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

- Class schedules are due today. Please see Mrs. Matthews with any questions or to turn it in.
- ICU is moving to the middle of the day next year for a 20 minute opportunity after lunch.

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Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Ecosia: The search engine that plants trees

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

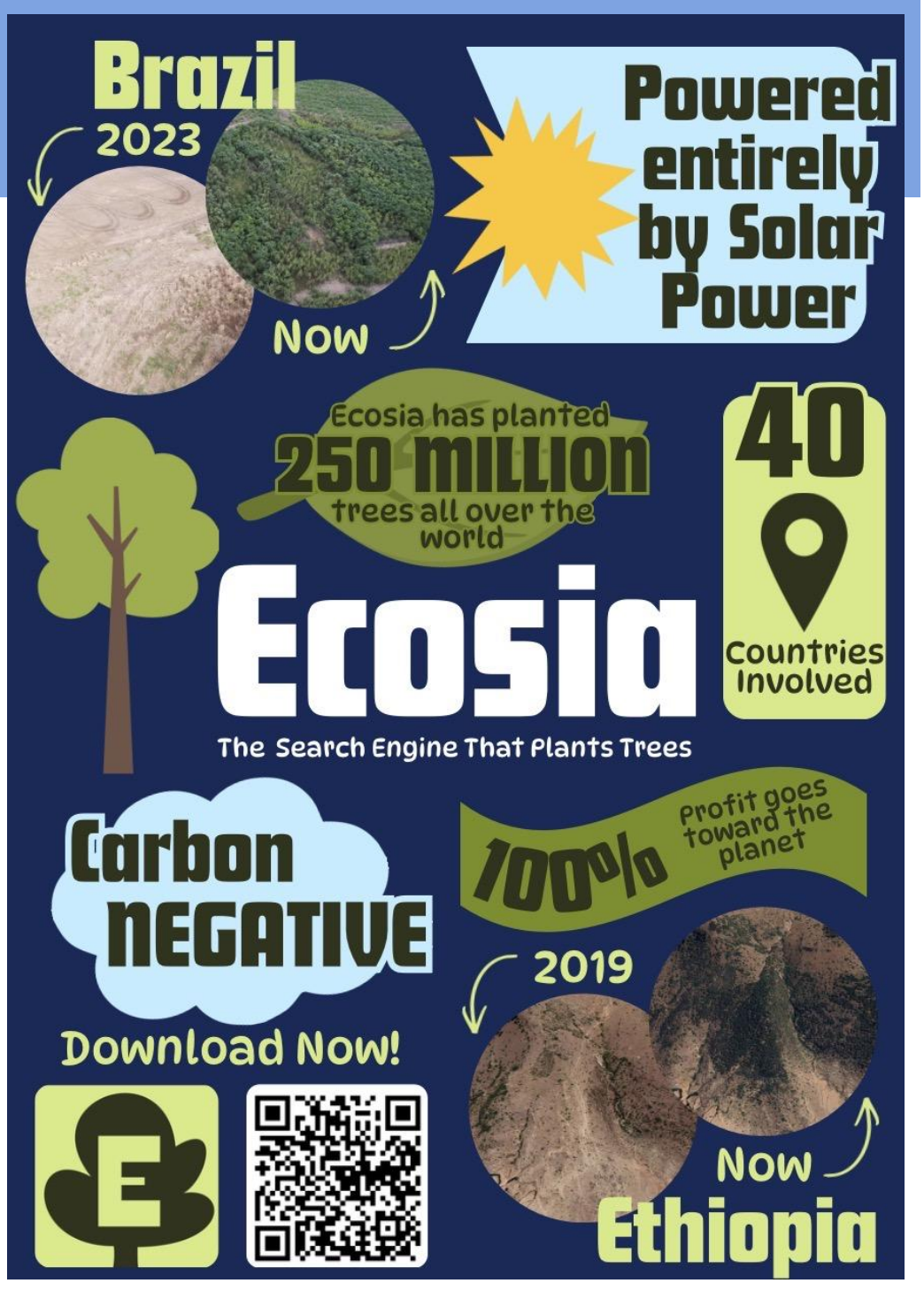
Doing our planet some good one search at a time

During Earth Month in April, it's common to want to support the planet and become more environmentally responsible. It is rare for someone to actually make steps to achieve this. Ecosia, however, takes an existing habit, looking something up, and turns it into real action. This web browser turns the users' searches into planted trees. Their actions continue every day, long past Earth Month.

While it may seem impossible, Ecosia has already planted 250 million trees. Each user is given the opportunity to follow along in real time. The company is very transparent about their process. The web browser generates income through search engines ads, a tactic even Google uses. The profit from an ad on Ecosia goes to tree planting and countering the effects of climate change. The web browser's users can even track the company's spendings with their easy to access, monthly financial reports. These reports confirm their credibility and involve their user in every step, something totally unlike their larger competitors.

The Ecosia team has planted trees in more than 40 different countries, such as Brazil or Ethiopia. Each project varies to suit the needs of the community in the area. Sometimes seedlings are given to local farmers, who plant them in their farms year after year. Other times Ecosia employs local community members to run a tree nursery, where they can plant many trees in a small area. There are many other approaches that they use to plant trees, but by involving the community it creates a long lasting practice.

Founder and CEO, Christian Kroll, started Ecosia with his only focus being on planting trees, and while this is still true, they have also expanded into renewable energy. Ecosia's solar panels produce enough energy to power all of their searches, twice over! This includes their AI feature, which is the greenest AI in the world. Despite this, it can still be turned off for those not fond of it. All of these conscious decisions have made Ecosia not just carbon neutral, but carbon negative.



Ecosia may not be what everyone is looking for in a search engine, depending on the user's priorities, but their environmental impact is undoubtable. It is an easy download off the App Store or can be found at Ecosia.org. What makes Ecosia stand out from millions of other apps, is that it is healing our planet.

DON'T FORGET

Class Schedules are due TODAY!

Marvel returns to the big screen

by **Cade Risty**
staff writer

The Marvel Cinematic Universe attempts to bring the fan base back to the theaters with new Avengers movie



Ever since the first Captain America film in 2011, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been one of the most successful movie franchises of all time. Thirty seven movies have been released since that time and have grossed over 31 billion dollars, and they have had a huge impact on most movie watchers, the movies had perfect suspense and iconic characters for fans to follow. But out of all these movies, the *Avengers* movies have been the most popular, and are some of the highest grossing films of all time, right next to *Avatar*.

This year, Marvel finished filming their next coming movie *Avengers Doomsday.* This is easily one of the highest anticipated movies of the year because there hasn't been an *Avengers* movie sicen 2019, but fans are worried that the movie isn't going to make sense, due to no buildup for the new antagonist, and because the past movies haven't been as good. However, fans are hoping for the movie to reignite the fire of the MCU franchise.

Marvel has made some big moves to pave the way for *Avengers Doomsday.* First of all, they are going to rerelease one of their old movies, *Avengers Endgame*, but with new footage. Joe Russo, one of the main directors, said that this re-release is a "critically important" way to add footage and set up *Doomsday.* So they can connect the movies to fans trying to get back into the gist of things. The new footage of *Endgame* will be released in September, while the new *Doomsday* movie comes out in December. They also showed the trailer for *Avengers Doomsday* to fans at CinemaCon, but the footage was never released online and was never leaked. So for now, fans will have to wait for the upcoming trailer, and are hopefully expecting to see a good movie.

Drake's freeze on new music finally thaws

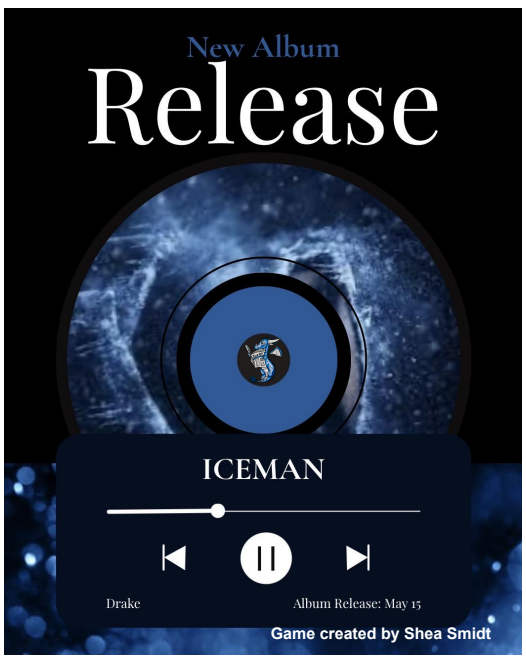
by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer

After pushing the album back multiple times, Drake is set to finally release his album *ICEMAN*.

With his last album being released last year, fans are excited about all the music they are getting.

Drake decided to make a big event with the release date information, so he buried it in ice. This ice was in Toronto, Drake's hometown, and later taken down by the Toronto Fire Department.

Finally we can expect the album on May 15.



Senior Spotlight
Dylan Waltman

Activities Involved In:
FFA
Trap

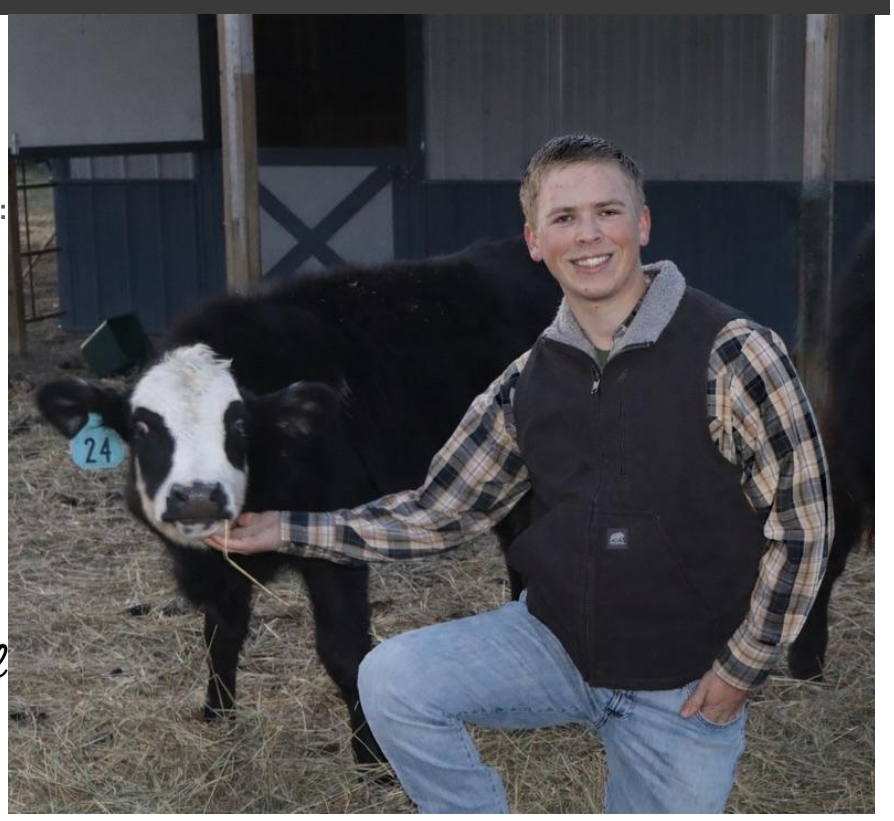
Who/What Will You Miss Most:
No rent/taxes

Favorite School Lunch:
Taco in a Bag

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Earth Science

Plans for Next Year:
Study Precision Technology at Lake Area Tech

Class Of 2026



Band & Choir continue success

by **Harper Hanisch**
staff writer

Both music programs earn superior ratings at contest

On April 22, Garretson's band and choir traveled to Harrisburg High School to compete in the annual Large Group contest. The band competed alongside 13 different groups and the choir 12.

The band performed two pieces: "Spring Will Come Again" by Randall Standridge and "A Hymm For Band" by Hugh M. Stuart. They earned a superior, the highest honor that could be received. Later on, the choir performed "Glow" by Eric Whitacre and "Bonse Aba" by Victor C. Johnson. They, too, were awarded a superior for their performance.

Taylor Schweitzer, Garretson's choir teacher stated, "With both groups having students involved in so many activities Mr. Sittig and I were very impressed with how the students were able to work together and put together a great performance, even with lots of student students absent leading up to the performances. It is a testament to how we have really high-quality musicians in our school." Overall, both groups were satisfied with their performances. They perform next on May 4 at Garretson High School for their spring concert.

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 24
- JH Golf @ Deubrook (11:00)
- JH Track @ Parker/Marion (3:00)
- Spring Musical Performance (7:00)

Saturday, April 25
- Track @ Tom Main in Chester (9:30/10:30/11:30)

Sunday, April 26
- Spring Muscial Performance (2:00/7:00)

Monday, April 27
- JV Golf @ Garretson (10:00)
- JH Track @ Chester (1:00)
- Softball @ Baltic (4:00/5:30)

Tuesday, April 28
- Golf @ Dell Rapids St Mary (9:00)
- JH Golf @ Howard (11:00)
- Track @ Danielson Relays in Salem (12:00)

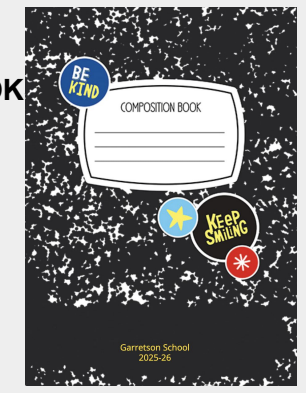
Thursday, April 30
- Track @ Canton (12:00/3:45)
- JH/JV Softball @ Luverne (4:30)

Friday, May 1
- Golf @ Garretson (9:00)

Worth Mentioning

TODAY is opening day for the school musical, *The Little Mermaid.* Performances are tonight at 7:00 and Sunday at 2:00 and 7:00.

ORDER YOUR '25-'26 YEARBOOK 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.



Nap time needs to make a comeback

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

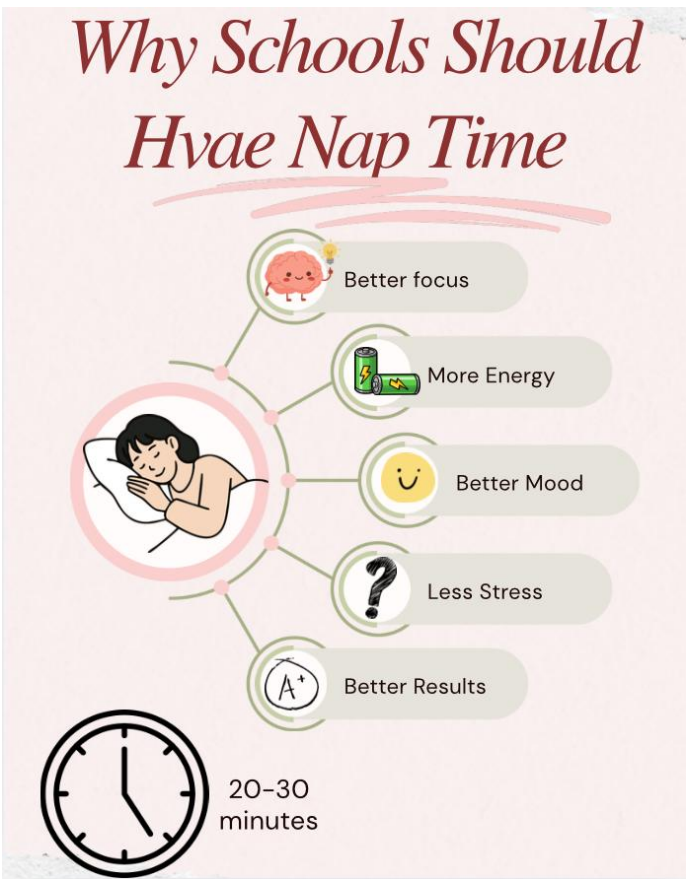
Loads of homework, busy schedules, extended commitments, late nights, not enough sleep

I believe that schools should have nap time for high school students. Every day I come to school feeling tired. I know that I am not the only one who feels this way. We have to wake up in the morning stay up late at night doing homework or participating in sports and by the middle of the day it is hard to stay awake in class like high school students have to do.

I feel like a nap during the day would actually help high school students a lot. Just twenty or thirty minutes of nap time could make high school students feel more awake and ready to learn. Instead of sitting in class half asleep, high school students could actually pay attention and get more work done. I know that when I am tired I do not do my work and I am sure that most students feel the same way about their school work.

I also think that nap time would help school students with stress. School can get overwhelming with tests, assignments and everything else going on in high school. Having a break to just relax would make a big difference for high school students. It is not about being lazy. It is about staying focused on school work. Some people might say that nap time is a waste of time, I do not agree. If high school students are too tired to focus then class time is already being wasted for high school students. A short nap could make the rest of the day way more productive for high school students.

Overall I think that adding nap time to schools is an idea that could help high school students. High school students would be awake, less stressed and do better in school.





FFA finishes competition season

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

Multiple state degrees earned, team and individual successes, and superior rating for the chapter during state competition this week

With FFA season coming to an end the state CDE (career development event) was this week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Brookings. All of the early mornings and late nights have finally paid off and Garretson had state qualifiers in every competition area. As over 2000 members, advisors, and guests gathered for the State FFA CDE, there could only be one winner in each event.

Like stated before, Garretson had a competitor in every event other than a few. Garretson did pretty well, having multiple people place in the top 20 and having a team qualify for the national event in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was floriculture the participants being: Whisper Apple, Ella Frerk, Alyssa Garcia, and Jordyn Graff. Apple got 8th, Frerk got 10th, Garcia got 57th, and Graff got 102nd. Other teams who did well were Ag Mechanics finished in 14th, Food Science got 9th, Milk Quality and Products got 16th, and Vet Science was 17th.

Other than the competitions, on Monday the South Dakota FFA as a whole packed Mac n Cheese bags for the people in need. They packed hundreds if not thousands of packs for feeding South Dakota.

On Tuesday, there was a career fair. During the career fair there was a ton of colleges so students could talk to them about their agriculture programs and the US Army was also there.

Good job to everyone who competed and a good luck to those coming back next year.

NFL Draft showcases some solid picks, steals, surprises, and first round snubs











Tangled theme was on point

Prom's success last weekend was thanks to lots of hours, strong advisor leadership, many contributors, and small touches made unique theme come alive











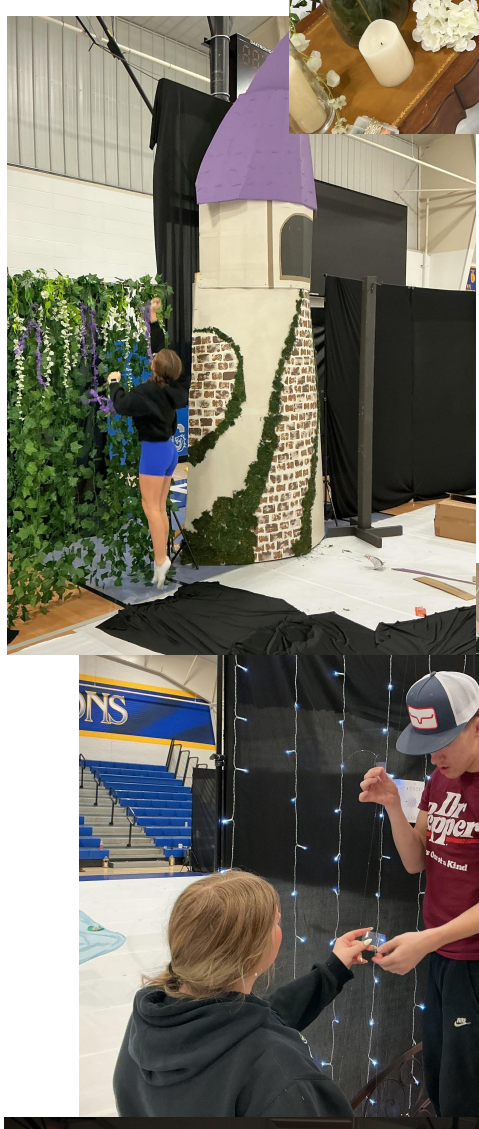


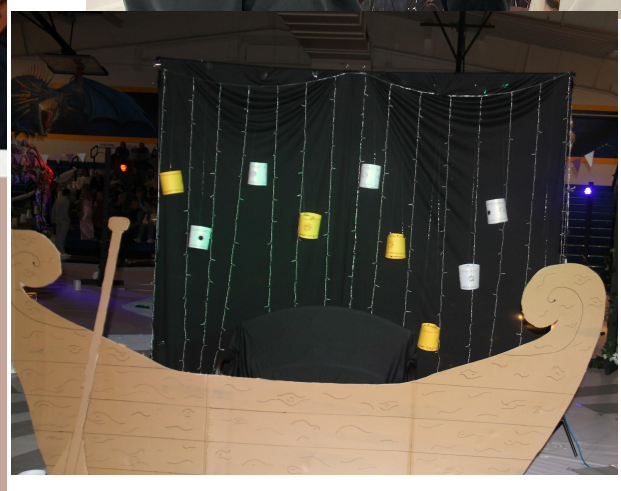
GARRETSON

PROM

Infographic created by Chase Arend







Infographic created by Zach Hermanson