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

- Next week is a 4-day week with Easter Break coming up April 3-6
- The spring musical has been announced: "The Little Mermaid"

March 27, 2026
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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



A month of musical talents & achievements

by **Cece Fiegen**
staff writer

On Monday, March 23, four members of the Garretson band participated in the Big East Conference Honor Band: Anna Ebbing (trumpet), Aiden Johnson (alto saxophone), Caiden Maack (clarinet), and Jake Jones (trombone).

Garretson was one of nine schools who took part in the 2026 BEC Honor Band. The young musicians spent the day rehearsing six songs which were featured in a public performance that night.

Ebbing compares her experience with previous BEC Honor Band year, "This is my third year going and I really liked our director." They worked under the guidance of Director Patlaff, who was previously a director at Platte, South Dakota for 32 years.

On March 26-28, Johnson and Maack will be going to All State Band, where they will be given the chance to yet again showcase their excellence. "The people at All State Band are on a whole other level… you can feel the music," says Johnson.

On Saturday, the All State Band concert will be streamed live at 4:00 PM on SDPB and then put on SDPB's YouTube channel.

Juniors Caiden Maack and Aiden Johnson were both selected for the All-State Band which will rehearse and perform this weekend in Rapid City.

Johnson is playing baritone saxophone in the Lewis Band under the direction of Dr. Caroline Hand.

Maack is playing clarinet in the Clark band under the direction of Dr. Rebekah Daniel.

The public performance is slated for Saturday and can be streamed via SDPB.

Photo of the program cover found on SDHSAA

Multiple extra opportunities during the month for both band and choir musicians to perform and grow



Photos courtesy of SDPB

At the beginning of the month, Garretson 5th grader Coper Dagel attended a festival honor choir in Brandon. Dagel and other young 4th, 5th, and 6th grade musicians from across the area rehearsed during the day then held a concert later that afternoon. Ailyn Coburn was also selected for the choir but was unable to attend.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Schweitzer



15 seconds of fame

Garretson choir students sang the National Anthem at the Skyforce game last Saturday



ICU moves to middle of day

by **Harper Hansich**
staff writer - editorial

Recently, GHS students were asked to review and complete their schedules for next year. Many noticed that something was off… ICU had been moved into the school day set for 1:21, after lunch, instead of at the end of the school day.

Many opinions arose about this topic: some positive and some negative. A benefit of this schedule change is that it would allow for an extra "study hall". This extra period would essentially be what other schools know as a home room.

However, I think that it is a mistake. The students who get their work done on time and are rarely on ICU shouldn't have to stay later just for the faults of others. If others don't get their work done…that's on them!

Furthermore, ICU at the end of the day allows students that were previously gone throughout the day, to check in with teachers. For example, FFA members will no longer have that opportunity when returning from competitions at the end of the day, leading to more missing work.

Lastly, the reason for this schedule change, said by Mr McGregor, is too much skipping on ICU. I believe that students should be held accountable for skipping and be given detention instead of moving the whole period.

Overall, moving ICU into the school day is not fair for everyone. And ultimately, it should be rethought.

Student thoughts on school changes

Students look toward next year options with hopefulness and dreams

by **Cade Risty**
staff writer

This week, a survey question for the school. This was so students could think about what they wanted to see in the school next year. The question asked was, “If you could add anything to the school, what would you add?” And the survey sent out to the high school received 25 responses, some were very creative and interesting, and I could see some of them having a very positive impact on our school.

The most popular option was adding new electives. Some examples of this would be a cooking class, or car maintenance classes. Although this could be a big, possibly expensive change for the school, I could see it working out very well and making school a little bit more enjoyable for the students because they get to pick what they want to learn about. The more options for students to explore their interests, the more likely they are to have fun and be well prepared for the future ahead of them.

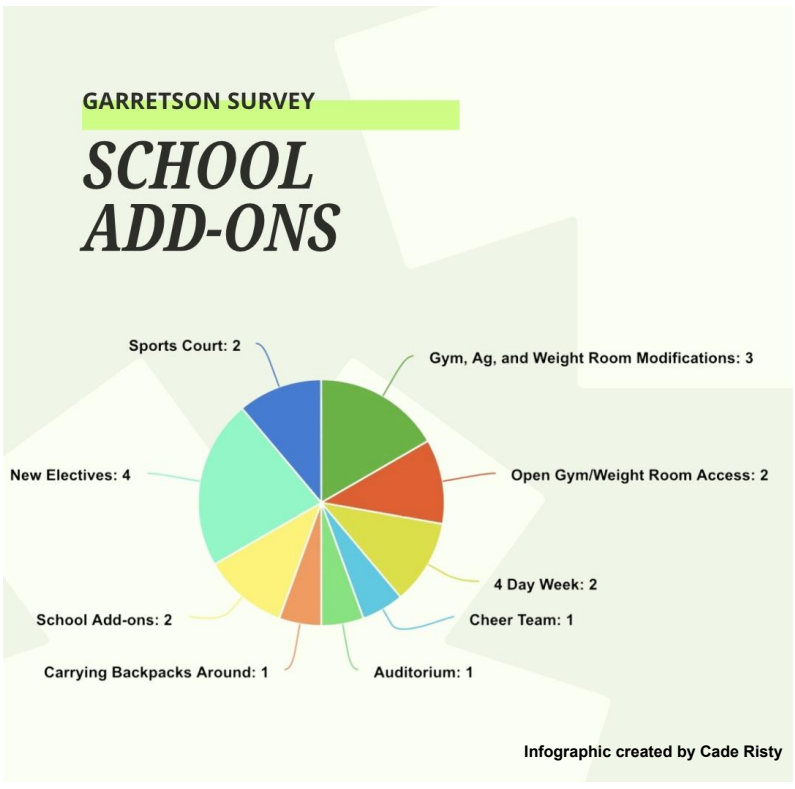
The second one to catch my attention was the modifications portion. A lot of students wanted Ag, weight room, and gym expansions or add-ons. For example, a running track around the gym like the one in Baltic, or a bigger weight room. I believe that these examples could help athletes possibly perform better, and to be more efficient; on the other hand, I could see it being very expensive for the school to add on and there would be a long wait for these changes.

After these two is a 4 day weekend, this is a very big want around the school. And I see where they are coming from. A bigger break would be nice, but this would make the school days longer, and could be a big boundary for performing well in sports games and breaking their normal routine.

The last one with multiple votes, was school add-ons. Like vending machines and recycling bins. These are actually very creative and could have a positive impact on our school for pretty cheap. So I could definitely see this happening.

The other votes with one pick were a competitive cheer team, new auditorium, and the ability to carry backpacks around the school freely.

In conclusion, most of these could be very helpful to our school and should be considered by the school board.



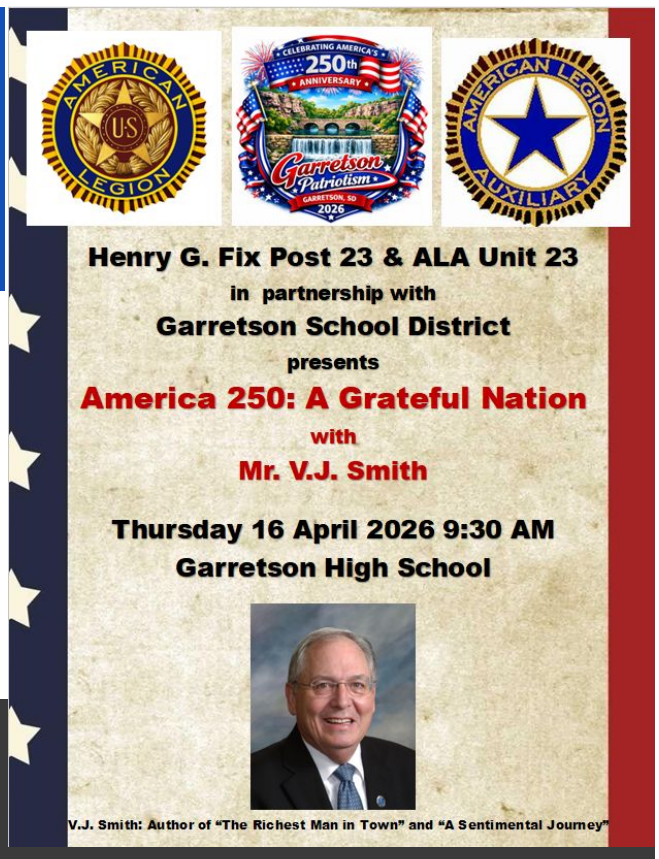
Infographic created by Cade Risty

Author comes to speak to students

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



Image from Library of Congress



Senior Spotlight
Brooklyn Trudeau



Activities Involved In:
Soccer, Cheer, Basketball, Softball, FFA, NHS, Theater, Student Council, Youth Advisory Council, Marching Band

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
I will miss how close our class is and how much we pick on one another

Favorite School Lunch:
French Toast Sticks

Favorite Class You’ve Taken:
Food Science or Government

Plans for Next Year:
Attend Grand Canyon University for Pre-Law/Government

This Week’s Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 27
- All-State Band @ Rapid City
- Baseball v. MCM (5:30)

Saturday, March 28
- All-State Band @ Rapid City

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

Tuesday, March 31
- Baseball v. Elkton-Lake Benton (5:30)

Wednesday, April 1
- Baseball @ Elkton-Lake Benton (5:30)

Thursday, April 2
- Softball v. Parker (4:00/5:30)

Friday, April 3
- No School

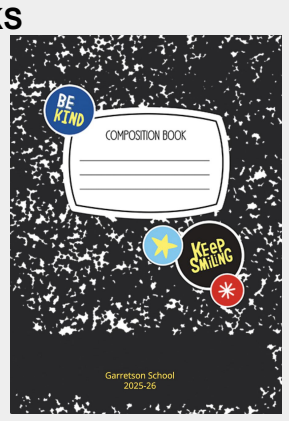
Saturday, April 4
- Baseball @ Flandreau

Worth Mentioning

CONGRATULATIONS to the MS Band and Choir as they both received Superior ratings at the large group contest on Wednesday.

GOLF PRACTICE starts on Monday. This is the last of the spring sports to get going. Softball, Track & Field, Baseball, and Trapshooting have all begun their seasons. Watch the calendar for first competitions as they are right around the corner.

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.



Baseball opens up season with win

by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer

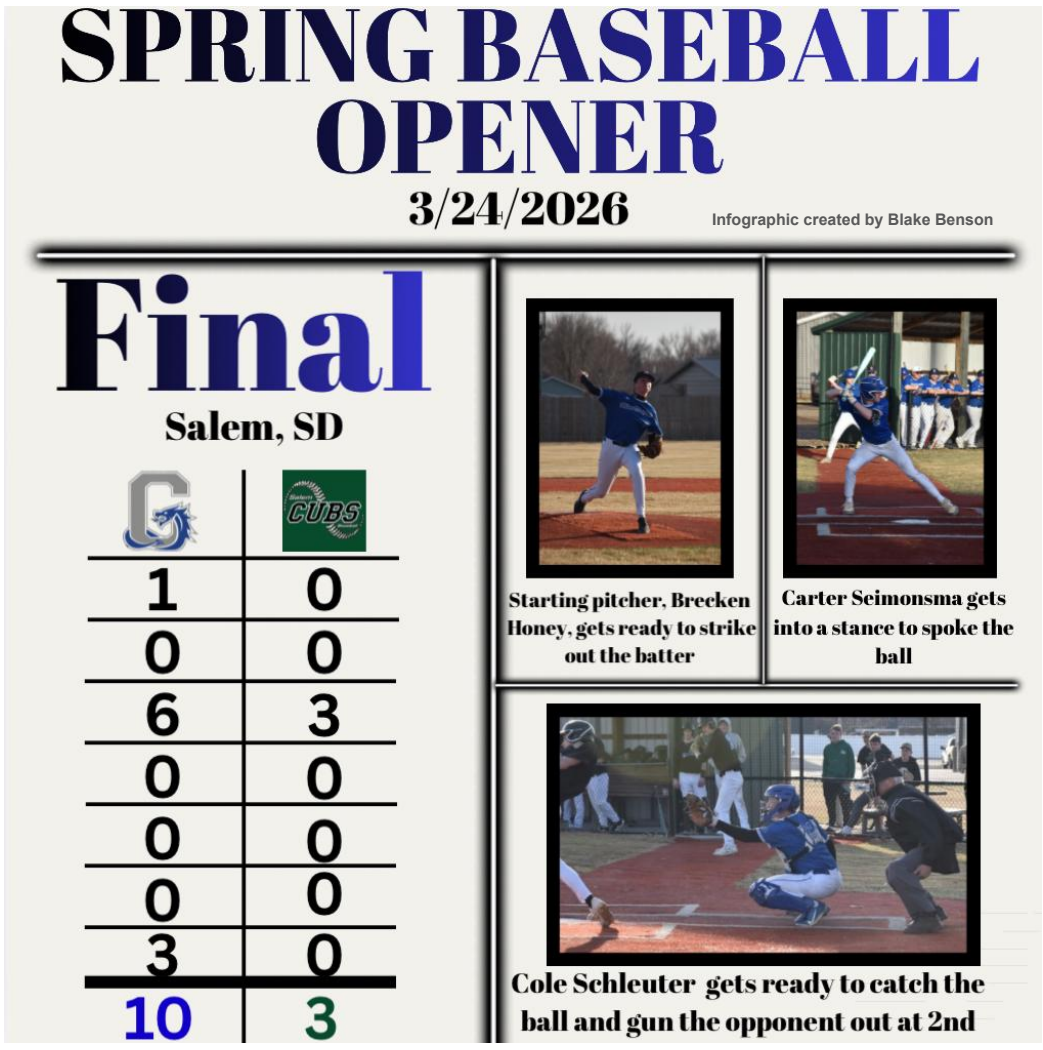
Garretson ball takes down McCook Central, faces them again today

Baseball season is upon us! Garretson's season is underway as they already played their first game against MCM on Tuesday. The squad pulled off a win 10-3. Brecken Honey started on the mound for the Blue Dragons. Jack Adler came on in relief before Caiden Maack closed out the game.

Looking into the season, Brecken Weir said, “We are a team consisting of mostly juniors and seniors with a few contributing underclassmen; we started out the year hot playing MCM in Salem winning 10-3 in a game where we scored most of our runs on solid fundamental baseball. We put the ball in play and made things happen. Overall, it was a great start to the season and we are looking to keep building on that.”

JV also played that night. They battled closely and came out on top, 5-4. Colton Buchholz opened for the JV squad. Bence Bonte came into relief. Blake Benson closed it out for the win. “You know it was fun, me and Beezer (Bence) went into pitch. We pitched pretty good. Threw my forkball and knuckle ball. It was a bit chilly, but still had fun,” said Benson.

The boys play tonight at home as of now. The game could get postponed due to weather being inopportune. The team is ready for the season and will continue to win games.





How to beat Minecraft

Game’s resurgence in popularity drives strategy and conversation

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

If you’re trying to beat Minecraft, you need to understand it’s not just about getting to the end. It’s about surviving, getting better gear, and not messing.

Every world starts the same you spawn in, punch a tree, and hope nothing kills you.

First, you need to gather basic resources, punch trees, collect wood, and make a crafting table. Then make wooden tools, but switch to stone tools as soon as you can because they’re way better.

While you’re doing that, get food by killing animals like cows or sheep. If you don’t, you’ll run out of hunger and that makes everything harder.

Before it gets dark, you need a shelter. It doesn’t have to look good at all, it can just be a dirt box or a small cave. The goal is to survive the night without getting attacked by zombies, skeletons, or creepers. Make a bed using wool so you can skip the night completely.

After you survive the first few days, start mining. This is where the real game begins. Look for iron first because it lets you make armor, better tools, and a shield. The shield is the best thing you can get in the early game because it blocks skeleton arrows. After that, go deeper to find diamonds. Once you have diamond gear, you’re ready for the Nether.

Build a portal using obsidian. You can mine it with a diamond pickaxe or make it using lava and water. When you go into the Nether, it's by far the worst part of the entire game. There’s lava everywhere, and mobs like ghasts, which need to be removed from the game, can knock you off edges.

In the Nether, your goal is to get Blaze Rods and Ender Pearls. Blaze Rods come from Blaze mobs in Nether Fortresses, and Ender Pearls come from Endermen. Combine them to make Eyes of Ender, which help you find the End Portal.

Once you have enough Eyes of Ender, throw them and follow where they go. They’ll lead you to a Stronghold underground, inside, you’ll find the End Portal room. Place the Eyes of Ender in the portal to activate it, you’ll need 12.

Now comes the hardest part, the Ender Dragon. When you enter the End, Look around for big black towers of obsidian and get ready. The Ender Dragon is flying around, and there are tall towers with crystals that heal it. You have to destroy those crystals first. Some are easy to hit, but others are protected, so aim carefully or climb up.

At the same time, Endermen are everywhere. Don’t look directly at them or they’ll attack you and make the fight way harder, but if you put water under you, you’ll be fine.

After you shoot all the crystals, you can focus on the dragon. Use a bow while it’s flying, and when it perches in the middle, run in and hit it with your sword. Watch out for its attacks, especially its breath because it does a lot of damage, but you can pick it up in a bottle.

After a long fight, you’ll defeat the Ender Dragon. It drops a ton of XP, and a portal appears. That’s how you officially beat the game.

But even after that, it’s not really over. Look for a small portal on the edge of the end island and then you can explore the End Cities, where you can get Elytra wings, the greatest thing in the entire game. So if you’re trying to beat Minecraft, just remember it’s not only about the ending. It’s about the whole journey from punching your first tree to defeating the dragon. And honestly, once you beat it, you’ll probably just start a new world and do it all over again!

Big time players bring big time game to Sioux Falls

WNBA's Chicago Sky and Phoenix Mercury set to play exhibition game at Sanford Pentagon

by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer and infographic creator

The Phoenix Mercury and Chicago Sky are set to make history on April 25, 2026, when they tip off at the Sanford Pentagon as that will be the first WNBA game ever played in South Dakota. The preseason matchup is scheduled for 3 p.m. central time.

For Mercury Head Coach Nate Tibbetts, the game is a homecoming. Tibbetts is a Sioux Falls native and former coach of the NBA G League's Sioux Falls Skyforce. His connections were vital in bringing this WNBA opportunity to South Dakota.

"This is a full-circle moment," Tibbetts said in an interview with Dakota News Now. "I know how much this community loves basketball. To bring these elite athletes to the Pentagon is a dream come out of the gym where I spent so much of my career."

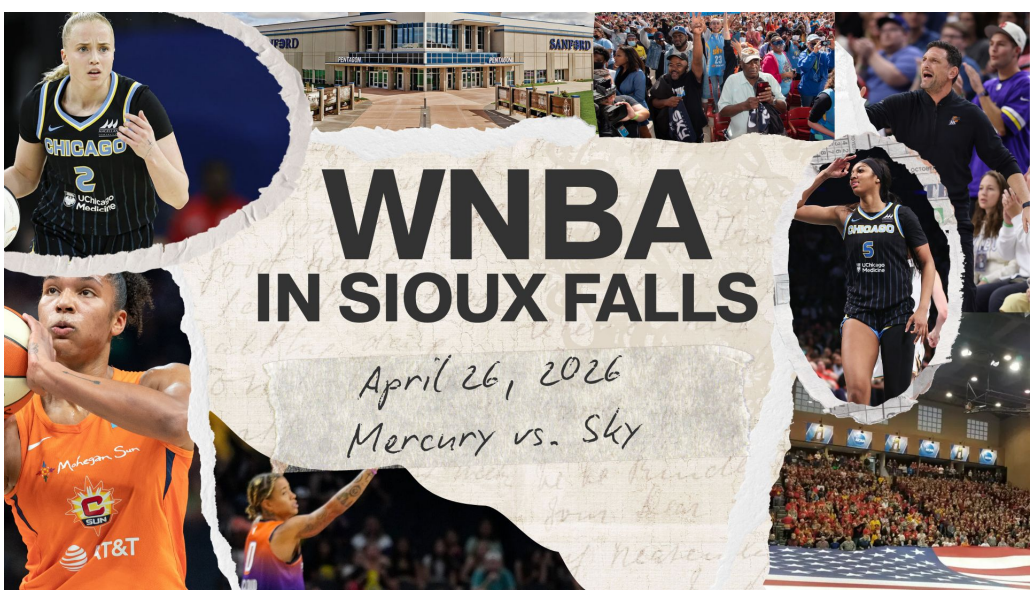
This event brings basketball back into the spotlight at the Pentagon after the Skyforce season ended about a month prior.

In an interview with Dakota News Now, Jesse Smith, VP of Sanford Sports said, "South Dakota has a rich basketball tradition. Hosting the Mercury and the Sky shows that the Sanford Pentagon is a world-class venue and shows our commitment to growing the women's game."

The Pentagon holds space for more than 3,000 and provides an intimate, high-energy experience for fans where they can see stars of the court up close.

While this is a preseason game, the intensity is expected to be high as both teams ready their rotations to prep for the regular season and fans get ready for the first of many major sports games in Sioux Falls.

The last time the Pentagon hosted an event like this was on October 13, 2013 where the Minnesota Timberwolves took on the Milwaukee Bucks in a preseason game. This event marks just under 13 years since a pro sports team has played at the Pentagon. The Mercury and the Sky will bring fun for the whole community leading into the start of the WNBA season.





Infographic created by Chase Costello



Infographic created by Chase Arend

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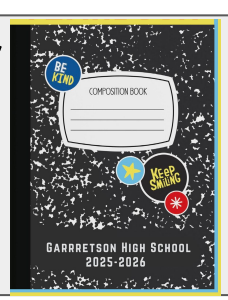

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March Madness Basketball & Wrestling

While most people think of basketball for March Madness, the wrestling mats have been just as active. The NCAA D1 Wrestling championships just concluded. Penn State took the overall team title.