ISSUE #27

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

April 13, 2026



Track comptes at district, secures several area spots

by: Sydnee Gully

To start last week off, track athletes traveled to Veribest for the district track meet. This meet determined who would move on to the area round, and in such a competitive district, athletes had to be on their 'A' game. Top four places were guaranteed advancement.

The day started with long distance runners in the 3200m run. Freshman Kannon Flores took off, hoping to secure a place at next week's meet. He finished in 4th with an impressive time of 11:35.00. With this early momentum, the team was looking for success as running prelims took off.

After running the 100m hurdwin, Sadie Fuchs, Claire Eggemeyer, and Emy Schwartz all put up fast split times to get the team 2nd place. For the boys, Caleb Garza, Kelton Fuchs, Jesiah Talamantes, and Thomas Hillger gave it their all to also finish in 2nd.

With all of these top placings, the varsity boys ended the night being showed talent as Ezell placed 2nd in the shot put and discus, and Roe finished 3rd in long jump.

For the JV boys, Riley Harbison threw the shot put to place 6th, putting the JV boys on the board for team points.

The varsity teams were looking to have their best performance to advance to area. On the girls side, Emily Easterling competed in high jump where she had an intense jump off to secure 6th place. Easterling also vaulted to place 5th, but since other districts have limited vaulters, she will be advancing to area. In the same event, Brenly Schwartz placed 4th, and Addi Goodwin finished in 2nd. In the throwing events, Ella Brinkley secured team points in 6th place in discus. Kaylee Garcia earned 4th in the same event and 2nd in the shot put, securing a spot in both at area.

For the boys, Trevor Garcia jumped

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Applied AG Engineering team brings home top 5 in state

by: Sydnee Gully

On Friday morning, Caleb Stewart, Grady Ivins, Sterling Schwartz, and Kelton Fuchs left during first period to compete in the state Applied Ag Engineering contest. The group had just competed at area a few weeks prior, and they had been studying and learning new things in preparation for the biggest contest of the year.

They had a long day, showcasing their developed skills and practiced materials to judges. At the awards ceremony, they were named 11th place team out of 26. Caleb was top contributor, placing 15th place individually in the state. Grady added in 42nd place, Sterling placed 59th, and Kelton ended in 114th place.

Out of a total of 139 individuals, the boys competed incredibly well at the high level. They showed the amount of time and preparation they had put into the contest, and brought home a state banner for their high spot.





Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week we have three amazing students to be recognized.

First up is junior Nick Howard, who wants to go to Texas Tech University to major in history. His favorite teacher is Coach Fryar, and his favorite class is Yearbook. When asked who his role model is, he said, “Coach Fryar, because he knows a lot.”

Howard’s biggest accomplishment is advancing to area in shot put, and his biggest challenge has been talking to people. If he could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, “Don’t be afraid to talk to people.”

Next is sophomore Jacob Talamantes, who wants to play basketball at Houston University. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelscher, and his favorite class is athletics. When asked who his role model is, he said, “My dad, because he’s a good man.”

Lastly, us juniors, Katie Braden, who wants to attend Texas A&M University to major in Agribusiness. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Solano, and her favorite class is Ag. When asked who her role model is, she said, “My dad, because he works hard and has taught me how to be a better person.”

Braden’s biggest accomplishment was winning 4-H consumer decision-making and share the fun, and her biggest challenge has been balancing all her extracurriculars and schoolwork. If he could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be "Work hard, stay true to your values, and never turn down an opportunity.”

FCCLA competes at state level contests

by: Holley Stiles

This week, members of our FCCLA chapter traveled to Dallas to compete at the State Leadership Conference, where they represented our school with excellence and brought home numerous awards.

Several members placed in competitive events. Kyleigh Roe earned second place in Early Childhood Education, qualifying for nationals. The Parliamentary Procedure team, consisting of Mia Romero, Jynsen Kemp, Duncan Cypert, Korbin Cervantes, Rene Cano, Cade Baker, and Cooper Baker, also earned second place and qualified for nationals. Victor Torres and Ana Luna placed fourth in Food Innovations. Mariana Munguia and Yzabella Cardona Williams placed second in Sports Nutrition, and Dakeli Huerta, Tenly Hartl, and Justice Douglas placed fourth in Repurpose and Redesign.

In addition, FCCLA members competed in FCSA tests and earned an impressive total of 8 gold medals, 10 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals. The chapter was also recognized with the Large Chapter Most Pre-Registered Members award, and several members received Rose Legacy Pins.

The conference also marked the close of Holley Stiles’ term as Region Vice President of Achievement, wrapping up a year of leadership and service to the organization.

To top off an already successful week, Landry Dieringer was elected State Vice President of Peer Involvement for the 2026–2027 year, and Holley Stiles finished her duties as the Region I VP of Achievement. This conference was a memorable and exciting achievement for the entire chapter.



What kind of music do planets like?

- Neptunes!

Senior Spotlight



Holley Stiles

College Plans:
Texas Tech (Health Sciences)

What will you miss most about GC:
Friendships within the community

Go-to song:
Beautiful Things - Megan Moroney

Involvement:
Cheer, Tennis, NHS, StuCo, UIL, FCCLA

Key people in your life:
My family

Advice to your freshman self:
“Always stay on top of your work and believe in yourself.”



Kaylee Garcia

College Plans:
Texas Tech (Nursing)

What will you miss most about GC:
The People

Go-to song:
Burn, Burn, Burn - Zach Bryan

Involvement:
Basketball, Track, NHS, StuCo, UIL

Key people in your life:
My family

Advice to your freshman self:
“Just keep pushing through.”

School dedicates monument to state-winning golf team

by: Sydnee Gully

On Friday morning, students and community members gathered by the football field to recognize the incredible honor that last year's girls golf team achieved with a new monument. The team was made up of Rylee Wood, Keegan Batla, Gracie Raney, Helen Marshall, and Joslyn Halfmann. Coach David Wood and Coach Clayton Fryar were the coaches. The monument will stand by the football field beside other state winning monument teams to show the hard work and dedication they put in to win a state title.



School participates in color run

by: Landry Baker

On April 10th, our school came together for the second annual GC Elementary 1K Color Run and community 5K, bringing students, families, and staff together for a fun and energetic day. The 1K race was organized through Coach Flores' PE program and was designed to give younger students in 5th grade and under an opportunity to participate, with the top three finishers in each grade receiving medals and all participants enjoying snow cones afterward. The community 5K was hosted through the county and brought runners of all ages together to take part in the event and support overall community fitness. Alongside the races, a community fair added even more excitement, featuring baked goods, homemade crafts, home health and hospital booths, medical therapies, pickleball activities, Midland Athletic Company, and many other local vendors and handmade goods. The event created a strong sense of unity as students, families, and staff gathered to cheer, support, and celebrate throughout the day. The course was filled with color stations and energy, making it a memorable experience for all runners, while the fair gave families a chance to explore and connect. Overall, it was a great success that highlighted Bearkat pride and brought the community together in a positive and active way.



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Garcia was chosen to be featured for Staff Spotlight! She currently teaches Spanish 1,2, and 3, elementary GT, and coaches UIL journalism, ready writing, and social studies. Mrs. G has been a devoted teacher here for the past 22 years.

Mrs. Garcia expressed that her biggest inspiration in becoming an educator was one of her high school teachers.

"I guess you can say she was my role model at school and she's the one that inspired me and kind of talked to me about becoming a teacher," she said.

Her favorite part about working in GC has been working with the kids. She loves seeing them learn the Spanish language and hear about how they implement it into their daily lives.

"Having kids that actually remember the language or having kids that have graduated and come back and tell me they actually use it in their daily life," Garcia said.

Mrs. G's stated that her biggest challenge has been getting her students to want to learn the Spanish language, but seeing their progress definitely outweighs that challenge.

"I think it's trying to get kids to want to learn the language," said Garcia.

Mrs. Garcia has done so much for our school system over the years, so be sure to give her a huge 'thank you' when you see her!

District Track...

for 5th place. In triple jump, Bronc Gass placed 4th to secure the last spot in district. Miles Colunga competed in long jump to finish in 5th place. Thomas Hillger and Clayton Hillger both secured a spot at area in the pole vault event, with Clayton finishing in 4th and Thomas placing 2nd.

After the field events, athletes began warming up for the running finals. The schedule started off with the 4x100m relay. The varsity girls team of Natalie Crownover, Emily Easterling, Claire Eggemeyer, and Sydney Tomlinson competed in a close race, getting second place by only .01 seconds. For the varsity boys, Caleb Garza, Miles Colunga, Jesiah Talamantes, and Kelton Fuchs raced to run a 45.28 and finish in 1st.

Next, 800m runners Emy Schwartz, Thomas Hillger, and Clayton Hillger took off in their respective divisions. Emy finished in 3rd, Thomas placed 1st, and Clayton earned 8th. After that race, Addi Goodwin lined up to race in the 100m hurdles. After a tough fight, she finished in 7th place. For the boys, Bronc Gass ran the 110m hurdles. Despite it being his first race in this event, he was able to secure 2nd place.

Sprinters quickly took the track to race the 100m dash. For the JV girls, Katelyn Ezell ran for 3rd, Kyleigh Roe placed 4th, and Ali Perez finished in 6th. In the JV boys division, Luke Eggemeyer ran a competitive race to finish in 4th place. In the varsity divisions, both Natalie Crownover and Miles Colunga secured a spot at area, finishing in 2nd (Natalie) and 1st (Miles).

After this, relay teams took the track again for the 4x200m race. The varsity girls team with Natalie Crownover, Sydney Tomlinson, Emily Easterling, and Emy



Schwartz raced against some top teams in the state to finish in 3rd. For the varsity boys, Bronc Gass, Jesiah Talamantes, Chris Garza, and Grady Ivins raced for 2nd place.

In the final half of the running finals, the 400m dash started with the JV girls division. Here, Melanie Gomez finished 2nd. For the varsity boys, Caleb Garza raced for 3rd, and Thomas Hillger ended in 5th place. 300m hurdlers lined up for the next race. Sadie Fuchs placed 2nd and Tori Anderson placed 8th for the varsity girls, and Juan Barco finished 5th and Bronc Gass in 3rd for the varsity boys.

The next race was the 200m dash. This race started with the JV girls as Kyleigh Roe got 3rd, Melanie Gomez placed 6th, and Ali Perez ran for 7th. In the JV boys, Luke Eggemeyer raced for 3rd, and for the varsity girls, Sydney Tomlinson (4th) and Emily Easterling (7th) competed. Miles Colunga secured first place for the varsity boys, too.

After a long wait, distance runners took the track again for the mile. Claire Eggemyer secured the last spot at area in 4th place, and for the varsity boys, Kannon Flores finished in 5th and Clayton Hillger got 7th.

Finally, the night ended with the mile relay. The varsity girls team put up a strong performance against quick competition. Addi Goodwin, Sadie Fuchs, Claire Eggemeyer, and Emy Schwartz all put up fast split times to get the team 2nd place. For the boys, Caleb Garza, Kelton Fuchs, Jesiah Talamantes, and Thomas Hillger gave it their all to also finish in 2nd.

With all of these top placings, the varsity boys ended the night being named team district champion and the varsity girls earned team 4th place.

"Both the boys and girls teams performed tremendously well with both teams having double digit area qualifiers," head track coach Ollie Wilburn said.

Wilburn also highlighted this season as a whole by pointing out the drive and achievements athletes have seen this year.

"It has been so much fun seeing the improvement of the kids throughout the season," he said. "We've had kids like Bronc Gass not even plan to run track this year and qualify for area in four events."

Now, all advancing athletes are working hard to improve their times and field event stats for the area meet on Friday in Irion County.

"I'm so happy for the kids and the growth and success they are seeing," Wilburn said. "As a coaching staff, we're blessed with athletes who show up and work hard, and that makes our job a little easier."

At the district UIL academic meet, sophomore Landry Baker took home gold in the editorial writing contest to advance to regionals. Below is her piece:

In an accident involving the dance captains and new dancers, a few of the dancers were injured. Due to this, junior Mallory, and her family are suing the school district and seeking restitution for medical bills and emotional damage. The school has placed all dance team leadership in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program for 45 days, and placed head coach, Andrea Wyatt, on administrative leave with pay. A group of dance team members and their parents have requested that the students' DAEP placement be reduced and for Coach Wyatt's reinstatement. The school board will vote on this matter March 26.

The school board should continue with the DAEP and not reinstate Wyatt.

Coach Wyatt knew the team was going to be partaking in hazing activity. Following the Texas Education Code you are committing an offense if you know about hazing and do not report it. While Wyatt was not involved she knew about the tradition and never said anything.

School traditions should be a positive experience for everyone involved. Even if parents or guardians give their students permission to be a part of these traditions, it is still dangerous and the school is obligated to take action.

Those who are for the team's appeal believe it was an accident. While that is true there are many rules that go into school related activities. Any action that causes bodily harm to another is a misdemeanor. Any type of hazing is still committing an offense. While this is just supposed to be a lighthearted tradition, there are still rules you have to obliged to.

Wyatt and the captains knew how dangerous this can be and continued to go through with the tradition. Accidents happen but there are policies in place to prevent them. When those policies are broken the school must act.

WEEKLY MENU

Monday

BREAKFAST PIZZA
OR CEREAL, TOAST

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

Tuesday

FRENCH TOAST STICKS & SAUSAGE OR CEREAL, TOAST

POP CORN CHICKEN, MACARONI AND CHEESE, GREEN BEANS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT, & A ROLL

Wednesday

PANCAKE ON A STICK & YOGURT OR CEREAL & TOAST

BEEF TAQUITOS, CHARRO BEANS, ZESTY CUCUMBERS, SPANISH RICE, FRUIT, & JELLO CUP

Thursday

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

FRITO PIE, NACHO CHEESE OR SHREDDED CHEESE, BABY CARROTS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, & FRUIT

Friday

DUTCH WAFFLE & BACON
OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHEESE OR PEPPERONI PIZZA, CORN, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT, & RICE KRISPY TREAT

In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Sydnee Gully

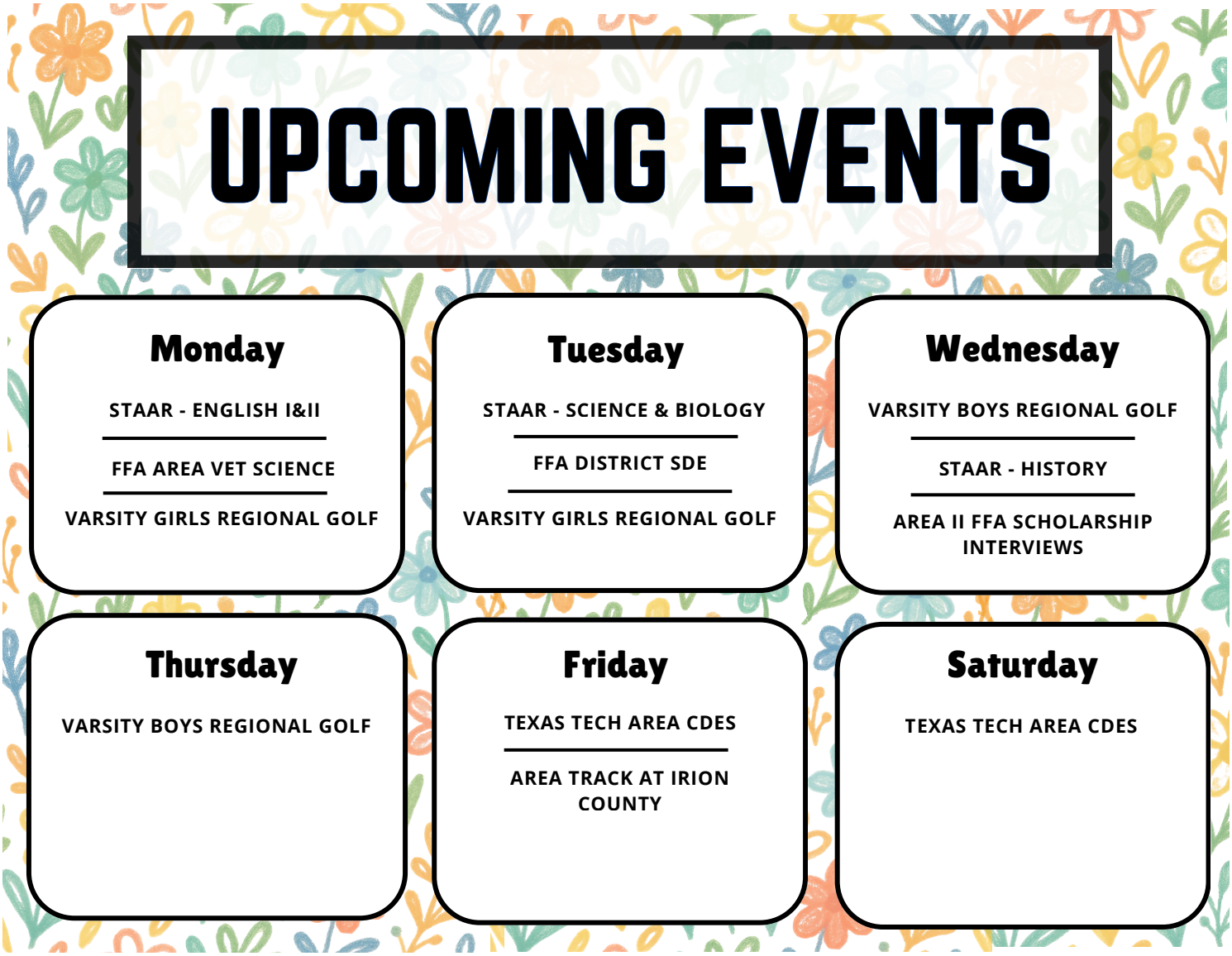
Culinary classes were busy this week as students were working hard to learn new things. Overall, they developed their kitchen skills and valuable team skills they can use in the future. Additionally, towards the end of the week, some students went to an FCCLA conference where Landry Dieringer and Holley Stiles played a major part as they were regional officers. Students were able to network, communicate with others, and develop several other skills through their time there.

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." - Lyndon B. Johnson

In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

In the ag shop and classroom, students have been split up working on a variety of projects and skills. FFA students have been working hard to memorize speeches for the district contest on Tuesday. Additionally, CDE students traveled across the state for area and invitational contests. Others have been studying materials for upcoming contests. In the shop, junior high kids have been building cornhole boards, and high school students have been working to develop their welding techniques.



FFA competes in contests through week

by: Sydnee Gully

FFA students had a busy week as they competed in several invitational and area contests. They started off with the Sweetwater Invitational on Monday. Miles Halfmann competed as an individual in Livestock Judging, placing 16th overall. Additionally, the cotton team with Caleb Stewart, Kelton Fuchs, Grady Ivins, and Sterling Schwartz traveled to compete, placing 1st as a team. Stewart led with 1st place individual. Behind him was Ivins in 3rd, Schwartz in 6th, and Fuchs with a 12 place finish.

After this contest, Floriculture, Dairy Cattle, and AG Sales teams traveled to Tarleton for their area contests. The Floriculture team was made up of Samantha Cortes, Ana Luna, Mariana Munguia, and Emmorie Espinoza. Together, they placed 7th as a team, and Cortes finished in 14th, Luna was in 24th, Munguia placed 36th, and Espinoza earned 37th.

The Dairy Cattle contest was extremely competitive. Nathan Garcia, Kannon Flores, Katelyn Ezell, and Thomas Hillger worked to place 15th as a team. With this, Garcia finished in 41st, Flores earned 55th, Ezell placed 59th, and Hillger followed in 60th.

Finally, the AG Sales team of Ivy braden, Tatum Braden, Helen Marshall, and Katie Braden dominated to place 1st as a team. Tatum brought home first place individually, Ivy placed 3rd, Helen finished 7th, and Katie added in 9th.

Then, students woke up early Saturday morning to compete in the Texas Tech Invitational contest. In vet science, Ivy Braden and Jayden Contreras competed as individuals. Ivy finished in 10th place and Contreras placed 45th.

The livestock judging team also came ready to compete as they placed 5th as a team. Miles Halfmann led the group in 5th place, and Tatum Braden followed close behind in 17th. Lacy Seidenberger added in 33rd place, Katie Braden placed 146th, Wyatt Everett finished in 154th, and Masyn Dieringer earned 162nd.

Overall, it was a very busy week for all FFA students as they traveled the state to gain more experience and advance to state competitions.