

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

- CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Roth for earning a Superior at State for her Poetry selection.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- See you next year
  - **Bis nächtes Jahr**
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

December 19, 2025
Volume 13, Issue 18
Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Last minute gift guide

by **Cade Risty**
staff writer

There is still time to find that perfect gift for that perfect person

Every year, lots of people seem to struggle with the same thing, and that's procrastinating buying gifts for others. Then without any time left, they have no idea what to get for their partner, parents, siblings, or friends. So here is the ultimate last minute gift guide from the journalism class to help everyone out whenever they need it.

When it comes to this situation, there are many different categories for every type of person. For example, comfort items, clothes, home decor, collectibles, and also experiences. Thankfully, there are various options for each category and we have found the perfect fit for every category.

COMFORT

First of all, we are going to start with the topic of comfort. Some nice items to get for family or friends could be a Barefoot Dreams CozyChic Throw. These blankets are known for being extremely soft and luxurious, making them feel more comfortable than other blankets. You can also get them a nice weighted blanket to go with that, which some have said are the greatest blankets for the winter cold. These blankets usually are about $70 on the Barefoot Dreams website, but they are investments, once a person gets one, they will never get rid of it.

Next are the pillows, there are kitsch satin pillow cases you can get on amazon for about $20. The benefits of silk pillows are plentiful, the silk you lay on at night can help keep your face and hair's moisture. This is because the silk surface of the pillow reduces the friction with your face and the pillow. Meaning that it also helps with acne and sleep wrinkles. This makes it way better than the other pillows on the market.

CLOTHES

Next, we got clothes. To start, we can get our family or friends some Nike socks, what makes Nike socks different is that they have the best reviews are are said to be the best socks quality wise. Having a nice pair of socks can be an underrated factor in feeling good throughout the whole day. They are also very good for sports and other activities.

Next, you can get a nice puffer jacket or zip up hoodie from the Hollister website for the cold winter. These cost around $70 and can help people stay warm and look very nice at the same time.

Lastly, bluetooth headbands, these range from about $10-20 dollars. Who doesn't want to play music while outside shoveling, snowboarding, or just hanging out outside.

HOME DECOR

Our first option has to be floating shelves. Floating shelves have been becoming more popular around the world because they save more space than traditional shelves and also look better to most people. These are perfect for your shoes, LEGO, or anything you want to put on display. Prices range on how long they are, but they are usually about $15-$50.

Secondly, we have room plants. These can go on your new shelves, add more personality to your home, and impress guests. The plants vary in size, but most of them are $5-$70.

COLLECTIBLES

For this topic, there are PLENTY of options. For example, funko pops, LEGO, Pokémon cards, and sports cards. These are perfect for both kids and adults. They add personality to your room and it is very fun to open or build.

Some other options could be action figures, or model buildings or vehicles. These all range from $10-$400 depending on what you get.



ENTERTAINMENT

Finally, we have reached our last topic of entertainment. The people's favorite is the breaking room. Take a trip to get rid of all your anger and go smash chairs, glass, and other items for about $25-$100.

If you want to entertain the family with multiplayer games and single player, there are also video games like Madden, 2K, The Show, NHL, FIFA, and combat sports or whatever you think that person would like.

Or you can go to the arcade, Great Shots, or other entertaining activities you think your family or friends would like.

Lastly, when these struggles arrive, come back to this list for the perfect options for anyone. They will certainly love these items and will be impressed with your picks!



Boys basketball starts season strong

by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer

After dropping first game, Blue Dragons decidedly take wins in both next games including home opener

The boys basketball team started hot as they are now 2-1 and looking to go 3-1 tonight against Tri-Valley. Garretson lost their first game to Estelline-Hendricks 86-56. Garretson then went to beat Chester 74-65. Earlier this week, their first home game, they came out strong and finished hard on Canton 53-69.

Against Canton, the team was firing on all cylinders, scoring 47 points in one half. They didn't let up though as they finished the game strong.

Juniors Jackson Arend and Carter Siemonsma both dropped 20 points. But the score doesn't show the whole game as the Blue Dragons went above and beyond and hustled the entire game proving they are a team to be reckoned with.

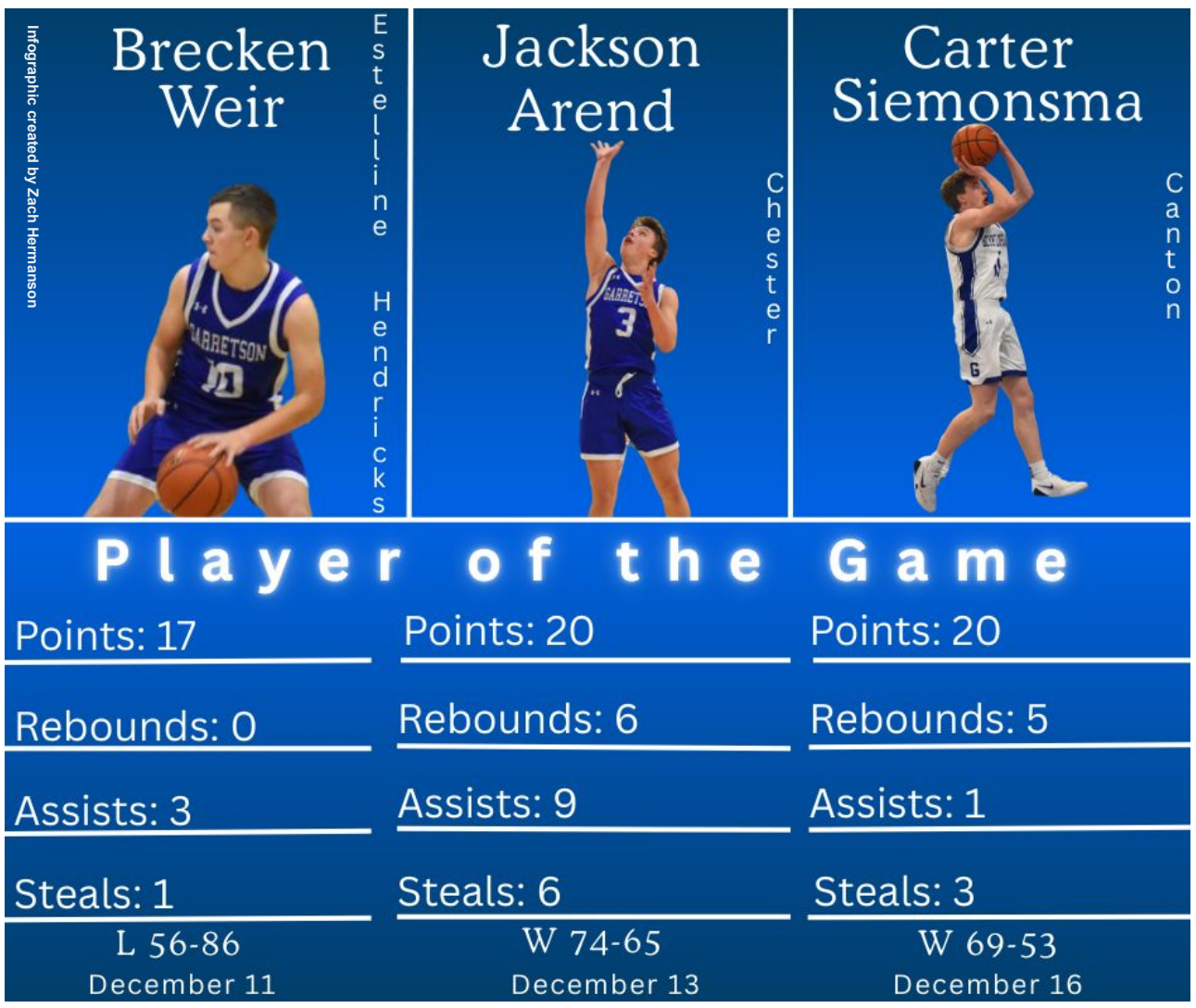
Their first win, however, came last Saturday as they beat the Chester Flyers 74-65. This game was played in Chester where the Dragons took care of business.

Arend scored 20 points this game also but he was also a menace on defense. Freshman Colton Buchholz almost matched Arend with 19 points. Siemonsma also nearly reached it as well with a still impressive 18 points. Senior Brecken Weir was dishing out dimes with 10 assists and only one turnover. On the defensive side, the Dragons had 10 steals.

"The season has gone very well so far, there is a lot to be excited about with our team and I believe we can keep it going," said Wier as Garretson looks to go 3-1 tonight and the JV team looks to go 4-0 and continue their undefeated season.

Catch the Blue Dragons in action tonight at home against the Mustangs (1-1). "Tonight against Tri Valley should be a really good game. They are long and athletic but I believe we are skilled enough to beat them, it should be a good game," said Weir.

C team opens up play at 4:30, with JV at 6:00 and varsity at 7:15.



Upcoming Fan Themes

Friday, Dec. 19: Boys Basketball v. Tri-Valley - JERSEY
Tuesday, Dec. 30: Basketball (DH) @ Deubrook - CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
Friday, Jan. 2: Basketball (DH) @ HBC - COUNTRY
Tuesday, Jan. 6: Basketball (DH) @ DRSM - HAWAIIAN

Senior Spotlight
Jake Jones



Activities Involved In:
Band, Honor Band, Marching Band, One-Act

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
I will miss band the most. Ending my day by being part of something I am passionate about is awesome. I'll miss Sittig too; he's an amazing director who always has my best interests.

Favorite School Lunch:
Crispitos

Favorite Class You've Taken:
My favorite class has been anatomy because I was able to learn a lot while Mr. Heumiller kept it engaging

Plans for Next Year:
Attend an undecided, in-state, 4-year college for a business related degree

Class Of 2026

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 19
- Semester Tests: 1st Period, 3rd Period, 8th Period
- JH GBB @ Baltic (3:30)
- BBB v. Tri-Valley (4:30/5:30/7:00)

Saturday, December 20
- Wrestling @ MVPCS Tourney in Mt. Vernon (9:30)
- Girls Wrestling @ Canton (10:00)
- GBB @ Entringer v. Elkton-Lake Benton (3:30)

Monday, December 29
- Girls Wrestling @ SF Lincoln (9:00)

Tuesday, December 30
- GBB @ Deubrook (11:00/1:15)
- BBB @ Deubrook (12:00/2:30)
- Youth Wrestling @ Garretson (5:00)

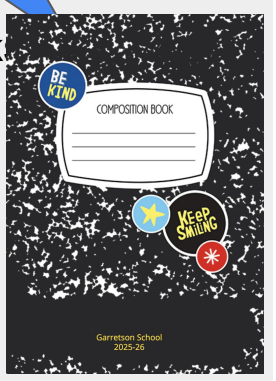
Wednesday, December 31
- BBB @ Entringer v. ORR (2:00)

Worth Mentioning

WINTER BREAK runs from Saturday, December 20 through Sunday, January 4. There are plenty of Garretson activities going on during that time but make sure you take some time to rest and relax as well.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the students who have been recognized for showing positive ACE qualities (Attitude, Character, Effort). Our five winners from November are Cooper Smith, Alyssa Olson, Drew Chester, Caylix Buchholz, and Bryce Howe. Please see Mrs. Costello in study hall for an extra reward.

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.



College football playoffs start

12-team tournament set to begin this weekend

by **Chase Arend**
staff writer

Top players in the county will show their individual and team skill as they enter the first round of the 2025-2026 College Football Playoffs. THere are four games with eight teams playing in the first round, coming off the extension of a 4-team overall bracket to now a 12 team bracket, that most people seem to like.

The first round matchups will be Oklahoma vs. Alabama, Texas A&M vs Miami, Ole Miss vs. Tulane, and Oregon vs. James Madison, being the newcomer and making their first ever playoff picture. These games will be played on December 19 to 20 at the home stadiums of the higher seed teams. The higher seed home games will be Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas A&M, and Ole Miss.

For predictions according to the NCAA, the favorites to win are usually the home teams with home field advantage and a better record.

Oklahoma is slightly favored to beat Alabama as Oklahoma is at home this time. Though Alabama lost to Oklahoma they are coming for revenge as they lost the first game 23-21.

Texas A&M is picked over Miami, Ole Miss is expected to win easily against Tulane, and Oregon is strongly predicted to beat James Madison.

Though Alabama lost to Oklahoma they are coming for revenge as they lost the first game 23-21.

Sophomore Cooper Smith said, “I like Alabama in this game, they are coming off a loss to them and I think they will pull it off.” Smith is a huge college football fan.

Do you think Alabama will make the upset on the road? All these teams will be pushing for the national championship, Ohio State Georgia, Texas Tech, and #1 overall seed Indiana will have a chance for the championship as the have a bye first round. Two teams will succeed and get to that championship and 10 teams will be left heartbroken.







The best holiday

by **Blake Benson**
staff writer - editorial

Christmas may be at the end of the year but probably comes first as favorite

Nothing can be compared to Christmas, the best holiday. It gives more joy and fun than any other holiday. For instance, Thanksgiving is just a lot of eating and napping. Halloween can be too scary and gets boring as people get older. But during Christmas the atmosphere is one of the best feelings ever. The streets, the houses, and the stores are decorated and lit up. Also, there is Christmas music everywhere that lifts the people's spirit of the day. Maybe some other holidays have a few decorations, but none of them are even close to how Christmas changes the feeling of a normal day.

Christmas is also the best holiday because it brings people and families together. Some holidays do bring people together, but it is not even compared to Christmas. There are presents to open; the food is better like crab, and the kids get to enjoy Santa. Families tell stories to each other, share meals, and of course, open presents.

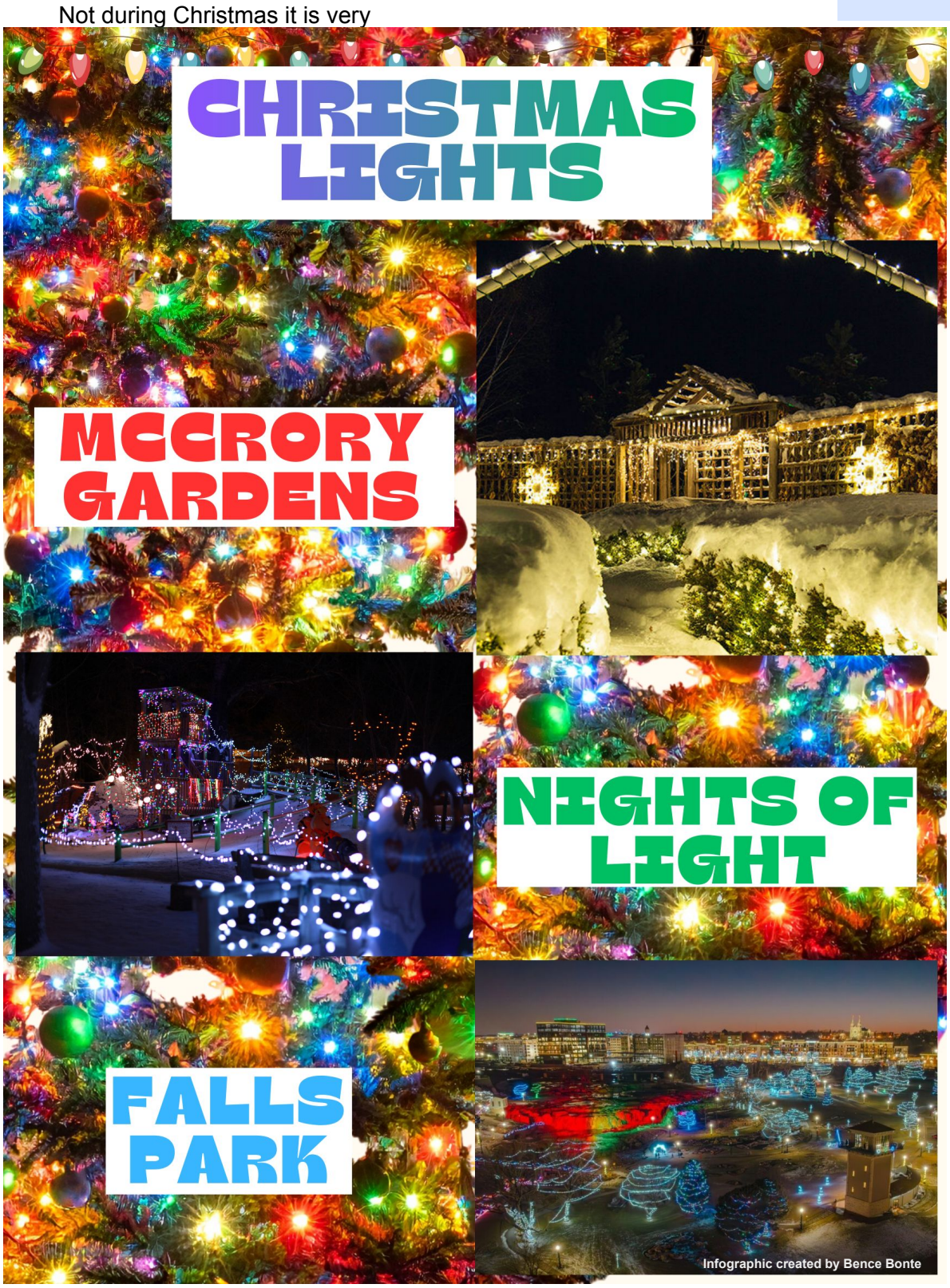
Not during Christmas it is very rare when people are still around and don't have work. Christmas takes weight off everyone's shoulders so they don't have to work and stress about situations, they can just talk to their friends, family, enjoy meals, give presents, and be thankful for what they have.

Another reason that Christmas is on top is that there are tons of kids that get presents and are just overall very grateful. Many people give away toys, support the families in need, and do good to others. The feeling of giving is more intense in the time of Christmas than at any other period during the year which makes people feel that the holiday is really meaningful.

In addition, the special holiday meals and the family tradition show the beautiful things of Christmas. Christmas is the best holiday by far because of its happiness and how it makes everyone feel better. No other holiday creates the same feeling year after year like Christmas does.



Infographic created by Cece Fiegen



Infographic created by Bence Bonte

Steckler decides to officially step away from school

by **Bence Bonte**
staff writer

Kevin Steckler has always been a huge part of Garretson High School, whether he's saying hi to you in the hallways or cheering loudly at sporting events. However those places may feel different next year as he is retiring, and it's hard to imagine our school without him.

Over the years, Mr. Steckler has become more than just a familiar face, he's been someone students, teachers, and athletes could always count on. He took the time to get to know people, offered encouragement when it was needed, and helped create a welcoming atmosphere that made Garretson feel like a family.

He was a fantastic football coach who always knew how to give an amazing speech and get the team fired up when they most needed it. He was also a teacher for 38 years teaching history/government, before becoming the AD for 7 years, but now he is retiring.

His impact on athletics is especially meaningful. From practices to games, home or away, Mr. Steckler was always there supporting our teams. He showed pride in every athlete, no matter the sport, and his enthusiasm motivated players to give their best effort. He believed in every Garretson athlete pushing them to strive for hard work, teamwork, and school spirit, and he passed those values on to generations of athletes.

While his retirement is the end of his career, his loud voice will always be a part of Garretson High School, and he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.