



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

- There is a tailgate supper put on by the Booster Cluh before the football game tonight.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- Happy Homecoming
 - Frohes Nachhause kommen
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

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GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Coronation kicks off hoco festivities

by **Colton Buchholz & Johanna Knauer**
staff writers

Queen Ava Ockenga and King Cole Schleuter selected to reign over homecoming week activities

On Monday, September 22, the homecoming king and queen were crowned at the Garretson Athletic Complex. At 7 o'clock, the ceremony commenced. It had all the traditional elements including bios of the king and queen candidates and the traditional guessing game.

To follow, the queen, Nora Bonte, came back to speak and crown the new queen. The former king, Martin Welch, wasn't able to attend because of sickness, so Mr. Heumiller stepped in to crown the new king.

Cole Schleuter and Ava Ockenga were crowned the new king and queen. "I didn't expect it at all, thought Jake had it in the bag. I kind of felt

surprising and happy all at the same time," stated Schleuter.

Ockenga was also asked about if she expected to be crowned or not, "I did not expect it, because there were a lot of girls in my grade that were up for it too, so I had no clue who it was going to be. I was shocked and it was like adrenaline from excitement and I'm just grateful and thankful."

From start to finish, the night was packed with fun and ended with a coronation to remember. With Cole Schleuter and Ava Ockenga leading the way as this year's king and queen, the Blue Dragons were set for a week full of spirit, celebration, and community fun.



Ava Ockenga and Cole Schleuter were selected as the King and Queen for Homecoming 2025. The high school student body voted from the five queen candidates and five king candidates.

Photo by Emma Wolf

Ruff 'n' Tuff a dramatic start to homecoming competition

Class of 2027 comes in looking to repeat as champions while class of 2026 intends to go out on top

by **Blake Benson & Cade Risty**
staff writers

The homecoming tradition of Ruff 'n' tuff continued Monday. The usual matchups of freshmen vs seniors and juniors vs sophomores opened the games. The class of 2027 are the defending champions and were looking to repeat.

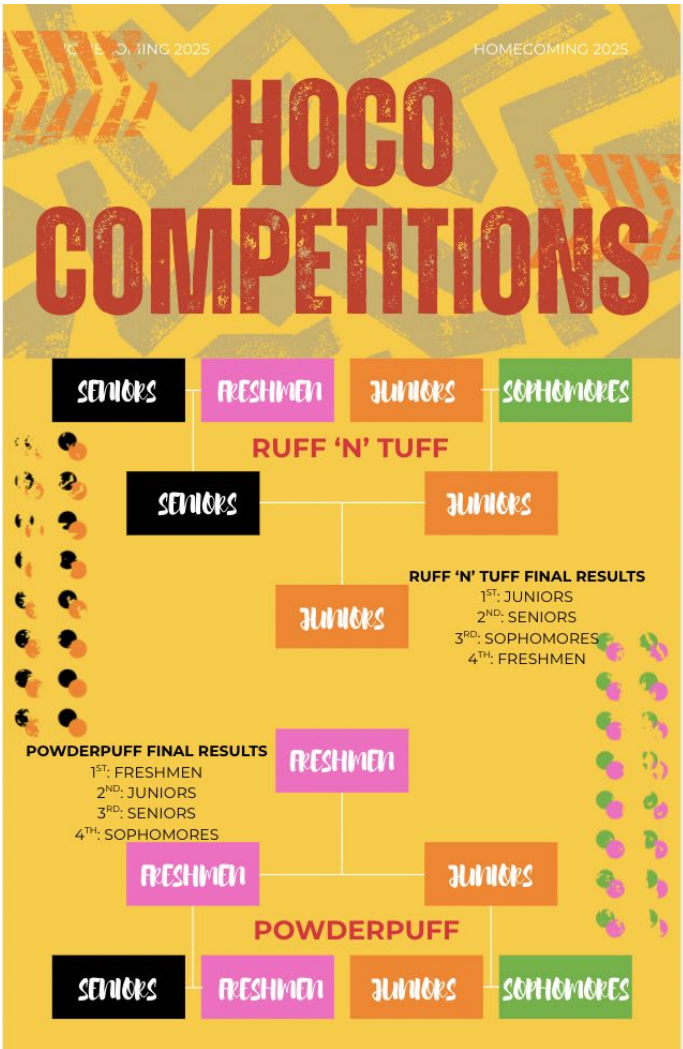
The freshmen and seniors battled closely but the seniors came out on top. "We played some good sets against the freshman and came back

to win with some good serves from Kennet," said Brecken Weir.

During first round, the juniors and sophomores had a battle to remember. With gruesome trash talking between both sides, the defending champion juniors squeaked out the win. "The best players on our team were definitely me and Ty, but I was the best for sure," said junior Jack Adler.

After an extraordinary first round from the seniors and the juniors they faced off for the championship. Juniors came out with lots of confidence thinking they would easily repeat from 2024, but the seniors stayed strong. Although the seniors gave it their all they did end up losing to the juniors in three sets.

Next year, the juniors will have a chance to three-peat or lose a game for the first time since their freshman year. Next year will definitely be one for the ages.



Powder puff sees unexpected ending

by **Cece Fiegen** and **Harper Hanisch**
staff writers

Powder puff football continued the homecoming week with a friendly competition between grades to win the title powderpuff champion and bragging rights for the rest of the year. Hoping to continue their winning streak from last year, the seniors lined up to face off against the freshmen on the right side of the field.

While on the left side of the field, the juniors and sophomores stepped up to battle, both teams eager to prove that they're the better grade. Garretson spectators from around the community filled the stands to witness the showdowns.

School spirit rang throughout the field as players worked together to get the football closer to the endzone. Freshman quarterback

Brooklyn Schwebach threw a dime to Brynlee Stiefvater to secure the first touchdown for the freshmen. They weren't comfortable for long; however, because senior Ava Ockenga had a wicked sideline to sideline touchdown. Soon, the freshman pulled ahead with encouragement from their head coaches Gavin Coburn and Colton Buchholz. They ended up winning with a score of 19-10.

At the other field, the sophomores did not come to play. Aubrey Sikkink drew up plays and their grade held a practice to gear up. They gave it their all but were soon defeated by the juniors' clever plays. Therefore, the freshman and juniors were to play each other next for the ultimate bragging rights. Also, the seniors and sophomores would battle for third place.

The sophomores were coming for revenge as they had a series of blocks and touchdown

Class of 2026 unable to repeat as champs as freshmen stun in the first round



Brenna Smith carries the ball through the junior defenders on her way to another freshmen touchdown. The freshmen upset the reigning champs in the first round and the took care of business against the juniors in the championship.
Photo by Emma Wolf

Soccer faces top two teams in state this week

by **Dr. Kelsey Buchholz**
guest writers

Garretson soccer returned to their home field after a three game stretch on the road. They hosted the current #1 seed in Class A, Dakota Valley.

The Panthers and Blue Dragons already squared off two weeks ago where Dakota Valley took the 4-1 win at home. Garretson was hoping to have that same luck of home field advantage on Tuesday.

However, the ball was not rolling their way as the Panthers snagged an early lead, finding the back of the net quickly. The Panthers dominated the time of possession, keeping the Blue Dragon defense running.

Ella Frerk battles for possession against Dakota Valley as the Blue Dragons were looking to keep the offensive pressure on, needing to close the gap. Dakota Valley won 7-0.



Dakota Valley took the game by a score of 7-0.

Garretson had a chance to get back into the win column on Thursday as they traveled to Sioux Falls Christian. But the tough matchups for this week continued as the Chargers are currently ranked #2 in the state.

The Blue Dragons once again were stifled by the strong play of their opponent, being outscored 6-0.

A bright spot was the JV

getting a bit of field time. During that exhibition the Blue Dragons were able to net three goals on their way to a 3-1 win.

Garretson rounds out the regular season next week with two home games against Minnesota opponents: Marshall and Worthington. The Blue Dragons are holding on to the sixth seed in the Class A bracket as post-season starts the first full week of October.

Upcoming Fan Themes

Friday, Sept 26: Football v. Viborg-Hurley - Blue Out
Tuesday, Sept 30: Volleyball @ Alcester-Hudson - Jerseys
Thursday, Oct 2: Soccer v. Marshall - TBD
Themes posted on Instagram at @ghstthemes

early in the game. However, they did not continue with that luck as the seniors pulled through and ended the game with a score of 12-7.

As the championship game began, freshman Haylee Rotert led with an interception and a block. On the other team, Alyssa Garcia was a top player with her quick skills. The anticipation was building as the freshmen racked up points on the scoreboard. The clock winded down, and realization set in. The freshies had won the powderpuff championship for the first time in what felt like a millenia. Aside from the victors, fun was had by all. Until next year!

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 26

- SPIRIT DAY
- Pep Rally for Elementary (8:30)
- Game Show & Dragon Olympics (9:15)
- MS Kickball (9:45)
- Float Building (11:15)
- Homecoming Parade (1:30)
- Community Pep Rally (following parade)
- Football v. Viborg-Hurley (7:00)

Monday, September 29

- JH VB @ Colman-Egan (4:00)

Tuesday, September 30

- Juniors College Fair Expo @ Augustana
- XC @ Sioux Valley (4:00)
- JH VB @ Alcester-Hudson (4:00)
- Soccer v. Marshall (5:00)
- Volleyball @ Alcester-Hudson (6:00/7:15)

Thursday, October 2

- JH VB @ Baltic (3:45)
- Volleyball @ Chester (5:00/6:00/7:15)
- Soccer v. Worthington (5:00)

Friday, October 3

- Football @ Elkton-Lake Benton (7:00)

Worth Mentioning

THANK YOU for a fun homecoming week so far. Today is still a busy day. Remember to represent your school, your class, and yourself well.

END OF 1ST QUARTER is in just a couple weeks. Now is the time to double check grades and assignments.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the students who have been recognized for showing positive ACE qualities (attitude, character, effort). Our first five winners are: Ava Peters, Rylee Farrell, Levi Top, Gracie Fiegen, and Joey Tonsay. Please see Mrs. Costello in study hall for an extra reward

'24-'25 YEARBOOKS are still available. They are \$30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made last year. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you are interested.

Volleyball has tough hoco week schedule

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

The Garretson Volleyball team traveled to Dell Rapids to play the Quarriers. The Quarriers are ranked #1 in the state and have a record of 14-1 losing to Watertown. Garretson is 2-11 beating Flandreau and West Sioux.

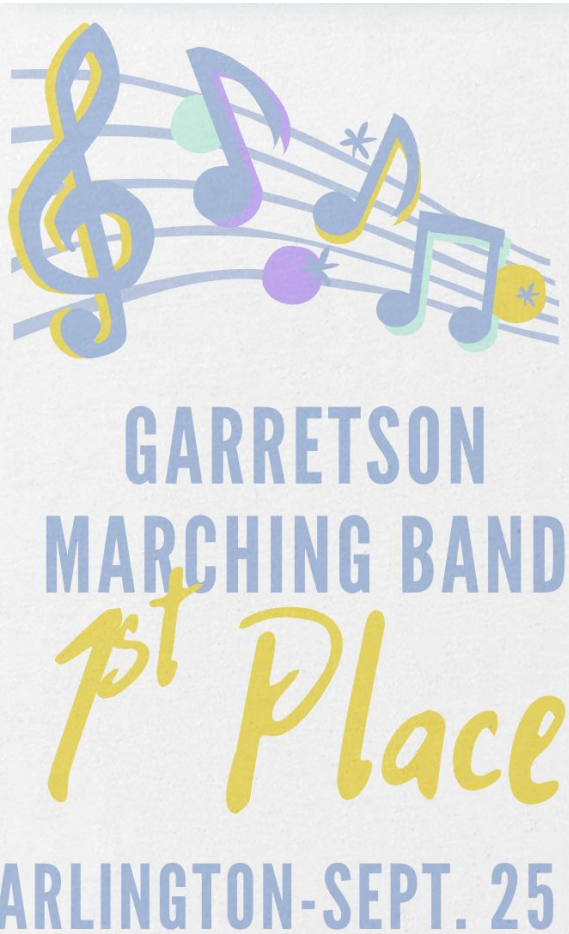
Garretson ended up losing 25-13 every set,

getting shut out 3-0, bringing their record to 2-12. Dells will stay ranked #1 team in the state and could possibly repeat their state championship from last year.

Yesterday Garretson continued their tough schedule as they played Chester who is also ranked #1 in class B, are reigning state champs, and are undefeated at 14-0.

The Flyers made quick work of the visiting Blue Dragons as Garretson fell in three straight sets: 25-9, 25-7, 25-12.

Garretson has a chance to get back in the win column next week as they travel to Alcester-Hudson on Tuesday and then return home the following week to host Elkton-Lake Benton.



Cross country continues strong performances with win at Dells

by **Bence Bonte & Cade Risty**
staff writers

[Cross country finding their stride at the right time](#)

On Monday, the Garretson cross country team traveled to Dell Rapids to run and hopefully keep their winning streak. Despite competing with very big schools like Sioux Falls Christian and West Central, Garretson ended up with the huge win, getting it by a singular point. Carter Siemonsma, one of the Blue Dragons top runners, led the pack by taking second place in the varsity 5000m.

Everyone did an amazing job running on Monday! Siemonsma came in second with a time of 18:40. Nathaniel Roberts came in behind Siemonsma, getting eighth with a time of 19:23. Miles Sievers and Ethan McGregor were right beside each other, Sievers

getting 13th with a time of 20:16 and McGregor was 14th with a time of 20:32. Shea Smidt finished 25th with a time of 21:35. Michael Hanisch crossed the line in 32nd with a time of 22:33, and Cooper Smith was right behind him in 33rd with a time of 22:34.

For the Junior Varsity squad, Blake Benson led the pack placing fifth out of 35 other runners with a 18:04. Behind him was Cooper Danforth and Bence Bonte with a 19:15 and a 19:44; they ended up placing 11th and 12th. Layne Rodgers got 16th with a 20:39, Caylix Buchholz got 24th with a 24:27, and Isaiah Coburn got 27th with a 21:49.

This coming Tuesday, the Blue Dragons travel to Sioux Valley. Wish them all luck!



Dress up days and creativity impress this year

by **Chase Costello & Zach Hermanson**
staff writers

Homecoming is fun for many reasons with sporting events, ruff 'n' tuff, powderpuff, and multiple games. Earlier in the week the juniors won ruff 'n' tuff and freshmen took the win in powder puff. But one thing that

everyone got behind this year was the dress up days. The students were excited to show off their outfits in the hall and classes throughout the entire week.

Overall students and staff felt like this was the best full week of dress up days that have been put together in recent memory.

Mason Snyders said his favorite

day was "spirit day" but he'd really like to see something like "anything but a backpack."

Ava Peters also was most excited for "spirit day" but would like to see "neon day" rotated into the mix.

Macy Chapin agreed with Snyders on the "anything but..." idea but thought it should be a trapper keeper instead of a backpack.

However, she liked the change of pace with "fantasy vs fantasy football" as an option this year.

Ty Van Holland liked the theme idea of each class having a "board game" and thinks that some sort of "teacher student swap" could be fun.

This was the best grouping of outfits in recent years. Have a great rest of your school year.



Best Dressed
infographics
created by
Gracie Fiegen

Snaps from Hoco Week 2025



Cade Risty gets fired up and ready to smack the volleyball on the juniors before destroying the freshmen with his extraordinary arm strength.
Photo and caption by Blake Benson



Gabe Coburn gets in the homecoming spirit by posing for a picture with his tutu. He later cheered on powder puff at the football field.
Photo and caption by Colton Buchholz



The freshmen played the juniors in the the championship powderpuff football game Monday Night. The freshmen came out with the blowout win, 17-1.
Photo and caption by Chase Costello

Madison Waltman and Gracie Fiegen both dressed up as Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* for Disney day, just two different versions. The hallways were full of classic Disney characters like princesses and monsters from *Monsters, Inc.*
Photo and caption by Johanna Knauer



Newbie Colton Buchholz digs a spike during the freshman vs. senior Ruff 'n' Tuff match on Monday. Although the freshmen had some good moments, they ended up just narrowly losing in three sets. They struggled to gain footing in their game against the sophomores causing them to finish in fourth place.
Photo and caption by Gracie Fiegen

Jackson Collins and Amaya Millwood are showing off their outfits for the first day of homecoming week during the first Ruff 'n' Tuff game between the juniors and sophomores. The final score of the game was 2-1 for the juniors who ended up winning Ruff 'n' Tuff.
Photo and caption by Johanna Knauer



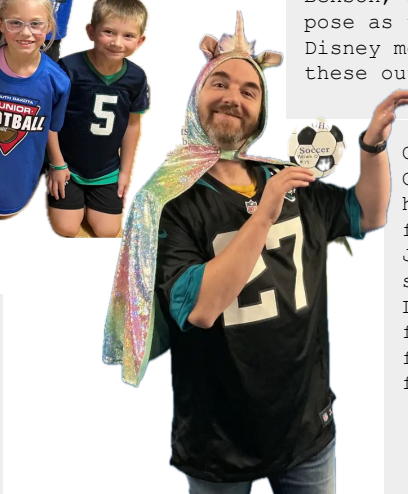
The seventh graders rock their class color on Monday in Mrs. Bly's classroom for the homecoming theme. The teachers were supporting the 6-7 movement by wearing special 67 shirts.
Photo and caption by Shea Smidt



Michael Hanisch, Isaiah Coburn, and Jack Adler dressed up for fantasy vs. fantasy football by all wearing different jerseys showing off their favorite teams.
Photo and caption by Bence Bonte



On Wednesday for dress up day, fantasy vs. fantasy football, seventh graders Hailey Anderson, Kendra Jessen, and Macie Miller wear their favorite Vikings jerseys.
Photo and caption by Blake Benson



Caylix and Coyer Buchholz have a little fun reenacting JJ Watt sacking Trevor Lawrence on fantasy vs. fantasy football day.
Photo and caption by Colton Buchholz



Multiple freshmen girls, sporting their class color pink, smile for the camera. Even though the freshies had a rough time determining their shirt design, they soon landed on one inspired by their favorite place to eat, Taco Bell.
Photo submitted by Harper Hanisch



Cooper Smith commits to the ball as he lunges forward to keep it in play.
Photo by Bence Bonte