

CHOOSE KIND

We celebrated the 5th graders and the fantastic learning and progress they have made over the past months. #ChooseKind



Senior project possibilities

With senior projects done for 2019, new proposals are rolling in for the class of 2020. Here are some new things adding to senior projects

by **Sam Gonzalez**
staff writer—editorial

Most of us would like to argue about the fact that we are required to do senior projects, but the truth is we get no say, it is a graduation requirement. The only thing we can do is hope to pass since it's worth .25% of our grade. Now that all us seniors are done, it's time to discuss; what are some changes that should be made to senior project guidelines.



Collin Johnson chose a project that both stretched him and matched his interest. Johnson built a computer and he plans on pursuing computer technology at DSU next

state requirement, but the school board instilled it as a graduation requirement. As I said before, rather than trying to argue against it, what can we change about it.

First off, there has already been new additions to the upcoming senior project. The biggest being that you can now job shadow. Another, is there is now a hard deadline on changing the proposal; if you do past a certain date, you will get docked on your final grade.

After a discussion with Mr. Long, staff will be-

Before I dive in, the first thing that is always asked; "Why are we required to do a senior project? Especially when some surrounding schools don't have to." The answer being it is assurance to make sure that students actually do this project, failed or not (although fun fact, only one person has ever failed). Another is that the South Dakota high school requirements mention a "capstone project", in which the school then incorporated it into our senior experience project. It is not a

come more strict this year about proposals, and there is even talk about having seniors help with the process of approval or rejection. Each upcoming senior will now be assigned to a faculty advisor and will be guaranteed the meetings required in your project. Lastly, mentor hours are now reduced from the original 15 hour to 8, which will be a relief when a lot of the time, it's difficult to find time with your mentor.

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Water logged in the Midwest

Flooding projected to be at record high levels

by **Jayden Clark**
staff writer

Last week, rapid snow melting along with heavy rain in some areas, caused historic flooding in the Midwest. Many Midwesterners lost their homes, businesses, livestock, and crops. Multiple roads and bridges were damaged during this natural disaster. This flooding has claimed the lives of at least three people, and it is estimated that the resulting damage will cost more than one billion dollars to repair.



Todd Heitkamp @toddheitkamp
Again this photo shows why you should not drive into a flooded area!

Many governors across the Midwest have declared states of emergency in their respective states including Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Nebraska was hit particularly hard with two-thirds of its 94 counties and four tribal areas included within the areas declared as emergencies. The Governor of Nebraska, Pete Ricketts, stated, "It was the most extensive damage our state has ever experienced." This flooding is also having devastating effects for states farther north including both North and South Dakota.

The high levels of rainwater forced many Sioux Falls residents to evacuate their homes and left numerous areas of the city underwater. Many Sioux Falls city officials spoke about the damage the rain caused, including downed traffic lights, widespread flooding, and a pedes-

trian bridge being carried away by a flooded creek. Officials urged the public to avoid flooded areas and not to ignore barricades. Last Wednesday and Thursday, Sioux Falls Metro Communications received over 1,250 calls for service, a portion of which resulted in 36 people being rescued from rising flood waters. The Sioux Falls mayor emphasized the need to inspect all bridges that were underwater and further noted that crews would soon begin cleaning and restoring several buildings in several flooded public parks.

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem signed an emergency declaration last week as a result of the blizzards and flooding. This emergency declaration allows the state to use additional funds to assist counties affected by the floods. The state may further request a Presidential Disaster Declaration depending on future rainfall and the full extent of the damage already done.

Meteorologist, Marc Chenard, stated, "All the rivers respond differently, have different time scales that they flood and then recede. A lot of the rivers are going to remain in flood into the weekend, and some into next week." He then went on to say, "Eventually as we head into next week, we should see more and more of the rivers start to recede below flood stage." Until then, residents will need to continue clean up efforts and damage assessments.

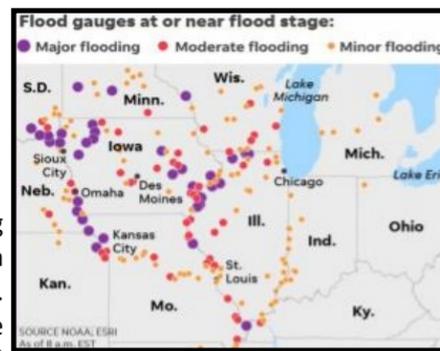


Photo from USA Today from March 18

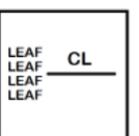
This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Odds of picking a perfect bracket in the NCAA tournament are 1 in 9.2 quintillion (9,223,372,036,854,775,808)

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Blink fast for a minute to make your eyes tired; it will help you fall asleep faster.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How excited was the gardener for spring?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Solve this rebus puzzle.



Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 22**
 - PTO Breakfast (7:30-8:00)
 - TATU Lock In for 4th/5th (3:00)
- Monday, March 25**
 - FFA @ Tri-Valley
 - HS Quiz Bowl @ Baltic (7:00)
 - Golf Practice Starts
- Tuesday, March 26**
 - MS Quiz Bowl @ Home (4:00)
- Thursday, March 28**
 - FFA Bloodmobile (7:30-2:30)
 - FFA @ Lennox
- Friday, March 29**
 - MS Band/Choir Large Group Contest @ Parker

Worth Mentioning

Garretson Pride Pool update: Aftyn Heitkamp, Brayden Beaner, and Lucas Fitzgerald are all tied for the early lead after the first half of the first round, picking 15 of the 16 games correctly.

Choose Kind

- March Precept: "Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much." - Blaise Pascal
- February Precept: "It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers." - James Thurber
- January Precept: "No man is an island, entire of itself." - John Donne
- December Precept: "Fortune favors the bold." - Virgil
- November Precept: "Have no friends not equal to yourself."
- October Precept: "Your deeds are your monuments."

Track and field hits the ground running

by **Mataya Trower and Oliviyah Thornton**
staff writer

As most know, track and field started on this past Monday, March 18. It was a hot topic of conversation for a while as fellow classmates were talking if they were going out or just deciding they were going to quit.

Those who went out for the sport are feeling it this week as many were sore from their first practices. Though, the first two weeks are usually the hardest, and going out brings some challenges. If you are able to keep up with the drill. In the end it'll be worth it.

"Even though you're not going to be in shape for the first week, don't quite it's worth it in the end," said long distance runner Olivia Mullin.

For the new throwers coming in here is some advice from Mattea Fiegen a sophomore who is going into her fourth year of throwing. "You have to remember that you're not going to be good at it right away, it's going to be really weird and uncomfortable."

Blue Dragon athletes put out varying numbers for the boys and girls spring sport

This year the throwers have new coaches, Mr. Johnson and Miss Williamson. They are working hard on learning new ways to teach the field athletes. Doing as much research as possible in hopes to help out anyone who has questions on throwing. Mr. Johnson has coached before at St. Paul for a couple of years and his goal for this track season is to have fun and try to improve in the process.

You might have noticed some people who aren't going out this year which brings this year's team to a smaller number. This year's team is younger than past years teams with more middle schoolers than high schoolers.

"Being a young team, I'm going to have to use some junior high kids. There are some kids walking around our halls that should be in track," stated track coach Mr. Bohl. Numbers seem to be a little stronger than they were last year as the boys look to have around 20 participants in the middle and high school and the girls' numbers are about double that.

Track and field members are scheduled to have their first meet on April 2 at Hartford.

Know your spot

by **Aftyn Heitkamp**
Junior Class President
guest writer—editorial

Everything in today's society is based off of a hierarchy. There is a hierarchy in the government from the President, Vice President, to the Speaker of the House. Even in the work force, it is a hierarchy based on how much work you've put in and how long you've been there. I think of high school as a "job" and I get promoted each year, therefore I should gain privileges as I get higher to the top. This week has sparked a new debate over the "prime spots" in the west parking lot. If our school has a hierarchy for who eats first in the lunch line, who gets the best spots at activities in the student section, and who's gets the back of the bus, why don't they have a hierarchy for who gets front row parking?

This past Wednesday, all the high school students got a school reach claiming that the entire west parking lot is on a "first-come, first-serve basis" and stated if we want a "prime spot...get here earlier!" As a junior, I've waited 2 years to have a chance to be able to park in one of the eight front parking spots, but apparently it doesn't apply this year. I understand that it has never been an established rule in the handbook, but it has been an unwritten rule for as long as I can remember.

I have talked to multiple graduates of GHS, and they all remember the front row being strictly for juniors. Kasey Kleven, who graduated in 2013, stated, "Younger classmen never tried to park in the front row out of respect of the upperclassmen." Jaden Braaten, alumni from the 2018 graduating class, said, "Seniors get to park in the front of school, so it only makes sense that juniors park there [in the front row]." She then added, "You'll earn your way up and eventually get there just like everyone else." Have younger classmen lost respect of the seniors and juniors above them? I think so and honestly it is just getting worse as the years go on.

I understand that the year is almost over, but the junior class would just like to get the respect of parking that we had to give to the previous classes ahead of us.

Controversial final shot

by **Malia Johnson**
staff writer

Last weekend in Rapid City, the boy's and girl's Class AA semifinal basketball games were being played. The tournament started Thursday and went through Saturday. Number three, O' Gorman, got paired up with number two, Yankton, in the semifinal game. The score was going back and forth the whole game, but the ending of the game was nothing the Bucks wished for.

The matchup came down to a controversial conclusion Friday night, when senior Luke Ronsiek hit a shot at the buzzer. Down one, Ronsiek received a pass from his teammate, Canyon Bauer, dribbled the ball up the lane, went airborne with less

than one second left, and put it in. The game clock appeared to have expired before the ball had left Ronsiek's hands, but the official along the sideline made the call, and immediately motioned that the basket counted.

As the Knights began celebrating under the hoop, Yankton head coach Chris Haynes ran across the court with his arms extended trying to get an explanation on the call that was made. But with no replay available, the decision was final and the game was over. Haynes stated, "I didn't really know what to tell my



O'Gorman's Luke Ronsiek took the game in his own hands as he put up the final shot for the Knights during the semi-final game against the Bucks. The controversial basket was counted, advancing O'Gorman to the finals and sending Yankton to the third place game. Brandon Valley downed the knights and the Bucks fell to Harrisburg in overtime.

Photo from James Cimburek, (@jcimburek),
Yankton Press and Dakotan

players, this is a really hard one to swallow".

O' Gorman advanced onto the championship game, with the Brandon Valley Lynx sweeping them.

Senior project possibilities cont'd

Continued from page 1

Some of these changes have already resolved some of the past complaints, such as the job shadow and mentor hour changes. The rest, help ensure that there will need to start being a bigger stretch, and expectations to the upcoming seniors. As most will hear, or some that have already heard, the purpose of a senior experience is to gain first hand how adult life can be, and help to prepare the future, especially when it comes to having to make your own decisions, and phone calls. It is also mentioned, that giving back to the community will make an even better project.

These projects are made help us get out about comfort zones, and to help us become the better version of us that we can be.

This is where change comes along. I think a big factor that could help a senior project, is making it a more career or community-based project. A lot of students seem to stick to a safe project, but even though it's something that



Inside of Johnson's computer he built for his senior project.

they've always wanted to do, they don't really put a stretch for themselves. As a senior, what better way than to give us a project in which we can either delve into the life of work and get an actual first-hand experience about real life looks like, which is where being able to job shadow comes in handy.

The biggest thing emphasized is to have a final product, what job shadowing oh, you can still gain that first-hand experience I'm doing something that you might do in the future, but also put something more. Whether it be presenting a research-based product that went along with your career to a handful of students, or even when it comes to building something. Another, is a chance of being able to give back to a community, in which will give you organization skills and the most important people skills. With both of these products, you can still find a way to contribute doing something that you've always wanted to do, whether it be to learn how to dance and then throwing a talent show fundraiser, or realizing as a career that you thought you wanted to major in in college, did not end up being what's something that you want to do in the future. If you do something that you actually like, it won't feel as much as a senior project, it'll be a something that can impact your future. and as much as most of us seniors and juniors hate the idea; doing something that we don't like is the first experience to a real world situation.

3rd quarter academic success

Over 100 Blue Dragons place on Honor or Merit Roll

HONOR ROLL

Dominic Abraham
Riley Altman
Ashlyn Andersen
Keara Beck
Jaelyn Benson
Andrew Blosmo
Keara Bottelberghe
Cory Bryan
Jayden Clark
Evan DeBates
Alexa Draper
Lucas Draper
Lauren Fick
Mattea Fiegen
Lesly Gonzalez
Aftyn Heitkamp
Peyton Hove
Molly Hulscher
Dakota Johnson
Nadalie Johnson
Noel Johnson
Dylan Kindt
Rachel Kindt
Kaycie King
Zachary Klaassen
Sam Konechne
Samantha Kruger



Madden Lardy
Angel Larson
Kennedy Lee
Aliah Lymon
Morgan Mortiz
Brennan Mudder
Olivia Mullin
Madisen Nordstrom
Mckenzie Northrup
Nobel Nothstine
Elizabeth Olson
Isabella Peters
Morgan Pierret
Kara Ross
Abigail Schroeder
Jacob Schroeder

Samantha Shellum
Erin Steen
Mason Tillma
Rave Uhlich
Sara Welch

MERIT ROLL

Gregorio Arana
Evan Bly
Maren Bonte
Herizon Bosch
Drake Braswell
Kennedy Buckneberg
Treyson Buckneberg
Caeden Bunde
Braydon Carmody
Joseph Cordier
Brady DeBates
Madison Decker
Ian Doppenberg
Trevor Edmundson
Cody Erickson
Emily Erickson
Jacob Facile
Trevor Fiegen
Lucas Fitzgerald
Ryan Flanagan
Geraldine Fry

Joy Fry
Braedon Genzlinger
Isaiah Gnadit
Rakell Gnadit
Sean Gottschalk
Kyley Greenhoff
Katherine Hanson
Lauren Heesch
Kenzie Henseler
Mason Hofer
Caroline Hoskins
Kennedy Houghton
Adam Hulscher
Amber Hulscher
Bryn Johnson
Collin Johnson
Gabriel Johnson
Malia Johnson
Kelsey Keegan
Kendra Kleven
Ben Konechne
Aliyah Leedy
Devon Leedy
Mya Long
Aiden Magnuson
Brady Malsom
Felisha McKay
Jayse Miller
Julia Mosley

Isabella Narigon
Ella Nelson
James Nussbaum
Cadyn Ockenga
Grace Panning
Tee Paterson
Tessa Pederson
Lily Ranschau
Matthew Rattenborg
Eli Reed
Triston Rekstad
Alexis Richter
Isaiah Robinson
William Ross
Gentry Sanders
Chloe Schleuter
Jacob Schmidt
Aiden Scholl
Nathan Skillman
Alexander Stephenson
Justin Stoterau
Tayson Swatek
Oliviyah Thornton
Mataya Trower
Josue Vargas
Alex Veldkamp
Keisha Veldkamp
James Widrig

The Pickle in the Parking Lot

by Rave Ulich

Self Proclaimed Underrated Advocate for Underclassmen Rights
guest writer—editorial

I'm sure many of you are already aware, but in case you're not, a group consisting of juniors seem to have an issue with the parking of the sophomores and freshmen. This whole issue began when a sophomore parked in the front row of the west parking lot, nearest the new gym. Was this person in the wrong? No, he/she wasn't. There is no rule in the school handbook that has anything to do with parking in the west parking lot. If these eight spots are so precious and sacred, a good idea to obtain them would be to show up at school before 8:20.

I've sat down and had a talk with many students, eighth grade through senior, and from my many interviews, all have agreed: first come, first serve. Jake Schroeder, sophomore, stated, "I think it should be whoever shows up first and the juniors who are complaining need to quit."

Alex "Jerry" Stephenson, sophomore, made the claim that the juniors should find something worth arguing about if they want to make a big deal.

Schroeder found me after our initial argument to continue his rant, informing me that half the juniors that are complaining don't even park in the debated about spots. He later added to this response when he texted me that "If they want a parking spot they should get here sooner than two minutes before the bell rings. It doesn't make sense for underclassmen to park in the back when the front is open. If they have a problem with the parking lot, they need to get here sooner."

Dakota Johnson, Jack Lardy, and Drew Blosmo all told me that this was never an issue before because no one cared. Senior Sam Gonzalez said she only recalls a few specific groups in the past have been mad about the "unwritten rule", but fact is, the only designated spots are senior parking. I found this interesting. Why is this the first time such a predicament has occurred at the school?

Ryan Flanagan and Maren Bonte, both freshman, told me "It's hypocritical because the juniors park where the seniors are supposed to, then they get mad at us for parking in the unassigned spots? It doesn't make sense to me."

Parking problems inspire multi-class debates

Matthew Rattenborg texted me late Thursday night with the statement: "There really is not a lot of parking in the front, so all the juniors won't be able to fit anyways, and it's not even fair for them to get all the front row parking and it's not that far away for them to walk."

Now, I personally took the time out of my day and away from watching March Madness to read through the handbook to see what it had to say about the whole matter. I found nothing regarding junior parking, sophomore parking, or the west lot. This made me think in a way I've never done before and I have many questions I cannot seem to answer. Why is this an issue now when it never was in the past? Why have no other grades had an issue with the west lot? The notice the staff sent out about the west parking lot agrees with what I've been preaching and reiterating since this ordeal began, which should come as a surprise to no one. If the school has nothing against it and has said the same things I am, why should some be disagreeing with authority? Nothing is going to change.

I invite these few to come and speak directly with me. I want to have an assembly about this in front of the high school, students and staff. This is an ordeal that should be organized, so we can have the assembly for all to witness and to resolve the issue. This has gone on too long, and it's only been one day.



Garretson guessing

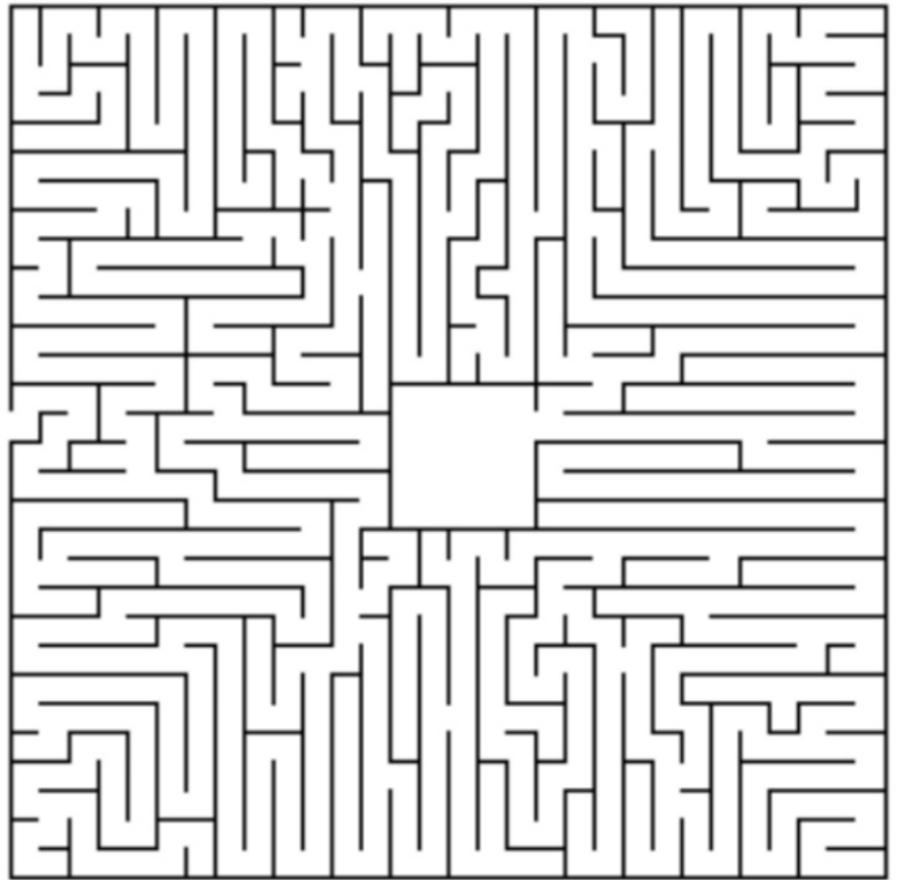
game

Send your guesses to the Blue Ink Snapchat for your chance at winning a candy bar



Escape the maze

Created by Oliviyah Thornton



Answers to last week's guessing game

Who Is This: Ms. Howe



What Is This: A close up of the mouth/teeth/tongue on the dragon mural in the Dragons' Lair



Where Is This: Ms. Gloe's study hall room



Senior Spotlight

Alex Veldkamp

SENIOR PROJECT:
Tractor Pulling
Photography

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
Band

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:
Band

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Farming and possibly tractor pulling



Scholarship Corner

Post-secondary financing opportunities

- **Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation (most due March 15-April 1):** Qualifications vary per scholarship (varies)
- **CHS Scholarship (March 29):** Must be pursuing a degree in the agriculture field (\$500)
- **iHelp Scholarship (March 31):** Must be a South Dakota High School graduate attending a post-secondary institution (\$1,000)
- **First District Development Company (April 1):** Must be pursuing a post-secondary degree in a business/finance related field (\$1,000)
- **Quimby Memorial Scholarship (April 1):** Must be a South Dakota High School graduate attending a post-secondary institution (\$350)

These are just some of the scholarships available for seniors in the area. Please visit with Mrs. Pliska or took a look at her [website](#).

