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

- Oral Interpretation has three meets in the next week.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- Find your winter coat
  - **Finde deine Winterjacke**
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

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GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Two teachers recognized for outstanding performance

by **Cece Fiegen & Shea Smidt**
staff writers

Garretson is lucky to have awesome teachers. This year, Mrs. Schweitzer and Ms. Kientopf won awards for their work in music and agriculture. Their hard work has been noticed and now they will have an award to show for it.

Mrs. Schweitzer

This fall, Garretson's very own Mrs. Taylor Schweitzer won the South Dakota Outstanding Young Music Educator award. Schweitzer was one out of eight teachers up for the award. One of the requirements was 10 years or less of teaching experience.

"I feel humbled, I feel honored, and just excited to represent Garretson in that positive way," said Mrs. Schweitzer. The reason she chose music was because her awesome elementary music teacher inspired her. She will attend the SDMEA conference and be presented an award plaque at the All-State Chorus concert on November 1, 2025.

Mrs. Kientopf

Ms. Kientopf, the teacher with the answers to all agriculture questions, has been recognized as the outstanding educator she is. She was presented with the Ag Educators of the Year Award for Region III, an award that acknowledges her as being one of the very best agricultural teachers in South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska.



Ms. Kientopf, Ms. K to her students, shared her passion for teaching agriculture and making bonds with students. "No two days are ever the same, and each one holds an opportunity to make a difference…. I get to watch students grow not just in skills but in confidence and leadership. The best part is seeing those moments of success, whether it's a simple 'ah-ha' moment in the classroom or winning a competition they've worked hard for."

It is clear to see how much she cares about her students, making the reason for why she won the award obvious. This winter, Ms. Kientopf will go on to discover whether her title of Ag Educator of the Year for Region III extends to a national level.

These women are only two of the extraordinary teachers in Garretson who care so much about the school. Both teachers share how much they care for their students and how honored they are to be recognized for their accomplishments. These awards are just the beginning to Ms. Kientopf's and Ms. Schweitzer's careers, and we look forward to what happens next.



Cross country performs at its best at year's end

by **Chase Costello & Cade Risty**
staff writers and infographic creators

Garretson Cross Country is rounding out their season with the two biggest meets of the year. Winning and dominating the Big East Conference placing their top 4 all in the top 15, and their outstanding performance at regions placing their top three all in the top twelve finishers. The team finished second, qualifying for the state tournament.

This is the first time the Cross Country boys team has qualified as a team since 2016.

Carter Siemonsma finished in sixth place running a 16:56; Ethan McGregor got 11th running 17:19, and Nathanael Roberts getting 12th running 17:20. The rest of the team ran great as well Miles Sievers got 23rd, Shea Smidt 31st, and Michael Hanisch 42nd, rounding out the state qualifying runners and Cooper Smith as the alternate.

They had a magnificent run at the Big East Conference last Thursday getting first place as a team and Carter Siemonsma winning the meet running a 17:49. The rest of the team ran great as well: Ethan McGregor 3rd, Nathanael Roberts 4th, Miles Sievers 13th, Shea Smidt 21st, and Michael Hanisch 25th.

Good job Cross Country and good luck at state in Huron next weekend.

New brand of baseball to visit Sioux Falls

Veteran and inaugural teams visit SD with a new take on America's past time

by **Bence Bonte & Zach Hermason**
staff writers & infographic creators

Banana Ball is coming to Sioux Falls for the very first time in South Dakota history! The games will be held August 27–29, 2026, at The Birdcage, the home of the Sioux Falls Canaries.

The exciting event will feature the Firefighters against the new Indianapolis Clowns as a part of the Banana Ball World Tour.

They make stops in ballparks across the country. Tickets will be sold lottery style, so fans will get to sign up in hopes of attending.

Banana Ball is known for being an exciting interpretation of baseball, with different rule changes, non-stop fun, and a limit on the game being two hours long.

The sport becomes bigger in fan base and attendance every year as it brings energy, laughter, and excitement to fans around the world.



Upcoming Fan Themes

Tuesday, Oct 21: Volleyball @ West Central - Preppy
Friday, Oct 24: Football v. Colman-Egan - Disney
Monday, Oct 27: Volleyball @ Sioux Valley - Color Explosion
Themes posted on Instagram at @ghsthemes

Football gets set for last game of regular season

by **Chase Arend and Colton Buchholz**
staff writers & infographic creators

Last week on Friday, 10, Garretson football team (2-5) took on the Tigers of Howard (6-1).

Last year, the Blue Dragons lost 8-54 with the game ending in a blowout. This year was a lot different as at halftime, Garretson was up 14-12 with Jackson Arend having the first two receiving touchdowns for the Blue Dragons.

After half Garretson got cold and ended up losing 42-27. Through testing the team and getting them prepared for the final stretch of the season. As they travel to Chester to take on the flyers for their last regular season game of the year.

Chester is the final regular season game of the year, and the playoffs are in contention. If the Blue Dragons take down the Chester Flyers tonight, Garretson will have a playoff spot clinched and will be back in the playoffs for the first time since 2021.



All-State workshop



Garretson's music department has had a busy fall, with much of the focus being on the success of the marching band. However, it is now the choir's turn to be in the spotlight.

Garretson is sending four students to all-state at the end of the month and three more were selected as alternates.

In order to prepare for All-State, there was a workshop held at USD earlier this month.

Attendees were Anna Ebbing, Caiden Maack, Iris Fields, Tanner Baatz, Talon Miller, Lucie Frewaldt, and Elizabeth Roth.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Taylor Schweitzer

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 17
- Football @ Chester (6:00)

Saturday, October 18
- Oral Interp @ Brandon (8:30)
- JH VB @ Baltic Tourney (9:00)
- FFA Blue & Gold Night (6:00)

Monday, October 20
- End of 1st Quarter
- SD High School Press Convention @ Vermillion

Tuesday, October 21
- Oral Interp @ Lennox

Wednesday, October 22
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-6:00)

Thursday, October 23
- Football @ 1st Round State Playoffs v. TBD (TBA)

Friday, October 24
- Oral Interp @ Washington
- Volleyball v. Colman-Egan (4:30/5:45/7:00)

Saturday, October 25
- State Cross Country @ Huron

Worth Mentioning

END OF 1ST QUARTER is October 20, which is Monday. 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.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES are Wednesday, October 22 from 4:00-6:00.

FOOTBALL TONIGHT is against Chester but the game is at 6:00, an hour earlier than usual game times have been.

'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.

Soccer wraps up season

by **Blake Benson and Johanna Knauer**
staff writers & infographic creators

The soccer season has come to an end, filled with many highs and lows.

After the season opener on August 15, 2025, against the Belle Fourche Broncs — which was canceled after only 20 minutes — the girls played the St. Thomas More Cavaliers the next day, which was recorded as the first game of the season for the Blue Dragons. After a strong first half, we lost 2–1 to the Lady Cavaliers.

One of the best games of the season for Garretson soccer was against Vermillion. After the first half, the girls led 6–3, with five of those goals scored by Malena Qualm, the top scorer for the Blue Dragons this season, who scored 16 goals this season.

The record this season was 4–9–1 with a goal difference of 33-49.

There were many positive aspects from this season but also some areas for improvement going into next year, so three of the four captains shared their thoughts to the season — Brooklyn Trudeau, Ava Ockenga, and Ella Frerk.

Frerk had a very positive outlook on the season, saying that it was better than expected and that the young team competed well against many others.

Trudeau agreed, describing the season as both a growing and productive one. She noted that the team is young, eager to improve, and that many younger players are already skilled and gained valuable varsity experience.

Ockenga also shared kind words about the new coaches, saying she loved how excited and happy they were to coach the team. She added that it was great to have fresh eyes on the field, especially since both coaches are young, former GHS soccer players, and that she personally connected with them as former teammates.

At the end of this season, the team has to say goodbye to three seniors: Brooklyn Trudeau, Ava Ockenga, and Taylor Schmidt. Each of them gave a lot to this team and always put in their best effort.

This season brought many great memories for the team, for example going out to Rapid City twice, the first time when they stayed the night for two of their opening games and then during the first round of state playoffs.

The season ended with a highlight, a 9–0 victory over Worthington, where the ladies could show again how well they work together as a team. The team qualified for the first round of the playoffs and had to travel back to Rapid City to face St. Thomas More again. After a strong first half, the girls were down 0–1. The final score was 0–4 for the Cavaliers. St. Thomas More lost in the second round of playoffs 0-1 to Sioux Falls Christian.

Soccer showcases successful season, promise for future



Oral interp starts season with Big East Conference meet





Senior Activity Spotlight

