GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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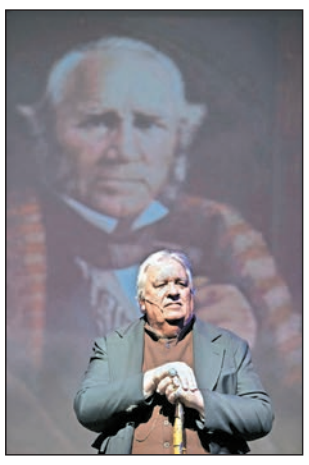
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Hood County boys hitting the hardwood

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Pearl Harbor remembered

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County appoints five to challenge developers

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Hood County has taken another step forward in its efforts to protect the area and maximize its position in negotiations with developers with the formation of a new five-member Development Commission Board, during the Dec. 9 Commissioners Court meeting.

The commission originally was authorized in 1999 and operated for some time after that before eventually going defunct. The action taken revives that group at a time in which multiple proposed data centers and power plants have attracted widespread concern from Hood County and Somervell County residents who would be affected by the proposed developments.

Requirements to serve on the development commission were announced. In addition to being county residents, members are appointed for two-year terms and make recommendations to the court and must review the county's 78-page document on development with an emphasis on the impact of Subchapter K.

Seventeen people applied to be appointed to the commission, but three of those did not meet the requirement of living in Hood County. Out of the 14 eligible applicants, each county commissioner selected one commission member.

The commissioners appointed County Clerk Christine Leftwich and area residents Tyler Scott, Matt Long, Todd Garner and Robert Carter to the board.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, who had three applicants from his precinct, nominated Scott.

"He has a (bachelor of science degree) in environmental engineering, is a licensed professional engineer, has been in the development

PLEASE SEE **APPOINTS** | A10

Candidates set for March 2026 primaries

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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Although no Democratic candidates filed for Hood County officers by the Dec. 8 deadline, both Republicans and Democrats will have plenty of choices on the ballot for the March 2026 primary election.

Republicans will be able to choose local, state and federal candidates, while Democrats will have state and federal choices.

Two candidates are vying for the post of Hood County judge, which is being vacated by Ron Massingill, who chose not to seek re-election. Looking to replace him are Mark Lowery and Ron Sutton.

A trio of candidates are seeking election to Precinct 4 on Hood County Commissioners Court, including incumbent Dave Eagle, and challengers Brad Yarborough and Kenneth Copeland.

Two candidates are running for district clerk, including incumbent Melanie Graft and challenger Roberta Zamarron.

County candidates who are unopposed include:

- Christine Leftwich, for Hood County clerk
- Nannette Samuelson, for Hood County commissioner, Precinct 2
- Leigh Ann McCoy, for Hood County treasurer
- Richard L. Hattox, for County Court at Law
- Jeff Kelley, for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
- Stephen Barnett, for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3

For the U.S. Senate, two Texas Democrats are seeking office, including Ahmad R. Hassan and James Talarico; and seven Republicans are running, including incumbent John Cornyn and challengers Anna Bender, Gulrez "Gus" Khan, John O. Adefope, Ken Paxton,

PLEASE SEE **ELECTION** | A10



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Country Christmas Petting Farm takes place at the Historic Square, in the covered pavilion at the Granbury Square Plaza. It offers visitors and the community a fun-filled holiday experience for the whole family. It is open weekly, with operating hours from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.



Visit Granbury is excited to welcome the return of the Granbury Country Christmas Petting Farm.

Judge tosses Krottinger charge

Staff report

During a hearing Thursday, Dec. 4, Justice of Peace Earl "Dub" Gillum discharged Kolton Glen Krottinger from facing a case regarding alleged impersonation using social media.

The order of discharge signed by Gillum, the presiding judge, stated: "On Dec. 5, 2025, after consideration of the defendant's motion for examining trial and the state's response, the court hereby finds pursuant to Article 16.17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure that the state did not establish a probable cause to hold defendant for the instant offense.

"The defendant is hereby discharged from this charge. If the defendant is in custody on this charge, the sheriff of Hood County shall immediately release him on this charge only. The defendant is on bond in the case, the bond is discharged and shall be returned to him. Any bond conditions previously imposed in this case are vacated and of no further force."

Messages seeking comment were left with CJ Grisham, Krottinger's attorney, Assistant County and District Attorney Ricky Sipes, of Ellis County, who was involved with possible prosecution. Hood County District Attorney Ryan Sinclair recused himself from the case citing a conflict of interest. He previously served on the board of a nonprofit organization that Krottinger was involved with. Therefore, a prosector outside the area was appointed.

This story will be updated as more information is available.

Brawner PE teacher dies, leaves 'legacy' of passion, joy

BY RICHARD NELSON
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Sonja Chastain, 59, a Brawner Elementary School PE teacher, passed away Sunday, Dec. 7.

She taught for 22 years, 18 with Granbury ISD, and the last 10 years at Brawner.

The GISD crisis intervention team was called to the campus Monday and will remain available in the days and weeks ahead to support students, staff and families, said Sandy Ruiz, Brawner principal.

"As we grieve her loss, we also carry forward her light. We can all make it our mission to love as Sonja did," Ruiz said.

"For nine years, I had the privilege of working alongside Sonja, and in that time, she became far more than a colleague; she became the heartbeat of Brawner Elementary," Ruiz said. "Sonja approached everything she did with an unmatched passion and an all-in spirit. She never did anything halfway. Everything she touched, she did to the extreme, in the very best way."

Ruiz said sometimes Chastain would come to her with "the wildest, most creative ideas to make school unforgettable for our students," but, the students loved her ideas and many of "once-crazy" plans became "cherished traditions that are now part of the annual campus celebrations."

Chastain grew up in Carthage and earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Studies with Summa Cum Laude honors in 2004 from Tarleton State University. She later earned a Masters of Educational Administration.

Chastain is survived by her husband, Jason Chastain; and her children, Bodie and Remi; and, many other family members.

"Sonja had a rare gift for creating joy. She saw the magic in ordinary moments and turned them into unforgettable memories for children and staff alike," Ruiz said. "Because of her, Brawner is a brighter, more joyful place. She will be missed beyond measure, but her legacy will live on through our school, our staff and the countless students whose lives she touched.

"The greatest way we can honor Sonja is to continue her mission, to love boldly, serve selflessly, and pour into others the way she always did," Ruiz said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Brawner Elementary School PE teacher Sonja Chastain's principal says she had an unmatched passion. She shows some of that here. Chastain passed away Sunday, Dec. 7.



139TH YEAR, NO. 46
Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 28 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 28 pages

INSIDE

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Shining a light on Granbury's historic charm

Hood County Merchant Association's Candlelight Tour of Homes returns for its 41st year

BY CHLOE LAING
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The historic charm of Granbury was on full display last weekend when five of Granbury's most iconic historic properties opened their doors for the 41st annual Candlelight Tour of Homes.

The tour gives the local community the opportunity to take a step inside some of Granbury's most notable landmarks to receive a hands-on education about the town's history and architecture.

"The tour is a unique way to view our piece of Texas history," Candlelight Tour docent Noelle Metcalf said. "Visitors are treated to a glimpse into the past and the charm that makes Granbury a wonderful place to visit — and maybe even decide to call home one day."

The Candlelight Tour of Homes offered six sessions across the weekend of Dec. 5-7— a VIP function Friday, three tour sessions Saturday, and two sessions Sunday.

Each property required the volunteer service of seven docents per session, who would guide the participants through the property and share details about the finer points of its history and architecture.

For visitors and locals alike, the tour often is seen as the kick-off for yuletide celebrations in Granbury, lovingly dubbed the "Celebration Capital of Texas."

"I think the tour has become part of a destination weekend for many who come here each year to kick off the Christmas season," Candlelight Tour of Homes docent Susan Johnson said. "I talked to many people who had it as part of a package of events they had planned as a girls' weekend or family tradition."

Four of the five properties, the Daniel-Harris House, the Baker-Carmichael House, the Loft and the Small Box House were built more than 115 years ago, around the turn of the 19th century, representing early Granbury living across different architectural types.

Each of the properties are privately owned, often by longstanding and influential Hood County families, and become a part of the tour solely because of their willingness to share the regions' history with those who live within it.

"The owner's willingness to open up their homes for a weekend shows the friendliness of Granbury and truly shares with others the wonderful history of the town," docent Debbie Hiler said.

The tour's final stop, the iconic Decker Gym, where the winningest coach in U.S. history, Leta Andrews, once coached Granbury High's girls basketball teams in the 1950s, faced a complete makeover and became the tour's Holiday Market.

Many of the tour's docents are personally invited to participate by the properties' owners and return year after year.

To them, it's not just a tour, but a way to preserve their town's history and share everything that makes it special.

"I'm honored to be a part of keeping our area's history alive, relevant, and interesting to newer generations. I'm always grateful to the families and current residents of these homes who see the lasting value of preserving craftsmanship that doesn't really exist anymore," Johnson said. "These really are works of art with the fingerprints of those who lived in past centuries all throughout the homes we get to enjoy thanks to the generous families and, of course, the Historic Granbury Merchants Association who pull together this event each year."



PHOTOS BY **MARY VINSON** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Visitors line up to tour the Daniel-Harris House. Built in 1892 by a local saloon keeper, Robert Randolph Daniel, the Daniel-Harris is one of Granbury's best examples of authentic Victorian architecture. Due to its historic significance, the home, presently owned by Bob and Julia Pannell, has received both city and state recognition as a historic landmark.



A docent walks visitors through the Small Box House's kitchen. The Small Box House, currently owned by Janice Thompson, is one of Granbury's best surviving examples of a "dog-trot" style home, an architecture style commonly used in homes built during the late 1800s. From the 1970s until 2002, the home sat empty, until it was sold to Jennifer Miller, who saw hope for the Small Box House's future and restored it to its former glory. According to legend, one of Hood County's Sheriffs was married in the home's front rooms in the early 1900s.



United Way Director Crystal Moore (right) and a United Way worker dress up in an effort to turn Decker Gym into a festive holiday market. Decker Gym opened in 1949 as the first indoor gym in Hood County. In the 1950s, it became the stage for the coaching of basketball legend Leta Andrews, the winningest high school coach in U.S. history. Following its glory days, the building fell into obscurity. However, with the help of GISD, the gym is now being restored by the United Way of Hood County.





Hold on to your hat, another election is around the corner



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

It has been said to me time goes by faster as you get older. Since I will be 70 on my next birthday, it is fair to say I have a little life experience in my back pocket. Generally, I have found that statement to be true. Every year seems to pass quicker than the year before. As I look forward to a new season or some event, before I know it, time has passed before I even turn around.

Those days of youth when I wished time would move faster and I could get on to all the things which I wanted to do in my future, have transformed into mellow thoughts about how I wish time would slow down so I could experience the present. Unfortunately, one experience which I do not look forward to is "election season," and it is just right around the corner.

There was a time when I was heavily engaged in politics, but no more. Like many others, I have become disillusioned by politicians and the process. I long for statesmen who served to improve the lives and experiences of the electorate and did not pursue public service for their private gain. These were men and women who had vision and believed in working across the aisle to achieve great things that improved the day-to-day life and opportunities for their constituents.

Those days seem to be gone because today's politicians are much more concerned about maintaining power and control than they are about finding solutions. The sad part is we voters have allowed this to happen.

The electorate seems to follow candidates like a labrador follows someone dragging a bone. They like the "scent" the candidate lays out, and whether there is any "meat" on the bone seems to be irrelevant. If a voter's "tribe" gets elected, the actual results generated by the candidate do not seem to matter much as long as power is maintained.

If there are failures or a lack of action by an office holder, they are seemingly forgotten or simply ignored. When such a candidate seeks office in the future, they spill out whatever "bologna" the voters will swallow, and whether what they promote is right or wrong, or will work or not, is immaterial.

It is all about power and control and the perception of success, not the reality of whether the nation or the state has improved. Tell people what they want to hear to get the vote; heaven forbid anyone actually attack the long list of issues our nation needs to resolve.

I fear the rich and powerful increasingly control our world, and the protection for the middle class of hard-working Americans is less and less. When the day comes when the average American no longer feels they have a reasonable opportunity to succeed, or when the only people who can "hit a triple are the ones already born on third base," our country is doomed.

The entire premise of America and why we have peacefully existed as a melting pot of nationalities and faiths is because everyone has an opportunity to prosper and advance. We once called that idea the American dream. When the "dream" disappears, we become a nation of the haves and have-nots. Look at your history books and see how those types of societies operated and what their future held.

I hope during this election cycle our politicians focus on the real problems before us and work together to find solutions to the problems that exist. We do not need more mouthpieces running around telling us everything that is wrong; we need candidates who have a plan to solve our problems, the vision to secure a healthy, prosperous future for our next generation and the backbone to stand up for what is right to get the job done.

I am not yet pessimistic about our collective future, but my optimism has dampened. The only way for things to improve is for the electorate to hold candidates accountable, and we need to do it starting right now. Look for candidates with solutions, not those who only like to point out failings. Vote for those with a vision of what the future might bring, not those who simply complain and seek blame. Most of all, vote for men and women who put Texas and Texans first and their own silly political agenda second.

Governing is more than a political slogan or being part of a tribe. It is making tough decisions and setting priorities, not trying to govern by political polls and the demands of paid lobbyists.

Keep Texas free from oppression from within, and she will always be free from oppression from a foreign source.

Thought for the day: "Office has no charm for me if it has to be purchased at the sacrifice of my conscious and the loss of my self-respect." Sam Houston

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can Texas learn from Iran's mistakes?

I've become aware Iran is in societal collapse with water shortages being the main problem. I encourage those not aware of the crisis to look up the many stories on YouTube.

The country is approaching "Zero Water" status; Tehran, their capital, is in the process of evacuating. Imagine a city of 10 million people, larger than DFW, having to move to who knows where.

So, what does this have to do with Texas, water or the lack thereof. Experts estimate Texas will hit "Zero Water" around 2070. However, after digging deeper, you'll find that doesn't include the "gold rush" type building spree of data centers and the power plants needed to run them. If you ask AI (yes, I caught the irony) to include these factors, the timeline to "Zero Water" shortens to 2030-40. AI estimates there are about 70 centers to be built in Texas with many more in early planning stages.

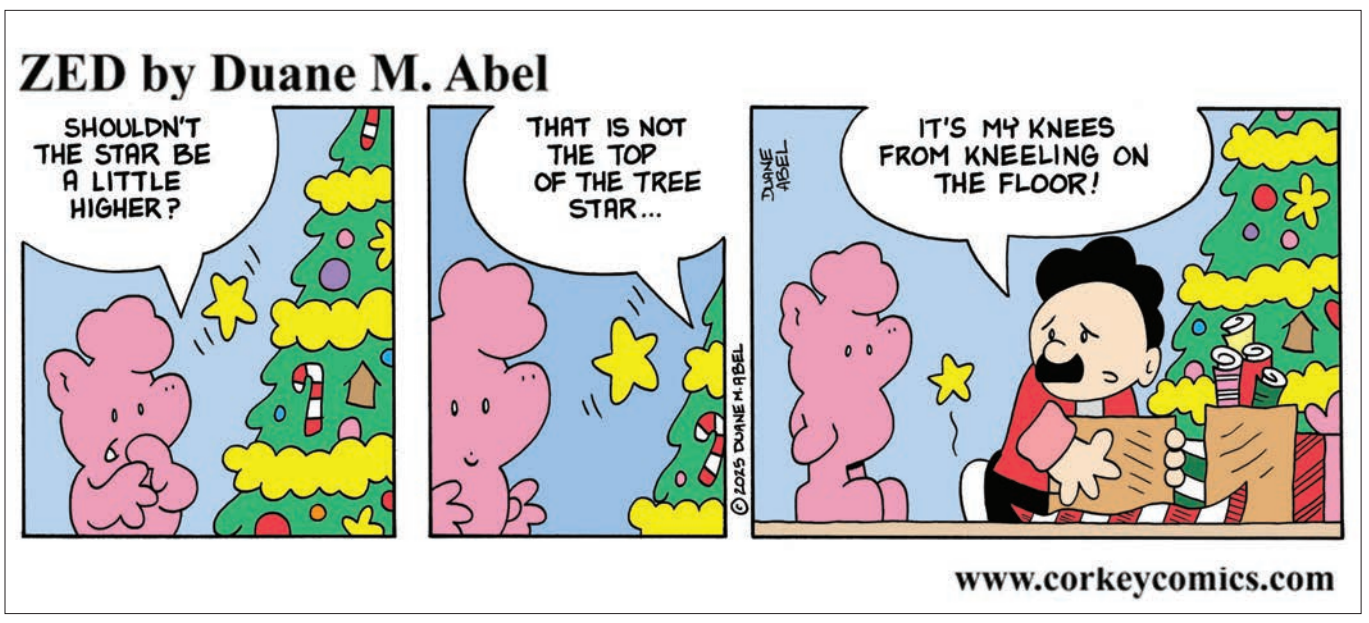
It's time we all ask ourselves, are we really going to do this to our beautiful state and ourselves? I say stop the mad rush; man has lived without AI from the beginning of time. Who's the master and who's the slave?

I live in Somervell County, home of the Paluxy River and Dinosaur Valley State Park. We're facing four data centers, three new power plants, several solar farms, additional large natural gas lines and a huge new power transmission line. Like the dinosaurs that once roamed here, the beauty of this rural area is facing extinction. Is Texas also facing self-inflicted extinction? Without a pause and re-evaluation, I believe it will. Texas state officials must slow down the data center/power plant building boom. This will require pressure from many state citizens, be one of them.

Keith Ringler
Glen Rose

Submit your Letters to the Editor

HCNEWS.COM/FORMS/LETTERS



Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Say hello to our neighbor Tiffany Moffett!

Raised in Dallas, Tiffany is a proud mom of four children—three adults and one still in high school. Two years ago, as a newly single mother, Moffett moved to Granbury with my youngest child, Micah, in search of a safe and fresh start. What she discovered was more than a new hometown; Granbury became a place of healing, redemption, and renewed purpose. Moffett says, "When I arrived in Granbury, I was lost and searching for hope and direction. Through God's grace and the open arms of this community, I found both. The encouragement, faith, and compassion I experienced here have transformed my life and deepened my desire to give back." Today, Moffett serves at Forward Training Center of Hood County, helping others discover their own path through education, collaboration, and hope. After going through the Jobs for Life program herself, she now has the privilege of being involved with others, finding that same light and confidence that was once given to her. "I truly believe God led me to Forward Training Center. I am blessed to be mentored by two incredible leaders, Monica Hays and Laurie Lilly, whose passion for our mission shapes me daily." Moffett said. For her, watching the students grow in skills, faith, and confidence is nothing short of magical—especially because she remembers sitting in those same chairs not long ago. In addition to her role at Forward, she works part-time as an office assistant at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, where she has been welcomed like family.

"I attend and serve at StoneWater Church and Pure Praise Church, which helps keep my spiritual cup full. I'm also a leader at Celebrate Recovery, walking alongside others as they seek healing from life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups through a Christ-centered approach." Life in Granbury keeps her busy, but she says every commitment feels like part of God's plan. As her daughter prepares for college next year, she looks forward to staying rooted in the community that helped them start over. "Granbury, to me, is a town built on kindness, faith, and resilience—a place that lifts up those in need and believes in second chances." She is grateful for the way local organizations shine a light on that spirit, including the Hood County News, which shares stories of neighbors making a difference and celebrates the heart of this community. "These stories remind me how special Granbury is—and how blessed we are to call it home," says Moffitt.

the joy, the mess of living, it has all been lived here. And there's so much more to come. We are incredibly grateful."

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OBITUARIES

Anthony 'Tony' Dwayne Reynolds
1968 – 2025

Anthony Dwayne Reynolds entered this world on Jan. 16, 1968, in Cleburne, Texas, to Billy Dean Reynolds and Annie Laurie Sexton Reynolds, making his sister, Angie, the proudest big sister. On Nov. 24, 2025, at the age of 57, Tony peacefully went home to be with his Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tony was a simple, humble, and deeply family-minded man. Gifted with his hands, he enjoyed woodworking, drawing, and at one time operated his own landscaping business. He loved fishing, duck hunting with his boys, NASCAR, old trucks, and country music – but nothing brought him more joy than time spent with Ethan and Cody.

Tony lived in Austin until his health declined, eventually returning to Granbury to be near family. He bravely battled complications from diabetes and stage-five kidney failure, spending more than six years on dialysis. On Nov. 24, 2025, Tony entered into eternal rest at Granbury Villa Nursing Home and Rehab Center.

Tony's life was marked by quiet strength, devotion to family, and a steadfast heart. His memory will remain a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Tony is survived by his sons and their families, Ethan Wayne Reynolds, and wife Sarah, Cody Lane Reynolds and wife Hannah, and his grandchildren, Whitley Ray Reynolds (5), and twins-Wrenley Rein Reynolds (3) and Sage Ryder Reynolds (3). He is also survived by his sister, Angie Hutyra and husband Roy; his mother, Ann Reynolds. He is also survived by several nephews, nieces and great-nephews and nieces.



He is preceded in death by his father, Billy Dean Reynolds.

Services were held Dec. 2, 2025, at Rose Hill Cemetery.

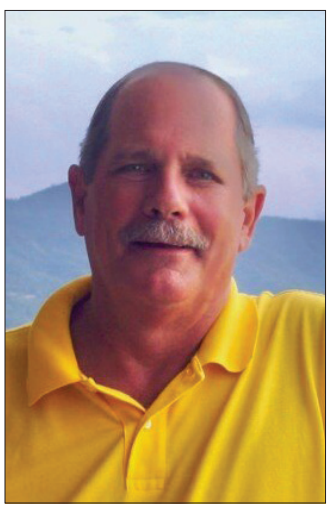
Raymond Baker King Jr.
1946 – 2025

Raymond Baker King Jr. passed away at the age of 79 at his home in Granbury, Texas, Nov. 15, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. Ray was born Oct. 11, 1946, in Summit, New Jersey, and grew up in Denville, New Jersey.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Raymond Baker and Janet Ralph King; and brother, John King.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Deborah Marie King; his daughter, Audrey Hall and husband Teddy; his sons, Eric King and wife Rocio, and Bradley King and wife Michelle; and his grandchildren, Tatum, Ava, Sydney, Nolan, River and Clementine. He is also survived by his sister, Pamela McLenna.

Ray was vibrant and full of life; the kind of person who could brighten any room he entered. His quick wit and warm spirit brought joy to those around him. He was truly one of a kind, a memorable character whose light will be deeply missed.



Kenneth 'Ken' Leonard Moody,
1953 – 2025

Kenneth "Ken" Leonard Moody, 72, beloved and devoted husband, father and grandfather, of Granbury, Texas, passed away peacefully Saturday evening, Dec. 6, 2025, in Fort Worth.

A memorial service celebrating Ken's life will be held at a time and date to be announced.

Ken was born Oct. 30, 1953, in Miami, Florida, to the late Donald and Hazel Moody. On May 19, 1979, Ken married Deborah Cussins. Together, they had two children, Kenny and Jacquelyn. You could always find him doing what he enjoyed most, being outside with his shirt off. He loved deep-sea fishing and working in his yard. Ken will be remembered for his honorable and giving spirit and for having a heart "bigger than Texas!" He worked in security at the nuclear power plant, holding numerous job titles. From managing to training, he took pride in all that he did. He will be remembered for being the "Cornerstone" to his family.



Ken is survived by his wife, Deborah; his children, Kenny and Jacquelyn and husband Jerry Brown and Shannon and husband Jason Williams; grandchildren, Kara and Colin Moody, Kylee, Brett, and Shawn Brown; sister, Shirly Moody; his great-aunt, Mary Massinello; and by numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Ken was preceded in death by his sister, Kathy Moody and his nephew Robert House.

Rosemarie Kolsin D'Angelo
1952 – 2025

Rosemarie Kolsin D'Angelo, 73, of Granbury, Texas, passed away peacefully Nov. 30, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones. Born Jan. 31, 1952, Rosemarie lived a life defined by love, generosity, and the joy she found in serving others.

After a dedicated career in the restaurant industry, she followed her passion and created a cake-decorating business that allowed her creativity to flourish. Her cakes became a signature of celebration in the lives of many, each one crafted with the care and heart she poured into everything she did.

Rosemarie cherished her family above all else. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, cousin, sister and friend. Her 13 grandchildren were her pride and joy, and her dogs were her constant companions. Those who knew her will remember her giving spirit; she was always finding ways to help others, offer support, and give back to her community.

She is survived by her loving husband, Michael D'Angelo, and her children: Gina Melvin (Josh), Crystal Blake (Lester), Ashley Dunn (Drew), Michael D'Angelo (Sasha), Joe D'Angelo (Cici) and Vance Braziel. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, her sisters, Debrah DuPont and Jennifer Broussard, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation: Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Wiley Center Chapel.

Memorial service celebrating Rosemarie's life: 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at the Wiley Center Chapel.



Services are under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury.

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

Millennials and financial fraud: Protecting yourself in a digital world

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

Tony Mobly

Fear of fraud is universal. Today, 77 percent of Americans are concerned about fraud and identity theft when managing finances online, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Even more striking: 26 percent of Americans have personally experienced financial fraud.

While fraud is often associated with the elderly, millennials are among the hardest hit. More than one-fourth (28.6 percent) of millennials reported experiencing financial loss due to scams — more than any other generation, per 2024 research from PYMNTS Intelligence.

Here are common scams targeting millennials:

- Cryptocurrency — Promises of guaranteed profits or zero risk are red flags. Watch for Ponzi schemes and fake crypto launches.
- Payment apps — Watch for scammers impersonating someone you know or spoofing app emails to steal credentials.
- Online shopping — Beware of fake sites or ads selling trendy items at unrealistic prices.
- Student loan forgiveness — Scammers who offer debt relief for a fee just want your info or money.
- Government — IRS calls or texts about an unclaimed refund or an unpaid tax bill are scams. The IRS only contacts taxpayers in writing by U.S. mail.
- Job and gig — Avoid unusually high-paying online jobs requiring upfront purchases.
- Romance — Requests for money in online relationships are a major warning sign.

Stay vigilant. Learning to spot fraud matters. Be suspicious of these warning signs: unexpected windfalls, like contests you didn't enter; pressure to pay immediately or upfront; requests for payment via gift cards, wire transfers or crypto; or receiving a check and being asked to wire part of it back.

Also look out for spelling and grammar errors in emails and texts, fake social media profiles, requests to access your computer to "fix a problem" and unsolicited contact, especially from a bank, government agency or tech support.

Protect yourself. Some practices can help you stay safe. Use strong, unique passwords and different ones for different accounts. Use multifactor authentication (MFA) wherever possible; it can block unauthorized access. And before entering personal or financial information on a website, make sure the URL starts with https:// and shows a padlock icon. This means it's a secure site.

If you think you've been scammed, don't beat yourself up. Scammers are professionals who exploit human psychology. Anyone can fall victim. Here's what to do:

Act quickly. Contact your bank or payment company immediately to try to stop any payments in progress. Change your passwords and usernames right away if they may have been compromised. Run an antivirus scan on devices that might be affected.

Report the crime. File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov. For online fraud, also file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (ic3.gov). These agencies can provide resources and connect you with law enforcement.

Protect yourself going forward. Monitor your credit reports regularly and consider freezing your credit with the credit agencies. Learn more ways to protect yourself at consumer.ftc.gov.

The digital world offers incredible convenience but also opportunities for criminals. Stay alert and know how to respond to help protect yourself and your financial 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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Abused children not alone on their journey to recovery

Advocacy center breaks ground on new building

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Sometimes it can take a while to build hope, but once established, it has a positive impact for generations. That is the goal of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, which held a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 3 for their future building at 805 Lipan Highway in Granbury.

"This has been a long time coming," said Margaret Cohenour, executive director of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The area CAC serves Erath, Hood and Somervell counties. "I've been talking about a place to put the CAC for five or six years."

Cohenour described the CAC's mission as promoting "the healing of child-abuse victims one child at a time."

"We work with law enforcement, district attorneys, judges, medical professionals, the CPS (Child Protective Services) and want to make sure kids know that we will be there for them," she said.

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds is board president for the CAC, "and without him I don't know if I'd be here," Cohenour said.

"This is a big step forward," he said. "The Children's Advocacy Center has been in operation in Hood County for 18 or 19 years. It started out in a small building along Morgan Street and has moved a couple of times. This will give the CAC a permanent home."

Cohenour thanked all the community partners who work with and support the CAC, including several city of Granbury employees who worked to get the location secured.

"We started the building campaign last November," she said. "We're not quite there yet, but we get to start. Without partners who appreciate what we do, we wouldn't have been able to make this happen."

Hood County District Attorney Ryan Sinclair echoed Cohenour's comments about helping children one at a time, adding, "We want to promote healing to child abuse victims. That healing process is a journey, and a lot of times that journey is started by the child alone. Organizations like the CAC are here to make sure that although children may start their journey alone, they don't have to finish it alone."

Cohenour said the CAC has been paying rent for nearly 20 years in different locations, "and we needed a permanent home. I saw this location, and it was a heart thing. It was beautiful.

"The idea is to create a space of privacy and recovery for the kids. We are really excited about what's happening here," she said.

Cohenour said she hopes construction is complete within 10 months.

"I'm hoping by the end of September (2026)," she said. "It should be 10 months for construction from start to finish. The city has developed a plan on how to get electricity to the property. As soon as we've got power here, we can get our permit (for construction). We'll be ready to rock and roll once we do that.

"We've had a really good partnership with the city on this. We've been through a lot of meetings, and there have been a lot of steps. Working with them has been instrumental. I'm thankful they see this as beneficial to the community."

Zoya Thompson, a therapist with CAC, said children are able to enjoy a Hero Garden that helps them recover from trauma.

"There are different types of trauma, from witnessing crime to being an abuse victim," she said. "We help children make sense out of something that should have never happened. The Hero Garden is a graduation exercise for different children as they go through the process."



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Community partners, supporters and dedicated staff from the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center gather Dec. 3 to break ground on their permanent location at 805 Lipan Highway in Granbury. This center serves the counties of Erath, Hood and Somervell.

Offering unconditional acceptance and support helps children cope with painful and stressful memories of abusive experiences, she said.

"At the CAC, a child knows their story matters, and they will be believed," Thompson said. "They have a safe and nurturing place with us. They have a rock and get to take a piece of the CAC with them, and every child who graduates (from trauma recovery) leaves a piece of their story with us. That encourages each child and family member who walks through the door. It's not just children who are impacted. This changes entire families, entire communities and eventually the entire world."

Thompson said children's rocks will be moved from the current location to the new location, and Cohenour said handprints of the children also will be taken to the new location.

Services offered by the CAC include forensic interviews, which allow information to be gathered from children in a sensitive and legally sound manner, case reviews, prevention education, victim support and advocacy and counseling.

More information about Paluxy River CAC can be found online at paluxyrivercac.org or by calling 817-573-0292.



Margaret Cohenour, executive director of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, is a gracious and generous host during the center's groundbreaking Dec. 3. She said she truly appreciated the support from the community. The event became even more meaningful when her brother, Jess Johnson from Granbury, and her sister, Charlotte Johnson Niedermayer, joined to show their support for their big sister.

Granbury Baptist Church hosts Ninja Warrior course during Christmas Carnival

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

If someone is a fan of obstacle courses and Christ, then Granbury Baptist Church is the place to be Sunday, Dec. 14, when the church will have an "American Ninja Warrior" style obstacle course from Overcoming Obstacles Ministries (OOM) from 4-7 p.m.

The course will be a part of a Christmas carnival that the church is hosting. The Christmas Carnival also will have a cake walk, petting zoo, clown entertainment, inflatables, cookie-decorating, a bounce house, s'mores by the fire, prizes, giveaways and so much more.

Overcoming Obstacles Ministries is a nonprofit organization in Grandview led by Jared Greer. Greer is a minister and four-time competitor on American Ninja Warrior (ANW) and the "Trick Shot Ninja" on season 17 of ANW. This is the fourth consecutive year an OOM course will be at Granbury Baptist.

Greer was a youth pastor for 12 years, and one of his youth groups urged him to try out for ANW. After his second application was chosen, he went on the show, and his failure to complete the course became one of the show's most famous bloopers. . This blooper can be viewed on his website obsticleministry.com.

After a few more tries to get back on the show, 2024 would be his redemption as he beat the obstacles that had stopped him before

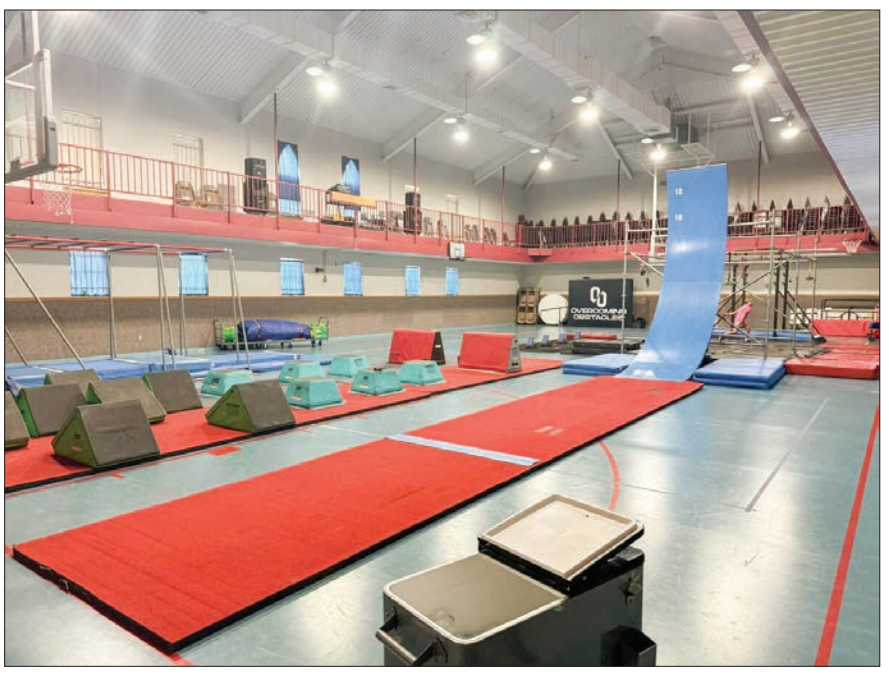
"That was awesome. They did a whole feature on the ministry and me, and that was kind of one of the main things. They voted my fall, the blooper, as the fifth most unforgettable fall in the history of the show, which was pretty funny," Greer said. "They showed that, and then it fed into me, trying it again this time, and I'm looking nervous, and my wife and kids are nervous, and then I barely beat it, and when I landed, I just screamed with 10 years of relief, 'let's go.' It was pretty awesome."

His story of overcoming his famous blooper of failing an obstacle and then later redeeming himself inspires his ministry and is example to people who attend his obstacle courses.

"I tell everybody, especially kids, that our failures do not define us. We're going to have moments like that, and we're going to make mistakes along the way, but Jesus comes and forgives us. It makes us new and then through him we can conquer anything. We cannot be defined by our past," Greer said. "That was just such a great moment to show everybody this did not define me. I could have tried to just never think of Ninja Warrior again but I didn't want it to be defined by that. I wanted to be defined by sticking with it and overcoming."

The course that will be at the event is a medium-sized course with a famous 14-foot warped wall, race lanes, zip line, ring line and a "really big structure for kids to swing around."

The event is free for anyone to attend.



COURTESY PHOTO

A course like this Level 2 American Ninja Warrior course will be a part of Granbury Baptist's Christmas Carnival from 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

Granbury Goosebump Jump Registration opens

Beloved community tradition returns with a 100 percent chance of snow

Granbury's coolest annual tradition is back — and bigger, bolder and colder than ever.

Visit Granbury invites the community, local businesses, civic organizations, charitable groups and adventurous individuals to take the plunge at the award-winning Lake Granbury Goosebump Jump Saturday, Jan. 17, at City Beach Park.

Last year, more than 250 participants dove into frigid Lake Granbury, raising thousands of dollars for local charities and kicking off Granbury tourism's Winter Guest Season. The 2026 event is expected to be the most exciting yet, featuring new activities, enhanced experiences and expanded opportunities for community participation.

The Goosebump Jump serves as the official kick-off to Granbury's Winter Guest Season, a campaign designed to attract visitors during January and February. Local hotels, restaurants, shops and attractions offer exclusive guest packages and incentives, supporting Granbury's tourism-based economy at a traditionally slower time of year.

The event also is a major fundraiser for area nonprofits. The organization with the largest number of checked-in participants wins the cash prize, supported by:

Up to $1,000 from the Granbury Area Lodging Association

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To date, the Goosebump Jump has donated more than $16,877 to local charitable organizations. Past beneficiaries include Second Chance Farms, Mission Granbury, Kiwanis, Happy Hill Farm and Forward Training Center.

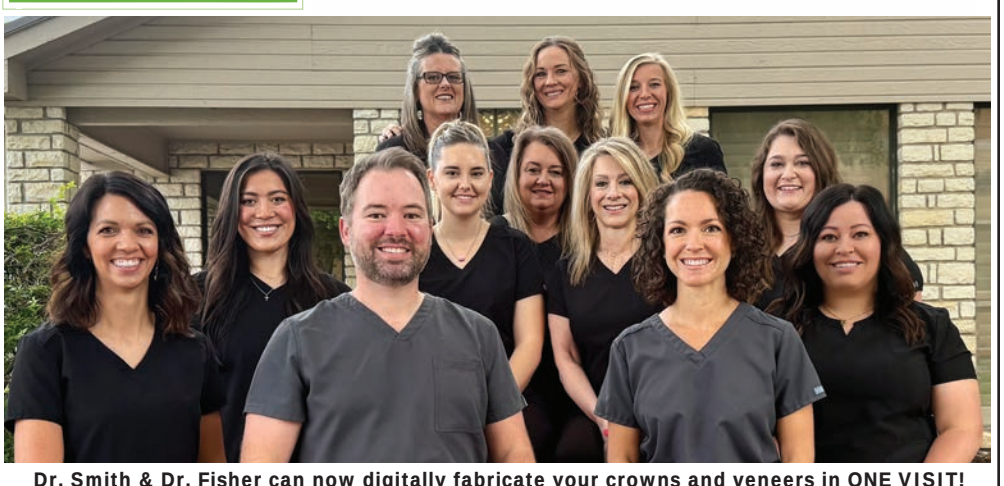
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The upcoming Goosebump Jump will feature an expand-

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Airport celebrates expansion, financial success

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

With an eye on both current projects and potential future projects, the Granbury Regional Airport Advisory Board held a nearly two-hour-long meeting Dec. 8.

Kyle Michaelis, chief financial officer for Black Tie Aviation, told the board his company is opening 32 new hangars at the airport.

"We've put in utilities, which was a substantial investment," he said. "All the groundwork is laid, and we have a planned opening date of 2/1 (Feb. 1, 2026)."

He said the company will continue to expand in a southerly direction toward the airport terminal. The temperature-controlled hangars will offer a new option for area aviators.

Phase 1 of Black Tie's project will feature seven larger hangars, with an additional 25 box hangers planned for phase 2.

In a project which will help address safety concerns, an upgrade of the airport's Automated Weather System (AWOS) is almost ready to be unveiled.

"The present AWOS is old, defunct and fails at multiple times, and all the sensors are obsolete," said Cody Mathis, director of aviation for the city. He said whenever the AWOS goes down, airport personnel have to search across the country for equipment to keep the system functional.

"We have to scavenge the country to find (equipment), and we've been successful so far," Mathis said. "None of that will be a factor pretty soon. I don't have a timeframe (for the new AWOS coming online) — hopefully by the end of the month."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will test and then commission the new AWOS at the airport.

Board chair Jackie Vaughn asked, "Is there a potential (to have the system operational) by mid-January?"

"I hope so," Mathis said. "It's dependent on FAA timing but it is a safety apparatus, so they usually jump on that pretty quick. Everything is in place. It's been a long time coming."

Board member Kevin Ross said visibility has been down at the airport for months, adding "that puts pilots flying for a living in a bad position ... It's a big deal."

Board alternate member Andre Kulisz asked if the airport was planning to have a manned control tower.

"No, we're not busy enough," Mathis said. "That can certainly change."

Vaughn said pilots always can call the airport and talk to someone there if needed.

Another major project at the airport is the addition of a fuel farm.

"Everything is on schedule and should be completed by the end of February (2026)," Mathis said. "The capacity will be 30,000 gallons. We'll have 45,000 gallons total in tanks and 8,000 gallons mobile at all times. We won't run out of fuel."

Perimeter Road, running from Archer Court to Howard Clemmons Road, with a powered gate for security access, is another major project that is planned.

"It's been completely approved by (Granbury City Council)," Mathis said. "Granbury Excavating will start construction, and $1.1 million is funded through a (federal) grant. It will be built with concrete instead of asphalt."

The estimated time of completion for the road is August 2026.

"Michael Ross, the deputy city manager, was able to include the design phase in the grant proposal," Mathis said.

Expansion of the airport apron and ramp also are on schedule, planned for the 2027-28 fiscal year.

Mathis said the city's matching grant for the apron expansion is $400,000.

Additional projects also are set as a part of Project Kilo, the Texas Department of Transportation's code name for upcoming work in Granbury and at other airports.

Vaughn asked about the impact of that work.

"The runway will have to close for a maximum of two days," Mathis said. "The seal coat has to cure before you paint it. It will upset people, but there's no way around it; it's necessary maintenance."

Vaughn asked if the runway is closed, could the old runway be used for emergency landings.

"A pilot is responsible for his own aircraft," Mathis said. "I'll leave it at that."

Mathis did have some good news for the city.

"We grossed $2.1 million in fuel sales in the past calendar year," he said. Mathis said that was a significant increase from the previous year, "and it will just continue to grow. The fact that we have revenue at this airport allows us to have matching funds (for grant opportunities)," he said.

Vaughn said he appreciates the Granbury airport is thriving.

"We are truly blessed compared to a lot of small airports," he said. "A lot of airports are burdens to cities. I think ours has been a model airport in the past 10 or 12 years.

"It has a lot to do with the businesses we've been able to attract. It's been a blessing to the city that most don't know about," Vaughn said. "If we look at the records and how they've changed in just the last 10 years, we've made great strides at the airport. It has a lot to do with the foresight of our airport managers, so we're fortunate."

Vaughn asked about the status of the old airport terminal building.

"There were attempts to court a restaurant that expressed interest," Mathis said. "Those negotiations failed. He said the idea is still one the city is pursuing.

"There's tremendous support to have a restaurant there," he said.

Mathis said there is an opportunity for the airport board to have a greater voice, and also mentioned the need to work on an updated master plan. The previous airport master plan was approved in 2017 and was supposed to be for 20 years, but goals already have mostly been met.

"We are about 90-95 percent complete with the current master plan," Mathis said. "We need to create a new master plan."

Mathis asked board members if they had talked to anyone on the city council about airport plans.

Board member Rick Huber said he had talked to the council when they had "proposed cancelling the runway project in the middle of it."

Vaughn said he had talked to the council when there was a conflict between a private helicopter company and CareFlight.

Mathis said he appreciates those with knowledge of the airport communicating with city leaders.

"That's the kind of thing I encourage," he said.

"There was previous input from the board to the council," Vaughn said. "As Rick said, we were in danger of losing the airport at one point in time. Not all the council members were on board at that time."

Board members John Roberts and Kevin Ross agreed to lead a subcommittee to help formulate a new airport master plan.

Mathis said there are plenty of expansion opportunities available, with 47 people on a waiting list for hanger space.

The next airport board meeting was scheduled for 8 a.m. Feb. 9, 2026, at the airport.

Woman donates her kidney to husband's ex-wife

BY DEANNA BOYD SPANGLER
Special to The News

As is often the case with ex-spouses, Amanda McCowen, of Terrell, was not exactly enthusiastic when Joshua Maples, her former husband and father of her two children, married again.

"Automatically upon meeting her, I had formed this thing in my mind — 'I'm just not going to like her.' These are my children and I'm not going to share them with anybody," McCowen said.

But through a decade of co-parenting with Angela Maples, a Granbury resident, and navigating the challenges that came with it, the tension between the two women gradually gave way to something unexpected: an incredible friendship.

"We started off just doing what was in the best interest of our children, but it turned into a genuine, caring relationship," Angela Maples said.

So genuine when Maples learned she was in renal failure and needed a kidney, McCowen didn't hesitate to donate one of her own.

The women underwent transplant surgery Oct. 13 at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth and now are sharing their story in hopes others will consider becoming living-kidney donors.

Of the more than 100,000 people waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, about 86 percent are in need of a kidney, according to Donate Life America.

"Every day, thousands wait for a kidney transplant, but the number of available donors falls heartbreakingly short," said Dr. Eric Siskind, a transplant surgeon with Texas Health Surgical Specialists. "Living donors aren't just giving an organ — they're giving time, hope and a second chance at life."

Since 1986, Texas Health Fort Worth's kidney transplant program has facilitated 1,361 transplants, including 200 involving living donors such as McCowen. Getting a kidney from a living donor shortens the wait for a transplant. Also, the organ is typically healthier, often works immediately and has a longer life span than one from a deceased donor.

"We've seen incredible acts of generosity, like patients donating to strangers and a mother giving a kidney to her children's teacher, but to our knowledge, this is the first time we've had someone provide a kidney to the spouse of an ex," said Robyn Dye, transplant program administrator for the hospital. "Their relationship is truly inspiring, showing how compassion can transcend the past. Texas Health is so honored to be part of their remarkable transplant journey."

Joshua Maples said he believes God's hand was at work when his ex-wife chose to donate a kidney to his new wife.

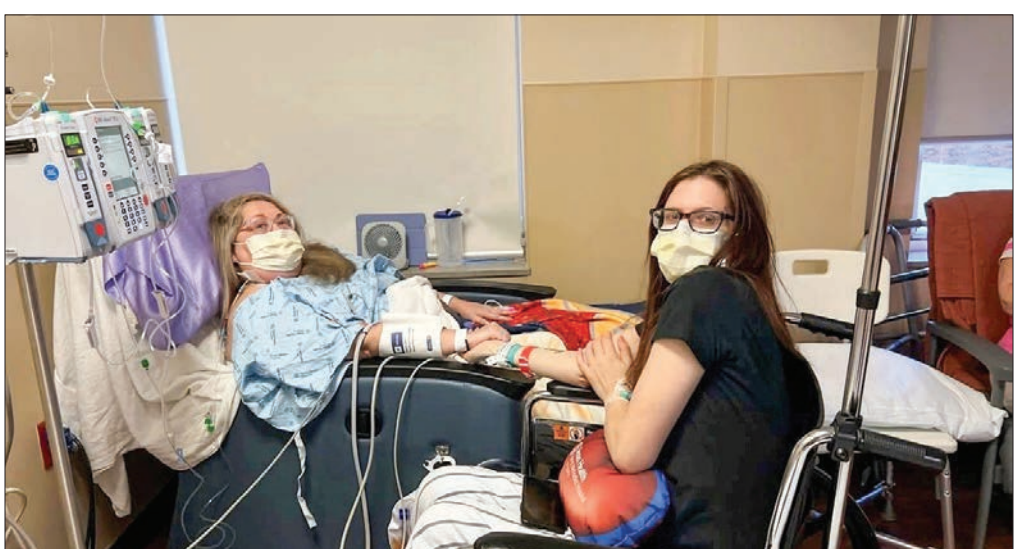
"Their relationship has grown tremendously through this," Joshua Maples said. "It's taught me a lot about love and forgiveness."

McCowen said while she knew undergoing surgery would have its challenges, they paled in comparison to the struggles she saw Angela Maples enduring, including 14-hour dialysis treatments. She said it opened her eyes to the many little things people take for granted.

"On a daily basis, we grumble about 'We've got to go to this event after school for our child' or 'I've got to stop at the grocery store after work,' but these are things she was praying to even be able to do again in life," McCowen said. "It was very, very humbling."

For Angela Maples, the family's story is rooted in love, forgiveness and faith in God. She recommends that others waiting for a kidney transplant to reach out to family, friends and acquaintances, because you never know who might step forward.

"She literally saved my life," Angela Maples said. "If I can give just a little bit of hope to the hopeless and a little bit of faith to the faithless and inspire some courage, then I've done my job."



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury resident Angela Maples (left) visits with her ex-husband's new wife, Amanda McCowen, in October before the two go into surgery. McCowen donated a kidney to Maples.



COURTESY PHOTO

Attwoods has plans to open Granbury Location.

Zoning change approved for Atwoods store

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Atwood's Ranch & Home is one step closer to opening a store in Granbury following a Dec. 8 vote by the Granbury Planning Zoning Commission.

The commission approved a zoning change from Interim Holding to Light Commercial for 14 acres of land at 203 Gateway, which also is along the U.S. Highway 377 frontage road. The item will go before Granbury City Council for final approval.

Atwood's is a farm, ranch, outdoor and home store chain based in Enid, Oklahoma. The chain has 75 stores in five states: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

In addition to farm and ranch items and products for pets and wildlife, the store carries men's, women's and children's clothing and lawn and garden supplies. It also sells outdoor items, firearms and ammunition and has a country market featuring food items.

The closest Atwood's to Granbury is located in Stephenville.

"The plat has been submitted," said Cody Nolen, senior planner for the city of Granbury. "There is a portion of the property in the county that would be voluntarily annexed into the city. There are roughly 14 lots for proposed development."

Nolen said the store fits with the city's comprehensive plan for that area.

The store is requesting to have larger wall signs instead of a road sign, Nolen said.

"There is a variance request for a 10-percent landscape reduction because of the size of the lot," he said. "There would be a lot of excess trees in the middle of nowhere, basically. The landscape will include ornamental and shade trees and shrubs."

Once expansion of Highway 377 is complete, "this will essentially be a frontage road" Atwood's would be located on, Nolen said.

Six notices were sent to property owners, and notice also was published in the Hood County News. Nolen said the city received no responses, either positive or negative, to the proposal.

The commission unanimously approved the zoning change.

In other action:

• The commission approved a specific use permit for an outdoor amusement area requested by Kelly Clark.

"This is at city beach, 615 East Pearl Street, for Bulls on the Beach," Nolen said.

The permit would be for March 12-25, 2026, which would include time for set-up, teardown and cleaning.

Nine notices were sent to nearby property owners and no responses were received.

• Commission members approved a zoning change from Light Commercial to Single-family Residential for property at 1331 Lipan Highway.

"This property has road frontage on Lipan Highway as well as Thorpe Springs," Nolen said. "This is a request for single-family development. Future land use does align with this as Low-Density Residential. There is infrastructure in the area, but more utilities would be needed from the city."

Nolen said there would be a potential impact to schools in terms of an increased number of students.

A total of 43 notices were sent to nearby property owners.

Perry Harvey, who lives nearby, voiced some concerns about the proposed development.

"The subject property is an L shape; therefore, it abuts my property on both sides," he said. "We are downhill from the property. Before they cleared the lot, we were still getting runoff.

"With roads and roofs, I would like to see the candidates required to mitigate runoff — it could increase significantly. I would like to see the city engage a hydrologist (to study the potential impact)," he said.

Harvey said he also would like to see screening or a berm separate the development from his property.

Reda Kay, chair for the commission, said runoff issues would be addressed once the property goes through the platting process, and the purpose of the meeting underway was to focus on zoning.

"This (meeting) is just for zoning, once they start platting, they will have to have engineering work which includes drainage," Nolen said. "They will have to control that drainage and keep it on their development."

John Hall, development supervisor for the proposed subdivision, said he lives in the area and the developer is from Dallas, "So, I'm very intensively involved in this project. We're working with an extremely qualified engineer, and storm drainage will be directed into two ponds. We cannot increase drainage; in fact, I think we'll improve it.

"We will have some beautiful homes, and I think we'll be a unique subdivision. I like screening personally. I don't make all the decisions, but the board listens to me," he said.

Merry Christmas from HCN

A portrait of a 'student of art'– works of Gini Morelock Bosco

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Gini Morelock Bosco was a nationally renowned portraitist who was instrumental in promoting Granbury as a cultural tourist destination. Now, for the first time, a tribute exhibition is being presented in her honor at her home gallery, the Shanley House.

Faces of Inspiration: The Gini Morelock Bosco tribute exhibition

Faces of Inspiration shows "never before seen and unlikely to be seen again" portraiture from the Bosco family's private collection and from some of Bosco's closest artist friends.

The displayed collection traverses Bosco's career and follows her from her use of watercolors to her preferred medium, oil paint. Even a dress Bosco hand-sewed as a reference for one of her accompanying works is on display.

The exhibition opened Nov. 29 and will run through the holiday season, closing out Jan. 3, 2026. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from 1-4 p.m. Sundays. The Faces of Inspiration exhibition is open to the public and free to view.

After Bosco passed away suddenly a year ago this Christmas Eve, her grieving family was reluctant to put Bosco's work on display.

"Originally Frank, her husband, did not want to show her work. So, we were patient, and in time, he decided that he would allow it," said Eden Gilbreath, a Lake Granbury Art Association board member and friend of Bosco's

He had one stipulation — that other artists' works would hang alongside his wife's.

To meet this request, The Lake Granbury Art Association decided Bosco's art would be accompanied by the work of her portrait group, a collection of portrait artists she helped organize 20 years ago and led until she passed.

According to Gilbreath, Bosco was also at the center of the push in the early 2000's to get Granbury "on the map" as an art tourist destination.

One attempt to achieve this was in the creation of the Granbury Fine Arts Council and its subsequent art walks, with Bosco being heavily instrumental in establishing both.

According to Gilbreath, the GFAC would bring in a few larger names for these walks so that the smaller, more local artists of the show would be highlighted by proxy. This garnered attention not only for the local arts scene, but for Granbury as a whole.

Bosco and the portrait group

According to numerous sources, at the foreground of Bosco's many successes was her dedication to being a "great student of art."

"She read a lot, took notes and really absorbed what she read, and tried to apply it to her art," Gilbreath said. "She was self-taught mostly but would then offer her knowledge to all of us, which was great."

The portrait group was founded out of Bosco's commitment to being a true student of art and her desire to continually push the bounds of what her work could be, as evidenced by one conversation Gilbreath recounted with Bosco that led to the creation of the portrait group.

"She said, 'Eden, I keep reading that the thing that we need more than anything is to draw from life. So, what would you think about us starting a drawing group, where we would just get together every week and we would draw from life?' So, that's how it started, not so much a portrait group, but we would draw from life," Gilbreath said.

Throughout the next 20 years and to the present, this group meets every Monday and has come to capture the likeness of dozens of community members.

"She started the group because of her enthusiasm, her passion for painting, drawing and her encouragement," said Gwen Hudson, a portrait group member and exhibited artist. "Because no matter how bad your piece was, she'd go, 'That looks really good,' or 'You've got some good value going on,' and you'd be going, 'Oh my; it doesn't even look like a person,' but she would just encourage you all the time to keep going, and so you'd keep coming back every week."

The members of the portrait group agreed while many artists opt to "hoard" knowledge for themselves, it always was Bosco's goal to see the entire group grow in their work.

"A lot of times artists ... are just like, 'This is my knowledge,'" Gilbreath said.

According to the group, this sentiment was in stark opposition to Bosco's generous spirit — she was praised for always being willing to share her expertise with everyone, instead of hoarding what she knew.

Bosco as an artist

Bosco was a very accomplished artist — receiving national acclaim that she kept relatively under wraps.

One such acclaim was her status as an Oil Painting of America Signature Artist, a title awarded only to those who numerous times have won three juried, national shows within a single year. Each submitted piece had to be a new piece, and no repeats were allowed for consideration.

According to the portrait group, Bosco owed her success to three things, her unyielding dedication to being a student of art; humility; and the "soul" contained within her work.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Gini Morelock Bosco (left) is a Granbury portraitist who achieved national acclaim for her work During the course of her career. In addition to her artistic accolades, she was a natural-born leader and friend, a talented instructor and instrumental in establishing Granbury as a cultural tourism destination.

Bosco's portrait group, when describing their mentor, repeatedly returned to her studies as a source of her talent.

"She was like the ultimate artist. I think we're all pretty slap-hazard. You know, this group here, she planned out everything she would do, color charts and studies and just — you'll see when you look at her work — just all the work she put in before she even laid a piece of paint," said Kathy Yoders, portrait group member and exhibited artist.

According to many, this attention to art as a subject gave Bosco the ability to break the "rules," but only because she knew them better than anyone else.

"I don't know that she was a perfectionist as much as she was meticulous. She knew what she wanted, and it wasn't always perfect, but it was right. After she got it painted, you'd be like, 'How did you get that so great?'" Hudson said.

But what ultimately gave Bosco her creative edge wasn't solely her technical skill, but her own nature — which she was able to capture a piece of in each portrait.

"She was a beautiful spirit herself. Every portrait you do is a self-portrait in one way or another, because you're looking at someone and you're seeing qualities in them, and that's what you're trying to get out," Hudson said. "Well, you've got to know what those qualities are in your own heart to recognize it's someone else, and Gini had such a beautiful, loving, generous, kind spirit. And all of her portraits have that same spirit in them, because that's what she saw when she painted."

According to Gilbreath, despite all her wins and accolades, Bosco acted in pure humility, never letting herself believe she had become all she could.

"Humility is an element that got her where she was, because she always felt she had things to learn, and she was open to anyone's critique, regardless of how experienced or inexperienced they were," Gilbreath said.



Gini Morelock Bosco's tribute exhibition, Faces of Inspiration, is an ode to the progression of the artist's work throughout her career and is comprised of several mediums, including watercolor, oil painting and even this dress she hand-sewed as a reference for the image that hangs on the wall facing it.







Different views voiced on HCAD audit

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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The results of an independent forensic audit of the Hood County Appraisal District (HCAD) were announced this week, with no improper handling of funds discovered during the process, according to a summary of the audit issued by HCAD.

However, Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt said he still has concerns about financial matters related to HCAD, and that the summary of the findings in an HCAD press release are not the same as the audit itself.

Jarratt asked, "Have you seen the audit, or just the summary?" He said the audit is more than 300 pages, with 38 of those being the real audit and the rest being filler pulled off a website.

"I have read the audit itself two or three times. The audit is fine. The results are that the information previously provided has been audited."

The HCAD summary of the audit does not mean the investigation into HCAD's procedures is complete, Jarratt said.

"Now the question is what are the next steps," he said. "It's already in the hands of the district attorney. There is money that has been used — a substantial amount of money — that has been used for purposes that taxing entities never approved, much less asked about."

Jarratt said going back to the 2015 and 2016 fiscal years, the HCAD board would increase its budget without approval from taxing entities.

The amount potentially improperly spent exceeds $1 million, he said.

"It's not over, and I'm reluctant to speak about the details at this point," Jarratt said. "I anticipate a court, whether district, state or federal, will be involved.

"The audit itself is different than the summary provided by Chief Appraiser Jeff Law. Fraud is not even mentioned in the audit except for a line that says it is in the scope of work to check for fraud.

"An assumption has been made in the summary that there's no fraud, and the auditors do not state that. They know better — they're not the judge; they're not the jury. It's unfortunate that most people will read the summary and say, 'There's nothing to see here.' When it comes up in court, I think there will be something to see. It will not be decided by me. That's for a court to decide."

Messenges were left with Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Law, seeking comment, but they were not returned as of press time.

Law, who was not affiliated with HCAD during the time period in which HCAD activities have been questioned by taxing entities and which were subject to the audit, did offer his views.

"It was at the request of the mayor, the county and the city of Tolar's request that this forensic audit was conducted," Law said. "It wasn't just a normal follow-the-money kind of audit. I don't understand how a forensic audit would skip the idea of fraud. Considering the amount of money we spent (on the audit), I'd say if there was fraud, missing money or misspent money, the auditors would have latched on to that.

"Even when you look at the recommendations, there's no recommendation (for HCAD) to safeguard the money any more than it's already been safeguarded," he said.

Law said he appreciated Jarratt's positive comments about his dedication to doing things correctly.

"The mayor has been very kind to me in public comments, and I appreciate it," Law said. "We did what he and representatives of taxing entities asked us to do. I can explain it to him but understanding it is a different issue.

"If I tell you the sky is purple and you didn't believe me, I can't convince him that the sky is purple … I don't know what to say. The auditors didn't find anything that could be considered fraud or illegal, and all the money in question has been returned," Law said.

Law served as chief appraiser for Hood County from 1998-2008 before accepting a position with Tarrant County. He served in Tarrant County from 2008-23 before returning to the Hood County chief appraiser post in 2023.

The audit was conducted by Weaver & Tindell LLP. The firm was hired for the task in April, following requests by the cities of Granbury and Tolar, and Hood County Commissioners Court.

Those governments requested a comprehensive financial review of HCAD, and the audit covered the 2016-23 fiscal years. City and county leaders had expressed concerns that some of the funds allocated to the appraisal board had been mishandled and certain procedures regarding notification of government agencies had not been properly followed.

A press release issued by HCAD read, "The forensic audit confirmed that HCAD's financial activity showed no signs of fraud, missing funds or personal misuse of money. Across all areas reviewed, auditors found that all spending was traceable and supported by invoices, receipts and bank records.

"Retirement contributions were properly calculated, recorded and transmitted to the Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS), and employee contributions were accurately separated from employer contributions. The audit also confirmed HCAD's annual financial statement audits had been presented publicly during board meetings and posted on the district's website."

The press release read, "A minor $26 variance in TCDRS contributions — out of more than $2.8 million reviewed — was identified but deemed insignificant."

Among concerns of county officials, funding for a new facility was mentioned at county commissioners court and city council meetings.

HCAD purchased land in 2019 for a possible new building.

"However, the audit found no evidence that HCAD obtained the required approval from three-fourths of the taxing entitles before making this purchase," the press release read. "As a result, the property was sold back several months later after obtaining legal counsel."

HCAD spent $397,078 on architectural and planning services related to proposed new location between 2019 and 2023. "All these expenditures were properly supported and traced through bank statements," the press release read. "The audit also found during the years 2019-23, $800,000 for 'capital outlay — land and building' was included in the original budgets shared with the taxing entities."

During those years, HCAD's board approved "Retaining $2,004,451 of unused revenue" for future expenses related to new facilities.

These funds were "Ultimately returned to the taxing entities in 2023 in the amount of $1,908,318 because of a decision made by the (HCAD) board of directors," the press release read.

Retirement contributions to TCDRS were also scrutinized. It was noted TCDRS sets the required plan rate and not HCAD.

"HCAD's employee deposit rates, employer matching percentages, and prior service credit selections were found to be generally consistent with those used by other appraisal districts across Texas and Hood County itself," the release read.

Recommendations made to the HCAD as a result of the audit included:

Consulting legal and accounting professionals when dealing with complex matters such as land purchase and the sale of major capital assets

Formally recording all retained funds in a general ledger account rather than an unassigned fund balance, and clearly committing those amounts to designated purposes.

Reasonably estimating multi-year costs, such as TCDRS contributions and anticipated capital project expenses, in the annual budget

Continue performing regular reconciliations between internal accounting records and TCDRS reports

Publishing all financial audits on the HCAD website.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department criminal activity report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department during Nov. 30 through Dec. 6. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

Nov. 30

12:20 p.m.: report of an assault in the 300 block of Paddle Boat Drive.

1:09 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1000 block of Harbor Lakes Drive.

2:20 p.m.: report of an animal near E. Pearl Street and Crawford Avenue.

5:j1 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:03 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 1300 block of Lauren Lane.

8:36 p.m.: report of a panic alarm in the 1500 block of S. Morgan Street.

9:10 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 1500 block of N. Plaza Drive.

9:17 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1000 block of Quiet Cove.

9:43 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 1500 block of N. Plaza Drive.

police reported 39 incidents, including two minor traffic accidents and three traffic stops.

Dec. 1

9:02 a.m.: report of fraud in the 500 block of W. Pearl Street.

9:52 a.m.: report of an open door in the 1400 block of W. Pearl Street.

10:22 a.m.: report of property damage in the 400 block of W. Doyle Street.

11:09 a.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

1:11 p.m.: report of an assault in the 800 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:09 p.m.: report of a reckless driver near Acton Highway and E. U.S. Highway 377.

police 99 incidents, including one minor traffic accident and 29 traffic stops.

Dec. 2

8:19 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 600 block of Donna Circle.

2:37 p.m.: report of an animal in the 700 block of E. Moore Street.

5 p.m.: report of fraud in the 1200 block of Sunset Bay Drive.

5:46 p.m.: report of an animal in the 300 block of N. Park Drive.

6:35 p.m.: report of threats in the 5100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police 101 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one minor traffic accident and 25 traffic stops.

Dec. 3

9:32 a.m.: report of an open door in the 100 block of Kessler Drive.

1:09 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

2:27 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of N. Plaza Drive.

7:34 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

9:10 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1700 block of Lipan Highway.

11:13 p.m.: K-9 sniff near E. U.S. Highway 377 and Cleveland Road.

police 92 incidents, including two minor traffic accidents and 27 traffic stops.

Dec. 4

1:53 a.m.: report of a DWI in the 2000 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:10 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 600 block of Reunion Court.

10:120 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 1200 block of N.E. Loop 567.

4:54 p.m.: report of road rage near W. Pearl Street and W. U.S. Highway 377.

6:22 p.m.: report of an open door in the 100 block of N. Houston Street.

police 49 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 15 traffic stops.

Dec. 5

10:22 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:23 a.m.: report of an assault in the 2000 block of W. Pearl Street.

1:40 p.m.: report of an assault in the 1000 block of Spanish Trail Drive.

3:13 p.m.: report of fraud in the 2000 block of N.E. Loop 567.

4:22 p.m.: report of stock out in the 1400 block of Lipan Highway.

8:33 p.m.: report of a DWI in the 6300 block of Weatherford Highway.

9:59 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 300 block of Kessler Drive.

police 38 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and four traffic stops.

Dec. 6

1:04 p.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 300 block of N. Crockett Street.

police 58 incidents, including two major traffic accidents, one minor traffic accident and 15 traffic stops.

Distracted driving can be deadly

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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Life can change — or even end — in an instant, in the time it takes to send or receive a text or even just take a quick glance at a cell phone.

One of the biggest misconceptions law enforcement would like to clear up is people's view there's nothing wrong with looking at their cell phone while driving. It only takes a split second to crash into another car, to not see a person crossing the street or a child darting out into traffic in pursuit of a ball.

"One of the biggest issues we face right now is distracted driving," Granbury Police Chief Mitch Galvan said. "The state puts a lot of emphasis on ads and billboards warning people about the dangers, but it's not working. There are way too many people driving and looking at their cell phones, and I don't know that there's an easy solution."

Sgt. William Lockridge with the Texas Department of Public Safety said he understands the chief's frustration with distracted driving, and while he acknowledges the state's campaign is not the complete solution, he hopes it at least is making a difference.

"Our partners in law enforcement are doing an incredible job and (the Texas Department of Transportation) are doing a great job, and we want to educate the public on just how dangerous distracted driving is. We want to gain voluntary compliance with state traffic laws. We want to keep people alive, and we're doing the best we can."

Parts of Hood County are congested with traffic, so paying attention when driving is vital, Galvan said. Adding cell phone use into the mix compounds the likelihood of an accident.

"With the amount of wrecks we are working, I guarantee the majority of them involve distracted driving," Galvan said.

Making matters worse is how frequently drivers violate traffic laws, and it's not just in regard to the speed limit.

"It's unusual how so many drivers today think traffic signs are only a recommendation and not the law," Galvan said. "For example, we have signs that tell drivers the left lane is for passing only, and people think that's just a suggestion.

"I don't understand how we've gotten to this point as a society where drivers believe they don't have to follow traffic laws. Once we took driver's ed out of the schools things started to get a lot worse."

Deputy Chief Garrett Wiginton said the Granbury Police Department works numerous crashes, and he believes most of them involve distracted driving.

"It's way too common," he said.

While many people realize the dangers of drunk driving and would never think of driving while intoxicated, a lot of those same people think nothing of driving while their eyes are focused on their cell phones, Galvan said.

"The result can be exactly the same," he said. "Distracted driving is not a whole lot different than drunk driving."

Wiginton said the state published a comparison of drunk driving and distracted driving.

"The legal limit for alcohol content (in one's blood) is .08, and the state report indicates that distracted driving is the equivalent of (having a blood alcohol content level) of 1.0."

The Texas Department of Transportation issued a report in 2024 that reads: "You know that feeling of being bored behind the wheel? So bored that you just can't help but check your phone? Yeah, that feeling. Instant gratification is only inches away, right up to the moment your car is airborne at 70 mph.

"Nearly 400 people lost their lives last year in violent and preventable crashes because of distracted driving in Texas (the total number of annual deaths on Texas roads is nearly 10 times higher). That text is not important. That video is not important. But you are that important to your friends and family. Being bored behind the wheel is better than being dead or hurting others, isn't it?"

The report mentions a wreck that cut short the lives of three people.

"In March 2016, a driver checking her cell phone crashed head-on into an 18-wheeler, killing her passengers. Those passengers were Stacey Riddle's daughters,19-year-old Brianna Robinson and 17-year-old Jade Robinson. The two died while traveling home from a spring break trip to South Padre Island. And in that instant, Riddle's life was never the same.

"'I keep waiting for Brianna and Jade to walk through the front door, but I know they never will again,'" Riddle said. "'People are constantly on their cellphones. They don't consider that using their phones while driving can have tragic, life-changing consequences.'"

Lockridge said distracted driving has moved into the top three killers on roads in Texas, behind drunk driving and not wearing seatbelts, along with speeding.

"Almost 4,000 people die on Texas roads every year, and there hasn't been a single day without a death on Texas roads in more than 25 years," he said. "There are an average of 3,500-3,700 traffic deaths every year. We are No. 1 in the nation for traffic fatalities, and we have been for the last five years."

An incident in Johnson County resulted in the recent conviction of a man who was driving while distracted, crossed the center line of the highway and killed a family of six.

"When you talk about distracted driving, it's not just phones. Anything that takes your attention away from the roadway is dangerous, but phones are a huge part of it, no doubt. It's extremely common, and that's just the crashes that are reported," Galvan said.

Galvan said he has a hard time believing people can be so careless and reckless when driving.

"I am shocked every day seeing what people do when driving," he said. "In some cases, they're not even looking up. We are only able to stop a small percentage of the people doing that — it's insane."

To resolve the problem, Galvan said devices may have to be installed that prevent people from using a cell phone when driving and only being able to call 9-1-1.

"You're going to have to force it (the phone) not to operate," he said.

Galvan said he has talked to someone in the trucking industry who told him that type of technology already is being used in some cases.

"There's a device that can already be installed that throttles down the vehicle when truck drivers are using a cell phone," he said. "Most cars have the ability to do hands-free, which is another option, but a lot of people are not using their phones that way because they want to see the screen.

"The biggest problem is people texting and driving. It's crazy trying to use a small keyboard while you're driving."

Galvan said he hopes the state legislature will take action to help prevent distracted driving.

"People think they can be on their cell phones and nothing will happen to them. They may have gotten away with reading texts and avoiding accidents, but all it takes is one time (for a tragedy to occur)."

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said he sees distracted driving all too frequently when he is on the road.

"I've seen it myself when people are weaving all over the road, and it looks like the driver is drunk, but they're messing around on their phone," he said.

Lockridge said if more people are aware of the dangers of driving while distracted and vow to not be part of the problem, it can make a difference.

"The Texas Department of Public Safety encourages everyone to drive safely, to plan ahead and put the phone down," he said. "We are in the busiest driving season and Texas is seeing an increase in traffic fatalities.

"Troopers don't want to notify someone that a family member has died in a traffic accident because they were on their phone. We want everyone to get home safely. That's what it's all about," he said.

Young woman once was a Christmas for Children recipient, now she does all she can to give back

BY CHLOE LAING
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Christmas for Children is an organization near and dear to Velaria Anahi Medrano — not just because she's been a long-time volunteer at the Hood County chapter of the organization — but because she once was one of its 1,600 annual recipients, a fact that was lost in her memory during her early adolescence.

When Medrano was a senior at Granbury High School, she felt called to give back to her community, and cut out all of her other obligations to be a part of the campus's Junior Leadership Program.

"I was in sports, then I dropped my sports to be able to dedicate more of my time to giving back to my community, because I knew it was something that I did want to partake in, and I ended up joining Junior Leadership," Medrano said.

Her duties with the program required her to volunteer at various local charities, and her favorite became Hood County Christmas for Children.

"I think that Christmas for Children is a great program," Medrano said. "I think that anybody who is even thinking about any type of way to give back to the community should consider Christmas for Children."

A bilingual Spanish and English speaker, Medrano found she filled a role the organization needed — a translator to act as a liaison between some of the non-native English-speaking parents and the program's organizers, who were trying to effectively provide them with an adequate Christmas for their children.

"Being able to see the impact that we (CFC) have on not only the kids, but the parents — seeing the relief that they have once they pick up the toys and know that they're able to give their child a bike or a bed; it was just so impactful," Medrano said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Velaria Anahi Medrano has been volunteering with the Hood County Christmas for Children since her senior year of high school, three years ago. This photo is from that time.

According to Medrano, serving her community isn't just a way to give back; it's a way to give praise.

"Just to see the relief that it has on them and see how just a little act of kindness can help those around you and really spread the love of our Dear Lord Jesus," Medrano said. "I'm very faithful, and I think that everybody should love like Jesus; if that's what they've been called to.

"All sides of the family — adults, children, teenagers — they're all very thankful, and they're all grateful," Medrano said. "I think that God uses all of these good deeds, and he rejoices."

However, according to Medrano, the more involved she became with the organization, the more it reminded her of a vague childhood memory.

"It was almost too familiar to me, seeing the cards and everything," Medrano said. "So, I talked to my mom about it, and she was like, 'Oh, you do know that we used to get gifts for you from Christmas for Children.'"

Medrano said at the time, her parents were very young, and that every cent her father earned went to covering the family of six's most basic needs, like food and shelter.

Therefore, to give her children a chance at having the Christmas they dreamed of, Medrano's mother enrolled them in Christmas for Children.

Medrano said as a child, what she dreamed of was a bike. The family had just moved out of the crowded metroplex and into the more rural environment of Hood County, which Medrano said her 8-year-old self viewed as the perfect place to own a bike.

That very Christmas, she unwrapped a purple, sparkly bike of her own — thanks to the Hood County Christmas for Children.

"I remember, one of the biggest gifts that I received from them was a bike and some bedding," Medrano said. "They gifted me this bike, and I had this bike for years; I learned how to ride it; we took the training wheels off of it — it was the bike that I grew up with."

According to Medrano, remembering this made her invest even further into the mission of Christmas for Children.

"Hearing that story and knowing that it was from them made me even more passionate about helping them," Medrano said. "I ended up graduating, but I stuck around, and I still stick around to this day."

Now, Medrano is a sophomore at Texas Christian University, but she still makes time to lend a hand to the Hood County Christmas for Children, coming home on holidays and serving whenever her studies allow her the time — though she makes a particular effort to not miss Distribution Day or the program's annual Run, Run Rudolph fundraiser.

"It's definitely like a part-time job there, more seasonal. So, when I can go back, I stay as plugged in as I can," Medrano said.

However, when she can't make it back home to serve, she'll make a stop by one of Tarrant County's Christmas for Children's Angel Trees, because for Medrano, community care is a form of selfcare.

"I feel like we can tend to get lost in the things that we have going on in front of us and just pausing to take a look at what's going on around me is what keeps me motivated," Medrano said.

For more information about the Hood County Christmas for Children or to consider volunteering, visit christmasforchildren.org.

ELECTIONS
FROM PAGE A1

Virgil John Bierschwale and Wesley Hunt.

For U.S. House of Representatives District 25, Democrat William Marks and Republican incumbent Roger Williams are seeking the post.

The region will have a new Texas District 22 senator, as Brian Birdwell vacates the post. Democrat Amy Martinez-Salas is running for the office, along with a trio of Republicans — David Cook, Jon Gimble and Rena Schroeder.

For Texas House District 59, Republican incumbent Shelby Slawson seeks re-election. On the Democratic side, Andrew Turner and Ethan Newcomer are running. Slawson is unopposed in the Republican primary.

A crowded field of candidates seeks several state offices, including governor and lieutenant governor.

The 16 candidates for Texas governor are:

Republicans: Arturo Espinosa, Evelyn Brooks, incumbent Greg Abbott, Kenneth Hyde, Mark V. Goloby, Nathaniel Welch, Pete "Doc" Chambers, Ronnie Tullos and Stephen Samuelson.

Democrats: Andrew White, Angela "Tia Angie" Villescaz, Bobby Cole, Chris Bell, Gina Hinojosa, Jose Navarro Balbuena and Patricia Abrego.

A complete list of March 2026 primary candidates is available at the Texas secretary of state's website at sos.tx.us.

The last day to register to vote for the primary election is Monday, Feb. 2, 2026. The first day of early voting is Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, which is the first business day after President's Day. The last day of early voting is Friday, Feb. 27, 2026.

GOOSE
FROM PAGE A6

ed lineup of activities and enhancements, including:

G&G Electric Warming Zone
Mascot Races
Giant Snow Globe Photo Op
Snow Pad for Children
The Earnest Reinke "Chili on the Beach" Cookoff
Expanded Vendor Village
Enhanced Blue Carpet Experience
Guaranteed Snowfall Effects

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

"Some people think it's crazy. Some come just to watch. But no matter how you participate, it's always exciting — and always perfect goosebump weather," said Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury. "Last year, the snow was falling as promised. We'll deliver it again — 100 percent chance."

How the jump works

Participants arrive via the Blue Carpet Walk beneath falling snow, pass beneath the Goosebump Jump arch, take photos with the event's inflatable goose mascot, and launch themselves into Lake Granbury via the 15-foot water slide. JR Spas will provide hot tub stations for participants to warm up immediately after exiting the water.

Stay toasty warm at the G&G Electric warming zone on the beach and enjoy music by KHITS 95.5 as jumpers prepare to plunge.

Spectators, families, sponsors and media are encouraged to attend and enjoy the festivities.

Award-winning statewide recognition

The Lake Granbury Goosebump Jump has earned significant attention across Texas. Visit Granbury received the Texas Travel Award for Best Tourism-Related Community/Philanthropic Effort.

Register now

Teams already are forming. Secure a spot and support a favorite charity.

Register at visitgranbury.com/goosebumpjump.

Download winter guest passports at visitgranbury.com.

Event details are available at visitgranbury.com.

APPOINTS
FROM PAGE A1

business and seems very knowledgeable," Andrews said.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, who had six applicants from her precinct, nominated Long.

"I'm so blessed to have so many with experience, talent and willingness to serve," Samuelson said. "I'm amazed every day and had so many good applicants."

Samuelson said Long "has been on an economic development board in another county and worked in development and construction for 20 years, and hopefully you'll agree he was a good nominee."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson nominated Garner, whom he said was the only nominee from his precinct Background information on Garner will appear in an upcoming issue of the Hood County News.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said he had four good applicants and selected Carter, whom he said "is an attorney and has worked with the city of Euless economic development board in the past."

Samuelson nominated Leftwich as the chair of the development commission and said county development director Clint Head also will offer valuable input.

Before the commission members were appointed, Andrews expressed concerns about limitations on authority the county has to oppose developments.

"We do not have the power or the authority to put a moratorium (a decision to temporarily prohibit) in place," Andrews said. "The beginning of Subsection K (of Chapter 231 of state law, which grants certain rights to Hood County to preserve the area from unchecked development) gives us a very grandiose idea, but the authority given to us is very limited.

"The power we have is given to us by the state, and it does not grant us zoning authority. It has to do with population density, not industrial. The thing that gives us the most hope is an item related to water impact. I promise this has been a front-and-center issue with everybody on this court," he said.

Andrews said he is concerned about just how much county leaders could do to respond to people's concerns.

"The tools we've been given to work with are very limited," he said. "We want input. The wise counsel of many — working together — gives us the best chance to come up with a solution."

County Judge Ron Massingill said the Bracewell law firm also has been tasked with providing the best legal advice available.

"That's why we hired Blakely Hernandez (with Bracewell)," Massingill said. "She has worked with other counties and entities and we need her expertise in taking Subchapter K and making it something we can use offensively in negotiations."

Massingill said, "We're resurrecting this (the development commission) which I think is a great idea."

Most of the people who spoke at the beginning of the meeting, reserved for "citizen comments at large," voiced their concerns about proposed data centers and power plants in the area.

Four people who signed up to comment on the development commission spoke before the appointment of the five commission members.

Brian Glynn said he "lauded the commissioners for their diligence in looking into legal avenues."

He also referred to a permitting situation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that took place in Johnson County and impacted Hood County.

"We've got to get on the TCEQ so they don't do in Johnson County what should be done in Hood County," Glynn said. "We have to ensure we have good monitoring of the water system and studies to show what the impact will be. Unregulated runoff will completely destroy this county."

John Highsmith said the development commission and commissioners court need to be aware "there could be a total of seven (power) plants in this county. Our neighbors in Somervell County are concerned about powerlines that would be put on both sides of Dinosaur Valley State Park. Do you think Hood County would be preserved from those powerlines? I think not."

Highsmith said a report by the Hood County Clean Air Coalition read "nitrous oxides could double" and unchecked development of power plants and data centers could dame health, air, water and property values.

"I applaud the court's efforts," Highsmith said. "I know the fight is a difficult one, but I know what will happen if there is no fight."

Bob Slater, who resides in Pecan Plantation, said "every community, in my opinion, has a soul. It is embodied in the courthouse, our flags and the people who served this community.

"I think we are at a point you could define Hood County as a gateway community. Are we a gateway to recreation or (unchecked) development? We all understand what capitalism is and what destructive capitalism is," he said.

With data centers, Slater said, there would be destructive capitalism reigning locally, adding, "We have barbarians at the gates.

"We're an All-American community for what we represent ... I'd say our soul is tied up in this, how we wish to live out the rest of our lives. Let's saddle up and deal with it now," Slater said.

Donna Kelleher talked about possible ways to utilize Subchapter K to the county's advantage.

"This is an opportunistic era we're in with data centers, and we're in this position because there's no review process. This is what carpetbaggers used to do when they came into a new area," Kelleher said.

She said there were many options to look at to restrict development.

"Let's talk about impervious cover of 2,600 acres," she said. "How much coverage will we allow in our county? How much will be concrete, which is permanent. If we have statutes in place, we are one step ahead.

She said developers are "looking at the lowest cost solutions. What standards can we adopt that they have to have quality (development). What will we do about fire protection and required fire suppression systems."

Kelleher asked, "Oh my God, it's the biggest risk we have. If you get a giant fire going, who's going to put it out?"

The threat to wildlife also is something to consider, she said, noting there were endangered and threatened species.

"What if an animal lands in a contaminated pond? You have an environmental impact," Kelleher said. "Consider the trees, juniper, ash and oak that are habitat for protected species. It takes years to get that habitat. With a 2,500-acre site, they will flatten all of it.

"We need to do risk assessment. Nobody wants old technology, and that's what's being proposed. There's new technology available, and we'd be stuck with crappy old buildings," Kelleher said.

Opera Guild of Granbury presents donation to Granbury Theatre Academy

From Staff Reports

A check in the amount of $5,000 was presented to Matt Beutner, director of the Granbury Theatre Academy, during the Dec. 2 luncheon/meeting.

The Opera Guild extends heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, sponsors and those who attended various fundraisers this year. Ona Pruitt, president of the guild, said a portion the guild funds are given to the academy for assistance to help with the travel expenses to the Junior Theatre Festival Competitions in January and February.

The largest fundraiser was the much-anticipated The Best Little Bingo Game in Texas Annual Bingo Night in October, which drew a full house this year, delighting supporters with an evening of fun and community spirit. Held at David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center, with the generous donations of goods and services donated by local Granbury and Hood County businesses and professional people, resulted in raising significant funds — a portion of which are earmarked for the reupholstering of the theatre's cherished but well-worn seats.

In addition, the guild has awarded Merit Award Scholarships to academy students for several years. These awards will be presented to several students in March 2026.

The guild's next fundraiser will be March 19, 2026, at the Granbury Historic Square. Come join in the fun with the Sip & Support held at D'Vine Wine.

For more information about the opera guild or how to contribute to the theatre seat restoration fund, visit granburyog@gmail.com All contributions are accepted and appreciated.

The guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts. It is a 501c3 nonprofit group of members/volunteers that not only work to raise funds for the Granbury Opera House but also periodically gather socially. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month from September to May at the DeCordova Bend Country Club. Board members welcome the public's attendance as a guest for the upcoming meeting to allow them to get to know the group. Memberships are individual $25, joint and business $35 a year.

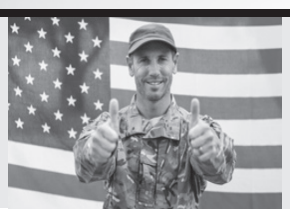


COURTESY PHOTO
The Opera Guild of Granbury presents a donation to the Granbury Theatre Academy Dec. 2. Pictured from left are Sally Adamson, Matt Beutner and Ona Pruitt.

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Picture of Hope Christmas Gala

PHOTOS BY **MARY VINSON** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Saturday, Dec. 6, Mission Granbury hosted the Picture of Hope Christmas Gala at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center. This celebration brought together sponsors and supporters, all united by a shared goal: to create a vision of hope for the entire community. Sam Houston took the podium for the presentation, accompanied by a slideshow, as Marilyn Luton, Monty Lewis, Justin Rossner and Justin Jeter voiced the moving personal stories. Attendees had a fantastic time raising funds for Mission Granbury, which has dedicated decades to helping adults and children transition from crisis to self-sufficiency.



Shane Brooks and his band are favorites in the local music scene; they were an excellent choice for the evening's entertainment.



The recipient of the prestigious Heart of the Community Award, Lance McMichael from Kroger, shares a warm embrace with presenter Andi Luna. Marilyn Luton also participated in the presentation.



Auctioneers Nin Hulett and Monty Lewis engaged bidders from the stage while Michelle Lucero showcased the "Evening with the Messinas" sign. This auction item offers a chef-curated dinner, hosted by Vince and Margie Messina in their home. Chef Megan from Anise Culinary will prepare an exquisite and intimate dining experience for 10 guests, featuring globally inspired flavors and fine dining expertise.



Santa Claus (John Kraft) was an honored guest, is seated at the entrance to greet all the good boys and girls.



From left, Marilyn Luton from Mission Granbury is joined by Kara Dingman-Ruiz, Cynthia Pigg and Taylor Hatfield, all prepared for their magical night of hope.





Granbury will look to make the playoffs in 2025-26

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Jeremy McFerrin is starting his second year as head boys basketball coach for Granbury. This will be his 18th year coaching. In his first year at Granbury, he led his team to a 4-8 district record, 14-21 overall, with Granbury just missing the playoffs. Several games were close and lost by single possessions.

"We have some tough games and matchups to challenge our team, along with teams I believe we are equal in talent, to see what we can accomplish," McFerrin said.

McFerrin had summer basketball camps for all ages to help make basketball more year-round and build a good program. The camp numbers increased this summer, and McFerrin said the increased attendance shows the importance of being "plugged in early and often."

"I started a youth program (Victory) to get Granbury kids playing more competitive basketball. I attend camps and clinics myself, from being involved in the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches), working other camps and reaching out for advice and encouragement. I'm seeking ways to always improve as a coach and to improve the program and each player," McFerrin said.

The returning starters are Miller Schenewark, Kylan Loving, Tyler Harrison and Nathan Walters. With these returners, McFerrin said the strong returning minutes and good incoming freshmen will be a strength this season.

A big difference in this year's team McFerrin has noticed, is their familiarity with each other and his coaching. The players have started to develop more, and it is setting a standard for the program he wants to run.

He wants this team to excel at rebounding, decreasing their turnovers and improving their shooting percentages.

His goals for the team are simple. He wants an offense that scores and a defense that contests all shots and doesn't allow paint touches. He is most excited for the opportunity to compete.

"We have three new coaches who bring energy and previous experience in coaching basketball," McFerrin said.

The goal for the season is a playoff birth with 20 wins.



COURTESY PHOTO

Front row from left, are Kylan Loving, Miller Schenewark, Ben Torres, Luke Rodriguez, Tyler Harrison, Hutton Battenfield, Koen Stahl, Karson Barrington, Carson Ramos and Nathan Walters. Back row are Brannon Burns, Audie Mejeras, Sofia Heritage, Wade Johnson, Tyler McClain, Jeremy McFerrin, Alex Albro, Kyle Sentell, Cade Moody, James McKelvy. Pictured,

Lipan boys basketball looking for a different result this year



COURTESY PHOTO

Front row from left, are Kelvin Murray, Carson Caban, Degan Rodriguez and Madok Delgado. Back row are Briton Rice, Collier King, Lucas Mills, Taylen Pendleton, Cayden Abrego, Nic Merkle and Chase McSpadden.

A season to redeem

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lipan basketball came so close last year to grabbing another state title, but it wasn't in the cards for the Indians. After a 55-43 loss to Martins Mill, a state title is still the goal.

Brent Gaylor is entering his 24th year as a coach and 12th at Lipan. While last year was a successful season, he never likes losing the final game. Losing the big game made for a good offseason.

"We have been trying to work on improving on some of our weaknesses and hoping to take another crack at it this year," Gaylor said.

Gaylor spent his offseason watching film of his team, district opponents and talking with his players about how they can improve individually.

The start of the schedule is packed with some good matchups, Gaylor is looking to test his team with.

The season opened with the defending 2A Division 1 state champions Waco Meyer and a 74-43 win for Lipan. The next day was a matchup against Dallas Roosevelt and a 40-37 loss. Lipan won the Port Aransas Marlin Classic tournament. The Piney Woods Hoopfest in Lufkin and the No. 1-ranked defending state champion Jayton at Midwestern State before the Christmas break.

"The Tenaha tournament is absolutely loaded as usual," Gaylor said.

Returning starters are sophomore Brayden Harrison, junior Court Gaylor, junior Evan Lott and senior Darius Steed. Other players are Tucker Tims, Michael Bolfing, Colby Scott, Dante Steed, Billy Smith and Wyatt Yates.

"We got most of everyone back from last year. Should have as much depth as we have ever had," Gaylor said.

The biggest difference in this year's team is they are getting stronger physically. By being stronger, Gaylor can have them excel defensively.

Tolar looks to build off last season's successes

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Head coach Andy Atkins is ready to see what his young Rattler team will carry from last years bi-district season. Atkins will be in his second year as head boys basketball coach at Tolar, fifth year as a head coach and 23rd season total. In his first year at Tolar, he led his team to second in the district, with a 10-4 district record and 15-18 overall, with seven players being sophomores or younger.

"We are excited about bringing most of the team back and having some stability. We are able to add layers onto our learning and concepts that I believe will allow the players to grow. The boys are eager to show what they can do and are always looking for ways to get better," Atkins said.

High school players were able to attend a Tolar basketball summer camp that allowed them to work on their skills and better understand concepts they will be using this season. The summer camps were a strong part of Atkin's summer and plans to continue having these camps every year.

"I'm always looking for ways to improve and meet the needs of my team. Each team is different and that allows me to grow in different ways. Since I've been coaching for a while, I know what I like and what I can stay away from. This allows me to narrow my focus as I learn from similar style coaches and how they do things," Atkins said.

The continuity of this team is one of the strengths that he is excited to see. With "90 percent" of last year's team returning, it will make the learning process of the team's roles faster.

"We have a very similar team to last year, but the biggest difference is that we are one year older. We know our system that much better, and our maturity is that much stronger," Atkins said. "They each have special abilities, and being together for so long, we have been able to learn what each player needs to do."

Returning starters are Cayden Abrego, Madok Delgado, Briton Rice, Lucas Mills, Collier King and Nic Merkle. Other returners are Chase McSpadden and Kelvin Murray.

"My staff is new, and I think with our success from last year plus our returners, we have very high expectations," Atkins said.

Sharing the ball and finding the best shot regardless is something Atkins wants his team to excel at this year. Their biggest challenge will be handling and managing the season, he said.

"The biggest challenge to a basketball season is always managing the roller coaster ride. There will be ups and downs. How a team handles those can really put them in a good place to excel," Atkins said.



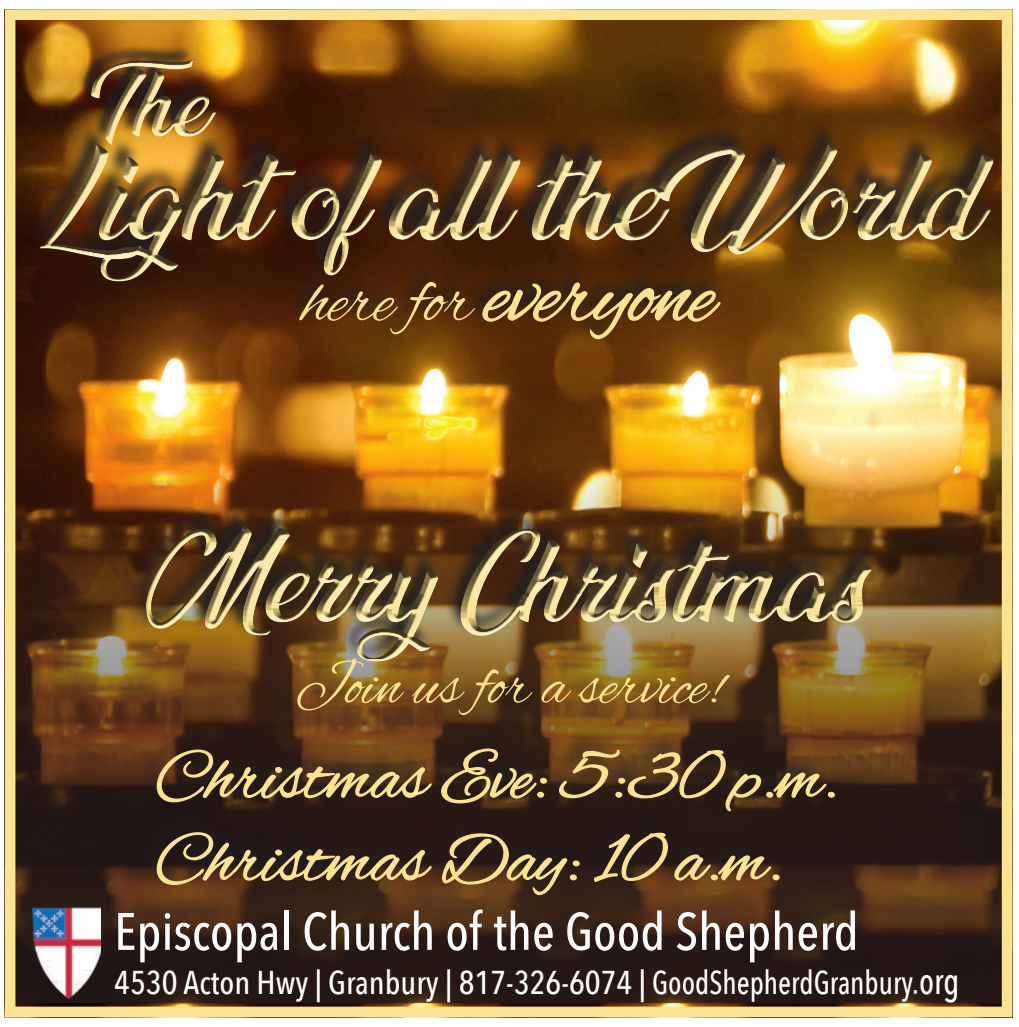
COURTESY PHOTO

Front row from left, are Kelvin Murray, Carson Caban, Degan Rodriguez and Madok Delgado. Back row are Briton Rice, Collier King, Lucas Mills, Taylen Pendleton, Cayden Abrego, Nic Merkle and Chase McSpadden.

The Rattler offense will be very concept-based, as they want to be able to adjust and score in multiple ways, but have an emphasis on spreading the floor with shooting. The defense will have multiple versions, all based on high effort.

"We always strive to get better every day. And we want to develop a program that competes for regional championships," Atkins said.





Lipan boys win HD Howard classic championship

BY JAXON HANSARD
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The Lipan Indians went a perfect 5-0 at its home HD Howard Classic basketball tournament. Evan Lott, Brayden Harrison and Darius Steed were named to the All-Tournament Team and Court Gaylor was tournament MVP.

With victories against Glen Rose 80-43, Tolar 78-48, Slidell 63-44, North Crowley JV 62-36 and a 60-49 victory against Paradise puts Lipan at 10-1 on the season and won the tournament. (as of Dec. 8).

In the championship game, Court Gaylor had 20 points, three rebounds, four deflections and two steals. Steed had 16 points and seven rebounds. Brayden Harrison had 12 points, three rebounds, six assists, three deflections and four steals.

"I thought our defense in the championship game is what prevailed us to the championship," head coach Brent Gaylor said. "We had several players make big plays all weekend."

Coach Gaylor said the team played well for the most part, their play in the semis and finals were two of their better games all season.

"Only the second and third times this year that we had to compete for all four quarters," he said.

There's always room for improvement as Gaylor wants his team to improve their rebounding. They are hopeful to have more competitive games as the season continues.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lipan Indian boys basketball team hosted and won the HD Howard classic tournament.

Lady Indians win HD Howard Classic tournament



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lady Indians win their home tournament with a 45-36 win against Gunter.

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The Lipan Lady Indians hosted and won the HD Howard Classic basketball tournament. A 4-0 outing for Lipan at the tournament brings them to 11-3 on the season (as of Dec. 8).

"It was pretty good. We had a lot of good teams and a lot of good competition, and went 4-0 and won the championship. So it was pretty good weekend. It's very tiring to host one, but it was fun," head coach Amber Branson said.

Through the four victories, Lipan played hard and with a great energy. This was a point Branson wanted to get through to her team and it started their game before the tournament. Two days before the tournament, Lipan beat a Hood County rival in Tolar 58-31. That local rivalry made the team play more to the pace and energy Branson has wanted and it carried into their dominant tournament run.

"They played hard, and we wanted to carry it into the tournament. It was a long week considering the game Tuesday, plus the tournament. I just think they played really hard, considering, so I was proud of them for that," Branson said.

Lipan beat Breckenridge 71-11, El Paso Chapin 47-24, Chireno 39-27 and Gunter 45-36 for the championship.

In the Championship game, Freshman Sydni Gaylor had 20 points. Senior Finley Shockley had 11 points. Junior Kynzi Callaway had eight points and Junior Jacy Bolton had four points. Shockley was named tournament MVP.

"I just feel we played really well and very aggressive against both of those two teams (Gunter and Chireno) in the last two days of the tournament," Branson said. "We had different kids scoring different games. One game Sydni would have high points, One game Finley would have high points, but I tell them, I don't care who scores. It could be our 10th girl on the bench and as long as we win it doesn't matter. I think they all just played well and they're starting to play hard and play together."

The effort and energy the Lady Indians displayed during their tournament run is what Branson wants to see replicated for the rest of the season.

"We tell them all the time that doesn't take any talent. Playing hard is just effort and hopefully it'll be repeated, because it's what's it's going to take in order for us to win a lot of games," Branson said.

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Comical occurrences happen while being outdoors in Texas



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Luke Clayton talks about comical occurrences while outdoors in this week's column.

BY LUKE CLAYTON

As an outdoors writer for the past 40 years and a lifelong outdoors person, I have more than my share of downright comical things that occurred while spending time hunting, fishing and kicking around the outdoors. I'm betting if you have spent much time on the water or in the field, you too could fill a small book expounding upon your experiences. Looking back, sometimes way back, here are a few of mishaps that have occurred that come to mind.

Many years ago I was invited by to hunt desert mule deer on Clayton William's West Pyle Ranch out in the Trans Pecos region of Texas. I asked Paul Henderson, the wildlife manager on the ranch, if I could bring my muzzleloader. I could tell he was a bit hesitant but agreed-providing I could prove how well it shot at the range before the hunt.

West Texas cowboys served as guides on the West Pyle and they were all intrigued with my "old west" looking TC SCOUT 50 caliber. They also were impressed at the groups the rifle was shooting at 100 yards.

Just before it was time to go hunting, I was circled by six or so of the guides, all intent upon learning how to load and cap the muzzleloader. The wind was blowing a gale and I made the mistake of looking away from the task of pouring powder into the rifle's bore for an instance.

A few hours later, I was putting the sneak on a tremendous 10-pointer that was with a herd of 12 or so does; the rut was going strong. Walt was watching me with binoculars as I stalked from rock to rock. When about 100 yards from the buck, I eased behind a big rock, scooted the Scout on the top of the rock, cocked the hammer and settled the sights on the buck's shoulder. Bang.

I (and Walt, through binoculars) watched the big 350-grain conical bullet kick up dust way short of the buck. I realized I had just fired a very light powder charge (remember the wind was blowing hard when I loaded and I made the mistake of looking away from the task at hand). I slumped behind the rock, reloaded as quickly as my shaking hands could work, placed the No. 11 primer on the nipple eased back on top of the rock and to my amazement, the buck had only moved about 20 yards; he was still within range.

With a full charge of 90 grains of Pyrodex pushing it, the big conical bullet found its mark and I had my buck on the ground. Back at the truck Walt said something like "You don't recon the wind blew the powder away before you could get it down the bore, do you"? I replied, "I recon it did."

Way before I became a veteran outdoors writer, I was a fisherman; a fisherman who owned some of the most "clunkiest" old boats and motors one could imagine. Back in the early 1980s, I remember buying an old Lone Star Commander 14-foot V nose aluminum boat that had seen years and years of use and abuse before I became its proud owner. I had an 18 HP. Evinrude mounted on the boat's transom, vintage 1958.

The old motor ran pretty well most of the time, but I simply could not get the boat's battered hull to stop leaking. I dabbed everything from roofing tar to glue on the rivets and just when I thought I had the leaks stopped, a new one, or several would pop up. A good friend, the late Loren Flynn who was my bass tournament partner, presented me with two empty coffee cans, a one pound can and a two pound can.

It's important to note Loren owned a state-of-the-art (of the day) bass boat with all the bells and whistles available at the time. He enjoyed kidding me about the "Sea Dog." "Here you go, Luke, I want you to keep these in the 'Sea Dog.' The small one is your 12-volt bilge pump, the larger will serve duty your 24 volt. Use the smaller can for days when the boat is only leaking slightly. When things get really bad, go for the 24 volts." We had many laughs about Loren's bilge pumps throughout the years.

I remember getting the idea to make the raggedly old trailer that came with the boat a "drive on." I had another buddy who was a pretty good shade tree welder. He used some of the old black gas pipe to extend the wiring up from the trailer and I sprang for some brand new lights which he mounted to the top of the gas pipe extensions. His welding looked pretty good after I mounted the lights up high so they would not be exposed to the water when we backed the trailer down into the water.

Nobody told us the gas pipe was made from cast iron, a metal know known for taking much abuse. I backed the trailer down into the water and off loaded the boat just fine. The problem came when the fishing trip was over and it was time to load the boat. I will never forget easing the old boat just a few feet upwind from the trailer so that I could center the boat's keel on the rollers.

The nose of the boat contacted the left vertical piece of gas pipe and it instantly snapped off at the trailers frame. The wind caused the boat to contact the right vertical pipe and it too snapped as though it were made of a peppermint stick. From then on, I remember wading out and pushing the vintage craft back onto the trailer by hand. We caught a lot of bass and crappie from that ole boat and spent many happy hours fishing lakes Crockett and Coffee Mill near Honey Grove.

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website catfishradio.org. Catch Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

Protecting your boat and dock this winter season



BY KYLE LEWIS

Kyle Lewis is the project manager/program coordinator at Brazos River Authority's Lake Granbury.

Shorter days and cooler temperatures signal the end of warm weekends on the water and the beginning of winter. While Texas may not experience extremely harsh winters and long-lasting, deep freezes, your boats and docks still need protection from the winter elements. Fortunately, there are things you can do before the cold weather hits to make sure your watercraft and dock will be in good condition when spring rolls around.

Winterizing your boat

Winterizing your boat can be as simple as draining any water on board and adding antifreeze in case of a cold snap. The Boat Owners Association of The United States explains freshwater expands in volume by about 9 percent when it freezes and can even push outwards. The push can have a force of tens of thousands of pounds per square inch, which can cause cracks, splits and general damage to your boat.

A good first step to consider for winterizing your boat is where (and how) you want to store your watercraft. Popular options include moving it to an indoor climate-controlled unit, removing it from the water, leaving it in its slip or keeping the boat in the water.

If you decide to leave your boat in the water, there are several things to consider. If you don't consistently check on your boat, underwater fittings can become vulnerable to failure, causing the vessel to sink. Leaving it in the water year-round can cause blistering because it doesn't get a chance to dry out.

To avoid problems with storing your watercraft in water, protect the thru-hulls by closing seacocks and gate valves. Thru hulls are fittings designed to accept pipes and valves that allow water to pass in or out of boats.

Dock lines can cause the watercraft to sink if strong winds push it underneath the dock. It's best to center it in the slip and use long dock lines and spring lines to help maintain distance between the boat and the dock.

Even though there are some risks to keeping a watercraft in the water during the winter months, there also are some advantages. Water retains heat longer than air, so boats surrounded by air are more susceptible to sudden freezes caused by rapid temperature drops.

Watercraft kept ashore should be winterized earlier than those kept in the water. The key to successfully storing a vessel on land is resting it on something that will provide adequate support. In addition to covered storage areas, there are multiple options for storage out of the water:

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Trailers
Lifts

Besides having your vessel laid up properly, covering it while on land can help prevent damage. But simply placing a plastic tarp atop the vessel may not be enough to protect it if strong winds damage the tarp. Moreover, if ice forms on the tarp, even more damage can occur. Using a canvas material to cover the vessel would be beneficial over a classic tarp.

The best covers are custom-made from canvas material coupled with a wood or aluminum frame to promote air circulation and prevent water pooling on the surface. Vents in the cover will help with air circulation and also will help prevent mildew.

Winterizing your dock

Your boat isn't the only thing that needs protection from the winter elements. Winterizing your dock will help protect it from long-term damage and save you from expensive fixes in the spring.

EZ Dock Texas recommends starting off by inspecting your boat lift for loose parts and bolts and checking dock cables for wear and tear. Check the anchors on land to ensure they have not moved out of place. If you aren't sure what to look for, consider hiring a professional to help you evaluate and maintain the structure. Dock builders also can provide expertise in making repairs, as well as offering advice on how to avoid problems with your structure.

Next, clean the surface of your dock to remove dirt, debris, algae or fungus. If you have a warm day, take the opportunity to see if water beads on the wood's surface. If the wood doesn't adequately repel water, you may want to consider resurfacing it.

Finally, consider purchasing a bubbler or agitator to prevent ice from forming.

You never stop learning lessons in the outdoors



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all his life and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

The one thing that is sure when it comes to the outdoors is that you never know what to expect. Some days will be repeats, but there always is something new or different. I had a recent question on fishing near cormorants feeding. I will discuss this here as well. Each day is a new adventure.

I always talk about keeping your mind open. Don't get fixated on a certain pattern as that may be your downfall for the day. On a previous trip in the river above the reservoir, I ran across a large school of feeding gar. Typically, when you get into a school of gar, the other fish will not be present or the gar will not leave your presentation alone. Another bad thing about gar is if they take your jig, you pretty much can kiss your lure goodbye. These toothy critters will bite through monofilament like a knife through butter. On occasion, they only will get the hook and you can get them to the boat.

The real story is there were striped bass feeding below or near these schooling gar. Actually, the striped bass were slightly downstream may only be 10-15 yards. These opportunistic predators (the striped bass) were letting the gar kill the bait and the bigger striped bass were waiting on the bait to fall or drift their way.

After seeing the surfacing fish and getting close enough to realize they were gar, our baits were hit. My first thought of course this will be a gar on the other end of the line, but to my surprise they were striped bass. I guess if you are big enough, those gar don't worry you. Why not take advantage of the free food? Like I said, you never know what you are going to run into.

Another fishing scenario that may seem impossible to many is a misconception about cormorants. The general rule is you cannot catch striped bass/hybrids below these cormorants. The cormorant is related to the pelican and they consume tons of fish by diving deep in the water. Most bass anglers despise these birds as they can devastate a small fishery (tank or small lake). Most people know that fishing for catfish below a cormorant roost is a great place. Cormorant waste is pure fish and the catfish are in heaven. But have you ever heard of catching striped bass under the cormorants?

Typically, fishing for hybrids or striped bass below feeding cormorants is not great advice, but you can catch striped bass/hybrids under these feeding birds at times. The thing about cormorants is they draw in other birds (gulls) when they are feeding. The site of gulls from the distance will bring in anglers looking for feeding fish. When you get close and see it is cormorants, typically you are disappointed for wasting your time for heading that way. Next time you have this happen to you, take a few minutes and fish below where those cormorants were feeding. The cormorants are spooky birds and they leave before you can get too close. Mark the area with a marker and work your baits and graph that area. I have at times actually caught some predator fish hanging near the feeding cormorants. Again, the situation here is that the feeding cormorants are diving in numbers killing baitfish and what ever else they can kill and eat. The bigger predators were big enough or just out of range of the diving birds. They more than likely sat patiently waiting on the injured or dead bait to fall their way. This I am sure will not be the case on most days, but on occasion this may be an effective pattern depending on the water depth and the size of the predators. Try it you may be surprised.

Another scenario this time of the year is murky water can be where the fish are holding. Typically, striped bass and hybrids are sight feeders and finding clear water is preferred. When the water gets real cold, murky/stained water will hold baitfish as the stained water will be slightly warmer. The trick here is to know when it is too muddy to fish or when the murky/stained water can be fished.

So how do you go about catching these fish in this murky water? I like using dark soft plastics drifted through the baitfish. Use colors you generally would not use as often such as red, rainbow and black. At times I have seen the more unbelievable the color the better it worked. This solely was because it was easier for the active predator to find. If they found it, they hit it.

All these scenarios can be used at times to catch fish. The point here as usual is to be open-minded and try all angles. Sometimes it will payoff.

Hood County fishing report

Granbury water levels are at full pool. Water temperatures are in the low to middle 50s. Water clarity is good on the main lake and somewhat stained and clearing in the river above Granbury. There is some floating debris, so be careful navigating the lake. Granbury blue catfish reports are fair to good to 15 pounds on cut bait fished on the upper ends. Striped bass to seven pounds are slow to fair on jigs and live bait fished on the lower ends and near Indian Harbor. Look for birds circling feeding fish. Sandbass are slow to fair on slabs and small jigs worked in 20 feet of water near channel ledges from DeCordova to Ports O-Call. Crappie action continues to be good on small jigs worked near submerged structure (timber and bridge pilings). Black bass action is good to six pounds on soft plastics worked near main lake points and in the back of sloughs on those warmer afternoons.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to boast on limits of largemouth bass to eight pounds and eater sized channel catfish. Channel catfish are good on prepared baits and cut bait. Largemouth are good on soft plastics worked near points and creek channels. Tilapias continue to be abundant and can be caught on worms fished under a cork.

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Granbury
CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT Session Times

Friday, 12 December 2025 - Thursday, 18 December 2025

A Christmas Story (PG)
Sun: 4:45PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG13)
Thurs: 3:20PM, 7:20PM, 9:05PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash in 3D (PG13)
Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:00PM

David (PG)
Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM

David Early Access (PG)
Wed: 10:30AM

Elf (PG)
Wed: 6:45PM

Elf: Buddy's Sing & Cheer Along Edition (PG)
Fri: 6:45PM

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM, 9:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 10:20AM, 11:35AM, 12:55PM, 2:10PM, 3:25PM, 4:40PM, 5:55PM, 7:10PM, 8:30PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 10:45AM, 12:00PM, 1:15PM, 2:30PM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM.
Thurs: 11:15AM, 12:30PM, 1:40PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:00PM, 9:45PM

Gremlins (PG)
Mon: 7:00PM

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (PG13)
Tues: 7:00PM

Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:10PM.
Sat: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:35PM, 9:15PM.
Sun: 10:45AM, 1:25PM, 4:05PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 7:45PM

The Polar Express (G)
Sat: 1:00PM

The SpongeBob Movie: Search for Squarepants (PG)
Thurs: 4:15PM, 6:40PM, 10:00PM

Wicked: For Good (PG)
Fri: 3:55PM, 7:00PM, 10:05PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 3:35PM, 6:50PM, 9:55PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:45PM

Zootopia 2 (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:10PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:35PM, 3:30PM, 4:25PM, 6:05PM, 7:00PM, 8:40PM, 9:35PM.
Sun: 10:25AM, 11:25AM, 1:00PM, 3:35PM, 6:10PM, 7:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:45PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 11:00AM, 12:45PM, 1:35PM, 4:10PM, 6:45PM, 9:20PM

Zootopia 2 Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 9:55AM

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity brings joy through annual angel tree event

STEPHENVILLE — The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at Tarleton State University, in partnership with the Lance Zimmerman Department of Campus Life, within the Division of Student Engagement and Success, hosted its annual Angel Tree event Tuesday, Dec. 2, continuing a cherished tradition of bringing holiday joy to children in Erath and surrounding counties.

This initiative provided Tarleton State students, faculty and staff an opportunity to give back by adopting "angels," which are kids in the community who might not otherwise receive holiday gifts.

"The Angel Tree project is a powerful reminder of our students' generosity and commitment to serving others," Vice President for Student Engagement and Success Dr. Diana Ortega said. "Their leadership ensures families in our community feel supported, and it reflects the very best of what it means to be a Tarleton State Texan."

This year, the project supported 140 children with more than $15,000 in donations. More than 115 Tarleton State students, faculty and staff came together to ensure every angel's wish list was fulfilled.

"This is an event that definitely shows how Tarleton State can give back to the community and really make a difference," Assistant Director of Leadership and Greek Life Marco Salazar said. "Seeing our fraternities and sororities step out and take charge in these initiatives goes to show that these organizations and students are committed to leaving a lasting impact."

The Angel Tree project was introduced on campus in 1995 by the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, making it a cornerstone of their fall philanthropy. Fraternity members lead every step of the process, from promoting adoptions to organizing gift collection and delivery, volunteering more than 100 hours to the project.

Promotion for the initiative began in early October, and members of the fraternity worked tirelessly to guarantee that each child was adopted. When someone adopts an angel, they are given a wish list for that individual, including clothing, toys and other essentials. Once purchased, the gifts are wrapped and prepared for delivery.

"This is an event that everyone really looks forward to both on and off campus," Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity President Grant Owens said. "Seeing everyone from Tarleton State work together to give back to the community that has invested so much in us brings us all together and makes a big difference."

To learn more about fraternity and sorority life at Tarleton State, visit tarleton.edu/greeklife.



The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at Tarleton State University, in partnership with the Lance Zimmerman Department of Campus Life, within the Division of Student Engagement and Success, hosted its annual Angel Tree event Tuesday, Dec. 2, continuing a cherished tradition of bringing holiday joy to children in Erath and surrounding counties.

Dr. James E. Gentry named Texas A&M System regents professor

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Tarleton State University professor Dr. James (Jim) E. Gentry has been named a regents professor for the 2024-25 school year by The Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

Created in 1996, the award recognizes outstanding faculty for their work and commitment to higher education. The selection process begins with a call for nominations from the chancellor. Final nominations advance to the chief executive officer of each A&M entity and then undergo a system-level review by academic vice chancellors and past recipients. The chancellor and the board make the final decision.

"Dr. Gentry is one of the most wholehearted educators I've had the privilege to work with," Dr. Lesley Leach, Dean of the College of Education said. "He is a respected colleague, a gifted educator, a thoughtful scholar and a dedicated mentor. He brings deep expertise and a spirit of service to every role he takes on, and he is exactly the kind of faculty member this award was designed to recognize."

Currently serving as a professor and department head of curriculum and instruction in Tarleton State's College of Education, Dr. Gentry has dedicated more than 20 years to advancing teacher education, curriculum development and instructional innovation.

Though Dr. Gentry did not start out as a Tarleton State Texan, he knew from the very beginning that this is where he wanted to end up because of the impact that teacher alumni from Tarleton State had on his own educational journey.



Dr. James (Jim) E. Gentry

"I knew from those who had impacted me that Tarleton had a great reputation for teacher preparation," Dr. Gentry said. "Seeing how the university was committed to serving future teachers, working closely with school partners and conducting research made this the dream. It has been a wonderful experience ever since I started."

Since joining the Tarleton State faculty in 2006, Dr. Gentry has served in numerous leadership roles, including Director of Instructional Development and Course Design at the Center for Educational Excellence and Chair of the Faculty Development Committee. His efforts have empowered educators through faculty development initiatives and high-impact teaching practices.

"My favorite thing about my job is working with a group of people who are truly dedicated to helping teachers be best prepared to work with students," Dr. Gentry said. "Working with students to conduct research on how to improve the craft of teaching is an added bonus."

Dr. Gentry has authored and co-authored multiple books, book chapters and more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles on topics ranging from digital literacy and special education to innovative teaching strategies.

His proven dedication to excellence has earned him numerous accolades, including the Crystal Apple Society Award, Faculty Excellence in Scholarship and induction into the Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators.

"Tarleton State has amazing professors and an amazing history of service, research and teaching," Dr. Gentry said. "To be recognized for this award and now being counted in a group of people who I know have also received this award, who I look up to and who have been mentors to me — it is all very humbling."

During his time as a faculty member, Dr. Gentry has been supported by his wife, Tanya Gentry, and his two sons, Christian and Zachary.

Tarleton State expands Urban Farming Education Program to all campuses

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University is expanding its successful partnership with Opal's Farm to offer urban agriculture education across all campuses.

What began as a grassroots effort to improve access to fresh, healthy foods in one Fort Worth neighborhood has developed into an innovative education model that Tarleton State is now bringing to Stephenville, with course instruction also available online to make the program more accessible to students in Waco, Bryan and online.

Taste the C.U.R.E. (Community Urban Farming Resource Education) is a free community education program launching its second year in January 2026. This six-month initiative equips participants with the knowledge and skills to cultivate a sustainable food system through organic and regenerative farming.

Led by Tarleton State and Opal's Farm, an urban farm located along the Trinity River in Fort Worth, the initiative emphasizes empowering individuals to grow their own food and improve their health through agriculture. The next cohort will have openings for 50 participants, with plans for broader community engagement and long-term impact.



Tarleton State University is expanding its successful partnership with Opal's Farm to offer urban agriculture education across all campuses.

Program structure and schedule

The program includes an introductory orientation class on Jan. 31, 2026, followed by 10 bimonthly classes held on Saturdays. Instruction is delivered through a combination of methods.

Virtual instruction: Core classroom-based learning will be conducted online.

On-site practicum: Participants will gain hands-on, functional experience with organic and regenerative farming techniques at a partner farm site. Plots will be reserved at Opal's Farm for the Fort Worth cohort and at Tarleton State for participants in Stephenville.

For many residents across these regions, the Taste the C.U.R.E. program will be an entirely new opportunity to learn sustainable, organic growing practices that support long-term community health. As food insecurity and limited access to fresh produce continue to affect families statewide, Tarleton State, in partnership with Opal's Farm, aims to provide a practical, empowering solution that aligns with the historic agricultural mission the university was founded upon.

By making the on-site practicum portion of Taste the C.U.R.E. available in Stephenville and introducing the model to students on all campuses through online education, Tarleton State is cultivating a new wave of community-driven agriculture that encourages self-sufficiency and healthier living.

Applications are now open and will be accepted through Dec. 19. Space for the spring 2026 cohort is limited, and community members interested in participating are encouraged to apply early at tarleton.edu/gcfgi/opals-farm.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance on or before Jan. 7.

Hood County News CLASSIFIEDS

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

001 Asphalt & Cement
002 Auctions
003 Business/Commercial
004 Business Opportunity
005 Cleaning Services
006 Construction/Contractors
007 Demolition
008 Electrician
009 Excavating
010 Fencing
011 Firewood
012 For Sale
013 Garage & Estate Sale
014 Help Wanted
015 Home Improvement
016 Landscape & Mowing Services
017 Livestock & Pets
018 Lost & Found
019 Masonry & Stonework
020 Moving & Hauling
021 Painting
022 Plumbing
023 Pressure Washing
024 Real Estate for Rent
025 Real Estate for Sale
026 Repair Services
027 Roofing
028 Sand, Gravel & Soil
029 Small Business
030 Storage
031 Welding
032 Miscellaneous
033 Legal Notices

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014 Help Wanted

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needed at North Central Texas Academy. Please pick up an application Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our front gate located at 3846 N. Hwy. 144, Granbury, TX 76048.

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024 Real Estate For Rent



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033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP2026-01 FLEET MAINTENANCE SERVICES (OIL & TRANSMISSION)

The Commissioners' Court of Hood County is seeking sealed proposals from highly qualified, experienced, and responsible firms to supply fleet maintenance services such as oil changes and transmission maintenance for County vehicles. The fleet generally includes pickup trucks, vans, police pursuit vehicles, and passenger type vehicles.

Sealed proposals subject to the conditions and requirements of RFP2026-01 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 January 8, 2026. Submittals received after that date and time will be rejected regardless of reason, including delayed delivery. Proposers will be read at that time in a public meeting and held by the Hood County Purchasing Agent's Office. After evaluation of completeness, price, references, experience, qualifications, and facility location, 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, RFP 2026-01, 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 December 23, 2025.

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.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF NANCY MAC INGRAM LONGLEY

On December 2, 2025, original Letters Testamentary were issued to Christopher Scot Longley, Lance Everett Longley and Sharon Elise Longley by the Hood County Court acting in Cause No. P10842, styled Estate of Nancy Mac Ingram Longley, Deceased, and in which court the matter is pending. Christopher Scot Longley, Lance Everett Longley and Sharon Elise Longley now hold those Letters Testamentary, and administration of the estate of Nancy Mac Ingram Longley has commenced.

All persons having claims against the estate of Nancy Mac Ingram Longley are notified to present those claims to Christopher Scot Longley, Lance Everett Longley and Sharon Elise Longley, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Nancy Mac Ingram Longley, Deceased, by and through their attorney of record, Amy P. Bryan, at Amy Bryan Law, PLLC, 193 South Graham, Stephenville, Texas 76401, within the time prescribed by law.

DATED the 2nd day of December, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
AMY BRYAN LAW, PLLC
193 S. Graham Street
Stephenville, Texas 76401
Telephone: (254) 965 6203
Facsimile: (254) 965 5971
Email: bryan@abryanlaw.com
By: /s/ Amy P. Bryan
State Bar No. 00794450

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033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO.C2024330

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC

VS.

BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL, BONNIE RUSSELL AND SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL, DEFENDANT

Defendant, Greeting:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiffs Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 12TH day of JANUARY, 2026, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN, 355TH Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 25TH day of NOVEMBER, A.D. 2024, in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

Plaintiff Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by and through its attorney of record, Kelly M. Doherty of Codilis & Moody, P.C., 20405 State Highway 249, Suite 170, Houston, Texas 77070, brought suit under Cause No. C2024330 in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, for enforcement and foreclosure of Deed of Trust Lien on the following described real property of which Defendant, BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL is a potential party in interest: LOT 483 OF DE CORDOVA BEND ESTATES, UNIT VIII, A SUBDIVISION IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 1, PAGE 47 OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS.

Commonly known as 6319 Sonora Dr, Granbury, TX 76049.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 24TH day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

Granbury Independent School District is issuing a Request for Proposals under RFP 2025-38 Demolition of Technology Building.

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Submissions will be accepted until closing on January 16th at 2pm.

All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online in Ionwave.If you have technical issues connecting to Ionwave please contact the purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburyisd.org

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033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KENNETH CALVIN COX, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2025, in Cause No. P10826, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Marzell Cox.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Marzell Cox

6403 Timberhaven CT.

Granbury, Texas 76049

DATED the 2 day of December , 2025.

/s/ E. Mark Piland

E. Mark Piland

Attorney for Marzell Cox

State Bar No.: 16008870

1107 W Pearl St.

Ste. 101

Granbury, TX 76048

Telephone: (817) 579-0207

Facsimile: (866) 406-4629

Email: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HOOD

NOTICE OF SALE

By VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION - 90 DAY issued out of the 355th Judicial District

Court, Hood County, Texas on a judgment rendered in said county on the Cause No: C2025093

Comanche Harbor/Ports O'Call Owners Association

vs.

Tracy Galloway

I did on the 12th day of November 2025, at 11 :00 AM. Levy upon the following property of:

TRACY GALLOWAY

MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1115 INDIAN DRIVE, GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048, BLOCK 1 LOT 23/24/25, OF SECTION D, COMANCHE HARBOR SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THERE OF RECORDED IN VOLUME 1, PAGE 150, PLAT RECORDS OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS AND THE DEED RECORDS IN DOCUMENT #2017-0004916

On the 6th day of January, 2026 between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M., more specifically at 10:00am. At 100 E Pearl St Granbury, TX 76048 in Hood County, Texas I will offer for sale and sell at public auction, for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of the property of the said.

Tracy Galloway

Dated at this 4th day of December A.D., 2025

Chad Davis

Hood County, Constable Precinct 1

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Ladonna Ruth Lecoq, Cause No. P10861, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Celine Lecoq in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and Independent Administration and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Ladonna Ruth Lecoq, 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 the 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 5th day of December 2025.

Christine C. Leftwich

Hood County Clerk

P.O. Box 339

Hood County, Texas 76048

By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Online auction sale to be held for 1st Source Storage Center now Granbury Self Storage, which is located at 212 Temple Hall Highway, Granbury, TX 76049, 409 Western Hills Trail, Granbury, TX 76049, and 3501 McCreary Rd. Granbury, TX 76049 on storageauctions.com starting on December 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM and ending on January 8, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Cash cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder and contents must be removed from the property within 48 hours of the winning bid. Contents of unit of the following tenant will be sold and is primarily household items and furniture: Lonnie Day.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider the concept plan for:

THE COVEY SUBDIVISION

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the site development plan on Tuesday, January 13th, 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.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider the concept plan for:

COMANCHE CIRCLE

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the site development plan on Tuesday, January 13th, 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.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles Dexter, Deceased, were issued to Joe Reed, Independent Executor, on December 2, 2025, in Cause No. P10817, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the Independent Executor, in care of the Independent Executorís attorney at the address listed below, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Claims may be addressed and sent to the following address:

Joe Reed c/o Warren Fonville,

PLLC, 1635 Rogers Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76107.

DATED the 8th day of December 2025.

By: Michael J. Noel

Michael J. Noel

State Bar No. 24120426

Warren Fonville, PLLC

1635 Rogers Road

Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Attorney for Independent Executor

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033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 25-73
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL, TOURISM AND AIPORT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-74
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit to allow for the operation of "Pawn Shop" on the property located on a 1.001 acre tract of land out of the W.R. Mc CREARY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 392 and the JOHN STOCKLEY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 392 and the JOHN STOCKLEY SURVEY, ABSTRACT 523, Hood County, Texas, described in Exhibit 'A', and located within the Light Commercial [LC]zoned district with the following conditions:

1. This Specific Use Permit is for the use: "Pawn Shop" as defined and regulated by the Zoning Ordinance.
2. There shall not be any open/outside storage.
3. The Site Plan, as shown on "Exhibit B" is the governing site plan for the property.
4. All parking and maneuvering must be on an improved hard surface.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and any inspection fees as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. This Specific Use Permit is subject to periodic inspections and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule. Any violation of the supplemental land us standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the Specific Use Permit may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-75
AN ORDINANCE, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE;

PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning the hereinafter property and area; described as a 1.173 acre tract out of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abstract No. 348, Hood County, Texas and being more fully described by Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein Interim Holding [IH] to Light Commercial [LC]

SECTION 6. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-76
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

BROWSE ONLINE
hcnews.com

Rattlers work through problems at Lipan tournament

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Tolar competed at the HD Howard Classic tournament in Lipan Dec 4-6. They ended the tournament with a 1-3 record and lessons learned. Losses included to Lipan 78-48, Slidell 50-45 and North Crowley JV 63-57.

In the lone 60-37 win against Christoval, Junior Madok Delgado had 20 points. Senior Cayden Abrego had 10 points. Junior Collier King had nine points and Junior Lucas Mills had seven points. Three guards each had more than seven rebounds.

"Great opportunities against very good teams. Every team at the tournament is a probable playoff team in their division. Great competition that will make us better down the road," head coach Andy Atkins said.

Atkins was pleased with the overall effort of his team and is excited about how they will get better. The 50-45 loss to Slidell was a close "mess" for Tolar. They struggled with fouls and had three players foul out.

Abrego and Delgado were standouts at the tournament with Abrego scoring 31 against North Crowley JV and Delgado scoring 23 against Lipan and 20 against Christoval.

"We got to play against teams that were bigger than us and we had to figure out ways to defend that. We also played against teams that were quicker than us. Biggest positive is getting to see the different types of teams and styles," Atkins said.

Of the 11 varsity players, seven are coming from football. Another positive of the tournament was getting the football players some more games and reps in. Atkins emphasized to his team that mistakes will happen, but he wants them to learn from them. He knows the team they are now will not be as good as they will be in January.

"We just want to learn to compete every opportunity. We have to control what we can control and that our responses to events are what makes us," Atkins said. "We just plan on continuing to get better every day."



JOSH BURTON |HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Cayden Abrego moves to score through three Lipan defenders. He had 15 points in the 78-48 loss to Lipan.

033 PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014212001

APPLICATION. Acton Municipal Utility District, 6420 Lusk Branch Court, Granbury, Texas 76049, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014212001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0105155) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 820,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 6524 Edgewood Court, near the city of Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76049. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to the Brazos River Below Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on November 3, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Acton Municipal Utility District Administration Building, Front Desk, 6420 Lusk Branch Court, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application is available for viewing and copying at the following webpage: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.686666,32.358055&level=18

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Acton Municipal Utility District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Richard English, General Manager, at 817-326-4720.

Issuance Date: December 1, 2025

'Every team helped us grow' Lady Rattlers learn a lot from Lipan tournament games

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The Tolar Lady Rattlers recorded a 1-3 record at the HD Howard Classic basketball tournament in Lipan Dec 4-6. Facing the third-ranked 3A school, 15th ranked 2A, 13th ranked 3A and third-ranked 2A school was tough for Tolar but head coach Ericka Halfmann thinks the team grew immensely from the tough opponents.

"We entered the tournament knowing what we were up against and I would be lying if at times it wasn't tough, but we grew immensely. We competed and didn't back down, so we are super proud and excited for this group of girls," Halfmann said. "We learned how to persevere. The girls never lost sight of the goal, which was to play with Grit and be Relentless."

Tolar lost to Idalou 38-33, Muenster 68-61 in overtime, Paradise 48-36 and beat Slidell 43-29. In it's lone win, freshman Macy Price had 16 points, three rebounds and three assists. Sophomore Atley Kolb had 15 points, four blocks, 12 rebounds, one steal and one assist. Junior Jaycee Jones had six points, four rebounds, two steals and three assists.

With two close games (one being an overtime loss), Halfmann is glad her young team got the opportunity, as close-game scenarios are hard to replicate in practice. The tournament difficulty and quick turnaround nature of the games exhausted the Lady Rattlers.

"Facing Top 15 teams in the state, every time we stepped on the court was tough, but it really was the best thing for us. We battled some injuries and sickness, but what team doesn't face those things at some point in time. Those factors didn't affect our mentality or mindset. We kept showing up, ready to compete," Halfmann said.

The close games against Idalou and Munster are big learning lessons. Halfmann is ready to watch film and teach her team. The importance of playing with urgency and how every possession matters is what she wants her team to take from the tournament.

"We win as a team and lose as a team. We really are proud of each one of the girls. Some had to play more minutes than they are used to and they didn't back down," Halfmann said. "We will watch film and grow from those games, undoubtedly. We are always reflecting and can't wait to get back on the court and execute some of the things we struggled with."



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Jaycee Jones brings the ball around the perimeter. Jones had 19 points, one block, six rebounds, two steals and eight assists against Muenster.

Lady Pirates show grit at Granbury Kia Tournament

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Granbury recorded a 1-3 record at the 2025 Kia Basketball tournament Dec. 4-6. The Lady Pirates started their tournament experience with a 50-11 win against Abilene. Senior Jillian Williams had 10 points. Senior Bentley Sherrill had eight points. Senior Jayla Hayes, Junior Mollie Barnes and Senior Moriah Hanchell each had seven points.

They lost to Randall 52-35, Byron Nelson 70-35 and Burleson Centennial 44-20. Through the losses, Granbury was able to fix things aspects of the game that will be important during district play and improved their rebounding.

"We used this weekend to get better and fix things that will help us in district play coming up. We played some playoff caliber teams and hopefully are getting better as a result," head coach Brad Blalock said. "We did a better job of rebounding on the offensive and defensive end. We showed some grit and toughness against some quality teams."

Turnovers still caused problems for Granbury and stopped their offensive momentum during many games.

Despite the 70-35 loss to Byron Nelson, Blalock said they matched their physicality and for the first half of the game they executed at a higher rate than normal.

With multiple players injured, Blalock had to rely on a deeper rotation and bench play more throughout the tournament. The results he got from those players encouraged him going forward in the season.

"We are always impressed with Hannah Dafoe and her defense, and recently we have been proud of how she has improved on the offensive end. We are also proud of the two Mollys (Mollie). The freshman (Molly Thompson) grew a bunch this weekend; making the jump from eighth grade to high school is tough. Mollie Barnes has established herself as a good defender and offensive player," Blalock said.

The Lady Pirates are now 7-9 on the season (as of Dec. 8). Their goal still is to improve throughout district play and earn a playoff spot.

"We want our team to know that sometimes things aren't always going to go well, but they need to keep fighting and persevere," Blalock said.

Granbury tournament shows buy-in for young Pirate basketball team

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Granbury hosted the Kia Basketball tournament Dec 4-6. The Pirates finished the tournament with a 1-3 record. They lost to Midland 59-52, Midland Christian 58-30, Palo Duro 66-34 and beat Weatherford 51-44.

In Granbury's lone win, Junior Tyler Harrison had 10 points. Junior Kylan Loving had 14 points. Senior Brannon Burns, junior Koen Stahl and senior Miller Schenewark each had six points.

The loss to Midland was by seven points and Granbury was within one possession at halftime against Midland Christian. These games were close and good practice for the team as District play is coming up. Head coach Jeremy McFerrin wants to use those close games as examples of how balancing their play will keep them in late matches.

"Our team continues to grow in maturity and trust with the process. Buying into each other's role and using tournaments and pre-district to do this is why we do it," McFerrin said.

With each game having a quick turnaround, practicing waits until a normal school week resumes. McFerrin has identified what needs to be worked on after their tournament outing. Rebounding more than the opponent, having more assists than turnovers and increasing the team's points per possession are areas for improvement.

"We take each game as a learning experience. We saw growth in each game, and that is what we need to see at this time of year," McFerrin said.

During the Weatherford game, McFerrin subbed out his starters and the bench played well, even sparking a 9-0 run. This run showed him the players were buying in and doing their jobs. Since they did their jobs, everyone benefited and played well. The team buying into his tactics is what he wants the players to take away from that game.

"Keep buying into the system and trust your teammates and coaches, do what you're good at and trust the process. Everyone has a job, and it is our job we have to do well," McFerrin said. "We want to be able to stack some wins together before district and have a solid makeup of who we are defensively."

Habitat for Humanity® of Hood County

Match Fund drive is November 15, 2025 thorugh January 31, 2026 All donations will be matched up to the amount of the fund.

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3 Months: $55/week | 6 Months: $50/week | 12 Months: $45/week

www.hcnews.com

Lipan basketball takes home both trophies at HD Howard Classic tournament

YMCA hosts GHS senior swim meet

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The Lipan Indian basketball team hosted and won the HD Howard Classic tournament with a 5-0 record. They are 11-1 as of Dec. 10.

Lipan boys started the HD Howard Classic with a 78-48 victory against Tolar. Sophomore Brayden Harrison had 22 points. Junior Court Gaylor had 17 points. Senior Darius Steed had 16 points. Junior Evan Lott and Sophomore Levi Mason each had six points.

The Indians beat Slidell 63-44. Steed had 19 points, 11 rebounds, two steals and three blocks. Gaylor had 13 points, three rebounds, four assists, three deflections and one steal. Lott had nine points, two rebounds, two assists, two deflections, three steals and one block.

Lipan beat Glen Rose 80-43. Gaylor had 28 points, four rebounds, seven assists, two deflections and three steals. Sophomore Billy Smith had 12 points, three rebounds and one assist. Lott had 10 points, five rebounds and one steal. Harrison had 10 points, five rebounds, nine assists and three steals.

The Indians beat North Crowley JV 62-36. Lott had 11 points, two assists and one steal. Steed had 11 points, 13 rebounds and three assists. Gaylor had 10 points, two rebounds, six assists and one steal. Smith had eight points and one assist.

Lipan won 60-49 against Paradise to win the HD Howard Classic. Gaylor had 20 points, three rebounds, four deflections and two steals. Steed had 16 points and seven rebounds. Harrison had 12 points, three rebounds, six assists, three deflections and four steals.

Lipan girls basketball

The Lipan Lady Indians hosted and won the HD Howard Classic tournament with a 4-0 record

Lipan girls started their tournament with a 71-11 win against Breckenridge. Senior Finley Shockley had 22 points. Junior Kynzi Callaway had nine points. Freshman Skylar Harrison had eight points. Junior Annslee Tarpley, Freshman Syndi Gaylor and Senior Peyton Lawerence each had six points.

Lipan beat 47-24 win against El Paso Chapin. Gaylor had 24 points. Callaway and Harrison each had six points. Senior Ashlyn Tarpley had five points.

The Lady Indians beat Chireno 39-27. Shockley had 14 points. Junior Jacy Bolton had 11 points. Harrison had eight points.

Lipan beat Gunter 45-36 to win the HC Howard Classic. Gaylor had 20 points. Shockley had 11 points. Callaway had eight points. Bolton had four points.

The Lady Indians now are 13-3 after a 78-20 win against Frost. Shockley had 23 points. Bolton had 14 points. Ashlyn Tarpley had 13 points. Gaylor had 11 points. Lawerence had nine points.

Granbury swimming

Granbury YMCA hosted the GHS senior swim meet Dec. 6.

The girls team placed first and Ellie Nelson broke the pool records for the 200 individual medley (IM) and 100 breaststroke.

200 Freestyle
Ellie Nelson — first place
Carmen Citzler — third place
Kaia Boulware — fourth place

200 IM
Bailey McDermott — first place
Autum Stuart — second place

50 Freestyle
Peyton Guidry — second place
Remi Chastain — third place

100 Butterfly
Autum Stuart — second place

100 Freestyle
Ellie Nelson — first place
Carmen Citzler — second place
Remi Chastain — third place
Peyton Guidry — fifth place

500 Freestyle
Bailey McDermott — first place
Jina Kim — third place
Analisa Zamora — sixth place

100 Backstroke
Kaia Boulware — first place
Bekah Kilough — fifth place

100 Breaststroke
Jina Kim — first place

200 Medley
B Relay — second place, Boulware, Nelson, Stuart and Zamora
A Relay — third place, Chastain, Kim, McDermott and Redwine

200 Freestyle
A Relay — first place, Kim, Guidry, Citzler and McDermott
B Relay — fifth place, Boulware, Killough, Redwine and Witman

400 Freestyle
A Relay — first place, Citzler, Guidry, Chastain and Nelson
B Relay — fourth place, Stuart, Zamora, Killough and Witman

The boys team placed first overall.

200 Freestyle
Kyle Brawner — second place
Caleb Killough — sixth place

200 IM
Cameron Ward — first place
Sean Kim — second place
Mason Ward — third place

50 Freestyle
Jett McFerrin — first place
James Zelenak — sixth place

100 Butterfly
Mason Ward — second place
Finnegan Renard — fourth place

100 Freestyle
Caleb Killough — third place
Caden McLemore — fourth place

500 Freestyle
Jett McFerrin — first place

100 Backstroke
Kyle Brawner — first place
James Zelenak — third place
Clayne Pike — sixth place

100 Breaststroke
Cameron Ward — first place
Sean Kim — third place

200 Medley
A Relay — first place, Ward, Kim, Brawner and McFerrin

200 Freestyle
A Relay — first place, Ward, Kim, Brawner and McFerrin
B Relay — third place, Zelenak, Killough, McLemore and War

Granbury boys basketball

At the Granbury Kia tournament, The Pirates had a 1-3 record.

Granbury lost a close game to Midland 59-52. Senior Brannon Burns had 19 points. Junior Tyler Harrison had 12 points. Senior Miller Schenewark had 10 points. Junior Koen Stahl had six points.

The Pirates lost 58-30 to Midland Christian. Burns had eight points. Junior Kylan Loving had six points. Stahl had five points.

Granbury lost 66-34 to Palo Duro. Junior Cade Moody had 10 points. Schenewark had nine points. Harrison had seven points. Loving had seven points.

The Pirates won 51-44 to Weatherford. Harrison had 10 points. Loving had 14 points. Burns, Stahl and Schenewark had six points each.

Granbury now has a 2-11 record (as of Dec. 10) after losing a close game to Midland 56-53. Burns had 10 points. Stahl and Loving each had nine points. Schenewark had seven points. Karson Barrington had five points.

Granbury girls basketball

At the Granbury Kia Tournament, The Lady Pirates held a 1-3 record.

The Lady Pirates won 50-11 against Abilene. Senior Jillian Williams had 10 points. Senior Bentley Sherrill had eight points. Senior Jayla Hayes, Junior Mollie Barnes and Senior Moriah Hanchell each had seven points.

Granbury lost to Canyon Randall 52-35. Freshman Molly Thompson had eight points. Williams had six points. Senior Hannah Dafoe had six points. Jenna Marquardt had six points.

The Lady Pirates lost 70-35 to Byron Nelson. Thompson had seven points. Dafoe had seven points. Williams had six points.

Granbury lost 44-20 to Burleson Centennial. Barnes and Williams had six points each. Thompson had four points. Sherrill, Alysha Fabrizio and Marquardt each had two points.

The Lady Pirates have a 7-10 record (as of Dec. 10) after a close 34-29 loss to Midlothian Heritage. Williams had nine points. Barnes had five points. Jayla Hayes and Fabrizio each had four points. Jolie Hayes and Dafoe each had two points.

Tolar boys basketball

Tolar competed at the HD Howard Classic basketball tournament in Lipan Dec 4-6. They had a 1-3 record through the tournament.

Tolar lost to Lipan 78-48. Junior Madok Delgado had 23 points. Junior Cayden Abrego had 15 points. Senior Degan Rodriguez and Junior Briton Rice each had three points.

The Rattlers lost a close game 50-45 to Slidell Dec. 4. Senior Chase McSpadden had eight points. Abrego had 11 points. Collier King had eight points. Lucas Mills had five points.

Tolar lost to North Crowley JV 57-63. Abrego had 31 points. Delgado had seven points. King had seven points.

Tolar won 60-37 against Christoval to close out their tournament. Delgado had 19 points. Abrego had 10 points. King had nine points.

The Rattlers are now 3-4 (as of Dec. 10) after a 70-64 win against Cisco. Abrego had 23 points. Delgado had 16 points. King had 12 points. Rice had six points.

Tolar girls basketball

The Lady Rattlers competed in the HD Howard Classic basketball tournament Dec 4-6. They had a 1-3 record.

The Lady Rattlers lost a close game to Idalou 38-33 to start their trip at the tournament. Sophomore Atley Kolb had 11 points, one block, seven rebounds and two steals. Sophomore Reilyn Brown had five points, two rebounds, one steal and two assists. Junior Allie Terrell had four points, four rebounds, one steal and one assist.

Tolar lost in overtime to Muenster 68-61. Freshman Macy Price had 24 points, two rebounds and two assists. Junior Jaycee Jones had 19 points, one block, six rebounds, two steals and eight assists. Kolb had five points, one block, six rebounds, one steal and one assist.

The Lady Rattlers beat Slidell 43-29. Price had 16 points, three rebounds and three assists. Kolb had 15 points, four blocks, 12 rebounds, one steal and one assist. Jones had six points, four rebounds, two steals and three assists.

Tolar lost to Paradise 48-36. Kolb had 15 points, one block and 10 rebounds. Junior Milly Taylor had seven points, seven rebounds and four assists. Jones had six points, four rebounds, one steal and four assists.

The Lady Rattlers now are 8-6 after a 42-37 win against Godley. Jones had 13 points, one rebound, four steals and one assist. Kolb had seven points, one block, six rebounds and one assist. Brown had seven points, one rebound and one steal. Terrell had five points, seven rebounds, one steal and one assist.

North Central Texas Academy

The Pioneers soccer team beat Saint Mark 3-0 Dec. 8. W



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



JOSH BURTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

From front Carmen Citzler, Ellie Nelson and Kaia Boulware jump off the starting block in the third heat of the girls 200-yard freestyle Dec. 6. Nelson broke the YMCA pool record for the 200 yard individual medley and 100 - yard breaststroke.

Junior Court Gaylor rises for a three-point shot. Gaylor was named the MVP of the HD Howard Classic tournament.

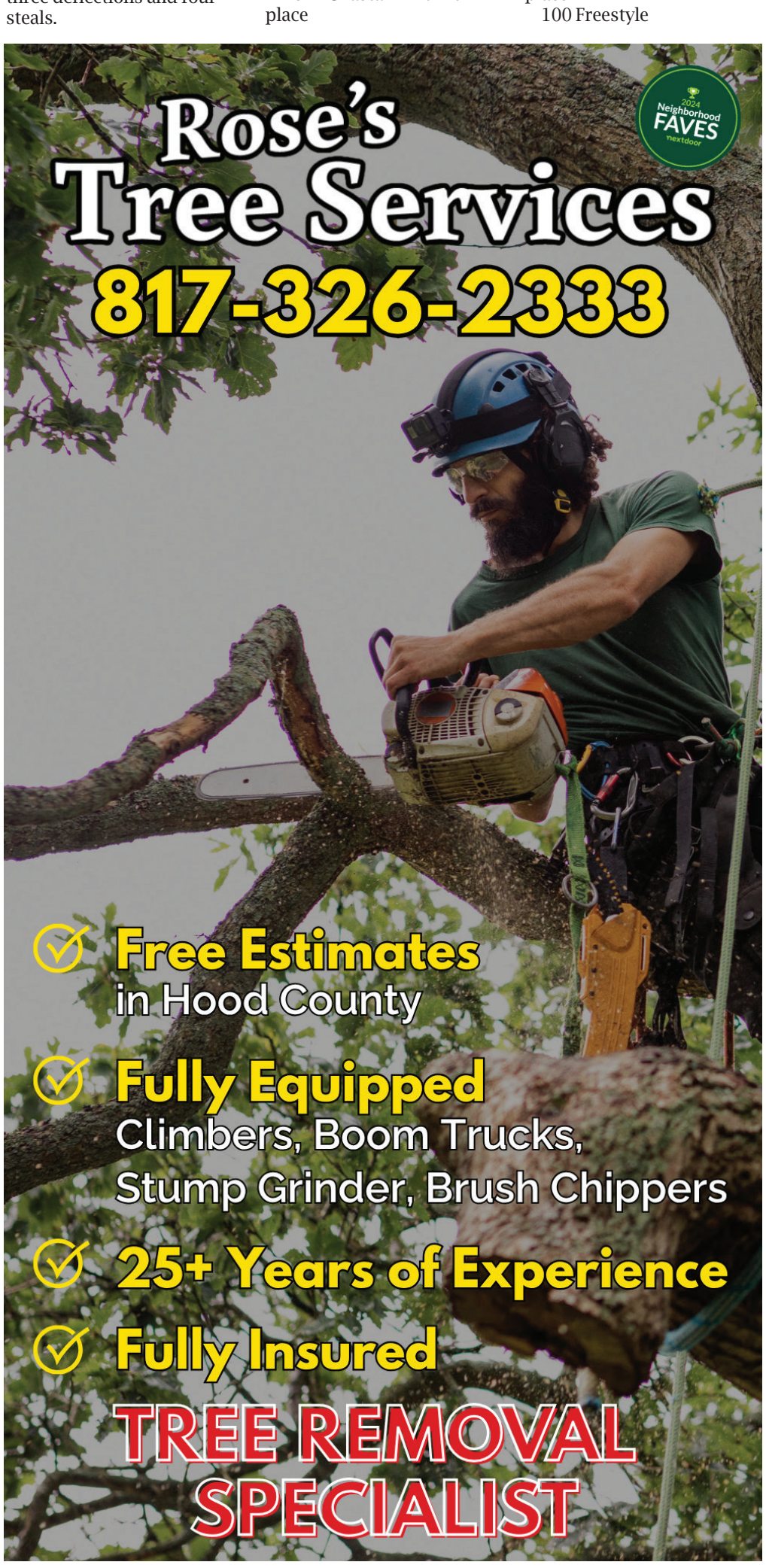


Hood County High Five
Athlete of the Week Mollie Barnes

Mollie Barnes had 11 points in shorthanded Lady Pirates 37-33 win against Glen Rose Nov. 24.

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.

JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS





Hood County News

LIFESTYLE

GRANBURY ★ CRESSON ★ TOLAR ★ LIPAN

C

SATURDAY, December 13, 2025

Hey Frosty, take a 'Tumble'

Childhood memories spark children's book

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

As fall turns into winter, the kids of the Texas Panhandle, like everyone else, are fed visions of snow days — a winter trope that rarely comes to fruition in the south. Now long-time Granbury resident Robert Hill has documented a Panhandle childhood memory through a children's book in a personal effort to flip the snowy northern script and hallmark a yee-haw yuletide.

His book, "Tumble," is a generational tale that follows the creation and adventure of a "snowman" by the same name, made of Texas tumbleweeds.

"The gist of the book is that it celebrates creativity, of making the most you can with what you have and of embracing the magic of memories and nostalgia," Hill said. "That's the genesis of 'Tumble.'"

Hill describes his tale as an "almost true story," as the book begins by closely following a childhood memory of his. However, it does deviate from reality when Hill's Tumble takes off across the country to help an old friend in need.

When Hill was a child, his family lived in the Texas Panhandle town of Big Spring. One winter he desperately wanted to make a snowman, but due to the climate, lacked the obvious resources to do so.

Growing up, I would watch all this wonderful stuff on television. Christmas would come, and they would show the snow, and there'd be Frosty and all that kind of stuff," Hill said. "So, when I was 8, I said, 'Mom, I'd love to have a snowman.'"

According to Hill, his mother, who by his description was a notoriously resourceful woman, thought about what they could use instead of snow and landed on the endless tumbleweeds that had collected on the family's fenceline.

Hill, his mother and his brother worked together to stack and connect the tumbleweeds, covering their "snowman's" frame in faux snow and outfitting him with the traditional black eyes and twig arms.

"We had all these tumbleweeds cluttering up the yard, and the light bulb goes off— stack, stack, stack," Hill said. "We found some fake snow, a couple of black dots for the eyes and a carrot for the nose. Bingo. We've got a snowman."

Hill held onto this memory throughout life. He grew up and had a son, Cole, who became one of the characters in the book. Cole grew up, moved to New York and also had a son. It was this child, Hill's grandson Orson, who inspired him to write "Tumble" and pass on this fond memory from a Texan childhood.

"I wanted to have a little bit of Texas for Orson, my grandson. And so that's what this was about — to put a little south in his mouth," Hill said. "I just wanted to carry on the tradition to him, so he would know what that was all about."

While created to honor family ties, Hill believes "Tumble" is for anyone looking for representation of a Texan Christmas — especially the children who grew up in the Panhandle, just like him.

"I think it's unique to Texas. There's all kinds of Christmas books out there, but they're not really Texan Christmas books. This is a Texan Christmas book," Hill said, tapping "Tumble's" cover. "If you're a Texas kid, especially living up into the Panhandle, this will resonate."

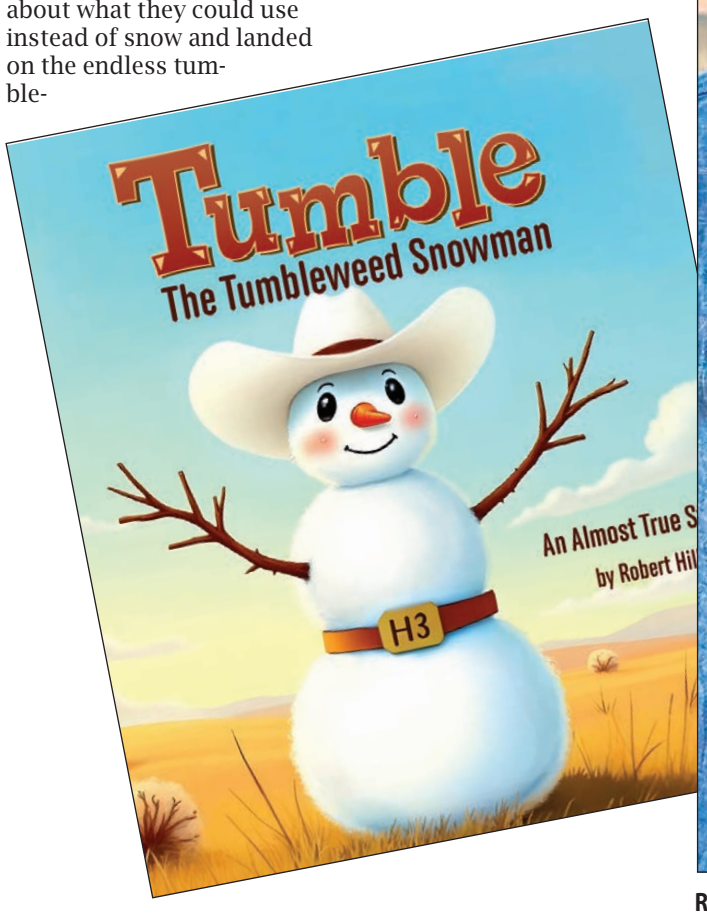


COURTESY PHOTOS

Robert Hill's grandson Orson loves hearing him read "Tumble," the book he says Orson inspired him to write.



Robert Hill (middle) includes his son, Cole Hill (right), in his book, "Tumble." He says his grandson, Orson, inspired him to write it.



Jennifer Hyde is 'A.C.E.s'



Jennifer Hyde

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

Jennifer is an art teacher at Granbury Middle School. She was nominated by student Elly Deemer.

Elly has this to say about Jennifer: "Mrs. Hyde is a wonderful teacher. She's taught me a lot, not only about art but with life. She's someone who I know I can always count on. She's supported me and always helped me feel seen and respected. She's an inspiration to me. She never fails to cheer up a room with her witty jokes and silly behavior. She's always there for me, whether I need a critique on a drawing or honest advice. She's a teacher I love so much. I really do think she deserves this award. She works hard for her job and is an incredibly sweet teacher. She's going to be one of those teachers I'll remember for life."

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.

TACO CASA

‘Why Texans are so dang proud’

Local man writes, performs play about namesake, Sam Houston

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Special to The News

When Juliet asked Romeo, “What’s in a name?” the implication was the protagonist’s surname, Montague, is not what defines who he is as a person.

But what about when a man shares a first and last name with one of the most consequential historical figures in his adopted state, and the similarities between the two men are significant?

Enter Sam Houston, publisher of the Hood County News and chief operating officer of Hyde Media Group.

Houston and the historical Sam Houston came to Texas at the same age and experienced similar successes and failures in life.

Houston’s wife, Theresa, has told him when he goes out on stage to perform his one-man show, “*The Lion of Texas*,” as Sam Houston, it is as if he becomes a different person.

For Houston, that is the precise intention.

“I’ve had the pleasure to perform the show in front of four different direct descendants of Sam,” Houston said. “They came to me after seeing the production and said, ‘We’ve always wondered what he was like, and we felt like he was there in the room talking to us.’ I have to say, it’s tremendously gratifying to me to hear that.”

'The Lion of Texas'

Sam Houston will perform his one-man show, “The Lion of Texas,” Jan. 16-17 at Granbury Opera House and Jan. 31 in Gatesville.

Houston said he initially was inspired to write “*The Lion of Texas*” by another one-man show he saw as a younger man.

“I saw Hal Holbrook performing ‘Mark Twain Tonight’ when I was 20 years old,” Houston said. “Being from Missouri, Mark Twain is a really big deal. I remember thinking how cool and unique the play was. I said to myself, ‘Someday, I’m going to write a show about Sam Houston, and I’m going to perform it.’”

About 10 years ago, Houston wrote the play and started performing it throughout the state with great success, with about 40-50 appearances statewide.

The Granbury man said spectators can expect to be taken on quite a ride.

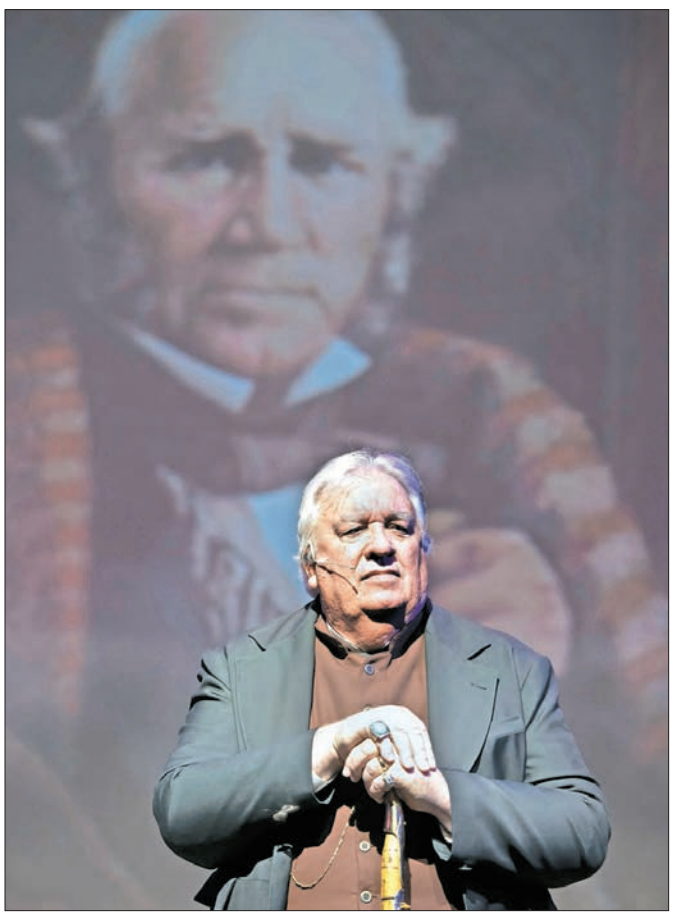
“I think the best way to describe the show is watching a show like “*Hamilton*,” except without the singing,” Houston said. “I have a big screen with sound and visual effects, and the show takes place in Sam Houston’s living room. It’s a conversation. At times it is very humorous and at others, particularly the portions about Texas independence, become very emotional.”

Houston said the show is filled with “ah-ha” moments — historical information most people are unaware of, and gives an in-depth and emotional account of the statesman’s life and accomplishments.

“I had a lady in Grapevine come up to me after a show with tears in her eyes and say, ‘I’m from Indiana, and I had no idea.’ Now I know why these Texans are so dang proud.’”

Houston said part of the objective of his show is to do his best to inform a portion of the roughly 100,000 people moving to Texas each month about the story of Texas and of Sam Houston, many of whom are thirsty for knowledge about the Lone Star State and of the great Texas forefather and what he believed.

“My personal favorite part of the show is at the end when Sam talks about what he would think about Texas today,” Houston said. “That usually gets a very rousing round of applause. The people of today can relate to the things Gen. Sam thought were important: individual rights, small government and freedom.”



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Sam Houston, Hood County News publisher, is performing his one-man play, “The Lion of Texas,” Jan. 16-17, at the Granbury Opera House.

The play is in two acts, which are roughly 45-50 minutes each, depending on “how excited” Houston gets during his performance. Frequently, the show is presented in cooperation with a charity or non-profit organization such as the Girl Scouts, the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, museums, hospitals and various other groups.

“I personally think that General Sam would be thrilled to know that his name is being used to raise money to help the people of Texas,” Houston said.

Although from Missouri, Houston’s family is originally from Tennessee, and his great-grandfather was named Andrew Jackson Houston.

Houston said sharing a name with the former general and president of the Republic of Texas has impacted his outlook on life.

“I was always fascinated by that,” Houston said. “And when I was a kid, my father used to say, ‘You’ll be glad I named you Sam Houston one day.’ And I am glad — it has been such a help to me in my life. People remember my name, and it has put me on the path of doing this show. It is hard to describe how much joy I get from doing the play and spreading the great story of Gen. Sam and Texas.”

Houston said he hopes the show instills a sense of satisfaction about being Texan in his audiences and provides spectators with a thorough insight into who Sam Houston really was.

“I hope they get a feeling for the real strength of the man, as well as a tremendous sense of pride for who we are as a people,” Houston said. “Being a Texan is special, and I love to share that with an audience. I think they love experiencing it.”

Houston will be performing “The Lion of Texas” Jan. 16-17 at Granbury Opera House and Jan. 31 in Gatesville.

32nd Thomas Myers Annual Toy Drive and Car Show

Hood County Christmas for Children expresses its great appreciation for the generous donations provided by the Thomas Myers Annual Toy Drive and Car Show. The 32nd annual event was held Dec. 6 at Jerry’s Chevrolet. Supporters flocked to the dealership, bringing unwrapped toys for Hood County Christmas for Children, which has a goal to ensure every child in the county has a present to unwrap on Christmas morning. Longtime sponsor O’Reilly Auto Parts provided food and drinks to participants and car show enthusiasts.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Thomas Myers always can count on his family to help expedite the flow of incoming Christmas gifts. From left are his sister, Terrie Parker, and her son and Myers’ nephew, M.J. Parker, at their post, receiving toys.



A big part of Hood County Christmas for Children’s vision is every Hood County child wakes up to Christmas presents underneath the tree. Year after year, the Thomas Myers Annual Toy Drive and Car Show always goes a long way to help that vision become a reality.

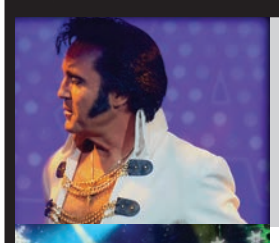


ABOVE: The Thomas Myers Annual Toy Drive and Car Show gets bigger and better each year, with more toys and more cars.



RIGHT: Larry Mayo, former Granbury High School soccer coach, shows car enthusiasts his Shelby Cobra kit car.

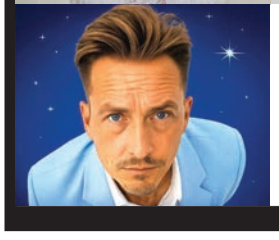
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NOV 28 - 28	Country Christmas Petting Farm on Weekends at Historic Granbury Square Plaza
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5 - 21	Granbury Christmas Showcase & Market on Weekends at Warren’s Backyard
12-29	Christmas Carriage Rides at Historic District
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Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

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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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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

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1 John 4:12

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Exalted Redeemer Baptist
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First Baptist Granbury
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817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
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Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

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Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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Lakeside Baptist
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Mambrino Baptist
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Patillo Baptist
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Rainbow
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Waples Baptist
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Old Granbury Church Of Christ
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817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
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817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
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110 South Crook St.,
Cresson
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817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
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682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
5601 Temple Hall Hwy.,
682-317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
8812 Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
4323 Waples Rd.
817-573-9076

MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints
1226 Ross Lane
817-573-6825

NAZARENE

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

PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal
3100 Beechwood St.,
817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
4800 Glen Rose Hwy
817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian
303 W. Bridge St.
817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day Adventist
2016 Acton Hwy.
817-326-3573

OTHER

Anchor Fellowship
1300 James Rd.
682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
18553 South Hwy. 377,
817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
1950 Acton Hwy.
817-579-0968

Calvary Family
3306 Oak Trail Dr.
314-606-1211

Center Point
4332 E. Hwy. 377,
817-554-3432

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

Crossroads
200 S. Crook St., Cresson
817-886-9577

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

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

Hope Community
3206 W. Hwy. 377
254-243-0350

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

New Season Global Ministries
3755 Acton Hwy.
817-910-8777

Promise Point Church
5904 Walnut Creek Cir.
817-910-8868

Pure Praise
2901 Glen Rose Hwy.
817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel
6101 Rock Church Hwy
Tolar, Texas 76476

St. John Victorian Mission Of Granbury
5031 Bandy Rd.
817-573-2669

Stonewater
911 E. U.S. Hwy. 377
817-579-9175

The Bridge
1107 Weatherford Hwy
254-522-5330

The Heights
1921 Acton Hwy
817-558-2121

Triple Cross Cowboy
3470 Lipan Hwy
817-279-2470

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clint@allamerins.com
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Granbury, TX 76049

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817-573-7720
www.bridgewatermemorycare.com

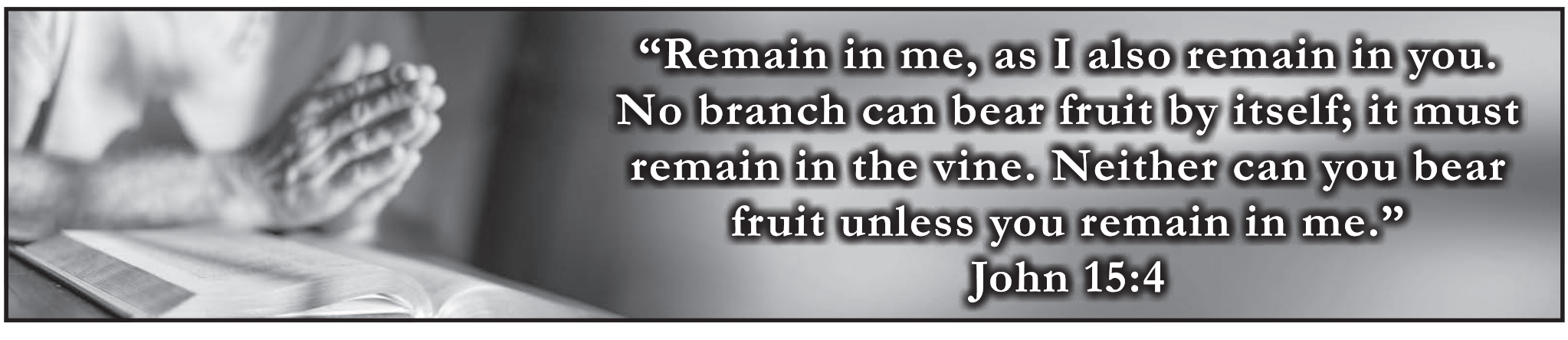
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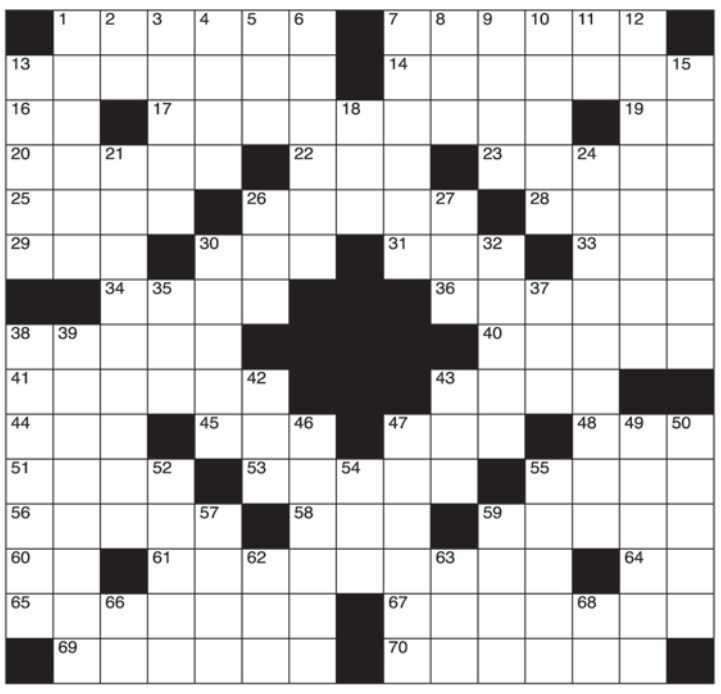
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. A type of solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Sound
56. MLB legend Hank
58. Very attractive person
59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Mocking
64. Symbol for gold
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho

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							9	
	4				2	7		
6				5				2

Level: Advanced

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Your energy is contagious this week, Aries. Expect bursts of creativity and spontaneous fun to ensue. Perhaps an unexpected adventure will pop up? Take the lead in social situations.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
It might be a week for indulgence in the best ways possible, Taurus. Treat yourself to something delicious or cozy, and don't feel guilty about it. Patience will pay off in work projects.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Curiosity is your superpower this week, Gemini. Choose a new hobby or explore a class at the community college. You might discover hidden talents or interests.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this is your week to shine emotionally. Reach out to friends or family who you haven't spoken with in a while. Small acts of kindness can come back to you in surprising ways.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
It's time to hear that roar, Leo. Your charisma is unstoppable right now and you're ready to step into the spotlight. Share your ideas and achievements with anyone who will listen.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Your knack for organization is a ticket to smooth sailing this week, Virgo. A little planning goes a long way right now. However, don't forget to add some fun, too.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
This week you may find yourself effortlessly charming all of those people around you, Libra. Social events or collaborations may be particularly festive.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, this week brings opportunities to dive in deep with something you are passionate about. Your intensity attracts attention, so embrace your magnetic personality.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. Whether it's a small trip over the weekend or a new hobby, your week is packed with excitement and energy. Your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Determination and hard work this week will have personal or work projects moving along faster than expected. Remember to reward yourself along the way.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, innovation is on your mind right now. Ideas and originality shine through in all you do. Expect some playful debates or spontaneous collaborations.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
It is alright to let your imagination run wild this week, Pisces. Creativity flows easily, and your intuition can guide you to some unexpected things along the way.

kids' corner

Creative Colouring

Colour in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Book FACT:

This term refers to reading texts quickly but not completely.

Answer: Skim

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

GPAES
CVROE
KAMR
AIED

4 2 1 6 1 B 3 3 5

Answer: Read a book

CANADA MONTH HISTORY

1851

The first Canadian postage stamps are printed.

NEW WORD

SYNOPSIS

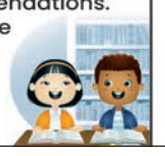
a brief summary of something

How they say that in...

English: Cover (book)
Spanish: Forro
Italian: Copertina
French: Couverture
German: Umschlag

Did You KNOW?

Some of the best ways to find new books to read is by asking friends for recommendations. You also can explore online reading communities.



Get the PICTURE?



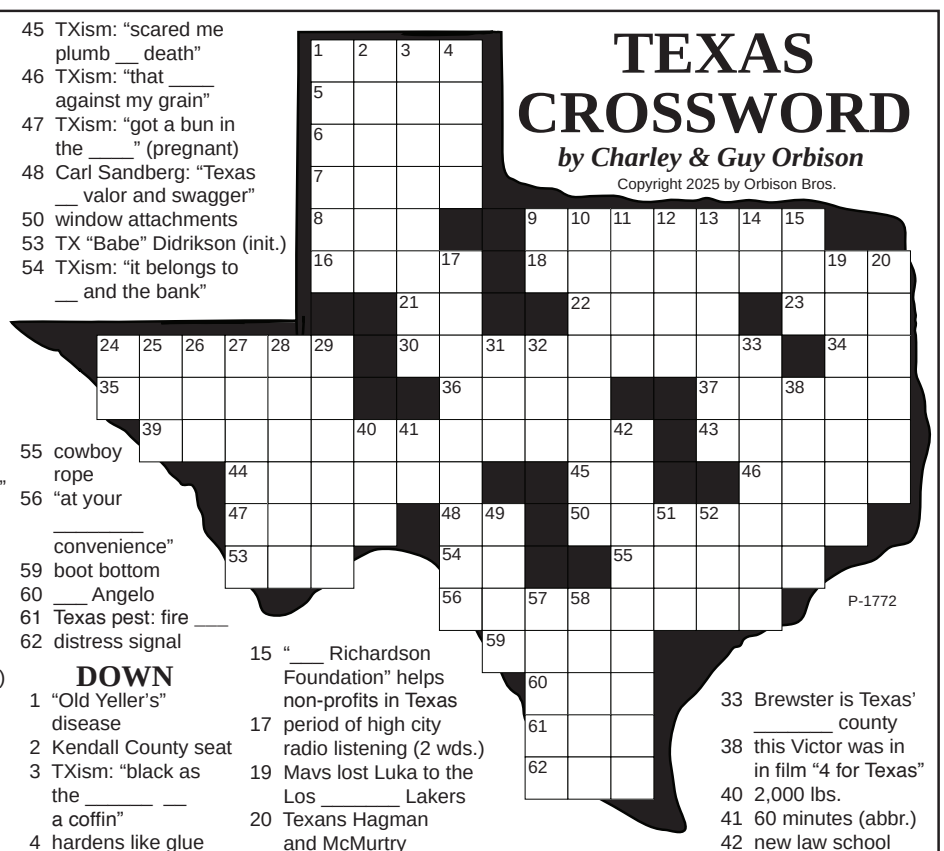
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Little Free Library

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1772

ACROSS

1 goals for Ranger or Astro hitters (abbr.)
5 TXism: "busy as _ ___-armed paper hanger"
6 TXism: "pick of the litter"
7 Texas perennial
8 TXism: "blister ___" (handle)
9 federal "Bureau of Indian _____"
16 TXism: "slick as a watermelon ____"
18 divine
21 Alamo's Travis: "I shall never surrender __ retreat"
22 TX Quaid was "Doc" in "Wyatt ____"
23 evidence used in some Texas cases
24 TX Larry King's "Confessions of a White _____"
30 Cowboy Brandon Aubrey kick (2 wds.)
34 TX Ginger (init.)
35 in Upton County: "The Treasure of _____ Gap"
36 where some Texans ski
37 accessory for the Aggie Color Guard
39 TXism: "scarce __ _____ __ a frog"
43 TX Nanci Griffith tune: "_____ Something Fine
44 "Omni PGA Frisco _____ & Spa"
45 TXism: "scared me plumb __ death"
46 TXism: "that ____ against my grain"
47 TXism: "got a bun in the ____" (pregnant)
48 Carl Sandberg: "Texas __ valor and swagger"
50 window attachments
53 TX "Babe" Didrikson (init.)
54 TXism: "it belongs to __ and the bank"
55 cowboy rope
56 "at your _____ convenience"
59 boot bottom
60 ___ Angelo
61 Texas pest: fire ___
62 distress signal

DOWN

1 "Old Yeller's" disease
2 Kendall County seat
3 TXism: "black as the _____ __ a coffin"
4 hardens like glue
9 car cooler (abbr.)
10 cattle fatteners
11 32-down item
12 Texas had Army's "First ____ Squad"
13 TXism: "he __ ____ his prime"
14 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
15 "___ Richardson Foundation" helps non-profits in Texas
17 period of high city radio listening (2 wds.)
19 Mavs lost Luka to the Los _____ Lakers
20 Texans Hagman and McMurtry
24 ex-Aggie coach _ _ Slocum
25 Clyde High School football class
26 U.S.S. Hatteras was sunk off Texas by "___ Alabama"
27 TXism: "got __ ____ the horse's mouth"
28 TXism: "she wears her heart on her _____"
29 TXism: "mad as a _____ snake"
31 TXism: "cute as a bug's ___"
32 fleur-de-___ flew over Texas
33 Brewster is Texas' _____ county
38 this Victor was in in film "4 for Texas"
40 2,000 lbs.
41 60 minutes (abbr.)
42 new law school grad's situation? (2 wds.)
49 the "Seven ____"
51 Texas actress Meredith Mac___
52 road curve
57 "_____ Cantina" is in song, "El Paso"
58 Llano County seat

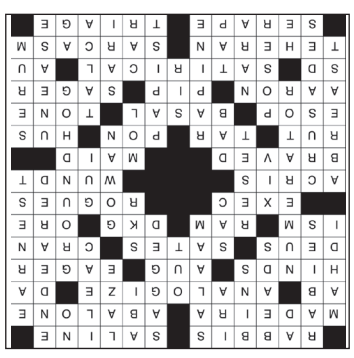
ON THE PROWL WORD SEARCH

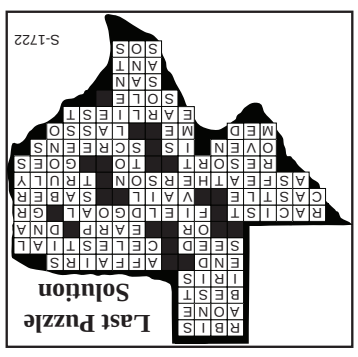
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B	N	A	I	N	I	S	S	Y	B	A	F	X	R	K	W	A	M	O	K
W	P	C	A	L	I	C	O	W	D	S	T	B	U	E	C	P	W	P	I
S	U	T	C	H	A	A	W	K	P	A	C	S	M	B	K	R	O	M	R
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N	L	P	C	E	E	D	B	S	O	L	L	T	H	G	C	K	T	L	W
S	O	A	N	N	W	H	Q	S	U	B	Q	O	Y	I	E	H	X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

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

WORDS

ABYSSINIAN
CALICO
CLOWDER
DOMESTICATION
FERAL
HAIRBALL
HISS
KITTEN
LITTER BOX
MEOW
PADS
PERSIAN
POST
PURRING
QUEEN
SCRATCH
SIAMESE
TABBY
TOMCAT
TORTOISE SHELL
WHISKERS





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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event included in the Community Calendar, send an email to submissions@hcnews.com. Be sure to include "Calendar" in the subject line.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa event from 8-11 a.m. at 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. The event will feature free Santa chats and photos, crafts, hayrides, archery and a full holiday market. Breakfast with Santa is a free community event, with an optional hot breakfast served for $5 a child and $10 an adult. Pre-register online at CampFireFW.org/BWS.

***

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

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***

Granbury Live presents Seger System: Bob Seger Tribute to Christmas Special at 7:30 p.m. Along with the best of Bob Seger's greatest hits like "Night Moves" and "Against The Wind," concert goers enjoy holiday songs performed with soulfulness and style the way Bob would have sung them. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

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Sunday, Dec. 14

Granbury Baptist Church is holding its Christmas Carnival from 4-7 p.m. The Christmas Carnival will feature an American Ninja Warrior style obstacle course, as well as a cake walk, petting zoo, clown entertainment, inflatables, cookie-decorating, a bounce house, s'mores by the fire, prizes, giveaways and so much more. The event is open to the public and free to attend.

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MONDAY, DEC. 15

The Granbury Independent School District will hold a Board of Trustees meeting at 5 p.m. at the GISD Administration Building Board Room.

***

The Granbury Independent School District STEAM Academy at Mambrino Choir will perform on the square from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Square.

***

The Granbury Independent School District Granbury High School Choir will hold its Christmas Concert from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Granbury High School Auditorium.

***

The Brazos Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. at Granbury First United Methodist Church. The concert is free.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

The League of Women Voters of Granbury is hosting a holiday nonpartisan gathering from 6-8 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl St. This event is a new local chapter meet and greet and is come and go. Text Linda Rougeux at 682 916 5777 for more information.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Melody Belles singers, women's choral group, present "Nativity and Nostalgia," an annual Christmas concert followed by a luncheon. The public is invited and the program begins at 11 a.m. at DeCordova Bend Country Club. Cost is $20 plus tip, per person. For reservations, call the club at 817-326-2381.

***

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SATURDAY, DEC. 20

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***

Granbury Live presents "A Winter Wonderland" at 7 p.m. with songs and stories by Sarah Reeves. Reeves is a powerhouse singer, songwriter and producer with more than 174 million streams worldwide. Known for her emotionally rich voice and captivating stage presence, she's scored two No. 1 hits on the CCM Hot AC charts and landed major syncs with Disney, Netflix and top television networks. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 6 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatre-company.org.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from 4-8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

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 to 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 the 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 to 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 to 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 to 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. Quilts 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, 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 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 p.m. to 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, 4 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 to 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. Questions? 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 the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 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 United Co-op, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 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 to 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 are 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 Barbeque 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 to 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 over 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.

DEC. 9, 1965
60 YEARS AGO

The capacity crowd was delighted with the program presented Dec. 7 by the Texas Girls Choir at the First Presbyterian Church. Director Jess Carter organized the choir in 1962. Hymns, classical numbers, selections from "The Sound of Music" and a group of Christmas carols were included.

A group of Boy Scouts, members of Troop 575 in Dallas, visited Yancy Electric Gin on Dec. 6. The troop, sponsored by Preston Hollow Methodist Church, was accompanied by scoutmasters John Dress, Darrell Liston and assistant scoutmaster Pete Lutkena.

A number of local ministers, recognizing the need for both cooperation among the various denominations and for a large-scale effort to reach inactive church members and non-Christians alike, have made plans for the Hood County Crusade.

DEC. 12, 1985
40 YEARS AGO

Hood County commissioners voted Dec. 10 to extend the county's contract with a Fort Worth architectural firm to include drawings for a proposed new juvenile detention facility. The firm is slated to submit plans for the commissioners' study during a Jan. 13 meeting.

According to County Clerk Angie Ables, Hood County soon will be required to provide wheelchair ramps at the courthouse so handicapped citizens will be able to enter the building to vote by the May county elections. State requirements for access by the handicapped to government buildings give the county six months to comply; however, federal law, which pre-empts Texas law, is requiring the ramp be in by Jan. 1.

A Hood County jury, after finding Dana C. McChesnee, 34 of Fort Worth, guilty of aggravated possession of marijuana Dec. 6 after a weeklong trial, returned a punishment verdict of 10 years probation and a $100,000 fine. The fine later was suspended. The jury's action was a clear disappointment to District Attorney Dan Grissom.

DEC. 10, 2005
20 YEARS AGO

Granbury coach Leta Andrews made history and shed some tears Dec. 9. But not in that order. Andrews tied the late Jim Smiddy for the most victories by a girls high school basketball coach in United States history, when her team defeated Marlin 66-39 to open the Granbury Booster Club Invitational.

A Granbury man was killed Dec. 7 when his vehicle skidded out of control on the ice into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer along U.S. Highway 377, west of Granbury near Friendship Road. The 37-year0old man was partially ejected from his vehicle after the impact. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Brazos River Authority is studying tighter restrictions and controls of commercial and recreational uses of Lake Granbury. Park Studies Inc. conducted the study, actually counting the boats and the private docks, ramps and commercial uses. Public hearings for citizen input have been scheduled.

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

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.

***

Grief Connection, a discussion-based grief support group, meets from 4-5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church Granbury, 2109 W. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76049. (Next to Tractor Supply). Park in the main parking lot and enter through the office door. If someone is suffering a loss through death, divorce, serious illness or other life trauma, join the "Tribe of After" as the group navigates the emotional, spiritual and practical changes of life with and after loss. Anyone who has questions or would like more information, contact Amy Dwight (817-894-2449) or Danny Dwight (817-219-9833).

***

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

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 to 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 to 6:45 p.m., large group meetings 7 to 8 p.m., small group meetings 8 to 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 to 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 to 8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15 to 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 to 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.



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Behind the masks: COVID no problem for the 'Queen of Make-Doers'



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.

If all the COVID-19 stories were laid end to end and submerged, it might be a good thing. Most of us think of this acronym (Corona Virus Disease-2019) in negative terms.

However, just as some first century Christians wondered if anything good could come out of Nazareth, surely Jesus smiled and cut them much slack. Maybe even the pandemic provided an ill wind that blew some good.

During a wonderful visit with Dr. Nancy Jo Humfeld recently — and all visits with this veteran teacher of theatre, as well as both the star and director of countless stage productions — we recalled a "make do" arrangement caused by COVID.

"Make do" is an oft-used phrase in the theatre world, Dr. Humfeld said.

She may be the "Queen of Make-Doers," or at least one of many drama professionals who consider tape, baling wire and chewing gum wads to be part and parcel of drama productions.

Heaven knows she's experienced, now retired from leading drama programs at Howard Payne University for 34 years, but still going strong at Brownwood's Lyric Theatre. There, university students are involved in a mix of others from throughout the community. They produce several live plays annually, all well attended by locals and fans from miles around.

I digress — again.

As we recounted the horrors of COVID, Dr. Humfeld took a deep dive into the full part of the half-filled glass.

She remembers the COVID years well, when students wore masks to protect themselves from the disease. They were greatly disadvantaged, since effective acting depends greatly on facial expressions.

Such a problem didn't stop her; and her solution wasn't rocket surgery.

Dr. Humfeld had an idea — no, even more. Most ideas simmer along before implementation. With her, however, they are seismic, sometimes exploding as if re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

Remember, this was a positive solution.

She was frustrated, realizing expressions were essentially meaningless behind the students' masks, particularly for those wearing ball caps. Only their eyes were visible.

She fixed things quickly, distributing plastic face shields that were worn like eyeglasses.

For her classes, masks were tossed aside.

Now that's a breath of fresh air.

In the early years of my HPU presidency — a valued colleague and friend of 50 years — was Dr. Lanny Hall, who later served as president of Wayland Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University (twice) and HPU.

We both were impressed with Dr. Humfeld's credentials when she came to HPU in 1986.

That she has endeared herself to thousands of students — and continues to do so as Artistic Director of the Lyric Performing Arts Company — surprises us not at all.

Each year, several hundred alumni return for HPU homecoming.

Their conversations deal with experiences of yesterday. They visit favorite campus sites, talk about cafeteria food and have thousands of "whatever-happened-to-old-so-and-so" conversations.

Some beat trails to check on their favorite teachers. None is more heavily trod than the one leading to Dr. Humfeld, who has given her all for their benefit, propping up many along the way.



Dr. Nancy Jo Humfeld



Dr. Nicholas Ewen

There is much evidence of her devotion.

A few years ago when personnel budgets were trimmed, she voluntarily stepped aside to make it possible for a valued colleague — and former student — to assume her leadership role. Dr. Nick Ewen, one of four Wyoming brothers who attended HPU, now chairs the department. (All four Ewens sat in her classes). It's difficult to determine where Dr. Humfeld left off and Dr. Ewen stepped in. They were cut from the same cloth.

There's a campaign currently underway to renovate the lyric stage, which will be named in Dr. Humfeld's honor.

Gifts from friends and former students are likely to contribute generously. The campaign shouldn't take long.

I happened to just now think about the first faculty meeting I called as president of Snyder's Western Texas College in 1986.

A faculty member chided me for calling it on a Wednesday.

"You spoiled both weekends," he said.

SENIOR CENTER MENUS

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, DEC. 15

Cajun baked tilapia with southwest hominy, tossed salad, bread and a fruit crisp

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Spaghetti and meat sauce with Italian green beans, corn, garlic bread and a gooey butter bar

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Chef's salad with a garden pasta salad, fruit cup and an oatmeal raisin cookie

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Pork carnitas tacos, pinto beans, coleslaw with cilantro lime dressing and escalloped peaches

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Meatballs with gravy and fluffy rice, vegetable medley, a roll and an emerald pear

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Holiday happenings, cheer abound in Pecan Plantation



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

Celebrations of Christmas are numerous in our community for residents to enjoy the holiday season this weekend.

GOLF GIFTS

First, the annual Christmas Card Sale at the golf pro shop ends today, Saturday, Dec. 13. Shoppers may choose merchandise to purchase and then select a Christmas card revealing a designated discount. One lucky shopper will open a 100-percent discount card.

TUNE TIMES

Next, a karaoke party is at 7 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Dec. 13, coming to the 19th Hole. Both participants and spectators are invited to attend.

Also, Mark H. Morton will entertain folks with his "road trippin' music" from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, also in the 19th Hole. All neighbors are welcome.

Cookie construction

Finally, Pecan's annual family gingerbread house event happens beginning at 3 p.m. tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 14. The registration fee of $20 covers all materials and decorations. Signing up is a must as space is limited: 817-573-7952.

NEIGHBORLY GATHERING

Pecan Plantation's Neighbors Helping Neighbors invites folks to its Christmas Party from 2-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the EMS Building along Monticello Drive. Attendees will enjoy an afternoon of caroling along with refreshments, and transportation is available with an RSVP by Monday, Dec. 8: 817-894-0143.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Pecan's Genealogy Group welcomes both neighborhood residents and guests to its meetings, the next of which is a Christmas party Tuesday, Dec. 16. Calls or texts to 682-459-5718 will provide more information on the day.

HOLIDAY FUN

School will recess soon for winter break and Pecan students may participate in an ornament making class Friday, Dec. 19. Call the PAC to sign up: 817-573-7952.

FREE FLICK

Buddy the Elf will be on the "big screen" for the PAC's Christmas drive in movie showing beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. "Elf" is free for all attendees; golf carts and lawn blankets are welcome. The PAC will be open for restrooms and snack purchases.

GOOD SHOT

The Pecan Plantation Archery/Air Gun Association has its annual "Don't Shoot Your Eye Out BB Gun Shoot" scheduled from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20, at the archery/air gun range for participants ages 4-16. A hot dog lunch will be part of the day, and winners in each group will receive a Red Ryder BB gun. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

DATE CHANGE

With Christmas coming soon, Pecan's bulk trash day for Dec. has been rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 20, so services will continue without interruption during the holiday season. For complete information on the collection station in our community, folks may contact Director of Operations Daniel Van Patten at 817-573-2641, extension 342.

PAINT PARTY

Popular and accomplished Pecan artist Kathy Yoders will lead students in completing an art on canvas piece from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the PAC. The finished products promise to make lovely Christmas gifts. Call the PAC to secure a spot: 817-573-7952.

FISH DATE

Little anglers will want to save the date of Monday, Dec. 29, for the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kid's Trout Fishing Tournament. This Wildlife Committee sponsored event grows in popularity each year as the youngest residents of our community have proven themselves skilled at reeling in healthy catches. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the pond behind the clubhouse pool. Fisher boys and girls should bring their fishing poles; bait will be provided.

TAKE AIM

Also Dec. 29, while Pecan children are out of school, they may participate in a very popular dodgeball event at the PAC. Free and no sign up needed. All ages are welcome. Show up and enjoy.

NEW YEAR

Pecaners will have a party in our neighborhood to celebrate the coming of 2026. Beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, folks may enjoy an evening consisting of a meal (including black eyed peas), a champagne toast, live music and dancing; in addition, the dress code for the party is bright and glowing clothing to complement the neon theme. Reservations may be secured through member portals or by calling 817-573-2641.

GOVERNING GROUP

A board of nine directors serves Pecan Plantation, and each year three members complete their terms and thus our community elects three new members for the group. Neighbors who are passionate about our Pecan and desire to make a difference in our vicinity are invited to complete an application qualifying them to be on the ballot next year. Dedicated members who guide our association into the future and lend their voices in decisions concerning our homes are invaluable. Members received email last week with both an application link and a QR code containing an application, and the deadline for submission of paperwork is 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Newly elected board members will be announced at Pecan's annual meeting Saturday, March 7, and take office immediately. Board service is a volunteer position that requires attending monthly meetings and dedicating time each week to projects, email, training and committee liaison roles.

GIVING BACK

The Pecan Plantation Employee Christmas Bonus Fund is open and receiving donations from members who would like to recognize our dedicated staff. Folks may visit the Pecan website or stop by the front desk to participate.

APP UPDATE

Pecan Plantation has debuted its updated PPOA/PPCC mobile app and through it offering members a fresh design, improved capabilities and easier navigation.

Members will be prompted to update their app when opening the current version. The previous version will only remain functional for a short time, so members are encouraged to complete the update promptly to ensure continued access to all features.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's Christmas Tour of Homes last week was a beautiful success with four festive houses open for attendees to enjoy. Many thanks to the homeowners who volunteered, decorated and welcomed visitors. Furthermore, shoppers enjoyed a fabulous day shopping at the Nostalgic Nibble Sweet Shoppe. The PPWC ladies certainly created a festive day for our community to celebrate the holiday season, and all funds garnered from the day support the ladies' chosen projects and philanthropies in our community.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Ron Kenney, who passed away Oct. 27, and also to the family of Raymond King, who passed away Nov. 15.

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Mission Granbury's Food Pantry is located in our Resource Center at 3611 Plaza East Court in Granbury.

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Thank you for your support!
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24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848



PHYLLIS WEBSTER | COURTESY PHOTO

A deer browses a landscape. This column discusses how gardens may be deer proofed.

GARDEN PATCH

Rudolf go home: Deer can make gardening tricky



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001. 817-680-4849

Out on the lawn there arose a great clatter. One scarcely had time to see what was the matter. And then in a flash, there was noise on the porch — the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. Springing from the bed, we ran out the door. Horror of horrors, they had eaten the flora. Before I could fall, I managed to yell, "Go away, go away; we don't want deer at all."

Few things frustrate a gardener more than finding dear treating the landscape like an all-you-can-eat buffet. While wildlife can be beautiful to behold, a shrinking natural habitat means increased browsing pressure on local gardens. Don't despair; it's possible to design a landscape that deer prefer to avoid. While no plant is completely deer-proof, the right combination of plant choices, physical barriers and smart gardening practices better enables residents to peacefully coexist with deer.

First, understand behavior. Deer browse selectively, choosing tender, moist and nutrient-rich (heavily fertilized) plants first. New growth, lush annuals and the plants in irrigated beds are especially attractive. In fall and winter, deer become less picky, widening their menu when natural food is scarce. To design a "deer-resistant" garden, you'll need to adopt several strategies, such as growing plants that are less desirable to deer and adding deterrents.

While hungry deer eat most anything, they prefer to avoid plants that are smelly, prickly, fuzzy, bitter, resinous or fibrous. Examples include zinnias, sages, rosemary, Texas betony, lantana and Mexican feather grass.

Fencing is the most reliable deer barrier. To be effective, a single deer fence must be 7-8 feet tall. Also, two short fences spaced 3-4 feet apart will confuse and deter deer, which makes this type of barrier great for vegetable gardens. For fencing, select black-coated welded wire or polypropylene mesh to better blend into the landscape. Electric fencing is useful for small orchards or vegetable plots. Gardeners often use tinfoil and peanut butter to "bait the wire," which helps train deer to avoid the fence. Additionally, surround young trees, roses and vulnerable perennials with welded wire cages until the plants are well established.

Products that use scent as a deterrent temporarily reduce browsing. Scented products must be reapplied after rain. Rotating products with different scents helps prevent deer from acclimatizing to one scent. Deer also become used to motion-activated sprinklers, sounds or lights. These are best used as part of a layered approach, but they are not very effective on their own. Also, strongly scented plants such as rosemary, lavender, marigolds and salvias sometimes discourage deer when planted around the perimeter of a property.

Smart planting strategies include: 1) Create a distraction zone by planting something appealing, such as native shrubs and wildflowers, further from the ornamental plants you wish to protect; 2) Place deer favorites close to areas with human activity, such as patios and buildings, because deer are less comfortable browsing next to people; and 3) Layer your borders with highly resistant plants (fragrant, fuzzy, etc.) planted to the outside of the border and more vulnerable plants to the inside.

Also, 4) Vary the garden terrain, making entry difficult. Deer don't like uneven terrain, such as berms, which also can block views of tasty plants. They prefer sturdy footing and avoid steps and rocky surfaces; 5) Hide your garden by placing tall shrubs inside of fencing to obscure views. Use evergreens not favored by deer and mix species to better hide damage if it occurs; 5) Combine fragrant, prickly and leathery plants, intentionally creating a multisensory deterrence; 6) Avoid excess fertilizer and use slow-release fertilizer or compost instead. Over-fertilized plants grow soft, succulent foliage — a deer delicacy; 7) Plant in masses. Deer are more likely to pass by a large swath of unappealing plants rather than a single specimen; 8) Limb up fruit trees; and 9) Keep underbrush to a minimum so deer can't hide.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or online at lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

BOOK REVIEW

Authors discuss history in their latest books



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.

What's better than having a book on your lap in the wintertime?

Bonus if you have a comfortable chair, it's better if you have a hot beverage to warm your insides. It's best if the book is one of these great new history books.

So, you say you love history of the Old West? Will you pick between "Deadwood: Gold, Guns, and Greed in the American West" by Peter Cozzens (Knopf, $35), a book that touches upon the Black Hills gold rush, conflict with the Native Americans and plenty of shootin', robbin' and cow punchin'. Or will you choose "Brothers of the Gun: Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and a Reckoning in Tombstone," by Mark Lee Gardner (Dutton, $35), a book that focuses more on the men involved in the shoot-out at the OK Corral?

Or — why choose? Get both.

The World War II buff won't be sorry they tackled "The Wounded Generation: Coming Home after World War II," by David Nasaw (Penguin Press, $35). This is a rather unique WWII book, in that it's about the veterans and their families after the war, how they fared, the challenges they faced and what changes happened personally and societally.

So much is happening currently with the economy that "1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in History — and How It Shattered a Nation," by Andrew Ross Sorkin (Viking, $35), is almost a must-read. Diving into the history of the stock market crash and its aftermath, the author shows how events nearly a century ago serve as a warning for today.

Another timely book for today is "The Greatest Sentence Ever Written," by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster, $20). In just a few months, we'll celebrate America's 250th birthday, and while we're doing it, Isaacson said there's one sentence that shines in our Declaration of Independence. This thoughtful book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand how this essential document shapes our country.

More relevance for today? Yes, please, so you'll want "Winning the Earthquake How Jeannette Rankin Defied All Odds to Become the First Woman in Congress," by Lorissa Rinehart (St. Martin's Press, $33). Activist, suffragette, politician, this women's history biography tells a story for a national audience that's not often told, and it's perfect for feminists and political history fans alike.

And finally — it's going to be very hard not to sing a certain Gordon Lightfoot song in your head when you first pick up "The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by John U. Bacon (Liveright, $25). The good news is this detailed, fascinating book is so much more than the song, and maritime historians will love it.

If these history books aren't quite to your liking, or if you want more of the same, just head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask the staff there to direct you to the history section. There are a lot of great new history books out this fall and guaranteed, they'll all fit nicely in your lap.



COURTESY PHOTO

Various authors talk about history in their lates books, which are priced from $25-$35.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at Memorial Lane

A special Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony took place Sunday, Dec.7, at Memorial Lane and Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park.



A moment is taken to reflect, pay tribute, and thank those who served.



In 2021, thanks to the efforts of Stan and Kay Wasielewski, Friends of Memorial Lane received a piece of the USS Arizona's hull. This piece is permanently displayed in a prominent spot at Granbury City Hall, safe from the elements.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Constable Chad Davis (left), Friends of Memorial Lane chairperson Laura Fisher and Mike Donnely close the ceremony.

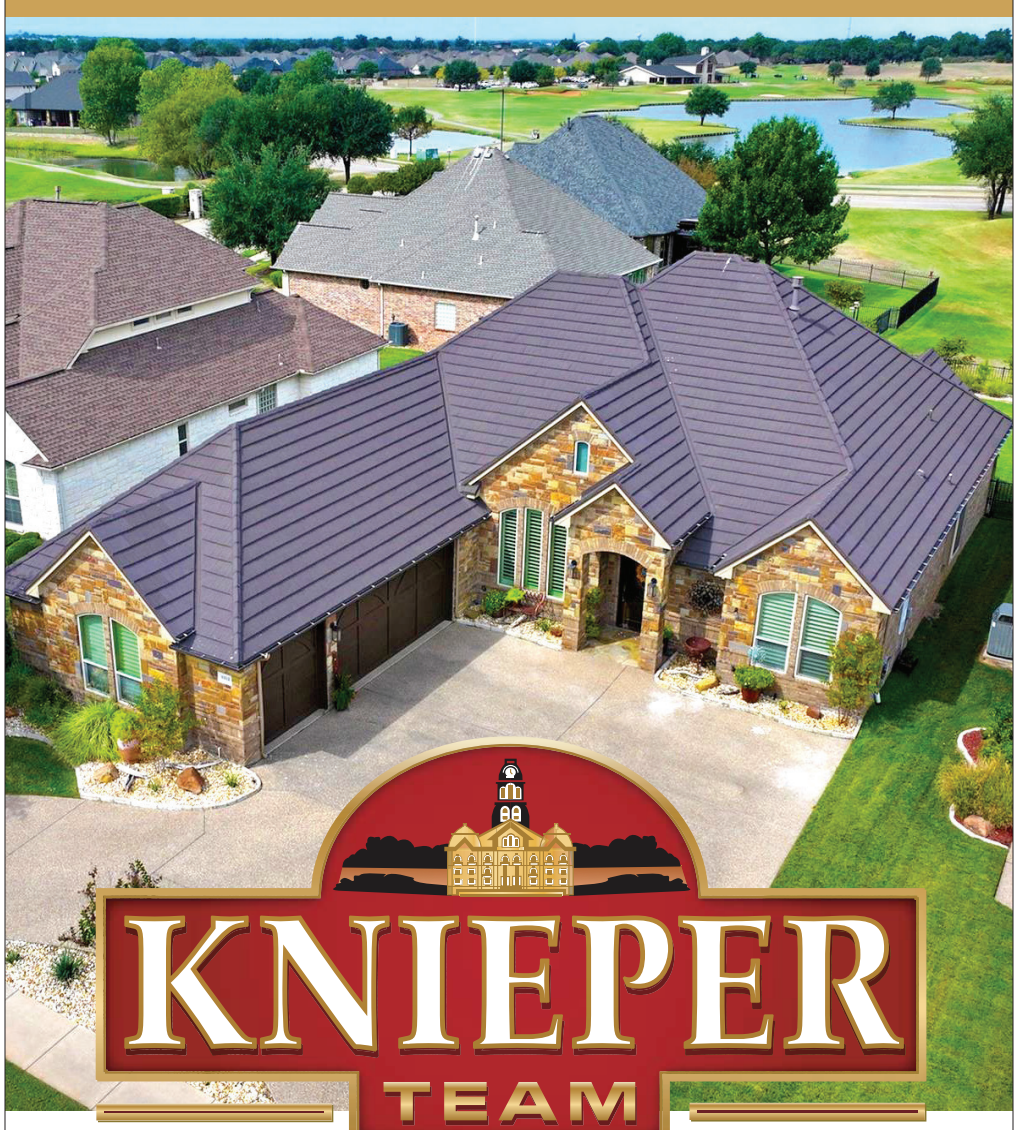


Abigail Fisher and her friend Sarah Reyna (left), visit attendees beside a USS Arizona relic. Fisher brought her photo album to share memories from her 2021 trip to Hawaii for the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Abigail Fisher reflects on her experiences with the Tolar High School Band, which was chosen to represent Texas at a concert commemorating the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This concert took place on Dec. 7, 2021, aboard the USS Missouri in Hawaii. During the event, Fisher and the band connected with and personally presented each Pearl Harbor survivor in attendance with a special Memory Lane Honor Coin.

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