



This week was South Dakota Work of Week. Opportunities were available for students to explore different career fields and hear from experts.



Students express creativity through biology projects

by **Rebekah Roth**
staff writer—editorial

This last week, Jacob Heumiller, one of Garretson’s science teachers, introduced a new, engaging project to his biology class. The assignment consisted of creating a double-stranded DNA model, a mRNA model, and a tRNA model with a group of 3-4 people. These displays each had to have corresponding nitrogen bases visible, in order to show the process of transcription to translation in DNA.



Zachary Uhl used his welding skills to assemble a unique model. This visualizes the DNA double helix.

Photo by Rebekah Roth

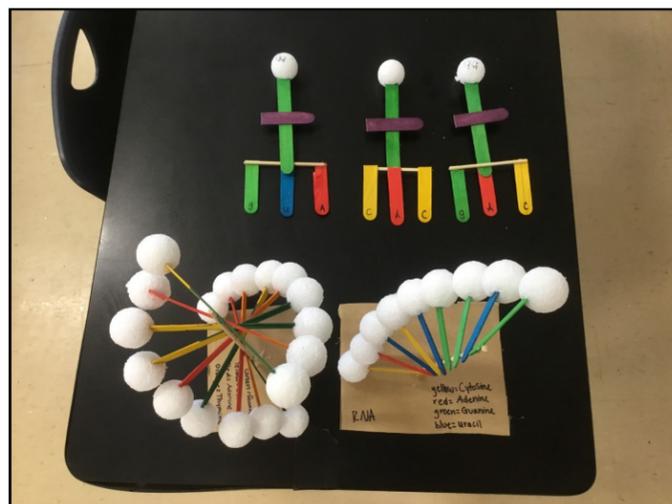
Students had to use their own materials and had the freedom

to fabricate their models however they chose, as long as they adequately represented the DNA to RNA sequence. While students only had one day in class dedicated to working on the projects, Heumiller advised them to work on the models over the weekend or after school.

“I definitely prefer this over a quiz, because Mr. Heumiller likes to put impossible true and false questions on it, and this also gives me an opportunity to showcase my wonderful arts and crafts skills,” said sophomore Morgan Damman. One of her group members, Samuel Schleuter, agreed by stating, “I prefer projects because I don’t like studying for quizzes, even though I don’t study anyways.”

Although their third group member, Kayla Genzlinger, was not a fan of the project. “Projects are too much effort. I like memorizing material for quizzes and tests instead,” she said. “Additionally, I prefer working by myself, because Morgan was too bossy and controlling.”

Correspondingly, Damman said, “I think I work better alone, because I am an independent person, and it gets very tiring to boss my group around when they don’t know what tRNA is, or they don’t understand my creative process.” Yet, Schleuter noted that he is fond of



Morgan Damman, Kayla Genzlinger, and Sam Schleuter worked together to manufacture a bright and polished group of models. This features a DNA double helix (left), a mRNA strand (right), and three tRNA anticodons.

Photo by Rebekah Roth

group projects, since the members can bounce ideas off each other.

Among the models that were displayed, one stood out to the students. Sophomore Zachary Uhl welded together a DNA double helix with different metal materials.

“For the main frame of the model, I used 1”X1” box tub welded together, and used 2” flat stock for the base. The actual DNA I used 18 1/2” nuts and 18 1/4” nuts welded together to form the sugar phosphate bases. Next I used 1/4” bolts welded to the bases to represent guanine and cytosine, and 5/16” bolts to represent adenine and thymine,” explained Uhl.

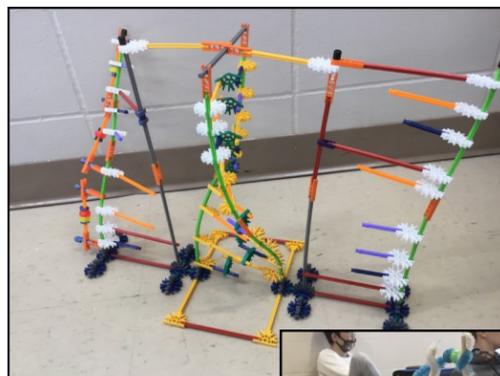
“I did it this way so that only adenine can connect to thymine, and guanine can only connect to cytosine. These are labeled and zip tied together to form the double helix. These materials work well together as long as they are shiny to give a good weld.”

“It helped us to learn about DNA and RNA, because it gives us a visual representation of what it should look like,” Uhl mentioned. He also said that he thought the time given for the assignment was adequate enough for students to construct their models.

Damman, Genzlinger, and Schleuter collectively supported the project. “We all think that this was a wonderful learning opportunity, and we are blessed to be in the presence of educators such as Jacob Heumiller. We are also thankful we do not share the same DNA.”

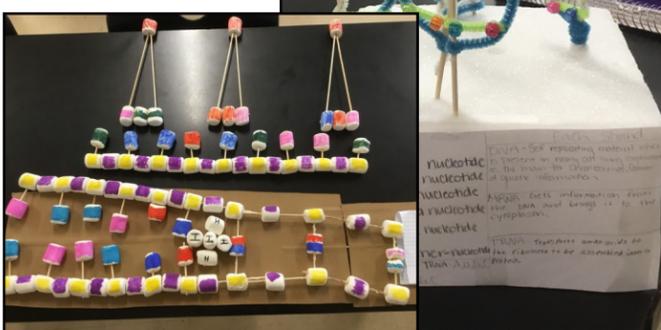
Subsequently, Uhl said, “It was a unique experience to express what welding skills I can do in such a small project. I honestly enjoyed this one.”

Jacob Heumiller continues to excite his students by assigning interactive, creative learning activities. This project was a tremendous success for the biology students.



Other impressive models are featured. Students used everything from K’Nex, to pipe cleaners and beads to marshmallows and toothpicks to create their DNA, mRNA, and tRNA models.

Photos by Rebekah Roth



This Week’s Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The longest word that can be typed with only the left hand is “stewardesses”.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Sometimes you think weather shifts come out of nowhere; however a trick to keep you safe: when you see a halo around the sun or moon, get indoors immediately; a storm is coming.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why couldn’t the flower ride its bike?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Solve this rebus puzzle **DIAL**

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 24**
 - Track @ Tom Main Invite in Chester (9:30)
- Monday, April 26**
 - JH Track @ Chester (3:30)
- Tuesday, April 27**
 - Golf @ DR St. Mary’s Invite (9:00)
 - JH Golf @ Howard (11:00)
 - Track @ Danielson Relays –MCM in Salem (3:00)
 - JH Track @ Beresford (3:45)
- Thursday, April 29**
 - JH Golf @ Chester (10:00)
 - 6-12 Band & Choir Concert @ Dragons Lair (6:30)
- Friday, April 30**
 - Golf @ Jesse James Invite in Garretson (9:00)
 - Track @ Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls (2:00)
- Saturday, May 1**
 - Track @ Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls (2:00)

Worth Mentioning

CONGRATULATIONS to the following golfers for placing at yesterday’s dual meet in Chester:
Flandreau 9: Grace Hove (15th), Katie Hanson (13th), Peyton Hove (6th), Rave Uhlich (12th), Ryan Flanagan (3rd)
Chester 9: Katie Hanson (7th), Peyton Hove (1st), Rave Uhlich (5th), Ryan Flanagan (3rd)

Teacher of the Year

From Garretson student to Garretson teacher, Mrs. Coburn embodies being a Blue Dragon

by Camas Johnston
staff writer



Mrs. Kayli Coburn was selected as Garretson's Teacher of the Year for 2021

Every year the Garretson School District recognizes a staff member as teacher of the year.

The teacher of the year has been announced and Garretson would like to congratulate Mrs. Coburn on achieving teacher of the year.

Q: What did you major in in college?

A: So I took classes in special education and I got a degree in elementary education. I went to the University of South Dakota.

Q: What was your first reaction when you heard you got teacher of the year?

A: surprised about it and I felt honored.

Q: What's your favorite part of the day?

A: Part of the day at school is working with all the different levels of students I work with six through 12 and I think it's just nice being part of the middle school and

high school.

Q: What was the reason that you decided to go from second grade to special education?

A: One of the reasons I decided to go to special ed is that I really wanted to try working with other students besides just the second and third graders. I also learned that it was a lot of fun being able to get children started on life skills so they can get out there and get jobs.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: I have been teaching about seven years I spent three years in elementary and I have been teaching in special ed for four years.

Q: What is your favorite part about your job?

A: My favorite part of the job is the group setting I like having one on one time with different students.

There's aren't any set criteria for picking the teacher of the year. One thing that remains consistent every year is that the teacher chosen goes above and beyond the call of duty, normally the choice of the teacher of the year depends on the different nominations.

Safe driving assembly



BE SAFE. DRIVE SMART.



By Dustyn Winterton
staff writer

On Monday, April 19 there was a safe driving assembly held that was different from other ones that we have had. This one was different because it was held over zoom and teachers connected to the assembly in their classrooms.

The assembly consisted of students going into the classroom and talking to the students in the classroom about safe driving. One of those students was Amber Hulscher who said that when she first went up there she was stressed but after she got into it she wasn't as stressed. They asked questions about what are risks and told the students statistics about driving accidents. After they did the introductions they connected to the zoom call and the speaker introduced herself.

The speaker was a lady from Canada whose sister had gotten into a car crash when they were younger and died. During the presentation she talked about the car crash and how it changed her life. After that she talked about safe driving and how it is preventable then asked if there were any questions.

I personally am not sure how I like the zoom assembly because it's odd not having all the people around you but it's also nice and it seemed like there was more discussion between everybody than during a normal assembly.

Sioux Falls protests in support of BLM

by Morgan Swenson
staff writer

Over the past week Sioux Falls has been two different Black Lives Matter protests in connection to Floyd's trial and Daunte Wright's death. Wright was another black man that was killed by an officer in Minneapolis MN. One protest was



Local students and community members gather outside of Roosevelt High School to let their voices be known that minorities need to be treated the same way and given the same rights as everyone else. The timing of this protest aligns with the trial of Derek Chauvin, the officer charged with murder of George Floyd, as well as the death of Daunte Wright in Minneapolis during a traffic stop.

Photo by Morgan Swenson

held at Roosevelt High School on Friday, April 16th. The other protest was on Sunday April 18th held downtown Sioux Falls. The protests were organized by Abby Turner, a Roosevelt High student.

When Abby Turner plans her protests, there is usually anywhere from 20 to 200 people. It all depends on what the weather is like, and how fast she is able to get her flyers out or around the social media apps. These protests have been held in

Sioux Falls because Turner believes that South Dakota is quiet when it comes to traumatic law enforcement or if someone is killed by law enforcement.

"I do not believe that things have gotten better because it is still happening and it doesn't seem like it is going to stop so I plan on having more protests here soon because it's time to stand up and speak out. The silence does nothing and so our messages need to be heard." Abby

Turner is fighting to make this world a better place because we are the next ones to be in control.

These protests are being heard and making the news. With these peaceful protests and not riots it is likely for people to listen to what needs to be said. These protests have been peaceful and no one has gotten into trouble. There is someone at almost all of the protests that have or want to say something.

Even if it's scary to say something at a protest it helps people in ways that might not even be known. "The people that have stood up and said something have made me feel like I am wanted and that I'm not alone in believing that things need to change in this society." Do not be afraid to stand up for what you believe. It will help you feel better and you never know it might make others feel better. You just have to keep it in a respectful manner so that way people don't get into trouble and riots don't start.

Girls & Boys State representatives chosen



A hands-on experience to explore government and the multiple inner workings that go into campaigns and legislation among other things.

While the opportunity was put on hold last year due to COVID-19, it is scheduled to take part again this summer, right after school concludes.

The 2021 representatives for the American Legion Auxiliary Post #23 are Jaelyn Benson, Madison Decker, Lauren Fick, Morgan Pierret, and Erin Steen.

Mataya Trower will be representing Post #23 at Girls State as well; however, she will be in a different role as she will be a part of the Girls State Journalism City.

This still exposes repre-

sentatives to government but rather than running for offices, they will be running the communication programs putting together daily newspapers.

Trower is the first representative from Garretson to partake in Journalism City.

Garretson junior Joy Fry will also be attending Girls State but will be representing a different unit.

Girls State is scheduled

to happen May 31 through June 5 on the USD campus in Vermillion.

Boys State is slated to occur over the same dates but will be in Aberdeen at Northern State.

Gabe Johnson will be representing Garretson's American Legion Post #23 at this opportunity.



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.



Earth Day: beautiful yet upsetting

Planet showing negatives but it's not too late to take action

by **Peyton Hove**
staff writer—editorial

HAPPY (late) EARTH DAY! Yesterday was the 51st anniversary of Earth Day. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin found it disturbing that the issue of the environment wasn't addressed in politics or the media, so he created the first Earth Day!

Some ways people celebrate Earth Day are:

- Being car free...walk or bike to school
- Building a bird feeder
- Pick up garbage
- Plant a tree
- Make positive promises



This past year with COVID I really opened my eyes to see the world around me. How beautiful sunsets are, how incredible it is when rainbows appear, and how breathtaking this Earth is are just a few things I noticed.

We take for granted our home. Honestly if the world treated us the way we treat it, this world would be unrecognizable and not in a good way. With constant littering, air pollution, and deforestation this world is slowly decimating with a big problem being climate change.

While not everyone will agree with this, climate change is and will make a major impact on this Earth. Humans are increasingly influencing the climate and greenhouse gases. Examples of climate change include:

- Rising maximum and minimum temperatures
- Rising sea levels
- Higher ocean temperature
- Heavy precipitation
- Shrinking/melting glaciers
- Thawing permafrost

Climate change affects humans,



Easiest way to protect this planet and humans, animals, and plants that live here...Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

ecosystems, animals, oceans, and Earth's air quality. Species are rapidly becoming extinct, our oceans have more trash than sea creatures, and our air quality is dwindling.

Because of humans, coral, grey whales, manatees, hammerhead sharks, cape penguins, krill, and loggerhead sea turtles are endangered. With that, according to the Washington Post, "If Earth's temperatures continue to increase, the planet will fall victim to extreme heat waves, fires, droughts and limited water availability."

Our oceans will rise, our bees won't be able to pollinate our land,

and trees won't provide the oxygen we need. I don't understand how this doesn't alarm some people.

Those are crazy issues, we as humans have a chance to change them though. We can:

- Recycle
- Reduce water waste
- Pull the device plugs
- Ride your bike, or carpool:)

Even though I very much enjoyed seeing people post about Earth day, I wish we would take time to become educated about our world and celebrate her beauty everyday. We need to make a change so future generations can experience her beauty also.

One day vacations



by **Trever Edmundson**
staff writer—editorial

Many people plan on going on a vacation this summer that will probably end with them gone for the weekend or even longer. While there is nothing wrong with a normal vacation lots of people tend to skip over or forget about a one day vacation. While not as long as a normal vacation a one day trip can be just as fun while still being able to get home to your own bed the same night. Here are some of

Garretson students favorite places to go in a day.

Omaha Outlet Malls - Lily Ranschau and Mya Long

The three hour drive to the Omaha outlet malls is a fantastic choice for anyone who loves to shop. With over 80 stores and places to eat it's no wonder that it's such a popular shopping destination.

Martin, SD to visit family and go fishing - Aiden Juhl

Martin is a small town in South Dakota that takes four and a half hours to drive to that has quite a bit to offer.

They have a bunch of cool places to explore, places to fish, and even their own theater.

Valleyfair in Shakopee - Peyton Hove

A must have on your destination bucket list has to be the valley fair. The nearly four hour drive is totally worth it with tons of roller coasters and games to play while visiting.

Blue Bunny Ice Cream Factory - Mrs. Buchholz

When people think of going to get ice cream they usually think about stopping

at Dairy Queen or a Milky Way, but why not just go to an ice cream factory! The hour and a half drive is certainly worth it for the opportunity to tour the blue bunny factory and get a scoop or two when you're done.

Mall of America - Triston Rekstad

A must have for this list and another one for those who like to shop would have to be the Mall of America. The three and a half hour drive is most certainly worth it since there's something for just about anyone, whether

that be clothes shopping, visiting the Lego store, or riding the rides at the amusement park that's in the middle of the mall.

With all of these fun and fantastic options it's hard to just pick one, but that's the best part of a one day road trip. You can go to any of these places and be back home ready to start your adventure the very next day. So this summer make sure you make the most of it and try to get out and visit somewhere new to make just a few more memories.

Personality Quiz: Who were you in a past life?

As much as we love our friends, and ourselves, there are definite differences. Do you feel like you have more of an interest in saving nature than everyone else? Maybe you were a tree-hugging hippie from the '70s. Do you think you are much more creative and have unique ideas that are just waiting to be appreciated for what they are? Maybe you are an inventor from the industrial revolution relishing in innovation?

1. What is your favorite drink to order at a restaurant?

- Bottled water, poured in a clean glass, with exactly five ice cubes
- A specialty drink, don't worry you'll provide the recipe and expect it followed exactly
- A mix - a little lemonade, a little gatorade, a little pop.
- Doesn't matter as long as it is shaken, not stirred
- The house specialty/recommendation - no questions asked

2. How do you like your meals prepared?

- By a chef at a expensive restaurant
- Whomever is cooking but had to follow my recipe to the T
- As long as it tastes good I'll eat it.
- Only cooked by me so I know what's in it
- Whatever I can find

3. How do you like to pass the time?

- Go shopping
- Vanquish your enemies
- Hang out with friends
- Stay at home
- Explore nature

4. What is your go to kitchen utensil?

- Spoon
- Fork
- Spork
- Knife
- None

5. What would you like to do on a vacation?

- Relax at the beach or spa
- Visit a museum or historical site
- Go to a live show or concert
- Complete an escape room
- Go to an amusement park

6. During a road trip where in the vehicle are you?

- Back seat - let people drive around
- Driving - you are in charge and get to choose when and where you stop
- Passenger seat with the aux cord
- In the trunk
- In your own vehicle stopping wherever you want

7. If you are at a protest where would you be?

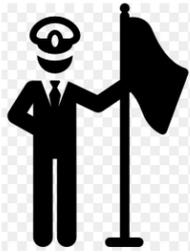
- The one who drive by
- The one who planned it
- The ones giving the speeches
- The one a crossed the street recording it
- Someone that is just there for support

Check for your results on page 4

Personality quiz *Who were you in a past life?*

by Journalism Class staff writers

If you were **MOSTLY A**: you were royalty. You love to be pampered and expect people to cater to your wishes. You don't mind if people drive you to places and you get to relax in the back seat. From having thirty varieties of the same type of shoe to needing a specific brand of water, you have refined tastes, know what you like, and have no problem sharing that with others.



If you were **MOSTLY B**: you were a dictator. Now don't think this is automatically a bad thing. You know what you want and you find a way to get results. You demand perfection but doesn't having high expectations and lofty goals make everyone better? You are educated and know what works for you. You know what they say, those who don't learn their history are doomed to repeat it.

If you were **MOSTLY C**: you were an entertainer. Whether it was through music, art, story telling, or any other form of expression, you brought joy to those around you: and I dare say that you still have that magnetism. You thrive off of social interaction and you are willing to try anything at least once.



If you were **MOSTLY D**: you were a spy. You are perceptive, maybe a little sneaky, but very handy. You use what you have and can make anything work. You enjoy a good challenge and seem to always rise to the occasion.

If you were **MOSTLY E**: you were an adventurer. You sought and continue to seek out opportunities to travel, explore different cultures, and live off the land. You enjoy thrills, being a part of something, but also doing your own thing and going where the wind takes you.



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.

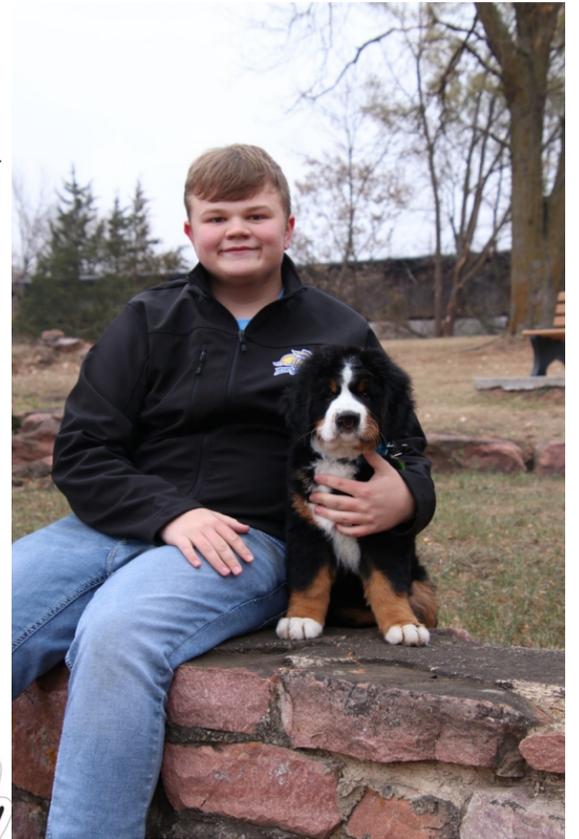


Senior Spotlight *Alex Stephenson*

Best Part of Senior Year: Having privs

What Will You Miss Most: Nothing. I'm just ready for next year

Plans for Next Year: Attend SDSU to major in Economics



Lizzie Olson



Activities Involved In:

- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track & Field Stats
- Choir
- NHS
- FCA

Best Part of Senior Year: Privs and the teachers being more relaxed

What Will You Miss Most: Coaches, teachers, and cheering at sporting events

Plans for Next Year: Attend USF for Pre-Law and to play Basketball



Matthew Rattenborg

Activities Involved In: Football

Best Part of Senior Year: Leaving early

What Will You Miss Most: Being the captain of the mud brothers

Plans for Next Year: Attend SDSU to major in Geography

