

For a few Garretson football players, Breast Cancer Awareness Month has a special meaning because of their mom's experience with breast cancer. Wearing pink gives them an opportunity to honor her story and show support for those who have faced the disease.



The Arend boys always give their all on the field but October takes on a whole new meaning as they are able to visually honor their mother's fight with breast cancer by wearing pink.

*Photo provided by Jackson Arend*

Senior Jackson Arend stated, "I wear pink because my mom had breast cancer but not only that, we have a whole month to bring awareness to this and I just think that we should honor it while we can."

Her story is a reminder that the challenges people face outside of sports can have a lasting impact on their lives and the way they play during the game.

Junior Chase Arend shared, "If I see pink, it inspires me to keep working hard, keep giving it my all even if we're down or up, don't give up because she had to go through a really hard time and she never gave up so I'm just fighting on the football field."

Having a parent who has faced breast cancer can also teach lessons that carry on off the football field. Watching a loved one go through a difficult experience can show someone the importance of perseverance, courage, and appreciating the people who support them.

C. Arend expressed, "It taught me a lot, she had to go through a lot and some people may think practice sucks and all this but they don't realize people have to fight for their life everyday. All we do is fight in between the lines and there's people who have to fight to live everyday. It's just a whole different view on things."

By wearing pink, the football players help bring awareness to a cause that has affected their own family. Their story shows how Breast Cancer Awareness Month can be a way for athletes to recognize the strength of their loved ones and show support for others going through similar experiences.

While football players show their support by wearing pink, the Garretson volleyball team takes its involvement a step further through its annual Dig Pink fundraiser.

One way the team raises money is by allowing community members to sponsor individual players. Sponsors can give donations based on the statistics a player records during a game. As players compete on the court, their performance can help raise money for the cause.

The team also held their annual T-shirt fundraiser. Fans purchased shirts to show their involvement and help spread awareness throughout the community. During the Dig Pink game players wear the shirt as a warm up and fans wear it for the theme of the game. All proceeds from the T-shirts go towards the breast cancer foundation.

Additionally volleyball players wear pink jerseys at select games this month to serve as a visible reminder of why the team is coming together.

Through player sponsorships, T-shirt sales, and the Dig Pink game, the team creates several ways for people to contribute. This allows the team's involvement to reach beyond the volleyball court.

Although the approaches are different, the message behind them is similar. Breast cancer awareness is about recognizing the people affected by the disease, supporting families and encouraging communities to come together.

As October continues, the pink jerseys, shirts, and other displays of support serve as reminders that even within a school sports community, there are meaningful ways to make a difference.

# Red ribbon week




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

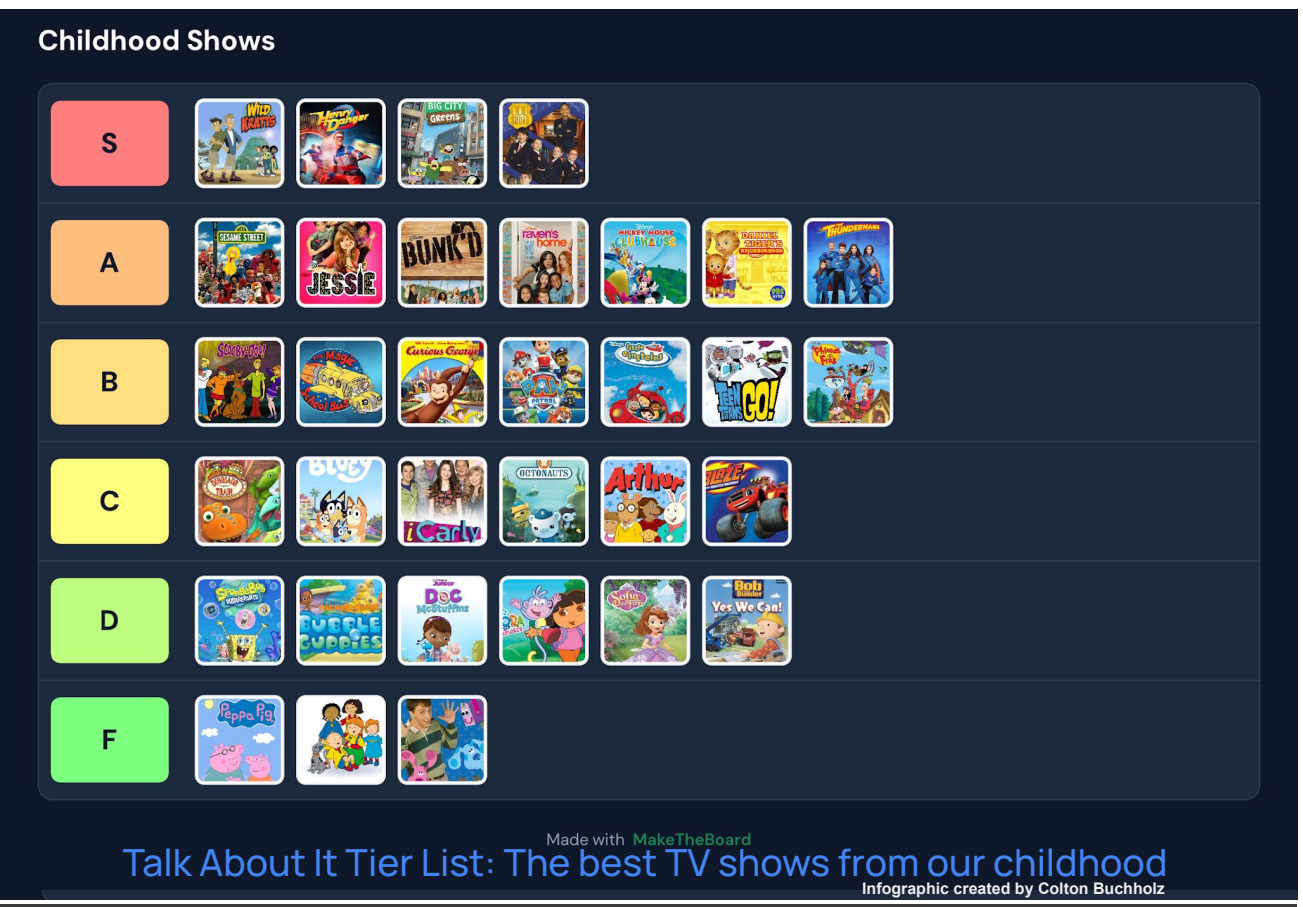
Starting Monday, schools around the country will be participating in Red Ribbon Week to raise awareness for drug addiction and encourage healthy decision making. With around 70,000 deaths in the US caused by overdoses last year, informing kids and adults about the dangers of drug and substance abuse saves lives.

The week began as a way to honor Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camerena's sacrifice after his kidnapping, torture, and murder by drug traffickers in Mexico. Those who knew Camerena, and eventually many others as well, began wearing red ribbons to show their condemnation of drug use. The first nationally coordinated Red Ribbon Week was in 1988, which has continued annually ever since.

## Week brings awareness to dangers of drug use

This year's theme "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free," will be reflected throughout Garretson's own Red Ribbon focused activities including a giveaway and info table in the lobby, morning announcements, coloring sheets and word searches in study hall, and a coloring contest for the elementary. Every day there will be a dress-up day coordinating with a drug prevention theme.

What started as a tragic death of a DEA agent, has turned into the country's oldest and largest drug prevention campaigns. The best way to prevent future drug addiction is to be informed on the dangers.




Talk About It Tier List: The best TV shows from our childhood

Infographic created by Colton Buchholz

# State Press Convention

Newspaper and earbook publications around the state compete, highlighting excellence in journalistic writing and photography.

## Garretson's Results

***EXCELLENT in PUBLICATIONS:***
*Blue Ink* (Newspaper)
*Dragon* (Yearbook)

***EXCELLENT in PHOTOGRAPHY:***
Caylix Buchholz (Sports)
Gracie Fiegen (Sports)

***EXCELLENT in NEWS WRITING:***
Colton Buchholz (Sports)
Harper Hanisch (Editorial)
Harper Hanisch (General News)
Shea Smidt (Sports)

***SUPERIOR in NEWS WRITING:***
Emma Wolf (Editorial)
Johanna Knauer (Feature)
Gracie Fiegen & Cecelia Fiegen (Feature)

***SOUTH DAKOTA'S TOP SCORING ENTRY IN ALL NEWS WRITING DIVISIONS***
Johanna Knauer (Editorial)

# This Week's Need to Know

## Upcoming Events

**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 (2:30)

**Monday, October 26**
- VB v. Sioux Valley (4:30/6:00/7:15)

**Tuesday, October 27**
- Oral Interp @ Brookings
- VB @ Madison (4:30/5:30/6:45)

**Wednesday, October 28**
- MS Choir Halloween Caroling

**Thursday, October 29**
- FB @ State Quarterfinals v. TBD (TBD)

**Friday, October 30**
- Oral Interp @ Roosevelt HS
- All-State Choir @ Rapid City

**Saturday, October 31**
- All-State Choir @ Rapid City

# Senior Spotlight
## Aiden Johnson

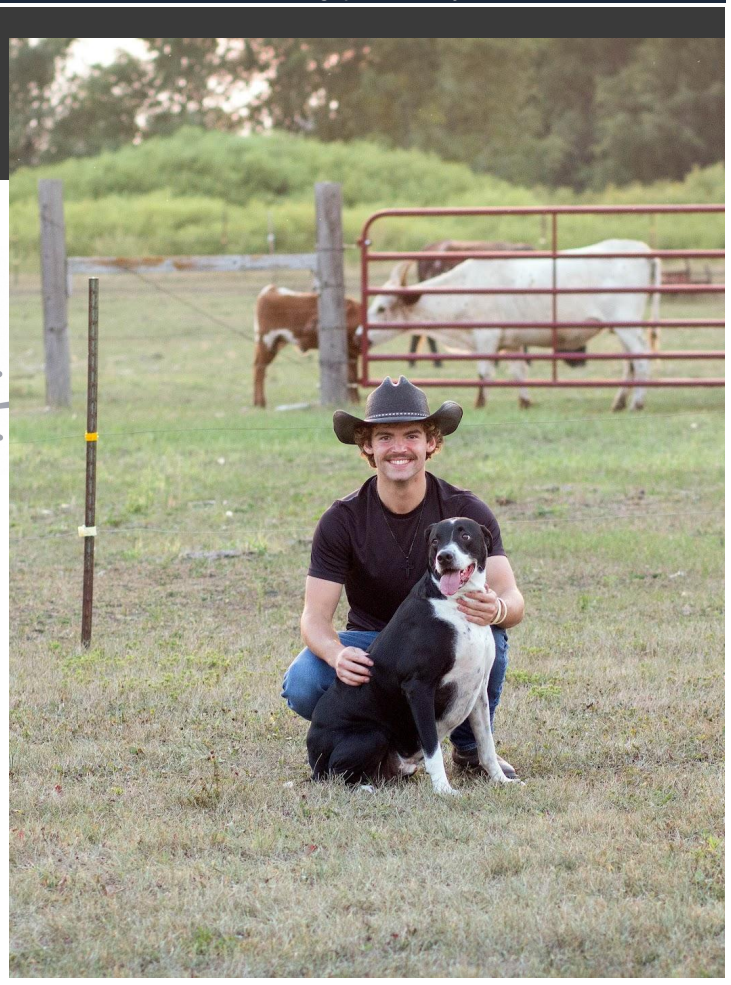
**Activities Involved In:**
Football
Powerlifting
Track & Field
Trapshooting
Baseball
Play/Theater
Band

**Who/What Will You Miss Most:**
The powerlifting team and coaches

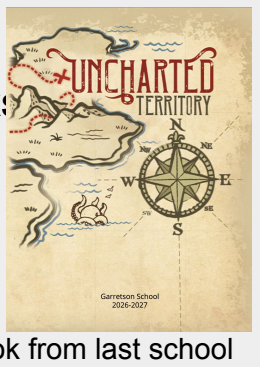
**Favorite School Lunch:**
Chicken Ranch Pasta

**Favorite Class You've Taken:**
Band

**Plans for Next Year:**
Attend college for Physical Therapy and compete in collegiate powerlifting



## Worth Mentioning




**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.

**ACE AWARDS** are back! Thanks for continuing to show your positive attitude, character, and effort. And who knows, maybe you'll get a little extra something for it as well.

CONGRATULATIONS SEPTEMBER ACE WINNERS

# Open your eyes to new opportunities

## Juniors attend college fair at Augustana University

by **Brielle Weir**
staff writer

Tuesday, October 20, the junior class from Garretson High School visited the college fair hosted at Augustana University. The fair was a way to promote different colleges to give students an opportunity to ask questions, and get a feel of where they might want to go. This was a great way that student could explore different schools, with having over 50 colleges there, some even being that they had never heard of.

Senior Michael Hanisch said his favorite part of going to the college fair last year was seeing all the different schools, and exploring the possibilities he can do with his future. Along with saying, “I think it’s a good thing for juniors to go too. It’s a great place to start their college findings.”

This was not the first year that the junior class has attended this event, being that the previous junior classes had gone as well. Not only was Garretson High School there but multiple other schools, such as Dell Rapids, Canton, and many more.

Although Garretson students had gone before, this year it was put on differently. Being that there was only about 50 minutes given for students to talk to the college representatives, before having to head back to school. While in previous years this was considered a whole day activity, where Augustana put on a tour of their college school and lunch was provided. Although it was beneficial most juniors said they wish they would have had more time.

Junior Cade Risty stated, “I had a couple colleges in mind that I might want to go to, but nothing was for sure.” Then later added that Dordt University in Iowa, stood out to him.

While Junior Aubrey Sikkink mentioned, “I never thought about going to school for hair, until I went to the college fair.”

Overall, the college fair gave Garretson High School juniors the opportunity to explore different colleges and discover new possibilities for their futures. From finding schools that matched their interests to learning about career paths they had never considered, students gained a better understanding of their options after high school. Even though the event was shorter than in previous years, it still helped students begin thinking about their next steps.

## Senior Spotlight
## Vivian Johnson



**Activities Involved In:**
Volleyball and Golf

**Who/What Will You Miss Most:**
I will miss the bus rides home from volleyball, sitting and talking to Harper

**Favorite School Lunch:**
Spicy Chicken Sandwich

**Favorite Class You’ve Taken:**
Anatomy

**Plans for Next Year:**
Attend DSU and play volleyball




With more than 300 participants at the oral interp meet hosted by Brandon Valley this past Saturday, Garretson speakers came away with some positives on their performances and pieces. Hannah Hummel (far left) took first place in one of her rounds of novice storytelling, Briann Jacobson (middle left) placed fifth in both novice storytelling and novice drama overall, Cecelia Fiegen (middle right) placed third in novice poetry, Abby Fetter competed in novice drama and storytelling. *Photo*

Oral Interp continued their busy schedule, competing on Monday, Oct. 19 at Lennox. Briann Jacobson earned a superior rating with her storytelling and an excellent + in her serious dramatic piece. Cece Fiegen also earned an excellent + in poetry. Hannah Hummel earned an excellent for storytelling.

# Pics of the Week

## Youth football sees success as they work their way through their own playoff brackets





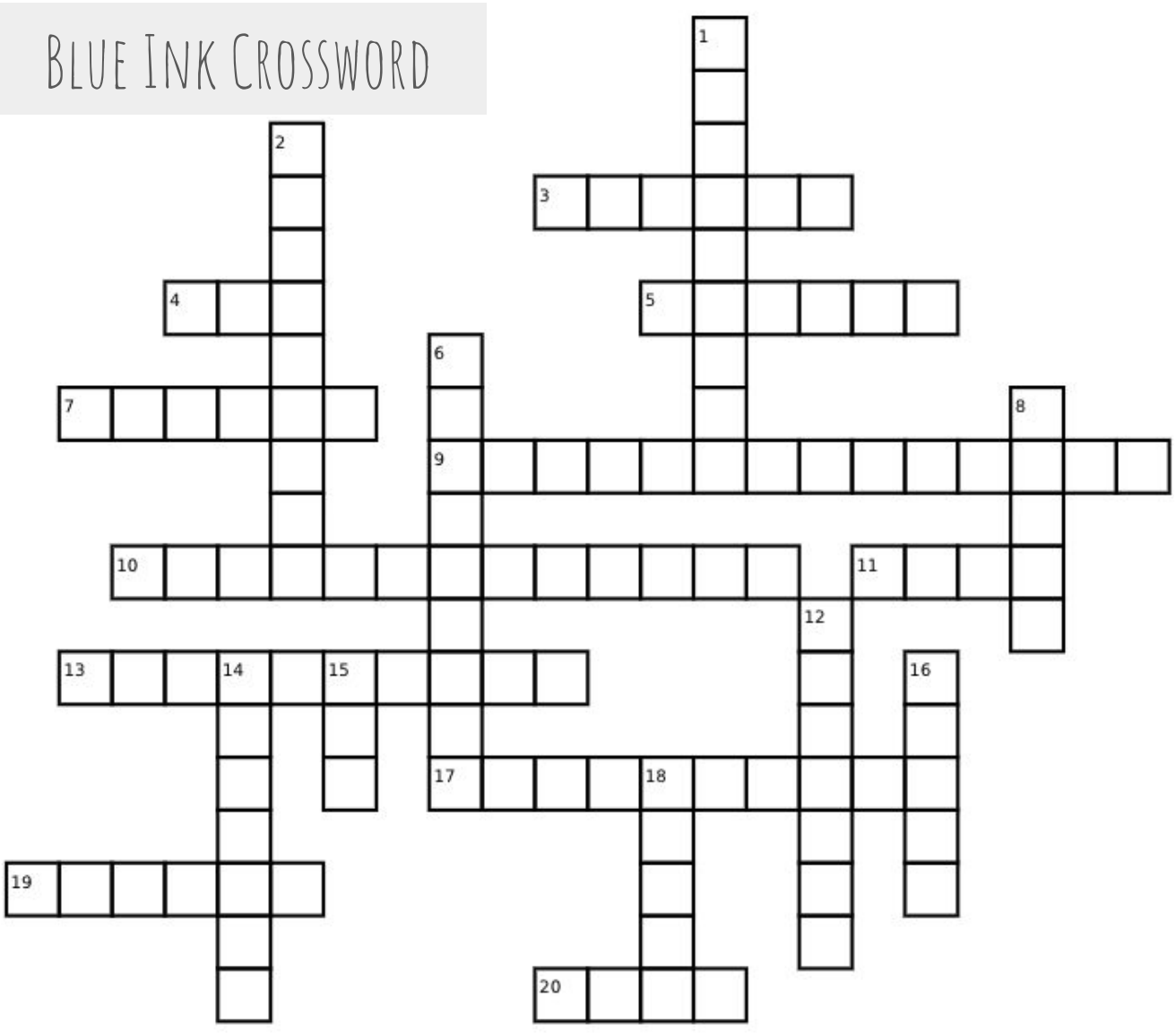

It has been a successful stretch of football at all levels. While the varsity team prepares for the first round of playoffs, the younger Blue Dragon footballers have been seeing success of their own.
Above: The 5th and 6th grade SD Junior Football team won their second round of playoffs, advancing to the championship game at Augustana on November 1 at 9:00 a.m. They were supported by many members of the high school football team too.
Right: The Kindergarten through second grade girls flag football team set the standard as they took the first place in the K-2 girls division for SD Junior Football last weekend.
*K-2 Girls Flag Football photo submitted by Mrs. Etrheim*







# Blue Ink Crossword



DIRECTIONS:
Look in this week's issue of the *Blue Ink* for answers to this crossword.

Across:
3. One of the other high schools that attended the college fair
4. The college Vivian is planning to attend
5. One of the Cross Country runners headed to the state meet
7. The location of next week's playoff football game
9. The topic of this week's tier list
10. Blue Ink journalist who earned top honors at state for her writing
11. Aiden's favorite class that he's taken
13. A top tier childhood TV show
17. Make a ____, Be a Hero: The theme of this year's Red Ribbon Week campaign
19. The team Garretson defeated in the first round of football playoffs

Down:
1. The location of the State Cross Country meet
2. The location of the junior college fair
6. ____ Territory: The theme of this year's yearbook
8. A college at the fair that sparked interest for a student as mentioned in the article.
12. The shared surname of this week's senior spotlights
14. Volleyball's October Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser name
15. The color of the Ribbon Week happening the last stretch of October
16. Last name of football players inspired by their mom's own battle with cancer
18. One of the Cross Country runners headed to the state meet

GARRETSON
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