



The Annual FFA breakfast is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, March 3 from 7:30-10:00 at the American Legion.

Blue Ink



Garretson wrestlers see success at state meet

Konechne and Pierret reach podium

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
senior writer

Last weekend, three Garretson wrestlers participated in the State 'B' Tournament held at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. The two day event brought in huge crowds and featured hundreds of grapplers from around the state battling for the chance to stand atop the podium. Seniors Jack Konechne (170) and Keaten Wagner (195) along with junior Hayden Pierret (120) represented the Blue Dragons.

Konechne went through the wrestling season battling a shoulder injury which he suffered during the football playoffs, but proved to be nothing but healthy over the weekend. Konechne won his first two matches on Friday by fall and major decision respectively, putting him into the semifinal round the following day. Konechne then fell to the eventual champion by fall, but won one more match moving himself into the third place match. This was a rematch of the quarterfinal round and Konechne was able to defeat him again and take home third place to cap off an outstanding career.

Jack Konechne added, "It was nice to see how many family and friends were there, it's a big part of my family and I have made and strengthened many relationships throughout my years wrestling."

Pierret followed Konechne's path and also won his first two matches by major decision and decision. The following day, Pierret lost to the future champ by a technical fall, but was also able to work his way back into the third place match. Pierret

ended up losing to his opponent, but still came home with a spot on the podium and a fourth place medal to end the season. Pierret will look to repeat his successes next year and once again display his abilities on the mat at the state competition.

Wagner also got the chance to showcase his skills on the mat, but was not able to attain the same achievements as his fellow teammates. Wagner lost his first match by fall which immediately put his chances of first place at zero. However, this did not stop Wagner from pinning a kid to keep his chances to reach the podium alive. Wagner eventually lost his next match by decision, keeping him out of medaling position and put an end to his grappling career.

The Blue Dragons are now focused on the future and who will step up in the years



In a gripping third place match, Hayden Pierret takes the advantage from Elk Point-Jefferson's Zak Fowler. Fowler however came back to win via major decision. Pierret placed fourth.

Photo by Anna Uhl



Jack Konechne takes down his 4th opponent of the tournament via fall. Konechne pinned Ty Namanny from Kimball-White Lake-Plankinton in 0:34 to advance to the third place match.

Photo by Anna Uhl

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Sea cucumbers eat with their feet

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Place a piece of wax paper on top of ice cream to prevent freezer burn.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What is Shaquille O'Neil's favorite kind of lip balm? (submitted by Colton B.)

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: This starts out tall, but the longer it stands, the shorter it grows.

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 2**
 - Region 3A Boys Basketball Rd 2
- Saturday, March 3**
 - FFA Breakfast @ Am. Legion (7:30-10:00)
 - District Youth Wrestling Tourney @ Garretson (10:00)
- Monday, March 5**
 - 4th Grade @ SD Orchestra Symphony Concert
 - FFA CDE @ Howard
 - Pops Concert @ Old Gym (7:00)
- Wednesday, March 7**
 - 8th Grade Women in Science Day @ Southeast Tech
 - 7th/8th Honor Band & Choir
- Thursday, March 8**
 - Preschool/Kindergarten Screening (9:00-6:00)

Worth Mentioning

Spring Sports Apparel is now available for purchase. You can click on this [link](#) find it posted by the Blue Dragon Boosters on Twitter and Facebook. It features t-shirts (both short and long-sleeve), lightweight sweatshirts, pullovers,



Read Across America Week

by **Heather Huether**
staff writer

Read Across America Week started in 1997, it was a week of celebration and fun activities encouraging children to read.

This year's weeklong celebration started Monday, February 26 and ran through Friday, March 2. It included fun activities and dress up days for the young students at Garretson.

The dress up days included hat day on Monday, scrabble day on Tuesday, color day on Wednesday, genre day on Thursday, and ending on Friday with pajama day.

Elementary school embraces a love of reading while celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday

The celebration ends today, which is Dr. Seuss's birthday.

The elementary kicked off each day this week with an assembly that touched anywhere from the theme of the dress up day to sharing the importance and fun of reading and



writing. Friday was similar to a party day, where elementary students brought their favorite book and a prop to go with their book. Then they get to rotate from class to class looking at everyone's favorite books.

Read Across America week is meant to motivate children to read in and outside of school. Reading is an important factor in student achievement. Research has shown that children, who are motivated and spend more time reading, do better in school.

JOKE: "Shaq"stick

BRAINTEASER: A candle

Science rock stars

Annual science fair competition brings out the best in middle school students

by Mrs. Julie Mueller
guest contributor

The 16th Annual Garretson Middle School/High School Science Fair was held Monday, February 26, 2018. Eighty-four middle school students and one high school student participated in the science fair.



Drew Pederson tied for Grand Champion with his Animal Science project on bovine gestational periods.

Photo by Keara Beck

Winning 1st place honors in Animal Science was Drew Pederson with his project "Does the Length of Gestation Vary Between Bull & Heifer Calves?". A red ribbon and second place went to Julia Mosley and Dakota Olund with a project on animal camouflage entitled "M & M Survival Challenge". Rounding out the animal science division was Jenna Wastell and Chris Wynia earning 3rd and white with "How to Make Toys for Cats".

"Do You See What Eye See?" by Morgan Damman, Kayla Genzlinger, and Anna Jones took first place honors with a blue in the Behavioral Sciences. A red ribbon and second went to Julia Larson's "Can Adults Pass a Middle School Test?". Third place with a red went to Sami Kruger and Aliyah Leedy's "How Does Fear Change with Age?", and Amber Hulscher took fourth with a red on "Pinocchio's Arm: A Lie Detector!".

"Butter Battles" by Madi Decker won the Biochemistry - Food Science Emphasis division. Also earning blues and second was the team of Jazmine Osberg and Grace Panning with "Gluten Free vs. Taste Buds" and Noel Johnson's "How Greasy are Your Potato Chips?". The team of Peyton Beckman and Grace Hove's "Brownies" also earned a blue and

third. Tying for 4th place with reds were Raegan Altman and Logan Bly with "Homemade Ice Cream" and the team of Maverick Houg, Acen Olson, and Tryston Olund with "Vinegar's Effects on Food" and Samantha Shellum, Erin Steen, and Mataya Trower's "Chemistry of Ice-Cream Making". Joy Fry and Morgan Moritz's "Cupcake Differences" took 5th and red. In 6th with a white was Hunter Abraham and Peyton Abraham with "Putting Brand Popcorn to the Test". "Strawberries in Acids" by Chloe Flahaven, Bryce Stoterau, and Dustyn Winterton earned 7th and white.

"Which Type of Carpet Fiber is Most Stain Resistant?" by Isaiah Gnadt won the Chemistry category. Also earning a blue and taking second were Dylan Jessen and Joe Sundvold with "Sugar Explosion". "Veggie Power" by Connor Bertotti earned third and blue. Katie Hanson's "Bouncing Eggs" was fourth and blue, Zach Uhl's "Potato vs. Lemon" was fifth and blue, and Olivia Mullin rounded out the blues with her 6th place project "Bouncy Polymer Chemistry". In the reds and 7th were Jaelyn Benson, Mya Long, and Chloe Schleuter with "Bath Bombs!", 8th was Autumn Gaspar with "Will it

Slime?" and 9th was Logan Facile, Breydon Lee, and Jaden Richter with "Can You Charge a Phone Without an Outlet?".

Adam Hulscher earned a red ribbon in Computer Science with his "Computer Game Design" project. Our only high school participant was Aiden Magnuson with his Earth Science project on how water percolates through different soil types entitled "Percolation Rates of Soil".

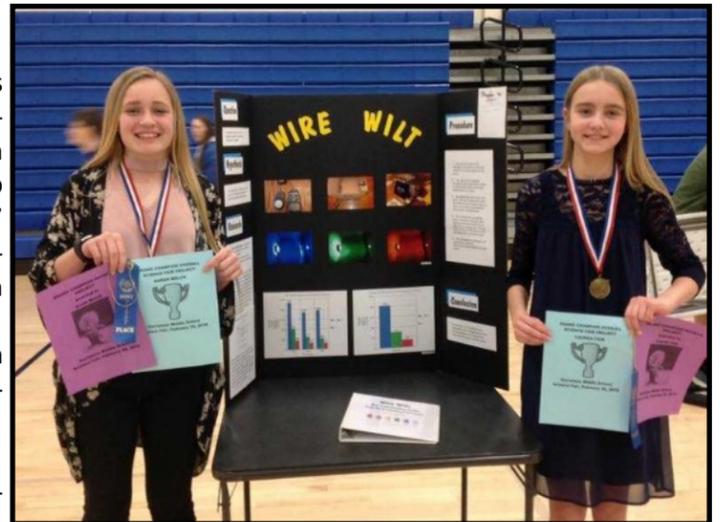
"Perpetual Hydroelectric Generator" by Austin Palmlund and Alex Reker took first and blue in the Energy and Transportation category. Earning blue and second was Sean Gottschalk with "Burning Biofuels: Comparing Nonrenewable with Renewable Fuels" and Gabe Johnson with "What are the Best Materials for Parachutes" was third and blue.

"Simple Motor" by the trio of Braedon Genzlinger, Eli Reed, and Gentry Sanders won the Engineering division. Second and white went to Justin Stoterau with his project entitled "Engineering Ski Lifts". Reds went to Olivia Thorton with "How to Filter Water" and Mason Tillma with "Cheminerals" in that order in the Environmental Science area.

Allison Ebbing won the Medicine and Health category with her project "Are Fingerprint Patterns Inherited?" Blue and second went to Kloey Mullin, Taylor Sage, and Rian Smidt with "Egg Drop", a study in how to prevent concussions. Third and blue went to Payton Campbell and Jenna VanHolland with "Germs"

and to Maren Bonte with "How Sweet it Is! Measuring the Glucose in Your Food." Reds were earned by the fourth place winners, Morgan Pierret and Lily Ranschau, with "How Much Fat is in Your Food?" and 5th and red went to Braxten Rozeboom with "Electrolyte Challenge".

Lauren Fick and Sarah Welch took 1st and blue in the Physics division. Their project was entitled "Wire Wilt: How Light-Emitting Diodes Fade as Temperature Increases". Blue and second were Carson Clark, Clay Lardy, and Cooper Long with "The Science of Hoops!". With "It's Good!", Ryan Flanagan, Jayse Miller, and Tayson Swatek earned third and blue. Fourth and blue honors go to "Under Pressure Ball Bouncing Dynamics" by Dylan Kindt and Cadyn Ockenga. Earning a red and fifth were Preston Bohl and Matthew Gilbert with "Basketball vs. Science". Sixth and red went to Sam Schleuter's "Does PSI Matter?", 7th and red to Keara Bottelberghe and Bryn



Sara Welch and Lauren Fick presented in the physics division focusing on the correlation between temperature and light-emitting diodes. Welch and Fick earned overall Grand Champion for this project, tying Drew Pederson.

Photo by Keara Beck

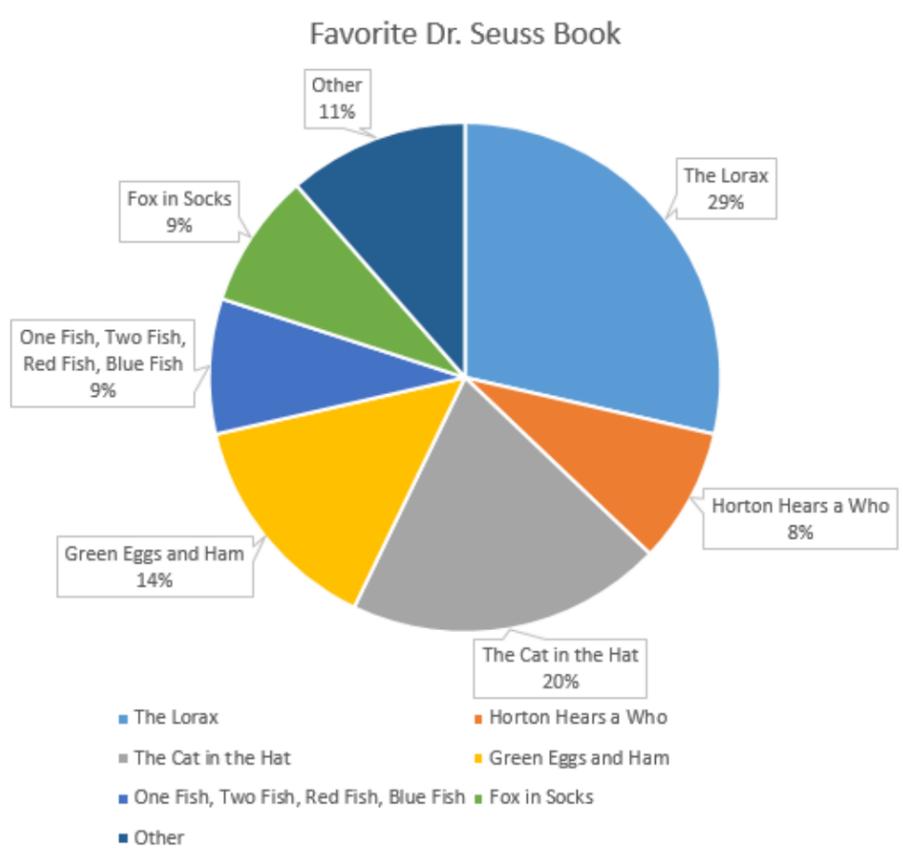
Johnson with "Bouncing Basketballs: How Much Energy Does Dribbling Take?", and 8th and white was Josh Mehlhoff with "Marble Races."

In the overalls, Co-Honorable Mentions went to Allison Ebbing, daughter of Michael and Melissa Ebbing, and Austin Palmlund, son of Russel Palmlund, and Alex Reker, son of Ryan and Amie Reker. Reserve Champion went to Isaiah Gnadt, son of Markell and Julie Gnadt. Co-Grand Champions were Lauren Fick, daughter of Doug and Sheri Fick, and Sarah Welch, daughter of Martin Welch and Beth Wech and Drew Pederson, son of Jana Julson and Mark Pederson.

Judges for this year's event were: Keara Beck, Ryan Fick, Collin Flahaven (GHS high school students who were all three year regional participants), Brad Farrell (Agronomist, Garretson CHS Eastern Farmers), Geof Furness (high school science teacher), Ruth Saraar (retired high school English teacher and school board member), Sydney Sleep (SDSU Ag/Bio Ambassador, Ag Communications major) and Anna Wolles (SDSU Ag/Bio Ambassador, Pre-Physical Therapy major.)

Student Opinion Poll

In light of Read Across America we voted for our favorite Dr. Seuss book. *The Lorax* was the most popular.



NFL Free Agency

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer—editorial

After an exiting football season with little to no disappointments capped off by an Philadelphia Eagles Super Bowl victory over perennial contender New England Patriots, it is now time for free agency and the trading block. One of the biggest trade talks that has happened so far is Chiefs QB Alex Smith to the Redskins. Technically this is not official until the season is actually in progress, but is considered a “done-deal” by many.

Other notable faces could also see a change in jersey color. These

are some of the players that could be in a new home this next season:

- Case Keenum (Minnesota Vikings)
- Le’Veon Bell (Pittsburgh Steelers)
- Mark Ingram (New Orleans Saints)
- Kirk Cousins (Washington Redskins)

The Redskins are talking about slapping a franchise tag so that Cousins cannot leave during free agency but they can trade him and get some decent players out of it.

While on the topic of franchise tags, Le’Veon Bell has threatened to “retire” if the Steelers put another franchise tag on him. Bell believes that he is worth a contract of \$60M a year. If the Steelers believe that he is worth this is yet to be determined.

Ingram unlike the other two, does not have lots of buzz around the trading table, but I believe that after his spectacular season with the Saints, he could request to be traded. Alvin Kamara, Saints running-back, also won rookie of the year so it would not be that hard of a hit to the team if they were to trade Ingram for another decent back.

Chiefs have also made their second trade very early in the off-season; Kansas City traded a young pro bowl cornerback in Marcus Peters for two future draft picks to the Rams. It appears that Kansas City is looking to rebuild after past playoff struggles.

Summit League

by **Greg Arana**
staff writer

The Summit League is a D1 college basketball league made up of eight colleges in the Midwestern United States. There are four games this weekend within the Summit League Tournament, with the winner earning an automatic berth to the big dance.

The colleges in the league are the following: South Dakota State, South Dakota, Western Illinois, Omaha, North Dakota State, Denver, Fort Wayne, and Oral Roberts. The league is planning on adding the University of North Dakota sometime this year.

Last weekend served as the final conference play before the tournament. The South Dakota women hold the #1 seed while South Dakota State is #2. These seedings are reversed for the men’s side with Jackrabbits holding the top slot and the Coyotes right behind them.

Proximity of top contending teams is helpful as ticket sales are projected to be the biggest yet since coming to Sioux Falls, but they need to get to the championship first. Opening round games are Saturday and Sunday.

Championships are held Tuesday in the Denny Sanford Premier Center. In conjunction with the games this weekend, the Summit League is hosting a fanfest in the adjoining convention center and arena. The fanfest is free to the public regardless of ticket purchases for the basketball games.

Mad Lib

by **Sylvia Larson**
staff writer

First fill in the following:

1. Noun
2. Noun
3. Noun
4. Noun

5. Noun
6. Adverb
7. Proper Noun
8. Noun
9. Noun
10. Proper Noun
11. Noun
12. Noun
13. Proper Noun
14. Noun

Hi! My name is (1). I like (2). For my (3) this year, I decided to take my (4) to a (5) parlor!

Everything was going (6) until (7) showed up. When they got there, they immediately ate ALL of the (8)!

That was just the beginning. We decided to go to the local (9) to see if that would make the day fun.

It didn’t. (10) fell off a (11), and broke their (12). (13) ate (14). We all decided it was best to just go home.

In response

Last week the *Blue Ink* ran an editorial that concentrated on not only the unfortunate events that happened in Parkland but school shootings since the start of 2018.

While it is an editorial, there is

one clarification. It has been widely reported that there have been 18 school shootings since the turn of the year. This has been said not only by this article in the *Blue Ink* but also the *New York Daily News*, *Business Insider*, and ABC News among others. While this number is accurate concerning gun-related incidents on school grounds, there is a

difference between that and a mass school shooting which there are considerably far fewer of. Many of the times, there were no injuries and in some cases the shootings were accidental.

The *Blue Ink* is neither for nor against gun control nor cares to take a side in that debate.

Senior Spotlight *Zebadiah Johnson*

SENIOR PROJECT:

Designed the summer weight training program for football

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

- Football
- Powerlifting
- Choir
- Band
- National Honor Society

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:

Not having to pay for anything

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Attend SDSU for political science and history



Senior Spotlight *Marc Rattenborg*

SENIOR PROJECT:

Gardening and making salsa

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:

- Football
- Basketball
- Track

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:

My dog Buster

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Attend SDSU to major in exercise science.

