

Elementary had their winter music concert on Tuesday. They performed to a packed house in the Dragons' Lair.

Blue Ink



Schmidt soars to new rank

by Riley Altman
staff writer

Only four percent of Boy Scouts ever reach Eagle Scout status

Jacob Schmidt, a junior at Garretson, has worked hard for two years in hopes of receiving his Eagle Scout. On October 28, 2018 all his hard work finally paid off. His family joined at the American Legion for a ceremony dedicated to him earning this award.

There are always many different reasons why people do what they do and sometimes you just don't know. Schmidt didn't have one specific thing that inspired him to work for this. It was just something that he had always wanted to do.

Schmidt said, "Ever since I was a young boy and first joined boy scouts, this was always something I wanted to achieve. I never had a specific reason, I just wanted it."

In order to qualify for the Eagle Scout, on top of all his work during boy scouts, he had to go through large amounts of paperwork and attend interviews to explain why he should receive an award. For Schmidt's culminating project, he built and filled a flower bed for the local nursing home.

As many people know, Schmidt is very involved in not



After two years of hard work, Schmidt received his Eagle Scout. To commemorate this accomplishment, Schmidt received an award from the American Legion.

Photo courtesy of Denise Schmidt



Schmidt pours more dirt into the flower beds he built at Palisade Nursing home in Garretson.

Photo courtesy of Denise Schmidt

just the school, but the community as well. A classmate of his, Rachel Kindt, commented, "Schmidty is one of the hardest working high school students I have ever met; he undoubtedly deserved this award."

Schmidt encourages all young boy scouts to work hard to get to this point and be eligible to receive the award. He is relieved it is over and glad all his hard work paid off. At the end of the day he feels proud and accomplished.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: In 1996 potatoes became the first food ever grown in space. They were taken to space on the shuttle Columbia.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: If you are struggling on what to give someone for a gift, have them guess what you "already got them." It will give you some great ideas!

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What is the tallest building in the world?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: What goes up but never goes down?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2

- State FFA @ Pierre

Monday, December 3

- State FFA @ Pierre

Tuesday, December 4

- Youth Wrestling Meeting (5:45)

Wednesday, December 5

- CMN Fundraiser in Memory of Tina Sandbulte

- Early Dismissal (1:30) - Teacher Inservice

Thursday, December 6

- JH BBB v. Tri-Valley (4:00)

- Wrestling @ Mt. Vernon (5:00) v. MVP, SV, Parker

Monday, November 26

- Basketball practice starts

Worth Mentioning

Choose Kind

- November Precept: "Have no friends not equal to yourself."

- October Precept: "Your deeds are your monuments."

- September Precept: "'When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind.'" - Dr. Wayne Dyer"

Both Wrestling and BBB events for Saturday have been cancelled to the forecasted inclement weather. If you have to travel, be safe.

Getting athletes back into SHAPE

by Kennedy Buckneberg
staff writer

John Shape, also known as Coach Shape, is a great asset to the Garretson School. He is always ready to help kids when needed and does a great job doing it.

Shape graduated from SDSU and currently works for the Orthopedic Institute. Not only is Shape great at his job, but he also is a very nice and funny guy to talk to. Without him, the Garretson School wouldn't be the same.



Garretson's new athletic trainer has made a positive impact on programs, students

What's the best part about your job/ what do you enjoy the most?

"Being able to help the athletes get back to their sports as quickly as possible and enjoy seeing their work ethic being affective."

What's the hardest part about your job?

"Trying to overcome times where certain treatments won't work or trying to figure out a way where things will actually work."

What is your favorite sport to work with and why?

"Football, because I have the closest ties with football personally."

What is your strength when it comes to helping out with injuries?

"Taping ankles, because I'm good at it and it's fun to me."

New coach, new expectations, new season

by **Trever Edmundson & Triston Rekstad**
staff writer

Boys basketball looks to run the floor, have high energy games

The Garretson boys basketball players returned to the gym early Monday morning for the 2018-19 season. The Blue Dragons only won three games last year, but with a new coach, Nate Beckman, the Blue Dragons are hoping to turn their record around.

Coach Beckman wants to play fast paced basketball due to the team's speed and size, with pressure on the ball all the time on defense.

Coach Beckman said, "I believe we are going to have a great season. The boys are really buying into the style of basketball we are trying to establish for our program."

The Blue Dragons have six return-

ing seniors whose leadership on the court is necessary for the team's success: Drew Blossmo, Trevor Fiegen, Savonne Grotewold, Dominick Krueger, Jack Lardy,

Brennan Mudder.

Coach Beckman stated, "The seniors have been great; they have really come on board to what we are trying to do. They have been leading by example, diving on the floor for lose balls and competing every practice. I could not be more proud of what I'm seeing from them."

Senior basketball player, Trever Fiegen said, "I think we will be pretty good considering we have a new coach and a new system. It might be rough at first but once we get past the first couple of games, I think we

will succeed."

Coach Beckman is on a mission to change a few of Garretson basketball's bad habits, such as taking plays off and not giving it all to get 50/50 balls. Coach Beckman wants everybody diving for balls and he also wants people to put in the extra effort to finish the play, instead of giving up halfway through. Beckman also wants the communication on the court to be a lot better than what it has been the past few years. He wants everyone to be on the same page on both sides of the court.

Overall it should be an exciting season to watch. There will double header on December 7 vs Tri-Valley at Garretson.



The boys basketball team breaks it down at the end of another practice. The Blue Dragons have been putting in countless hours of work in the gym and weightroom to prep for their 2018-2019 campaign.
Photo courtesy of Cory Buchholz, volunteer coach

Gift-giving stress solved

by **Nobel Nothstine, Oliviyah Thornton, & Mataya Trower**
staff writers

Is the stress of the holiday season getting to you? Don't know what to get someone that's hard to shop for? Solve all of your problems with this simple quiz! Find out if your giftee is an athlete, a gamer, an edgy kid, a beauty guru, a nerd, or a creative type person; then get 5 great gift suggestions under \$50.

1) Which word best describes the person your shopping for?

- A. Introverted
- B. Sporty
- C. Fashionista
- D. Nerdy
- E. Edgy
- F. Creative

2) What are they most likely doing on a Saturday night? What's their daily outfit consist of?

- A. Video Game Merch
- B. A sports jersey
- C. Trendy-Name Brand Clothes
- D. Some science pun probably
- E. All black
- F. Simple aesthetic

3) What do they never leave the house without?

- A. Phone/Headphones
- B. B. Sport products/Gear
- C. Extra makeup/Hair products
- D. Book
- E. Something black like a sweatshirt
- F. Their instrument/Song material

4) How many friends do they have?

- A. Does online count?
- B. Team members mostly
- C. Many
- D. Select few
- E. They're "too cool" for friends
- F. Friends with everybody, but doesn't have their own group

5) Favorite school topic.

- A. Foundations of Technology/Computer Class
- B. Gym
- C. Watching YouTube in class
- D. Science/Math
- E. Does study hall count?
- F. Choir/Band/Art

6) What are their plans for after high school?

- A. Game Tester/Design
- B. Professional Athlete
- C. Makeup artist/Youtuber

D. Teacher/Scientist

- E. Trade school or living in their parents basement
- F. Musician/Artist

7) What's their favorite time waster?

- A. Fortnite
- B. Watching sports on TV
- C. Online shopping
- D. Reading
- E. Hulu/Netflix
- F. Playing/Listening to music

8) What do they watch on YouTube?

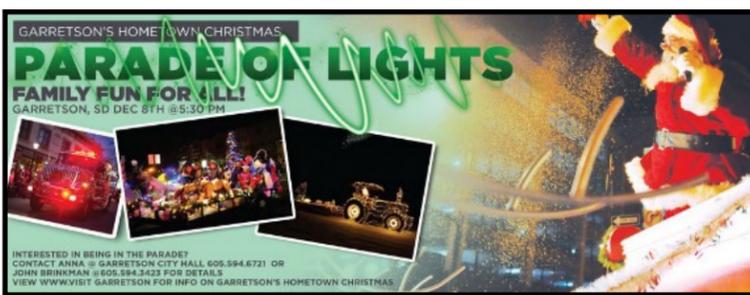
- A. Game reviews
- B. College/professional gameplays and games
- C. Makeup tutorials
- D. Documentaries/Buzzfeed Unsolved
- E. Jake Paul/The Try Guys/FBE Reacts/How Ridiculous
- F. Music Videos/Art Challenges

Lighting up your holiday season

Garretson continues to offer big events with small town appeal

by **Malia Johnson**
staff writers

An effort is being made by the Garretson Commercial Club to spread Christmas cheer



throughout the community next weekend. Garretson's annual Home Town Christmas will be celebrated December 7th-9th.

Local businesses will be running specials on everything from food and drinks, to holiday treasures at the Treasure Chest. Santa Claus will do his part in spreading the cheer by being present at the legion from 11-2:00, where children will be doing arts and crafts.

The main event of this year's Home Town Christmas is the Christmas Parade of Lights at 5:30 on Saturday, December 8th. Much like last week's Parade of Lights in Sioux Falls, businesses and community members are invited to light up their horse, dog, tractor, float, and even themselves to be part of the parade. You do not have to be registered to be part of it so find your lights and help spread holiday cheer! A \$300 prize will be awarded to the neighborhood with the best holiday decor and lights.

The idea behind the contest is to get the entire community involved, show the pride we have in our community, build relationships and of course...spread holiday cheer!

Senior Spotlight

Hayden Pierret

SENIOR PROJECT:
Building a fireplace

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
Quidditch

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:
Mrs. G—she's a legend

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Wrestle somewhere

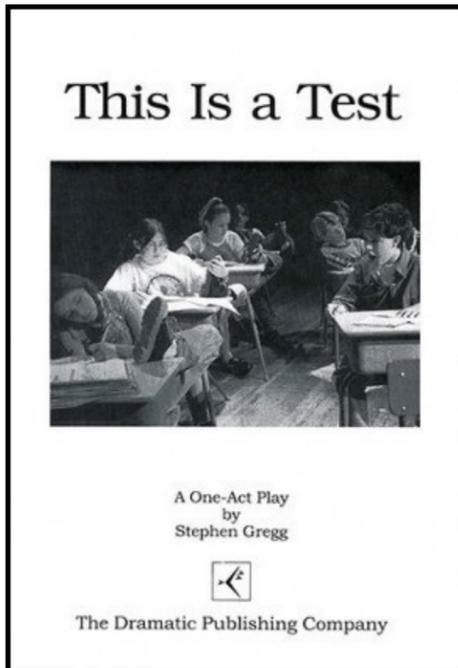


This is not a drill; One-act auditions just around the corner, December 5

This is a Test...of your acting skills

by **Jayden Clark**
staff writers

Have you ever forgotten to study for a test and had to frantically attempt to prepare for it only moments before class started? I'm sure we all have been in this situation many, many times, and if someone actually had the ability to read your thoughts during these times, they would find your thoughts, desperately swarming around in your mind, focused, with sole intent, on trying to remember as much information possible.



Well, the Garretson one act play includes crazy situations like this and the many emotions that accompany these desperate times.

The play is entitled, "This is a Test," a humorous play written by Stephen Gregg. On December 5, 2018, Mrs. Brown, the Garretson choir teacher, is conducting auditions for the one-act play. Auditions will be held in the choir room after school. Mrs. Brown will be using her past experience as an actor and director to help guide and coach students involved with the play.

She hopes that through the play, "We grow as actors and actresses and can represent our school well. I would like us to be competitive in the region with the goal of heading to state."

Region competition for one-act plays will take place on January 22 at the Jeschke Auditorium located the University of Sioux Falls. The state one-act play competition will take place the following weekend, January 31- February in the Johnson Fine Arts Center at Northern State University located in Aberdeen.

Mrs. Brown chose this play because, "Everyone has had to face a test at some point that they felt unprepared for and can relate to the drama of the situation. This play uses humor to highlight the different challenges of test-taking and brings lightheartedness to the situation."

She hopes to garner support from the school and community

through posters and emails regarding auditions and performance times.

Mrs. Brown suggests that anyone interested should "Check around the school for posters and emails with details regarding audition information. Once we are close to the performance date, watch for more information about performance times around the school, on the website, and around town."

Mrs. Brown looks forward to "Guiding actors and actresses as they grow in confidence and also the opportunity to share the play with the community," and urges anyone interested in becoming involved with the play to attend the informational meeting on Monday, December 3, after school.

Mrs. Brown's advice to anyone contemplating involvement in or with the play to, "Go for it! You will never know what you can do until you try!" She then goes on to say, "If you don't have experience on stage, THAT'S OK! Everyone is welcome to join!"

Solar excitement

by **Jacob Facile & Cody Erickson**
staff writers

This past Monday NASA had their 850 million InSight Lander (very powerful drill) successfully land on Mars to study more about its interior surface. Insight Lander's mission is to uncover some of the many mysteries our solar system has including a better understanding of the makeup of the red planet.

As we all know, Mars has been a big focus in space exploration because it could be the next place humans live, if it's survivable. NASA wanted to do something different to help contribute to the idea of humans having the ability to reside in a different planet. The Insight Lander is the first drill NASA has ever sent to Mars and will be landing on a very flat area called Elysium Planitia, past space crafts that have landed on

Mars have always been rovers. Insight is also solar power so their hoping since Elysium Planitia is close to the equator, it'll keep it running for the full two years it's there for.

Over the course of 40 days the drill will get 16 feet deep, and will be checking the planet's interior surface and see the chemical makeup of the soil. Occasionally during drilling it will shoot up heat which is how they can calculate how much chemical makeup they will be dealing with on Mars. Past drills they had could only go half an inch into the ground.

While drilling, Insight will send out shock waves and check for underground lava at different depths, and measure how much Mars wobbles on its axis. If the core is made out of liquid metal, then will be a lot of wobble, but if there is a solid metal core, there basically no wobble at all, due to the Earth's solid core.

Gift-giving guide *Based on your answers from the quiz*

by **Nobel Nothstine, Oliviyah Thornton, & Mataya Trower**
staff writers

If you got mainly A's, your giftee is a gamer type!

- "Game Over" Ceramic Mug-\$10.00 (14 oz)
- Backlit Rainbow Keyboard+Mouse-\$30.00 Amazon
- Lit Stereo Gaming Headset-\$27.00 Amazon
- Do Not Disturb Fortnite Door Sign-\$15.00 Amazon
- Game-On Ornament-\$15.00 Amazon

If you got mainly B's, your giftee is a athletic/jock type!

- Grid Foam Roller-\$27.00 Amazon
- Thermal Arm Warmers-\$35.00 Amazon
- FitDeck Cards-\$23.00 Amazon
- NFL Slippers-\$30.00 Amazon
- HydroFlask Insulated Water Bottle-\$30.00 Amazon

If you got mainly C's, your giftee is a beauty guru type!

- James Charles Palette-\$39.00 Ulta
- BESTOPE Makeup Brushes-\$11.00 (16pc) Amazon
- Happy Skin Sheet Masks-\$9.00 (5pk) Amazon
- Anastasia Beverly Hills Highlight Palette-\$24.00 Ulta
- Facial Cleansing Brush-\$24.00 Amazon

If you got mainly D's, your giftee is a geek/nerd type!

- Star Wars Silicone Ice Trays-\$23.00 (8 pk) Amazon
- DC Collectibles Bat Signal Prop-\$20.00 Amazon
- The Sacred Teachings of Nerd Culture-\$15.00 Amazon
- Recycled Circuit Keychain-\$18.00 Amazon
- Glow-In-Dark Rubix Cube-\$9.00 Amazon

If you got mainly E's, your giftee is an edgy type!

- Momentary Ink Semi-Permanent Custom Tattoos-\$30.00+ Momentary Ink
- "Male Tears" Aluminum Water Bottle-\$18.00 Amazon
- Face Earring Set-\$10.00 (3 pk) Amazon
- Yeet Catchphrase T-Shirt-\$20.00 Amazon
- Enamel Pin Set-\$10.00 (6 pk) Amazon

If you got mainly F's, your giftee is a creative type!

- 3D Pen Set with Free Refill Filaments-\$49.00 Amazon
- Famous Painting Crew Socks-\$15.00 4pk Amazon
- DIY Ukulele Kit-\$35.00 (21in.) Amazon
- Vinyl Record Clock-\$40.00 Amazon
- Light-Up Box Sign with Letters-\$25.00 Amazon

Hammering away at a senior project

by **Triston Rekstad**
staff writers

Imagine having to go to school and then go home and spend the rest of your night working on an addition to your house. On top of that you have to do a project at the same time on what you did to your house. Well that is exactly what senior Trevor Fiegen has to do for many of his school nights for his senior project.

For Fiegen's senior project he is removing one bedroom upstairs adding a bedroom, a closet, two bathrooms, and a family room. For downstairs he is adding two bedrooms, a bathroom, storage room.

Fiegen said, "My parents were

thinking of doing it for a long time and they decided to do it this year. Right away I was going to do a pedal cart, but I decided since I was working on the house all the time, I would just make that my senior project.

Senior projects can be rough. You have to decide on an idea, then spend a lot of time and energy to bring that idea to life. In addition to completing the project, there is a research paper and presentation that round out the experience. And while you may feel accomplished and successful at the end, during your project you may feel extremely stressed.

Fiegen gave advice for up and coming seniors, he said, "Don't procrastinate and don't wait until the

last minute to get it done because it does take a lot of time to write a paper, set up a power point, and set up a huge booklet of stuff."

Fiegen also stated, "The hardest part of the project was staying motivated, I had to get up go to school all day and come home to work on the house."

Fiegen said he learned a lot, like how to wire, frame, and shingle a roof; all carpentry skills he may need in the future.

Trevor works on the siding of the addition with brother Cole. Their father, Tad, helps guide them from the ground.

Photo courtesy of Trevor Fiegen

Fiegen builds skills while building an addition onto house

