



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 32

## This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Ants cannot be seriously injured from impact with the ground after being dropped from any height because they don't have enough mass.

**BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:**  
Using only addition, how do you add eight 8's and get the number 1000?  
*Answer on back page*

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** What do sprinters eat before a race?  
*Answer on back page*

- UPCOMING EVENTS:**
- Friday, April 17**
    - Golf @ Jesse James Invite (12:30)
    - TATU/FFA MS Dance (7:30)
    - Critters & Company Assembly for MS and Elementary
  - Saturday, April 18**
    - Track @ Jesse James Invite (9:30)
  - Monday, April 20**
    - Club Baseball vs. Tea Area (2:00)
    - Academic Awards Night (7:00)
  - Tuesday, April 21**
    - Golf @ Baltic Invite (9:30)
    - Track @ Alcester-Hudson-Beresford Invite (4:00)
  - Wednesday, April 22**
    - Region 2 Large Group Band and Choir Contests @ Harrisburg
  - Thursday, April 23**
    - 7/8 Track @ Garretson Inv. (4:00)
  - Friday, April 24**
    - K-1st to Children's Museum
    - 3rd-5th Local Declam Contest
    - Golf (JV/V) BEC Tourney @ DR

Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

## "Ag"emplary Achievement for Garretson FFA

By Beth Schmidt

From April 12th to the 14th, the Garretson FFA team headed to SDSU for the 87th annual FFA State Convention. This year there were more than 2,000 students from all over the state.

The state convention is one of FFA's most important events of the year. It is the time where all state awards are given, and kids get a chance to see how they compete against everyone else in South Dakota in numerous events.

Ed Mueller, the FFA Advisor, commented, "Students learn skills commonly used in various careers in agriculture, speaking skills, leadership skills, listen to motivational speakers, meet kids from other chapters and schools, and many other things."

This year, there were three seniors recognized from Garretson: Joshua Liester, Blake Severson, and Tony Weiland.

Juniors that represented Garretson were Cassie Faber and Saige Gullickson.

Sophomores were Moriah Flanagan, Breana Genzlinger, Matthew Gustafson,

Grace Homer, Jake Hansman, Claire Longhenry, Allison Longhenry, and Alex Uhl.

And finally, the freshmen that went to Brookings were Chance Anderson, Kristen Cordier, Hunter Cornell, Myranda Folland, Jaden Flanagan, Ryan Fick, Jack Konechne, Emily Malsom, Chayce Schleuter, and Gerrit VanDeKieft.

The convention occurs for number of reasons, like to conduct business and motions that affect the actions of the FFA on a state level.

Students compete in events that are career related for the right to represent South Dakota in the national events, such as livestock and crop judging and communications.

Also, they compare and rank chapters based on the activities they have conducted over the last year.

Lastly, they elect new state officers each year that guide state activities.

Some of the categories that Garretson *Continued on page 3*



The Garretson FFA celebrates their accomplishment of achieving the top chapter in the state of South Dakota. This is Garretson's 13th state title in 17 years.

Photo by Mrs. Julie Mueller

## The Great Debate

*Student Editorial*

By Sylvia Larson

"Yay! Summer is over and I get to go back to school!" said no one, ever.

There has always been a great debate on when the school year should start in the fall. Some say the starting date should not be until after Labor Day (the first full weekend of September), and some say it should start mid or early August.

During the 20th century, state governments began to standardize how many days students should be in school, and when schools should start. Because most campuses/schools didn't have air conditioning, opening in August - when it's super hot - just wasn't practical. During the 1940s and 1950s, starting school just after Labor Day - when temperatures start to decrease - had become the norm.

"Labor Day weekend is a huge time for tourism. Maybe people are going to take their last family vacation then, or maybe kids have jobs working at a tourism thing. It would just be easier for them to not have school," interjected Mrs. Williamson. Williamson feels that school should start in August, but understands why it may be better to start later.

If schools start early, people may miss out on valuable bonding time with their friends and families. Granted, most people get the holiday off work and school pretty much no matter what, but it can be hard to go from vacation to school to vacation in such a short period of time.

I, for one, get severely caustic and cantankerous when my summer days of hanging out with family and going camping are interrupted by back-to-school preparations and returning to high school.

On a more local level, a lot of summer jobs and activities don't even start until June. May isn't exactly one of the hottest months of the year, considering just last year we saw snow appear in that month.

A lot of kids hang out at the pool in the summer, but have nothing to do for the two weeks after school before it opens.

In August, when school starts again, the pool is practically forced to close because no one is able to come during the day and most of the employees are high schoolers. That affects the revenue for the pool when it could be open because the day is hot, but can't.

By the 1980s, the first day of school began inching backwards into late August as states began to require longer school years. Teachers, parents, and kids alike had also begun whining that a September start meant semester tests fell in January, so barely-trustable students were forced to study over Christmas break if they wanted any chance of passing.

No school district would be fine with a whole boodle of kids failing one of the most important tests of the year! With an earlier start, finals are finished by the time holiday vacation begins so students get a

break to mentally prepare for the other half of the school year.

"It depends on how you want your summer. Do you want a longer summer, or a longer spring? Do you want your break to be warmer or cooler? I like starting in August because you feel like you're done earlier," stated freshman Lila Ockenga.

The government should not require schools to start a certain date. Just because some factors may apply to the Garretson School District doesn't mean they apply to, let's say, a Californian school district.

There is really no true right or wrong answer when it comes to back-to-school. It all depends on location and opinion. Many points can be brought up supporting each side, but I personally believe that school should start at a happy medium between mid-August and Labor Day - like maybe the last week of August.

Which, coincidentally, is what the school board just decided on a few days ago. That's right guys, the 2015-2016 school now has an official start date - August 27!

I know what you're probably thinking, 'Gees, let me get OUT of school before I have to think about going back!' But thanks to the nice people who decided on that date, this summer will be extra long!



## Swinging Into the Season

By Abriana Scholl

Golf may seem like an easy sport, but to the Garretson Golf team, there is more to it. Since the start of the season, the team has had a couple of meets, and just recently they competed in Flandreau on April 10th and in Dell Rapids on April 13th.

For the start of the golf season, impressive scores were awarded to both the girls' and boys' teams.

"They did well; the boys won both of the meets. Micah got 1st in Flandreau and

3rd in Dells, so he medaled. Isaiah got 5th in Flandreau, and so he medaled [as well]," asserted golf coach, Kari Stoltenberg.

As for the girls, "[They] are gaining a lot of experience, and Lydia [Olson] got 10th at the Flandreau meet," Stoltenberg stated.

Behind all the spectacular placings, there are still a few bumps in the road that need to be filled. With these improvements, the teammates will learn the ropes

enough to succeed in future competitions.

"We've been working hard on putting, it is a big issue for the new golfers, and they need to take their time and be patient when putting in a meet," concluded Stoltenberg.

The Blue Dragons are currently in action at the Jesse James Invitational, here, in Garretson.

## Track and Field Athletes Take on Their First Meet

By Lana Braswell

Another year, another time for sports like baseball, soccer, and of course, track. Track is a series of many events like shot put, discus, long jumping, long distance, sprinting, and many others.

The track members had their first meet this week in Salem. Some of the competitors think they did well; others think it could have gone better. It didn't help them with the wind that would whip the runners hair around like a tornado.

Leaders of the track team believe that besides the wind, the meet went on pretty well. "We did fairly well for the first meet, considering the few numbers we have," quoted Coach Bohl.

Bohl also said how some of the new members in track did just as well for their first meet, like a experienced track member. Though the weather has been just a tad bit off lately, Bohl says that it is just one of the obstacles all teams have to deal with.

Both boys and girls did well in this meet! Not only in just running, but in some field events as well.

For the runners, senior Josh Leister took first (11:00.3) in the 3,200m Relay.

In shot-put, Matt Johnson threw 47'2.5, placing first. Diontae Lymon, a jumper, distanced 19'9", ending in third.

Congrats to the track and field folks, and let's hope that you end as great as you started.

The Garretson Blue Dragons are back in action on Saturday (tomorrow) for the Jesse James Invitational. Events start at 9:30 a.m.



## A Great Start to a Hopefully Great Season

By Tabi Klingenberg

Garretson's club baseball has won all three games so far this season, starting the year off with what is expected to be a remarkable first impression.

Last weekend, the team succeeded in winning back-to-back games on Saturday and Sunday. Club baseball had played their second game in Lennox in which they won in extra innings. In the eighth inning, Garretson won, 8-5.

Following the game in Lennox, Garretson went up against Tea, who they beat with a close call, 6-4.

"I think it has a little bit to do with fa-

tigue, we were pretty tired after playing extra innings the day before and also a five inning JV game," quoted sophomore, Jared Fitzgerald. "I guess we didn't really hit the ball as well as we should have, but other than that, we did alright."

Although the team has started the season off right, every team still improvements that still need to be made.

"We played really good defense both games and probably our weakness was we didn't really get the ball up in the air. We grounded out a lot so we need to work on elevating the ball more," Fitzgerald contin-

ued.

Fitzgerald expects that the

team will improve by the end of the season and is feeling confident about their next game. Hopefully the team can keep their winning streak and end the season off right.

Garretson played against Sioux Falls Christian in Chancellor last night, suffering their first loss. The Blue Dragons (3-1) have their next game on Monday, April 20 at home against McCook Central.

## "Ag"emplary Achievement for Garretson FFA

*continued from page 1*

competed in were the following: Meat Evaluation, Milk Products, Vet Science, Landscaping, Natural Resources, Livestock Judging, Horse Judging, Floriculture, and Dairy Cattle Judging.

Several teams won awards: Landscape was 6th; Meats, Floriculture, and Dairy Cattle all placed 7th; and Vet Science and Milk Products placed 11th.

Garretson has been part of the convention since 1953. The FFA team was also named the number one chapter in South Dakota.

This gives the Garretson FFA team 13 state titles in the last 17 years, more than any active high school activity in the state of South Dakota during that same period of time. The award is based on all the activities that a chapter does during the last year.

Mueller also noted, "The convention is a lot of fun, an opportunity for kids to demonstrate their knowledge and be recognized for accomplishments."

VanDeKieft stated, "Just choose something that you are good at, and if

you're not good at it, choose something else; because there is no point in doing something you're not good at."

When the students arrived back at school on Tuesday, they came in excited, and some of them even carrying chicks and ducks.

Congratulations on earning the 13th state title and keep on helping our agricultural become stronger and healthier.





## Justice for the Boston Bomber

By Zebadiah Johnson

It has been two years and two days since the brothers from Kyrgyzstan terrorized the world's oldest annual marathon.

On April 15th, 2013, the Boston Marathon was put into a state of chaos when two bombs exploded near the finish line of the marathon. The blasts killed three people and wounded more than 260 others.

The men responsible for this despicable action were the Tsarnaev brothers. Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev planted the shrapnel bombs near the finish line and caused this contemptible tragedy. The older of the pair, Tamerlan, was killed in a shootout with police forces within four days of the tragedy.

Dzhokhar was found in a boat with a message written in pencil, and spattered with blood and bullet-holes. In his writing, he says that he is jealous of his dead brother,

and that it was his destiny to stay behind and shed light on their motivations.

His message also stated that "Allah has a plan for everyone," and that he was "condoned in his violence against innocent people by his God." Throughout the remainder of his "letter," he proclaims that he was just in his actions and that he will be counted amongst the righteous in Heaven.

It's only now, two years later, that the other brother is being called to account for his actions. Dzhokhar was captured by law enforcement the same day as his brother's death. He was first charged April 22nd, 2013. Tsarnaev was found guilty of all 30 counts on which we was charged.

The only thing left to be decided is what Dzhokhar's punishment is to be. 17 of his 30 charges carry a maximum sentence of

death, but he still may only be sentenced to life in prison.

So far, 60% of Americans polled by CBS News say that Tsarnaev should be killed for his actions, while 30% say that he should not.

The issue that this trial brings up is the fact that if you cannot sentence a terrorist and a murderer to death, then what crimes do deserve death?

## Fuel the Cause

Remember to vote for the Garretson Music Department in their grant competition sponsored by Bridgestone Tires. Currently Garretson is in third place halfway through the competition. You can vote once per day per email address.



## Senior Spotlight

**NAME:** Bailey Willems

**SENIOR PROJECT:** Learned the basics of sign language and taught the 3rd grade class

**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:** One-Act, Three-Act, National Honor Society, Mentor

**WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:** I will miss my class and all the teachers

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:** Attend Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland



## Scholarship Corner

- **Jesse James Fine Arts Scholarship**

**Due:** April 17

**Eligibility:** Major/minor in fine arts: English, foreign language, music, art, journalism, design, graphic arts, architecture, dance, photography, theatre, and film.

- **SD Aviation Assoc. Scholarship**

**Due:** April 30

**Eligibility:** Future career should relate to or benefit the aerial application industry.

- **Ardell Bjugstad Scholarship**

**Due:** May 8

**Eligibility:** Enrolled member of federally recognized Indian tribe while being a resident of South Dakota planning to earn a degree in an agriculture/natural resources.

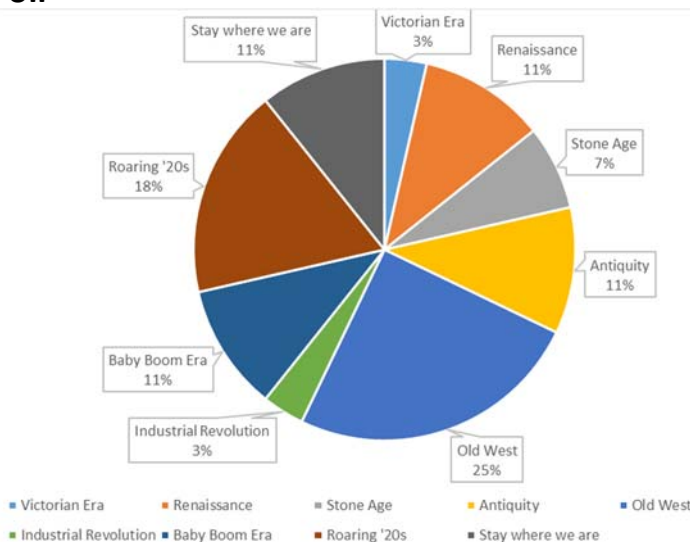


## Student Opinion Poll

This week students were asked if they could go back to any era/time period, which one would it be.



Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.



**ANSWERS: Brain Teaser:** 888+88+8+8+8=1000

**Joke:** Nothing, they fast.