ISSUE #34

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

✦

September 7, 2026

Bearkats take on Eagles in thrilling Thursday night Showdown

by: Sydnee Gully

Our varsity football team took over the field for their second matchup of the season against the O'Donnell Eagles. The game was keeping fans on their feet the whole time as they waited for the clock to run down.

To start the game, the Bearkats were on offense. However, after several impressive plays to get the ball down the field, the Bearkats fumbled, giving the Eagles possession. However, after our strong defense, the Eagles were forced to turn the ball over on downs. Senior Brody Walts took his chance and after several big plays, he ran the ball into the endzone for the first touchdown of the game. Then, sophomore Cohen Batla topped it off with a made kick to make the score 8-0.

After both teams turned the ball over on downs with their next possession, it was the end of the first quarter.

Going into the second quarter, the Eagles scored and made their kick to match the score at 8-8. However, the Bearkats took over again as Walts ran the ball into the endzone for a second time to make the score 8-14. Then, Senior Juan Barco made a big defensive play with an interception, giving the Bearkats another chance to score. However, after the Eagles stopped us on defense, they had the chance to score. They took this opportunity, but fumbled on the snap to kick for an extra point. Then, the score was tied at 14-14.

Walts didn't lose his momentum, though, and he broke through several tackles with the next possession to score another touchdown. However, when we kicked off to them, they returned it for an Eagle touchdown to tie the score again at 20-20 going into halftime.

The Bearkats came into the third quarter with energy, ready to focus on taking down the Eagles. But the Eagles had some of the same momentum, which brought them to



score on their first possession. However, they missed kick, giving Garden City an advantage.

Walts didn't slow down at all in the second half. He ran into the endzone again, followed by another made kick by Batla to make the score 28-26. After that, the Eagles turned the ball over on downs, giving the Bearkats another chance to make the score gap bigger. They took that opportunity as the team worked together to give Walts another chance to score. Then, Batla topped it off with a made kick to make the score 36-26. However, the Eagles fought back with their own touchdown and made kick, making the score 36-34 in favor of the Bearkats to end the third quarter.

The Bearkats continued to dominate until the end of the game. Walts started the quarter with a touchdown, and Batla made the kick, too. But O'Donnell fought back, matching Garden City to make the score 44-42.

Walts scored Garden City's last touchdown of the game, and Batla made the kick again to make the score 52-42. However, they scored again and made their kick, making the score gap only 2 at 52-50. After we turned the ball over on downs and the game was past the 2 minute morning, everybody in the stands was on their feet. With big defensive plays by Wyatt Everett, Duncan Cypert, and Brody Walts, the Eagles were forced to turn the ball over on downs.

After that, the game ended with a final score of 52-50. The game was both thrilling and showed off the talent of our young team. This week, they're looking forward to taking on the Ira Bulldogs in Garden City on Friday night.







FFA Students Participate in Workshops at Fall Meeting

by: Ella Brinkley

On August 31, a group of our FFA members, including District Officer Grady Ivins and Area Officer Ivy Braden, attended the Fall Meeting at Howard College. During the Fall Meeting, students participated in several workshops that focused on team building, leadership, communication, and other important skills.

We even had some of our own officers leading workshops. Ivy, who is serving as an Area Officer this year, led a workshop that taught students about teamwork and how to have fun while working together. Grady, who is serving as a District Officer, hosted a workshop about multitasking and communicating under pressure. Overall, the Fall Meeting was a great opportunity for our members to learn new skills, build relationships, and grow as leaders.



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Sanders was chosen to be featured for our Staff Spotlight! She graduated from Texas Tech University and is currently our school librarian and teaches library specials to Pre-K through 5th.

Sanders is very excited for this upcoming year as she is bringing in a new program called Character strong made to help students build life skills.

“We got a new program called Character Strong and I'm excited to delve into that and implement it in my elementary sessions that I have, so I'm excited about that,” she said.

Her favorite part about being at GC is the community and how everyone comes together to help the students grow.

“Camaraderie and being part of a team where we care about what we do and serving and growing children,” Sanders said.

One goal that Mrs. Sanders has this year is to continue learning herself so she can grow.

“Just try to do my very best and to try and continue learning myself because if I'm not learning, I'm not growing,” she said.

Mrs. Sanders has done so much for the school so be sure to give her a huge ‘thank you’ when you see her!



Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week we have two amazing students representing our school.

First up is sophomore Cohen Batla, who wants to attend Texas Tech University to be a hunting guide. His favorite teacher is Mr. Hauser, and his role model is his dad. When asked what his favorite part about Garden City is, he said, “That it is small and you kind of know everyone.”

In Batla's free time, he likes to go hunting and play his favorite sport, which is golf. His favorite class is math, and he is most looking forward to his Ag Mech project. If he could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, “You’re never out of the game till it’s over.”

Next is freshman Aubrey Halfmann, who wants to go to college and cheer at the college level. Her goal for this year is to become a better student while getting more involved and making more memories. When asked who her biggest role model is, she said, “My parents, because they have taught me to not give up when things get difficult.”

Halfmann’s favorite thing about our school is all the opportunities we have, and she shows this by being involved in FCCLA, cheerleading, golf, 4-H, and BBQ. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Martin, along with her favorite class, culinary, where she can showcase her creativity. If she could give some advice to other students, it would be, ‘Don’t be afraid to try new things.”



Cross Country teams compete Iraan Invitational

by: Ella Brinkley

On Wednesday, September 2, the varsity and middle school cross-country teams traveled to Iraan to compete in the Iraan Cross Country Invitational. Both varsity teams had strong performances, and our junior high teams also competed well.

The teams are excited for their upcoming meet in Coleman on Wednesday, September 9. They are looking forward to competing again and hope to continue improving their times and performances throughout the season.



WEEKLY MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SCHOOL HOLIDAY	SCRAMBLED EGGS, BISCUIT, BACON, & GRAVY OR CEREAL & TOAST	SAUSAGE KOLACHE & YOGURT OR CEREAL & TOAST	BLUEBERRY MUFFIN & SAUSAGE OR CEREAL & TOAST	BAGEL BREAKFAST SANDWICH OR CEREAL & TOAST
SCHOOL HOLIDAY	HAMBURGERS & FIXINGS BABY CARROTS, RANCH, OVEN FRIES FRUIT, & A COOKIE	PIZZA BAKED PASTA, GREEN BEANS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT, & GARLIC TOAST	HAM & CHEESE CROISSANTS, BABY CARROTS, RANCH, CHIPS, FRUIT, & BANANA PUDDING	CHICKEN STRIPS, OVEN FRIES, GRAVY, GARDEN SALAD, BABY CARROTS, RANCH FRUIT, & ROLL

Joke of the Week

How does Darth Vader like his toast?
On the dark side

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/7	9/8
SCHOOL HOLIDAY	SENIOR PICTURES

9/9	9/10	9/11
JH/HS XC AT COLEMAN WHERE ARE YOU GOING WEDNESDAY	PICTURE DAY PK-11 JH/JV FOOTBALL @ IRA	GRANDPARENTS DAY VARSITY FOOTBALL VS IRA

New FFA members Kick Off Membership with Greenhand Camp

by: Emily Easterling

Last Wednesday, our 8th grade students had the opportunity to participate in the El Rancho District FFA Greenhand Camp! This year, there were nearly 300 kids present who gathered together to complete workshops, focusing on different aspects of leadership and FFA. Junior Grady Ivins and Senior Ivy Braden also attended, helping to facilitate the camp as higher level officers. After the workshops concluded, students had a meal, completed a community service activity that included writing letters people nursing homes, and completed self-reflection cards.

JV Football takes on O'Donnell in Thrilling Matchup

by: Sydnee Gully

The junior varsity football squad suited up on Thursday night in O'Donnell to face off against a talented Eagles team. After a long week of practice, they were ready for the competition ahead of them.

During the first half, the game was very back and forth. At half, the game was very close, and the team went into the locker room ready to take over the game.

The Bearkats came into the third quarter with energy. However, the Eagles slowly took over the game, finishing the game on top with a score of 51-20.

After a tough loss, the group is looking to improve to take on Ira this week. They're excited for some more competition, and are looking forward to the rest of the season!







In the Classroom with Coach Johnson

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Coach Johnson has been keeping his students busy with many exciting tasks! His junior high Tech App students have been finishing up their Beginner Levels Typing and will be moving on to Intermediate Levels Typing soon, which includes punctuation, typing paragraphs, and learning literature. At the beginning of the week, they worked to understand the positives and negatives of Digital Footprints and how it will affect their professional lives. Students also worked on creating LinkedIn profiles. At the end of the week, they started working on a Brand Audit Project where students will choose a major corporation and complete research to audit the public image of the business. Overall, the junior high Tech App students have been staying busy throughout the week learning essential skills for their future!

