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

- Spring sports meeting is on Monday, March 16 at 6:30. This is for all parents and students who are interested in playing a spring sport: softball, track & field, golf.
- The spring musical has been announced: “The Little Mermaid”

March 20, 2026
Volume 13, Issue 29
Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

# Blue Ink




# Spring sports are finally here

by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer & infographic

With spring upon us comes the spring sports. These sports would include: golf, track and field, and softball. Golf and track are both familiar, but softball is new this year.

**GOLF**

Golf is back with head coach, Coach Buchholz and assisting her is Coach Heumiller. The squad's first practice is March 30 and they host their first meet on April 14. The Early Bird is hosted by Garretson and provides an opportunity for teams to get on a different course, play with different people, and ease into the competitive season.

Last season, they ended off with Blake Benson, Anna Ebbing, and Maci Rotert qualifying for state. “We had at least a handful more golfers that could have been in the state tourney last year.Now coming into this year, there is such strong talent from such a young squad. I wouldn’t be surprised if we made some big waves this season.”

**TRACK & FIELD**

Track will begin their season with practice on Monday. Their first meet is the Jesse James Invitational on April 10 in Garretson. Last year left off with many young runners making the State Meet. This year will be a big year for the Dragons.

Carter Siemonsma currently has the school record in the open 800m. Will we see him break his own record this year? Coach Moehlenbrink has the throwing team and we can expect a good season from them. Of course, there’s also the jumpers with high jump and long jump.

**SOFTBALL**

Softball will be joining the pool of spring sports. The teams practice has already begun but their first game is scheduled April 2. This game will be played in Garretson as the Dragons take on Parker. This will be exciting since Garretson hasn’t seen softball in many years.

Alyssa Garcia said, “I think it’s definitely cool to see it come back. It’s a little rough especially because most haven’t played in years, but I’m definitely excited to see what the season has to offer.” Make sure you show the softball team some support.

In conclusion, this spring is jam packed with sports and Garretson will represent. Good luck to all sports.




# March madness is ... madness

by **Chase Arend**
staff writer & infographic creator

March Madness 2026 is already bringing the kind of chaos people wait all year for. The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament always starts with a bunch of high-seeded teams that almost everyone has moving on to the next round. Even though every year something crazy happens.

This year is no different. Top ranked teams came in with big expectations, but some of them have already been pushed harder than people thought. That’s what makes the tournament fun: no series, no second chances. One bad game and you’re done. Teams that get hot at the right time, even if they weren’t amazing during the season, can suddenly look unbeatable.

The upsets that have already taken place this year have been based on reports entering the early states of the bracket, one seed Duke faced an early scare against Siena 71-65. Duke was playing tight defense at the end of the game, almost not even letting Siena get to the three point line.

Madness con’d pg 2


BLUE INK

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

RESULTS

Elizabeth Roth - Solo Performance - 1st place
Cece Fiegen, Gracie Fiegen, Briann Jacobson - Group Performance - 1st place
Alexis Christensen, Maddie Waltman, Sam Hansen, Anna Ebbing - Group Website - 1st place
Tanner Baatz, Aiden Johnson, Ty Van Holland, Jackson Collins - Group Exhibit - 1st place
Daniel Hoskins - Research Paper - 2nd place
Carter Siemonsma, Collin Olson, Jack Adler, Jackson Arend - Group Exhibit - 2nd place
Autumn Genzler, Emma Wolf, Isabela Deloera, Braiden Peasley - Group Exhibit - 3rd place

HISTORY DAY ACTIVITIES



**Above**: participants gather for a group photo. **Bottom left**: Carter Siemonsma and Jack Adler pose in front of there project, “Running Against the Grain.” **Bottom Middle**: Tanner Baatz, Aiden Johnson, and Jackson Collin’s show off their first place ribbon for their project, “Stomaches Over Hearts.” **Bottom Right**: Cece Fiegan, Brian, and Gracie Fiegan show off their group performance about women’s rights.

# Tennis - is there room for it

by **Harper Hanisch**
staff writer - editorial

With school adding softball this year, students wonder what other sports could be added

In Garretson, spring sports have just begun. Talk of various spring sports have been all the buzz. It got me thinking… if we have track & field, golf, and softball, why don't we have tennis?

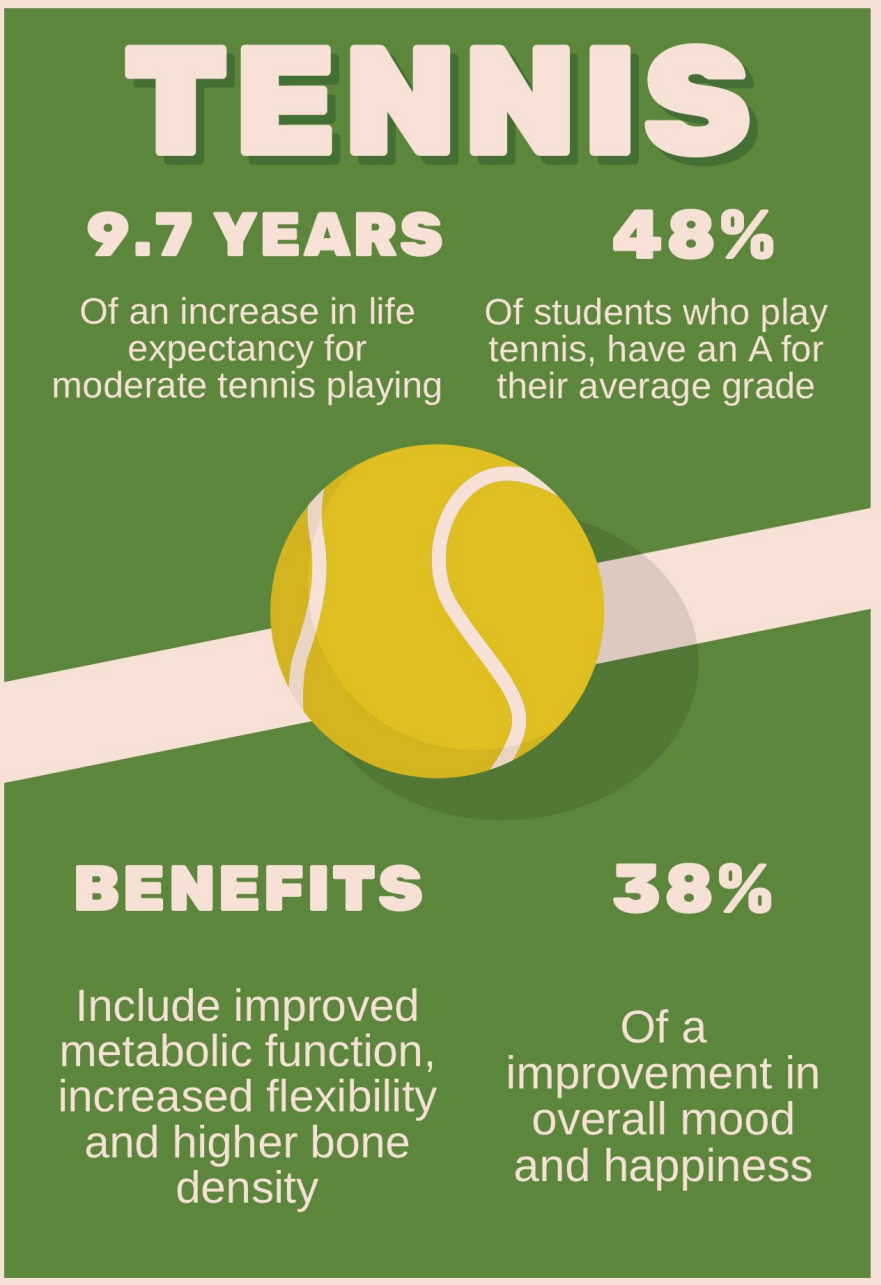
Tennis is a popular sport that originated in 1873. Two people stand on opposing sides of a court and hit the ball back and forth. This simple idea combined with rules and regulations, form tennis.

Garretson only offers four spring sports. Compared to surrounding schools, we are lacking. Although the majority of schools that offer tennis are double A schools, we could pave the way for single A schools.

Tennis would be a great addition to our program for many reasons. First, it requires minimal equipment. Our basketball courts can be put into use leaving only tennis balls and rackets for purchase. Furthermore, many kids do not enjoy the currently offered sports, making for an inactive spring.

Also, tennis has been scientifically proven to improve academic performance and mental health. Lastly, It differs from other sports as it is a non-contact sport that can be both a team or individual activity.

Overall, I do not see a reason as to why our school couldn't begin a tennis program. Considering all of the facts, it's a need for the Garretson Athletic program.




Infographic created by Harper Hansich

# Madness cont'd

March madness from pg 1

Even though that game wasn't an upset, the Texas Longhorn had different plans, taking over 6-seed BYU Cougars 79-71. Texas got into that spot and also won their game against NC State Wolfpack 68-66 in the play-in games. Another #11 seed VCU took over #6 North Carolina 82-78.

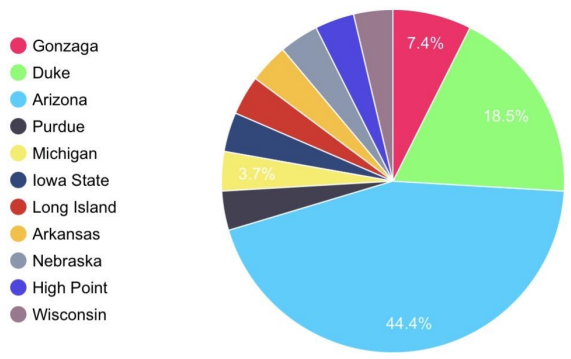
Another big story this year is still about McNeese's manager, Amir Khan, also known as "Aura." Even though the team lost, he's still getting attention because of his walkouts with the team before each game spreading far and wide on the internet. He's always on the sidelines bringing energy, celebrating big plays, and getting the crowd into it. People like him because he shows that you don't have to be a player to be a big part of the team.

McNeese the 12-seed ended up losing 68-78 in heartbreak fashion to Vanderbilt the 5-seed, ending up short and sending Amir "Aura" Khan and the Cowboy team home early.

As the tournament continues there will be teams heading home when the unexpected happens. High seeded teams are already heading home and there will most likely be a lot more to come.

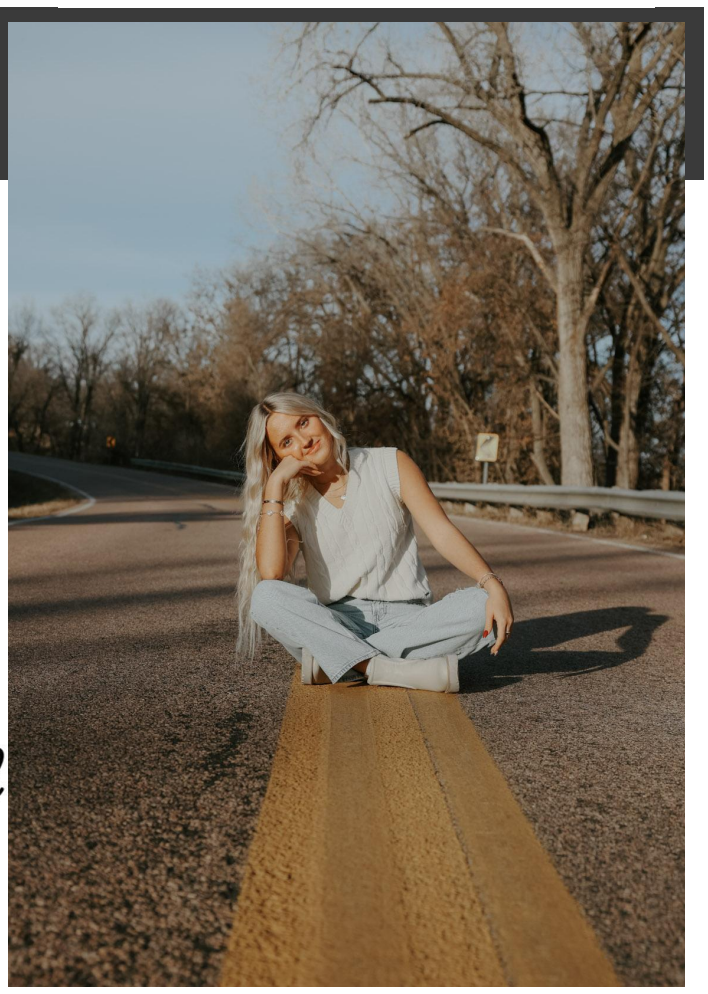
On ESPN 24,291 perfect brackets remained out of 26,029,409 submissions. Will there be a lucky person to pull it off this year? Or will March take over the high seeded teams and head them home early.

Garretson student & staff winner predictions




Infographic created by Colton Buchholz

# Senior Spotlight
## Ava Ockenga



**Activities Involved In:**
Soccer and Basketball

**Who/What Will You Miss Most:**
Underclassmen friends

**Favorite School Lunch:**
Food from my lunchbox

**Favorite Class You've Taken:**
Anatomy

**Plans for Next Year:**
Attend University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Class Of 2026

# This Week's Need to Know

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, March 20**
- First Day of Spring

**Monday, March 23**
- FFA @ CDE at Sioux Empire Fairgrounds (10:00)
- First Day of Track & Field Practice
- BEC Honor Band @ Chester (7:00)

**Tuesday, March 24**
- ACT Testing for Juniors (All Day)
- Baseball @ MCM (5:30)

**Wednesday, March 25**
- MS BEC Honor Band & Choir @ Flandreau

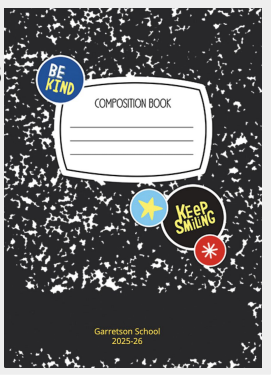
**Friday, March 27**
- Baseball v. MCM (5:30)

**Monday, March 30**
- FFA @ CDE at Lennox (10:00)
- First Day of Golf Practice
- JH Quiz Bowl @ Baltic (4:00)
- HS Quiz Bowl @ Baltic (4:00)

## Worth Mentioning

**TRACK & FIELD PRACTICE** starts on Monday. Golf will be the following Monday. And the last Monday in March will be the start of golf.

**ORDER YOUR '25-'26 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.



# World Baseball Classic draws crowd, leading to Opening Day




by **Blake Benson**
staff writer & infographic creator

Baseball charges with must see names, friendly competition, and dramatic excitement leading into MLB's opening day in less than a week

The World Baseball Classic is a big baseball tournament where countries from all over the world play against each other. Instead of playing for their normal teams, they play other countries.

The tournament is run by Major League Baseball and happens every few years. Usually the United States, Japan, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic are the best teams. Fans love it because they get to see players from different teams all playing together for one country.

The WBC starts with pool play, where teams are put into groups and play a few games. The best teams move on to the next round. After that, it becomes win or go home, so every game really matters. One bad game and a team can be out.

What makes the WBC fun is the energy. Players really show their love for the sport, and fans are loud and proud of their country. There are big hits, clutch home runs, and exciting finishes that make games super fun to watch.

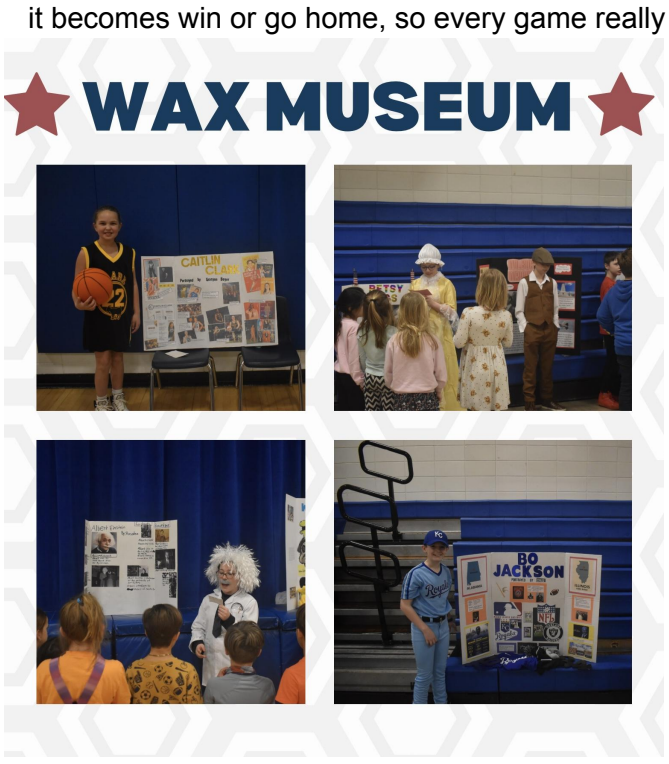
To start off the tournament Dominican Republic was on fire averaging 10 runs per game. As well as the USA and Venezuela. The USA was looking strong until they faced Italy. The USA lost 8-6 but not giving up, USA worked their way back into the finals.

One of the most exciting games was between the United States and Venezuela in the championship. It was a really close game that came down to the final inning.

Venezuela scored first in the 3rd inning and added another run in the 5th. The USA stayed quiet until the 8th inning, when they scored 2 runs to tie the game thanks to a homerun by Bryce Harper.

But in the 9th inning, Venezuela got one more run, which ended up winning the game 3–2 and getting their first ever WBC baseball gold medal.

The 2026 WBC was a great tournament and has made baseball even more popular around the world with uniting people throughout the entire world through baseball. Teams play hard and represent where they're from. It's fun, competitive, and shows that baseball is an amazing game.




# 4th Grade shares research

by **Bence Bonte**
staff writer & infographic creator

History comes to life as students research and portray famous figures

This Wednesday the 4th graders presented their annual wax museum project to the public. The wax museum was run by 4th grade teachers Mrs. Etrheim and Ms. Werkmeister.

Etrheim has been doing this for six years now and every year it's always amazing. The students dressed up as important historical figures and shared facts about the person they were portraying. It was really cool to see how much effort everyone put into their costumes and presentations.

Etrheim says she loves how all the kids get involved and are very interested in the people. She also said it helps that they get to choose. She also mentioned she appreciates how parents also get involved.

An interesting fact she said that she learned from these presentations is that Walt Disney never was able to see the grand opening of Disney world.

# Brecken Weir - the one and only

by **Chase Costello**
staff writer & infographic creator

SPOTLIGHT ON CLASS OF 2026: Senior's contributions to activities will be missed

Brecken Weir is senior this year. Because he is a senior, he's looking to finish his last year at Garretson strong academically, like many of his classmates, while staying involved in activities that matter to him like basketball and FFA.

One of his biggest commitments in his high school career has been basketball. He came to Garretson his freshman year and has played basketball for Garretson all four years. Being a huge part of the team every year, Weir has put up some amazing stats and received honors such as player of the game and all-conference. Up until this year, he was the only one in his class to play basketball for the school.

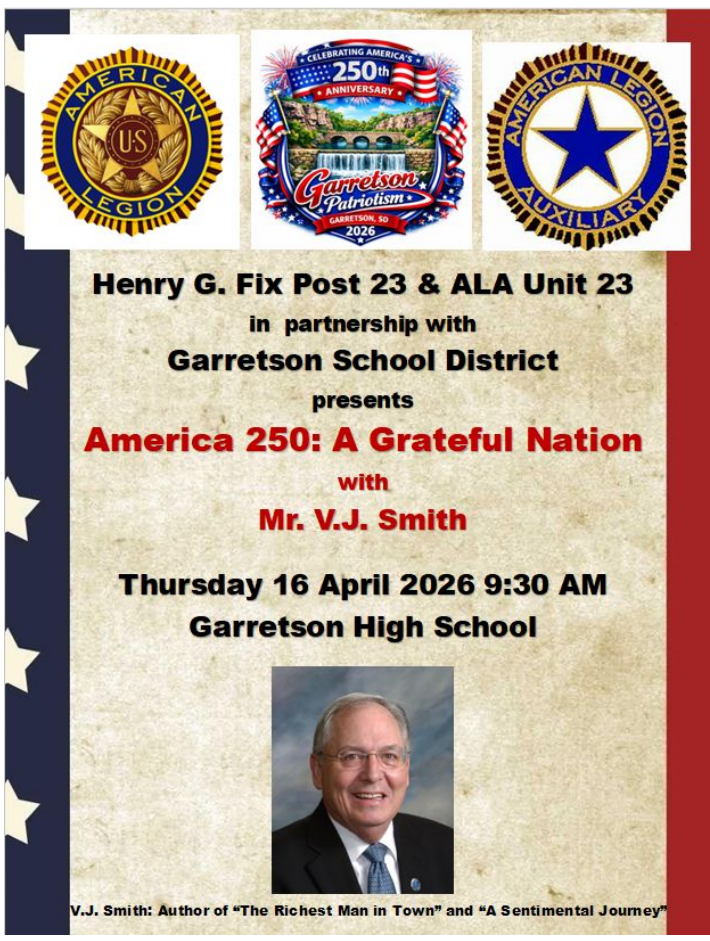
In addition to basketball, Brecken competes in FFA. This year he is in Agronomy alongside Cole Schleuter, Kaden Hoogland, and Malena Qualm.

Weir is connected to Garretson HIgh School making everyone smile walking through the hallways.




# Author comes to speak to students

Celebration of America's 250th at the forefront of address



# Fashion *IS* that deep

## More than just something to wear, clothing choices represent a reflection of personality, beliefs, and evolution

by **Cece Fiegen**
staff writer and infographic creator

Fashion has been intertwined with the human experience since the beginning of our existence. Clothes mirror the perspective of its wearer, through reactions, rebellions, or statements. Trends and styles unite people across times, places, and ages, which makes fashion much deeper than simple aesthetics.

**Reaction**

From the Stone Age to the 21st century, fashion expresses the struggles and triumphs of people throughout history. It always has a profound meaning. The way people dress reveals much about economic conditions, social and political movements, technological advancements, and their reactions to it.

The 1920s flapper style embraced drop waists, short hair, and extravagant clothes, responding to women's new found independence and the economic prosperity of the time. When the economy crashed in the 1930s during the Great Depression, glamorous bias-cut evening gowns rose in popularity in Hollywood. While the average person's clothes focused on practicality, the film industry provided a dream-like fantasy which served a distraction from their "glum reality".

**Rebellion**

Fashion has been a form of rebellion, from challenging social norms to calling out injustice. Clothes can be a visual protest of nonconformity, which many groups have effectively used to get their point across.

During the Vietnam War, those against the war were able to visually represent their beliefs by rejecting mainstream and capitalistic styles and instead wearing colorful, eco-friendly clothing. A few years later, the punk movement arose with a similar tactic, showcasing their distaste for establishment and mainstream culture by wearing a distressed and edgy look.




**Statement**

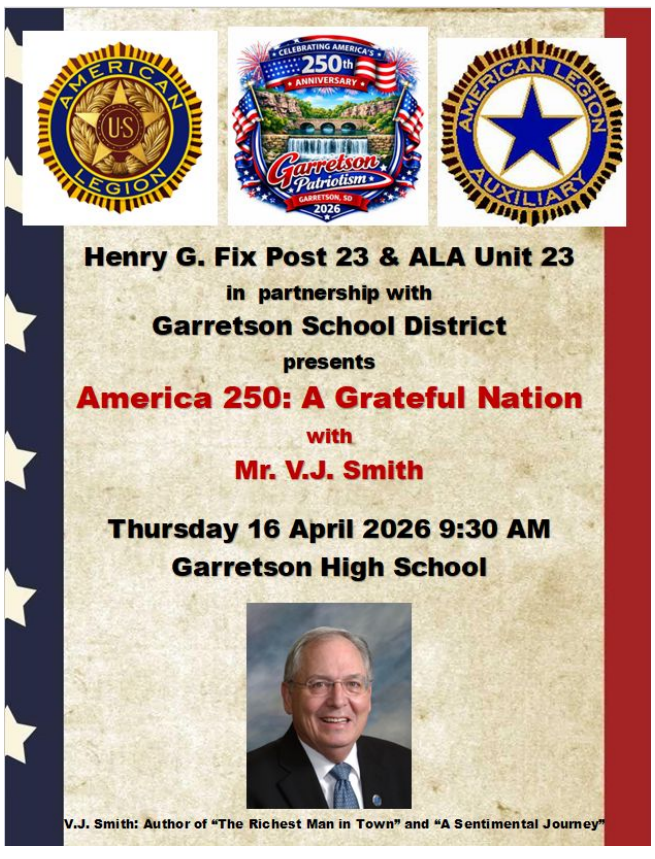
The most iconic fashion trends had something to say. There is a statement behind every outfit, whether it be embodying a vibe or representing a movement or culture. Fashion is a form of art and expression that serves as a visual language to say what words don't.

This holds true today, an example being the "messy girl" revival. Brought about by digital burnout, the "messy girl" is here to say, "I don't care." In a world where many feel like their lives must be neatly orchestrated online, the "messy girl" rejects this perfection. In adapting an authentic, lived-in aesthetic, they emphasize letting go of the need to constantly be put together and stress a focus on real life.

**Connection**

Fashion is more than clothes; it is the story of humankind. Each trend has a message, reason, and past even if the wearer is unaware. It is impossible to look at modern clothing without seeing glimpses of the past. Fashion *is* that deep.






## High School Band and Choir Concert



**Pops Concert Music**

**MS Choir:**
"Go the Distance"
"Somewhere Only We Know"
"We Belong Together"

**HS Choir:**
"Brighter Days"
"Skyfall"
"Africa"

**MS/HS Band:**
"How to Train Your Dragon" Music from the "Incredibles"
"Danger Zone" Highlights from "Frozen"
"Wicked" Music for a Darkened Theater

Pictures take and Infographic created by Zach Hermanson