

GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

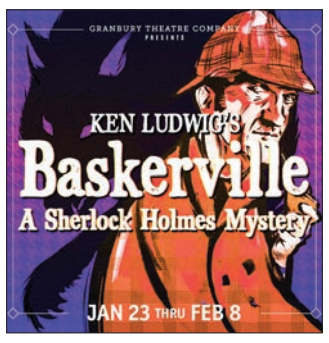
[SATURDAY, January 10, 2026]

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Snow guaranteed at 6th annual Goosebump jump

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Granbury Opera House will stage mystery show

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Lakeview Landing work continues

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Lipan wins Tenaha tournament

–See Page B2



Kylan Loving adds 3-pointers to his game

–See Page B2



'Fidget Chicks' give back to patients

–See Page B11

Council OKs large annexation despite opposition

BY RICHARD NELSON
editor@hcnews.com

Granbury City Council unanimously approved a request Tuesday night, Jan. 6, for annexation of almost 2,100 acres — despite the majority of speakers during a public hearing being opposed.

Following the vote, the standing-room-only crowd that overflowed into the lower lobby of City Hall showed its displeasure with boos and other exclamations — one that rose above the din was the accusation, "How much money?"

Nineteen speakers expressed opposition to the city annexing 2,090 acres, as requested by Granbury Reddy Land Partners. The land is located at 2801 West U.S. Hwy. 377 and is commonly known as Knox Ranch.

Each of the 20 speakers was allowed three minutes to speak, with the caveat they only could address the annexation and not how the land eventually will be used — which has not been revealed. Still, most speakers worked in their concerns about a data center, which has been rumored to be coming.

Tina Brown said she was concerned "It really both-

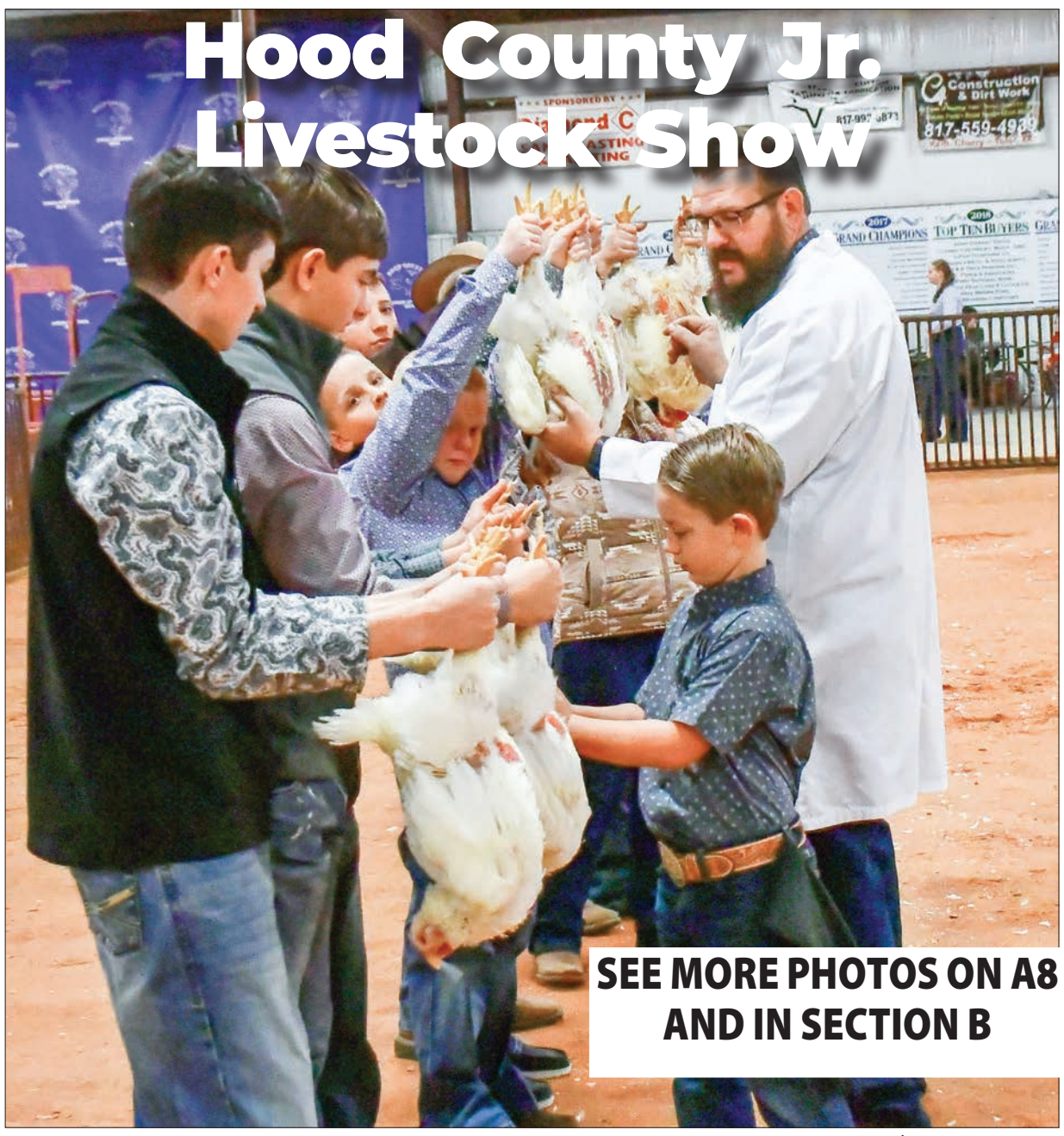
PLEASE SEE **COUNCIL** | A10



RICHARD NELSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Concerned citizens join in prayer Tuesday night, Jan. 6, at the start of the Granbury City Council meeting. Most of crowd, which filled council chambers and overflowed to the City Hall lobby, were there to voice opposition to the city's plan to annex about 2,100 acres known as Knox Ranch.

Hood County Jr. Livestock Show



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON A8 AND IN SECTION B

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Every contestant comes out a winner when they take to heart the expert advice Judges like Dean Black have to offer.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Another Hood County Junior Livestock Rabbit Show is in the books. To wind up the day two in the Court Cleveland Show Barn, Tolar FFA's Madison Werner won Grand Champion Single Fryer, and the reserve Champion spot went to Malachi Bowden, also with Tolar FFA.

Granbury flexes economic muscle

Developments begin again after moratorium lifted by city

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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The city of Granbury has had plenty to celebrate in recent months, from the lifting of a moratorium on development thanks to the construction of a new water treatment plant to the announcement of long-awaited new businesses coming to the city, and finally, to the prospect of even more economic growth that could completely transform the city in a positive way.

Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman recently sat down with Sam Houston, publisher of the Hood County News, to talk about some of the exciting accomplishments the city has enjoyed, with an eye toward future development.

Houston asked Coffman to give an overview of the state of the city.

"We've been busy," Coffman said. "We had been under a sewer moratorium (delaying new development) and we were able to lift that in October (2025)." He said the city is "looking to have our new sewer plant online" this spring.

The lifting of the moratorium has allowed a flurry of announcements related to new businesses coming to Granbury, some of which had been in discussions with city leaders for years, awaiting the ability to tap into city infrastructure.

"We have Academy Sports coming to town; they're clearing land. Hobby Lobby and Texas Roadhouse are also coming, all in the same little area on the east side of town," Coffman said. 'We had annexation for that. They had been waiting about five years (to begin construction in Granbury) for the moratorium to lift.

"We are excited about the retail development. We know the community has been wanting these for years," Coffman said.

LakeView Landing, which is being developed on Lake Granbury not far from Hoffbrau Steak and Grill House, had been in the planning stages even longer, and substantial work is being done at the site to prepare it for homes, retail shops and restaurants that will be located there.

"We have been working with LakeView Landing since 2018," Coffman said. "They have been in-

PLEASE SEE **CITY** | A10

Granbury volunteer fire department ready to go at a moment's notice

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Being ready at a moment's notice and responding to some of life's most difficult situations is the mission of the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD).

Leading the department is Chief Matt Hohon, who has lived in Granbury since 2010. Before that, he was living in Mexico.

Hohon worked in the aviation industry before venturing into international sales, but when he moved back to the United States and settled in Granbury he began working as a volunteer firefighter.

Asked what led him to join the fire department, Hohon said there were multiple reasons.

"It was really a combination of a couple of things," he said. "It's a way to give back to the community, and it has a direct impact on people's lives. I am also a big fan of donating money to the United Way and the (American) Red Cross. Volunteering is different from making donations. You know firsthand how much of an impact you're making.

"I found out I could do it, and the rest is history. People need to understand they can do this — anyone can do this. You don't have to be 22 years old and male. You can be male or female, young or old. If you need a place, we have a place for you," Hohon said.

The public often misunderstands what fire departments do, Hohon said.

"The vast majority of our call volume is wildfires, followed by medical response calls, then accidents, fire alarms and finally structure fires," he said.

People also do not know what variety firefighters experience.

"The community sees us strictly as a fire department, but we do so much more. Our call volume is 30 percent of all we do — 40 percent tops," Hohon said. "Our job involves physically taking care of the station, taking care of the apparatuses, and then there's training, maintenance, testing and inspection. There's always something to do."

Granbury's fire department has 80 active members, he said, and many of the firefighters specialize in specific areas.

"The fire department is a lot bigger than the community perceives us," Hohon said. "Also, there are great things about serving here. Here's the crazy awesome thing about the Granbury Fire Department. There is no profes-

PLEASE SEE **GVFD** | A10

139TH YEAR, NO. 50
Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 24 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 24 pages

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Goosebump jump returns with giant snow globe, 16-foot slide straight into Lake Granbury

From Staff Reports

Granbury's coolest tradition is back — and in 2026, it's stepping inside the snow globe.

Visit Granbury invites the community, visitors, local businesses, civic groups and brave-hearted jumpers to the 6th Annual Lake Granbury Goosebump Jump, returning Saturday, Jan. 17, at City Beach Park. This year's event brings a bold new twist: a giant walk-in snow globe photo experience and a towering 16-foot slide launching jumpers directly into Lake Granbury — all under guaranteed snowfall.

Last year, more than 250 participants took the plunge, raising thousands of dollars for local charities and officially kicking off Granbury's Winter Guest Tourism Season. The 2026 Goosebump Jump is expected to be the biggest yet, blending winter whimsy, heart-pounding fun and community impact.

Event Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 17

- Location — City Beach Park and Lake Granbury Conference Center area
- 9 a.m. — Ice Age 5K at Hewlett Park
- 10 a.m. — Registration and vendor zone opens
- 11 a.m. — Opening ceremonies and mascot races
- 11:30 a.m. — Costume contest awards
- Noon — The Goosebump Jump
- 12:01 p.m. — JR Spas Hot Tub Warm-Up
- 12:01 p.m. — Afterparty at Hilton Garden Inn
- 12:30 p.m. — Chili Tastings Begin

The jump fee is $10 and the chili tasting fee is $10. All proceeds will benefit the winning charity.

The Goosebump Jump serves as the official kickoff to Granbury's Winter Guest Season, encouraging travel during January and February through exclusive hotel, dining, shopping and attraction incentives. The event supports Granbury's tourism-driven economy while delivering an unforgettable experience for visitors and locals alike.

The jump also is a high-impact fundraiser for area nonprofits. The organization with the most checked-in participants wins the cash prize, supported by:

- Up to $1,000 from the Granbury Area Lodging Association; and
- A $1,000 bonus from Accent Rock, Chili Cook-Off Sponsor.

To date, the Goosebump Jump has generated more than $16,877 for local charities, including Second Chance Farms, Mission Granbury, Kiwanis, Happy Hill Farm and Forward Training Center.

This year's Goosebump Jump delivers even more reasons to brave the cold:

- Giant walk-in snow globe photo experience
- Sixteen-foot high slide straight into Lake Granbury
- Guaranteed snowfall effects
- G&G electric warming zone
- Mascot races
- Snow play pad for kids
- The Ernest Reinke "Chili on the Beach" cook-off
- Expanded vendor village
- Enhanced blue carpet experience

The first 200 registered jumpers will receive the official 2026 Goosebump Jump Medal, a collectible favorite among returning participants.

"Some people think it's crazy. Some people come just to watch," Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley said. "But whether you're sliding into the lake or stepping inside a snow globe, it's pure joy. It's winter, Granbury-style — and there's always a 100 percent chance of snow."

Participants arrive via the Blue Carpet Walk, pass beneath the Goosebump Jump arch, pose with the inflatable goose mascot, and climb the 16-foot slide before plunging into Lake Granbury. JR Spas hot tubs are ready immediately after the jump, along with the G&G Electric warming zone on the beach.

Music is provided by KHITS 95.5, and spectators, families, sponsors and media are encouraged to attend and enjoy the festivities.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Visit Granbury invites the community, visitors, local businesses, civic groups and brave-hearted jumpers to the 6th Annual Lake Granbury Goosebump Jump, returning Saturday, Jan. 17, at City Beach Park.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Participants enter the water during the fifth annual Goosebump Jump Jan, 18, 2025. The sixth annual event will be Saturday. Jan. 17, at City Beach Park

The Ice Age 5K to heat up Hood County's race scene

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Shake off the January chill and be among the first to cross the finish line on Granbury's newest race, the Ice Age 5K, at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Hewlett Park.

Competitors are welcome to walk or run the course, as the race is open to all ages and abilities and offers both timed and untimed options.

Chip-timed race admission is $49 for participants between the ages of 13 and 64 and $39 for anyone 65 or older. The unchipped fun run is $39 for all ages. Free admission is offered for children younger than the age of 5 if they are accompanied by a paying adult.

Following the Ice Age 5K, check out the festivities at the Granbury City Beach and cool off from the race with Granbury's annual Goosebump Jump, where folks from across the county take a plunge in Lake Granbury for charity.

For more information about the Ice Age 5K or to register, scan the nearby QR code or go to www.mammothrace.com/ice-age.

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Maybe an old dog can learn new tricks?



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

As the years keep passing by, I have begun to appreciate how much change I have experienced in my life. It is funny how change sort of sneaks up on a fella and how sometimes a person does not really realize the change is taking place until it has happened and the "new" has replaced the old way of doing things.

When I was little and would visit my grandparents, there only was one television channel and the reception was very poor during the daylight hours. Only when the sun went down would the picture start to clear up and a viewer finally could see clearly what was on the air. There was a fair amount of time spent adjusting the "rabbit ears" trying to get a better picture and the effort was met with varying results and a mixed amount of frustration.

Though I loved spending time on the farm with my grandparents, because there was no access to the shows and events I normally would watch on television, it always made things seem a little out of sorts. With little to no television, I would end up spending my time hulling peas with grandma or whittling under the big maple tree with granddad. We could receive three stations at home so cutting down to one part-time channel was a big adjustment. The bright spot was I did learn to love that time with the grandparents, even without the television.

When cable television finally became available, it was a game changer. Suddenly there were 12 or more channels to watch and there seemed like there always was something "good" on the air. Currently, I subscribe to a service which has 23 million channels (or so it seems) and there is never anything good on. Way back when, I don't remember realizing I no longer had to mess with the rabbit ears; they simply became inconsequential. The lack of channels and the problems with reception became nothing more than faint memories.

Anyone remember what life was like before microwaves? Once upon a time, the measurement of a good cook was how they could keep a meal warm, without drying it out. Then suddenly, one day the microwave was invented, and we were warming up everything in an instant, popping popcorn and melting cheese on demand. It gave rise to a host of microwaveable snacks, and the old mainstay of peanut butter and jelly lost its allure.

Technology and innovation create changes in how we live our lives, how we function and how we solve problems. When in the middle of monumental change, we frequently fail to sit back and recognize what is happening and how. This week it hit me right between the eyes.

I was asked to speak to a rather large group of young students in the upcoming week. I wanted to prepare something which included some visual images to help maintain their attention and to better illustrate the message I was hoping to convey. I was explaining my quest to one of my co-workers and they suggested that AI (artificial intelligence) could create such a project for me in very little time. I took the suggestion and in less than five minutes I had a 20-minute lecture, designed specifically to be directed to an audience of children, which included visual images. Wow.

I was overwhelmed. The presentation was well written, the video images were pertinent and purposeful, and the entire document was laid out well and meaningfully. I had managed to save hours of time and created exactly what I wanted better than I could have created it myself after expending hours upon hours of time.

It took the industrial revolution 100 years to gain full force, but when it did, it changed the world from an agrarian society to an industrial one. The AI revolution is going to take a much shorter period: I am guessing less than five years, and it will change how we live our lives. There may be huge debates on the best use of AI, on what safeguards need to be placed on its use, and when is the appropriate time for it to be utilized, but rest assured a significant, monumental change is taking place and it will forever change the world we live in.

We won't be moving the rabbit ears any longer. The future is here and moving faster than most of us can imagine. Hold on.

Thought for the day: "The best way to predict your future is to create it." Abraham Lincoln

Until next time…I will keep ridin' the storm out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Story needed on lack of affordable housing

Are you guys paying attention to all the new growth in Granbury? Our little town, that was so quaint is being destroyed by those cookie-cutter houses. Someone apparently made a poor choice in thinking we needed the growth, and in my opinion and several other veterans who came here to retire and pass, me for example, would agree.

Why not build affordable housing for veterans to live out their golden years. They have served our country, and we deserve it. I have had M.S. for 30 years; now, it's very difficult for me to get around. But for four years, every time my husband took me through town, I would say, "I love this little town, I'm so glad we moved here."

Now the same thing is happening here as it did in Georgetown. I'm sure there is a story you could follow up with. Lots of celebrities enjoy our town because it "was quiet and quaint." Talk to the public; get their opinion.

A lot of the veterans here are special forces. There also is quite a bit of history that I'm sure will be forgotten, very sad to see it happen again. Do some research; see for yourself. Pay particular attention to how those homes are being built — not quality and not original.

Teri Mitchell, PO 3 Class, USN
Granbury

Stand by the country, not just the leader

In the United States, speaking up is not just a right — it is our fundamental civic duty.

President Theodore Roosevelt was clear: to announce there must be no criticism of the President "is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." Patriotism does not mean agreement; it means fidelity to the principles on which this nation was built.

Those principles run through American history. George Washington warned his troops if freedom of speech were taken away, we could be "led, like sheep to the slaughter." Thomas Jefferson was even clearer: "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and, once it is limited, it is lost."

This belief has crossed parties and generations. In his first term's farewell address Jan. 19, 2021, President Donald Trump affirmed a principle long shared across American history: "At the center of this heritage is also a robust belief in free expression, free speech and open debate. Only if we forget who we are and how we got here, could we ever allow political censorship and blacklisting to take place in America. It's not even thinkable. Shutting down free and open debate violates our core values and most enduring traditions."

Dwight D. Eisenhower urged Americans never to confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion. Lyndon Johnson acknowledged enduring criticism — even satire — is part of the price of leadership in a free nation. Ronald Reagan reminded us freedom includes the right to question and change the established way of doing things.

When we speak up — at city council, the school board or during coffee with neighbors — we honor that tradition. In small towns like ours, voices still matter.

As Roosevelt also said, "Patriotism means standing by the country" not by any single leader.

Let's never forget that distinction — and let's speak clearly when our conscience calls.

Payton Fletcher
Granbury



Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Wayne Baker, Jr!

Wayne Baker moved here as a child with his family when he was 5 years old. While in the U.S. Navy from 2004-2012, he lived mainly in Virginia. He then moved back to Granbury in 2012.

He shared, "I moved back to Granbury in December 2012 and have lived here since then. My family loves it here, and we have no plans to leave." Baker was a paralegal in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps.

He left the military after eight years because he wanted to be back home near his family and watch his kids grow up there. "I have a large family in and around Granbury. My wife, Sarah, and I have three kids who have attended Granbury Schools. We love Granbury ISD and the opportunities the schools offer for our children."

The Baker family are self-proclaimed nerds who enjoy science, everything sci-fi and fantasy, including movies, shows and games. Baker said, "We love bonding from stories that inspire curiosity and imagination."

Even as it grows, Baker loves the small-town feel Granbury still maintains and the sense of community. "I've been involved in several community organizations throughout the years, and I love that people are willing to give back to the community."

Baker's hobbies include woodworking, art and outdoor activities, but he is very limited in participating in hobbies right now. "I'm a third-year law student, attending St. Mary's University School of Law's online juris doctorate program, which was the first online program in the nation to be approved by the American Bar Association. I am also a full-time paralegal at the Hyde Law Firm. Between work, family and law school, there is little time for anything else, including sleep."

Baker graduates in December 2026 and will take the February 2027 bar exam. "It has been a long road that has taken a lot of sacrifices by both me and my family, but it will pay off soon. I plan to stay in Granbury and practice law at the Hyde Law Firm after I'm licensed."

Baker loves the HCN still is in full swing and that the rich history of HCN is being maintained. "I remember running out to get the paper as a kid. My mom still has newspaper clippings from my childhood when I was featured for sports, debate, mock trial, etc."

He went on to say, "Local news covering local issues, people, and events is very important to the community."

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OBITUARIES

James Wilton Green
1935 – 2025

Wilton Green, passed peacefully Nov. 28, 2025. He was 89. Born to James Herschel and Annie Irene Green in Floyd County, Texas, Dec. 15, 1935, Wilton was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and lifelong partner to his beloved wife, Betty Green.

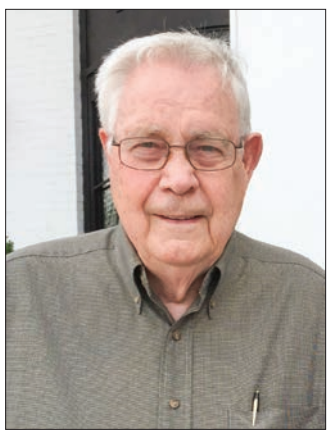
Wilton and Betty shared a remarkable life together. They were married for 67 years before the passing of Betty March 3, 2024. Their story began when they met in the eighth grade and graduated together from Floydada High School. Married in May 1956 at the First Baptist Church of Floydada, they began a marriage marked by faith, commitment and love.

After graduating from Texas Tech University, Wilton's career led the couple to live in several communities across the country, including locations in Texas, Kansas, Idaho, Washington and Nebraska. In time, they moved to Pecan Plantation in Granbury, Texas, where they enjoyed their retirement together.

Wilton was a proud father to three children:

Mark (Susan) Green, Dee Ann (Tom) Yount, and Cheryl (Mike) Johnson along with seven grandchildren. He is survived by his twin sister, Marceleta Box, and his sister-in-law Barbara Green, and was preceded in death by his younger brother Robert Green.

Wilton will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his commitment to education and hard work, and the lasting example he set alongside the love of his life.



A graveside service will be held at 1p.m. Jan. 17, 2026, at Ovilla United Methodist Church Cemetery in Red Oak, Texas. (Lone Star Cremation, Burleson, Texas)

Marolyn Cleere Pollard
1934 – 2026

Marolyn Cleere Pollard, 91, passed away on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in Cleburne, Texas.

Marolyn was born Aug. 28, 1934, in Alvarado, Texas, to William Parmer Cleere and Alta Frances Nunn. She married Richard Dean Pollard Dec. 20, 1953, in Alvarado. Marolyn worked for many years as an attendance clerk for Everman ISD. At work and at home, she was funny, witty, kind, and full of life. She could often be seen and heard at her grandkids' sporting (and sometimes even theatre) events, cheering louder than anyone there. When she wasn't supporting her grandkids in person, her time was still spent on them: writing letters, mailing coupons, and leaving voicemails full of songs, riddles, jokes, crazy stories, and love. She was a very special lady to everyone who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Harris Cleere; husband, Richard Pollard; and daughter, Mary Jane Bowden.

Marolyn is survived by her sister, Carolyn Sledge; sister-in-law, Imogene Bourgeois; daughter, Libby Davis and husband Lan; son-in-law, Bobby Bowden and wife Tammye; two granddaughters, Caitlan Leblo and her husband Josh, and Baylee Davis and her wife Brooke Yrigoyen; two grandsons, Bo Bowden and his wife Caitlin, and Coleman Bowden; and great-grandchildren, Aria and Elijah Leblo, and Charlie Bautista.

A visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.



Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at Granbury First United Methodist Church.

Flowers may be sent to Wiley Funeral Home, or memorial donations can be made in memory of Marolyn to the Susan G. Komen Foundation at komen.org/donate.

Mickey Lynn White
1956 – 2025

Mickey Lynn White, 69, of Granbury, Texas, passed away Dec. 30, 2025, surrounded by family. He was known for his strong work ethic, loyalty and devotion to his family and community.

Born Dec. 28, 1956, in Waco, Texas, to Thomas J. and Billie White, Mickey was a graduate of Granbury High School. He shared 38 years of marriage with his wife, Joan White, and together they raised three children.

Mickey spent 43 years in grocery store management and was the owner of Lakeside Country Market in Granbury. He was a Mason and a member of Granbury Masonic Lodge #392, and volunteered with many local organizations.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan White, and brothers Tom White and Rickey White. He is survived by his children Anthony White (Leah), Amanda Smothers (Adonis), and Jerad White; sister Billie Mace (Joe); grandchildren Austin White, Nicole Petschel, and Sarayah Smothers; and his companion, Helen Hensel.

A memorial service was held Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury. In lieu of flowers, a memorial account has been established at First National Bank of Granbury.



A future scholarship will be awarded to a deserving Granbury High School BBQ Team student in honor of Mickey's love for smoking barbecue.

Barbara Ann Speer Haberthur
1934 – 2025

Barbara Ann Speer Haberthur, "Mamaw," 91, cherished wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully Thursday evening, Dec. 18, 2025, in Granbury, Texas.

Barbara Ann was born June 28, 1934, in Dallas, Texas, to the late Leo and Anna Ruth Speer. Early on, she helped manage and operate her family-owned grocery store in Dickens. Always a competitive equestrian, Barbara won a rodeo scholarship to attend Hardin-Simmons University. As a bank teller in Lubbock, she met Charles. On August 23, 1959, she married the "love of her life," Charles Haberthur. This is when Barbara believed "her life began."

Barbara and her husband, Charles, moved often. A devoted homemaker, she made every place they moved to feel like home. She also loved working as a kindergarten teacher. Barbara had many interests, including baking, reading, puzzles, and playing bridge and games. She shared all of these passions with her grandkids. Barbara served as president of the Woman's Club of Pecan Plantation and was active in her community. Additionally, she was a long-time member of Acton Methodist Church, where she served faithfully. Most of all, Barbara will be remembered as being a loving wife, mother, and the ultimate "Mamaw" to her beloved family.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 66 years, Charles Haberthur; her children, daughter Patricia Sabandal (Bryant) and son Chuck Haberthur (Dawn); grandchildren: Anna, Rachel, Sara, Allison, and Brandon; great-grandchildren: Anthony, Adon, Ariella, Amos, Tommy, Elliott and Lona; and by her special aunt, Doris White.



Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and beloved grandparents.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at the Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, 400 Highway 377 East in Granbury. Family and friends will gather for a reception at Aviva Senior Living, 2300 Paluxy Highway at noon in the Great Room. Burial will be private.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at or in personAdvance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary. Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary. The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Take control: Why budgeting doesn't have to feel restrictive

TAYLOR MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Taylor Mobly

Let's be honest: The word "budget" doesn't exactly spark joy for most people. It can feel restrictive or even generate feelings of guilt about past spending choices. But what if budgeting could feel empowering? When done right, it's simply about understanding your money and making sure it aligns with what truly matters to you.

Who needs a budget? While nearly everyone can benefit from budgeting, it's especially helpful if you're just starting out on your own, if your expenses exceed your income or if you're working toward a big goal like buying a home or retiring. Major life changes — marriage, a new baby, a job change or even retirement itself — are also perfect times to take a fresh look at your finances.

If your spending causes you stress or you simply want clarity about where your money goes each month, budgeting can help. Here are a few tips to help get you started:

Dispense with the dread. Often, the hardest part of budgeting is just getting started. Try breaking it down into small, manageable steps, and dedicate 30 minutes a week to tracking your income and expenses. Pair budgeting with something enjoyable — a favorite coffee or a relaxing activity — to make it less of a chore.

If you have no idea how much you spend, start by simply observing your buying habits for a few months. Review your checking and credit card accounts to see money coming in and going out. You can't change the past but you can adjust for your future.

Find your level of detail. There's no one-size-fits-all approach to budgeting. You might start by tracking just total income and expenses or by using the popular 50/30/20 rule: 50 percent for necessities, 30 percent for wants and 20 percent for savings and debt reduction. Some people prefer to build detailed categories for everything from groceries to entertainment, while others keep broader categories that work better for their lifestyles.

Technology can be your friend here. Budget apps and AI-enabled spreadsheets can pull information directly from your bank and credit card statements, making the process much easier.

Make it work for you. Once you've tracked your spending, look for areas to adjust. Can you swap brand-name items for generics? Are there subscriptions you're not using? Sometimes the biggest impact comes from examining your largest expenses — housing, utilities, transportation, insurance — to find opportunities to save.

If you can't make room in your budget, you may need to revisit and reprioritize your financial goals. A financial advisor can help you understand your options and any trade-offs.

Stay on track. Check in with your budget monthly, quarterly or annually — whatever works for you. When life changes, your budget should too. Salary increases, bonuses, new expenses or significant life events are all good reasons to review and adjust.

Above all, the goal of a budget isn't perfection. It's progress toward financial confidence and peace of mind. A good budget shouldn't limit you — it should free you to spend guilt-free on what matters while saving intentionally for your future.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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SL-AT1223105838

Opera house gas light replacement approved

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Jeff@hcnews.com

A long search to upgrade gas lights outside the Granbury Opera House finally was an enlightening experience, and plans were approved for replacing six existing gas light sconces with new fixtures.

The proposal was approved Dec. 11 by the Granbury Historic Preservation Commission. The request was submitted by the city of Granbury, in contrast to many of the items the commission decides, which are requested by individuals or businesses.

The opera house, at 133 E. Pearl St., is one of the most popular venues on Granbury's historic square.

"The Granbury Opera House has been recognized as a state historic property since 1977," said Angela Durant, a planner for the city. "There was an attempt to locate gas fixtures with external valves for safety, and the current four-sided fixtures will be replaced by six-sided ones. These were some of the only ones we could find."

Durant said because the Texas Historical Commission recognizes the opera house as a landmark, state review is required, and the gas light fixture replacement project has been submitted to the state for approval.

"I appreciate the city's hard work in finding those," said Carol Walton, a member of the Granbury commission.

Micky Shearon, president of the Granbury Theatre Company board of directors, said while his organization is involved in the productions inside the opera house, the city takes the lead on anything involving the building itself.

"I know they've been looking at replacing them," he said. "They've never really worked. Only a few times (in recent years) have they ever been lit. People would walk by and tell us they could smell a strong odor of natural gas. There's always been some sort of issue with the lights."

He said the Opera Guild of Granbury was funding the replacement of the lights.

The city is awaiting state approval before the new lights can be installed. The city will not purchase the new lights until the project is approved by the Texas Historical Commission. A city representative said the cost of the lights will not be determined until the project is approved.

A timeline for the installation of the lights will also not be available until state approval is received.

In other action, the commission:

- Approved a request by DT Roofing on behalf of Donelle Slentz to replace a roof at 414 W. Doyle St.
- Approved a request by DT Roofing on behalf of Kevin and Colleen Johnson to replace a roof at 121 W. Bluff St. Other outside repairs also were approved. Durant said the house is on the state historic registery, and that proposed repairs were already approved at the state level, including replacement of damaged wood, window panes and work on the chimney.
- Approved a request by Susan Sledge to place a freestanding sandwich board sign and wall sign at a business at 137 E. Pearl St. The colors of the sign will be black, white and gold.



JOSH BURTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Old gas lights currently located outside the Granbury Opera House may be replaced.

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, January 9th - Thursday, January 15th

28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R)
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM

Anaconda (PG13)
Friday: 4:35PM, 7:05PM, 10:40PM
Saturday: 12:45PM, 3:10PM, 5:35PM, 8:00PM, 10:25PM
Sunday: 12:35PM, 3:05PM, 5:35PM, 8:05PM
Monday - Wednesday: 5:15PM, 7:45PM
Thursday: 4:50PM, 7:20PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG13)
Friday: 3:30PM, 8:50PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 2:05PM, 6:10PM
Sunday: 11:20AM, 3:25PM, 7:30PM
Monday - Thursday: 2:00PM, 6:05PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash in 3D (PG13)
Friday: 7:00PM
Saturday: 8:50PM
Sunday: 6:00PM
Monday - Wednesday: 7:00PM
Thursday: 7:30PM

David (PG)
Friday: 1:30PM, 4:10PM
Saturday: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 5:30PM
Sunday: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 3:20PM
Monday - Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:45PM

Primate (R)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 6:50PM, 9:15PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM, 10:30PM
Sunday: 10:35PM, 1:05PM, 3:35PM, 6:00PM, 8:25PM
Monday - Wednesday: 2:05PM, 4:35PM, 7:30PM
Thursday: 2:25PM, 4:50PM, 7:15PM

Song Sung Blue (PG13)
Friday: 1:40PM, 4:40PM, 7:40PM, 9:35PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM
Sunday: 10:10AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM
Monday - Wednesday: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM

The Housemaid (R)
Friday: 1:40PM, 4:40PM, 7:40PM, 10:40PM
Saturday: 10:20AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM, 10:20PM
Sunday: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM
Monday - Wednesday: 2:15PM, 4:35PM, 8:00PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM

Zootopia 2 (PG)
Friday: 2:00PM
Saturday: 10:10AM
Sunday: 10:00AM
Monday - Wednesday: 2:00PM
Thursday: 2:15PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

Mystery meets madness

GTC unleashes 'Baskerville' at the Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON
micky@hcnews.com

If someone thinks they know Sherlock Holmes, think again.

This winter, Granbury Theatre Company invites audiences to experience the world's most famous detective in a way they may never have seen before with "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery," running Jan. 23 through Feb. 8, at the historic Granbury Opera House.

Inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," this fast-paced stage adaptation blends classic mystery, sharp comedy and dazzling theatrical creativity into a high-energy evening that is equal parts suspenseful and laugh-out-loud funny.

The story begins when Sherlock Holmes and his loyal companion, Dr. John Watson, are drawn into a chilling case involving the legendary Baskerville family. According to local lore, a monstrous supernatural hound stalks the fog-shrouded moors of England, cursing the Baskerville bloodline. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead due to mysterious circumstances, his heir, Sir Henry Baskerville, becomes the next possible victim.

Is the curse real — or is something far more human at work?

Holmes sends Watson ahead to the eerie Baskerville estate, where strange characters, hidden motives and unsettling clues abound. As Watson investigates on the ground, Holmes works from the shadows, assembling the puzzle with his trademark brilliance. What follows is a whirlwind of deduction, deception and discovery — served with a generous dose of theatrical mischief.

Director Jonah Hardt said the production embraces everything audiences love about Sherlock Holmes while gleefully turning expectations on their head.

"When most people hear the name Sherlock Holmes, they think of foggy London streets, pipe smoke curling through the air and a brilliant mind solving impossible crimes," Hardt wrote in his director's note. "Baskerville embraces all of that — but it also reminds us that great mystery stories can be thrilling, hilarious and wildly theatrical all at once."

That theatricality is at the heart of this production. Rather than relying on a large cast, Baskerville is performed by a small ensemble that rapidly transforms into dozens of characters using lightning-fast costume changes, physical comedy and inventive staging. The result is a constantly surprising, delightfully chaotic experience that keeps audiences leaning forward in their seats.

"One of the great joys of directing this play is its imagination," Hardt said. "With a small cast playing a dizzying array of characters, the storytelling happens in front of your eyes — sometimes at lightning speed. Actors transform in seconds, scenes shift with playful ingenuity, and the audience is invited to lean in and join the ride."

Leading the investigation is Jonathan Cook as Sherlock Holmes, bringing sharp wit and cool confidence to the legendary detective, alongside Jeff Meador as Dr. Watson, whose grounded humanity and humor provide the perfect counterbalance. Together, the duo anchors the production while the ensemble spins wildly around them.

Freddy Martinez Jr., Jacob Myers and Reagan Deming take on the show's most impressive challenge — portraying dozens of roles each, often switching characters in the blink of an eye. From sinister villains to unsuspecting villagers, eccentric aristocrats to baffled bystanders, their rapid-fire transformations are a central source of both comedy and amazement.

While the laughs come fast and furious, Hardt said the mystery itself is never sacrificed.

"While 'Baskerville' delivers plenty of laughs, it never loses sight of the suspense and intrigue that make Sherlock Holmes endure," he wrote. "Beneath the comedy is a sharp mystery, filled with twists, secrets and the thrill of discovery. It's a reminder that clever storytelling doesn't have to be dark to be smart — and that laughter and mystery make excellent companions."

Behind the scenes, an experienced creative team brings the moors, mansions and madness of Baskerville to life. The production features scenic design by Reagan Deming, costumes by Mia Vantine, hair and makeup by Colton Lively, lighting by David Broberg, sound design by James Stack and properties by Alvaro Aguilar. Together, they create a visual and auditory playground that supports the show's rapid shifts in tone and setting.

At its core, "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is a celebration of live theatre itself — its ability to surprise, to transform and to bring people together for a shared experience.

"We hope this production invites you to escape into the moors, enjoy the absurd and the suspenseful, and celebrate the sheer delight of storytelling shared in a room full of people," Hardt wrote. "Thank you for being part of that experience with us tonight."

Whether you're a lifelong Sherlock Holmes fan or simply looking for an entertaining night out filled with laughter, intrigue and theatrical wizardry, "Baskerville" promises an unforgettable ride.

Tickets are on sale now at www.granburytheatrecompany.org, or by calling the Granbury Opera House box office at 817-579-0952. Performances run Jan. 23 through Feb. 8.

The game is afoot — don't miss it.

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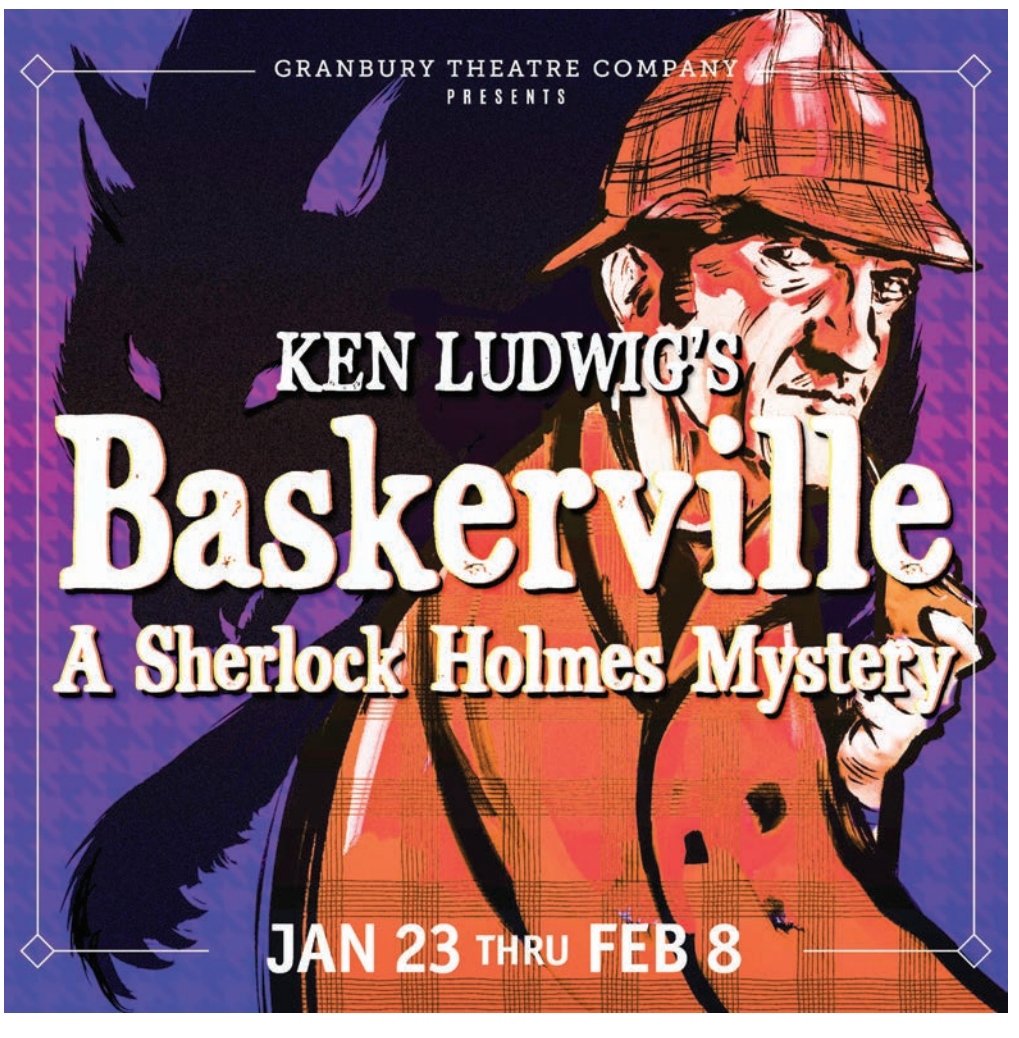


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Take a swing at Finnigan's:

PINS' expansion to house batting cages, golf simulators

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Granbury's longstanding bowling alley, PINS, is getting a new addition — Finnigan's.

Finnigan's will be a 9,974 square-foot addition that will deviate from Pins bowling reputation, introducing four indoor batting cages and two indoor golf simulators to the building's activity line-up.

The two establishments will be connected by a door, so Finnigan's patrons still will be able to access the PINS bar, restaurant and other amenities, PINS owner Penny Jensen-Snyder said.

Two of the four new batting cages will feature baseball pitching, one will have softball pitching, and one will be open for groundwork such as pitching practice or catching.

Snyder said her hope in opening these batting cages is that it will give the local youth a place to work on their swing and hone their baseball skills.

"I really want to try to have them (the batting cages) mostly used for the youth in Granbury — for training and helping them out with their skills and teaching them the right way to throw and hit so they don't hurt their bodies and are able to grow with the sport," Snyder said.

However, her vision for the golf simulators differs.

Both are located in their own private rooms; Snyder is envisioning the simulators as a place for adults to gather and play.

"You can rent each whole room out with a group of four to six people and play rounds in there — do the golfing and have people sit and watch and eat, drink, whatever they want to do," Snyder said. "It's going to be more of like a 'come and hang out,' party-ish place, where I'm sure it's going to be mostly adults."

Finnigan's is named after Snyder's grandson, Finn — but that's not the only impact the 11-year-old has had on the expansion. In fact, the idea for Finnigan's was born at one of Finn's baseball games.

"This really kind of all started when (Finn) was playing on one of his little league teams," Snyder said. "Somebody was joking and said, 'Hey, why don't you build batting cages for us,' and it just kind of went from there."

Snyder and the rest of the Finnigan's team currently are putting the finishing touches on the expansion and believe it should be ready to receive visitors in February.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

PINS' new expansion, Finnigan's, is set to open at the beginning of February and will feature four batting cages and two indoor golf simulators. Visit PINS and Finnigan's at 2210 E. Highway 377.

LakeView Landing on pace for 2026 debut

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Granbury soon will be able to dive into new dining, shopping and living options with the development at LakeView Landing, located south of U.S. Highway 377 adjacent to Lake Granbury.

Construction on the project, which is being developed under the direction of Realty Capital, had been planned since 2019 and is expected to be fully developed within the next two years. Infrastructure work began in early 2025, and lots will be available by mid-2026.

Access to LakeView Landing will be via Overstreet Boulevard.

The development will cover 47 acres, and the anchor tenant is SpringHill Suites by Marriott, which will be located along the lakeshore. The hotel is expected to have 120 rooms.

LakeView Landing will feature 16,000 square feet of retail and commercial space and 8,000 square feet of restaurant space.

In addition to shopping, dining and hotel lodging, there are 115 single-family home lots planned, with 36 of these being on the waterfront. Each of those two dozen lots will have the opportunity to include a private dock. Prices for the waterfront lots start at $450,000, with the other 81 lots starting at $100,000. An additional 300 multi-family homes also are planned.

Amenities will include a lakefront park, pickleball courts, a putting green and walking trails.

Multiple messages were left for a Capital Realty spokesperson, seeking more information on what businesses might be locating at the development and how many lots have been sold so far. A return call was not received by press time.

Children living at LakeView Landing will be able to attend Brawner Elementary, Acton Middle School and Granbury High School.

The project developer, Realty Capital, was founded by Richard Myers in 1987. It has completed or started developments in the Dallas-Fort Worth area as well as Colorado. Other Realty Capital projects include: The Highlands of Northlake, Lakeside Village in Flower Mound, the Harvest community in Argyle and Depot on Main in Burleson.

The LakeView Landing website encourages people to "immerse yourself in a community that values life's little conveniences and caters to your every need. Drive your golf cart to the park and play a round of putt-putt with friends, dine al fresco at one of the lakefront restaurants, start a game of pickleball with neighbors, or sit on the community lawn and enjoy live music with a glass of wine. Here, life slows down and life's simple moments shine."

The website for the development is lakeviewlandingtx.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

LakeView Landing will feature 16,000 square feet of retail and commercial space and 8,000 square feet of restaurant space. In addition to shopping, dining and a hotel.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

This aerial view shows construction underway at the LakeView Landing work site. Lots are expected to be available soon, ranging between $100,000 and $450,000. The development also will include restaurants, stores and recreational facilities.

Oh Baby



COURTESY PHOTO

Cason Cole Caster made a memorable entrance into the world at 12:04 a.m. Jan. 1, 2026, becoming the first New Year's baby born at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest Fort Worth. Cason weighed 8 pounds and measured 20 inches at birth, marking a truly special way to begin the new year. Proud parents Madison and Brody Caster are overjoyed as they welcome their first baby boy.

Proving it's not just "skin deep"

From Staff Reports

Shanice Gibson, a senior at Granbury High School, has been named one of the Top 300 Scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors.

This marks the first time a Granbury High School student has ever earned this distinction.

More than 2,600 high school seniors applied from 826 schools across 46 states, Washington, D.C., the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries.

Gibson is one of just 18 students from Texas selected as a Top 300 Scholar, placing her among the most accomplished young researchers in the world.

Gibson's research project focused on addressing a longstanding gap in dermatological research.

She developed an innovative skin model using gelatin, melanin analogs and affordable Raspberry Pi technology to study how skin with varying melanin concentrations retains moisture and responds to treatments such as ceramide-based moisturizers.

Her work highlights how higher melanin concentrations historically have been underrepresented in laboratory studies of skin conditions like eczema.

By utilizing accessible materials and consumer-grade electronics, Gibson demonstrated meaningful biomedical research can be conducted without prohibitively expensive equipment — an approach that underscores both scientific rigor and equity in research opportunities.

The top 40 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search will be announced Jan. 21. Those selected will be invited toTWashington, D.C., to present their research and compete for the competition's $250,000 top prize.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search is sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and organized by Society for Science.



COURTESY PHOTO

Shanice Gibson, a senior at Granbury High School, is one of the Top 300 Scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Hood County Livestock show



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Day three of the 71st Hood County Junior Livestock Show began with a hearty 4-H Pancake Breakfast and Raffle, followed by the Sheep and Goat Shows. Riylah Clark (left) and Saylah Sullivan were quite happy with their delicious breakfast.



Lake Granbury 4-Hers (from left) Charlie Kuhn and Remi Seymour take a tiny break to catch up with fellow volunteers Kodee Miller and her sister Kadee Miller, both Tolar 4-H club members.



Longtime Hood County Livestock Raisers Association vice president and longtime Hood County 4-H supporter John Liles thoroughly enjoyed his breakfast.



Granbury Lions Club members (from left) Daren Hardin, Rex Mann and Glen Jennings haul the club's legendary pancake cooking apparatus to their storage facility located on the Reunion Grounds property.



Contestants anxiously wait for the judge's decision as the Market Lamb Show comes to a close.



Enter the Clover Kids! Judge Kyle Ramsey of Floresville gave each Clover Kid his full attention and offered expert advice. The 4-H Clover Kids program is an introductory program for kindergarten through second grade Students (around ages 5–8).



The Hood County Junior Livestock Sheep Show took place Tuesday, January 7, at the Reunion grounds inside the Courts Cleveland Show Barn. Grand Champion honors went to Ethan Erwin, representing Lake Granbury 4-H, and Reserve Champion honors went to Brett Boyce with Lipan FFA.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department criminal activity report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department during Dec. 28 through Jan. 3. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

Dec. 28

12:38 a.m.: report of a reckless driver near Fall Creek Highway and E. U.S. Highway 377.

3:19 a.m.: report of public intoxication in the 300 block of Paddle Boat Drive.

8:35 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 3900 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:59 a.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

11:25 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1800 block of Acton Highway.

police reported 61 incidents, including one minor traffic accident and 15 traffic stops.

Dec. 29

2:33 a.m.: report of possession of controlled substance in the 9400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

11:25 a.m.: report of fraud in the 100 block of E. Pearl Street.

12:51 p.m.: report of disorderly conduct in the 1700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

3:03 p.m.: report of a residential alarm in the 2600 block of Waters Edge Drive.

5:23 p.m.: report of robbery in the 1000 block of S. Morgan Street.

10:08 p.m.: report of property damage in the 300 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 74 incidents, including two minor traffic accidents and 13 traffic stops.

Dec. 30

1:01 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 500 block of N. Brazos Street.

2:29 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1600 block of Lakecrest Circle.

11:04 a.m.: report of an animal in the 2100 block of Weatherford Highway.

11:10 a.m.: report of an animal in the 3500 block of Abes Landing Drive.

7:09 p.m.: report of theft between $750-$2,500 in the 1300 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 75 incidents, including one major traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 10 traffic stops.

Dec. 31

9:03 a.m.: report of a fight in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:53 a.m.: report of an animal near Sheila Drive and Old Granbury Road.

2:32 p.m.: report of an animal in the 400 block of W. Bridge Street.

4:32 p.m.: report of road rage in the 4600 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:42 p.m.: report of shots fired in the 100 block of S. Lancaster Street.

8:55 p.m.: report of fireworks in the 1500 block of 2nd Street.

9:44 p.m.: report of property damage in the 2000 block of Loop 567.

10:16 p.m.: report of fireworks in the 1400 block of Walters Drive.

police reported 99 incidents, including two major traffic accidents, one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 29 traffic stops.

Jan. 1

1:02 a.m.: report of a DWI near E. Pearl Street and Crawford Avenue.

1:53 a.m.: report of loud music in the 3000 block of Cedarhill Street.

2:28 a.m.: report of loud music in the 600 block of S. Harbor Court.

3:12 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 900 block of Paluxy Road.

5:42 a.m.: report of the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the 900 block of Paluxy Road.

8:12 a.m.: report of loud music in the 700 block of N. Keith Street.

9:01 a.m.: K-9 sniff in the 900 block of Paluxy Road.

9:04 a.m.: K-9 sniff in the 900 block of Paluxy Road.

10:22 a.m.: report of an animal bite in the 100 block of Melynn Court.

11:30 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 800 block of Calinco Drive.

12:10 p.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of W. Pearl Street.

12:37 p.m.: report of criminal mischief in the 1100 block of Gifford Street.

4 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 700 block of Spring Street.

6:15 p.m.: report of fireworks in the 1500 block of 2nd Street.

police reported 84 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one hit and run traffic accident and 35 traffic stops.

Jan. 2

4:23 a.m.: report of a prowler in the 200 block of N. Jones Street.

7:40 a.m.: K-9 sniff in the 2600 block of W. U.S. Highway 377.

8:25 a.m.: report of an assault in the 1000 block of Quiet Cove.

9:42 a.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 1000 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

2:36 p.m.: report of a parking problem in the 200 block of N. Crockett Street.

6:40 p.m.: report of an assault in the 3700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

6:50 p.m.: report of an animal bite in the 1500 block of Harbor Lakes Drive.

police reported 90 incidents, including four minor traffic accidents and 41 traffic stops.

Jan. 3

12:13 p.m.: report of road rage in the 900 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

1:44 p.m.: report of road rage in the 300 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

6:31 p.m.: report of an assault in the 200 block of Parkwood Lane.

6:44 p.m.: report of threats in the 400 block of W. Mill Street.

police reported 73 incidents, including one major traffic accident and 20 traffic stops.

Commissioners discuss finer details of construction plans

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Jeff@hcnews.com

Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court took the time during a special workshop Jan. 6 to fine-tune some details related to a construction contract with architect DRG for the construction of the newly approved Hood County Jail expansion.

Two community members spoke at the start of the meeting, Herman Bezuidenhout and Mark Lowery.

Bezuidenhout said he looked at the architect's contract and had some concerns.

"There are a lot of choices and options to be made, which are very unclear," he said, suggesting the contract be more streamlined. He said the contract needed oversight by an expert "to make sure costs do not get out of control."

Mark Lowery said he believes the costs associated with the contract could and should be reduced.

"In the last commissioners court meeting, Commissioner (Nannette) Samuelson identified a 10-percent markup and had the company willing to forego that 10 percent," Lowery said. "Unfortunately, Judge (Ron) Massingill made a motion, and it is still in the contract.

"It's not the commissioners' money; it's the taxpayers' money. Clients of mine would not accept a 10-percent markup fee. To save the taxpayers money, I strongly suggest you get back to Ms. Samuelson's position and not just pay (the extra money) because you have it," Lowery said.

Samuelson, who represents Precinct 2, said she and Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews requested the workshop so the county and a DRG representative "could review and discuss" details of the contract in a public forum.

Wayne Gondeck, president and principal architect at DRG in San Antonio, said he appreciated the opportunity.

"I am a little bit humbled the entire commissioners court is willing to show up for this workshop and realize how important this is," Gondeck said.

He said the Commissioners Court is identified as the owner entity in the contract and "holds authority over it." Gondeck said his job is to "make sure you get everything you contract for — meeting deadlines, fulfilling the contract, getting input from the sheriff's office — making sure we get approval at each stage of the contract."

He said there will be multiple consultants and subcontractors involved, ranging from electrical, plumbing and concrete experts to a structural engineer, geotechnical engineer to address soil concerns, a site surveyor, someone who will conduct an asbestos report and a civil engineer.

Gondeck said the structural engineer will file reports and calculate the most effective way to do things.

"It's a continuum of activities the architect has to do from early designs and coordinate mechanical and structural work," he said.

Massingill said he gave each of the commissioners information about a firm which offers construction consulting services. He said if approved, JMT would serve as "the owner's agent on dealing with the architect and consultants. They would look and make sure everything is on schedule and if there's any areas where we can save."

Massingill asked Gondeck if DRG has worked with JMT on projects.

"Yes," Gondeck said. "One project most recent was in Medina County, where we worked with them. We have been working with a lot of different entities on projects because of grants and various requirements."

Samuelson said she believes it is important to have a contract manager oversee the project and said Commissioners Court had included that in their construction cost estimates.

She said it was important "to have someone on site daily, taking pictures, monitoring and making sure there are no defects."

Gondeck said DRG already has done some of the preliminary work for the Hood County Jail.

"We're not starting from scratch," he said. "We have looked at how the sheriff's department does things, and we're looking at jail standards so we can move forward very rapidly."

Samuelson said the contract presented by DRG was for $21.5 million when the Commissioners Court had budgeted for about a million dollars less.

"I am looking at the difference in those numbers," she said.

"We were asked to look at what we could do for $20 million," Gondeck said. "With the addition of the road program and jail bond program and escalating costs — we were very close and tight without having to chop off (jail features) at the end."

Samuelson said there are still other things Commissioners Court will need to consider in the cost, including supplies and information technology, "that aren't part of the project manager's costs. We need to look at things very carefully. We don't have a detailed estimate (on some contract items) at this point."

She said some of the items in the contract "are so vague now." She asked if the county could receive more detailed cost estimates earlier.

"It's not customary," Gondeck said. "I'm a little taken aback. What are you looking to do? There are some things (that are uncertain)."

He said with construction costs, some things will be "going up and some things will go down to stay within the budget. It's all a part of the process. We look at the availability of equipment and change our ideas and concepts from project to project based on availability or current codes."

Samuelson said she was "not trying to change the details after the design was complete. You'd have a better idea of what construction will involve after the jail commission approves the schematic design."

Samuelson also requested a more precise timeline of the construction process.

"These dates are very vague," she said. "Shouldn't we have a more solid idea of when things are going to happen? Some things are too general. Shouldn't we have a better idea of the substantial completion date?"

Gondeck said the substantial completion date "does not have a legal definition. It is used for the benefit of the county."

Andrews said he found a definition of the substantial completion date online.

"It looks like it means we are able to use it for its intended use with some modifications continuing," he said.

Preliminary work was listed with a June/July date, with construction commencement listed as September/October 2026, substantial completion estimated at March/April 2028 and other milestones listed as "to be determined."

Samuelson asked, "Do you have any concerns about making the schedule a little more detailed?"

"No ma'am," Gondeck said.

"I think those high-level things need to be more exact," Samuelson said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said, looking at the $21.5 million contract, it specifies "any time the architect's cost exceeds budget, the architect will make recommendations to the owner. The owner shall get written approval and can modify costs, get a rebid or terminate (the agreement) with the contractor.

"Doesn't that cover anything that might come up? I'm trying to simplify this," Eagle said.

Gondeck said he has to closely follow state regulations on all county projects, with a detailed 10-page checklist and requirements to meet at each stage of construction.

"We can be fined $10,000 if we don't meet all statutes of the state of Texas," Gondeck said. "That's real money to me. I don't get that back. I have to follow certain rules. I also have to perform, or you don't pay me, or you can terminate for cause or convenience."

The commissioners court will further discuss the contract at their next meeting Jan. 13.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Wayne Gondeck, president and principal architect at DRG Architects LLC, of San Antonio, talks to the Hood County Commissioners Court during a Jan. 6 workshop about the county's jail expansion contract with DRG.

Fraudulent emails appear as if from the city of Granbury

From Staff Reports

The city of Granbury recently has been made aware of scam emails circulating that falsely claim to be from the city.

These messages may request payment, include invoices, or ask you to reply for wire instructions.

Some things to know

The city will never request payment via wire transfer or unsolicited email attachments

Official city of Granbury emails only come from addresses ending in @granbury.org

Emails from look-alike addresses, such as "@usa.com" or similar, are not from the city

If anyone receives a suspicious email

Do not click links or open attachments

Do not send payment or personal information

If something doesn't look right, trust instincts and check with city staff first.

North Hood County VFD announces auxiliary program

From Staff Reports

The North Hood County Volunteer Fire Department (NHCVFD) recently has announced the formation of the North Hood County Fire Auxiliary, a dedicated group of community members committed to supporting the department through fundraising, outreach and volunteer service.

According to the department, the auxiliary exists to strengthen the bond between the NHCVFD and the people they serve.

The auxiliary now is looking for donations and volunteers to help support them in their cause.

To donate, please consider one of the following avenues:

- Online — hccvfd.org/donate
- PayPal — paypal.me/NHCVFD
- Venmo — @NHCVDF20

To serve beyond a financial capacity, consider becoming a part of the NHCVFD family. Join the department's other 36 members by attending one of its Thursday night meetings, held from 7-9 p.m. at 3108 Sky Harbor Drive.

For any questions regarding the NHCVFD, call 817-579-1156 or email office@nhcvfd.org.

DECEMBER FOOD & RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

The following local restaurants were inspected in December, and received scores based on those visits by a qualified inspector:

- Dec. 1: Wingstop, 98
- Dec. 1: Acton Donuts, 92
- Dec. 2: Lupita's Taqueria, 96
- Dec. 2: Starbuck's, 3907 Highway 377, 96
- Dec. 2: Starbuck's, 413 Highway 377, 100
- Dec. 3: Blue Stone Brew, 100
- Dec. 3: Cari's Restaurant, 95
- Dec. 4: Papa John's, 99
- Dec. 4: Quickway, 98
- Dec. 8: Donut Plus, 100
- Dec. 8: Cinergy, 95
- Dec. 9: Los Nares 90
- Dec. 10: Mama's Pizza, 96
- Dec. 11: Farina's, 100
- Dec. 11: Pho Plus, 86
- Dec. 11: Freddy's, 99
- Dec. 11: Whataburger, 95
- Dec. 12: El Chico, 97
- Dec. 12: Tropical Smoothie, 100
- Dec. 15: Firehouse Subs, 100
- Dec. 16: Rancher's Fed Beef, 100
- Dec. 17: Einstein Bagel's, 94
- Dec. 18: The Point @ Waterview, 100
- Dec. 18: The Cove @ Waterview, 97
- Dec. 22: Mesquite Pit, 89
- Dec. 23: Wings Etc., 85
- Dec. 26: Hilton Grill, 99
- Dec. 29: Palio's, 90
- Dec. 29: Granbury Villa, 97
- Dec. 30: Granbury Pancake House, 100
- Dec. 30: Harbor Lakes Nursing, 97

CITY
FROM PAGE A1

volved in extensive engineering with the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers and looking at putting in a multi-use development with restaurants and businesses, a new public park, a couple of pickleball courts and a venue that will be bigger than a pavilion where people can gather.

"They have planned 300 luxury apartments and (115) luxury homes, some on the lakefront. It's about a $250 million development," Coffman said.

He said all the recent development is a "direct consequence" of the lifting of the moratorium, which was made possible by the construction of the city's new wastewater treatment facility.

One thing people sometimes believe is the city is paying for all the roads and utility connections associated with the new development. Coffman said that is not the case.

"There's a misconception that the city is having to pay for all this infrastructure," he said. "We have a pre-development meeting. They're (the developers are) required to put in water, sewer and streets. The state requires that. Drainage is a big part of that. They go on the city's ledger. When they (developers) put in $100 million (of infrastructure) it goes on our balance sheet."

Houston pointed out the city will benefit from significant revenue generation because of the new development, including ad valorem taxes and sales taxes.

Another concern people have is the new developments will bring more traffic to the city, and that is an issue that already is being addressed.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The above parcel of land, located next to the KIA dealership along East U.S. Hwy. 377, recently has been cleared and soon will be home to Granbury's newest businesses; Hobby Lobby and Academy Sports and Outdoors.

"We require a traffic analysis," Coffman said. "We know scientifically what the impact will be on (U.S. Highway) 377, and it is part of the impetus of Highway 377 development coinciding with the (Texas Department of Transportation) project."

At LakeView Landing, a luxury hotel is planned. Coffman said the developers "have to put in the hotel. It gets built and put on the tax roll. It increases our tax roll and allows more revenue to benefit the city."

The city's "biggest expense is public safety, and we'll pay for that regardless," Coffman said, saying greater revenue enhances public safety in Granbury.

The recent surge in development will be a significant benefit to the city and also to local residents, Coffman said.

"To have a healthy environment (and avoid stagnation), we need growth and that stimulus to our economy," Coffman said. "People will spend money in the city. It can go up substantially."

While some may be frustrated with the growing pains caused by the influx of traffic, increase in visitors and new residents coming to Granbury, Coffman said the benefits far outweigh the inconveniences and urged people to be patient.

"Some people are tired of growth," he said. "I go home at 6 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. and it saves me about eight minutes on my 20-minute drive. We have to be creative. We want a controlled-type growth. There's a lot to development."

Houston asked what type of incentives the city provides to new developments and businesses wanting to locate in Granbury. Coffman said there is not a one-size-fits-all approach, and incentives may be specifically structured to the type of development and its impact on the city. There also is a pool of funds available to attract new growth and sustain or improve those businesses already here.

"We have a tax increment reinvestment zone that was created about 2017 to fund the infrastructure needed (for development)," Coffman said. "The money generated from those sites is dedicated to infrastructure improvements that offsets costs to the developer."

He said public improvement districts also are in place to enhance development.

"We didn't feel like the citizens already in Granbury should be subsidizing development," he said.

He said those who will be living at LakeView Landing, which will feature some of the premium homesites in the city, "will have another tax on top of the property tax" to help fund development, and even with that, "taxes are well below what they pay in Fort Worth. We are able to keep taxes low."

He said development agreements are in place "to help developments succeed so they're funding themselves over the long term."

Coffman pointed to the recent expansion of the Granbury Regional Airport as a good example of new businesses locating there and enhancing and improving the property.

"With that they had to put in infrastructure and extend utilities to their businesses," he said. "Half the taxes they pay go into the tax increment reinvestment account. Those records are filed at the courthouse, so developers understand where that money is going. We're partnering with people."

The amenities and environment are drawing not only new businesses to the area, but new residents.

"We have people who are wanting to be in Granbury," Coffman said. "Giving them the opportunity to do so while also maintaining the local quality of life and unique flavor of the city and goals city staff dedicate themselves to on a daily basis.

Getting back to the airport improvements, Coffman said these also offer "an opportunity for young people in school to learn the aviation business. They don't have to go to the Metroplex (Dallas-Fort Worth) or move to another state to make a living."

"As a local government, we find opportunities to stimulate growth so people can make a good living (here)," Coffman said.

GVFD
FROM PAGE A1

sional requirement to be a volunteer firefighter, and that's the case anywhere in Texas. Requirements are self-imposed."

Membership in the Granbury VFD does not require the participants to be fully certified. Those who are fully certified may respond to just about any emergency. Those who are not can help in other areas, Hohon said.

The Granbury VFD places a strong emphasis on training to handle a variety of hazards.

"It wasn't just me, several of us decided 12 or 13 years ago that we needed more training," Hohon said. "Granbury has always had a lot of training, but we wanted to do even more."

He said it typically takes six to eight months once someone joins the fire department until they are fully certified. Training helps newcomers reach their goal, and it helps veteran firefighters stay sharp and ready to handle whatever arises.

"There are also eight other fire departments in Hood County," Hohon said. "It definitely makes sense for us to train together and work together. There's so much good work being put in by all the fire departments in Hood County. It makes a big impact for everyone. We all want to protect our communities — it's the reason we're doing it."

One of the topics debated at times is whether or not the area should have emergency service districts (ESDs) to oversee emergency services, including fire departments.

"I am not opposed to ESDs, but as with anything, you have to measure whether the benefits outweigh the costs," Hohon said. "We have to make a decision and not automatically pull the trigger on a decision.

"One thing to consider — is there anything actually broken? What's wrong with the way things are being done, and what are we trying to fix?"

Hood County has a special situation when it comes to volunteer fire departments, Hohon said.

"The unique thing about our county is that we have nine volunteer fire departments in one of the smallest counties in the state," he said. "If you took the 15 strongest fire departments in the state of Texas, nine of them are in Hood County. Is that biased? Is that one-sided? Maybe. I'm a sales rep for half of Texas (related to fire safety equipment) and see what other departments have. Hood County volunteer departments are very, very strong."

Once a city gets to be a certain size, many automatically believe career fire departments are better, but Hohon noted much larger Texas communities have volunteer departments.

"Pasadena (with more than 151,000 people) and League City (with more than 115,000) both have volunteer fire departments," he said.

Hohon said the city of Granbury and the fire department have a great relationship.

"They take very good care of us," Hohon said. "They go out of their way for our safety and also to make sure we have the equipment we need."

The city of Granbury budgeted $892,100 for the Granbury VFD in 2025, and $959,179 for the department for 2026.

The Granbury VFD also receives various grants to help absorb the cost of keeping the community safe.

Hohon said it's a combination of the fire department employee and other city staffers who seek grants and apply for them.

"It's a combination," he said. "We are able to sniff out some of the grants and we also have others looking out for us. We also get help from the city on the technical side whenever we are applying for grants."

Hohon said the firefighters work hard to provide Granbury residents with the best service possible.

"Our average response time is 3 minutes and 58 seconds," he said.

While the Granbury VFD consists of volunteers, there is one full-time paid staff member.

"Ami Bush is our administrative assistant, and she is invaluable," Hohon said.

During a recent awards ceremony, Bush, who also is a volunteer firefighter, received the Officer's Award, selected by captains and chiefs. Hohon said Bush "does a tremendous amount of work for the organization behind the scenes."

(Note: This is the first in a series of articles on Hood County's nine volunteer fire departments).

COUNCIL
FROM PAGE A1

ers me that you want to annex this property, but you don't know what you want to do with it. I believe you should know what you're going to do with it before you annex it because it may not be in the best interest of the county or the city or the people who live here."

She said the property was "Always supposed to be a planned master community with homes, ranches, with a little bit of commercial property."

Brown's concerns were echoed throughout the public hearing's speakers. Several asked for transparency, some accusing the council of already knowing what is coming to the property.

The only speaker in support of the annexation was Tony Callaway.

"The score is going to be about 200-1 because I'm going to speak in favor of the annexation," Callaway said. "If it's in the county, there are very few controls and the city gains no benefits. I think what these people are not quite understanding is that we have a process that in order for a piece of property to be developed in the city."



RICHARD NELSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury resident Tony Callaway speaks to Granbury City Council Tuesday night, Jan. 6, during a public hearing about annexation of nearly 2,100 acres. He was the only speaker to voice support to the measure.

Callaway said the city has a reputation with developers, with being difficult to work with.

"This city does not just do things for the hell of it; they truly do represent you and there is a very specific process … you'll have that opportunity to speak (during the next step of the process," he said.

The city held two more public hearings on separate annexations of smaller properties of 18.08 acre and 4.168 acres. Those annexations also were approved.

Two public hears were held on zoning changes. Both were approved. One dealt with the Atwood's store already planned, and another dealt with land at 1331 Lipan Highway to be used for Single Family residential instead of Light Commercial.

More on these issues will be published in a future issue of Hood County News.

The council also approved a special-use permit for the 13th Bulls on the Beach event, which takes place each year on the city beach.

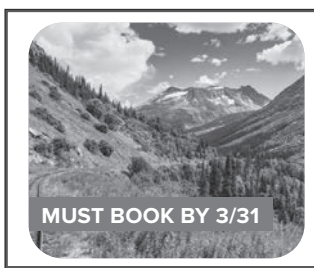


RICHARD NELSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County resident Tina Brown address Granbury City Council Tuesday night, Jan. 6, during a public hearing on annexation of nearly 2,100 acres. Despite Brown's and many others' opposition, council approved the annexation.

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Commission meets to discuss industrial development issues

Yearlong moratorium on large-scale projects proposed

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

In a huge step toward potentially revising regulations regarding large-scale industrial development, the meeting of the newly reformed Hood County Development Commission took place Dec. 30 at the county's Emergency Operations Center.

A packed room full of citizens, some who had to stand, came to listen to proposed steps to address the issues regarding industrial development and also to offer their opinions and recommendations to the commission.

The five-member board, led by chair Christine Leftwich, the Hood County clerk, also includes Tyler Scott, Matt Long, Todd Garner and Robert Carter.

Attorney Blakely Fernandez with the Bracewell law firm participated in the meeting via phone. She talked about specific powers Hood County was granted by the Texas State Legislature under Chapter 231, subchapter K.

"It provides special zoning authority for counties in unique positions," Fernandez said, adding the legislature specifically granted Hood County authority to protect the watershed, which encompasses the entire county, and preserve the area for the entire state's benefit related to recreation and protection of waterways, wildlife and the people residing here.

Leftwich said Hood County Commissioners Court, which appointed the commission after it previously had gone dormant, was resurrected to address concerns related to proposed large-scale industrial developments, which could have significant impacts on the area.

Fernandez outlined an order of business for the commission.

"The first step is to create a strategic plan and next is to come up with regulations that address that," she said.

Long proposed Commissioners Court adopt a 12-month moratorium on all large-scale industrial development in Hood County to give county and state leaders time to determine the potential impact on such developments on the area's natural resources and citizens. The commission voted in favor of Long's proposal.

"My opinion is that the state of Texas granted Hood County authority to protect every inch of land and water in this county," Long said. "My opinion is a 12-month moratorium on development ... will allow us to slow down and get a comprehensive environmental impact study. I have no idea why the county doesn't have that. It will allow us to update regulations specific to that development."

Leftwich asked if such a moratorium was enacted by the county, would that apply to entities such as Pacifico and Sailfish, which already have begun to move forward with plans to operate in Hood County.

Fernandez said that still is to be determined.

"Clearly the legislature thought this was a special place, not just for the county but for the state," Leftwich said. She said the proposed developments do not align with the special protections the state previously granted Hood County to limit some large-scale developments and preserve the county's natural beauty and the watershed.

"I'm concerned we're in violation of state law if we don't have a moratorium to protect the areas we're in charge of," Long said.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Development Commission members Tyler Scott and Matt Long talk before the first meeting of the group Dec. 30 at the Emergency Operations Center in Granbury.

GHS rifle team earns American Legion Precision National Team title

From Staff Reports

The Granbury High School Marine Corps JROTC rifle team, sponsored by American Legion Post 491, claimed top honors in the precision division at the recent American Legion Junior 3-Position Air Rifle Tournament.

Competing in a 3x20 course of fire (prone, standing and kneeling), Granbury's precision squad earned the highest overall team score to secure the championship against a national field of junior marksmen. The winning team included Viola Allen, Kennedy Wells, Renee Sermarini and Mataya Turner.

Allen and Wells led the way with standout performances, while Sermarini and Turner delivered consistent strings to keep Granbury at the top of the leaderboard throughout the match. Turner's final performance placed her among the top 15 individual precision shooters in the nation, earning her an invitation to compete at the American Legion Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship in Hillsdale, Mich.

"This group has put in a tremendous amount of work on the line and in the classroom," said Lt. Col. Scott Casey, USMC (Ret.), senior marine instructor and head rifle coach. "They've embraced the discipline and mental toughness required to compete at this level, and it's great to see their effort pay off on a national stage."

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program combines gun safety education with high-level competition, giving young athletes from schools, clubs, and JROTC units across the country a chance to develop leadership, discipline and marksmanship skills.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury's rifle team members receive the American Legion Precision National Team trophy after a recent competition. From left are Renee Sermarini, Viola Allen and Mataya Turner.

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Get stuck in the past with Dan Vanderburg

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

The truth is, Dan Vanderburg is stuck in the past — and that's right where he wants to be.

Within the last 35 years, Vanderburg has released numerous novels, both fiction and non-fiction, centered in and around the history of the Republic of Texas.

Why so Texas-centric? Well, because to Vanderburg, no other history makes quite as rich or as grand a backdrop.

"I find Texas history so interesting because of the real events that happened. I mean, goodness gracious. Texas is the only state in the union that was its own nation at one time," Vanderburg said. "And when you realize what people had to do back in those days, you know, moving into a total wilderness with nobody else there — other than people who wanted to hurt you — while trying to develop your home and raise your family and so forth. The grit those people had just lends itself to good stories."

Vanderburg always has self-admittedly been something of a history nut — a trait that, like many of the tales he carries of the Texas frontier, was handed down to him from his grandfather.

"I remember sitting around at my grandfather's ranch up in Northeast Texas and listening to him tell stories about the early days in Texas," Vanderburg said. "Even with his own experience — my grandfather was born in the late 1870s — and so he saw the frontier as it was. He actually traveled from Texas to Oklahoma with his family and two covered wagons. Stories like that kind of piqued my interest."

However, Vanderburg hasn't always been something of an author. In fact, he didn't pick up the pen until he nearly was in his 50s. He said it was between his numerous careers he found himself alone in California, with a little extra time on his hands, a pen and one of his grandfather's stories ringing in his head.

"I always had this little snip of a story in mind that I'd heard from my grandfather about events that happened within the family, just a snippet of a story, but I thought, 'Well, gee-whiz, that would make a good ending.' So here I had an ending, but no middle or no beginning," Vanderburg said. "When I moved out to California, I didn't really have much of a social life because I didn't know anybody else out there. So, I got a spiral notebook, a No. 2 pencil and got busy telling that story."

This story would become the first novel of his first series, "Texas Legacy," a body of historical fiction following several characters as they traversed Texas' wild frontier.

This series set a fire for writing within Vanderburg, and he said after Texas Legacy, every few years, he would add another novel to his body of work — resulting in several books in a historical fiction series, a collection of short stories and poems and now, his first non-fiction work.

Eventually, Vanderburg's professional career ended, and he was able to focus solely on his two passions — history and writing.

It was during this time he followed family to Granbury, where he quickly set up shop and plugged himself into several of the area's historical societies, such as the Bridge Street History Center, the Hood County Historical Commission and Visit Granbury, for whom he would pitch and conduct history-based events.

"I realized when I moved to Granbury that I was in my comfort zone here, as far as being around a lot of history and so forth. So, I kind of hit the ground running," Vanderburg said.

His most recent book, "Granbury: Where Texas History Lives," was inspired by his experiences contributing to these historical societies and keeps Vanderburg's work close to home.

An account of both the well-known and nearly forgotten histories of the immediate Hood County area, Vanderburg's goal with "Granbury: Where Texas History Lives" was to show both locals and Texas history buffs alike exactly why Granbury stands out on Texas' historical registrar.

Making sure he got his story straight, he said he used all of the county's historic resources — dug through genealogical archives, read previously recorded histories and talked to the locals who would come into the Bridge Street History Center or Visit Granbury.

"Granbury: Where Texas History Lives" is available for sale at St. Helen's on the Square. Be sure to stay up to date with the shop's list of events, as they host a book-signing for Vanderburg twice a year. =

Any other questions about Hood County's history can be answered by Vanderburg firsthand. One can find him nearly every Saturday afternoon in full historic garb on one of the two Granbury trolleys, giving the riders a free tour and history of the town … where Texas history lives.

"Texas is an interesting place with an interesting background, and I hope a good, interesting future as well," Vanderburg said.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Dan Vanderburg's last book is a collection of Hood County History, which he recently shared at one of his bi-annual St. Helen's book signings.

Viola Allen sets her sights on becoming a Horned Frog

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Granbury High School senior Viola Allen has set a high mark for herself in the sport of air rifling, and one thing about Allen — she never misses.

Allen hit yet another mark Tuesday, Jan. 6, when she signed her National Letter of Intent (NLI), pledging herself as an official member of Texas Christian University's NCAA Division 1 Rifle Team upon her graduation from GHS this spring.

Allen has been with the GHS rifle team since her freshman year and presently serves as the team's captain.

Among her countless accolades, Allen is a national record holder. During her sophomore season, she set a standing national record in the MCJROTC precision air rifle event with a perfect 200-point score and 19 Xs, with all shots exceeding 10.2 except one.

As team captain, Allen has demonstrated both her prowess for leadership as well as marksmanship by leading the Granbury High School Junior Marine Rifle Team to success at numerous major competitions, including defending the team's 8th consecutive national championship title — making Granbury the first team in the nation's history to do so.

Individually, Allen has demonstrated elite-level performance on the national stage, earning second place at the National Marine Corps Service Rifle Championship and a bronze medal at the Winter Air Gun Championship.

She also has been selected to compete at the American Legion Nationals and the USA Shooting Junior Olympics for her fourth consecutive year — two of the most prestigious events in youth marksmanship.

As she trades her status as a pirate to become a Horned Frog, Hood County will anxiously wait to see what its top marksman will achieve next.



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Viola Allen (center) officially signs her letter of intent at Texas Christian University to become a part of the school's NCAA Division 1 rifle team.



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71st Hood County Junior Livestock Show

This past week, hundreds of young ranchers, homesteaders and livestock alike began their "drive" down to the Courts Cleveland Show Ring to kick off the 71st annual Hood County Stock Show; all vying for the Grand Champion title and the accompanying silver belt buckles to boot.

Skill-a-thon

The first event of the 2026 Stock Show was the Skill-a-thon, where the junior and senior divisions of the competitions worked to display their knowledge of multiple facets of the agricultural industry, including identifying farm equipment, meat judging and identifying livestock breeds and animal quality.

This year, the Grand Champion of the Junior competition was Vivian Jennings the Reserve Grand Champion was Caiman Cody. The Senior Skill-a-thon's winners were Grand Champion Averi Taylor and Reserve Grand Champion Braylee Kirkpatrick.

Poultry

Excitement and feathers filled the air Tuesday morning in the Courts Cleveland Show Barn as the Broiler Show kicked off day two of the Hood County Stock Show.

The Neal brothers once again achieved top honors in the Broiler Show, with Granbury FFA's Braden Neal earning the Grand Champion Banner and Showmanship and Garrett Neal's Granbury Jr. FFA entry winning Reserve Champion and Jr. Showmanship honors.

Rabbits

Another Hood County Junior Livestock Rabbit Show is in the books, kicking off festivities with the Pen of Three competition, where Carter Jones with Cornerstone 4-H won Grand Champion Pen of three honors, and fellow Cornerstone 4-H member Alexander Traylor took home the Reserve Champion banner.

The Single Fryer competition rounded out day two in the Court Cleveland Show Barn, where Tolar FFA's Madison Werner won Grand Champion Single Fryer, and the reserve Champion spot went to Malachi Bowden, also with Tolar FFA.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior Skill-a thon Grand Champion Averi Taylor and Reserve Grand Champion Braylee Kirkpatrick show their buckles at the Skill-a-thon award ceremony.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Skill-a-thon Grand Champion Vivian Jennings and Reserve Grand Champion Caiman Cody proudly show their award belt buckles and banners to the audience following the Skill-a-thon's award ceremony.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Jr. FFA's Emmett Stewart tends to his entries behind the scenes at Tuesday's Rabbit Show.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The participants of the Junior Skill-a-thon anxiously await the competition's results in the Reunion Ground's show ring.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Following the award ceremony, Senior Skill-a-thon Reserve Grand Champion Braylee Kirkpatrick reviews her scoresheet against the items that were presented to the contestants during the challenge.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A small army of volunteers behind the scenes is always on the ready at every event and show, many of whom grew up participating in and competing in the Hood County Jr. Livestock Show activities.

Mark Kirk is 'A.C.E.s'

Mark Kirk has been chosen as this week's winner of the Hood County News A.C.E. (Achieving Campus Excellence) Award.

Mark teaches principles of construction at Granbury High School. He was nominated by Alan Cortes.

Alan has this to say about Mark: "If you do things right, he doesn't say anything to you and congratulates you for your good work. He is a good coach, and I learned a lot from him and he is nice."

About A.C.E.

Hood County schools are filled with incredible people who go above and beyond every day, and now we're celebrating them with the A.C.E. Award — Achieving Campus Excellence. Nominations are open from 5 p.m. Monday through Friday each week to students, parents and colleagues. Nominate your favorite teacher or staff member from any district across Hood County. The winner will be announced and featured in the next edition of the Hood County News.



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Coach earns 500th victory during Tenaha tournament

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

With the Lady Indians' 86-22 victory against Sabine, Lipan girls basketball coach and athletic director Amber Branson achieved her 500th career victory. Branson is in her 19th year at Lipan and 18th as head coach, where she has won three state championships across class 2A and 1A and led multiple deep playoff runs.

"Basketball has always been a big part of our life, and Lipan has been a big part of our life. I like being around kids and helping them become good people. I like winning, but I like seeing them come back, as good businesswomen, good moms and good wives. I just like being a small part of the kids' lives and hopefully be a good influence on them," Branson said.

She received a picture frame from a good friend, signed by all her current players and the game ball from the achievement.

"God has blessed me more than I deserve. I've been blessed with a lot of good girls and families the last 18 years. I've had good administration, school and community support. Thinking about all the ones who have been a part of the last 18 years is just very humbling, and I'm very appreciative, glad. And thankful I get to be a part of it," Branson said.

Lipan beat Sabine 86-22 to open the tournament. Senior Finley Shockley had 27 points. Freshman Sydni Gaylor had 18 points. Junior Kynzi Callaway had 14 points. Freshman Skylar Harrison had 11 points.

The Lady Indians beat Hooks 65-34. Gaylor had 17 points. Shockley had 15 points. Callaway had nine points and Harrison had seven points.

Lipan lost to Rains 57-56. Shockley had 15 points. Junior Jacy Bolton had 12 points. Harrison and Callaway had nine points each.

That loss dropped Lipan to the third-place game, which the Lady Indians won against Broaddus 48-42. Harrison had 14 points. Shockley had 13 points. Callaway had 12 points. Gaylor had five points. Bolton had three points. Senior Peyton Lawrence had one point.

Lipan boys basketball

Lipan picked up four more wins and a first-place trophy at the Tenaha ISD Holiday Hoops Tournament Dec. 29-31.

These wins improved the Indians to 19-1 on the season.

Lipan opened the tournament with a 76-15 win against host Tenaha.

In the second game of the day, Lipan defeated Hearne 60-44.

On the middle day of the tournament, Lipan defeated Jefferson 70-40, qualifying the Indians for the tournament championship game.

In that game, Lipan defeated Westwood 68-60 to take home the first-place trophy.

It was Lipan's seventh time winning this tournament and the school's first since 2021.

Granbury girls basketball

The Lady Pirates competed at the Roy Williams Holiday Classic Dec. 29-30, hosted by West Oso High School.

Granbury earned third place and finished 3-1 in the tournament.

The Lady Pirates dropped the opener to eventual champion Flour Bluff 61-50.

In the second game of the day, Granbury beat Bandera 69-26.

The next day, the Lady Pirates defeated John Paul II 56-14.

Later that day, Granbury beat Zapata 56-19 in the third-place game to take home the trophy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lipan won the Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament Dec. 29-31 with four wins. Court Gaylor, Evan Lott and Brayden Harrison each earned All-Tournament honors.

Granbury boys basketball

Granbury played in the Bridgeport Holiday Tournament Dec. 29-31. Junior Kylan Loving was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Pirates finished the tournament with a 2-2 record.

Granbury beat Boyd 73-55. Sophomore Brannon Burns had 18 points. Senior Miller Schenewark had 12 points. Loving had 12 points. Senior Nathan Walters had 10 points.

The Pirates lost to Burkburnett 51-97. Loving had 15 points. Freshman Karson Barrington had 11 points. Schenewark had six points. Freshman Luka Rodriguez had five points.

Granbury lost to Bridgeport 51-55. Schenewark had 15 points. Loving, Barrington and junior Tyler Harrison each had seven points. Burns had eight points.

The Pirates beat Springtown 52-41. Burns had 13 points. Loving had 10 points. Barrington had nine points. Schenewark and Rodriguez each had four points.

The Pirates hosted North Forney Jan. 2 and lost 63-50.

In that game, Loving had 19 points to lead the team. Burnes had 12 points. Schenewark had 10 points. Junior Koen Stahl had four points. Senior Hutton Battenfield had three points. Barrington had two points.

Granbury boys soccer

Granbury opened the 2026 soccer season with a 1-0 loss at Eagle Mountain Jan. 2.

The Knights scored their goal in the second half and held off any chances of Granbury scoring.

In the Jan. 6 non-district game at Wichita Falls Memorial, Granbury lost 4-0.

Granbury girls soccer

Granbury improved to 3-0 on the season with a 4-0 win at Stephenville Jan. 2.

The Lady Pirates scored two goals in each half to take control of the game and shut out Stephenville in the game.

This win followed up earlier victories at Everman 12-0 and at home against Benbrook 1-0.

In the Jan. 6 non-district game against Weatherford, Granbury lost 2-0.

Tolar girls basketball

The Lady Rattlers competed in the Eula Holiday Classic 2025, Dec. 29-31 and finished third.

Tolar defeated Clyde 54-42 to open the tournament.

Later that day, the Lady Rattlers beat Hico 49-41.

The next day, Tolar faced tournament host Eula and lost 37-27, dropping the Lady Rattlers to the third-place game.

On the final day of the tournament, Tolar defeated Hermleigh 54-46 to earn the third-place trophy.

Tolar boys basketball

The Rattlers competed in the Eula Holiday Classic 2025 Dec. 29-31 and finished eighth.

Tolar opened the tournament on a positive note, defeating Idalou 51-43.

That momentum didn't last as Graford defeated Tolar 68-37 later that day.

The next day, Clyde beat Tolar 54-51, sending the Rattlers to the seventh-place game.

On the final day, Tolar lost to Bells 36-34.

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A shooting desire, Kylan Loving adds to Pirate offense in 2025-26

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Granbury boys basketball has been in close games all season with seven of their 17 games having a final score difference of 5-10 points. With a mix of all ages on the varsity team, one junior has stood out with his unique combinations of court skills. Kylan Loving, a six foot, two inch guard, brings length to the paint and a solid three-point shot to this Pirate team.

The Granbury native has been playing basketball most of his life and progressed from little league to Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) tournaments in the summer. Loving used to play travel baseball but switched to basketball exclusively in the eighth grade when he started AAU. He would play in AAU summer leagues from his eighth-grade year to the end of his sophomore year.

"I wanted to take basketball more seriously, so I went out in Fort Worth and had a team out there. It's just a different pace, it's a lot quicker, and you're playing a bunch of tournaments too. Opposed to a schedule, you're playing three or four games a day every weekend," Loving said.

The pace of AAU games and turnover did not match how he liked to play. The structure and team focus of high school basketball was more to his liking. While he did improve a lot individually with the ball in his hands more, he likes the high school schedule more.

To fill the time in the summer that was AAU, he attended more basketball camps and summer workouts.

"We had practices almost every day. We were lifting, so I was still busy all the time and I was up here at the gym every day pretty much. I have friends and we get together," Loving said.

The creativity of the court and shooting motion is what keeps him playing basketball. This is Loving's second year on varsity. There was some pressure in his first varsity season as there were several seniors and a new head coach, but he was confident in what he did.

"I just think it's fun. I like the perfection of shooting, that's my main thing. There's more creativity," Loving said.

Always being one of the taller kids on his team led to him being a center or close to the basket growing up. As the competition level and size increased, Loving would stretch his offense out to the three-point line.

"I like to say that I like to play at my own pace. I'm not super quick or anything, but I kind of do my own thing. I like to get in open spots, I'm a shooter," Loving said. "It was brought up to me in middle school. We had a really tall team and they said 'you're going to play shooting guard.' I had a shot and I started practicing on it every day."

With his shot being his main skill, Loving has worked on rounding out his skills. Driving to the basket and working on his ball handling to dribble and drive more effectively. He was adamant about working with his shot so he wouldn't lose it.

Being one of the bigger players on the team made Loving realize the gravity and impact he can have as a playmaker for his teammates. He likes to get the ball in an open spot to either shoot it (depending on how many he's made already) or get it to an open teammate.

Loving credited coach Jeremy McFerrin with helping him understand the impact he can make and realizing "his spots." Reading a defensive shift and the value of his spacing has been the biggest things he's learned.

"I feel a lot smarter now than I was. I don't let my emotions get the best of me. I'm just more comfortable on the floor with the ball in my hands," Loving said.

Jumping workouts filled his summer to improve his rebounding, along with becoming stronger against varsity opponents. The speed of the game and physicality was a surprise during his first varsity season, so being more prepared for it has been a focus.

McFerrin wanted his players to work on their strength and chemistry during the summer as this year's team would be younger and different than the previous season. A 2-13 record (as of Dec. 24) is not who he thinks this team is.

"I feel like we're more of a team. We pass around the ball a lot more, we work well together. From the beginning of the season to now, I feel like we're completely different," Loving said. "We're just learning something from each game. Everybody plays a little bit different and once we get ready for district, I feel like everything will come together. Our record might not truly say who we are."

The goal for the season is playoffs and as many wins as possible.

"I would say I just kind of want to do the best that I could every game and just be content with how we end the game. Just be happy," Loving said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Kylan Loving shoots a contested layup. The creativity of the court and shooting motion is what keeps him playing basketball.

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Spring-like weather calls for changes to Lake Granbury



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. A Granbury resident of more than 35 years, he has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

Several warm days in a row and the winter patterns will change some. Be prepared to change your tactics. Instead of looking deep when it is cold, you might be looking shallow as well.

The warm temperatures had a lot more anglers on the water this weekend, especially when the wind wasn't too strong. Whether the fishing was good or bad, it was still nice to get out. I even saw jet skiers out on the lake.

Water temperatures are staying in the middle to upper 50s, and warmer in the back of creeks. With the shallow water warming, the baitfish were sure to move up, and of course, the predators are never far behind.

The birds can point anglers to active fish on many reservoirs, including Granbury. I would keep a crank bait, top water or spinner bait tied on for this action. A rattle trap, little George, or Roadrunner tied on to cast to shallow feeding sandbass is deadly.

Not all fish will move up, so deeper water presentations using a slab or heavy jig will still work at times. Trust your graph. Work different depths until you find something that works.

If you believe you have located the fish, you might need to wait them out. A slow early morning bite might be a clue that midday or later may be better. The winds can be strong at times due to wind shifts from the north or the south. Many try to get their fishing in early to beat the wind. It might pay to wait a little longer for those fish to turn on.

Finding areas on the lake where you can get out of the main brunt of the wind may be necessary. On a lake like Granbury, finding these areas with wind breaks is pretty easy. On an open lake like Bridgeport or Whitney, this is more difficult.

This also is a good time of the year to fish the river or creeks feeding most reservoirs. For instance, the action in the river above Granbury near Tin Top or the area above Whitney near Kimball Bend has been producing some good action for Blackbass, crappie, sandbass and catfish. Look for the striped bass to move into the river as well.

Another thing to consider with these temperature swings is these changes can be used when planning your trips and/or your strategies. As we all know, it is a good idea to look at the upcoming weather and anticipate the best days and feeding times. If it has been really cold for several days, I will concentrate near the deeper holes with slower presentations. If it has been warm for several days, you may want to look shallower with baits that have more movement. It is a good idea to have your equipment ready before you head out. It is still a good idea to have all your options with you just in case.

It also is a good idea to keep tabs on the best times to fish according to the moon. These best times are fairly consistent except around a weather event. One thing I have noticed throughout the years is that feeding times may differ from the moon phase predicted feeding times when fishing in many of our narrow rivers/creeks. I believe the sun and moon are usually blocked by being in a valley and/or by the trees on the banks, which can alter feeding times. Feeding times in open bodies of water tend to follow the predicted feeding intervals more frequently.

I also look forward to overcast dreary and even drizzly days, as I know the fish will bite. Most anglers won't be on the water, but the dedicated anglers know that this is probably one of the best predictors of a bite.

So if you can get a chance to get on the water this winter between the fronts and the winds, give it a try. Don't forget to stay shallow on those warmer days.

Hood County fishing report

Lake Granbury water temperatures are in the mid to high 50s in most areas. Best fishing reports are for crappies, mid-lake to Hunter Park. Crappies are good on small jigs fished suspended near underwater structure/docks. Granbury sandbass action has been slow to fair on slabs and jigs fished on flats adjacent to the channels. Best sandbass action is from Ports-O-Call to the Shores. Striped bass are slow on live shad and five-inch soft plastics worked on channel ledges on the lower ends near Striper Alley. Largemouth are good in numbers and are near major points in 15-30 feet of water and many are feeding with the sandbass/small striped bass. Some bigger largemouth are being taken on soft plastics near major creek entrances, with some good reports coming from the river above Granbury. Catfish action for blues and yellows are fair to good on cut bait worked from near Waters Edge to near Hunter Park. The action for catfish and striped bass improves on those colder days.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to boast excellent fishing on this power plant lake for eater-sized channel catfish and largemouth bass. Catfish are good on prepared baits. Largemouth are good on a variety of baits worked near points in many areas of the lake. Tilapias are also abundant and are good on worms fished under a cork.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mark Tipton, of Granbury, shows off his catch of big sandbass on Lake Granbury this past weekend.

Looking back on 40 years of career, reminiscing on past



BY LUKE CLAYTON

Luke Clayton is an outdoors enthusiast. Email him through his website www.catfishradio.org.

Looking back throughout the past years, I have seen many changes in the way we hunt and fish.

My friends often joke with me saying things like, "Luke, all you do is hunt and fish and talk about it on your radio shows, the television show you do and then write about the adventure in the newspapers and magazines. They are at least partially correct, I do spend a lot of time in the outdoors fishing and hunting, I always have but when I became an outdoors writer 40 years ago, these outings changed from being all fun to fun with some work involved.

I learned about photography and how to capture the images I needed to compliment my articles. I later bumbled my way through radio, luckily, I had some very experienced radio personalities such as Dan Foster to help me along the way. Dan was the news man for radio icon Bill Mack for many years. I used to drive 50 miles each way every week to a little recording studio where Dan flipped the switches and produced my show. Now, I can record excellent digital sound right at home, email the file to my producer and bingo, it appears on a total of 41 radio stations the next weekend and becomes a podcast everywhere.

In the beginning as a fledging writer, it sometimes was difficult to make the connections necessary to provide good content for my readers but as the years passed, so did my knowledge of the outdoors and my connections with professionals that made their living as guides, outfitters, etc. I've learned a great deal from these guys and gals and to this day, seldom go afield or out on the water without learning something new.

I remember writing my articles on paper and then typing and mailing or delivering the copy to editors. Photos were a real challenge, I would rush to get the film developed, hoping I got some good shots, and then deliver or mail the photos. These days, a click of my computer button sends the images anywhere in a matter of seconds.

As you might imagine, there have been a great deal of changes in the way most hunters and anglers pursue their sports. It's difficult for young fishermen to fathom but back then there was no GPS nor spot lock that keeps your boat perfectly positioned over a fishing hot spot. I remember well lining up with features on the shore, triangulating we called it in order to get "close" a fishing hot spot.

A marker buoy would be tossed out, the anchor then would be let out upwind a good distance and anchor line let out until the boat was on the buoy. In the early days of civilian GPS, the government scrambled the coordinates so precise positioning was impossible. One could get within about 50 feet of pre-determined coordinates. We all thought this was awesome, it was much better than lining up with reference points on shore but nothing like the pinpoint positioning today.

I don't think many anglers younger than the age of 30 could imagine lining up a water tower and barn or radio antenna on shore to locate a good fishing spot. This method would get you close out in open water and then it was necessary to turn on your flasher unit to find the structure/fish you were looking for. What is a flasher? Young anglers will ask? Well, it has absolutely nothing to do with quick removal of one's clothing in a crowd. It was a device before the advent of the modern-day graph that would indicate the depth of water and, if you learned how to read the flashers properly, show you the fish.

I never became really good at reading anything but the depth and structure such as trees and bottom structure but I fished with guides that could accurately identify baitfish and gamefish just by looking at how the flashes appeared on the unit. Beyond doubt, the biggest change in fishing sonar is the introduction of forward-facing sonar a few years ago. With these units, the angler actually sees his bait below the boat and- the fish he is trying to catch.

These units have become hugely popular and are in widespread use by both amateur anglers and pros alike. I've fished with several guides that put the technology to good use and won't deny that it is highly effective. Personally, I don't enjoy keeping my head glued to a little computer screen that shows my bait and the target fish but I must admit I've learned a lot about what triggers strikes, especially with white bass. They almost always chase the bait up vertically before striking.

I remember hunting hogs at night with an electrician buddy way before thermal scopes were invented. We wired several DC light bulbs in series to a car battery way back in the woods and baited the spot heavily for a few days until we saw hog sign and then set up at night nearby with shotguns loaded with double-ought buckshot. We managed to put some fresh pork in the freezer in this manner.

And live feed trail cameras common today were light years ahead of the technology 40 years ago. Many hunters have a cell phone app that instantly sends them a photo from a game camera back in the woods somewhere. Some cameras transmit live feed video. Many hog trappers use this system to "drop the gate" on their hog traps. They watch the video, real time within a couple seconds until all the desired hogs are inside the trap and then, press the "drop gate" button.

My first "trail camera" was a 35 mm film camera with a trip wire that ran across a game trail, connected to a little shutter connector. The idea was to run the trip wire across the trail and the deer would trip the shutter as it walked past. I would then get the film from the camera, get it developed and in a week or so see what had tripped the shutter. Well, that was the plan. I don't remember actually getting the photo of deer but did get some fuzzy photos of a skunk and armadillo.

BOOK REVIEW

Biography tells of trials and tribulations of Dolly Parton



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Terri Schlichenmeyer, aka The Bookworm, has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a prairie in Wisconsin with a spoiled little dog, one patient man and 23,000 books.

Not too bright.

That's what people once thought about you. Your language didn't conform, you had your own sense of style, and you were ignorant about modern things and places and foods. But you were no dummy. You were different, and you had a secret: as in the new biography, "Ain't Nobody's Fool: The Life and Times of Dolly Parton" by Martha Ackmann, you knew exactly where you were going.

When Avie Lee Owens and Lee Parton first married, they had the very basics: "two knives, two forks, two spoons, a skillet, a butcher knife and an old iron kettle." He was 17; she was 15. Babies came quick. The fourth one was named Dolly, after two great-aunts.

Almost from the time she could walk, Dolly sang. Before she was old enough to attend school, she wrote poetry, and she'd begun to notice rhythms and beats she could make with her fingers. As a schoolchild, she created her own musical instruments out of scraps, and she was eager to perform whenever anyone asked her — and they asked often, because Dolly Parton was a nice girl, and her sense of humor conveyed a warmth that drew people in.

Growing up in the Tennessee mountains, Parton was independent, shunning marriage and child-raising, instead focusing on a dream of being a star. By the time she was in high school, she'd had a regular gig on local television but she recognized there were few opportunities for fame in the mountains, so she left for Nashville the day after high school graduation, with the snickers of naysayers ringing in her ears.

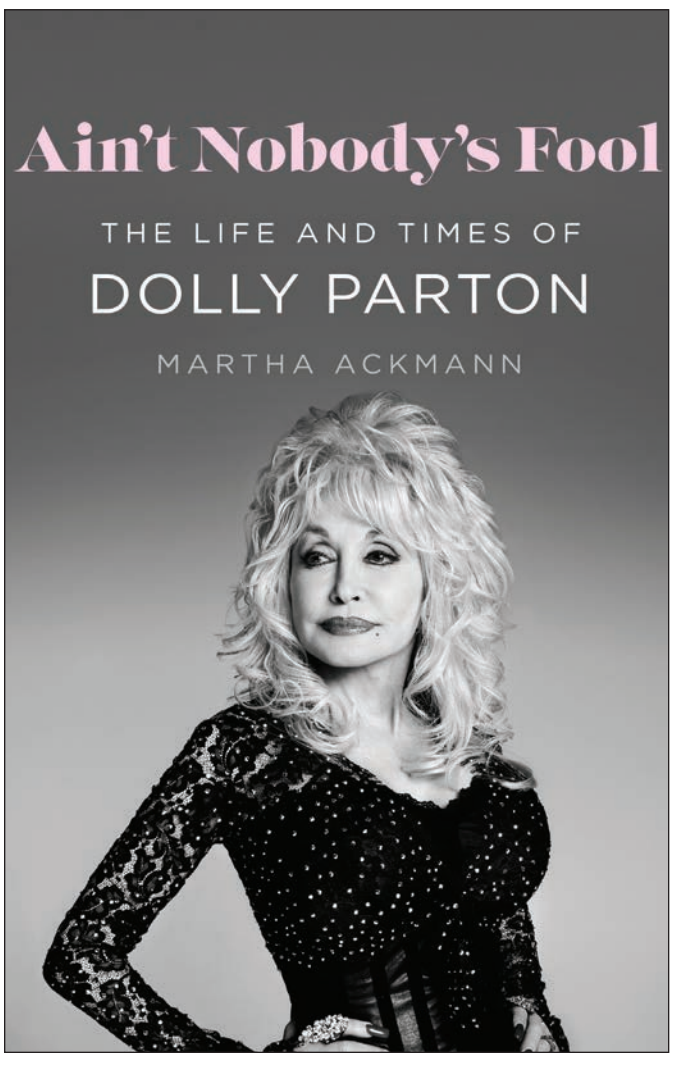
She stayed with an aunt and uncle there, and she beat the streets, dined on grocery store samples to get by and missed her family and friends. And they worried about her, but they knew nothing would derail her plans. They knew Dolly would be fine.

As a friend said, "She had her head on pretty good."

Chances are if you've listened to music any time in the last 60 years, you've heard Dolly Parton through her words or her music or both. Now you need to learn more about her, and "Ain't Nobody's Fool" is where to do it.

Here's a biography that grabs you on the first page with the tiniest bit of family tree, but not so much that you get bored with it. Author Martha Ackmann writes about Dolly Parton's early life, putting hardships and experiences in context, both personally and historically. There are namedrops, but not overly so, as Ackmann takes you through Parton's career, her heartbreaks, her marriage, and her years with Porter Wagoner, in detail but not dramatically embellished or outrageously told. It's a biography that's just right, sourced well and written with a fresh take that, like its subject, tells a good story.

Fans, of course, will want this highly-researched book but music lovers of any age or type will eat it up. That means you, so use up that late Christmas gift certificate. "Ain't Nobody's Fool" just shines.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Ain't Nobody's Fool: The Life and Times of Dolly Parton," by Martha Ackmann, is available for $30.

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalm 94:18-19

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not learn on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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1 John 4:12

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817-326-2035

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817-573-1581

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
3630 Hill City Hwy., Tolar
254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
300 Granbury Ct.
817-326-2270

BAPTIST

Acton Baptist
3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
4804 E. US Hwy. 377
817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
7600 FM 1189, Lipan
817-613-9295

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
1840 Acton Hwy.
817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
Hwy. 56
254-965-3840

First Baptist Lipan
214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
254-646-2484

First Baptist Granbury
1851 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-7137

First Baptist Thorp Springs
2815 Lipan Hwy.
817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca Viva
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.

Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
4501 Peppertree Rd.
940-445-4239

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
4791 FM 2803, Lipan
940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
7178 Fall Creek Hwy.
682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
1571 N. FM 200, Rainbow
254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
824 Paluxy Rd.
682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
400 Tolar Hwy.
682-500-0475

Vineyard Baptist
320 W. Pearl St.
817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
507 Western Hills Trail
817-573-7588

BIBLE

Grace Bible
201 E. Clifton Rd.
682-498-3014

Granbury Chapel Bible Church
5150 N. Gate Rd.
817-736-9647

CATHOLIC

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
2301 Acton Hwy.
817-326-2131

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
3314 S. Clifton
817-573-0107

First Christian
2109 W. US Hwy. 377
817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
301 Cleveland Rd.
817-219-8849

Promise Point Church
5904 Walnut Creek Circle
817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
608 Shady Grove Dr.
817-736-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Church Of Christ
310 W. Pearl St.
817-458-4711

Granbury Church Of Christ
1905 W. Pearl St.
817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
112 N. Caddo St., Lipan
254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of Christ
4219 Old Granbury Rd.
817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
3006 Thorp St.
817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
8604 W. US Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4397

CHURCH OF GOD

Church Of God
1106 Weatherford Hwy.
817-243-0741

EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal
4530 Acton Hwy.
817-326-6074

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Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
3734 W. US Hwy. 377
817-573-4259

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2301 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-2201

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1400 N. Meadows Dr.
817-573-5011

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3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4242

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110 S. Crook St., Cresson
469-730-6496

Granbury First United Methodist
301 Loop 567
817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
3410 Glen Rose Hwy.
682-498-3838

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8812 W. US Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
4323 Waples Rd.
817-279-3760

MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints
1226 Ross Ln.
817-962-2909

NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The Nazarene
921 Lipan Dr.
817-573-4041

PENTECOSTAL

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817-279-0363

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817-559-7372

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314-606-1211

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Christian Science Society
528 N. Crockett St.
817-573-0457

Crossroads
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817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood County
2401 Cedar Crest Dr.
817-579-9332

Generations Church
5718 E. US Hwy. 377
817-326-5378

Lipan Cowboy
205 West Lipan Dr., Lipan
254-396-3162

Living Waters Fellowship
5601 Temple Hall Hwy.
817-776-3438

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817-910-8868

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817-579-9175

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Jeremiah 29:11

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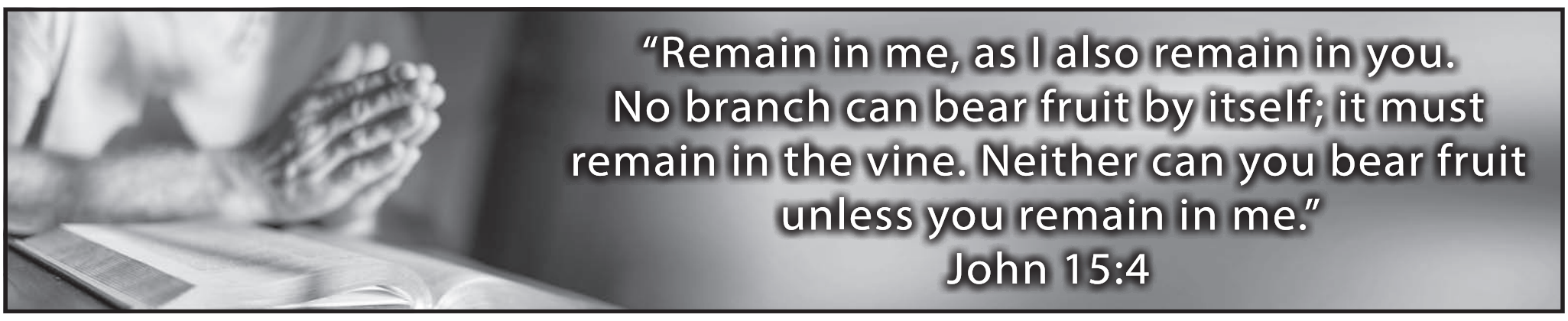
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan. 10

Granbury Live presents Queen Legacy: A Tribute to Queen at 7 p.m. Queen Legacy is the most authentic tribute to Queen in the United States. With all the vocal power and raw energy of the band in their prime, Queen Legacy showcases all of the eras of this legendary band through their timeless songs and iconic outfits. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Monday, Jan. 12

Texas Democratic Women of Hood County will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 11 a.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque. The meeting will feature guest speaker Amy Martinez Salas, the Democratic candidate for State Senate District 22. For details, call 817-565-0459.

***

The North Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 East Hwy. 377. Dr. Julie Holcomb, a professor and graduate program director at Baylor University, will present the program. She holds degrees from Pacific University, the University of Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington, and is the author of numerous books, articles, and numerous other writings covering the Civil War. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees.

Tuesday Jan. 13

League of Women Voters of Granbury's new local chapter is hosting its first Membership Meeting from 5:45-7 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque. For additional details, text Linda Rougeux at 682-916-5777.

Friday, Jan. 16

Granbury Live presents James Carothers at 7:30 p.m. Nashville honky-tonk crooner James Carothers is best known for his stone-country originals and spot-on impressions of some of country music's greatest icons. James has performed in Nashville since 2015, having played more than 2,500 shows. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Granbury Live presents Pigs on the Wall Pink Floyd Tribute at 7 p.m. With sonic masterpieces from Animals to The Wall, and everything in between, Pigs on the Wall transports their audience through the intricate and psychedelic soundscapes created by Pink Floyd. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

The Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance will hold its January luncheon from noon to 1:00 p.m. The luncheon will be held at and hosted by Generations Church, 5718 East Highway 377 in Granbury.The Luncheon's program will be provided by representatives of Ken Hill Health Center in Hood County, who will share with us how their services can benefit the Hood County community.

Friday, Jan. 23

Granbury Live presents Glen Templeton at 7 p.m. Now, as an accomplished recording artist one can see just how far Glen Templeton's hard work has brought him to now living a dream that most can only imagine. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at 7:30 p.m. Comedic genius Ken Ludwig transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic The Hound of the Baskervilles into a murderously funny adventure. Sherlock Holmes is on the case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Saturday, Jan. 24

The Granbury Theatre Company presents Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Comedic genius Ken Ludwig transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic The Hound of the Baskervilles into a murderously funny adventure. Sherlock Holmes is on the case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

***

Granbury Live presents Know Return A Kansas Tribute at 7 p.m. Hailing from the Philadelphia area, Know Return performs today's most authentic tribute to Kansas. With powerful vocals, a pro violinist and talented instrumentalists, Know Return delivers the hits, jaw-dropping epics and deep cuts synonymous with the band that defined American progressive rock in the 1970s and continues to wow audiences everywhere. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com

Sunday, Jan. 25

The Granbury Theatre Company presents Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at 2 p.m. Comedic genius Ken Ludwig transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic The Hound of the Baskervilles into a murderously funny adventure. Sherlock Holmes is on the case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Sunday, Jan. 25

The Granbury Theatre Company presents Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at 2 p.m. Comedic genius Ken Ludwig transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic The Hound of the Baskervilles into a murderously funny adventure. Sherlock Holmes is on the case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Friday, Jan. 30

Granbury Live presents Grand Illusion STYX Tribute at 7 p.m. Grand Illusion is DFW's first and only tribute to the great music of STYX. From powerful ballads like Babe and Lady, to rockers like Renegade and Blue Collar Man, you will be singing along to every song. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at 7:30 p.m. Comedic genius Ken Ludwig transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic The Hound of the Baskervilles into a murderously funny adventure. Sherlock Holmes is on the case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

***

Granbury Live presents Chad Prather and the Ragamuffins at 7 p.m. The comedian, musician and armchair philosopher is an unapologetic champion for anyone looking for a reason to smile. Prather's God-given gift to entertain and inspire has made him a household name, and he's grown accustomed to captivating millions of viewers on any given day. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com

ONGOING

Forward Training Center offers a beginner typing skills class. Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org

Mondays

Healthy Connections exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Pilates. 5-6 p.m. intro to meditation, private class. The location is 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

***

Granbury Bridge Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry $8/person. All are welcome; come with a partner and compete for ACBL master points. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.

***

Sons of the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

***

Granbury Civic Chorus — rehearsals, 7-9 p.m. Mondays at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granburycivicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com.

***

Forward Training Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up, email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org or call 817-573-6677.

Tuesdays

Healthy Connections classes: 9 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

***

Amateur Radio Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

Wednesdays

Hand and Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

***

Healthy Connections classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quits of Valor (third Wednesdays) contact Kathy Cosand 618-407-9914; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

Wednesdays, Saturdays

Habitat for Humanity of Hood County is building in the 3700 block of Canyon Drive from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday. No experience or tools needed. Lunch is provided for volunteers. Join them anytime.

Thursdays

Healthy Connections: 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m.; noon to 3 p.m. Quilting classes (second and fourth Thursdays, private fee required) 682-529-7492; noon to 3 p.m. newcomer's cards; Pilates; 5 p.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

***

Melody Belles singers of Granbury, a women's choral group, has rehearsals from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday mornings, at Memorial Hall inside First Presbyterian Church, 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts are in December and May. If anyone enjoys singing, contact the group for more information at evebehan@charter.net.

***

Chess Club, 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and

PLEASE SEE **CALENDER** | B7

SENIOR CENTER MENU

The following is this upcoming week's menu for the Hood County Senior Center's Lunch Club program. Anyone age 60 and over is invited to dine during the Lunch Club's service, held every weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. While payment is not required, the Lunch Club is made possible by the generous donations of the community, with the average donation per meal equating to $5.

Monday, Jan. 12

Mediterranean fish with rice pilaf, green beans, hot spiced apples and bread

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, green peas, cheesy garlic a breadstick and a fruit cup

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Meatloaf with green beans, mashed potatoes, a roll and cake

Thursday, Jan. 15

Chili verde with pork, fluffy rice, sauteed zucchini and tomatoes, tortillas and orange zephyr whip

Friday, Jan. 16

Shepherd's pie with tossed salad, a roll and frosted cake





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Hood County News

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IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact Hood County Animal Control, 1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048. 817-573-4277



LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT! Call or visit Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048 817-573-4277

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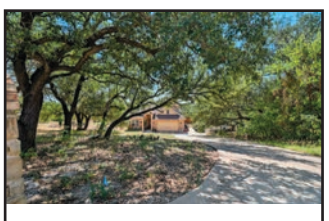
024 Real Estate For Rent

Warehouse/Office/Retail space for lease. 1200+ sf. Hwy 377 W and Hwy 51 N from $695. 817-349-2535.

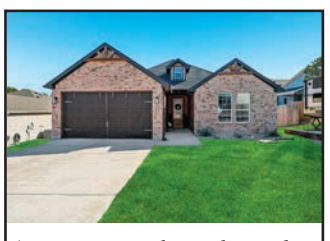


025 Real Estate For Sale

Mausoleum, Holly Hills, $7,500. Lisa Ezernack, 817-269-4951.



$395,000 3/2/2 home for sale in Indian Harbor! 2253 square feet built in 2015. Just over 1/2 acre treed lot. 1203 Pala Dura Court, Granbury, Tx. 76048.
Scott Ashford Real Estate and Mortgage Services.
Scott Ashford - 682-444-3700



$395,000 3/2/2 home located in Canyon Creek. 2503 Smokerise Trail, Granbury, Tx. 76048 Built in 2022, 1 owner home, featuring 2030 square feet! Upgrades! Separate office! Quartz countertops! More!
Scott Ashford Real Estate and Mortgage Services.
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032 Miscellaneous

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033 Legal Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE pursuant to Texas Property Code 59.044 Granbury Lock Storage will conduct a public online auction to satisfy the landlord's lien on personal property of the tenant's listed below. The sale will be conducted online at www.storageauctions.com, on behalf of Granbury Lock Storage, located at 1310 and 1317 Mambrino Highway , Granbury, TX 76048, 817-279-7222, will end January 22, 2026 at 10am. The property of the following tenants will be sold to the highest bidder: Pam Westbrook: Unit C312- furniture and household items. Kyle Jones: Unit C324 - furniture and household items. Dany Mandujano: Unit C327- furniture and household items. Patsy Veal: Unit E503 - furniture and household items. All Sales are subject to prior cancellation. Granbury Lock Storage reserves the right to cancel or refuse the sale. Rules and terms of the sale are available at www.storageauctions.com. A cash cleaning deposit is $100.00. This is held until we receive verification and the unit is cleaned out entirely, no trash, or lock left behind.

BROWSE ONLINE
hcnews.com

033 Legal Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 CAUSE NO. C2025166. THE STATE OF TEXAS. SHONDA RENEA BAILEY Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED, Defendant IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. To UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED. Defendant(s), GREETING:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S): You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do/ does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org. You are hereby notified that a suit has been brought by SHONDA RENEA BAILEY as Plaintiff(s), against the above-named UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED as Defendant(s), by PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed on the 14th day of MAY, 2025, in a certain suit styled SHONDA RENEA BAILEY VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA O REAR, DECEASED. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2025166. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Suit to Quiet Title - Lots 236,237,274,275 and 276, in Lake Granbury Harbor Subdivision, Section "D", a Subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to the Revised Plat thereof recorded in Slide A-219 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Address(es) of Property: 4316 W. Virginia Dr., Granbury Texas, 76048; 4317 Montana Trail, Granbury Texas, 76048. Legal Description of Property: Lots 236,237,274,275 and 276, in Lake Granbury Harbor Subdivision, Section "D", a Subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to the Revised Plat thereof recorded in Slide A-219 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, on DECEMBER 9, 2025. ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (S) CAIN AND KIEL, P.C. Attorneys at Law, 508 NORTH RIDGEWAY, Cleburne, Texas 76033, 817-645-1717. MELANIE GRAFT CLERK OF THE 355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, By: Sarah Roach, Deputy Clerk of the 355th Judicial District Court

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: PORT'S O'CALL, Lot 146R. The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: THE LANDINGS EAST, LOTS 3799-R, RESERVE AREA C-R & THE RANCHES AT PECAN PLANTATION, PHASE 1, EQUESTRIAN SPORTS AREA-R. The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048…

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033 Legal Public Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS RFB2026-02 CORRUGATED STEEL CULVERTS The Commissioners' Court of Hood County is seeking sealed bids from responsible firms for Corrugated Steel Culverts. Sealed bids subject to the conditions and requirements of RFB2026-02 will be received at the Hood County Purchasing Office, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, Texas 76048 not later than 10:00 am on Thursday February 05, 2026. Submittals received after that date and time will be rejected regardless of reason, including delayed delivery. Bids will be read at that time in a public meeting and held by the Hood County Purchasing Agent's Office. After evaluation of completeness and price, it will be awarded by the Commissioners' Court at a future Court date. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court. Electronic Bids are preferred and can be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com/ . It is free to register and to bid. Hard copy submissions may be submitted by downloading a bid packet at https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids and can be submitted to: Hood County Purchasing, RFB2026-02, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048. Facsimile and e-mail transmissions will NOT be accepted. Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to the Hood County Purchasing Agent at gtilleman@hoodcounty.texas.gov no later than January 29, 2026. Hood County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. ßß 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of the owner's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income-level, or LEP in consideration for an award.

A green 1977 Ford Pinto was abandoned at 4104 Briarwood St. Granbury, Tx 76048. It is being stored at 3NI Towing, 6701 Glen Rose Hwy. Granbury, Tx 76048, 817-573-2101, VSF#0653897VSF. Fees: 471.45 plus daily storage of 24.39 must be paid and proof of ownership must be made. Failure to claim the vehicle within 30 days of this publication will result in forfeiture of the vehicle, title, interest and consent to sell at public sale.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 9 a.m. during the Hood County Commissionersí Court in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048. The Commissionersí Court will meet to discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on enacting a moratorium on Heavy Commercial and/or Industrial Development.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 9 a.m. during the Hood County Commissionersí Court in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048. The Commissionersí Court will meet to discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the updates and/or revisions to Section I, Development Permit Regulations, to Section 1.

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, January 23, 2026 at noon in the Hood County Annex I Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury, TX 76048. For more information, 817-579-3200.

033 Legal Public Notices

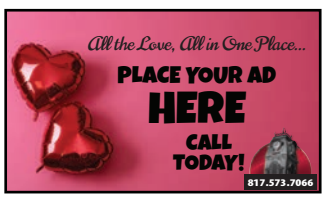
Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CLYSTA RUTH FISHER were issued on December 17, 2025, in Docket No. P10829, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Jeffery Belton Fisher. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o: Representative, Estate of Clysta Ruth Fisher, The Hyde Law Firm, 827 West Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048. Dated December 29, 2025. /s/ Riley Roden, Riley Roden, Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of CLYSTA RUTH FISHER

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of LEEMAN S. FISHER were issued on December 17, 2025, in Docket No. P09929, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Jeffery Belton Fisher. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o: Representative, Estate of Leeman s. Fisher, The Hyde Law Firm, , 827 West Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048. Dated December 29, 2025. /s/ Riley Roden, Riley Roden, Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of, LEEMAN S. FISHER

PUBLIC NOTICE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www. Storagetreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 5:00 P.M. on January 29, 2026. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A $100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Stacie Johnson- washer, dryer, furniture. Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider the concept plan for: PROJECT SPECTRUM. The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the concept plan on Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Peter J. Pischl, Cause No. P10874, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Cynthia Lane in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Peter J. Pischl, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 oíclock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 2nd day of January 2026. Christine C. Leftwich, Hood County Clerk, P.O. Box 339, Hood County, Texas 76048. By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy



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Hood County News

CLASSIFIEDS

033 Legal Public Notices

Advertisement to Bid City of Granbury The City of Granbury (City) will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Electrical Lake Crossing Electrical Infrastructure Remediation Project until Thursday, January 29, 2026, 2pm at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center, Attn: Purchasing Department, Bid No. RFP 25-26-06 Electrical Lake Crossing Electrical Infrastructure Remediation Project, 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing and/or www.civcastusa.com. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

033 Legal Public Notices

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the concept plan on Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage & Food Beverage Permit by Bobs off the Square LLC dba Bobs off the Square LLC, to be located at 106 N. Lambert Street, Granbury, Hood, Texas. Officers of said Owner is Jonathan C. Hilburn (100% Owner).

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817-573-7066 hcnews.com

033 Legal Public Notices

An application has been made for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for 7-Eleven Beverage Company Inc., Texas Corporation, d/b/a 7-Eleven Convenience Store #42774H, located at 2101 W. Hwy. 377, Granbury, Hood County, TX.

Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

7-Eleven Beverage Company Inc. - Officers:
7-Eleven Inc. – Stockholder/Shareholder
David Seltzer - President
James Baker - VP
Jennifer Mendola - Secretary
Lillian Kirstein - Director

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We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Jim's Metal Roof Coatings, licensed and insured, statewide service. Roof coating, painting, leak repair, bin tops, roofing (metal/galvanized), metal building (steel or aluminum), house (exterior). Call your local contractor, Jim's Metal Farm Coatings at (325) 436-4039 or (469) 315-0002.

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Every day
Alcoholics Anonymous. Do you or someone you know have a problem with alcohol? Meetings at 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. each day at 1205 Lipan Highway, Granbury.

Sunday through Friday
Acton 12 Step Group meets at 7 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway behind Madison Park.

Every Saturday
Women's Way Out AA-Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed discussion for women only. Meets at 10 a.m. every Saturday at 301 W. Bridge St. For more information, call 317-772-8124.

Every Monday
Promises Al-Anon group meets at 6 p.m. every Monday at First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

***

Acton Al-Anon 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as the fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information, call 817-308-3300.

Every Tuesday
Punchin' Parkinson's in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m. A noncontact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 next door to Tractor Supply.

***

GriefShare 14-week seminar. Next session begins 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 10. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, $20, "Finding Hope After the Loss of a Loved One." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.

***

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program. Free dinner 6-6:45 p.m., large group meetings 7-8 p.m., small group meetings 8-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

***

Acton 12 -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway behind Madison Park.

***

WeightWatchers, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fun, supportive group for achieving a healthy weight, with or without GLP-1 medication. At Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001, Granbury.

Every Thursday
Take Off Pounds Sensibly or TOPS. 8:45-10:30 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. For information, call 262-227-7144.

***

GriefShare Recovery seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is $15. Details: 817-573-7474.

***

Re | engage marriage enrichment meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com.

***

Acton 12 -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway behind Madison Park.

***

Men's prayer group meets 7-8 p.m. in the Outreach Center at Lakeside Baptist Church in the building to the right of the main church, 500 West Bluebonnet Drive in Granbury.

Every Friday
Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered recovery program. 12-step groups meet 7-8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

***

Acton Al-Anon 12-Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as the fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information, call 817-308-3300.

First Monday
Alzheimer's Support Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

First Tuesday
Alzheimer's Caregivers support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

Second Saturday
Grief support group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering for breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community, location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449 or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833.

Second Monday
DAV Granbury Memorial Chapter 238 monthly chapter meeting at 7 p.m. at 959 Charterhouse Circle. DAV Granbury assists veterans and their families in getting the benefits they have earned. The group can assist in filing claims and navigating the Veterans Administration process for benefits. Contact info: 682-719-5560; davgranbury@gmail.com.

Third Monday
Alzheimer's Support Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

Third Tuesday
Alzheimer's Caregivers support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

Fourth Tuesday
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 p.m. at Lakestone Terrace, 916 E. U.S. Highway 377. Open for those with Parkinson's Disease and their families who want to understand more about this disease. Details: 817-999-1470.

Fourth Saturday
Grief support group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering for breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833.

CALENDER

FROM PAGE B5

younger must be accompanied by adult. Youth membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

***

Granbury Jam now at Revolver Brewery (after five years at Brock's) from 7-10 p.m. every Thursday. Gator and the All-Stars open the show, and then folks from the community can sing and/or play — sing with the pros. Revolver Brewery is located at 5650 Matlock, four minutes from Acton Highway/Fall Creek intersection.

Fridays
Healthy Connections: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979

Saturdays
Hood County Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

***

Running Bear Running Club: 7:30 a.m. social run every Saturday, rain or shine, in front of Hewlett Park Pavilion, 650 E Pearl St. Any distance and any pace. All abilities welcomed.

***

Healthy Connections: 10:30 a.m. yoga for a mission (free with food donation); 10 a.m. Mexican Train. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979

First Mondays
Hood County Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday each month at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

***

Love Knots Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

Second Mondays
Meeting of the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions, call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

Third Mondays
Granbury Quilters Guild meets at 6 p.m. the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-296-8186.

***

Love Knots Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

***

WAMS (Western Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

First Tuesdays
Granbury Doll Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

Second Tuesdays
Granbury Knitting Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

Third Tuesdays
The Pecan Plantation Genealogy Group meets at the EMS training room, 9518 Monticello Drive, behind the fire station. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a resident to attend. Tell gate security you are attending the genealogy meeting in the EMS training room. Those with questions may email kcall3219@gmail.com. Topic: Developments in DNA.

Fourth Tuesdays
Hood County Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace at 817-279-2995 for additional details.

***

Monthly meeting of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at 7 p.m.at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court. Those with questions can call 817-910-8174.

Third Wednesdays
Lake Granbury Area Master Gardeners meet at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month except December; meetings begin with a one-hour educational horticultural program, which is free and open to the public. Location typically is First United Methodist Church, 301 Loop 567, Granbury. Check the website txmg.org/hcmg or call the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280 for more info.

First Thursdays
Brazos River Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

Second Thursdays
Granbury Woman's Club, a service organization, meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Thursday of every month, beginning with dinner. Join us at the Woman's Wednesday Club building, 306 N. Travis St. For information dmengel1973@gmail.com.

***

Hood County CERT meets at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of every month at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

***

The Granbury EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

Third Thursdays
The Hood Somervell A&M Club meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 377 Granbury, dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

***

The Hood County Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex No. 1. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

Last Thursdays
Marine Corps League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS
The Granbury Doll Club is looking for docents and volunteers for Fridays and Saturdays. Call 817-894-5194.

Second Saturdays
Second Saturday Showoff 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show.

GRANBURY GONEBY



BY JOSH BURTON

The Hood County News is looking back on what's been published this week. As part of Granbury Goneby, staff have found stories from 20, 40 and 60 years ago that may have made a significant impact on the community.

The Hood County News is looking back on what's been published this week throughout the years. As part of Granbury Goneby, staff have found stories from 20, 40 and 60 years ago that may have made an impact on the community.

Jan. 6, 1966
60 years ago

At the meeting of the chamber of commerce directors Jan. 4, Georgia Martin was elected president. Lewis Byars, Dr. L.G. Ballard, A.B. Crawford and J.T. Maness were elected directors in the balloting during December. Holdover directors are J.V. Durant, Norman Strain, Milton Meyer and Martin.

With 800 bales ginned before the holidays, J.E. O'Neal said he expects another 400 bales to come in before the season closes at the Yaney Electric Gin. Some of the cotton harvest

The parish churches are starting the new year with a full week of activities. The Commission on Stewardship and Finance of the Granbury Church met Jan. 3 and the parish-wide Commission on Social Concerns met at the Granbury church Jan. 5. Pastors from all the churches in the Cleburne District and one lay representative from each church participated.

Jan. 5, 1986
40 years ago

The state securities board will be presenting a case for securities fraud against Future Energy, Inc., president Randy Hoyle before a Hood County grand jury Jan. 9. According to assistant district attorney, Andrew Ottaway, board investigator Dan Williams and investors from several states will be in Granbury to testify against the president of the Hood County-based gas drilling firm.

A total of five driving-while-intoxicated arrests were made by police, sheriff's department and DPS officers in Hood County during New Year's Eve, according to figures released by the county jail. Granbury police reported three DWI arrests. Hood County Sheriff's deputies had noticed a steady decrease in DWIs the past few weeks.

Hood County had its first woman to seek a county commissioner's post. Margie Crawford Wilson, a retired Federal Aviation Administration worker, said she would join the race for Precinct 4 commissioner. Wilson had three opponents: Harold Berry, Royce Bolton and Kennith Umphrees.

Jan. 5, 2006
20 years ago

Hood County officials met with representatives of various governmental agencies this week to determine the extent of federal aid available for recent fire victims. The meetings included members of the governor's Division of Emergency Management team, representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from the Small Business Administration.

Mission Granbury continued to work with families who lost their homes during recent fires in Hood County. A 250-acre wildfire Dec. 27 destroyed 18 homes, seven travel trailers and 23 vehicles within the Canyon Creek, Lakeside Hills and Ki Kaga subdivisions.

The primary races have started. Seven Hood County incumbents face competition in the March 7 Republican primary. Only district judge Ralph Walton and county court-at-law judge Vincent Messina are unopposed as the candidate filing deadline ended.

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PROTECT YOUR **ASSETTS**.
PROTECT YOUR **INCOME**.
PROTECT YOUR **FAMILY**.

DISCOVER HOW TO AVOID THE CRITICAL MISTAKES THAT ARE OFTEN MADE IN ESTATE PLANNING.

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Dates & Location
FRIDAY
January 16, 2026
11:00 a.m.
DAVID SOUTHERN LAKE
GRANBURY CONFERENCE CENTER
621 E. Pearl St. | Granbury, TX 76048

RSVP
TO RESERVE SEATS:
817-258-5908

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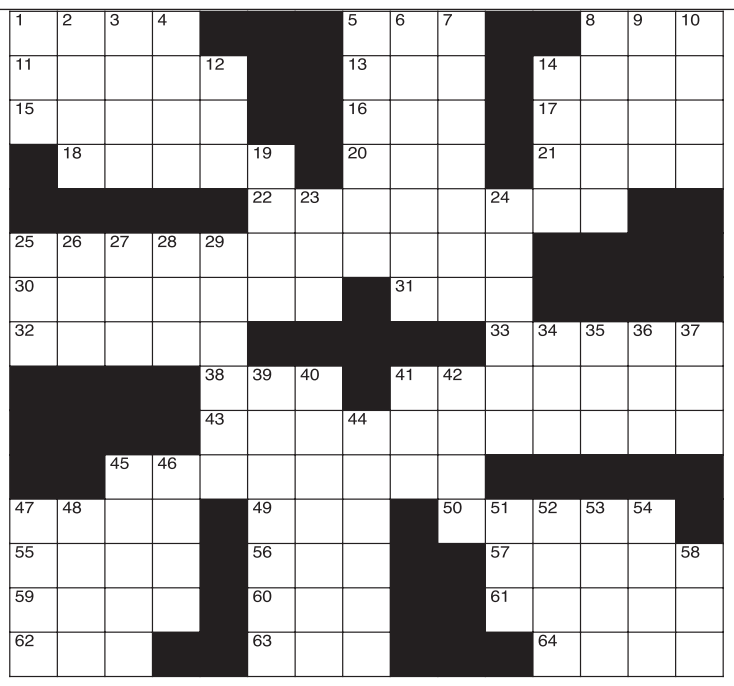
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through
5. Consumer protection agency
8. Criminal syndicate
11. Moves back from
13. Satisfaction
14. Feel concern or interest
15. Monetary units
16. Congressman (abbr.)
17. Israeli city
18. Restaurants
20. 2,000 lbs.
21. Grandmother
22. North, South and Central
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Social networking platform
32. Early term for basketball player
33. Another name for sesame plant
38. Disallow
41. Provide greater detail
43. Inaccessible
45. Evoke emotions
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Celtic punk rockers
50. A fencing sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Social media hand gesture
62. Hong Kong food stall __ pai dong
63. Opposite of beginning
64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language
2. Fashionable
3. Borough in Helsinki
4. Inability to hear
5. More quickly
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
7. Shrewdly
8. Rooney and Kate are two
9. Mediterranean port
10. Benedictine monk
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Town in Galilee
19. Satisfy
23. Mice genus
24. Brass instrument
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)
29. Short route aircraft
34. Pitching statistic
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Popular sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Seduced
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Olive genus
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Keep under control
58. Father

2						5		1
	5		8	1		4		
4				7				
					2			6
					8	1		7
		7		3	4			
	2						1	3
		8					5	
	9	3		2	7			

Level: Advanced

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20
Minor obstacles are in your path, Aries. It's easy to get frustrated right now. Once you clear the hurdles it will be smoother sailing before long. Remain patient.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21
You treasure family and friends, Taurus. This week calls for an important decision that could affect them all. It may be challenging, but you will make the right call.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21
Gemini, you may have to reset your priorities, as new information has come to the surface. Prioritize responsibilities so major issues are taken care of first.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22
Unavoidable situations may cross your path this week, Cancer. It is important that you stay the course. Committing to tackling things head-on is the most productive approach.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23
It may be tempting to shirk your responsibilities right now, Leo. Resist that temptation. Keep your head down and keep on working. It will soon prove worth it.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22
Virgo, be confident and listen to your instincts, Libra. Do so before taking on any important tasks that might turn up in the days or weeks to come. A surprise might be around the corner.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23
Your energy will remain high this week, Libra, enabling you to come up with some innovative ideas that have true staying power. Pursue your options.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22
The conditions are right for finishing an important task, Scorpio. You will be able to come up with wonderful ideas that have true staying power. Pursue your options.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21
Sagittarius, you have been working hard lately and this may result in an overactive and tired mind. You should factor in a break so you can recharge your body and spirit.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20
Focus on keeping your cool even if that proves difficult, Capricorn. Be the bigger person in all of your interactions. You have a strong ability to control of your emotions.

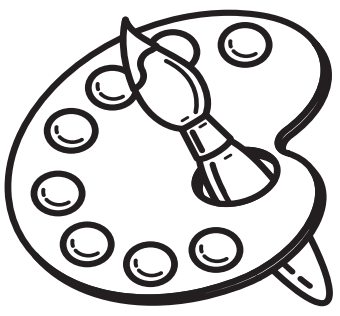
AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18
Aquarius, you may feel uneasy or worried for unknown reasons. Trust your gut in this instance and steer clear of trouble should it try to get in your way this week.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20
Family tops your list of priorities right now, Pisces. You are likely to spend considerable time with loved ones in the days to come. Relish in all the opportunities to connect.

kids' corner

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN 16

1909: Ernest Shackleton and his expedition find the magnetic South Pole.

1920: The League of Nations holds its first council meeting in Paris, France.

1969: Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 perform the first-ever docking of crewed spacecraft in orbit.

Art FACT:

Various artistic activities can be considered hobbies, including this pastime that involves clay.

Answer: Pottery

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

FCART (6 2 1 7 3)
TIGNTINK (5 3 3)
ISTRAT (1 2 4 3)
NTIPA (3)

(1 2 3 4) (1 5) D (6 2 1 7 3 4)

Answer: Arts and crafts

NEW WORD

NICHE

a specialized segment of the market

"How they say that in..."

English: Hobby
Spanish: Pasatiempo
Italian: Passatempo
French: Passe-temps
German: Zeitvertreib

Did You KNOW?

Hobbies have many benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, fostering social connections, and encouraging community involvement.

Get the PICTURE?



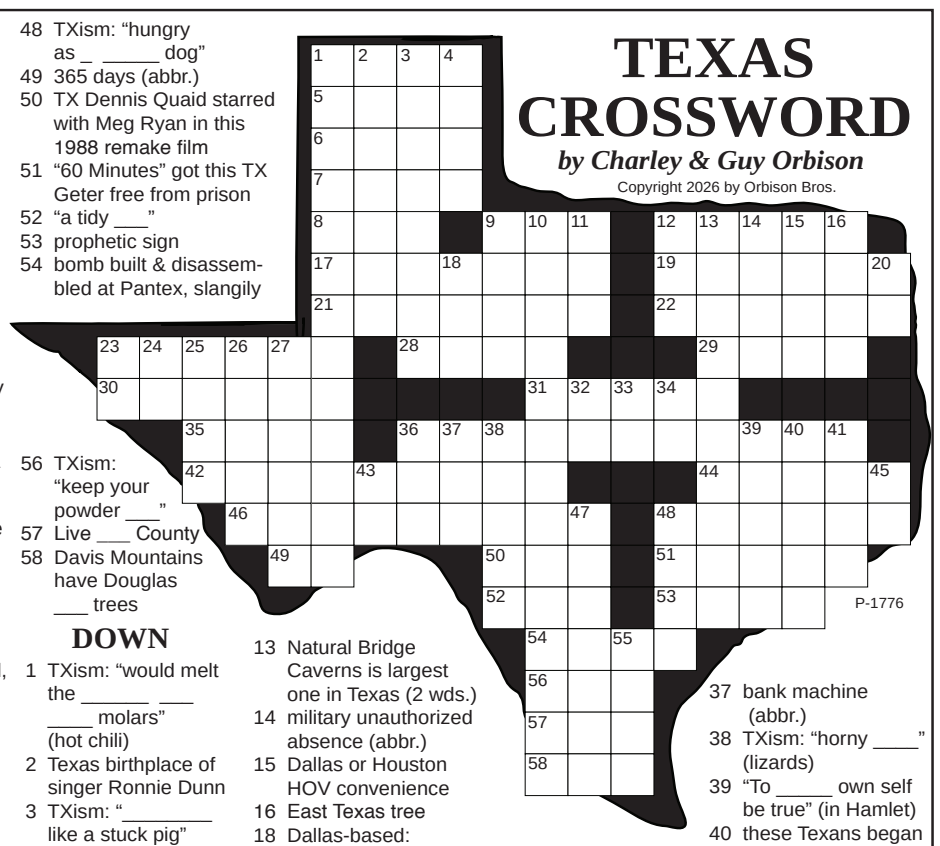
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Sewing machine

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1776

ACROSS

1 Palo Duro repeat
5 Tex Ritter sang "High ____" title
6 Dolly Parton's "___ _ Can Do"
7 TXism: "that'll ____ your butter!" (exciting)
8 Mexican prison mafia: "La ___"
9 TXism: "in the ___ of luxury"
12 resell Cowboy tickets for more
17 Stephens of Cowboy cheerleader films
19 Aloha State
21 TXism: "a ___-____ man" (good roper)
22 actress De Carlo of 1949 "Calamity Jane and Sam Bass"
23 breathe a "____ __ relief"
28 "fender bender" result
29 Confederate general, Robert (2 wds.)
30 "Cattle Kings of Texas" photographer, Dian
31 TXism: "shook _____ with eternity" (died)
35 TX "Racehorse" Haynes (abbr.)
36 hurricane with 105 mph winds (2 wds.)
42 bank customer
44 Gulf sandbar
46 TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of _____ ____"
48 TXism: "hungry as _ _____ dog"
49 365 days (abbr.)
50 TX Dennis Quaid starred with Meg Ryan in this 1988 remake film
51 "60 Minutes" got this TX Geter free from prison
52 "a tidy ___"
53 prophetic sign
54 bomb built & disassembled at Pantex, slangily
56 TXism: "keep your powder ___"
57 Live ___ County
58 Davis Mountains have Douglas ___ trees

DOWN

1 TXism: "would melt the _____ ___ ____ molars" (hot chili)
2 Texas birthplace of singer Ronnie Dunn
3 TXism: "_____ like a stuck pig"
4 TXism: "chew __ __ awhile"
9 Trans-Pecos critter: mountain ____
10 honky tonk shout: "_____ _____ __ drinks over here"
11 high school ___ rally
12 bashful
13 Natural Bridge Caverns is largest one in Texas (2 wds.)
14 military unauthorized absence (abbr.)
15 Dallas or Houston HOV convenience
16 East Texas tree
18 Dallas-based: "Steak and ___"
20 "that is" (abbr.)
23 Dallas univ. without the "U"
24 state where TX Holly died (abbr.)
25 pleased
26 Austin's Driskill is the oldest in Texas
27 spend more money than someone else
32 Ava of film 1952 "Lone Star" (init.)
33 TXism: "can a donkey fly?"
34 late Texas medico: __ Red Duke
36 spy agcy. (abbr.)
37 bank machine (abbr.)
38 TXism: "horny ____" (lizards)
39 "To _____ own self be true" (in Hamlet)
40 these Texans began voting in 1918
41 real name of TX "Bum" Phillips
43 TX Rayburn (init.)
45 TX actress Darnell (init.)
47 Japanese warrior
48 ____ vera
55 Beaumont FM

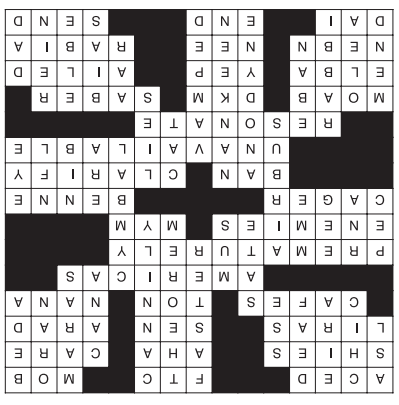
SKI SLOPES WORD SEARCH

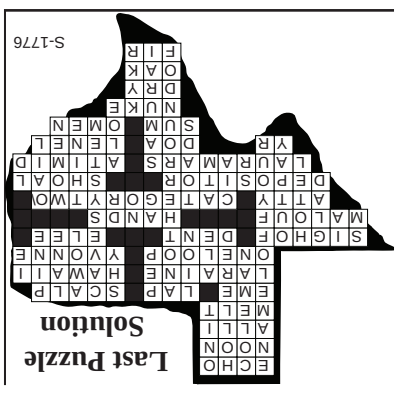
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C	L	O	N	A	B	U	C	C	P	C	G	N	I	V	R	A	C	N	A
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N	D	S	P	W	S	X	G	C	D	E	E	N	S	J	S	J	E	F	N
I	W	G	T	W	B	B	I	G	H	O	S	V	U	S	E	M	W	Y	O
R	A	N	M	N	T	K	L	P	X	E	H	X	K	X	O	O	C	E	G
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P	M	B	V	R	S	E	K	A	P	X	N	I	O	C	Y	I	R	S	F
F	E	J	R	F	E	P	E	L	W	S	M	A	A	X	N	E	R	L	G
A	T	A	N	G	U	D	T	E	N	A	B	P	G	M	D	J	U	U	O
T	I	X	U	V	C	Y	L	S	F	V	X	L	R	W	O	Y	K	G	T
N	T	K	E	L	S	D	V	A	S	X	I	T	O	A	W	N	R	O	N
R	E	N	C	H	T	V	K	B	J	S	A	P	A	X	O	Y	D	M	G

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

APRES-SKI
AVALANCHE
BASE LAYER
BINDINGS
BLACK DIAMOND
CARVING
CHAIR
DROP
EDGE
GLADE
GONDOLA
GROOMER
HELMET
JACKET
LIFT
MOGULS
POLES
POWDER
SLOPE
SNOWPLOW
TERRAIN
TICKET
VERTICAL
WAX





Last Puzzle Solution

S-1776

2	8	9	4	6	3	5	7	1
7	5	6	8	1	9	4	3	2
4	3	1	2	7	5	9	6	8
8	1	5	7	9	2	3	4	6
3	4	2	6	5	8	1	9	7
9	6	7	1	3	4	8	2	5
5	2	4	9	8	6	7	1	3
6	7	8	3	4	1	2	5	9
1	9	3	5	2	7	6	8	4

Tarleton picks up overtime victory

STEPHENVILLE — Dior Johnson had his nation-leading fifth 30-plus point performance to lead the Texans to an 81-76 overtime victory against California Baptist Jan. 3 at the EECU Center.

The Texans, now 2-1 in conference play and 11-5 overall, won their first Western Athletic Conference game in the EECU Center. The Purple and White improved to 2-2 in overtime in its Division I era and 2-1 in WAC games. With the loss, the Lancers, now 0-3 in conference play and 10-6 overall, drop their third-straight WAC game after starting their first three all on the road. The Texans are one of three teams in the league to start with two wins joining Utah Valley who suffered their first loss of the season to Abilene Christian earlier in the day and Utah Tech.

“Tonight was a great win against a very good team," head coach Billy Gillispie said. "We had a lot of players make huge plays when it mattered the most. How about Freddy Hicks playing 45 minutes and competing every single one of them. Jordan Mizell fought through pain tonight to guard one of the best players anywhere. And, how good is Dior Johnson? No disrespect to anyone but there has never been a scorer of his caliber come through these parts. That being said, tonight was a great team win. These guys will not quit. We need a packed house against ACU, see you Thursday."

Johnson led all scorers with 34 with 30 coming in the second half and overtime period. He shot 9-15 from the floor. The junior was 15-20 at the free throw line as well. Johnson had three steals and two assists in playing 29 minutes. He did not come into the game until the final four minutes of the first half and once he came in, he did not leave the game.

Dior Johnson scored 30-plus for fifth time this season

Player of the week

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Tarleton State junior guard Dior Johnson earned Western Athletic Conference Player and Newcomer of the Week for the third time this season.

Johnson was the only player in the NCAA this week to score 30-plus points in at least two games. Johnson scored the third most total points in the nation this week totaling 72. He also was the country's leader with 24 made free throws in the first week back from Christmas break. To wrap it up, he was sixth in field goals made as well with 22.

The Kingston, New York, native becomes the only player this season to win three WAC Player of the Week awards. He also is the only player in the WAC this year to earn multiple newcomer of the week awards as well. He joins Dominque Daniels Jr. and Dominick Nelson as the only players in the past two seasons to earn three player of the week honors in the same season, no one has earned four since the 2021-22 season.

"These awards are both very well deserved," head coach Billy Gillispie said. "He played great for the Texans and the most important thing is that every single one of his scores were instrumental for us having a chance to win a conference game. The things he has done so far have been a lot of fun to watch. Here's hoping they continue. Congrats, Dior, well deserved."

Tarleton women's basketball

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Tarleton State took control in the second half, but California Baptist's double-digit lead was too much to overcome and the Lancers defeated the Texans 80-68 Jan. 3 at the Dale E. and Sarah Ann Fowler Events Center.

California Baptist shot 62 percent in the first half and made nine 3-point shots to take a 25-point lead at halftime. The Texans shot 48.5 percent in the second half and outscored the Lancers in the final two quarters. California Baptist shot 62.5 percent from 3-point range in the game and 54.5 percent from the floor overall to maintain its lead.

Senior guard Gia Adams led the Texans in scoring with 21 points, including 17 in the second half. Senior guard Jakoriah Long scored 19 points, including three 3-point shots to bring her career total to 100. Long now is in the top 10 on the program's all-time career 3-point shots list. Freshman center Elodie Lutbert scored 10 points to go with four blocks, her third game with four or more blocks.

"It was very important for us to get off to a good start defensively and we did not do that today," head coach Bill Brock said. "CBU is a very hard team to match up with and you have to get back in transition defense so fast against them. I'm never happy with a loss, but I'm more satisfied with our effort in the second half today than I was at Utah Valley."

Tarleton football

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State has hired a new offensive coordinator entering the 2026 campaign, tabbing longtime Texas football coach Chris Ross to lead the Texan offense.

"Chris Ross is one of the most respected coaches across the entire state of Texas, and he's proven he can excel at our level like he powered prestigious high school programs for several years," head coach Todd Whitten said. "We're used to elite offenses at Tarleton State. I believe Coach Ross not only will maintain that standard here, but continue to elevate it with his innovation. I want to welcome Coach Ross and his family to Stephenville, and I'm excited to keep building on our foundation here."

Ross arrives in Stephenville after spending the last two seasons at Stephen F. Austin State, both years as offensive coordinator, plus assistant head coach duties this past season. With Ross leading the offense from 2024-25, the Lumberjacks ranked No. 7 in the FCS in scoring (35.5 points per game), No. 15 in pass offense (252.3 pass yards per game), and No. 21 in total offense (411.0 yards per game).

"I couldn't be more excited to be a part of Tarleton State," Ross said. "The vision here, the people involved, and the chance to compete at a high level make this an opportunity I'm truly grateful for. I'm looking forward to building strong relationships with our players, staff and community as we move forward together. Tarleton State's commitment to facilities, program funding and success are what made this job so attractive. I'm ready to get to work."

In 2025, Ross helped the Lumberjacks advance to the FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals and win the Southland Conference championship. The Lumberjacks earned a first round bye as the No. 7 seed with a 10-2 regular season record, 8-0 in Southland Conference play, finishing 11-3 overall with a 41-34 second round win against No. 10 seed Abilene Christian, and a 44-28 quarterfinals loss at No. 2 seed Montana State. SFA won 11 straight games following a 0-2 start (27-0 loss at Houston and 28-20 loss at ACU), with dominant victories against the likes of Northwestern State (62-14), Houston Christian (50-3) and Texas Rio Grande Valley (41-17), plus a ranked win against Lamar (26-15).

Offensively, the Lumberjacks ranked No. 14 in scoring (35.4 points per game) and No. 35 in total offense (392.4 yards per game). They were top 10 in both first downs (tied-eighth, 302) and red zone offense (ninth at 0.911). SFA scored 30-plus points in 10 of 14 games this past season, five times scoring 40-plus points with a season-high 63 points against Sul Ross State.

In 2024, Ross led the Lumberjacks to a top-10 scoring offense in the country in his debut season, with SFA averaging 35.6 points per game (tied-eighth most in FCS). The Lumberjacks ranked No. 11 nationwide in pass offense (271.5 pass yards per game) and No. 13 in total offense (431.8 yards per game). They were also fourth best in red zone offense (0.935) and had the 20th most first downs (266). SFA improved from a 3-8 2023 mark to 7-5 in 2024, scoring 30-plus points five times, including 77 points against North American in Ross' SFA debut.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dior Johnson scores two of his 34 points during Tarleton State's overtime win against California Baptist.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gia Adams scored 17 of her 21 points in the second half against California Baptist. Tarleton State came up short in the game, losing 80-68.

Tarleton State gallery to host Waco artist Tina Linville exhibition

STEPHENVILLE — The gallery at Tarleton State University's Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center will host “Greetings From the Regenerative Aesthetics Playground” by Waco artist Tina Linville beginning Friday, Jan. 9.

Working with materials including found fragments that carry visible histories and handcrafted textiles and objects shaped by prior use, Linville constructs a dynamic ecology of renewal where play guides the act of making and creativity becomes a generative force. The exhibition invites viewers to consider how processes of reuse, improvisation and material transformation can model hopeful, regenerative ways of engaging with the world.

Linville, who works at the intersection of fiber, sculpture and installation, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Fine Arts degree in fibers from California State University, Long Beach. She teaches fiber arts in the Baylor University Department of Art and Art History.

Her work has been included in exhibition projects with Textile Arts LA, the Handweavers Guild of America, the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation and Craft in America. She has shown at Jason Vass Gallery, the Amarillo Museum of Art and numerous education institution art galleries across the country.

Recipient of the 2024 “Best of Fiber Award in the Materials Hard + Soft Contemporary Craft Exhibition,” Linville also has participated in the 2025 international residency “Boundary Crossings: Artists in Interfaith Dialogue” in Mussoorie, India.

Collaboration is central to Linville's practice. She partners with Sarah Mosher and Rachel Wilkerson on fiber, sustainability and data visualization projects and co-founded Painting and Sculpture Outpost with artist Joe Lloyd, a platform for artist-run exhibitions, community projects and ongoing creative exchange.

The Tarleton State exhibition runs through Jan. 29 and features an artist's talk at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21.

IDLE AMERICAN

Looking Back at 2025 — We had lots of TV commercials, good and bad



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

As the hours of 2025 dwindled to single digits, Americans finally heard a new sports expression that is not likely to catch on.

The guy from ABC — describing the Michigan/Texas football game in Orlando — said a couple of ill fitting words as he attempted to explain that one line shown on television screens during football games is used to indicate ball placement.

“The line is literally an approximation,” he said. Huh? He went from the tall weeds into the marshes for this contradiction.

Soon, we'll be in countdown for the 60th Super Bowl, not necessarily for the game itself, but for the introduction of some new commercials. We'll learn they'll cost big bucks, and wonder if some of the ads seriously miss their mark, even if joyfully seen.

Here's my take on several current television commercials. AT&T had both the best and the worst ads, thus cited for two awards. It gets the golden “thumbs up” for the best, and the smudged horse collar for the creators of the commercial that shows two teenagers evesdropping on their parents' nocturnal conversation. Maybe it should be called the “whatever-could-they-have-been-thinking” award for their inappropriate innuendo.

A verbal whiplashing is deserved from higher-ups for this violation of good taste. Happily, this ad was short lived.

The “thumbs up” ad came along later. It showed a young man — his family and friends gathered around the phone — to learn his “transfer decision.” We thought it would reveal his intention to transfer to another college. No, he was announcing his “transfer” to AT&T.

Contending for my “thumbs up” designation was Coca-Cola. Seen often during the Christmas season, it had all of the elements, including music, technology, animals, lighting and a convoy of 18-wheelers transporting Coca-Cola.

I can't decide which category Liberty Insurance fits best. Who doesn't smile upon seeing an emu in ads — whether or not said bird should be wearing pants — as questioned by the sports announcer? However, I'm at a loss to understand why it backs up Liberty's warning us about “paying only for what we need” for insurance.

Honorable mention goes to John Travolta, who, in his Santa suit, does a fair job with his Greased Lightnin' dance moves that he helped popularize a half-century ago. He's promoting Capital One.

A final look back at 2025 must include a pair of movies that shared the same topic and released in the year's final quarter. In fact, they were featured only days apart at the Premiere Cinema in our town where I was transfixed for the better part of five hours.

Each deserves an A-plus rating, whether or not either gets Academy Award recognition. I wish every American could see both, particularly young people whose perception of World War II horrors is limited.

I'm referring to movies beautifully done and important for all generations — Truth and Treason, followed by Nuremburg. The first is based on a true story of courageous teenagers who stood up against Hitler. The other is a chilling account of World War II trials of Third Reich leaders in Nazi Germany. The downward slope from freedom--then and now--is slippery.

My friend , Colleen Mink, is part of the Premiere Cinema's management team. She remembers committing a blunder early in her career that could have sent her packing.

Warned her chores would be many and varied, she was entrusted with a new walkie-talkie that could be helpful as she moves about the 14-theatre venue. Soon, she faced the decision of whether to attempt to repair a restroom commode or call in a professional. Screwdriver in hand and her recently-entrusted walkie-talkie in her pocket, she decided to tackle the problem herself. Clutching the screwdriver, she was immediately in panic mode upon realizing what had caused the “kerplunk” when the walkie-talkie slipped from her pocket into the water.

General Manager Mike Harris comforted her with the “it-could-have-happened-to-anyone” spiel and provided her with another walkie-talkie. After all, she tried, and she's still in management.

Dr. Newbury and his wife reside in the Metroplex. Speaking inquiries, newbury@speakerdoc.com, phone 817-447-3872.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Fidget Chicks sew with love, deliver care both near and far



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 30 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 17 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

The "Fidget Chicks" are a group of charitable ladies who began meeting in 2017 in the home of Li Cross, and the same "Chicks" have been attending the weekly gatherings (when they are in town) for the past eight (and counting) years. Approximately 10-12 Chicks actively make "Fidget Mats" designed for use by dementia patients each week, and the finished products are donated to local nursing homes a few times per year, in addition to packages of mats being mailed all across the country every week.

More than 12,000 mats have been donated to date, and each one is planned and handmade right here in Granbury. The ladies' work has inspired dozens of groups throughout the country to assume such an endeavor, and a video shown on Texas Country Reporter may be viewed at fidgetchick.com.

In addition to mat making, Fidget Chick Martha also makes Fidget Sleeves for a particular segment of patients, and families report the pretty items attached to the lined sleeve capture the attention of their loved ones well. The Chicks have sent hundreds of sleeves out along with their mats.

Throughout the year, the Chicks also collect baby dolls, new plush animals and puzzles, along with the mats and sleeves, to deliver to nursing care centers at Christmas, and the joy these items bring to the patients and the smiles displayed upon reception are the motivation behind the ladies' continued work.

The Fidget Chicks generate no income and absorb the cost of postage and packing supplies themselves while most of the gadgets sewn on to the mats and sleeves are donated or purchased at thrift stores. Donation boxes for the Chicks are located here in Pecan at the PAC as well as at The Church of Christ (1905 West Pearl Street), and folks are invited to leave trinkets, placemats and gadgets for the Chicks to use. The ladies also have been honored to receive monetary donations to their mission from families whose loved ones have benefitted from the mats and sleeves.

The Fidget Chicks hope to inspire groups like theirs to make Fidget Mats for dementia patients in their own hometowns and thus continue the love and care begun years ago in the Cross home here in Pecan Plantation. Thank you, ladies, for being a sparkling example of loving people (and their families) and making the quality of life in a difficult season brighter.

Well done

One of Pecan Plantation's finest amenities is its emergency volunteers, and one of the finest among these volunteers is George Gerdes, who has assisted our community for almost three decades. After 28 years of faithful service to the health and well-being of our community, Assistant Chief Gerdes is retiring, which of course means a well-deserved party in his honor. From 2-4 p.m. today, Saturday, Jan. 10, in the Pecan clubhouse ballroom, folks may visit with George and thank him in person for his commitment, hard work, loyalty, knowledge and professionalism, all of which have made life in Pecan Plantation better. George answered a call in my home years ago, and he took great care of my grandmother during a visit to Texas. How grateful I was then, and so many Pecaners still are, for his presence within our gates. Congratulations on retiring and many happy wishes to Assistant Chief George Gerdes.

Sing along

Karaoke returns at 7 p.m. tonight, Jan. 10, to the 19th Hole. Both participants and audience members are welcome.

Community activities

The PAC will be busy next week with Second Sunday Art tomorrow, Sunday, Jan. 11, and beginner Mah Jongg lessons starting Monday, Jan. 12. Call the front desk to sign up: 817-573-7952.

Breakfast club

The very popular Breakfast Club in Pecan gathers again Wednesday, Jan. 14, with guest speaker Kevin Pratt of Pacifico Energy coming to discuss the data center planned for development opposite the Brazos River. Both coffee service and a full breakfast option will be available. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the clubhouse front desk: 817-573-2641.

Meeting time

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service, Incorporated will gather for its next meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the EMS Building along Monticello Drive.

Woman's club

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will gather collectively for the first time in 2026 with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the clubhouse ballroom and President Rhonda Humphreys calling the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Following a business meeting, ladies will enjoy "Strolling through the Decades: Music and Fashion from the 1950s through the 1990s." The tabletop charity for the day is the Hood County Committee on Aging. Lunch will follow the program.

All ladies in Pecan are invited to join this group whose tenets include friendship, fellowship, philanthropy and a pursuit of the arts. Ladies may visit myppwc.com for membership information.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LIANA CROSS

The Fidget Chicks meet weekly to design and assemble fidget mats and fidget sleeves benefitting dementia patients. The finished products are delivered both to local and distant nursing homes. Pictured are: Donna Bullis (front center); Jackie Summers, Rosie Horton, and Martha Koopman (middle row); Lucille Marcoux, Liana Cross, and Jackie Mills (back row).

Group gathering

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club will gather again Thursday, Jan. 15. This group welcomes all widows and widowers who are Pecan residents and meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information on the group and its presence in our community, send email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

Good cooking

Lessons by Chef Jordan Ray in the skills of cooking are on Pecan's 2026 menu with classes happening from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Participants will receive one-on-one training in various culinary areas (with offerings including soups, sauces, barbecue prep and meat and fish fabrications) with advanced level cooking mastery classes (in tooling skills, protein preparation, and sauce mastering) also available. Registration currently is happening, and aspiring chefs may contact Shelby Looney with questions and for pricing information: sfoster@ppoaweb.com.

Music maker

Mark H. Morton will deliver his "road trippin' music" consisting of classic rock, blues, and country from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, in the 19th Hole. All Pecaners are invited to enjoy.

Bright lights

Pecan Plantation was all aglow this Christmas season, and the exterior display contest in our community concluded last week with three homes being lauded for their creativity and originality, theme execution and effort, visual impact, craftsmanship or technical skill and overall presentation. Congratulations to the winners: third place, the Parks family; second place, the Thillen family; and first place honors (for the second year in a row) to the Lautenschlager family. Cheers to the winners and thank you for making our neighborhood so festive.

Neighborly note

Pecan Plantation Neighbors Helping Neighbors, an organization that provides outreach to Pecan Residents, meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the EMS meeting room located at the emergency compound along Monticello Drive. All Pecan residents are welcome to attend. The meetings also take place on Zoom. For more information about the club, or to get the code for the Zoom meetings, email PecanPlantationNHN@gmail.com or call 817-894-0143.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

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CIVIL WAR

Baylor professor to speak on American Civil War



BY WILLIAM DYESS

William Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

Dr. Julie Holcomb, a professor and graduate program director at Baylor University, will speak at the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table, which meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Creek Barbeque at 317 E. Highway 377 in Granbury.

Holcomb holds degrees from Pacific University and the University of Texas and earned her doctorate at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is the author of numerous books, articles and other writings on the Civil War. Guests are always welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit ncentexcwrt.com, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769, or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

Jay May, a local retired geophysical engineer and a member of our steering committee, presented an interesting program at our December meeting. Early in the Civil War, the Union utilized a number of "hot air" balloons, which, while tethered to the ground, could be sent high enough to observe the movement of Confederate forces. Such balloons were used extensively during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, but as movement of the Union forces became more rapid and covered more area, their use was discontinued. Not only could the balloons be considered the first U.S. Air Force, but since one of them was tethered to a barge, there was also the first United States aircraft carrier.

January 1864, in the Civil War

Skirmishing, cavalry raids and reconnaissance missions occurred throughout the country, from Union firing against Fort Sumter on the east coast, to a skirmish on the Pecos River near Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, and throughout the immense area between those two points. There were, however, no major engagements. Both the Union and the Confederacy were "war-weary." Hope for a successful end to the war was increasing in the North, although a growing "peace movement," which would recognize the secession of the Southern states, concerned President Lincoln and his Republican party, with a presidential election coming in the fall.

In the South, the lack of manpower to oppose the growing strength of the Union armies, the scarcities caused by the increasingly effective blockade, and the fading hopes of Union collapse or foreign recognition (which would have terminated the blockade) led many to believe it only was a matter of time until complete disaster befell. And yet, both governments prepared to fight on.

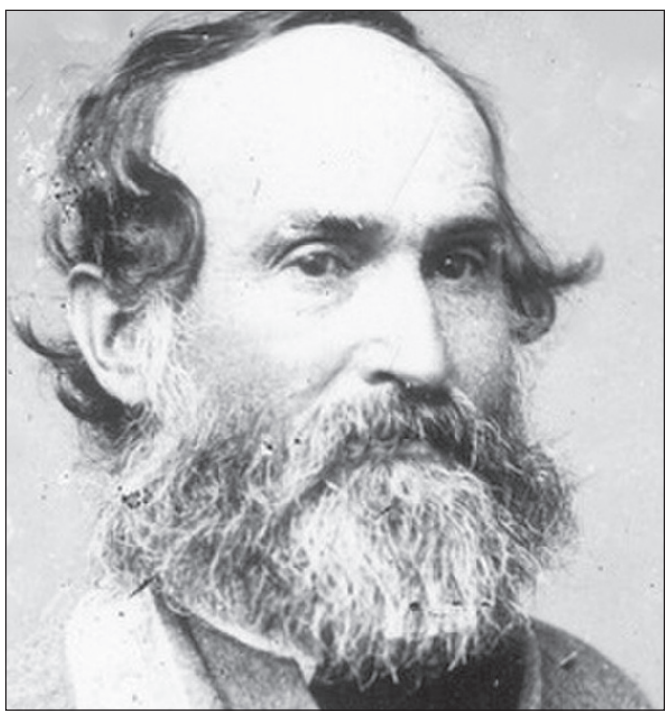
In the continuing conflict with Native Americans, a Union force led by Col. Kit Carson stationed at Fort Canby, New Mexico Territory, operated against the Navajo Indians in the Canyon de Chelly area of present-day Arizona. A large number of captured Navajos were sent to a reservation at Bosque Redondo, near Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory.

Did you know

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., who later became a highly respected Supreme Court justice, served as an officer with the Union Army during the Civil War. In the spring of 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early led a Confederate force into Maryland and drew up before Fort Stevens, on the western suburbs of Washington, D.C. President Lincoln expressed a desire to visit the fort and observe the battle lines, and Col. Holmes was assigned to escort him.

When the fort came under Confederate fire, Col. Holmes pulled the president to the ground, saying, "Get down, you fool." Upon leaving the fort, President Lincoln bade Holmes farewell with the words, "Goodbye, Col. Holmes, I am glad to see you know how to talk to a civilian." It is said Holmes seldom told the story, and throughout his life seemed embarrassed about the incident.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.



COURTESY PHOTO

Civil War Gen. Jubal Early



COURTESY PHOTO

Col. Oliver Wendell Holmes

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Avoid frequent-traveler programs when booking vacations



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

Frequent-traveler programs take advantage of two truths about travelers: We love to save money and we are creatures of habit.

But how does this shape your travel experience? Maybe you should reject the allure of a frequent traveler program to expand your travel experience. Whether it's a timeshare, vacation club, a membership where you earn points and status or a program that offers you a discount on your next trip, break out of the trap that keeps you repeating the same travel experience every year and embrace a new world with these new year's travel resolutions.

Go somewhere new

I know many travelers who go back to their favorite destination every year. Whether it's an all-inclusive resort in Cancun, a western Caribbean cruise from Galveston or Walt Disney World in Florida, they repeat the same experience again and again. I understand there is comfort in our habits. This year try a new destination. Explore an all-inclusive resort on a different island in the Caribbean each year or cruise the Mediterranean, the Norwegian Fjords or Alaska, or visit Disneyland Paris.

Enjoy a new style of travel

Oftentimes, travelers will travel the world but only with the same style of travel. They might cruise everywhere they go or always stay at an all-inclusive resort. You'd be surprised how changing the style of travel will enhance your new experience. Tour the Canadian Rockies with Rocky Mountaineer by scenic luxury train. Tour Europe on a River Cruise. Adventure through the United Kingdom with Globus guided tours. Take flight with an aerial tour in Alaska by float-plane or helicopter; go dogsledding on a glacier. Take an ice-breaker ship with Linbald Expeditions to the Arctic.

Bucket list trip

Don't wait to take your Bucket List Trip. Too many people never take their daydream vacation because they wait until it's too late. Do it now while you have your strength, health and youthful energy. Do it now while the people you want to experience the trip with are still able and available to go with you.

Explore the U.S.

Most of my travelers prefer the adventure of an international trip. But the Unites States has a lot to offer. I highly recommend a river cruise with American Cruise Lines. Consider sailing the Columbia River Gorge in the Pacific Northwest or Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket in New England, or the Florida Keys or the Mississippi River, or even the Great Lakes. Remember Alaska and Hawaii are incredible U.S. destinations with unique culture, history, cuisine and nature.

Seek new experiences

No matter where or how you choose to travel this year, I encourage you to seek new experiences. Learn a new skill: Take a cooking class and make fresh pasta while you're in Italy. Do something that scares you: Go ziplining above the treetops in a forest. Meet new people in a travel group: small groups are a great way to remove the anxiety of traveling to a foreign place and save money with a group discount, and you will make new friends.

Share travel with loved ones: make new memories and share your story for years to come. Use a travel advisor: your travel advisor will make it hassle free, calm your fears and ensure you have an amazing trip. We manage the details to make sure everything goes according to plan.

Hood County High Five Athlete of the Week Jillian Williams

Senior Jillian Williams had 12 points, two rebounds, four deflections and two steals in 16 minutes in Granbury's 54-48 victory against Lipan Dec. 19.

Hood County High Five, sponsored by Taco Casa, is all about celebrating the athletes who inspire us with their talent, dedicatation, and sportmanship. Eash week, our community has the chance to cheer on local standouts and give them the recognition they deserve. Shining a spotlight on Hood County's athletes — this is where home town pride meets athletic achievement. To vote, go hcnews.com and click on the "Local Contest" link at the top of the page.



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