Journalism and yearbook students honored for writing, photography

Annual convention provides chances for student journalists to better their skills, be recognized for their work.

by Mason Hofer
staff writer

Yesterday, March 28, the journalism team took a day off of school to attend the South Dakota State Press Convention held at the SDSU campus in Brookings, SD.

Garretson arrived at the convention right on time, as everyone poured into the large room. After a brief introduction and current events quiz, the students split into groups to listen to speakers that would help the class become better journalists/members of the press. Topics included photography, interviewing, yearbook, and fresh ideas for photos and stories.

After a brief lunch break students sat in on a panel discussion; four communications and media professionals and/or current college students talked about their experiences, what they suggest for those interested in similar careers, and fielded questions from the audience.

After the panel, SDHSSA Assistant Executive Director of Fine Arts, Brooks Bowman announced the awards. There were four different newswriting categories (general news, sports, editorial, and feature story) and three photography.

In January, students from across the state submitted pictures and articles that were published in their newspapers and yearbooks. Those submissions were then judged and scored based on content, headlines and captions, and composition. The advisor/teacher of the journalism classes could also submit their school newspaper and yearbook for judging also.

For the school publications, Blue Ink received an honorable mention and the yearbook, Dragon, received an excellent.

For the photography portion awards Garretson received four awards, Sylvia Larson, earned a superior in her sports photography and excellent in school activities. Isaiah Mader and Mason Hofer both took home excellent in school activities and sports, respectively.

For the newswriting field Garretson received 11 awards, Mader and Peyton Sage received a superior on a combination editorial over senior privileges. Mader also received one superior (feature) and one excellent (general news). Sage (feature), Zeb Johnson (general news), and Greg Arana all took home one superior. Hofer collected one superior (editorial) and two excellent (feature story, sports), and Heather Huether and Emily Malsom (general news) each received one excellent.

Students and publications received valuable feedback to improve their writing, skills, and composition while still working to provide a quality service and product for the Garretson community.

Facebook and Cambridge Analytica scandal arises

Information of 50 million Facebook users has been harvested and used for controversial reasons.

by Isaiah Miles Mader
senior writer

Throughout the past weeks, Facebook has been under fire by users from around the world after data mining and sharing surfaced. Facebook gave Cambridge Analytica the rights to the social media site for academic purposes without truly realizing how it was going to be used, which has left many concerned about how safe their information actually is. This has caused users to delete their accounts and stock prices to fall. Facebook lost 80 billion dollars in market value thus far.

The data was harvested by a personality questionnaire invented by Aleksandr Kogan which was taken by roughly 300,000 people. It also got information from the friends of those users on Facebook. Kogan claimed he was using this information for an educational project which was false and turned out to be getting an in-depth look at the American people and all of their tendencies.

Lots of controversy has surrounded the scandal because of the ties between Cambridge Analytica and the Trump administration. Many see this as a way to swing potential voters and impact election results by targeting ads based off of five personality traits developed through the sold information.

People are now questioning the motives of Facebook and wondering if forfeiting their privacy for the website is truly worthwhile.

Sophomore Rachel Kindt said, “Although Facebook offers many great opportunities for staying connected with family and friends, you have to be willing to ask yourself if using the app is worth risking your personal privacy. And for me, it just isn’t.”

Senior Peyton Sage agreed, “My personal information was supposed to be kept out of the public but that has been completely disregarded. It makes me wonder how much of the info I keep ‘private’ is actually out there.”

Mark Zuckerberg, CEO and founder of Facebook, is now on an apology tour in an attempt to save and reclaim the credibility of his company. He has agreed to testify before Congress and has already revamped the privacy settings to make them more user friendly.

FACT OF THE WEEK: April Fool’s Day is said to have stemmed from the shift from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian in the 1500s.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Adding baking soda to your water before boiling eggs makes it easier to remove the egg shells later.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why did the Easter egg hide?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: What can be seen in the middle of the months in both March and April but not at the beginning or end of either month?

Answers to joke and brain teaser are on the bottom.

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Impossible word search

Find DIMKYQ. First person to do so gets a prize, courtesy of the journalism staff

V I E F E W P H Y B A V Y H A U A L D R
Y A K R L O D L D R D K C I P M D C G B
L S Y N N T Y R Q V U A K W Q N Z T O B
I J S D F K A V N T M V A O H W M S S H
Z Y J K P L O U M Y O R V K J G E W O
V W S C V H I T F Y A V W T D L T P Q V
C G X Z N M C L Q S S C J C T Q Z O F
T Q E X H O G B U O G A L C F M D E P X
O D C A X D H P V P M E A I Y U R H H N
I L H T T H D O E W V W S D H I V R N Z
W X M L L D Z I D W B I L G C B V X X S
R H R N P D G M H G R O X Q B J L R R
Z M L O H I Q Y H C Y Z X M Z T N D D G
U E Q H B Q E N C P Y K E X H I Q V M F
J S C I A T J F C N Y Z Q X V L U N D T
M E X V J K J F Y U D R W W Z Z Z P I C H
U Y Z W Y W K S Z E I P O R K F W M N H
G A D Q H S J G W F F D G Y K V P A N X
G K D E R Q Q C S F M Y J W O I G D R H

Created by Isaiah Miles Mader

Senior Spotlight

Isaiah Mader

Senior writer

After weeks of media coverage stemming from the shooting in Florida, many people are saying that bullying in schools is the main culprit of mass shootings. To lessen the stigma around this topic, the Garretson high school and middle school student council members are organizing and implementing “Be the Change” events this upcoming week.

On Tuesday morning, students will gather in the gym for a special assembly to jump start the rest of the week. While the events taking place during the assembly will remain a secret until that morning, the student council encourages everyone to come with an open mind. To pay tribute to the 17 lives lost in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting, students are asked to write 17 post-it notes with positive words, saying nice things to one another for 40 days (not counting Sundays). Then the Sunday immediately prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week, which ends on Easter.

Easter also includes many non-religious traditions like Easter eggs, and related events such as egg rolling and egg decorating. According to history.com “It is believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain traditions that pre-date Christianity.” Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration because of Jesus’ resurrection.

The exact origin of when the Easter Bunny tradition started is unknown. Although, some historians believe it came to America with German immigrants in the 1700s. Rabbits are usually known as enthusiastic proctors of joyful offspring, so the arrival of bunny bunnies in springtime became associated with birth and renewal.

An Easter dinner of lamb can also have historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. The phrase “lamb of God” is sometimes used to refer to Jesus and the sacrificial nature of his death.

Today, Easter is just as much a commercial event as a religious holiday, marked by high sales for greeting cards, toys, stuffed animals, candies (such as Peeps, chocolate eggs and chocolate Easter bunnies) and other gifts.

Easter

by Heather Huether

staff writer

This year Easter will occur on Sunday, April 1. Easter was first known as the day Jesus was resurrected. The celebration starts off with a period of fasting known as Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and goes on for 40 days (not counting Sundays). Then the Sunday immediately prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week, which ends on Easter.

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April Fool’s Mad Lib

Every year on April 1st, people play silly _________ (1) on their _________ (2). They might tape a _________ (3) to the _________ (4), put a whoopee_______ (5) on their _________ (6), or use their _________ (7) to make a prank call. Not everyone enjoys the _________ (8) that their _________ (9) play, but it’s all in good _________ (10)? Be careful. If you play a _________ (11) on a friend, they might just _________ (12) you back!

1. Plural noun _________
2. Plural noun _________
3. Noun _________
4. Item in house _________
5. Noun _________
6. Item in school _________
7. Noun _________
8. Plural noun _________
9. Plural noun _________
10. Noun _________
11. Noun _________
12. Action _________

Seniors are invited to submit impossible word search answers to the office by Friday, March 30. Answers will be published in the next issue of the newspaper. Winners will receive certificates to a $10 gift card from a local business. Good luck!

By Peyton Sage

senior writer

Next week, middle and high school students will participate in another “Be the Change” week, with a few additions

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by Peyton Sage

senior writer
National powerlifter

by Sylvia Larson
staff writer

Powerlifting meets have a certain… aura. Sweaty guys and girls waiting around for their next lift, hundreds of jabbering parents and friends packed into the bleachers, the clangs of weights being pulled on and off the bar by a bunch of monster sized dudes, sweat and chalk dust staining the floor while nerv- ousness and bravado fill the air. For GHS Senior Zebadiah Johnson, this place is home.

Johnson got into powerlifting soon after he moved to Garretson, influenced by 2014 GHS graduate Bryce Wollmann. It was a spurt of the moment decision, he hadn’t previ- ously seriously considered lifting and only did it because he didn’t have any other spring sports plans. He was unable to lift his sophomore year due to an injury, but hopped back on it last year and competed in state as a junior. He got 5th at state that year. He’s been pretty successful this year, taking home 2nd place overall at his first meet of the sea- son on in January, and placing in the state meet in Brandon.

He qualified for nationals a few days before state. “To qualify for nationals, I had to lift a certain weight in a USAPL sanctioned meet. For my weight class, I had to lift 472.5 kilograms(1041.7 lbs),” stated Johnson, “it was very easy for me to hit these weights and qualify.”

USAPL High School Nationals were held in Appleton Wisconsin over the course of four days, March 22nd-26th. Junior Varsity competed the first two days. Johnson competed on the third day. Each day was divided into several sessions, and each ses- sion had two flights per platform. Johnson’s session took about three hours, and he only had 10 minutes between each lift.

“I did well at nationals, but not as well as I could have. I underper- formed on squat, but my other two lifts were pretty good,” commented Johnson. He squatted 205 kgs (about 451lbs), benchcd 137.5 kgs (about 303 lbs), and deadlifted 197.5 kgs (about 435 lbs). “My all time personal [squat] record is 505; so that lift definitely could have gone better.” Overall, I went 6/9 on my lifts and had a ton of fun.”

Nationals was an equipped meet, which mean that all participants wore squat suits that help them lift more. Because of this, his state lift- ing totals can’t really be compared.

He ended up taking home 9th, which makes him among the top ten strongest in his weight class in the entire nation.

“I will continue to train and com- pete in powerlifting as long as I can. Next year I plan to compete on the collegiate or open level,” Johnson stated, “or a little more distant fu- ture, I hope to someday become a national champion.

Zebadiah Johnson

84 men standing on a building in the UK?

by Greg Arana
staff writer

An average of 84 men take their own lives a week in the United Kingdom; that comes down to one death by suicide every two hours. A group in London has a plan to raise awareness about this situation.

American artist, Mark Jenkins, joined a group called CALM to help with project 84 to raise awareness about suicide. Together they made 84 life sized sculpt- ures and set them atop a building for passersby’s to see.

Jenkins and the rest of CALM are hoping to lower the numbers of male suicide in the UK with this pro- ject. The sculptures are to remember the ones that took their lives and to raise awareness within the soci- ety about the drastic numbers of male suicide.

Orange Snow?

by Greg Arana
staff writer

Some skiers in Eastern parts of Europe didn’t have the normal descent on the slopes. People in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and Russia witnessed rare phenomenon that is orange or yellowish snow.

This “orange snow” happens when sand from Africa’s Sahara desert is blown into the atmosphere and travels northeast where it mixes with the snow of Eastern Eu- rope. Pictures of the phenomenon have been posted to social media since it has fallen.

There was mixed feelings about the snow on the slopes and all over Eastern Europe. Most people took pic- tures because they thought it was cool other skiers com- plained about getting the sand in their hair and faces while on the slopes.

Store closings

Three stores in or near the mall set to close

The rise of online shopping continues to take a toll on brick and mortar retailers. Multiple companies have chosen to close some of their outlets if not all.

These decisions are affecting the Garretson shopping market as Sioux Falls stores located in or near the mall are all closing up shop: Toys ‘R’ Us, Icing by Claire’s, and New York and Company. These are not the only vacancies the Empire Mall has seen. Vanity, Teavana, and Wet Seal recently closed their store fronts.

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Week two: education

by Zebadiah Johnson
guest contributor—editorial

Here in the United States, we tend to think we do things pretty well. Our Constitution is pretty rad; we have fireworks, freedom, and plenty of oth- er cool things that back our common assertion that we are the “greatest nation in the world”. However, one thing we do not have is an education system that effectively prepares stu- dents for the real world, or fosters a love of learning in our youth.

As I said last week, education is one of the most valuable things that a per- son can have, but the value of certain types of education can vary between students. It may sound stupid to say, but students are people too. And just like all other people, what is valuable to one student may not be valuable to another. A student who is passionate about mechanics will most likely not be passionate about Shakespearean sonnets, so why does our education system mandate that students learn about sonnets but not motors? A cookie cutter curriculum that does not take personal interests into account only serves to dull curiosity, not grow passion for learning in young people.

Just like there are problems with what is taught in schools, how it is taught causes problems too. I repeat, not every student is the same, so why should we all be expected to learn at the same pace and in the same ways? Classes are taught at a pace and in a manner that will work ok for the ma- jority, but in the process, neglect the few. Yes, for many kids notes and a lecture followed by quizzes work fine, but what about the students who need to move faster or learn the ma- terial in a different way? Just as de- mocrazy works to empower the many without hurting the few, our educa- tion system should function in the same way. Schools should not ignore the needs of certain students simply because they aren’t in the majority.

My final gripe is that America’s school system puts more emphasis on obedience than learning and creativi- ty. Grades ARE important, but how well do those grades reflect the learn- ing taking place? Do teachers work to instill the skills of critical thinking and to teach the subject or do they use the exact same lesson plan for every unit and rely on students to merely regur- gitate notes back onto a piece of pa- per? In my opinion, the latter isn’t ac- tually learning, it is memorizing. Lect- ures, notes, and quizzes don’t teach a subject, they teach obedience.

Beyond what I’ve already written, there are so many things that need fixing in America’s education system; and believe me, it does need fixing. Just as Dr. Condoleeza Rice said at the Boe Forum, our K-12 system is of vital importance if the U.S. wants to continue to lead on the global stage; as it is what will drive American inno- vation and provide opportunities for her citizens. The solution to the prob- lems found in our education system ARE capable of being fixed, but they will not be until the topic is brought into the light.