

The volleyball C team ended their season on a perfect note, with a win over Colman-Egan, finishing 17-0 for their 2020 campaign.

# Blue Ink



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## The winner of the 2020 election is still unknown

*Next president has yet to be determined as record number of mail-in and absentee ballots were cast this year.*

by **Rebekah Roth**  
staff writer

The 2020 presidential election has put millions of Americans on the edge of their seat, no matter which candidate they voted for. On November 3, this last Tuesday, the election process began. When the very first polls closed at 6:00 p.m. ET, Americans anxiously awaited the results for the winner of the election.

However, votes were still being counted throughout the week for several states. Even with COVID-19 still being prevalent within the U.S., a massive turnout of voters were accounted for during this election.

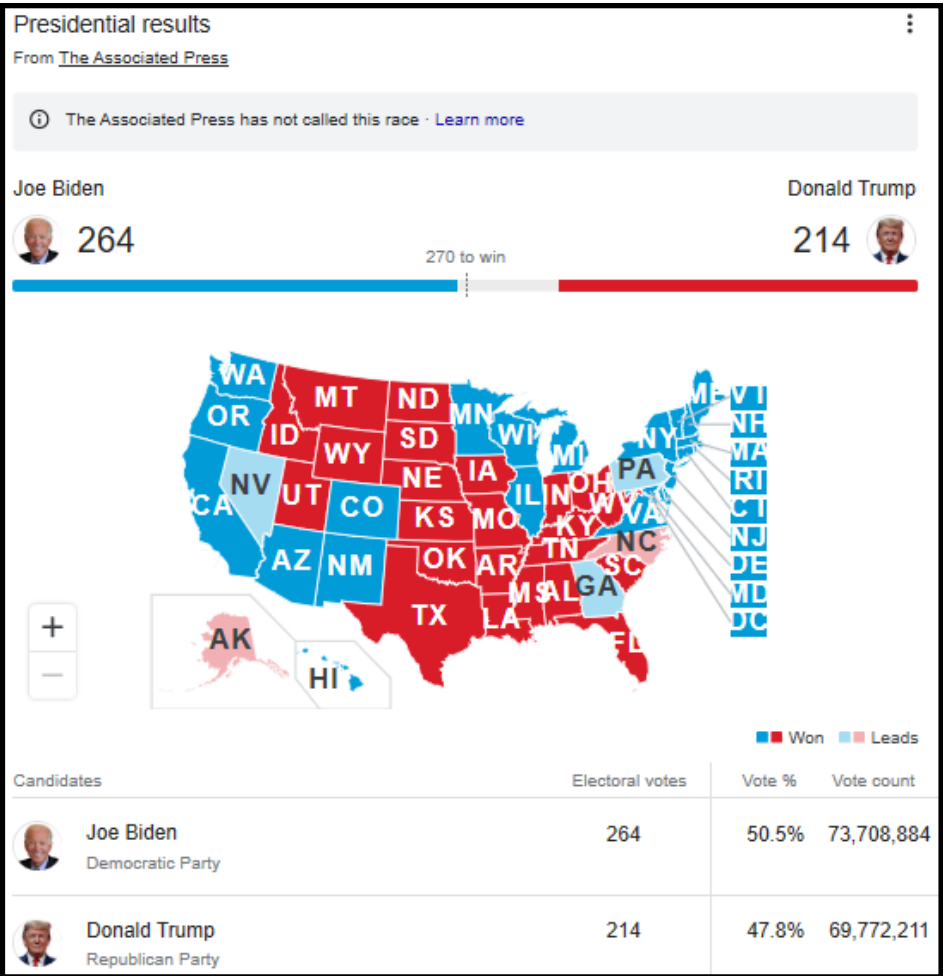
In Garretson, over 1,000 citizens were reported to have voted at the polling station, which was the American Legion, on Election Day. In Garretson High School, Kevin Steckler, a U.S. government teacher, encouraged all seniors who were eligible to vote. Seniors who weren't 18 stayed at the school and worked on an assignment with a different teacher. During 1st period on the morning of November 3, Steckler accompanied the seniors on their trip to the American Legion, across from the school.

"I'm a person who believes every vote counts. I believe that we, as citizens of the United States in our great democracy, have a civic duty to make a statement, and we can make that statement with our vote," Steckler stated. "When it comes to whether or not you're qualified to vote, you have to be a citizen, you have to have an established residence, and you have to be registered. What we found is that we have a lot of people who are 18, they're United States citizens, and they have a residence, but they're not registered."

Steckler continued by saying, "By encouraging and registering the seniors to vote, what I'm doing is leading them to water. They're registered. Now it's up to them to go and make a difference with their vote."

According to Kevin Steckler, he has been taking students to vote for over 15 years. Steckler has gone out of his way to help students register, so that they have the opportunity to make a difference with their vote. He believes that in everyone's life, there will be a candidate or issue on the ballot that will affect them directly, which is why voting is so significant.

This election has been a tight race, but if the remaining states swing towards their predicted parties, it appears that democratic nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden would become elected. Yet, with these battleground states still counting



Latest electoral map data shared by the Associated Press as of 12:00 on Friday, November 6. Biden has moved closer to the magic 270 mark but has yet to officially secure victory. Furthermore, there are still a handful of states that have still left to count all their ballots: Nevada, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alaska.



A dozen of the 44 seniors were able to partake in their first ever presidential election. Government teacher Kevin Steckler takes the students who are eligible to vote during school, guiding them through their first time engaging in their civic duty of voting. Back row: Seth Petersen, Matthew Rattenborg, Evan Bly, Kennedy Houghton, Kenzie Henseler, James Nussbaum; Front row: Evan DeBates, Caeden Bunde, Trevor Edmundson, Molly Hulscher, Dominic Abraham, Brady DeBates

Photo by Kevin Steckler provided by Molly Hulscher

### This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Five times in US history has president lost the popular vote but still been elected president (either through the electoral college or congressional decisions): John Quincy Adams (1824), Rutherford B. Hayes (1876), Benjamin Harrison (1888), George W. Bush (2000), Donald Trump (2016)

**LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK:** Keep the inside of your car looking clean by using damp Q-tips and toothbrushes to reach into crevices.

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** Why did the musicians let the turkey join the band?

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

Please

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

### Upcoming Events

- Monday, November 9**
- Early Out—1:30 Dismissal
  - Parent/Teacher Conferences—2:30-8:30
- Tuesday, November 10**
- VB SoDak 16 TBD
- Wednesday, November 11**
- Veteran's Day
- Friday, November 13**
- No School

### Worth Mentioning

**Thank you** Blue Dragons for continuing to wear your mask properly (covering mouth and nose) and doing your part to keep yourself and others safe as well as keep us in the school. #BlueDragonPride

**Congratulations** to Preston Bohl for his 11th place finish at the State Cross Country Meet last weekend, earning all-state status. The girls team (MaKayla Heesch, Payton Campbell, Tayler Benson, Kylie Christensen, Adair Hanisch, Lucie Frewaldt, Serie Risty-alt) also competed in the snowy day. They finished 12th as a team.

**JOKE:** He was the only one with a drumstick

**BRAINTEASER:** Pretty Please

# Student section should step up

by **Peyton Hove** and **Morgan Pierret**  
staff writer—editorial

### Students’ perspective

Sometimes the student section for sporting events could step up and show some more support for the Garretson athletes. Don’t get me wrong, our student section can be great at cheering and get the whole crowd on their feet, but that mainly happens when it’s against a school rival or if it’s a very important game. Some people would say that this is the only time students should cheer, since there is more at risk than a regular game. But, I disagree.

This happened at some of the regular season volleyball games, and especially the home games. One example I can recall is when Logan Bly had an outstanding kill, and I looked down the row of the student section and didn’t see one clap coming from the student section.

When asked about it, many students responded with the fact that we can’t stand up during games. Which is a reasonable argument because it does get kind of annoying standing up and sitting down so often throughout the game, when our team scores.

The reasoning behind this new rule is that if students are seated, it would encourage parents to sit behind them. This would then allow there to be more room in between families, and hopefully prevent the spread of COVID at sporting events.

I think the student section can



The student section has done a great job showing up and coordinating in their themes for the game night; however, the passion and enthusiasm seems to end there as consistent cheering, even on impressive plays, is lacking.

Photo by Morgan Pierret

improve and give off more support to the athletes playing. This doesn’t just go for volleyball. It goes for cross country, wrestling, girls basketball, and the rest of the sports teams. From sports, to choir, to art, to the new clubs, us as a school should be supportive of every activity that goes on within our walls.

### Players’ Perspective

As a player on the volleyball team my favorite part is when not only when the team is hyped but also when the crowd is. My favorite memories have been the games where the student section gets in the

moment. A few examples would be ALL the Baltic games these past four years, and this year’s Chester and Colman Egan games.

I understand that volleyball can be a boring game to watch if you don’t fully understand the game, but you should know a good play when you see it. I can speak for all athletes that the game is 10 times better when your crowd is cheering behind you.

On behalf of the volleyball team, we very much appreciated when you guys made the trips to away games or spent your weekends in a gym.

# Veterans’ Day

by **Peyton Hove**  
staff writer

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the gunshots fell silent and WWI had ended. On this day the American people celebrated Armistice Day, now it is known as Veteran’s Day. On this day, we celebrate the brave men and women who fearlessly and faithfully fought to defend our precious liberties and freedoms.

This week, Garretson High School had the opportunity to talk to Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Jordan Snyder, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Steve Davis, and Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Cameron Bryant. They talked about their experiences in the military and the many things they’ve learned by enlisting.

When asked what are the most meaningful moments for them as an active military member, all three agreed upon friendships and service.

“The most meaningful moments are the serving and helping others. Whether it be with sandbags or overseas. I think it is such a unique opportunity to protect our country.” Said TSgt Snyder.

“Some of the most important people in my life are people I’ve met in my career, who I’ve built relationships with.” Stated SFC Davis.

As of right now 1.3 million Americans are enlisted in the US military. Including GHS senior’s Trevon Cross and Sam Konechne. Cross is enlisted in the Air National Guard and Konechne with the Army National Guard.

Cross wanted to join the Air Force because his cousin joined, he plans on attending basic training this summer. Konechne learned of all the benefits the army had to offer and that persuaded his decision. He went to basic training last summer and plans to head back again this summer to learn how to be a chef.

“The meaning of Veterans Day to me is honoring all those who have given their lives serving as well as those active right now.” Explained Cross.

“Veterans Day is respecting the fallen soldiers that have fought for our freedom. And the many sacrifices they have given in order for us to live the way we live today.” Said Konechne.

SFC Davis gave his input on Veterans Day, “November 11 is recognition for everybody that has served and been away from their families. A day to appreciate those who have done that in the past, still doing it right now. And for us as service members, I like to think of the people who’ve had it a lot harder than



400,000 soldiers are laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier which symbolizes the Americans who gave their lives in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War in defense of the Nation’s integrity, honor, and tranquility.

Photo from (Military.com)

us. Individuals that have served before us. And appreciation for all the stuff we love in our daily life, because of the sacrifices of other people.”

SSgt Bryant added, “We are still living to honor them.”

Traditionally, Mr. Bennett puts together a Veteran’s Day program for the community to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our country. GHS students volunteer to read passages from the Presidential Proclamation-Veterans Day to the Pledge of Allegiance. But with COVID-19, that was not possible.

Even without an assembly, Veterans Day is a day to remember and a day to honor those brave men and women who fought for their country.

# What will Thanksgiving look like this

by **Lacey Lumpkin**  
staff writer

Thanksgiving, a time when friends and family we haven’t seen in awhile, travel to gather and share a feast. But what will it look like this year?

A travel expert, Amanda Norcross from USA Today, expects an increase in travel this Thanksgiving. She says many will be traveling to see family and friends for the first time since quarantine began. However, the New York Times says that travel is down 41 percent compared to last year.

For the people who feel at risk of getting the coronavirus or are uncomfortable with getting it, there are many ways they can still celebrate Thanksgiving with their family. The CDC says you can hold an outdoor celebration, but because that’s not very practical for South Dakota, they said you can hold an indoor celebration with good ventilation while practicing social distance. The CDC says people can also hold a virtual Thanksgiving and share recipes with their families.

A freshman, Tyler Edmundson, said, “COVID does not really impact my Thanksgiving because my family doesn’t really care about all that stuff.”

Grace Hove, a sophomore, said, “I don’t think COVID will affect any of my Thanksgiving plans this year because most of my family does live in Garretson, so we will be able to get together as long as COVID doesn’t interfere until then!”

For some people, Thanksgiving will look a little different this year. They will practice social distancing or wear a mask and celebrate Thanksgiving with their family. But for the rest of us Thanksgiving will be the same as any other year. People will gather together and have a great time with friends and family we haven’t seen in awhile.

# 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

# Anatomy class screen time

by **Oliviya Thornton**  
staff writer

The anatomy class has been challenged to cut down their screen time which just includes how much time they spend on their phones.

Noticing how much time he spent on his phone during the weekend, Mr. Jacob Huemiller, the High school science teacher decided to change that.

“I made a change in my own life and I thought that would be a good thing to try and get maybe some classes to get excited about that and try to do the same thing.”

Mr. Huemiller came to school and challenged his Anatomy class to try and do the same. The class will try to cut down on their screen time and replace it with something else.

“I feel like people are missing out on opportunities to gain new skills, read books that they meant to or want to.” Mr. Huemiller expressed his concerns after taking a look at his chart and noticing two out of his 13 students only got less than 4 hours on their phone screen time. Students are mostly only awake for 16 hours and if they are on their phones for about less than 4 hours, that is already about 25% of their day.

The class decided to come up with a few ideas on how they could cut down on their screen time by shutting off notifications or deleting some unneeded apps. By screen time, they are only counting being on their phones, iPads do not count.

iPads don’t count, just iPhones. It would be hard to track both iPad and iPhone,” Mr. Huemiller continues to explain the very few rules, “there aren’t that many rules, we just check in every Monday, check our last weeks’ averages per day then put our average up there. So no rules just making sure we are keeping track.”

Mr. Huemiller highly encourages other students to try and if they wish to participate, they absolutely can. He only decided on his anatomy class because they were a smaller class and mostly consisted of older students, who he thought would be more willing to participate. He can also connect it back to a future chapter that they will be reading about the nervous system.

They keep track of their screen time but marking off on a poster with hours listened and put a dot by the hours that match their screen time usage. If other students outside of anatomy want to do it too, they are allowed to write down their time on the poster too. Located in Mr. Huemiller’s Room.

Mr. Huemiller is also hoping to be able to pro-

vide prizes for the students who participate.

“I’m still working on a prize and I plan on doing a prize every week for the lowest person so whoever cut down the most will get a prize because they did well for that week. If at the end I think that our class average went down by a good amount, then I’ll think of something to do to reward them. I haven’t thought about it yet though, I need some help coming up with ideas.”

Cutting down on screen time can help students to do things they always wanted to and it provides opportunities for students who otherwise, would be on their phones. Mr. Huemiller gives his side to why cutting down on screen time can be a good idea.

“When I was in high school, I know that if I would’ve had a cell phone I may have missed out on things that I love doing today like instruments I like playing or sports that I enjoyed playing. I could have missed out on those if I maybe had a phone in my hand. I am just worried about students missing out on things like that.”

“My plan to accomplish this goal is finding new hobbies that I never thought I would do and finish reading books that I’ve been trying to read. Or finding things to keep me busy and off my phone such as hanging out with



Maren Bonte

friends or spending time with family.” Said by Maren Bonte, a student of anatomy who is participating in the challenge.



Jaelyn Benson, a Junior: “I plan on trying to stay away from all the apps and social media that I am using now or at least decrease the amount of time I spend on them and maybe try to focus more on things that could actually benefit me like working out more!”



Joy Fry, Lizzie Olson, and Madden Lardy

Joy Fry, a Junior: “I plan on spending less time on my phone by distracting myself with other things like painting and reading my goal is to go from my usual of 6 to 5 hours a day to 4 hours a day.”

Lizzie Olson, a senior: “What I plan on doing to accomplish this goal is to try and pick up a book more often than my phone, not procrastinating on my school work, maintaining a clean room, and this might be cheating the system... but watching Netflix on my tv not my phone.”

Madden Lardy, a senior: “I’m turning off my notifications on apps like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook that I don’t use everyday to communicate to my friends. I also spend more time doing other things around the house like cleaning my room, doing laundry, and playing with my dog that keep me busy and off my phone.”



Lauren Fick

Lauren Fick, a junior: “I think this challenge will help me to spend more time being productive. My goal is to replace time spent on my phone with reading, learning to play the piano, or studying for the ACT.”

# Why does Spanish class do Day of the Dead celebrations?

by **Camas Johnston**  
staff writer

Every year on the Day of the Dead Mrs. Koskela has her classes put together an ofrenda. An ofrenda is an altar in which people celebrate their loved ones who have passed away.

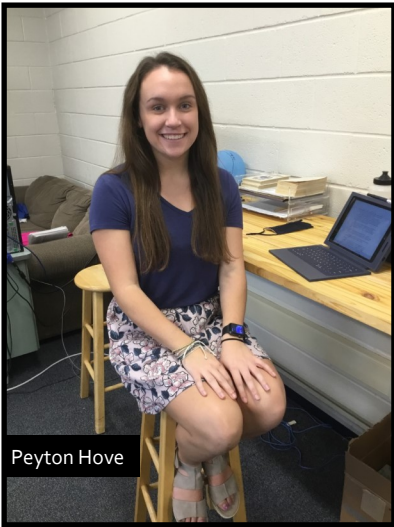
Each class adds something to it. Spanish 1 makes decorations such as marigolds and banners. Spanish 2 makes memorials for people who have died, and they make sugar skulls.

This year the class watched the movie called *Coco*.

“I have two movie options that I let the students pick, *The Book of Life* which is an older movie focusing on love and adventure. And then there’s *Coco* which we’ve been watching the past couple days, and I think it better represents what the Day of the Dead is and the importance of familia,” said Mrs. Koskela.



Peyton Hove, a senior: “For me personally I’m planning on trying to reduce my time spent on social media. I’m trying to replace my time spent endlessly scrolling with either trying to get ahead on college or something more productive! I’ve done a social media “cleanse” before and I’m trying to get back to that feeling again! I eventually want to delete most of my social media & focus more on me and the goals I want to accomplish!”



Peyton Hove

# A wild new club has appeared

by Camas Johnston  
staff writer

Just last week Señora(Sra).Koskela, the Spanish teacher for Garretson and Baltic School, started a Spanish club. This new club maintains a close focus on Spanish Culture and has the children participate in many fun and different activities and crafts.

“I am really hoping that we can gain more cultural knowledge and do some of the things we don’t get to do in class.” Said Sra.Koskela “Because we are so focused on grammar spelling and generally being able to converse with each other. That we often miss the cultural things.” Said Sra.Koskela

This new club takes place at lunch every Thursday in the Spanish class-room. This week was its second meeting and the classroom is quite full of students. Sra. Koskela has kindly answered some questions.

“The first meeting turned out fairly well, this is really something new that I am trying. It is probably going to take a while to get into a good groove. I am really excited about this. I think there were between 15 and 20 kids that showed up for the first meeting. ” Said Sra.Koskela

This club is supposed to be running through the whole year and possibly, even if the school goes to an online format.

“It is my goal to continue the club throughout the year, but if we go to an online format, because of the stress and workload the students and the teachers will have. But we could do the club later in the day maybe after school so the children can get all their work done.”

Next week spanish club is going to be making kites and are currently learning about the kite festival. Thursday the class watched a video, and started on the small kites made from simple craft materials.

# That’s a wrap *Volleyball ends season early*

by Morgan Pierret  
staff writer

The 2020 volleyball season has unfortunately come to an end. The Lady Dragons battled the Baltic Bulldogs last night, and the game didn’t turn out how they hoped. Garretson took Baltic into five sets last night, and Baltic had the last point.

The first set of the night was a very close one. The two teams battled back and forth, but Baltic came out on top, winning 23 - 25. Garretson came back fighting and won the second set 25 - 16. The third set was won by Baltic and they scored 25 points to our 23. Garretson won the fourth set 25 - 23, but lost the final set by 5 points. Which means Baltic will move on to the

SoDak-16 and play Parker. Both sides of the gym were roaring with excitement, but also nerves throughout the whole game. The volleyball game started at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:55 p.m. and it wasn’t silent in that gym for a second. Both teams felt the support radiating off of the crowd and they both put up a strong fight. It was a great season for the Blue Dragons, but sadly it was the last game for the seniors. Kennedy Buckneberg, Mattea Fiegen, Lauren Heesch, Peyton Hove, Madden Lardy, and Lizzie Olson are the six seniors on the team, and they all played a vital role for the Dragons. They will be missed next year, and the team won’t be the same without these strong leaders.

# Senior Spotlight *Peyton Hove*

**Activities Involved In:**  
Volleyball, Golf, Basketball, Student Council, NHS, Marching Band, Journalism, Football Stats

**Best Part of Senior Year:**  
Senior Privs & Steck’s class

**What Will You Miss Most:**  
My sisters and practices, jam sessions and bonding with my teammates (bb & vb)

**Plans for Next Year:** Attend 4-year university and major in biology



James Nussbaum

**Activities Involved In:**  
FFA, 4-H

**Best Part of Senior Year:**  
Senior Privs

**What Will You Miss Most:**  
Teachers

**Plans for Next Year:** Attend Lake Area Tech for livestock production management and ag business



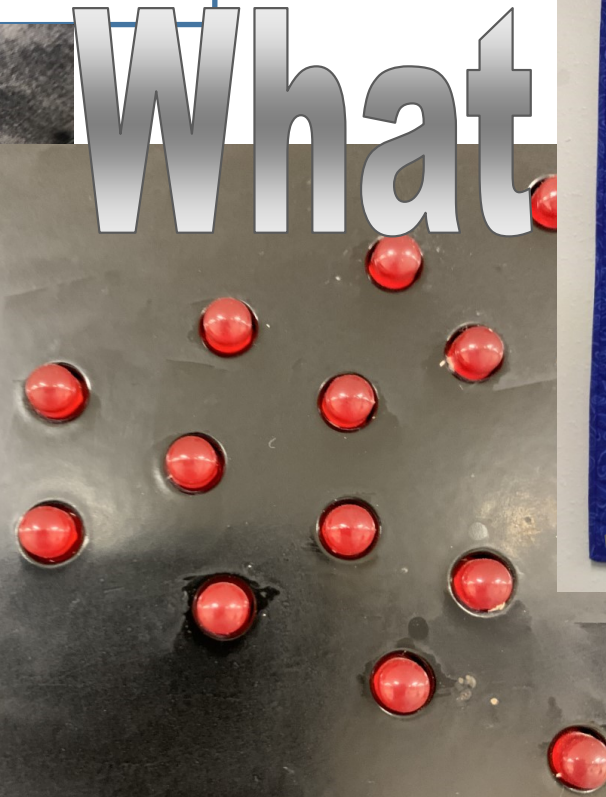
JLB Photography



# Garretson Guessing Game



Who



What



Where