

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL



December 15, 2025



Basketball plays hard in annual Garden City Tournament

by: Sydnee Gully

Over the course of three days (Thursday-Saturday), the varsity basketball teams took on several talented teams from across the state. They played hard and with a lot of heart, giving the school and community great games to cheer for.

The girls started the tournament out at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday where they took on the Rankin Red Devils. They soared through a win with a final score of 55-18.

Right after, the boys took on the Balmorhea Bears. Despite the challenges, they secured their first win of the weekend with a score of 36-33.

To end the day, the girls played Reagan County in a close, tense game. After a close back-and-forth score all game, the girls were able to make a run at the end, making the score 36-29 to move their tournament record to 2-0.

The boys also took on the Owls. They were able to use teamwork and skills to cruise to a 60-30 win

and a 2-0 record.

The second day was full of tough competition for both teams. They each started the day playing the Grady Wildcats. After an impressive win for the girls (47-24), the boys had a close matchup. However, they ultimately fell, losing by just one basket at 36-34.

That night, the girls played Highland. Through the game, there was adversity, constant challenges and adjustments being made to keep them in the game. However, after a game full of heart and toughness, they fell by just 3 points.

The boys closed out pool play against the Buena Vista Longhorns. After a hard fought game, they lost with a score of 41-52.

For the final day, each team was put into a bracket based on their tournament records. The boys were playing for 4th place against Sands, and the girls played for 3rd place against Roscoe.

The boys started the morning with

The boys started the morning with a high scoring game. They fought hard, making several runs to keep them in the game. Unfortunately, when the time ran out, the Mustangs were just ahead with a score of 47-51.

To end the tournament, the Lady Kats put up 47 points against a talented Roscoe team to secure 3rd place.

Seniors Karly Baker, Emy Schwartz, and Brik Fryar were named All-Tournament Team for their respective divisions.

Both teams played each game with an admirable amount of toughness and represented the school in a great way.

FFA and 4-H join together for Christmas Party

by: Sydnee Gully

Last Monday, a large group of students involved in 4-H and FFA met at the Community Center for an afternoon of fun, friends, and food. The party was split into different sections where the kids got to do new things.

"First, we split up into different age groups," 4-H and FFA member Emily Easterling said. "We played a couple of games, then moved on to the banquet room to do a painting lesson with Brooklyn Batla."

During the lesson, they used tiles from the Boy Scout Hut to paint Christmas snowmen on. To end the night, they ate pizza and different baked goods made by parents.

"I had a lot of fun just being involved with other members of our community," Easterling said. "It was fun getting to see all the different members involved."

Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week, we have another group of Bearkats who are going the extra mile at school.

First up is senior Vallory Espinosa, who wants to go to Texas Tech University to major in nursing. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Morgan and her favorite class is Anatomy and Physiology. When asked who her role model is, she said, "My mom, because even when times get hard, she keeps pushing to do her best for all of us."

Espinosa's biggest goal is to be a good nurse in the future, and her biggest challenge has been getting by in her government class. If she could give some advice to incoming freshmen, it would be: Do your homework, no matter what. And always listen to your teacher.

Next is freshman Dayani Chavez, who you could likely find reading a book in her free time. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Elton and her favorite class is biology. When asked who her role model is, she said, "My sister, because she has accomplished many things."

Chavez's biggest goal is to do well in her FCCLA projects and her biggest accomplishment is keeping her grades up. If she could give some advice to other students, it would be, "Love yourself, because you are the person you are going to spend the rest of your life with."

Last but not least is freshman Nathan Garcia, who enjoys playing video games in his free time. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelsher and his favorite class is Algebra I. When asked who his role model is, he said, "My Dad, because I just really look up to him in everything that I do."

Garcia's biggest accomplishment is making it on the varsity basketball team and his biggest goal is to make it as a starter. If he could give some advice to high school students, it would be, "Make sure you study for tests and play sports."

Junior High One Act Play Debuts with Student Performance

by: Sydnee Gully

The Junior High Oap Act Play Club hosted a public performance of their play "And A Child Shall Lead." The cast and crew were all new to the OAP world this year, but it didn't show.

Along with the public performance, they also hosted a student performance for their peers to see all their hard work. They cruised through the play, making the audience feel the emotions of the characters as they acted. The entire performance was incredible, showing off just how much hard work the kids and Mrs. Niehues have put into it.

Their ability to step into their character's role and perform in front of a large audience shows the commitment and confidence they all have. Looking ahead, they are looking to have more success in the future.

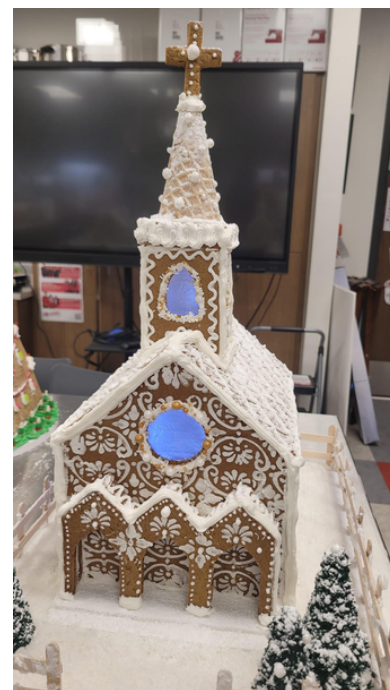


In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Holley Stiles

This week in the culinary classroom was an exciting one, as students across all classes prepared to give project presentations while also completing a full kitchen deep clean and reorganization. The hands-on work helps keep classrooms organized and kitchens ready for future activities.

Along with presentations and cleaning, each culinary class made a featured recipe. ProStart students made egg and bacon stuffed muffins, while Entrepreneurship students prepared cranberry scones. BBQ classes fired things up with Texas Twinkies, and Intro to Culinary students made shortcut spaghetti and meatballs along with peach salsa and cinnamon chips.



Surviving High School: Finding Gratitude

by: Emily Easterling

Cultivating gratitude within your daily life is essential to living a happy one. Being grateful helps us to defeat the lie that 'we need more' in order to be content. The power of gratitude should never be underestimated, but how do you train your mind to be thankful for what you have?

Gratitude isn't just about saying your "thank yous" and "yes, sir/ma'ams." This type of gratitude is called transactional and gives a conditional or fleeting feeling, leaving you wanting something more. Moreover, there is a different type of gratitude known as radical gratitude. This approach can permeate moments in our lives. Instead of only being thankful for succeeding or getting gifts, appreciate waking up in the morning and having a roof over your head.

We all crave the joy of being fulfilled, but what is preventing our minds from feeling this way? There are many factors involved known as gratitude inhibitors. Some of these include fear, envy, entitlement, and expectations. We are living in a world full of social media influencers that constantly fuel our minds with these inhibitors, so it is very important to be self-aware and notice when they start to negatively affect your life.

Ways to re-route your mind to be more grateful are to live as if nothing is promised to you, appreciate the ordinary as extraordinary, recognize your privileges, open your heart, and share your blessings. When you approach life with these tactics, your life is sure to change for the better. It will help you create the conditions for greater fulfillment and meaning, making ordinary things stand out!

In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

Things have been coming together in the AG shop this week, with several metal and woodworking projects coming together.

For the upperclassmen, the past few months have been full of hours dedicated to their show projects. For example, they've been making fire pits, a smoker, a single bale hay trailer, corn trailer, welding trailer, utility trailers, a chicken coop, and many more.

In addition to the skills they've been developing with these projects, they along with their peers have been working on welding, measuring, plasma cutting, miter cuts, and various woodworking techniques.

For 7th and 8th grade students, they spent time in the shop working on completing wooden Christmas tree projects. Through this, they've practiced cutting, measuring, and wood gluing skills.

“The
harder I
work, the
more I
have of it.”
-Thomas
Jefferson



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Nurse Goodwin was chosen to be featured for Staff Spotlight! Goodwin has been at GC for 12 years as the school nurse, and has loved every bit of it.

Nurse Goodwin started her career working in a hospital. Working at a school wasn't the plan, but when her husband's career had a change, she came to Garden City.

“It has been the best job I've ever had working here at GC,” Goodwin said.

Her favorite part about working here is getting to work in the same school her children attend and getting to hang out with grades Pre-K through 12th all day long. Her biggest challenge over the years has been adjusting to the different medical problems of the students every year.

“Every year is a new challenge based on what medical problems each individual student has, but we all work together and make sure that the kiddos are always safe and thrive here during their school time,” she said.

Goodwin also expressed that this year has been going really good so far and that she is most inspired by the kids in school.

“It's so good to see y'all learn and grow every single day and it makes me want to be a better nurse for y'all,” said Goodwin.

Her main goal for this year is to help all of the students that are going into the medical field achieve their goals. Nurse Goodwin has done so much to help our school and our students so be sure to give her a big ‘thank you’ when you see her!

WEEKLY MENU

Monday

SAUSAGE BISCUIT
OR CEREAL & TOAST

MEAT & CHEESE CHALUPAS, ZESTY
CUCUMBERS, REFRIED BEANS,
SPANISH RICE, FRUIT,
& SNO-BALL SALAD

Tuesday

PANCAKE ON A STICK &
YOGURT OR
CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN PARMESAN, SPAGHETTI
NOODLES, GREEN BEANS, GARDEN
SALAD, RANCH, FRUIT,
& A BREADSTICK

Wednesday

BREAKFAST PIZZA OR
CEREAL & TOAST

PIG-N-BLANKET, CORN,
GARDEN SALAD, BABY CARROTS,
RANCH, FRUIT, & PUDDING

Thursday

BREAKFAST BURRITO & HASH
BROWNS OR
CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN NUGGETS, GRAVY,
MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS,
GARDEN SALAD, RANCH,
FRUIT, & A ROLL

Friday

DONUTS & BACON
OR CEREAL & TOAST

BURRITO, QUESO, CORN, BABY
CAROTS, GARDEN SALAD,
RANCH, & FRUIT

Garden City Teams Compete in Preseason Matchups

by: Karly Baker

This week, the Garden City Bearkats and Lady Kats were back in action for another set of pre-season games.

The JV Lady Kats started the night strong, dominating Whitharral from the opening tip and cruising to an impressive 49-7 victory. Their aggressive defense and consistent scoring set the tone early, never allowing Whitharral to find a rhythm.

Varsity play brought an exciting and challenging matchup for the Lady Kats, who defeated Whitharral—ranked No. 5 in the state—in a hard-fought 42-39 win. The close contest showcased the Lady Kats' composure and determination against one of the top teams in the state. The Varsity boys faced 4A Big Spring in a physical, defensive battle and came up just short, falling 29-26 after competing until the final buzzer.

Overall, the Bearkats and Lady Kats gained valuable experience, highlighted by a statement win over a top-ranked opponent as the season continues to take shape.

What goes
“oh! oh! oh!”?
-Santa
walking
backwards!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday

FFA TRACTOR TECH STANTON
INVITATIONAL

JH BASKETBALL
@ WATER VALLEY

Tuesday

JV/VG BASKETBALL
VS. BRONTE

JV/VB BASKETBALL
VS. SEAGRAVES

Wednesday

JH OAP @ IRAAN

Thursday

JINGLE BELL RUN

GRADES DUE

Friday

EARLY RELEASE

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM

JV/VG BASKETBALL
@ ROBERT LEE

JV/VB BASKETBALL
@ GRAPE CREEK

One Act Play starts practices

by: Sydnee Gully

The high school OAP cast and crew have started to memorize lines and practice for upcoming contests. So far, the practices have been progressing well over the two weeks they've been doing them.

This year, the play is especially exciting for the club to do because it's a fun play.

"Our play is 'The Importance of Being Earnest,'" junior OAP cast member Bronc Gass said. "It goes really into depth about someone finding out who they really are."

Each year, Mrs. Niehues picks the play they will perform. Then, after sending a cut version to the writer/publisher and getting it approved, they're able to begin

practices. During the selection process, she tries to pick a play that she believes will be best fit for the group she has. This year, she chose a farce.

"We really think we're going to do good with this one because the characters really match our personalities," Gass said. "We just get to be ourselves."

Now that practices have started, the cast and crew have been working to put things together. Although it's in the early stages of development, there is still some clear progress being made.

"We've been working on blocking out where we're going to need to stand, how we're supposed to act,

how we're supposed to sit, and going over lines," Gass said.

At these practices, they're working to achieve the personal and team goals they set for the year. For Gass, it's the little things that will make the biggest difference.

"My personal goal is to just not get distracted by the little mistakes," he said. "I just want to work on pushing through and looking at the bigger picture."

This year, the OAP group will focus on perfecting their performance, hoping to make it far.

"Getting to see everybody act - all the new freshmen - I think we really have a good crew and a good chance of making it far," Gass said.