

Blue Ink



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This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: Unscramble these Easter words:

- gseg: _____
- nunby: _____
- akebst: _____
- oclactohe: _____
- irpgn: _____
- srlofew: _____

Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How does the Easter bunny stay healthy?

Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, March 25

- Easter Break—No School

Monday, March 28

- Easter Break—No School

- ACT Prep—Reading

Tuesday, March 29

- Golf Starts

- 7/8 Quiz Bowl @ BEC (Baltic)

- ACT Prep—Mathematics

Wednesday, March 30

- MS Band/Choir BEC Large Group Contest @ Chester

- Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart

- HS Band/Choir Chicago Trip

Thursday, March 31

- HS Band/Choir Chicago Trip

- FFA Contest @ Lennox

Friday, April 1

- HS Band/Choir Chicago Trip

Easter to be “Egg”ceptional This Year

By Alex Uhl

Easter Week is here! It's time for spring right? Well, despite the recent snowstorm and temperature drops, Spring is right around the corner with Easter Sunday hopefully marking the end of this cold and dark season. Time to dig out those plastic eggs from the Easter decor storage box and some pieces of chocolate too!



So what exactly is Easter all about? Originally, it is a Christian Holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. But where did the idea for an Easter Bunny giving treats and presents to children originate?

According to some sources and cultures, this all started in the 1700s when Germans immigrated over to America bringing some peculiar folklore with them. One legend is of the "Osterhase," or an egg-laying hare (I'm not making this one

up) who would lay different colored eggs in the nests that children made for it.

Easter Week also marks the end of Lent, which started on February 10th otherwise known as Ash Wednesday. For those who gave up something for Lent as is tradition in some religions, you're almost done, hang in there! Good Friday is also the last Friday of the year where those of the Catholic Faith cannot eat meat.

So now that the forty-six days of fasting are almost over, let's see what the Garretson High School students had to say on the matter.

"To me, Easter is just another day. My family celebrates it, but it isn't that big of a deal to me," said Junior Matt Gustafson.

Hopefully this weather will let up in time for the Easter Bunny or Osterhase to make a trip to your house and drop off some sweets for you!

Track Season Hits the Ground Running

By Micaiah Lee Mader

On Monday, the track team returned to action with their first practice of the spring. Due to record setting temperatures, the team was able to start practicing at the track right away as opposed to being cooped up in the gym like recent years.

The track team returns varsity starters on the boys and girls sides but have also lost a significant number of upperclassmen, the team remains hopeful in young and upcoming talent. When asked about his decision to not return for his senior campaign, ex-track athlete and state tournament qualifier Sean Tillma stated, "I didn't ever want to run another 400, and I'm looking forward to the free time." Others are looking forward to the track season again.

The boy's return only one individual state placer in Evan Fick but also bring back Brennan Mudder and Shay Gibson who placed in team events. The boys team took significant hits

through the graduation of Matt Johnson and Joshua Liester and also lost state placers Josh Powell and Sean Tillma for other reasons.

The squad will look to young runners to fill big shoes and get the program back on track.

When asked about the low numbers, Evan Fick stated, "Where is everyone?"

This year at the state tournament, the girls will look to fill the spot of state champion Mara VanDeBerg in the 100m dash. However, return place winners like Haley Sage in the 800m, and Carmen Bohl and Jaden Bly in the 3200m relay. The team also placed in the 4x800 relay and the 1600m medley with some aforementioned runners and the likes of Morgan Gloe and Lara Luke.

Both teams will open up competition next week in West Central starting at 4:00.



Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest Does Well

A few representatives of the Garretson High School Choir headed to Augustana University earlier this week to participate in the vocal solo/ensemble contest. Under the direction of choir

director Ms. Kelby Robinson, Garretson came away with four superior ratings and two excellent ratings. Congratulations to all the soloists and groups who participated.



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Garretson Quiz Bowl Retains Title as BEC Champions

By Alyssa Bunde

The 2016 Summer Olympics might be a while away but the nerd Olympics (as some of the participants describe it) a.k.a quiz bowl was this past Monday.

What is quiz bowl anyways? Well my fellow student body I'm glad you asked! It's basically a competition of random knowledge! Each school brings a team of students, from there teams compete against other schools in each round. There are five rounds of thirty questions, so one hundred and fifty questions in total.

You go back and forth between each team for questions. However, if the other team fails to answer correctly your group has the opportunity to "steal" the point and answer the question. Therefore, the goal is to gain as many points as possible by the end of all five rounds!

When asked about his involvement in the activity, sophomore Zebadiah Johnson stated, "I'm a nerd so I enjoyed quiz bowl...I have a lot

of useless knowledge floating around my head to use for this."

How does one get become part of quiz bowl? Wow, another great question! First thing first, you need talk to the head honcho, Ms. Howe. She has been in charge of this program for a surplus of years. So after you've shown interest she'll make sure to inform you when the next testing is, which unfortunately will probably be around this time next year seeing as quiz bowl is only a once-a-year ordeal. But anyways, students must take a test to see what they know and once graded the top six scores are picked and bada bing bada boom, you're on the team!

Ms. Howe commented, "I advise the team and not necessarily coach them because most of the contest relies on information they already know"

Thankfully to our reigning champion team, Garretson was full of students overflowing with random information. The teams all squared off in Chester and we didn't walk away with any old place...we walked away with the grand prize, the gold medal, the blue ribbon or otherwise known as first place!

While discussing the group's great teamwork senior and second year member Evan Fick shared an inside look of the response process, "Only four of you can be out answering at a time. So they have thirty seconds to decide what the best answer is. Sometimes people come up with different answers, so it's like are you right...or am I right? I usually just assume I'm right...but I am wrong sometimes!"

Whether you're wrong or right, it's all part of the game. So start bulking up on those random facts and maybe you too can be a part of this wonderful group next year!

Brussels Terror Attack Takes World by Surprise

By Isaiah Mader

Terror struck Brussels, Belgium early Tuesday when three people who were active members of ISIS detonated bombs at an airport and subway station. The two explosions killed more than 30 people and have left over 270 wounded in total.

The attacks started early Tuesday when the first bomb exploded in the Brussels airport and roughly 30 seconds later a second bomb went off in the same area. These two blasts combined to kill at least 10.

About an hour after the airport bombs were discharged, a separate one was set off at Maelbeek Metro Station located in central Brussels near where some European Union buildings are located. This suicide bomb was detonated around rush hour and killed about 20 people and was the biggest of the three bombs.

Just eight hours after the bombing happened, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for these horrific events.

The people accountable for the blast were brothers Khalid and Brahim el-Bakraoui who were natives of Belgium. The third is suspected to be Najim Laachraoui who is as well thought to be the bomb maker in both the Paris and Brussels bombings.

These explosions happened a little over four months after the Paris attacks and the two are believed to be heavily connected and even involved some of the same ISIS affiliates. When junior Jacob Liester was asked about the attacks he stated, "It just shows how much damage terrorists are capable of, so we need to make sure our public facilities are secure."

Sophomore Clayton Bonte had an alike response in saying, "After seeing a rise in terrorist

activities, I think it is time the U.S. finally stepped up its overall security to protect its citizens."

Although not all the facts are out there regarding the attack of Brussels, Belgium, we do know that with two terrorist assaults in the past five months, it is likely that we will see a rise in ISIS activity. We also know that the Islamic State is a group of people able to cause massive amounts of damage to humanity, and that if something is not done to stop their increasing actions, many peoples lives are at risk.

Overall the Brussels attack puts it into light that these ambushes on the public can happen at any time and security all over the world should be increased to prevent these incidents from occurring.

This Quarter will be a Dime

By Annika Hanson

The school year is moving right along. Kids and teachers alike are anxiously waiting for the long anticipated summer vacation.

Although almost everyone is looking forward to the warm break, Garretson has to get through the rest of the school year. Some students are finding it difficult to keep their motivation during classes.

Junior Michelle Fritz commented, "It has been increasingly difficult to keep my attention during classes, but I hope to improve my grades and end the year off smoothly."

Even the weather is affecting students' attention span. Now that it is warming up, disregarding the snow storm on Wednesday, stu-

dents feel the urge to go outside and enjoy the fresh air. This can be slightly difficult being cooped up in classes all day; this leads to students feeling irritable and saturnine. Some teachers have noticed the nuance in the students' moods and have taken the liberty of bringing them outside to study.

The weather isn't the only perk of being in the fourth quarter though. Garretson has special events coming up such as prom and the FFA state convention. Students, especially girls, have been getting butterflies about prom since the first quarter. Now that prom is only weeks away, girls are getting jittery over dresses, shoes, and dates. They will have to wait about

one more month until the special night on April 30th.

FFA state convention is also nearing. This year Garretson hopes that they will bring home the mineral gold instead of dirt.

The school year is almost done which may be sad for some people, mainly seniors and their impending graduation. But this is not the case for everyone, Junior Brendan Harris stated, "I am excited for the fourth quarter because we are 3/4 of the way done with school."

Just because the year is almost over that does not mean that the students can slough off the last quarter! Garretson will surely make this another great quarter.