

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY
HIGH SCHOOL

December 22, 2025

Hot Air Balloon Draws Crowd at School

by: Karly Baker

This week, an unexpected and exciting sight arrived on campus when Exxon Mobile donated up a hot air balloon that visited the school. Although the balloon did not take flight, students still had the opportunity to watch it being set up and take close-up class photos.

Elementary and high school students were brought outside to see the balloon, many experiencing one for the first time. The large, colorful balloon quickly became a highlight for some people's day, drawing attention and excitement across campus.

Even without lifting off, the visit provided a unique learning experience and a fun break from the regular school day. Students and staff enjoyed the chance to gather, go outside, and capture some memorable photo moments together.



Elementary Students Shine at Annual Christmas Program

by: Sydnee Gully

During the last day of school before Christmas break, elementary students put on a Christmas program. Grades Pre-K through 5th grade all participated, showing off their individual skills through the morning.

For months leading up to this day, the students worked hard to memorize the songs and find the best way to harmonize with each other. For older students, they worked to memorize lines for their play called 'Santa on Vacation?' With this, they also had to learn how to work with each other on stage and use their voice so it can be heard from the crowd.

The program started with younger students singing a variety of songs about Christmas. Each song brought up a new theme and showed off the students' skills in different ways.

After lower grades finished, juniors Ella Brinkley and Bronc Gass put on a performance called 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.' The performance was based on the song with the same name. They acted out different parts of a song, giving the audience a good laugh.

To finish off the morning, older students put on the performance of a lifetime with their play. Each grade acted as a different group. For example, there were snowmen, elves, reindeer, and many more. The play was a perfect comedy mixed with incredible acting.

Overall, each students' hard work that they've been working on for months was shown perfectly through the morning. Each student showed great spirit and really got the community into the Christmas spirit.



Garden City Teams Shine in Tuesday Night Action

by: Karly Baker

This past week, the Garden City Bearkats and Lady Kats were back in action Tuesday night, as district play officially began for the Lady Kats.

The JV girls started the night strong with a dominant 54-3 victory, allowing Bronte to score just one basket in the final minute of play. The JV boys followed, hosting Seagraves and pulling away late for a hard-fought 28-23 win.

The Lady Kats varsity team came out on fire, scoring from all areas of the court and jumping to a 21-0 lead within the first three minutes. They knocked down five three-pointers before their first miss and closed the first quarter ahead 33-0, cruising to an easy 67-10 district win.

The Varsity Bearkats faced a tough matchup against 2A Seagraves and came up just short in a competitive contest, losing by a final score of 55-35.

Overall, it was a great night of basketball for Garden City, marked by strong starts and dominant performances as district play commenced.



Tractor Tech Team Competes at First Contest

by: Sydnee Gully

The Tractor Tech team with junior Caleb Stewart, and sophomores Grady Ivins, Kelton Fuchs, and Sterling Schwartz traveled to Stanton to compete in the Stanton Tractor Tech Invitational. This is the team's first competition of the year, and they showcased their talents very well!

The day was a long one, full of fierce competition from across West Texas. Being their first contest, they were testing the waters to see what the judges were looking for. After getting comfortable in the contest, they were able to finish the day strong.

In the end, the team finished in 18th place. Individually, Grady ended in 56th, Caleb was at 57th, Kelton was just behind them in 59th, and Sterling was 62nd.

They are all looking forward to improving their skills to place even higher at the next contest.

Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Coach Wilburn was selected to be featured for our staff spotlight! This is his 13th year at GC. Through these years, he has taught elementary PE, junior high social studies, 9th-grade world geography, 11th-grade personal finance, proctored a CNA class, and coached junior high basketball and head girls track, now becoming head track.

Wilburn expressed that his favorite part about working at Garden City is the community and the students. He loves everyone's constant support for each other and their commitment to everything.

"My favorite part of working in Garden City is the students and community support," he said.

His year has been pretty calm and laid back, with the exception of some unexpected events during the football season. This is Wilburn's first year teaching personal finance, and it has been a breeze for him.

"Easy peasy. Easy peasy," Wilburn said when asked about the new class.

Being a coach was always the plan for Wilburn, having been inspired by the actions of many coaches in high school. Coach Wilburn stated that this year is going very good and stress-free.

"It's going swell. Ram 'em."

Coach Wilburn has done so much for our school and our community, so be sure to give him a big thank you when you see him!

Should all schools implement school uniforms?

by: Emily Easterling

Whether or not school uniforms improve students' behavior has been a long-standing debate throughout areas of education. This topic has been discussed by schools, families, and communities for many years, especially as schools continue to change and adapt. With schools all over the world varying in culture and location, it is hard to find a permanent solution.

Students should have school uniforms.

When students wear uniforms, they are less likely to be bullied for their choice of clothing. Many children throughout the school system struggle with financial stability, making it hard for students to fit in and "keep up with the trends". If schools implement uniforms, it will take the anxiety off of the students and the stress off of the parents, who are trying to make ends meet, finding nice clothes for their children.

Having school uniforms will also eliminate the need for a traditional dress code. Dress codes are often controversial because they can be unevenly enforced and occasionally based on students' body types rather than fairness. This can make students feel targeted, embarrassed, or uncomfortable at school. Uniforms remove this issue by setting the same expectations for everyone, reducing conflict between students and staff.

Some studies show that school uniforms benefit students' education by helping them stay focused. When students are not distracted by comparing outfits or worrying about how they look, they can concentrate more on their schoolwork. Uniforms also help create a sense of professionalism and responsibility, which will encourage students to take school more seriously.

Those who are against school uniforms believe that students should be able to express themselves with their clothing choices. The school building is a place for learning and growing skills. Children have the opportunity to express themselves outside of school.

Schools should implement school uniforms because they reduce bullying, lower anxiety, eliminate dress code controversy, and improve students' focus in the classroom. Uniforms help create a more equal and supportive learning environment where students can feel comfortable and confident. With all of these benefits, school uniforms are a positive step toward improving both student behavior and academic success.

Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

Another week in The Garden brought another group of students who are doing amazing things at school.

First up is a new student, junior Abigail Mierles, who wants to attend Western Texas College to pursue a career in welding. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelscher, and her favorite classes are physics and Ag. When asked who her role model is, she said, "Bronc Gass, because he is fabulous."

Mierles's biggest challenge this year has been her physics class, and her biggest goal is to pass all her classes. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, "Actually turn in your homework."

Next up is junior Sophia Sullivan, who you might know as the girl who makes amazing cupcakes. She wants to attend college at Escoffier to take culinary classes. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelscher and her favorite class is culinary. When asked who her role model is, she said, "Mrs. Wilburn, because she is the kind of teacher that I feel like I can tell anything to."

Sullivan's biggest challenge has been trying to balance her grades with extracurricular activities, and her biggest accomplishment is making it to state in cross country and placing third as a team. If she could give some advice to other students, it would be, "Do everything you can because high school is going by faster than we might want it to."

Last up is senior Holley Stiles, who is going to attend Texas Tech University to major in Nursing. Her favorite classes are her dual credit classes, and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Solano. When asked who her role models are, she said, "My parents, because they give great advice."

Stiles's biggest challenge has been her A&P class and her biggest accomplishment is getting into the University of Alabama. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, "Make sure you always get your work done ahead of time so you don't fall behind."

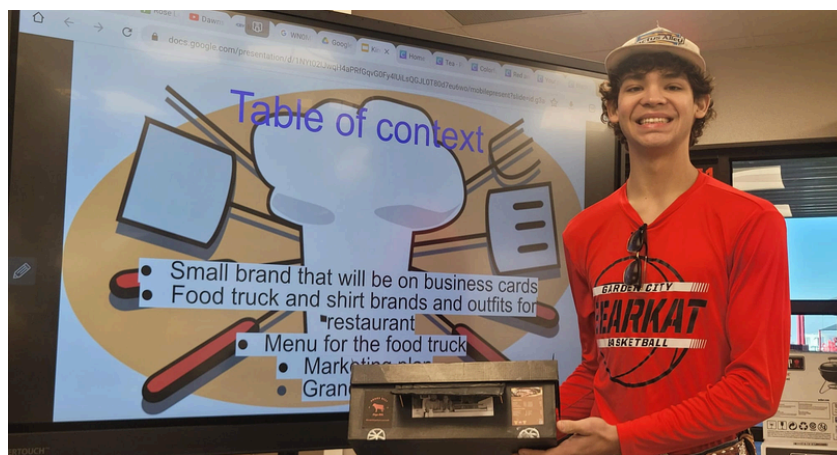
In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Holley Stiles

For the final week before Christmas Break, the culinary classroom was filled with holiday spirit and meaningful activities. On Monday, students traveled to St. Lawrence to help distribute food from the Midland Food Bank, giving back to the community and supporting families in need during the holiday season.

Throughout the rest of the week, students focused on presenting their final projects. Some showcased their food truck projects, sharing creative ideas, menus, and business plans, while others presented their FCCLA projects centered on leadership, service, and real-world issues. This week highlighted not only students' hard work and creativity, but also the importance of community service and teamwork.

As the semester comes to an end, many students are beginning to wrap up their FCCLA projects in preparation for the upcoming regional conference in February. Many students are making final adjustments to their displays and presentations, eager to represent GCISD and showcase their hard work and dedication on a larger stage.



Students finish semester with Christmas arrangements

by: Sydnee Gully

Students in floral classes have been learning all about different kinds of floral arrangements and flower types. Additionally, each month, they've been creating floral arrangements to go along with the holiday or season of each month. This month, they applied everything they've learned to create Christmas-themed arrangements. They gave them out to teachers around the school to show appreciation.



Basketball Season Progresses with Friday Games

by: Sydnee Gully

The girls and boys basketball teams split up on Friday, with the girls traveling to face the Robert Lee Lady Steers for their second district game, and the boys facing the talented Grape Creek Eagles at the Eagles' gym.

The JV teams started out each group. The girls soared to an easy 54-13 win. Although they faced some challenges in the first half, they were quick to settle in and adapt to what the other team was giving them.

In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

This week, the shop was filled with different projects getting worked on. There was a variety of woodworking projects getting finished up for upcoming shows. For example, Bronc Gass was finishing up his swinging outdoor bench, and Ella Brinkley was finishing her foldable picnic table.

Kyler Dieringer was working towards making more progress on her shuffleboard table, and several trailers were being worked on.

Aside from AG mech projects, there were various smaller items. Metal Christmas ornaments were cut out with the plasma cutter and then dipped in paint. Then, students put words on them, and they were ready.

Overall, the students ended the semester with a lot of knowledge and growth in their skills.

In Grape Creek, the JV boys played a close game with the Eagles. After some back and forth all game, the Bearkats came out on top with a score of 31-28.

Then, the varsity teams took over. After a rough start for the girls, they were just ahead at 14-12 by the end of the first quarter. The next quarter, they focused on fixing small mistakes to make the score 27-17 going into half. They dominated the rest of the game, using team work and hard work

to overcome the challenges. The game ended with a score of 62-38 for a Lady Kats win.

The boys also faced a tough team. After a long game full of necessary defensive pressure and big shots, the Bearkats fell to the Eagles by just a few points (54-41).

All of basketball will have a week break for Christmas. Then, they will start back again with high hopes of making it far this year.



Energy Bus Leads Bearkats to Success

by: Sydnee Gully

At the beginning of the year, students were introduced to a brand new principle: The Energy Bus. Teachers and staff members were given a book to remember the rules, too. Then, as students came back to school, these new rules were taught to them. As the year has gone on, counselors Mrs. Fryar and Mr. Bryant have come into classrooms to teach

students how to apply the rules to their lives.

As lessons have been taught, students have been improving their lives in and out of school. Bus tickets have been given to students who have made a clear effort to display these principles, and the school has an incredibly positive atmosphere.

