FIND ME IN THE PAPER

- This picture will be hidden in the Blue Ink somewhere.
- Look for it throughout the issue as you read the articles and browse the pictures.
- Thank you Mrs. Granberg for creating the Blue Ink dragon

WORTH MENTIONING

- Dress Up Themes for activities have been decided. Look on social media for each game's theme. TUESDAY'S VOLLLEYBALL GAME is **JERSEY**.
- **Would You Rather:**
  - Have CAR or TRUCK

September 25, 2026
Volume 14, Issue 6
Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Support is here

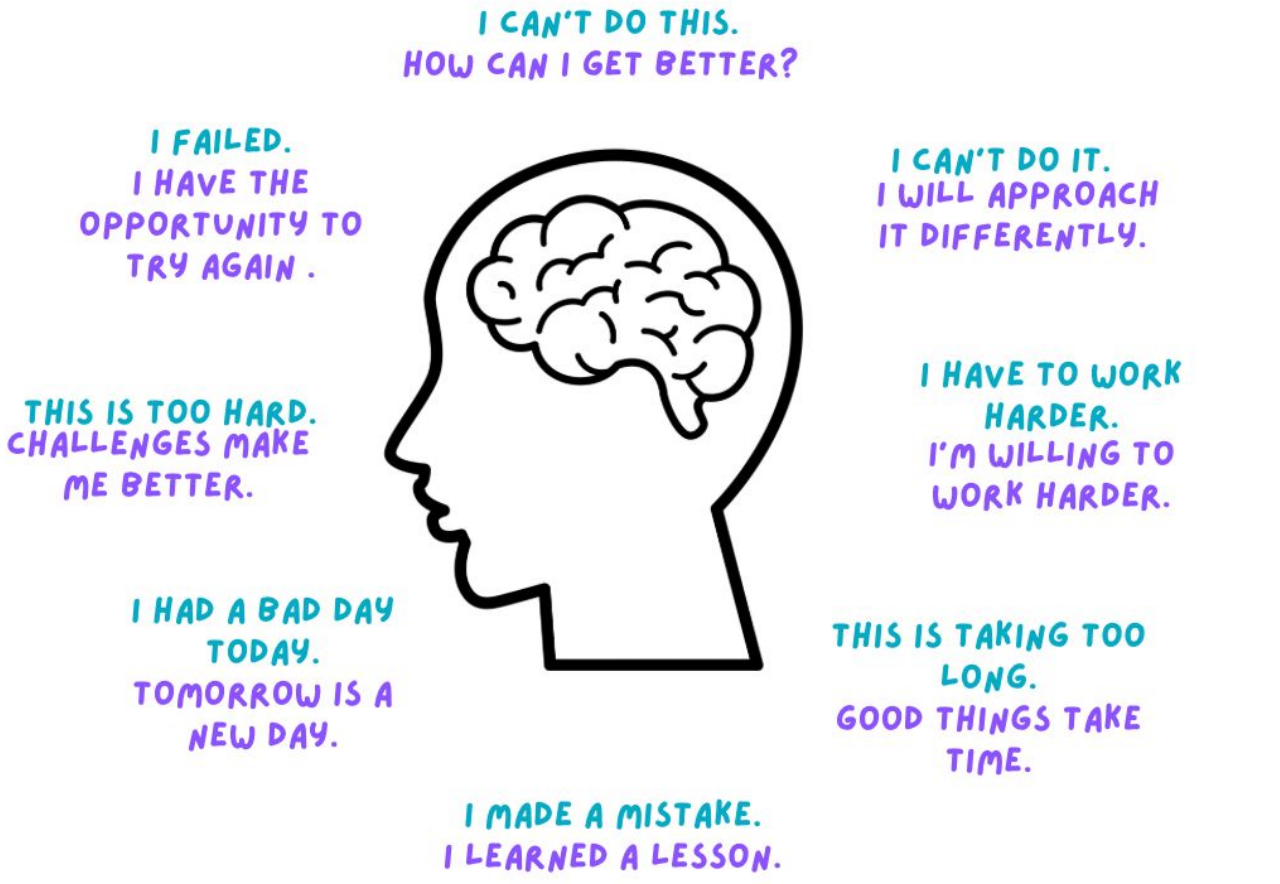
Suicide Awareness Month drives conversation about mental health and understanding that everyone matters

by **Autumn Genzler**
staff writer and infographic creator

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to bring attention to an issue that reaches far beyond statistics. It is a month about people, mental health, and the importance of reminding those who are struggling that they are not alone.

The Happiness Project has turned that message into something people can wear every day. The Happiness Project apparel gives people a visible way to support suicide prevention and promote the idea that happiness, connection and hope matters. A shirt or piece of apparel may seem like a small thing, but it can become a conversation starter and a reminder that mental health deserves the same attention and care as physical health.

Behind every person wearing a message of hope is a story. Some may wear it in memory of someone they have lost. Others may wear it for a friend, a family member or for themselves. For many, it can serve as a reminder that difficult moments do not define an entire life.



Suicide prevention is not simply only about recognizing a crisis, it is also about understanding and breaking the stigma. That can mean checking in on someone who has been unusually quiet, sitting with a friend who is having a difficult day, or listening without judgment. Sometimes, it means simply reminding someone that their presence matters. Mental health struggles can be difficult to see from the outside. A small little "How was your day?" can do so much for a person.

For those experiencing a crisis in the United States, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available by call or text at 988. Suicide Prevention Month is a reminder that prevention is not only about saving lives during moments of crisis, it is about creating an environment where people feel supported and worthy of being here.

Sometimes hope starts with a conversation. Sometimes it starts with reaching out. And sometimes, it can start with a simple message worn for everyone to see; **You matter.**

Community blood bank visits



Phlebotomist, Landon, steps out of the bloodmobile after setting up another donor to give blood. Seventy-eight patients could potentially be saved with just the blood donated in Garretson from this drive.

Photo by Cecelia Fiegen

by **Cece Fiegen**
staff writer

Twice a year the FFA hosts blood drives, where the community has the opportunity to make a difference through donation. Blood is a detrimental resource in saving lives that cannot be created artificially and has a short storing period, which causes it to be in constant demand.

Giving blood helps both the donor and the recipient as stated by donor Amaya Millwood. "I give blood because it makes your heart work harder, which is good for you…. And because I can save three people's lives with one donation, and I've donated three times. So that's a lot of people."

This blood drive brought in thirty donors, which resulted in a total of twenty-six units of blood. These donations could potentially help seventy-eight local patients.

To give blood, donors must be at least sixteen with parental permission, and eighteen to do so on their own. The bloodmobile will return to GHS on February 23.

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1st competition of FFA season

Five Garretson FFA members traveled to Parker for the first land judging competition of the season

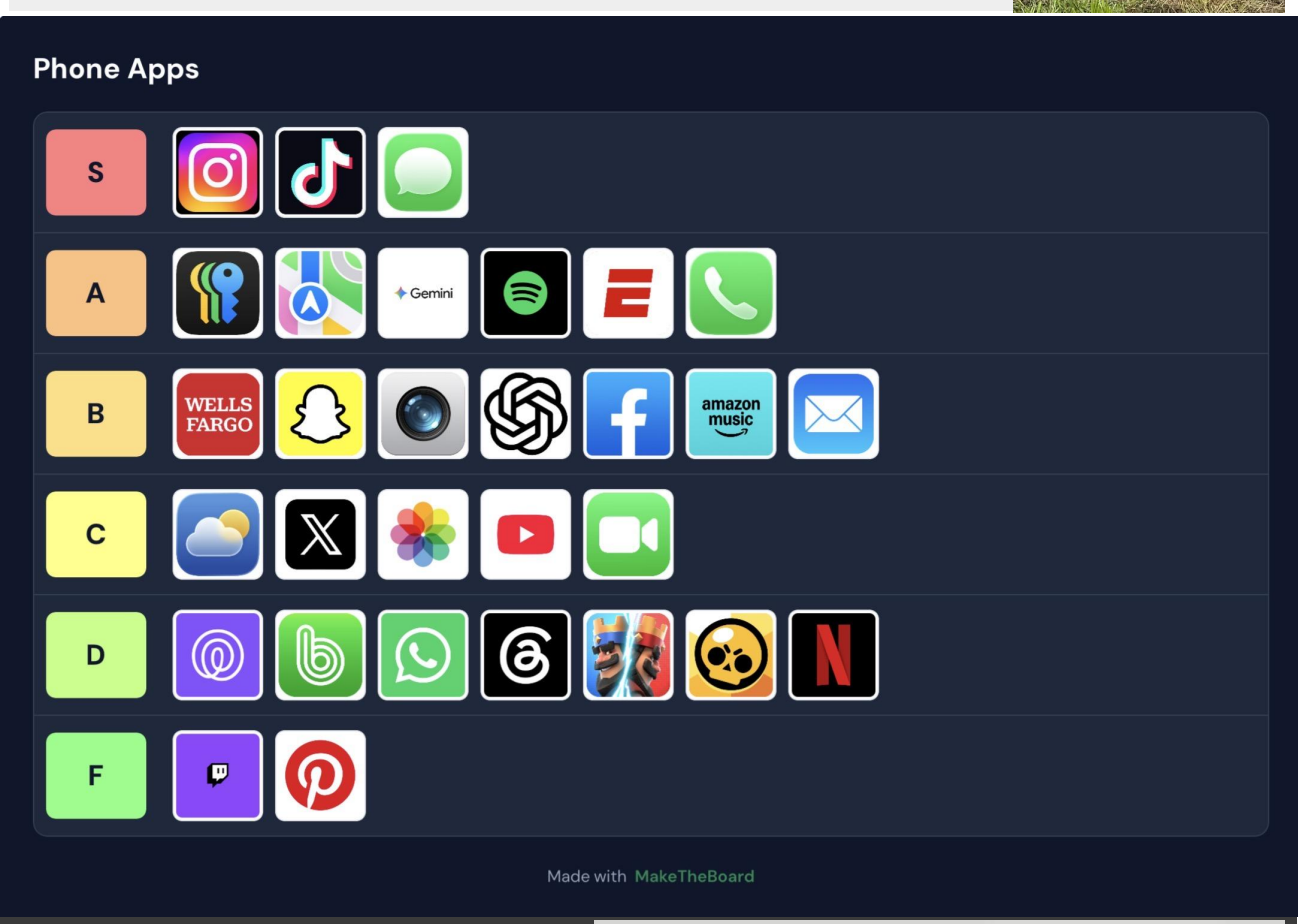




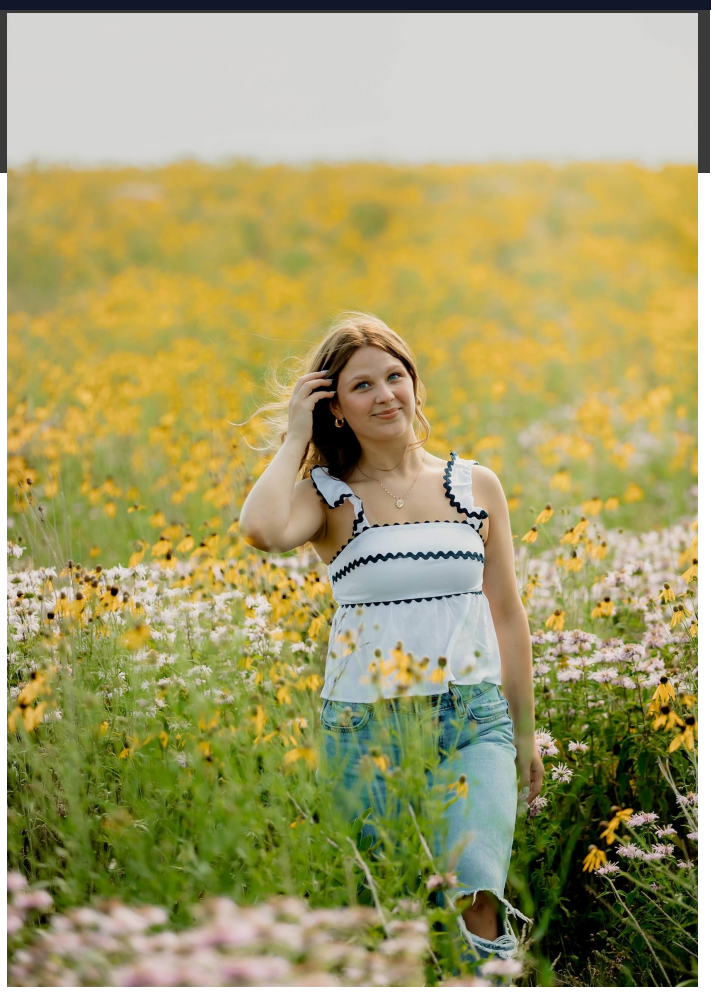


Above: Five Garretson FFA members (Blair Ellefson, Brielle Weir, Ryley Johnston, Alexis Christensen, and Jordyn Graff) competed in Land Judging on Tuesday, September 22 in Parker. Being two of the students' first time, it was a great experience but not so great concerning the weather. The next competition it next Tuesday, where the team hopes to improve on scores and see some sunshine in the process.
Above Right: Ryley Johnson looks at soil levels and layers, getting more than knee deep in the dirt and mud.
Right: Jordyn Graff tests the soil texture and consistency with her hand but with all the rain over the past week, it was more saturated than she anticipated.

Photos by Ms. Kientopf



Senior Spotlight
Autumn Genzler



Activities Involved In:
Softball
Journalism

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Mr. E's Consumer Math Class or Mrs. B

Favorite School Lunch:
Taco in a Bag

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Consumer Math or Yearbook

Plans for Next Year:
Attend USD for Nursing

Class of 2027

CONGRATULATIONS

Middle School Student Council Officers

Who were just elected this week

President:
Drew Stiefvater
Vice President:
Caylix Buchholz
Secretary:
Coyer Buchholz
Treasurer:
Xavier Rodengen
Public Relations:
Seaton Boyer
Sergeant at Arms:
Summer Block

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 25
- Marching Band @ Beresford (10:00)
- JH FB v. Estelline/Hendricks @ Baltic (4:00)

Saturday, September 26
- Marching Band @ Luverne (9:30)

Monday, September 28
- JH VB v. Colman-Egan (4:00)
- Soccer @ Marshall (7:00)

Tuesday, September 29
- XC @ Sioux Valley (4:00)
- JH VB v. Alcester-Hudson (4:00)
- VB v. Alcester Hudson (5:00/6:00/7:15)

Wednesday, September 30
- XC @ Colman-Egan (1:00)

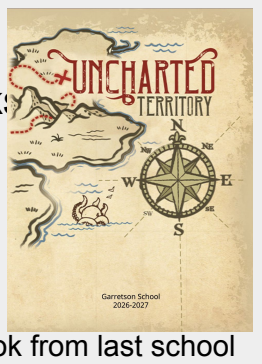
Thursday, October 1
- Marching Band @ Arlington (10:30)
- JH VB v. Baltic (4:00)
- Soccer @ Groton (4:30)

Friday, October 2
- JH FB @ Viborg-Hurley in Viborg (4:00)
- FB @ Viborg-Hurley in Viborg (7:00)

Worth Mentioning

CONGRATULATIONS marching band as they took first place in Arlington yesterday. They are competing in Beresford today and Luverne tomorrow. Before finishing their season next week.

ACE AWARDS are back! Thanks for continuing to show your positive attitude, character, and effort. And who knows, maybe you'll get a little extra something for it as well.



ORDER YOUR '26-'27 YEARBOOKS today. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made this year. You can order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you have any Questions. If you still want a yearbook from last school year there are a couple left, buy yours before it's gone.

Fan of the Week

BRECKEN HONEY



Favorite sport to watch:
Football

Favorite cheer:
"Let's Get Fired Up"

Favorite dress up theme:
Frat Boy

Favorite sports team other than Blue Dragons:
Kansas Jayhawks

Senior Spotlight

Mackenzie Sanders



Activities Involved In:
Volleyball Stats
Boys Basketball Stats
Choir
Band
Color Guard

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Laughing and having fun with my friends

Favorite School Lunch:
Crispy Chicken Sandwich

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Bio 2 with Mr. E

Plans for Next Year:
Either Mitchell Tech or Southeast Tech for nursing



Pics of the Week







On Wednesday, September 23 members of the Garretson FFA started their morning a bit earlier than normal as they volunteered to serve breakfast at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. Some started out in Sioux Falls at 5:30 with the meal being served from 6:30-8:30 a.m. This was a new adventure for the Garretson FFA but members who participated enjoyed the eye opening experience and want to do it again. This is just one of many community focused activities the FFA chapter engages in throughout the year. As the next day they hosted the Community Blood Bank Bloodmobile for a blood drive at the school.

Above Left: The Garretson FFA poses for a quick picture after a successful morning of serving breakfast to more than 225.

Above Right: Austin Graff takes up shop at the dishwashing station, making sure all items are properly washed, sanitized, and dried before cycling them back in for use as it was a busy morning at The Banquet.

Right: Jordyn Kuphal, Haylee ROtert, Jordyn Graff, and Kylie Peterson prep their breakfast station before people come in starting at 6:30 a.m.