



Welcome back to Garretson School District. We hope you have an excellent year.



# Croatian culture comes to Garretson

*Croatian student becomes newest Blue Dragon*

by Nika Sapunar  
staff writer

The journalism class interviewed Nika Sapunar, foreign exchange student from Croatia, about her choice to come to the United States for a year of schooling as well as comparisons between her home and here.



**Q: What is different about school here and in Croatia?**  
A: Schools are very different here. For example in Croatia we have 15 subjects all year and we need to study for every class, but here you have 6/7 classes. It's easy and better because you don't need to study for so much. But I think what we learn in Croatia is more important for life because we don't learn things in details like here. But we don't have school sports like here.

**Q: What's the difference in sports?**  
A: Sports are very different. Here you have seasonal sports and you play sports at school but in Croatia you have all sports during all year and we just have clubs.

**Q: Do you have a dress code?**  
A: Some schools have dress code and it is strict, but some of them don't care until your grades are good.

**Q: Do you have lunch at school? Is it different?**  
A: Lunches are very different. We don't have lunch at school, we just have 20 minutes break in which we can go to bakery or just chill in a classroom. Some schools have lunch but they are very different and there are not many schools that have it (and if they do, you don't have so much choice).

**Q: Why would you come to US?**  
A: I came in USA because I wanted to learn English and learn more about USA culture and people.

**Q: Do you like it here?**  
A: I like it here. It's different for sure but for now I think I like it. (People are very different but I should get used to it I guess ?)

**Q: What's the prices like here and there?**  
A: Prices here are for some things lower than in Croatia and for some things more expensive.

**Q: What did you know about the us before you came here?**  
A: Before I came here I knew some things but I didn't expect for people to be so nice and kind.

**Q: How long are you here and how does it makes you feel?**  
A: I am here until May. For 9 more , and I am just trying to think positive and have fun while I can.

Thanks to Nika, the *Blue Ink* will also run a Croatian word of the week in the "This Week's Need to Know" column.

## This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** The average family spends \$700 on school supplies each year.

**LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK:** If you are still trying to get into the school routine, save time each morning by setting out your outfit the night before.

**CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK:**  
Hello = Bok (boh-k)

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** How is 1+1=3 like your left foot?

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

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

## Upcoming Events

- Friday, August 30**  
- XC @ Beresford (10:00)  
- Football @ W/WS/SC (7:00)
- Saturday, August 31**  
- VB @ Canton Tourney (9:00)
- Monday, September 2**  
- No School—Labor Day
- Thursday, September 5**  
- JH VB v. Baltic (4:00)  
- C/JV/V VB v. Baltic (5:00)  
- Soccer v. Mitchell (5:00)
- Friday, September 6**  
- Football v. Beresford (7:00)  
- XC Parents' Night (6:45)

# Early season struggles for Garretson football

*Blue Dragon boys drop season opener, look to bounce back tonight*

by Mason Hofer  
senior writer

The sight of fans rushing towards the student section, the smell of boiled hotdogs and freshly popped popcorn, the sound of shoulder pads crashing into each other, Garretson Football is back and fans are pumped.



Freshman Jaden Richter (#66) puts the pressure on Webster quarterback Braden Holland, forcing him to throw it away. Blue Dragons defense forced a three and out on this possession but failed to convert on the good field placement.

Photo by Noel Johnson

After a statement of a season last year in 9AA, Garretson made the move to 11 man (11B). Last year the Blue Dragons finished with a 10-1 record and made it to the semi finals in playoffs. After such a successful season, Garretson lost a lot of their leaders after the season due to having a fairly older team. So now they must compete in a harder division after losing these key players. "The seniors are going to be very vocal this year, and try to help everyone be as

good as we know they can be," stated senior Cole Skadsen. Last week Garretson (0-1) faced off against the Webster Area Bearcats (1-0) to kick off the season. Quite similar to last year's matchup Garretson left the Dragons Lair with a loss added to their record. "One thing that we could work on as a team is to have more confidence in one another and helping out as needed," said sophomore quarter-

back Dylan Kindt. Garretson did go scoreless this game (0-20), but it was against a very good team, and in a new division. Starting Senior Brayden Beamer was forced to stay out of the game due to an ankle injury. "The score didn't justify how well we performed as a team. I think we played pretty well it's just they made a couple big plays. You can expect Garretson Football to keep working harder and harder and learning from our mistakes," stated Skadsen. "One thing you're going to see from us is a team that going to go out there and work hard for 48 minutes of the game every night," said Kindt. Tonight, Garretson will face off against Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central Blackhawks (1-0) in Forestburg at 7pm.

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## Worth Mentioning

Welcome to our new students and staff members! #BlueDragonPride

**Choose Kind**  
- September Precept: "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind." - Dr. Wayne Dyer"

**Congratulations** to a strong start by our junior varsity teams. JV Soccer has started the season 3-1-1. JV football won their first contest earlier this week and JV and C volleyball have won both of their contests against Tri-Valley and Beresford.

**COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 1 Day**



# Pumpkin spice makes earliest debut yet

by **Grace Panning**  
staff writer

*Autumn is coming  
and so is its drink*

Is it too early for pumpkin spice, and everything nice? Starbucks is known for its signature drinks, and interesting flavors that match each season. The Pumpkin Spice Latte (PSL) is just one of the many savory drinks released every year before its corresponding season or holiday.

"I have tried the Pumpkin Spice Latte before, and the creamer," said Kim Moffitt, a SPED teacher, "I really like it, and I'm probably one of the first ones to buy it when it's out in the store."

This year's Pumpkin Spice Latte launch feels earlier than ever, because it already came out this Tuesday. You can probably blame Starbucks and climate change for that. Isn't it odd though, considering how far away Autumn, Halloween, and Thanksgiving are?

Even though it might feel as if the seasons are shifting. This isn't the earliest it's ever been, in 2014, it was released earlier on August 26.

Starbucks has apparently been launching PSL (Pumpkin Spice Latte) each Tuesday before Labor day. Basically, the PSL release date will keep switching back and forth each year from September to August. As a re-



sult of this strategy, we can guess the next launch will be September 1, 2020. Mark your calendar PSL fans, the cinnamon is coming in hot!

But before you drink one of these everyday, remember a 16 oz. PSL has 380 calories and approximately 150mg of caffeine, which is pretty unhealthy for you.

Here are some more questions and answers.

Q: What do you think about all the news going on about the Pumpkin Spice Latte? What made you interested?

A: "It makes me think about the holiday season and autumn coming, so it gives me warm happy thoughts," said Moffitt.

Q: Why do you think Starbucks decided to release it early?

A: "I actually don't really know why, probably for the season," said Lily Ranschau.

Other common seasonal drinks are Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, Peppermint Mocha, and Gingerbread Latte which are only available during winter.

Even though Autumn isn't here yet, hopefully this article will give you some hope for when it actually arrives. The most we can hope for is that the arrival of Pumpkin Spice Latte season brings a bit of joy to PSL lovers in late August. Happy early Autumn!

# Lady Dragons start off strong

*Blue Dragon netters take down Mustangs in season opener*

by **Parker Schlenker**  
staff writer

With the Lady Blue Dragons losing to Tri-Valley first round of regions last year, the varsity team was able to come out with a 3-1 redemption win against the Mustangs Tuesday night at home. Not only did varsity come out with the win, but both the JV and C team also played good games and came out on top with 2-0 wins.

With multiple players having good games Tuesday the Blue Dragons were able to play four tough sets against the Mustangs with the score of each being 25-11, 20-25, 25-23, and the final win to wrap up the game 25-20.

Leading in kills Tuesday were sophomore Lily Ranschau with six, junior Lizzie Olson with five, juniors Lauren Heesch and Kennedy Buckneberg and senior Aftyn Heitkamp all had three kills each.

On the defensive side of the game Ranschau lead the team with 18 digs throughout the game. Senior Kenzie Northrup picked up 14.

After interviewing a couple of the players I've learned that a challenge for the majority of the team will be getting used to the new coach. "I like our new coach, he's hard on us but I think that is what we need to become a better team," stated Ranschau.

The Blue Dragons traveled to conference foe Beresford last night and fell in three sets, unable to find a rhythm or close out games late. JV and C, however, picked up wins against the Watchdogs.

Varsity is back in action tomorrow at the Canton tournament and then all levels host the Baltic Bulldogs on Thursday for parents' night.



Lily Ranschau goes up for one of her six kills against the visiting Mustangs. The Blue Dragons came away with a 3-1 win. The last time Garretson and Tri-Valley saw each other was in round one of regions where the Mustangs ousted the Dragons from the playoffs.

Photo by Mya Long

# Questions about Trump's actions continue

by **Nobel Nothstine**  
senior writer—editorial

It's the beginning of the school year, and everyone is busy kicking off the semester to a great start. But along with that, comes not keeping up with recent political happenings. Here's a quick overview of what our president has been up to since we've been back in class.

A) Hopefully, students are aware of the Amazon rainforest fires. (If not, read the "Lungs of the World" article in this issue before continuing). This Tuesday, Trump publicly backed the Brazilian president as he rejected aid for fighting the fires.

Our chief executive tweeted, "I have gotten to know President @jairbolsonaro well in our dealings with Brazil, he is working very hard on the Amazon fires and in all respects doing a great job for the people of Brazil!" However, just prior to this tweet, Jair Bolsonaro rejected \$43 million dollars in aid money (offered by the G-7 nations) to battle the aforementioned fires. The money was not solely for Brazil, but meant for the nearly dozen states that make up the Amazon region in South America.

The claimed reason for Bolsonaro's rejection of

the money is that there was a public spat between him and the French president, Emmanuel Macron. In this, Macron openly stated that he wanted Brazil to have a new leader soon due to Bolsonaro's poor handling of the Amazon situation. This caused a lot of discourse, and Bolsonaro's chief of staff even immaturely took a figurative shot at Macron, making a comment about the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral, saying, "Macron cannot even avoid a predictable fire in a church that is part of the world's heritage, and he wants to give us lessons for our country?"

This entire situation was just another stab at Trump claiming to be an "environmentalist", whilst simultaneously backing a man who rejected money and support for the Amazon fires over a petty and power-tripped fight. Additionally, Trump also caused a commotion on Monday when he skipped a session at the G-7 summit devoted to climate change, biodiversity and saving the oceans. He was the only G-7 leader to not attend.

B) Moving on from environmentally-involved topics, the president recently made a public comment expressing his interest in purchasing Greenland, to conjoin it with the U.S. The bold statement, initially taken by members in the White

House to be a joke, has evolved into an international issue after a large news outlet wrote a story about it and the corresponding interview.

The following day, Greenland's foreign ministry stated that the country is "open for business, not for sale," and Denmark's prime minister called his assumption at the possibility of a purchase "absurd." Because of this, Trump canceled his upcoming trip to Denmark. On Wednesday, Trump retaliated and slammed the prime minister's "nasty" statement, asserting it was "needlessly rude."

Now, you may be wondering what the rest of the U.S. government thinks about this situation. House Republicans are not only supporting Trump's bid to buy Greenland, they're fundraising for it. The National Republican Congressional Committee (<https://www.nrcc.org/>) began running a promotion in which citizens donating \$25 or more receive a limited-edition T-shirt. This shirt shows Greenland as part of the U.S, and the website description says "Support President Trump and his efforts to help America grow!"

For the betterment of everyone, please stay educated about the recent political happenings and exercise your right to vote when necessary.



# Blue Dragon Soccer kicks off season well *New head coach, new team*



Photo by Mya Long

Jenna VanHohland (#12) keeps it away from Sioux Falls Christian's Ava Schrock, trying to find an open teammate down field. The Blue Dragons and Chargers tied during Tuesday's contest. The two teams will see each other again at the end of September.

by **Preston Bohl**  
staff writer

With one of Garretson's best starts in their soccer history, the Blue Dragons keep gaining more confidence after every game. With this Tuesday's tie against number one ranked Sioux Falls Chris-

tian, the Lady Blue Dragons are now ranked third in the Class A with a 2-1-2 record. The soccer team's only loss this year comes to the number two ranked Tea Titans in a 2-0 match.

Senior Rachel Kindt says the team wasn't satisfied with the outcome of the game, but they were very proud of their effort.

With a very experienced team of six seniors, they are expected to do very well this year. But, the underclassmen are stepping up to the plate this year. Freshman Morgan Damman showed that against the Chargers of Sioux Falls Christian, scoring the only goal.

Damman stated, "I was proud of myself because I tied the game to help my team. It was a great feeling!"

With all of the seniors on the team this year, the ladies are hoping to give this year a whirl at their shot for that state playoff berth and maybe more. "We only plan to get better from here and we are very excited to see what the rest of the season brings," said senior Rachel Kindt.

The seniors have a really positive attitude coming into practice and that keeps the energy up. They are very willing to help the younger girls out, gel as a team, and their success is a complete all around team effort.

The newly crowned head coach Amber Williamson is thought greatly of by the girls, as she sees the team's true potential and pushes them to their best ability. The girls have had a blast with her and new assistant Coach Kueter this year.

Garretson's next game will be held at home next Thursday, September 5 against the Mitchell Kernels.

## NFL Season gears up

*Perennial contenders continue to look good while a few new teams may shake up the playoff dynamics*

by **Preston Bohl, Mason Hofer, & Parker Schlenker**  
staff writers

NFL season is amongst us again ladies and gentlemen, this means all sorts of things have gone down during the off-season, making new teams super bowl contenders, or knocking older teams out of that discussion. Here is a quick overview of teams to watch out for this season.

### TOUGH COMPETITION

#### **Kansas City Chiefs**

The Kansas City Chiefs are looking to be possibly even more dangerous than they were last season. Experts are saying that they could not have had a more perfect draft that fits their play style. With Mahomes at a 1-5 odd to win MVP this season, you can bet the Chiefs will be just as scary if not more this season.

#### **New Orleans Saints**

The New Orleans Saints are coming into this season with a chip on their shoulder after the controversial call that cost them the season last year. The Saints lost RB Mark Ingram II but picked up TE Jared Cook. With Drew Brees on the roster it's hard to say that the Saints won't go deep into the playoffs again this year.

#### **Philadelphia Eagles**

Fly Eagles Fly. A once MVP candidate (before his injury) Carson Wentz is back and is looking completely healthy. The Eagles defense will remain among the elite this year after picking up some young bucks in the draft. Along with the eagles picking up 2x 1,000 yard rusher for the Bears Jordan Howard, the Eagles are looking scary once again this year.

#### **Chicago Bears**

With an open playing field this year in the NFL the Bears are definitely one of the top teams to watch with their starting QB Mitch Trubiski being one of the favorites for MVP this year and their multiple defensive stars such as Kyle Fuller, Eddie Jackson, Haha Clinton-Dix, Danny Trevathan, and their newly acquired OLB Khalil Mack they should be one of the powerhouses on the defensive side of the ball this year.

#### **Cleveland Brown**

The Cleveland Browns should also be one of the powerhouses on both sides of the ball with all stars on the defensive and offensive side of the ball. Some of their strengths that will help them win games this year will be the Baker Mayfield to Odell Beckham Jr. connection and also the two star run-

ning backs Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt. Not only do the Browns have a good offense they also have many defensive strengths such as their secondaries which include Denzel Ward, Terrance Mitchell, and Damarious Randall.

#### **Los Angeles Chargers**

Melvin Gordon and his Chargers should also be a pretty solid team this year. Last year he had 175 rushing attempts for 885 yards total and ran for 10 touchdowns. On the passing side of the game he had 50 receptions for 490 yards and 4 receiving touchdowns. But, they are in a contract hold out that is expected to last into the season. The Chargers are offering 10mil per year, Gordan wants 13mil. He is said to be "just waiting for the call." Also be aware of the connection between wide receiver Keenan Allen and quarter back Phillip Rivers.

With a new season starting up brings much drama and chaos to the NFL world. And if you are a Colts fan, you just might be out of luck!

### CHANGING LEADERSHIP

#### **Indianapolis Colts**

This Sunday, Colts star quarterback Andrew Luck announced his retirement from the sport of football at the young age of 29. But there was a good reasoning for his hard decision. Luck stated that he was in a cycle of injury, rehab, and repeat throughout the last four years, and "he hasn't been able to live the life he's wanted to live." Without Luck on the roster for good, Jacoby Brissett will have to take the starting job for the team, and adapt to playing every Sunday. Colts might struggle for years to come, but hopefully wide receiver T.Y. Hilton can take the leadership role and take the

team under his wing.

#### **New England Patriots**

The Pats marked their 6th Super Bowl last year against the Rams. But, could this year be a struggle with Pro Bowler Rob Gronkowski retiring? "I still think the Patriots will do well this year without Gronk. They prove year in and year out that they are one of the top teams," says Cooper Long. The Pats will most definitely be a team to look out for again this year.

#### **Los Angeles Rams**

With a disappointing Super Bowl last year, the Los Angeles Rams are out for blood this year. They have their star defense back, along with a great offense powered by Todd Gurley, who led the league in touchdowns with 17 for running backs, and rushed 1,251 yards, which ranked 3rd among running backs. The Rams are definitely a team you need to watch out for this year.





# Lungs of the world

by Noel Johnson & Oliviyah Thornton  
staff writers

A very important forest is burning down each day and day by day it is getting worse. You have probably heard about this story circling around the school or even on social media but how much do you actually know other than that it's burning down?

"It's a terrible thing. The rainforest is usually a very important thing for the planet," biology teacher Mr. Heumiller said.

Between the news not covering a lot on the Amazon Rainforest fires, the president refusing international help, farmers purposely setting fields to flame, and having the possibility of losing important wildlife, this whole ordeal is just a mess.

The Amazon Rainforest fires have been ongoing since January but much to most people's knowledge, we assume they started getting out of hand two weeks ago. But in fact they started getting out of hand in June and we just now are hearing about this fire spreading. Even in the news there is not much coverage. Social media such as Instagram and Tik-tok has been informing the public more. The news is just getting to the party.

Jayden Clark, a senior, shares her thoughts about the news coverage. "For the first two weeks no one really knew about it. I knew about it through Instagram so I mean I feel like there hasn't really been news stories covering it even after it kind of escaped," said Clark.

Jair Bolsonaro, the president of Brazil; has made it very clear to the public he wishes to handle this problem with his country. His plan to stop the fires is to continue only using the local firemen of Brazil to contain the fire. He even continues denying the help of other countries because he believes they will just interfere. In reality this seems like all hands on deck scenario.

People realize how important the rainforest is to our survival. It not only contains half of the species of plants, animals, and insects on the planet but provides roughly 20% of the worlds oxygen for everyone around the world earning it the nickname "Lungs of the World". It draws in carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases and produces what we breathe.

Farmers of Brazil are also not helping with the Amazon fires. In fact they are doing quite the opposite. They illegally set controlled fires to get rid of unwanted vegetation or use it as a way to clear land for more farming. Sparks from these fires spread to the rainforest. Even the president is condoning this and encouraging it. It does not help that their climate is rapidly becoming drier. From the fires spreading they have estimated over 1.8 million acres have been burned and it continues to burn everyday.

The Rainforest is so vast that researchers and scientists are worried on how many species will die from this. Not just the animals and plants they know about but the ones they don't that have yet to be discovered. Who knows what else lies within the dense forest? Maybe the cure for cancer, resources for food, new fabrics, and maybe even new building materials. We will never know if the forest continues to burn at the point to where there is nothing left.

All hope is not lost, yet. There is even things you can do to help out with the rainforest because in the end no matter how far it is from us it still effects us and everyone else. We can make sure not to buy products produced by Brazilian farmers such as soy, beef, and several kinds of fruits and vegetables. You should also stay away from products made on agricultural land that was converted from the rain forest. Or even trying to donate funds to organizations trying to help stop the rainforest fires. Even as a student you can help spread the word.

It can't just be left to one country, everyone has to try and help stop this.

# Blue Ink: First Take

by Kylie Uhl  
staff writer

*Does Disney need to get their heads in the game?*

It's been around since 2006 and to many has been apart of our childhoods it's High School Musical. The first High school musical premiere on Disney channel January 20, 2006. Next came High School musical 2: Summer break and what we thought was the final high school musical, Senior year. Well we thought...

Disney has since announced the release of a new spin off series, *High School Musical: The Musical*, to be November 12 2019. The series will have 10 episodes and here what else you need to know: it's about a group of students who perform high school musical for their winter theater production and soon understand the drama in life and in theater. Also contains new songs and new cast members.

When asked about the series regarding how most "remakes" or spin offs are compared to the original sophomore Madi Decker said, "I'm excited to see it but I don't know how they're going to remake something that was so good. I'm glad that their doing a new series with different actors versus a number four high school musical with different actors."

However when senior Austin Top was asked about the new series he said "I was never a big fan of HSM but it's cool to see stuff from our childhood be remade."



Photo from *The Washington Post*; photo credits to Eraldo Peres/AP ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-amazon-rainforest-fires/2019/08/27/ac82b21e-c815-11e9-a4f3-co81a126de70\\_story.html?noredirect=on](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-amazon-rainforest-fires/2019/08/27/ac82b21e-c815-11e9-a4f3-co81a126de70_story.html?noredirect=on))

