



The American Legion essay and poem contest winners were announced today. Look in next week's issue for more.

Blue Ink



Student advisory group meets for the first time

Mr. Johnson meets with students in hopes of hearing ideas to improve the school

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
senior writer

Due to staggering results from a student survey, Garretson superintendent Mr. Johnson has met with several high school students over the past week who volunteered to be a part of the Student Advisory Group. Mr. Johnson reached out to Garretson high schoolers and proposed the opportunity to meet to discuss issues and ways to help improve school and its overall atmosphere.

The survey was given to students for GHS to receive feedback on the day to day functions and to get a better idea of how kids view the school. It yielded results which were unsatisfactory to administrators who decided that something needs to



change, and felt the best way was to start with the opinions of Garretson students.

Senior Zebadiah Johnson said, "I think that any time the administration is willing to meet with students, good things can come out of it. I just hope that our concerns will actually be taken into account to improve the school."

The meetings centered around three main points dealing with rules, opportunities for students, and how teachers approach their classrooms and their students. Mr. Johnson also gave the volunteers an opportunity to voice any of their individual concerns or chances they would like to see happen at Garretson.

Senior Sylvia Larson who also attended the meetings added, "I feel like we brought to light some subjects that were previously unknown to the administration and we got a lot accomplished. We definitely left



that room with a lot to think about."

Mr. Johnson held three separate meetings to accommodate with scheduling and to make sure each kid could have their voice heard and have a chance to voice their opinions. The junior and senior girls met last Friday, sophomores and freshman the following Monday, and lastly the senior boys this past Tuesday. The meetings had over 10 students volunteer to take part.

"In my humble opinion, that meeting should have been bursting at the seams with students. It greatly saddens me that people would say all these things whether true or not about Garretson educators but not care enough to do something to change it," said Larson

The meetings are a step in the right direction for administration and the students. By providing kids with an opportunity to improve the future of the school and giving administrators a better look into how students experience GHS everyday.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Leprechauns were originally recorded to wear red, not green.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Put glow-in-the-dark paint or tape on your phone charger, so you'll be able to find it at night in the dark.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: On what musical instrument did the showoff musician play his St. Patrick's Day tunes?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: What is at the end of a rainbow? Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 25

- PTO Event @ Skate City

Friday, March 16

- No School—Spring Break

Monday, March 19

- Track Practice Starts

Tuesday, March 20

- Regional Science Fair @ Brookings (8:00)

Wednesday, March 21

- FFA CDE @ Flandreau

Friday, March 23

- PTO Breakfast (7:30)

- FFA International CDE @ SDSU

Worth Mentioning

Garretson Pride Pool is up and running. While the first four played earlier this week, the official round of 64 kicks of today. SDSU men play Ohio State at 3:00 today.

Track practice starts on Monday. There is still time to participate. Talk to Ms. Howe or Mr. Bohl for more information. Last year the Blue Dragon Track and Field team qualified 14 individuals in multiple events for the state competition.



GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Do college basketball players deserve a salary

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer—editorial

The beginning of March means the beginning of the biggest tournament in the sports world, March Madness. For those who aren't aware, March Madness is a college basketball tournament where 68 schools compete for one goal, a national championship. Due to all of these teams fighting to the death, there are all kinds of crazy crossovers, dunks, and of course game winners. The championship game will take place in San Antonio.

With this amount of excitement and an estimated 70 million brackets filled out, anyone who cares at all about any kind of sports, wants to witness the battle. The attendance

of the games and views over television and mobile devices skyrocket; this makes the NCAA millions of dollars, not counting merchandise sold at the games. Also, the Gambling Industry predicts \$10B will be bet on March Madness, almost all of it illegally.

So, do these athletes deserve to be paid a fraction of these billions of dollars that they are creating for working hard and putting on this show? This has been a very back and forth conversation for many years. Recently the FBI did an investigation to see if players are getting paid under the table. One notable discovery was an Arizona recruit who was offered \$150,000.

"Of course I think they deserve to be paid, people are making lots of money off of them, so don't they deserve some of it?" stated basketball fan Cadyn Ockenga. Recently a for-

Schools make millions through ticket sales, merchandise, and branding

mer member of the UCLA bruins, Lonzo Ball stated that he didn't get paid in college but "Everyone's getting paid, might as well make it legal."

"Isn't free school or scholarships enough for these kids?" is an approach that a lot of people take when speaking on this topic. But, these players aren't focused on their schoolwork as much as they should be because they are constantly practicing, watching film and playing games. Also lots of these players do not finish their time in college if they are a prospect.

This has been a very controversial topic for a long time and will continue to be one even if they are getting paid, both sides have valid points and will stand their ground. The question everyone needs to ask themselves is, if you were producing millions of dollars because of how hard you work and someone took all of it, how would you feel?



Scientist Steven Hawking dies at 76

January 8, 1942—March 14, 2018

by Peyton Sage
senior writer

Stephen Hawking was widely known for his works as a theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research within the University of Cambridge. He made several groundbreaking theories on black holes and also publishing several science books such as *A Brief History of Time*, which sold over ten million copies in 1988.

In 1963, when Hawking was only 21, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a degenerative neurological disease that left him paralyzed. After being diagnosed, he was given less than three years to live. However, he beat the odds and went on to have an incredibly successful life.

In 1965, Hawking received his PhD in cosmology where he studied tirelessly about the origin, evolution, and eventual fate of the universe. He later went on to become the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, a role once held by Sir Isaac Newton.

Not only did he inspire people to see beyond their own planet and expand their understanding of the entire universe, he also inspired those with disabilities to never let it limit themselves.

Stephen Hawking's lifelong dream was to someday travel to space. In 2007, when he was 65 years old, he (sort of) got to live his dream. Hawking went through eight rounds of weightlessness to show that people with disabilities are not limited by physical handicaps as long as they are not disabled in spirit.

Hawking said of the experience, "For me, this was true freedom. People who know me well say that my smile was the biggest they'd ever seen. I was Superman for those few minutes."

While it seems the whole world is mourning the death of the wonderful Stephen Hawking, NASA, having a close relationship with the scientist, paid tribute to him in a tweet saying, "His theories unlocked a universe of possibilities that we & the world are exploring. May you keep flying like superman in microgravity..."



St. Patty's Day

by Heather Huether
staff writer



St. Patrick's Day will be this Saturday, March 17th. It is a celebration of the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patty's Day started in the 17th century and is now honored through a variety of festivals all around the world that celebrate the Irish culture.

The Irish have been celebrating March 17th as a holiday for over 1,000 years. Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. The tradition included dancing, drinking, and feasting on a traditional meal which included Irish bacon and cabbage.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is a widely known figure in Christianity. According to History.com he was born into a wealthy family in Britain near the end of the 4th century. As a teen he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a prisoner but soon escaped back to Britain. After 15 years, he moved back to Ireland to preach and convert many Irish to Christianity.

The first New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade was in 1848. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the five hour event. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Savannah also celebrate with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each.

Today, people of all

backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.

While this is a celebrated holiday all around the world, it doesn't necessarily have the same "sticking power" that other holidays such as Easter, Halloween, or Fourth of July have. "I honestly don't celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It just feels like a normal day," said sophomore Bella Peters

Senior Caitlyn Trower agreed, "I don't really celebrate, I try to wear green so no one can pinch me, but other than that it doesn't really hold and meaning...I don't think anyone even knows what it's celebrating."

Beginning in 1995, the Irish government began a national campaign to use interest in St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism and showcase Ireland and Irish culture to the rest of the world. Today, approximately 1 million people annually take part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows.

Sioux Falls will hold its own parade on Saturday at 2:00.



Solo/Ensemble Contest

by Sylvia Larson
staff writer

On Monday, a few GHS singers headed to Augustana for the annual Solo/Duet Contest.

With choir teacher Kelby Robinson leading, they left for Sioux Falls at 8:30 that morning to warm up and eventually sing.

Seniors Zeb Johnson and Becca Weiland sang a song called "Follow Me" as a duet.

"It went well, we got an excel-

lent," commented Weiland.

Aside from Johnson and Weiland, Aliah Lymon, Aftyn Heitkamp, Caitlyn Trower, Kenzie Decker, and Lana Braswell all competed. Braswell and Lymon performed solos, and everyone else did duets.

All participants came away with an excellent (2) or superior rating (1).



3D House Printing

by Greg Arana
staff writer

We've seen a lot of 3-D printed things from shoes to guitars and even cars but what about a 3-D printed house? Well if you have around 800 square feet to use and \$4,000 you can 3-D print a house in less than 24 hours.

The houses right now are mainly being used to help non profit organizations build houses for the poor.

Senior Isaiah Mader said, "I think 3-D printed houses provide a cheap and effective way to house those who can't afford to purchase the extremely expensive houses of today."

Start up companies around the



national and globe are making an impact with this new technology. They are currently gathering funds to build a community in El Salvador with these house.

For only \$5 a square foot this is a cheap and effective way to produce an abundant amount of houses in a short amount of time. 3-D printing could possibly be the future of building new houses.

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