

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL



March 30, 2026



Students compete at District UIL meet, secure spots at regionals

by: Claire Eggemeyer

The Barkats had a great day at UIL Academics and brought home a district championship. First place teams and top three individuals will be advancing to regionals.

The Number Sense team placed first with Presley Jost in first, Tatum Braden in second, Ivy Braden in third, and Karly Baker in fourth. The Mathematics team also placed first, with Ivy Braden in first, Karly Baker in second, Presley Jost in third, and Tatum Braden in fourth. The math didn't stop there as the calculator

team also won first place, with Ivy Braden in first, Presley Jost in second, Tatum Braden in third, and Zachary Wilson in fifth.

The Science team got second place, with Zachary Wilson in second, Thomas Hillger in fourth, and Kannon Flores in fifth. The Computer Science team got first, with Karson Lowrey in first, Caleb Garza in third, Deagon Williams in fifth, and Roberto Almazan in eighth. The Social Studies team placed second, with Joslyn

Halfmann in second, Thomas Hillger in fourth, Nathan Garcia in seventh, and Kaylee Garcia in fourteenth. The Spelling team won first place, with Sophia Sullivan in first, Sadie Fuchs in third, Kyleigh Roe in fifth.

In Prose Interpretation, Landry Dieringer got first, followed by Ella Brinkley in third, who will both be advancing to regionals.

The journalism team as a whole won first place. In Feature Writing, Brenley Schwartz won, followed by Sydnee Gully in third and Addison Goodwin in fourth. In Headline Writing, Jasmine Nunez won and Sydnee Gully got third. In News Writing, Brenly Schwartz got second, Holley Stiles got third, and Karly Baker got fourth. In Editorial Writing, Landry Baker got first, Holley Stiles got second, and Emily Easterling got fourth. In Copy Editing, Holley Stiles got first and Addison Goodwin got second. Outside of journalism, in Ready Writing, Sydnee Gully got first, Emily Easterling got second, and Joslyn Halfmann got third.

Everyone who advanced to regionals will compete at Angelo State University on April 24-25th.

Applied AG Engineering Team wins gold at area contest

by: Sydnee Gully

FFA's Applied AG Engineering team punched their ticket to state as they earned first place at the area contest. They've been working hard for months to achieve this goal, making sure to focus on important skills to compete the best they can.

The team was made up of junior Caleb Stewart and sophomores Sterling Schwartz, Grady Ivins, and Kelton Fuchs. They had to complete a team activity as well as finish an individual aspect of the contest.

They will continue working on their contest skills as the state contest approaches, hoping to find even more success at the higher level.





Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week we have two LadyKats who are standing in the spotlight.

First is junior M'Kynlee Harland who wants to attend Texas Tech University to major in cosmetology. Her favorite class is Culinary along with her favorite teacher, Mrs. Martin. When asked who her role model is, she said, "My mom, because she helps me with everything when I need help."

Harland's biggest accomplishment is passing one of Mrs. Wilburn's science tests, and her biggest challenge is getting good grades. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, "Get good grades so you can go to anything you want like the FCCLA Scholarship Workshop."

Next is sophomore Fabiola DeLuna who wants to go to college at either Baylor or Angelo State. Her favorite class is English and her favorite teacher is Coach Johnson. When asked who her role model is, she said, "My Dad, because he knows how to do a lot of things and keep up with everything."

DeLuna's biggest goal is to get good grades and her biggest challenge has been trying not to use a lot of AI. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, "Be nice to other people, don't put anybody down."

FFA competes at Tarleton Invitational

by: Sydnee Gully

The FFA programs started off a busy weekend with a trip to Tarleton State for an invitational CDE contest. They brought several students for different contests, hoping to help them gain more experience and improve their skills.

Helen Marshall competed as an individual in the AG Sales contest, earning 73rd place in a large group of competitive students. In Dairy Cattle, Katelyn Ezell competed as an individual to earn 219th place out of 538 students from across the state. In Floriculture, Ana Luna and Samantha Cortes competed as individuals. Ana placed 487th, and Sam placed 290th. Bronc Gass also entered the Horse Judging contest as an individual. He put up an impressive score to place 160th out of 775 students.

All of these students did great in such a large group of talented students. They plan to take what they learned to future contests in hopes of making it far this year.

Track competes in Spring Break meet

by: Claire Eggemeyer

The Garden City track teams competed at the Angelo State relays on Thursday, March 19th. Even when racing against big schools, every athlete showed determination, and a few athletes achieved a personal best in the raging heat.

The day started with the 3200 meter run, where Kannon Flores placed 13th with a time of 11:54. The field events followed, where only the top 26 athletes were able to compete. Addi Goodwin and Clayton Hillger both gained some good experience in pole vault. In discus, Kaylee Garcia placed 6th, throwing a 95-05, and Ella Brinkley placed 26th throwing a 60-09. Roberto Almazan and Nathan Garcia also competed well, placing 14th and 16th, throwing a 111-07 and a 104-08. The last field event that the Bearkats competed in was discus. Kaylee Garcia threw a 27-11 and placed 14th, and Ella Brinkley threw a 20-01 placing 24th. Roberto Almazan finished up the field events, throwing a 43-04.00 to place 9th in shot put.

Clayton Hillger kickstarted the running events with the 800 meter dash, placing 25th (2:35). This was followed by Tori Anderson running the 100 meter hurdles, placing 21st with a personal record of 22.46. Natalie Crownover led the way in the 100 meter dash, placing 13th (13.25) and Kyleigh Roe followed, placing 37th (15.36). Miles Colunga also ran a great race, placing 4th (11.11). Galeb Garza ran in the 400 meter dash, placing 6th and running his personal best (53.75). Bronc Gass also earned a personal best in the 300 meter hurdles to place 5th (44.84), followed by Tori Anderson, placing 25th (1:00.47) in the girls division. The Bearkats had 3 entries in the 200, starting off with Natalie and Kyleigh, placing 28th (29.01) and 41st (32.92). Miles followed, placing 6th and running a 23.25. Kannon Flores and Clayton Hillger ended the day with the 1600 meter run, placing 31st (5:42) and 35th (6:06).

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



*Sadie
Fuchs*

College Plans:

Texas A&M (public health)

What will you miss most about GC:

My friends

Go-to song:

I'm still standing - Elton John

Involvement:

XC, basketball, track, tennis, NHS, StuCo, FFA, 4H, CYO, UIL

Key people in your life:

My family

Advice to your freshman self:

"Don't get senioritis."



*Karly
Baker*

College Plans:

Texas Tech (finance)

What will you miss most about GC:

Friends and teachers

Go-to song:

Free - Zach Bryan

Involvement:

Basketball, track, golf, NHS, StuCo, UIL, TMSCA

Key people in your life:

My family

Advice to your freshman self:

"Enjoy the little moments before they're over."

In the Classroom:

Culinary

by: Holley Stiles

After returning from spring break, students in culinary classes wasted no time getting back into the kitchen, diving straight into a variety of hands-on dishes across multiple classes.

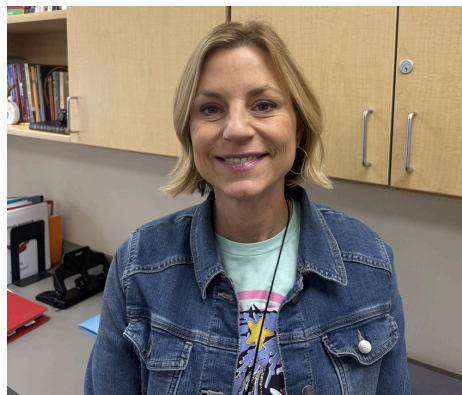
In ProStart, students are beginning their highly anticipated bread unit, where they will learn the fundamentals of baking by preparing soft rolls and classic French bread. Meanwhile, students in Entrepreneurship and Intro to Culinary are exploring creative and simple recipes by making loaded baked potato dip, BLT wraps, key lime pie balls, and easy cake mix bars.

Meats and BBQ students are working with bold flavors and grilling techniques, making Sonora dogs, Brazilian grilled pineapple, honey mustard chicken, and grilled Caesar salad.



“The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you’re willing to work.”

-Oprah Winfrey



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Cypert was chosen to be featured for our Staff Spotlight! She has been here at G.C. for the past two years, teaching junior high Language Arts. Her year is going very well so far, and she has been learning and growing through every class.

Mrs. Cypert wanted to start teaching because of an incredibly influential teacher during her 6th-grade year. She had originally struggled in school, but with the help of her teacher, Cypert became a whole new student.

“That year, I went from not really caring about school, not really understanding who I was as a learner, to doing very well. And that year, as a 6th-grade student, I decided that I wanted to be a teacher, to help other students find out more about themselves and how they learn,” Cypert said.

With the exception of her 6th-grade teacher, Mrs. Cypert expressed that her biggest inspiration in school is the students who struggle. She loves to help them grow and determine who they are as people.

“Kids that need somebody to advocate for them and help them realize their potential. To help them with executive functioning skills, organization, time management, and to help them find the value in themselves. That their struggle is not the thing that defines them, it's what allows them to grow and to be successful,” she said.

When asked about her favorite part of working in G.C., Mrs. Cypert stated that she loves the students, but more than that, she loves the community.

“Obviously, because I'm a teacher, I love interacting with the students. But I think what sets G.C. apart is the community and the spirit of the community, of hard work, dedication to excellence, and helping each individual student and teacher grow to the best of their ability,” said Cypert.

Lastly, Mrs. Cypert had some great advice for students looking to pursue a career in teaching.

“I would encourage them to find that passion, surround themselves with people who also share that passion, and go volunteer in the classrooms. Make sure that that's something that you want to do,” she said.

Mrs. Cypert has done so much for our community, especially our students, so be sure to give her a huge ‘thank you’ when you see her!

WEEKLY MENU

Monday

SCRAMBLED EGGS, BISCUIT,
GRAVY, & BACON
OR CEREAL & TOAST

HAM & CHEESE CROISSANT,
BABY CARROTS, RANCH
CHIPS, FRUIT, &
SNICKERDOODLE COOKIE

Tuesday

BAGEL SANDWICH
OR
CEREAL & TOAST

PIZZA BAKED PASTA,
GREEN BEANS, GARDEN
SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT, &
GARLIC TOAST

Wednesday

SAUSAGE KOLACHE &
YOGURT OR
CEREAL & TOAST

ENCHILADAS, CHARRO
BEANS, SPANISH RICE
ZESTY CUCUMBERS,
& FRUIT

Thursday

BANANA NUT MUFFIN
& SAUSAGE
OR CEREAL & TOAST

HAMBURGERS & FIXINGS,
OVEN FRIES, BABY
CARROTS,
RANCH, & FRUIT

Friday

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

AG Mech earns prestigious award

by: Sydnee Gully

FFA students took 11 projects to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Agriculture Mechanics Show over Spring Break. All 11 projects got a blue ribbon, showing the high quality of their projects and the dedication the students had to the program.

On top of every project earning a blue ribbon, there were several students who placed in their class. Junior Caleb Stewart placed second in his class, junior Ivy Braden placed 5th in her class, seniors Miles Halfmann and Waylyn Davis placed 3rd in class, sophomore Sterling Schwartz placed 6th in his class, and the buildoff trailer (Kelton Fuchs, Sterling Schwartz, Grady Ivins, Caleb Stewart) placed 5th in its class.

With all of these accomplishments, several students were interviewed for the Dr. Billy Harrell Award of Excellence. The students incredible communication skills built on their shop skills resulted in the program earning this prestigious award.

Overall, the show was a great success for the students and program as they made history receiving a once in a lifetime award.



TMSCA students earn top placings at state meet

by: Karly Baker

Over spring break, a group of Bearkat students traveled to San Antonio to compete at the State TMSCA Meet, facing top academic teams from 1A and 2A schools across Texas. With strong performances across multiple events, the team proved they could compete at a high level while also enjoying a well-earned two-day trip in the city.

One important aspect of the competition is that individual placements are based on grade-level divisions, meaning students are ranked against others in their same grade rather than across all competitors. With that in mind, the Bearkats delivered impressive results at every level.

In Number Sense, the team placed 4th overall and earned the title of 1st place 1A team. Freshman Kannon Flores led his division with an outstanding 2nd place finish among freshmen competitors. Senior Presley Jost placed 7th in the senior division, while senior Karly Baker earned 9th. Sophomore Zach Wilson placed 8th in his division, and freshman Tori Anderson finished 11th among freshmen.

The Science team also performed well, placing 4th overall and 2nd among 1A schools. Zach Wilson had a standout performance, earning 1st place in the sophomore division. Freshman Kannon Flores added a strong 4th place finish in his division, while senior Presley Jost placed 11th and freshman Tori Anderson placed 12th in their respective grade levels.

In Calculator Applications, the team placed 7th overall and 3rd in 1A. Tori Anderson led the team with a 14th place finish in her division, followed by senior Presley Jost (15th), freshman Kannon Flores (16th), and sophomore Zach Wilson (17th).

The Mathematics team finished 10th overall and 3rd among 1A schools. Freshman Kannon Flores placed 15th in his division, sophomore Zach Wilson placed 16th, senior Presley Jost finished 18th, freshman Tori Anderson placed 19th, and senior Karly Baker finished 20th.

The Bearkats showed both depth and potential. Competing against some of the top small math schools in the state, they represented their school with pride and determination. Preparing for the big district meet that would follow that week.

Beyond the competition, the team also had the opportunity to explore San Antonio and enjoy time together over the two-day trip, making the experience both successful and memorable.



How do you
get a baby
astronaut to
sleep?
- You rock-it.

FFA competes in series of contests

by: Sydnee Gully

FFA students had a busy weekend as they competed in three contests over the span of 2 days. They started on Friday with the West Texas A&M Invitational contest. Then, later that night, they faced competition at the Canyon CDE Invitational. Finally, they went to the Clarendon Invitational Saturday morning. Results are as follows:

West Texas A&M University Invitational:

AG Mechanics - 7th team
Caleb Stewart - 14th
Grady Ivins - 21st
Sterling Schwartz - 34th
Kelton Fuchs - 39th

Cotton Judging - 1st team

Caleb Stewart - 2nd
Kelton Fuchs - 6th
Grady Ivins - 11th
Sterling Schwartz - 12th

Entomology - 11th team

Sophie Sullivan - 21st
Gracie Raney - 48th
Clayton Hillger - 59th

Floriculture - 26th team

Samantha Cortes - 58th
Ana Luna - 101st
Yzabella Cardona - 126th
Emmorie Espinosa - 129th

Horse Judging (competed as individuals)

Helen Marshall - 67th
Andres Huerta - 110th

Livestock Judging - 1st team

Lacy Seidenberger - 2nd
Miles Halfmann - 5th
Tatum Braden - 12th
Katie Braden - 53rd

Milk Quality - 19th team

Waylyn Davis - 61st
Victor Torres - 71st
Shooter Brinkley - 83rd

Plant ID - 7th team

Roper Gass - 23rd
Harrison Little - 25th
Braxton Dieringer - 27th
Caleb Easterling - 28th

Vet Tech (competed as individuals)

Kenzy Parker - 173rd
Jayden Contreras - 212th

Canyon Invitational:

Cotton Judging - 2nd team
Grady Ivins - 4th
Sterling Schwartz - 6th
Caleb Stewart - 11th
Kelton Fuchs - 23rd
Presley Jost - 31st
Harrison Little - 70th
Roper Gass - 83rd
Caleb Easterling - 91st

Entomology - 9th team

Sophie Sullivan - 26th
Gracie Raney - 38th
Clayton Hillger - 43rd
Zachary Wilson - 53rd

Floriculture - 7th team

Samantha Cortes - 15th
Emmorie Espinosa - 24th
Ana Luna - 26th
Mariana Munguia - 35th
Yzabella Cardona - 38th

Milk Quality - 7th team

Waylyn Davis - 28th
Victor Torres - 29th
Shooter Brinkley - 38th
Braxton Dieringer - 41st

Vet Tech - 2nd team

Ivy Braden - 2nd
Tatum Braden - 4th
Kenzy Parker - 21st
Katie Braden - 26th
Jayden Contreras - 28th
Reagan Hillger - 48th
Tenley Hartl - 51st
Katelyn Ezell - 53rd
Masyn Dieringer - 55th

Clarendon Invitational -

Cotton Judging - 4th team
Grady Ivins - 1st
Caleb Stewart - 17th
Kelton Fuchs - 20th
Sterling Schwartz - 42nd

Entomology - 8th team

Sophie Sullivan - 21st
Emily Easterling - 25th
Gracie Raney - 51st
Clayton Hillger - 66th

Farm Business Management - 1st team

Ivy Braden - 1st
Zachary Wilson - 2nd
Presley Jost - 3rd
Mia Romero - 10th

Horse Judging - 4th team

Tori Anderson - 15th
Helen Marshall - 15th
Bronc Gass - 70th
Andres Huerta - 70th

Livestock Judging - 1st team

Lacy Seidenberger - 1st
Katie Braden - 6th
Tatum Braden - 11th
Miles Halfmann - 18th
Masyn Dieringer - 225th
Katelyn Ezell - 247th

Milk Quality - 11th

Ella Brinkley - 46th
Shooter Brinkley - 47th
Waylyn Davis - 53rd
Victor Torres - 56th

Plant ID - 5th team

Harrison Little - 17th
Roper Gass - 20th
Braxton Dieringer - 22nd
Grayson Marr - 25th

Vet Tech - 25th team

Kenzy Parker - 86th
Kyler Dieringer - 103rd
Jayden Contreras - 117th
Reagan Hillger - 146th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday

FFA AREA & STATE OFFICER
TESTING

JH DISTRICT TRACK @
BLACKWELL

Tuesday

HS GOLF: DISTRICT DAY 2
@ QUICKSAND

Wednesday

HS DISTRICT TENNIS
@ IRION COUNTY

FFA ASU INVITATIONAL

Thursday

HS DISTRICT TENNIS
@ IRION COUNTY

Friday

NO SCHOOL

In the Classroom: AG

by: Landry Baker

Last week in ag class, students were busy preparing for their upcoming CDE and SDE competitions. With several events approaching, including three combined contests last weekend, they have been working hard to memorize questions, practice milk taste testing, and identify different types of cotton. Students are also continuing to develop and refine their speeches for speaking development events.

In the shop, they are focusing on perfecting their skills as the ag mechanics unit comes to an end. In Intro to Ag, students have also been working on CDE and SDE preparation, focusing on their teams and practicing scripts for speaking development. Additionally, they have begun working on building their cornhole boards.



Track travels to Grady

by: Sydnee Gully

Track athletes competed at Wildcat Relays in Grady last Friday. They had to fight through cold, windy weather. Still, several of them competed well. All event students did very well in their contest, earning top spots to help the overall team score.

In running events, the girls 4x100m relay with Karly Baker, Emily Easterling, Claire Eggemeyer, and Natalie Crowinover ran a 52.52 to easily win first place. In the 800m run, Emy Schwartz ran a 2:50.27 to finish in 1st. On the boys side, Thomas Hillger ran to finish in 4th.

Hurdlers Addi Goodwin and Torie Anderson took over to run the 100m hurdles. Goodwin ran a 20.02 to finish 1st, and Anderson ran to place 6th. In the JV girls 100m dash, Ali Perez placed 2nd, and in the JV boys division, Luke Eggemeyer finished in 3rd place. On the varsity end, Natalie Crowinover (2nd), Emily Easterling (5th), and Karly Baker competed well. For the boys, Miles Colunga (1st, 11.49), Juan Barco, and Chris Garza also competed well against tough competition.

Natalie Crowinover, Sydney Tomlinson, Emily Easterling, and Emy Schwartz took back over as they ran a 1:57.62 in the 4x200m relay to place 1st. Shortly after, Melanie Gomez ran the JV girls 400m dash to place 2nd. For the varsity boys, Caleb Garza ran a tough race to place 2nd. 300m hurdle runners Sadie Fuchs, Tori Anderson, and Bronc Gass all competed very well against the strong wind. In the mile, Claire Eggemeyer placed 1st, and Kannon Flores ran well on the boys side.

To close out the meet, the 4x400m relays ran. The girls team (Sydney Tomlinson, Sadie Fuchs, Claire Eggemeyer, Emy Schwartz) finished in 2nd place, and the boys team with Caleb Garza, Miles Colunga, Bronc Gass, and Thomas Hillger also finished in 2nd.

Both teams competed very well, showing a lot of toughness, grit, and determination at the meet.

Public Speakers Speak at Houston

by: Sydnee Gully

This past weekend, local students showcased their public speaking skills at a competitive two-day state speech contest held at the NRG Center, joining nearly 200 contestants from across Texas. Representing the area as competitors were Tatum Braden and Ivy Braden, while Carla Braden and Mr. Hauser attended in support.

The event began early Saturday morning with contestant check-ins, followed by a unique and challenging process. Participants were randomly assigned to speaking rooms, meaning they had no prior knowledge of when or where they would present. This required competitors to remain ready at all times throughout the day.

Each contestant delivered a six- to eight-minute speech on an agriculture-related topic in front of a panel of judges. After all presentations were completed, judges selected the top two speakers from each room to advance. Later that day, finalists were announced, narrowing the field from around 200 contestants to just 20.

Ivy Braden earned a spot among those finalists, advancing to compete again the following morning at the NRG Center for a chance at scholarship awards. Her speech focused on how the oil and gas industry is affecting cotton farmers in the West Texas area, highlighting an important issue within agriculture.

After the final round of competition, she placed 18th overall in the state—an impressive accomplishment given the large number of participants. Tatum Braden also represented the school well but did not advance to the final round.

The experience provided valuable opportunities for growth, competition, and recognition, marking a successful weekend for all involved.



Golf teams play first round of district

by: Karly Baker

The Bearkat golf teams opened their district tournament play with an impressive first day, setting themselves up for success heading into round 2 next Tuesday (3/31). The boys currently sit in first place, while the girls are within striking distance, 5 strokes, showing strong potential across both squads.

On the varsity girls' side, the team posted a total score of 419. Leading the way was Keegan Batla, who shot an excellent 86 and currently sits in 2nd place individually. Helen Marshall and Joslyn Halfmann each turned in solid rounds of 109, while Gracie Raney added a 117. Karly Baker, competing in her first-ever tournament, rounded out the scoring with a 127, gaining valuable experience for future competitions.

The varsity boys delivered a standout performance, finishing Day 1 in first place with a team total of 338. Cohen Batla led the group with an 81, currently tied for first, followed closely by Brik Fryar with an 83, which puts him in the top 10 along with Karson Lowery with an 86. Rylan Cypert contributed an 88, and Waylyn Davis shot a 96 to complete the team score.

The JV boys also competed hard, finishing with a team total of 482. Roberto Almazan led the group, followed by Jayden Contreras, Thomas Hillger, and Clayton Hillger.

With a strong start across the board, the Bearkats are in a great position as they prepare for the second day of district competition.



Tennis finds success at Abilene tournament

by: Holley Stiles

The varsity tennis team had an impressive performance at the Abilene Wylie Tennis Tournament. Presley Jost and Lacy Seidenberger brought home the Mixed Doubles Championship with outstanding teamwork throughout the tournament. In Girls Singles, Addi Goodwin fought her way to a second-place finish. Sadie Fuchs and Landry Baker added to the team's success with a second-place finish in Girls Doubles. On the boys' side, Uziel Lopez claimed the Consolation Championship in Boys Singles.

Beyond the medalists, the rest of the varsity team battled through a full day of tough matches, showing noticeable improvement against high-level competition. Their effort and growth throughout the tournament have the team well-prepared and focused as they head into district competition next week.

Overall, it was a successful day in Abilene for the Garden City varsity tennis team, proving they can compete at a high level against larger schools.



Going to Fast!!!!

By: Nick Howard



Battling Comparison

by: Landry Baker

Have you ever looked at someone's life and felt like you're falling behind. Whether it's grades, looks, or sports it's easy to compare yourself to others. From school to social media, people are constantly surrounded by images of others who seem more successful, happier, or more put together. Former president Theodore Roosevelt once said, "comparison is the thief of joy." Meaning that when you constantly compare yourself to others, you stop appreciating your own life and accomplishments. You may ask yourself, how can I stop comparing myself to others? Look at your own life and be grateful for all that you have, and remember constantly wanting something you don't have is a never ending story!

