

2020 GARRETSON FFA
Community Appreciation
Breakfast

When: Saturday, February 29th, 2020
 Time: 7:30am-10:30am
 Where: American Legion
 Cost: FREE WILL DONATION

The Garretson Chapter is excited to celebrate National FFA week with you next week. Be on the look out for multiple contests and prizes Mon. through Thurs.

Blue Ink



2020 Teacher of the Year

Mr. Schrank positively impacts students, staff, and administration

by **Mason Hofer**
senior writer

Matt Schrank is Garretson's 2020 Teacher of the Year. Schrank has been at Garretson for 10 years and has done lots for the school, from teaching fourth graders, middle and high schoolers, coaching boys and girls basketball, football, and track & field as well as being the IT guru.

When asked how he felt when he was given this award, Schrank stated. "I was completely stunned and shocked. To earn the respect of my peers and colleagues in a way that shows how much I care about the work I do in the building is super satisfying, but to be honest, I still think others in our building are more deserving of the honor."

"Schrank is definitely one of my favorite teachers I've had here at Garretson; he's a legend" said student Hayden Olofson.

Schrank's favorite part of being a teacher is the kids. "I love being around all the kids. We are a small enough district that I know everyone's name, but a big enough district that we have a variety of students that walk the halls. No one is the same, and I love that."

"I have lots of memories in the last 10 years, to pick one isn't fair. So I am going to go with the 1st memory. I'll never forget the day I first visited Garretson for my interview. I was really nervous and I had no idea what I was doing."

When asked about what a perfect life would be, Schrank stated, "I haven't really thought or planned my 'retirement,' but the perfect life after work would simply be, no worries. No financial burdens, no worrying about the schools network or WiFi coverage. When I do come into the school building, it's as a sub, and I get to be around the students all



day. That and holographic phones, yeah that would be perfect too."

A large margin of students can say that Mr. Schrank has had some sort of positive impact on them in his time here in Garretson. This award is definitely overdue to one of the hardest working, fun loving, and nicest teachers in the school.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Trey B. set the new Garretson high score in Tetris earlier this week, erasing 339 lines.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Surround yourself with the color yellow to help stay focused. Yellow decreases melatonin (the sleepiness hormone) production.

CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK: Snow = snijeg (snee-yeg)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How do trees get on the internet?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, February 22**
 - Wrestling @ Region 2B Tourney in Salem (10:00)
- Monday, February 24**
 - FFA Week—Outdoorsman Day
- Tuesday, February 25**
 - FFA Week—Flannel Day
 - JH GBB v. Baltic (4:00/5:00)
 - GBB v. Baltic (6:15/7:15)
 - GBB Parents' Night
- Wednesday, February 26**
 - FFA Week—Western Day
 - Bloodmobile at Garretson
- Thursday, February 27**
 - FFA Week—Blue & Gold Day
 - GBB @ Dell Rapids (4:00/6:30)
 - BBB @ Dell Rapids (5:15/8:00)
 - Wrestling State Tournament in Sioux Falls
- Friday, February 28**
 - No School—Spring Break
 - Wrestling State Tournament in Sioux Falls
- Saturday, February 29**
 - Wrestling State Tournament in Sioux Falls
 - Garretson FFA Community Appreciation Breakfast (7:30-10:30)

NFL off-season expectations

by **Parker Schlenker**
staff writer

With the NFL off-season upon us and many rumors going around most of us don't know what to expect.

Although the Minnesota Vikings have said that they will not be trading away their star receiver Stefon Diggs, there are still many rumors and signs going around that Diggs doesn't want to be apart of the franchise any longer. Diggs recently deleted all photos and connections to the Vikings off of all his social media and there is also talk about him still being traded or even cut.

On the topic of star receivers the Chiefs star, Sammy Watkins, also has rumors around of getting cut because of the fact the Chiefs need a pay cut and with Watkins slated to have a cap hit of \$21 million which is the second in the NFL. The \$21 million cap hit is currently the highest of all receivers in 2020. The Chiefs are debating this cut so they can free up \$14 million while also taking on \$7 million dead-cap penalty.

Moving on from wide receivers to quarterbacks. With two major franchise quarterbacks having rumors going around many teams are racing to sign 43 year old six time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady who is projected to get a three year contract totaling \$100 million with \$65 million of it guaranteed. Some of the top teams that he's rumored to go to are the Los Angeles Chargers, Indianapolis



Colts, Las Vegas raiders, and the Carolina Panthers.

The other franchise quarterback being Saints star quarterback Drew Brees who is currently 41 and has played in the league for 19 years. There have recently been rumors of his retirement and he also stated that he doesn't know how he feels about the 2020 season. And 3rd string quarterback Taysom Hill also has said that he doesn't know how he feels about being with the Saints for the 2020 season. He announced that if the Saints wont allow him to become a franchise quarterback he wants to be traded and go be a franchise quarterback for another team. With Hill being 30 years old it will be difficult to find a team who will take him as a franchise quarterback.

For the most part the race was pretty clean until lap 185 when a big crash happened that caused around 20 cars to crash on the backstretch.

But on the final lap Ryan Newman was involved in a serious crash and was immediately rushed to a local hospital. He was seriously injured in the crash, but the injuries are not life-threatening. Ryan Newman was just released from the hospital on Wednesday.

They finished the race and Denny Hamlin won the race by 0.014 seconds over Ryan Blaney on the second restart. Chris Buescher, David Ragan, and Kevin Harvick followed them to finish the top five.

Final Lap Disaster

by **Hayden Olofson**
staff writer

On February 16-17 at Daytona Beach, Florida the 62nd Daytona 500 was held. The race was scheduled for Sunday February 16, but the rain showers caused the race to stop after lap 20 and be postponed until 4 pm the following day. This was the first time the Daytona 500 got postponed since 2012.

JOKE: They "log" on

BRAINTEASER: A Candle

Worth Mentioning

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 7 Days
There is a three-day weekend at the end of the month with no school on Friday, Feb. 28 giving you the perfect opportunity to cheer on our Blue Dragon wrestlers at the state meet.

Ghost ship washes ashore in Ireland

by **Grace Panning**
staff writer

Abandoned by its crew, the cargo vessel made a lonely journey across the Atlantic, a ghost ship seemingly destined never to make port. The 77-metre MV Alta drifted for over a year, drifting by America, Africa, and Europe rusting and teetering yet still remaining afloat. Imagine running on your daily run routine and bumping into this massive boat.

Built in 1976, the Alta was flagged in Tanzania, changed owner in 2017 and was sailing from Greece to Haiti in September 2018 when it became disabled about 1,380 miles (2,220km) south-east of Bermuda. Unable to make repairs, due to damage of the engine, the 10-strong crew was rescued by the US coast guard, which brought the crew members to Puerto Rico. According to Captain, a maritime industry news site, the US coast-guard contacted the ship's owner to arrange a commercial tug to tow it to shore.

It was reportedly towed to Guyana only to be hijacked, with its subsequent fate unclear until August 2019 when a Royal Navy ice patrol ship, HMS Protector, encountered it in the mid-Atlantic, apparently unmanned. It is thought to have later drifted up from Africa and past Spain to Ireland. It has been said that after the hijacking in Guyana it was later hijacked at least 2 more times.

After more than a year afloat, Alta's voyage came to an end during Storm Dennis on Sunday when it ran aground near Ballycotton, a fishing village in County Cork, Ireland, overlooking the Celtic Sea. The Alta wedged itself onto the rocks; in the morning a local jog-

 **HMS Protector**
@hmsprotector

Two days ago @hmsprotector discovered this apparently abandoned Merchant Vessel whilst mid-Atlantic. We closed the vessel to make contact and offer our assistance, but no one replied! Whilst investigations continue we're unable to give you more detail on this strange event. 



♥ 547 2:10 PM - Sep 2, 2019

ger found it among the route of his run. On Monday, the Irish coastguard and Ireland's commissioner of wrecks were discussing what to do with the 30 feet high cargo vessel that was drawing lots of attention from visitors.

Environmental Irish scientists who visited the area on Monday did not see any visible pollution. If a foreign boat ever washes ashore any area unknown to it. It is very important to make sure that it has no contamination. For example: oil, carried diseases, hazardous substances, and pollution. These can be spread into the ocean, onto the land, and contaminate humans and animals. It is very important to take these extra precautions when dealing with any foreign matter. Right now it is said that the boat is being taken care of by Irish officials it is set to be returned to the rightful owner.

TATU middle school lock-in

by **Nika Sapunar**
staff writer

Every year High School and Middle school club Teen Again Tobacco Uses organizes a "lock-in" for fourth and fifth grade and middle school. This year's lock-in is going to take place, for 4th and 5th graders, on Friday, March 27th from 3:30pm, to 7:30pm, and for middle school, it will take place same day, from 7:30pm until around 9:30pm.

It will be held at Garretson School and the kids will learn about health issues that can be caused by tobacco use and vape use with fun activities like through a movie, or through a maze.

TATU came up with a catchy motto "Breathe easy lock-in" that will hopefully make kids more interested in it.

"It is important for the youth of today to be properly informed of the affects that tobacco and nicotine has on the body" said Oliviyah Thornton, a sophomore member of TATU.

Senior Spotlight

Riley Altman



SENIOR PROJECT:

Donating tie blankets and baby soaps to Child's Voice

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

Soccer
Football Stats
National Honor Society

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:

Playing soccer with my little sister and my classmates

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Attend SDSU for Nursing



Book co-op vandalism *Targets transgender support after flag displayed*

by **Nobel Nothstine**
senior writer

A downtown Sioux Falls business was vandalized twice over the weekend in what its owners say is a transphobic attack.

Mrs. Pliska, our high school counselor, had this to say about the Full Circle Book Co-Op: "I know of Full Circle Book Co-Op as being one of the coolest book stores in our area and a great gathering spot for people that like to think outside of the box. They have a good selection of used books at a great price. They have beverages and snacks. They also host a variety of events - political talks, creative outlets, poetry reading, poetry slam, pop up shops, etc."

Full Circle Book Co-op co-owner Jason Kurtz said an employee came in at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning and discovered about two dozen eggs had been thrown at the business.

Once being asked, "After being egged because of the trans-related laws in SD legislation, how would you want to see the business handle it?" Pliska responded, "I want to see Full Circle Book Co-Op persevere - continue doing the good work that they are doing. Be vocal - continue to be a voice for the oppressed, and to continue to speak with originality and love!"

The attacks appeared to be targeted at the transgender flag; the co-op had begun flying the pink-and-blue flag the week before in light of

three transgender-related bills introduced in the South Dakota legislature that drew national criticism. One of those bills was killed in the Senate last week, while another was withdrawn by the sponsor.

While co-op staff were able to clean up the damage on Saturday, at 11 a.m. Sunday, employees found yet another round of eggs had been thrown at the flag and sign. Full Circle Book Co-op didn't have security cameras up at the time of the vandalism, but cameras were installed Sunday.

The topic hit counselor Pliska quite personally, and she disclosed the following.

Q: Do you know any people that are transgender personally?

A: "I do know people that are transgender. A friend of mine from high school is trans. Tony was a heavy metal, hard rocking guy in high school. She married another good friend of mine, who is a super sweet hippy chic. They have 3 awesome kids together. Tony came out as Taryn a few years ago. It shocked many of us, but also helped me understand why Tony always felt alone and misunderstood in high school. The transition was an adjustment for their family. Their kiddos know they are loved and that is all that matters."

"At least one former student of mine came out as trans. When he was in high school, he struggled with depression and started questioning his identity and sexuality. At that time that's what his experience

was - questions. I was honored that he trusted me enough to talk openly about all of it. High school was tough, but he got through it and moved away. This is when he realized he identified as a male. It's like when he was away he could really think for himself and not have the burden of what others thought. He found his people. He reached out to me again a few years after high school and asked if I would write some letters of support for him to undergo some of the medical procedures to transition from female to male. I was able to write some letters of support and in the years following he has been able to gradually transition."

"By having an open mind I have heard different people's stories. I have been moved by film, art, speeches and even participated in marches for LGBTQ+. By having an open heart, I have shared fun experiences like drag shows, films, art shows, and dance with LGBTQ+ people and allies. I have learned the importance of inclusion, acceptance and celebrating our differences through those experiences."

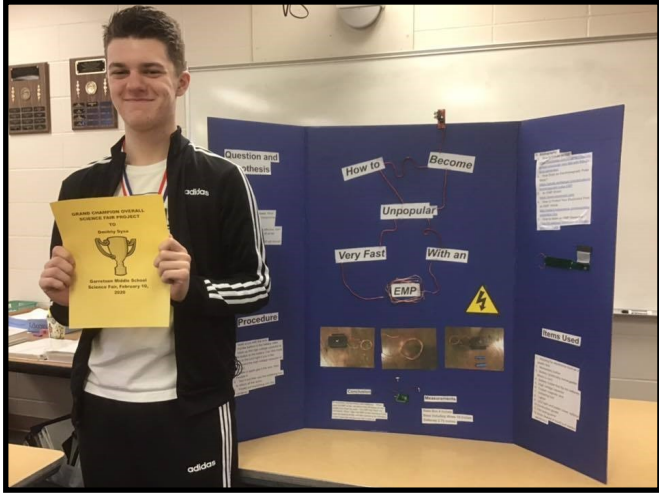
"Basically, my experiences with people that are transgender or elsewhere on the LGBTQ+ spectrum have only enhanced my life. I am grateful for these shared experiences!" stated Pliska.

Though the business was disheartened, Pliska is one of many local people who have supported the business and hopes that this will be the end of the attacks.

Science fair region qualifiers

Middle school students participated in the science fair this past Monday. With the aid of community members and high schoolers to serve as judges, the students were able to present their research in the following categories: Animal Science, Technology, Behavioral Science, Energy & Transportation, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, and Plant Sciences.

The following 27 students qualified to go to the regional competition on March 24: Kaitlyn Steinhoff, Eliza Potter, Jade Bertotti, Nora Bonte, Addison Hove, Aleah Wagner, Cade Uhlich, Tayler Benson, Ava Nordstrom, Isabella Sysa, Lane Ellefson, Martin Welch, Carsten Rozeboom, Caleb Westerbur, Cash Pullman, Blaine Trower, Allison Gawarecki, Alex Gawarecki, Jordyn Williams, Hannah Frewaldt, Sydney Olson, Sage Solheim, Dylan Wolf, Dmitriy Sysa, Abrianna Doppenberg, Lacey Lumpkin, and Caden Magnuson.



Dmitriy Sysa took overall grand champion honors by creating his own EMP (electromagnetic pulse)

Congratulations to all participants and good luck students in one month in Brookings for the regional science fair.

Congratulations to all participants and good luck students in one month in Brookings for the regional science fair.

Senior spotlight

Cole Skadsen



SENIOR PROJECT:

Working in graphic design, making an athletic banner

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:

Ollie's classic moments

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

Football, Baseball, Basketball

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Attend USD for a bachelor's degree in graphic design

Birthday holiday gone wrong

by Nika Sapunar
staff writer

flight as planned but never made it to the airport.

In 2018 Carla Stefaniak was with her sister in Costa Rica to celebrate her birthday when she went missing, and a couple days later found dead.

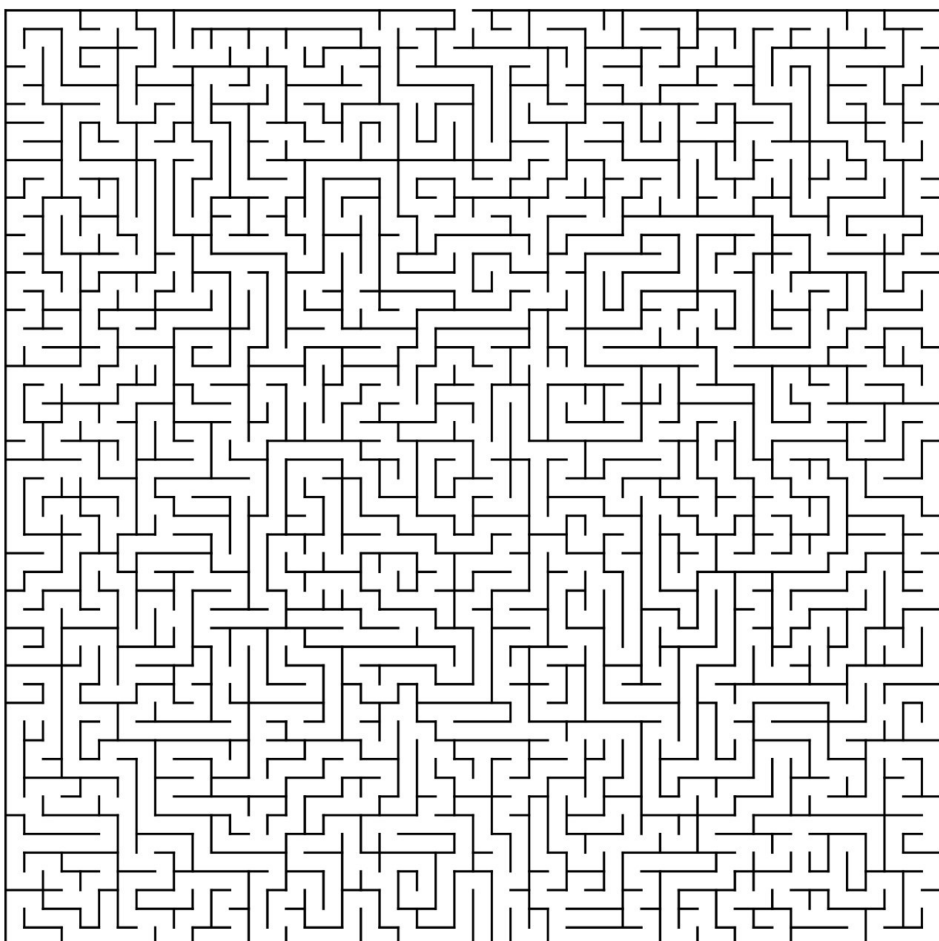
After this horrifying event nobody was arrested until now, a year and a half later. The owner of Airbnb Bismarck Espinoza Matinez was sentenced to 16 years in prison for the murder of Carla Stefaniak.

A day before she went missing, on November 27, 2018, her sister left to go home. Carla then went and checked into a small hotel, after which her family had never heard from her again. Police said that she left the hotel on November 28 for her

33, had used his position at the Villa Le Mas, a hotel Carla was staying in, to enter the room Stefaniak was renting through Airbnb and killed her. He has also been charged with aggravated robbery but acquitted due to lack of evidence. As part of sentence, he was ordered to pay Stefaniak's family \$53,000 in compensation.

Her body was found on December 3, 2018 buried and covered with plastic bags behind the complex that hauled Airbnb. "For me, this is another day of frustration, sadness and pain," said Stefaniak's father Carlos Caicedo to the reporters.

A "maze"ing challenges



The All-Star Game

The way Kobe would've wanted it

by Mason Hofer
staff writer



This last weekend was every basketball fan's favorite weekend of the year, All-Star Weekend. The All-Star break took place in Chicago, Illinois this year. Most of the media believes this was the most entertaining All-Star weekend of all time, here's why.

In the past, most of the hype around the three-day stretch revolved around the dunk and three-point contest. But, after the passing of NBA Legend Kobe Bryant, NBA commissioner Adam Silver made changes to the break to make it more competitive, in honor of the legend.

The dunk contest rules remained untouched, but the dunk contest really doesn't struggle in the competitiveness factor. Aaron Gordon and Derrick Jones, Jr had a dunk-off that very well could have been the best of all-time. Aaron Gordon received five straight 50s (perfect score) and got a 47 on his last dunk to be beat out of the contest as Jones, Jr scored a 48 on his last dunk, mirroring the iconic Jordan dunk, taking off from just inside the free throw line.

Social media exploded with support for Gordon, saying he was robbed. "I honestly think Dwyane Wade rigged it for Derrick Jones, Jr," stated basketball fan Dylan Kindt. "It's just not fair." Dwyane Wade, who was one of the judges at the contest, was also former teammates with Derrick Jones Jr.

The three-point contest added a deeper shot that was worth three points, called the "Dew Shot" (sponsored by Mountain Dew). Two of the best shooters in the league, Devin Booker and Buddy Hield went at it in the competition. Hield ended up topping Booker with a score of 27 in the final round.

The next day, the All-Star Game took over the world of sports. Team LeBron wore No. 2 to honor Kobe's late daughter GiGi, and team Giannis wore No. 8 to represent the mamba. The new format had each team battle to win each quarter, whoever won a quarter, would earn \$100,000 dollars for a charity they chose. After the first three quarters, the total score would be added up, and 24 points (representing Kobe's other basketball number, 24) above what the winning team had scored, was the new target score. The fourth quarter was untimed, and played out until a team hit that target score.

Team LeBron won the first quarter winning \$100,000 for his charity, and Team Giannis took the second, winning \$100,000 for his. (The third quarter was actually a tie, so the \$100,00 for that quarter rolled over to the winning team.)

Team Giannis was in the lead after three quarters, with the overall score being 133-122, the target score was 157. This was not the average 4th quarter of an All-Star game, both teams played 100% until the scoreboard said 157. This was one of the coolest things basketball has ever seen, 10 of the greatest players in the world, all on the same court, going at it. Players stated they did it for Kobe, and knew Kobe would be proud with all they put into the game. The Final Score was 157-155 Team LeBron on top. Kawhi Leonard came away with the newly named Kobe Bryan All-Star MVP award as well.

- Team LeBron Total Earnings: \$400,000 to Chicago Scholars
- Team Giannis Total Earnings: \$100,000 to After School Matters

Garretson FFA Agriculture T-Shirt Design Contest

~Celebrating National FFA Week~

We are calling all submissions from 6th thru 12th Grade of a T-Shirt Design for the Garretson FFA 2020-2021 Chapter T-Shirt.

- Promoting our Chapter & Agriculture

A winner will be selected and work will be utilized for our 2020-2021 Chapter T-shirt design; in addition to winning award you will also receive a free shirt, long sleeve, or sweatshirt of your choice with this design.



2020 GARRETSON FFA Community Appreciation



Breakfast



When: Saturday, February 29th, 2020

Time: 7:30am-10:30am

Where: American Legion

Cost: FREE WILL DONATION

Menu: Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage,

Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Milk, and Juice

COME OUT AND ENJOY BREAKFAST SERVED BY THE GARRETSON FFA CHAPTER. WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE ALSO ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING WITH YOU OUR SUCCESS THROUGH FFA AND AGRICULTURE CLASSES.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK DRESS UP DAYS

MONDAY—Outdoorsman Day



TUESDAY- FLANNEL

WESTERN

WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY-



BLUE AND GOLD DAY

Garretson FFA Agriculture 2020 Ag Day Promotion Contest

~Celebrating National FFA Week~

We are calling all submissions from 6th thru 12th Grade of a poster or a short 1 to 2 minute commercial highlighting/promoting one of the following Topics:

- Agriculture: Food For Life
- Cultivating the Seeds of Safety

Further information about National Ag Day:

<https://www.agday.org/promote>

Short Video Commercial or Poster Promoting Ag Across the Globe

A winner will be selected and work will be displayed on the local television. Prizes awarded too.

Other National FFA Week Events

Tuesday, February 25

- Elementary Coloring Contest

Wednesday, February 26

- Blood Drive (7:30-2:30)
- MS Mock Contest Activities

Thursday, February 27

- Animal Nursery (8:30-2:30)
- Activity Center (8:30-2:30)
- Old Fashioned Rope Making
- Sand Candles
- Farming in Corn Bunk (Play Center)
- Livestock Identification
- Count the Seeds
- Name the Goat
- Animal Nursery Bingo