

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL



November 24, 2025



FFA finds success at Area LDE contest

by: Sydnee Gully

Glasscock County FFA students had an early morning on Saturday as they woke up to travel to Ira for the Area II LDE competition. Here, the students displayed all of the hard work they've spent months working on.

"Preparation was different for each team, but there were scripted events where they had to memorize the script, work together as a team, and familiarize themselves with materials," AG teacher Mr. Hauser said. "There's also more public speaking heavy events, where we had to stick to the strict rules for the contest and really understand how they can use those skills later in life."

Students had several early mornings, late afternoons, and several days of class time where they were dedicated to learning material to compete the best they could. With all of this preparation, they knew how prepared they were going into the contest.

"At the area competition, there's always some heavy competition," Hauser said. "This year, we felt like we were really one of the better teams with them as well."

This was shown in the results, as

several teams placed in the top 2 to advance to state. The Greenhand Spanish Creed speakers - 8th graders Ana Luna and Samantha Cortez - swept the competition, getting 1st and 2nd place respectively.

The Senior Chapter Conducting team of seniors Tatum Braden, Karly Baker, and Presley Jost, and juniors Ivy Braden, Sydnee Gully, Emily Easterling, and Katie Braden placed in 2nd, securing their spot at the state contest.

The last state qualifier was senior Tatum Braden in the Job Interview contest, placing 1st. In the same contest, senior Lacy Seidenberger got 8th place.

The Public Relations team (juniors Helen Marshall and Katie Braden, and sophomore Grady Ivins) finished with a great presentation in 6th place. The Radio Broadcasting team with seniors Karly Baker, Sadie Fuchs, and Miles Halfmann got 7th, and the other team of seniors Keegan Batla and Lacy Seidenberger, and junior Helen Marshall finished in 8th.

The AG Advocacy team with senior Emy Schwartz, junior Ella Brinkley, and sophomore Landry Baker also

competed incredibly well to finish in 3rd place. On top of that, 8th graders Cade Baker, Corbin Cervantes, Shooter Brinkley, Jynsen, Masyn Dieringer, Mia Romero, Rene Cano, and Duncan Cypert made up the Greenhand Chapter Conducting team and laid everything on the line to end up in 5th place.

The skilled AG Issues team with junior Bronc Gass, sophomores Melanie Gomez, Landry Dieringer, and Joslyn Halfmann, and freshmen Katelyn Ezell, Tori Anderson, and Nathan Garcia ended their season with a fantastic presentation to get 7th place.

Finally, the Greenhand quiz team and two Senior quiz teams faced the fierce Area competition. The GH team finished in 9th place, and the first senior team with seniors Sadie Fuchs and Presley Jost, and juniors Ivy Braden and Sophia Sullivan got 3rd overall. The last team of junior Sydnee Gully, sophomore Zach Wilson, and freshmen Kannon Flores and Wyatt Everett finished in 9th.

"I feel like the performance was exactly what we wanted," Hauser said. "We really couldn't have had higher expectations than what we earned, so I'm very proud of the work these students put in and the accomplishments they've received from it."

Hauser added, "I'm just incredibly proud of the students. I mean a lot of these students have been competing at the district and area level for five years now, and this will be the first time some of them have qualified for the state contest. So just to finally see some of this come full circle is quite the accomplishment."



Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week, there are three Bearcats that are doing outstanding work.

First up is senior Waylyn Davis, who wants to attend either Texas Tech, Texas A&M, or Blinn College to do something in the agricultural field. His favorite class is AG, which is taught by his favorite teacher, Mr. Hauser. When asked who his biggest role model is, he said, "My grandpa, because he showed me how hard he's worked from coming from dirt poor to being well off."

Davis's biggest challenge so far has been his A&P class, and his biggest accomplishment is getting to play football for the first time since 7th grade, and even scoring his first touchdown. If he could give some advice to other students, it would be: "If you have a goal or dream, go for it. You might not always reach them, but if you never try then you'll never know."

Next is junior Ivy Braden, who wants to attend college at either Texas Tech or Texas A&M to pursue something agricultural, mathematics, or communications related. Her favorite class is Pre-cal, and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Solano. When asked who her role model is, she said, "My parents, because they have an insane work ethic and they care for me in the most amazing way possible."

Braden's biggest challenge so far has been balancing her schedule, between extracurriculars and academics. Her biggest goal is to grow as a person, as well as growing the people around her. If she could give some advice to students, it would be: "Think about the impact that you're leaving because everyone's going to leave a spark that's going to cause a fire. So leave a mark that will have good benefits on everyone else."

Last up is sophomore Grady Le Ivins, who wants to attend either Texas Tech or Texas A&M University to be an engineer. His favorite class is Algebra II and his favorite teachers are Mrs. Hoelscher and Coach Bozeman. When asked who his role model is, he said, "Presley Jost, because I enjoy hanging out with him, he can play well, and he's just a smart kid."

Ivin's biggest challenge so far has been finding the time to do school work, and his biggest accomplishment is keeping all A's and B's. If he could give some advice to high school students, it would be: "Be smart, get your work done, and be a good kid."

JV Boys Basketball kicks off at Reagan County Tournament

by: Sydnee Gully

For the boys, basketball season started off last week with a series of games and for the Junior Varsity squad, a tournament.

The JV boys went down to Reagan County to compete in the annual JV tournament. Here, they faced fierce competition, leading them to more growth in their skills.

The weekend started on Thursday with their first game against the tournament host - Reagan County. The game was tough, but they were able to use their teamwork and talent to push through. In the end, the score was 41-22 in favor of the Bearcats.

The second game of the day was against TCLA. It was a close matchup, putting the boys skills to the test. They fought hard throughout the whole game, knowing that every play could be the difference in the game.

Despite their effort, TLCA finished ahead by 3 points.

On Saturday, the team went back ready a=for any competition coming their way. In the morning, they played Forsan's 'A' team, where they lost with a score of 22-44. In the end, the Bearcats learned a lot that they can apply to the rest of the season.

For the final game, Grape Creek went head to head with us. However, the Eagles ended up on top at 30-46.

Overall, the team learned a lot of lessons and showed promise for the upcoming games.

What do you call
a medieval lamp?
~ Knight light

FCCLA Knowledge Bowl shows growth in recent contest

by: Kyleigh Roe

On Monday, Glasscock County FCCLA competed in a Knowledge Bowl event against Westbrook and Stamford, showcasing strong teamwork and quick critical-thinking skills.

The teams faced a series of challenging questions featuring personal finance, consumer rights and responsibilities, health and safety, and environment.

Glasscock County held steady throughout the competition, keeping pace in a fast-moving contest marked by close scores and rapid buzzer responses. The event highlighted the preparation and dedication of all three schools as they move forward into the rest of the competitive season.



Bearcats Start Season with Westbrook games

by: Karly Baker

The Bearkat boys' basketball teams hit the court Friday night as the varsity opened its season and the JV continued theirs with a matchup against Westbrook.

The JV boys started the night strong, taking control early with a 21-10 lead at halftime. They maintained their momentum through the second half, securing a solid 33-22 victory and adding a win to their record.

The varsity boys followed with a tight, hard-fought season opener. Trailing 20-18 at halftime, the Bearcats battled back to take a 30-26 lead by the end of the third quarter. In a nail-biter finish, Westbrook edged ahead in the final minutes, handing the Bearcats a close 40-38 loss.

Despite the narrow defeat, the varsity squad showed promise and competitive energy that can be built upon as their season gets underway.



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Niehues was chosen to be featured for our Staff Spotlight! In her 17th year at Garden City, she teaches Pre-K-5th grade music, junior high and high school theater, and sponsors the National Honor Society Chapter. In previous years, she was the head coach of cross country, tennis, and track, along with an assistant basketball coach. In these positions, she sent many people to area, regionals, and state. She absolutely loves to work with the kids and has had an amazing year so far, despite the challenges!

Mrs. Niehues' biggest challenge throughout her career here has been the changing environment and subjects. Still, she still manages to keep up with her extracurriculars and being a mom.

"I've just taught such a wide variety of things. That's been the biggest challenge," Niehues said.

She expressed that her biggest inspiration in teaching was her high school math teacher, Mrs. Phillips. She also mentioned that she has several One-Act Play friends that she looks up to. Specifically, Tana Howard, Laura Dieringer, and Adrian Gallardo all inspire her.

"They managed to do so many things and still be successful in One-Act Play and their extracurriculars. I also strive to be like Laura Dieringer and just remain calm and know all the things," she said.

Her biggest goal for this year is to make it to state in One-Act Play. On a smaller scale, she hopes to advance one step past where they did last year.

Niehues stated that she has so much faith in her students and hopes to be able to pull off another amazing play this year.

Her biggest accomplishments so far have been sending last year's One-Act Play group to the area level. They set a school record, going the farthest we've ever gone in OAP. With this accomplishment, they set a strong foundation for future years.

"Watching kids from all different walks of life truly become a family was a blessing during such a difficult time in my own personal life. The 2025 OAP season will forever hold a special place in my heart." Niehues said.

Mrs. Niehues does so much for our school and community, so be sure to give her a big 'thank you' when you see her!

Should College be Free?

by: Emily Easterling

The topic of free college education has become an intense debate over the years. Some countries are already offering publicly funded higher education, while others remain to rely on tuition-based systems putting the cost on the students. As debates rise, it is important to understand different funding approaches affect a student's college experience.

College should not be free for students.

By making college free to students, schools will lose tremendous amounts of funding used to pay the professors' salary as well as keeping up with the facilities. Colleges would not be able to pay for good staff or student services declining the college's overall academic rating.

In addition to not being able to pay for staff, the school would not be able to have their extended facilities such as labs, career centers, and libraries. All of these sources are luxuries graciously presented by colleges, and allowing students to go to college for free would in turn remove the nice facilities.

Furthermore, allowing students to have free college education would spark overcrowding all over. Many kids do not go to college simply for financial reasons, so allowing them to go for free would open the door to having more kids than the college has space for. Consequently, the schools wouldn't have enough money to expand their facility because none of the attendants are paying for their education.

Those who support free college education believe that it would eliminate student debt allowing more people to get a college education. There are many ways to go to college without going into student debt by using scholarships and grants.

Paying versus not paying for college is still an intense debate among education and politics, but there are an overwhelming amount of facts showing it would not be productive. Colleges would lose funding for their staff and facilities as well as allot for major overcrowding of their campus.

Announcements:

GCHS Weekly will not have a new edition coming out next week!

If you ordered a custom metal sign with Student Council earlier this semester, they are ready to be picked up!

Student Council volunteers at local soup kitchen

by: Sydnee Gully

Student Council members spent a day in Midland to help serve meals and volunteer at the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministries. Sponsors Mrs. Hoelscher and Mrs. Fryar continued the tradition started last year, bringing a group back again.

However, this year was a little different, as they had some more preparation.

"First thing we did was collect food items beforehand, so anyone in secondary was able to bring food items," Hoelscher said. "We were able to fill up the back of a suburban, and they were really appreciative of that."

Along with the donations, the students spent the day talking with people they were serving, offering a smile, and serving their meals.

"More than anything, a smile and a 'nice to see you' means a lot to those people," Hoelscher said. "They also had a table full of donated clothes and baked goods that the people can also take whenever they want."

Overall, the kids were able to help out those in need and spend the afternoon bringing a smile to others' faces.

"I think it was a good experience for the kids," Hoelscher said, "and I think it's important for them to see, as much as anything, that it was a blessing for us, too."

"One learns from books and reels only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things."

~ Children of Dune

Bearkats Perform Strongly at Ozona Tournament

by: Karly Baker

The JV and varsity girls' basketball teams delivered an impressive showing at the Ozona Tournament this Thursday and Friday. The JV squad opened against the host team, falling 34-30 to Ozona, but the varsity started with a 45-25 win over Sonora.

Momentum built in the afternoon as both teams secured wins over Eldorado—JV taking a 31-19 victory and varsity earning a 40-25 win.

Friday brought even more highlights. The JV dominated Grape Creek for a second time that week with a commanding 50-2 win, improving their overall record to 6-1. Varsity faced a tough matchup against #7-ranked 2A Mason, battling til the very end before ultimately falling 49-41. They closed out the tournament strong, however, with a decisive 66-18 win over TLCA, bringing their record to 6-2.

Both teams showcased grit, improvement, and depth throughout the tournament, setting a promising tone for the rest of the season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY

**JV/VB
Basketball
@ Roscoe**

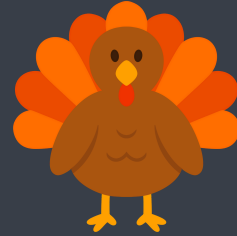
TUESDAY

**High
School
Basketball
vs Forsan**

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

**Happy
Thanksgiving**



FRIDAY

National Honor Society helps out in community

by: Sydnee Gully

On Monday, a group of National Honor Society (NHS) students traveled to the St. Lawrence Hall and Church to help unload a food truck. They spent the morning handing out food to different people.

"Eight-ten of us helped give probably about 20-30 cars different varieties of foods, breads, and desserts for about an hour or hour and a half," senior NHS President Prelsey Jost said.

For Jost, this opportunity came up at the perfect time.

"The next day, our student council was going to the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministries, and I didn't sign up for that because I thought I would have a lot of dual credit work," Jost said. "It turned out we had less this week, so when Coach Hoch asked, I saw it as a great

way to volunteer."

NHS sponsor Mrs. Niehues (Coach Hoch) traveled along with the students to help out.

Each month, a different organization through the school goes to the church to volunteer in the same way. Different students across the organizations sign up to volunteer, showing their dedication to helping out the community.

"I think it's really important because it shows that we're not only at school. Instead, we're involved with the community," Jost said. "We're showing that if we're able and have the time to, then we're going to help out those in need and get involved with the community."

Lady Kats Dominate at Grape Creek

by: Karly Baker

The JV and varsity girls' basketball teams picked up two strong wins on the road Tuesday at Grape Creek. The JV continued their undefeated run with a convincing 44-6 victory, improving their record to 4-0.

The varsity girls followed with an impressive performance of their own, hitting nine threes, and capturing a 60-33 win to cap off a successful night for the Bearkats. Both teams demonstrated sharp execution and steady improvement as they continued to build momentum early in the season.



In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

This week in the AG shop and classroom, some students have been finalizing their projects and putting everything together.

Freshman Chohen Batla got his fire pit project put together, leaving only a few small details to finish it off.

On top of that, several students have been welding fire pits together to be used for different purposes.

Another AG mech project is coming together in the final stages, too. Juniors Emily Easterling and Gracie Raney have been building a sheep and goat stand. Despite some challenges along the way, they're almost able to call it finished.

Students have also been painting a sign for the livestock facility.

In addition to the things in the shop, FFA students have been working hard in the classroom for the Area contest. Finally, at the end of the week, they traveled to Ira to spend the day competing at different events against other chapters in the area.

Overall, this week was very productive for AG students!



In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Holley Stiles

This week was an exciting one in the culinary classroom! Students across all courses sharpened their skills and tried new flavors with a variety of dishes. In ProStart, students made classic French Onion Soup, while Entrepreneurship students made Gingerbread Truffles. BBQ classes fired up the grill for Grilled Chicken Thighs, and Intro to Culinary students baked Oat & Honey Muffins.

Adding an extra layer of excitement, all classes welcomed a special guest teacher - Kayla Castleberry from the West Texas Food Bank - who taught students how to make Broccoli Cheddar Biscuits.

Kayla joined the West Texas Food Bank in 2022 as

the External Programs Manager. A registered dietitian, she previously worked in outpatient pediatrics and has long been dedicated to improving access to healthy foods. She has focused on enhancing the nutritional quality of food banks and pantries across the country and has built strong partnerships for SNAP-ed nutrition classes and the Kids Cafe program, which provides hot meals to students every day.

Students enjoyed learning from Kayla's knowledge and enthusiasm, gaining practical skills that they can use in the kitchen and inspiration to explore new, healthy ingredients.