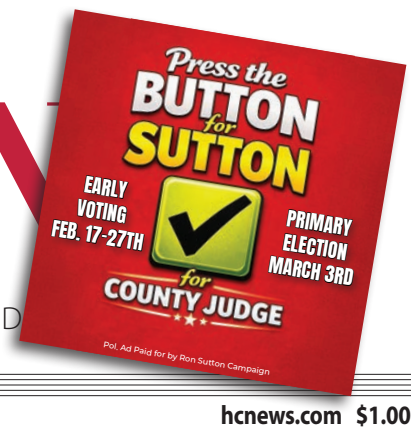
GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND

[SATURDAY, January 17, 2026]

hcnews.com $1.00



INSIDE



Longtime dentist, philanthropist Baird dies

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GISD considers virtual curriculum

–See Page A7



Lipan, Tolar athletes make their mark

–See Page B1



Master Gardeners earn awards

–See Page B12



County announces Charlie Kirk Parkway

–See Page A2

Visit Granbury earns 8 marketing excellence awards

Dooley concludes term as TAFE state president during 'Event of the Century'

Special to The News

The Texas Association of Fairs and Events (TAFE) presented Visit Granbury eight Ray Cammack Marketing Awards of Excellence during the TAFE State Convention, Jan. 9-11 in Fort Worth.

The event was billed as "The Event of the Century" in celebration of the association's 100th anniversary.

In addition to the statewide recognition, Tammy Dooley concluded her term as president of the Texas Association of Fairs and Events, the largest event association in Texas. During the convention, Dooley was honored with the presentation of a crystal gavel, recognizing her leadership and service during this landmark year. Notably, only eight women have held the position of TAFE president in the organization's 100-year history.

TAFE represents fairs, festivals and event organizations of all sizes across the state, including city, county, regional and statewide events, as well as associate members who support the industry. Granbury competes in the Under 75,000 population category.

The TAFE Awards of Excellence Marketing Competition recognizes outstanding promotions and superior examples of market-

PLEASE SEE **VISIT** | A5



COURTESY PHOTO

Visit Granbury team members attend the Texas Association of Fairs and Events State Convention on Jan. 9-11 in Fort Worth. Pictured from left are Mike Linnabery, Abbie Carswell-Robinson, Tammy Dooley, Kristen Gibson and Kaitlin Gerardi.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cody Caiman represents Tolar Jr FFA in a big way in the Courts Cleveland Show Barn Saturday, Jan. 10, at the 71st Hood County Junior Livestock Show Premium Auction Sale. The folks at Shottenkirk Ford purchased his Grand Champion Steer for $20,000, putting Caiman at the top of the sellers' list. Pictured from left, behind Caiman and his Grand Champion Steer, representing Shottenkirk, are Aaron Cross, Kristin Bazan, Misty Sneed (Ford GM), Josh Snider (Hyundai GM), and Denise Bone. His younger brother, Maverick Caiman (in a black sweatshirt), and Beau Kramer (far right) were both happy to help in the auction ring. For more photos, see Page A9 and www.hcnews.com/hcjls-2026/. Sale results will be published in the Jan. 24 issue.

Cases delayed for the 355th District Court

From staff reports

No court cases were heard in the 355th District Court this week, according to attorneys who were scheduled to have their clients' cases presented.

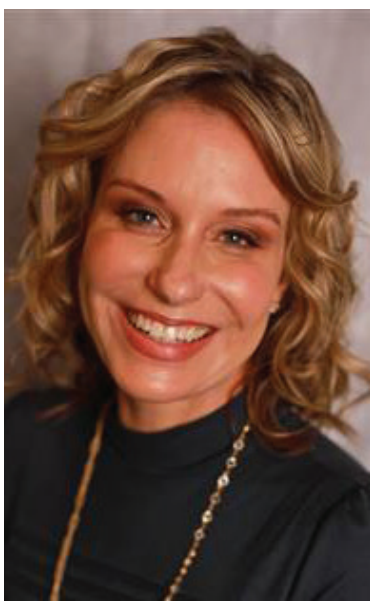
The Hood County News was informed District Clerk Melanie Graft did not send out court summonses for this week's trials.

Graft is seeking re-election to her post in the March Republican Primary.

She submitted the following statement:

"My office is home to some of Hood County's most talented and

PLEASE SEE **COURT** | A8



COURTESY PHOTO

District Clerk Melanie Graft

Caraway always there for community he loves

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to The Hood County News

Ask Jake Caraway why he does what he does — which is help as many folks as he can each and every day — and you'll get a simple answer.

"Matthew 25:40. Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me,'" Jake said. "That says it all."

Jake is an executive vice president, senior loan officer and even part owner of First National Bank Granbury. He started in banking in 1976, was elected to the board of directors in 1980 and in 1998 became the principal shareholder of stock.

"Over the years, I inherited and bought stock," he said, adding with a smile, "It's the only full-time job I've had."

It's all connected to helping others; a job where he would do even more if each day were longer.

Every other week Hood County News will publish a feature story entitled "Five Who Matter." Each of the five episodes will be an in-depth story on a resident of Hood County who through his or her work, efforts, gifts and deeds, truly "matter" to our community. While these five will not be an exhaustive list of special contributors, we believe you will appreciate reading their story and better understanding their contribution.

A giving heart

Jake, 73, has long had a giving heart. Obviously, as a loan officer, he loves it when he can help someone get into a dream home, get money for their children's education or a number of other things that impact lives positively.

"Jake is very benevolent and very generous in his benevolence," said Neil Norman, former Granbury First United Methodist Church pastor. "He makes time for people. He sits down and helps people individually, and that enables them to do things

PLEASE SEE **CARAWAY** | A9



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

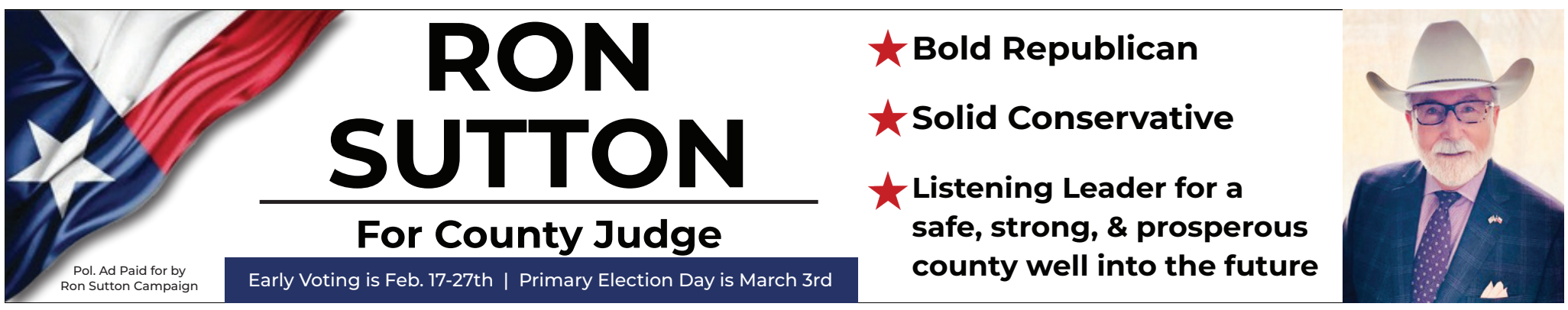
Not only is Jake Caraway — executive vice president, senior loan officer, and part-owner of the First National Bank of Granbury — considered one of the most respected local historians and a humble philanthropist, but the Caraway family history also goes back eight generations in Hood County.

139TH YEAR, NO. 51

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 22 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 22 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A4 | Classifieds — B6,B7 | Obituaries — A5, | Puzzle Page — B9 | Zed — A4



Local dentist, author, philanthropist Bruce Baird dies

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

To some, he was a kind and gifted dentist who brightened people's lives and improved their smiles, but to others, he was a leader, speaker, author and coach.

Dr. Bruce Baird, 69, who influenced many lives through these roles, died Jan. 7. Visitation was scheduled from 9:30-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at StoneWater Church in Granbury, 911 E. U.S. Highway 377, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m.

Baird's impact will continue to be felt in the lives of those he encountered, said a family friend.

The Granbury Dental Center Facebook page featured a glowing tribute to Baird, whom it credited as the founder of that practice: "Granbury Dental Center exists because of his vision, integrity and deep commitment to serving this community with excellence and compassion. For decades, he believed dentistry was about more than teeth. It was about people, trust, relationships and most importantly, doing what's right."

"His legacy lives on in every patient we care for, every smile we get to restore and every standard we uphold inside our practice. We are incredibly grateful for the foundation he built and the lives he touched, both inside and outside our walls," the post read.

Baird served as a dentist for more than four decades. He graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Dental School in 1980. He then spent four years in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea and at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

He eventually started a dental practice in Granbury, which grew into a multi-doctor health provider under his direction.

Many knew Baird as an inspirational speaker who traveled the world and wrote a book offering encouragement to others seeking to improve their leadership skills.

In the book "Legendary Leadership," Baird focused on how ordinary people could become extraordinary leaders.

"Leadership is often assumed with business ownership and job titles, but that doesn't guarantee success," Baird wrote. "I know, because early in my career, I felt like the worst boss in the world. Thankfully, it didn't stay that way."

He wrote, "No matter where you are in your own career, if you aspire to be a better version of yourself, you can become a legendary leader. The reality is this world needs strong leadership more than ever before."

One of Baird's close friends, Morris Duree, has known Baird since Baird moved to Granbury more than 40 years ago.

"When he first moved to Granbury about 45 years ago, we became good friends," Duree said. "He was a super outgoing and very charismatic person and never met a stranger. One of his most endearing traits was his generosity.

Duree said the family is asking donations be made in Baird's honor to the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center."

Baird's friends grew very close to him, Duree said.

"Everybody who was his friend ended up being more like family," he said. "He ended up paying for the college tuition of the children of his housekeeper of many, many, many years. He was a super generous man to many, many people."



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Bruce Baird

Commissioners Court announces Charlie Kirk Parkway

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Charlie Kirk, a commentator focusing on Biblical values and conservative politics who was fatally shot in Utah during a public speaking engagement on a college campus was honored Jan. 13 by the Hood County Commissioners Court, which named Williamson Road in Precincts 1 and 2 of Hood County as Charlie Kirk Memorial Parkway.

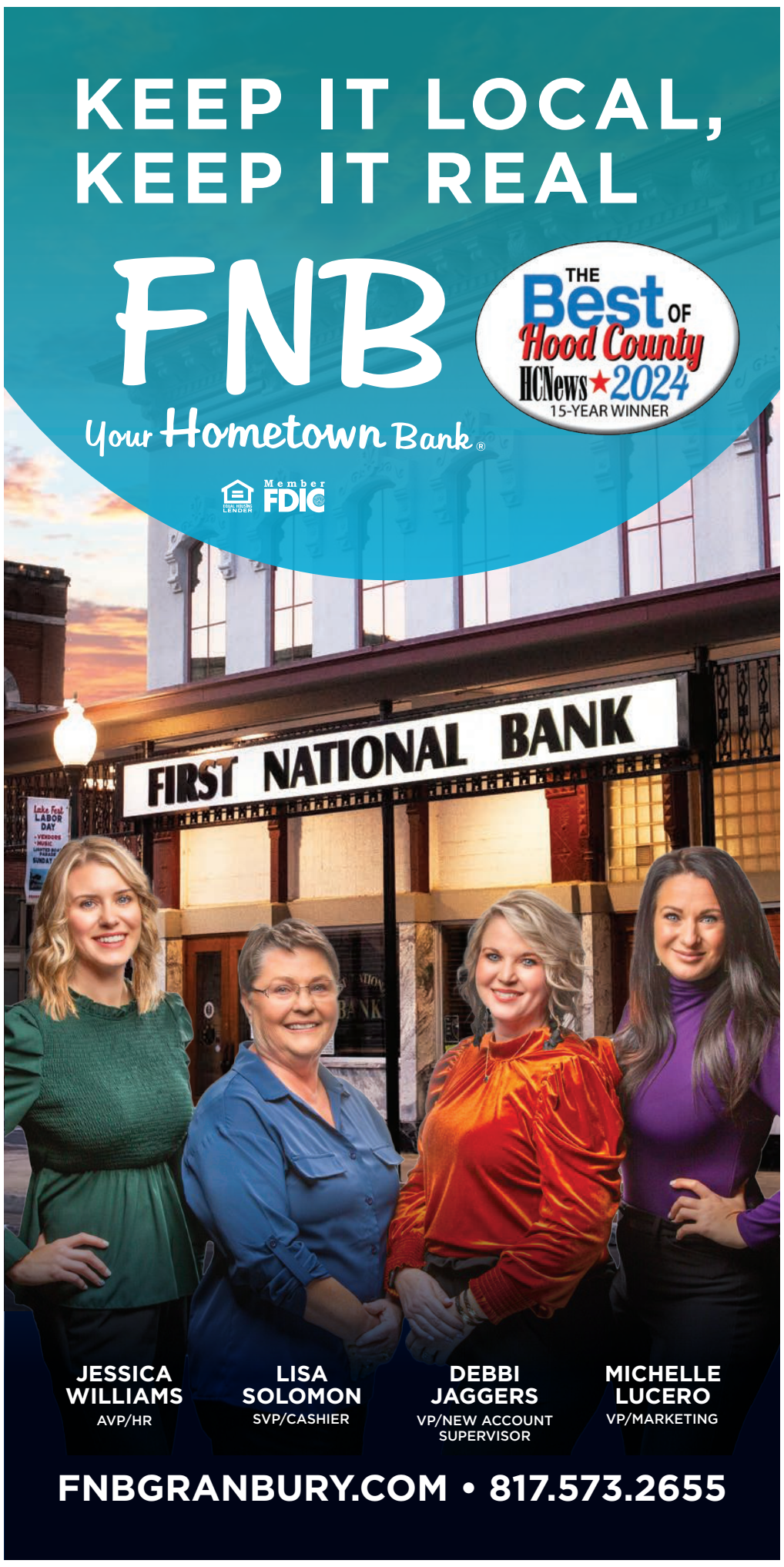
"After Charlie Kirk was killed Sept. 10, the community came together," celebrating Kirk's stance on faith and family values, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson. She said Kirk's assassination resulted in many being baptized afterward and said, "His life's work will always be honored and never be forgotten."

Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley read a proclamation by Commissioners Court, which recognized Kirk's dedication to "faith, family and freedom," which he said were the pillars of a strong nation. Kirk was the leader of Turning Point USA, which has chapters throughout the nation, including at colleges and high schools.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 21. The time and more information will be posted on the Turning Point of Hood County Facebook page.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Hood County Commissioners Kevin Andrews, Nannette Samuelson, County Judge Ron Massingill, Constable John Shirley and Commissioners Jack Wilson and Dave Eagle hold a sign that will be placed on Williamson Road designating it as Charlie Kirk Memorial Parkway during a Commissioners Court meeting Jan. 13. Kirk, who was fatally shot Sept. 10, 2025, was lauded for his dedication to Biblical values and American freedom.



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MY FRONT PORCH

Change is inevitable; make informed decisions



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

All I have to do is look in the mirror to realize I am getting older. Aging is simply the natural order of life. Either your life ends, or one continues to age, and with that aging comes change. Not sure, but I am beginning to think it is not the age that bothers us, it is the change that comes with age. Perhaps we value consistency and what we consider "routine" more than we do progress or the evolution of our world.

Recently, there has been a lot of conversation concerning "data centers." The first thing I wanted to know was what a "data center" is. Under a broad definition, most all businesses are data centers because they store data on their customers. We certainly hope our banks store information about our finances, and they do so accurately and in a way where it is easily accessible. Heck, even the newspaper is a "data center" of sorts. It keeps an archive of news events so in posterity they can be reviewed, and folks can better understand the past. There is not a week that goes by when someone comes to the newspaper office to look up an old obituary or read a newspaper article to find out about a past event. I do not think these types of data centers are what concern people.

Folks are concerned about huge buildings full of computing equipment, which drain enormous amounts of resources such as water and electricity, and possibly create excessive amounts of pollution. Or whose noise levels are so great as to disturb neighbors and those living in the vicinity. I think those are all reasonable concerns. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to knowingly support a situation where the creation of a commercial plant is going to ruin our lakes, destroy the power grid where there is not enough energy to operate our homes and businesses, or so much noise and pollution is created that general health or the quiet enjoyment of property is affected.

Data centers are all not the same, any more than a cucumber and a carrot are the same because they are both vegetables. It is important to make sure to compare apples to apples and not draw conclusions on faulty or incomplete information.

There is no question we are in the age of the "AI Revolution." Whether we want it to or not, our world is going to change, and it is going to change faster than it ever has before. The Industrial Revolution took 100 years before the United States went from being primarily an agricultural society to being an industrial society. All evidence supports that the evolution of AI is going to be much, much faster and change our "norms" in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Interestingly, I used AI to do a little research on other major changes in our world, the creation of the automobile and the telephone. When the automobile was introduced, it was criticized for "going too fast and therefore a danger to pedestrians, horses and children." Automobiles were "noisy, smelly, and ruined the peace and quiet of neighborhoods." Similarly, the introduction of the telephone caused an equal amount of concern. People feared that folks would stop writing letters or visiting others, that it would weaken the family unit and relationships with friends, and that it would make people lazy where they would not leave their houses to engage with others.

Most criticism was not silly, it came from real fears about safety, jobs, and change in what was then the accepted lifestyle. These inventions were not simply a new tool to utilize; they completely changed daily life, and that is what made people uncomfortable. It was the uncertainty of what the future might hold and how we might have to adjust.

What can be done? First is to stop having contempt before investigation. Alleging that all our government officials must be "on the take" without any supporting evidence is simply wrong and does not address the issue at hand. If you have concerns about a specific potential plant, ask questions such as how much noise the plant will produce, how much energy it will use, how much water, and how it will be regulated, and then listen to the answers. Don't make decisions based on hearsay and false and misleading information. Don't jump to a conclusion without having the knowledge to make an informed decision.

Data centers will be built. Whether they are in our town or somewhere else, they will be built. Technology never goes backward. With the potential of billions of dollars of investment in a community, it is a life-changing situation. Something which can elevate our community in unimaginable ways. Of course, and without question, it needs to be done safely and in a well-thought-out manner.

We can either embrace what the future holds and use it to our best advantage, or we can deny the inevitability of technological growth. How we confront these issues, the civility we show to each other as we seek answers, will have a lot to do with whether the change will be positive or negative.

Thought for the day: "For many people, change is more threatening than challenging. They see it as a destroyer of what is familiar and comfortable rather than the creator of what is new and exciting." Nidi Qubein, businessman and author.

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

sam@hcnews.com

ATTORNEY'S CORNER

What to expect in divorce: a guide for Granbury residents



BY CLAYTON BRYANT

Being a partner and family law attorney with Goranson Bain Ausley. With more than 18 years of experience, he represents clients in divorce, custody, high-asset property division and mediation. Clayton is a seasoned litigator with jury trial experience and also is a certified mediator, known for helping clients resolve complex family law matters with clarity and strategic focus.

In a community like Granbury, divorce rarely is just a legal process. It often affects long-standing relationships, shared businesses, children's schools and deep community ties. For individuals facing this transition, uncertainty about what comes next can feel overwhelming.

While every divorce is different, understanding the basic process can help people approach decisions with greater clarity during a difficult time.

Getting started

A divorce begins when one spouse files a petition with the court. In Hood County, this starts a required waiting period and allows the court to address immediate concerns. In some cases, temporary orders are put in place to manage finances, use of property and parenting arrangements while the case is pending.

Although temporary, these orders can shape day-to-day routines and expectations, especially when children or shared property are involved.

Dividing property in Texas

Texas is a community property state, which means most property acquired during the marriage is presumed to belong to both spouses. This can include homes, retirement accounts, businesses, land and other assets.

For Granbury residents, property division often involves more than basic accounts. Family businesses, lake property, retirement plans or land held for many years may require careful evaluation. Not all property is divided equally, and not all property is community property. Understanding how the law applies is essential to protecting what you've worked hard to build.

When children are involved

For parents, decisions involving children are often the most emotional part of divorce. Texas courts focus on the best interests of the child, encouraging arrangements that support stability and meaningful relationships with both parents.

Parenting plans typically address schedules, decision-making, holidays and communication. Many Granbury parents want solutions that minimize disruption to school, activities and extended family connections. When possible, these issues can often be resolved through discussion or mediation rather than conflict in court.

How long divorce takes

Some divorces are resolved relatively quickly, while others take longer depending on complexity and cooperation. Texas law requires a minimum waiting period, but disagreements regarding property or parenting can extend the timeline. Cases resolved by agreement generally move more efficiently than those requiring court involvement.

Finding the right path forward

Not every divorce has to be fought in court. Many families choose out-of-court settlement approaches, including mediation, negotiation or collaborative divorce, which focus on problem-solving and respectful communication. These options can reduce stress, protect privacy and lead to more tailored outcomes.

Litigation remains appropriate in some situations, particularly when fairness or safety is at issue. The right approach depends on each person's circumstances and goals.

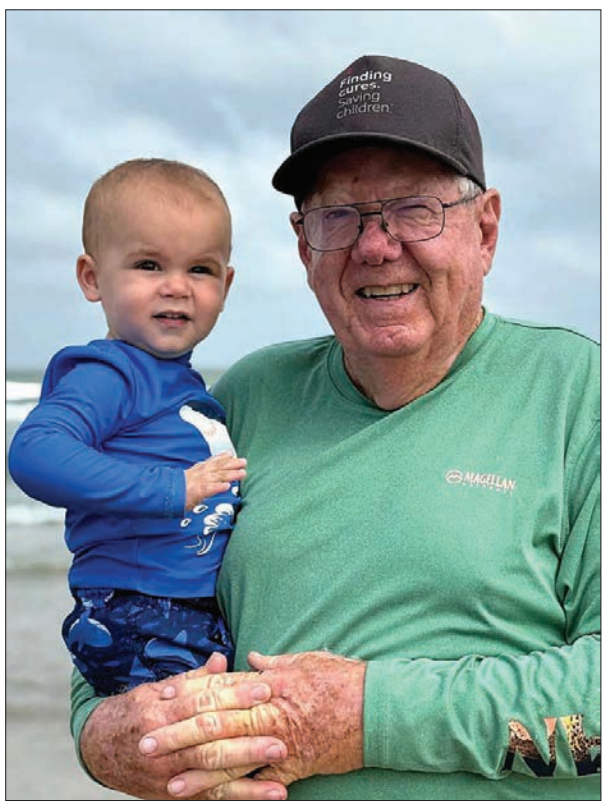
Moving forward

Divorce marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. Knowing what to expect can help individuals move through the process with clarity rather than fear.

For Granbury residents navigating divorce, experienced local guidance can make a meaningful difference — not just in reaching a legal resolution, but in moving forward with stability, dignity and a clear plan for what comes next.

Clayton can be reached at 817-573-6433 or gbfamilylaw.com/attorney/clayton-bryant.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Say hello to our neighbor, Jim Maher!

The lure of Lake Granbury is what brought Jim Maher to Granbury. "I've always wanted to live on the water. I have three boats and two jet skis; I love the water," Maher said.

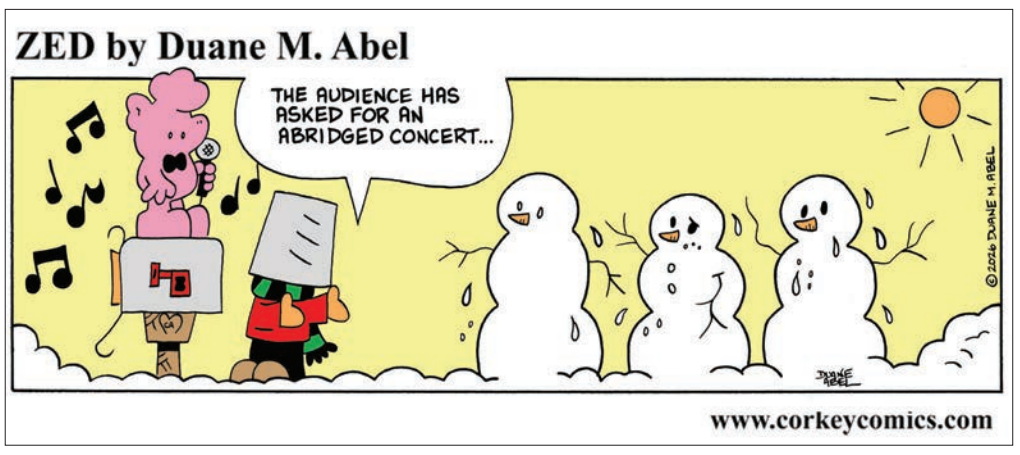
He's been an avid scuba diver and underwater photography always has been a passion — he still owns one of his submersible cameras. At his former home in Arlington, he had a constant reminder of his desire to live on the water, as he could see the lake every day behind the row of houses across the street. It's not surprising that nine years ago, he jumped at the chance to purchase his Lake Granbury waterfront home at auction and made the move to Granbury.

Maher likes to stay busy and has intended to — and taken steps to — retire more than once. It didn't take long for him to realize retirement wasn't a great fit; in his own words, "I couldn't stand it."

He bought and operated a pool and landscaping company and dabbled in real estate before transitioning to flipping houses. When he isn't flipping houses, he enjoys spending time with his daughter and son, his three grown grandchildren and his two little great-grandchildren.

Maher said he loves the people of Hood County and especially enjoys his friends at the Hood County YMCA. He also enjoys keeping up with news and events by picking up the Hood County News at his neighborhood Tommy's convenience store.





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OBITUARIES

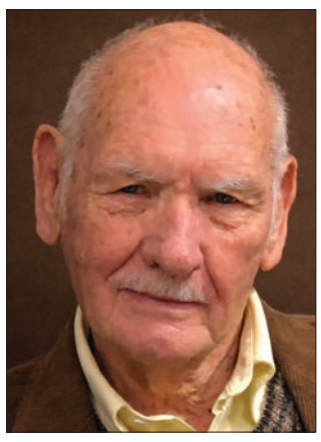
Harry Lee Humble Jr.
1935 – 2026

Harry Lee Humble Jr., 90, of Granbury, Texas, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Jan. 1, 2026.

Harry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sarah Humble; his sister, Kathy Vaughn; and his children, Brian Humble, Jean Suitt, Pam Shurtliff, Terry Humble Sr., John Daugherty and Kelly Daugherty. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Laney Humble, Delena Humble-Fischer, Khris Humble, Jared Humble and Terry Humble Jr.; his great-grandchildren, Wayne James, Shakota James, Jaxon Webster, Josh Humble and Solomon Humble; as well as his niece, Tamatha Deleon and nephew, Jason Vaughn.

Harry was born Oct. 22, 1935, in Arvin, California. Over the course of his life, he worked as a grocery store owner, cotton farmer, and later as a Medicare agent. He was known for his strong work ethic, dry sense of humor, and unwavering willingness to help anyone in need.

In his later years, Harry took pride in his work as a Medicare agent. His clients appreciated the time and care he devoted to helping them navigate insurance and medical needs, often going far beyond what was expected of his role.



A graveside service celebrating Harry's life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at Holly Hills Memorial Park, 1909 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury.

LaVern Ivan Franzen
1941 – 2026

LaVern Ivan Franzen, 84, of Granbury, Texas, passed away unexpectedly Jan. 5, 2026, surrounded by his family. He was born Jan. 12, 1941, in Denver, Colo.

LaVern became the youngest master plumber in Colorado and went on to earn Master Plumber certifications in multiple states. He owned and operated B&L Plumbing from 1975 until his retirement in 2004. He also served the public as a member of the South Adams County Water and Sanitation Board (1964-1970) and as a Commerce City councilman (1970-1976).

After retiring from plumbing, LaVern fulfilled another calling by becoming an EMT with Pecan Plantation EMS, serving from 2006 to 2023. He received numerous honors, including Outstanding EMT-B and Crew Member of the Year awards. He was also an active volunteer within Pecan Plantation, serving on multiple PPOA committees and boards.

LaVern is survived by his wife, Beverly Franzen; siblings Karen Johnson (Gerald), Ellene Austin (Richard) Lois Clegg; children Barry Franzen (Kimberly), Blain Franzen (Lena), Becca Acken (Peter), and Brenna Trujillo (Anthony); eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Alvin Franzen.



A Celebration of Life will be held March 14, 2026, from 2-5 p.m. at the Pecan Plantation Country Club. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS.

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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Delores 'Jean' Adkins
1946 – 2026

Delores "Jean" Adkins, 79, of Cabot, Arkansas, passed away peacefully on the evening of Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, following a long illness and surgery.

Born in Harlingen, Texas, in 1946, Jean was raised in various communities across Texas and New Mexico. She carried a lifelong passion for teaching and education, which became her defining characteristic and mission in life. For over 40 years, she dedicated herself to nurturing young minds. While working as a paraprofessional, she attended college at night for six years, earning her education degree and Arkansas credentials at the age of 31.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Terry Adkins, and two daughters, Trisa Dabbs and her husband Larry Dabbs, and Traci Chudy and her husband Kelley Chudy, all of whom adored her.

Jean was a beloved "Nana" to six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter: Will Bakalekos and his wife Cody Bakalekos; Rebecca Daniel and her husband Phillip Daniel; Jake Bakalekos, his girlfriend Heather Bartlett, and her children Chloe and Noah; Katelyn Dabbs; Nick Chudy; Macie Chudy; and great-granddaughter, Ella Jean Daniel.

She is also survived by her sisters, Doris Nell Mixon, and her husband Tom, and Linda Fern Cherry, as well as many cherished nephews, nieces, grand-nephews and nieces, and great-nephews and nieces, all of whom she loved as her own.

Jean was preceded in death by her father, Floyd Pershing West; her mother, Inez Burges West; her stepmother, Dewdrop Cherry West; and her brothers, Gary Frank West and Kenneth Floyd West.



In accordance with Jean's wishes, cremation has taken place. A service to honor her life and legacy will be held at 11 a.m. on her birthday, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at Moore's Funeral Home, 1504 N. JP Wright Loop Road, Jacksonville, Arkansas. Following the service, family and friends are invited to a reception to celebrate a woman who brought so much joy to everyone around her.

Randall Duayne Cox
1941 – 2026

Randall Duayne Cox, 84, beloved husband and brother, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at Harbor Lakes Nursing Home in Granbury.

Family received visitors at Wiley Funeral Home, 400 Highway 377 East, in Granbury, Sunday, Jan. 11, from 3-5 p.m. Graveside committal service: 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at Little Elm Cemetery in Little Elm, Texas.

Randall is survived by his brother, Jay, and wife, Connie Cox.

In addition to his parents, Frank and Doris Cox, Randall was preceded in death by his wife, Delores, in 2019 and by his brother, William Clarence Cox, in 2013.

Randall was a graduate of Texas Tech University. He proudly served his country in the U. S. Army. On June 2, 1977, Randall married Delores Jean Carroll. Randall worked as an auditor for Campbell Taggert in Dallas. He started his career in Dallas and was later transferred to St. Louis, Missouri. Upon his retirement, he returned to Texas. Randall enjoyed traveling with his wife in their RV. He was an active member of Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury. Most of all, he will be remembered for his devotion to his wife, Delores, for 42 years.



We love you, Brother.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Join the trend with these New Year resolutions

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Tony Mobly

With the new year around the corner, many people are setting goals for 2026. After months of rising prices on everything from milk to mortgages, money-related resolutions are prominent.

One out of four Americans (27 percent) plan to make 2026 the year of their financial comeback, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Others will continue with previous goals (21 percent), start from scratch (20 percent) or catch up on missed goals (14 percent).

Here are their top three financial goals and what to consider if you make one or more of these yours.

Boost your income: Get creative with your time and interests. Consider side hustles such as delivery driving, pet sitting or tutoring. Perhaps you can sell things online you no longer need. And if you traditionally get a refund on your tax return, consider adjusting your withholdings so less is taken from your paychecks.

To indirectly increase your income, cut your expenses. Every dollar saved effectively increases the "income" side of your budget. The biggest categories Americans plan to cut are restaurants and subscriptions.

Build up savings: Whether you're planning for a vacation or creating an emergency fund, having accessible cash means you're less likely to rely on credit cards. And credit cards can incur interest charges if you don't pay the full amount due every month.

To save for something specific, calculate how much you'll need and by when. Then break it down into monthly targets to help make your goal tangible and achievable.

For an emergency fund, build toward three to six months of living expenses. And remember: an emergency fund is for true emergencies — think medical bills, major auto or furnace repairs, not a television on sale.

Pay off debt: Every payment brings you closer to a life of financial freedom. Start by listing all your debts and their interest rates. Then choose one of these payoff strategies.

The Avalanche Method: You'll pay off the debt with the highest interest rate first. With that paid, you'll move on to the next highest. This reduces the amount of interest you pay in time, which generally means a lower total cost and often a shorter payoff period.

The Snowball Method: You'll pay off the card with the lowest balance first, then move to the next smallest balance. This may offer quicker gratification as the number of creditors can dwindle faster.

The Consolidation Method: You may be able to bundle and refinance high interest credit card debts to a 0-percent bank card for 12 months or longer.

With any of these methods, don't ignore your other debts. You'll still need to pay the minimum balances due on mortgages, auto loans and other credit cards to keep interest rates and late payment fees from accruing and your credit score from dropping.

Ready to join the trend? Across the country, millions of people are committing to improving their financial situation, and ultimately their financial future. By joining this trend, you're not just setting goals — you're shaping a life of freedom and possibility.

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

VISIT
FROM PAGE A1

ing, media and communications initiatives. The competition also serves as an opportunity for members to share best practices while recognizing the staff, sponsors, volunteers and partners who make events successful statewide.

2026 TAFE marketing awards

First place
- Best Promotional Advertising — Outdoor
  Lake Granbury Intertribal Pow Wow
- Best Pin, Badge, or Button
  Visit Granbury Badge
- Best Live News Coverage (Live)
  Visit Granbury – Fox & Friends
- Best Other Merchandise
  Goosebump Jump Volunteer Scarf
- Best News Coverage (Recorded or Studio)
  Visit Granbury – NBC 5 Best Historic Small-Town Reveal

Second place
- Best Community Program
  Visit Granbury Goosebump Jump
- Best Social Media Campaign
  Name the Trolley Promotion
- Best TV Commercial
  Visit Granbury – West Texas Summer Getaway Promotion

Team Visit Granbury includes Director Tammy Dooley, Assistant Director Kristen Gibson, Event Coordinator Kaitlin Gerardi, Lake Granbury Conference Center Event Coordinator Abbie Carswell — Robinson and LGCC Venue Manager Mike Linnabery.

"Receiving eight statewide awards during such a historic year for the association is incredibly meaningful," said Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury. "Serving as President of TAFE during its 100th anniversary — the Event of the Century — was one of the greatest honors of my career. To be only the ninth woman to hold this role in 100 years, and to represent the Celebration Capital of Texas on that stage, is something I will always cherish."

Dooley said, "These awards reflect the creativity, dedication and collaboration of our tourism team, city leadership, volunteers and incredible partners. The crystal gavel presented at the convention symbolizes not only leadership, but the collectivze effort of everyone who works tirelessly to elevate events across Texas."

Chris Coffman, Granbury city manager, said, "The recognition Visit Granbury received this year — along with Tammy Dooley's successful presidency of the largest event association in Texas — highlights the strength, professionalism and vision of our tourism team. These accomplishments continue to place Granbury at the forefront of destination marketing and event innovation statewide and beyond.

Dooley also expressed appreciation for the many partners who help bring Visit Granbury's vision to life, including media outlets, creative agencies, production partners, sponsors and community supporters, saying their collaboration plays a critical role in Granbury's continued tourism success.

"The Granbury CVB exists to enhance the visitor experience and drive tourism economic impact," Dooley said. "Events are one of the most powerful ways we bring people together, generate direct visitor spending and showcase what makes Granbury special. It's been an unforgettable year — and 2026 will be even better."

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Granbury battles challenges to stay on top economically

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

While Granbury has had great success in recruiting and retaining businesses, that doesn't stop others from trying to steal a good thing from the city.

Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman recently sat down for a conversation with Hood County News Publisher Sam Houston to talk about some of the recent triumphs the city has experienced and some of the challenges it faces on a regular basis.

Coffman told Houston the city has to compete with countless other communities for limited opportunities and has fended off a challenge from one West Texas city that made a serious bid to try and lure a Granbury industry.

While Coffman chose not to reveal the name of the local business, he did reveal the name of one city trying to steal the business away from Granbury.

"We have a local manufacturer that has been recruited by different people all across the nation to move," Coffman said. He said the business owner loves Granbury and has chosen to stay here despite some enticing offers.

"The city of Midland offered this gentleman a free location if he was there five years," Coffman said.

Later in the conversation, he told Houston, "We don't own any property to give away like cities such as Midland, Dallas, Waco, Cleburne and Burleson."

Instead, money that could be spent giving away property is "put into saving our taxpayers" money," Coffman said.

The courtship of that Granbury business by Midland — and others — failed, but it's just one example of the types of challenges the city has to overcome.

"Fortunately, our manufacturer has not left," Coffman said. "He likes it here. He loves Granbury."

One card the city is able to play to help businesses in the area is an incentive to reimburse them for their investment in local infrastructure, which Coffman said becomes public property anyway.

Another way local businesses have benefited from assistance from Granbury — and a state grant that was available at the time — was for Mesquite Pit to obtain a $100,000 loan for 0 percent interest through the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"It was to extend utilities (to the restaurant location)," Coffman said. "It was a 10-year note, and it's almost mature. It's a great example of the state helping cities with economic development."

Unfortunately, the program no longer exists to help other businesses, Coffman said.

Bringing in businesses that benefit the city sometimes requires working in partnership with others to seal the deal.

"The city and county worked together for the H-E-B shopping center to be built here," Coffman said. "There was an abatement every year until (the property) was abated $2 million.

"Then, there was a deal with Kroger (for a new location)," he said.

That meant the old Kroger store building was left vacant, creating another opportunity for the city, Coffman said.

"The (Granbury City) council wanted to get something in (the old Kroger site)," he said. "A Metroplex developer was incentivized to build a new road through there."

Coffman said the city was able to repay the developer for the infrastructure improvements made.

The financial position of the city also is something Houston asked Coffman about.

"We have a strong fund balance and are very viable," Coffman said. "We have an AA bond rating which allows us to get a lower interest rate."

He said Granbury likely could earn a AAA bond rating, but its smaller population compared to major cities is a limiting factor.

Still, the city has plenty for which to be thankful.

"We've got a real low tax rate compared to other cities in the Metroplex," Coffman said. "It's 42 cents per $100 (property) valuation, which is a very low tax rate. You can't find that tax rate anywhere (else) in the Metroplex. Wouldn't you want to live where the tax rate is low?"

Attracting businesses not only would strengthen the city's financial prowess, it also would help to keep more Granbury and Hood County residents here during the workday, Coffman said.

"Seventy percent of our residents commute (to other cities for work), and we are doing something to address that," he said, choosing to wait and reveal specific details at a later date.

Regardless of where people work, location is a key asset in real estate and tourism, and Coffman said major road expansion will help with accessibility and traffic concerns.

"We've been working with (the Texas Department of Transportation) for about eight years, and (the long-term, end goal is) a divided six-lane road through Granbury," he said.

Work also will include widening bridges and including a hike-and-bike trail along the road to protect pedestrians from cars, Coffman said.

"You'll see these start developing in about January of next year," he said.

There will be some inevitable growing pains and temporary disruptions on the road to long-term convenience and stability.

"We are in the process of awarding about $12 million in relocation costs for utilities," Coffman said. "Also, the Paluxy (River) will get a new bridge, and there will be a better flow of traffic. There will also be better identified access to the hospital."

Changes will be made so drivers have easier and more efficient access to main routes through the city, but it will take time to get everything done, Coffman said.

"We're looking at $130 million for the breakout project (for transportation) and we can't do it all at once," he said. "We've been assured that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (a federally funded and federally mandated transportation-policy-making body) will help us.

"A lot of times (the state transportation department) will have a project that's been awarded but doesn't get done. We may be able to allocate that money to Granbury," Coffman said.

The process of preparing for road construction — not just the construction itself — can be long, tedious and expensive, Coffman said.

"When we expand (roads), we have to buy right of way," he said. "Normally, the city or county is responsible for 10 percent of that cost. Our attorney was able to work with (the Texas Department of Transportation) and got that waived."

Another reason the construction work must be done in phases is to ensure people have access to local businesses.,

"We can't do it all at once — our businesses need to survive, and our community needs to support our businesses," Coffman said. "If we did all this in one big swath, it would kill our retail, so we're going to do it in phases. It's probably a 12-year project done incrementally. Hopefully, people will be patient."

One of the worst areas of Granbury for people to navigate is Highway 144, also known as South Morgan Street, which often is busy with traffic.

"The intersection on 144 (and the stoplight at the Brookshire's shopping center) is rated an F," Coffman said, noting the state grades intersections on an A-F scale.

A diverging diamond intersection near that spot will create three lanes instead of the current configuration and allow better access to U.S. Highway 377 from FM 144.

"Hats off to TxDOT for continuing to work with us," Coffman said.

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, January 16th - Thursday, January 22nd

28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM
Saturday: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 4:30PM, 7:05PM, 9:40PM
Sunday: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 4:30PM, 7:05PM
Monday: 11:35AM, 2:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM
Tuesday - Wednesdy: 2:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM

Anaconda (PG13)
Friday - Saturday: 7:30PM, 10:00PM
Sunday: 7:05PM
Monday - Wednesday: 7:45PM
Thursday: 2:00PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG13)
Friday: 5:35PM, 9:40PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 2:05PM, 6:10PM
Sunday: 10:35AM, 2:40PM
Monday: 10:35PM, 6:45PM
Tuesday - Thursday: 6:45PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash in 3D (PG13)
Friday: 1:30PM
Saturday: 10:15PM
Sunday: 6:45PM
Monday - Thursday: 2:40PM

David (PG)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:45PM
Saturday: 11:15AM, 2:00PM, 4:45PM
Sunday: 10:50AM, 1:35PM, 4:20PM
Monday: 11:15AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:00PM, 5:00PM

Mercy (PG-13)
Thursday: 4:30PM, 7:00PM

Primate (R)
Friday: 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 10:05PM
Sunday: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM
Monday: 11:50AM, 2:20PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:20PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM
Thursday: 2:40PM, 5:05PM, 7:30PM

Song Sung Blue (PG13)
Friday: 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM, 10:20PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM
Sunday: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM
Monday: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:45PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:45PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:55PM

The Housemaid (R)
Friday: 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, 10:30PM
Saturday: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM, 7:15PM, 10:15PM
Sunday: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM, 7:15PM
Monday: 11:05AM, 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:55PM

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Jail contract with DRG approved during special meeting

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

An expanded jail for Hood County is one step closer to reality with the Jan. 13 approval of a contract with DRG Architects to move forward with the $24 million project.

Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the contract, which had been discussed during a Jan. 6 workshop.

One question addressed before the contract was approved was voiced by Mark Lowery, a candidate for Hood County judge.

"Commissioner (Nannette) Samuelson brought up at a previous meeting a 10-percent markup (placed on the contract by DRG)," Lowery said. "I am not against DRG — for them to mark it up is taking taxpayer money."

Lowery said when he previously worked for the government, he had a saying that "Nickels and dimes add up to millions of dollars. Y'all need to be aware of that."

Samuelson asked Wayne Gondeck, president and chief architect of DRG, to discuss the additional 10-percent fee again.

"It's on reimbursable expenses and adds to transportation, servers, posting, renderings, physical models, additional insurance coverage — which you did not require, taxes and site-office expenses," Gondeck said.

"As I stated, there are multiple ways of handling reimbursable expenses. We can put it in the fee structure or as a transparent reimbursable expense. In other words, we're not double-dipping," he said.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews told Gondeck, "I think you've been pretty transparent on this."

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved biennial Sexual Assault Response Team reports to the Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force by Feb. 1 as mandated by Texas House Bill 47.
- Directed the Hood County Radio System Advisory Board to develop organizational documents.
- Authorized the county judge to sign the renewal of a contract with Clearview Chiropractic Life Care.
- Increased the transport travel budget to $8,000 to cover increased costs.
- Established a ballistic vest account for $4,500.
- Approved reimbursement to the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department for 14 self-contained breathing apparatus air packs for $83,986
- Approved a memorandum of understanding between Hood County and the Hood County Firefighter Association to reimburse funds already paid for a mobile emergency notification system for $7,867.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Wayne Gondeck, president and chief architect of DRG Architects, speaks to Hood County Commissioners at a meeting earlier this month.

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SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



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District considers virtual curriculum

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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In an effort to combat declining enrollment and also offer more options for students, Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Courtney Morawski introduced the idea of a virtual school curriculum to the GISD Board of Trustees.

"I want to update you on a conversation happening in the district," Morawski told the board. Although the district overall has "had tremendous growth," she said, "we want people to be informed on what's happening."

Morawski said there has been a decline of student enrollment since October.

"It caused us to consider something the legislature created last session," she said. "They opened up an opportunity for schools to have virtual or hybrid school programs."

Students who participate in the hybrid program "would count toward ADA (average daily enrollment) the same as traditional students," Morawski said.

GISD would design and create a program aimed at meeting students' needs. A pilot program is being developed so that home school students could participate in the GISD program and be able to take part in district activities, such as athletics, band, choir and theater arts.

"We're down 100 students," Morawski said. "It would be wise for the board … we need to be creating opportunities for students to stay in our school. At this point we're looking at a hybrid program. Students would come to school at least (one class) a day."

She said there would be flexibility for students academically as well as an opportunity for students to enroll in career and technical education classes.

The students who complete the program would earn a "GISD diploma in the end but on different pathways. We're really excited about meeting learners where they are," Morawski said.

The district will reach out to both home school students and current GISD students to gauge interest.

Morawski said GISD staffers Whitney Shafer and April Allison "to great leaders," are helping to explore the possibilities for the program.

"It will likely be offered for grades 9-12, but we are keeping all options open in an effort to keep Pirates, Pirates," Morawski said.

One step in creating the program will be to determine why enrollment is declining, she said.

"I would like to know a little more about reasons why," said school board President Courtney Gore.

Board member Barbara Townsend asked, "Do I understand a student (enrolled in the hybrid program) who would be coming to the high school at least one class per day would be eligible for extracurricular activities?"

"Some may be here for one and some for two," Morawski said. "They would be required to take at least one class per day on campus."

She said the hybrid program would "look different from the COVID experience. In her last school district in Arkansas, Morawski said the hybrid campus was the only A-rated high school. Students who were intelligent, but who wanted non-traditional learning options, appreciated the hybrid option, she said.

"We think it can be something really special and something that can meet the needs of our students if the right students get involved," Morawski said.

The board will consider approving the hybrid option at a later meeting. Morawski said district leaders are seeking a grant to help with starting and administering the program.

In other action, the board:

•Heard a report from Granbury High School Principal Duane Fish giving an overview of what is happening on that campus. A full story on Fish's comments will appear in an upcoming issue of the News.

•Recognized seniors Mataya Turner and Viola Allen for excellence in competitions as members of the GHS U.S. Marines Junior ROTC program. Turner set a new national rifle record and Allen won the bronze medal at the 2025 USA Shooting Winter Air Gun Championship. Allen finished third overall for her age group and had a higher score than many college-age women competing at the event.

•Was honored by the district for outstanding service and commitment to GISD during National School Board Appreciation Month.

•Recognized Arthur Vilela Luvizari as the Shottenkirk Senior of the Month.

Accepted community donations of $54,194.09 for different campuses and school-sponsored organizations.

•Approved staff hiring recommendations, including hiring Dr. Tim Rocka as the new executive director of human resources for GISD; also the promotion of Meredith Payne from an instructional specialist position to an assistant principal post.

•Heard Superintendent Morawski's report that included an emphasis on the district's webpage that allows parents and community members to click a button a communicate quickly to get answers to questions.

•Received a report from Granbury Education Foundation President Stacy Mitchell you said the organization was able to award about $117,000 in grants.

•Heard an update from Ryan Cox, GISD communications director, who talked about the ways the district is keeping parents and community members informed about important things happening in GISD.

•Received financial reports from Emmett Whitefield, the district's chief financial officer. GISD earned $221,998 in interest on assets for the month of December.

•Heard an audit report from Snow Garrett Williams CPA who said the district had $58.1 million in its general fund. The most recent report shows the district had $95.2 million in revenue for the 2024-25 school year and $92.6 million in expenditures for the same time period.

•Heard a report from Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark who talked about local policy updates and recommendations based on actions taken by the Texas State Legislature. The board will review any potential changes to policies and vote on whether to adopt changes at the February meeting of the GISD Board of Trustees.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Superintendent Dr. Courtney Morawski (right) speaks about virtual school options for Granbury ISD while board president Courtney Gore listens.



Members of the Granbury High School U.S. Marine Corps Junior ROTC hold pictures of members of the Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees during a School Board Appreciation Month presentation Jan. 12 at the board meeting.

Granbury ISD hires executive director of HR

Special to The News

Granbury Independent School District has named Tim Rocka, Ph.D., as its next executive director of Human Resources, bringing more than three decades of leadership experience in Texas public education to the district. Dr. Rocka will assume the role following the retirement of Wes Jones, who will conclude his service at the end of February.

Dr. Rocka (pronounced Ro-key) most recently served as deputy superintendent at Carthage ISD, a role he has held since 2023. Before his time in Carthage, he served as director of Career and Technical Education at Whitehouse ISD. His leadership experience also includes serving as interim superintendent, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent of Human Resources at Bryan ISD. Additionally, Dr. Rocka has held director-level roles in human resources and business and finance at Brenham ISD and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, as well as career and technical education leadership positions at Jacksonville ISD and Palestine ISD.

"Dr. Rocka is widely recognized across Texas as one of the most respected and experienced leaders in public school human resources," Dr. Courtney Morawski, superintendent of Granbury ISD, said. "His depth of knowledge, steady leadership style and proven ability to build strong systems that support people truly set him apart. Granbury ISD is gaining not only an exceptional human resources leader, but a trusted advisor who understands the importance of taking care of employees while maintaining high standards, accountability and compliance. We are incredibly fortunate to welcome someone of Dr. Rocka's caliber to our district."



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Rocka holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Texas A&M University and is certified in Texas as a superintendent. He earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in agriculture from Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Rocka also is a Registered Texas School Business Administrator (RTSBA) and has received multiple statewide honors for leadership in human resources and public education.

"I am honored to join Granbury ISD and grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such a strong leadership team," Dr. Rocka said. "Granbury has a well-earned reputation for excellence, tradition and community pride. I look forward to supporting the district's employees, strengthening systems and ensuring our work continues to reflect the values and high expectations of this community."

In addition to his district leadership experience, Dr. Rocka has served as a consultant for the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). He also has served as an adjunct professor at Stephen F. Austin State University and Sam Houston State University, where he taught graduate-level courses in educational leadership, school finance, human resource management and communication — further reflecting his belief in developing strong leaders for the future.

Dr. Rocka has been married to his wife, Kim, for 35 years. Together, they have three adult children, Courtney, Colten and Caylee.

Jones retires as GISD HR director

Special to The News

Wes Jones, who has served as Granbury ISD's director of Human Resources since July 2016, has announced his retirement following 39 years of service in public education. His tenure in Granbury concludes almost a decade of leadership dedicated to supporting staff, campuses and district operations.

"In my 39-year career in public education, I have been fortunate to spend almost 10 years serving in Granbury ISD," Jones said. "I'm thankful Dr. Jim Largent gave me the opportunity to come to Granbury, and I have been truly blessed to work alongside outstanding leaders and staff during my time here, including Dr. Jeremy Glenn and Dr. Courtney Morawski. The relationships I've built across this district and community have meant a great deal to me, and it has been an honor to serve Granbury ISD."

During his tenure, Jones helped modernize and strengthen the district's human resources operations through several key initiatives, including the launch of the "Meet a Pirate" onboarding program, the "Bon Voyage" retirement recognition program, and the Substitute Mentor Program. He also introduced the districtwide "Favorite Things" staff initiative, led the digitization of all HR personnel files and established the annual Granbury ISD Job Fair. These efforts, along with numerous process improvements and operational streamlining measures, enhanced employee support, improved efficiency and contributed to a stronger organizational culture across the district.

Jones brought with him a deep and varied background in educational leadership. A former superintendent, he served in that role for Chireno ISD from 2001-05 and for Spring Hill ISD from 2006-14. His career in public education began in 1985 as a junior high teacher and coach in Freer ISD. He later served in school districts in Etoile and Pollock Central before moving into administration as an assistant principal in 1994 at Central Heights ISD in Nacogdoches. Jones went on to serve as an elementary principal in Garrison before becoming superintendent in Chireno.

A native of Nacogdoches, Jones attended Angelina College before earning his bachelor's degree from Pan American University (now UTRGV) in Edinburg. He later earned a Master of Education from Stephen F. Austin State University, where he also completed his mid-management and superintendent certifications.



COURTESY PHOTO
Wes Jones

"Wes Jones has devoted his career to serving students, staff and school communities with integrity and professionalism," Superintendent Dr. Courtney Morawski said. "His experience as a superintendent and campus leader brought a valuable perspective to Granbury ISD and the human resources department. We are grateful for his service and wish him the very best in retirement."

Jones' replacement was announced at Jan 12's regular meeting of the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees. He will continue serving the district through the end of February.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department criminal activity report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department during Jan. 4-10. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

Jan. 4

2:22 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 1500 block of N. Plaza Drive.

1:53 p.m.: report of harassment in the 400 block of W. Mill Street.

4:38 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 2600 block of W. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 75 incidents, including one minor traffic accident and 13 traffic stops.

Jan. 5

1:11 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1300 block of S. Morgan Street.

1:15 p.m.: report of theft between $100-$750 in the 3300 block of U.S. Highway 377.

2:14 p.m.: report of fraud in the 2500 block of Pebble Drive.

5:27 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2100 block of Clubhouse Drive.

6:40 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 2200 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 78 incidents, including one major traffic accident, three minor traffic accidents and 12 traffic stops.

Jan. 6

9:53 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 2000 block of N. Crockett Street.

10:28 a.m.: report of an animal noise in the 100 block of Donna Circle.

12:47 p.m.: report of an animal in the 200 block of E. Pearl Street.

1:15 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2300 block of Fall Creek Highway.

3:34 p.m.: report of an animal noise in the 1600 block of Malibu Bay Court.

4:10 p.m.: report of a vicious animal in the 4100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:15 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 2000 block of Loop 567.

8:38 p.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 3300 block of Fall Creek Highway.

9 p.m.: report of loud music in the 1500 block of 2nd Street.

police reported 97 incidents, including 23 traffic stops.

Jan. 7

10:33 a.m.: report of animal cruelty in the 100 block of Meadows North Drive.

11:15 a.m.: report of an animal in the 4600 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

11:31 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 1600 block of S. Meadows Drive.

11:56 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1100 block of Harbor Lakes Drive.

12:31 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 4500 block of Hunters Glen Court.

3:51 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2500 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:25 p.m.: report of an assault in the 1200 block of Crawford Court.

4:44 p.m.: report of an assault in the 1000 block of Spring Ridge Circle.

police reported 85 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, four minor traffic accidents and 38 traffic stops.

Jan. 8

8:52 a.m.: report of an animal in the 2300 block of N.E. Loop 567.

10:51 a.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 500 block of S. Morgan Street.

11:28 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of Crawford Court.

11:52 a.m.: report of an animal in the 2400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

1:24 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1300 block of 4th Street.

1:48 p.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of Whitehead Drive.

2:51 p.m.: report of an animal bite in the 2000 block of Clive Drive.

5:07 p.m.: report of a DWI in the 200 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:09 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2000 block of N.E. Loop 567.

5:20 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2900 block of Fall Creek Highway.

police reported 105 incidents, including four major traffic accidents, three hit and run traffic accidents, two minor traffic accidents and 29 traffic stops.

Jan. 9

2:43 a.m.: report of drug possession near Holmes Drive and Paluxy Highway.

4:20 a.m.: K-9 sniff near Holmes Drive and Paluxy Highway.

9:40 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of Huntington Cove Court.

10:16 a.m.: report of theft between $2,500-$30,000 in the 4600 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

12:40 p.m.: report of an animal in the 5100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

1:14 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of Crawford Court.

1:23 p.m.: K-9 sniff near Corporate Drive and Old Granbury Road.

3:08 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 1200 block of Waters Edge Drive.

4:37 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2500 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

7:31 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 900 block of E. Pearl Street.

8:32 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2100 block of Weatherford Highway.

police reported 68 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one minor traffic accident and 20 traffic stops.

Jan. 10

11:52 a.m.: report of theft between $100-$750 in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

3:10 p.m.: report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Fall Creek Highway.

3:10 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:10 p.m.: report of theft between $2,500-$30,000 in the 400 block of N. Travis Street.

4:52 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:12 p.m.: report of a DWI in the 1500 block of S. Morgan Street.

10:54 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

11:43 p.m.: report of a DWI near W. Doyle Street and S. Morgan Street.

police reported 76 incidents, including three minor traffic accidents and 33 traffic stops.

Hood County Sheriff's Office contacted about ongoing scam

Special to The News

The Hood County Sheriff's Office is addressing the public's receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be a law enforcement officer.

The caller tells people there is a warrant for arrest because the person missed jury duty, failed to appear in court or owes unpaid taxes. They might even use the subject's real name, tell that person their badge number or say a specific court case number. All this information may lead the person answering the phone to believe they are in serious legal trouble.

However, this actually is a vishing, or voice phishing, scam. The person called is not speaking to a real law enforcement officer, but a cybercriminal who is trying to make them panic. The caller's goal is to scare someone into acting without thinking. They will ask for a person to pay a fine by wiring money, purchasing gift cards or sending cryptocurrency if that person wants to avoid being arrested. Remember, no one actually is in any legal trouble, and if a fine is paid, that money will go directly to a scammer!

Follow these tips to avoid falling victim to a vishing scam:

If someone calls and threatens to arrest someone unless they pay a fine immediately, it's a scam.

Cybercriminals often try to scare people into acting without thinking.

Keep in mind cybercriminals can search online for public information, such as a case or badge number, and use it to make their scams appear more convincing.

Real law enforcement agencies will never ask anyone to pay a fine using gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency, If anyone asks for these payment methods, hang up.

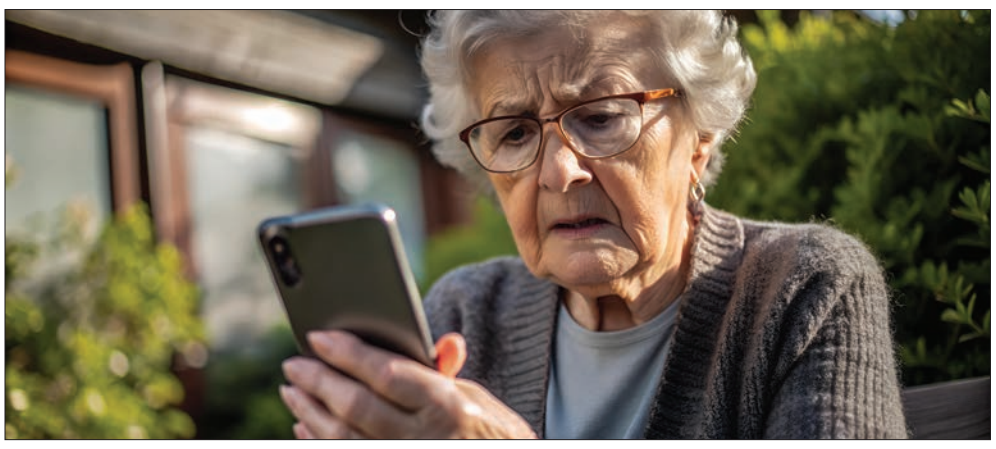


PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

The caller's goal is to scare someone into acting without thinking. They will ask for a person to pay a fine by wiring money, purchasing gift cards or sending cryptocurrency if that person wants to avoid being arrested. Remember, no one actually is in any legal trouble, and if a fine is paid, that money will go directly to a scammer.

Planning and Zoning Committee approves changes to Quiktrip site

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Those who have lived in Granbury long enough remember the old meeting place and final opportunity to gas up before the long haul to Fort Worth — affectionately coined the Last Chance Fina — which was torn down several years ago.

However, that absence won't be felt for much longer.

The Granbury Planning and Zoning Committee will recommend to City Council the approval of a QuikTrip facility for the northern edge of town — right across from where the Fina once was.

The new and improved prototype-style QuikTrip will be located at the intersection of East Highway 377 and M&M Ranch Road and is projected to be larger than any of the nearby Quik Trip locations.

The 6,445 square foot facility will be built upon a 13.7-acre lot and will feature 18 fuel pumps.

Construction will begin in early 2026, with an estimated completion date not yet announced.

COURT

FROM PAGE A1

dedicated professionals. However, it is inevitable that even the most capable individuals can make an honest mistake in the course of their duties.

"There were six jury trials set in District Court for last Monday's docket. Of the six, two of them involved the same defendant. The two trials involving the same defendant were resolved because this defendant is set to plea out both cases this Friday. The other four cases are now set on the Feb. 9 jury trial docket. We added an extra jury trial week in May (week of May 4), just in case (to catch up — if needed).

"Mistakes happen and they are unavoidable. With that said, I always try to view a mistake as a learning opportunity that, if handled in the right way, ends up actually being a positive rather than a negative.

"My office is addressing this issue internally to ensure that a mistake like this never happens again. Whatever the case, I do and will always take full responsibility for the actions of my staff when they are on the job.

"We have put in place processes and training programs that provide my staff with an easy way to incorporate lessons learned and to make sure that the office is continually on a positive path of improvement."

Cleburne attorney Andrea Boedeker confirmed no trials were scheduled for the week of Jan. 12-16. Boedeker's partner in the firm, Johnna McArthur, reportedly had the first two court cases on the court's short list of trials.

Boedeker confirmed, "The district clerk did not summon jurors," so the cases were not scheduled.

CARAWAY

FROM PAGE A1

corporately."

And it's not uncommon for him to dig into his own pockets to help folks in the most desperate of times. It's contagious as others at the bank have followed suit.

Jake recalled one particular time when he could very easily have said to someone, "I'm sorry; we're closed." Instead, he did what good Samaritans do: he opened the bank doors and his heart.

"Once on Christmas Eve, I was closing. A man came to the door and begged to get a cashier's check to get his son out of jail for Christmas," Jake ssid. "I let him in and had a teller wait on him after closing.

"I have loaned people money to bury their children and other relatives. We loan money to help pay medical bills. I've had elderly people at my desk crying to borrow money so their dog could have life-saving surgery."

During COVID, Jake and FNB were more than sympathetic. Much like George Bailey of "It's a Wonderful Life" fame, they made sure their neighbors didn't find themselves homeless or unable to pay bills.

"We helped people extend payments until they got back to work," he said.

Making it better

"He has a desire to enhance all that is around him. He tries to leave a mark and making it better," Norman said. "That's commendable. If we all did that, this world would be so much better.

"I've buried a lot of people who tried to take it with them. Jake is trying to leave as much as he can behind."

Joyce Dorsey is a lifelong friend of Jake's. In fact, they were Coming Home Queen and King at the 2021 Granbury High School Homecoming festivities.

"Our mothers were friends when we were babies. So, he's been part of my life always. At this point, we consider each other siblings by choice," Joyce said with a smile.

"Jake has a heart as big as Texas. If he knows of a need, he will do whatever it takes to help fill it. He is a quiet and humble philanthropist. He and his wife, Patti (also a lifelong friend), do more in this community than most folks will ever know.

"It is a huge honor to talk about my dear friend Jake. He is a fine Christian man who personifies James 2:22 – 'You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.'"

Love of music

Jake attended Granbury schools from first grade until he graduated from Granbury High School in 1971. He was a member of the band and played trumpet.

"I always say I attempted to play the trumpet," Jake said with a chuckle.

It's been a while since he played the trumpet, he said, but he did play something similar.

"Here, a while back we were doing a Bible study group and we were studying Revelations," he said. "One of the guys brought a bugle, and I was able to make that work."

Jake still loves listening to music that includes a trumpet, with some of his favorites being the legendary Louis Armstrong, of course, Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, and even Doc Severinsen of "The Tonight Show" fame. He also likes a good song or two from crooners, such as the late Tony Bennett.

"He sang with Willie Nelson on a great song, and that was a fantastic duet he did with Lady Gaga," Jake said.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jake Caraway can be considered a purveyor of local art who loves his community. Caraway's numerous collections feature works by beloved local artists and historic items unique to Granbury's history.

Loving his community

Jake was born in Granbury and always has called the city home. His heart is filled with a love of community and a desire to do whatever is needed to make life better for others.

Concerning community causes Jake has helped throughout the years, they include serving on committees for Mission Granbury, Shanley House, Salvation Army, Shanley Park, Granbury City Council and various church committees.

He also helped buy equipment to provide care for the The Colony Cemetery, which was established by African-Americans who came to Hood County shortly after the Civil War.

Jake also is on the board of directors for the Bridge Street History Center and is a historian of all things Granbury. He is a strong believer that it is important for people to know their city's history.

"Since I am a real old-timer, I feel it's important to share the correct stories of our ancestors," he said.

Family history

These stories include his own family history that goes back eight generations in Hood County.

"I have three ancestors who were citizens of the Republic of Texas. One was a legislator. I'm a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas," he said. "We have been farmers, ranchers, lawyers, doctors, undertakers and bankers."

Some of the Caraways settled in historic Rock Church in 1854. The stone building was used as a church, school and Masonic lodge, and is near the Rock Church Cemetery, which dates to the 1860s and holds early settlers. It is located southwest of Granbury, near the Paluxy River.

"Jesse Caraway donated the land for the Rock Church buildings and cemetery," he said. "He and his boys fought the Indians for stealing their horses."

Jake's current family with wife Patti includes three children: son, Martin Caraway, who is named after Jake's late friend and former funeral home owner/director George Martin; along with daughter, Jill Massey; and son, Russ Reed. They also have five grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way.

Jake's history of giving dates well back into his family.

"One of my favorite stories, a man had a brain injury from farming — it was so common back then," he said. "This man would come into this restaurant and a waitress said my dad would always leave a quarter to pay for this man's meal."

Hobbies

When Jake isn't helping people through First National Bank or on his own, he unwinds through some hobbies. These include antiques and, of course, history.

"I have several collections," he said. "I also needlepoint. I watched my grandmother do it when I was a kid. It's relaxing. I've done I don't know how many Christmas stockings."

Just another way Jake brightens someone's day.

Hood County Jr. Livestock Show

CHLOE LAING | RICHARD NELSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Livestock Raisers Association held the 71st annual Hood County Stock show from Jan 5-10th. Members from Future farmers of America and 4H showed animals ranging from steers, heifers, swine, rabits, goats, sheep and chickens, while others showed of their baking, ag mechanics in a skill-a-thon.











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Commissioners hear citizens' concerns, conditionally approve data center concept plan

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Near the end of a six-and-a-half hour meeting Jan. 13, Hood County Commissioners Court gave conditional approval to a concept plan for a proposed development that would feature a data center near Tolar.

The commissioners also set a public hearing for Feb. 10 to consider changes to the county's regulations regarding development, as well as a proposed moratorium on large-scale industrial developments until studies are completed and the impact is more clear.

Much of the lengthy meeting was devoted to public comments about proposed data centers and power plants in the area. The vast majority of those speaking voiced opposition to data centers and additional power plants being located in Hood County.

Fifteen speakers addressed the court at the beginning of the meeting, each of whom was given five minutes to express his or her views on the topic of their choice. That topic almost exclusively focused on the data centers and power plants that have been proposed for Hood County.

After a public hearing to get further input from those on both sides of the issue, the vote took place.

County Judge Ron Massingill made a motion to give a conditional approval to Hughes' concept plan, which would require a comprehensive drainage plan, providing sufficient evidence the project would not have an adverse impact on the watershed, neighbors or those with property downstream, details on the total water required to operate the facility, and "additional proof from the applicant that it won't have a negative impact on the watershed or neighboring land uses."

After Massingill's motion was seconded by Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, the concept plan was passed by the 4-1 vote.

Andrews, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, Massingill and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson voted to approve the concept plan submitted by Hughes. Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle voted against it.

"The entire development is in an unincorporated area and (Chapter) 231 (of Texas Government Code) gives us authority," Eagle said. "One of the things I've been struggling with. Section 231 says all of Hood County is located in a watershed that drains into the Brazos River.

"The legislature found the entire county is in a watershed. If there are conflicting standards, the higher standard would control," he said. "Where I'm headed with this is, the state's designation (trumps all other regulatory concerns)."

Eagle said there were too many concerns and unanswered questions for him to give even conditional approval.

Ryan Hughes, who has a pending agreement to purchase the property on which a data center would be built said, "I disagree with your legal interpretation of it, The laws for Hood County are incredibly contradictory."

Eagle said, "Maybe it's something we should ask for an (Attorney General) opinion."

"You're welcome to do this," Hughes said.

Earlier in the meeting, Hughes said he would follow all state and local regulations and was not asking for any type of exemption or special treatment.

He presented a concept plan to Commissioners Court, which many in attendance urged county leaders not to approve. Some attending the meeting said the details of the concept plan were insufficient and incomplete.

However, Blakely Fernandez, an attorney with the Bracewell LLP law firm, who is representing the county, suggested conditional approval of the concept plan was the best course of action for the court.

If Commissioners Court denied the concept plan Hughes presented, Hughes would be able to take his case to state agencies and possibly get direct approval from them, bypassing the county's input.

However, with conditional approval, Hughes would be required to address the issues and concerns expressed by county leaders and work with them to resolve those items, Fernandez said.

Based on Fernandez's input, the commissioners voted 4-1 to give conditional approval for the Sailfish development plan presented by Hughes.

"I am asking the commissioners to approve the concept plan today (Jan. 13)," Hughe said. "This is the first stage in the development concept. The next stage will be engineering studies and a comprehensive plan.

"We believe the concept plan meets the county's requirements and respectfully ask for approval. This doesn't mean I'm breaking ground tomorrow," he said. "It's merely the first stage. Later, there will be traffic studies and a drainage study."

During the public comments' portion of the meeting, Matt Long, chairman of the Hood County Development Commission, which met in late December 2025, reaffirmed his belief the Texas State Legislature's passage of Chapter 231 Subchapter K gives Commissioners Court authority to impose a moratorium on large-scale development until its potential impact can be fully understood and studies can be done.

He said 26 years ago, Commissioners Court enacted a moratorium on what was considered to be excessive residential development and said the current court should follow that example.

"You have been made stewards of the land, endowed with the ability to protect us," he said.

Although there have been threats of a lawsuit against the county if its leaders oppose developments, Long and others attending the meeting said the county should not back down because of that threat.

Long asked, "Why fear a lawsuit? We'd rather deal with a lawsuit than something that fundamentally will change our land, our air and our water forever."

He also said technology cannot replace nature or humanity.

"It doesn't matter how many data centers we build for artificial intelligence, there is no artificial wisdom or artificial courage. You are not elected to make easy decisions. We elected you to make hard ones, so please — go make us proud," Long said.

Gary Foreman referenced a statement from Kevin Costner's movie, "Dances With Wolves," comparing Hood County to the shrinking frontier.

He said when Granbury City Council recently approved annexation plans for the 2,100 acres of Knox Ranch, which could potentially house a data center, "All the oxygen was sucked out of the room," and referenced a plea by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller to limit the influx of data centers and to preserve pristine farm and ranch land.

"The entire world is at a crossroads, and human consciousness better rise very quickly and make us understand what makes us unique," Foreman said.

He said the importance of heritage tourism in the area and an influx of industrial developments would change that.

"We better wake up," Foreman said. "This is all God gives us right now."

Kenneth Meador, a local rancher in the Paluxy area, said he has "a problem with the speed all these data centers are wanting to come in and take over our county. They have investors, federal grants and often abatements."

"They bring in and import labor to build the facility and do not create local employment. They promise the creation of jobs, but the maintenance of their facilities is usually done by people they import," he said.

Meador expressed concern about the amount of water data centers would remove from the local rivers and aquifers.

He urged the court to adopt a moratorium on these industrial developments.

Chris Paulsen, a Somervell County rancher who has worked in the power industry for 32 years, said the possible long-term impact of industrial developments should be carefully considered.

"What I want to implore you to do — don't look at the immediate timeframe," Paulsen said. "Look at the impact on your kids and grandkids."

He said the pollution impact from the proposed Sailfish development "will produce as much pollution as 850,000 cars a year."

He said he has worked on environmental- and power-related issues for Somervell and Bosque counties, as well as with state representatives.

"People elected you to represent them," Paulsen said. "These power plants are only here for the money — you don't represent them. If the people who elected you say 'no,' they mean no.

"Money can't buy water — that's the most important and critical resource this century," he said.

He urged the court to "go with a moratorium until you get things straight. The recommendation from the (development commission) is excellent."

Comments from other public speakers will appear in an upcoming issue of the News.

Christine Leftwich, Hood County clerk and chairperson of the Development Commission, said the organization met Dec. 30 to review the county permitting process and regulations.

She said, "We talked about protecting the county from large-scale developments," recommending a moratorium on these developments "until regulations and strategic plans and be reviewed and amended."

She referred to a Sept. 27, 1999, order issued by Commissioners Court, which placed "a 120-day limitation on residential development (in Hood County) because the county recognized it had inadequate regulations for development."

Now, the county faces a similar situation, Leftwich said.

"Twenty-six years later, the county finds itself in the same predicament," she said. "Now instead of residential we are dealing with large-scale industrial developments. One could not have predicted the onslaught of large-scale developments.

"We recommend a moratorium until new regulations are in place to protect the county," Leftwich said.

Her comments drew sustained applause and resulted in most of those attending the meeting standing to voice their support.

Future leaders of tomorrow learn from the leaders of today

CHLOE LAING
Chloe@hcnews.com

The bright future of Hood County gathered in the gymnasium of Acton Elementary School Jan. 7 for the 2026 Future Ready Leadership Summit — a conference where adult leaders from across the community held lectures, presentations and workshops to teach GISD's elementary school students exactly what hands-on community leadership looks like.

Four keynote speakers and presenters gave their time and wisdom to the summit, including:

- Sam Houston, publisher of Hood County News
- Holly Martin, president/CEO of Granbury Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. Courtney Morawski, superintendent of Granbury ISD
- Nathan Walters and Grace Blevins, Granbury High School student leaders

Students also rotated through four breakout sessions focused on teamwork, community service, creating positive change within their schools and effective communication — each led by adult facilitators looking to invest in Hood County's future leaders:

- Better Together: Leaders Who Give Back — Houcine Chraibi and Cynthia Pigg
- Start the Spark: Creating Positive Change at School — Nikki Shipley
- We > Me: Leadership Through Teamwork — Payton Johnson and Brianna Barker
- From Vision to Victory: Communicating Your Plan — Emmie Vaughn

The summit was orchestrated by the Optimist and Junior Optimist clubs of Hood County and was funded by the Granbury ISD Education Foundation.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

GISD's elementary students met at the gymnasium of Acton Elementary School Jan. 7 for the Future Ready Leadership Summit.



GHS student leaders Nathan Walters and Grace Blevins showed their young leader audience the importance of good leadership through an obstacle course. First, a blindfolded Nathan tried the course without any guidance from Grace — and failed. However, he was given a redemption arc, and with her help, sailed through the course — blindfold and all.



Cold-weather exercise tips for Granbury

GUEST COLUMN
Lake Granbury Medical Center

Winter in Granbury may not bring blizzards, but January and February still are chilly enough to stiffen joints, tighten muscles and make outdoor exercise a little riskier. Jeff Tabor, physical therapist and director of physical therapy at Lake Granbury Medical Center, offers simple tips to help you stay active and safe during the colder months.

Warm up inside first

Spend 5-10 minutes moving before heading outdoors. Cold muscles don't like surprises.

Layer up

Wear a moisture-wicking base layer, something warm in the middle and a wind-resistant outer layer. You can always peel as you heat up.

Stick to daylight hours

Late morning and early afternoon are safest. Visibility is better and the temperature is kinder on your body.

Watch your footing

Even without snow, shaded sidewalks, wet leaves and frosty bridges can get slippery.

Take your time recovering

Muscles need longer to bounce back in cooler weather. Add stretching and extra cool-downs to your routine.

Hydrate

You may not feel thirsty, but dry winter air pulls moisture from your body fast.

Listen to warning signs

If your joints or muscles feel "off," don't push through it. A small tweak in the cold can turn into a bigger injury.

Strengthen your support muscles

Adding stability work for ankles, knees, hips and core helps prevent missteps on uneven winter surfaces.

Have an indoor backup plan

Windy or frosty morning? Switch to a treadmill, stationary bike or indoor strength session.

Exercising in winter can still be refreshing and rewarding. It just takes a little planning. If you're dealing with arthritis, recovering from injury or need personalized guidance, the Physical Therapy team at Lake Granbury Medical Center is ready to help.

Lake Granbury Medical Center — Physical Therapy
301 E Hwy 377, Suite 104
Granbury, TX 76048
Phone: (817) 573-8204

Gaylor strives to beat examples before her

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lipan Lady Indian basketball fans have four more years of Gaylor basketball to watch, with freshman Sydni Gaylor filling her now-graduated sister Hannah's spot on the court and last name on a roster sheet. Her brother, Court, is a junior at Lipan and also plays basketball.

Sydni has played basketball pretty much since she could walk and has been involved with summer Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) tournaments since the fifth grade. Her father, Lipan boys head basketball coach Brent Gaylor, got his chance to coach his daughter this summer with her AAU team. She really enjoyed him being the coach, she said, although she thought it would be "weird." But, when the game started, he was just a coach.

Summer AAU tournaments have taken her from Ohio to Rome and places in between. The AAU experience allows her to be in different situations than her normal high school basketball program.

"I will say, I was big in soccer when I was younger; that was my sport. I wanted to move schools to go play soccer in second grade and I just didn't like basketball. Then my third-grade year, something flipped, and then it's always been basketball," Gaylor said.

Having a multi-state champion basketball coach for a father — and two older siblings who are high school studs in their own right — made basketball an easy choice for Gaylor.

"It really gave me an example to look up to. Meeting the expectation that's set for me and wanting to go above and beyond. It's really cool to look up to, but then I have this instinct of I need to be better than them," Gaylor said. "We work out together all the time, but we get a little too competitive sometimes when we play one-on-one. Sometimes ends up in fighting, but it's pretty fun."

Basketball is more than something she can't escape. To her, it's a calling and a purpose. All of her great play on the court has a higher meaning.

"I think my purpose on this Earth is for Christ. I feel like he's given me the motivation and grit to go out and get better, so I can glorify him. It's just something I want to work hard to fulfill my purpose," Gaylor said. "I may not score that many points, but I can give my teammate a high five or tell my teammate they'll make the next one. I really love encouraging and uplifting others."

Going from eighth-grade basketball to varsity has been different for the young Gaylor. There's been more basketball, but more time of rest in between; the time between games (except tournaments) has allowed her to find a "happy medium" with resting and working out. Her parents warned her about the change in high school games and how it would affect her body. She wishes she had listened after their tournament match against Decatur, as she could barely move the next day.

Her parents and siblings also warned her about the physicality of high school players. Her strength and conditioning would be important and something she worked on during this past summer. Her older sister, Hannah, also reminded her to enjoy playing, as time goes by quickly.

"I spent a lot of time in the weight room, not only getting quicker, but stronger. I did try to work on that this summer," Gaylor said. "It's always good to look back at where you were and stuff. I think I have a lot more improvements I can make, but I'm pretty proud of myself for the way I did this summer."

The Lady Indians are 4-0 in district and 19-5 overall (as of Jan. 13). She's confident in her first varsity district experience, as she feels the team has bonded so well. While her favorite moments are getting an open layup or passing to a teammate in transition, her defense is what she focuses on when she isn't scoring.

While she's still early into her playstyle, she always is improving and practicing being a leader. She's worked on her body language and how she reacts to things happening. She said she realized how other people can feed off of your body language and energy, so she's trying to bring an uplifting feel about herself.

"My adult family is big with principles. and all that. A leadership role kind of runs in our family. Even in my class, I just feel like I have that in me, and I've had it for the last couple years. I'm really confident in myself, and I feel like my coaches are confident in me to play that role," Gaylor said.

Her expectations for the rest of the season match her teammates' and the community — state titles.

"We have expectations for state every year. We're really confident in our goal this year of winning a state championship and it's nice believing it, but when you see your teammates believing it, you have more confidence," Gaylor said.

She said she plans on trying softball this spring and also tennis. Gaylor has some softball experience, but didn't play for the past five years. This will be her first time playing tennis that wasn't just for fun, she said.



JOSH BURTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lipan freshman Sydni Gaylor lays up a ball under the basket for two points against City View.

A steady incline: Jones leading Lady Rattlers

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Tolar has a young basketball star on its hands. Junior Jaycee Jones is leading her team to a 5-0 district record and 16-7 overall (as of Jan. 13).

Jones originally was a soccer player until she picked up basketball with her friends the summer of her sixth-grade year. Throughout junior high, she burned herself out on soccer and embraced the hardwood. The transition from soccer to summer Amateur Athletic Union basketball tournaments was "pretty smooth."

Tolar head coach Ericka Halfmann loves the story about her switching to basketball because it shows how competitive she is and who she is as a person.

"She's such a competitor. She's an all-in person. When she decided she was going to go and do that, she knew the requirements because she'd been playing soccer and traveling. She knew the dedication and what it took to go to the next level," Halfmann said.

During her time on the soccer field, Jones played the role of passer, so finding her teammates in open spots and having good "field vision" carried on to the court; she just had to work on her dribbling and ball handling to match it.

"During the summers of junior high, I really trained hard because I was really obsessed with working out. I would train every day outside, just shooting and dribbling. I didn't really do any drills, I just played and figured it out on my own," Jones said. "Now I think back, and I don't remember not playing, and I didn't know what to do. I feel like I can kind of hold my own, but it was definitely a lot of work — even though it doesn't really feel like it now."

Now she works on getting her shots after a screen and always is improving how she handles the ball. Jones shares guard responsibilities with freshman Macy Price, so when she is not shooting, she is working on finishing around the basket.

Jones and Halfmann said they feel like they are both on the same page since Jones has been on varsity from her freshman year on. In time, she worked on her leadership. She spent her first year being more "observant" of how the team was and learning about Halfmann. As she moved up in grade and playing time, her voice grew on the team. She was a little more scared to talk as a freshman and sophomore because she already was starting and didn't want to ruffle the feathers with the upperclassmen. Halfmann compared Jones being the point guard as the "quarterback" for the Lady Rattlers.

"I am constantly talking to her; the communication that we have now is pretty cool. She is so much more focused on growing each teammate. It's pretty cool to watch her evolve as a leader," Halfmann said. "She was kind of quiet last year, but she still led on the court. This year, I haven't even had to tell her to do some things; she's doing it because she knows."

Jones has noticed her growth since her first two years playing, as she counted her shots and points less and started paying more attention to how many shots she can create for her team and utilize her voice.

"My freshman and sophomore year, I wanted my stats to be the best on the team. I wanted to have the most points, and obviously I still do now, but I feel like as I've grown, I've realized that my role is to lead them and be a voice on the court and to help them grow," Jones said.

In Tolar's 68-21 win against Dublin Dec. 12, she reached 1,000 career points as a junior.

"There aren't too many games she's not going to have their best defender on her. So, giving herself grace and that if this stat looks different in this game, she's still a huge piece, and she's still leading," Halfmann said.

Jones described herself as obsessed with basketball and lives to play. She had to learn not all her teammates share the same level of love for the game, but as long as they're trying their best, they will figure it out.

"I think I've done well so far. I'm not playing how I want to play right now, but it's just the beginning. We've come off of two hard tournaments. Our district is so different from the teams we've been playing; we've been playing teams who are ranked in the top 10 (in the state)," Jones said. "For me, it's more of building this program. We have so much potential coming up if we can build it now, then in the years to come, it'll be so much better for the girls coming up. That's my main goal."

Jones said she would like to play basketball in college, but is not forcing the issue. If she cannot play, she has her eyes currently set on Texas A&M for a sports-management degree so she can stay around the game.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar junior Jaycee Jones reached more than 1,000 points in Tolar's 68-21 win against Dublin on Dec. 12, 2025. She was honored with this sign after their 63-16 win against Breckenridge Dec. 16, 2025.

Lady Pirates place second at Midway Hewitt soccer tournament

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

SPORTS Roundup

The Lady Pirates competed at the Midway Hewitt tournament Jan 8-10 and recorded a 3-1 record. They won 5-1 against Palestine Jan. 8.

Goals were scored by Williams, Ava stein, Jobee Ellis, Braelyn Desormeaux and Molly Thompson. Brooke Crump and Thompson recorded two assists each.

Granbury won 6-0 against Copperas Cove Jan. 9. Williams had three goals. Ellis, Kaylin Quicksall and Emilee Walls scored a goal each. Crump and Ellis had an assists and Thompson had two assists.

The Lady Pirates won a close 2-1 match against Anna Jan. 9.

Granbury lost 3-1 to Steele in the finals of the tournament Jan. 10. Crump and Williams were named to the All-Tournament team.

The Lady Pirates lost 3-0 to Burleson Jan. 14. Coming off a second-place finish at the Midway Hewitt tournament and sharing two important players with basketball, the depth and resilience of the team. Head coach David Winkleman credited Avery Crump for her all-around play but felt the team just had a slow start coming off their tournament run from the past weekend.

"They're a good team (Burleson), but we had a ton of 'almost'(shots made). We're kind of beat up a little bit coming off tournaments. We'll have to see what our depth is like and see what our resilience. They're pretty resilient in my experience, pretty tough," Winkleman said.

The Lady Pirates are 4-3 overall as of Jan. 14.

Granbury boys soccer

The Pirates swept the Central Texas Showcase 3-0 Jan 8-10. They won 1-0 against Melissa Jan. 8. Gio Tovar scored the only goal unassisted.

Granbury beat Killeen 3-1 Jan. 9. Erick Esquivel, Angel Zarate and Salvador Briones scored goals and Alexis Coronilla had one assist.

The Pirates won 2-1 against Copperas Cove Jan. 10. Esquivel and Briones scored. The first goal was assisted by Briones.

Granbury won 2-0 against Burleson Jan. 14. Isai Garcia scored an unassisted goal and Briones scored a goal assisted by Zarate.

"I was a little scared, we were getting a little bit of a big head after the 3-0 (tournament record) but we finally got some confidence. We finally got some chemistry going on, we're playing together and we are not individuals anymore, and so I'm just happy for that honestly," Garcia , a senior, said about scoring the first goal of the game.

"I think the game went well. Anytime you get a clean sheet and get two goals, we'll take it in soccer. It's tough to score goals in soccer and when you score two, you'll take it. When you keep the ball in the back of the net, it's a good day. So, I'll take that every day of the week," head coach Joshua Croft said.

Granbury is 4-2 overall as of Jan. 14.

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B3

BOOK REVIEW

Resting in peace brings another way of thinking in new book by Andy McPhee



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.

R.I.P.: Rest in peace.

When you breathe your last, that's what you want. No more trouble, no drama, no moving around, just eternity in repose. It sounds almost lovely: rest in peace — or, as in the new book, "The Doctor's Riot of 1788: Body Snatching, Bloodletting, and Anatomy in America," by Andy McPhee, rest in pieces.

In the years after the colonists separated from Great Britain, new Americans quickly assumed all formerly British public facilities. One of them was King's College, renamed Columbia College, which was affiliated with New York Hospital. The doctors there, many of whom had studied abroad, hoped to teach the next generation of physicians for a growing American population — but they knew their mission would be nearly impossible without cadavers to dissect.

For centuries, artists and physicians recognized they'd never fully understand the human body without seeing inside it. Dissection, therefore, was necessary, and the means for it often came from convicted criminals and those who were put to death. When the need for cadavers overwhelmed the gruesome supply, London's doctors turned to resurrectionists, also known as body snatchers. American doctors had little choice but to follow suit.

Whether the resurrectionists were an organized group, a ragtag bunch of ruffians or medical students desperate for education, removing a dead body from its grave took a good eye, shovels, a crowbar, a horse and wagon, strength and cunning. Bodies could be snatched from any cemetery, but especially from Potter's Fields and Black cemeteries. Astoundingly, snatching a body wasn't illegal if the corpse's clothing was left behind.

Citizens were understandably outraged, which brings us to the Doctors' Riot.

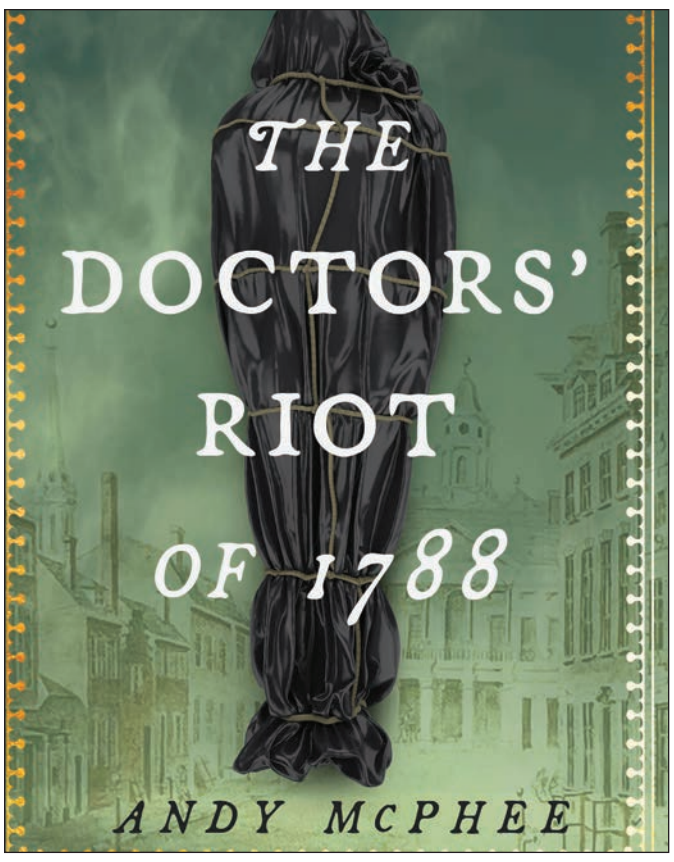
It began as a coincidence on a mid-April morning, when an impertinent medical student at Columbia College taunted a boy with a corpse's arm — one that just happened to be the boy's dead mother's appendage. The child ran and told his father, who was livid, and he gathered fellow citizens to angrily assemble near the anatomy lab in what eventually became "the 'largest riot of the late eighteenth century to regulate communal mortality.'"

Ghastly? Oh, yes, deliciously so, but "The Doctors' Riot of 1788" also can be like a wall of mud: boggy, hard to traverse, and you might get stuck.

At fault, if you can find interesting information to be a fault, is an overabundance of early American history that can seem somewhat irrelevant to the main reason for the book. It's fascinating, yes, but also belabored and confusing.

Still, stick with it and you'll be rewarded with an astounding tale that hides in the past, one that's chilling and not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach. Get through it, read about body donations today, and you might be a little shocked. You also might think about donating your own body, as author Andy McPhee says he will do.

Surely, early American history fans need this book, but readers of unusual history, medical tales, Black history, or macabre stories will enjoy it, too. So find "The Doctors' Riot of 1788," snatch a comfortable seat, and read in peace.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Doctors' Riot of 1788: Body Snatching, Bloodletting, and Anatomy in America," by Andy McPhee, is available for purchase for $29.95.

Why is square footage such a big deal in real estate?



BY PAM KNIEPER

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

Ask any REALTOR® and they will tell you that mistakes in square foot (SF) measurements are common and costly. So many factors affect the value of a property. One of the most important things is the size. Whether too big or too small, disputes regarding incorrect square footage can cost you a sale or a significant amount of money.

The size of the property affects all parties in a sale: buyers, sellers, agents, appraisers and lenders, so it is important to get it right the first time.

Buyers often use a range of square footage in their search criteria. They will ask for homes no smaller than 1,500 SF or no larger than 2,000 SF. Some are concerned about heating and cooling a home too large, others want to ensure the home has ample space to accommodate their needs. Additionally, they will compare the price per square foot to determine the "Best Deal."

In Bentwater, the average price per square foot for a home is $239. A slight mistake of just 100 SF could impact the value of a home by more than $26,000. Lake Front homes are currently selling for an average of $347 PSF; now that 100 SF mistake could have an almost $35,000 impact on the value. Either of those are what I consider "costly mistakes."

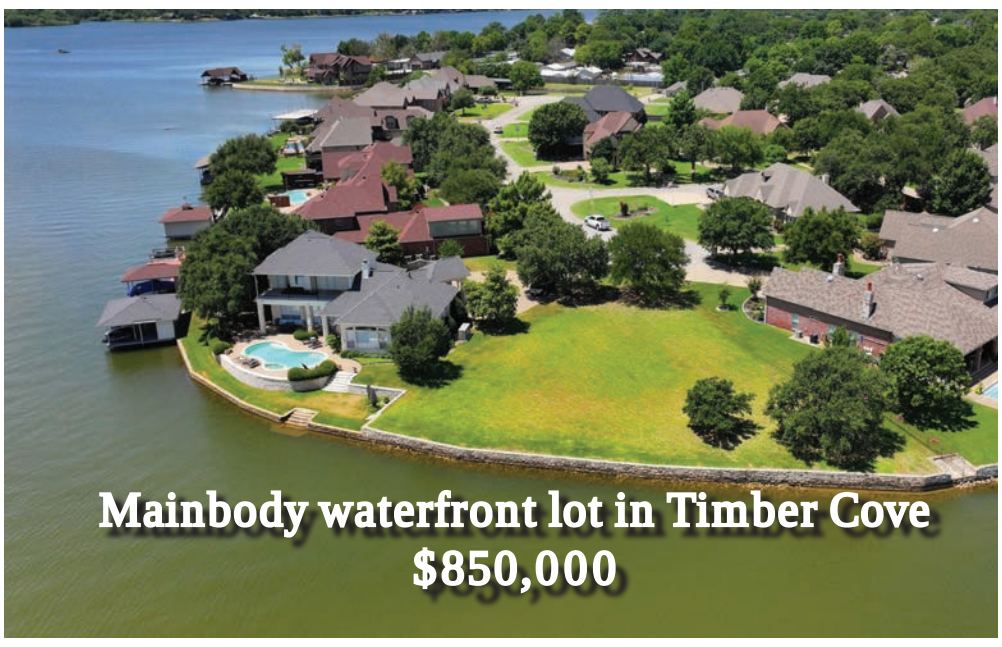
Appraisers use multiple approaches to determine value: (1) The sales comparison approach; (2) The cost approach; and (3) The income approach. The specific parameters for each are contained within the Uniform Residential Appraisal Report, and while size (square footage) is not the only criteria used to determine value, it is vital part of the equation. So important, in fact, that appraisers personally measure the home they are appraising to verify the size.

Enclosed porches that are not ducted for HVAC, finished attic space, sloped walls in an upstairs bonus room, walk out basements and enclosed garages are a few of the "Danger Zones" when calculating size. Additionally, and this is the fun part, there is no single "rule book" for determining square footage. Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Federal Housing Administration all have different definitions, not to mention the national voluntary standards contained in the American National Standards Institute ANSI Z765-2021.

So how do you avoid this possible pitfall? Realtors® rely on Builder Floor Plans, prior Lender Appraisals or the County Tax Appraisal Reports. However, no disrespect intended, the county records are not always accurate. If none of the listed items are available and you suspect the County Report is incorrect, I recommend you pay a licensed appraiser for a certified measurement. It will cost approximately $250 and is worth every penny. This takes the liability off you and precludes a last-minute dispute with an unhappy buyer who just spent $500 or more for a lender appraisal only to discover the home is either substantially larger or smaller than expected.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read this article and please feel free to contact us with your questions or comments. Give us a call at 817-219-0456.Or visit us online at WeSellGranbury.com. We love talking about Real Estate and we would love to hear from you.









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OUTDOORS

Dad's training becomes helpful when processing game meat



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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

For many years, back in the day when I simply could not afford to drop my game off at a processor, I learned to do the processing at home.

As a youngster, I watched my dad butcher hogs every winter and learned the basic skills necessary to transform game into "meat" ready for the freezer. My duty was to haul water for scalding the hogs before scraping and do the 'grunt' work. As a young boy, I didn't relish hog killing day, but looking back, I did learn the skills that would later serve me well.

By the mid-1970s, I had a family, and money was tight, but I always managed to go hunting a few times and usually killed a deer. By the 1980s, I regularly was butchering several deer and when wild hogs became numerous, the training I received from my dad became really helpful. I found myself not only processing my own deer and hogs but those of friends as my busy schedule allowed.

Then, in my mid-30s, when I was juggling a career of surveying with outdoor writing, I found I had little time to process the fruits of my hunts and often let the professional processors do the work. After retiring from surveying when I was in my early 50s, I had plenty of time to learn more about home processing. I purchased a sausage stuffer and began with an old hand-crank meat grinder. I learned how to make everything from pastrami from deer hams to smoked links from wild hogs.

About that time, I began using a Smokin Tex electric smoker and with that first small unit, I cranked out hundreds of pounds of smoked links, cured hams and salami. I tried smoking the meat with my wood-fired smoker, but found it challenging to keep the temperature right and frequently overheated the links. With my electric smoker, I simply added hickory or pecan wood, set the thermostat at about 190 degrees and let the smoke and low heat do the work.

I often still use the services of wild game processors, but also look forward to doing the work myself. I thoroughly enjoy getting a buddy or two to come over and help with the process; it's a great way to spend a clear, cool late winter's day. I can't say my finished products are any better than what the professionals "crank out," but I do enjoy spending a day cutting up steaks, grinding the less tender cuts and making sausage. There's something very gratifying about doing the work yourself.

Rather than buy all the seasonings in bulk and create my own blends, I prefer ordering premixed spices from Butcher Packer Supply butcherpacker.com. This company offers everything for the home butcher. Through the years, I've ordered everything from the heavy-duty syringes for pumping cure into hams to the casings used to make smoked links. I begin by going on the website and deciding exactly what products I wish to make. For beginners, I suggest making bulk breakfast sausage and ordering a kit with perfectly blended spices.

Making bulk sausage is as simple as grinding the meat, adding the proper amount of fat and mixing everything together. I prefer an 8-20 mix of lean to fat. Years ago, I thought I wanted sausage made from only lean game meat but after that first batch, I learned adding fat is necessary not only for flavor but to bind the sausage together so it results in a fried patty. There are many different blends for making bulk sausage and I usually crank out not only farm country sausage but a few pounds of chorizo as well. I usually make a few pounds of Italian sausage for spaghetti.

Planning is necessary when home processing game and usually begins with perusing the website and deciding the products I wish to make. Once the seasonings arrive, I simply defrost my game meat and go to work. The initial cost can be minimal with a hand crank grinder and one of the economical sausage stuffers. If your first product is bulk sausage, all you really need is a grinder and large bowl for mixing. You can then use butcher paper to wrap your sausage in increments suited to your needs; I usually divide the bulk sausage into one-pound packages and freeze and defrost as needed.

As your game processing skills grow, you might want to begin curing and smoking hams or bacon, which can be accomplished with either the dry-cure method or brining. I've used both and prefer brining hams because I can place the plastic container with brine in the fridge and don't have to worry about temperature. The dry cure method works well, but it's important to ensure the meat remains cool during the curing process.

For your inauguration run, I suggest you begin by cutting your steaks, roast, etc., and use the trimmings to grind for sausage. As your confidence and skill increase, you will probably wish to make more sausage and specialty products. Just remember to remove all venison fat before grinding. Use the tougher cuts for sausage but trim all the fat and silver skin off the surface of the cuts. This will not only greatly improve the flavor but also make it run through the plates on your grinder much easier.

The 7th annual Outdoor Rendezvous is planned for March 28 at Top Rain Cowboy Church in Greenville. Come join Luke, Larry Weishuhn and fishing and hunting guides for this fun annual event held outside on 20 beautiful acres of church property. This year, we welcome Pyramyd Air, pyramydair.com, as the title sponsor. Everything is free. Come enjoy the campfires, free fish fry, live music, chuck wagon cooking and booths offering everything from jewelry to fishing lures. For booth information, contact the church at 903-217-3778 or email Luke at lukeclayton1960@gmail.com. Booths are free, just give a donation to the church's outdoor ministry if you can.

Listen to Luke's weekly radio podcast, "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends," just about everywhere podcasts are found.

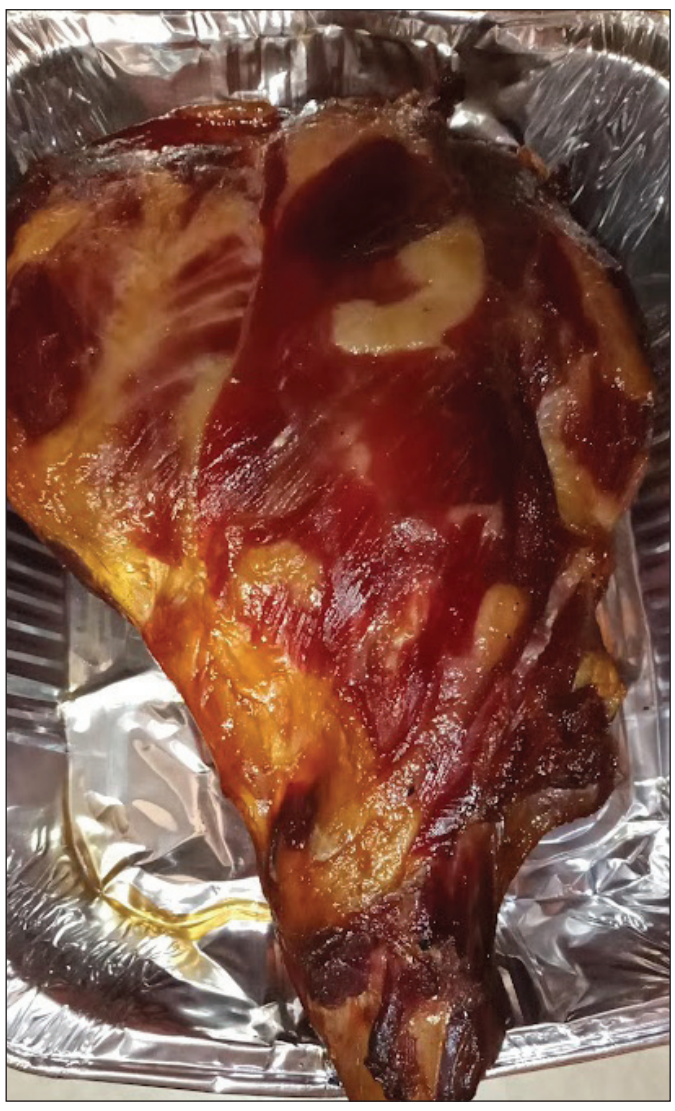


PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

Processing game meat at home is not rocket science. Making cured, smoked meats such as this wild hog ham is really simple, but it does require a bit of preparation.

Dead sticking for crappie, sandbass and striped bass



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

What is deadsticking? This is a slang term used for not moving your artificial bait. Many folks don't believe it will work, but it does work especially well in the winter for many species.

Most folks are used to casting and retrieving, trolling and jigging. Who ever heard to hold an artificial bait still under the boat and wait for a bite? Well first of all the bait is not really still. It is moving somewhat by the action of the boat and by the person holding it. Dead sticking is another way of saying that you are working a slow presentation.

In the winter the baitfish are generally more lethargic, however a predator can get them moving. I believe an artificial bait held still under the boat is just easy pickin' for the predators. The amount of movement needed to entice the bite is dependent on the water temperature. Generally, more action or movement is required with warmer water temperatures. At 50 degrees or below, dead sticking is deadly. At 60 degrees it will work, however you may at times have to give it a little more action. Even while fishing the coldest water, it does pay when dead sticking to periodically bounce your artificial bait to draw in potential victims. After you move the bait, hold it still. If you are more patient than the fish you will probably get bit.

Many winter fishermen are successful using small spoons (critter getters) and grubs (curly tail, sassy shads and flukes). Some fishermen will continue to jig these types of bait with some success, but when the bite gets finicky the dead sticking will generally out produce the jigging baits and also will out produce live bait on many days. Some fishermen allow small spoons or tube baits to just flutter near the bottom as they drift above an area (essentially dead sticking).

Sometimes the difficult task is choosing a color for the day. If the fish are fairly active, colors may not be as important. One day this past weekend, the bite was finicky. I had one of the guys on my boat try a red shad fluke bait. I never had caught a striped fish on that bait, but this morning almost half the fish bit this bait. Why did they go for this color? My opinion was a darker color fishing deep in stained water early in the morning was the trick needed to get the bite. Who knows, it never may work again but I will try it again for sure. When the sun came up bright on this day, the normal producing shad colors did better. You just never quite know what will happen on the water each day.

If you are dead sticking you should keep the rod in your hands if you can. When the fish hits, set the hook. Many folks will put the rods in a rod holder and hope the fish catches itself and sometimes they do. Generally however, you will have more hook ups if you set the hook. Usually the fish will spit the bait once it realizes that the bait is fake.

When you hook that first fish or the first fish in a while, leave him down there in the water for a few extra seconds. His/her thrashing about will bring in curious others which may get them feeding.

Hood County fishing report

Lake Granbury continues to be in the upper 50s on most days. Water level is close to full pool and the clarity is good. Striped bass fishing is reported as slow to fair on jigs and shad fished near channel breaks on the lower ends. Whitebass (sandies) are fair to good from in town to Hunter Park area. Look for birds. Some good action on small grubs and slabs worked in shallow water (10 feet or so). Largemouth bass are fair to good on soft plastics worked near major creek entrances and working laydowns in the back of creeks and in the river. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait working shallows near the creek channel. Big yellows sand Blues are possible. Best action in near Water Edge and north of Hunter Park. Crappie action continues to be good to excellent working submerged structure from Bentwater north. Some good action in the river near Tin Top on jigs worked slowly off the channel ledges.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to produce numbers of Tilapia, channel catfish and largemouth bass. This power plant reservoir draws anglers from all around for this fantastic reservoir. This lake requires a reservation and is only open Thursday through Sunday during the day.

ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE #B1

Lipan boys basketball

The Indians are 2-0 in district play and 21-1 overall as of Jan. 14.

Lipan defeated Hico 97-42 Jan. 6. Sophomore Brayden Harrison had 27 points, eight rebounds, three assists and one steal. Sophomore Billy Smith had 17 points and two rebounds. Junior Court Gaylor had 14 points, four rebounds, nine assists, two deflections and one steal. Senior Darius Steed had 14 points, seven rebounds, one assist, two deflections and one block.

The Indians won 76-36 against Hamilton Jan. 9. Harrison had 19 points, four rebounds, six assists, two deflections and three steals. Steed had 17 points, five rebounds, one steal and one block. Junior Evan Lott had 12 points, six rebounds, one assist and three deflections.

Lipan beat Graford 70-47 Jan. 13.

Lipan girls basketball

The Lady Indians are 5-0 in district play and 20-5 overall as of Jan. 14.

Lipan beat Hico 52-41 Jan. 6.

The Lady Indians won 47-28 against Hamilton Jan. 9.

Lipan beat Graford 77-21 Jan. 13. Senior Finley Shockley scored 20 points. Junior Kynzi Callaway had 17 points. Freshmen Sydni Gaylor had 17 points and Skylar Harrison had nine points.

Granbury girls basketball

The Lady Pirates are 4-1 in district play and 15-12 overall as of Jan. 14. Granbury won 49-34 against Azle. Jan. 6.

The Lady Pirates beat Brewer 39-23 Jan. 9. Senior Hannah Dafoe had 17 points. Senior Jolie Hayes had eight points. Williams had six points. Seniors Jayla Hayes and Bentley Sherrill each had four points.

Granbury lost to Aledo 52-12 Jan. 13.

Granbury boys basketball

Granbury is 0-3 in district play and 3-19 overall as of Jan. 14. Granbury lost 50-44 to Azle Jan. 6.

The Pirates lost 48-34 to Brewer Jan. 9. Freshman Luke Rodriguez had eight points. Juniors Tyler Harrison and Kylan Loving had five points each. Sophomore Brannon Burns had four points.

Granbury lost to Aledo 72-39 Jan. 13. Senior Miller Schenewark had 12 points. Burns had nine points. Senior Nathan Walters and Loving had four points each.

Tolar boys basketball

Tolar is 3-1 in district play and 10-10 overall as of Jan. 14. Tolar beat Eastland 77-8 Jan. 6.

The Rattlers lost 52-44 to Peaster Jan. 9. Junior Briton Rice had 10 points. Juniors Collier King and Cayden Abrego had eight points each. Sophomore Nic Merkle had seven points. Junior Madok Delgado had six points.

Tolar won 75-46 against Early Jan. 13. Abrego had 14 points. Junior Kelvin Murray had 11 points. Sophomore Taylen Pendleton and Delgado had 10 points each. Merkle had nine points and Rice had eight points.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lady Pirates celebrate starting their soccer season and placing second at the Midway Hewitt tournament.

Tolar girls basketball

Tolar is 5-1 in district play and 16-8 overall as of Jan. 14.

The Lady Rattlers won 54-46 against Hermleigh on the last day of 2025. Sophomore Atley Kolb had 22 points, three blocks, eight rebounds and one steal. Junior Jaycee Jones had 14 points, four rebounds, three steals and eight assists. Senior Kanyn Deaver had six points and three rebounds.

Tolar beat Eastland 40-15 Jan. 6. Freshman Macy Price had 10 points, two rebounds, two steals and six assists. Kolb had 12 points, two blocks, 12 rebounds and one steal. Jones had five points, two rebounds, two steals and six assists.

The Lady Rattlers won 55-20 against Peaster Jan. 9. Kolb had 18 points, one block, five rebounds and two steals. Price had 13 points, two steals and three assists. Jones had eight points, two rebounds and six assists.

Tolar lost 45-39 to Early Jan. 13.

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

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
1 John 4:12

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Good Shepherd Anglican
3601 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-2035

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Crossing Place
1900 W. US Hwy. 377
817-573-1581

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

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

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

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

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

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

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

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

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.

Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

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

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

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

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

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

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

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

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

Tolar Baptist
400 Tolar Hwy.
682-500-0475

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

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

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

BIBLE

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
3314 S. Clifton
817-573-0107

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

EPISCOPAL

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

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

LUTHERAN

Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
2301 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
1400 N. Meadows Dr.
817-573-5011

METHODIST

Acton Methodist
3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4242

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

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

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

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

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

MORMON

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

NAZARENE

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

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2016 Acton Hwy.
817-326-3573

OTHER

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3600 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-736-2596

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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
2201 Commercial Ln.
817-964-7400

Christian Science Society
528 N. Crockett St.
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. US Hwy. 377
817-326-5378

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

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5601 Temple Hall Hwy.
817-776-3438

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817-910-8868

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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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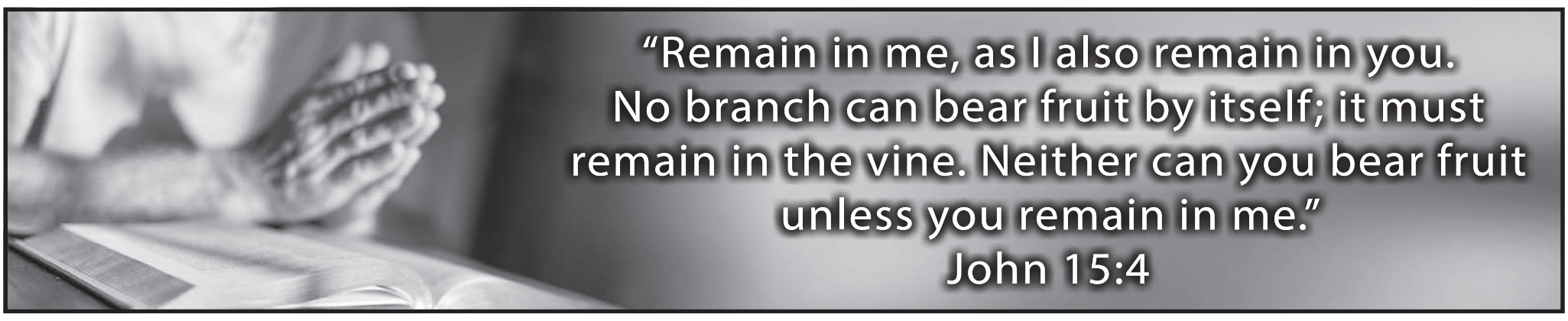
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan. 17

The Ice Age 5k begins at 8 a.m. in Hewlett Park. Both timed and untimed run options will be offered, and all ages and abilities are welcomed.

Cost for the untimed option is $40 for all ages, chipped race options are available for those under the age of 65 for $50, and $40 for racers 65 and up. All children under five run free, as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

***

Lake Granbury 6th annual Goosebump Jump is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the City Beach. There will be costume-judging, mascot races, a chili cook-off and, of course, everyone is encouraged to jump into Lake Granbury at noon. To register and pay the $10 entry fee, go to visitgranbury.com/goosebumpjump. All proceeds will benefit a local charity.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents "The Lion of Texas: A Conversation with Sam Houston" at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A one-man show about Sam Houston, legend of Texas who led the army at the Battle of San Jacinto and later served as President of the Republic of Texas and governor and U.S. Senator for the State of Texas. Performed by his namesake, Sam Houston — publisher of the Hood County News. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

***

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

Tuesday, Jan. 20

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

Friday, Jan. 23

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

***

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

***

The Hood County Hospital District Board of Directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at noon in the Annex 1 meeting room, located at 200 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. For more information, call 817-579-3200.

Saturday, Jan. 24

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

***

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

Sunday, Jan. 25

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

Friday, Jan. 30

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

***

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

Saturday, Jan. 31

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

***

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

Sunday, Feb. 1

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

Friday, Feb. 6

Granbury Live presents Gone Country, The Best Tribute to Alan Jackson at 7:30 p.m. Gone Country is a Dallas-based Country Band that was formed from local musicians who love the traditional country music sound written and performed by the living legend Alan Jackson. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

***

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

Saturday, Feb. 7

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

***

Granbury Live presents Gone Country, The Best Tribute to Alan Jackson at 7 p.m. Gone Country is a Dallas-based Country Band that was formed from local musicians who love the traditional country music sound written and performed by the living legend Alan Jackson. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Sunday, Feb. 8

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

GRANBURY GONEBY



BY JOSH BURTON

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

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

Jan. 13, 1966
60 years ago

The Highway 377 Loop was opened to traffic at noon Jan. 10, with completion of the striping. Everything was in readiness and soon the flow of traffic was moving smoothly along the new alignment of U.S. 377. Completion was well within the number of working days the contract required.

The city of Granbury employed the engineering firm of BryantCurington, Inc., in Austin, to work up a master plan for future growth and development of Granbury. The plan consisted of a series of reports which included an economic analysis and population projection.

Plans are being completed for the annual Granbury Chamber of Commerce banquet Jan. 22 in the school cafetorium. Congressman W.R. Poage will arrive in the city early that day and will be the speaker at the banquet.

Jan. 12, 1986
40 years ago

With the assistance of what the Hood County Sheriff's Department called "outstanding citizen involvement," Deputy Allen Hines apprehended two suspects Jan. 9, minutes after the burglary of the Ed and Gloria Donosa residence.

Future Energy, Inc., president Randy Hoyle and his father, Wendell Hoyle, were indicted for securities fraud by a Hood County grand jury Jan. 8. According to state Securities Board investigator Dan Williams, the jury handed down four indictments against the head of the Hood County-based gas drilling firm.

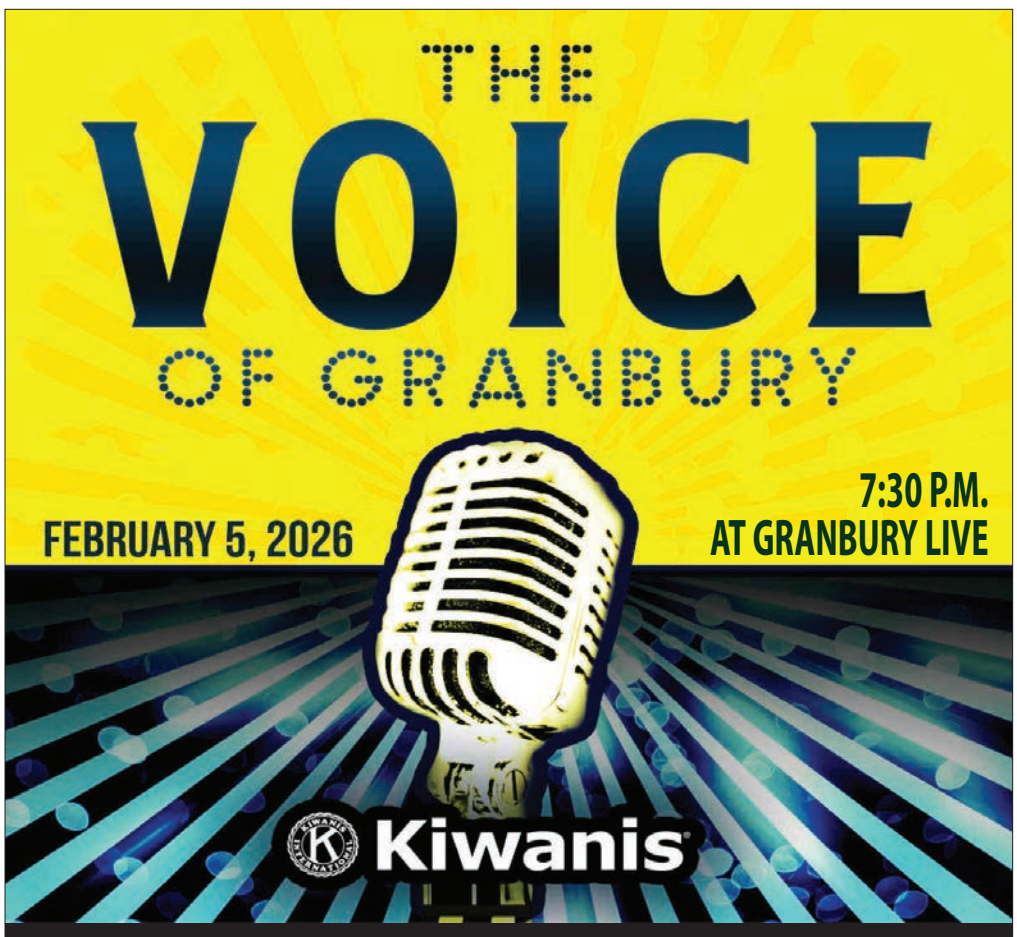
Lipan coach Gary Young said his girls will be ready Jan. 14 when they visit cross-county rival Tolar in a district game. The two teams battled for the district title last year and Tolar won the district. Lipan, however, earned the runner-up spot and actually advanced further in the postseason a year ago.

Jan 12, 2006
20 years ago

An all-freshman campus and moving some lower grades to different schools are in a short-term growth plan for Granbury schools. A public information and discussion meeting on proposed changes will be held Jan. 16 in the Granbury High School auditorium. Superintendent William Harris said the plan creates a high school freshman class campus at Crossland Intermediate School and makes changes in class make-up in different intermediate schools.

Animal exhibitors will be center stage Jan. 12-13 at the Granbury Reunion Grounds. Judging will begin about 9 a.m. Jan. 13 on tables in the indoor lunch facility. Entries should be available for viewing and conceivably buying by 1:30 p.m. Jan. 13.

A Hood County jail nurse lost her job due to a sexual relationship in the jail with a prisoner last fall, and was formally in-



Come support the charitable work of the Granbury Kiwanis Club at our 8th annual Voice of Granbury Main Event, where audience votes determine our winning singer. Contestants are Shayla Nuttall, Renae Whitsitt, Lee Monroe, Courtney Current, Nick Hannah, Josh Kennedy, Chad Swanberg, Janet Giusti, Michelle Winters, and Charles Patterson.

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Nick Hannah


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January
17 Goosebump Jump & Chili on the Beach
at Granbury City Beach
17 The Ice Age 5k
at Hewlett Park

February
21 CC Markets 4 Days
at Lake Granbury Conference Center
28 5th Annual JazzFest
at Hewlett Park, Langdon Grounds, Plaza
28 Texas Independence Celebration
at Hood County Courthouse

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Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

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025 Real Estate For Sale

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

026 Repair Services

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032 Miscellaneous

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033 Legal Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 CAUSE NO. C2025166. THE STATE OF TEXAS. SHONDA RENEA BAILEY Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED, Defendant IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. To UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED. Defendant(s), GREETING:NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S): You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do/does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org. You are hereby notified that a suit has been brought by SHONDA RENEA BAILEY as Plaintiff(s), against the above-named UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED as Defendant(s), by PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed on the 14th day of MAY, 2025, in a certain suit styled SHONDA RENEA BAILEY VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA O REAR, DECEASED. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2025166. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Suit to Quiet Title - Lots 236,237,274,275 and 276, in Lake Granbury Harbor Subdivision, Section "D", a Subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to the Revised Plat thereof recorded in Slide A-219 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Address(es) of Property: 4316 W. Virginia Dr., Granbury Texas, 76048; 4317 Montana Trail, Granbury Texas, 76048. Legal Description of Property: Lots 236,237,274,275 and 276, in Lake Granbury Harbor Subdivision, Section "D", a Subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to the Revised Plat thereof recorded in Slide A-219 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, on DECEMBER 9, 2025. ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (S) CAIN AND KIEL, P.C. Attorneys at Law, 508 NORTH RIDGEWAY, Cleburne, Texas 76033, 817-645-1717. MELANIE GRAFT CLERK OF THE 355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, By: Sarah Roach, Deputy Clerk of the 355th Judicial District Court

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

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

033 Legal Public Notices

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

Granbury Independent School District is issuing a Request for Proposals under RFQ 2026-39 HVAC Test and Balance. The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Submissions will be accepted until closing February 13th 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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - RFQ2026-03 RADIO NETWORK CONSULTANT SERVICES: The Commissioners' Court of Hood County is soliciting statements of qualifications from individuals or firms with the necessary qualifications, experience, and professional expertise to provide objective, technically sound analysis and guidance regarding the future County's P25 land mobile radio (LMR) communications system. Sealed statements of qualifications subject to the conditions and requirements of RFQ2026-03 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 Monday, February 9, 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, qualifications, and experience, it will be awarded by the Commissioners' Court at a future Court date. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all submissions 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, RFQ2026-03, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048. Facsimile and e-mail transmissions will NOT be accepted. Any questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to the Hood County Purchasing Agent at gtilleman@hoodcounty.texas.gov no later than January 30, 2026.

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CLASSIFIEDS

033 Legal Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 26-01
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 (SUP) on the property located on an approximate 7.63 acre portion of land described as Lot 1, Block 1 of the Granbury City Beach Addition, within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and being more fully described as: 7.63 acre portion of land described as Lot 1, Block 1 of the Granbury City Beach Addition, within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located within the Light Commercial 'LC' zoning district.

The Specific Use Permit (SUP) shall be issued to allow for the operation of a temporary outdoor amusement center with the following conditions:
1. The Specific Use Permit (SUP) shall be active between the dates of March 12 - March 25, 2026;
2. Event shall be done in accordance with the City's adopted event/festival ordinance.

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. 26-02
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 2,098 ACRES IN THE MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY LOWER LEAGUE, MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY UPPER LEAGUE, JOHN DAVID CROW SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 110, EBENEZER MILLICAN SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 414, J.W. OWNSBY SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 814, G.W. WILLIAMS SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 600, JOSE MAYBARBO SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 749, THE C.C. HARVICK SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 290, E.T. GATLIN SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 211, J.W. DAWSON SURVEY NO 805, J.H. DAVIS SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 157, AND E. HAMMACK SURVEY ABSTRACT NO 650 HOOD COUNTY, AND ALL OF SCOTTISH RITE VILLAGE UNIT ONE, TRACT ONE, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS PER PETITION FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY, Texas.; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-03

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 18.08 ACRE TRACT PLATTED AS LOT 1, BLOCK 1, ENTERPRISE ADDITION, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-04
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 4.186 ACRES PLATTED AS LOTS 25, 26, PORTION OF 27 AND PORTION OF 28 OF THE GATEWAY ADDITION, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-05
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 a14.404-acre tract of the John Howard Survey, Abstract No. 717, Hood County, Texas, and being more fully described by Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein: From Interim Holding [IH] to: Planned Development Light Commercial [PD/LC] District

Requirements for LC shall be in accord with the Zoning Ordinance for LC District. Requirements for PD/LC shall be as follows: Standards or Requirements that are not listed in the below table titled "PD Variance Table" shall meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, Light Commercial (LC) District and all other City Codes and Ordinances. The attached Exhibit "B" Development Plan Site Plan, Landscape Plan, Elevation Plans, and Sign Plans are illustrative and subject to administrative review for all other regulation requirements prior to permit issuance.

PD Variance Table		
Zoning Ordinance Section & Standard	**Light Commercial Zoning**	**PD Variance**
PD Variance Table		
Z.O.11.14 – Outdoor Display	The outdoor display is required to be within 20' of the building and have set time frames items can be left for display	Outdoor display as shown on Development Plan in exterior parking lot limits, and left on display continuously.
Z.O.7.5 - Primary Wall Signage	a primary wall signage has a maximum primary wall area of 200 sq ft.	Primary Wall Signage area of all letters is 665 Sq Ft.
Z.O.11.11D and Z.O.5.15.I, - Open Storage Screening	Open storage screening must be at least 6' in height and solid opaque.	Open Storage labeled as Garden Center and Steel Yard on the development plan, is proposed to be 8' tall, and made of painted concrete blocks, steel tubing and a painted steel tubing gate. The side and rear fencing is 7' tall and made of chain link fencing. Please refer to elevations and development plan.
Z.O.11.14 – Outdoor Display	Outdoor display is required to be within20' of the building and have set time frames items can be left for display.	The covered front porches will provide outdoor display. This area is within 20' of the building, but plans to be outside at all times.
Z.O. 11.7.1.1.9 – Unique Architectural Features	Unique architectural features shall project from the plan of the main exterior wall or parapet of the building a minimum horizontal distance of 5% of the building height and shall have a minimum vertical dimension of 10% of the building height.	Plans do not provide for a unique feature as provided in the ordinance, but intend for the front porch to cover this feature.
Z.O.11.7.1.1.12 - Articulation	For all commercial structures, articulations shall be required to be constructed of either stone or brick. Building wall shall be defined as the vertical plane of the exterior surface of the primary, masonry, construction material.	Proposed horizontal and vertical articulation of 3D forms and colors to give the main wall "character", along with front porch and projected vestibule.
PD Variance Table		
Z.O. 11.7.1.1C.9 – Roof Pitch	Roof shall have a minimum pitch of at least 4:12.	Proposed Roof pitch shall be 1/2" in 12'
Landscape		Variance request of a 10% landscape reduction as shown on the landscape plan

Additional PD Allowances and Requirements
A. Except as allowed by the above variance table content and the following conditions, the site shall conform to the attached Exhibit A Site Plan; Exhibit B Landscape Plan; Exhibit C Elevation Plans and Sign Plans.

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. 26-06
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 24.062 acre tract of land in the Milam County School Lands, Survey Abstract No. 348, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and being more fully described by Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein. Light Commercial, R-8.4 and R-12 Single Family Residential [LC, R-8.4, R-12] to R-7 Single Family Residential [R-7]

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.

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.

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For Immediate Release January 17, 2026

Notice of Availability of Electronic Communications (Granbury) — Chief appraisers of county appraisal districts and appraisal review boards (ARBs) may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

How does it work? Certain guidelines must be followed for this local option communication:

• Written agreements with the county appraisal district must be entered first, ensuring what electronic means of delivery are acceptable. If you are interested in receiving communications in electronic format, you should contact your local appraisal district.

• Public notice regarding the availability of agreement forms authorizing electronic communications may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the appraisal district on or before Feb. 1 each year, or agreement forms may be delivered on or before Feb. 1 each year to property owners shown on the certified appraisal roll for the preceding tax year.

• The chief appraiser may determine the medium, format, content and method to be used for electronic communications other than notices required by Tax Code Section 25.19 which are prescribed by rule.

• A decision by the chief appraiser not to enter into agreements may not be the subject of an ARB protest, a lawsuit or a complaint to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

For more information, contact:
Hood Central Appraisal District
1902 W. Pearl St.
P.O. BOX 819
Granbury, TX 76048
8177-573-2471

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

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

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

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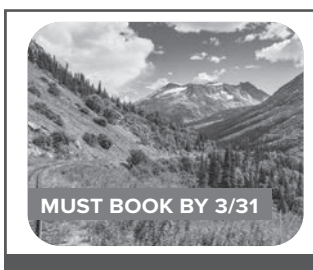
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THE IDLE AMERICAN

A royal 'hang-up' in Dallas: Uncle Mort talks about 'blind hog luck'



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.

It's usually a "ho-hum" thing when my Uncle Mort calls. If it's about business, I make sure to "think monkey" in front of it.

Recently, his "jabber" included details of his "blind hog luck" while fetching groceries from the thicket's general store. His visit coincided with the arrival of the bread truck, this time with a trainee.

"He was a talker, bringing me up to speed on the news in Dallas," Mort said. A conversational dark side soon loomed, according to my uncle, about AT&T's decision to move its global headquarters almost 20 miles north to Plano. Mort's voice tone ascended from barely neutral to full throttle.

"AT&T's 'hanging up' on Dallas is the biggest local news since sliced bread," the trainee joked, making sure Mort made the "sliced bread connection" with his job. He said, "Looks like this drama has more ups and downs than an elevator with its tail on fire."

The 20-minute conversation — coupled with mindless scouring of the Internet — provided enough info for Mort to consider himself an authority on the world's largest communications company, Dallas' biggest employer. He learned the current digs in Dallas are rented, wondering if AT&T was required to pay first and last month in advance.

He's "right on" about this being big news. When the jousting includes so many players — including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott — it's like penny-pitching gambling elevating quickly to high dollar casinos. Know this: There's more spinning going on than all the tops of world toy stores strung together.

There's probably enough squirming in both corporate and city hall boardrooms for new moves to be added at belly-dancing schools. Reasons for the big move come from many sources, some of them tepid at best. AT&T claims to need a "suburban campus" where it can spread out. Dallas — with several skyscrapers posting "for rent" signs — urges the behemoth bunch to "think tall."

This reminded Mort of the joke about overweight guys going to great lengths to avoid great widths, but I doubt this has much to do with the "Big D" brouhaha, quickly skipping from simmering to a full boil.

Cut to the chase, my uncle is placing his bets on information provided by a bread truck trainee and Internet sources. With him, "You pays your money, and you takes your chances."

Mort's thoughts are all around the charts, but I'll relay some of 'em:

1) Don't expect President Trump to get involved. He's too busy trying to convince Canada not to build a wall to keep us out. He's also busy with threats to Denmark that if cooperation with the United States isn't forthcoming, he'll place a 300-percent tariff on Danish rolls. Mort, who still hoists a Confederate flag daily, is more worried about Yankees headed south than illegal immigration. Every time there's news about federal troops on the Rio Grande River, Mort thinks they ought to be at the Red River gateway from Oklahoma. "The feds are guarding the wrong river," he fumes.

2) Jerry Jones might move the Cowboys north, too; they could start again as the "Plano Plowboys."

3) Think of the possibilities for utilizing emptiness left behind. "They could house the homeless and operate city hall in the same building," he claims. (Right now, Mort is trying to find out if it's true that AT&T has ordered flak jackets for the company's nearly 6,000 Dallas employees traveling to and from work daily).

4) City leaders, trying to call AT&T brain trusts, mostly may get busy signals.

5) Mort doesn't fault Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone. A college professor, Bell, was trying to create some different sound pitches to help his deaf wife. (Answering the first ring in 1844 was a "Mr. Watson," who heard Alex's request, "Come here, I need to see you)." Watson wasn't needed for long, though, since he soon scored big in the ship-building business.

But that's another story.

Foregoing are Mort's stories, and he's stickin' to 'em. My case is rested.

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

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

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

Every Monday
Promises Al-Anon group meets at 6 p.m. every Monday at First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.
***
Acton Al-Anon 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as the fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information, call 817-308-3300.

Every Tuesday
Punchin' Parkinson's in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m. A noncontact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 next door to Tractor Supply.
***
GriefShare 14-week seminar. Next session begins 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 10. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, $20, "Finding Hope After the Loss of a Loved One." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.
***
Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program. Free dinner 6-6:45 p.m., large group meetings 7-8 p.m., small group meetings 8-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.
***
Acton 12 -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway behind Madison Park.
***
WeightWatchers, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fun, supportive group for achieving a healthy weight, with or without GLP-1 medication. At Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001, Granbury.

Every Thursday
Take Off Pounds Sensibly or TOPS. 8:45-10:30 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. For information, call 262-227-7144.
***
GriefShare Recovery seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is $15. Details: 817-573-7474.
***
Re | engage marriage enrichment meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com.
***
Acton 12 -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway behind Madison Park.
***
Men's prayer group meets 7-8 p.m. in the Outreach Center at Lakeside Baptist Church in the building to the right of the main church, 500 West Bluebonnet Drive in Granbury.

Every Friday
Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered recovery program. 12-step groups meet 7-8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.
***
Acton Al-Anon 12-Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as the fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information, call 817-308-3300.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fourth Saturday
Grief support group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering for breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833.2-step groups meet 7-8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.
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First Tuesday
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PLEASE SEE **SUPPORT** | B10



SENIOR CENTER MENU

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

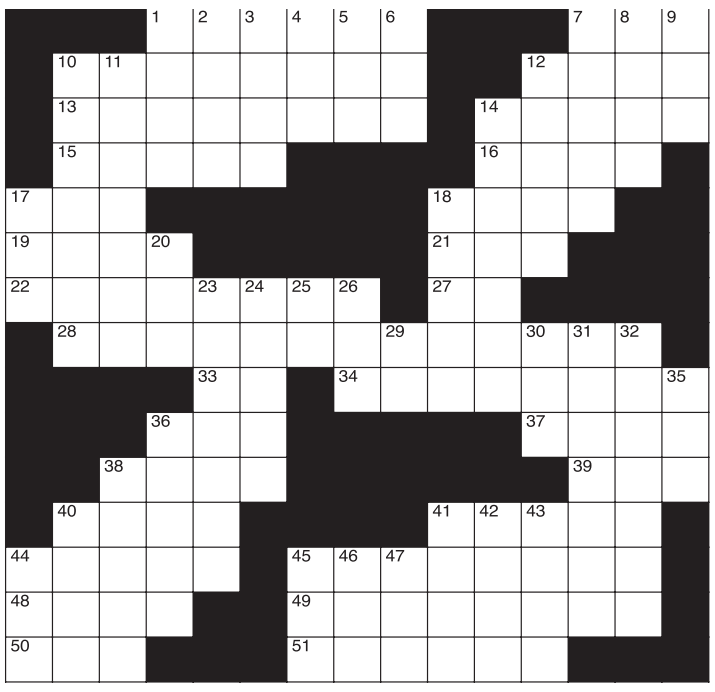
Monday, Jan. 19
Barbecue beef on a bun with sweet potatoes, fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions and a caramel apple

Tuesday, Jan. 20
Beef enchilada bake with pinto beans, squash and chilled apricots

Wednesday, Jan. 21
Country fried steak with creamy gravy, mashed potatoes, okra, potatoes, a roll and fresh fruit

Thursday, Jan. 22
Butter-crusted white fish with fluffy rice, lemon broccoli, a roll and oatmeal raisin cookie

Friday, Jan. 23
Herb roasted turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, spiced buttered carrots with oranges and pears.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount
13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to "oohed"
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one
18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. "His Airness"
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist Beach
37. Abba __, Israeli politician
38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
39. A way to save money
40. Pulpit
41. Make ecstatically happy
44. Once more
45. Works on
48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
49. State again
50. Expression of disappointment
51. Type of door

HOOD COUNTY NEWS home instead PUZZLES

SCAN THE QR CODE

CLUES DOWN

1. Yugoslavian communist leader
2. Exchange rate
3. High school dance
4. Peter's last name
5. When you anticipate arriving
6. Israeli city __ Aviv
7. Goat-like mammals
8. Margarine
9. End-of-the-spectrum color
10. Make poisonous
11. Popular beverage
12. Actress Lathan
14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy
35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)
47. Body part

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

Level: Advanced

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20
Your attention is focused on finances and deeper connections, Aries. This is the week to speak honestly about budgets, debts or your investments with a partner.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21
Taurus, the spotlight is shining on your relationships, whether in love or business. Expect some meaningful conversations that define your approach going forward.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21
Your focus turns to work and wellness as part of your daily routine this week, Gemini. You may feel a strong urge to get more organized and capitalize on resolutions made.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22
Your inner child is leading the way for the week, Cancer. Spend time on hobbies, connect with children or plan a memorable date night. Don't be afraid to take a creative risk.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23
Leo, your energies are best spent on your home and family life right now. You may be dealing with a domestic project, a renovation or sorting out a matter with a relative.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22
Communication is your strongest tool this week, Virgo. With ideas flowing, you may be up to signing an agreement or running errands. You may want to reconnect with an old friend.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23
Libra, review your income streams and spending habits to give you a clear picture for the new year. This isn't about cutting things out, but about understanding what you value.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22
It is your time to shine and redefine yourself, Scorpio. With cosmic energy focused your way, you have the drive and the focus to launch a personal project or make a major change.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21
Take some necessary steps back for quiet work and rest, Sagittarius. This week favors wrapping up older projects so you can think more clearly. Don't overschedule yourself.

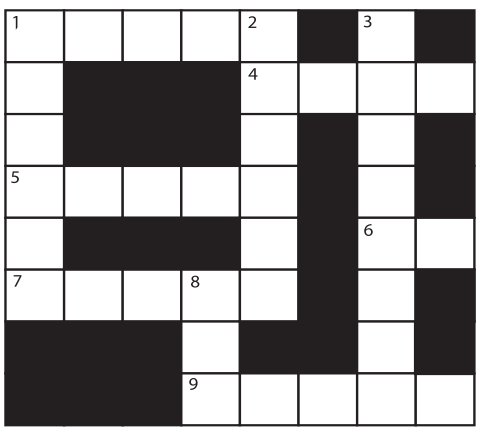
CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20
Capricorn, social activities and future goals take center stage right now. It might be wise to start networking or join a new group that will open you up to different people.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18
This is an important period for your career, Aquarius. If you've been mulling over making a move, now is the time to get a jump on it. Your professional achievements are getting noticed.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20
Pisces, finalize plans for a trip or a new pursuit, such as returning to school. Seek experiences that will broaden your horizons. Adventure beckons you this week.w

kids' corner

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1. Related to onions
4. Passage of minutes
5. Reason
6. Artificial intelligence
7. Liquid meals
9. Browned bread

DOWN
1. Scoops liquid
2. Bases for soups
3. Importance given
8. Cooking vessel

Answers:
Across
1. Leeks 4. Time 5. Logic 6. AI 7. Soups 9. Toast
Down
1. Ladles 2. Stocks 3. Emphasis 8. Pot

Food FACT:

This soup is traditionally smooth and creamy and often begins with a shellfish stock.

Answer: Bisque

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN 21

1789: The first American novel is printed in Boston.

1915: Kiwanis International is founded in Detroit.

1948: The Flag of Quebec is adopted and flown for the first time over the National Assembly of Quebec.

NEW WORD

CHOWDER

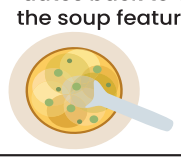
thick, hearty soup defined by its chunky texture

"How they say that in..."

English: Soup
Spanish: Sopa
Italian: Minestra
French: Soupe
German: Suppe

Did You KNOW?

The earliest archaeological evidence of consuming soup dates back to 6,000 BC, when the soup featured hippopotamus meat, sparrows, lentils, and vegetables.



Get the PICTURE?



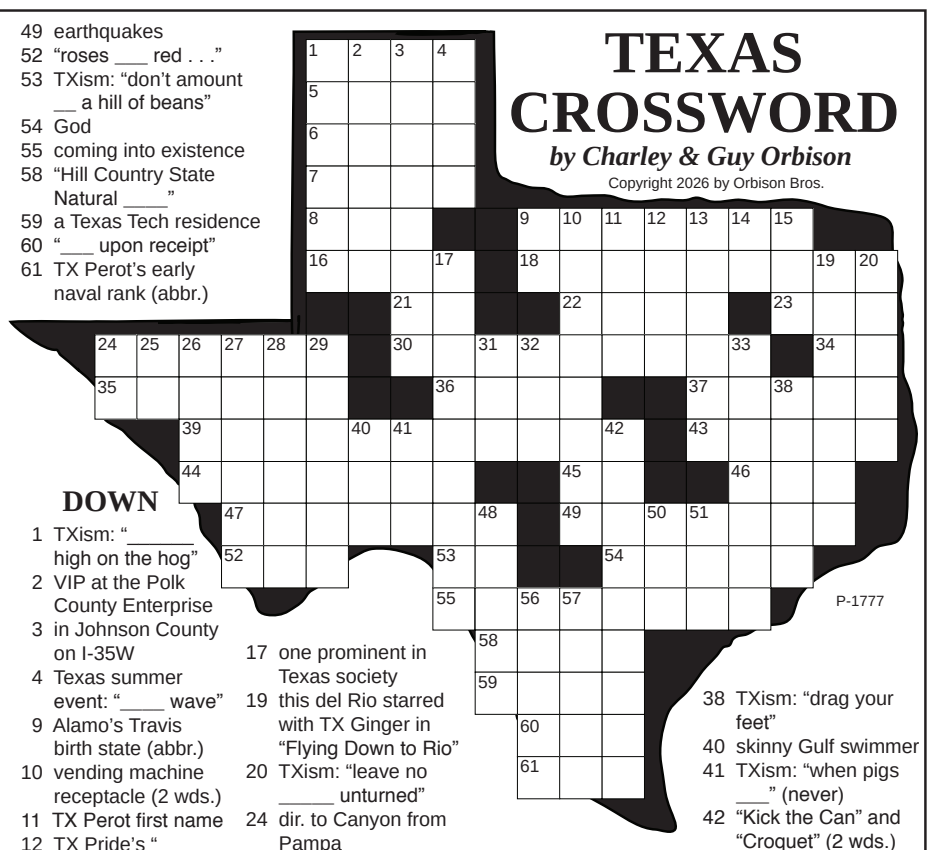
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Noodle soup

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS
1 TX Orbison ballad
5 TXism: "not even swatting flies"
6 Texas-filmed "____ Zapata!"
7 "let's just leave __ __ that""
8 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of him"
9 _____-off Texas lottery ticket
16 Port Arthur hosts "Mardi ____"
18 possessed by folks who keep their wits in a crisis (2 wds.)
21 TXism: "it'll __ in a pinch"
22 Pelican or Mustang
23 TXism: "I ___ half a mind to"
24 TXism: "__ ____ the bats are flying on auto pilot"
30 favored rooms on South Padre Island
34 Yo __ Digo Creek
35 TX B.J. Thomas' album: "Home _____ _ Belong"
36 social misfortunes
37 in Lamb County on U.S. 70
39 mafia clan (2 wds.)
43 stare angrily
44 Fort Worth Art Museum
45 _ _ "Bum" Phillips
46 anger or wrath
47 TXism: "lower than a snake's _____ __ a wheel rut"
49 earthquakes
52 "roses ___ red . . ."
53 TXism: "don't amount __ a hill of beans"
54 God
55 coming into existence
58 "Hill Country State Natural ____"
59 a Texas Tech residence
60 "___ upon receipt"
61 TX Perot's early naval rank (abbr.)

DOWN
1 TXism: "_____ high on the hog"
2 VIP at the Polk County Enterprise
3 in Johnson County on I-35W
4 Texas summer event: "____ wave"
9 Alamo's Travis birth state (abbr.)
10 vending machine receptacle (2 wds.)
11 TX Perot first name
12 TX Pride's "___ _ Have to Offer You"
13 TXism: "you got the tail waggin' ___ ___"
14 film cowboy Eastwood (init.)
15 nickname for country singer Merle Haggard
17 one prominent in Texas society
19 this del Rio starred with TX Ginger in "Flying Down to Rio"
20 TXism: "leave no _____ unturned"
24 dir. to Canyon from Pampa
25 TX Orbison's "__ Pretty Woman"
26 TXism: "hes not playing with a full ____" (strange)
27 "above" in Mexico
28 this Kevin was a Ranger outfielder & DH from 1988-92
29 Junction is seat of this county
31 Dallas street where JFK was assassinated
32 TX Foreman lost title to him in 1974
33 actor Sam in film "Murder in Texas"
38 TXism: "drag your feet"
40 skinny Gulf swimmer
41 TXism: "when pigs ___" (never)
42 "Kick the Can" and "Croquet" (2 wds.)
48 TXism: "got tumbleweed blood in his veins"
50 big boot width
51 60 seconds (abbr.)
56 to wear away a Texas beach
57 showing "Dallas" again

P-1777

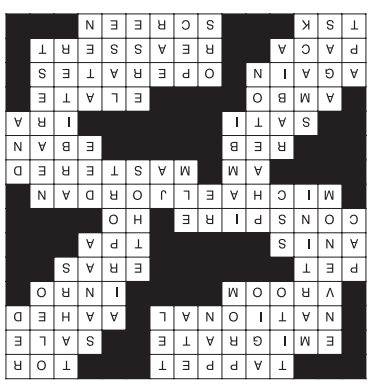
LOG CABIN WORD SEARCH

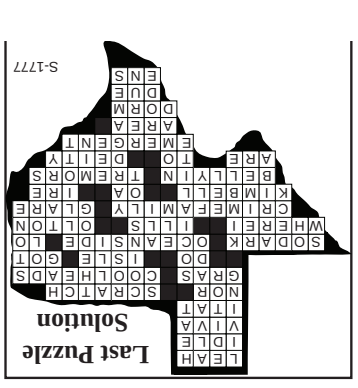
K	P	P	H	H	E	Y	C	D	R	I	Y	Y	M	E	R	H	C	C	T
E	X	A	O	A	E	G	H	W	B	O	L	O	D	G	E	C	H	A	S
A	S	L	O	N	H	M	I	U	G	Y	P	A	L	A	E	W	E	S	Y
L	N	L	M	N	G	W	N	S	H	R	K	A	R	B	O	R	E	B	P
H	E	I	O	L	O	I	K	R	S	Y	I	T	O	O	T	N	F	D	M
T	H	C	D	G	C	O	I	E	M	M	H	V	D	E	K	W	K	B	M
C	H	M	A	A	S	N	N	L	F	X	L	S	R	D	C	F	D	H	I
O	M	Y	P	L	X	N	G	T	N	O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

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

WORDS

ANTLERS
AXE
BEAR RUG
CABIN
CEDAR
CHIMNEY
CHINKING
FIREPLACE
HEARTH
HOMESTEAD
LANTERN
LODGE
LOFT
LOGS
MANTEL
NOTCHING
PANTRY
PORCH
RETREAT
ROCKING CHAIR
RUSTIC
TIMBER
WOOD PILE
WOODSTOVE





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

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State appears in final top 25 football rankings for 2025

STEPHENVILLE — The 2025 college football season at the FCS level officially ended, and both major national rankings released their final polls, with Tarleton State ranked No. 6 in both.

Both the Stats Perform Top 25 Poll and the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll ranked the Texans at No. 6. Tarleton State tied its program record for wins in a single season at 12 and made a run to the FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals.

The No. 6 final ranking is a new best for the Texans, ending a season in their short NCAA Division I era. It was a historic 2025 campaign all-around for Tarleton State, who won a United Athletic Conference co-championship, finished 7-1 in conference play and 12-2 overall. Tarleton State became the first FCS team since 1993 (Troy) to make the quarterfinals in one of its first two seasons of playoff eligibility (eight-plus team format in FCS), and the Texans are the first active FCS program to accomplish that feat since 1985 (Eastern Washington).

In the final Stats Perform FCS Top 25 Poll, the Texans earned 1,112 points, behind No. 1 Montana State (1,400 points), No. 2 Illinois State (1,327 points), No. 3 Montana (1,271 points), tied-No. 4 North Dakota State (1,181 points) and tied-No. 4 Villanova (1,181 points). A first-place vote is worth 25 points, a second-place vote 24 points, all the way down to one point for a 25th-place vote.

In the final AFCA FCS Coaches Poll, Tarleton State earned 419 points, with No. 1 Montana State at 525 points, No. 2 Illinois State at 504 points, No. 3 Montana at 472 points, No. 4 Villanova at 427 points and No. 5 North Dakota State at 426 points. The AFCA FCS Coaches Poll is voted on by the panel chosen by random draw, conference by conference, plus independents, from a pool of coaches who have indicated to the AFCA their willingness to participate. Each coach submits a Top-25 with a first-place vote worth 25 points, second-place 24, and so on down to one point for 25th.

Tarleton State is one of two UAC teams in both rankings, and one of three UAC teams in the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll. Abilene Christian is No. 12 in both polls, and West Georgia is ranked No. 24 in the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll.

Tarleton men

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State fell behind from the start and was unable to complete a late comeback attempt and fell in the first game of a three-game series to Abilene Christian, 84-80 Jan. 8 in the EECU Center.

The Texans (now 2-2 in conference play and 11-6 overall) dropped the first of two games this season against Abilene Christian in the EECU Center. ACU scored the first nine points to start the game and never trailed. Tarleton State had the ball with the opportunity to tie the game, trailing by two with 38 seconds left, but was unable to score.

For the third consecutive Western Athletic Conference game, Dior Johnson scored 30-plus points. Johnson scored 33 and was 15 -15 from the free throw line. He made nine of his 19 shots from the floor. The junior also had three rebounds and two steals.

Three other Texans scored in double figures as well. Off the bench, Kade Douglas scored 11 and Cam McDowell had 10. Chris Mpaka scored 11 and had a team-best seven rebounds and two blocks. Douglas tallied a team-high three steals.

Tarleton women

ABILENE — The first game of the 2025-26 season between Tarleton State and Abilene Christian went to the Wildcats, winning 64-59, Jan. 8 at Moody Coliseum.

Trailing by 10 points going into the fourth quarter, Tarleton State shot 52 percent from the floor in that quarter, cutting Abilene Christian's lead three points. The Texans made it a three-point game with five seconds left, before ACU made two free throws to clinch the win.

Junior forward Shadasia Brackens scored a career-high 21 points and had nine rebounds and four steals. She also made four 3-point shots. Senior guards Jakoriah Long and Kyriana Jones each scored 12 points and freshman center Elodie Lutbert had 10 points.

"I thought we fought hard in the second half," head coach Bill Brock said. "You're always proud of your team when your kids play hard. At CBU, we played one good half. We played three decent quarters tonight. I thought Shadasia really brought her game tonight. She shot well from 3-point range and I thought she gave us a lift when we needed it. We're getting more mature and we have the opportunity to try to get back to our winning ways on our home floor next week."

Player of the week

STEPHENVILLE — For the fourth time this year, Tarleton State junior guard Dior Johnson was named the WAC Newcomer of the Week, the conference office announced on Monday afternoon.

Johnson becomes the second Western Athletic Conference player to earn newcomer of the week four times in a single season since the WAC debuted the award for the 2023-24 season. This year, Johnson is the only player to win the award multiple times. In the award's three-year history, only 10 players including Johnson have won the award multiple times in the same season. Johnson is the sixth individual to win at least three, with Tyon Grant-Foster owning the record of six in the 2023-24 season.

The junior guard rattled off his nation-leading sixth 30-plus point performance against Abilene Christian in the Texans only game of the week. Johnson accounted for 33 points, with 20 of those coming in the second half. It marked the fifth time this season that he has scored 20 or more points in the second 20 minutes of the game. He also had three rebounds and a pair of steals while shooting 9- 19 from the floor in 33 minutes of action.

He also set yet another Tarleton State single game record. For the second time this season, he made 15 free throws in a WAC game, tying his record he set last week for most free throws made in a Tarleton State game in WAC play. He not only made 15 free throws, but he was also perfect at the line making 15- 15. He now holds the record for the most free throws made at 100-percent accuracy in a single game in program history.



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior forward Shadasia Brackens scored a career-high 21 points and had nine rebounds and four steals. She also made four 3-point shots.



COURTESY PHOTO

For the fourth time this year, Tarleton State junior guard Dior Johnson is the WAC Newcomer of the Week.

Tarleton State is fastest fastest-growing university in Texas for 2026

STEPHENVILLE — As a new year unfolds, one constant holds true: Tarleton State University is the leader in Texas for enrollment growth.

According to data released by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board following the fall 2025 semester, Tarleton State leads all Texas public universities with a 48.58 percent increase in enrollment since fall 2022. The state total for public institutions is 6.36 percent during that time.

"There has never been a more exciting time to be a Tarleton State Texan," Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley said. "Driven by our mission to expand access and opportunity, Tarleton State continues to lead Texas as the fastest-growing public institution in the state. This remarkable momentum reflects the confidence Texans place in Tarleton State, and we are excited to welcome even more students and families in 2026 and beyond."

Beyond overall growth, fall 2025 data confirms Tarleton State's transformational year-over-year enrollment increases, placing it in front of just five Texas public universities to demonstrate sustained growth marked by increasing annual enrollment gains since 2022. In each of the last three academic years, Tarleton State has seen year-over-year increases led by a state-best 21.3 percent increase from 2024 to 2025.

Tarleton State's mission extends beyond enrollment gains to ensure opportunity and success for Texans after graduation. As the university continues to create opportunities, Tarleton State graduates are achieving strong outcomes in graduate education and the workforce. The 2024 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Almanac reports 84 percent of Tarleton State graduates secure employment or enroll in graduate or professional programs within 12 months of graduation, which also leads the state.

"Strengthened by the steadfast support of The Texas A&M System Board of Regents, Chancellor Glenn Hegar, and our extraordinary faculty, staff, alumni and supporters, Tarleton State is building a future brighter than ever before," Dr. Hurley said.



COURTESY PHOTO

According to data released by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board following the fall 2025 semester, Tarleton State leads all Texas public universities with a 48.58 percent increase in enrollment since fall 2022.

SUPPORT

FROM PAGE #B8

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.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

New year boasts a busy calendar for 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

Music maker

Mark H. Morton will deliver his "road trippin' music" consisting of classic rock, blues, and country from 7-9 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Jan. 17, at the 19th Hole. All Pecaners are invited to enjoy.

Genealogy gathering

Pecan's Genealogical Group has its next meeting planned at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the EMS training room on Monticello Drive. Attendees are not required to be Pecan residents, and all interested folks are welcome. The day's program will feature how free websites aid genealogy research. Call or text 682-459-5718 for meeting details.

Fun group

The Pecan Plantation Recreational Vehicle Club will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the clubhouse. Folks interested in this group and its presence in our community may visit ppoarv.org for details.

Meeting date

Pecan's Board of Directors' Committee Workshop is on the calendar for 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, in the clubhouse ballroom, and the board of directors' meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the ballroom. Members are invited to attend.

Golf game

The Men's Golf Association has "4 man shamble court 2 best balls" on the calendar for Thursday, Jan. 22. The Ladies' Golf Association has begun 2026 play days with 1 p.m. starting times in the month of January.

Net news

The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association will enjoy its Australian Open Mixer at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at the Pecan tennis courts. The evening will offer social mixed doubles along with food and drink. Sign up at the tennis shop: 817-579-9412.

Happy feet

Western line dance lessons with instructor Kim Wallin are coming to the PAC beginning Tuesday, Jan. 27, for an eight-week course. A beginner class will run from 1-2 p.m. with intermediate instruction from 2-3 p.m. Register by calling the PAC: 817-573-7952.

Recycling spot

Now that the fall holiday season has passed, the monthly operating date for Pecan's collection station will return to the final Saturday of the month, the next of which is Jan. 31. The center is open weekly Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. for branches and recyclables only. Residents may contact Pecan's Operations Office for full information on operating hours and items accepted: 817-408-3511.

Big catch

Not many fish got away recently in the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kids Fishing Tournament. The cold and windy conditions did not deter the 58 youth who caught 63 fish cumulatively, including 58 rainbow trout, one black bass and four bluegills, whose total weight topped 47 pounds on the scale. Winners across multiple age groups received medals and prizes for the total pounds of fish caught as well as for their winning efforts. Many thanks go to the members of the Brazos River Outdoorsmen's Club and the PAC staff for their work in this very happy holiday season event.

Good cooking

Lessons by Chef Jordan Ray in the skills of cooking are on Pecan's 2026 menu with classes happening from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Participants will receive one-on-one training in various culinary areas (with offerings including soups, sauces, barbecue prep and meat and fish fabrications) with advanced level cooking mastery classes (in tooling skills, protein preparation and sauce mastering) also available. Registration currently is happening, and aspiring chefs may contact Shelby Looney with questions and for pricing information: sfoster@ppoaweb.com.

Senior supper

Senior Pecaners (ages 65 and older) receive 10 percent off all buffet meals in the Brazos Room of the clubhouse. The offer is valid for both lunch and dinner buffets.

Dinner delight

Chef Jordan Ray announces "Finding Resonance," a wine pairing dinner on Pecan's calendar at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. The event promises an enchanting evening consisting of a four-course meal, each dish being perfectly paired with exquisite wines from Resonance Vineyards. Participants will experience the artistry of flavors and the charm of storytelling- an unforgettable culinary adventure. Reservations are required. Secure a spot at sfoster@ppoaweb.com.

Higher price

Trash collection rates in Pecan will see a minor increase in 2026 with the rate increasing 50 cents per month beginning Feb. 1. The rate adjustment, implemented by Waste Connections, is permitted within the company's current contract with the Pecan Plantation Owners Association.

Good read

The Hood County Bookmobile will be from 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the PAC. Patrons may both check out and return library materials to the bookmobile.

Committee signup

Signing up for the 2026-27 Election and Bylaws Committees now is happening online. Links for both groups may be found under the Owners Association tab on the PPOA website. For complete information about the duties and responsibilities of serving on these committees, direct inquiries to Marilyn Amos: marilynamos@ppoaweb.com or 817-573-2641, extension 340.

Game on

The first evening of bingo for 2026 was a big success with 100 folks in attendance, and for the first time in Pecan bingo night play, a triple winner was crowned. Congratulations to Richard Taubinger on this feat. Folks may mark their calendars for Valentine's Day Bingo Thursday, Feb. 12.

Good gift

Pecaners will have the opportunity to give the gift of life at our community's next blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.` Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the PAC gymnasium. Appointments may be made by visiting redcrossblood.org and entering Pecanplantation.

Art scene

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild meets at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the EMS meeting room. Annual dues are $35, and Pecan artists and art lovers ages 18 and older are invited to join. Leading the PPAG this year are Gwen Hutson, president; Pam Carriker, vice president/membership; Beth Eschback, vice president/workshops; Elizabeth King, secretary and communications; Doris Bernier, treasurer; and Leslie Annen, member at large. Best wishes to these ladies for a successful year.

Tech teacher

The PAC is looking for an instructor to teach basic computer and iPhone skills. Interested? Contact Suzanne Castillo at the PAC. 817-573-7952.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Mr. Lavern Franzen, who passed away Jan. 5.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

GOOD FOR HOOD

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Master gardeners finish 2025 on high note

Thirty-five Lake Granbury Master Gardeners were honored at the 2025 Awards Luncheon in December. Overall, 68 Master Gardeners volunteered 6,271 hours to increase the availability of horticultural information in Hood County, through the Hood County Extension Service, in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The 2025 executive committee was honored and the 2026 executive committee was introduced; 2025 committee chairs were recognized: Renee Rogers-Demo Garden, Tori Schaneman-Greenhouse, Deborah Rollins-Romancing the Monarch, Louise Hooper-PR/Communications, and Alicia Flower-Scholarship; service pins were awarded for 25, 15 and 10 years of service; five interns were introduced as certified Master Gardeners; Nancy Walsh was introduced as the Propagator of the Year; and Shelley Reyenga and Louise Hooper were named Master Gardeners of the Year.

This past year, Master Gardeners continued to work in the Demonstration and Research Garden, located at 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury, improving beds, maintaining the grounds, and creating educational features such as the USDA Hardiness Zone Map in the Children's Garden and the monarch butterfly life-cycle mural on the side of the building behind the pavilion.

Horticultural and educational efforts included a partnership with Granbury High School students, monthly educational programs on the third Wednesday of the month, January through November, annual plant sale, Romancing the Monarch festival, community education programs and Demonstration Garden tours.

A major project was the completion of the library beautification project, concluding with the installation of the Monarch Life-Cycle sculpture in the pollinator bed at the entrance of the Hood County Library. LGMG also provided educational services by answering horticultural questions at the Hood County Home and Garden Expo and celebrated with Habitat for Humanity the completion of three homes, welcoming homeowners with a personalized book of gardening info about the Hood County area.

Scholarships were awarded to two students, who each received $1,000 for the fall 2025 semester and are working to be eligible to receive $2,000 for the winter/spring 2026 semester.

For more information and pictures of the award-winners, go to txmg.org/hcmg and read the annual report.

The Lake Granbury Master Gardeners, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, works to improve the quality of life in Hood County by sharing horticultural information through various projects, programs, events and activities. It is an educational volunteer program conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Services of the Texas A&M University System.

For more information about LGMG, visit txmg.org/hcmg or social media pages facebook.com/



COURTESY PHOTO

Phyllis Webster (left) and Olivia Barden stand together earlier this year with Webster's state award.

GARDEN PATCH

Here's what plants are available in upcoming year

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

Are you someone who searches magazines and the Internet for the latest trends in fashion and home design? Ever create a Pinterest board of plants you'd like to own or gardens you'd like to stroll? If so, you are likely interested in upcoming horticultural trends. And you might want to know what will be available to the public next year in terms of plants, products and services. Here's a brief synopsis of several gardening trends for 2026.

Botanical bento

Gardeners are expected to embrace a curated approach to home landscaping in which every section of the garden serves a function. For example, think of dividing your yard's raised beds into distinct zones, such as culinary herbs, blooming plants, pollinator plants etc., to suit your goals for healthy cooking, wildlife support and ornamental beauty. In other words, these gardens are purpose driven. Note: Always include evergreens for year 'round visual interest. And select plants that are adapted to the area's climate and soils.

Sustainable and climate-responsive

Due to expected climate change, horticulturists are focusing more on plant selections and garden designs that can survive extreme hot/cold weather fluctuations, drought and flooding. Two juxtaposing examples are waterwise planting (conservation of water resources) and firewise landscaping (protection from wildfire).

Bold and beautiful

Texans know how to turn sustainability into style. Xeriscapes, done right, can be fashionable as well as functional. And who doesn't like a decorative rain chain to direct rain runoff into catch basins, which helps to conserve water for later use.

Naturalistic landscapes and native plants

Native plants are becoming more mainstream. In fact, natives are now cultivated to create landscapes plants, nicknamed "nativars," that carry specific desirable traits for home landscapes. Expect to see more naturalistic plantings, which means phasing out a lot of the formality of urban landscapes and adopting a more casual, nature-forward look. The evolving new standard is more environmentally friendly and sustainable due to its lower resource requirements. It's time to say good-bye boxed hedges and balled shrubs.

Habitat gardening

Landscapes that support wildlife utilize less lawn grass, use a high percentage of native plants and require less chemical intervention. These gardens mimic nature in that they are deliberately multi-layered to include understory, mid-sized and taller plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Increasingly, gardeners want to support wildlife populations, such as monarch butterflies, that are displaced due to habitat degradation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Salvias are an excellent plant choice for naturalistic, sustainable and wildlife-friendly gardens.

Bio-diverse landscaping

A sister trend to habitat gardening is landscaping with a mix of native plants as well as non-native, but well-adapted species. A biodiverse garden may consist of an entire landscape or a subset of one's property, such as a lawn and shrub front yard to comply with neighborhood standards combined with an ecologically diverse backyard that welcomes birds and pollinators.

Personal sanctuaries

Outdoor living spaces are evolving into wellness and therapeutic gardens — places where homeowners can escape the stress of everyday living. These gardens generally embrace organic practices and evoke calming, healing and peace. This positive emotional connection to gardening is also known as "lemonading." In other words, making lemonade out of lemons.

Precision gardening

The future of horticulture is being driven by new technologies such as AI, robotics and automation that are seen as tools for survival in a changing world. Data is combined with historical observation to produce positive outcomes, such as healthier plants and greater yields.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or contact online at lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

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Alex Albro is 'A.C.E.s'

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

Albro teaches integrated physics and chemistry in addition to coaching boys basketball at Granbury High School. He was nominated by Alex Simpson and William Reveles Rangel.

Simpson has this to say about Albro: "He is a very calm, cool teacher. He spreads a lot of positivity. He always keeps his class chill and calmed down. He is very reasonable and very inspiring, and that's why I think he should be nominated. He's just one of the best teachers in the school, in my honest opinion."

Reveles Rangel has this to say about Albro: "Coach Albro is chill and laid back and gives you enough time to turn things in. I'm nominating Coach Albro because he's a cool teacher."

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.



Alex Albro