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 VOLLEYBALL GAME in Madison is **TBD**.
- **Would You Rather:** Carve or paint a pumpkin

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GARRETSON BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Beyond the badge

Officer Nick McGlothlen's return to Garretson School District brings excitement, experience, and engagement with students.



by **Brielle Weir**
staff writer & infographic creator



Officer Nick McGlothlen is a crucial part in the school, having a positive aura and keeping the students safe, but there is a lot more to him that many do not realize. Between being the Garretson's School Resource Officer, SRO, and a SWAT Officer, he also was a paramedic on the firefighter squad, does security for concerts, and is head of the D.A.R.E program at Garretson, with more activities he enjoys, when he has the time.

McGlothlen has been a cop for seven years and stated the most rewarding part of the job is being able to help people. Getting calls all the time from anonymous people, sometimes not being police related, and just being able to help them out.

Not everyone knows that McGlothlen has been roaming the halls of Garretson before this year. While Officer Aanenson was away on deployment in 2020-2021, McGlothlen stepped in to fulfill his duties.

In between his time at Garretson, McGlothlen worked the night shift for a few years, Officer McGlothlen then became the full time SRO at Baltic High School. After the SRO position opened up at Garretson, Officer M. decided to come back.

When asking him why he wanted to come back McGlothlen said, "The biggest thing would be the community; everybody here is very supportive. Everyone seemed to like having me here, so I figured I'd come back to a place that I had a positive impact on."

Officer M. mentioned his favorite part of being within the school walls is seeing all the happy faces when he is around. When being around criminals outside of working at the school, who aren't particularly happy to see the police, it is reassuring to see kids being happy when around police officers.

Other than working at the school, Nick McGlothlen has been the paramedic of the SWAT team for three years and counting. The officer said, "It feels like I'm playing Call of Duty in real life."

Not only does Officer M. get to play video games in real life, but in his free time he enjoys playing them too, along with reading books, being outdoors, traveling, hanging out with his dog Sherlock, and helping out as a security guard at the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

McGlothlen stated his favorite concerts he has worked are Journey, which he has seen twice, Jason Aldean, where he got the opportunity to be backstage with Aldean's personal security, and the Red Clay Strays, which is the most recent concert he has helped work.

Last but not least McGlothlen stepped in as the director of the D.A.R.E program at Garretson. D.A.R.E stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, where students gather once a week to discuss how to make proper decision when presented with bad situations. This course is a 10-week program, and at the end students must write an essay over what they have learned. The best essay receives a prize, all students are rewarded with a free D.A.R.E. t-shirt.

McGlothlen mentioned he hopes to make a positive impact on the program and find a way to fundraise more for it. Due to the fact the budget is currently being split between five different schools, this would be a way the Garretson students could reward themselves a bit more.

Overall, Officer Nick McGlothlen is much more than just the person students see walking through the hallways each day. From keeping the community safe and helping those in need to working concerts and making a difference through the D.A.R.E. program, he has found many ways to serve others. His positive attitude and dedication to helping people have made him a valuable part of the Garretson community. Although students may see him as just their school resource officer, there is a lot more behind the badge than meets the eye.



Oral Interpretation Update

The oral interpretation team continued their busy schedule with multiple competitions this past week.

On Friday, Oct. 23 two of the members traveled to Washington HS where Briann Jacobson took 6th overall in the drama category.

The team went to Brookings on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Jacobson continued her success earning superiors on both her storytelling and drama. Abby Fetter mirrored that success earning superior ratings in the same categories. Hannah Hummel earned her first superior rating of the year with her storytelling piece.

Gen Z protests around the world

How far are you willing to go for what you believe in?

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

Youth led protests have erupted across the globe, and while each has a different cause, they all have one thing in common: Gen-Z is no longer willing to be passive to the world around them. Countries like France, India, and Chile have set a precedent for others on what they believe must be done to be heard.

French students have taken to the streets in response to the literal crumbling education system, where classes are overcrowded, teachers are underpaid, and there are overall poor conditions. Some have even reported having rat and roach infestations. Though many protesters have remained peaceful, it has since grown into a larger beast, with stores being looted and property being burned.

In India, the largest democracy in the world, Gen-Z has marched for voter integrity after 130 million names were removed from voter rolls. Their demand is the resignation of India's Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar. These protests have been headed by the youth led Cockroach Janta Party, or People's Party. The party claimed the buggy name after a leader called online activists, "cockroaches and parasites," which they embraced like an inside joke.

Students and workers in Chile have mobilized in discontent over the massive budget cuts to education, healthcare, and labor. These demonstrations began a day after the 2027 budget proposals were released. The protesters then clashed with local authorities, resulting in water cannons and tear gas to be deployed on the crowd.

These countries are just a few of the many where the youth has taken charge and demanded change. This brings the question of how far would *you* go for what you believe in?





Senior Spotlight
Alyssa Garcia

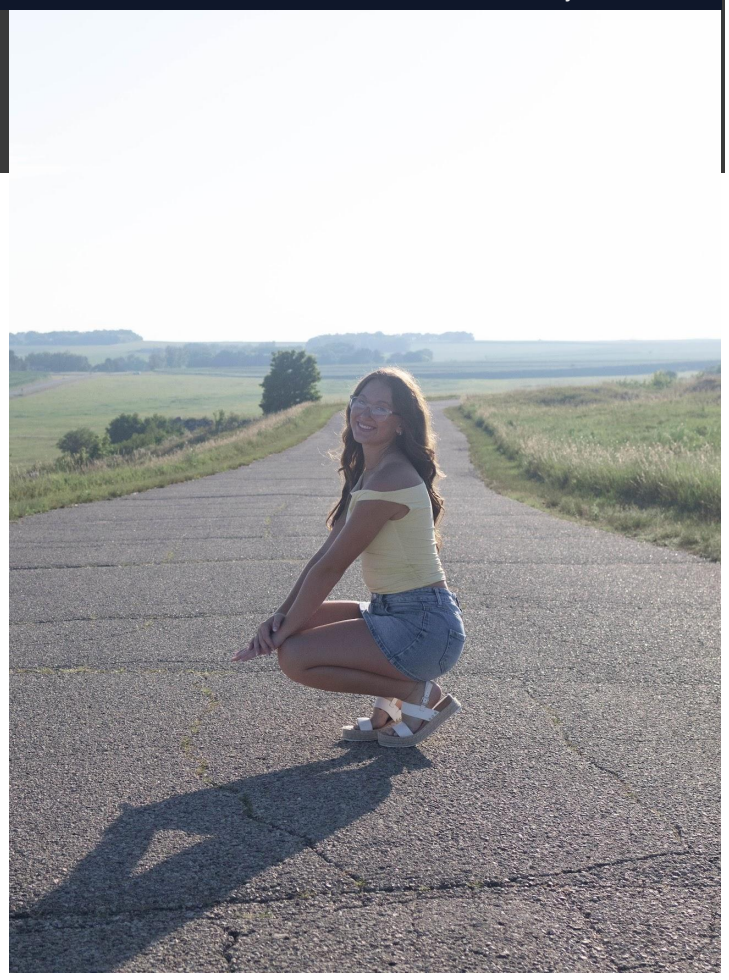
Activities Involved In:
Volleyball
Softball
Cheer
NHS

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Mr. Hughes and the underclassmen

Favorite School Lunch:
Taco in a Bag

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Anatomy

Plans for Next Year:
Attend USD - Sioux Falls to major in Nursing and eventually become a CRNA



This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 30
- Oral Interp @ Roosevelt HS
- All-State Choir @ Rapid City

Saturday, October 31
- All-State Choir @ Rapid City

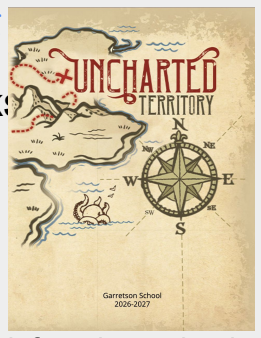
Monday, November 2
- NHS Induction Ceremony

Tuesday, November 3
- VB @ 1st Rd Regions @ Madison (7:00)

Thursday, November 5
- VB @ 2nd Rd Regions v. TBD (7:00)

Monday, November 9
- School Board Meeting (6:30)
- 5th Grade Band Concert (6:30)
- MS/HS Band and Choir Concert (7:00)

Worth Mentioning



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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS OCTOBER ACE WINNERS
Cecelia Fiegen
Kail Hewer
Ashtyn Nelson
Please stop by Study Hall to see Mrs. Costello

Cross country comes to an end

Two seniors make it to state to round out their Blue Dragon career

by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer



The state cross country race was at Hart Ranch in Rapid City last weekend, October 24. Garretson qualified two runners (pictured left in white with blue tops): Ethan McGregor (left) and Carter Siemonsma (right). The pair finished back-to-back, both in under 17 1/2 minutes
Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2026 SDPB | Tim Tushla

As the cross country season has came to an end, runners start to look back on a season filled with ups and downs. Throughout the season, the cross country runners had to overcome the challenges of bad weather with multiple meets getting cancelled and multiple lingering injuries towards the back of the season.

From the early morning practices, to the late bus rides home, it's safe to say that these runners gave it their all. Whether it was a personal record (or even a school record), a strong finish, or simply giving their best effort; every accomplishment mattered to each one of the Blue Dragon runners.

The team was fortunate enough to take two runners to the state meet in Rapid City. Carter Siemonsma (two-time qualifier) and Ethan McGregor (first-time qualifier) both were able travel across the state and participate in the final race of the season and their high school cross country careers.

Siemonsma finished in 33rd with a time of 17:15.90 and McGregor took 34th with a time of 17:17.00.

"It was totally the outcome we were hoping for, but I wouldn't have wanted to run this season with any other people. This year was a year of ups and downs but or determination kept the team running," stated Siemonsma. "I am just grateful that I was able to be apart of this amazing teammates and had some fun. PS. Zaza is him." Siemonsma finished the year with multiple first place finishes.

Looking back at the season, it was about more than just times and places…It was about the growth that was shown between the sixth grade all the way to our senior runners. The team made memories that will last long after the final race.

Overall, this cross country season was one to remember, and the team has plenty to be proud of.



As part of the Red Ribbon Week celebration, there have been various dress up days including crazy hair/hat day and wear red. The last dress up day, today, was playing with the timing of Halloween where students could wear costumes to school. The bunch of bananas: Leif Moritz, Caylix Buchholz, and Hayden Devine may look silly but focused in on their reading assignment in Mrs. Ageson's class.

Also as part of the Red Ribbon Week campaign, there were informational tables, red ribbon pins and bracelets, as well as coloring sheets.

Photo by Mrs. Ageson



Pics of the Week



The middle school choir shared their talents with the community by performing at one of the newest businesses in town, using the back space behind The Quartzite and The Study. They changed up common Christmas carols to fit the Halloween season.
Photo submitted by Taylor Schweitzer

