



Last Saturday was the Annual FFA breakfast served at the American Legion. This capped off a full celebration of FFA Week.

# Blue Ink



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## Women in Science Day at STI

*Eighth graders got the chance to explore STEM careers and activities during 14th annual event*

by Heather Huether  
staff writer

On Wednesday, March 7, Garretson school counselor, Mrs. Pliska, took 24 eighth grade girls to Women In Science, WIS, at Southeast Technical Institute, in Sioux Falls. According to the Women in Science Sioux Falls home page, WIS is trying to break the stigma about women working in STEM careers; STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. These careers include, chemist, environmental scientist, robotics engineer, sociologist, economists, and many more.

WIS works by connecting young girls with local women who work in STEM fields as their profession. By showing young girls these fields, it gives them possible role models, or mentors, and encourages them to explore STEM careers.

While Southeast Tech hosted the event, there were multiple schools, businesses, and career opportunities featured. The program included presentations from pediatric dentists, wildlife biologists, pharmacists, civil engineers, family practice physicians, optometrists, GIS analysts, research associates, creative directors, meteorologists, physical scientists and many others. The presenters explained what the jobs were, the education needed, the salary, activities they do, and other im-



The eighth graders spent all day out at Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls during the annual Women in Science event. Back row: Jazmine Osberg, Amber Hulscher, Emily Panning, Lauren Fick, Joy Fry, Aliyah Leedy, Keara Bottelberge, Oliviyah Thornton; Middle row: Erin Steen Samantha Shellum, Dakota Olund, Mataya Trower, Mya Long, Julia Mosley, Chloe Schleuter, Katie Hanson; Front row: Mrs. Pliska, Julia Larson, Madison Decker, Noel Johnson, Jaelyn Benson, Morgan Pierret, Lily Ranschau, Maren Bonte, Olivia Mullin, Sarah Welch

Photo submitted by Mrs. Michelle Pliska

portant information.

Students also got to look at different types of exhibits where they could do hands-on activities, and got to talk one-on-one with companies, colleges, and other women working in STEM related fields. There were exhibits from commercial companies, government agencies, colleges and universities, research facilities, and others. They exhibited the latest

instruments, programs, degrees and jobs within the STEM career field.

Mrs. Pliska noted that the girls were all very engaged throughout the day, and she consistently heard them mentioning how cool this experience was.

Over 700 girls from area schools visited during this day, making it the highest turnout yet for the event.



Julia and Olivia played with electrical currents and were able to power their own bulb. This was one of the many activities offered during the Women in Science day this Wednesday at STI.

Photo by Mrs. Michelle Pliska



The Washington Pavilion Kirby Science Discovery Center set up a booth for the Women in Science day. Madison experiences first hand the power of vacuum sealing or vacuum's in outer space as the bag immediately suctions to her body.

Photo by Mrs. Michelle Pliska

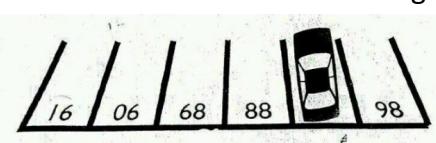
### This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** Double Stuf Oreos are only 1.86 times as "stuf"ed as classic Oreos.

**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 do you call a fake Irish stone?

**BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK:** What number is the car covering?



Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, March 9

- Region 3A Boys Basketball Rd 2

#### Sunday, March 11

- MS Choir sings National Anthem @ SF Stampede Hockey (6:00)

#### Monday, March 12

- Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Augustana (9:00)

#### Tuesday, March 13

- School Board Meeting @ Library (5:45)

#### Thursday, March 15

- End of 3rd Quarter

#### Friday, March 16

- No School—Spring Break

### Worth Mentioning

**Correction:** Last week's issue featured photos from the middle school science fair. Photo credits go to Keara Beck.

**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,



**GARRETSON**  
**BLUE DRAGONS**

# South Dakota has huge success during Summit League Tourney

## Jackrabbit men's and women's teams make the NCAA basketball tournament

by Isaiah Miles Mader  
senior writer

The Summit League hosted their annual men's and women's basketball tournament March 3rd through the 6th in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where eight schools battled for the automatic bids into the NCAA Tournament. The Denny Sanford Premier Center played host to one of the largest crowds ever, directly stemming from the SDSU vs USD matchup in both the men's and women's championships. This is the tenth year Sioux Falls has hosted the Summit League championships and the growing success of the South Dakota teams is generating lots of buzz in the area.

The SDSU men came into the

tournament as the 1 seed and were seeking a third straight championship and their fifth in the past seven years, the other two were won by NDSU. SDSU started off against Western Illinois who they beat 66-60 after trailing at halftime. In the semi-final game, the Jackrabbits battled against one of their bitter rivals NDSU. The Jacks were able to handily take of the Bison beating them 78-57, thus advancing to the championship.

On the other side of the bracket, the 2 seed USD fought their way past Omaha 87-73 and Denver 76-58 into the final, marking the Coyotes' first Summit League championship appearance. The Jackrabbits, led by tournament MVP Mike Daum, worked their way past the Coyotes and into March Madness. This game set an attendance record for the Summit League championship with over 11,000 fans in the seats. The Jacks are expected to be a 12 seed in the East and would play the projected 5 seed Clemson Tigers.

In the women's bracket, USD came in as the 1 seed and rolled

through their first two games beating Fort Wayne 83-32 and Oral Roberts 65-53. This propelled the Coyotes into the final on a 20 game win streak as they looked to make their second ever NCAA tournament appearance.

SDSU came in as the 2 seed, seeking to win their eighth Summit League championship in the past ten years. The Jacks worked their way through to the final by trouncing NDSU 87-62 and Western Illinois 80-51. SDSU was able to put an end to the Coyotes run beating them 65-50. The final game saw a record attendance of just under 9,000, with over 27,000 attending for the complete women's tournament. SDSU is a projected 11 seed and Iowa who is a predicted 6 seed.

The Summit League tournament has become a huge deal to basketball fans in eastern South Dakota and the surrounding area, and the all 605 matchups should promote even larger turnouts for next year. The SDSU men's and women's teams are looking at one of their best chances ever to play Cinderella at the "Big Dance."

## Buckle up

by Mason Hofer  
staff writer

One week ago today, the student council were performing a top secret examination on the Garretson High School drivers. Members of the student council set up camp in the student parking lot last Friday.

What they were looking for was to see how many students wore their seatbelts. The members parked their cars in different areas near the student parking lot to do this. They did this twice to see if there was any change.

"Some people noticed us the first time, so the second time we did it some of the people who were not buckled up, were." stated sophomore ore student council member Malia Johnson.

Garretson student council are not the only people checking the seatbelts around schools, various resource officers also participated in this examination.

The lesson you can learn from all of this is best stated by the South Carolina Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, "Trust your captain, but keep your seatbelt fastened."

## State powerlifting

### Johnson improves from last year, placing fourth in the state



by Sylvia Larson  
staff writer

Garretson's sole high school powerlifter, senior Zeb Johnson, competed in the state meet in Brandon, SD, last Saturday. This was his second meet this season.

"Lifting started at 9:00, so I ended up arriving at the school around 7:50. This gave me enough time for warming up, talking to people, and to get my pin heights for the meet," he stated.

First went the squat. Competitors do each style of lift three times, generally increasing the amount on the bar with each successful attempt. Johnson started his squat with 365 pounds.

"It went really well, and put me in

good position for the rest of the meet," Johnson said.

He continued, "The squats that I attempted went well. I got my opener at 365 and my second attempt at 385. However, I almost passed out during the 385 and I can't actually remember squatting the weight." He opted out of a third squat, choosing to save his strength for the other categories.

Next was bench, which is the hardest out of

the three. Johnson got a successful 225 his first bench, and completed his second also. He did 255 on his third, but lost it on a technicality.

Last was deadlift, which he started with 405.

"My first deadlift was my best lift of the meet; it was one of the smoothest lifts I've ever had," despite that, it was also his weakest part of the whole competition. Johnson stated, "I pulled my opener, but didn't get my next two attempts. My body was just really tired by that time."

He ended up finishing 5th overall and 4th in his weight class, which wasn't quite his intended outcome. "While I didn't lift as well as I could have, I had fun at the meet," he said. Johnson has a week or so before he heads to Wisconsin for Nationals.



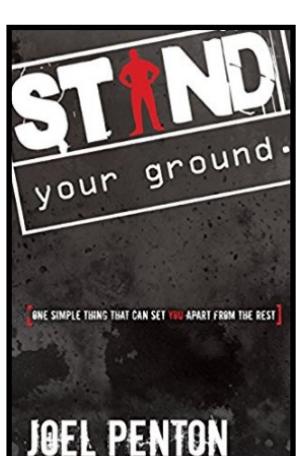
## Penton and The Stray

by Greg Arana  
staff writer

Wednesday, March 7, Garretson High School and Middle School had an assembly with a guest speaker and a band that was traveling through the Midwest.

Joel Penton, a former Ohio State Buckeye football player and national champion was the guest speaker, and his friends in the band called The Stray came to GHS performed.

Penton gave some advice about commitment and making good choices, using personal examples and struggles throughout his own life. He even had great demonstrations with the students. Then The Stray got up and performed one of their songs live for the students and also played a Twenty One Pilots song by request. The Stray even performed later that night, from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM for anyone that wanted to come. Penton also had a few words of wisdom to share during the evening. This was all thanks in part to a sponsorship by Pizza Ranch..



# Students chat during “Coffee with a Counselor”

*High school students lead open conversations during lunch hour on Friday*

by Peyton Sage  
senior writer

Last week, Mrs. Pliska introduced Coffee with the Counselor to the high school students. She invited students who have a 5th period study hall or an online class to meet with her during 5th period through lunch in the conference room up in the main office.

She offered coffee on-the-house to anyone who attended the event, and decided to make it a weekly thing when she is around. Pliska stated in her email to all GHS students, “Let’s talk about whatever is on your mind. You bring the topics. I’ll bring the coffee.”

“Because I know one of the deadliest school shootings in history is on our minds, I’d be glad to talk about

all of your thoughts. I don’t know all of the answers, but I know ALL of your thoughts deserve to be heard,” Pliska continued.

Senior Jaden Braaten was one of the students who attended last weeks Coffee with the Counselor. She said of the event, “I thought it was really fun! We talked a little bit about politics, society, mental health, and our nation as a whole. I think everyone would benefit from the conversations we had and should go to at least one of these.”

“I never felt judged by anyone during the meeting, and I don’t think anyone else felt judged. It was a really good place to get everything off our chests. I will definitely be attending more of these!” Braaten added.

Pliska decided to do Coffee with

the Counselor so students had a safe environment to talk about whatever might be on their mind. Most importantly, she wanted it to be a judgment free zone to share thoughts, because the students’ thoughts matter.

Whether students want to talk about current events going on around the country, about local events, or personal struggles, Mrs. Pliska encourages every student to join her for one of her Friday meetings.

With the students’ help, Mrs. Pliska can give people something good to talk about. She also thinks that kindness is a great place to start.

# Glow or no

by Greg Arana  
staff writer

Wednesday, March 7, was the deadline for students to sign up for Glow Dodgeball which is scheduled for today. Study hall teacher Mrs. Gloe put this whole thing together for the Garretson Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers.

The plans for Glow Dodge were to have the middle schoolers show up at 6:00 PM tonight and stay until 8:00 PM then the high schoolers would show up and stay from 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM.

The middle schoolers will still stay for the planned time but due to a lack of interest and/or response the high schoolers allotted time has been canceled.

It was officially cancelled yesterday for High Schoolers. This isn’t the first year GHS has had a Glow Dodgeball but with a lack of interest this year could this be its last year?

## Music programs and boosters hold POPS concert

Despite having to be rescheduled after an early work snow storm, it was a packed house last night for the music department’s POPS concert. The combination of popcorn, pop floats, and pop music was a treat for all the senses.

Middle school and high school choirs both performed three selected pieces each. The band, a combined middle school and high school, played four selections, including a favorite “Star Wars Saga”



## Senior Spotlight Joshua Thomas

**SENIOR PROJECT:**  
Building a deck

**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:**  
Football  
Track

**WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:**  
Friday night lights and Saturdays with the boys

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:**  
Going to college for an undecided major



## Senior Spotlight Chayce Schleuter

**SENIOR PROJECT:**  
Restoring my pickup

**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:**  
Cross Country  
Wrestling  
Baseball

**WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST:**  
Friends... and sports

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:**  
Go to Lake Area Tech for welding

