



Blue Ink



The madness continues

Historic upsets rock brackets across the country, keeping everyone on glued to the games

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

After the first two rounds, March Madness has definitely lived up to its name. A side effect of all of this is lots of broken hearts, I mean brackets. Over 17 million brackets were submitted to the ESPN brackets contest, not a single bracket remained perfect after the first round. But, the odds of a perfect bracket are nearly impossible, some mathematicians believe that it is as low as 1 in 9.2 quintillion.

The main cause of this is for the first time in tournament history, a 16 seed defeated a 1 seed. The UMBC Retrievers defeated the Virginia Cavaliers, only 3% of entrees had UMBC winning, so roughly 519,000 people predicted history. Many people came close by guessing 31 out of 32 games correctly from the first round.

Every year there is an abundance of upsets, but this year there has been no limit. Within the first two rounds their have been 11 upsets.

The Daily News stated that researchers from the NCAA gathered that their have been on average, 12.7 upsets over the course of a whole tournament. "Its been a really interesting tournament so far... I hope the final four games and the tournament are as good as these early games." stated basketball fan Lucas Fitzgerald.

The UMBC Vs. Virginia game will always be in the discussion of one of the craziest/unexpected upsets the world has ever seen. Virginia was one of the best of the best before the tournament, the Cavaliers arguably had the best defense in the tournament, and the Retrievers outscored them by 20 points with the final score 74-54. "Its like your first Fortnite victory, honestly," stated UMBC big man Nolan Gerrity. The giant slayers did fall in the second round to the Kansas State Wildcats, but their legacy will never die.

Speaking of upsets, eleven seed Loyola has now made it to the Elite Eight after last nights win against Nevada. Loyola is not by any means a bad team, with a record of 31-5 but a lot of people did not expect the Wolves to even make it past the first round, but as the great Kevin Garnett once said "ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!"

Last night, Florida State, a nine seed beat out the number four seed Gonzaga out of the Sweet Sixteen.



Gonzaga made it to the tournament last year but had no chance last night against Florida. Florida shot 46% from the field, which is not that bad in comparison to Gonzaga's 33%. The Bulldogs also only shot 25% from deep.

Also, the team that beat UMBC, remember them? Kansas State came out and won a shocker against the Kentucky Wildcats. The Wildcats have been on of the better franchises in the past and always go deep, but Kansas has been on a role making their way into the Elite Eight. The final score of this nail-biter was 61-58.

This game was no surprise, Michigan beat out a very solid team Texas A&M. The final score was 72-99. Even though Texas played very well, their defense couldn't hold up. Michigan shot 61% from the field and 58% from three, it seemed like everything they were putting up was dropping through the nylon.

Tonight, the other half of the Sweet Sixteen will be Battling it out on the Court. Here are the matchups to tonight's brawl.

- 5 Clemson Vs. 1 Kansas
- 5 West Virginia Vs. 1 Villanova
- 11 Syracuse Vs. 2 Duke
- 3 Texas Tech Vs. 2 Purdue

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: When spelled out, all odd numbers have the letter E in them.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: If you drop something shiny like a screw or earring, turn off the lights and search with a flashlight. The light should catch it when you scan.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why didn't the lifeguard save the hippy?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: 'm as light as a feather but the strongest man can't hold me for more than five minutes. What am I?
Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 23

- PTO Breakfast (7:30)
- FFA International CDE @ SDSU

Saturday, March 24

- Blue Dragon Classic Basketball Tourney (8:00)

Monday, March 26

- Quiz Bowl @ Baltic (7:00)

Tuesday, March 27

- JH Quiz Bowl @ Garretson (

Wednesday, March 28

- FFA CDE @ Tri-Valley
- MS Large Group Band & Choir Contest @ Beresford (11:00)

Friday, March 30

- No School—Good Friday

Worth Mentioning

Garretson Pride Pool is up and running. After the first two rounds freshman Alex Stephenson is in first place with Mrs. Mueller and senior Ryan Fick tied for second.

Golf practice starts on Monday. There is still time to participate. Talk to Ms. Stoltenberg or Ms. Buchholz for more information.

Last year the Blue Dragons qualified seven individuals for the state golf meet.



String of bombings terrorize Austin

Seven bombs kill two and leave four injured in a span of three weeks

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
senior writer

On Wednesday morning, a nearly three week spree of package bombings in Austin, Texas came to an end when the suspect, Mark Conditt, 23, killed himself with his own bomb as police closed in. There were a total of seven bombs detonated in the Austin area which killed two people and left four more injured. Conditt recorded a 25 minute confession video on Tuesday night, but never gave a motive as to why he committed these actions.

The string of bombings began on March 2 when a bomb exploded and killed one person. Everyone thought

this was an accident and not planned; however 10 days later on March 12, two more bombs went off in the same area putting people on high alert. There were also bombings on March 18 and 20 and finally on March 21 when he killed himself. The first four bombs were set off at houses, the next two were at FedEx facilities, and the final bomb was detonated in Conditt's car.

After police found his confession video, they discovered a "target list" which indicated who he was planning to bomb next. This video didn't point out any signs of terrorism or hate, but pointed out the difficulties in his own life which led him to commit these actions. These attacks came as a huge surprise to everyone who knew him, particularly his roommates, family members, and neighbors who never suspected anything from Conditt.

His parents gave a statement to CNN saying, "We are devastated and broken at the news that our family

could be involved in such an awful way, we had no idea of the darkness that Mark must have been in. Our family is a normal family in every way. We love, we pray, and we try to inspire and serve others. Right now our prayers are for those families that have lost loved ones, for those impacted in any way, and for the soul of our Mark. We are grieving and we are in shock."

With events like this happening more and more frequently, many Americans are calling for changes to help stop the violence. Guidance counselor Mrs. Pliska agreed stating, "Be love, pray for protection from evil and pray for those that are affected by the terrors in the world, be a warrior and fight for what is good and just. Just don't sit around and do nothing."

Senior Nicholas Lundberg added, "I think our government needs to take steps to prevent things like this from happening in the future."

March for Our Lives to take place downtown

People march the streets of Sioux Falls Saturday morning demanding reform, change

by **Peyton Sage**
senior writer

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., students, teachers, and civilians alike will meet in downtown Sioux Falls to participate in the March For Our Lives. Participants will meet at the Carnegie Town Hall near 10th and Dakota, march down around the curve of the Minnehaha Courthouse, and end at the west side of Falls Park.

The main march will take place in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 24 at noon. Supporters are planning sister marches in New York City, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and hundreds of other cities across the world. Currently, there are 840 March For Our Lives events planned for Saturday.

People in or around Sioux Falls are encouraged to join the march and take a stance for what they believe the country needs to do to become a safer place. Whether it's im-

proving access to mental health care, less negative media coverage, or stricter background checks, people of America

are demanding change. As of yesterday, over 370 people showed their interest in the march via the MFOL-SF Facebook page.

Senior Sylvia Larson, who will be in attendance, said, "As much as I don't like physical activity, gun control and mental health awareness is something I'll march for. I'll be out there with my camera, capturing all the action."

"I'm very excited to be surrounded by people who believe in the same cause as me. It's so empowering to see students my age using their freedom of speech to make a change. I understand there will be a lot of naysayers, but that's just how America is," sophomore Noble Nothstine said.

March For Our Lives was created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass shootings that has become all too familiar.



Uber self driving car in fatal accident

by **Greg Arana**
staff writer

Last Sunday an Uber self driving car was part of a fatal accident involving a 49 year old woman. This is the first time a self driving car has been involved in a fatal collision. Uber has since terminated self-driving tests in North America.

On Sunday in Tempe, Arizona the self-driving Uber failed to slow down while 49-year-old Elaine Herzberg was walking her bike across the road. The person monitoring the controls of the car did not have enough time to re-

act. Herzberg suffered serious injuries and was rushed to the hospital but ultimately died from her injuries.

After the incident, a video was released and Uber stated, "The video is disturbing and heartbreaking to watch, and our thoughts continue to be with Elaine's loved ones."

Uber also quoted, "Our cars remain grounded, and we're assisting local, state and federal authorities in any way we can."



U B E R

This isn't the first accident an autonomous car has been in but it is the first fatal accident. Could this be the end of self-driving cars on the road?

Competing in the world of science

by **Mrs. Julie Mueller**
guest contributor

Garretson Middle School was represented by forty-four of our young scientists in this year's 64th Eastern South Dakota Science and Engineering Fair. Students who participated shared their project work with judges throughout the day.

Drew Pederson brought home a second place medal in the Animal Science division with his project entitled "Does the Length of Gestation Vary Between Bull & Heifer Calves?" In the Biochemistry-Food Science Emphasis category Jazmine Osberg and Grace Panning earth 4th/Honorable Mention with a project all about gluten free foods entitled "Gluten Free vs. Taste Buds". Sean Gottschalk's "Burning Biofuels: Comparing Nonrenewable and Renewable Fuels" caught the attention of the judges in another category and he was awarded 4th/Honorable Mention from the American Meteorological Society/Siouxland Weather Minds group. Austin Palmlund and Alex Reker were awarded 4th/Honorable Mention in the Energy and Transportation division with their project entitled "Perpetual Hydroelectric Generator". In the area of Environmental Science,



In the Animal Science division, Drew Pederson took 2nd place studying variances in calf gestation during the Regional Science Fair on Tuesday.

Photo by Mrs. Julie Mueller

Oliviya Thornton's "How to Filter Water" earned 4th/Honorable Mention. Rounding out our award winners were Kloey Mullin, Rian Smidt, and Taylor Sage in the Medicine and Health category. Their project "Egg Drop" was a study in safety helmets and what design was best to reduce the risk of concussions.

That wraps up another year of science fair activities for the 2017-2018 school year.



Receiving honorable mentions for their science fair projects were Oliviya Thornton, Sean Gottschalk, Alex Reker, Austin Palmlund, Grace Panning, and Jazmine Osberg.

Photo by Mrs. Julie Mueller



Taylor Sage, Rian Smidt, and Kloey Mullin received awards for their "Egg Drop" project at Tuesday's Regional Science Fair.

Photo by Mrs. Julie Mueller

Drowning at Falls Park

by **Heather Huether**
staff writer

On Sunday 5-year-old Maggie Zaiger fell into the falls river trying to touch the foam, thinking it was safe, solid snow. This was her first time her and her family were at the popular Sioux Falls landmark. It was also their first time in South Dakota. They were there for a few days and the Falls was their last-minute final stop before they started going home.

Rescue swimmers found Zaiger unresponsive, and began CPR. Then she was transported to a local hospital, where she was later pronounced dead. After the incident, Maggie's mother, Courtney Jayne, was tagged in a post about the deaths in March of 2013 involving Madison Wallace and Lyle Eagletail. The two drowned when they jumped in attempting to save a 6 year-old boy who had fallen in around the same area of the falls where foam was collecting. The boy was rescued, but Wallace and Eagletail died.

Shortly after that incident in 2013, city officials talked about additional safety measures, including fences, in an effort to prevent another tragedy. In the end, signs were placed warning people of getting too close to the edge.

"This could have been prevented five years ago when they decided to put up a sign instead of a fence," Jayne

said in an interview with the *Argus Leader*. "I could've prevented it in a million different ways, but ultimately those are things that we cannot control. But we can control a fence."

Jayne said that immediately after Maggie fell into the river, she climbed down the rocks into the foam and tried to find her. She got her feet in the water and felt around trying to find the bottom, but couldn't. She got up from the foam to find a group of 25 onlookers who told her not to jump into the water. When they warned her to not go in, Jayne stayed there, continuing to look for Maggie, until police arrived and dragged her away. Fire Chief Brad Goodroad said authorities found Zaiger nine minutes after arriving on scene. It took five minutes for responders to arrive after the first call.

Maggie had two sisters, 10 year-old Grace, and 4-year-old Myah. All were with at the falls, along with three other people. It took less than 30 seconds and it all happened in the blink of an eye.

"I think that people fail to realize a death like this doesn't really hit you until the first time I go to get my kids up for school and she's not there," Jayne said. "Right now I know that she's gone, but the last day of school, the first day of school, she's not going to be there. Her birthday, that's all yet to come."

Zeb's World

Week one of a multi-part series

by **Zebadiah Johnson**
guest contributor

This past week, I had the pleasure to attend Augustana University's Boe Forum on Public Affairs. Every year, the university hosts this event to bring people with highly specific knowledge to address events, issues, and problems facing our modern world. Often the keynote speaker is a former or current world-mover, someone who has reached the pinnacle in their field of work.

This year was no different, as Augustana invited the 66th Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, to speak at the Forum. In her address, Dr. Rice spoke on America's National Security and the World. Her speech covered an enormous range of topics, from cyber-warfare to growing up in segregated Alabama to populism in the modern world. However, while her topics changed by the minute, her unwavering optimism did not.

Dr. Rice firmly believes in America and in American Exceptionalism. That our nation's ability to adapt and to include people of all shapes and sizes is what lead to our greatness. She also spoke of the importance that education has on one's life. That through education, the entire circumstances surrounding a life can change.

In this, I completely agree with her. Education is the key to success at a personal, local, and even national level. Once you have that education, no one can take it away. This is why our K-12 system is of vital importance to the United States; if we do not prepare our future citizens and workers to compete in this world, then we have failed as a nation.

While this fact is often recognized by our politicians and leaders, rarely is a functional solution proposed on how we can fix the system we have. And yes, our system is in need of fixing. It is broken, offering one-size-fits-all teaching and curriculum for a body of students that is anything but one size. Our nation caters to the needs of the many, neglecting the needs of the few.

Dr. Rice is a prime example of how one can use their education and gifts to promote change in the world. In her speech, the former Secretary of State alluded to the fact that people have an obligation to use what they have been given and to use what they have worked for. I was inspired by her to use the gifts that I have been given, to start dialogue on how we can make this world better. It is through my writing and my words that I want to do this, so I guess writing for the school paper is a start.

Senior Spotlight

SENIOR PROJECT:
Making a T-Shirt Quilt

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

Cross Country
Basketball
Cheer
Track
Band

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:
Close relations with teachers and classmates

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
2-4 year college with an undecided major

Carmen Bohl



McKenzie Decker



SENIOR PROJECT:
Daddy-Daughter Dance

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
Soccer
Choir

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:
I don't know. You never know what you're going to miss until it's gone.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Air Force

SADD

New group goes to conference

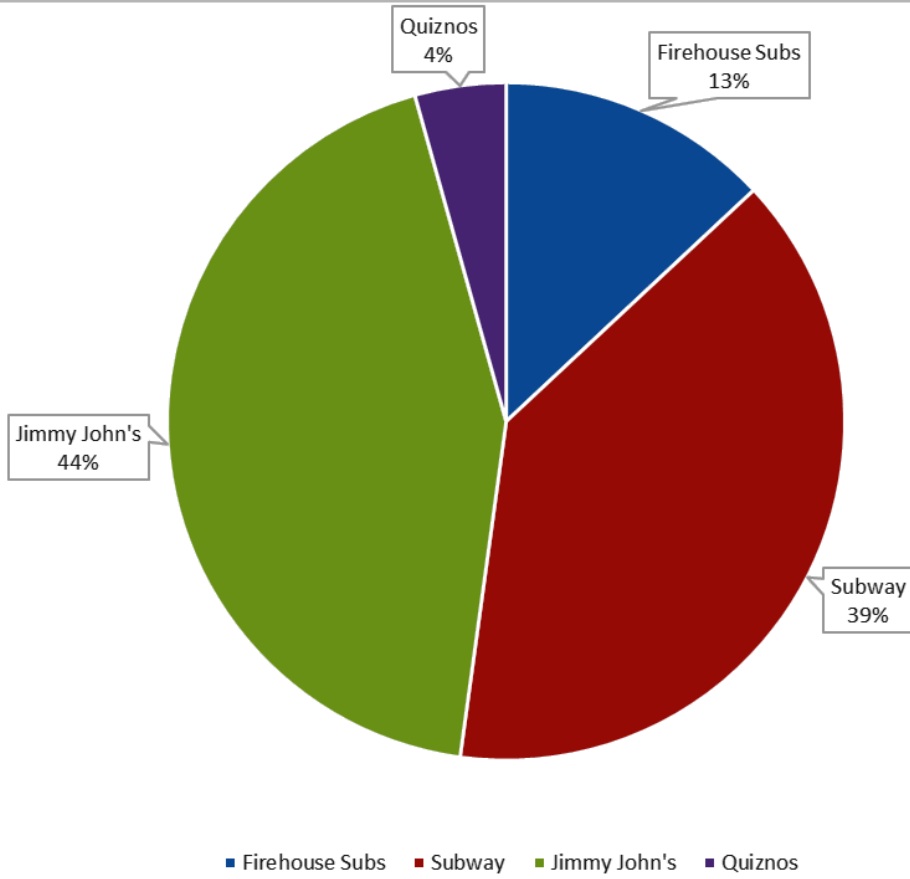
by **Heather Huether**—staff writer

Friday Mrs. Pliska took about 18 students to a SADD conference in Brookings. SADD stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. The conference was to help enforce rules and dangers of issues from texting and driving to drugs. It was also used to encourage teens to do the right things and motivate others to do the same. "I've taken students to it three other years and it's been a blast," said Mrs. Pliska.

There is a mixture of 10th and 12th graders from GHS that went. The cost was \$10 which helped to cover a shirt, transportation, and both lunch and supper. The students left around 8 this morning and won't be back until 9pm.

Student Opinion Poll

Sub sandwich showdown



New California?

Small group petitions to make a 51st state

by **Greg Arana**
guest contributor

There is a group of people that live in California that are looking to make a 51st state called New California. Made up of 42 counties, mostly rural, with 15 million people, the split would effectively split the political party divide, making a blue and red California.

To read their very own Declaration of Independence from California, some of the organizers of New Cali-

fornia gathered at a government building outside of Sacramento. The movement's cofounder Robert Paul Preston said, "Well, it's been ungovernable for a long time. High taxes, education, you name it."

Even though it is unlikely that this split will happen the organizers are still determined to make a New California. The 51st State would be right on the west coast spanning from Sacramento all the way down to about San Diego, California.

Spring word scramble

While the weather may not always cooperate, hopefully these words will help get you in the mood for spring

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. LAIRP: _____ | 6. RDIBS: _____ |
| 2. YDASI: _____ | 7. AIRN: _____ |
| 3. AYM: _____ | 8. ASERET: _____ |
| 4. SLWOFRE: _____ | 9. SRGAS: _____ |
| 5. PLUTIS: _____ | 10. UNSIHNSE: _____ |



American Legion Contest Winners

Students competed by writing essays and poems, showing their own thoughts on Americanism



Annually the American Legion sponsors a contest that works to instill pride in community, service, and America in today's youth. While the topic changes every year, the message is still the same. Be thankful for the freedoms you are given, the rights that are protected by our servicemen and find ways to give back to your community.

Winners from Garretson's local competition move on to districts.

Winners are as follows:

POEMS

- CLASS I (3rd Grade)
 - 1st: Aiden Johnson
 - 2nd: Amyah Millwood
- CLASS II (4th Grade)
 - 1st: Alyssa Olson
- CLASS IV (6th Grade)
 - 1st: Emily Panning
 - 2nd: Abriana Doppenberg

ESSAYS

- CLASS I (3rd & 4th Grade)
 - 1st: Brooklyn Trudeau (4th)
 - 2nd: Ezra Howard (3rd)
- CLASS II (5th & 6th Grade)
 - 1st: Hannah Frewaldt (6th)
- CLASS III (7th & 8th Grade)
 - 1st: Peyton Beckman (7th)
- CLASS IV (9th & 10th Grade)
 - 1st: Jayden Clark
 - 2nd: Madisen Nordstrom



American Legion Essay and Poem contest winners were announced late last week. These students all received a big congratulations and a small cash prize for the entries. First place recipients have their poems and essays advanced to district competition.
Back Row: American Legion representative Cheryl Lingen, Peyton Beckman, Jayden Clark, Madisen Nordstrom, Emily Panning, Abrianna Doppenberg;
Front Row: Ezra Howard, Amyah Millwood, Alyssa Olson, Hannah Frewaldt, Aiden Johnson