



Blue Ink



In honor of those who served and sacrificed

School's annual Veterans' Day program is just one of the ways Garretson shows support

by Heather Huether
staff writer

Veterans' Day is tomorrow, November 11th. In 1954 congress decide to change the name from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day. Armistice means an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time. Also known as a truce. Armistice Day was the anniversary of the armistice made on November 11th, 1918 to end WWI.

Veterans' Day is a legal national holiday that celebrates anyone who is, or was, fighting for our country. A veteran is someone who served in Active Duty in the Air Force, Navy, Army, Coast Guard, or Marines.

According to the latest figures published by the US Census Bureau, Garretson, has 98 veterans. Over one third of the veterans in the city fought in the Gulf War. Furthermore, 25 people fought in the Vietnam Era. Six veterans fought in the Korean War, and 17 fought in World War II.

Every year Garretson hosts the Veterans Day celebration in the gym. This year it will be on November 10th at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Bennett, former Garretson Social Studies teacher, and veteran himself, always puts together a program and finds ways to integrate current students to be a part of it.

This year the band and choir will also perform some songs. The elementary is even planning on performing.

About every year, 10% of the graduating class chooses to enlist in helping our country in some way. So far this year, four students in the senior class are already enlisted. Clayton Bonte enlisted in the Navy. Nick Lundberg and Myranda Folland both enlisted in the Air Guard. And Erynn Fink enlisted in Army Guard. There are also other students who are still considering service as an option after graduation.

The city is prideful and recognizes the services these men and women have provided. It took steps this past summer to show that even more. Garretson was announced as a Purple Heart City in July 2017 and an official proclamation was created by Mayor Tim Mullin. In the proclamation, Mullin recognizes that "the Garretson area has a

large, highly decorated veteran population including many Purple Heart recipients." The efforts to make this happen were largely spearheaded by Garretson citizen, veteran, Mark Williamson.

So go out and say thank you to all the veterans who have served for our country. Don't just remember them on November 11th. Veterans' Day isn't just to remember those who are still alive, Veterans' Day is also to celebrate those who died in combat fighting for our country.



Mark Williamson and Garretson mayor Tim Mullin pose with the new sign Garretson received after becoming a Purple Heart City this summer. Williamson spearheaded the efforts and it was capped off with an official proclamation by Mayor Mullin on July 10, 2017.
Photo courtesy of the Garretson facebook page

To go or not to go...that is the question

Decisions of "real life" loom for Class of 2018

by Isaiah Miles Mader
staff writer

As college and their future get closer and closer for the class of 2018, many decisions have to be made, often without of a lot of information. Options range from four- and two-year universities to technical colleges to military and many more including ideas of a gap year.

Multiple myths surround college and the opportunities provided. Many people come out of high school thinking that a four-year college is the only option, and ignore the other viable paths for life.

Senior Jack Konechne said, "I think it's a little expensive even with the scholarships and aid, but I feel better off having the money to pay instead of going into debt right away." Konechne has opted to go into the guards to help pay for his post secondary education instead of

the more typical route.

The military is a great opportunity to both serve your country and receive free schooling if that is the path chosen. For others, technical schools or community college offer quick and less expensive, yet still high quality, education. Technical and two-year colleges take out a lot of classes not required in that field, and minimize the amount of academia required to finish, allowing students to reach the real world much quicker.

More kids now than ever are attending technical and two-year colleges for numerous reasons. These college options are much cheaper, while still providing a high quality education. Nearly half of all college graduates have attended two-year colleges.

Although four-year colleges provide many positives, the alternatives could be more suited for the

lifestyle and future ahead. Some are choosing alternative paths like gap years where they take a year off of school to work and save money in an attempt to stay out of thousands of dollars in debt.

Senior Jaden Braaten said, "Even with all the options out there, I'm still going to a four-year university. Mainly because I want to experience college life and everything that it involves."

Although some students still fall back on the traditional idea of attending a four-year university, this is not the right idea for all. The average debt a student coming out of a four-year public college is \$29,000, and only 19% of attendees finish in four years.

Even with the decision dates quickly approaching, before signing, make sure to look at the all the choices in hope of finding the brightest outlook on the life ahead.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The number 4 is the only number with the same number of letters in its name as its meaning.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Daytime naps help improve memory and cut the risk of heart disease

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How does the moon cut its hair?
(submitted by Hunter C.)

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, November 10**
 - Veteran's Day Program (2:30)
- Saturday, November 11**
 - Veteran's Day
 - 7th BBB Tournament
 - 7th GBB Tournament
- Sunday, November 12**
 - 8th BBB Tournament
- Monday, November 13**
 - Wrestling Practice Starts
 - School Board Meeting (5:45)
 - PTO Meeting (6:30)
- Tuesday, November 14**
 - FFA @ Harrisburg
 - Oral Interp @ Regions (8:00)
 - MS/HS Band Concert (7:00)
- Thursday, November 16**
 - Family Reading Night (6:30)
- Friday, November 17**
 - PTO Movie Night (7:00)
- Saturday, November 18**
 - Fall Formal @ Am. Legion (8:00)

Worth Mentioning

School Store closes on Monday It covers winter sports as well as generic Garretson Blue Dragon gear. You can view the apparel by clicking [here](#).

Fall weather is giving us a bit of a reprieve. After being below average for the last ten days, Garretson and the surrounding area are looking to rebound with warmer temperatures next week. Projected highs in the 50s.

Texas gunman shakes community

Warning signs leave questions of why something wasn't done sooner

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

Last Sunday, a horrible event took place in an unlikely setting. A man named Devin Kelley walked into a Baptist church and unleashed a blood bath upon tons of innocent people. His intention was to clear out the entire church, including children. Kelley only stopped shooting to reload; 26 people died that day.

The shooting took place in southern Texas, not far from San Antonio. Witnesses stated that he was a white man in his 20s, dressed in all black with a tactical vest. Kelley unleashed fire on the congregation of church goers with an automatic assault rifle.

Kelley went in there to wipe out the entire church; he didn't care, men, women, elders, and young children were all victims in this act of terrorism. Out of the 26 deaths, ages ranged from 5-72. Most of the victims were shot in the head and while they were worshipping.

Kevin Jordan, a 30-year-old man, was changing the oil in his Ford Focus when he heard the sounds of gunfire nearby. He looked at the man in body armor and with a gun, later identified as Kelley), unfortunately Jordan was spotted by the man.

When Jordan realized this, he ran inside to alert his son and wife, where they hid in the bathroom. As Jordan fled to his house, Kelley took a shot at him that missed, but went through the front window and almost hit the 2 year old boy.

When Jordan knew the man was gone and the massacre was over he ran to the church to see if he could help anyone. Jordan is a medical assistant, but says that he couldn't stand to look at all the bodies.

Luckily, a brave armed citizen

came to the rescue. After exchanging in gun fire, the shooter hopped in his SUV and drove off. The armed citizen, however, was not going to let this man leave, so he hopped in a second resident's truck and chased him. "It was 'act now, ask questions later'" states the driver Johnnie Langendorff. By the time he caught up to the shooter, Kelley had crashed his SUV in the ditch where he was found dead.

Authorities say that multiple weapons were found in Kelley's vehicle.

As of right now, there is no motive. All the information out there is just saying he is flat out crazy. Kelley claimed that he had bought animals off craigslist with the sole purpose of killing them, a former Air Force colleague told CNN.

She said that the two had worked together in New Mexico from 2010-2012. They recently started chatting again on Facebook, this is where Kelley told her about the animals. She wasn't sure if he was telling the truth or not, but it was weird enough that she took the steps to cut him off.

Kelley also escaped a mental health hospital in 2012 during his time in the Air Force. He was put into the hospital for making death threats to his superiors.

Questions are arising, wondering if authorities should have made it so he could not purchase firearms because of his past. If they had, those 26 people might be alive right now.

Kelley had many violent tweets talking about things like this event, but the FBI didn't react because there are too many tweets like this and it wasn't out of the ordinary on twitter.

The FBI will continue to get information as they question his friends and family in order to best make sense of this senseless act.

Rootin' tootin' ready for shootin'

Hunting season starts off successfully despite low numbers

Some may have noticed an influx in absences this time of year. Yes, flu season is just starting; however, another affliction may be causing some to miss a day or more of school: hunting season.

According to Pheasants Forever, South Dakota boasts the title of "Pheasant Capital of the World" and while pheasant season is in full swing, there have been many questions surrounding the possible success this year.

It has been reported that South Dakota's pheasant population is down around 40% com-

pared to last year. This has not deterred hunters from across the nation as they make their annual trip to South Dakota for pheasant season. While they may not be catching as much game this year, the tradition is worth the trip.

One senior tried to do his own part to help the pheasant population and in turn positively effect South Dakota tourism. Mark John Vandersnick raised his own pheasants which he released earlier in the year.

Nussbaum chooses and signs

Logan Nussbaum has chosen to play softball at DSU



Logan Nussbaum officially committed to attending Dakota State University. While there, she plans to major in elementary education and play softball.

Preparing for WWII

Doomsday shelters being built in small town South Dakota

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

After months of back and forth threats of nuclear war between North Korea and the United States, fears of a devastatingly fatal conflict grow. Miles from Mount Rushmore in Edgemont, South Dakota, there is a solution to this problem.

Developer Robert Vicino is making preparations for the end of the world by turning 575 deserted military bunkers in an enormous field into doomsday shelters. It is the largest survival community in the world.

In the 1940s, the Army Corps of Engineers built bomb proof shelters to store explosives and missiles, but now they are being reconstructed into comfortable and luxurious homes with supplies to sustain against any form of disaster.

Vicino is transforming these bunkers into apocalyptic hideouts made out of concrete and steel about two feet thick. They can also store enough food for twenty

people for a minimum of one whole year.

Vicino's company, Vivos, is one of several others offering end of day shelters and after recent threats of nuclear war, business has been rapidly increasing. Over the past year, sales have increased nearly 1,000%, as customers have many reasons for buying them.

Customers are worried about an economic collapse or even a World War III. Many buyers are preparing for when and if a disaster strikes. It may bring people a sense of security, but it does come with a pretty hefty cost. The average cost for these bunkers is a \$25,000 down payment and \$1,000 each year thereafter.

In an interview with CBS, one customer, Milton Torez, said he is preparing for a world-ending event in his lifetime, but will pass on the shelter to his 11-year-old daughter if it doesn't come.

Whether or not a nuclear war is inevitable, its better to be prepared before it's too late. Plus, the cost is worth surviving for.



Picture inside one of the bunkers being converted in Edgemont, SD. This and more floor plans and ideas can be seen on the Vivos company website.

Garretson joins the sea of blue

Garretson FFA goes to Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention

by **Emily Malsom**
guest writer

During the last week of October, the Garretson FFA traveled to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Floriculture team, composed of Emily Malsom, Nobel Nothstine, Angel Larson, and Kennedy Houghton, were there to compete. Fifteen other members of the Garretson FFA chapter came to experience the convention as well.

For those that aren't in FFA, national convention is a gathering of 56,000 FFA members from all over the country and even Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Some are there to compete in career development events such as floriculture, where you learn various aspects of the floral industry. Some are state officer teams that

participate in business sessions to evaluate and change how the organization is ran. Others are there to experience national convention, the sessions with speakers, and visit tourist spots around Indiana, like the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

As a competitor in the floriculture contest, you started the two-day affair with a trip out to the Indiana State Fairgrounds. There was an orientation for all 51 teams, one from each state. Then the contestants broke into groups to work on team activity, a general knowledge test and a problem solving test.

The next day began at 8:00 in the morning and included identification of plants, an individual sale, an interview, making a corsage as well as a centerpiece arrangement, plant propagation, diagno-



Garretson's floriculture team qualified for nationals after placing first in the South Dakota State competition earlier this year. Team members Angel Larson, Nobel Nothstine, Emily Malsom, and Kennedy Houghton earned a silver placing at the National Competition.

Photo by Ms. Alysha Kientopf

sis of plant diseases, and thank you card stations. The next evening, there was a banquet for the teams and results were announced.

Minnesota FFA won the Floriculture contest and South Dakota's team placed 28th overall. The highest individual score belonged to Nobel Nothstine taking home 52nd place individually. Emily Malsom placed 88th overall. Angel Larson and Kennedy Houghton took home 136th and 176th places, respectively. Combined the Garretson team took home a silver placing.

"This was a truly once in a lifetime experience. I met so many people that were passionate about the floral industry during my competitions. Apparently I wrap foil pots better than a couple of the judges' grandmas!" said Emily Malsom.

The Garretson chapter delegates also joined other chapters on a charter bus to Indianapolis. The bus toured the Caterpillar factory, a candy shop, Monsanto, and went geocaching. Ask someone who was on the bus about their trip if you get a chance ;) Another highlight for all the attendees was the private concert by Rascal Flatts and the hypnotist.

"My favorite part was the candy store tour," said Kaci Danforth. "Randy's Root Beer was the best part," said Jaden Flanagan.

"The concert was something else. Louisiana knows how to have fun!" added Kennedy Houghton.

Between the work, play, jitterbug contests, and many trips to Steak and Shake, National Convention was a great experience for all those that went, whether competing or serving as a delegate for the chapter.



While in Indianapolis, the Garretson FFA members were able to tour different business and learn about the importance of agriculture on their industry. Members attending National Convention this year were (back row) James Nussbaum, Jacob Schmidt, Tessa Pederson, Nobel Nothstine, Evan Bly, Caeden Bunde, (middle row) Kenzie Henseler, Kaci Danforth, Angel Larson, Emily Malsom, (front row) Brady Malsom, Jaden Flanagan, Kennedy Houghton, William Ross.

Photo by Ms. Alysha Kientopf

Senior Spotlight

Hunter Carver



SENIOR PROJECT:

Making a senior slideshow

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:

Mrs. B and Sports

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

Basketball and Track

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Attend USD with an undecided major

Senior Spotlight

Hailey Sheppard



SENIOR PROJECT:

Equine Assisted Therapy

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:

I will miss the teachers and friends most next year.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

National Honor Society

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Go to college to major in Pre-Law then go to law school.