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

- The first wrestling meet is Saturday at Flandreau.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- Santa Claus
  - **Weihnachtsmann**
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

December 5, 2025
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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Garretson school helps fill minds and bellies

Backpack program helps local students with nourishment while out of the school building

by **Johanna Knauer**
staff writer

What's the first thing you do after school when you get home? Many students would answer that they look for a snack or start to think about what they want for supper. Unfortunately, not every child has that experience. Not everyone has unlimited access to food. Maybe they open the fridge and find it empty even though they want a snack, or instead of asking themselves what they want for supper, they have to wonder whether there will be any supper at all.

With the help of the Backpack Program, children in need in Garretson receive essential food to ensure they are taken care of over the weekend, an effort led by Ms. Radford. The idea originally comes from "Feeding America" and food banks, which developed this program to support children and families with low incomes, difficult living situations, and limited access to food all over the country.

During the school year, many of these children receive free breakfast and lunch at school, but these meals are not available to them on weekends or during school breaks. That's why the "backpacks" are provided. The contents of the backpacks does vary but it is not a major difference between weeks. It is filled with easy-to-prepare and shelf-stable foods like cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, mac and cheese, or canned soups that the children can take home and be supplied with over the weekend.

During the summer break families can receive one backpack each week, which has more food than the "weekend-backpacks", this is because they are meant to support them for a longer period of time.

Senior Elizabeth Roth, who volunteers her time to help pack the bags, explained that the program has been around in Garretson at least ever since Ms. Radford is here. The food for the bags comes from the local food pantry in Garretson.

Garretson's program and ones similar to it serve over 3,000 students across the Minnehaha County, while 164,699 backpacks were distributed last school year in the state. In South Dakota, around 115,000 people are considered "food insecure," meaning they live with uncertainty about having enough food. According to Feeding South Dakota's 2022 Annual Report, one in five children in South Dakota is affected, which represents a significant portion of the state's minor population. The South Dakota Department of Health reports that 11.6% of people in Minnehaha county are experiencing this problem. Sixteen backpacks are delivered in our school, but because the program is anonymous, the exact numbers of how many families it serves is not official.



Roth is involved in this program because she couldn't bear the thought of children going home without knowing whether there would be anything to eat, so she began helping with this program.

She mentioned, "If anybody has an insecurity or unsure of where their next meal is coming from, they can talk to hme or Miss Radford or the wonderful ladies in the office and they can request to be part of the backpack program."

It is essential to take initiative to help those affected by this issue. If you want to help you can reach out to Ms. Radford, Elizabeth Roth or the office. It is really important that we appreciate our privileges and are grateful that we do not struggle to find our next meal.



State competition weekend



Fortnite live event a bust

Online game gathering not worth the hype

by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer - editorial

Fortnite is a video game that almost everyone knows. Officially released in 2017, the game has been around for seven years. Fortnite is a battle royale, shooter game that takes 100 players and they fight for the #1 Victory Royale. Since the beginning of Fortnite, many things have changed but one thing that seems to always come back is the live event. These live events bring many players back to the game to experience this fun, enjoyable event.

The event was able to be experienced by anybody who owned a console, computer, or mobile device. All one had to do was download Fortnite and play it at the time of the event. The event was named, “Zero Hour Chapter 6 Finale” and happened on November 29, 2025.

The event was a massive battle featuring many guests such as Homer Simpson, Godzilla, King Kong, and all 10.5 million players present. These forces joined together to battle the “Dark Presence.” The event lasted 30 minutes in total but was just 10 minutes of action.

I think this event was mediocre because it was so short and it didn’t reach my expectations. At first I thought it was cool when we were going through the different realities but they kept milking it. Then we got into the battle and it was exciting until it was just over. I don’t understand what’s happening but I do understand that it felt like two seconds and it wasn’t very exciting.

What made it worse was I didn’t even get to not enjoy it with Michael Hanisch because he was shopping.

In previous years the event made sense and was worth the wait, this year I didn’t even know it was happening until 25 minutes before.

So in all fairness, the event wasn’t fun for me because I am not an 11 year old. If you disagree with me, argue with a wall.

Sem. Test Week

WEDNESDAY
DEC. 17
Tests Today:
4th Period
Extra:
Staff v. Student B-ball

THURSDAY
DEC. 18
Tests Today:
2nd Period
5th Period
7th Period

FRIDAY
DEC. 19
Tests Today:
3rd Period
8th Period



This Week’s Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 5
- State Oral Interp @ Watertown
- JH GBB @ Parker/Marion (4:00)
- JH BBB @ Parker/Marion (4:00)

Saturday, December 6
- State Oral Interp @ Watertown
- Wrestling @ Flandreau Tournament (10:00)
- BBB @ Jamboree at Garretson

Sunday, December 7
- FFA State Leadership @ Rapid City

Monday, December 8
- FFA State Leadership @ Rapid City
- JH BBB v. MCM (4:00)
- JH/JV Wrestling @ Flandreau (4:30)

Tuesday, December 9
- JH GBB @ Dell Rapids (4:00)
- GBB @ Tri-Valley (6:00/7:15)

Thursday, December 11
- JH BBB @ Estelline/Hendricks (3:30)
- BBB @ Estelline/Hendricks (5:30/6:30/7:45)

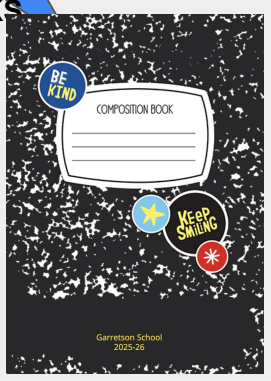
Friday, December 12
- Girls Wrestling @ Baltic Tourney (5:00)

Worth Mentioning

TWO WEEKS left for the first semester. Please be checking your emails for the Semester Test Schedule and other pertinent information before Winter Break.

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.



Senior Spotlight
Kennett Reyes-Zuniga

Activities Involved In:
Football

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Friends and Teammates

Favorite School Lunch:
Chicken Fried Rice

Favorite Class You’ve Taken:
Multimedia

Plans for Next Year:
Study to be a diesel mechanic or work

Class Of 2026



NFL teams flounder during season

Perennial powerhouses trip up mid-season and others can't even get going

by **Zach Hermanson**
staff writer



The 2025 NFL season has really shown just how many ways to be horrible. It's not all about being terrible. Some teams thought they were in the mix for the playoffs, but are now left falling out, while others are throwing away what could have been some of their best years.

The Steelers find themselves stuck in a horrendous cycle. They may not be losing too many games, but since 2017 it's been nothing but disappointment in the playoffs. With the gamble on Aaron Rodgers not panning out as hoped.

It's a qb mess for the Vikings and Falcons. Minnesota's J.J. McCarthy has turned out to be a player the team may live to regret drafting, while Atlanta traded away a valuable 2026 first-round draft pick and still have major quarterback problems to sort out. Both teams desperately need a new quarterback.

Last but not least the Bills and Eagles. For Buffalo, the problem was that they never really built an offense around Josh Allen that would amount to much, and their defense is filled with injuries.

In Philly, what was once a lethal offense has suddenly ground to a halt, and the coaching staff is still unable to figure out how to get things moving again.

Newest Stranger Things takes hold of audience

Much awaited release of new episodes greeted with excitement

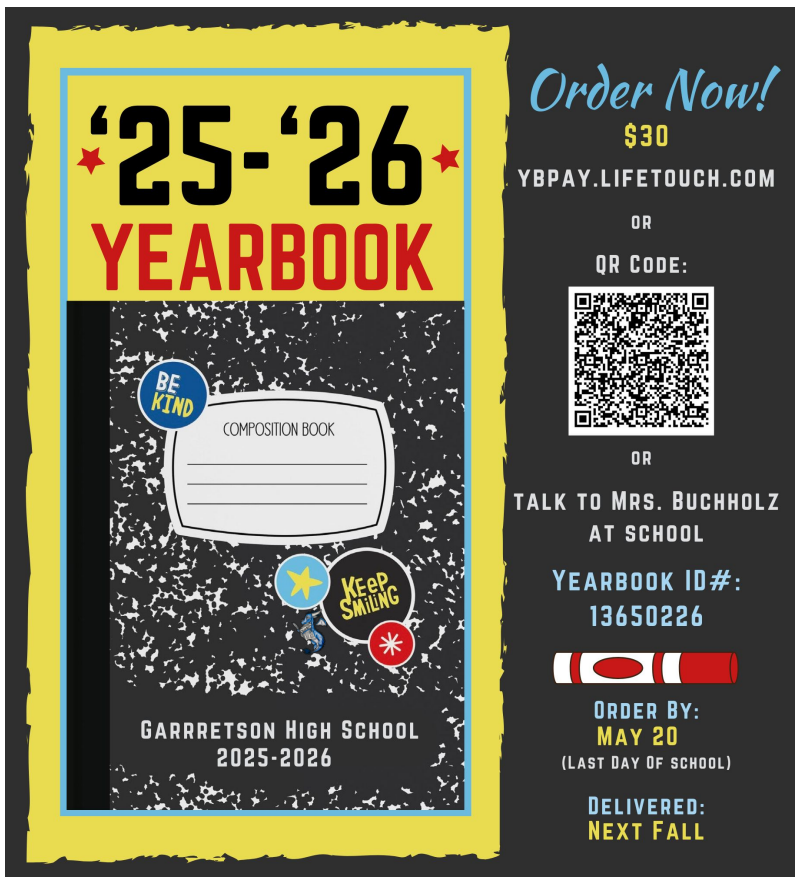
by **Bence Bonte**
staff writer

Have you ever heard of the show Stranger Things? If you have, there is a new season that just came out, and it is jam packed with action and adventure. The first four episodes came out on November 26, the next four episodes came out December 24th, and the finale came out December 31.

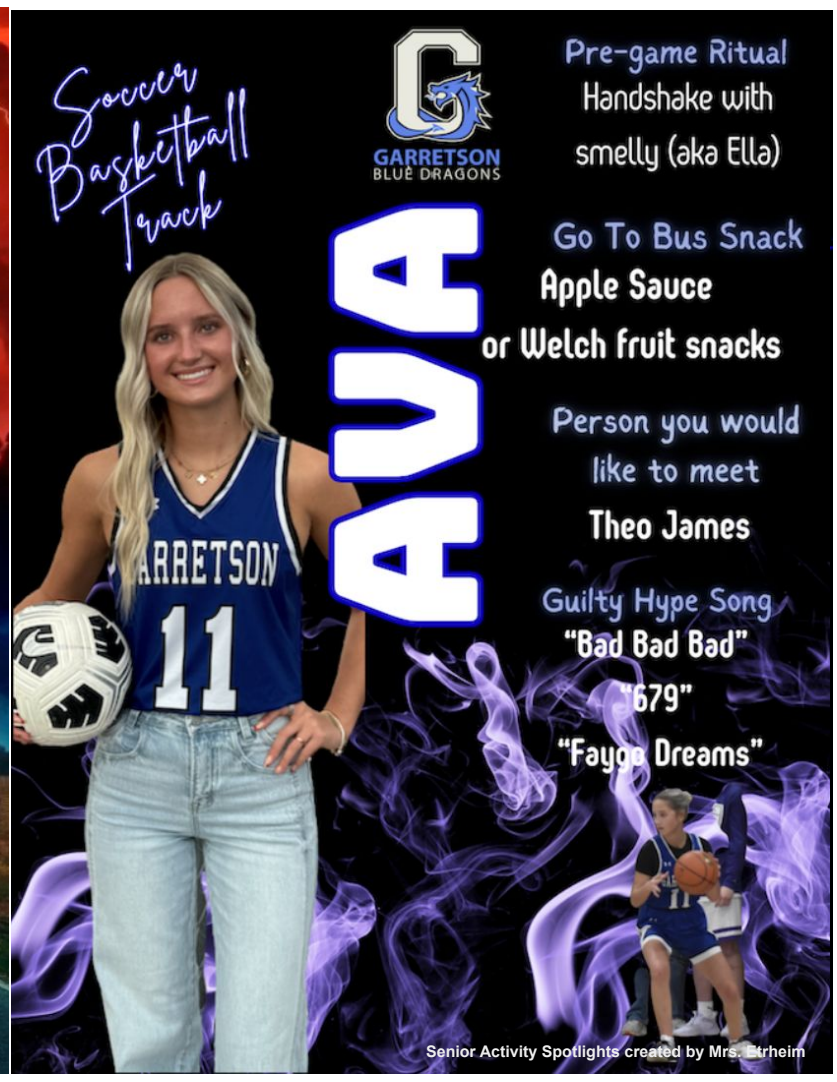
The new season is so hyped because it shows what happened to Vecna. It also shows what is happening in the town of Hawkins, which is where the show is based. Will, who was taken by a demogorgon in the very first season, finally got his powers at the very end. We get to see Vecna's new look, and it seems he found Ozempic in the Upside Down. This season is way more fast paced with monsters on the loose. Eleven is training everyday to infiltrate the army base in the Upside Down, but Hopper doesn't think that she's ready, but I think it's safe to say when Eleven is ready she gonna give Vecna a run for his money.

With the first part already out and the second part coming soon, Stranger Things is building up to a huge final battle. Everything is much more intense now, and there are tons of new mysteries. For the first time since the whole story started, the kids aren't just dealing with monsters, they're right in the middle of a full on war, and it's all leading to the biggest showdown yet. Will you be there on December 31st to watch the finale battle of the Upside Down and Eleven and her crew?



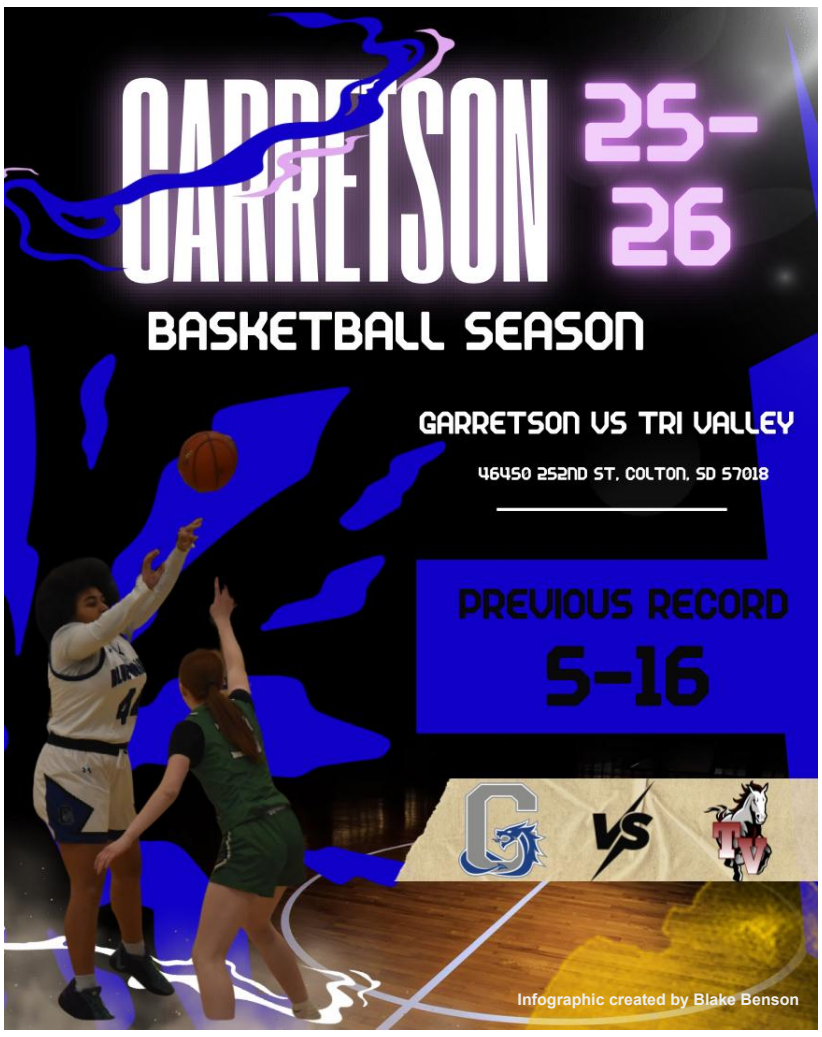


Senior Activity Spotlight



Basketball ready to hit the hardwood

Girls and boys bring young teams into the season, both start 2025-2026 campaign next week on the road



by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer

The temperature is dropping, and the snow is falling, so you know what that means…it's basketball season! The Garretson girls' basketball team started practicing on Monday, November 24, and the boys' on Monday, December 1. Although practices just started, the girls will kick off their season next Tuesday, December 9, traveling to Tri-Valley.

The girls basketball team is returning most of their team only losing two seniors. While bringing mostly the whole team, they are a little down in numbers with only 12 girls going out.

Coach Schrank is very optimistic about the season but realistic that the low numbers will make execution in and out of games very difficult. "Losing not only some players that played varsity basketball last year that's really hurting us; it's just the fact that practice in general becomes a little bit harder. You have certain drills you can rely on with more girls. It just gets a little bit harder. Having middle school in our practice will help though," said head coach Matt Schrank.

Coach Schrank stated the team is undersized in numbers and is overall a young and up and coming team. Coach Schrank and the team are determined to prove critics wrong and complete a couple upsets as the season goes on.



On the other hand, the boys don't have a numbers problem, they actually have more boys going out for basketball than in past years with 23 student-athletes.

Last year, the team lost many key seniors, but the leadership hasn't changed one bit. "Technically we are a young team. But it doesn't feel like it. We have a lot of players that have been great leaders and most have varsity experience," stated Jacob Heumiller, the head coach of the boys team.

The team is undersized compared to the past Blue Dragons, but their fast-paced tempo is something to look out for.

The boys will host a three-team jamboree between Garretson, Elkton Lake-Benton, and McCook Central Montrose on Saturday, and then open their regular season next Thursday, December 11, traveling to Estelline-Hendricks.

With the girls being a young, explosive team, and the boys having a high tempo offense and athletic team, both should be something to look forward to. The Garretson Basketball program is back on the rise and both teams should be a scary sight for their opponents this winter.

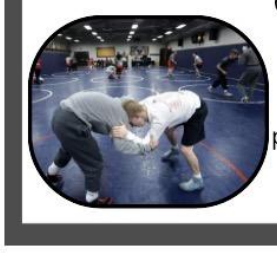
Week in the Life of a Wrestler on Tournament Week

Sunday
Wake up about 9:00-10:00 weigh yourself to get a general idea of what you should be eating



Don't eat much through out the day until supper comes around and your mom made brownies for desert and now you are 5 pounds over

Monday
Monday morning wake up for school around 6:45. Go to school from 8:25am to 3:00pm. Weigh in during lunch to see what you are at.



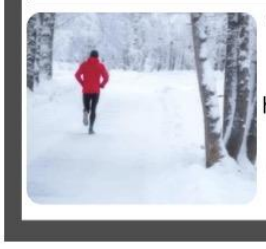
Go to practice right after school for 2 hours. After practice weigh yourself.

Tuesday
Wake up tired after practice the day prior. Same morning routine as Monday morning.

Same day as yesterday just eat less throughout the day and not as hard of a practice.



Wednesday
Wednesday morning wake around 5:45 for morning practice. Practice from 6:30 to 7:45 then get ready for school directly after practice. As a result of having morning practice have a terrible tiring day.



After school, because we only had a hour practice, we have a mandatory 2 mile run.

Thursday
Thursday morning wake up for school and don't eat anything all morning. For lunch have something very small like a sandwhich.



After school go to practice and drill one of the hardest you have all week to cut as much weight as possible to eat something the next day.

Friday
Friday, finally made it to the last day before the tounament. Get to school hungry and mopey. For lunch have a protein bar and some fruit or vegtebles.



Once done with the school day, go to practice and have a light weight cut practice to get as low as possible.

Saturday
Meet day! Wake up about 5:30 to 5:45 to get to the school for weigh ins around 6:15 to 6:30. After weigh ins go eat breakfast to fuel up for the tournament.



Go to tournament and win.

Infographic created by Chase Costello