ISSUE #21

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

February 23, 2026



Lady Kats dominate in playoffs

by: Karly Baker

The Lady Kats opened the playoffs Monday night with an impressive 52–13 win over Eden. Backed by a loud and supportive crowd, the girls delivered an outstanding defensive performance, allowing just three made field goals the entire game. One of those came on a buzzer-beater from just inside half-court to close out the third quarter, but it did little to slow the Lady Kats' momentum. The victory pushed their record to 26–7 and sent them on to the area round.

On Friday night, the Lady Kats kept that momentum rolling with a dominant 60–15 win over Rankin to capture their third gold ball of the season. The team once again showed incredible effort on defense, and through the first two playoff games, has allowed only 28 total points and just eight made baskets combined. The girls continue to take pride on the defensive end, while showing strong execution on the offensive end.

The support from the community fueled the Lady Kats as fans filled the stands well before tip-off, and the energy from the crowd, cheerleaders, and student section made the atmosphere even more special. The girls continue their season as they play Eula at Colorado City at 6:00 on Monday, hoping to keep their win streak alive.

Bearkats End District Play with Playoffs Secured

by: Karly Baker

The boys closed out district play this week in a high-intensity matchup against Robert Lee. The JV boys fell 23–10 in their final game, but the score doesn't fully reflect the strong district run they had. They finished district play undefeated until that last contest, their third time facing Robert Lee this season, and competed with energy and effort from start to finish.

In the varsity game, the Bearkats battled in a physical, fast-paced matchup but came up short, 48–39. The intensity stayed high throughout the night, with both teams fighting for every possession. Coaches ensured that everyone received valuable playing time, allowing each player to contribute and gain experience heading into postseason play. The varsity boys finish district 7–5, earning third place and advancing to the playoffs.

To prepare for their next games, they played the Ballinger Bearcats in Garden City on Friday. The game was full of back-and-forth scoring. Both teams played hard and used their strengths to their advantage. However, the Bearkats ended up falling short with a score of 58-61.

They will take on Menard at Lakeview Stadium in San Angelo next week for the first round of playoffs.



Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week we have three Bearkats who have been doing amazing work in school and deserve to be recognized.

First up is sophomore Trevor Garcia, who one day wants to be an engineer. His favorite teacher is Mr. Hauser, and his favorite subject is English. When asked who his role model is, he said, “Skylar, because he helps me out a lot.”

Garcia’s biggest accomplishment has been winning district basketball, and his biggest challenge has been learning to get all of his work done. If he could give some advice to younger students, it would be, “Just keep working hard.”

Next up is sophomore Kelton Fuchs, who wants to farm with his dad and brother after high school. His favorite teacher is Coach Bozeman, and his favorite class is Ag. When asked who his role model is, he said, “My dad, because he is always helping me out and teaching me new things.”

Fuch’s biggest challenge has been his Spanish class, and his biggest accomplishment is getting fifth place at the Houston Build-Off. If he could give some advice to other students, it would be, “Just keep going and do what you want to do. Follow your dreams.”

Lastly is freshman Thomas Hillger, who wants to be an engineer when he is older. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Garcia, and his favorite subject is Spanish. When asked who his role model is, he said, “My dad, because he always does stuff the right way.”

Hillger’s biggest goal is to make it to state in track, and his biggest accomplishment is making it to state in cross country. If he could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, “Just try and do what the teachers tell you.”

One Act play attends clinic, puts on public performance for community

by: Sydnee Gully

Last week, One Act Play continued their practice as they hosted a clinic in town. There were several schools attending, ready to learn new things.

For this clinic, there was a special guest to critique their acting. They were able to get critiques on simple things like line delivery and more complex things like stage setup.

After the clinic, the cast and crew got together to give the community a public performance. They all performed really well and went through the play with ease. Additionally, their delivery was excellent, making the audience laugh and be dedicated to the plot line.

Overall, the clinics and public performance they've been attending have been very beneficial for upcoming meets and district.



Senior Spotlight



Keegan Balla

College Plans:
Texas Tech University (Business)

What will you miss most about GC:
All of the amazing people and support

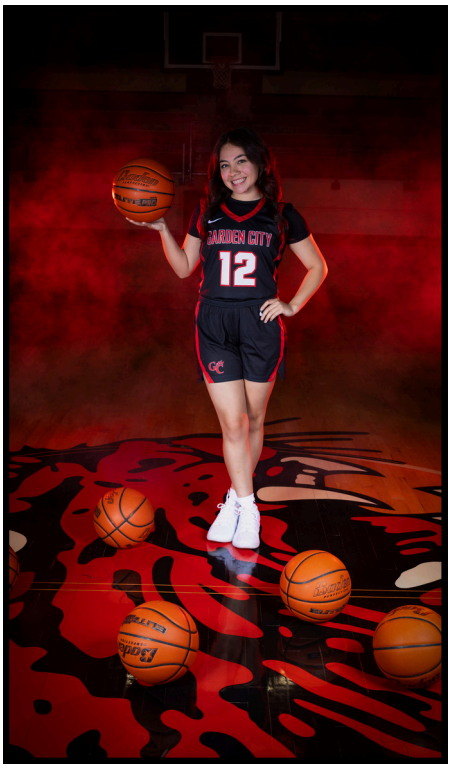
Go-to song:
Who I Am - Wade Bowen

Involvement:
Basketball, Golf, NHS, Student Council, FFA

Key people in your life:
Family and close friends

Advice to your freshman self:
“Have fun and don’t forget to live in the moment.”

Jasmine Nunez



College Plans:
South Plains College (Radiologic Technology)

What will you miss most about GC:
All my friends, especially the basketball team (especially Ivy, Sydnee, and Ella)

Go-to song:
Weatherman - Hank Williams Jr.

Involvement:
Basketball, NHS, CYO, UIL

Key people in your life:
My parents, my sister Aurora, and my best friends (Keegan, Lacy, and Brik)

Advice to your freshman self:
“Don’t take anything for granted and enjoy every little moment.”

Cookoff teams compete at Stanton

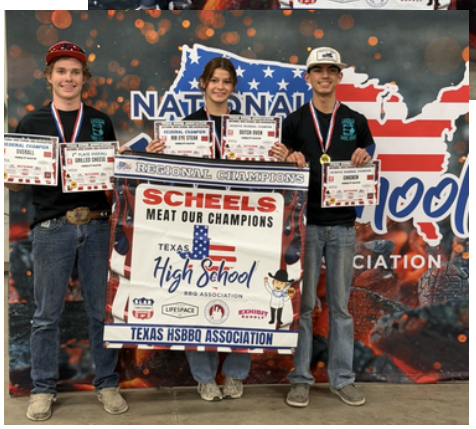
by: Sydnee Gully

After a long break away from the pits, the school's barbeque teams - The Sandbar SmokeHouse - fired the pits back up to compete at their first Texas High School League Regional in Stanton. We bought a junior high team with Aubrey Halfmann, Reagan Hilger, Shooter Brinkley, and Victor Torres, and a high school team with Grady Ivins, Sophie Sullivan, Sara Garvin, and Trevor Garcia. Both teams competed against the fierce high school competition. With their results, they advanced to state, which will be May 2 in Burnet. Results are as follows:

High School Team:
3rd Place - Grilled Cheese
1st place - Steak
2nd Place - Dutch Oven Upside Down Cake
2nd Place - Chicken
1st Place - Ribs
1st Place Overall

Junior High Team:
1st Place - Grilled Cheese
4th Place - Steak
3rd Place - Dutch Oven Upside Down Cake
4th Place - Chicken
2nd Place Overall







Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Wilburn was selected to be featured for our Staff Spotlight! Wilburn has been living in GC for 13 years and teaching for 7. She is currently teaching high school chemistry, IPC, physics, and anatomy and physiology, as well as helping coach UIL and TMSCA science teams.

Mrs. Wilburn was originally a pharmacist when she first moved to GC, but later, she was offered a position as an elementary P.E. coach here and took it.

“And it was about that time that the pharmacy that I worked at was closing, and so all of those pieces just kind of lined up, and here I am, and it has been the best career change ever. It's been a huge blessing.” Wilburn said.

She expressed that her favorite part about working at Garden City is the students and how they impact her day.

“I think I tell y'all on a regular basis that if we are here without y'all, it's just not near as much fun, and so y'all, as the students, make this job the most rewarding thing ever.”

When asked about her biggest challenge, Wilburn explained that every three years, she has had to move positions and learn all new curriculums. Her first three years being here, she was an elementary P.E. teacher, then three years later she became a junior high science teacher, and now a high school science teacher.

“I keep on getting new adventures, and those bring their own challenges, but I enjoy the challenge, and it is rewarding as you're going through it.”

Mrs. Wilburn’s goal for this year is to improve in each class and to further enhance her teaching skills every year.

“To keep my focus where it's supposed to be and to make each of these classes better, that I'm teaching. And then next year, my goal will be to improve upon what we have built this year.”

Mrs. Wilburn has worked so hard learning each curriculum for her new classes this year, so be sure to give her a huge ‘thank you’ for all of the work she has put into her students!

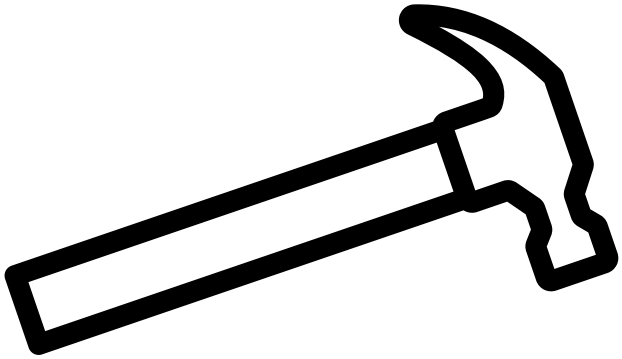


In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

In the AG shop and classroom, things are moving quickly. The San Antonio AG Mech show is coming up, and students are making final adjustments to their project if needed. Additionally, some students are working on a welding project and hoping to get their welding certifications soon.

FFA students are working on memorizing and familiarizing themselves with CDE materials, and some are already working on writing and memorizing speeches for the upcoming SDE season.



Track competes at first meet

by: Sydnee Gully

High School track students kicked off their season with the first meet of the year at Big Spring. There were a lot of teams competing. Although there were only a few students that could make it (due to still being in other sports), they were able to put a few relay teams together and compete in individual events.

At this meet, each runner was testing out events to see what they like and what they could do best at. On top of that, they were getting starting times to look back to in the future to see improvement.

The girls 4x1 relay with Natalie Crownover, Emily Easterling, Sophie Sullivan, and Sydney Tomlinson finished in second. The girls 4x2 (made up of the same people) finished in 2nd as well. Sarah Garvin ran the 800m run and finished in 9th. 4th place in the 100m hurdles went to Sophia Sullivan, and Natalie Crownover got 2nd in the 100m. Emily Easterling got 5th in the 200m, and Sydney Tomlinson was right behind her in 6th. Then, Melanie Gomex got 11th in the same race. For the boys, Caleb Garza ran the 400m and placed 6th.

For field events, athletes were getting back in the groove of things.

Roberto Almazan started the season off strong, getting 1st in shot put. and discus. Nick Howard placed 3rd in shot put and 10th in discus. On the girls side, Emily Easterling got a new personal record in high jump to earn 3rd place.

Each athlete showed a lot of promise for the upcoming season. They have been working hard in practice to work on building strength and focus on running form to optimize their potential this year. As the season progresses, they will continue these things along with others to continue improvement.

"Do what you can, where you are, with what you have."
– Theodore Roosevelt

WEEKLY MENU

Monday

BREAKFAST PIZZA OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN-N-WAFFLES, HASH BROWN, BABY CARROTS, RANCH, FRUIT, & A SUGAR COOKIE

Tuesday

PANCAKES & SAUSAGE OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN ALFREDO, GREEN BEANS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT, & A ROLL

Wednesday

WAFFLES & BACON OR CEREAL & TOAST

CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH, BABY CARROTS, RANCH, FRUIT CHIPS, & A JELLO CUP

Thursday

CHICKEN-N-BISCUIT OR CEREAL & TOAST

CORN DOG, TATOR TOTS, BABY CARROTS, RANCH, FRUIT, & CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA PUDDING

Friday

BREAKFAST TAQUITOS OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN OR CHEESE QUESADILLA, CHARRO BEANS, ZESTY CUCUMBERS, SPANISH RICE, & FRUIT

In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Kyleigh Roe

Students in several culinary classes are getting hands-on experience in the kitchen with a variety of flavorful dishes.

In ProStart, students will be preparing traditional German favorites like spaetzle and kasespatzle, along with fresh guacamole and sweet Gamino peppermint cookies. Meanwhile, students in Entrepreneurship and Intro to Culinary will focus on comfort foods and desserts, including mac and cheese, canned biscuit donuts, mini cherry cheesecakes, and brownie batter dip. Over in Meats and BBQ, students will be cooking up heartier meals such as Dutch oven lasagna and smoked chicken thighs.

These recipes give students the opportunity to practice different cooking techniques while building real-world culinary skills.

Why was the baby ant confused? – Because all of its uncles were ants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday

HS GOLF AT RATLIFF

DONUTS WITH THE DEPUTIES

Tuesday

TSI MATH (SOPH)

HS TENNIS DUAL AT GARDEN CITY

Wednesday

TSI READING (SOPH)

Thursday

FCCLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

HS GOLF AT BIG SPRING

HS TRACK AT COLORADO CITY

HS POWERLIFTING AT OZONA

Friday

FCCLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO AG MECH

Saturday

FCCLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO AG MECH

JH TMSCA QAULIFYING MEET #2

Announcements

Cheerleaders for the 26-27 year:

Emily Easterling
Kyleigh Roe
Addison Goodwin
Joslyn Halfmann
Emmorie Espinoza
Aubrey Halfmann
Justice Douglas
Reagan Hillger

Mascot: Abigail Mierles