

# Blue Ink



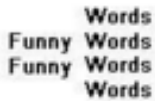
Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 3, Number 28

**This Week's  
Need to Know**

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Leonardo DaVinci invented scissors.

**BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:**

What does this rebus puzzle really say? Look closely.



*Answer on back page*

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** What's the best thing about elevator jokes?

*Answer on back page*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Thursday, March 17**

- End of the 3rd Quarter
- PTO Roller skating party at Skate City (6:30-8:30)

**Friday, March 18**

- Spring Break—No School

**Monday, March 21**

- FFA Contest @ Tri-Valley
- 4th Grade @ SD Symphony (1:45)
- HS Quiz Bowl @ Chester (4:00)

**Tuesday, March 22**

- Opt Out Voting (7:00A-7:00P)
- HS Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Augustana

**Wednesday, March 23**

- Senior Experience Presentations

**Friday, March 25**

- Good Friday – No School

## Will Garretson Need to Cut Programs?

By Annika Hanson

Garretson has been in a struggle on whether or not to opt out and raise taxes, or to cut programs and/or staff and hope for the best. In the end, it is all up to the community to decide and put it to a vote on Tuesday, March 22.

Some people are still confused on what the opt out is. In short, schools in South Dakota cost so much money to run their individual institutions. Each school gets a certain amount of money based on how many students are enrolled, Garretson used to have around 525 students but now it has dropped to around 475 kids, which means less money.

So what does this mean for the community? The community will have to decide if they will support the school through an increase in taxes or not. If people vote "Yes" that means that they support the Garretson school district and are willing to pay more taxes to fund the school's programs and teachers. If they vote "No" then the superintendent and school board will have to decide what they will have to do to make ends meet. This could include cutting programs, not hiring to fill vacancies, and transferring money to different places.

There are all sorts of opinions in the community. A lot of people understand the need of a good school and why having decent school is a great option in a small town. So they are supportive of paying more; while on the other hand, there are also many people who are undecided. They just want to make sure they are making the right decision. What has come to light through many discussions is the whole community wants the school and students to succeed, they just don't agree on the right avenue to take.

People have been expressing these opinions in meetings that the school has been hosting. These meetings have been used to give out information and to discuss the facts of the situation at hand, not to persuade voters one way or the other.

Mr. Long, the principal at Garretson Middle/High School, commented on how much he supports the opt out. "I think Garretson has a great community. I think part of having a great community is having a good school, a viable school, a school that can provide options for students. I think what has to happen is we inevitably pass or fail to get more students to come here. The school and community have got to make Garretson a good option so we can grow. Then if we grow big enough we won't need things like the opt out."

Superintendent Mr. Johnson has also made it clear how much this opt out means to him. "As we continue to discuss this important community issue, it is my goal to ensure that people have access to the best and most accurate information possible. If you have questions regarding the opt out, the levies or finances of the district, I encourage you to contact me, and I will be happy to help."

If you would like to hear more about the opt out, you can check out Mr. Johnson's blog at <http://superintendentgjohnson.net> or look in Blue Ink volume three number 20, an article by Micaiah Lee Mader as he highlighted some points on the opt out.

Regardless if you are for or against the opt out, everyone has made it clear they want the school and community to thrive. Votes will be cast on this next Tuesday to see which route the community will take.



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

## Holy Cow! Garretson FFA is Pretty Good!

By Alex Uhl

The Garretson FFA Chapter travelled up north to Flandreau to compete in the Career Development Event, better known as the FFA Contests. Although plenty of veterans are returning to compete once more, there are plenty of newbies trying out different contests to see which best fits them. This is a rundown of the best teams from Wednesday's event.

The Dairy Cattle Team made its epic return to the competition scene firing on all cylinders, despite being highly underrated. Out of 55 participants, Matthew Gustafson got 7th, Alex Uhl got 10th, and Chayce Schleuter got 23rd. The team overall score 4th out of 17 teams.

Meanwhile, the Livestock Judging Team, which consists of all new mem-

bers of the chapter, performed well for their first time. Out of 94 participants, Evan Bly led the team at 26th place, followed by James Nussbaum at 37th, Tessa Pederson at 41st, Kaci Danforth at 56th, Ben Konechne at 58th, and finally Isaiah Robinson at 68th. One again, congratulations on their first FFA contest.

The Vet Science did well despite not having a full team. Moriah Flanagan led the team at 8th place, followed by Breana Genzlinger who made the other half of the duo, ending up in 31st place. They were in a contest of 91 total participants. Because of their smaller than average team, they place 18 of 25 in the team contest.

One of the last notable teams was the horse judging team. They have had

a history of performing well, especially on the State Level. Claire Longhenry led the charge by placing 1st, followed by her sister Allison, who placed 6th. Following her was 8th grader Kennedy Houghton, who placed 39th. Wrapping up the team score was Grace Homer, who placed 47th. Overall, there were 51 participants. The team overall placed 5 out of 20.

Even though this is just the first FFA contest of the season, impressions have been made and the teams wish to strive further so they may win state and move onto nationals. Despite the difficulty of some of the contests, it seems nothing can stand in the way of another great FFA CDE season! Their next contest is on Monday, March 21.

## March Madness Takes Hold

By Isaiah Mader

With the First Four completed and the Round of 64 already underway, it's the best month of the year for collegiate basketball fanatics across the nation. The "Big Dance" plays host to some of the best college basketball teams from all areas of America and ranges over a 19 day period.

"Champ Week" took place last week as teams competed at their conference tournaments in attempt to place an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. Thirty-two teams are awarded automatic bids in reward for winning their conference. The other 36 depend on the selection committee to give them an at-large bid and thus gaining entry to the tourney. The selection committee also seeds all 68 teams and splits them into four different regions. Even though the "Big Dance" only consists of 68 teams, the rest have a shot at making less prestigious tournaments like the NIT.

The Kansas Jayhawks enter the tournament as the overall #1 seed and

are favorites from coast to coast. Although many brackets favor the Jayhawks, the other #1 seeds are the Oregon Ducks, North Carolina Tar-Heels, and the Virginia Cavaliers. This year there was some debate over whether or not Michigan State would be awarded a #1 seed, numerous fans still feel they were robbed when they weren't given one.

Although many people pick the #1 seed to win every year, some people think outside the box and hope for an underdog to take home the title. That being said, picking a #1 seed has proven true 15 of the last 24 NCAA Tournaments so it is a safe bet, but choosing the right one is a bit more difficult.

After interviewing a handful of people from GHS, six of seven picked a #2 seed or lower to take home the hardware with Michigan State getting the majority of votes. The interviewees as a whole looked forward to seeing a lot of upsets and a lot of nail biting games all throughout the tourney. A few even

made predictions on who the bracket buster would be, they ranged from Gonzaga to Hawaii to even home state SDSU.

Freshman Ben Konechne stated, "I just want to see a fun tournament and hopefully see SDSU finally win a game."

Over the years there has never been a perfect bracket and the odds are heavily against you with them being 1 in 9.2 quintillion. Even though these staggering numbers, senior Alex Andersen said, "I'm looking forward to being the first ever and taking home the 1 million dollar prize."

Garretson put their own bracket challenge together, with pride and bragging rights at stake. The most common championship picks were Michigan State and Kansas but North Carolina and Villanova also caught some attention in the final round.

Duke and UNC Asheville opened up the NCAA Tournament this morning at 11:15 CST with many games to follow.

# Scandal Strikes the NCAA

By Micaiah Lee Mader

As a majority of you may know, this week the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament or "March Madness" as it is commonly called is set to tip off. What you might not know is that the NCAA is right smack dab in the middle of some of the ugliest scandals it has ever had to face in its 110 years of existence.

This past October marked the beginning of a tidal wave of problems for the Louisville Cardinals Men's Basketball Team. Katina Powell, a self-proclaimed "escort queen," made weighty allegations against the program in October. Following Powell's allegations, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported Director of Basketball Operations Andre McGee paying for inappropriate conduct for prospective Louisville recruits. Powell claims she was paid over \$10,000 over the passage of four years to provide women along with her own daughters for "services" to the recruits.

The scandal caught media fire and national attention. Katina Powell appeared on Good Morning America and several different ESPN shows. Powell along with a publisher quickly came out with a book titled *Breaking Cardinal Rules* that contained names of other "escort queens" and other ambiguous accusations against the university.

Head coach Rick Pitino is under fire as being an integral and informed member of the numerous sex scandals and illegal dealings of the Louisville Men's Basketball staff. Along with offering sexual services to recruits, it is alleged according to a source, "McGee gave the players a stack of dollar bills ranging from \$200 to \$500. Everybody in the room got the

money—the recruits and the current members of the team. Not only that, but McGee himself had his own stack of dollar bills. If this guy's spending \$2,000 to \$3,000 on a recruiting weekend, where's this money coming from?"

Louisville has turned to an ongoing internal investigation along with the NCAA's investigation of the allegations. The University of Louisville instituted a self-imposed postseason basketball ban for the 2015-2016 season on February 5. It is likely the university will face much more serious bans in the recent future in a situation that the University of Louisville and the NCAA are eager to sweep under the rug.

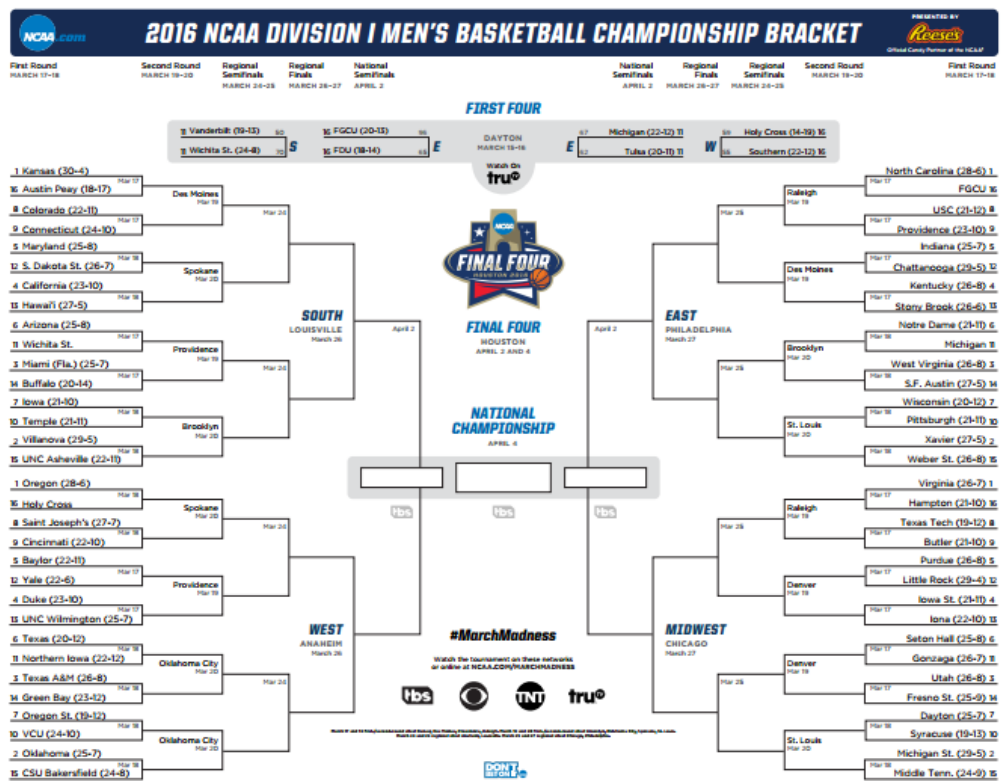
Just when you thought things couldn't get worse for the NCAA, they did. Last Sunday, the "overhyped" (according to many critics) 2-hour Selection Sunday Show special aired on CBS. Midway through the show, an unknown source leaked the

entire bracket on Twitter. By this point in the show, the South and West regions had been revealed, and they were identical to the leaked version.

"Our entire team saw it before the fourth region was out," coach Randy Bennett, whose bubble-dwelling Saint Mary's team didn't make the cut, said via text. "We were ready to leave at that point."

Suspicious of rigging the bracket have always hovered around the college basketball scene, but this incident puts the NCAA and the Selection Committee in hot water. Questions have been raised as to how the bracket was already finalized before all the conference championships had been played out.

The NCAA has already begun an investigation on the situation as it has some serious explaining to do. Along with the NCAA, CBS has also taken investigative measures and is looking into the matter seriously.



## Batter Up! Club Baseball is Here

By Alyssa Bunde

After a 2015 season that saw more wins than losses and the legion team making it to state last summer, the GHS club baseball boys are back for another round.

Senior and experienced ball player Micah Mader shared his enthusiasm, "I am very excited! We are going to destroy any all competition."

This year's team and returning players kicked off practice this past Monday. Despite previous years of conflict involving overlapping of other sports with baseball, the players are determined to make it work and are thrilled to be back on the field!

One perk of club ball is the ability to get back into the swing of things long before they begin Legion baseball. Considering a vast majority of schools do not offer club ball.

Sophomore Chayce Schleuter elaborated, "It definitely helps to have club ball because it knocks off some of the rust off you. It makes you ready for the summer league when other kids aren't."

Another bonus this year is the large amount of seniors playing. With seven seniors it ensures the team with experience and at least a few leaders. Mix that factor in with the younger boys

who also can hone in their skills and it should make for a dynamic team.

Junior Jared Fitzgerald seemed elated as he spoke of the oncoming season and first game on April 1st, "I'm really excited to get out on the field, start throwing some balls around and whacking them out with some sticks. It's gonna be a good year!"



## Senior Spotlight



**NAME:** Haley Sage

**SENIOR PROJECT:** Pottery

**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:** Cross Country and Track

**WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:** My sisters, my cats, and my xc gals :)

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:** Attend the University of South Dakota with an undecided major

**ANSWERS: Brain Teaser:** Too Funny for Words

## Scholarship Corner

- **Citi Youth Leadership Awards (\$1000)** - Six \$1000 awards are available. Must have contributed at least 100 hours of service during the past 12 months. Service can include through community/religious organizations and/or school/community based service-learning projects. Due March 18, 2016
- **South Dakota Society Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship (\$500)** - Must be a direct descendant of a US military veteran. Due March 25, 2016
- **Janice M Scott Memorial Fund Scholarship (\$\$\$)** - Must have at least a 3.0 GPA, be attending an accredited 4-year university, demonstrated leadership in community, and school, and meets economic qualifications. Due March 31, 2016
- **Home Builders Association Scholarship (\$1000)** - Multiple scholarships available. Pursuing a Home Building Industry related field of study. Due April 4, 2016
- **American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship (\$300)** - Two scholarships available. Must be a child or grandchild of Auxiliary or Legion member of Henry G. Fix Unit or Post. Due April 7, 2016
- **Split Rock Clinic Association Medical Scholarship (up to \$1000)** - Possible for multiple scholarships. Pursuing a medical field degree (doctor, nurse, physical therapist, chiropractor, etc). Due April 15, 2016
- **LG Everist Inc Scholarship (\$2000)** - Pursuing a mechanical or technical field related field of study. Preference to students who show interest in mining, railroading, or mechanical work. Due April 30, 2016

Please check your email for links to these scholarships.



**Joke:** They work on so many levels.