



After their original game, scheduled for December 29 was postponed due to weather, the GBB team plays Tea tomorrow.



2020—the good and the bad

by **Morgan Pierret**
staff writer

Finally. 2020 is over. The year of the pandemic that affected everyone’s life all around the globe. Almost everyone can agree that this year will go down in history, but not for a good reason.

From fires burning all over the world to the deadly coronavirus, this year our lives have completely changed. Although most months were

bad, there were still a few favorable things that happened throughout the year. Here the major events that happened over the 12 months of 2020.

January

Dec. 20 - Fires started spreading expeditiously fast around the whole continent of Australia from a lightning strike. The fires were one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history killing 75 people, three billion animals, and ruining every building in sight.

Jan. 16 - The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump began in the Senate.

Jan. 26 - Helicopter crash that killed NBA star Kobe Bryant, along with his daughter, Gianna Bryant, and six other passengers. He was a legendary basketball player who helped lead the Los Angeles Lakers to five championships.

“Kobe was such a big part of the NBA and he impacted all the players and everyone who supported him”, said Alex Stephenson, Senior.

February

Feb. 1 - Locusts swarm across East Africa causing national emergency.

Feb. 6 - First coronavirus related death in the US.

Feb. 29 - Eighteen year long war in Afghanistan between the US and Taliban signed a deal to end the war.

March

Mar. 9 - Italy announces lockdown for the whole country due to spike in COVID-19 with 10,020 cases and 630 deaths.

Mar. 10 - First COVID-19 case in South Dakota.

Mar. 13 - Last day of in-person school for Garretson.

Mar. 26 - American cases of coronavirus teaches 81,578 and 1,180 deaths, surpassing all other countries.

Mar. 31 - end of Australian fires

April

Apr. 2 - 6.6. Million Americans filed claims for unemployment due to COVID.

Apr. 15 - America’s deadliest day so far during the COVID pandemic with the death toll reaching 2,752.

Apr. 29 - A mile-wide asteroid passes within 3.9 million miles Earth. Which would hypothetically wipe out most life on Earth.

May

May 4 - European countries, Italy, and India start to lift COVID restrictions and slowly start opening stores.

May 19 - Greenhouse gas emissions drop 17% worldwide during the worldwide lockdown.

May 24 - Video of African American, George Floyd, surfaced the internet causing an uproar throughout the country. He was shown pinned down to the ground by a police officer's knee for eight minutes. This ignited nationwide protests.

June

Jun. 5 - Hundred of people marched in a peaceful protest that later turned violent in Sioux Falls.

Jun. 6 - The estimated amount of 500,000 people joined to protest for the black lives matter (BLM) movement in 550



Although firefighters from all over the world were trying endlessly to put out the Australian fires, they continued to burn down everything in their way. Over 45 million acres were destroyed, 5,900 building were burnt down, and 2,779 homes were burnt up

6,000 people severely injured.

Aug. 10 - Powerful wind storms across the Midwestern US causes hundreds of thousands without electricity and kills two people.

Aug. 18 - Gavin Newsome, California’s Governor, declares a state of emergency as a result of 27 fires burning across the state.

Aug. 24 - First cases of a person to get COVID for a second time, in Hong Kong, just four months after his first infection.

September

Sep. 5 - Over 50 arrests were made in Portland, Oregon due to protest against police brutality and racism. Protests have been happening for over 100 days across the country.

Sep. 6 - Worlds #1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic is disqualified in the US Open after hitting a ball out of frustration, striking a line judge.

Sep. 27 - Houston announces a new brain-eating amoeba has contaminated water supply and kills six-year-old boy.

Sep. 29 - First debate between Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Joe Biden, which was criticized for being chaotic and unprofessional.

October

Oct. 2 - Donald Trump announced he and his wife have COVID.

Oct. 26 - Wildfire breaks out in Orange County, California causing 60,000 people to evacuate.

Oct. 27 - 69.5 million Americans already voted for the presidential election, a week before Election Day.

November

Nov. 3 - US presidential election and was the 59 quadrennial presidential election.

Nov. 7 - Joe Biden projected to win with 279 electoral votes and Donald Trump with 214.

Nov. 15 - US surpasses 11 million coronavirus cases.

December

Dec. 14 - First COVID vaccine is injected in the US to an ICU nurse, Sandra Lindsay, in New York City.

Dec. 20 - Saturn and Jupiter, also known as the star of Bethlehem, were able to be seen from the naked eye for the first time since 1226.

places across the country.

Jun. 28 - COVID death rates pass 500,000, doubling in less than two months.

July

Jul. 6 - Patrick Mahomes, NFL quarterback, agrees to possibly a 12-year deal, \$503 million, contract with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Jul. 20 - First sign of a COVID vaccine that is able to trigger immune response and antibodies.

Jul. 30 - NASA launches Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter to Mars.

August

Aug. 4 - Massive explosions in Beirut, Lebanon kill more than 200 and leaves over

This Week’s Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Humans are the only animals that blush.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK:

Chewing the same flavor gum while taking a test as you did while studying will improve your memory.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Solve this rebus puzzle.

BEND
DRAW
DRAW
DRAW

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 8

- BBB @ BEC v. Sioux Valley (5:15/7:45)

Saturday, January 9

- Garretson Wrestling Tourney (9:30)

- GBB @ Tea (2:00/3:15/4:30)

- BBB @ BEC v. TBD (TBD)

Tuesday, January 12

- JHBBB v. Canton (4:00/5:00)

- JHGBB @ Flandreau (4:00/5:00)

- GBB @ Flandreau (6:15/7:30)

Thursday, January 14

- BBB @ West Central (6:15/7:30)

Friday, January 15

- JHGBB @ @ Colman-Egan (4:00)

- GBB @ Colman-Egan (5:00/7:30)

- JHBBB @ Colman-Egan (4:00)

- BBB @ Colman-Egan (5:00/6:15)

Saturday, January 16

- GBB @ Dakota St. Classic (TBA)

- JHBBB @ BEC in Volga (9:00)

Worth Mentioning

TODAY is the end of the 1st semester—you are already halfway through the school year!

REMINDER that Monday is the start of 3rd. Check your schedule to see if you are taking any semester long classes that switch at this break.

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 14 Days
Next break is January 18—MLK Jr Day



Kobe Bryant was a loving father to not only Gianna, but also his three other children. Kobe and Gianna, also known as Gigi, died too young; Kobe was 41 and Gigi was 13.

JOKE: Cookie Sheets

BRAINTEASER: Bend over backwards

GHS Sports: scrambling & striving

Wrestling and both basketball teams progress in their seasons

by **Peyton Hove**
staff writer

With games and meets over Christmas break, basketball and wrestling are going full force into January and preparing for a tough schedule ahead.



Boys Basketball Jayse Miller, ranked 5th in the state, looks to execute and pin his opponent. Photo by Chloe Schleuter

In the midst of the conference tournament, the Garretson boys basketball team is 1-4, falling to close games and showing potential for future success. Over the break, the Dragon’s played Deubrook (2-3) in the Entringer Classic. The boys were eagerly anticipating the game because of their two-week break since their Canton game. Deubrook came out strong and didn’t stop the whole game. The Dolphins ended the night with 12 three-pointers (48%) and shot 49% from the field, beating the Dragon’s 50-76.

“We just haven’t played four solid quarters since Tri-Valley,” said freshman Rhett Kloth. “We are in shape and we play really well together, we just need to put four solid quarters down.”

Being a major weakness of theirs, the Dragon’s are ready to play hard all four quarters this week in the Big East Conference. Getting the 5th seed, the Dragons headed down to Parker last night to play the 4th seeded Pheasants.

Prior to the game, Joe Zahn said, “We plan on going into the tournament with a whole different mindset. Play how we know how to play and play as a team and not individually. Parker is a good team, but so are we. We just need to play our best.”

Last night the Blue Dragons played an exciting game against the Parker Pheasants (7-1). The Dragons started the first half strong with shots falling and getting to the hoop gracefully. The Dragons were leading 22-21 at half.

However, the Pheasants put it in gear

and took the lead and caused a 12 point spread. Eventually, late in the fourth quarter the dragons closed the gap to one point.

With great effort and hustle, the dragons fell short of the win 53-57. Tonight the Dragons will host the Beresford Watchdogs(0-6), tip off at 6:15. The outcome will determine tomorrow’s schedule.

Girls Basketball

With a so far perfect 7-0 season, the Lady Dragons are on a hot streak and are eager to play the challenging January schedule.

“I think it helps starting off the season with our not as challenging teams. Those games help us build confidence for when we do play those tougher teams,” said Jaelyn Benson.

Over the break, the Lady Dragons played two games. On December 19, Garretson hosted Madison in the Entringer Classic and won 70-57. The following Tuesday, Dell Rapids came to the Dragon’s Lair, falling to the Dragons 52-44.

On Tuesday, the Lady Dragons hosted the St. Mary Lady Cardinals and finished with a 70-61 win. With the refs calling nothing until the fourth quarter, the game caused some heat between the teams. The game consisted of runs by both teams. While Lady Cardinals controlled the first quarter, the Lady Dragons turned it up a bit and executed plays and made shots the next 24 minutes.

Lizzie Olson finished the night with 20 points and 9 rebounds and Benson with 14 points and 7 assists; these girls helped the Dragons go home with a win.

Sophomore Logan Bly explained that the team is closer than previous years which makes it easier to play together.

The Lady Blue Dragons will play the Tea Area Titan (4-2) tomorrow starting with the C team at 2:00 followed by JV and varsity.

“We are watching film and going through their offense and defense, so we know what to expect come Saturday,” stated Bly.

Wrestling

Over the break, the GHS wrestling team made the trip to Montrose for a triangular. Here they went up against Parker, Howard, and McCook Central/ Montrose. They came home 0-3, but Jayse Miller won all three matches and Jaden Richter and Trevon Cross ended 2-1.

Yesterday, the team traveled to Freeman to go against Marion/Freeman, Flandreau, and Canton. The Dragons went 0-3. With a small team & many forfeited weight classes, the Dragons had to give up six points every forfeited match.

Leading up to yesterday, Trevon Cross explained what they were doing to prepare, “We are mainly working on technique and moves that people need to work on individually. I don’t really do anything to prepare the day before matches. I just have to make sure that I can make weight.”

Tomorrow, the Blue Dragons will host their first meet of the year, the Jesse James Invitational. The tournament will start at 9:30.

“I’m excited to finally wrestle in a home tournament in Garretson, since we don’t have many home matches,” said Cross.

This weekend is filled with GHS athletics. So come on out and support the Blue Dragons, or not... because COVID is a good excuse too.

Blue Ink Birthday Shout Outs

Happy birthday to the following Blue Dragons!



Jan. 15: Kennedy Buckneberg (Senior): Favorite Gift: “My AirPods because I needed a new pair of good headphones.”

Jan. 20: Grace Hove (Sophomore): Favorite Gift: “Probably my phone because I use that the most and it’s lasted me the longest.”

Jan. 20: Melanie Koskela (Staff): Favorite Gift: “My best friend got me a cherry coke and a huge bag of sour patch kids.”

Jan. 22: Kelsey Buchholz (Staff): Favorite Gift: “I don’t know if I have a favorite. In high school I usually had a basketball game, so when we came out with a win that was always a really good present.”



Blue Dragon Social Media

Keep in touch with what is happening in the school and with our Blue Dragon athletics.

- SCHOOL:** @GHSBlueDragons
- FOOTBALL:** @BlueDragonFB
- VOLLEYBALL:** @BlueDragonVB
- SOCCER:** @GarretsonSoccer
- BOYS BASKETBALL:** @BlueDragonBBB
- GIRLS BASKETBALL:** @BlueDragonHoops
- GOLF:** @ghs_golf2017

You can also follow the *Blue Ink* on snapchat at ghs_blueink.



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2021 New Year’s Resolutions *Is this the new year to get the new you going?*

by **Lacey Lumpkin**
staff writer

It is now 2021 and the start of a new year! Lots of people are hoping this year will be better than the last.

What a better way to make this year better, than taking it into one’s own hands by creating a New Year’s resolution. It may not make everything better, but it might be able to make this year a little improved.

New Year’s resolutions can be a bit tricky. Time management firm, FranklinCovey said, “One third of resolutioners don’t make it past the end of January.”

Most resolutions fail because they aren’t meaningful enough to you or they are too vague. They also fail because their goal isn’t achievable or realistic.

New York Times says, “Your goals should be smart — and SMART. That’s an acronym for specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.”

Kendra Cherry, an author focused on helping students learn about psychology, says, “Taking on too much too quickly is a common reason why so many New Year’s resolutions fail. Instead, focus on taking tiny steps that will ultimately help you reach your larger goal.”

High School science teacher, Mr. Heumiller, said “My main New Year’s resolution is to stop drinking pop, and to eat



healthier. I will do this by only allowing myself to eat out once a week, and completely stop drinking pop.”

He also said, “I have noticed in the past that the more specific the resolution is, the more likely I will stick with it! One resolution that has worked out for me in the past is maintaining a regular exercise schedule. I now have a new hobby I didn’t expect to actually enjoy, all because I made a New Year’s resolution and stuck with it!”

Kenzie Henseler, a senior, said, “I do have this New Resolution from last summer that I am bringing into this summer, and that is to get outside and walk my dog and exercise more.” She explained, “I didn’t get to accomplish that this past summer because of work but I am hoping to accomplish it this summer.” She added, “New Year’s resolutions are good to have because it’s good to have something to work for in the year and if you don’t accomplish them, then try to work for it in the next year.”

Chloe Flahaven, a sophomore, said, “One of my New Year’s resolutions has been trying to spend more time with friends. Another one that I think about a lot is trying to spend more time with family both distance and close.”

Middle school reading teacher, Mr. Terwee said, “I really did not have a specific resolution for this new year. Just happy to be done with 2020. My wife and I like to make family plans for the coming year. Things like vacations or projects and we “resolve” to do those things.” He added, “I will resolve to remain the meanest teacher in the middle school.”

Local restaurant spotlighted on national tv

Garretson’s O So Good recognized by Diners, Drive ins, and Dives, a Food Network show

by **Oliviyah Thornton**
staff writer

On Friday, January 1st, O So Good in Garretson, SD, premiered on National Television. Omar Thornton, a local resident of Garretson and owner of the restaurant, was recommended to Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives also nicknamed Triple D. They checked him out and ended up enjoying what they saw, so for their 5th episode in season 33, they created an episode with O So Good in it along with Urban Chislic and Lalibela, a Ethiopian restaurant, with both latter restaurants being located in Sioux Falls, SD.

Q: Why was O So Good chosen?

A: “If customers enjoy a restaurant, they recommend it to the show/write it in. Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives will then look into themselves and see if they like it. If they do, they will contact you. That’s what happened to us. People enjoyed our food and then recommended it to the show.”

Q: What was going through your head when you were chosen; how did it make you feel?

A: “It was truly shocking, I didn’t believe her. I thought it was a scam, so I went through the process of getting information by contacting Food Network and then getting reconnected with the producer. Once I found out that it was true, I’ve been in shock ever since.”



Guy Fieri posed next to his signature red car with the title of his show: Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. The show has been a staple on the Food Network since 2007.

Q: How did you feel when it finally got podcast-ed?

A: “I was nervous, I didn’t know how they were going to edit it or how it was going to work or what they would say or how I would look on TV, but yet also very excited and proud of what we accomplished.”

Q: How did you prepare before they arrived?

A: “It was mostly just getting all the ingredients together and getting things cleaned up in the restaurant. We had to go fast since we only had two to three days to prepare.”

Q: How will this showing impact the restaurant/ how has it already?

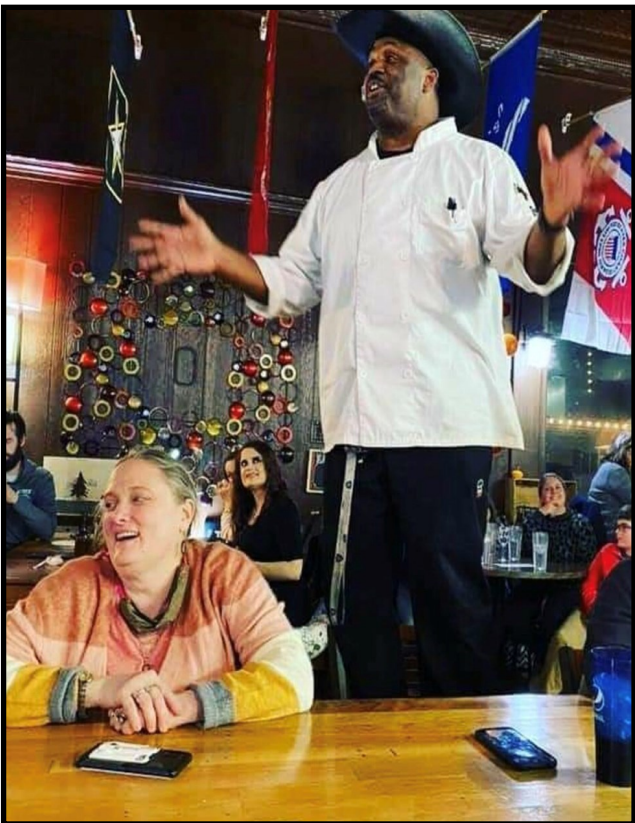
A: “Just the rumor of us being on the show, increased the number of customers coming in, and then we also saw another increase in customers since the showing on Friday. We had sold out of room in the restaurant the night of the showing and the following night. Just by being on the show, it is known throughout the nation that restaurants that have gotten on that show have seen a close to two hundred and a half percent more customers than before.”

Q: What food did he eat while he was there? Could you tell which dishes he liked more?

A: “Church Chicken with collard greens and the Shrimp Cheesy Hot Plate that consisted of cheesy shrimp, red potato home fries, and our cornbread, which every single thing on each plate he loved, highlighting the cornbread and the collard greens as being some of the best he’s ever tried.”

Q: Did he give you any feedback other than what was said on camera?

A: “We stepped to the side in front of my counter at the kitchen and he just leaned over and told me that ‘Hey, you got something going on here and if the surrounding area does not know that they need to a good job and



Omar Thornton, gives a big welcome to the big turn out for the premier of the show. The restaurant was packed for the viewing.
Photo Courtesy of O So Good Facebook page

we gave a hand dab.”

Q: When the show aired, how did you celebrate it?

A. “We had an airing, as well as just a regular restaurant outing that Friday night but when the show started we turned up all TVs and took kind of a break and tried to watch the show but believe it or not it was so loud of cheering and clapping it was very hard to even hear I actually did not look at the show until about 4 days later. I still am in shock on what happened as far as our restaurant being on the show and the Food Network coming to Garretson South Dakota.”

O So Good is located on 529 N Main Ave, Garretson, SD and owned by Omar Thornton and co-owner, his wife, Renae Kruse-Thornton. The next month will continue to be busy and full to the max of people trying to get a taste of what Guy Fieri had. With the numbers rising, it is highly recommended that customers make a reservation.

Genshin Impact

by **Camas Johnston**
staff writer

Because of the lack of physical interaction, many people started searching for ways to hang out virtually with friends. Because of this, many mobile online games became immensely popular including Among Us and Animal Crossing New Horizons including a few others. One of these games came out in September and it is called Genshin Impact.

Genshin Impact follows the Traveler and their companion Paimon, a twin, into a world that is unfamiliar. This twin is you. Depending on which gender you choose for your original character slightly changes things but not to a large degree. But essentially you play as the Traveler looking for your twin who was taken away from you by an unknown god, getting involved with gods and goddesses along the way to finding who you are looking for. The main goal of the game is to find your missing sibling.

During this game you are not required to follow the main quest storyline. You are able to just take things slowly and do side quests and explore the



lands. The. Sin story does matter but there is no big blinking light or persistent arrow telling you that you have to go this certain way.

One unique and fun thing about this game is that it is an open world game not restricting you to a set storyline. This game is also multiplayer and once you get to adventure rank sixteen you are able to play with friends in the same world.

As you explore and finish quests you will encounter character trials where you can gain people to play as. Most of the characters use one weapon type out of the 5 the game features. Each character is attuned to one element out of the 7. The main character uses a sword to fight with but can be attuned to any one of the elements at a time.

The elements that exist in the game are Anemo (wind), Geo (earth), Electro (lightning), Dendro (nature), Hydro (water), Pyro (fire, and finally Cryo (ice).

As the player you can control one out of four characters in your party at a time each character tear having their own unique abilities and strengths. The player is able to have the character swim, run, glide and climb using up your stamina. Stamina is one of the most important things in the game. Saving a lot of time you would end up using going around hills and mountains to easier terrain.

You are also able to teleport using one of the many checkpoints you can unlock through your adventures. Being able to teleport to different places are useful due to the amount of time saved to get to a quest point far away from your current location.

Genshin Impact came out September 28, 2020 released by the company miHoYo. This game is a free-to-play open world action role-playing game. The game is currently available on Windows ten, PlayStation 4, Android, PlayStation 5, and IOS.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge auctioned off to oil drillers



Polar bear and her two cubs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge suffering from a lack of ice and habitat destruction. The ice that these and other polar bears rely on has been melting due to ongoing carbon dioxide emissions, causing global warming, and making the species vulnerable.
Photo published on Salon.com <https://www.salon.com/2017/12/17/the-gops-bad-math-puts-1-5-million-acres-of-alaskan-wildlife-refuge-in-jeopardy/> by Getty photos/sarkophoto

by **Rebekah Roth**
staff writer

Few places are left on Earth that have been untouched by industries and development from humans, yet another ecosystem may become lost to such practices. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), a 19.6 million acre land area in northeastern Alaska that is home to countless arctic species and has had federal protection since 1960, has been auctioned off to oil companies for drilling by President Trump this last Wednesday.

Endangered species such as the polar bear inhabit the ANWR, and this could potentially put their vulnerable populations in irreparable harm. This habitat is home to 200 migratory birds, 42 species of fish, 37 land mammals, and 8 marine mammals. Many of these animals can only be found in the Arctic. In addition, the native Gwich'in tribe lives in the ANWR, and relies on the species there for their culture and survival.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has a coastal plain of roughly 1.6 million acres. This habitat is imperative for waterfowl, migrating caribou, and most importantly polar bears, as a third of the entire population's maternal dens reside in this plain. Despite these factors, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management has offered the right to drill oil on the majority of the coastal plain.

The last seismic surveys were conducted on the coastal plain in the 1980s, and showed that there may be up to 7.7 billion barrels of oil to recover, which is why President Trump pushed to drill oil in this region. He has previously encouraged expansion of the oil and gas drilling industries around the country.

However, the climate in the ANWR is tentative, and an oil spill is extremely likely. No major oil spill has ever been properly cleaned up, and this could have a negative impact on the species that thrive in this environment.

"An oil spill could cause a huge problem. In the Arctic life is already tough enough, so if they had an oil spill or even if some species is disrupted with the way they work or where they live, that can cause big problems. Even though it seems like one small species is being affected, that can affect the whole ecosystem, especially an ecosystem as fragile as the Arctic biome," stated high school science teacher Jacob Heumiller.

Heumiller also described in detail the importance of a keystone species. He explained that keystone species have a huge effect on their ecosystem and sometimes help keep populations in balance. The polar bear, an endangered mammal that can live in the ANWR, is a keystone species. If an oil spill or other disruption occurs due to oil drilling, these polar bears could be put in severe danger, which then affects all the surrounding populations of animals as well.

Despite many protests and petitions against the refuge being claimed by oil companies, the Trump administration had urged the land to be auctioned to oil drillers. Currently, only 3 bidders have jumped on the lease sale. This consisted of two small oil companies as well as Alaska's state-owned economic development corporation.

Even with a small amount of companies right now, damage will likely be done to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and will put countless animals at risk. The future for this ecosystem could be unpromising if the oil industries develop further.

Senior Spotlight *Zoey Quincey*

Activities Involved In:
Wrestling Cheer
Volleyball

Best Part of Senior Year:
"Knowing that I'm going to graduate and not come back."

What Will You Miss Most:
Taking the easiest classes all through high school.

Plans for Next Year:
Find a nice job and save enough money to travel with my boyfriend.

Class of 2021



Garretson student goes viral

Kindergartener Coyer Buchholz received the gift of a lifetime. After celebrating getting a JJ Watt football card when opening up a pack of trading cards and his dad posting the video on Twitter, Coyer received a like and a response from the star defensive player for the Texans.

Watt's generosity continued saying that Buchholz's reaction made his day, so in turn Watt was going to send a special package.

The much anticipated package arrived this week and Coyer was the lucky recipient of a pair of signed gloves, a pair of signed cleats, a few autographed cards, as well as some other trading cards.



JJ. Watt responds to 5-year-old fan's viral clip
"Your reaction made my morning," Watt said to little Coyer Buchholz.
We're sure your response, JJ., made his day too!
abc13.com



Above: QR Code links to JJ Watt's response to Coyer's viral video.

Far Above: Houston's ABC 13 interviewed Coyer Buchholz on his reaction to JJ Watt reaching out to him

Right: Coyer celebrates his special package that came in the mail this week. He is the lucky recipient of a few autographed cards, gloves, and cleats.

