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

- Congratulations to the newest NHS members: Jacoby Costello, Blair Ellefson, Gavin Coburn, Cece Fiegen, and Briann Jacobson

- **Would You Rather:**
  Spend all day in Math or English

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Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Netters finish season

Madison Bulldogs end Blue Dragons' season with sweep in the first round of region play

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

The Garretson High School girls volleyball team wrapped up its 2026 season after months of competition, hard-fought matches, and growth on the court. The Blue Dragons finished the with a 7-18 overall record.

Throughout the season, Garretson faced several challenging teams while also working to improve their communication, teamwork, and consistency.

The team had several incredible performances, including a 3-1 victory over Beresford in Garretson's first home match of the season. The Blue Dragons showed strong offensive play and teamwork throughout the match. Senior Madison Waltman and sophomore Brenna Smith each finished with 11 kills, while senior Vivian Johnson contributed 19 assists and 19 digs. Alyssa Garcia, senior libero, also helped defensively with 20 digs.

As the season continued, the team experienced both exciting moments and difficult challenges. Garretson were put to the test by several solid opponents, including Dell Rapids St. Mary's, Canton, Dell Rapids, and Chester.

Although the Blue Dragons had some difficult stretches, they continued competing and looking for opportunities to improve. One highlight later in the season was a sweep over Alcester-Hudson.



The girls saw success throughout the season; they finished with 176 kills, 53 serving aces, 25 total blocks, 339 digs and 788 set assists.

Some of the team's leading individuals included the following:

- Madison Waltman – 44 kills
- Alyssa Garcia - 44 digs
- Annalise Hoeck – 15 total blocks
- Vivian Johnson – 16 serving aces and 454 set assists

"The biggest challenge would definitely be feeling that we should've won more games than we did and just that being errors on our side so we have lots of room to improve but definitely stepped up from last year," said junior defensive specialist Brielle Weir.

The Blue Dragons finished their regular season won just over 25% of their games before heading into postseason play. Their full 2026 season came to an end on Nov. 3 when they traveled to Madison to face the Bulldogs in the first round of playoffs. The Bulldogs won the match in three sets, with scores of 25-15, 25-10, and 25-12.

As the sport came to an end for three seniors, they still have all the memories and lessons it gave them. "Volleyball is so much more than just winning games. It's about the relationships you build and the friendships that last forever. As soon as you step on the court the drama is forgotten and we all have fun together," shared Garcia.

Although the season did not end the way the Blue Dragons had hoped, the players created memories along the way. "My favorite memory is playing Baltic 3 times and then finally winning the third time." said Harper Andera.

As the team looks ahead to next season, the returning players will have the opportunity to build on what they learned and continue growing as a team.

	GHS	OPP
Total yds	3,447	2,990
Passing yards	1,146	1,186
Passing yards per game	114.60	118.60
Pass completions/attempts	64 / 140	71 / 156
Pass completion %	45.71 %	45.51 %
Passing TDs	15	8
Rushing yards	2,301	1,804
Rushing yards per game	230.10	180.40
Rush plays/average	411 / 5.60	318 / 5.67
Rushing TDs	25	25
3rd Down Conversions	(40.00 %) 42	(43.14 %) 44
4th Down Conversions	(57.14 %) 20	(33.33 %) 10
First Downs	167	135
Turnovers	12	15
Sacks	12	11

Team Stats

Football Recap
Season Stats



PASSING
Chase Arend
62/133
1125 Passing Yards
14 Touchdowns
6 Interceptions
92.47 QBR



RUSHING
Cade Risty
170 Carries
861 Yards
6.18 YDS/Carry
8 Touchdowns
3 Fumble Lost



RECIEVING
Jackson Arend
23 Receptions
490 Yards
21.30 YDS/REC
49 YDS/GAME
7 Touchdowns



DEFENSE
Collin Olson
62 Total Tackles
45 Solo Tackles
17 Assists
5 Sacks
4 TFL's
1 INT
1 TD

Football finishes another season of progress

by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer & infographic creator

The football team's season came to an end after a tough loss to Platte/Geddes on October 29, just before the semifinals. Finishing the regular season with an improved 6-2 record.

The team battled injuries throughout the year with multiple players missing three or more games.

Although the season didn't end as planned, the players can be happy about the product put out on the field throughout this fall's, Friday nights.

Continued on page 3

All-State performance shines

Garretson sent five to Rapid City to participate in all-state concert event

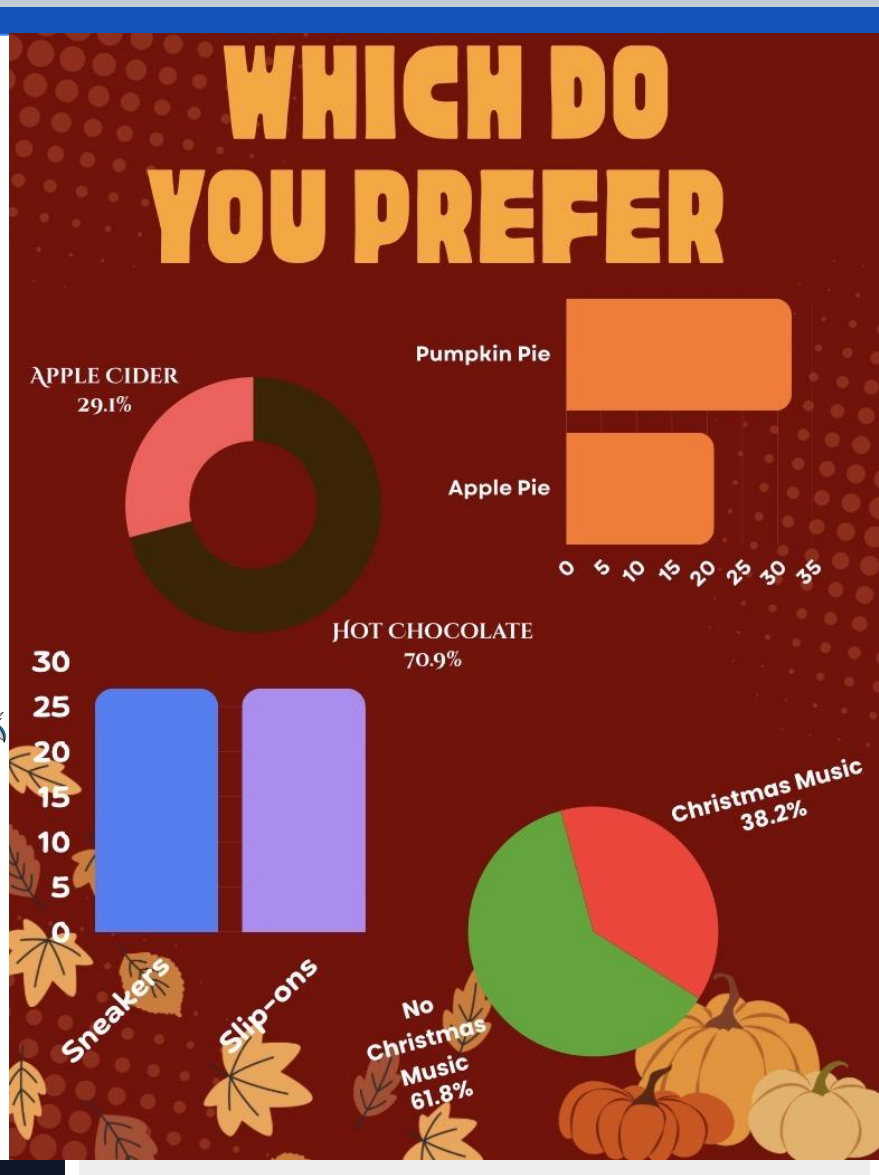


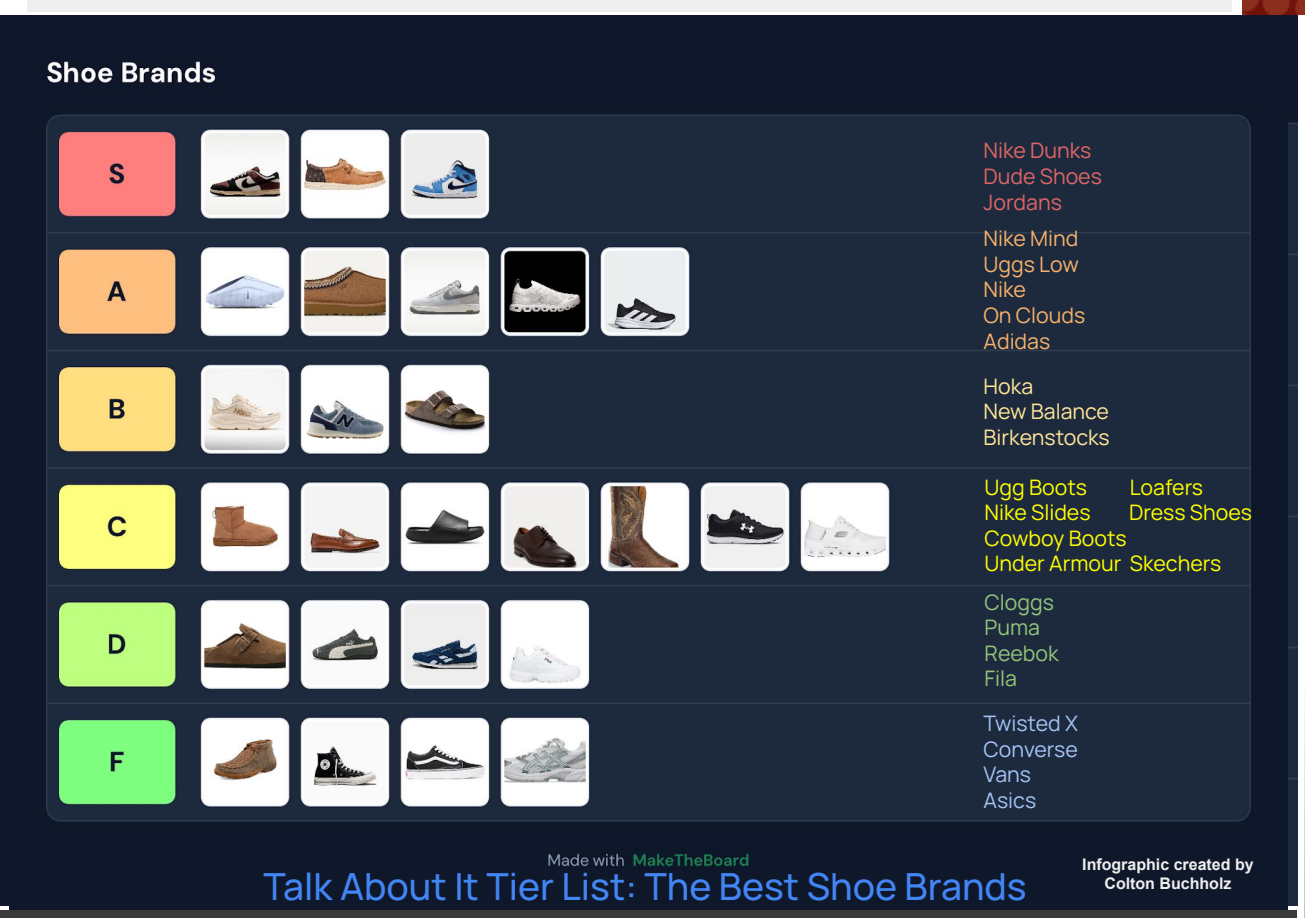




Above Left: Brooklyn Schwebach (alto), Anna Ebbing (soprano), Tanner Baatz (bass), and Caiden Maack (tenor) comprised Garretson's quartet for All-State choir in Rapid City. **Right Column:** Choral teacher, Mrs. Schweitzer was able to celebrate a couple extra accomplishments over the weekend as well including Anna Ebbing being recognized as a four-year All-State participant (top) and Amelia Devine participating in the elementary all-state honor choir (bottom).

Photos submitted by Mrs. Taylor Schweitzer





Senior Spotlight
Jacoby Costello

Activities Involved In:
FFA
Football
Powerlifting
Baseball

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Ms. K

Favorite School Lunch:
Taco in a Bag

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Food Science

Plans for Next Year:
Go to a 2-year school for automotive



This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 9
- School Board Meeting (6:30)
- 5th Grade Band Concert (6:30)
- MS/HS Band and Choir Concert (7:00)

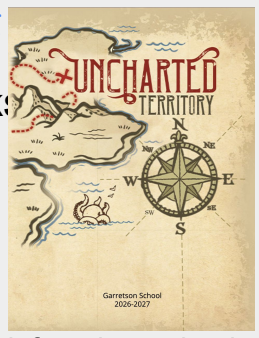
Tuesday, November 10
- Winter Athlete/Parent Meeting (6:30)
- PTO Meeting in Commons (6:45)

Wednesday, November 11
- Veterans' Day Program in the Dragons' Lair (9:00)

Friday, November 13
- JH GBB v. Dell Rapids (4:00)

Monday, November 16
- JH GBB @ Flandreau (4:00)
- First Day of Wrestling Practice

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 OCTOBER ACE WINNERS
Cecelia Fiegen
Kail Hewer
Ashtyn Nelson
Please stop by Study Hall to see Mrs. Costello

GUESS THE TEACHER Answer: Mrs. Granberg

Student teachers swarm classrooms

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

Garretson hosts three student teachers during the fall semester

It is unusual for a small school to host more than one student teacher at a time, especially when not located in the same city as a college. However, three of Garretson's own have taken on the task of mentoring student teachers. On their journey to becoming teachers, college students train in a real classroom setting for up to a full semester. This hands-on experience is essential to giving the graduates the confidence they need to take on their own classroom.

Learning the ropes from Ms. Kientopf in the Ag program is Ms. Turnus. Mrs. Etrheim has taken Ms. Baker under her wing, giving her a taste of elementary ed. And Mrs. Siemonsma, a familiar face in the school and community, has decided to graduate from a substitute and pursue becoming a teacher with the direction of kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Nelson. They may be in different rooms, but each of these student teachers are always ready to answer a question or lend a hand.

Garretson is lucky to have not one, but three capable student teachers. Keep an eye out for 'get to know you' features for Ms. Turnus, Ms. Baker, and Mrs. Siemonsma in future *Blue Ink* issues. While the student teachers don't have their own classroom yet, their positive impact can be felt.



Football continued from page 1

When asked about the team's performance this season, Coach Hughes said, "I thought the season went well. We set out a lot of goals to accomplish; now did we accomplish all of those goals, well no. But when you take it to account that the seniors were 1-15 before this year, to have them go out this year at 7-3 is an accomplishment, so I can't be disappointed."

Looking ahead, Coach Hughes shared what the team can take away from this season moving forward. "It's not so much what we can take out of the season as coaches, but what the players can, both good and bad. They can figure out what works and what doesn't, and take the work ethic and leadership that is lost with the senior class. I just think that each year you turn over and the next group rises from what they learned from the guys before.

The season wrapped up with a 15-23 loss against Platte/Geddes and will graduate 12 seniors, the biggest senior class the team has had in a long time.

Although the team's ultimate goal was to play at the dome, this season was nonetheless a success.

Volleyball season comes to an end







Volleyball's season came to an end earlier this week in Madison as the Blue Dragons traveled to play the Bulldogs in the first round of region play. Garretson had moments of strong play but ultimately Madison was too much to overcome, taking down the Blue Dragons in three straight sets.
Photos by Thor Zell & Colton Buchholz

Pics of the Week



Seniors were able to participate in their first ever voting process this year. Government teacher, Mr. Moehlenbrink took students who were 18 over to the Legion, Garretson's official polling place, to vote on Tuesday morning. Those who have yet to turn 18 were able to cast their ballots in Mr. Moehlenbrink's room through his mock election simulation. Students still had to go through the process of showing ID, properly completing a ballot, as well as submitting it appropriately.