GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, December 6, 2025]

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City eyes new fire rescue apparatus

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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Christmas came a little early — or perhaps 21 years late, depending on one's perspective — with the news the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department is one step closer to receiving a much anticipated and long-awaited fire rescue apparatus.

Granbury City Council on Dec. 2 authorized the use of funds from a $300,000 grant from the Texas Forest Service for the fire department and authorized City Manager Chris Coffman to work out details to secure the grant and seek competitive bids for the fire equipment.

"We've been waiting 21 years for this grant," GVFD Chief Matt Hohon said following the meeting.

Coffman told the council the Texas Forest Service's award "is an important grant we've been applying for (for) a number of years.

Granbury Deputy City Manager Michael Ross said being able to purchase the fire safety vehicle will allow the fire department to ring out the old and ring in the new when it comes to equipment.

"This would allow the VFD to retire two aging units, one of which has 498,000 miles on it," Ross said. "The purchase would eliminate the need for capital apparatus requests for quite some time."

Ross said the total estimated cost for a new fire-rescue apparatus would be "in the $500,000 to $600,000 range."

That won't be the only new equipment for the fire department.

"We've got two fire trucks on order we've been waiting on," Coffman said. "Based on the price from bids we'll put together a financing option."

Mayor Jim Jarratt asked if there was a time limit for the city to use the grant.

"We've got 12 months from the award date of the grant (which was in October), but we can apply for a six-

PLEASE SEE **FIRE** | A7





MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Area residents line the Granbury Square streets, arriving early Friday, Nov. 28, to secure a good spot, only to have the annual Parade of Lights canceled due to rain and lightning. Before the stormy weather took over some of Santa's helpers entertained the crowd gathered.

Deadline nears for March primary

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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Although one election just took place in November, another is just around the corner in early 2026, and the filing deadline is Monday, Dec. 8.

The election in the rearview mirror included Hood County's road and jail bond proposals as well as city and school board elections. The upcoming election cycle will feature the March 3 Republican and Democratic primaries. These primaries will determine which candidates are on the ballot for the Nov. 3, 2026, election.

What will be on the ballot in 2026? Multiple county offices, including (but not limited to) county judge, commissioners and those seeking justice of the peace posts.

County Judge Ron Massingill is not seeking re-election, and two candidates have announced their intent to seek the office — Mark Lowery and Ron Sutton. Lowery is a former Secret Service agent, while Sutton served as co-chair of finance for Texas Sen. Brian Bidwell and was previously treasurer for Birdwell's campaign.

There also will be statewide offices on the ballot, and a new state senator for the region (District 22) will be chosen with the retirement of Birdwell, who was nominated by President Donald Trump for an assistant Secretary of Defense post.

Hood County Elections Administrator Stephanie Cooper said she doesn't receive a list of all the candidates who have filed to run for office until after the Dec. 8 filing deadline. Candidates for county offices may contact their local party chair to announce their intention to seek office.

Messages seeking information on local candidacies were left with both Hood County Democratic Party Chair Adrienne Martin and Hood County Republican Party Chair Greg Harrell. As deadline approached, Martin and Harrell were not available for comment.

A full list of state, regional and local candidates for the March 3 primary will appear in an upcoming issue of the Hood County News.

City implements new systems to install Granbury's light displays

BY CHLOE LAING
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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Following a three-year sabbatical, the courthouse's iconic aerial lights have returned.

Lights illuminated all across Granbury with the annual Night of Lights parade Nov. 29, marking the start of another holiday season in Hood County.

The holiday lights are the responsibility of three institutions: the internal services for the Granbury Parks and Recreation Department, the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council, and this year, a structural engineering firm, Cobb Fendley.

The Parks and Recreation Department predominantly is responsible for carrying out the decoration of Shanley Park, the Langdon Center and Granbury City Hall. At the project's helm is Aaron McLain.

McLain has served Granbury in internal services for Parks and Recreation for 23 years, and each of these 23 years, He and his team take a break from their usual duties of park maintenance to organize the city's light displays.

"We were doing lights when I started in the parks. So that's just something that I came in and continued," McLain said. "It just kind of fell upon us years ago. A long time ago, when city staff was a lot smaller than it is now, we did have volunteer days where city hall employees helped with some of the bridges and things. But the city has grown so that in the last few years, we've been fortunate enough to have a large enough staff that we can handle it ourselves."

The crew, 18 strong, begins the lighting operation the week before Halloween, when they open the warehouse containing all the lighted displays and begin any repairs the displays may require.

"We start prepping lights at our shop about a week before the first day of install, repairing figurines and things of that sort," McLain said. "Those displays are very expensive, but we can put new lights on existing displays."

They then head to Shanley Park, where they begin arranging the displays along the Hike and Bike Trail.

"We try to change it up each year. We know the walk routes that people take, so we just try to use that to our advantage," McLain said. "Funny story — years ago, we had several displays of deer, and we had several Rudolphs in the same display. I said, 'Guys, we can't have two Rudolphs together, we just can't have two red-nosed reindeers in the same herd.'"

The entire project takes the team about a month, concluding in one of Granbury's favorite holiday traditions, the Night of Lights parade, which unfortunately was cancelled this year due to inclement weather.

After the last float passes, Mr. and Mrs. Claus are ushered up the courthouse steps to throw the switch on the city's lights, including the ones McLain and his team spent the month placing.

"It's worth the work seeing the joy on the kids'

PLEASE SEE **LIGHTS** | A7

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‘A Christmas Carol’ returns to the Granbury Opera House with heart, humor and holiday magic

BY MICKY SHEARON
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When December rolls around in Granbury, two things are guaranteed: the Historic Granbury Square lights up with twinkle-lit charm and the Granbury Theatre Company delivers a holiday production that fills audiences with the spirit of the season.

This year, GTC brings back one of the most cherished Christmas stories of all time — Charles Dickens’s “A Christmas Carol” — running Dec. 5-23 at the Granbury Opera House.

Directed by Matt Beutner, this year’s production takes a deeply heartfelt approach to Ebenezer Scrooge’s legendary journey. For Beutner, A Christmas Carol isn’t just a seasonal story; it’s a lifelong tradition.

“There are only a few Christmas traditions that have stayed with me since childhood,” Beutner said. “But every year, without fail, I still watch ‘The Muppet Christmas Carol.’ It remains one of my favorite adaptations … because it stays remarkably true to Charles Dickens’s original novella.”

Beutner said that adaptation — in all its forms — is part of the story’s legacy. Dickens’s novella was published Dec. 19, 1843, and “sold out its first printing by Christmas Eve.” By the end of the following year, it already had been reprinted 13 times and adapted for the stage eight times.

“In the many years since ‘A Christmas Carol’ has been adapted into opera, ballet, animation, stage musicals, a BBC mime production and countless films,” Beutner said.

A classic story with a new heart

However, the timelessness of the tale isn’t what drives Beutner’s passion for directing it.

“The morals of this classic story are why it is timeless — and why it has been adapted to absolute death,” he said with affectionate humor. What matters most to him is the unmistakable message that “helping only ourselves is bad and helping others is good.” This clear-eyed truth, Beutner said, “is the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge’s journey, and it is why I love this story.”

And Beutner’s interpretation pushes beyond the traditional arc of Scrooge’s transformation.

“Too often, when we see A’ Christmas Carol,’ Scrooge is depicted as a man who changes only once he sees his fate and solely to save his own skin,” he said. “My intention was to show a man who changes for the better because of his desire to save others with the wealth he has accumulated.”

That humanity, Beutner said he hopes, is what will resonate most deeply with audiences.

“I have not learned much in my life thus far,” he said, “but it is worth remembering the inconvenient, inescapable, obvious truth that helping only ourselves is bad and helping others is good.”

For Beutner, apathy — not ghosts, not death, not even spiders — is the real villain.

“There is nothing in this life that I fear more than apathy,” he said. “Complete indifference to the suffering of others is worse.”

A stellar cast brings Dickens’s London to life

Anchoring the production is Jeff Meador as the iconic Ebenezer Scrooge, portraying the miserly curmudgeon whose icy heart must confront its past, present and future; and Bettsy Savage, who guides the audience through the story as the Narrator.

Joining them is a robust ensemble of Granbury favorites and rising stars:

Jacob Myers as the warm-hearted Bob Cratchit;

Ellie Kidd as the beloved Tiny Tim;

Josh Putnam as the haunting Jacob Marley;

Jacqueline Clifton as the Ghost of Christmas Past;

Luke Neumann as the jovial Ghost of Christmas Present; and

Russell Hawkins contributes triple duties as Fred, Belle’s Husband, and puppeteer for the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Ava Shields, Makenna Clark, Cara and Caleb Yeates, Ari Deming, Meghan Murray, Tom Bloss, Ethan Spudich Davis, Heather Shields, Claire Cash, Lex Hawkins and Chloe Davison round out the cast in multiple roles across Scrooge’s memories, visions and redemption.

The show features a beautifully layered ensemble that shifts through Dickens’s Victorian world, creating an immersive, bustling Christmas landscape through acting, music, movement and puppetry.

The creative team crafts the holiday magic

Behind the scenes, an extraordinary artistic staff collaborates to bring the production to life:

Director — Matt Beutner;

Assistant director — Sarah Pruetz;

Music director — Hillary Rucker;

Choreographer — Kendrick Booth;

Scenic designer — Jonah Hardt;

Head scenic artist — Reagan Deming;

Costume designer — Makenna Clark;

Hair and makeup designer/propmaster — Colton Lively;

Lighting designer — David Broberg; and

Sound designer — James Stack

From sumptuous Victorian costumes to atmospheric lighting and an emotionally rich soundscape, every detail is intentionally crafted to transport audiences straight into Dickens’s London.

Technical precision comes courtesy of Stage Manager Whitney Shearon, Assistant Stage Manager Leslie Clark and a dedicated crew of builders, painters and backstage hands who transform the opera house’s stage into a snowy, candlelit world of memory and hope.

Come experience the spirit of the season

Whether you’ve seen countless adaptations or this is your first time meeting Scrooge, the ghosts and the Cratchit family, GTC’s holiday production promises warmth, laughter, heart and a renewed belief in compassion.

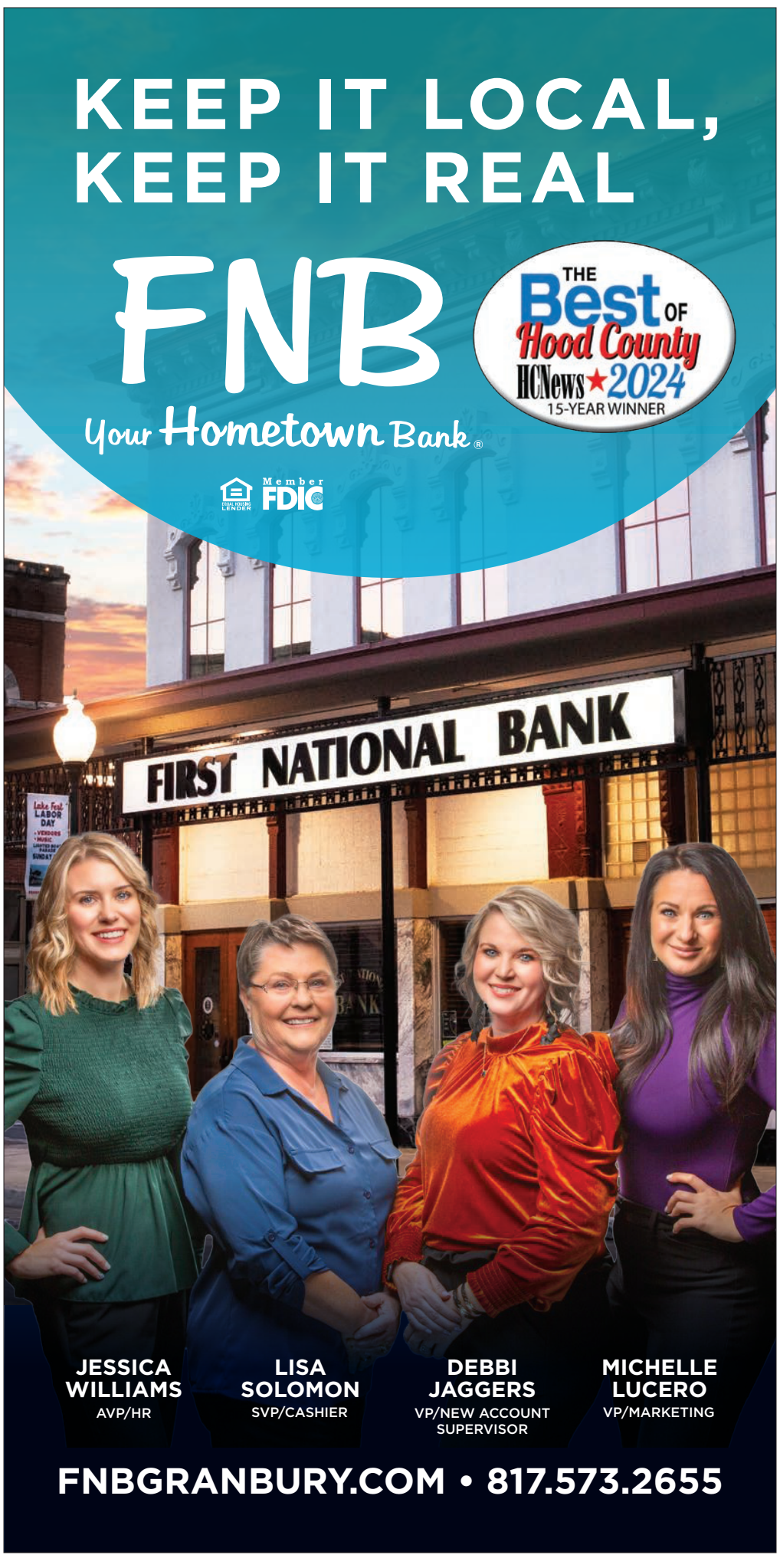
This is a Christmas tradition worth sharing — with children, with parents, with visiting relatives or simply with someone who needs a joyful night at the theater.

A Christmas Carol runs Dec. 5-23 at the Historic Granbury Opera House with special Thursday night and Sunday night performances added to accommodate holiday audiences.

Tickets are available at granburytheatrecompany.org or by calling 817-579-0952.

Don’t wait — holiday shows at the opera house sell quickly and this is one you’ll want to experience before Christmas morning arrives.





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SAME PAPER
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Disappointment inevitable; discouragement a choice



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.

When I was perhaps 8 or 9 years old, Shriner's Circus came to town. This was the early 1960s and so I think the event was a lot bigger deal than how it would be viewed today. Afterall, we didn't have cable television, PlayStation, X-Box or the Internet and so the allure of a circus was a pretty big thing to a young boy.

I was so young that I wasn't absolutely sure what a circus was. My understanding from my older sister was there would be clowns, trapeze artists, some really cool animals and everyone would be all dressed up in costumes. There also would be hot dogs, popcorn and something called cotton candy which I had previously never experienced. I did understand it was an adventure I certainly wanted to be a part of.

My dad was a hardworking man and came from a background where money was simply not spent on frivolities like going to a circus. Not saying that dad wanted to deny his kids, but he was working night and day to keep food on the table and clothes on our back. He did not see the need to spend money on something unnecessary like going to the circus. It made no sense to him. He was a no-frills sort of guy and according to grandma, he was even that way when he was a kid. I think it has something to do with growing up during the depression.

My mom was a different story. She wanted us kids to experience everything we could, but she was frugal enough that she knew she should stay within the family budget. As I grew older, I came to understand she went without many things for herself to make sure her kids got better than just the necessities of life. She was that kind of a woman. Maybe I didn't know it at the time, but as I grew older and realized what she had done, it made me love her even more.

When my sisters and I asked mom if there was even a possibility of attending the circus, she commented on how expensive the tickets were, and she was not sure if we could afford it, but she "would see."

Being told she "would see" was "mom talk" and could mean a variety of things. It might mean she already had decided not to do something and was simply getting us kids out of her hair until she was in the right frame of mind to tell us, "No." On the other hand, it might mean she had to do some serious thinking and how she could make it happen. My 8-year-old self could not decipher which way she might be leaning on this occasion, but I knew enough not to pester her and to simply wait until she decided.

Much to my joy, a couple of days later Mom announced she had bought tickets to the circus for her and us three kids. Dad respectfully declined to attend. In the back of my mind, I sort of knew there only had been enough money for four tickets and so dad stayed home so us kids could go. Not sure where the money came from that paid for the tickets, but I did notice we ate considerably more spaghetti marinara the next couple of weeks and there was an absence of things like store bought cookies or treats.

On the day of the circus, I woke up wondering with excitement what time we would leave home and go to the fairgrounds. The day could not pass fast enough. About noon, I noticed it started to cloud up outside. I never gave it much thought, but as the afternoon got later, the skies started looking angry. By the time we should be leaving to go it was a full out deluge, raining so furiously it was hard to see the other side of the road from the bay window in the front room.

Mom then made an announcement that made my heart sink lower than I thought possible. The rain and lightning were so fierce that the radio had proclaimed the circus was canceled for the evening.

I was mortified. I had been so excited to see my first circus that the disappointment overwhelmed me. I remember stomping my feet and wanting to lash out at whomever controlled the weather. Then my sweet mother came up beside me, led me to the sofa and sat down.

In a very calm voice, she explained to me that life would be full of disappointment. She went on to make clear that sometimes disappointments happen and all we can do is go on. Being upset did not cure anything; it only made the situation worse.

Admittedly, I was so young I did not really grasp the totality of the lesson my mother was trying to teach me, but here all these years later, her voice still echoes in my brain. There have been a lot of disappointments that entered my world since that day, and I have always tried to remember what mom told me. Appreciate and celebrate all things in life and the disappointments won't seem to be nearly as catastrophic.

Thought for the day: Disappointments are inevitable; discouragement is a choice. Charles Stanley.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HALLELUJAH, THE LIGHTS ARE BACK

We all have missed the light strings that stretched from the star atop the courthouse to the four corners of the square. There was something magical about them every Christmas season. The magic is back! (Cue the hallelujah chorus).

We learned of their return and the reason for their absence in a Hood County News article a few weeks back. We were filled with anticipation at the news. We made regular visits to the square for indications that the installation was underway. Last week while driving down Pearl Street we saw lift equipment in the courthouse parking lot and men with hard hats moving into action. The anticipation became palpable.

We drove around the square several times after the official lighting. They truly are back. Things seem back in balance. They once again will delight residents and visitors alike with joy.

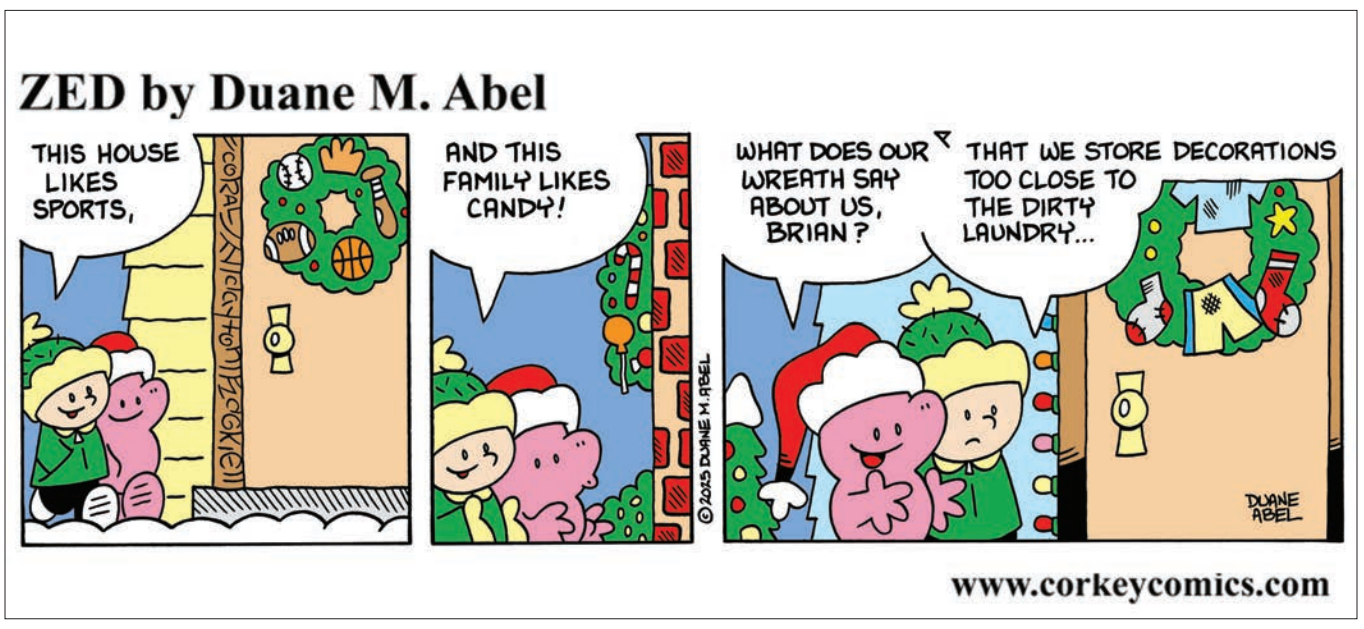
A huge "Thank You" to every person that had a part in finding a path to make it happen. It would have been easiest to conclude it was no longer feasible due to the safety concerns, But not ya'll. You found a solution that addressed the safety issues and brought the strands of light back. Every smile and every twinkle in eyes will be an expression of gratitude for your efforts.

We have the best town square there is thanks to efforts like this one.

David S. Shaw
Granbury

Submit your Letters to the Editor

HCNEWS.COM/FORMS/LETTERS



Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Say hello to our neighbor Ty and Tracie Harper!

Although not Granbury natives, Ty and Tracie Harper have called Granbury their hometown since 1995.

"We were a young family. It was time to get out of Fort Worth, and we had a wish list. We wanted an old house, a small community where our boys could grow up feeling safe and make lifelong friends, and a commutable distance to Fort Worth". They chose Granbury and moved out here, not knowing a single soul.

"We looked at so many houses in so many small towns. This old house needed paint; the yard was a mess; the inside was weird; and it was perfect. I could picture raising my babies here. I knew I was home." The Harpers have lovingly refurbished and maintained their 1940s home for 30 years.

Throughout the years, the Harpers have been involved in church, schools, the boys' sports, civic and nonprofit organizations, the chamber of commerce ... well, the community.

Ty commuted for years but now works locally. Tracie recently retired from Daffan Cooling and Heating to start her own sales and leadership coaching business. She also serves on the board of directors and as co-chair of the Women in Business Committee for the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

The boys, Nic and Dillon, grew up here, making memories and lifelong friends in their small hometown. Tracie's parents and sister's family relocated to Granbury, soon after. Tracie said, "The cousins went to school together, played together, and had friends together. They grew up more like siblings than cousins. It was wonderful."

She also reiterated, "As sure as I was back then about our decision, we could never have imagined the life we would build here, the friends we would make, the opportunities we would have. Parties, Decker gym, parades, Pirate stadium, the drive-in, the square, backyard weddings, grandbabies playing in the same places their daddies did ... the heartbreak, the joy, the mess of living, it has all been lived here. And there's so much more to come. We are incredibly grateful."

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OBITUARIES

Bonnie Laurel Ledbetter Welsh
1942 – 2025



Born Bonnie Laurel Ledbetter, Laurel passed away at the Westmore Senior Living nursing home Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, at the age of 83 in Fort Worth, Texas. Laurel was born in Athens, Texas, July 25, 1942, in Henderson County. Her parents were Robert Herschel Ledbetter and Dorothy Wyche Ledbetter.

Laurel graduated from Athens High School in 1960 and from the University of North Texas in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Laurel's first teaching job was in Corpus Christi, Texas. She taught in Corpus until her application to join the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Pacific was accepted. Laurel wanted to see the world and to educate the children of American servicemen and women stationed at military installations in the Pacific theater.

Laurel moved to Okinawa, Japan, in 1965, where she met her future husband, William Brendan "Bill" Welsh. Laurel and Bill were married in Okinawa in 1966. Bill worked at a three-letter federal government agency and was stationed around the world. Laurel lived her dream and taught in Taipei, Taiwan; Upper Heyford, England; Monrovia, Liberia; and Sterling, Virginia. Laurel left teaching and spent the final 10 years of her career as a customer service representative for the United Services Automobile Association (USAA). Laurel retired in 1996, and she and Bill retired to Granbury, Texas, in 1998.

Laurel enjoyed Bible study, exercise, playing bridge, gardening, and any social events with her many friends. Laurel never met a stranger. Laurel was preceded in death by her parents Robert Herschel Ledbetter and Dorothy Wyche Ledbetter, her sister Frances Welch and brother-in-law James Welch, and her husband Bill Welsh and her son Brendan Welsh. Laurel is survived by her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson, Mark, Christina, and Connor Welsh, as well as daughter-in-law Carol and grandchildren PJ, Colleen, Molly and Bridget Welsh.

Services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, Texas 76049.

James Paul Holdren Jr.
1969 – 2025

James Paul Holdren Jr., 56, passed away Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025, surrounded by his family at Heart to Heart Hospice House in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jim was born Oct. 16, 1969, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to James and Marjorie Holdren. He spent his early childhood in Southern California, his school years in Palisade, Colorado, and his high-school years in Central Point, Oregon. He graduated from Crater High School in 1988.

While living in Oregon, Jim worked as a landscaper for 11 years. In 2005, he moved to Tolar, Texas, and worked at Hidden Oaks Golf Course for two years. In 2009, he began his long and joyful employment with Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose, Texas. In 2021, he made his home in DeCordova, Texas.

Jim loved people, and he shared his smile with everyone he met. He enjoyed going to church and lighting the candles, bowling, landscaping, puzzles, dancing, music, fishing, and building with LEGO. His greatest passion, however, was golf. Tuesdays and Thursdays were especially meaningful to him — you could always find him playing in the DeCordova scrambles. He took great pride in his work as a range-ball picker at Squaw Valley, bringing joy to golfers every day. Jim never met a stranger.

He is survived by his parents, Marjorie and Fred Smith; sisters, Susan Porter of Medford, Oregon, and Judy Shea of DeCordova, Texas; stepsister, Chandra Leeper of Aurora, Colorado; and stepbrother Chet Smith of Castle Rock, Colorado. He also leaves behind five nieces, eight nephews, and countless great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

Jim was preceded in death by his father,



James Paul Holdren, and his sister, Sandra Lynn Holdren Jones.

Visitation: Thursday, Dec. 4, at Wiley Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. Funeral service: Friday, December 5, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home, followed by burial at Acton Cemetery in Acton, Texas. Celebration of life: 3 p.m. at the DeCordova Clubhouse for all friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the DeCordova Bend Estates Jr. Golf Program. These contributions will provide scholarships to ensure all youth interested in golf can enjoy the game, in memory of Jim Holdren.

Please send donations to:
DCBE Country Club
5301 Country Club Drive
Granbury, TX 76049

Lawrence Jack Levine
1932 – 2025

Lawrence Jack Levine, 93, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, passed away peacefully Nov. 24, 2025. Born in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Aug. 1, 1932, Larry lived a long, rich, and adventure-filled life defined by family, service, and a lifelong love of the outdoors.

Larry grew up in Pennsylvania and throughout his life called many places home, including Pennsylvania, Texas and Arkansas. He graduated from Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania, where he was a proud member of the 1953 National Championship Wrestling Team. A dedicated professional, Larry earned his CPA license and went on to serve as county auditor for both Hood and Parker County, near Fort Worth, Texas. His career also included leadership roles in Pittsburgh, where he worked for West Realty and served as VP/CFO of Levinson Steel. An entrepreneur at heart, he later became the proprietor of a marina in Palo Pinto, Texas.

Larry married the love of his life, Sharon "Shari" McAllister, with whom he shared a partnership, laughter and devotion.

He cherished his family deeply. He was the beloved father of Liane Jerdan (husband Michael), Sheri Levine-Everett, Cindy Dixon (husband Jerry), and Chris Levine (wife Amanda).

He took immense pride in his role as grandfather to Michael, Dustin, Christie, Jenna and Cate, and as great-grandfather to Jace, Anna, Haygen, Calluna, Avery and Indie.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Sylvia Levine as well as his sister, Arlane Horewitz.

A man of many passions, Larry was an instrument-rated pilot who found joy and freedom in the sky, flying his own Cessna airplanes. He embraced the outdoors, especially skiing, boating and motorcycle riding. He loved animals and had several dogs throughout his life, which were very special to him. His current Havanese (Barkley) and Sheltie (Finley) will miss him terribly. Larry's interests reflected his spirited and adventurous nature, which stayed with him all his life



Larry had a special way of connecting with his family. He called it the "toothpick talks". The idea was during special walks, each person had a toothpick in their mouth, much like grown men do. And the talks were all about life relationships, or any subject. Much knowledge was gained during these walks, along with a very special bond.

Those who knew Larry will remember his amazing quick wit and humor that always kept us laughing. Even at 93, he had a sharp mind, strong work ethic, warm presence, and the unwavering love for his family. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched.

He will be profoundly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Hot Springs Village Animal Welfare League
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hsvawl.org
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Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary.

The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Generosity meets strategy with tax-savvy donations

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser


Chad Carroll

Giving to charity feels good, but understanding the tax benefits can benefit both the charity and you. Whether you donate regularly or are planning your first gift, knowing how charitable tax deductions work can help you make informed decisions while supporting causes you care about. Here are things to consider:

The basics: Itemizing vs. standard deduction. To benefit from charitable tax deductions, you need to itemize your deductions on your tax return. Everyone automatically receives a standard deduction, which in 2025 is $31,500 for married couples filing jointly or $15,750 for single filers. You'll only benefit from itemizing if your total deductions, including charitable gifts, exceed these amounts.

For many people, charitable donations alone won't push them above the standard deduction threshold. However, when combined with other deductible expenses like mortgage interest or state and local taxes, itemizing can make financial sense.

If you give regularly but don't usually exceed the standard deduction, consider "stacking" your donations. Instead of donating $5,000 annually, you might donate $15,750 in one year to exceed the itemization threshold, then take the standard deduction in subsequent years.

Ensure your donation qualifies. To claim a deduction, you must give to a qualified charitable organization recognized by the IRS. You can verify an organization's status on the IRS website or ask the charity for their determination letter. Donations to individuals, even those in need, don't qualify for tax deductions.

Additionally, you can't receive personal benefits in exchange for your donation. If you give $500 to a charity but receive concert tickets worth $200, your deductible amount is only $300.

How much can you deduct? The IRS limits charitable deductions based on your adjusted gross income (AGI). For cash donations to public charities, you can typically deduct up to 60 percent of your AGI. If you donate stocks or other appreciated assets you've held for more than a year, the limit is generally 30 percent of your AGI.

If your donation exceeds these limits in a single year, you can carry forward the unused portion for up to five years.

What to donate. Think strategically about what you donate. While cash is easiest, donating appreciated stocks can provide additional tax benefits since you avoid paying capital gains taxes on the investment's growth.

Keep good records. Documentation matters. For donations under $250, a canceled check or receipt works fine. Cash donations of $250 or more need written acknowledgment from the charity. For larger noncash donations of property exceeding $5,000 in value, the IRS requires a qualified written appraisal. Keep these records with your tax documents in case the IRS requests proof. See IRS Publication No. 526 and No. 561 for information on charitable contributions and valuing donated property.

The bottom line: Charitable giving may start with your heart, but understanding the tax implications helps you give more effectively. Work with a tax professional and a financial advisor to develop a giving strategy that aligns with both your charitable goals and financial situation. With thoughtful planning, you can maximize both your impact on causes you care about and the tax benefits you receive.

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Commissioners hear road, jail bond updates

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Three weeks after voters approved plans to improve local roads and expand the Hood County Jail, the Hood County Commissioners Court heard an update Nov. 25 on the next step to make those plans a reality.

Representatives from Innovative Transportation Solutions and DRG Architects talked about what county leaders will need to focus on in terms of decisions. A representative from Hilltop Securities talked about funding the projects.

John Pollster, of Transportation Solutions, presented handouts to the commissioners and said Hood County leaders will need to meet with Texas Department of Transportation personnel to determine priorities and estimated costs for the first phases of each road project.

Commissioners approved an agreement with the jail architects, DRG, by a 3-2 vote, with County Judge Ron Massingill, Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson voting in favor. Voting against the measure were Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, who expressed some concerns with parts of the reimbursement plan for DRG, and Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle.

Eagle said he thought ITS was "Going to help us through the first phase and then we were going to go out for bids, or did I misunderstand that?"

Andrews said, "We've already hired an architect for this, is that not correct?"

"Until the bond was passed, we don't go through the next step," County Purchasing Agent Glenn Tilleman said, adding if commissioners went through the bidding process now, "You'd be starting from scratch."

DRG's Wayne Gondeck said the county did go through a selection process in 2024.

"I did not perceive the need to go through the selection process again and not move forward," he said. "I believe at one point a contract was brought to the court, but we do not have a contract to move forward at this point.

"The court does have the authority to issue an RFQ (request for qualifications) to open it up again. I hope y'all don't do that. We've spent a lot of time on this," Gondeck said.

Massingill said he appreciates the work DRG has done so far.

"Y'all helped us get to this point," he said.

Samuelson raised some concerns regarding reimbursement items for DRG.

"I want to make it clear regarding the design for communications — is it the responsibility of Hood County to determine this?" Samuelson asked.

"As far as specifications, your actual phone system and devices, we leave that to the county," Gondeck said.

"I want to be clear on what's our responsibility. I want to be sure the IT department is in the loop that they'll be responsible for this," Samuelson said.

"Most of the time, (communication equipment) is not in the bond for 20 years when the equipment is obsolete in five years," Gondeck said. "That's a county responsibility.

Samuelson then asked about furniture, furnishings and equipment design.

"We are providing all the fixed detention furniture going to the jail, not for administrative offices," Gondeck said. "The design of furniture is included, the furniture will be provided by the contractor."

The measure was approved by the 3-2 vote.

The contract with DRG calls for the expansion of the jail to accommodate at least 353 inmates, with the possibility of it housing up to 385.

The fee proposal from DRG was for $1.76 million for basic services, $412,000 for supplemental services and $70,000 for reimbursable expenses. The supplemental services include work by civil engineers, geotechnical engineers, surveyors and an environmental engineer, as well as a fire safety engineer.

This contract is based on an anticipated start date on or before Jan. 1, 2026. The design phase is expected to be 6-9 months, with completion of construction expected in early 2028.

Jim Sabonis with Hilltop Securities gave an overview of financing for the bond packages.

"The next step is to know what you want to fund this year," he said. "The first phase is to manage your tax rate between now and June or July. The reason to do this in phases is to reduce the impact on the county, and you couldn't build every road at the same time."

He commended the county for having a AAA financial rating in four of five categories, "And the only one that is AA is something you can't control that is based on state requirements."

Sabonis said the expectation is for a June 2026 bond sale with closing in July 2025, "and then two months for the money to be available."

Eagle said the county is scheduled to have its debt paid off in February 2026 or March 2026, with the budget cycle starting in May or June.

"We're looking at 3.5 to 4 cents (per $100 property value for the tax rate) and staying pretty close to where we are," Eagle said. "We've got a good shot if we manage this correctly; it won't affect the rate that will be charged to taxpayers."

City employees rewarded with a chili cookoff

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The second annual City of Granbury chili cookoff was a success Dec. 2 at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center. Chili, Fritos, cornbread and cheese were available for city workers to enjoy and stay warm.

Granbury's City Employee Development Group organized the event. They are a team made up of staff from multiple departments.

"Their role is to create activities that strengthen teamwork, encourage collaboration and help build a positive, supportive workplace culture across the organization," said Jeff Newpher, city of Granbury Communications manager.

City employees entered the cookoff with their own chili and dessert creations for judges to examine and determine who should go home with a first-, second- or third-place finish.

"The cookoff is all about bringing city employees together. It offers a fun, friendly competition and gives staff a chance to share their talents outside their day-to-day work. Most importantly, it helps employees from all different departments connect and enjoy a lunch time together," Newpher said.

This year's cookoff was well attended and showed exciting growth in its second year. There were 12 chili teams and about 110 city staff members enjoying the event.

2025 City of Granbury Chili Cookoff results

1st Place: Dana Richard — Building Inspections Department

2nd Place: Zac Anderson — Police Department

3rd Place: Chad Williamson — Building Maintenance Department



PHOTOS BY **JAXON HANSARD** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Louis Trejo (right) serves some of his chili entry Dec. 2 to Granbury city workers looking for some lunch.



Chili Cookoff judges make their decision on which chili should take home the first-place medal from the compeititon Dec. 2.



Granbury City workers enjoy the hot chili and warm conference room Dec. 2 at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS & NOTES

Chamber sets two ribbon-cuttings

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce staff perhaps was still drying out from the parade-night storm and had just one event this past week. However, they will get back on track with two events Dec. 11-12.

This Week

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce held a groundbreaking Wednesday, Dec. 3 for the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, 805 Lipan Hwy.

NEXT WEEK

9 a.m. Thursday, December 11 — Coffee and Connections at Harbor Lakes Golf Club. The chamber asks for attendees to register if they are planning on attending because seating is limited.

5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 — ribbon cutting at Pinnacle Bank.

A step in the right direction

Team Granbury raises $1,200 for Alzheimer's research

BY CHLOE LAING
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When Kim Lewis' mother, Shirley Thornton Anderson, died last year from complications caused by Alzheimer's, she knew she had to step up and advocate for others battling the devastating disease. This year, she led a charge for Alzheimer's research by leading Team Granbury in the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's on Nov. 15.

Walk to End Alzheimer's is a nationwide event orchestrated by the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness and research funding.

Team Granbury participated in Fort Worth's Walk to End Alzheimer's event, held at The Shops at Clearfork. Together, the team raised more than $1,200 in donations for the association.

Team Granbury is making plans to keep striving for more Alzheimer's advocacy.

"It's our plan to grow the walk. It's our plan to continue for Team Granbury to have a presence every year at the walk," Lewis said. "It's also our plan that we will do one big Hood County event every year."

Alzheimer's became personal for Lewis in 2024.

"We lost our mom in 2024 to Alzheimer's," Lewis said. "She was known to everyone in Granbury as Shirley Thornton of Shirley's Total Concepts, a physical therapy practice on Bridge Street from the 1980s through the 1990s. There, she cared for many of our veterans and our elderly population. We lost her last year; she had the onset of dementia as it progressed into Alzheimer's."

Team Granbury was comprised of 14 members of the Hood County community, many of whom had either lost a loved one to Alzheimer's or currently are acting as a victim's caretaker. For Team Granbury, the Walk to End Alzheimer's is a true labor of love.

"It was bittersweet. Obviously, a lot of memories and a lot of stories," Lewis said. "Almost everybody who walked are caregivers. I've lost my mom, but there are many who walk who are still active caregivers. They're caring for their parents or in some of our walkers' cases, even siblings."

According to Lewis, the sense of community she felt from participating among individuals who had lived through the same experience as her was nearly as impactful to her as honoring her mother's legacy.

"I went to honor my mom, but I've gotten such a blessing from the other stories as well," Lewis said. "It's wonderful to be connected to people who have shared in, and are still sharing in, the same experience."

Lewis said she felt Alzheimer's advocacy is especially important in Hood County, where 60 percent of the population is elderly.

"Statistically, and this is from the Alzheimer's Association, one in three seniors will die of some form of dementia or Alzheimer's," Lewis said. "Granbury, if you look at the demographics of Granbury, 60 percent of the population is what we would call our senior citizens. You know, it's a retirement community."

While this was the first event Lewis has orchestrated on behalf of Granbury's fight against Alzheimer's, she already has more plans for aid coming down the pike.

This coming spring, Lewis' goal is to host "Serving for a Cause," a tennis/pickleball benefit event for Alzheimer's that will dually serve as a resource fair for Alzheimer's caretakers.

"It will be a benefit, an Alzheimer's benefit, but we hope to have many vendors there that people can reach out to receive some education from, so they are better equipped and enabled to continue as caregivers," Lewis said.

For more information about Walk to End Alzheimer's or how you can help with the upcoming benefit, contact Lewis at 817-228-3924.





COURTESY PHOTO

Team Granbury represented the local area in the Fort Worth Walk to End Alzheimer's event, raising more than $1,200 for the Alzheimer's Association.

Granbury's newest youth baseball league steps up to the plate

BY MICKY SHEARON
micky@hcnews.com

Granbury resident Joe Jones has worn many hats in his life — U.S. Navy veteran, construction professional, nonprofit founder, coach, husband and dad — but his newest title might be the most exciting yet: founder of the Granbury Youth Baseball Association (GYBA).

For Jones, the organization represents something more meaningful than forming baseball teams. It's about strengthening the roots of the community he's called home since 2007.

"I moved to Hood County when I got out of the Navy, and I've been here ever since," Jones said. "Hood County has been home for a long time, and it's important to me to give back to the community that's given so much to my family."

Jones' drive for service runs deep. Whether through his military career, his work in construction or his years coaching youth sports, he's always found purpose in building things — not just structures, but confidence, opportunity and community.

"I'm someone who believes deeply in service, community and creating opportunities for kids," he said. "I've always been driven by the idea of building strong foundations and helping others grow."

That belief is the backbone of everything Jones does. He recently launched Play It Forward Fitness, a local nonprofit that introduces youth to fitness fundamentals, builds their confidence and helps them find joy in staying active. The program grew quickly — and so did the understanding that many of the children wanted more.

"As Play It Forward Fitness grew, it became clear that many of these kids needed a place where they could continue developing — especially those who wanted to play baseball," Jones said. "That realization showed us there was a gap in our community, and it played a big role in inspiring us to form GYBA so these kids had a place to grow, learn and thrive."

That gap — the lack of a structured, development-focused recreational baseball option — is one many Granbury families have felt. Jones said he's seen firsthand how recreational sports programs have struggled across communities, leaving parents feeling stuck between limited recreational opportunities and expensive travel-ball commitments.

"There's nothing wrong with travel ball; it has its place," he said. "But we believe rec baseball should still offer strong competition, great coaching, structure and real development. Our goal with GYBA is to raise the bar so families don't feel forced to leave their community or spend thousands of dollars just to give their child a chance."



COURTESY PHOTO

Regardless of skill level, young players are taught the basics and fundamentals of catching, throwing, baserunning and hitting, organizer Joe Jones says about the newly formed Granbury Youth Baseball League.

With that mission in mind, GYBA was born — a local, community-first baseball league focused on fairness, safety, development and keeping baseball fun.

"What sets GYBA apart is our commitment to safety, structure and genuine player development," Jones said. "Our motto is simple: 'Is this what's best for the kids?' Every decision runs through that filter."

Raising the bar isn't just a slogan for GYBA. The organization has implemented some of the most comprehensive coaching standards in the area. All coaches must pass a seven-year background check, obtain CPR/

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | A10

LIGHTS
FROM PAGE A1

faces when everybody comes to town and walks through the parks," McLain said. "That's why we do it — for people to enjoy."

In addition to the lights in Shanley Park, the Night of Lights Parade also includes the iconic lights that stretch from the top of the courthouse to the four corners of the square.

According to Deputy City Manager Michael Ross, these began to be hung in 2009, but after the process of hanging them was determined to be too dangerous for city staff to continue, these lights took a three-year sabbatical from Granbury's light lineup.

"The electrical department had performed the installation of the lights from the top of the courthouse to each corner, and in time, it just became evident that was not the safest way to be performing that installation," Ross said.

However, Ross received numerous complaints from the community, begging for the return of the lights, driving the city to search for a safe solution.

"It was decided about three years ago now that we needed to pursue professional contractors to do those installations and make sure they were installed properly so they can just be left up," Ross said.

The solution was found in Cobb Fendley. The structural engineering firm worked alongside the city to implement a new system for the courthouse lights — a permanent structure of steel cables anchored in a beam atop the courthouse, which would safely support the weight of the string of bulbs and remain in place year-round.

"They (Cobb Fendley) came out and did the installation of the beam and connected the four cables to the courthouse," Ross said. "We purchased those cables —the city and county together did that purchase, and then once everything was strong and connected, that's when our electric department took the four cables that were dangling at first and stretched them and connected them to the four corners. Then the Christmas light contractor came last week and did their installation of the lights themselves on those cables."

The project cost the city $130,000, including the $50,000 donation from the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council for the Christmas light contractors.

The work concluded a week before the 2025 Night of Lights Parade, which was to be held Nov. 28. While the parade may have been rained out, the lights still proudly returned to the square at promptly 6 p.m. to the joy of the crowd.

"That's what it was all about — restoring that very tradition," Ross said. "People have really said they miss that key component of the Christmas tradition here on the square. And so, bringing that back is just really joyful. Seeing the expressions on all of the attendees' faces last Friday evening, even though it was beginning to rain, was still something to behold."



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lights illuminate across Granbury's Shanley Park thanks to the work of Granbury's parks and recreation staff.

FIRE
FROM PAGE A1

month extension," Hohon said. "There is a huge backlog on apparatus production. The manufacturer puts trucks into production and you're going to be picking a truck already slotted for production."

He said that would reduce the wait time by 8-12 months.

Councilmember Bruce Wadley asked if the grant required that the apparatus purchased be "brand new."

He was told that was part of the requirements, as well as a storage capacity of at least 1,000 gallons of water.

"We appreciate your leadership, chief," Coffman told Hohon. "You guys are volunteers — that's incredible."

Hohon reciprocated.

"We appreciate the support of the city. We can't thank you enough for the support you give us," he said.

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James Brock Legacy Thanksgiving Dinner returns

BY CHLOE LAING
Chloe@hcnews.com

Thanksgiving morning, friends of James Brock and his family carried his memory into the holiday season by organizing another year of the James Brock Legacy Thanksgiving Dinner, a free feast open to the entire Hood County community.

In 2016, local restaurateur James Brock began his annual Thanksgiving dinner as a way to pursue his true passion — giving back to his community.

The goal of this event was to gather the community together and partake in a little "meanin' of the season" – providing meals and company for anyone who might need it on Thanksgiving.

Brock himself carried this Thanksgiving legacy from 2016 until he passed away from cancer in 2024.

Following his death, his closest family and friends, the Crawfords, the Beckers, the Taylors and more of Brock's loved ones knew they had to keep his legacy alive through the holiday season and continue to care for the community as he would have.

"He always wanted to help people, and this is one of his favorite ways to do it. I think Thanksgiving was always his favorite holiday, and this was something he always put a lot of work into organizing, and so now we're putting a lot of work into organizing it too," organizer Jordan Becker said.

So, for the past two years, they've assembled the usual suspects with one goal in mind — to feed more than 1,000 Granbury area residents some fresh, hot turkey with all the best fixings.

The feast is available in three formats: attendees are invited to partake together at the Hood County Reunion Grounds, pick up a to-go feast bag for however many members of their family they need to feed, or by having a meal hand-delivered to their door by one of the feast's organizers.

According to Becker, 275 people ate in at the grounds, 225 picked up meals on-site and more than 300 people had meals delivered.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The community gatheres at the Hood County Reunion Grounds for fellowship and a free Thanksgiving feast.

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Organizer Brian Crawford serves one of the hundreds of visitors to the James Brock Legacy Thanksgiving Dinner.

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Forward Training Center congratulates 2025 fall graduates

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

The 12 graduates of the Fall 2025 Forward Training Program Jobs for Life class completed the final step of their eight-week journey when they walked across their graduation stage Nov. 14 at the First Christian Church in Granbury.

Jobs for Life classes are geared toward providing underprivileged adults in the community with the resources and skills they need to acquire and hold a stable job so they can establish a more fruitful future.

The class is one of eight programs offered by the Forward Training Center in hopes of transforming Hood County communities through education, collaboration and hope.

One student, Starla Young, realized this end goal through the Forward Training program. Because of the course, she was able to develop her professional skills and network with fellow Forward Training participants and employees, securing her an administrative assistant position within the organization.

"When I started there, I was just kind of in my shell," Young said. "I was really reserved and kind of held back and wasn't sure of anything. But when I got there, everyone was so lovely and so nice. It pulled me out of that shell and let me know it's okay to make friends, to move forward, to get yourself a career, and to get out there and be somebody."

According to class instructor Susan Bandemer, who has been instructing the class for the last two years, this graduating class came the furthest, bonded the most and achieved beyond her expectations.

"This class, by far, has been the best class," Bandemer said. "I've seen the transformation from when they first walked in, and how they participated in the class, how they became a team, and that, to me, was very heartfelt, and I'm so proud of them. That means I did my job, and that means that they heard the words, heard the lectures, and they said they wanted to change, and they did, and they were a phenomenal class. Each and every one of them grew."

According to Bandemer, of the 12 students, more than half of them had received jobs by graduation.

Young left her classmates and readers one final comment.

"Just keep moving forward and always look up," she said.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Each member of the class had to pick a word to focus on during the course. Graduate Starla Young chose the word "hopeful."

LEOs: Vaping a widespread hazard

CDC says teens especially face greater risks

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

What started out as an alternative to smoking and was once billed as a safer option has grown much more common and is sometimes considered a bigger health threat.

Local law enforcement leaders say vaping is a huge problem in Hood County.

"It's a big problem right now here and across the state," Granbury Police Chief Mitch Galvan said. "The Texas Police Chiefs Association worked to ban all (vaping products) that contain THC (a primary ingredient of marijuana). We thought we were going to get that done. The legislature supported it, but the governor refused to sign the bill, which was disappointing.

"That's a huge thing that we see every day in schools. They get these from vape shops that sell them and say it's legal," he said.

Galvan said regulating what vape shops sell and the ingredients of those products is difficult.

"Sometimes they say that the ingredients are legal when the ingredients in the vape are way above the legal limit (for THC). There's little to no regulation of it. That's causing a major problem in our schools and for police departments," Galvan said.

Deputy Police Chief Garett Wiginton said students arrested for possessing vape materials on campus face significant charges, which are compounded if the product contains THC.

"The sad thing for kids is it's a felony offense," Wiginton said. "They may think it's just tobacco when it contains THC. They are then put in juvenile detention with a felony for the vape when they may not have known it contained THC.

"We are down at the high school a couple times a week taking kids to juvenile detention for a vaping charge," he said.

Galvan said those using the vape devices often are unaware of what they are consuming.

"The thing that gets me is sometimes these kids don't have any idea what's in the vapes. The ingredients of the vape can be worse than cigarettes.

"People are finding different ways to do narcotics without the smell or having to carry around baggies full of weed. Instead, they use vapes or gummies or whatever," Galvan said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said no tobacco products are safe, including e-cigarettes. Most contain nicotine, which is addictive.

The CDC said aerosol from vapes contains harmful substances and flavorings and chemicals in vapes contain cancer-causing ingredients.

Addiction to vaping also is a threat to people's mental health, especially teens, according to the CDC.

"The most common reason middle and high school students give for currently using e-cigarettes is, 'I am feeling anxious, stressed, or depressed,'" the CDC website reads. "Nicotine addiction or withdrawal can contribute to these feelings or make them worse. Youth may use tobacco products to relieve their symptoms, which can lead to a cycle of nicotine addiction."

The CDC also reports there have been more than 2,800 deaths and serious lung injuries caused by vaping.

Johns Hopkins University Medicine also reports vaping is linked to heart disease in addition to chronic lung disease and asthma.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vaping is a health concern as well as a legal concern, especially for students.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) said, "Many teens vape because of flavoring, taste and curiosity. They also vape because they think vaping is less harmful (than smoking. They do not realize that the nicotine in one vape pod or cartridge is equal to 30 cigarettes, making it extremely addictive)."

TDSHS said teens also may vape to deal with stress or anxiety or because of peer pressure.

Vape ingredients "contain 31-plus chemicals, including cancer-causing chemicals and tiny particles that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs," TDSHS said. "Some of these chemicals include formaldehyde (used to preserve dead animals), hydrogen cyanide (found in pesticides), cadmium (found in batteries), acetone (found in nail polish remover), benzene (found in gasoline) and butanoic acid (found in vomit).

"Because the teen brain is still developing, vaping presents greater risks. Vaping can harm parts of the brain that control attention, learning, memory, mood and impulse control," according to TDSHS.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department during Nov. 23-29. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.



NOV. 23

1:11 a.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 1100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

9:07 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1900 block of W. Pearl Street.

9:43 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1400 block of S. Morgan Street.

4:31 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 5300 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:49 p.m.: report of a DWI near Fall Creek Highway and Acton Highway.

7:44 p.m.: report of loud music in the 1200 block of W. Pearl Street.

9:01 p.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 2800 block of Weatherford Highway.

Police reported 66 incidents, including four major traffic accidents, one hit and run traffic accident, one minor traffic accident and 14 traffic stops.

NOV. 24

8:19 a.m.: report of shots fired in the 1000 block of N.E. Loop 567.

8:53 a.m.: report of an animal near Fall Creek Highway and Kemah Court.

9:39 a.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of E. Pearl Street.

3:11 p.m.: report of an animal in the 600 block of Meander Road.

5:16 p.m.: report of an animal noise in the 1300 block of 4th Street.

Police reported 75 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one hit and run traffic accident, three minor traffic accidents and 13 traffic stops.

NOV. 25

12:18 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 1000 block of S. Morgan Street.

7:51 a.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of E. Pearl Street.

10:08 a.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

12:48 p.m.: report of an animal in the 2000 block of W. Pearl Street.

2:14 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

3:11 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1300 block of Crawford Avenue.

4:30 p.m.: report of a parking problem in the 300 block of W. Rucker Street.

6:08 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 500 block of Parkwood Lane.

6:22 p.m.: report of fraud in the 300 block of Sardius Boulevard.

6:35 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 500 block of W. Pearl Street.

6:42 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1700 block of Swale Lane.

8:18 p.m.: report of an assault in the 600 block of Reunion Court.

9:20 p.m.: report of threats in the 1700 block of Swale Lane.

Police reported 107 incidents, including two major traffic accidents, five minor traffic accidents and 29 traffic stops.

NOV. 26

10:05 a.m.: report of identity theft in the 4400 block of Bobbie Ann Drive.

12:39 a.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 300 block of N. Crockett Street.

8:44 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1000 block of E. Pearl Street.

4:20 p.m.: report o a parking problem in the 1100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:53 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

6:19 p.m.: report of an open door in the 600 block of S. Morgan Street.

6:46 p.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 300 block of N. Crockett Street.

7:33 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

8:40 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

10:25 p.m.: K-9 sniff in the 2900 block of Glen Rose Highway.

Police reported 80 incidents, including one major traffic accident, four minor traffic accidents and 20 traffic stops.

NOV. 27

12:45 a.m.: report of an animal noise in the 1500 block of Sunflower Lane.

4:09 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 1100 block of Hill Boulevard.

11:32 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1400 block of S. Morgan Street.

2:10 p.m.: report of an animal in the 500 block of S. Baker Street.

3 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 600 block of W. Atchley Drive.

5:08 p.m.: report of loud music in the 600 block of E. Moore Street.

7:41 p.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 300 block of N. Crockett Street.

Police reported 31 incidents, including 17 traffic stops.

NOV. 28

10:22 a.m.: report of an animal in the 4200 block of Agate Drive.

11:51 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 200 block of W. Rucker Street.

1:17 p.m.: report of a parking problem in the 800 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:07 p.m.: report of road rage in the 3700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:09 p.m.: report of shots fired in the 3500 block of Abes Landing Drive.

8:33 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 100 block of S. Baker Street.

Police reported 56 incidents, including three minor traffic accidents and 28 traffic stops.

NOV. 29

1:29 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 2400 block of Lipan Highway.

2:13 a.m.: report of an open door in the 100 block of N. Lambert Street.

2:56 a.m.: K-9 sniff in the 2400 block of Lipan Highway.

2:02 p.m.: report of an animal near W. Rucker Street and N. Houston Street.

6:54 p.m.: report of an open door in the 100 block of Sandstone Circle.

8:56 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 100 block of N. Crockett Street.

10:30 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 1300 block of Paluxy Road.

Police reported 60 incidents, including one hit and run accident and 23 traffic stops.

Man dies in lake accident

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

A Granbury man was fatally injured Nov. 15 in a boating accident on Lake Granbury, according to game wardens with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Lee Shifflett, 74, is reported to have been operating his boat alone and struck an object submerged in the lake, which caused him to fall and hit his head. An EMT who responded to the accident said Shifflett was taken by medical helicopter to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, where Shifflett died.

Shifflett was a member of the U.S. Marines for more than two decades and served in Vietnam. He was active in the Masons for more than 40 years.

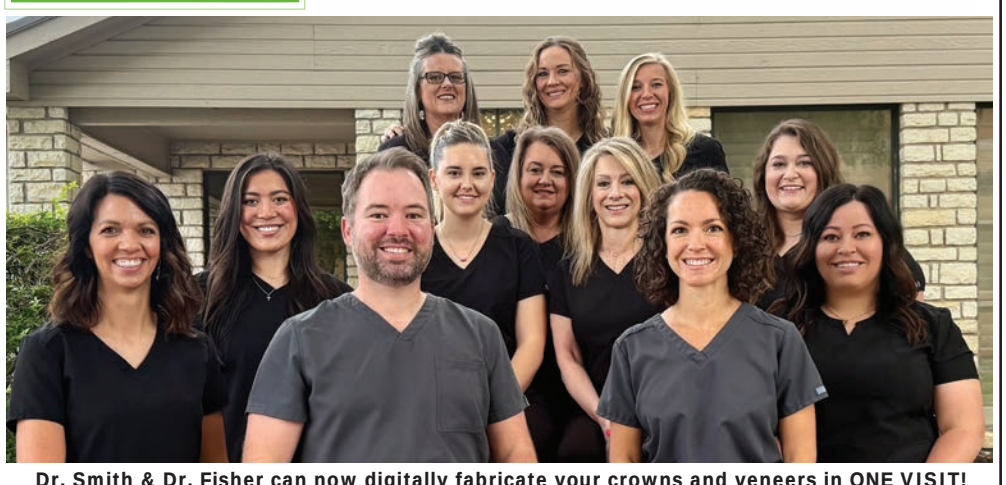
Shifflett is survived by his wife of 53 years, Cindy, as well as children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Lee Shifflett

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GISD initiates Golden Pirates program

United Way highlights public comments

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees held a community engagement meeting Dec. 1 at the GISD Administration Building to receive feedback from the public and answer any questions people had about the district .

Before public comments, GISD Superintendent Dr. Courtney Morawski gave an update on what is happening in the district. She directed the public's attention to the GISD website and talked about a new program that is listed at the top left of the webpage, Golden Pirates.

The Golden Pirates program is aimed at community members who are 55 and older, giving them an opportunity to have an impact at GISD.

The website reads: "Granbury ISD values the contributions and involvement of community members in the 55-plus age group. Superintendent Dr. Morawski invites you to join the Golden Pirates for exclusive information and opportunities about getting connected to our schools, students and community."

Those interested in joining can do so through a link on the GISD website.

Events planned for Golden Pirates include a Superintendent Social from 10-11:15 a.m. Dec. 16, which will include a performance by Granbury Middle School fine arts students; and a breakfast and campus tours from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 24, 2026.

Morawski also said more than 20 teams will participate in an upcoming basketball tournament hosted by GISD, which she said will "bring people into the community to support local businesses."

Morawski also challenged board members to "wear an ugly Christmas sweater" at the Dec. 16 board meeting.

Four community members spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Sharee Westlund said she was attending the meeting as a parent who supports public education and GISD. She said she had two positive comments and one negative concern to focus on.

While there has been some negative public reaction to GISD making Decker Gym available to the United Way, Westlund said she supports that action.

"What the United Way does for the community is good and visible, including (assisting with) the school supplies drive and Leadership Granbury," she said. "They do these things quietly without seeking credit."

She also complimented board members Calvin Lawrence, Barbara Townsend and Stuart Neal for being sworn in and for their dedication to serving the district and the community.

Westlund then turned her attention to a concern, saying one of the board members, Tim Bolton, has not fulfilled training/continuing education requirements set by the state (Texas Association of School Boards), and adding "these are not optional."

"Mr. Bolton has not completed his training requirements and is a perfect example of a consistent way to not be an example," she said.

She then asked Bolton if he had unfinished training, and Bolton said, "Yes."

"When will you complete them?" Westlund asked.

"When I do them," Bolton said.

Westlund asked if Bolton would allow school district staff also to not complete their training/continuing education requirements.

"I'm not doing this," he answered, saying he wouldn't participate in Westlund's questioning.

Board President Courtney Gore gave a brief overview of training times and said much of the training for school board members is available online through various providers.

"There's no law — nothing to force a school board member to get that training," Gore said.

Westlund asked how many training hours are required for school board members.

"Twenty in the last year," Gore said. "You can also take extra training."

Westlund said Bolton should be accountable for fulfilling the training requirements.

"The board sets the tone for the district," she said. "If we ask students to be prepared, we should do the same." She said when all board members complete their obligations, the board can operate more efficiently and effectively.

"We need to celebrate what works, address what needs to be addressed and move on," she said.

Charlotte Kuykendall spoke about GISD allowing United Way to use Decker Gym, voicing her support.

"I am a taxpayer of Granbury ISD and volunteer regularly with GISD students through different community organizations," Kuykendall said. "I appreciate how the United Way has transformed the building into a community asset." She said there are countless positive things that happen at Decker Gym because of the United Way's presence there.

Kuykendall said there are several organizations which help meet student needs that benefit by having access to the building through their partnership with the United Way.

"It helps these organizations ensure students receive the support they need," she said. "There are hands on opportunities for students to contribute to the community because of what's going on in the building. They learn about leadership and service, values that stay with them for life. Granbury ISD students are benefiting by the United Way using the building."

Kuykendall thanked GISD for making Decker Gym available to the United Way, saying by partnering with the United Way, there are church and community organizations "That carry out essential work in this building. Together, we can truly do good in the Hood."

Bret Deason also thanked GISD for making Decker Gym available to United Way,

"I've heard conspiracy theories and part of me wanted to (laugh out loud)," Deason said. "What I see going on in that building is only helping students and families. These organizations that work in the building meet community needs.

"There's a small group in the community that wants to attack (United Way), he said, adding he believes United Way is beneficial to local residents.

Crystal Moore, executive director of Hood County United Way, thanked those who showed support for her organization.

"These guys are great," she said. "There have been a lot of things online that are absolute lies about what's going on at Decker Gym. A lot of people think (United Way) is political and there's things happening that the community wouldn't want."

Moore said local United Way branches can decide what their specific community wants and needs, and she said the partnership with other local nonprofits is what makes the organization successful.

She gave school board members an opportunity to ask questions about what the local United Way does.

"You allow other nonprofit organizations to use the building, and they don't have to pay rent," said board President Gore, adding saving rent money allows those nonprofits to spend more money on community needs. She asked Moore what groups benefited from having space at Decker Gym.

"There are several — Christmas for Children, Hood County Children's Charities, the Cub Scouts, 4-H and basketball teams," Moore said. "Leadership Granbury is there, and the juniors (at Granbury High School) are there all the time. It's their hangout. They do service projects there. Anxiety Solutions is another (nonprofit that uses the building)."

Board Vice President Nancy Alana told Moore she supports the United Way's efforts.

"We more than appreciate what the United Way does," she said. "I think you're doing a great job. Hopefully, a lot of false information will be cleared up. You do a great job."

Moore said United Way is making financial contributions to enhance Decker Gym.

"We pay rent and we are making repairs to the facility," Moore said. "There was literally a waterfall when we moved in. We are making improvements as we go."

Neal, one of the recently elected board members, said his daughter, who is a Granbury High School student, has benefited from the United Way's presence at Decker Gym.

"My daughter is excited to participate in activities there," Neal said. "When (at first) I looked at (Decker Gym), I saw a dilapidated building with asbestos hanging from ceiling tiles. There is work being done there. The changes being made are meaningful to the community. Thank you for what you do."

Moore said anyone interested in the United Way's efforts can call (817-579-5100) to schedule a tour.

"We're excited to share what we do," she said. "We are thankful for your involvement and support."

City targets water treatment issues

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

As the city of Granbury moves forward to meet the community's water treatment needs, the Granbury City Council took action on four items Dec. 2 that will help with that process.

One of the steps the council took was to approve a seven-inch (thick) concrete paving for a parking lot for the East Wastewater Treatment plant site, which City Manager Chris Coffman said was needed and makes sense. The upgrade will cost the city $335,460.75, and work will be done by Gracon Construction.

"This is a situation we need to approve, and we have the funds in place," Coffman said. "When this project was scoped in 2019, (the estimated cost for the plant) was $19 million, and that went to $35 million following COVID," he said, referring to skyrocketing materials costs and supply chain breakdowns that led to increased costs across the board.

"The original plan was a caliche lot, but the request is made for concrete because of heavy delivery truck use. ... I feel like this was an oversight on our part. Just trying to get across the finish line was challenging enough. Here we are, let's fix it."

The council approved the request by a 6-0 vote and also unanimously approved other agenda items related to water treatment.

Among those items was a trio of professional service agreements.

One was with Enprotec Hibbs and Todd, Inc., for engineering and design services for the new plant and also upgrades to the existing water treatment plant, funded by the Texas Water Development Board Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants Principal Forgiveness Grant.

An agreement also was made with Norton Rose Fulbright U.S. LLP to provide bond counsel services to the city related to the issuance of debt obligations, including loan, grant or disadvantaged funding through the Texas Water Development Board.

The third agreement was with Hilltop Securities, Inc., to serve as financial adviser to the city and provide financial assistance in connection with debt obligations related to the water treatment plant construction and the water development board grant.

Mayor Jim Jarratt said the professional service agreements "Are complete, read well and read easy — there's a lot in there." He said the agreements show the professionalism of the city staff and the eagerness of companies to work with the city.

"Normally these three items would be on the consent agenda, but when you're looking at $57.8 million of a $100 million project, it needs to be celebrated," Coffman said.

"There was also an opportunity to address emergency contaminants discovered in water across the U.S. I appreciate our staff working well with their staff," he said of the water development board.

"It's not an easy thing (to get all the details ironed out), and we're excited to have it on the agenda tonight."

Coffman said the professional service agreements and close work with the water development board "Are the beginning stages — we have to do these things to meet federal guidelines and state guidelines. This is the first grant the Texas Water Development Board has done this way. It's a brand-new program for the agency administering it. The prices are very competitive and they have great expertise."

Keith Kindle with Enprotec Hibbs and Todd, Inc., said the treatment process will take place at the existing water treatment plant and the new plant.

"As part of the emerging contaminants treatment, there will be a reverse osmosis treatment system at the new and existing plants with granulated carbon filters to help address emerging contaminants in water," Kindle said.

Coffman said the city is scheduled to close the deal with the water development board in January, and the $100 million project will feature a subsidized interest rate, which will allow the city to save an estimated $7.5 million in finance costs.

In other action, the council:

- Recognized the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council for $66,000 in donations to help beautify the community.
- Proclaimed Dec. 15 as Brazos Chamber Orchestra Day.
- Approved a request by Tina Sandoval to operate a pawn shop at 2607 E. U.S. Highway 377.
- Approved a request by Susan Sledge to operate a drive-through coffee shop at 371 Loop 567.
- Approved an agreement with Lone Star Consulting to provide tailored federal advocacy, funding and policy support programs for the city and budgeted $37,500 for those services.

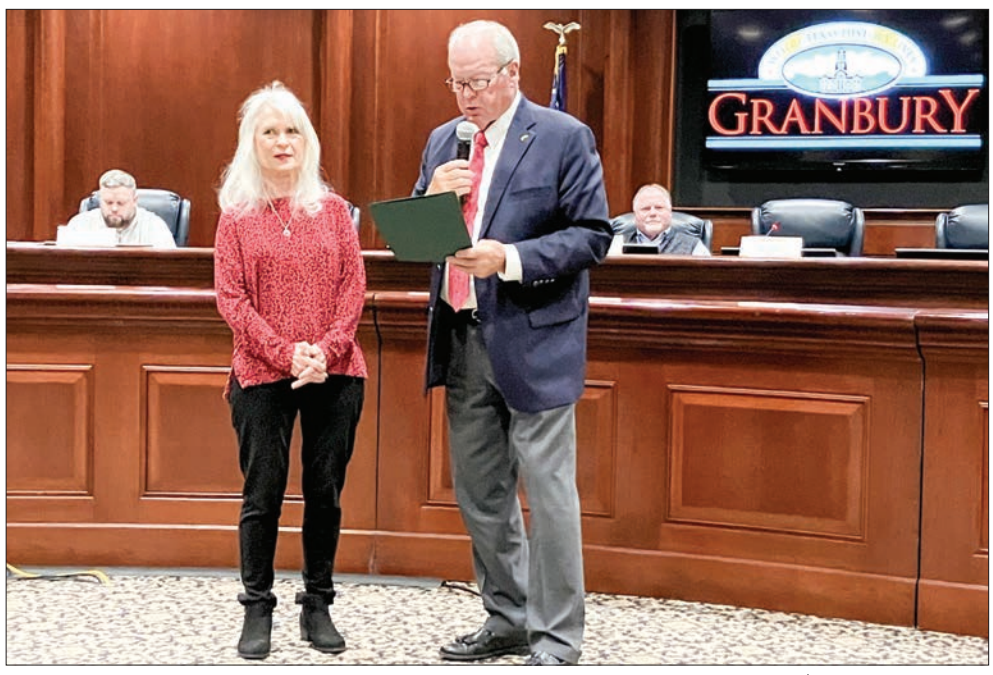
"This is the fruit of being able to attend the (Texas Municipal League) annual conference," Coffman said.

He said the consulting firm has employees in Washington, D.C., "Who have figured out a way to help us get federal funds. They talk with legislators and help us find out where we can identify the funding. They charge $3,500 a month for this service."

Coffman said he will "Ask the council at some point to go with them to seek these funds. We're competing for this money (with other cities), and they give us an upper hand.

"Our U.S. Congressman (Roger Williams) is extremely excited about improvements at our airport," as one example of federal input and funding benefiting the city.

"We are casting a little bread on the water to see what comes back," Coffman said.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt presents a proclamation during the City Council meeting Dec. 2 to Kathy Anavitarte, a board member of the Brazos Chamber Orchestra, announcing Dec. 15 as Brazos Chamber Orchestra Day in Granbury. The orchestra is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m. that day at First United Methodist Church, 301 N.E. Loop 567 in Granbury.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE A7

First Aid/AED certification and complete required coaching credits. The league also will hold regular clinics and training throughout the year to help coaches sharpen their skills.

"We want to bring as many games as possible, increase the level of competition and still keep the experience fun and grounded in our core values," Jones said.

As with any new organization, early support is essential — especially now.

"Our biggest need right now is community involvement and getting the word out," Jones said. "As a brand-new organization, we're building everything from the ground up, and early numbers are extremely important."

Pre-registration opened Dec. 1, and Jones said the early registrations will determine everything from how teams are divided to how many fields they'll need.

"These early numbers affect our ability to plan divisions, schedule games and secure practice and game fields," he said. "The more accurate our numbers are, the better season we can deliver."

And while a youth baseball league may start with players, it only can truly succeed with the support of the community around it.

"We want the full support of the community — parents, schools and local businesses," Jones said. "Their involvement is key to building something strong and sustainable. GYBA isn't just a baseball program; it's a community effort to give kids the best experience possible."

There are several ways to help, Jones said: register early, spread the word, volunteer or partner as a sponsor.

"Local businesses can help by partnering with us, sponsoring teams, or helping support field improvements," he said. "Every bit of involvement helps create a better baseball experience for the kids."

Jones also pointed out GYBA is intentionally structured to remain accessible — a local, affordable, family-centered option designed to strengthen, not replace, the community's existing sports culture.

"We're excited to bring something fresh and meaningful to this community," he said. "GYBA is built on passion, structure and a commitment to doing things the right way."

For Jones, this is about more than baseball. It's about building something lasting — something his own children and countless others can grow up with.

"I've been married to my wife Jeana for 16 years and we have two kids who are involved in community theatre and youth sports," he said. "This community has shaped them and now it's our turn to help shape the community in return."

As GYBA prepares for its inaugural season, Jones said he hopes families across Hood County will join in the mission — to build a stronger, safer, more supportive environment for youth athletics.

"We encourage everyone to follow our updates on social media, support the mission and join us in creating a baseball program the whole community can be proud of," he said.

To pre-register a child for the Granbury Youth Baseball Association, visit granburybaseball.com.

Hood County Awards



PHOTOS BY **JEFF OSBORNE** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

James Cato-Yates, left, is honored Nov. 25 for five years of service to the Hood County road department.



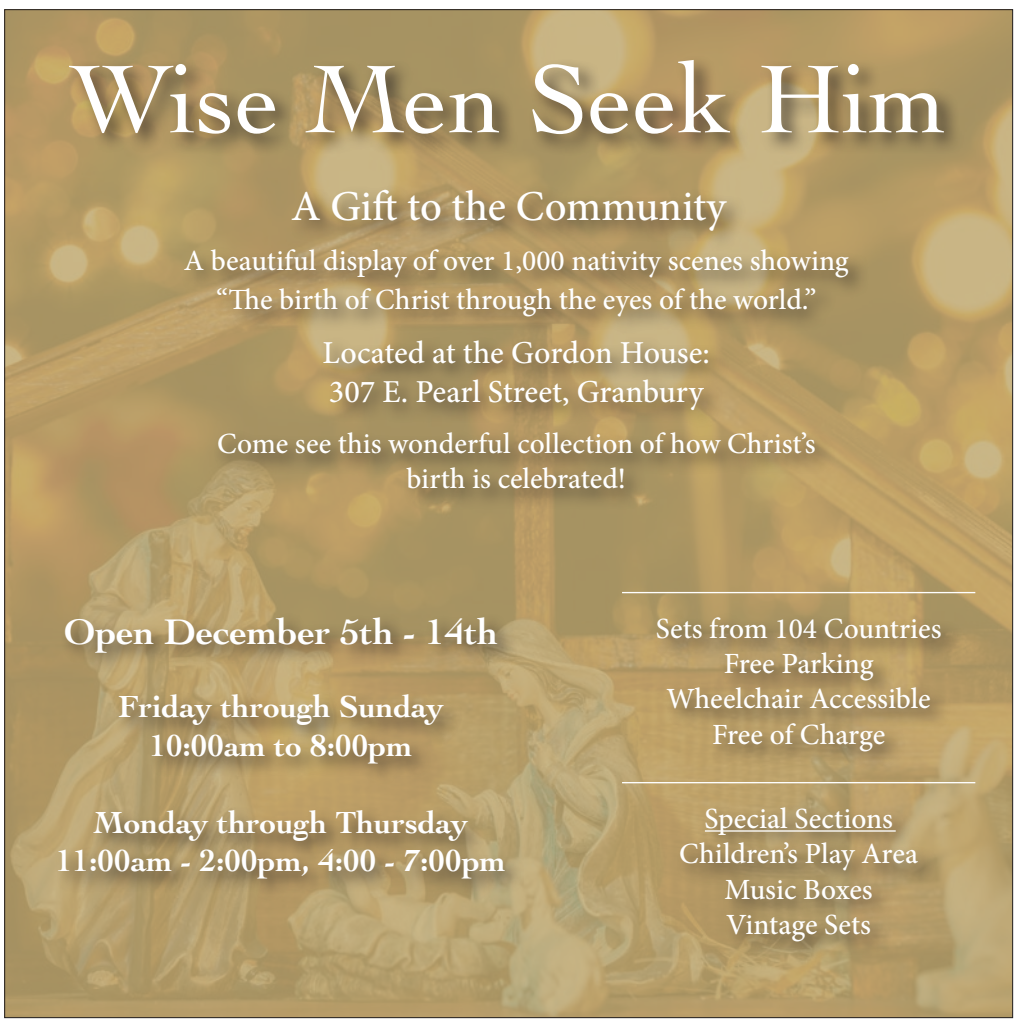
Lisa Stamford, left, is honored Nov. 25 for 15 years of service to the Hood County Sheriff's Office. Pictured with her is Sheriff Roger Deeds.



Jonathan Berry, right, is honored Nov. 25 for 15 years of service to the Hood County Sheriff's Office. Pictured with him is Sheriff Roger Deeds.



Beth Stanley, second from left, is honored Nov. 25 for 10 years of service to Hood County as a court administrator. She pictured with Brenda Comfort, assistant court coordinator, and Stanley's granddaughters, Bella Colsson and Abigail Finnoron.







There is a power in starting a task

LOGAN MEHAFFEY
Hood County News

I've learned something uncomfortable about myself over the years: I wait for motivation like it's some rare, cosmic event, something that has to strike me at just the right moment before I can get anything done. I tell myself I'll start the project when I "feel ready," or "when I have a little more energy," or "when inspiration hits."

But the harsh truth — and the one I keep needing to relearn — is that motivation doesn't show up on its own. More often than not, it follows the work, not the other way around.

For me, the hardest part of any project — whether it's writing an article, cleaning the garage, or finally tackling a creative idea that's been brewing in the back of my mind — is simply beginning.

The first step. The first sentence. The first five minutes. Those tiny moments feel disproportionately heavy, like pushing a stalled car until it starts rolling. But the moment the wheels start moving, something shifts. Suddenly, the thing I was avoiding doesn't seem quite as impossible.

And I'm willing to bet I'm not alone in that.

We tend to imagine motivation as this spark that gets us going. But in reality, it's friction that keeps us stuck: perfectionism, fear of messing up, confusion about where to begin, or just the inertia of routine. Starting cuts through all of that. You don't need a plan. You don't need a big gesture. You don't even need to feel committed to finishing. You just need to start.

That's the part no one talks about. You don't have to feel motivated before you begin. Sometimes motivation needs proof — proof you're willing to show up, proof you mean it, proof you're not waiting for the universe to roll out a golden carpet of inspiration.

Once you show that you're serious, even in small ways, it meets you halfway.

I've had days where I've stared at a blank document for an hour, feeling useless, only to type one sentence out of frustration — and suddenly the whole article opens up. I've told myself a hundred times, "I'll clean when I have the energy," only to drag myself to start on one tiny drawer, and before I know it, I'm halfway through the room.

The trick is lowering the bar so the first step feels possible. Not "write a masterpiece," but "write for five minutes." Not "clean the whole house," but "put away five things." Not "get in shape," but "walk to the end of the street and back."

Starting doesn't demand your best effort — it just asks for any effort. And that's what breaks the spell of procrastination.

There's a quiet kind of freedom in letting yourself begin imperfectly. In realizing that action can generate its own enthusiasm. In discovering that progress often comes disguised as small, almost insignificant decisions — sitting down, picking up the pen, opening the file, taking the first step.

If you're like me, you probably won't feel ready. You won't feel inspired. You might even feel annoyed, frustrated or tired. But that's okay. Start anyway. Not dramatically, not heroically, just … start.

Because once you do, the landscape changes. What felt overwhelming becomes manageable. What felt impossible becomes interesting. What felt like a chore becomes a rhythm.

Motivation may not come first — but it usually shows up once it sees you're already moving.

Acton Middle School theater to present Shrek Jr.

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Acton Middle School's theater program is bringing the kingdom of Far, Far Away right to Hood County with its rendition of Shrek Jr., offering four showings from Dec. 12-14.

"It's based off of the Dream Works movie and it has all of the fun stuff," AMS theater Director Brooke Goodson said. "It's about Shrek and Fiona, and Shrek going on his quest to get his swamp back."

Goodson is excited to unveil this production to the audiences because she believes both the nature of the play combined with the actors' passion for the musical will create a fun, engaging atmosphere for the audience.

"I think audiences are going to enjoy how fun it is. It's funny — there's so much dancing and characterization with the kids — they're just having a blast," Goodson said. "Honestly, when performers are having fun, it doesn't matter if the show's already funny, it just makes the show even more brilliant and lively. It's going to be something that everyone's going to love."

In addition to its anticipated laughs, Goodson also chose Shrek Jr. as this year's musical production because of its large cast, which is giving theater experience to 40 AMS students.

"They (the students) are excited because the show has so many parts," Goodson said. "There's so many different characters, and all of the students get to perform and shine in those roles."

According to Goodson, AMS' young thespians have been hard at work and are excited to finally present their hard work to the audiences.

"They have been working hard on their music, their choreography, their lines, their blocking, all of that," Goodson said. "We stay after school every day and we rehearse the show. They get to help build the set and paint and do all the different things that come together to make a show. It's been coming along really great."

Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for students, and are available for purchase online, through the above QR code, or at the door. Showtimes are as follows, doors open thirty minutes before the listed time:

Friday, Dec.12 — 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13 — 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 — 2:30 p.m.



NORTH POLE EXPRESS DELIVERY

Dear Readers,

Couto Homes and **Hood County News** are teaming up to get your letters to Santa in the North Pole as efficiently as possible.

We are creating a digital section where students from Kindergarten through Second grade will submit their letters and The Hood County News will publish them online Dec. 12.

Santa and his elves are sure to get them on time!

Be sure to check out hcnews.com on Dec. 12 to see what your child or grandchild is hoping to see under the Christmas tree this year.

Sincerely,
Hood County News & Couto Homes

Hood County News
COUTO HOMES

Prostate health: even Santa doesn't want to stop too often

LAKE GRABURY MEDICAL CENTER
GUEST COLUMN

December brings joy, family gatherings and holiday traditions. But for many men, it also brings something less festive: frequent bathroom breaks, weak urine flow and sleepless nights.

And while kids may picture Santa sailing through the sky in his sleigh, men of a certain age might wonder: how does he manage all those long rides without stopping every few miles?

"The reality is, if Santa were a typical man older than 50, he'd be pulling into every gas station from here to the North Pole," said William Bruce Harrell, M.D., board-certified urologist at Lakeside Physicians in Granbury. "Frequent urination, especially at night, is one of the most common signs of prostate issues. And it's no laughing matter, though sometimes a little humor helps men feel more comfortable talking about it."

When nighttime interrupts holiday nights

Prostate enlargement, officially called benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), affects millions of men as they age. The condition isn't cancer, but it can cause frustrating symptoms: frequent urination, trouble starting or stopping and the nagging feeling that the bladder isn't fully empty.

"For some men, the biggest complaint is getting up two, three, even four times a night," Dr. Harrell said. "Imagine Santa trying to get down chimneys all night long with that problem, he'd never finish his route."

Interrupted sleep from nighttime urination doesn't just affect mood; it can lead to fatigue, poor concentration and even long-term health issues.

Long sleigh rides, long road trips

Holiday travel also can highlight urinary problems. Whether it's a sleigh ride across the globe or a road trip to see family, frequent stops can put a damper on the journey.

"Guys will joke about always needing to know where the nearest bathroom is," Dr. Harrell said. "But beneath the humor, it's disruptive. Men start planning their days and their activities around bathroom access. That's a sign it's time to see a doctor."

When to seek help

Not every bathroom break is a sign of trouble, but there are certain red flags that shouldn't be ignored:

- Getting up more than twice a night to urinate
- Weak or interrupted urine stream
- Difficulty starting urination
- Feeling like the bladder doesn't empty completely
- Sudden urgency that's hard to control

"These are not just 'normal aging,'" Dr. Harrell said. "They are treatable conditions. You don't have to live with them."

Modern treatments

Fortunately, today's options for managing prostate health are far better than in the past. Depending on the severity, treatments may include:

Lifestyle changes such as reducing caffeine and evening fluids

Medications to relax the prostate or shrink its size

Minimally invasive procedures that can improve flow and reduce symptoms

Surgical options for more advanced cases

"The good news is, men have choices," Dr. Harrell said. "We can tailor treatment to fit their lifestyle. For some, it's as simple as a prescription. For others, a quick outpatient procedure can make a world of difference."

Breaking the silence

Despite how common prostate issues are, many men hesitate to bring them up. Sometimes it's embarrassment. Other times, it's the belief "this is just part of getting older."

"That's why I don't mind sprinkling in a little humor," Dr. Harrell said. "If joking about Santa's bathroom breaks gets men to schedule an appointment, then it's worth it. Talking about it is the first step."

A gift for yourself

As the holidays approach, Dr. Harrell encourages men to think about their health as the best gift they can give themselves and their families.

"Good health means more energy, better sleep, and being fully present for the people you love," he said. "You don't want to spend Christmas Eve worried about bathroom breaks — whether you're wrapping gifts or, in Santa's case, circling the globe."

This December, while children dream of sugarplums and sleigh bells, local physicians are urging men to pay attention to a more down-to-earth issue: their prostate health.

"Don't ignore the symptoms," Dr. Harrell said. "If frequent urination or weak flow is interfering with your life, it's time to come in. We can help you, and Santa, keep the sleigh moving smoothly."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact William Bruce Harrell, M.D., board-certified urologist at Lakeside Physicians in Granbury, (817) 573-5983.

Team preps for new era of Lady Pirate basketball

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lady Pirate basketball is looking to make a run with a revamped coaching staff. New girls basketball head coach Brad Blalock is in his first year at Granbury and his 23rd year coaching. Blalock is not the only new coach. Other new members of the coaching staff are Ross Whittet as the statistician and Steve Weeks as an assistant coach.

"I am extremely excited about the potential we have this year. We have a tremendous amount of speed and good senior leadership," Blalock said.

The returners from last year's team are Jolie and Jayla Hayes, Jillian Williams, Hannah Dafoe, Bentley Sherrill and Moriah Hanchell. With a new coaching staff, new philosophies, schemes and looks will lead to this staff's "high expectations" for the season.

"We believe that we can be more than just a team that makes the playoffs and believe that we can make a run," Blalock said.

While Blalock was not completely in Granbury this summer, he was encouraged by how his team looked at their camps, skill sessions and shootouts. They played some "high-level" competition during the summer, which helped Blalock and his staff decide how they wanted to handle the schedule.

"We have tried to make the schedule as difficult as possible to try to prepare us for district and hopefully postseason play," Blalock said. "According to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches pre-season poll, we will scrimmage, play in season or potentially play in tournaments against teams ranked in the top 12 across four classifications."

Blalock prepared for his first year as a Pirate by watching "a ton" of film on district opponents. With his eight seniors having three years of playoff experience, he wants the playoff streak to continue. Reading and coaching clinics were a tool for some personal coaching growth for Blalock.

"I love to read and learn all things basketball. We found some useful things to help the girls mentally prepare for a rigorous season. I attended some coaching clinics during the summer and fall that gave some interesting concepts for the season, also watched a ton of film on district opponents," Blalock said.

The speed and pace of this year's Lady Pirate team will be a strength and emphasis the coaching staff will work on. Blalock credited Alan Thorpe (the previous head coach) and his offense from last year, but said this with the departure of last year's seniors, it's a different team that will need a different strategy.



COURTESY

The Granbury Lady Pirate basketball team members, from left, are Hannah Dafoe, Bentley Sherrill, Jolie Hayes, Alysha Fabrizio, Mollie Barnes, Remi Chastain, Moriah Hanchell, Molly Thompson, Jayla Hayes, Monica Barto and Jillian Williams.

"We are incredibly fast. We have been putting an emphasis on defense and how we play defense and how that will turn into offense for us. We have eight seniors who have been in the playoffs for three straight years, and we will look to them for leadership," Blalock said. "Jolie Hayes can shoot the lights out; Jillian Williams can bring the smoke, Hannah Dafoe can shut down defenders, and Bentley Sherrill will help with timely shooting."

Making three-point shots

PLEASE SEE **SEASON** | B5

Tolar basketball is back for more



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tolar Lady Rattlers basketball team members, front row, from left, are Paxton Stone, Kanyn Deaver, Macy Price and Jaycee Jones. Not pictured Milly Taylor and Emma Jackson; back row, Mykah Kirbie (student athletic trainer), Loryn Wienecke, Atley Kolb, Allie Terrell, Milly Taylor, Reilyn Brown, Callan Nix and Ericka Halfmann.

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The 2025 Lady Rattlers are back and ready for more. Ericka Halfmann is starting her third year as girls' basketball head coach and is excited about her team.

"The sky is the limit. They're hungry and excited. Those two qualities can't be coached, but if a team has those two qualities, then anything is possible," Halfmann said.

Coming off a regional semifinalist season with a 24-11 record overall and 11-3 in district play, she is proud of last year's accomplishments, as only five other Tolar girls basketball teams have made it that far before. Halfmann thinks the schedule for this year is tough, considering they are playing many teams ranked in the top 25 Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

"We have some great teams in our district. They play physical and shoot the ball well. Our schedule isn't very easy either, but we believe that we must face those tough teams to grow and get better," Halfmann said.

Last year's team only had three seniors, so many players have returned like starters Callan Nix, Emma Jackson and Jaycee Jones. Other returners are Allie Terrell, Atley Kolb, Kanyn Deaver, Reilyn Brown and Milly Taylor. All high school coaches are returning as well.

"We were fairly young last year and return many. We didn't lose any of our high school coaches either, and I think the consistency is going to be a strength for us," Halfmann said.

While most of the team is returning, Halfmann said this team is completely different because of its continuity and experience from last year.

"This team looks completely different than last year's team but has the advantage of more time together. The run the girls made last year definitely will help when it comes time for us to compete in big games," Halfmann said.

Communication is key for Halfmann and her players this year.

"We want to excel at communicating. Everyone on the team has a role and in order for our team to feel success we need to star in our role, but our first role is to communicate," Halfmann said.

Lady Indians have one goal in mind



COURTESY PHOTO

The LIpan Lady Indians basketball team members, front row, from left, are Skylar Harrison, Sydni Gaylor, Jacy Bolton and Annslee Tarpley; back row, Kynzi Callaway, Presley Purefoy, Peyton Lawerence, Ashlyn Tarpley, Finley Schockley and Averie Camp.

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Every year, Lipan basketball has a goal to win the state championship. This year is no different. Coming off a state semifinal loss in a season where the Lady Indians had a 12-0 district record (25-12 overall), head coach Amber Branson thinks last season was very satisfying, while a state title always is the goal.

Before the season even started, they played some tough schools from big areas to challenge the team and set the expectations for the season ahead.

"We always try to play a tough preseason schedule to get ready for district and the playoffs. This year is no different. We have some pretty big schools and competition on the schedule," Branson said.

Branson is starting her 19th year at Lipan and 18th as head coach. She hosted a couple of summer basketball camps for her high school players but also for students of all ages who wanted to come and improve their skills.

"Camp was great. I think we had around 110 kids, kindergarten through 12. Our high school team went to several team camps during the summer to prepare for this season," Branson said.

This year's team is very similar to last year's on paper, but Branson thinks the personalities and dynamics have changed in a year's time. Returning starters are Finley Shockley, Ashlyn Tarpley, Jacy Bolton, Kynzi Callaway, and Averie Camp along with other returners are Annslee Tarpley and Peyton Lawerence. New players are senior Presley Purefoy, freshman Skylar Harrison and Sydni Gaylor.

A skill she wants her team to excel at his working hard but also working together. If they can do that and overcome their biggest challenge of staying healthy, then Branson feels they can achieve their goals of another trophy.

"Just excited to have a new opportunity with some great kids, also for them to learn, love each other and have fun," Branson said.





Pioneer soccer team shutting down opponents

GHS boasts academic all-state tennis players

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

NCTA boys soccer is 4-0 with victories against Cristo Rey Fort Worth (10-0), Bishop Lynch (2-0), Nolan Catholic (8-0) and Dallas Home Schooled Athletics Association Red Blue angels (2-0).



LEAH SCHWAUSCH | COURTESY PHOTO

North Central Texas Academy junior striker Aleksa Martinovic (in green) blazes past three Nolan Catholic defenders. The North Central Texas Academy Pioneers have not allowed a single goal through four games played.

Granbury tennis

Six Granbury students have made the 2025 Texas High School Coaches Association Team Tennis Academic All-State teams.

Landon Areno placed on the first team.

Camden Lynch, Tyler St. Don, Colten Whitefield, Ava Hamrick and Allie Kazmier placed second team.

Lipan girls basketball

Lipan lost to Cisco 58-42 Nov. 25. Finley Shockley had 14 points. Sydni Gaylor had 11 points. Skylar Harrison had nine points. Kynzi Callaway had seven points.

The Lady Indians beat Tolar 58-31 to improve to 8-3 on the season. Gaylor had 25 points. Harrison had seven points. Callaway had 12 points. Shockley had eight points.

Lipan boys basketball

Lipan improves to 6-1 after beating Hudson 82-50.

Sports roundup

Tolar girls basketball

Tolar beat Stephenville 47-36. Junior Jaycee Jones had 14 points, two steals and five assists. Freshman Macy Price had 15 points, one rebound and one assist. Sophomore Atley Kolb had 11 points, three blocks, 11 rebounds, three steals and two assists. Junior Allie Terrell had seven points, one block, 10 rebounds, one steal and one assist.

The Lady Rattlers lost to Lipan 58-37 and fell to 6-3 overall. Jones had nine points. Price had 14 points. Junior Milly Taylor had four points.

Tolar boys basketball

Tolar lost to Jacksboro in a close 57-62 game that evens the Rattlers record 1-1 to start the season. Cayden Abrego had 18 points. Madok Delgado had 17 points and Briton Rice had 11 points.

Granbury boys basketball

Granbury lost 56-42 to Prosper Nov. 25. Brannon Burns had 10 points. Kylan Loving had 11 points. Miller Schenewark had eight points. Tyler Harrison had six points.

The Pirates fell 66-56 to Everman and are 1-7 on the season. Loving had 27 points. Schenewark had 19 points.

Granbury girls basketball

Granbury beat Glen Rose 37-33 Nov. 24. Mollie Barnes had 11 points. Jenra Marqurot had seven points. Jillian Willliams and Hannah Dafoe each had six points.

The Lady Pirates lost to Decatur 73-30 Nov. 25. Hannah Dafoe had seven points. Moriah Hanchell had six points. Mollie Barnes had four points.

Granbury lost a close match 39-40 to Godley Dec. 2. The Lady Pirates are 6-6 record as of Dec. 3. Seniors Jillian Williams, Hannah Dafoe and junior Mollie Barnes each had nine points. Freshman Molly Thompson had four points.





COURTESY

Six Granbury students have made the 2025 Texas High School Coaches Association Team Tennis Academic All-State teams.





Hood County High Five Athlete of the Week
Finley Shockley

Finley Shockley had 15 points in the Lady Indians 72-62 loss to Flower Mound Marcus Nov. 20 in the Hill Country Classic basketball tournament. (Credit: Josh Burton)

Hood County High Five, sponsored by Taco Casa, is all about celebrating the athletes who inspire us with their talent, dedicatation, and sportmanship. Eash week, our community has the chance to cheer on local standouts and give them the recognition they deserve. Shining a spotlight on Hood County's athletes — this is where home town pride meets athletic achievement. To vote, go hcnews.com and click on the "Local Contest" link at the top of the page.

www.hcnews.com

Cormorants are here for the winter



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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

Love them or hate them, cormorants have flocked to lakes and private waters in Texas to spend the winter months roosting on standing timber on our lakes and devouring both baitfish and gamefish as though there is no tomorrow.

With their sharp hooked bill and ability to remain underwater for extended time, they are very efficient fishers. They are well known for decimating the game fish population in private waters.

I first learned about cormorants and their fish catching ability nearly 40 years ago while in Japan with a company that was establishing a mail-order lure business there. Back then, bass fishing was a craze with affluent Japanese and expensive bass boats from the United States were commonly seen on private waters in Japan.

My job was to cover a fishing match between Rex Bridges, a popular Texas angler and Soramachi, the then reigning bass champion. I spent a couple days fishing with the outdoor writers for the Tokyo newspaper. One of them, who spoke pretty good English, pointed out a flock of cormorants and told me many of the older men trained the birds to catch fish for them.

They tied a little noose around the bird's neck to allow them to catch and swallow small fish, but the larger fish were caught in a pouch on the bird's throat, to be eaten by the fishermen. We stopped fishing long enough to observe an old gentle with about six cormorants on leads. I think he was doing guided tours with his birds for tourists. What I remember most is when the birds surfaced, he pulled them inside the boat and they "coughed up" some good-sized fish for the old gentleman.

Back in those days, cormorants were not nearly as prevalent in Texas waters during the winter as they are today. I assume worldwide, their numbers are threatened. They currently are protected by the federal government but tell that to a landowner who has just had his summer stocking of largemouth bass eaten by a flock of cormorants.

I guess by now you have surmised, I'm not fond of our winter feathered visitors. I like to catch and eat the same thing they do, but I follow creel limits — the cormorants do not. But the cormorants have helped lead me to many winter catfish cookouts.

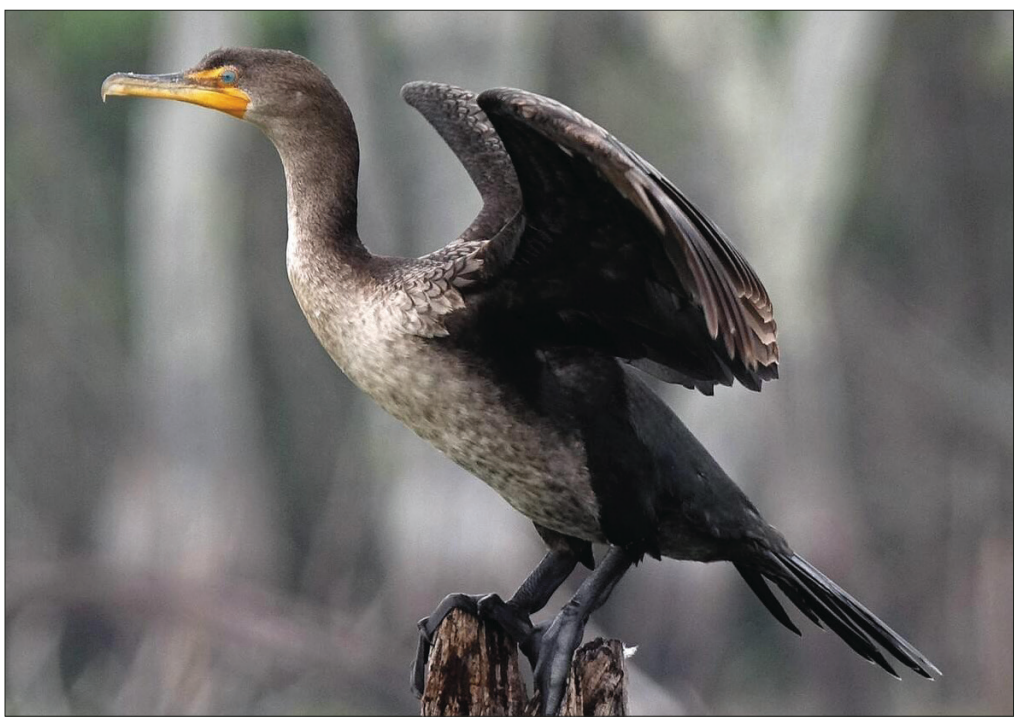
How might you ask? A couple decades ago, a fishing guide invited me to go splatting with him and write a column for the newspapers. Splatting, he said, was fishing around standing timber in the shallow end of the lake. The birds roost in the dead trees at night and their droppings literally whitewash the limbs. Their droppings attract both blue and channel catfish in large numbers and catching is often red hot during the first couple hours of daylight each morning.

Splatting is the perfect term to describe this method of fishing. Usually from 30 or so yards away, far enough so as not to spook the fish, baits set shallow under a floater are cast up close to the trunk of the tree.

The baits make a "splat" when they hit the water, letting nearby fish know that a cormorant has again send breakfast his way. A bit gross, I know, but it's a fact of nature. Catching fish below the cormorant roost trees caught on quickly and most savvy catfish anglers today know the technique. Many use the heavy weighted popping corks used on the coast for speckled trout.

If you're a cork watcher and have never experienced a morning of splatting, I suggest you put it on your to-do list. The bite is not tentative like a sunfish biting a nightcrawler or crappie nibbling a minnow, When the sound of food hitting the surface is telegraphed down through the water column to catfish, they make a beeline for the surface and it's first come, first served.

I've watched several greedy catfish fighting near the surface for the bait. It's best to rig with at least 20-pound test line and a rod and reel strong enough to handle a big blue. It's not uncommon to catch trophy catfish using this method but most will be in the 3-10-pound range.



COURTESY PHOTO

There are mixed feelings about the cormorant. Under federal protection, these migratory birds are within federal protection. In many southern states, they are often despised because of their ability to quickly kill and consume fish in private waters.

Splatting is a run and gun style of fishing. Usually, two or three fish will be landed around each roost tree and then it's time to bump the trolling motor and head to the next tree. Usually, the action begins to slow after a couple hours of sunshine but on cloudy days, it's often possible to continue catching fish throughout the day but not nearly as well as the early morning bite. Catfish are opportunistic feeders, and they learn when the food supply is best, after the birds have spend a night in the roost tree dropping partially digested baitfish into the water.

When it comes to bait choices for splatting, the sky's the limit. It's hard to beat chunks of cut bait from rough fish or shad or even pieces of cut sunfish. Punch baits also work well, they just don't stay in the hook as well as cut bait for reparative casts.

It's important to keep maximum pressure on the fish as soon as he's hooked. Chances are very good there will be lots of submerged limbs to get your line snagged on. This is where stout rods with plenty of backbone and reels with strong drag systems come into play. If you're in the mood for a big meal of fried catfish at deer camp, this is a good winter pattern that is sure not to disappoint you, let the cormorants mark the trees you need to fish beneath.

Visit Luke's website catfishradio.org. Check out his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

Trout stocking time in Texas as TPWD begins



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

Late fall and winter season is when the annual stocking of rainbow trout in Texas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) starts stocking more than 300,000 trout in more than 200 locations throughout the state. Many of these areas are called "Neighborhood Fishing ponds" and chances are there is one located close to you.

Consult the TPWD website for all locations and scheduled stocking dates. Scheduled stocking dates may change. If you want to know for sure, you are advised to contact the hatchery to find out if there are any changes to the original stocking dates. Stockings started Nov. 25 and typically run through March.

Stocking will occur several times during the winter season. Two locations that are relatively close to Granbury include Big Rock Park in Glen Rose and the tail race below Possum Kingdom. There also are numerous locations in the metroplex.

There are no minimum length limits for these trout and you are allowed to keep five trout per day per person. An angler fishing in a community fishing lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a state park can use no more than two poles. Trout anglers will need the $5 Freshwater Fishing Stamp. Youth younger than 17 do not require a stamp or license. If you are fishing within a Texas state park, no license or stamp is required. Consult the TPWD rule book for special limits on the Guadalupe River.

These trout are typically taken on salmon eggs, corn and a variety of small spinner baits and flies. I would recommend light line. This is a great time to take kids where you can fish from the bank.

Hood County fishing report

Lake Granbury is at full pool and water temperatures are falling into the upper 50s and low 60s in some areas. Water is stained in the river above Granbury and is starting to clear after the rain/runoff. Granbury largemouth bass continues to be fair to good to five pounds on crankbaits and soft plastics worked near points and ledges on many areas of the lake. Sandbass and small stripers are fair to good on slabs and spinners fished on flats near Ports-O-Call and near Indian Harbor. Look for the birds. Best striped bass action continues to be on the lower ends in 15-25 feet of water on swimbaits and live shad. Catfish action is great on the upper ends in the stained water. Best bait for catfish is cut shad. Crappie action continues to be good on the main lake on submerged structure using small minnows and jigs.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) stays warmer due to the power plant and attracts many bass anglers from all areas in the winter. Fishing is excellent with most folks reporting numbers of largemouth being caught with an occasional bigger fish to eight pounds. Soft plastics fished on a Texas Rigged worm or Carolina Rigged for those deeper fish seems to be the baits of choice. Limits of eater sized channel catfish are common on this lake. Tilapias continue to be caught on worms fished under a cork.

James Gill is 'A.C.E.s'



COURTESY PHOTO

James Gill

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

He is a seventh-grade special education teacher at Granbury Middle School who provides inclusion support. He was nominated by Lauren Desormeaux.

Lauren has this to say about Coach Gill: "Coach James Gill is the kind of employee who never hesitates to lend a helping hand. His many years of teaching have given him a wealth of knowledge, and he wholeheartedly shares that wisdom to support and uplift those around him. He has a genuine heart for helping others grow and he takes the time to guide staff as they learn new skills. Whether someone needs to vent, talk through a tough moment or ask for assistance, Coach Gill is always there. He remains steady, patient and ready to listen. His presence makes our campus stronger and our staff feel supported. I nominate Coach James Gill because he embodies what it means to be a dedicated, supportive and selfless educator. He consistently goes above and beyond his job description, not for recognition, but because he truly cares about the people he works with. His willingness to mentor others, share his expertise and be a dependable source of encouragement makes a meaningful difference on our campus every single day."

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.

--Nancy Pricer

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

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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1 John 4:12

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First Baptist
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254-646-2484

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817-573-3339

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817-573-4943

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254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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Lakeside Baptist
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817-573-2094

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Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
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254-243-0350

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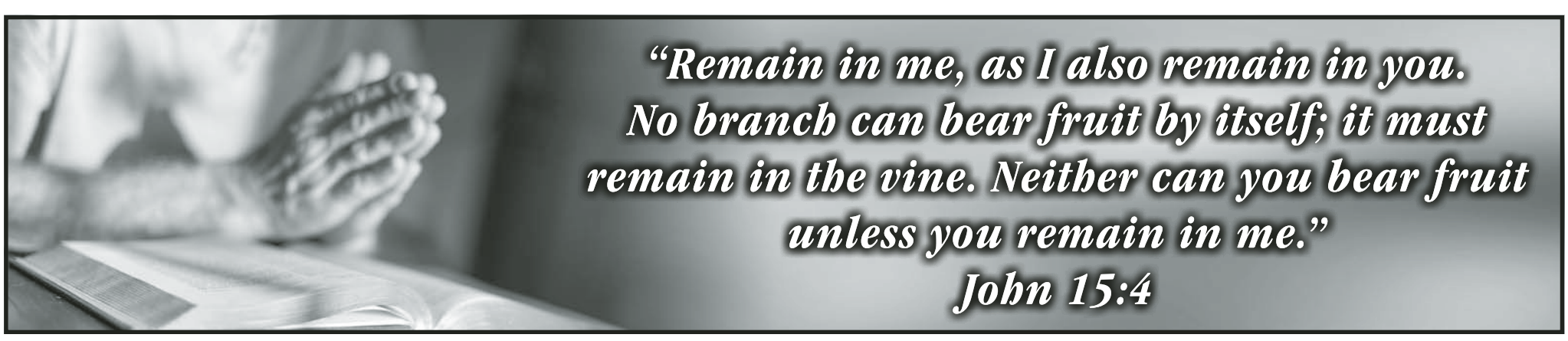
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Skylar Harrison is having an exceptional freshman season

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com







JAXON HANSARD

ABOVE; Skylar Harrison, a Lipan freshman athlete, shows off her state cross country fifth-place medal. Harrison plays basketball, volleyball and runs track.

FAR LEFT: Skylar Harrison drives to the basket with a defender unsuccessfully trying to steal the ball.

CENTER: Skylar Harrison concentrates on a pass during her team's volleyball season.

In small schools like Lipan, it is common for students to play multiple sports or be involved in multiple clubs or organizations. Lipan freshman Skylar Harrison is excelling in a few sports so far this year with no plans of slowing down.

Harrison plays volleyball, runs cross country, basketball and track. In her four months of high school, she was on the first varsity volleyball team in Lipan history and placed fifth at the state cross country meet.

In her first varsity volleyball season, she had 271 kills, 325 digs, 56 aces and a second-team all-district honor, something that was just "regular" for her.

She played volleyball at her previous junior high and had some community ed experience, but at the varsity level, it felt normal for her.

"I just go out there and play, it just felt normal," Harrison said. "I had a good freshman season, as a team we didn't get what we wanted, but I'll be back next year."

"Skylar Harrison led us offensively while also carrying a big defensive and passing load, playing six rotations. She was our go-to attacker and will only get better as her career continues," head coach Aaron Callaway said.

Cross country was a successful season as she brought home a fifth-place medal after running a two-mile race in 11 minutes, 53.70 seconds, a personal record (PR) for herself. Her goal going into the season was just to keep up.

"I guess, just to stay up with Ansley (Tarpley). I always thought she was a good cross-country runner," Harrison said. "I didn't really practice a lot in summer, so once we actually started practices, it got a little easier."

She played for two Amateur Athletic Union basketball teams in the summer, so cross-country training was put on the back end. Harrison starts for the 4-0 (as of Nov. 20) Lipan Lady Indian basketball team.

Volleyball and cross country overlapped, and with basketball starting soon, she had another practice to fit into her day. Harrison's days were packed with cross country in the morning, basketball during the athletics period and volleyball after school.

"As a coaching staff, we work together to make it easier on her. With volleyball and cross-country practice, and just making sure whenever she needed to take a day, she could take a day off. Every day she had something before or after school, so I did at least give her some leeway," head girls' cross country coach Misty Little said. "Just let me know when you take a day off and rest your body and mind so she doesn't get burned out. We want all our kids to participate in whatever they want to participate in."

Sometimes Harrison would sleep a little longer in the morning and make up for it by running her two miles after basketball practice, often doing her homework during the free periods.

In between district volleyball and practices starting for her favorite sport, basketball, Harrison managed to earn a trip to the state cross country meet and a fifth-place medal to take home.

"I was surprised in the state meet. I didn't feel like I was going that fast, but once I heard my aunt yelling at me, because she's always been a cross-country runner, I just started passing people at the end," Harrison said. "I was more nervous at regionals because you actually had to qualify. I'd already gotten there, so I just had to go out and run. My mom usually says if you're nervous, you're not prepared. Coach (Misty Little) prepared me pretty good for state."

There was some extra motivation as her aunt placed sixth at the state cross-country meet when she was a high school freshman.

"My goal next year is to get first because she got first her sophomore year. So I can't really get much better than that, but I'll just beat her time," Harrison said.

Her state time (11:53.70) beat her previous PR. She thought since it was the last race, she would have plenty of time to recover so she gave it her all.

"Our fans traveled well, and we had a great crowd there to cheer these girls on. She just ran unbelievably; everybody kept yelling at her to pass two more past two more. She came by me at the 400-meter mark, and I told her she was sitting in seventh. She finished and passed two more girls to finish in fifth place," Little said. "I'm extremely proud of her. I was pretty shocked and pretty dropped. She's a great athlete, great kid, and she's just a great person."

After getting her fifth-place medal she made it back to Lipan in time to play in the basketball scrimmage against Decatur. It was optional for her and her cross-country teammate Anslee Tarpley and they both opted to play that night.

She plans to train for cross country a little more this offseason. Her plan is to run year-round to help keep her in shape and her stamina up now that other schools know how fast she can be.

"Everyone was saying I screwed myself over because, now everyone knows I can run that fast," Harrison said.

Lipan beats Tolar in a Hood County matchup of girls basketball

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com





JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

ABOVE: Lipan freshman Sydni Gaylor moves left past Tolar defender Macy Price. Gaylor had 25 points (five 3-point shots).

RIGHT: Tolar Junior Jaycee Jones signals a play for her team. Jones finished the game with nine points.

In a battle of Hood County hoops, the Lipan girls defeated Tolar 58-37 Tuesday, Dec 2. The Lady Indians now are 8-3 through a month of play. Tolar now is 6-3.

While Lipan won by 21 points, the effort is what made head girls basketball coach, Amber Branson, the happiest.

"I thought our kids played very hard. In my opinion, we haven't played to our full potential, and tonight, we had kids diving on the floor, going after loose balls, grabbing rebounds, and we hadn't done that in the majority of the games for the whole 32 minutes. I was very pleased with their effort," Branson said. "I told them even if we hadn't have won, I still would have been proud of them because they were playing hard."

The Lady Indians' physical and fast defense made it difficult for Tolar guards Jaycee Jones (junior) and Macy Price (freshman) to create good looks for their teammates.

"They're just scrappy, they're grabbing and always hustling. They play hard every possession, and it's a great team effort by them," Tolar girls basketball coach Ericka Halfmann said. "You don't get the No. 3 (ranking) by your name without that tenacity."

Jones finished the game with nine points and Price had 14 points. Lipan was ahead 15-5 at the end of the first quarter.

"We really rely on them to handle that pressure and to be able to handle that pressure and not have too many turnovers. Really proud of that. Jaycee and Macy could have folded, but they kept on battling. That's a tough team and they didn't hold their heads," Halfmann said.

Lipan freshman Sydni Gaylor had a hot shooting streak early in the game and it resurfaced in the fourth quarter as well. Lipan senior Finely Shockley made timely shots, rebounds and passes throughout the game as they never let up on the Rattlers. Gaylor finished the game with 25 points (five 3-point shots) and Shockley had eight points. Junior Kynzi Callaway had 12 points, multiple steals and a block.

"The first half we shot really well, and I told them at halftime it may not continue. We still shot pretty well, I think. I'm proud of their confidence to keep firing and not letting up," Branson said.

Tolar went into halftime trailing 31-10. Easy shots were hard to come by, or the Lady Indians stole the ball out from Tolar's hands.

"Anytime we come here, it's always a tough physical battle. They're a great team and we knew it. That's how we get better, playing great teams," Halfmann said.

Tolar sophomore Atley Kolb had two points and multiple rebounds and blocks in the fourth quarter when scoring picked up for the Lady Rattlers, but it wasn't enough in the end.

These Hood County teams may meet again at the 2025 Howard Classic Basketball Tournament that Lipan hosts Dec. 4-6.

"We have our tournament, and to me it's stacked. We have a lot of great teams coming in to play, and it's not going to be easy. We have to bring the same energy that we had tonight into Thursday to start," Branson said.

"We get to come back on Thursday for the Lipan tournament. These are the teams that we have to face in order to make it in the playoffs, and understanding the speed, the tempo and just how physical it is," Halfmann said.

COURTESY PHOTO9

Signing to play at Florida SW State



Djurdja Torbica is pictured with her family after signing with Florida Southwestern State College to play volleyball. Torbica was a part of the Lady Pioneers 2025 State title team that beat Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators Association 3-1. She had 12 kills, two aces, 11 digs, two assists and 24 receptions in the championship match.

SEASON

FROM PAGE B1

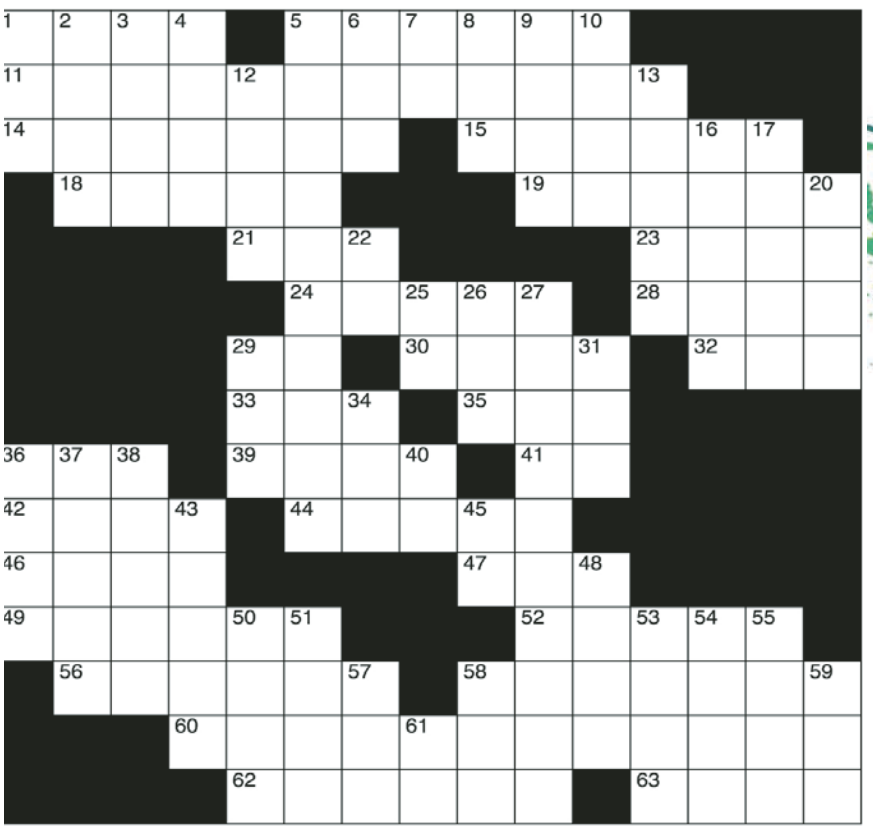
is another focus for his team. While he feels his players have improved their shooting percentages, it could be a "pitfall" for the team. A man defense paired with their good transition game will be a way for Granbury to score easy points.

"We are going to operate out of a multiple-set offense this year. Less continuity and more quick-hitters. We will probably feature some two-guard offense along with some blocker-mover offense this year," Blalock said.

The Lady Pirates are ready to start a new era with Blalock, and he's ready to build off the continued success of Granbury girls' basketball.

"I am excited to see us play some tougher competition and excited for the opportunity to showcase what we have done this summer and fall," Blalock said.





CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of cat
6. Weaponry
10. Western Christian Church service
14. Significant eruption of pustules
15. Baltic nation
17. Start of American holiday season
19. Unhappy
20. Maintains possession of
21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
22. Mountain pass
23. Vestments
24. Type of dish
26. Escaped quickly
29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
31. Wings
32. Political action committee
34. Touches lightly
35. Stood back from
37. Philippine Island
38. Popular winter activity
39. Type of amine
40. Small freshwater duck
41. Filled with love
43. Without (French)
45. Vetch
46. Swiss river
47. Describes a sound
49. Sign language
50. Hair product
53. Have surgery
57. Quality of being imaginary
58. Far-right German party
59. Drove
60. Former French coin of low value
61. Hard, durable timbers

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Middle East military title
3. Actor Pitt
4. Container
5. Speak incessantly
6. Relating to algae
7. Jacob __, journalist
8. Rock TV channel
9. Boat's cargo
10. Most wise
11. Within
12. Chinese industrial city
13. Scotland's longest river
16. Not capable
18. Footwear
22. Savings account
23. Capable
24. Vaccine developer
25. Tax collector
27. Fencing swords
28. Native religion in China
29. Promotional materials
30. A shot in a film production
31. Afflict in mind or body
33. A passage with access only at one end
35. Breathing devices
36. Employ for wages
37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
39. Popular Boston song
42. Made amends
43. Selling at specially reduced prices
44. Atomic #18
46. With fireplace residue
47. Unleavened cornbread
48. Draw out
49. Southwestern Alaska island
50. Where the Pyramids are
51. People of Nigeria
52. Smaller quantity
53. Destroy the inside of
54. City
55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
56. No (Scottish)

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

Level: Beginner

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, this week is all about momentum. Your boldness helps you break through obstacles like a professional. A surprise opportunity might crop up. Embrace this chance.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
The week starts off slow and steady, but then a sprinkle of excitement is added to your routine. A sweet surprise from a loved one could make your week even better.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Your social butterfly wings are flapping, Gemini. Engage in fun conversations with all of the people who come your way. Who knows, even a spontaneous adventure might present itself.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, your nurturing side shines through this week. You might find yourself acting as the go-to person for support or advice. Just be sure to tend to your own needs as well.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are ready for action even if everyone else isn't. They will look to you as a leader, but you probably won't mind having a few chances to lead over the next several days.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Clarity and calm are the words of the week for you, Virgo. Those little details that you've been puzzling over for a bit finally click into place, leaving you feeling amazing.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, this week is all about harmony and how you can organize things to achieve it. You may be in the mood to connect and collaborate, helping to bring people together.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
People may be drawn to your playful and magnetic side this week, Scorpio. Make time for socialization, but don't hesitate to book some alone time if you think you need it.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, your adventurous side is unstoppable right now. You are still being fueled by discovery and others want to join in the fun. Remember to slow down and recharge.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Hard work pays off in little victories this week, Capricorn. While you love being productive, remember to celebrate every success, even if it is a small one.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
A change of scenery could be good for you, Aquarius. If work had you feeling tired and worn out, book a short trip somewhere to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't brush aside the creative sparks that seem to be popping into your brain one after another, Pisces. Trust your intuition, as it's guiding you toward fun things ahead.

kids' corner

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

Solution

6	10	2
9	0	8
6	4	3

Health FACT:

What is the name of the chart that eye doctors use to measure vision?

Answer: Snellen scale

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

Answer: Perfect vision

CANADA MONTH HISTORY

1729

La Vérendrye becomes the first commandant of the Posts of the West. He is posted to Fort Kaministiquia and begins the western expansion.

NEW WORD FOCUS

pay particular attention to

"How they say that in..."

English: Sight
Spanish: Vista
Italian: Vista
French: Vue
German: Sicht

Did You KNOW?

Bifocal or multifocal lenses help people who have different visual impairments see clearly with one pair of eyeglasses.

Get the PICTURE?



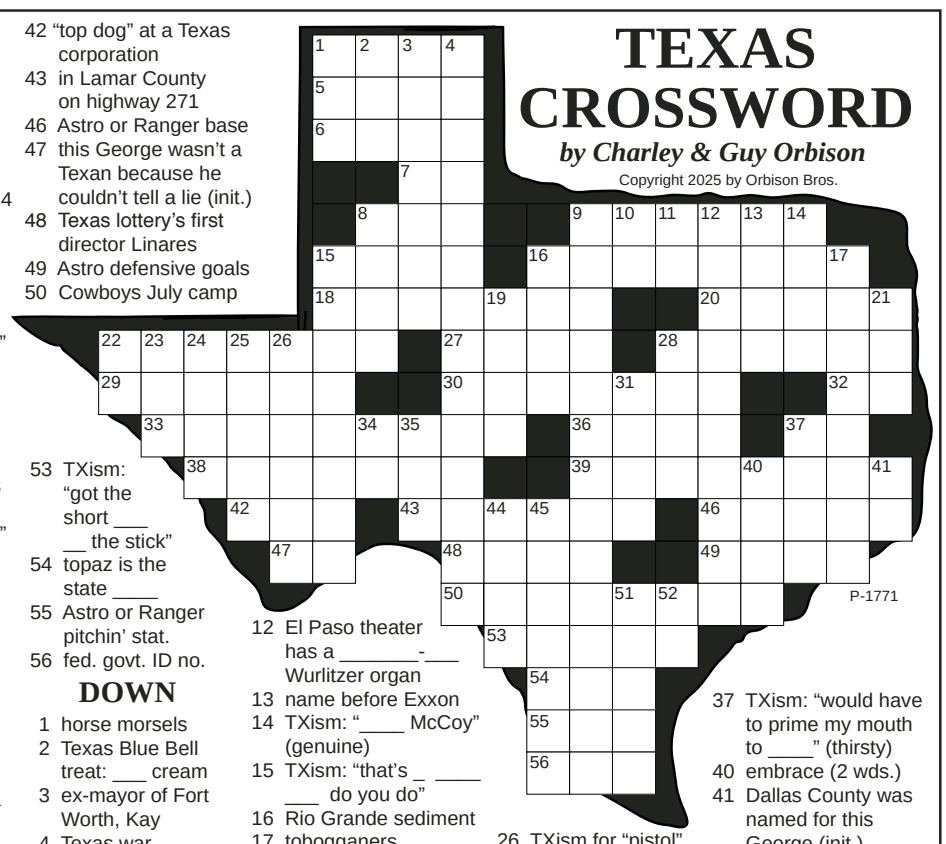
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye exam equipment

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1771

ACROSS

1 TXism: "living ____ on the hog"
5 early Fort Worth lawless area: "Hell's Half ____"
6 TX Roger Miller's "Dang Me" was 1964 Song of the ____
7 TXism: "pay him __ never mind"
8 TXism: "in a coon's ___" (long time)
9 TXism: "porch sitter"
15 high cards
16 TXism: "packed like _____ in a can"
18 TX Willie benefit series (2 wds.)
20 TX Tommy Lee was Woodrow _ ____ in "Lonesome Dove"
22 TXism: "a _____ __ the pan"
27 TX Roy Orbison's "____ the Lonely"
28 rustled cattle
29 A&M's color, with white
30 with "sodium," it's fertilizer
32 Texas' __ Pepper
33 TXism: "_____ as lightning striking your zipper"
36 Gen. Robt. _ ___
37 former ABC reporter, TX Donaldson (init.)
38 San Antonio's King William Street was named after King _____ I of Prussia
39 TXism: "got knocked ____ _ ___ or two"
42 "top dog" at a Texas corporation
43 in Lamar County on highway 271
46 Astro or Ranger base
47 this George wasn't a Texan because he couldn't tell a lie (init.)
48 Texas lottery's first director Linares
49 Astro defensive goals
50 Cowboys July camp
53 TXism: "got the short ___ __ the stick"
54 topaz is the state ____
55 Astro or Ranger pitchin' stat.
56 fed. govt. ID no.

DOWN

1 horse morsels
2 Texas Blue Bell treat: ___ cream
3 ex-mayor of Fort Worth, Kay
4 Texas war memorial: "Texas _____ _____"
8 TXism: "opened up _ ___ of worms"
9 Texas Tech women (3 wds.)
10 TXism: "put up __ shut up"
11 it can be classified
12 El Paso theater has a _____-___ Wurlitzer organ
13 name before Exxon
14 TXism: "____ McCoy" (genuine)
15 TXism: "that's _ ____ ___ do you do"
16 Rio Grande sediment
17 tobogganers
19 rare birds seen at Bentsen State Park
21 Texas pitching legend, Ryan (init.)
22 not an AM station
23 Texas boy
24 TXism: "got _ ___ deal" (got cheated)
25 Texas drive-in eatery
26 TXism for "pistol"
28 TXism: "____ in his own juice"
31 TXism: "got _ ___ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
34 "Streets of Laredo" was a __make of "Texas Rangers"
35 ___ Ocean, TX
37 TXism: "would have to prime my mouth to ____" (thirsty)
40 embrace (2 wds.)
41 Dallas County was named for this George (init.)
44 sweat outlet
45 fruit grown in the Rio Grande Valley
51 TX Roddenberry line: "where __ ___ has gone before"
52 TXism: "__ he's a rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)

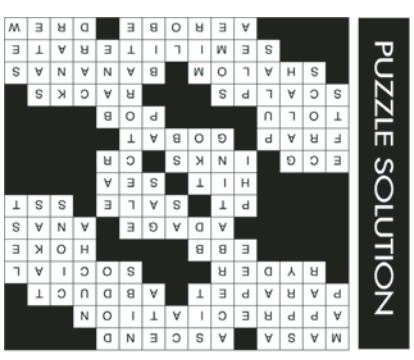
BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

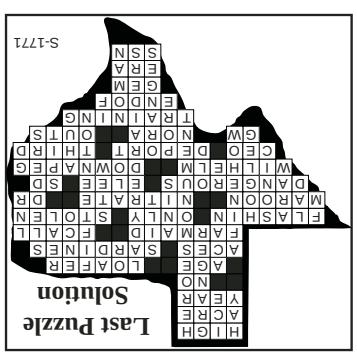
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W	O	S	E	C	G	L	E	S	C	T	I	C	P	I	R	V	M	O	S
I	U	N	I	C	W	Y	F	R	E	Q	N	R	N	Q	U	A	Y	F	B
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ACQUISITION
ANALYSIS
ASSETS
BRAND
CASH FLOW
COMMUNITY
ENTREPRENEUR
EQUITY
GLOBAL
INNOVATION
INVESTMENT
LIABILITIES
LOCAL
MARKET SHARE
MERGER
OUTSOURCING
PERFORMANCE
PROFIT
RETURN
REVENUE
SCALABILITY
STAKEHOLDER
SUPPLY CHAIN
VALUE





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

www.hcnews.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec. 6

Join Granbury Santa's House for a joyful visit with Santa, surrounded by festive backdrops and warm smiles from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 6-8 p.m. The Santa House is open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 23.

***

The Riley Stephens Memorial VFW Post 7835 will hold the Christmas Holiday Festival from noon to 6 p.m. at the post, 3670 W. U.S. Highway 377. The free community event will feature Santa selfies, kids' games and crafts and vendors.

***

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents "A Christmas Carol" at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

***

The Granbury Independent School District will hold the Granbury Middle School Theatre musical from 7-9 p.m. at the Granbury Middle School Cafeteria.

Sunday, Dec. 7

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 6 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

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The Granbury Theatre Company presents "A Christmas Carol" at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

***

The Granbury Independent School District will hold the Granbury Middle School Theatre musical from 7-9 p.m. at the Granbury Middle School Cafeteria.

Monday, Dec. 8

The Granbury Independent School District will hold the Granbury Middle School Choir Beginning Christmas Concert from 5:30-6 p.m. in the Granbury Middle School Cafeteria.

***

The North Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 at Spring Creek BBQ, located at 317 E. Hwy. 377. Jay May, a retired Geophysicist and a member of the steering committee, will present the program. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit ncentexcwrt.com.

Tuesday Dec. 9

The Granbury Independent School District will hold the Christmas Extravaganza from 5:30-7 p.m. at Acton Elementary School.

***

The Granbury Independent School District Acton Middle School Band and Granbury Middle School Band will hold the Christmas Concert from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Granbury High School.

Thursday, Dec. 11

The Granbury Independent School District will hold the Mambrino 4th Grade Music Program from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

***

The Granbury Civic Chorus is hosting their annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. at Acton Baptist Church, with this year's theme being "Christmas for All Time." The concert is free and open to the public, though donations are greatly appreciated.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents "A Christmas Carol" at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Friday, Dec. 12

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from 4-8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance will host their annual Christmas Banquet at 7 p.m. at Kingdom Life Church, located at 1950 Acton Hwy. A free meal will be provided by Kingdom Life Church, please register by 5 p.m. Dec. 9 to be included.

***

The Granbury Independent School District Granbury Middle School JV/Varsity Choir will hold the JV/Varsity Choir Concert from 7-8 p.m. at the Granbury High School Auditorium.

***

Granbury Live presents Dunn and Brooks Christmas Show at 7:30 p.m. In 2002, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn released a Christmas album titled It Won't Be Christmas Without You, featuring covers of traditional Christmas songs, as well as several newly written tunes. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa event from 8-11 a.m. at 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. The event will feature free Santa chats and photos, crafts, hayrides, archery and a full holiday market. Breakfast with Santa is a free community event, with an optional hot breakfast served for $5 a child and $10 an adult. Pre-register online at CampFireFW.org/BWS.

***

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 8 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Visit Granbury will hold the Granbury Great American Petting Farm from noon to 6 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 201 E. Pearl St. Expect festive holiday photo ops, adorable animals to feed and merchandise available for your holiday gift shopping. Cost is $5.

***

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Monday, Dec. 15

The Granbury Independent School District will hold a Board of Trustees meeting at 5 p.m. at the GISD Administration Building Board Room.

***

The Granbury Independent School District STEAM Academy at Mambrino Choir will perform on the square from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Square.

***

The Granbury Independent School District Granbury High School Choir will hold its Christmas Concert from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Granbury High School Auditorium.

***

The Brazos Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. at Granbury First United Methodist Church. The concert is free.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

Thursday, Dec. 18

The Granbury Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. The play, based on the classic Charles Dickens novel, recounts the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a crotchety curmudgeon who has lost faith in his fellow man and the spirit of Christmas — rejecting an invitation from his nephew, Fred, and bemoaning having to give the day off to his overworked clerk, Bob Cratchit. Tickets can be purchased at granburytheatrecompany.org.

ONGOING

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

Mondays

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Tuesdays

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

***

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

Wednesdays

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

***

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

Wednesdays, Saturdays

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

Thursdays

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

***

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

***

Chess Club, 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and younger must be accompanied by adult. Youth membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

***

Granbury Jam now at Revolver Brewery (after five years at Brock's) from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. every Thursday. Gator and the All-Stars open the show and then folks from the community can sing and/or play — sing with the pros. Revolver Brewery is located at 5650 Matlock, 4 minutes from Acton Highway/Fall Creek intersection.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

***

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

***

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

First Mondays

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

***

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

Second Mondays

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

Third Mondays

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

***

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

***

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

First Tuesdays

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

Second Tuesdays

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

Third Tuesdays

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

Fourth Tuesdays

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

***

Monthly meeting of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

Third Wednesdays

Lake Granbury Area Master Gardeners meet at 1 p.m the third Wednesday of every month except December; meetings begin with a one-hour educational horticultural program, which is free and open to the public. Location typically is United Co-op, 320 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury. Check the website txmg.org/hcmg or call the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280 for more info.

First Thursdays

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

Second Thursdays

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

***

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

***

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

Third Thursdays

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

***

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

Last Thursdays

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

Fridays, Saturdays

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

Second Saturdays

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

GRANBURY GONEBY



BY JOSH BURTON

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

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Dec. 2, 1965 — 60 years ago

The Hood County Pecan Growers Association and the Extension Service Pecan Committee is making plans for a big pecan show Dec. 9-10 at the Strain Hotel. The location at the northeast corner of the square will be easily accessible and a large number of entries and visitors are expected.

An enthusiastic group meeting the district court room Nov. 30 learned the possibility of a recreation project for Hood County. A non-profit organization would be formed, with memberships and a board of directors. Members would have one vote for each share of stock purchased.

Clyde Wells was in College Station the previous week attending the meeting of the Texas A&M University board. He was named chairman of the committee to "Study the Oct. 14 ruling concerning coeducation at the university from Attorney General Waggoner Carr.

Dec. 5, 1985 — 40 years ago

Joyce Beckworth is the chairman of a committee initiated two months ago by the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce to study the feasibility of building a civic center in Granbury. She and a committee of 10 have been touring various cities across the state to study the development and operation of their civic centers.

After initially balking on approving the city's 1986 hotel/motel room occupancy tax contract with the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night, city council members finally gave approval for it.

The state supreme court will hear arguments Jan. 15 in Austin regarding not rehiring Tolar football coach Gary Grounds. The Tolar school board did not rehire the coach in the spring of 1984 and Grounds filed a lawsuit claiming the school board did not give him valid reasons for his dismissal. However, in Hood County district court and later in appeals court, judges upheld the school's decision.

Dec. 3, 2005 — 20 years ago

A Granbury man was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of the unlawful discharge of waste materials into Lake Granbury. Brandon Duain Bartlett, 24, was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Judy Watson for reportedly dispensing salt water from a tanker truck into the lake at his residence along Long Creek Court.

Donations to hurricane victims may have affected the lack of donations to at least one local group. Only 15 percent of gifts have been returned leaving Hood County Christmas for Children volunteers wondering what they're going to do. At this time last year, about 50 percent of gifts had been returned.

A complaint about parents' cars and school buses impeding a driver's speed has set a parent in motion to slow traffic in front of Baccus Elementary. The driver complained cars and buses entering the highway at less than the speed limit of 65 mph were slowing his travel.

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Take a river cruise through America the beautiful



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

Have you considered a river cruise … In the United States?

Chances are you receive a promotional pamphlet in your mailbox every month inviting you to go on a European river cruise. Viking, Avalon Waterways, AmaWaterways and other river cruise lines are regularly sending out mailings to American travelers. You may have even traveled to Europe and enjoyed sailing on the Rhine River through Switzerland, Germany and Amsterdam, or on the Danube River through Hungary, Austria and Eastern Europe, or the Seine River sailing Paris to Normandy, or the Douro in Portugal. You may have even explored the rivers in Egypt, Columbia, South Africa or Asia. But have you considered sailing on a river cruise in the United States?

American Cruise Lines (ACL) is an excellent river cruise line that sails through the beauty, history, culture, wildlife, cuisine and music of the United States. They have been exploring America for more than 50 years on the rivers and national parks of the Mississippi, Columbia and Snake, Tennessee and Cumberland, Ohio, Potomac and Chesapeake Bay, Hells Canyon and Yellowstone, San Juan Islands, Florida Keys and Gulf Coast, Hudson and New England Islands, the Great Lakes, and the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay in Alaska.

ACL has a fleet of small ships with unparalleled comfort and an intimate vibe. Each ship only accommodates between 90-180 guests, always is close to shore and provides personalized service. They have six different styles of ships based on the needs of the destination they are sailing through. From modern river boats to classic paddle wheelers, and Coastal Cats. Every ship is built in the United States in Salisbury, Maryland. They are meticulously designed for smoother cruising, optimizing views and the highest level of comfort. They also focus on being environmentally friendly.

It's no surprise that ACL is an award-winning river cruise line. They continually win awards every year from Cruise Critic, Magellan Awards, USA Today, Conde Nast Traveler and more. They have quality accommodations, excellent food, incredible staff, amazing tours, cultural enrichment programs and a membership benefits program called the Eagle Society for regular cruisers.

The travelers I send on American Cruise Lines always book their next cruise while on board the ship to receive a big discount, and they get to keep me as their travel advisor to assist them with all the details of their trip at no extra cost. It's a win-win. I have one couple who just booked their fifth ACL river cruise, and they say it's because each destination is unique, the ship, staff and food are excellent, and they always make new friends while on board. Plus, they love it's a much shorter flight compared to traveling to Europe; no passport required.

Where do you want to go? Alaska Glaciers and Wildlife, New England Islands and Fall Foliage, Florida Coast and the Keys, Mississippi History and Civil War sites, New Orleans to Memphis to Nashville, Tennessee, for the Music Cities Tour, East Coast Colonial and Revolutionary Tours, or the Great Lakes? Contact your favorite Travel Advisor today.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Every day

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

Sunday through Friday

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

Every Saturday

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

Every Monday

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

***

Grief Connection, a discussion-based grief support group, meets from 4-5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church Granbury, 2109 W. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76049. (Next to Tractor Supply). Park in the main parking lot and enter through the office door. If someone is suffering a loss through death, divorce, serious illness or other life trauma, join the "Tribe of After" as the group navigates the emotional, spiritual and practical changes of life with and after loss. Anyone who has questions or would like more information, contact Amy Dwight (817-894-2449) or Danny Dwight (817-219-9833).

***

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

Every Tuesday

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Every Thursday

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Every Friday

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

***

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

First Monday

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

First Tuesday

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

Second Saturday

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

Second Monday

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

Third Monday

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

Third Tuesday

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

Fourth Tuesday

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

Fourth Saturday

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

SENIOR CENTER MENUS

Monday, Dec. 8

BBQ baked potato, buttered corn, garlic bread and fresh fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Rosemary chicken with rice pilaf, seasoned carrots, a roll and fruit yogurt.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Stuffed pepper casserole with yellow squash, tossed salad and a cherry crisp.

Thursday, Dec. 11

Meatloaf with green beans, mashed potato, a roll and cake.

Friday, Dec. 12

Chicken salad sandwich with green pea salad, chunky fruit medley and upside down cake.

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT Granbury Session Times

Friday, 05 December 2025 - Thursday, 11 December 2025

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:35PM, 5:35PM, 7:10PM, 8:15PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 11:30AM, 12:30PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM, 9:30PM, 10:50PM.
Sun: 10:15AM, 11:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:50PM, 4:30PM, 6:20PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 3:40PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 8:00PM.
Thurs: 2:15PM, 3:15PM, 4:45PM, 5:45PM, 7:15PM, 8:15PM

Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG13)
Fri: 2:20PM, 5:00PM, 7:40PM, 10:20PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM

Wicked: For Good (PG)
Fri: 3:40PM, 6:45PM, 9:50PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:40PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 7:45PM

Zootopia 2 (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:40PM, 5:40PM, 7:20PM, 8:15PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 11:00AM, 12:35PM, 1:35PM, 3:10PM, 4:10PM, 5:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:00PM, 9:20PM, 10:35PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:35PM, 3:15PM, 4:10PM, 5:50PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 5:05PM, 6:10PM, 7:10PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 2:35PM, 4:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM

Show times are subject to change without notice

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017 Livestock & Pets
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019 Masonry & Stonework
020 Moving & Hauling
021 Painting
022 Plumbing
023 Pressure Washing
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015 Home Improvement

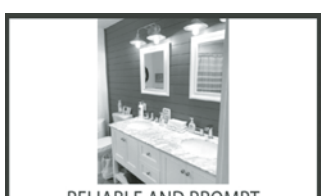
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1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048
817-573-4277

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

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865 sq ft, 1BR/1BA and 2 lofts. Water & sewer included. $1,250, $600 deposit, $200 animal deposit, no cats. Nonrefundable. In Glen Rose. 254-386-7387.

House for Rent: 2-1, 707 E Moore St. $900/mo, $500 deposit. Absolutely no pets! 682-500-5543.

Acton area. Clean 2-2-2 CP, trash and water paid. $1,350/mo. $1,000 deposit. 817-578-9906.

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033 Legal Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

CAUSE NO. C2025006

THE STATE OF TEXAS

WALTER MORGAN, BONNIE MORGAN, DAX MORGAN,

Plaintiffs

vs.

MATTHEW TODD THOMPSON AND MICHAEL DEAN TELLIHO,

Defendants

IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

To: MATTHEW TODD THOMPSON AND MICHAEL DEAN TELLIHO

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 WALTER MORGAN, BONNIE MORGAN, DAX MORGAN as Plaintiff(s), against the above-named MATTHEW TODD THOMPSON AND MICHAEL DEAN TELLIHO as Defendant(s), by PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed on the 15th day of JANUARY, 2025, in a certain suit styled WALTER MORGAN, BONNIE MORGAN, DAX MORGAN vs. MATTHEW TODD THOMPSON AND MICHAEL DEAN TELLIHO. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2025006.

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

Plaintiff(s) WALTER MORGAN, BONNIE MORGAN, DAX MORGAN, by and through its attorney of record, KELLY G. TORRIJOS of LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. HENRY, 5711 UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BLVD., STE. 101, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249 brought suit under Cause No. C2025006 in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, by PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION on Defendant(s), MATTHEW TODD THOMPSON AND MICHAEL DEAN TELLIHO if living, or Unknown Heirs if he be dead, are potential parties of interest:

DOCUMENT BEING SERVED: PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION, FILED ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, on October 3, 2025.

ATTORNEY FOJUHE DEFENDANT (S)

KELLY GAYTAN TORRIJOS

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. HENRY

5711 UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BLVD., STE. 101

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249

TELEPHONE: 361-985-0600

EMAIL: ktorrijos@tjhlaw.com

MELANIE GRAFT, CLERK OF THE 355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

By Sarah A. Roach,

Deputy Clerk of the 355th Judicial District Court, Hood County, Texas

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, December 12, 2025 at noon in the Hood County Annex I Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury, TX 76048. For more information, 817-579-3200.

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

ADALIE OAKS, LOTS 4-R THROUGH 6-R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 19th, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

THE LANDINGS EAST, Lot 3199R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 19th, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Julia Olive Stroud were issued on November 13, 2025, in Docket No. P10830, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Blake Alan Edwards. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

Blake Alan Edwards

c/o Law Office of Karen J. Tracy, PLLC

P. O. Box 21396

Billings, MT 59104-1396

Dated November 24, 2025.

/s/ Karen J Schexnider

Karen J Schexnider

Law Office of Karen J. Tracy, PLLC

P. O. Box 21396

Billings, MT 59104-1396

Tel: (972) 270-4393

Fax: (972) 270-4328

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that successor Letters of Independent Administration with Will

Annexed for the Estate of Paul Earnest Leslie, Deceased, were issued on November 19, 2025, in

Cause No. P10493, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Gail Ann Leslie.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are

required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Tracy S. Bush, attorney for Gail Ann Leslie

201 E. Bridge St.

Granbury, Texas 76048

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Notice to Creditors: Estate of ROY AARON KIZER. On November 19, 2025, in Cause No. PR10800,†in the matter of the estate of ROY AARON KIZER the Hood County Probate Court admitted the Will of ROY AARON KIZER†and appointed DANA RYAN KIZER as Independent Executor of the Estate. All creditor claims may be forwarded as follows: Dana Ryan Kizer, Independent Executor, c/o Candace L. Sandifer, Attorney at law, Houser Law Firm, P.C., 1560 E Southlake Boulevard, Suite 100, Southlake, Texas 76092.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS

AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HARIBOL BHANDARI, DECEASED

On November 19, 2025, original Letters Testamentary were issued to Udayan Bhandari, by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, acting in Cause No. P10833, styled Estate of Haribol Bhandari, Deceased, and in which court the matter is pending. Udayan Bhandari now holds those Letters Testamentary, and administration of the Estate of Haribol Bhandari, Deceased, has commenced.

All persons having claims against the Estate of Haribol Bhandari, Deceased are notified to present those claims to Udayan Bhandari, Independent Executor of the Estate of Haribol Bhandari, Deceased, at 181 S. Graham Ave., Stephenville, Texas 76401, within the time prescribed by law.

DATED this 26th day of November 2025.

THE ALLEN FIRM, P.C.
A Texas Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Independent Executor
181 South Graham
Stephenville, Texas 76401
Telephone: (254) 965-3185
Facsimile: (254) 965-6539
jeremy@allenlawfirm.com

By: /s/Jeremy Derington
State Bar No. 24050508

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

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

Sealed proposals subject to the conditions and requirements of RFP2026-01 will be received at the Hood County Purchasing Office, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, Texas 76048 not later than 10:00 am on Thursday January 8, 2026. Submittals received after that date and time will be rejected regardless of reason, including delayed delivery. Proposers will be read at that time in a public meeting and held by the Hood County Purchasing Agent's Office. After evaluation of completeness, price, references, experience, qualifications, and facility location, it will be awarded by the Commissioners' Court at a future Court date. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.

Electronic Bids are preferred and can be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com/ . It is free to register and to bid. Hard copy submissions may be submitted by downloading a bid packet at https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids and can be submitted to: Hood County Purchasing, RFP 2026-01, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048. Facsimile and e-mail transmissions will NOT be accepted. Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to the Hood County Purchasing Agent at gtilleman@hoodcounty.texas.gov no later than December 23, 2025.

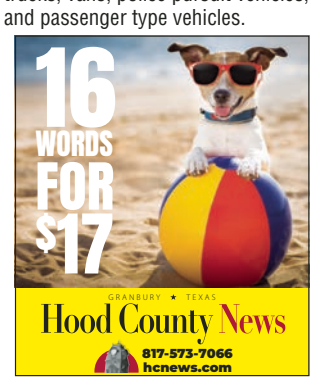
Hood County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. ßß 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of the owner's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income-level, or LEP in consideration for an award.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM ALLEN HARDIN, Deceased, were issued on November 19, 2025, in Cause No. P10760, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: MELODY SUE HARDIN.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban
Attorney at Law
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 20th day of November, 2025.
Attorney for Melody Sue Hardin
Steven G. Kuban
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com





Rainbow Room serving children for 30 years

Local non-profit celebrates with open house

BY CHLOE LAING
jaxon@hcnews.com

Organizers of Granbury's second oldest charitable organization, the Rainbow Room, have tried to address concerns they have regarding community visibility.

To address these concerns, they have organized an open house event celebrating the group's 30th anniversary from 4-6 p.m. Dec. 9 at 2175 Ruth Smith Drive.

It is the hope of Rainbow Room's board this open house will highlight the team's mission and bring the Rainbow Room to the forefront of Granbury's nonprofit scene – a scene in which it has taken a back seat to because the organization is limited to working with Child Protective Services and not the general public.

"It's like nobody knows who we are, because we're behind the scenes," Rainbow Room board president Vanessa Faulkner said.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary of serving Hood and Somervell counties' children, the Rainbow Room is opening its facility for an open house event, during which donors and community members are invited to come in, ask questions, learn all about the process, and see how their donations are being used to cause change.

"We invite our donors and have them come in, because we feel like they like to see what happens to their money," said Brigitte Eichler, the local Rainbow Room's founder. "They like to actually be able to see where their money's going and how it's helping, and kind of get a feel for it."

While they may not have widespread notoriety among the local nonprofits, the Rainbow Room does have a dedicated band of donors who make real-life change for local children and families possible.

According to several caseworkers, this community support is what makes the work of this Rainbow Room so beneficial — more beneficial than in other communities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rainbow Room of Hood and Somervell Counties Founder Brigitte Eichler (left) and President Vanessa Faulkner (right) help work alongside local Child Protective Service case workers to ensure the area's underprivileged children have the resources they need to thrive.



"Here, the community is just so supportive. I don't know if they (Rainbow Rooms) are as successful in other communities, because those communities are just not quite as supportive," CPS Investigator Supervisor Michelle Gasca said.

"It really mirrors their passion for the work that they do and what they provide for us. It just shows how passionate they are for the cause and the community," CPS investigative case worker Ashley Cleff said.

Helping CPS caseworkers help families

The Rainbow Room of Hood and Somervell Counties acts as the bridge of support between local Child Protection Service caseworkers and the children they serve. It provides many items a child or family might need to live a hopeful life, including clothing, diapers, formula, hygiene items, comfort items, shoes and meal vouchers.

When caseworkers learn of a child's or family's need, they can go to the Rainbow Room's extensive inventory and find the solution to that need almost instantaneously.

"We go meet with families, and they'll be like, 'I can't do this. I don't even have time to meet with you. We can barely put food on the table,"' Cleff said. "Rainbow Room gives us the ability to be like, 'Well, what do you need? You'd be surprised what I could get my hands on. You have a baby, let me bring you some diapers. Let me bring you wipes. Like, I know it's not much, but it takes something off.'"

The organization serves to support the "real heroes" — local CPS case workers, Eichler said. The Rainbow Room can help CPS protect children and families by acting as a bridge between the two parties.

According to the Rainbow Room team, often, families are wary of CPS's intentions. However, because of the Rainbow Room, CPS caseworkers can bring improvements to the lives of everyone in the home, showing they really do care about preserving and improving families in addition to protecting children's safety.

"We build trust between the caseworker and the family, you know, because every time they go to the home, they'll take a package of diapers and wipes. They're building relationships to try to help the home be better for the children," Eichler said. "They really are worried for the children in our community, and I love that about them, because they want to make sure they're safe at the end of every day. They'll do anything to do that."

According to numerous Hood County CPS caseworkers, not only does the Rainbow Room fill a direct and dire need for these families, such as providing clothing and safe living conditions, but it also restores a sense of pride and hope.

"It doesn't only just heighten the self-esteem of those children, but with our families too," Cleff said. "They face the world feeling just a little more pride in what they're being able to send their kids out in."

The Rainbow Room of Hood and Somervell counties is a nonprofit and relies solely on the dedication of a team of 10 volunteers and community donations, all of which go directly to local struggling families and children.

"We're very chintzy with our money, like I would say 99.5 percent goes whatever the kids need," Faulkner said. "We want all the money that's raised to go to the children."

30 years ago, this year

The local Rainbow Room was established by Eichler in 1995 after chatting with one of the area's two Child Protective Services caseworkers.

Eichler learned there was no governmental help for kids living in foster care or underprivileged homes to secure needed resources like clothing or hygiene items. These products either were purchased directly by the family's case worker or the child simply went without.

This problem was particularly potent in Hood County, where, according to Faulkner, 53 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

So, Eichler took the matter before her church, Acton Methodist Church, and began the local Rainbow Room as a Methodist Women's project.

Eichler served as the Rainbow Room president until 2022, when she handed the reins to Faulkner, who said she is passionate about the cause because she once had to participate in the broken system.

"I have a son who was a foster child that I adopted, and he had nothing. I had to go buy everything for him; there wasn't a Rainbow Room where I lived," Faulkner said. "So that's what prompted me to get involved, because I remember what that was like — 'Yeah, come get this kid,' but I didn't even have a car seat to pick him up in."

Each year, the local Rainbow Room continues to grow and serve more and more families as Granbury's population increases. According to Faulkner, in 2024 alone, the Rainbow Room helped more than 739 individuals.

"Our population has grown, and so we've grown with it," Eichler said.

GHS football full of heart, 2 wins in Allison's 2nd season

BY JAXON HANSARD
Chloe@hcnews.com

Two victories and eight losses statistically show the results from the 2025 football season for the Granbury Pirates, but the camaraderie and heart of the team is what showed to head coach Bobby Allison and his staff this year.

The 2025 football season for Granbury was a bumpy road for Allison in his second year as head coach. While he had a lot of impactful seniors in key positions, the tough district and injuries stacked up on any momentum the Pirates had.

Through 10 games, Granbury had 2,320 total yards (1,468 passing yards and 852 rushing) for 17 passing touchdowns, three rushing touchdowns and 115 first downs. The Pirates had a 1-7 district record.

"We went into this year with high expectations and we're going to every single year. Whenever we fall short of our expectations, we have to reflect and find out how to be better and that's our job," Allison said.

Allison referenced the Azle and Denton losses to putting together four quarters of "really good football" instead of three. Running the ball better is a focus for the offseason, as well as his players being stronger both physically and mentally.

"High school sports isn't a win-at-all-costs, but winning is important. We're helping these guys develop from boys into young men. We also have to understand that winning is important," Allison said.

Defensive Coordinator Kris Cauble has coached with Allison for 12 years. In those 12 years together, this Granbury team has been their best team at stopping the opposing team's running backs. To round out the defense, they want to improve on stopping passes.

Allison's coaching staff featured five new defensive



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury coaching staff signal their defense. Defensive Coordinator Kris Cauble has coached with Allison for 12 years. In those 12 years together, this Granbury team has been their best team at stopping the opposing teams' running backs.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior Bryson Hager saluting his teammates on the sidelines. Hager played both sides of the ball this season and had 59 yards on three receptions through 10 games. He also had 58 tackles, one interception, one fumble recovery and a defensive touchdown.

coaches and three offensive coaches. Continuity is something he would like to have for next year, so he and his staff are more familiar with each other's skills and shared expectations of their program. The continuity of his staff is important to Allison as the roster size of a football team requires more coaching, and the shorter schedule puts the Pirates into district play after two games.

The injury bug bit the Pirates early this season and did not let up after. Senior running back Spencer Taylor missed six games with a broken collarbone he suffered in the team's first scrimmage. Through four games, Taylor had 161 rushing yards on 42 carries. His sophomore stand-in, Kobe Barrington, missed the second half of the season after rushing for 189 yards on 79 carries. The receivers were unfortunate as well, with injuries to senior Jonothan McCandless, junior Christopher Skinner, sophomore backup quarterback and wide receiver Caleb Johnson. Sophomore tight end Brayden Pugh, senior free safety Tahj Clayton and senior Jose Hernandez did not complete the season either.

"Every single one of those injuries was in a game. That's why it's so important to prepare everybody; the backups are one play away from being the starter. Having backups ready to go and having kids that can step up. We had some kids step up this year based off the injuries," Allison said.

Allison praised Granbury's leading rusher, sophomore Hunter Rodgers, and the leading receiver, senior Miller Schenewark. Rodgers had 494 yards on 105 carries in eight games. Schenewark had 416 yards on 35 receptions through 10 games in his first season as a high school wide receiver.

"I was really proud of those kids, having to be thrown into that fire, and the way they developed and competed. I was proud of all of them. We probably had eight sophomores playing on varsity and a freshman throughout the season," Allison said.

With 30 seniors graduating, Allison will look to fill out his team with younger players from the junior varsity teams. The development and maturity of the younger players is something he and his staff look for and explain to their players.

"All of our kids are hard-working kids. Now it's a matter of how many of them can be committed to what we're asking them to develop. Our goal is to compete at the level that we play at. We need to continue to work, develop, and we need each one of them to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be," Allison said. "The strongest version of themselves, the fastest version of themselves and really dedicate to getting as big and fast and strong as their body can be. That is the goal and the process of every kid."

This was the 2026 seniors' second year with Allison, a change they welcomed as they were ready to make a change and impact the school's football program.

"I truly believe a lot of the change they (the seniors) have created is within our program and our culture and our foundation. I truly believe we're going to look back in a few years and will now see the change they're talking about," Allison said. "They laid the foundation and got this thing going in the right direction."

One of his best examples of his seniors' impact on the season was their ability to handle adversity. When the season was not going how they wanted, he felt the seniors did not "change their colors" and "stayed purple." Staying purple is one of Allison's values for his team and it combines Granbury school's color of purple and how students handle adversity.

"It's our identity, our brand, our way of doing things. Playing the game with class, not getting personal fouls, blaming your teammates, throwing your helmet on the sideline, not getting into it with teammates and coaches when things get hard. It's easy to be purple and operate when things are good. But when things go bad, when you start to lose games, ref makes a bad call, you start losing your composure. It's something that we say to our kids to help them maintain their composure and stay purple," Allison said.

Winning football games only is part of the athletics program; the other half for Allison and his staff is helping develop his players into men. Tying every situation they encounter to a real-life example. They want to develop the students' character on and off the field, in the classroom, outside of school and any opportunity they get.

"We are constantly talking to all of our kids about our life to help them grow into our talk. We tell them all the time it's through the game of football that we want to help them become the men they want, the husbands and fathers they were meant to be," Allison said.

This "off-season" will have the same standards and expectations. They believe in their process, coaches, and students, and are ready for spring ball and the summer.

"I wish it would have a few more wins for them in the win column, but at the end of the day, I think they're going to be able to look back and say they gave everything they had. They had a lot of heart," Allison said.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS



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

December is here, and that means our community's calendar is overflowing with parties, gatherings and events. Last weekend, the Woman's Club's Toys for Tots Christmas parade (with clear skies and on a lovely day) was a beautiful success with decorated golf carts and horses comprising a holiday procession to cookies, hot chocolate and Santa and Mrs. Claus at the clubhouse. Thank you to parade coordinator Kay Jones and her committee for facilitating this festive and fun party. This weekend the activities continue and hold abundant opportunity for Christmas celebrations.

Holiday homes

First, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, Saturday, Dec. 6, is the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual Christmas Tour of Homes. The ladies prepare year-round for this much anticipated event, and the funds raised support their chosen philanthropies.

Toy tournament

In addition, the Men's Golf Association also has a big gala planned for today, Saturday, Dec. 6, with its annual Toys for Tots Tournament on the calendar. A Toys for Tots donation box is located in the pro shop where checks may be deposited.

Paint party

Finally, it is the season for a paint party, and one is coming from 2-4 p.m. today, Saturday, Dec. 6, at the PAC for artists ages 12 and older. Facilitator Traci Bishop will guide participants through a step-by-step art project celebrating the winter season.

Outdoor activity

The Brazos River Sportsman's Club and the Recreational Vehicle Club will enjoy a joint Christmas party Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the clubhouse. In addition, the Sportsman's Club will facilitate Pecan's annual kids' trout fishing tournament also Dec. 29. Folks may send email to jcfritz56@gmail.com for more details on the Sportsman's Club and write ppoarv@gmail.com for RV Club news.

Teacher team

The Pecan Educator Network has a gathering planned at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9. This group welcomes neighbors who currently or have formerly worked in education in any capacity. Send email to teachtrw@yahoo.com for complete information about this group's activities and presence in our community.



PPWC PUBLICITY | COURTESY PHOTO

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club holds a Toys for Tots Christmas parade to usher in the holiday season in Pecan Plantation. Decorated golf carts and horses led the way to the clubhouse where attendees enjoyed refreshments and visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Many thanks to Kay Jones and the PPWC ladies who made this event so fabulous.

Golf gifts

The annual Christmas Card Sale comes to the golf pro shop from Tuesday, Dec. 9, through Saturday, Dec. 13. Shoppers may choose merchandise to purchase and then select a Christmas card revealing a designated discount. One lucky shopper will open a 100-percent discount card.

Tune times

A karaoke party is coming to the 19th Hole at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. Both participants and spectators are invited to attend.

Also, Mark H. Morton will entertain folks with his "road trippin' music" from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, also in the 19th Hole. All neighbors are welcome.

Neighborly gathering

Pecan Plantation's Neighbors Helping Neighbors invites folks to its Christmas Party from 2-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the EMS Building on Monticello Drive. Attendees will enjoy an afternoon of caroling along with refreshments, and transportation is available with an RSVP by Monday, Dec. 8: 817-894-0143.

Genealogy group

Pecan's Genealogy Group welcomes both neighborhood residents and guests to its meetings, the next of which is a Christmas party Tuesday, Dec. 16. Calls or texts to 682-459-5718 will provide more information on the day.

Date change

With Christmas coming soon, Pecan's bulk trash day for December has been rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 20, so services will continue without interruption during the holiday season. For complete information on the collection station in our community, folks may contact Director of Operations Daniel Van Patten at 817-573-2641, extension 342.

Fish date

Pecaners will want to save the date of Monday, Dec. 29 for the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kid's Trout Fishing Tournament. This Wildlife Committee sponsored event grows in popularity each year as the youngest residents of our community have proven themselves skilled at reeling in healthy catches. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the pond behind the clubhouse pool.

New year

Pecaners will have a party in our neighborhood to celebrate the coming of 2026. Beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, folks may enjoy an evening consisting of a meal (including black eyed peas!), a champagne toast, live music and dancing; in addition, the dress code for the party is bright and glowing clothing to complement the neon theme. Reservations may be secured through member portals or by calling 817-573-2641.

Cuisine class

Pecan's Chef Jordan Ray has added a new activity to our community's calendar. "Skills of Cooking" happening from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays with 30-minute sessions providing individual instruction in the areas of soups, sauces, barbecue prep and meat, and fish fabrications. Advanced level cooking mastery training also will be available. Classes begin the first week of Dec., and registration is happening now. Contact Shelby Looney to secure a spot: 817-573-2641 extension 334 or sfoster@ppoaweb.com.

Governing group

A board of nine directors serves Pecan Plantation, and each year three members complete their terms and thus our community elects three new members for the group. Neighbors who are passionate about our Pecan

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CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Guests speaker to tell about Civil War arerial units



BY BILL DYESS

Bill Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

Most of us have heard of the Confederate Air Force, the whimsical name of an organization that collects War World II military aircraft.

But how many of us know both the North and the South actually had aerial units during the Civil War? Jay May, a retired geophysicist with a long interest in Civil War technology, and a member of our steering committee, will present the December program for the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table when he speaks on the use of balloons during the war, and especially during the Seven Days Campaign.

We will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. Highway 377, in Granbury. Guests are always welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit ncentexcwrt.com or call David Wells, at 817-579-5769, or Bill Dyess, at 817-326-8216.

Our November program was presented by local historians Melinda Jo Ray and Mike Moore (also a member of the Civil War Round Table Steering Committee), who spoke on the legend that John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin, did not die in Virginia in 1865, as the history books say, but instead escaped and made his way eventually to Granbury, where he resided and worked as a bartender for some time. The speakers presented some very interesting and compelling facts supporting the legend.

December, 1863, In the Civil War

Although there were no major battles or engagements during December, 1863, there was much skirmishing and many cavalry raids — and death — throughout the combat areas. In Virginia, the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. George Meade, retired across the Rapidan River, and went into winter quarters. At Chattanooga, Gen. Grant began building a base for a campaign into Georgia, but no real movement was expected until spring.

Longstreet's Corps of Gen. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, temporary attached to Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee, had been sent in November to attempt to take Knoxville. Having failed in that effort, Longstreet withdrew to Greeneville, Tennessee, where he too went into winter quarters. West of the Mississippi River, there was light skirmishing in several places, but no major action.

In a major Confederate command change, Gen. Braxton Bragg was replaced as the Commander of the Army of Tennessee. Although a competent and dedicated soldier, Bragg was totally unable to operate with his subordinate officers, and thus his accomplishments were limited. His ultimate replacement, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, would have the task of opposing the Union forces when they moved from Chattanooga toward Atlanta, in the coming new year.

Did you know

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg, mentioned above, while a competent officer, was extremely difficult to get along with. The story is told that prior to the Civil War, while still an officer in the U.S. Army, he commanded a body of troops at a small post, where he was "seconded" as the post quartermaster. As troop commander, he submitted a requisition for an item he felt his troops needed. As quartermaster, he denied the requisition, on the basis that it did not cite a proper need for the item. When the matter came to the attention of the Post Commander, he is said to have said:

"Bragg, you have fought with every officer in the United States Army, and now I'm damned if you haven't picked a fight with yourself."

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.

PECAN

FROM PAGE B11

and desire to make a difference in our vicinity are invited to complete an application qualifying them to be on the ballot next year. Dedicated members who guide our association into the future and lend their voices in decisions concerning our homes are invaluable. Members received email last week with both an application link and a QR code containing an application, and the deadline for submission of paperwork is 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Newly elected board members will be announced at Pecan's annual meeting Saturday, March 7, and take office immediately. Board service is a volunteer position that requires attending monthly meetings and dedicating time each week to projects, email, training and committee liaison roles.

Giving back

The Pecan Plantation Employee Christmas Bonus Fund is open and receiving donations from members who would like to recognize our dedicated staff. Folks may visit the Pecan website or stop by the front desk to participate.

KNIEPER REALTY

Two hot button issues 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.

First let's talk about feedback. In the real estate industry, providing feedback after property showings has long been considered a professional courtesy.

Realtors® often share buyer impressions with sellers to help them understand how a home is perceived in the market. However, this practice has increasingly become a source of legal risk. Several lawsuits have demonstrated that even seemingly harmless comments can lead to disputes, miscommunication and liability.

One notable case involved a buyer's agent who described a home's décor as "tacky." When this feedback was relayed to the sellers, they felt insulted and later refused to negotiate fairly with that agent's buyers. The situation escalated into litigation, illustrating how subjective remarks can damage relationships and create grounds for legal action.

Additionally, feedback that tells a seller the buyers loved the home and will be presenting an offer soon, can be perceived as giving the seller insight into the buyer's motivation giving them an unfair advantage to the buyer in the negotiation process.

In a profession where trust and reputation are paramount, such comments can expose agents to claims of misrepresentation or negligence. As a result, many brokerages now discourage or prohibit feedback altogether. This shift reflects a growing awareness that protecting professional integrity often means saying less, not more.

The second issue concerns 'undisclosed surveillance." In today's real estate market, many homeowners install cameras and audio recording devices for security. While these tools can protect your property, they pose serious risks when sellers fail to disclose their presence during showings. Buyers and agents often assume a reasonable expectation of privacy while touring a home. Hidden surveillance undermines that expectation and can create legal, ethical and financial consequences.

One major danger is the violation of privacy laws. In many states, recording audio without consent is illegal, and undisclosed video monitoring also may breach wiretapping or eavesdropping statutes. If buyers discover they were secretly recorded, sellers could face serious consequences. Beyond legality, undisclosed surveillance erodes trust. Buyers may feel manipulated if they believe sellers used recordings to gain leverage in negotiations, such as overhearing candid discussions about their budget or preferences.

The presence of undisclosed cameras also damages professional relationships. Realtors® have fiduciary duties to protect their client's interests and being unknowingly recorded can compromise those duties. Agents may face reputational harm if clients believe they failed to safeguard private conversations.

Finally, undisclosed surveillance can jeopardize a sale itself. Buyers who feel their privacy was violated may withdraw offers or demand concessions, reducing the property's marketability. What was intended as a security measure quickly can become a liability.

For these reasons, transparency is essential. Sellers should clearly disclose any monitoring devices, ensuring compliance with the law and preserving trust in the transaction process.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have questions about this article and just want to talk about real estate in general, we would love to hear from you. Give us a call at 817-219-0456, or visit us online at WeSellGranbury.com.

