ISSUE #20

GCHS Weekly

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

February 16, 2026



Bearkats take on Hornets, girls finish district play

by: Karly Baker

The JV Lady Kats opened the night against a tough, undefeated Irion County team. After losing to them earlier in the season 46–23, the girls came in determined to compete at a higher level. This time around, they played with much more confidence and kept the game close throughout. Although they came up short 37–31, the improvement from the first matchup was clear. The JV girls finished their strong season with an impressive 23–3 record.

The JV boys also competed earlier in the evening, with a final score of 37–29 GC against Irion County. The Bearkats played with strong defensive pressure and controlled the pace to secure the win. Their effort on both ends of the floor helped them maintain the lead and helped set the tone for the night with confidence.

The varsity Lady Kats followed with a big 44–33 win over Irion County, marking their seventh-ranked opponent of the year. The game carried extra weight — with a win, they would become outright district champions at 12–0. A loss would have meant sharing the title, something they experienced last year and did not want to repeat. The Lady Kats controlled the game defensively and stayed composed offensively, pulling away in the fourth quarter to secure the victory and claim the district championship outright.

The varsity boys closed out the night with a 37–35 win over Irion County. The game stayed close from start to finish, with both teams trading baskets throughout. In the final moments, the Bearkats were able to capitalize on their last possession, hitting a shot at the buzzer to secure the win. The victory clinched a playoff spot for the team and brought their district record to 6–4.

With a full crowd, Little Dribblers lined up along the court, and strong community support, the night highlighted the continued success and momentum of Bearkat basketball as postseason play approaches.

One Act Play competes at Clyde

by: Sydnee Gully

The One Act Play group traveled to Clyde for another performance where they got judged and critiqued.

"We left the school at about 4:30 in the morning, then once we got there, the crew started unloading things while the cast got changed," junior OAP cast member Ella Brinkley said.

After the early morning, the group put on their performance, going through the play as much as they could. Then, a lady from the theatre department at Hardin Simmons University gave them critiques that they can take as they season progresses.

"She showed us some different alternatives and options to what we already had," Brinkley said. "She also did some stage work, so that was working on stage with us to physically help us act things out."

Overall, the OAP group is being set up for success as they continue through their season. They'll continue to have clinics, working to get better and better up until district. Make sure to wish them luck when you see them!



Students of the Week

by: Claire Eggemeyer

This week there are three students who have been doing great work at school.

First up is senior Mallory Latch, who will be attending Angelo State University to major in nursing. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Wilburn and her favorite class is Anatomy and Physiology. When asked who her role model is, she said, “Princess Diana, because she helped a lot of people and she was very generous and kind.”

Latch’s biggest challenge this year was balancing her time and her biggest accomplishment is getting all A’s in her dual credit classes. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, “Just keep trying and striving, even if you think you can’t, just keep doing it.”

Next is junior Sydney Tomlinson, who wants to attend Texas Tech University to major in cosmetology. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelscher and her favorite class is Algebra II. When asked who her role model is, she said, “My mom, because she’s amazing and I love her.”

Tomlinson’s biggest challenge has been adjusting at a new school and her biggest goal is to get all A’s. If she could give some advice to other students, it would be, “Make smart choices.”

Last is sophomore Joslyn Halfmann, who wants to attend University of Tulsa to be an immune system doctor. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hoelscher and her favorite class is Algebra II. When asked who her role model is, she said, “My mom because she pushes me and has a successful life.”

Halfmann’s biggest goal is to get all A’s and her biggest challenge is trying not to break down in class. If she could give some advice to other students in high school, it would be, “You’re only as good as your last performance.”

Fall Tennis takes on Big Lake

by: Holley Stiles

The Garden City tennis team performed impressively at the Big Lake tournament this week, with both the boys and girls showing strong effort and competitive spirit over two exciting days of matches.

On Thursday, Holley Stiles and Emmorie Espinoza represented Garden City in JV girls singles. Both athletes competed hard and gained valuable experience on the court.

Friday brought more success for the varsity squad. Uziel Lopez and Jesus Garcilita competed in Varsity boys singles, facing tough competition throughout the day. Lopez capped off an outstanding performance by taking home the consolation prize.

Overall, it was a great two days for the tennis team, as players continued to build momentum for the rest of the season.



Why are libraries so tall?
- Because they have many stories.

Senior Spotlight



Jayden Contreras

College Plans:
Angelo State (Animal Science)

What will you miss most about GC:
Basketball and Football team

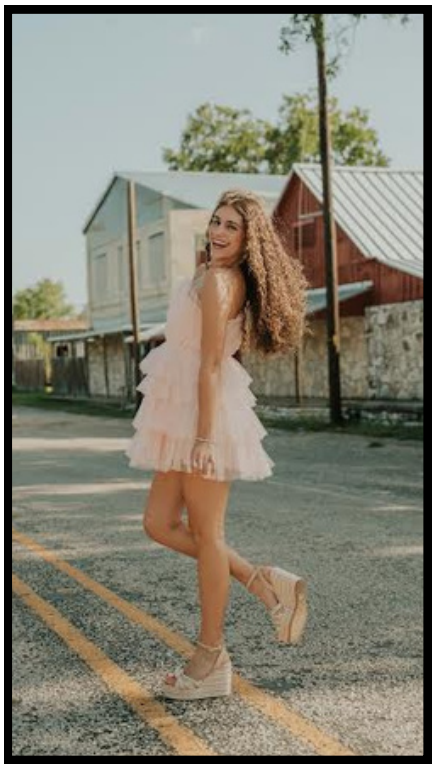
Go-to song:
Mama's Song - Braxton Keith

Involvement:
Football, Basketball, Golf, FFA, StuCo

Key people in your life:
Family

Advice to your freshman self:
"Stay locked in and focus. You can achieve anything that you put your mind to."

Emy Schwartz



College Plans:
Texas Tech (Buisness)

What will you miss most about GC:
The community

Go-to song:
No Role Modelz - J. Cole

Involvement:
Cheer, Cross Country, Basketball, Track, 4H, FFA, StuCo, NHS

Key people in your life:
Family

Advice to your freshman self:
"Enjoy the ride"

In the Classroom: Culinary

by: Holley Stiles

Students are cooking up excitement in culinary classes this week! In ProStart, students will prepare Fried Rice and Beef Bulgogi. Entrepreneurship and Intro to Culinary students will whip up Edible Cookie Dough, Goofballs, Garlic Knots, and Apple Enchiladas. Meanwhile, Meats and BBQ students will fire up the Dutch ovens to make Baked Apples, Blondies, Chile Verde with Sopapillas, and Pineapple Upside Cake.



"A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week."
- George S. Patton

Students Celebrate WYGW?

by: Karly Baker

Once a month on Wednesday, students and teachers wear college gear for Where You Going Wednesday? to show off their future goals. It's a fun way to think about college or a future job and discover schools you might not know. You can wear t-shirts, hoodies, hats, or even team colors! The day helps everyone get excited about their dreams and sparks conversations with friends. The next Where You Going Wednesday? will be on March 11th.



Staff Spotlight

by: Emily Easterling

This week, Mrs. Koenning has been chosen to be featured for our Staff Spotlight! She currently teaches junior high math, as well as junior high number sense, mathematics, and calculator TMSCA. She has been at GC for 19 years and has taught junior high math for 31 years.

Koenning has not always wanted to be a math teacher; originally going to college for accounting and earning a Business degree.

"I wanted to be an accountant, and I have a Business degree," Koenning said, "but God had better plans for me."

Throughout her 31 years as a teacher, she's learned valuable skills in adapting to a changing environment.

"I've learned to pivot and adapt because everybody has different needs and everybody's at different levels of learning," Mrs. Koenning expressed.

When asked about challenges she'd had to overcome this year, she explained that it has been a task to juggle her many different courses.

"Trying to make sure all T's are covered, and I have five different preps, so we've had new courses come in, so trying to write curriculum for the new courses," said Koenning.

Mrs. Koenning has been a valuable member of GC's staff for so long and has cared deeply for each and every one of her students. Be sure to give Mrs. Koenning a huge 'thank you' when you see her!

Should Schools Ban Homework?

by: Emily Easterling

Over the years, homework has been a consistent part of students' academic experience. While some educators believe homework strengthens understanding and reinforces responsibility, others question its effectiveness. As schools continue to adapt to changing educational needs, the debate if homework should continue to play a role in students' learning, or should it be removed remains.

Schools should not remove homework from the curriculum.

Homework provides students with a sense of responsibility. In college, students are expected to have their work turned in on time, and having homework in grade school prepares them for that. By learning to complete assignments and deadlines early, students learn how to be responsible, a skill that will benefit for the rest of their life.

Even when students aren't planning on going to college, having homework provides them with the time-management skills that are used in the work force. Students have to learn how to properly manage all of their extracurriculars and homework for other classes, which will prepare them for managing time at work with time with family, friends, or other events in adult life.

Furthermore, homework gives students ample opportunity to learn more about their subject and improve their knowledge. When students do homework papers, they are able to see what they know and what they struggle with, allowing them to ask their teacher the proper questions in order to better understand their subject.

Those who support removing homework believe that it takes time away from family and rest. Throughout the school day, there are study hall class periods allowing students to get most of their work done in school and students won't have to spend hours at home completing assignments.

Schools should continue to give out homework because it promotes responsibility, time management, and prepares students for working as adults. Homework gets students ready for the "real world" and will create more productive citizens in society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday

NO SCHOOL

VG BASKETBALL AT SAN ANGELO LAKE VIEW

Tuesday

HS JVB/VB BASKETBALL AT ROBERT LEE

Wednesday

OAP CLINIC AT GARDEN CITY

Thursday

HS TRACK AT BIG SPRING

Friday

DONUTS WITH THE DEPUTIES

EARLY RELEASE

Saturday

HS BBQ COOK OFF AT STANTON

JH TMSCA QAULIFYING MEET #1



In the Classroom: AG

by: Sydnee Gully

After a long week with the San Angelo AG Mechanics Show, this week in the ag shop and classroom was full of learning new skills and developing CDE materials.

The week started off with most classes in the classroom working on their blueprint skills. Then, several students went into the shop to work on a new welding assignment, with some moving on with hopes of getting their welding certificate soon.

On the other hand, some students stayed in the classroom to work on CDE events for the upcoming season.

With all of the practice, the AG program is sure to succeed in the shop, at FFA meets, and in the classroom!

WEEKLY MENU

Monday

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday

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

HAMBURGERS, LETTUCE, TOMATO, PICKLES BABY CARROTS, RANCH OVEN FRIES FRUIT, & FRUIT COCKTAIL CAKE

Wednesday

SAUSAGE KOLACHE & YOGURT OR CEREAL & TOAST

FISH STICKS, MAC & CHEESE, GREEN BEANS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH, SLICED BREAD, & FRUIT

Thursday

BAGEL BREAKFAST SANDWICH OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHICKEN STRIPS, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, BABY CARROTS, GARDEN SALAD, RANCH FRUIT, & A ROLL

Friday

DONUT & BACON OR CEREAL & TOAST

CHEESE OR PEPPERONI PIZZA, CORN, BABY CARROTS, RANCH, FRUIT, & A RICE KRISPY TREAT

Seniors recognized for basketball senior night

by: Sydnee Gully

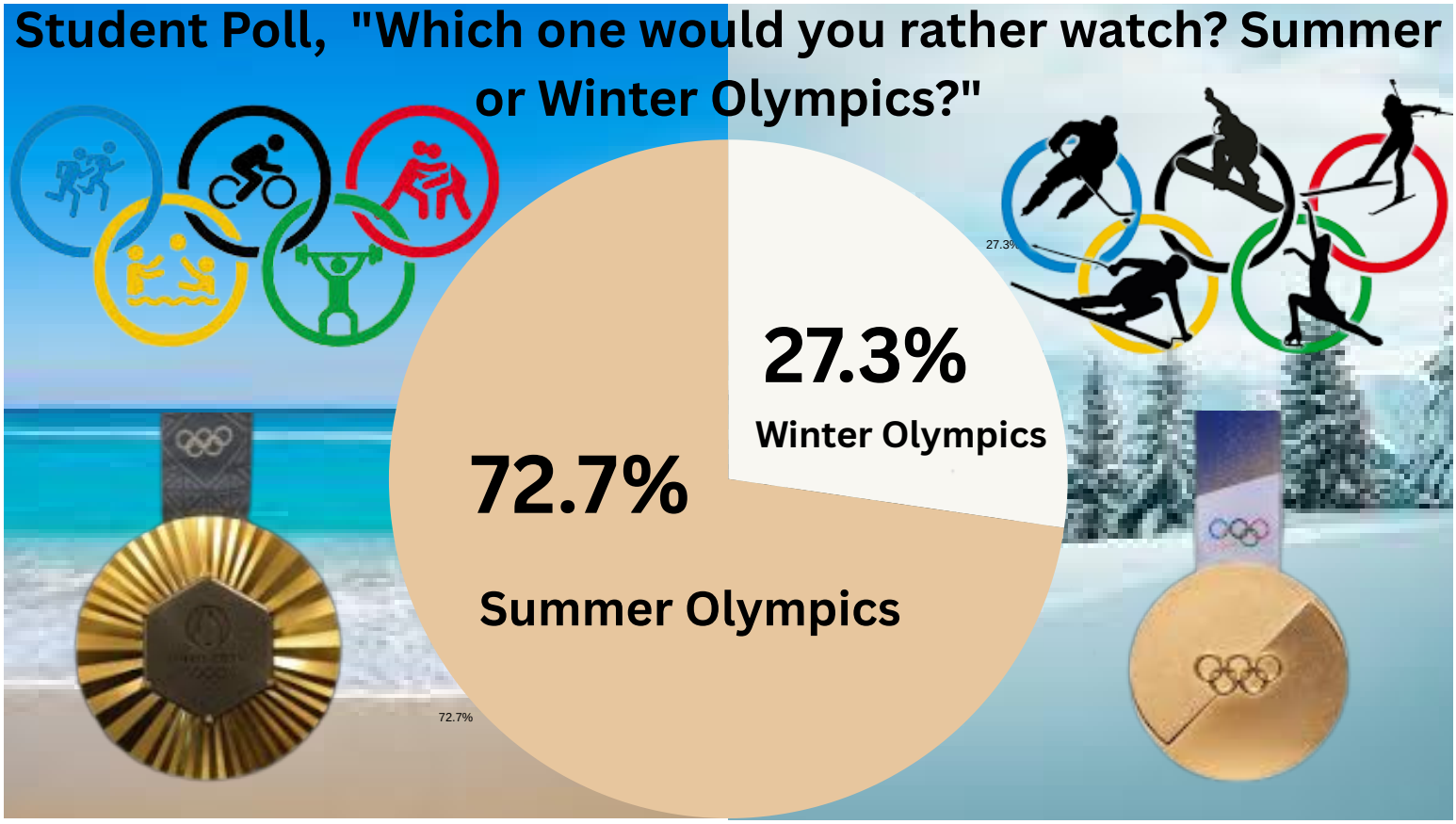
On Friday night, the varsity boys wrapped up the week with a basketball game against Bronte. They're finishing up district play, working for a strong playoff spot.

Although it was a big game, the boys also celebrated senior night, honoring the 3 seniors - Presley Jost, Jayden Contreres, and Brik Fryar - before the game. They were each given a gift, too.

After the recognition, the boys tipped off against the Longhorns. The game was tough, but the boys pushed through, sharing the ball and playing with teamwork to secure the win. When the clock hit 0, they won at 54-27.

On Tuesday, they will take on the Robert Lee Steers for another competitive game to finish up their district play.





The Energy Bus: A Lifestlye

by: Sydnee Gully

The energy bus has been moving throughout the school with all kinds of new things. Students have been spreading even more positivity as the semester goes by, making sure to be there for each other with the chaotic workload and schedule. Additionally, the new Bearkat Buddies program has been spreading positivity to elementary students, building connections with older students and learning new things.

Overall, the energy bus is a great part of GC that is slowly becoming more than a mindset - it's becoming a lifestyle.

