



Garretson FFA heads to the State Competition in Rapid City this weekend. They leave Sunday and compete through Tuesday. Good luck Ms. K and FFA !



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CheerleadingNewspaper

BlueDragons

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History

Basketball

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English

Baseball

Trainers

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Masks up

by Peyton Hove
staff writer—editorial

We have less than 30 days left of school which means it’s less than 30 days ‘til our last class, masks in class, and finally it’s less than 30 days until summer. With that being said, as a senior, I am getting very irritated with my fellow high school students and their inability to wear their masks properly if at all.

We’ve been in school for more than 140 days, and the rules have not changed. If you are not able to social distance, then keep the mask up...all the way up. Don’t get me wrong, I need a break every now and then; I am human, but I don’t keep it down for a long duration of time. I’ve noticed people just walking down the halls, just carrying their mask. Like come on.

In spite of us being in the midst of distributing vaccines, that does not mean you are completely immune to COVID. There are new variants being discovered and people are still getting infected. So follow the guidelines, please and thank you.

I am not a huge fan of the masks myself, but that doesn’t give me the excuse to not wear it. It’s just not right. With 550k+ deaths in the U.S, COVID is not done.

Our high school was adequate about wearing masks the first se-

HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR A FACE MASK



**DON'T**
wear your mask below or low on your nose



**DON'T**
leave your chin exposed or let your mask hang loosely with gaps around your face



**DON'T**
wear your mask under your chin or temporarily remove it in public



**DO**
wear your mask up to the top of your nose and under your chin; snug and without gaps



mester. But that has gone downhill. While walking through the halls this week, I counted over 60 people not wearing their masks properly. The elementary students are better at wearing their masks than us.

I’m not trying to be the COVID police, but it’s not that hard. We’ve been wearing them for over eight months, just stick it out for two more months. I understand we all wish for normalcy, but that won’t happen unless we follow the proper guidelines.

“I am personally for masks. Even though people don’t believe in them, it helps protect people from outside mucus or germs. That is why I’m getting the vaccine,” said senior Tiera Thomas.

Honestly masks have helped this

year stay afloat. Multiple schools around the area have shut down for two weeks, sports events have been cancelled, and some schools won’t have prom. Thankfully, we are still in school and you can thank masks for that.

According to the CDC, masks are a barrier to help prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others. Studies show that masks reduce the spray of droplets worn over the nose and mouth. You should wear a mask, even if you do not feel sick.

So please, wear the masks correctly. Let’s finish off this year strong and in school. I can speak for all the seniors, in that we would like to walk down the halls knowing that it’s our last.

This Week’s Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Wearing headphones for just an hour can increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: You are more likely to remember something written in blue ink than black ink.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why did the farmer plant a seed in his pond?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Solve this rebus puzzle

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

THE WEATHER FEELING

Upcoming Events

- Friday, April 9**
 - Golf @ Mitchell for SD Golf Classic (10:30)
- Saturday, April 10**
 - Prom—Grand March in Dragons’ Lair (6:30)
- Sunday, April 11**
 - State FFA @ Rapid City
- Monday, April 12**
 - State FFA @ Rapid City
- Tuesday, April 13**
 - State FFA @ Rapid City
 - JH Golf @ Sioux Valley (11:00)
 - Golf @ Garretson Early Bird (12:00)
 - Track @ Fighting Cougar Invite in Salem (3:00)
 - JH Track @ West Central (4:00)
- Thursday, April 15**
 - JH Golf @ Chester (11:00)
 - JH Track @ Tri-Valley (3:45)
 - Track @ Tri-Valley Invite (4:00)
- Saturday, April 17**
 - Track @ Jesse James Invite (9:30)

Worth Mentioning

CONGRATULATIONS to the following **Girls State Representatives:** Lauren Fick, Mataya Trower, Jaelyn Benson, Madi Decker, Morgan Pierret, and Erin Steen. These girls are all sponsored by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit 23. Girls State will be held May 31st - June 5th at the USD in Vermillion.

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 42 Days
Next break is summer vacation - May 19 is the last day of school

Prom prep

After not being able to have the traditional formal last spring, prom returns to Garretson. The junior class has been busy at work prepping for the events.

Grand March is slated to start 6:30 and is open to community viewership. Following the Grand March will be the dance and then a hypnotist. All activities will take place in the Dragons’ Lair.

Masks are required by prom attendees at all events except for Grand March. Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks.



Top Center: MorganPierret, Maren Bonte, Lily Ranschau, and Jaelyn Benson work on sanding down the bench, stripping the stain, in order to make the winter wonderland paint stick to the wood.

Bottom Left: Gentry Sanders and Braeden Genzlinger work on setting up the entrance walls before getting draping attached.

Bottom Right: Tayson Swatek assembles the stands and threads through the sheer netting to section off the dance floor.



JOKE: He was trying to grow a WATERmelon



BRAINTEASER: Feeling under the weather

April Fool’s issue causes community wide reaction

by **Rebekah Roth**
staff writer

Last week Thursday, on April Fool’s Day, the *Blue Ink* staff released an issue with three fictitious articles hidden among the regular, valid articles. These inaccurate features consisted of Kevin Steckler’s decision to retire, new regulations and changes to this year’s prom and graduation, as well as upcoming movies and movie spoilers.

The deceitful articles generated a massive reaction in dispersion throughout Garretson School and even the community, despite the newspaper mentioning that three of the writings were April Fool’s jokes. One of the articles that carried the most repercussions was the one informing of Steckler’s fake retirement.

“I completely underestimated the response to the news once it came out,” Steckler said. “I think there was a fair amount of people who were like ‘Yeah, this is April Fools,’ but I played it up and soon enough my wife’s and kids’ phones were blowing up with the calls they were getting.”

Steckler noted that after the news hit, there was more shock than he anticipated. He said that shortly after the



newspaper was released, his wife was questioned by several people in the grocery store and the post office about his sudden decision to leave the school.

“I realized that night that I couldn’t carry this through for the week; I had to put an end to it. The next morning, I contacted Mrs. Buchholz to send out an email with what was true in the issue and what was an April Fool’s joke. The part that hit me was looking into the eyes of students and adults and saying, ‘No, I am retiring,’ knowing it was just April Fool’s,” he stated.

Steckler did say, however, that he enjoyed taking part in the April Fool’s article, but it became too overwhelming for himself, his wife, and his kids. Since he knew he was going to be continually asked about his decision to retire, he had to put an end to the prank.

With an article that convinced a community, Kevin Steckler made sure that his fabricated story was perfect. “I thought that if we’re going to do this, we were going to do this right. So the night before the interview, I prepped for that interview, and I had everything written out how I wanted in the paper,” he said when asked about what inspired his believable story.

These April Fool’s articles emphasize the significance of journalism, proving that writings and reports are often automatically believed to be true if they are conceivable enough. This exemplifies why it’s crucial to read thoroughly and even do additional research when determining whether an article is accurate or not.

Many thankful that a few articles were just a joke

Golf tees off this spring

by **Trever Edmundson**
staff writer

Golf will be returning this year after the previous season had been cancelled after COVID Garretson Highschool went to E-learning for the rest of the 2020 semester. While many students who have taken part in the sport are excited to return to the course there are also a few students that are trying the sport for their first time.

Practice had started up for the team two weeks ago in anticipation for this week’s game taking place this Friday. The varsity meet taking place in Mitchell will only be including six Garretson students which includes, Jake Schroeder, Rave Uhlich, Cooper Long, Peyton Hove, and Katie Hansen.

One of the players that will be going to the meet, Jake Schroeder, said this is how he’s preparing for this weeks meet, “preparing by getting practice rounds in this week and just going out and see how it goes and enjoy it.”

While the varsity players will be going to Friday’s meet the rest of the team will continue practicing and improving on their game. While the new players are beginning to learn the rules of golf, even some of the experienced veterans will need to page through the playbook as there are many new rules and changes to already made rules.

Both new and seasoned players are starting to play after last year’s lack of a golf season. Making this season one to remember for the Garretson High Schoolers with many more to come as COVID vaccines become more accessible to the public decreasing the likelihood of any more seasons being canceled.

March Madness lives up to its name

by **Dustyn Winterton**
staff writer

March Madness is something everyone has heard of and it’s that time of year again. Before the season even started this year, people were predicting that the Baylor Bears and the Gonzaga Bulldogs were going to make it to the National Championship; they were correct.

Some notable events that happened during March Madness were #11 UCLA had to beat Michigan State in the play-in game and made it all the way to the Final Four. They ended up losing to Gonzaga on a buzzer beater. Another notable event was Summit League Champions Oral Roberts (#15) beat #2 Ohio State in the opening round.

Some odd facts about this year’s March Madness is in the first 20 games, four of them ended after overtime. Also more that six of the games had been won by a lower seed so next year picking the higher seed might not be the best idea. Another fact is that at the start of March Madness it had been over 700 days since the last time it had been held since it was canceled last year due to COVID.

This year Peyton Abraham won the pride pool. He said, “When filling out my bracket, I just chose whoever sounded best and I didn’t think I would win.” He also said “This was my first year filling out a bracket but I would do it again.” He also said, “If I were to give anybody advice I would tell them to go with your gut.”



Sophomore Peyton Abraham took top honors in this year’s Pride Pool landing him bragging rights and 100 grand. Abraham came from behind to win, correctly picking the Baylor Bears as the national champion.

Summer job opportunities

by **Camas Johnston**
staff writer

During the summer some students might wish to acquire a job nearby. Acquiring a job is able to bring in money so you can afford things that you want and it will help your worth ethic in the future. so here are a few jobs within twenty-five miles of Garretson

Part-time Summer Jobs within 25 miles of Garretson, SD:



Sales, Retail & Customer Support:

- Retail associate at Walmart paying 13-15 dollars per hour.
- You also check out other stores such as Hy-Vee, Target and T.J.Maxx

Food & Beverage:

- Team Member/Cashier at Jimmy Johns in Sioux Falls 11-14 dollars per hour.
- You can also checkout restaurants at the empire mall and smaller shops in Brandon and Pipestone

Outdoor work:

- Cleaning and grounds Maintenance at Pipestone



National Monument.

- Garretson school might hire students to help the janitorial staff as they have in years prior
- Lifeguard jobs in Pipestone, Sioux Falls and Garretson
- You are also able to work for the city and help with landscaping and maintenance

Set you can check out if you’re interested in other jobs:

- Indeed.com
- Jobs for teens.com
- And general searches will give results

Blue Dragon Social Media

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

SCHOOL: @GHSBlueDragons
BOOSTERS: @BDragonBoosters
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.



Will George Floyd get justice?

Trial enters its 10th day today

by Morgan Swenson
staff writer

Just under a year ago George Floyd passed away in Minneapolis, MN during an arrest attempt, after a store clerk alleged that he had used a counterfeit \$20 after buying a pack of cigarettes. Derek Chauvin, one of four officers that had shown up to arrest George Floyd knelt on Floyd’s neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds.

Floyd’s death by officer Chauvin sparked the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests. It started many conversations on how racism is a thing in America. Floyd’s death started riots all around the states, because a lot of people do not like how the situation was taken care of. A huge national outcry happened for equality.

Floyd’s death has been under investigation for the last few months. They are finally in court and today will be the 10 day of the trial.

Day 1 trial recap

- Initially report said Chauvin held his knee on Floyd’s neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds but during try it came to light that it was actually 9 minutes and 29 seconds
- There is proof showing that officer Chauvin actually used excessive force
- Defense argued that Chauvin and the other officers were distracted by the crowd around them and not on what they were doing for the arrest.
- They mentioned something about Floyd’s past drug usage

Day 2 recap

- There were 4 witnesses that testified all 18 or younger
- Darnell a Frazier testified as the teen who took the widely shared video of Chauvin kneeling on Floyd’s neck
- Frazier told court that she felt regret for not confronting Chauvin
- Frazier she looks at her dad, brothers, uncles, cousins and friends that are black males and she thinks that could have been any one of them
- Frazier’s 9 year old cousin said “I was sad and kind of mad, it felt like he was stopping his breathing and it was kind of like hurting him.

Day 3 recap

- Prosecutors play body-camera videos showing Floyd pleading for his life and saying “I can’t breathe”
- Charles McMillian had taken off his glasses and wiped his tears from his eye while saying “Oh my god” after seeing the video of Floyd calling for his mother and saying “I can’t breathe”
- Officer body-cams show footage of Tomas Lane quickly drawing his weapon and yelling at Floyd to put his hands on the wheel. Floyd did and started pleading and saying “please don’t shoot me “
- At some point Floyd was asked if he was non drugs or intoxicated and with Lanes body-cam video Floyd said. “ I’m not on anything.”
- Floyd tries telling officers he’s claustrophobic and has anxiety and that he didn’t want to get into the cop car.
- Lane used maximal restraint techniques, while



- calling over the radios saying “ he won’t get in the car. He wasn’t following instructions
- As Floyd shouts he can’t breath Lane says “ you’re talking fine man. Deep breaths.”
 - Another officer says “ you’re doing a lot of talking. It takes an awful lot of oxygen.”

Day 4 recap

- David Pleoger testified saying” Chauvins re-straint should have ended after Floyd was handcuffed, on the ground and no longer resisting.”
- Two paramedics, the fire department captain, and Floyd’s girlfriend Courtney Ross, all testified
- Jurors were told a restrained prisoner, handcuffed and feet secured, must be rolled onto their side so they’re not deprived of oxygen.

Day 5 recap

- Testimony of retired Lieutenant Richard Zimmerman, said “ it was totally unnecessary pulling him down to the ground face down and putting a knee on a neck, for the amount of time.”
- Zimmerman stated “ I see no reasons why the officer should have felt endangered.”
- He also agreed and said that the restraint should have stopped as soon as Floyd was on the ground.



Day 6 recap

- Minneapolis police chief had testified saying that the action is not trained as a detective in the Minneapolis police department.
- Another officer from Chauvin’s department also stated that what Chauvin did is not a trained restraint in their department.
- A trained neck restraint is when an officer uses an arm or 2 to put a little bit of pressure to hold them down typically on the back or shoulder blades, not the neck
- The chief also said a way that the officers on the seine should have desiccated the sense is by stopping what was upsetting the crowd.

Day 7 recap

- Officer Nicole Mackenzie stated that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be started while waiting for paramedics to arrive on scene.
- Mackenzie had also said that Chauvin violated a range of departmental policies, including by not rendering aid to Floyd before the ambu-

- lance was at the scene.
- Floyd did not receive medical attention May 25 until 2 paramedics arrived
 - Mackenzie also trains the Minneapolis police officers treatment, she told the court “ there is a possibility somebody could be in respiratory distress and still be able to verbalize it and just because they’re speaking doesn’t mean they’re breathing adequately.”

Day 8 recap

- Comes to light that Chauvin was also using a “Pain compliance technique”
- The cuffs on Floyd were not double locked which means they can ratcheting tighter as the person being detained moves.
- In an officer’s body cam you can hear Floyd’s cuffs ratcheting
- Officer Stiger was brought back to the stand
- Stiger told the court “ Positional Asphyxia can occur even if there is no pressure, or body weight, just being in that position and especially handcuffed creates a situation where the person has a difficult time breathing, which can cause death. When you add body weight to that, then it just increases the possum of death.”
- Floyd appeared to lose consciousness while being held down
- Earlier in the trial paramedics testified saying that Floyd did not have a pulse when they had arrived.

Day 9 recap

- Dr. Martin Tobin, a physician in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Loyola University Medical Center and at the Hines Veteran Administration Hospital in Illinois was called to the stand as an expert medical witness
- He started in his opinion on the evidence of hundreds of viewings and numerous videos, filmed from different angles
- He said Floyd died from a low level of oxygen, and his caused damage to Floyd’s brain and caused his heart to stop
- Tobin told jury Floyd was practically squeezed to death as if he were in a vice.
- “Floyd had died at 8:22 p.m. and 22 seconds on may 25” Tobin said “ that’s the moment life goes out of his body.”

Word Search

March Madness

G	E	O	R	G	I	A	T	E	C	H	I	N	Y
A	C	M	T	I	Y	E	N	T	N	L	A	Y	E
S	O	U	E	O	G	R	E	A	O	E	L	U	N
L	L	G	N	N	Y	X	L	A	T	T	D	O	B
E	G	O	R	I	A	R	M	N	S	R	I	A	A
O	A	N	O	S	M	A	U	O	U	I	O	U	Y
T	T	Z	O	A	B	Y	A	P	O	M	W	M	L
S	E	A	S	A	T	I	I	E	H	S	A	C	O
C	M	G	L	R	R	G	N	O	G	E	R	O	R
R	W	A	E	R	N	O	S	M	E	L	C	A	A
E	U	B	E	P	N	O	A	O	A	T	U	A	I
A	I	O	I	R	N	A	G	I	H	C	I	M	I
L	D	I	I	F	A	I	F	L	O	R	I	D	A
W	I	S	C	O	N	S	I	N	E	C	E	E	U

Houston	Georgia Tech	Colgate
Michigan	Wisconsin	Baylor
Liberty	Clemson	Purdue
Oregon	Alabama	
Gonzaga	Iowa	
Florida	Texas	

Word search created by
Dustyn Winterton

Track jump starts their season in Hartford

West Central Invitational—April 6
Boys—Third place as a team
3200m Relay:
- Team of Preston Bohl, Cadyn Ockenga, Cooper Long, Devon Leedy (9:18.4; 1st)
100m Dash:
- Dominic Abraham (12.7; 6th)
- Other runners: Cody Erickson (12.8), Josef Zahn (12.9), Hunter Abraham (13.0), Treyton Chester (13.3), Junior Olson (13.9), Chris Wynia (14.3), Caleb Roth (17.2)
1600m Run:
- Preston Bohl (5:04.3; 1st)
- Cadyn Ockenga (5:07.8; 2nd)
- Matthew Gilbert (5:30.6; 5th)
- Other runners: Devon Leedy (5:37)
400m Dash:
- Cooper Long (59.1; 4th)
- Dylan Kindt (59.7; 5th)
- Other runners: Hunter Abraham (61.0), Carson Clark (61.7), Seth Petersen (64.4), Junior Olson (65.9), Treyton Chester (66.3), Chris Wynia (67.1)
Medley Relay:
- Team of Dominic Abraham, Jayse Miller, Trevon Cross, Matthew Gilbert (4:30.6; 4th)
800m Run:
- Cadyn Ockenga (2:18.4; 1st)
- Other runners: Devon Leedy (2:28.8), Trevon Cross (2:37.2)
200m Dash:
- Dominic Abraham (26.1; 1st)
- Cody Erickson (26.6; 4th)
- Jayse Miller (26.7; 5th)
- Other runners: Hunter Abraham (27.3), Junior Olson (29.2), Adam Hulscher (29.6)
Shot Put:
- Jaden Richter (39'2.5, 2nd)
- Other throwers: Adam Hulscher (24'10), Tyler Edmundson (24'7)
Discus:
- Throwers: Jaden Richter (72'5.5), Adam Hulscher (66'5), Tyler Edmundson (56'2)
High Jump:
- Cody Erickson (5'4; 4th)
Long Jump:
- Jumpers: Cody Erickson (18'3), Josef Zahn (16'9), Trevon Cross (12'6)

West Central Invitational—April 6
Girls—Fourth place as a team
3200m Relay:
- Team of MaKayla Heesch, Kylie Christensen, Tayler Benson, Jordyn Williams (11:23.9; 4th)
100m Hurdles:
- Lily Ranschau (17.9; 2nd)
100m Dash:
- Runners: Adi Fink (15.1)
800m Relay:
- Team of Raegen Altman, Morgan Pierret, Anna Jones, Lily Ranschau (2:01.1; 4th)
1600m Run:
- MaKayla Heesch (6:22.3; 6th)
- Other runners: Tierra Thomas (6:50.3), Erin Steen (7:17.4)
400m Relay:
- Team of Raegen Altman, Anna Jones, Logan Bly, Adi Fink (57.8; 3rd)
400m Dash:
- Runners: Jordyn Williams (1:12.3), Payton Campbell (1:14.1), Sam Shellum (1:21.7), Adi Fink (1:26.9)
300m Hurdles:
- Lily Ranschau (53.0; 2nd)
Medley Relay:
- Team of Raegen Altman, Anna Jones, Sydney Olson, Kylie Christensen (5:12.6; 4th)
800m Run:
- Tayler Benson (2:53.7; 4th)
- Other runners: Tierra Thomas (3:07.1) Erin Steen (3:20.9)
200m Dash:
- Runners: Anna Jones (31.4), Morgan Pierret (33.0), Sam Shellum (34.2), Adi Fink (35.7)
Shot Put:
- Molly Hulscher (31'8; 4th)
- Madden Lardy (31'2; 5th)
- Mattea Fiegen (30'8; 6th)
- Oliviyah Thornton (27'10.5)
Discus:
- Molly Hulscher (95'6; 1st)
- Oliviyah Thornton (81'7; 5th)
- Madden Lardy (72'10; 7th)
- Other throwers: Mattea Fiegen (63'4)
High Jump:
- Logan Bly (4'10; 2nd)
- Kylie Christensen (4'6; 4th)

Blue Ink birthday shout outs

Apr. 2—Connor Bertotti (sophomore): **Favorite Gift:** “My Bluetooth headphones because wires are just annoying”

Apr. 19—Autumn Gaspar (sophomore): **Favorite Gift:** “Puppy because she’s big now.”

Apr. 26—Austin Palmlund (sophomore): **Favorite Gift:** “Money, money.”

Apr. 28—Norinda Sandbulte (Staff): **Favorite Gift:** “My grandson, Charlie (although he was two hours late for my birthday).”

Happy birthday to the following Blue Dragons!

If you want a birthday shout out—complete the Google form sent out to you at the beginning of September.



Senior Spotlight *Madden Lardy*

Activities Involved In:
Volleyball
Basketball
Track & Field
FCA
NHS
Choir

Best Part of Senior Year:
My friends and not procrastating on all my important decisions and applications

What Will You Miss Most:
Steck yelling in class, Mrs. B, and my friends

Plans for Next Year:
Attend USF and go into the nursing program



Devon Leedy



Activities Involved In:
Cross Country
Track & Field
Band

Best Part of Senior Year:
Sports

What Will You Miss Most:
Friends and teachers

Plans for Next Year:
Possibly attending Southeast Tech for Business



Kyler O’Neal



Best Part of Senior Year:
Getting three study halls

What Will You Miss Most:
Senior Privs

Plans for Next Year:
Go to Southeast Tech for Computer Programming