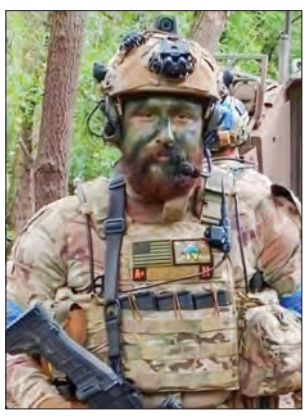
GRANBURY ★ TEXAS
Hood County News
MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND
SATURDAY, January 31, 2026
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INSIDE



Man held captive in Ukraine holding book-signing here

–See Page A6



GHS swimmers win district

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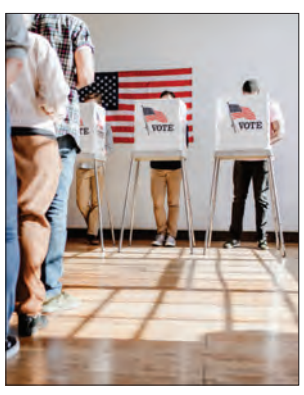
Bravo, Granbury Theatre Academy!

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Whatever happened to right and wrong?

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Chamber hosting candidate forum Feb. 9

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GISD part of Raise Your Hand Texas

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
submissions@hcnews.com

Granbury ISD has been selected as a grant winner for the inaugural cohort of the Raise Your Hand Texas Community Leaders Fellowship, a new statewide initiative designed to strengthen local leadership and advocacy in public education.

Raise Your Hand Texas recently announced the launch of the fellowship, naming 29 school districts across the state to participate in the first cohort. The program serves as the premier offering within the organization's newly established Education Advocacy Academy and represents the next evolution of its well-known Trustee Advocates Program — expanding beyond school board members to include a broader coalition of community voices.

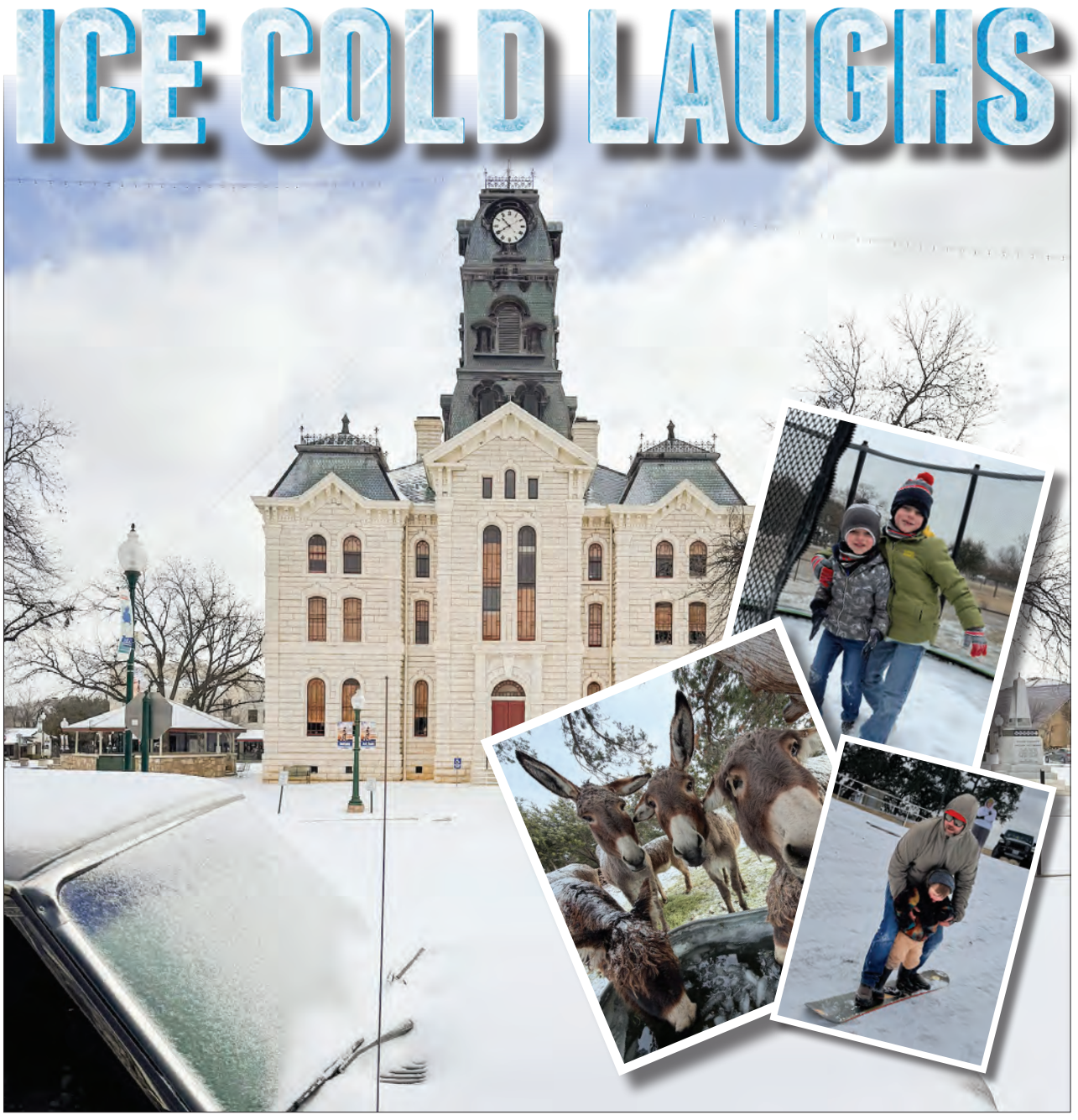
The 18-month fellowship will bring together local teams made up of parents, educators, business leaders and school trustees to develop the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage in state education policy through a non-partisan, student-centered approach. Participants will receive training and resources to help them find, use and amplify their voices on issues impacting Texas public schools.

"Being selected for this fellowship is a tremendous honor and an opportunity for our district and community to help shape the future of public education in Texas," said Dr. Courtney Morawski, superintendent of Granbury ISD. "We are proud to represent Granbury alongside districts from across the state and to continue advocating for policies that support students, educators, and schools."

Granbury ISD is one of 29 districts selected statewide for Cohort 1, joining Abilene ISD, Alamo Heights ISD, Belton ISD, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Cedar Hill ISD, Corpus Christi ISD, Lewisville ISD, Liberty Hill ISD, Plano ISD, San Marcos CISD, Wylie ISD, and others.

Through the fellowship, Granbury ISD will collaborate with community partners and education leaders to strengthen advocacy efforts, share best practices and ensure local perspectives are represented in conversations at the capitol.

For more information about the Raise Your Hand Texas Community Leaders Fellowship, visit release/community-leaders-fellowship-launch.



PHOTOS SUBMITED TO HCNEWS.COM

Pitcure of down town Grabury Taken by Gary Sheppard (Background photo). Donkeys Photo by Austin Miller: These are some of the wild burros we rescued from Fort Davis in 2025…(from left to right) Riata, Rawhide, Lovey, Ginger and Skipper (Bottom Left). Kids on trampoline Photo by Sarah Bolton: Here is Atlas and Anthony Bolton of Bentwater playing in the snow Jan. 24. (Top inset) . Snowboarding Photo by Alicia Laurence Zach Ralston and Marshall Ralston snowboarding in Granbury (Bottom right).

Tasers add jolt to GPD

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Those on the wrong side of the law in Granbury may receive a disabling jolt once the Granbury Police Department obtains a new arsenal of Tasers.

Granbury City Council approved the purchase of 25 Axon 10 less-lethal energy weapons with accessories and an Axon virtual reality training system for $266,003 during a five-year term.

The Axon website reads these Tasers have a maximum range of 45 feet, allowing officers to have "more time and space to de-escalate and resolve conflicts."

The website also reads the advanced technology increases "accuracy, effectiveness and reliability," which decreases the likelihood a situation would escalate to the point where lethal force would be required.

This is the city's first purchase of Tasers for the police department, Galvan said, adding the model being purchased for GPD is improved from previous versions.

"The previous models all shot out two probes at the same time, and in order for it to work, both probes had to make contact (with a suspect)," Galvan said. "This particular Taser fires probes individually. You fire one probe at a time, and each individual probe goes a lot further."

The 45-foot maximum distance is nearly twice as far as previous Taser models.

"Distance is our friend, and

PLEASE SEE **TASER** | A7

Five Who Matter: *Ammons grades high on the help scale*

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to The News

When it comes to helping others, Chad Ammons gets a grade of A+, which also happens to be the name of his roofing company.

So, you could say, one way or another, he has folks covered.

"Long story short, I always think if it was my family who was stranded and needed help or rescue would anyone come?" Ammons said. "I always think if you don't show up for others, will others show up for you? So, as long as I am able I'll show up as much as I can."

Ammons has been showing up a lot. From natural disasters to helping local organizations, he's always ready when someone is in need.

"I have always had a helping heart. My parents are giving people and have always been a part of the community," he said. "My first big storm to help and donate my time was the tornadoes in Hood County in 2013. I spent three weeks on a skid steer using my fuel and equipment helping where I was needed."

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

Helping locally

Whether it's time, energy or finances, Ammons always is ready to help. For example, he's helped the Granbury School District in ways such as:

- His company donated a $54,000 roof for Decker Gym in 2025.
- He bought an $11,000 trailer to help the Granbury School District Barbecue Team win a championship. "They needed a trailer and I had a great year, so I knew I could make it happen," he said.

PLEASE SEE **AMMONS** | A10

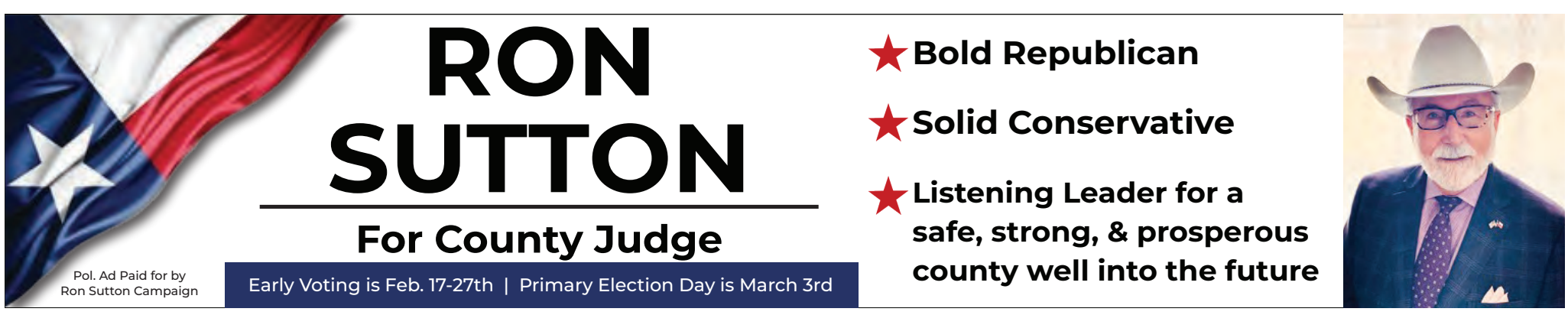


COURTESY PHOTO

Chad Ammons, owner of A+ Roofing, is known for being there when folks need help, whether it's a natural disaster or a local school/organization.

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140TH YEAR, NO. 1
Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 22 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 22 pages

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Granbury Theatre Academy students shine on national stage

BY MICKY SHEARON
micky@hcnews.com

Granbury Theatre Academy's teen performers recently took their talents far beyond Hood County, traveling to Atlanta, Georgia, to participate in the Junior Theatre Festival — the world's largest celebration of youth musical theatre.

Surrounded by thousands of young performers from across the country and around the globe, the Granbury students didn't just represent their hometown — they stood out.

The annual Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) brings together student troupes typically ranging in age from 8-18, all performing short, high-energy adjudication cuts from Broadway Junior® and Kids® musicals. But the festival is far more than a performance showcase. The festival is designed to immerse young artists in a whirlwind of learning, collaboration and inspiration, with workshops and feedback led by Broadway directors, choreographers, composers and professional performers.

This year, Granbury Theatre Academy's teen troupe presented their adjudication performance cut of "Madagascar Jr.," delivering a fast-paced, high-energy production that impressed both audiences and adjudicators alike.

The Granbury group traveling to Atlanta included 33 students ages 13–18, supported by 23 parent chaperones and four Granbury Theatre Academy staff members. Together, they navigated packed rehearsal schedules, workshops, performances and the electric atmosphere of a festival that celebrates creativity at full volume.

One of the defining moments of the weekend came during the festival's awards ceremony Sunday afternoon, when Granbury Theatre Academy was honored with the Outstanding Ensemble award, a recognition given to groups that demonstrate exceptional teamwork, precision and collective performance quality.

In addition to the ensemble award, several students received individual honors. Junior Travis Trimble and freshman Harper Parkhill were named All-Star cast members, a distinction recognizing standout performers selected from thousands of students at the festival. Freshman Hannah Ward earned Outstanding Individual Performance, highlighting her exceptional stage presence and execution.

For Academy director Matt Beutner, the weekend was both exhilarating and affirming.

"JTF Atlanta 2025 was one of our best trips so far," Beutner said. "Our 15-minute performance featured about 13 minutes of hard choreography, pushing our students more than we ever have in that regard. While never the goal, I'm proud of our entire cast for taking home the Excellence in Ensemble award, as well as Hanna Ward for Outstanding Individual Performance, and Harper Parkhill and Travis Trimble as All Stars."

Beutner said while awards are exciting, they are not the primary reason Granbury Theatre Academy participates in JTF.

"Awards are fine," Beutner said, "but the festival's true value lies in the growth students experience — artistically, personally, and collectively."

In keeping with the tradition started years ago, the Best Ensemble Performance trophy the group brought home will not be displayed in the trophy case. Instead, it will be cut up into pieces, each piece placed in a display box, and a piece given to each performer.

"Theatre is a highly collaborative endeavor," Beutner said, "and every single cast member has a role to play and execute. At GTA, we celebrate that collaborative spirit in everything we do."

Throughout the weekend, students participated in workshops led by working theatre professionals, gaining insight into choreography, vocal technique, acting and the realities of pursuing theatre beyond the classroom. They also connected with peers from across the country who share the same passion for storytelling, performance and live theatre.

Beyond the lights and applause, JTF is known for creating a sense of belonging among young artists. For many students, it's the first time they see themselves as part of a much larger theatre community — one where creativity is celebrated, individuality is encouraged, and collaboration is essential.

That sense of community, confidence, and inspiration is something students bring home with them long after the final curtain call.

The Atlanta trip also marked a milestone for Granbury Theatre Academy as a whole, showcasing the program's commitment to rigorous training, high expectations and meaningful arts education. From mastering demanding choreography to performing with the pressure of national adjudication, the students rose to the challenge together — supporting one another every step of the way.

And for Granbury Theatre Academy, the journey doesn't stop there.

While the teens were making waves in Atlanta, preparations already were underway for the next big adventure. The Academy's Kids Troupe, made up of students ages 8-12, soon will attend Junior Theatre Festival West in Sacramento, California, continuing Granbury's growing presence on the national youth theatre stage.

For the students who traveled to Atlanta, JTF was more than a competition or a trip; it was a defining experience that reinforced the power of hard work, teamwork and the arts. And for the Granbury community, it was a reminder that big talent can come from a small town — and shine just as brightly within Broadway lights.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Theatre Academy students and directors pose with their "Best Ensemble Performance" trophy.



COURTESY PHOTO

JTF Leadership members from left, are Whitney Shearon, stage manager/travel coordinator; Lena Moralez, choreography director; and Matt Beutner, academy director.



COURTESY PHOTO

GTA students winning individual honors, from left, are Harper Parkhill, All Star Cast Member; Hannah Ward, Outstanding Individual Performance; and Travis Trimble, All Star Cast Member.

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What ever happened to right and wrong?



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.

There always has been value in the people who have vision, who want to see things change in a positive way, who want the tide to float all boats and improve the quality of life and the economic well-being of our community. Within the past few months, it seems like waves of frustration keep washing over my mind as I see issues being discussed in the public. Many of those discussions seem to be void of vision or a goal to improve the quality of our collective lives.

My grandfather was not an educated man. I believe he went to the sixth grade in school before he began working as a full-time farmer helping his dad plant corn, beans and raise cattle. Life was hard and unforgiving. There were no tractors, and farming was done using "uncooperative" mules to pull a plow or a disc. The hours were long and success was based on hard work and good fortune with the weather. Though he may have been uneducated in the "formal" sense, I believe granddad's education in the "school of hard knocks" made his one of the wisest men I have ever known. To him life was made up of choices and decisions to be made, and while a man certainly needed to obey the law, even more importantly, he needed to do what was right.

What is right? Good question, and sometimes the line gets a little blurred, but I believe granddad would say that "right" is what is fair to all, what is reasonable and what treats everyone the same. He was not a religious man until late in life, but his father was and I would like to think his conviction came from the Bible, where it refers to treating others the same way you would like to be treated. Afterall, it is hard to argue with "fair and square."

For example, if I cut a pie in half, but you get the choice of which half to take, I am going to be certain to cut it as close to a 50-50 split as I can or otherwise you will take the big piece and I will cheat myself. No matter what piece you take I am compelled to accept the result because I am the one who cut the pie and I intended to cut it fairly. Everybody is satisfied because all involved were treated fairly. And even if we aren't completely happy because one piece simply "looked" better than the other, we at least know the transaction was fair and above board.

In the past 20 years, our politics have become so "cult" like and polarizing, there does not seem to be any fair or right to the political decisions which are made and how they are enforced. Heck even members of the same party cannot agree what they stand for and what is right.

Smaller groups within the party form their own identities and make demands, and anyone who opposes within the party is cast aside or given a negative name like RINO. Democrats cannot explain what being a Democrat really means, and Republicans cannot agree what being a Republican is.

The long-time virtues of each party are disregarded for political efficiency of the moment, and their followers set their conviction aside for the sake of maintaining political power. Every political act, every piece of legislation is not viewed considering what is best for the country or the people, but rather what will maintain power and keep donations flowing into the campaign coffers.

Just this morning, I learned the U.S. Senate race in Texas may cost $300 million dollars between the expenditures of all candidates. Does that seem as crazy to you as it does to me? Reflect on how many veterans that money could serve, or how many food banks it could supply. The worst part is the political campaign won't explain to the voters anything about the candidates and what they truly believe. If they have been in office, the campaigns won't tell us what they have accomplished. The airways simply will have sound bites like "Fighting for you," or "Protecting your rights," with little to no offer as to specifically what that means or what will be accomplished.

The days when politicians worked together, when parties had different views, but the other side was not the "enemy," they simply saw solutions differently, and government worked to find the best solution of the American people and the people of Texas, all seem to be long gone. Instead, nearly all campaigning is to blame problems on someone else, cause diversion and to fulfill agendas which are much more tied to the interests of special interest groups than they are to the best thing for our citizens.

We are in a major winter storm. People are worried about the grid and whether it can keep up with increased demand. Businesses and individuals are trying to move into Texas and the question of adequate energy seems to be an issue. Have you heard a single party or candidate come up with a proposal on how to improve the grid? Why is Texas the only state in the union which is not part of the national grid? Anyone offering a concrete solution or plan? No. Instead the talk is of blame and a lot of flag waving diversions which are short on substance but long on telling people what the politicians want them to hear.

Having a different viewpoint does not make you an enemy. I have written before, the left wing and the right wing both belong to the same bird and unless they work together, the nation and its people will not fly. Respect for others, and fulfilling the obligations of their office to serve the people they represent is becoming a lost art. Only we can compel a change. It is time.

Thought for the day: "The future of the Republic is in the hands of the American voter."— Dwight Eisenhower.

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

sam@hcnews.com

Blessing Lake Granbury, that's crazy

Small group gathers at Granbury City Beach for ceremony

By Bishop Daniel

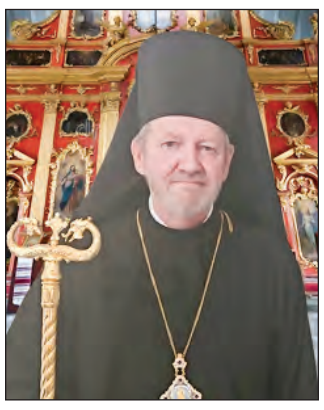
A small group of Christians gathered Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Granbury City Beach to bless Lake Granbury. They were from the Anglican church, and the Orthodox church, Greek, Ukrainian and Antiochian.

This is a celebration of the baptism of Jesus Christ and has taken place every year for centuries all across the world.

This year was special. Not only was it the first year in Granbury, but it is the 2,000th year, the exact year, since Christ began His ministry. You see, most scholars place the birth of Jesus around the year 4 BC. He began His ministry when He was 30, which would be 26 AD, exactly 2,000 years ago. So, this is a special year.

We believe everything God touches is made holy. That when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, "the voice of the Lord is upon the waters, crying out and saying, Come all and receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God who has come in His epiphany."

So, we gather at the edge of the lake and pray that



same spirit lives here in Granbury. Will it make a difference? We will see. As a Methodist minister, who is a friend, said, "Now, I might be able to catch some largemouth bass out of that lake." Maybe there will be fewer accidents. Maybe the fishing will be better, who can tell? We have statistics from last year, and we will have the same stats from this year, let's compare them Jan. 6, 2027.

So why bless the lake this year? We have a new church in town. The Eastern Orthodox Church. What church you say? Let me take a minute and offer a brief history.

For the first thousand years, there was only one Christian church. It was led by five bishops from five different regions — Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Egypt, Constantinople and Rome. In the year 1054, for a lot of reasons, the bishop of Rome separated from the other bishops. So, we now have the Western and Eastern churches. The Eastern churches, the Orthodox church, preserved the faith for nearly 2,000 years. It has been criticized for not changing. Until now. These days there is a search for the "Ancient Faith." So, there is a renewed interest in the Eastern church.

You might be surprised to hear the Orthodox church has been in America since 1794 when the Russian church came to Alaska. That was when Alaska was a Russian territory. It spread as far south as San Francisco. Later as immigrants fled persecutions and wars, the other churches came with them. Our church originated in Ukraine in 988 AD and has a long and complicated history.

We just finished remodeling the old stone building next to the Pioneer Cemetery in Acton. Reported to be the oldest building in Hood County, zbuilt in 1868. This is the old Masonic Hall that was converted into the original Anglican church before they built the new church across the street. So, Orthodoxy now is in Hood County.

We are a prayerful church and all are welcome to come and pray with us. The scripture is and always has been the core of the faith. We chant the Psalms, read and pray the whole New Testament every year, as well as parts of the Old Testament. Our services probably are different than anything you have experienced. We are located at 3600 Fall Creek Highway, next to the Pioneer Cemetery. You can find out more by visiting atomission.org.

Come and visit us anytime. We look forward to becoming a part of Granbury and sharing all the gifts God has given to us all.

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, John Liles!

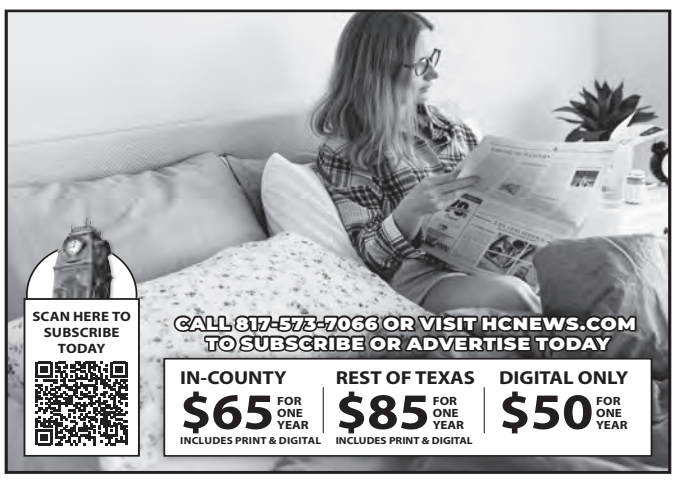
John Liles has lived in Granbury, Hood County, for all his 73 years. He was born in the old hospital right off the square in 1953. He went through Granbury schools, starting in first grade and graduating in 1971.

"I was very fortunate to have grown up in old Granbury when there was less traffic, and everyone knew everyone. Lifelong friendships were made, and memories are still discussed today, as if they happened yesterday. I was fortunate to have learned from the elders of the community, who instilled the work ethic and respect of the community that I still live by today."

Anyone who remotely knows Liles is aware of his deep connection with the Hood County 4-H program as an adult leader of the Shooting Sports program for 38 years. He received the 2025 Texas 4-H Salute to Excellence award (one of 12 statewide) for his years of commitment to the 4-H program. The 4-H slogan, "Learn by Doing," and motto, "To Make the Best Better," apply to the daily lives and activities of Hood County 4-H members and supporters.

Liles also has enjoyed long-time involvement with the Hood County Livestock Raisers Association, serving in several positions to provide a learning environment for the youth of Hood County, sharing this: "To have a place to learn and show the skills they have developed in the agriculture-related programs they have chosen to participate in."

When asked for a little reflection about Hood County News, the hometown newspaper, he said, "Hood County News is doing a good thing by presenting the Folks Around Town articles, and to keep the community informed of the wide variety of interests offered."





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OUR MISSION: *The Hood County News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.*

OBITUARIES

Delia 'Dee' Beatrice Walker Swaim
1935 – 2026

Delia "Dee" Beatrice Walker Swaim of Poteet (formerly Granbury, Texas), passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, surrounded by family at the age of 90. Dee was born in Wilson, Oklahoma, April 30, 1935, to Charlie Walker and Emmer Gillespie Walker, the youngest of 13 siblings.

Dee was preceded in death by her parents, siblings and husband, Arthur Swaim.

She is survived by her son, Larry Wagner Jr. and wife Kathy of Poteet; stepdaughters, Vickie Barnett and husband Mark, Valrie Hargreaves and husband David of Fort Worth; grandson, Morgan Wagner and wife Shelby, granddaughters, Shawnie Veldhuizen and husband CJ, Rebekah Wilson and husband Justin, and bonus granddaughter, Alexsandra Vanderbilt and husband Dusty; great-grandchildren, Rhylee, Rory and Reese Wagner; Jerrah, Elaina and McKinley Veldhuizen; Elizabeth Wilson; John Vanderbilt and baby Vanderbilt due in June. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews who knew her as "Aunt Sissy".

Dee was a retired secretary from Brown and Root (Comanche Peak). She loved being a homemaker and was most well known for her ability to sew and crochet. She made many clothes for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, even into her later years. She crocheted baby blankets for literally anyone who asked, numbering into the hundreds. She was an amazing cook and spent many hours in the kitchen. Dee never served less than a three-course meal and was most notorious for her chocolate gravy served over homemade biscuits. Nobody left her house hungry! She and her late husband, Arthur, loved playing cards and dominoes, passing that love down to their grandchildren.



Dee was loved by all who knew her. She met everyone with a smile and never met a stranger. She loved her Lord and Savior and looked forward to the day she joined him. Please join us in celebrating Dee with a visitation at Hurley Funeral Home in Pleasanton on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, starting at 3 p.m. until 8 p.m., with family present from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Graveside service: Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, starting at 9 a.m. at Shiloh Cemetery in Leming with a meal to follow at 1200 Bensdale Road, Pleasanton, Texas 78064. Dee was a true delight. Please feel free to wear bright clothes, celebrating the brightness she brought to the world.

Pallbearers: Morgan Wagner, C.J. Veldhuizen, Justin Wilson, Dusty Vanderbilt, Russell Calliham and Bret Jinkins. Honorary pallbearers: Ronnie Walker, Ruben Perez and David Umphress.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Dee's name to Shiloh Cemetery Association, Kristell Perez – Secretary, 3425 Coble Rd. Poteet, TX 78065.

Jo Donahoo
1934 – 2026

Our Meme was born in Morgan Mill, Texas, to Boston and Myrtie Rasberry Aug. 14, 1934.

Jo met Ollie Donahoo when he went into the drug store where she worked. He asked her out for a date and they married Feb. 9, 1952, in Stephenville. He was working at the Ice House and she was a nurse at the hospital. They moved to Hood County in September of 1955 to work for the John R. Black Ranch.

This began the era when Jo (to Ollie) became Mom to Maulinda, Brenda and Tommy, and Meme to Jodie, Kristy, Richard, Kacy, Kirt and Cori. These grandchildren were her greatest joy, and she made sure that family gatherings were epic occasions.

In the summer of 1969, they moved into Granbury. Jo worked at the Hood General Hospital and then moved to Granbury Medical Clinic. In later years, she went back and worked as a surgical and floor nurse at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

Jo was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Granbury for 61 years. Ollie and Jo "raised" a pew full of children who needed supervision while their parents sang in the choir.

Jo spent her life making sure her family was cared for. She used her nursing skills at home as well as at work. After her kids were raised, she began helping raise her grandkids. She was always the mender of clothes, homework police and a strict enforcer of the "three cookie rule" after school.

Jo passed from this world Jan. 21, 2026. Private family burial: Tuesday, Jan. 27. A memorial service followed at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church of Granbury.

Jo is survived by her children Chesley and Maulinda Brown, Dan and Brenda Burenheide, Tommy and Menielle Donahoo. Her grandchildren are Justin and Jodie Dickson, Brad and Kristy Fiebig, Richard and Crystal Burenheide, Justin and Kacy Warren, Kirt and Lauren Brown, William and Cori Moore. Jo's great-grandchildren are Bailee Burenheide, Owen Dickson, William Burenheide, Eli Dickson, Caroline Brown, Harper Fiebig, Ollie Burenheide and Maren Moore. Grandsons will serve as pallbearers.



Jo is preceded in death by Ollie, her husband of 71 years, her parents, as well as her sister, Francis Seymour and brother, Earl Rasberry.

Memorials can be made to First United Methodist Church of Granbury, 301 Loop 567, Granbury, TX 76048.

Sanjo Lee Koen
1939 – 2026

The adventurous, generous, and loving Sanjo Lee Koen, born on April 4, 1939, in Fort Worth, Texas, passed away Jan. 23, 2026. Sanjo was known for her infectious spirit and zest for life. Her adventurous nature shone through in her love for camping with the Comanche Peak Club, and her generosity could be felt in her active past participation in the Indian Harbor Ladies Garden Club. Sanjo found joy in every moment, including her beauty shop appointment every Friday and playing cards on Sunday with her church friends. Her loving nature was evident in her deep affection for her children, Samuel Charles Smith and Sandra Darlene Stutts and her grandchild, Chance McKenzie Smith; great-grandchildren Hayden Michael Smith and Payten McKenna Smith; great-great-grandchild Parker Marie Bartholomew, and many other extended family members. Sanjo was preceded in death by her father, Marvin and Lela Brown, and granddaughter Brittney Mi'Sean Smith.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Sanjo's life at a visitation to be held Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, from 6-8 p.m., and a service will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at 11 a.m., at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas. The burial will be at Everman Cemetery in Fort Worth, Texas at 2:30 p.m. following the service.



Sanjo's legacy will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of everyone she interacted with.

Steven Foster Riley
1951 – 2026

Steven Foster Riley, 74, passed away peacefully Jan. 18, 2026, surrounded by the deep love of his family. Born Jan. 21, 1951, to James and Reba Riley, Steven grew into a man defined by quiet strength, deep compassion, and a steadfast devotion to the people he loved most. His gentle nature, calm presence, and unwavering support made him a cherished husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

Raised with strong values and a commitment to service, Steven graduated from high school before answering the call to support his country. He served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and later on Active Duty with the U.S. Air Force — experiences that helped shape his discipline, integrity, and resilience. After completing his military service, he built a respected career in fields that demanded precision and responsibility. As an air traffic controller, he carried the immense responsibility of guiding others safely, a role he fulfilled with exceptional focus and professionalism. Later, he transitioned into the construction industry as a project manager, where he earned the admiration of colleagues for his meticulous attention to detail, steady leadership, and unwavering work ethic.

Steven found his greatest joy in the simple, meaningful moments shared with family and friends. He loved spending time outdoors — boating, fishing, and enjoying life by the lake, where he felt most at peace. Whether telling a story, sharing a laugh, or offering a helping hand without hesitation, Steven had a way of making everyone around him feel valued and supported. His kindness was quiet but profound, leaving an unforgettable mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Steven's legacy lives on in the family he adored. He is survived by his beloved wife, Amy, whose partnership and companionship brought him immeasurable joy. He was a proud and loving father to his children, Stephanie, Mark, and Jesse — each of whom carries forward his strength, generosity and gentle spirit. Steven was blessed with six cherished grandchildren: Nicholas, Anthony, Gabriella, Preston, Ethan and Willow. He is also survived by his brother, Robert, and a large circle of extended family members and dear friends who will forever hold his memory close.



Steven will be remembered for his humility, warmth and quiet courage. His life was a testament to the power of kindness, the beauty of simplicity, and the enduring impact of a loving heart. His memory will continue to shine brightly in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

J.R. Cardwell
1931 – 2026

J.R. Cardwell peacefully went to be with our Lord on January 20, 2026, in Granbury, Texas.

J.R. was born July 2, 1931, in Erath County, Texas. He married Ruby Laverne Cardwell Nov. 22, 1952. J.R. proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

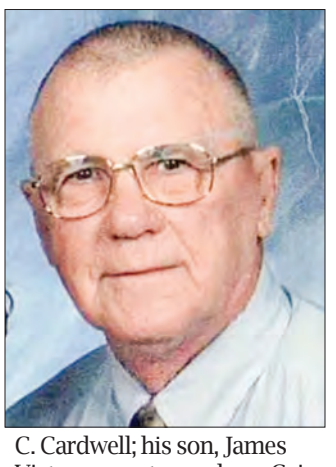
J.R. and Laverne raised three children, James Victor, Larry Don and Jana Lynn, in Tolar, Texas. He operated a family-owned dairy farm for many years and was a faithful member of the Tolar Church of Christ, where he also served as an Elder.

After raising their children, J.R. and his wife moved to Stephenville, Texas, where he owned a bail bond business. They were members of the Graham Street Church of Christ, where J.R. also served as an Elder.

J.R. is survived by his son, Larry Don (Kathi) Cardwell, and his daughter, Jana (Mike) Franklin.

He is also survived by nine grandchildren: Candace Clinkscale; Justin (Ashley) Cardwell; Amber (Justin) Root; Cody Cardwell; Ellise (Gary) Akers; Chris (Annemarie) Caraway; Clifton Caraway; Leah (Jace) Walker; Lauren Franklin and 17 great-grandchildren.

J.R. was preceded in death by his parents; beloved wife, Ruby Laverne; a sister, Sandra Lott and brother, V. C. Cardwell; his son, James Victor; a great-grandson, Cai Daniel Cardwell; and his cherished dog, Joe.



Celebration of Life: 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at Tolar Church of Christ.

Holly Hills Memorial Park
Come see us for all your cemetery and monument needs
817-279-7270
1909 Weatherford Highway
Granbury, Texas 76048

WILEY FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
"Family owned and operated"
GRANBURY
817-573-3000

MARTIN'S
Funeral Home & Cremation Services
817-573-1154

Putting your aging parents' wishes first

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser


Tony Mobly

As your parents grow older, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, which may involve difficult conversations.

You'll want to be careful how you approach this. Mention ahead of time you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a comfortable location and ask whom to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money, as this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broader discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

- *Health care* — Seek to learn whether your parents have established appropriate health-related legal documents such as a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make decisions about their medical care if they become unable, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.
- *Independence* — As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered options for long-term care, such as an assisted living community, a nursing home or a home health aide? If they plan to receive support from family members, do your parents' expectations match yours?
- *Financial goals* — Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have they updated their will or other estate documents, such as a living trust? Have they created a durable power of attorney for a trusted family member to make financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies, retirement plan and bank accounts? If you position these issues around your parents having control of transferring their assets, rather than curiosity of "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.
- *Last wishes* — You'll want to learn whether your parents have instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express that you or another close family member should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met in a timely fashion.

Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. You don't have to go it alone, though — enlist help from another close family member. Or, if your parents work with an attorney, financial professional or other trusted advisor, consider asking if they're interested in having them participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce your parents to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but if handled correctly can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor, Member SIPC.

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SL-AT1223105838

Achieving 'Retribution' : Trevor Reed authors book about lawful detainment in Russia and his search for revenge

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Local hero Trevor Reed discovered through countless horrors that few emotions are as powerful as hate. It was this hate that saw him through both the gulags of Russia and the front lines of the Ukrainian war. However, it was a different emotion that led him to record his story in his recently released memoir, "Retribution."

Reed admitted he was initially reluctant to tell his story, claiming people "wouldn't care;" however, he was eventually convinced his story could highlight the struggles of hostages and those being held in unlawful detainment.

"It's ("Retribution") pretty much the result of my parents guilt-tripping," Reed said. "They said that it was important because people would learn about wrongful detainees and hostages and what they and their families go through. I kind of argued with them, and I said, 'No one cares about that, and they won't read a book like that,' but my parents said, 'No, your story is different because you went back for revenge, and so they'll read it because of that, but in the process, they'll have to learn about hostage diplomacy.'"

Thinking maybe his parents were right and his autobiography might raise awareness for the families of hostages and detainees, Reed contacted Jim DeFelice, the co-author of Chris Kyle's "American Sniper," and propositioned his help in creating "Retribution."

Together, the two spent the entirety of 2024 and 2025 creating the memoir, and Jan. 27 it was officially released to the public.

Reed will be holding two book-signings to promote "Retribution," one on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he is currently working to obtain a degree in foreign relations, and another in Granbury, he said, because of all the support the community provided his family during his detainment.

There are five things Reed hopes readers who pick up his memoir will get out of his story.

"One part of it is, I hope that they get a glimpse into what wrongful detainees and hostages go through, and what their families go through. I hope that they see what my family did and how they were able to help get me out of that situation. I want them to understand what a brutal regime Russia has under Vladimir Putin, and understand how apathetic and evil the Russian government is," Reed said. "Then, I wanted them to understand the suffering the Ukrainian people are going through, and how hard they're fighting. I also want them to understand the heroism of the guys I went there and fought with. Eventually, about half of my team was killed in action, but those are the bravest guys I've ever known."

The Granbury book-signing will be from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 7 at Arts and Letters Bookstore on the Historic Granbury Square.

After Reed graduated high school, he chose to go into the U.S. Marine Corps. He was in the Marines for five years, serving overseas as an infantry rifleman, presidential guard and martial arts instructor in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia.

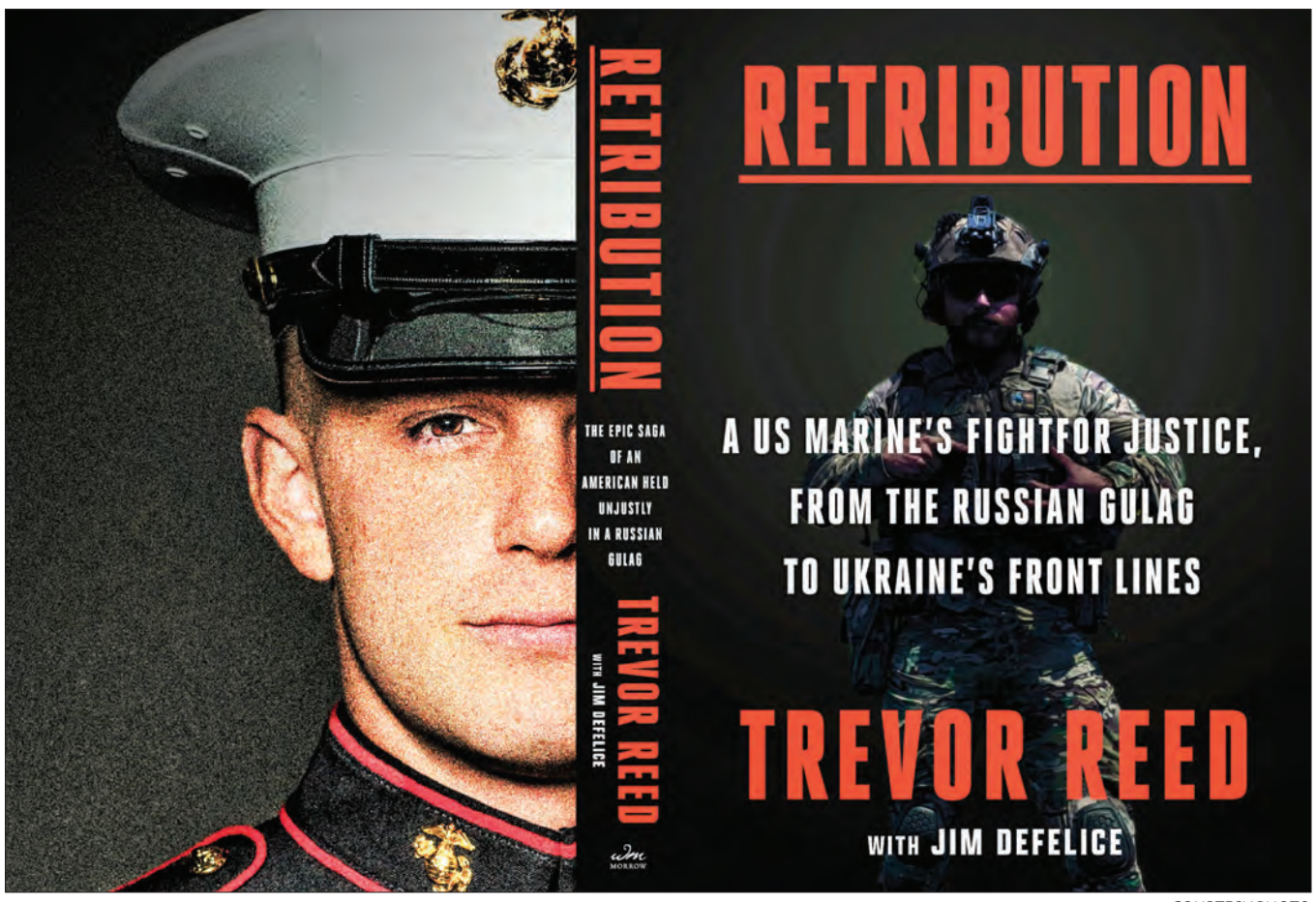
After his contract with the Marines ended, he signed onto a private military company working alongside the U.S. military in Afghanistan.

He was injured, forcing him to return stateside, where he lived with his parents in Granbury while pursuing a degree from the University of North Texas.

In August 2019, Reed took a trip to Russia — in part to complete a requirement for his degree, but also to visit his Russian girlfriend, Lena, in Moscow.

The trip was going according to plan until one night, when Reed found himself intoxicated in a park.

The local police apprehended him and took him in to sober up until Lena could pick him up and take him safely home.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Retribution" is co-authored by Jim DeFelice, who helped share Chris Kyle's memoir and bestselling book, "American Sniper."

"They were like, 'OK, you can stay here until the morning,' which I did — I could have left in the morning — but I didn't know how to get back to Lena's apartment, and I couldn't speak Russian all the way yet."

However, while he waited for Lena to collect him, the police caught wind Reed had previously been a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, and the tone of the interaction quickly changed.

"While I was waiting the shift changed, and when that new chief came in he immediately called the director of the Federal Security Service (FSB)," Reed said. "After they showed up they attempted to interrogate me about my military service ... I told them mundane, useless details about service, so that hopefully they would get tired of questioning me. I was able to hide anything classified, but, at the same time, I think that even though they didn't find out any of that stuff, they still thought that a U.S. Marine was valuable enough."

He was detained on the charges he had attacked his arresting officers, grabbing the police car's steering wheel and causing it to swerve in the process — however, video evidence later showed that never happened and this account was completely falsified.

In July 2020, Reed received the maximum sentencing for his alleged crime — nine years in a Russian prison colony.

The next year, he was moved from his prison in Moscow to a remote labor camp 350 miles away, in Mordovia.

However, he refused to participate in the labor camps, claiming he would never work to the benefit of the Russian government.

"I sure as hell wasn't gonna work for the government that was wrongfully detaining Americans," Reed said. "I was resisting and fighting the administration the whole time, not physically, but I wouldn't comply with any of the stuff they wanted me to do when they sent me to the forced labor camp. I didn't want to participate in labor which was going to be used to support a government who was an enemy of the United States."

For this resistance, Reed was thrown into solitary confinement.

"They would put me in solitary confinement for 15 days at a time, release me for a day, then another 15 days of solitary — back and forth like that for about seven months," Reed said.

During this time Reed recounted being grossly neglected and abused. The Russians primary assailant against him — the cold.

"They use the cold as a weapon against you," Reed said. The cell just had like an open, barred window. I mean, there was a window pane, but a lot of them are broken, and so they'd basically just try to freeze you into submission. There's a hot water pipe on the wall, which is like the heater for the cell. So, I would just lay on the concrete and hug the hot water pipe to stay warm. Eventually, my back would start to freeze. So, I would flip over to the other side for like an hour, let that heat me up, and keep switching back and forth."

In addition to the cold and isolation, Reed also faced hunger and sickness.

"I got sick, but they didn't want to treat me for anything, because they thought it would look bad," Reed said. "Basically, their plan was like, 'Oh, we'll just ignore this guy.' So that got, significantly worse in time, and then eventually I started cough up blood. I was just having a really hard time there at the end."

However, despite the torturous obstacles he faced while in detainment, Reed never broke or gave up his principles in exchange for fairer treatment.

Reed admitted he was only able to achieve this feat by dwelling on feelings of pure spite and rage against captors — the Russian government.

"Honestly, a lot of what kept me occupied during that time was hate," Reed said. "I was like, 'When I get out of here, I'm gonna make you pay.' That burned inside of me. My whole purpose in life there was to resist and make problems any way that I could. That's what kept me going — this desire to make them suffer."

It was this spite that eventually would dictate the following chapter of Reed's life.

And while it was Reed's hate that gave him strength, it was the memory of his loved ones who gave him hope — though hope was a concept he desperately strove to avoid.

"I really wanted to think about my parents, my sister, my girlfriend and seeing them again, but I saw that break a lot of people when I was in there," Reed said. "So, my strategy was to not consciously think about them and distract myself until the last hour of the day, before I went to sleep. Then, I would allow myself to think about them as like a reward for making it through the rest of the day."

However, for every moment Reed was desperately trying to not think of them; his loved ones were taking up his banner and advocating for his release.

Reed's parents, Paula and Joey, began pleading with government officials for their son's release upon his initial detainment.

They raised awareness for the situation by contacting local news organizations, posting on local Facebook forums and contacting government representatives.

In 2019, Congress passed resolutions that pronounced Reed wrongfully detained by the Russian government, condemned them for his treatment and demanded his release.

According to Reed, at this time, negotiations were being made with Russia for his return; however, those negotiations soon dropped.

Despite the stall, Reed's loved ones continued to press on.

The war in Ukraine broke out, and Reed's parents went to protest upon protest with a sign advocating for their son's return.

However, it wasn't until they protested former President Joe Biden's event in March 2022 at a Veterans Affairs facility in Fort Worth that Paula and Joey Reed were able to obtain an audience with the president.

He called them following his speech and invited them to visit him at the White House.

In Washington, D.C., Reed's parents met with Biden for 40 minutes after demonstrating outside the White House amid Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

In April 2022, The White House and Russian Foreign Ministry arranged a prisoner exchange, in which Reed was to be traded for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a pilot serving a 20-year federal prison sentence in Connecticut for conspiracy to smuggle cocaine into the U.S.

"Under Biden, it was a very slow process, but eventually what ended up happening was my health was deteriorating," Reed said. "I think I weighed 119 pounds when I came back. So, once it got to that point, my parents had a lot of press about it; they were able to get a meeting with President Biden at the White House. After he talked to them in person, he decided to try something, and within three weeks, I was exchanged in Turkey."

Two planes, one from Russia bearing Reed and one from the U.S. bearing Yaroshenko, met on the tarmac and guards from each plane delivered their respective prisoner to the safety of the opposite plane.

From there, Reed was taken to a military hospital in San Antonio to be evaluated. He had a broken rib and sternum, and at the time, it was believed he may have tuberculosis.

Eventually, Reed's body recovered, but he still harbored the hatred for the Russian government which had done this to him, its own people and the Ukraine.

According to Reed, he knew he had to make them atone for the things they'd done — he craved retribution.

So, he immediately got "back in the saddle" and began training with some of his military buddies to prepare himself for the front lines of the war in Ukraine.

"I did a reintegration program with the Army called Post Isolation Support Activity," Reed said. "Then I came home and I started training for about six months with my three buddies from the Marine Corps. They're all veterans that I served with who are all in the D/FW area, and they helped me train."

"Then, I went to Ukraine," Reed said.

While many would just be happy that they beat the odds and made it back home alive, it wasn't enough for Reed. He chose to go to the Ukraine and face the Russian government a mere handful of months after his release for three reasons.

"One part of it was personal. They held me there illegally for three years, and I wanted there to be some kind of justice for that," Reed said.

PLEASE SEE **RETRIBUTION** | A7



Trevor Reed, author of "Retribution."

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, January 30th - Thursday, February 5th

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13)
Friday: 1:00PM, 5:05PM, 9:10PM
Saturday: 10:00AM, 2:05PM, 6:10PM, 10:15PM
Sunday: 10:00AM, 2:05PM, 6:10PM
Monday: 2:45PM, 7:00PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:45PM, 6:50PM
Thursday: 2:45PM, 7:00PM

Hamnet (PG-13)
Friday: 1:30PM
Saturday - Sunday: 10:00AM
Monday: 3:30PM
Tuesday - Thursday: 2:00PM

Iron Lung (R)
Friday - Saturday: 7:00PM, 9:55PM
Sunday: 7:00PM
Monday: 5:00PM, 7:55PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 4:45PM, 7:40PM
Thursday: 7:50PM

Melania (PG)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM
Saturday: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM
Sunday: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:10PM, 6:45PM
Monday: 2:10PM, 4:40PM, 7:10PM
Tuesday - Thursday: 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM

Mercy (PG-13)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM
Saturday: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM
Sunday: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM
Monday: 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 2:15PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM
Thursday: 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM

Send Help (R)
Friday: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM
Saturday: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM
Sunday: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM
Monday: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM
Tuesday - Thursday: 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM

Solo Mio (PG)
Thursday: 2:20PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM

Song Sung Blue (PG-13)
Friday: 1:00PM, 4:00PM
Saturday - Sunday: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM
Monday- Wednesday: 2:00PM
Thursday: 4:55PM

The Housemaid (R)
Friday: 4:25PM, 7:25PM, 10:25PM
Saturday: 12:55PM, 3:55PM, 6:55PM, 9:55PM
Sunday: 12:55AM, 3:55PM, 6:55PM
Tuesday - Wednesday: 4:55PM, 7:55PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department criminal activity report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department Jan. 18-24. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

Jan. 18

1:59 p.m.: report of an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the 1500 block of S. Morgan Street.

7:12 p.m.: report of arson in the 3800 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

9:58 p.m.: report of an animal noise in the 700 block of Rolling Terrace Circle.

police reported 65 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 11 traffic stops.

Jan. 19

1:58 p.m.: report of an animal in the 700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 72 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one minor traffic accident and 31 traffic stops.

Jan. 20

9:04 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1000 block of Quiet Cove.

12:07 a.m.: report of a bank alarm in the 1100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:53 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of Sunset Bay Drive.

11:10 a.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

12:43 p.m.: report of a theft between $2,500-$30,000 in the 200 block of S. Crockett Street.

6:07 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 95 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one hit and run traffic accident, one minor traffic accident and 14 traffic stops.

Jan. 21

8:38 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1200 block of Waters Edge Drive.

8:38 a.m.: report of an assault in the 1000 block of Waters Edge Drive.

10:19 a.m.: report of an assault in the 1300 block of Crossland Road.

11:35 a.m.: report of fraud in the 1000 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

11:38 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1400 block of Lauren Lane.

11:39 a.m.: report of an animal in the 300 block of Davis Road.

2:41 p.m.: report of an animal in the 400 block of N. Travis Street.

police reported 52 incidents, including one major traffic accident, one hit and run traffic accident, five minor traffic accidents and 10 traffic stops.

Jan. 22

9:43 a.m.: report of an animal in the 900 block of W. Pearl Street.

11:42 a.m.: report of an animal in the 300 block of Shady Grove Drive.

12:38 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1900 block of Preakness Drive.

1:48 p.m.: report of an animal bite in the 5700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:44 p.m.: report of an animal near Charthouse Circle and Granbury Lake Road.

police reported 81 incidents, including one major traffic accident, two hit and run traffic accidents, three minor traffic accidents and 28 traffic stops.

Jan. 23

2:02 p.m.: report of public intoxication in the 100 block of Pirate Drive.

4:03 p.m.: report of fraud in the 600 block of Crestview Drive.

4:25 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1300 block of Lipan Highway.

6:44 p.m.: report of animal welfare in the 4700 block of Topaz Lane.

police reported 55 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, five minor traffic accidents and nine traffic stops.

Jan. 24

10 a.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 2000 block of W. Pearl Street.

2:08 p.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 3300 block of Ferry Boat Lane.

2:25 p.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 1200 block of Water Edge Drive.

2:45 p.m.: report of a DWI in the 2100 block of Weatherford Highway.

5:27 p.m.: report of a reckless driver in the 1200 block of Waters Edge Drive.

6:35 p.m.: report of an assault in the 1300 block of N. Plaza Drive.

11:20 p.m.: report of a reckless driver near Ferry Boat Lane and Abes Landing Drive.

police reported 22 incidents.

TASER

FROM PAGE A1

this Taser has that added benefit," Galvan said, adding it gives officers more time to react and have plenty of space to reduce the likelihood of a physical confrontation, which is much more likely to result in an injury to the officer and/or the suspect.

"It's another tool for us that makes it possible for an officer not to have to go hands-on (when confronting a suspect)," Galvan said. "There's always the risk of an injury when you have to go hands-on. We want to limit that as much as possible. We want to do all we can to prevent injuries to officers and to the public. This is an important tool for us to gain compliance when someone refuses to provide it on their own."

Although GPD has not used Tasers, Galvan said other departments "Have been using them for quite some time, and as with anything, there have been successes and failures."

"When they came out with this version, I thought this is something I could get behind," Galvan said. "You are able to control where the probes go, and that mitigates things if one doesn't make contact. You don't need both probes to make contact like with the older models."

The chief said GPD currently has 48 officers, so the Tasers will be distributed to them in the following manner: "The Tasers will be checked out by officers at the beginning of their assigned end of the week, which will account for about half of the total number being issued at one time," he said. "At the end of their week, they will return them to their designated storage location, and the officers coming in for the opposite end of the week will check theirs out. There will always be extras available for officers to check out who are working events and other assignments."

A key asset for the department will be the virtual-reality training system purchased with the Tasers, Galvan said.

"Officers will be able to train on how to use the devices effectively and also will have more situational training," he said. "It is important to be able to de-escalate a situation. This will give us a very in-depth training package that will help us in a lot of ways, not just in using the Tasers. That training helps prepare officers for making split-second decisions."

When it comes to more traditional weapons, Galvan said each officer can receive a department-issued handgun at no cost to the officer. They may choose a different model handgun at their own cost, but that gun must be approved by the (shooting) range master, the firearms instructor and the police chief.

"It's a matter of choice," Galvan said. "Everybody's hand is different. You've got to find the one that fits you."

For more complicated situations, such as standoffs or where suspects have access to heavy firepower and are resisting police, Galvan said GPD is able to rely on a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, the Region 8 Special Operations Group.

In addition to the Granbury Police Department, the Hood County Sheriff's Office, Stephenville Police Department and Somervell County Sheriff's Office each participate in that SWAT team.

"We all train together very closely, and we can respond to any member's jurisdiction as needed," Galvan said.

Regardless of the tool used, whether a handgun, Taser or canine unit, "The main purpose is to get compliance" from a suspect, Galvan said. Different options are needed for different scenarios, he said.

"We'd never pull out a Taser in a situation where deadly force may be required, such as a suspect with a weapon pulled," Galvan said. "We'd never (confront) somebody with a gun using Tasers. It's just not something that would ever occur.

"Our officers are really good at gaining compliance. It's just in the last year or so, there has been more resistance resulting in an officer injury. If we had Tasers available then, that could have been mitigated."

In the past year, there have been about six officer-related injuries because of a suspect resisting arrest, Galvan said. "Most were minor, but injuries no less," he said.

Safety is a priority for all involved, Galvan said.

"We do what we can to keep people safe in as many situations as possible," he said. "The main goal is to get compliance (cooperation) as quickly as possible and end (a confrontation). My responsibility and goal is to keep officers and the public as safe as possible."

RETRIBUTION

FROM PAGE A6

"Another part of it was I knew that Russia needed to pay like a cost for their hostage diplomacy," Reed said. "I didn't think that the United States was imposing severe enough costs on them, and I knew that if I went there, all of the trouble that they (Russia) went through for that propaganda victory would have been a loss for them, once they found out that I had gone to Ukraine and fought against them.

"The third part, which was really important to me, was that I knew what the Ukrainians were going through, since I had already been under the Russian thumb," Reed said. "I saw how they treated me and how they treated their own citizens, and I knew that what they were doing to Ukrainians must be way worse — so I felt an ethical obligation to go help them."

Upon his arrival in Ukraine, Reed joined the Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate, which according to Reed, is equivalent to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. He then took a 10-week Special Operations training course and was assigned to a unit conducting combat operations in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

When he set foot in the Ukraine, Reed thought he would feel his retribution in the times he was in direct combat with the Russians, however, he admitted he felt he had his revenge just by being there, and by supporting the Ukrainian people, who knew the feelings of hate toward the Russian government he had become so accustomed to better than anyone else could.

"I didn't achieve retribution during those moments in combat, but instead during the first night that I got to the safe house with my team," Reed said. "I got there, I set up all of my gear, cleaned my weapons and then I just had this moment of like, 'OK, I made it here. I'm going to have retribution, it's imminent.' It felt like I had taken my life back just by going there, and I thought, 'These guys don't have control over me. They didn't win. I made it all the way back here to fight them.'"

And fight, he did.

"We were successful in engaging certain Russian positions across the Siverskyi Donets — Donbas Canal and supporting the friendly Ukrainian units there," Reed said. "When we weren't fighting, we acted as instructors for foreign internal defense. Basically, we would take Ukrainian units or Belarusian units or other friendly foreign units, and then we would train them how to conduct assaults and reconnaissance patrols. And so, when we weren't in combat, we were training them."

According to Reed, the fighting in Ukraine was unlike any other combat scene he'd seen before. It was a war with uneven resources; Russia had new age weapons — and lots of them.

"The Russians have a lot of resources to throw at Ukraine, so you're constantly having to look out for drones," Reed said. "There's constant artillery barrages, which would target us and friendly positions. Mortars — all the time — small arms fire, machine guns ... There's just a lot of really high intensity combat going on all the time there."

However, he knew he wasn't in it alone and the situation was far more dire for the Ukrainian soldiers than it was for him. He and the men of his unit often got to find rest in a safe house, but the Ukrainian soldiers were in the trenches for months without respite.

"The Ukrainians, they would be in those trenches, like 24 hours a day," Reed said. "In the area where we were operating, there's shells falling a maximum of every four or five minutes, but like, sometimes it could be every 20 seconds that there'd be a shell landing somewhere near you, and they're there for months on end without being able to rotate. I always thought when I went out there, 'Man, these guys must be so strong to be able to be here for this long, just constantly under this fire and not break.'"

However, that doesn't mean Reed's role in a Special Operations unit on the front lines of the Ukrainian war was a walk in the park — far from it.

"Luckily, I was in the Special Operations Unit, so we operated only at night, and we had night vision and other equipment, which gave us a technological edge over the Russians," Reed said. "But even night operations — they're very dangerous. There's lots of mines and unexploded ordnance. Any time that you go out there, you can be wounded or killed."

It was a fact everyone on the front lines knew, and experienced first-hand. Unfortunately, Reed encountered this looming threat when disaster struck his unit right before he was set to be pulled out of Ukraine.

"It was the very last mission that I was doing," Reed said. "Actually, we were not even supposed to go on that mission, because we were going on to a training and leave cycle, but they called us back to do one more."

On the mission, Reed's team leader was shot in the leg, and the following day, four other members of the unit were wounded by landmines — a common enemy in the war on Ukraine.

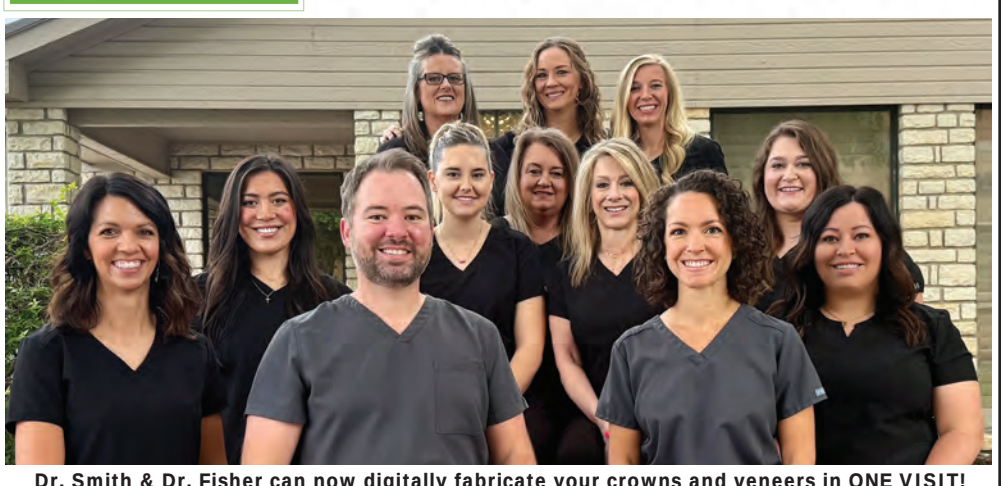
Two members of the team lost their legs in the incident, and Reed and another soldier took extensive shrapnel.

According to Reed, by the time all was said and done, half of his unit lost their lives.

However, Reed said the incident didn't change his feelings of achieved-revenge and retribution — he had done what he came to the Ukraine to do.

"Getting wounded in combat is just part of fighting in Ukraine," Reed said. "Me getting wounded there didn't change anything. Even if they had killed me — I still would have been free when I died."

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Police investigate vehicle arson, victim chooses not to press charges

FROM STAFF REPORTS
submissions@hcnews.com

Granbury police officers were called out Jan. 18 to the parking lot of H-E-B in reference to a vehicle fire.

According to the police report, responding officers spoke with witnesses, who said they saw a man put his lighter to a tire of a vehicle.

One witness said he "saw the guy put the light to the back wheel," the report reads.

Two other witnesses gave similar accounts when police spoke with them, the report reads.

Police also spoke with the victim, who told officers they didn't want to press charges against the man, whom she knew, the report reads.

Video surveillance from the store confirms the information witnesses told police, the report reads.

According to the report, officers were told the victim had received $30 from the victim and would receive more for the damaged tire.

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

County commission seeks ways to limit development impact

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff @hcnews.com

Protecting a picturesque rural environment with unobstructed land and pristine water is not the only concern raised by local resident Lori Barton when talking about the potential impact of an influx of proposed data centers and power plants.

Barton said she is also worried about the possible health impact these developments could cause for area residents. She expressed these concerns Jan. 22 during a Hood County Development Commission meeting.

"I own land in Paluxy Valley, and my family has been here (for more than 140 years)," Barton said.

Barton is part of the Save the Paluxy political action group.

"Gas power plants are what I'm most concerned about," Barton said. "I want to protect the children and the legacy we will leave behind. I'm really concerned about the air and water. My particular property sits within three miles of where (the data center and power plant) has been proposed.

Barton is also worried about the lack of infrastructure to support these developments.

"One of my biggest concerns is safety plans. The volunteer fire department is not equipped to handle this, and the roads will never be the same. I just ask you to please be diligent. This land was given to us by God, and we need to take care of it," Barton said.

Kenneth Meador would live within 2.7 miles of the proposed Comanche Circle data center. His father, who is in his 90s lives less than a half-mile from the proposed Bilateral development.

"Ryan Hughes is doing the project at Comanche Creek and Bilateral is in the West part of town," Meador said. "Who's going to be operating these facilities--Microsoft, Google, England? We have no idea who will be operating them."

Meador is concerned about a significant traffic impact during construction and expansion of these developments.

"I spent 32 years working wrecks for the police department in Cleburne," Meador said. "FM 4 was destroyed by trucks between Acton and Cleburne and also the road between Cresson and Cleburne."

He said this was caused by other construction projects in the area.

Christine Leftwich, county clerk and chairman of the development commission, thanked those attending the meeting for voicing their opinions.

"Your input, opinions and what concerns you help us know what to address," she said.

Local resident Donna Kellagher said she is trying to figure out what is going on behind the scenes with these proposed developments.

"It's like the Wild West of development," Kellagher said. "If Ryan Hughes gets the ability to build here, he gets a big prize of entitlement. The very fact data center after data center, all the way to Houston on every tributary is being built then ... there is already not enough water available for drinking."

She said she is concerned about runoff and downstream releases from data centers and power plants as well as increased pollution risks.

"I urge you to focus on



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lori Barton talks about her concerns about the impact of proposed data centers and power plants on the air and water quality, as well as the quality of life in Hood County.

uses. We don't have any use regulations here, no specifics on what's permissible. We should not be altering the natural features and characteristics of this area. We already have (in Chapter 231 of state code) that we are supposed to protect these features and characteristics."

She said protection of the rural nature of the area is written into Subchapter K of Chapter 231 "For all the residents of Texas to visit and enjoy."

The commission set its regular meeting time at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the county justice center's main courtroom.

An open letter to all Hood County and Granbury elected officials

Editor's note: The Hood County News was asked to publish the following piece. We hope the "powers-that-be" will take the time to read it and respond to some of their concerns. Those powers, according to the writers, are: elected officials, the developer companies, and local and state agencies having jurisdiction. Send replies to richard@hcnews.com.

We, the Concerned Citizens of Hood County, Texas, are being denied the most basic and truthful information concerning the proposed siting of many dozens of polluting, natural-gas generators; huge Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centers, and multiple Battery Electric Storage Systems (BESS), now being negotiated to be constructed very soon in our communities.

Four such large-scale AI development projects are in varying stages of permitting or development throughout Hood County and directly threaten the Brazos River watershed and residents' quality of life.

Elected officials, local government administrators, and their support staff have not been forthcoming with information; refuse to openly discuss project details, and hastily approve concept plans and incomplete permit (PLAT) requests from developers.

The County and City must fully assess noise generation, light pollution, air, and water quality and consumption concerns. As well as residents' quality-of-life concerns, and potential negative impacts to threatened and endangered species, before granting such requested developer AI applications.

The hasty and unmindful actions of our elected officials to approve these large BESS, proposed AI data centers, and associated natural-gas power-generation campuses lead to a host of irreversible impacts to the Brazos River watershed and to the quality of life of all Hood County residents.

Presently, under varying stages of development or negotiation, in Hood County and Granbury, are four such industrial-sized AI data center campuses, with their required power-generation support facilities.

These include Pacifico Power's Fort Spunky campus. A 560-acre, 16 natural-gas turbines, and an AI data center complex, to be located on the south bank of the Brazos River, immediately adjacent to Pecan Plantation.

Then there is a second development, called Comanche Circle, proposed by Sailfish; a massive 2,600-acre AI data center and power-generation complex to be located in rural Tolar. Sailfish intends to build in "multiple phases" with an unknown final number of huge AI data centers and their required power-generation supporting facilities. The ultimate build-out will be dependent on how many AI tenant clients Sailfish can acquire.

Not to be left out, the citizens of Granbury will also be surrounded by a very large 2,100-acre AI data and power center complex. (Formerly Knox Ranch). Called Project Patriot, this huge complex will be located very near Granbury's hospital, and four existing GISD schools. And now, after annexation, it will be built within the city limits of Granbury.

Residents of Granbury should be aware that Granbury officials have been offering tax abatements (as high as 50% to 60% off their taxes for as long as 10 years) to Project Patriot's developer since June/July 2025. So YES, they knew BEFORE the annexation meeting. Moreover, these same officials and staff traveled to Project Patriot's Dallas AI campus, less than one week before the Granbury annexation vote, for a "tour and briefing."

A fourth massive data center complex is envisioned and under negotiation with County officials, to be sited very near Comanche Peak's nuclear power plant and Mitchell Bend's long-suffering County residents. This complex alone will consist of up to a one-million-square-foot Amazon data center and supporting facilities. Additional AI centers are likely to follow on at this location as well.

While we, as concerned citizens, have attended all pubic meetings held by the Hood County Court, the city of Granbury, those with Acton Municipal Water District (AMUD), as well as the Brazos River Authority, we have been unable to gain even basic information.

So we went further, requesting and attending private question-and-answer sessions with many elected and regulatory agencies, simply as concerned citizens. Finally, we have submitted Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA) allowed by state and federal

PLEASE SEE **DATA** | A11



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan. 31

The Texas Agricultural Land Trust will host a "Run for the Range" event from 8 a.m. to 1.p.m at Fall Creek Ranch. Run for the Range is a 5K, 10K and half marathon race benefiting the Texas Agricultural Land Trust's mission of conversing Texas' working lands. Tickets are $50 for the 5K, $60 for the 10K, and $90 for the half marathon.

***

The weekly Hood County Farmer's Market will return to the Hood County YMCA from 9 a.m. to noon.

***

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

***

Granbury High School Fine Arts present their production of "Sister Act" at the Granbury High School Auditorium with two Saturday showings, a matinee at 2:30 p.m. and an evening show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 for adults, and $10 for students.

***

Your Private Collection Art Gallery has invited Laura Hunt to do a live painting demonstration from 6-8 p.m. for its Last Saturday Gallery Night. The event is free to attend and will be held at the gallery, located 106 N. Houston St.

Sunday, Feb. 1

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

***

Granbury High School Fine Arts present their production of "Sister Act" starting at 7 p.m.at the Granbury High School Auditorium Tickets are $15 for adults, and $10 for students.

Friday, Feb. 6

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

Saturday, Feb. 7

Acton Nature Center is hosting its monthly First Saturday Bird Walk starting at 7 a.m. The event is free to attend and led by Dr. Billy Teels, a biologist who has worked with the USDA and the Natural Resource Conservation Service in several states.

***

The weekly Hood County Farmer's Market will return to the Hood County YMCA from 9 a.m. to noon.

***

Arts and Letters Bookstore will hold a book signing from 1-3 p.m. with local hero Trevor Reed, whose memoir "Retribution" was published Jan. 27.

***

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

Sunday, Feb. 8

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

Monday, Feb. 9

Texas Democratic Women of Hood County will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377. Guest speaker is Katy Schmader, chief of Party Services of the Texas Democratic Party. For more information, call 817-565-0459.

Saturday, Feb. 14

The weekly Hood County Farmer's Market will return to the Hood County YMCA from 9 a.m. to noon.

ONGOING

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

Mondays

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Tuesdays

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, 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

Melody Belles singers of Granbury, a women's choral group, is seeking new members who love to sing three-part harmony. Also seeking an experienced piano accompanist. Weekly Thursday rehearsals for Spring concert season are from 10 a.m. to noon starting Feb. 5 at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts performed during first two weeks of May. If someone 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 an adult. Youth membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

***

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

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.

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.

***

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 at 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 will meet at 10 a.m. at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy (Hwy 167). Enter the door at the front of the building clearly marked as "Administration." Everyone is welcome.

Fourth Tuesdays

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

***

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

Third Wednesdays

Lake Granbury Area Master Gardeners meet at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month except December; meetings begin with a one-hour educational horticultural program, which is free and open to the public. Location typically is 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 7-8 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 for dinner and fellowship at 6 p.m. and an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also two- and three-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.

The following listings are weekly meetings that give support to those who need it free of charge.

***

The Pecan Plantation Genealogy Group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy (Hwy 167). Enter the door at the front of the building clearly marked as "Administration." Everyone is welcome.

Last Thursdays

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

Fridays, Saturdays

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

Second Saturdays

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

SENIOR CENTER MENU

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

Monday, Feb. 2

Chicken rice casserole with broccoli, tossed salad, cheesy garlic breadstick and sidesick ice fruit cup

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Lemon Baked Fish with roasted sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts and fresh fruit

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Turkey pot pie with mashed potatoes, green peas, rolls and a chocolate brownie

Thursday, Feb. 5

Chicken fajitas with Spanish rice, Mexican squash, tortillas and upside-down cake

Friday, Feb. 6

Chili, baked potatoes, tossed salad, cornbread and escalloped peaches

GRANBURY GONEBY



BY JOSH BURTON

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

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

Jan. 27, 1966
60 years ago

The engineering firm of Bryant Currington, Inc., of Austin, which is working on a master plan for the future growth and development of Granbury, has completed the census survey. Nathan L. Kiser, the engineer who was working on the plan, and his assistants began the survey and completed it Jan. 26.

R.E. McCrary, manager of the Texas Employment Office in Brownwood, said there now are many opening for boys to go to the various job corps centers. At present, there are more than 90 conservation centers, usually in government parks, located in 36 states, each of which may have 100-200 enrollees.

Officers of the Hood County Livestock Raisers Association for 1966, elected at the last meeting, are: president, Terrell Stewart; vice president, Don Anderson; secretary, Keith Hillman; and directors, Charles Lindley, Terrell Stewart, Frank Scarbrough, Albert Hall, Clyde Rains, Tommy Meyer, Ted Sears, Roger Nunnnallee, Frank Jekel, Tommy Robertson, Charles Gray, Dwight Hickey, E.A. Thomas Jr., Don Anderson, Roger Williams and Carl Brite.

Jan. 26, 1986
40 years ago

Paradise Fairway Condominium residents in Pecan Plantation may find themselves without water service if bills aren't paid and a contract signed with Acton Municipal Utility District (AMUD). The AMUD board voted Jan. 20 to discontinue water and sewer service if a contract is not signed by Feb. 1.

Granbury High School officials rarely give excused tardies, a procedure that has parents and students upset. Credits have been withheld from four or five students because of excess absences and tardies, mother Patti Scott said. Her daughter was disqualified from two classes because she was tardy eight times.

Had trouble traveling along Bridge Street lately because of construction? City Manager Bob Brockman said the engineering and surveying is complete for the $1,8 million street improvement bond package city voters approved the previous February.

Jan. 26, 2006
20 years ago

Mike Brown is tired of people breaking into his Ford dealership and stealing mobile DVD players and television screens, totalling nearly $40,000 in the last couple of months. He's offering a $1,000 reward in addition to Crime Stopper's reward of up to $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of perpetrators.

The age-old law of supply and demand may save money for Atmos Energy customers on next month's billings for natural gas. The Mid-Tex Division of Atmos Energy filed a request with the Texas Railroad Commission to reduce the gas cost portion of consumers' bill in February by about 36 percent.

After a long, heated discussion Jan. 23, Granbury school board members approved the proposed changes in grade locations in the school of the district. The changes begin with the 2006-07 school year. In the approved plan, Granbury High School will have a freshman center for all freshmen at Crossland Intermediate along North Jones Street.



Lipan elementary students, team place second at UIL

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lipan Elementary students competed Dec. 3 at the district University Interscholastic League competition in Hico. The Little Indians left with a second-place finish and compliments from Hico's principal on how the Lipan students made sure to leave their area cleaner than they found it. They only missed first place by 12 points and finished 109 points ahead of the third-place team.

The elementary students were recognized at the Lipan school board meeting Jan.22.

"I am so proud of our elementary UIL students and coaches. I really appreciate that the school board is recognizing our hard work and accomplishments. Our students were extremely competitive and did an outstanding job," said Vickie Posey, Lipan ISD math specialist, numbers sense and chess coach. "Our coaches work hard each year to prepare our students for their competitions. All of our practices take place before or after school for two months leading up the district meet. Many coaches spend three or four days per week holding after school practice."

Second- through fifth-grade students competed at UIL. The events are listed below:

Creative Writing (second grade) — students write a creative story;

Storytelling (second and third grade) — students are read a story and must retell it to a group of judges;

Oral Reading (second through fifth grade) — students recite a poem of their choice in front of a panel of judges;

Chess Puzzles (second through fifth grade) — students are given a scenario of a chess game and they must determine the best next move;

Art Smart (fourth and fifth grade) — Students are shown a work of art and must identify the artist and the title of the artwork;

Ready Writing (third through fifth grade) — students respond to a prompt with a short, organized composition;

Music Memory (second through fifth grade) — Students listen to classical pieces and must identify the composer and title of the work;

Spelling (third through fifth grade) — students complete a spelling test;

Dictionary Skills (fifth grade) — students are given a task that require them to use a dictionary to answer;

Number Sense (fourth and fifth grade) — students are given math problems in which they must only use mental math to solve;

Listening (fifth grade) — an oral passage is read aloud to students that they must then answer questions about;

Maps, Graphs, and Charts (fifth grade) — students must interpret data, identify patterns, and answer questions about different maps, graphs, and charts; and

Social Studies (fifth grade) — Students knowledge of history, geography, government, and citizenship concepts is tested.

First-place winners include:

- Hallie Branson — second-grade Oral Reading
- Lyla Keene — third-grade Oral Reading
- Georgia Lee Martin — fifth-grade Ready Writing, Dictionary skills and Oral Reading
- Briggs Kinney — third-grade storytelling
- Denver Mason — fifth-grade Art Smart
- Fifth-grade dictionary team placed first — Georgia Lee Martin and Lydia Maddux
- Fifth-grade Music Memory team placed first

Second-place winners include:

- Lainey Jones — second-grade Oral Reading
- Zane Scarborough — third-grade Oral Reading
- Blayne Thornton — third-grade Storytelling
- Marlie Branson — fourth-grade Oral Reading
- Layla HolBrook — fourth-grade Ready Writing
- Lydia Ervin — fifth-grade Dictionary Skills
- Brandtley Harris — fifth-grade Oral Reading
- Fourth-grade Art Smart team, fourth grade Spelling and fifth grade Art Smart placed second.



COURTESY PHOTO
Fifty-seven Lipan Elementary students participate at the district UIL competition.

Third-place winners include:

- Hallie Branson — Third-grade Creative Writing
- Ansley Walters — second-grade Music Memory
- Lyla Keene — third-grade Storytelling
- Micah Strickland — fourth-grade Oral Reading
- Jaxon Harvey — fourth-grade Spelling
- Georgia Lee Martin — fifth-grade Art Smart
- Miles Martin — fifth-Grade Chess
- Paisley Larson — fifth-grade Music Memory
- Lydia Ervin — fifth-grade Oral Reading
- Fifth-grade Social Studies, fifth grade Listening and second grade Chess placed third.

Coaches of the UIL teams are listed below:

- Wendy Gaylor — Oral Reading and Art Smart
- Amy Clark — Creative Writing
- Michelle Heavyside — Dictionary Skills
- Kristal Bullock — Listening
- Kacy Thornton — Maps, Graphs, & Charts and Social Studies
- Kaitlyn Howard — Ready Writing
- Kim Castillo — Music Memory and Spelling
- Calie Vance — Storytelling
- Vickie Posey — Number Sense and Chess

Teacher aims to remove obstacles for special education students

BY CHLOE LAING
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Riley Armstrong has just completed her first semester of teaching as GISD's newest Special Education/ACES teacher at Granbury Middle School.

Armstrong began her college career at Tarleton State University studying kinesiology, which she thought would lead her to a career in athletic training. However, during her senior year, she felt the pull to go into teaching.

She graduated from Tarleton with her kinesiology degree, but soon after, began to work on earning her alternative teaching certificate.

One day, a behavior intervention paralegal position opened up with Stevensville Independent School District. She applied and got the gig, which ended up igniting her love for SPED.

"That's what really opened up the world of special education for me," Armstrong said. "I mean, I absolutely loved it. I ended up becoming the go-to person for all things SPED, and I really got to learn about the different areas. I'll forever be grateful for that opportunity because that's what helped me decide I wanted to be within special education."

Now, she works in behavior intervention, or ACES, at Acton Middle School.

"I deal with a lot of kids who have like, behavioral or emotional deficits," Armstrong said. "ACES stands for academic, communication, emotional and social — so a student who'd be eligible for that, they would have to have exhibited behaviors that are seriously impacting their education in a negative manner as a result of a disability."

While all new teachers face an array of challenges in their first year, one of the many items on Armstrong's job description is she has the added bonus of being routinely physically abused by her pupils.

"I'm dealing with kids who range from just not knowing how to act socially with their peers, to being defiant and disruptive with adults, to full on throwing desks, chairs, throwing punches and kicking," Armstrong said. "You never know what your day is going to look like."

However, Armstrong admitted she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I mean, I love it," Armstrong said. "I knew I wanted to go into the world of behavior. I wanted to be with these kids. I wanted to be with the ones who have that bias already stacked against them. I wanted to go in there and be an advocate for those kids."

Armstrong said the most powerful part of her job is building a trusting working relationship with her students so together, they can find solutions to ease their behavioral issues. Because if and when that's achieved, it means a student gets to be more active in the traditional classrooms and assimilate more closely with their peers.

"You get to see this growth from whenever you didn't know them, and how they treat you and how they fit in. Then, you develop that relationship with them, and you can just tell how much more comfortable they are and how that changes their behavior. I just think that's really cool."

Another aspect of the job Armstrong enjoys is she never quite knows what she's walking into when she steps foot each morning on the AMS campus — a level of unpredictability that might scare anybody else — but not her.

"I think what made me fall in love with it so much is that I love having a variety in my day, and this is something where every day looks different. I mean, even like my morning to the afternoon could be totally different."

While Armstrong said the variability of her role often is one of its perks, she also admitted the wrangling of evolving schedules, classrooms and roster also can pose as much of a challenge as wrangling the behavior of her students.

"One thing I've learned this year is how to be flexible, the theme word of the year is 'pivot,"' Armstrong said. "The way the program is set up, it's meant to be flexible — the goal is to get them to move through the levels so that they can be out in their classes with as little support as needed. So, I think going forward, just being more flexible and more open minded, being ready for change, and being able to pivot."

According to Armstrong, one thing that makes her job just a little bit easier is the way she can rely on the support of her AMS "family" in just about any situation that may call for it.

"Everybody really treats each other like family," Armstrong said. "There are times where students can get extremely physically aggressive, and in those situations,



Riley Armstrong

we're worried about safety. I don't need to be by myself for that, or maybe I need assistance. As soon as I call something on radio, everyone shows up — I mean, everyone. Even teachers in surrounding classrooms, they'll peek their head out and they're like, 'Are you good, do you need help?' So, I definitely feel that support from everybody on campus. And I just, I love how supportive everyone is."



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The finalists of the 2025 Voice of Granbury "Audition Night," some of these faces will be joined by fresh competitors for the "Main Show," to be held Feb. 5.

Philanthropy on center stage

Kiwanis' 'Voice of Granbury' fundraiser returns for 8th year

BY CHLOE LAING
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The Voice of Granbury's "Main Show" returns for its eighth year at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Granbury Live, and will feature 10 of Granbury's most talented musicians, all competing for the chance to become the true Voice of Granbury — and a cash prize of $350.

The event will feature three rounds. The first round will feature a performance from all 10 contestants. A second round follows with the five contestants who were voted to advance. The third round features the final three contestants.

Each singer will perform one song per round, followed by audience voting.

Singers advance and win based on audience votes. Votes can be cast during any round, and additional votes can be purchased for $10 each.

The Voice's "Main Show" lineup is as follows:

- Shayla Nuttall
- Renae Whitsitt
- Lee Monroe
- Courtney Current
- Nick Hannah
- Josh Kennedy
- Chad Swanberg
- Janet Giusti
- Michelle Winters
- Charles Patterson

Tickets for the Voice of Granbury's Main Show are $30 and selling fast. Each year, the event sells out — so get a ticket while one is still available by visiting granburylive.com/acts/the-voice-10.

The Voice of Granbury serves as a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Lake Granbury. Kiwanis Club's mission is to "proudly serve the children of the world from here in North Texas."

GHS wins home precision ROTC event

FROM STAFF REPORTS
submissions@hcnews.com

The Granbury Winter Air Rifle CMP EIC Cup Match was held Jan. 21-23 with outstanding competition in both precision and sporter divisions.

Top team finishers

Precision team
Granbury Gold — 2,349
Joshua Precision A — 2,284
Granbury Purple — 2,223

Sporter team

Tiger Claw 1 (Stony Point HS) — 2,076
Joshua Sporter A — 2,075
Joshua Sporter B — 2,023

Top individual finishers

Precision individual
Viola Allen (Granbury) — 596
Renee Sermarini (Granbury) — 587
Mataya Turner (Granbury) — 586

Sporter individual

Jacob Rotermund (JHS) — 535
Haven Burke (Stony Point) — 533a
Ryan Walley (JHS) — 532

AMMONS
FROM PAGE A1

- In the past couple of years, they have donated more than $12,000 in "parent pickup tags" for schools.

"We go to a lot of the local fundraisers and support as much as possible," Ammons said.

Ammons also is a member of the Granbury Optimist Club, a board member for the Hood County Children's Charity Fund and on the board of directors for the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

He recently co-founded Lone Star Rescue and Recovery with his friend Michael Alexander after they returned from helping victims of the Hill Country flooding this past summer.

Hill Country flooding

Ammons was deployed by the Cajun Navy (a network of volunteer boat owners) to Hunt to help a family that had four members missing in the floods. Alexander joined him on the venture.

"Once we got to Hunt, we realized we had no cell service or ways to communicate," he said. "A few hours later, I found four other skid steers (a compact, versatile construction machine with lift arms for various attachments) and we started to group up and work together.

"We started a system of turning trees and brush that had been cleared upriver so others could tell it had been gone through. By the end of that day, we had around 40 people partner with us. We became very effective and organized."

Ammons said each passing found more and more people wanting to work with his group.

"We called our camp Fort Fleming, as we were on Fleming Ranch Road. By the end of Week 1 we had more than 2,000 volunteers working under us," Ammons said.

Ammons was one of five main team leads. He worked alongside the local Hunt Fire Department and numerous other local and state organizations.

"By the end of Week 2 we had, I would guess, around 4,000 working under us," he said. "We stayed effective and very thorough."

PLEASE SEE **AMMONS** | A11

City, county work through winter storm

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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COURTESY PHOTO

GISD employes work to clear sidewalks and access points to schools after 2026 winter storm. Schools re opened Thursday Jan. 29.

Icy and frigid conditions created a winter mess for large portions of the state Jan. 24-28, and Hood County had its share of problems.

However, preparations by city of Granbury and Hood County workers, along with plenty of assistance from Texas Department of Transportation crews, helped keep many area roads clear and passable for motorists.

Todd Tuggle, director of road operations for Hood County said county workers were able to avoid the brunt of the storm's impact.

"As you know, Texas winter storms can be very unpredictable due to all the factors involved," Tuggle said. "We are thankful of all the precautions, advanced warnings and collaboration prior to this storm. Road operations hasn't had to respond to any issues due to the cold temps other than icing in particular spots on county roads.

"Once precipitation stopped and other factors were evaluated, road ops had a plan in place to apply sand in these areas. To my knowledge TxDOT is the only source who pretreated major state thoroughfares."

City crews stayed busy keeping area roads open, said Jeff Newpher, city public information director.

"Throughout the recent winter storm, Granbury's crew worked nearly nonstop to help keep roads, intersections and access points to essential services as safe as possible for residents and first responders," he said.

The city's street department "Treated city-maintained roads, major intersections, and other businesses using a combination of salt, sand, plows and hand tools. More than 100 cubic yards of salt and sand were applied during the operation," Newpher said.

Below freezing temperatures caused the sand to freeze solid in some trucks, he said. This required city crews to break the material apart so it could be used.

Newpher said despite these challenges work continued without interruption.

"Before and during the storm, city crews also prioritized key locations critical to public safety, including Lake Granbury's emergency room, the Granbury police department, Granbury Volunteer Department station and Texas EMS ambulance headquarters" he said. "These efforts helped ensure first responders could continue serving the community under difficult conditions."

City crews worked with the Texas Department of Transportation on state-maintained roads inside Granbury. TxDOT pretreated roads and followed up where needed while the city applied sand and salt to help improve driving conditions.

"Although the extreme cold drove electricity demand to unusually high levels, no problems were reported with the city's electric system," Newpher said. "Regular tree trimming in more than a decade of ongoing infrastructure upgrades played key roles in preventing outages during the storm."

The city's water and wastewater operations also experienced no major interruptions during the extreme weather.

"The dedication and teamwork shown by our staff during this storm was exceptional," Newpher said. "Their training, preparation, willingness to work through extremely difficult conditions made a real difference for our community."

AMMONS
FROM PAGE A10

Alexander said he didn't hesitate a second when given the chance to join his friend in the Hill Country.

"I said, 'I'm ready when you are.' We loaded up our stuff and took off, not knowing what to expect," he said. "I couldn't imagine being the one to potentially find my kid in that situation."

In fact, Alexander said, they made a return to the area later as Lone Star Rescue and Recovery.

"It's new and we're still growing, but we're ready to help anyone we can," he said. "I'm pretty honored to be a friend of his and to be involved in this."

Starting A+

Ammons started A+ Roofing in late 2012. Naturally, he immediately used his company to help those around him, doing free emergency tarping after the tornadoes and hail.

"I have never been a storm-chaser. I don't knock doors, and I don't allow cold calling," he said. "We are built on our reputation and customers' references."

His wife, Caitlyn, helps with the business, including taxes and payroll. They have three young sons, Parker, Lucas and Hudson.

"She also trusts me when it comes to supporting (causes) and donations," he said. "People always question, 'Why did you give so much?' and Caitlyn will just say 'If you believe we can afford to donate so much, I trust you.'"

"With that type of mindset ,believing in me, it has opened me up to this business and my charity work," he said.

A+ started in Stephenville while he and Caitlyn were both attending Tarleton State University. They moved to Granbury in 2015 and haven't looked back.

They opened the Temple office at the end of 2023. It's managed by Alexander.

"He was looking for a new career, and I built that branch to help him copy what I have done here," Ammons said. "He is getting just as active in the community as I am here."

Holly Brackeen has been Ammons' office manager in Granbury for four years. She has seen firsthand what a giving heart he has.

"It is difficult for him to say 'no' when a need presents itself, and while he has done so much already, he continues to look for ways to help others," she said. "So much of his servant heart is done behind the scenes without notice or accolades. He simply does it because he has the means and the desire to render aid where he sees a need for it."



COURTESY PHOTO

Chad Ammons (in back), owner of A+ Roofing, and his friend Michael Alexander (manager of Temple location) journeyed to the Hill Country to help flooding victims. The duo also co-founded Lone Star Rescue & Recovery.



DATA
FROM PAGE A8

statutes. Those have also been thwarted by local officials who file FOIA objections to the state Attorney General on behalf of developers, thus preventing our requests for information. These legal objections derive from the Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) willingly signed by our elected officials with developers.

So we still lack sufficient project information. Despite our best efforts.

Our efforts have been continuously thwarted by Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) required by corporate developers and willingly signed by many of our elected officials. Here we are addressing both City and County elected officials and large numbers of their staff.

These NDAs prevent our elected officials from even disclosing that they have signed such agreements. Further, these NDAs then prevent our elected officials from being able to discuss AI specifics with their voters.

They tell us TRUST us. This will be beneficial to our communities and won't affect our rural quality of life. But we don't. We can't.

How can we when they can't even be truthful, being bound by Non-Disclosure Agreements signed at the request of AI developers?

Further, obscuring the truth are the use of Corporate Shell Companies, which conceal the identity and the true source of funds backing these industrial-scale developments intended for Hood County. Is the funding coming from reputable U.S. companies or foreign sources with unknown intentions and prior histories of abuses left in their wake? Again, despite all our efforts, much remains to be found out.

Then there are the actual companies intended to be sited at these massive AI, natural-gas polluting locations, within Hood County. Here, again, the developers bound by NDAs are unable and/or are unwilling to share the identities, or even the size, of their tenant client AI centers.

But not all AI data centers are sized the same. (think buildings the size of three or four football fields).

Or have equal histories of good stewardship. For example, some like Amazon Web Services now employ recycled gray (processed wastewater) in their massive cooling systems, thus not drawing precious potable water from Lake Granbury. While many others only consume millions of gallons of potable water monthly. So knowing the identities of these soon-to-be AI "uninvited neighbors" is of great concern.

In addition, state agency reviews by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) have not required, or even allowed any public comment period; nor developer publication, or notice, of proposed AI campuses before TCEQ approval. Presently, TCEQ has already approved both Pacifico's Fort Spunky campus and Bilateral Energy's Granbury proposals. While Comanche Circle's application is now pending TCEQ approval, it is expected to be granted soon.

TCEQ approvals are now being evaluated as "standard" or stand-alone applications, which fail to consider the aggregate impact of all-natural gas turbine and other power generation impacts on Hood County's air quality. In 2022, the EPA formally notified Hood County that we were marginal for both ozone and small particulates. So, just due to the increase in the county's population and associated traffic density, it's very likely that Hood County is currently in non-compliance with air quality standards. That's without all these coming AI data centers and their natural gas turbines.

Finally, AI developers employ "legal speak" and other sleight of hand to gain both local officials' and regulators' approval. One recent example is Pacifico's declaration that they are not connecting to the "local grid." Truth: they have already negotiated an electric grid connection for a 138KV line originating in Abby Bend. The "legal speak" — Abby Bend is outside our local electric grid. So while Pacifico's denial is technically truthful, it is intentionally misleading.

In desperation, we as Concerned Citizens have chosen this public forum to gain the information we need as residents and taxpayers of Hood County, the cities of Granbury, Tolar and Pecan Plantation.

The Hood County News is the official newspaper of record for all of Hood County. And since sunlight is the best disinfectant, we are now asking our questions in this public forum. We respectfully request our elected officials, the developer companies, and local and state agencies having jurisdiction, to be truthful to all Hood County residents.

Do NOT continue to hide behind the veil of Non-Disclosure Agreements any longer.

Only after our elected officials begin to be candid will the residents and voters of Granbury and Hood County begin to believe this is somehow "in our best interests." That our beloved rural lifestyle won't be forever changed by air pollution, noise pollution, and water pollution of the Brazos River and Lake Granbury.

Many of you may ask what I, as a single voter, can do?

We, as concerned citizens and more importantly as voters of Granbury and Hood County, still can have a voice in this process. It's NOT too late.

First, attend all Granbury city, AMUD, and Hood County Court meetings. Sign up to speak and be heard. State your concerns clearly and be joined by your neighbors who have similar concerns.

Second, consider signing a petition now circulating online and joining over 1,500 of your neighbors who have already signed. The petition can be found at:

https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-intrusion-of-disruptive-data-centers-in-hood-county

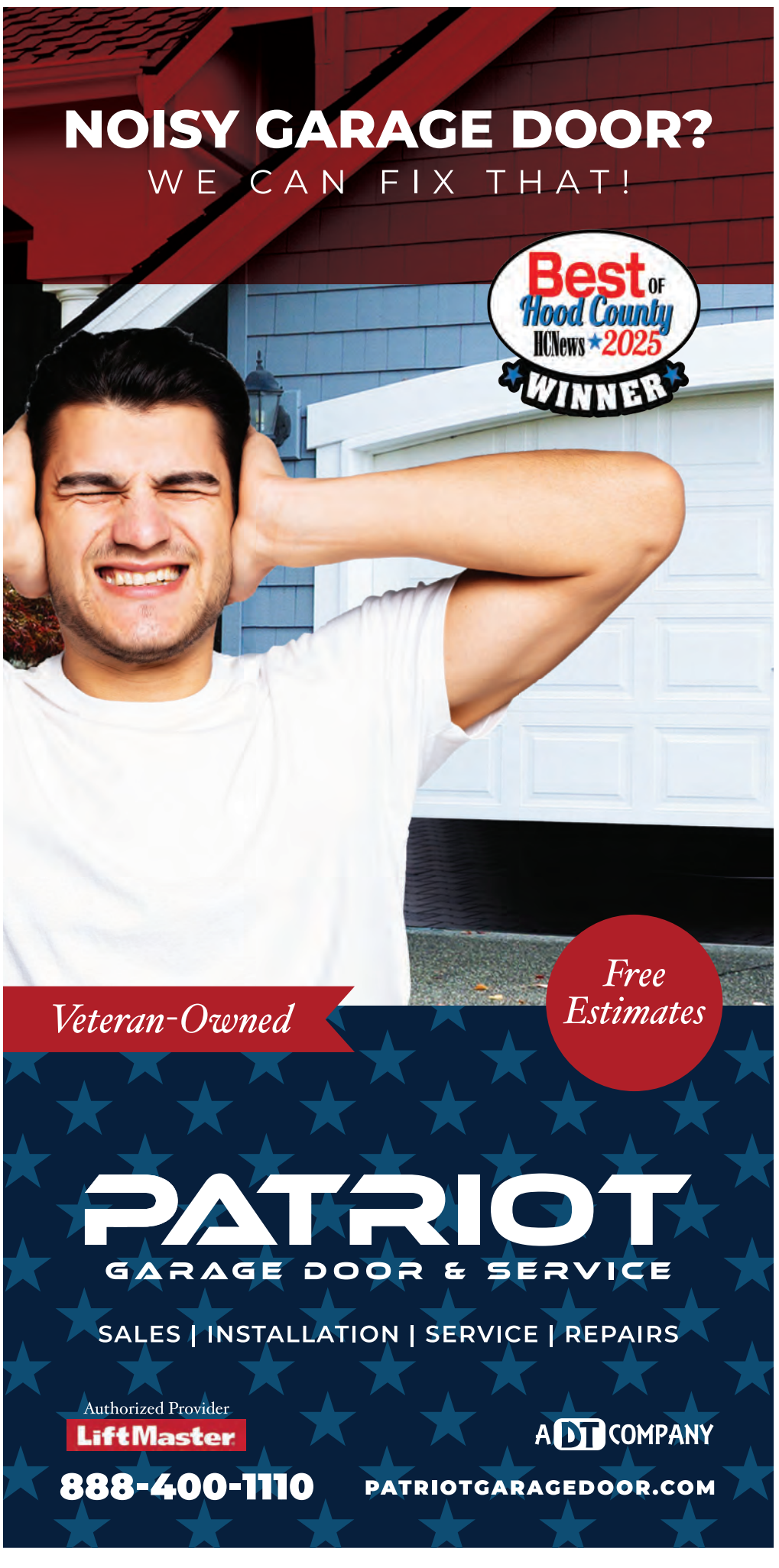
Third, this is an election year. Local candidates are now asking for your vote. Attend campaign events. Ask for commitments from those candidates to vote against data centers coming into Granbury and Hood County. And support those opposed.

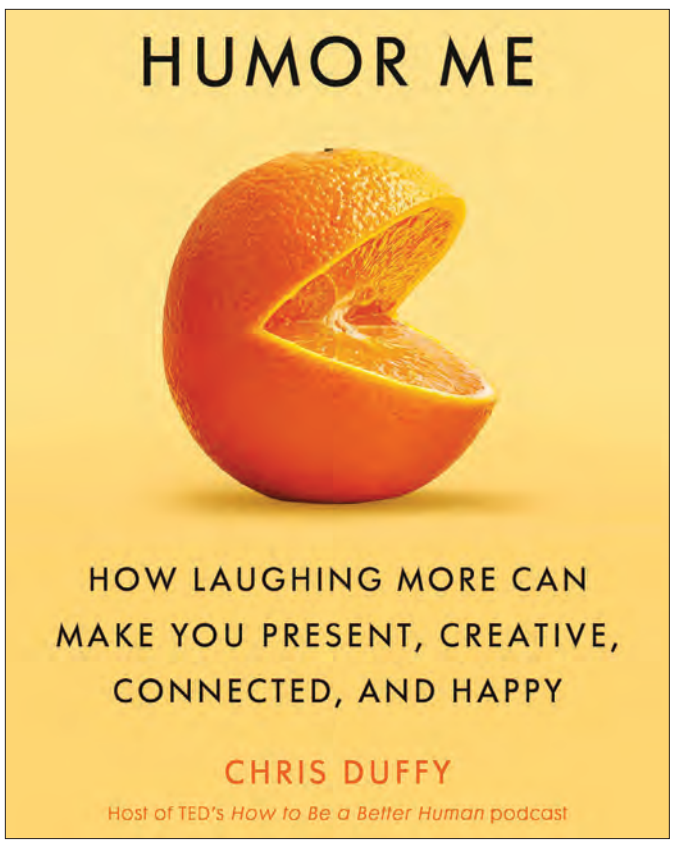
And finally, watch for future Hood County News articles here to stay abreast of continuing AI developments in Hood County.

Only by voicing our collective concerns and standing together in opposition will this INVASION of our beloved, rural Hood County be stopped.

Thank you.

COL. Dennis Prevost
Mary Jo Bloomquist





COURTESY PHOTO

"Humor Me: How Laughing More Can Make You Present, Creative, Connected, and Happy," by Chris Duffy, is available for $29.

Author finds his funny bone, inspired by fifth-grader

Knock-knock. Who's there?



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

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

Yeah, OK, you'll play along, even though knock-knock jokes haven't been funny to you for decades. They're obviously funny to the person who's knocking, and that's what matters — but can they tell a joke? Can you? Read "Humor Me: How Laughing More Can Make You Present, Creative, Connected, and Happy," by Chris Duffy, and you'll see how a few ha-has can make you happier.

Years ago, Chris Duffy noticed that he'd lost his funny bone.

He was a teacher then, living with multiple roommates, and always grumpy — until he met a fifth-grade student who generally was failing school. When Duffy discovered something that would turn the boy's school career around, he also discovered the boy was laugh-out-loud funny. That incident convinced Duffy he needed to put humor into his life more often.

We all need to do that, he says.

The first step is to know the difference between comedy, humor and levity. Comedy is what happens on a stage, its jokes, its performance. Humor is the ability "to see, notice and celebrate the delightful weirdness of our world." Levity, says Duffy, "is … being receptive to the laughter and joy that comes your way."

Next, embrace what Duffy calls the "Three Pillars of Good Humor."

Be present in the moment, so you see more of what's around you. Notice at least one new thing on your commute. Dedicate yourself to people-watching. Keep your eyes open to things that are absurd and that make you laugh.

Be able to laugh at yourself without self-depreciation but with confidence. Recognizing your own foils with humor actually can be charming. Know how to do this in other languages.

Be willing to take "social risks" and tap into your sense of play, remaining aware of where to draw the line. And if you cross it? Know how to apologize and aim your humor better next time. It's all "part of the process."

So a guy walks into a bookstore and …

Ach, never mind. Just go pick up "Humor Me."

Just know though, author Chris Duffy doesn't fill this book with jokes, and he doesn't tell you how to tell one — joking, in fact, isn't really the focus here. Instead, he teaches readers to tap into their own sense of humor, to nurture it the right way, to gather others into the fold of the funny, and to self-satisfy with humor just for the fun of it.

On the flip side, Duffy warns that with laughter comes responsibility, and he reminds readers that humor pushed too far can quickly become hurtful and bullying — at yourself and at others. That darker part of the book isn't scolding or shaming; it keeps with a lighthearted theme, but with a serious tone.

Readers who love to laugh but need to know how to corral it properly will want this book. So will anyone who needs to learn levity, or a better way to connect with staff or strangers. If you want to sprinkle more joy in your life, "Humor Me" just might help open the door.

MORE SNOWDAY FUN

PHOTOS SUBMITTED TO THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS



It's all quiet on the sidewalks of the Historic Granbury Square. (Photo submitted by Gary Sheppard of Granbury Opera House).



Candince McGrath, Blake Clifford and Marshall Ralston enjoying some fun in the snow and ice. (Photo submitted by Alicia Laurence).



Jed Berman, 8, of Abel's Landing in Granbury shows off the giant icicle he found at his grandparents' house. (Photo submitted by grandfather Tylene Berman).



Fire and ice, maybe not, but at least snow and steam coming off Lake Grandbury. (Photo submitted by Aundrea Reel).



Cattle enjoy some "ice" water. (Photo submitted by Darcy Boyce).



Marcus Hadaway, Wyatt Mraz, Laelah Mraz and Sarah Walton are getting ready to sled. (Photo submitted by Sarah Walton).

Rotablation atherectomy available at Lake Granbury Medical Center

An option for treating hardened artery blockages close to home

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER
GUEST COLUMN

Lake Granbury Medical Center now is offering rotablation atherectomy, an advanced procedure that helps treat severely hardened coronary artery blockages that are difficult or sometimes impossible to open with standard techniques. This technology represents a major step forward for local heart care and gives Granbury residents access to treatment options previously available only in larger urban centers.

Rotablation uses a tiny, diamond-coated, fast-spinning tip to gently shave away calcified plaque inside the artery. It works much like smoothing a tough, cement-like spot so that blood can flow more freely and a stent can be placed safely.

This procedure can be especially helpful for:

- Very calcified or rigid blockages;
- Narrowings that do not respond to standard balloon angioplasty; and
- Cases where stent placement is not possible without plaque preparation

Key benefits include:

- Opening arteries that are difficult to treat;
- Making stent placement safer and more effective;
- Short recovery times and minimal incisions; and
- Improved blood flow and reduced chest pain

"Rotablation gives us another important tool for treating complex coronary disease. It allows us to safely open arteries that previously were very difficult to manage," Michael Ibe, MD, interventional cardiologist, said.

"This technology means our patients no longer have to travel far for advanced heart care. We can treat more challenging blockages right here at home," Levi Rice, DO, interventional cardiologist, said.

How these blockages form in the first place

Plaque buildup in the coronary arteries is a gradual process that develops throughout years. Cholesterol, calcium, inflammation and vessel wall damage all contribute to the formation of these deposits. In time, the plaque can become thick and hardened, eventually restricting blood flow to the heart muscle.

Several factors increase the risk of plaque buildup:

- High cholesterol;
- High blood pressure;
- Diabetes;
- Smoking;
- Family history;
- Obesity or sedentary lifestyle; and
- Chronic inflammation

As plaque ages, it can become so calcified and rigid that traditional angioplasty balloons simply cannot push it aside. These are the cases where rotablation becomes critical.

Preventive cardiology: protecting heart health every day

While advanced procedures are important, preventing heart disease remains the strongest line of defense. Lake Granbury Medical Center's general cardiologists work closely with patients to address risk factors early and slow the progression of plaque.

Preventive services include:

- Cholesterol and blood pressure management;
- Medication management;
- Stress testing and heart imaging;

Rhythm evaluation; and Nutrition and lifestyle counseling

For many patients, regular cardiology visits can delay or even avoid the need for invasive procedures down the road.

Emergency care when a heart attack occurs

When a heart attack strikes, immediate treatment is vital. Interventional cardiologists at Lake Granbury Medical Center are trained to quickly restore blood flow using angioplasty and stent placement. Opening the blocked artery fast helps protect the heart muscle and saves lives.

In some emergencies the blockage is so calcified a stent cannot be safely placed without first preparing the plaque. With rotablation now available, LGMC's interventional team has more tools to handle these difficult cases right in the moment.

This capability can mean the difference between receiving life-saving treatment locally or being transferred during a critical window of time.

A stronger future for local heart care

With the addition of rotablation atherectomy, Lake Granbury Medical Center continues expanding its ability to care for patients with both routine and complex heart conditions. From prevention to emergency intervention to advanced plaque treatment, residents now have access to modern heart care without leaving the community.

Contact heart health resources

Residents who want to take a closer look at their heart health can take a quick online Heart Health Quiz at lakegranburymedical.com/TestYourHeart.

To schedule an appointment with the cardiology department at Lakeside Physicians, call (817) 579-3970.



Hood County News

COMMUNITY

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B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

Shining sophomore stands out in Lipan

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

In a basketball program like Lipan's, where with coach Brent Gaylor the Indians have been to state six times and won four championships, players have to play the Lipan way and the program builds great players.

Sophomore Brayden Harrison has inserted himself as a starter and key piece for Lipan.

The Indians are 5-0 in district play and 24-1 overall (as of Jan. 19) and Harrison has made major improvements to his game throughout the season. Harrison currently is in his second year at Lipan after coming from Brock.

"It was hard. I was coming in the first year at the start of season and was kind of slow. I started to feel it out at in the end of the season," Harrison said.

While it took some time for Harrison to adjust to the new area and teammates, he was not unfamiliar with some as he has played with juniors Court Gaylor and Evan Lott in summer Amateur Athletic Union games. A "good" experience, Harrison said.

"It's been really good. My coaches are good; team's organized good; we play good competition and you get to make good tournaments," Harrison said. "I've been playing up my whole life, so I've already been playing against most the kids age-wise."

With such a good record and team, keeping themselves interested in the game is a task at times. Gaylor's message of always playing hard, playing defense and take care of the ball resonated with Harrison.

Playing more without the ball was another adjustment. In a system where cutting and passing is important or others are in scoring positions more than he is, Harrison has worked with his coach on being in the right spots and not turning the ball over. Since last year, he's worked on keeping his handle on the ball tight and closer to himself so prevent it being stolen.

The winning playstyle has set in for the young player. After a year of playing and practicing, Harrison feels the team's "basketball IQ" is pretty high now, so the team flows. Everything they need to do happens and they move on to the next possession to repeat their success.

Another new role for him is being a team's top defender. The constant challenge of having to defend the opposing team's best player every game puts a big responsibility and motivation on him to improve his defense while keeping his energy up.

"I guard the best player. It challenges me every game to work and try to stop the other team's best player from scoring. I feel that's probably the most improved on and changed," Harrison said. "It's kind of my assignment. I just earned it playing hard and trying to make the hustle plays."

He feels if he can keep his matchup out of the paint and contest any open shot, then he's made it difficult for them.

One thing his parents love about him being on the varsity team is they get to be in one place to watch him and his sister. Skylar Harrison is his freshman sister, who plays varsity basketball. She also plays volleyball and placed fifth at state cross country.

"It's been fun and easier for my parents. They don't have to go to a junior high game Monday, so they're probably stoked about that, and I get to watch all her (his sister's) games," Harrison said.

The goal for the rest of the season is to redeem themselves for their previous season where they lost the 2A state championship to Martins Mill. The state championship games in San Antonio are a staple for Harrison, as before he was a high school player he would go watch the title games.

"Thinking about it all the time, it gives you motivation. I want to keep winning and get the medal. That's what I've been dreaming about my whole life," Harrison said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lipan sophomore Brayden Harrison pulls up for a mid-range shot above City View defenders. Harrison scored 16 points in the 73-56 win against City View.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lipan's Brayden Harrison brings the ball down the court with Lipan fans watching. Harrison has been motivated all year by the Indians' loss in the state title game last season.

Sophomore starter makes instant impact in Pirate basketball season

Eager to improve

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

In his first year as a Granbury Pirate, sophomore Brannon Burns is an immediate impact player. Burns and his family arrived in Hood County at the end of the previous school year after wanting a change from Houston.

His journey with basketball started in the seventh grade when a friend invited him to play in his area one day and the inspiration took on from there.

"He was really good, and I used to be trash. He encouraged me to play, so I started practicing. and I basically just got better than everybody. Everything just came naturally; my whole family's pretty athletic," Burns said.

Now he is starter on varsity and provides effort and intensity with his rebounding and defense. In his short time in Granbury between the end of last year and having the athletic period during the fall of 2025, coaches noticed Burns and his introduction to the basketball team soon followed.

"I hate losing. There's a lot that comes with losing and winning. We have to work harder, once we build more chemistry and play together, we'll be fine," Burns said.

This year has been an adjustment for Burns. A 4-15 record with a new town, new team and first year on varsity has been full of lessons and experiences. He knows this year won't be perfect and will be important for his development.

"This is my first year playing varsity, so there definitely is a new competition. This year is going be my year to really see where I'm at. Next year is probably going to be my breakout year. By then I'll be more comfortable to the comp," Burns said. "I could definitely contribute a lot more to this team, but my time will come when it happens."

The jump to varsity competition hasn't fazed the sophomore. As a younger player, he played older players so the jump in competition isn't new. Playing bigger players and learning from failure has developed his mentality, which he thinks is one of the most important things to have as a player and team.

"Mentality is a big thing. I like working out alone, or just being alone to really think about it. Working on it by yourself, and it's good to work with the team," Burns said. "There's so much to improve and so much more to the show."

His work-hard mentality is how he plans to improve on his game and confidence in the summer for a great season next year. Burns plays a lot of his minutes as a forward or center, so being tough in the paint is a constant.

"I feel like if we came out every game like that (with energy and tension) then we could definitely win a lot of games in district. There's going to be a few tough teams, but that's not an impossible obstacle," Burns said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Brannon Burns goes inside the paint for a contested shot. Burns is a sophomore for Granbury and provides instant impact and effort.

Jennifer Bukovec is 'A.C.E.s'



Jennifer Bukovec

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

Jennifer teaches math at Granbury High School. She was nominated by Hughes Hamrick and Isaac Creager.

Isaac has this to say about Jennifer: "Mrs. Bukovec is an extraordinary teacher because of her understanding and patience with students. She teaches a college-level class and still takes the time to help students with stuff they should understand. I'm nominating this teacher because she takes a difficult subject and makes it easy to understand. I can say that she is one of the best math teachers I've had, and we all owe her more appreciation."

Hughes has this to say about Jennifer: "Mrs. Bukovec always helps me when I struggle in Algebra and makes the unit understandable for me. She also lets me visit my friends in other periods that I don't see in between periods. She helps me understand math (which I struggle with a lot) and puts it into simpler terms."

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

Local DAR presents Outstanding Junior Award

From Staff Reporters

The Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution awarded the 2025 Outstanding Junior Award to Lindsey Ann Cook George. George is the daughter of Michael and Karan Cook and the granddaughter of Margaret Cook of Granbury.

George is a 31-year-old professional living in Quitaque, with her husband and their four children. Her journey has been shaped by a strong foundation in leadership, community involvement and commitment to both personal and professional growth.

George graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree and was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She has participated in support for the Susan G. Komen Foundation; has provided recreational therapy for children with special needs; and has received certification as a doula, offering support and care to families during one of life's most significant moments, at the UMC Hospital in Lubbock. She also enjoys photography, capturing life's precious memories.

George and her husband founded their real estate brokerage, Western Heritage Realty and Investments, in Silverton. She received her Real Estate Brokers License in 2024. Since starting a family in 2018, she has embraced the rewarding challenge of balancing motherhood with entrepreneurship and continues to build a business rooted in integrity, faith, community and growth.

The outstanding Junior Member Contest began in 1963 to recognize junior members of the National Society, ages 18 through 35, who have furthered the DAR's historical, educational and patriotic objectives in accordance with the DAR motto, "God, Home and Country."

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with more than185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. More than a million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit texasdar.org/chapters/ElizabethCrockett/.



Lindsey Ann Cook George, granddaughter of Margaret Cook of Granbury.

There are no real estate police



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.

Detectives Starsky and Hutch were on a stakeout. The call came in through 9-1-1 dispatch earlier in the day that Mr. Default (the seller of 1111 Broken Promises Drive) was removing the curtains from the house he was selling, a blatant and willful violation of the sales contract which clearly read the curtains were attached and therefore required to convey with the sale of the home. As Mr. Default is loading the curtains into his trunk, the detectives approach the startled seller, informing him he is under arrest for grand larceny of an installed component in clear violation of the real estate contract he signed.

When described in this farcical manner, it sounds ridiculous. In the real world, if you call 9-1-1 because the seller or buyer defaulted on a sales contract, the operator likely will tell you to call your lawyer and then hang up on you, because the police have no jurisdiction for civil contracts.

However, you might be surprised at how many times in my career I have had to remind clients, there are "no real estate police." When a buyer or a seller refuses to abide by the terms of the contract, the aggrieved party will typically look to their REALTOR® to "Fix It." If that doesn't work, the next question frequently asked is, "Can't you force them to abide by the terms of the contract?" The answer to that question is "No, I cannot force any of the parties to a contract to do anything." I can encourage cooperation, I can try to negotiate a solution, but REALTORS® have no enforcement capabilities, nor can I call in the Real Estate Police as backup.

Paragraph 15 of the One-to-Four Family Residential Contract, promulgated by the Texas Real Estate Commission, details the options both buyers and sellers have for resolution of disputes in the event of default. They are (a) enforce specific performance, seek such other relief as may be provided by law, or both, or (b) terminate the contract and receive the earnest money, thereby releasing both parties from the contract. Specific performance in contract law is defined as a court-ordered remedy compelling the defaulting party to fulfill their exact contractual promise. This typically involves hiring a lawyer and pursuing resolutions in the courts.

Paragraph 16 of the One-to-Four Contract (referenced above) reads "It is the Policy of the State of Texas to encourage resolution of disputes through alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation. Mediation brings a neutral third party to the table to help disputing parties communicate and hopefully resolve contractual issues without incurring the legal expense of attorneys and court costs. It is voluntary, non-binding and choosing to Mediate before you Litigate could save you substantial money and time.

As I always do when discussing contracts, I will remind you I am a real estate broker, not an attorney, and nothing in this article should be considered legal advice. And, as always, thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us at WeSellGranbury.com.

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Pirates earn consecutive titles at district swim meet

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Granbury High School's swim teams have lapped their competition again and claimed two more district titles at the district meet Jan. 23.

"What a great way to kick off our championship season. Having both the Pirates and Lady Pirates come out of the district championships in first was a real privilege to be a part of," head swim coach Charles Overton said. "These young men and women show up early every morning for practice starting in August and to see the growth in the pool and as teammates where we are now, has been so exciting as a coach."

The boys swim team captured back-to-back district titles with its performance. The Pirates had two relay champion teams and three individual champions.

The Lady Pirates made it three consecutive district titles. The girls had one relay champion team and two individual champions.

"They have used all of their experiences this year to build up to this level of success along with their hard work in and out of practice to prepare for what we hope is several individuals and relays being in a great position to qualify for the 5A state championship in Austin," Overton said. "They have worked so hard to help establish this level of success each season, and it is because of the culture these athletes have helped establish the past four years."

Individual District Champions

Jett McFerrin: 200 Freestyle
Mason Ward: 50 Freestyle
Ellie Nelson: 500 Freestyle and 100 Breaststroke
Carmen Citzler: 100 Backstroke
Cameron Ward: 100 Breaststroke

Relay Champions

Girls 200 Medley
Boys 200 Medley
Boys 200 Freestyle
Granbury high school swimming teams will compete at the 2-5A Regional Championships in Mansfield Feb 6-7.

Men's results

200 Freestyle
Jett McFerrin — first place *District Champ*
Connor Lines — sixth place
200 IM
Cameron Ward — second place
Kyle Brawner — third place
Caleb Killough — sixth place
50 Freestyle
Mason Ward — first place *District Champ*
Caden McLemore — eighth place
100 Butterfly
Jett McFerrin — third place
Sean Kim — fourth place
Finnegan Renard — fifth place
100 Freestyle
James Zelenak — fifth place
Caden McLemore — sixth place
100 Backstroke
Mason Ward — third place
James Zelenak — fourth place
Sean Kim — fifth place
100 Breaststroke
Cameron Ward —first place *District Champ*
Kyle Brawner — fourth place
Finnegan Renard — seventh place
Caleb Killough — eighth place

200 Medley
A Relay — first place and district champions
McFerrin, Brawner, Kim and Cameron Ward
200 Freestyle, A Relay — first place and district champions
Mason Ward, Kim, Cameron Ward and McFerrin
400 Freestyle, A Relay — second place
M. Ward, Zelenak, Killough and Brawner

Women's results

200 Freestyle
Autum Stuart — fourth place
Bekah Killough — sixth place
Ella Redwine — eighth place
200 IM
Bailey McDermott — second place
Jina Kim — fourth place
50 Freestyle
Carmen Citzler — second place
Peyton Guidry — third place
100 Butterfly
Bailey McDermott — third place
100 Freestyle
Remi Chastain — fourth place
Peyton Guidry — fifth place
500 Freestyle
Ellie Nelson — first place and district champions
Autum Stuart — second place
Valentina Castillo — third place
100 Backstroke
Carmen Citzler — first place and district champions
Remi Chastain — third place
100 Breaststroke
Ellie Nelson — first place and district champions
Jina Kim — third place
Valentina Castillo — fourth place

200 Medley, A Relay — first place and district champions
Citzler, Nelson, Kim and McDermott
200 Freestyle, A Relay — second place
Kim, Stuart, Guidry and Chastain
400 Freestyle, A Relay — second place
Nelson, Stuart, Citzler and McDermott

Sports roundup

Granbury girls basketball

Granbury is 5-3 in district play and 16-14 overall as of Jan. 26.

The Lady Pirates lost 46-33 to Saginaw Jan. 22. Senior Jillian Williams had 13 points. Senior Hannah Dafoe had seven points. Seniors Jayla Hayes had six points and Jolie Hayes had four points.

Games on Jan. 27 have been rescheduled to a later date.

Granbury boys basketball

Granbury is 0-6 in district and 4-22 overall as of Jan. 26.

The Pirates lost 67-54 to Saginaw. Junior Kylan Loving had 21 points. Senior Miller Schenewark had nine points. Sophomore Brannon Burns had eight points.

Games on Jan. 27 have been rescheduled to a later date.

Granbury girls powerlifting

The Granbury Lady Pirate powerlifting squad took first place Jan. 21 at the Jurassic Classic in Glen Rose. Medalists in their respective weight classes:

Third place — Taylor Gastring and Brynlee Chastain

Second place — Naracelli Villegas, Kaylee Kisner, Chasity Foster and Raedyn Miller

First place — Preslee Carnes, Gabby Flores, Fiona Doss, Sierra Morisette, Audry Dobbs, Estrella Diaz, Kat Goodner and Harmony Burns

Granbury won the Overall Best Lifter awards with Carnes taking the 97-148-pound division with a total of 575 pounds and Diaz winning the 165-242-plus-pound division for the second week in a row, she lifted a record tying total of 1,000 pounds.

Granbury boys powerlifting

The Granbury Pirate powerlifting team won the Jurassic Classic on Jan. 22 in Glen Rose. Medalists in their respective weight classes are:

First place — Gavin Osko, Lucas Dimas, Garrett Noah, Rodrigo Padron and Oscar Tovar

Second place — Steven Hernandez, Colt Kitching, Cade Cummings and Brooks Meyer

Third place — Arthur Luvazari, Chris Skinner, Zak Krantz and JD Good

Granbury also swept the Overall Best Lifter awards. Osko winning the 105-148-pound class and Tovar winning the 165-pound Super Heavies class.

Tolar

All Tolar basketball games Jan. 23 and Jan. 27 were rescheduled to later dates.

Lipan

All Lipan basketball games Jan. 23 and Jan. 27 were rescheduled to later dates.



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Jillian Williams pushes a shot up with defenders in action. Williams had 13 points in their 43-33 loss to Fossil Ridge Jan. 22.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury boys powerlifting athletes show their medals Jan. 22 after winning the Jurassic Classic powerlifting meet in Glen Rose for the second year in a row.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Lady Pirate powerlifters celebrate with their medals Jan. 21 after winning the Jurassic Classic powerlifting meet in back-to-back years.



COURTESY PHOTO

Both Pirate swim teams celebrate with their district championships awards. The boys team has now won back-to-back district titles, and the Lady Pirates have won their third consecutive.



Hood County High Five Athlete of the Week
Brooke Crump

Brooke Crump recorded two goals in Granbury's 6-0 victory against Senguin Jan. 17.

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

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

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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

ANGLICAN

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

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

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

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

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

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

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

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

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.

Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

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

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

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

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

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

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

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

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

Tolar Baptist
400 Tolar Hwy.
682-500-0475

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

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

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

BIBLE

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
3314 S. Clifton
817-573-0107

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

EPISCOPAL

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

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

LUTHERAN

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

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

METHODIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORMON

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

NAZARENE

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

PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal
3100 Beechwood St.
817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
4800 Glen Rose Hwy.
817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian
303 W. Bridge St.
817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day Adventist
2016 Acton Hwy.
817-326-3573

OTHER

All Holy Trinity
3600 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-736-2596

Anchor Fellowship
1300 James Rd.
682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
18553 South Hwy. 377
817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
1950 Acton Hwy.
817-579-0968

Calvary Family
3306 Oak Trail Dr.
314-606-1211

Center Point
2201 Commercial Ln.
817-964-7400

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

Crossroads
200 S. Crook St., Cresson
817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood County
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Jeremiah 29:11

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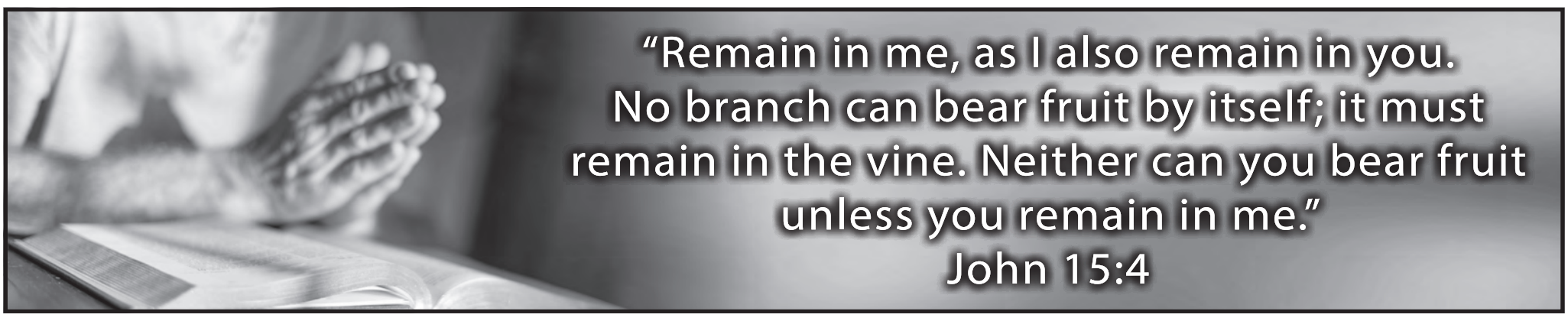
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OUTDOORS



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury's John Caldwell stands with some huge white bass he caught recently on Lake Granbury.

Understanding the birds during this winter season



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

The winter season brings thousands of birds to our freshwater lakes, and many of these birds can point you to active fish. Other times the birds can lead you astray. This is a timely discussion during this winter season.

Generally speaking, most anglers and especially sandbass, hybrid and striped bass anglers keep an eye to the sky looking for working birds. Working birds typically are picking up baitfish that are being pushed to the surface which is usually indicative of feeding fish. It also is tough at times to make a decision when groups of birds are jumping from one location to another and you can't keep up. If you locate fish, it may be prudent to stay in place rather than chasing birds that only are working a scattered fish here and there. Those types of choices have to be made most every day this time of year.

Many times, the birds (gulls, terns, cranes, etc.) may be working other birds (loons or cormorants). The question to ask yourself is if the cormorants or loons are located where you expect the predators might be in that area? For example, the water temperatures are currently in the 40s right now and the majority of fish/baitfish are holding in deep water (35-60 feet). If you see some birds working, give the area a chance. Use your electronics as you may be surprised.

Fishing around loons in the winter is a desired thing on many of our lakes. Typically now (winter), the loons will be on baitfish and the predators are sure to be close. Loons are not as spooky as cormorants, and they travel by themselves or there may be just a few. If the loons are working water depths where the fish are typically holding, this is a good sign. Anglers like seeing loons. I typically see more loons on Whitney and Texoma; however, I have seen a few on Granbury, too.

Cormorants are spooky birds and travel in large groups feeding on baitfish or anything they can catch as they dive. As the diving cormorants surface with baitfish, the gulls usually are trying to get an easy meal as they return to the surface. Typically, predators will not be where the cormorants are feeding, though there can be exceptions. I have caught some fish below where the cormorants were feeding when the water is fairly deep and some of bigger predators sit below the feeding cormorants looking for an easy meal to fall their way.

Terns in our area typically are smaller than gulls but are typically categorized as some of the "gulls" by many locals because they are similar. Terns can be on fish and terns can be on insects. Terns will scour the surface of a body of water picking up insects that hatch on occasion, other times terns can point you to active fish. Scattered terns scouring an area but not huddled on a particular spot is indicative of terns picking up insects and you may be wasting your time fishing that area.

Actual gulls typically are on fish. When they are diving feverishly on feeding fish close to the surface it is time to go look. Approach with your trolling motor and do not run through the surface feeding fish with your big motor so as not to spook the fish. You may be able to catch them on top or below the surface. In many instances the smaller fish will be on top, and the bigger fish will be below waiting on injured baitfish to fall their way.

Right now, with the cold water, many of the birds/gulls will typically hover above fish. They may be feeding deeper in the water column and the birds can see the activity and hover back and forth above an area several times. Right now I see this scenario a lot and I will spend some time trying to catch the fish they are hovering above.

Other times of the year when the gulls, loons, pelicans and other winter birds leave our freshwater lakes, you may need to look more at the terns and cranes to point you to feeding fish. The white cranes can point you to fish at times, but typically they are flying heading to some other location. Herons will point you to active fish year around. I keep my eyes open to individual herons hovering an area or actually landing and picking up fish.

Other birds that will dive near feeding fish include bald eagles, osprey and other birds of prey. I also would be prepared to check an area where any of these are diving and feeding.

If the birds are out working, they can help you locate fish if they are on fish. Birds will not work all the time and you may need to rely on other clues and structure, as is the case to get on fish. Even though birds can really help, at times they may not be the best choice. Experience on the water will help you decide whether to follow the birds.

Hood County fishing report

Lake Granbury fishing reports slowed as many did not launch due to the ice/snow this last weekend. Hopefully when this article runs, the roadways will be cleared and you will be able to launch. Water temperatures are in the 40s and water clarity is good. Bait and fish are huddled deep in the channel. Striped bass are slow to fair on jigs with five-inch soft plastics fished in 30-40 feet of water from close to the dam to the peninsula. Crappies are good on small jigs worked on structure from Bentwater to the river near Tin Top. Blue and yellow catfish are fair to good on cut shad fished on shallow flats near Hunter Park and some reports coming from near Waters Edge. Largemouth bass are best on warmer days near deeper docks and deeper structure. Some largemouth are on the channel ledges where the bait fish are holding. Largemouth bass are best on soft plastics worked real slow.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to boast on numbers of largemouth bass and limits of eater sized channel catfish. I do not have a tilapia report, but we know they are abundant on this power plant lake.

Try cooking to cure cabin fever when cooped up



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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

The afternoon before old man winter hit I was able to spend some range time sighting in my new ATN Thor 6 mini compact thermal scope. This little thermal scope is not only compact but extremely user-friendly and the images are sharp and clear. I haven't had the chance to put it to work on hogs yet but as soon as the ice melts in north Texas I plan to put some pork backstrap in the freezer. Those hogs will be hitting corn feeders like, well, hogs to a trough when the ice melts!

Speaking of backstrap, let me share with you one of my favorite ways to put pork or venison steaks to good use. I absolutely love stir fry and lean pork or venison lends itself well to this tasty Asian dish. Just yesterday I made a big skillet full of venison stir fry so the ingredients and procedure are fresh on my mind. You will need to put a couple cups of Jasamine rice on to cook and then begin by thinly slicking steak into small, bite size pieces. In a Zip Lock bag, add the meat and cover with Kikkoman Stir-Fry sauce and a little soy sauce, place in refrigerator overnight for a day or two. Cooking is very quick and easy. Have a bowl of your favorite stir fry veggies chopped and ready. You can use whatever you like but to my way of thinking a good stir fry mix must have cabbage, mushrooms, onion, minced garlic, broccoli, jalapeno, carrots and a handful of nuts. Begin by heating olive oil (or any cooking oil you choose) in a skillet, I use a small cast iron wok.

Add the marinated steak pieces first, along with the liquid marinade. The meat will be done in about five or six minutes. Next add the veggies and stir to blend everything together. I usually add a bit more stir-fry sauce to ensure the veggies remain moist while cooking. On high heat, it only takes a few minutes for the veggies to cook. You want them slightly crunchy rather than fully cooked. I usually toss in a handful of nuts to add a bit of extra crunch to my stir fry. Served over a bed of jasamine rice with a bit of extra soy sauce added, you will find this to be a stir fry that rivals what you might expect at an expensive Asia restaurant. I love chicken fried or smothered backstrap with gravy but stir fry is a great alternative to the more traditional ways we enjoy our venison or wild pork.

I've also been keeping busy converting some 35mm slides to jpeg photos with a little inexpensive slide converter I purchased on Amazon. It was fun to look at some of these old images, some from as far back as 35 years. Back in the day, most major magazines required color slides rather than film negatives or photos. I was amazed at that young man in the photos posing with a fish or big game animal (Me!). Life as an outdoors writer has certainly changed through the years. When on the water doing fishing articles these days, I have become lazy and depend upon my smart phone to capture close-up images but as sure as I leave my Nikon and long lens at home, I'll spot a bird or boat or scene at a distance I wish to capture. Smart phones are excellent for close grip and grin shots but leave much to be desired for long range photography!

Hopefully by the time you're reading this in your local newspaper, the roads will be open again and those of us that love the outdoors can be back out there "doing it." A group of friends and I have a squirrel hunt with some champion squirrel dogs planned for several weeks. Donny Lynch has for years raised and trained some of the best squirrel dogs in the country. Donny is planning to join me and several good friends on Mr. Edgar Cotton's Becker Bottoms Ranch in Kaufman County later this week, weather permitting. This promises to be not only an action-packed hunt but a chance to get out and enjoy some great fellowship and food. The plan is to hit the woods around mid-morning when the temperature is expected to be in the forties. We will use a couple of side-by-sides and drive the remote roads, stopping to loose the dogs at likely spots. It's been a while since any of us have enjoyed a good squirrel stew or squirrel and dumplings and chances are very good we will all have some fresh squirrels for the dinner table.

The menu is yet to be decided but our friend Larry Weishuhn, aka "Mr. Whitetail," is coming up to hunt deer, the property is under a TPWD-managed land permit and hunting is allowed through the end of February and several bucks and doe still remain to be taken. Larry is a master at grilling boned chicken thighs, and it just so happens I have a big package in the freezer for just such an occasion. I'll probably bake a bunch of sweet potatoes and maybe some fried cabbage. Edgar Cotton killed a bull elk in Colorado this year. Some fresh elk burgers would go well with the grilled chicken. The menu is still in the planning stage but if you are a hunter, you know plans can change fast around hunting camp. We might just have some fresh venison backstrap to grill along with the chicken!

SHALLOW WATER BLUE CATFISH BITE EXPECTED

This record cold should produce some red hot blue catfish action for the next couple weeks. Shad are delicate fish that don't do well with drastic drops in water temperature. Savvy catfish anglers are expecting a big shad die-off, and when this happens catfish go on a feeding frenzy in shallow flats where wind and wave action deposits the shad in huge numbers. I've fished a few days after this occurrence and actually caught the largest blue catfish of my career. At Lake Tawakoni, the trick is to wait for the wind to blow steady out of the south for a day or two and fish the shallows on the north side of the lake. Few sights in the outdoors match hooking a giant blue catfish in shallow water and watching him surge up from the water in efforts to shake the hook, much like a largemouth bass.

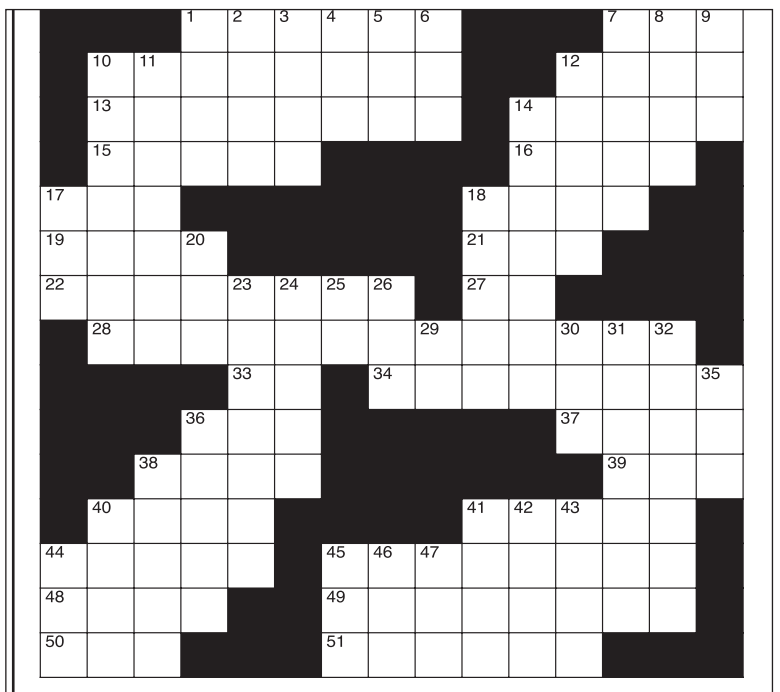
Yes, there is much to look forward to in the outdoors but for now, it's time for your outdoor scribe to bet back to work sorting color slides, it will be a couple more days before the much-anticipated thaw!

Listen to Luke's weekly podcast, "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends," just about everywhere podcasts are found. Contact Luke through his website, www.catfishradio.org



COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

Like many of you, Luke was "cooped up" inside the house several days this past week. He shares some ideas that might help you if you might have a case of the malady known as "cabin fever." Making this tasty venison stir-fry not only kept Luke occupied but his family well fed.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR DIGITAL CROSSWORD

CLUES DOWN

1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)

	6			3			9	
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	2			5	1	9		8

Level: Advanced

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20
You are unstoppable this week, Aries. Your famous pioneering spirit is magnified, giving you the green light for major breakthroughs. Take the lead in situations that excite you.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21
Prepare for a week of unexpected results, Taurus. A significant financial opportunity may appear out of the blue, or you might find yourself feeling extra secure at work.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21
Gemini, your social life is booming right now. You are a magnet for excellent ideas and exciting connections this week. Expect conversations that lead to professional opportunities.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22
Right now you are hitting a major professional high point, Cancer. All eyes are on you, and your efforts may lead to some well-deserved recognition and rewards.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23
Prepare for adventure this week, Leo. The cosmos is urging you to expand your horizons and seek new inspiration. Your optimism is contagious as you make your plans.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22
This week brings a powerful sense of personal transformation and empowerment to you, Virgo. You have the energy to tackle complex matters and emerge feeling stronger and wiser.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23
Libra, your relationships are very strong this week. You'll find mutual respect and exciting shared goals through these alliances. If you're single, expect an unforgettable encounter.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22
This week is perfect for optimizing your work-life flow and implementing small changes that will yield huge, positive results, Scorpio. You may need help mapping out goals.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21
Sagittarius, your sector of creativity, fun and romance are illuminated this week. Plan a date, unleash your artistic side or simply dedicate time to pure play. Delightful experiences await.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20
Home is the launchpad for success this week, Capricorn. Focus on developing your domestic environment. A refresh or redecoration can work wonders, especially to banish cabin fever.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18
Prepare for several days of remarkable connections, Aquarius. Your ideas and innovative concepts are sharp, which will compel others to aspire to be in your orbit.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20
Your personal finances are set for an upward trajectory, Pisces. A new income stream may surface, or you might discover a hidden talent that you can monetize.

kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Baskets on bottom 2. Teapot on second left shelf 3. Different basket on top center 4. Labels are missing on white bags

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN 28

1813: Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is first published in the UK.

1878: "Yale Daily News" becomes the first independent daily college newspaper in the United States.

1915: An act of Congress creates the United States Coast Guard.

Health FACT:

Getting organized can help reduce this, which is good for personal health.

Answer: Stress

NEW WORD

NEAT

arranged in a tidy way

How they say that in...

English: Clutter
Spanish: Desorden
Italian: Disordine
French: Désordre
German: Unordnung

Did You KNOW?

Creating a folder structure with logical names and using consistent names for individual files can help organize computer content.

Get the PICTURE?



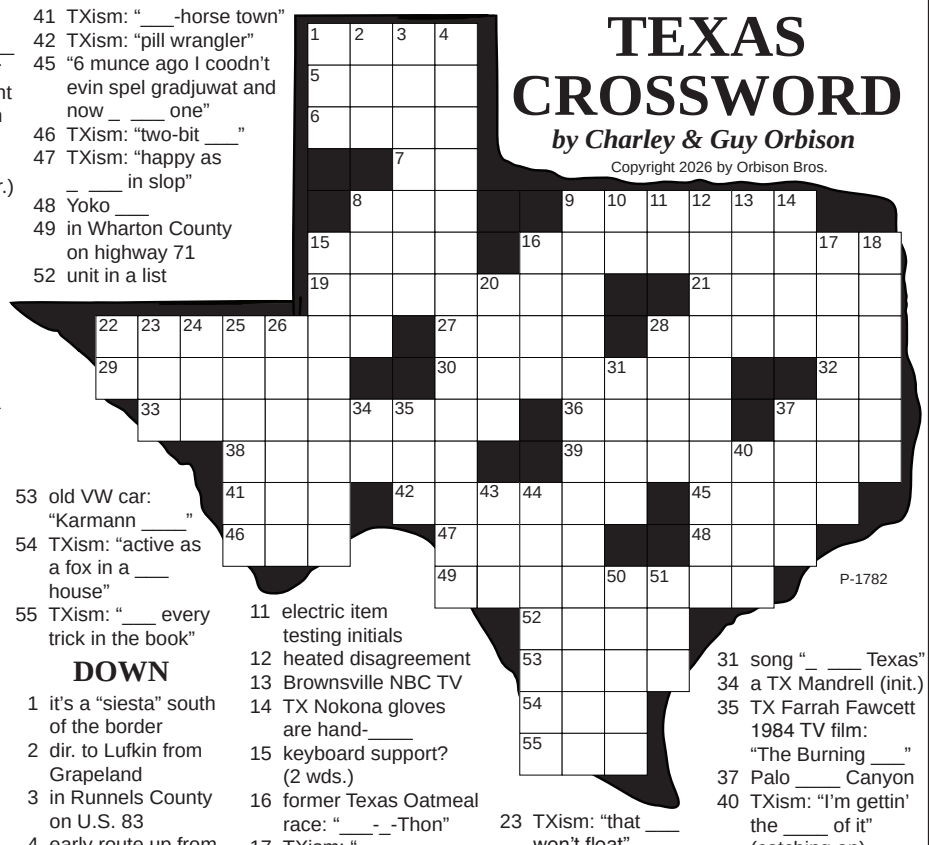
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet shelves

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1782

ACROSS

1 newspaper Azle ____
5 half of Texas mohair goes to this continent
6 Texas actress Robin Wright's former hubby, Sean
7 teacher helper (abbr.)
8 rattlesnake casa
9 TXism: "it's water off _ _____ back" (unconcerned)
15 TXism: "____ and parcel of"
16 TX Tanya's "___ ____ __ A Time"
19 TXism: "want __ __ ___ I could spit"
21 TXism: "___ __ these parts"
22 Texas singer ____ ___ Morse
27 Granbury historic "____ House"
28 "sticks and _____ can break my bones . . ."
29 Kermit had the last _____ oil derrick in the U.S.
30 hymn: "_ ___ ___ Light"
32 dir. to Mineola from Pittsburgh
33 TXism for a nice guy (3 wds.)
36 TXism: "he's got the morals __ __ alley cat"
37 TX Dennis Quaid 1988 noir film
38 Upshur County seat
39 grocery chain in the Metroplex (2 wds.)
41 TXism: "___-horse town"
42 TXism: "pill wrangler"
45 "6 munce ago I coodn't evin spel gradjuwat and now _ ___ one"
46 TXism: "two-bit ___"
47 TXism: "happy as _ ___ in slop"
48 Yoko ___
49 in Wharton County on highway 71
52 unit in a list
53 old VW car: "Karmann ____"
54 TXism: "active as a fox in a ___ house"
55 TXism: "___ every trick in the book"

DOWN

1 it's a "siesta" south of the border
2 dir. to Lufkin from Grapeland
3 in Runnels County on U.S. 83
4 early route up from Mexico: "Old ___ _____ ____"
8 TX Perot met wife on a blind ____
9 TXism: "put two ___ ___ _____" (obvious conclusion)
10 __ Leon, TX
11 electric item testing initials
12 heated disagreement
13 Brownsville NBC TV
14 TX Nokona gloves are hand-____
15 keyboard support? (2 wds.)
16 former Texas Oatmeal race: "___-_-Thon"
17 TXism: "___ ____ gravel" (fell)
18 mop a boat deck (2 wds.)
20 TXism: "____ as a bartender on payday"
22 LBJ's choice to lead the "Warren Commission" (init.)
23 TXism: "that ___ won't float"
24 British toilet
25 TXism: "about as graceful as _ ___ __ ice"
26 Hondo is the seat of this county
28 Dallas rock singer "Sam the ____"
31 song "_ ___ Texas"
34 a TX Mandrell (init.)
35 TX Farrah Fawcett 1984 TV film: "The Burning ___"
37 Palo ____ Canyon
40 TXism: "I'm gettin' the ____ of it" (catching on)
43 noisy Rio Grande bird: ___chalaca
44 TX Tanya Tucker's 1980 tune: "Can I See You _____"
50 old legs?
51 assn. for Texas MDs

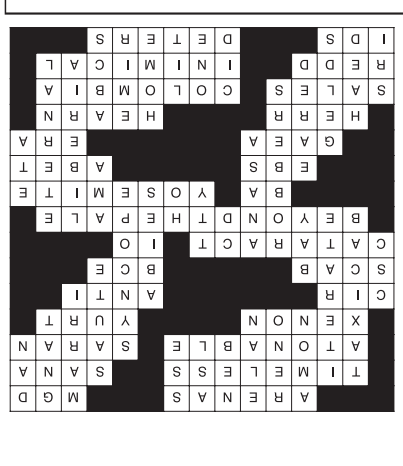
VALENTINE'S WORD SEARCH

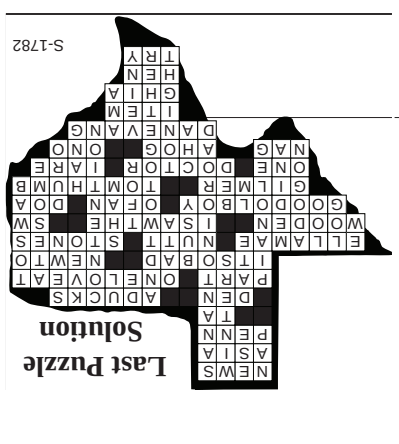
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N	T	M	B	O	L	C	F	O	Q	N	L	N	W	A	M	V	K	L	T
P	G	M	S	K	H	O	A	S	A	F	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	G
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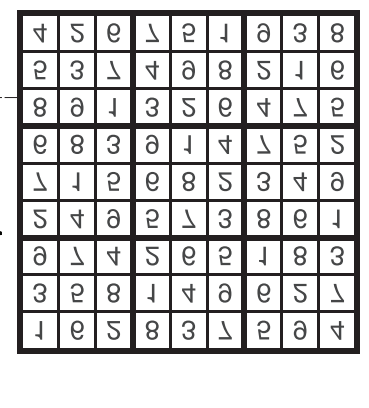
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ADMIRER
ADORATION
AFFECTION
BOUQUET
CANDLELIGHT
CARD
CHERISH
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
DEVOTION
EMBRACE
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013 Garage & Estate Sale
014 Help Wanted
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019 Masonry & Stonework

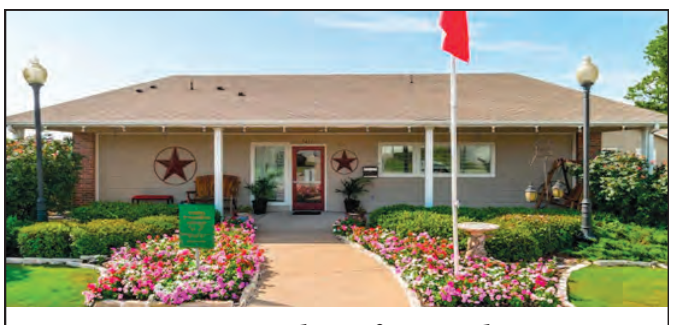
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Warehouse/Office/Retail space for lease. 1200+ sf. Hwy 377 W and Hwy 51 N from $695. 817-349-2535.

For lease 3-2-2, 1400 sq ft. Stained concrete floors, fenced yard, $1,850 per month, 1 month deposit. 3 miles north of Granbury, senior citizen discount. Available soon. John 817-578-1045.

(2) 1000 sq ft, 1-1, sewer and water paid. Glen Rose. $1,100/mo, $500 dep, $200 pet disposit (not refundable - limit 2, NO CATS) 254-386-7387.



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Located at 5413 Garden Circle, Granbury, our award-winning 55+ active adult community invited you to experience the lifestyle you deserve. Enjoy exceptional amenities including a welcoming community center, two stocked ponds, a lighted and covered pavilion, complete with a refrigerator and propane grill, plus horseshoe courts for outdoor fun.

Phase One homes are now available:
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Lee Overstreet, Realtor - Winston Properties, LLC
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032 Miscellaneous

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033 Legal Public Notices

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: THE LANDINGS EAST, Lot 3759-R2. The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-07: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026. This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours

Advertisement to Bid: The City of Granbury will receive Competitve Sealed Proposals for RO Membranes & Brine Seals Replacement for the Water Treatment Plant until Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 2pm at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department "Bid No. RFP 25-26-07 RO Membranes & Brine Seals Replacement for the Water" 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Bid documents are available on the city website https://www.granbury.org/72/ Purchasing Questions should be directed to the Purchasing Manager at 817.573.7030 or crussell@granbury.org. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposal and to waive informalities.

Notice of Public Sale: Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, DONE Storage, located at 4508 Old Granbury Road, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction at www.LockerFox.com of contents to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on February 7, 2026. Unit contents will be sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash only. Cleanup deposit is required. Contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All units contain household items unless additional items are noted. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Shireen Rehman, Mitzi M Gray, Richard Wood.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of STEVEN RAY MURRAY, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, in Cause No. P10843, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: DONNA MURRAY. 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 14th day of January. Steven G. Kuban, Attorney for Donna Murray, State Bar No.: 24078807, 107 E. Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048, Telephone: (817) 573-8872, Facsimile: (817) 579-1651, E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

Advertisement to Bid: The City of Granbury will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Electrical Infrastructure for Granbury Patio Homes Subdivision until Thursday, February 12, 2026, 2pm at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department "Bid No. RFP 25-26-08 Granbury Patio Homes Subdivision" 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Bid documents are available on the city website h..ps://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing. Questions should be directed to the Purchasing Manager at 817.573.7030 or crussell@granbury.org. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities.

Advertisement to Bid: The City of Granbury will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Self-Supported Electrical Infrastructure Poles until Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 2pm at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department "Bid No. RFP 25-26-09 Self-Supported Electrical Infrastructure Poles" 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Bid documents are available on the city website https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing . Questions should be directed to the Purchasing Manager at 817.573.7030 or crussell@granbury.org . The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ2026-04 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT / OWNER'S AGENT SERVICES: The Commissioners' Court of Hood County is requesting statements of qualifications from experienced firms to serve as an independent Construction Management / Owner's Agent for a bond funded public-sector jail expansion project, providing professional management and advisory services through project closeout. Sealed statements of qualifications subject to the conditions and requirements of RFQ2026-04 will be received at the Hood County Purchasing Office, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, Texas 76048 not later than 9:00 am on Monday, February 9, 2026. Submittals received after that date and time will be rejected regardless of reason, including delayed delivery. Proposers will be read at that time in a public meeting and held by the Hood County Purchasing Agent's Office. After evaluation of completeness, qualifications, and experience, it will be awarded by the Commissioners' Court at a future Court date. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court. Electronic Bids are preferred and can be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com/ . It is free to register and to bid. Hard copy submissions may be submitted by downloading a bid packet at https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids and can be submitted to: Hood County Purchasing, RFQ2026-04, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048. Facsimile and e-mail transmissions will NOT be accepted. Any questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to the Hood County Purchasing Agent at gtilleman@hoodcounty.texas.gov no later than January 30, 2026.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LINDA R. HUCHEL, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2025, in Cause No. P10867, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: SARAH LYNN HUCHEL. 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 14th day of January, 2026. Steven G. Kuban, Attorney for Sarah Lynn Huchel, State Bar No.: 24078807, 107 E. Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048. Telephone: (817) 573-8872, Facsimile: (817) 579-1651, E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

033 Legal Public Notices

Granbury ISD is seeking E-Rate services for Funding Year 2026. All interested vendors please see RFP at: https://erate.esc12.net/R12/. To view the Form 470, please visit: https://portal.usac.org/suite/ Form 470 #260003631. All proposals must be submitted electronically in this RFP system. All questions must be asked as part of this RFP and will be answered publicly. If proposals are submitted outside of this RFP system, they may be deemed non-responsive. If you have any issues please contact the purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburyisd.org.

The following are for official notification to public for impoundment: 1975 Kawasaki - KE175B005245. 1986 Honda dirt bike-JH2ME05507GK20117. Yamaha 4 wheeler - 1UY03. Gravaty pro lawn mower- 991258003325. Kawasaki Mule- JKBAFSB11GB505641. Mahindra Tractor- 30371400. Welding trailer and welder- 78861E. Jonathan Davis, Cell- 817-899-5342, jonathan@mdtowingservices.com.

CAUSE NO. CV22600009 PLANTATION STORAGE, LLC V. ESTATE OF DOROTHY KOCHER AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIR OR ESTATE REPRESENTATIVE DEFENDANT, IN THE JUSTICE COURT PRECINCT 2, HOOD COUNTY. TEXAS. CITATION (EVICTION CASE). THE STATE OF TEXAS. TO: DEFENDANT in this case: ESTATE OF DOROTHY KOCHER AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIR OR ESTATE REPRESENTATIVE. This citation is issued based on a petition filed by Plaintiff on January 9, 2026. In addition to possession of the property the Plaintiff is seeking the following relief in this case: back rent; attorney's fees; court costs; other (specify- Plantation Storage, LLC units- Unit # A4, G19 & G26). Plaintiffs attorney's name and address, or Plaintiffs address, if they have no attorney, are Riley Roden, Hyde Law Firm, PLLC, 827 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048. You must appear in this court. Hood County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Located at 1200 W. Pearl Street. Granbury. TX 76048. on January 30, 2026, at 10:00am. SUIT TO EVICT: THIS SUIT TO EVICT INVOLVES IMMEDIATE DEADLINES. A TENANT WHO IS SERVING ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY MAY HAVE SPECIAL RIGHTS OR RELIEF RELATED TO THIS SUIT UNDER FEDERAL LAW, INCLUDING THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT (50 U.S.C. APP. SECTION 501 ET SEQ) OR STATE LAW, INCLUDING SECTION 92.017, TEXAS PROPERTY CODE. CALL THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-9TEXBAR IF YOU NEED HELP LOCATING AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR LOW-COST LEGAL ASSISTANCE. DEMANDA PARA DESALOJAR: ESTA DEMANDA PARA DESALOJAR INVOLUCRA PLAZOS INMEDIATOS. UN INQUILINO QUE ESTA EN SERVICIO MILITAR ACTIVO PUEDE TENER DERECHOS ESPECIALES O SOCORRO EN RELACION CON ESTE TRAJE POR LA LEY FEDERAL, INCLUIDOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL SERVICIO CIVIL RELIEF ACTUAR (50 U.S.C. APP. SECCION 501 Y SS.) O LA LEY DEL ESTADO, INCLUIDA LA SECCION 92.017, TEXAS CODIGO DE LA PROPIEDAD. LLAME AL COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS DE TEXAS (STATE BAR OF TEXAS), LLAMADA GRATUITA AL 1-877-9TEXBAR USTED NECESITA AYUDA PARA LOCALIZAR A UN ABOGADO. SI NO ESTA A SU ALCANCE CONTRATAR A UN ABOGADO, USTED PUDIERA SER ELEGIBLE PARA ASESORIA LEGAL GRATUITA O DE BAJO COSTO. YOU HAVE BEEN SUED FOR EVICTION FROM YOUR RESIDENCE. THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF SEEKS POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES AND THE OTHER RELIEF STATED ABOVE. YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON FOR TRIAL IN COURT AT THE LOCATION STATED ABOVE AT 10:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 30, 2026. YOU MAY, BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO, FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE COURT ON OR BEFORE THE DAY SET FOR TRIAL UPON TIMELY REQUEST AND PAYMENT OF A JURY FEE NO LATER THAN THREE (3) DAYS BEFORE THE DAY SET FOR TRIAL OR THREE (3) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE SERVICE OF THIS CITATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER, THE CASE WILL BE HEARD BY A JURY. DO NOT IGNORE THESE PAPERS. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT JUDGMENT BEING ENTERED AGAINST YOU. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONSULT RULE 510 OF THE TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, WHICH IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND ALSO AT THE COURT LISTED ON THIS CITATION AND www.TexasLawHelp.org. ISSUED AND SIGNED on Jan. 9, 2026. Jeff Kelly, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS.

Financial support, mentorship to benefit Tarleton State's ASF recipients

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University has joined a prestigious list of some of the nation's most high-caliber STEM institutions with its induction as a partner in the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF).

Founded in 1984 by the Mercury 7 astronauts, the ASF is a nonprofit organization that awards more than 70 scholarships each year to outstanding college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

As an ASF partner, the university will be able to offer an annual scholarship of up to $15,000 to an undergraduate student at the junior or senior level.

Tarleton State's sponsor is astronaut Charlie Duke, the 10th and youngest person to walk on the Moon. He and his wife, Dotty, along with two representatives of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation — Nicole Russ and Colleen Middlebrooks — were on campus Jan. 22 to officiate the honor.

"This partnership with the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation represents a powerful investment in the talent and potential of our students," Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley said. "Being selected as an ASF partner places Tarleton State among an elite group of institutions nationwide and affirms the quality of our STEM programs. It opens doors for our students to access transformational financial support, mentorship from pioneers in science and exploration, and a lifelong professional network that will shape their futures and the future of innovation."

Mayfield College of Engineering Dean Dr. Rafael Landaeta said the partnership creates an exceptional pathway for students — particularly those from rural communities, more than half of whom are first-generation — to earn an Astronaut Scholarship that provides substantial financial support and access to a lifelong network of mentorship and career opportunities.

"We are truly grateful and feel blessed by Tarleton State's induction as a university partner of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, placing us among fewer than 60 institutions nationwide and only four in Texas recognized at this level," Dr. Landaeta said. "We are especially honored that Tarleton State's sponsorship is supported by Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke, amplifying the significance of this moment for our students and our university."

ASF scholarship recipients are chosen for their exceptional academic performance and demonstrated research potential in STEM fields. In 2025, the foundation awarded 74 scholarships to students representing 51 universities. In addition to financial support, ASF provides valuable networking opportunities, mentorship from astronauts and senior industry leaders, participation in the Innovators Symposium and Gala, and access to a lifelong professional community.

ASF's university partners include many of the nation's leading STEM institutions, recognized for their academic excellence and rigorous graduate-level research opportunities. In addition, each partner institution benefits from dedicated sponsorship — from industry leaders to alumni and foundations — that strengthens the scholarship's reach and impact.

To view a list of ASF university partners, visit astronautscholarship.org/universities/university-partners.



Astronaut Charlie Duke

Tarleton State picks up first victory of 2026

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State picked up its first win of the 2026 spring season thanks to a 7-0 victory against Weatherford College Jan. 21 at the Tarleton State Tennis Facility.

The Texans did not lose a single set en route to its first win of 2026. Wednesday's win marks the seventh straight victory for the Texans in their home opener.

Five Texans collected victories in both singles and doubles, while a trio of Tarleton State players picked up their first singles wins of the season. Senior Ximena Morales and freshman Marissa Minetti highlighted the Texans' home opener, with both players holding their opponents to not winning a set on their respective singles courts.

"It's exciting to be back on our home court, and this was a great way to get our string of home matches started," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. «I knew our team was going to fight and be competitive. The girls definitely showed up and played very well today.»

Tarleton women's basketball

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State saved its best, not allowing a basket from Texas-Arlington in the final period while ending the game on a 17-3 scoring run to push past the Lady Mavs 51-37 Jan. 21 at the EECU Center.

Wednesday's win allowed the Texans to win their third straight game and finish the homestand with a 3-0 record.

Trailing at halftime and going into the final period tied, 34-34, the Texans forced the Lady Mavs to miss their final 15 shots of the game. Tarleton State's defense forced a team to shoot 0 percent in a quarter for the first time since Dec. 4, 2021 (0- 11 vs. Arlington Baptist in the first quarter).

Senior guard Gia Adams, who earned All-WAC First Team honors at UTA in 2023-24, led with a game-high 12 points and seven assists against her former team. Junior forward Shadasia Brackens scored 10 points while freshman center Elodie Lutbert grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds to go with nine points. Lutbert's 16 rebounds matched the Division I era single-game program record for rebounds.

"It was a very hard-fought game, and we sure brought defensive basketball back up to the forefront," head coach Bill Brock said. "I thought we hit a rhythm in the second half. We're not as big as they are, but I thought our kids really competed. We had some good days of practice and I'm proud of their effort tonight."

Tarleton men's basketball

ARLINGTON — Tarleton State was unable to sustain a late UT Arlington run and dropped their third and final game of the road trip, 71-64, at the College Park Center Jan. 21.

With the loss, the Texans (11-9 overall and 2-5 in conference) now are 1-1 in the season series against the Mavericks (13-6, 5-2), with both games coming in Arlington. The two squads will face off for the final time in the regular season in Stephenville on the Texans last game of the regular season, March 5.

Cam McDowell led the Texans in scoring for the second consecutive game with 17. The senior made seven of his 12 shots from the floor, including his one three-point shot. He tied for the team lead with two steals and had two rebounds.

Two Texans scored in double figures off the bench, the 33rd and 34th times a player has scored in double digits off the bench this season. Dior Johnson scored 16 with 10 coming in the first half. He led the team in rebounds for the first time this season with six. Andy Sigiscar reached double figures for the fourth time this season, totaling 11. He was nearly perfect from the floor, making five of his six shots. He fouled out in the final seven minutes, proving detrimental to the Texans. He also had five rebounds and a block.

For just the third time this season, a Texan had at least seven assists. DJ Dormu had a season-best seven assists and scored six points. Head coach Billy Gillispie missed his fourth game as he was under the weather. Associate head coach Glynn Cyprien filled in for him on the bench.

Tarleton men's golf

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, May 1, at Sugar Tree Golf Club in Lipan.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Tarleton State men's golf program, assisting with costs for travel, equipment and other necessities for the program's success.

This year's event will be a 3-man scramble and will include breakfast, lunch and drinks (alcohol/non-alcoholic) along with custom golf tee gifts. Cost is $300 per player and $900 per team. Hole sponsorship opportunities also are available for $500 or $1,250 per team.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting head coach Chance Cain by emailing ccain@tarleton.edu.

"We're excited to get back together with all of our supporters for our fourth annual fundraising tournament," Cain said. "It's a fun format that everyone enjoys and to be around our supporters for the day. It's a big help for our program to help cover our expenses for travel, equipment, and other needs to keep building in the right direction."

Tarleton basketball

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's basketball games against Abilene Christian were postponed again, announced Jan. 26.

The games, which were originally scheduled to be played Jan. 24, had been postponed to Jan. 26. On Monday, the games were postponed again due to ice. There is no date set yet for rescheduled contests.

Tickets for the men's basketball home game against ACU at the EECU Center Monday still will be good for the future rescheduled game. Fans who want to exchange their ticket to attend a different game should call the Tarleton State Athletics Ticket Office.

Tarleton State's weekly basketball radio shows Mondays have been postponed this week. The next editions will be from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, at The Purple Goat.

Hood County News CLASSIFIEDS

033 Legal Public Notices

Advertisement to Bid: City of Granbury. The City of Granbury (City) will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Electrical Overhead and Underground Infrastructure Relocation Improvements for the US 377 Breakout Projects until Thursday February 19th, 2pm at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center, Attn: Purchasing Department "Bid No. RFP 25-26-05 Electrical Overhead and Underground Infrastructure Relocation Improvements for the US 377 Breakout Projects,"401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing and/or www.civcastusa.com. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

Granbury Housing Authority Waitlist Opening

The Granbury Housing Authority will open its housing waitlist on January 19, 2026. The waitlist will remain open until further notice. Applications will be accepted online only through the applicant portal at https://portal.wacopha.org.

Applicants are encouraged to register for the portal prior to the waitlist opening.

The Granbury Housing Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability. The Housing Authority is an Equal Housing Opportunity provider. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons with disabilities. Individuals needing an accommodation to apply may contact the Housing Authority for assistance.

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GARDEN PATCH

Avoid warm-winter threats; employ defensive strategies



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001. 817-680-4849

Winters can feel like a gift to gardeners. Roses leaf out. Salvias hold their foliage. Perennials act as if spring has arrived. But don't think winter is over. As witnessed recently, warm spells often set the stage for one of North Central Texas' challenging gardening realities — sudden temperature drops and hard freezes!

It is not the cold alone that damages gardens. It is the rapid back-and-forth between warm and freezing weather that stresses many plants. The shifts confuse growth cycles and weaken long-term performance. Extended warm periods encourage plants to break dormancy early. New growth — soft stems, fresh leaves and swelling buds are far more vulnerable to freezing temperatures than hardened, dormant tissue.

When a sudden freeze follows weeks of mild weather, plants may suffer dieback, split stems or root damage that does not become obvious until spring. Perennials, shrubs and even well-established natives can be affected, especially younger plants or those growing in exposed locations. Gardeners must act to protect the life and quality of their gardens during unpredictable conditions. Defensive strategies include mulch, cover, strategic watering and delayed clean-up.

Mulch is an effective tool for modifying soil temperature. A 2-inch to 4-inch layer of organic mulch, such as shredded bark, acts as insulation, slowing down rapid soil temperature swings. Mulch keeps roots cool and dormant when air temperatures rise. And during freezes, it protects roots from sudden cold. Be sure to pull mulch slightly away from the base of plants or from atop plant crowns to prevent rot during damp, cold weather.

When freezing temperatures are forecast, temporary plant covers can make a significant difference. Frost cloths, old sheets or lightweight blankets trap the heat rising from the soil, which moderates temperatures surrounding plants. Covers should be secured to the ground to prevent wind from blowing them away. Avoid plastic covers. If they touch plant foliage, the plastic can conduct cold and cause burning. If using plastic, keep it elevated with stakes or hoops. Remove covers during the day once the temperatures rise to prevent overheating and moisture buildup, especially during sunny winter afternoons.

Watering strategically protects plants. Moist soil holds heat better than dry soil. Timing is important. Irrigate plants one-to-two days before a hard freeze. Do not overwater. Plant roots do not appreciate saturated soil. The moisture will help moderate soil temperatures and protect roots. This is especially helpful for young plants and winter annuals. Avoid overhead watering just before temperatures drop below freezing as ice formation on foliage increases damage.

In mild winters, it is tempting to tidy landscape beds early. However, leaving perennials slightly messy can provide protection. Spent leaves, old stems and foliage help shield crowns from cold. It also helps to trap insulating air around plants. Delay hard pruning of salvias, lantana, ornamental grasses and tender perennials until late winter or early spring. Premature pruning can expose living tissue to further damage.



COURTESY PHOTO

Spring blooming bulbs such as snowbells may emerge early in warm winters, only to be damaged by sudden freezing weather.

Remember, not all parts of the garden experience cold equally. Walls, fences and paved areas absorb and radiate heat, offering natural protection. Grouping containers and tender plants near these warmer areas can reduce cold exposure. Conversely, cold settles in low lying areas, which are more prone to frost. Be especially vigilant about protecting plants in these areas.

Repeated freeze-thaw cycles can weaken plants even if they survive the winter. Healthy soil, good drainage and proper planting depths all contribute to resilience. Avoid late-season fertilizing during mild winters as it encourages tender growth that is easily damaged by cold. Choosing plants well-suited to the area and accepting a bit of winter dieback as normal goes a long way toward maintaining strong, long-lived gardens.

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

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Master Gardeners announce annual plant sale

Reliably warm weather is only weeks away, which means it's almost time for the 2026 Lake Granbury Master Gardener plant sale. This event lures plant-lovers and savvy shoppers from miles around. And they line up early to ensure they get the most desired plants. Shoppers know popular plants sell quickly. In fact, the sale ends early if all the plants are sold.

Rain or shine, this year's plant sale takes place from 8 a.m. to noon (or when all plants are sold) Saturday, April 18, at the group's Demonstration Garden located at the rear of the parking lot behind Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St.

The 2026 sale will include hundreds of plants that thrive in North Central Texas, including natives and well-adapted species, many of which are cultivated in the group's greenhouse. Others will be carefully selected from the best growers in North Central Texas.

Plants available for purchase will include hardy perennials, such as lantana and salvia, along with many other heat and drought-tolerant species, pollinator and wildlife-friendly plants, shade plants, herbs and bulbous species such as iris and canna.

Although serious buyers should arrive early for the sale, no purchase is necessary to browse, visit the Demonstration Garden or consult with master gardeners who will be on site and pleased to answer gardening questions. Monies raised will fund scholarships and community education programs.

For more information, call the Texas AgriLife Extension in Hood County at 817-579-3280.

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PEACAN PLANTATION BITS

Snow, ice bring wintry scene to Pecan Plantation



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 30 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 17 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Our neighborhood was a winter wonderland for a few days: ice, snow and deer roaming the area made for picturesque scenes outside our windows.

Thank you to the folks who sanded and provided ice mitigation to our community's roads during last week's winter blast, as well as to emergency personnel who stood by for Pecaners needing assistance. Know your neighbors appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

The Arctic-like conditions delayed the construction project on Ravenswood Road until crews may safely begin the work. Stay tuned for updates as they become available.

Recycling spot

Now that the fall holiday season has passed, the monthly operating date for Pecan's collection station has returned to the final Saturday of the month, which is from 8 a.m. to noon today, Jan. 31. The center also is open weekly from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday for branches and recyclables only. Residents may contact Pecan's Operations Office for full information on operating hours and items accepted: 817-408-3511.

Cooking class

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

Committee signup

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

Crafty evening

A "Galentine's Craft Night" for the ladies of Pecan is happening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the PAC. Ladies will craft with Creative Connections while designing a door hanger. Paint, lace, ribbon, and laughter will abound. Space is limited; sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

Tasty treat

Cookie decorating with a Valentine's Day theme comes from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the PAC. Facilitated by 11th Green Bakery, this holiday event is for participants ages 18 and older. Sign up for this event also at the PAC.

Pet painting

Pecan artist Kathy Yoders will lead an art-on-canvas class from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, and participants will have the opportunity to paint their own dog. Photos of forward-facing canines with features clearly visible should be emailed in advance of the class. Sign up at the PAC to receive full instructions for the event.

Neighborly group

The next meeting of Pecan's Neighbors Helping Neighbors is planned at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, in the EMS meeting room located along Monticello Drive. A potluck dinner and social time commences at 6. In addition, a new phone number is in operation for folks seeking more information about the group or needing assistance: 817-382-7111.

Election events

The list of candidates for the 2026 Pecan Board of Directors is complete, and vying for spots to serve our community are William "Alan" Cramer, Jacqueline Davenport, Charles Horton, Paul Knudsen, Randy Larson, William "Mike" Mahaffey and Abel Ochoa, Jr. Best wishes to these neighbors as they pursue the good of our area. Pecaners have received email with candidates' biographies, and video introductions from each candidate are now available online, thus giving residents an additional opportunity to learn more about our neighbors seeking to serve. Two scheduled appearances also are on the calendar. Breakfast Club from 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the clubhouse ballroom will feature the candidates, and registration is available through the events page on Pecan's website as well as the mobile app. In addition, a final candidates' forum in a town hall question/answer format comes Tuesday, Feb. 17, also in the clubhouse ballroom. The event will be moderated, and residents are invited to submit questions in advance. More details and instructions for submitting questions will arrive in members' email boxes as the date comes closer.

Good gift

Pecaners will have the opportunity to give the gift of life at our community's next blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the PAC gymnasium. Appointments may be made by visiting redcrossblood.org and entering Pecanplantation. Last year's drive proved an all-time record for donations in our community, and several places are providing items for participants. The Nutcracker is offering "buy two get two free" rounds of golf, Board and Cork is donating a discount coupon, and Deja Brew will give a free coffee to all donors.

Exercise class

A yoga class for the fellows of Pecan will happen from 4-5 p.m. weekly beginning Thursday, Feb. 12, at the PAC. Certified yoga instructor DeDe Lamont will lead "Grumpy Old Man Yoga" where participants will embark on a beginner friendly program designed to deliver better movement, help participants feel better, and promote staying active. Each class will focus on a different "grumpy" area (back, hips, neck, shoulders) through simple mobility, strength and stretching, in addition to practical hints to try both at home and on the golf course. All fitness levels welcome; no prior yoga experience necessary. Call the PAC front desk to register: 817-573-7952.

Game on

Folks may mark their calendars for Valentine's Day Bingo with doors opening at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at the clubhouse. Buffet dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and bingo play commences at 6:15 p.m. Reservations requested through the member portal or by calling 817-573-2641.

Love song

A karaoke party, Valentine's Day edition, is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at the 19th Hole. Both participants and audience members are welcome.

Group gathering

Phillis and Bill Brewer have led two previous grief support groups in Pecan, and they have a third session on the calendar. From 3-5 p.m. Beginning Sunday, Feb. 15, and lasting through Sunday, March 29, in the large meeting room of the PAC, the Brewers will facilitate a peer ministry support group for folks grieving the death of a loved one. For complete information on these gatherings, contact Phillis or Bill at 817-573-8915.

Sweet dance

A combined father/daughter and mother/son dance day is planned from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the PAC with the theme of "My Forever Valentine." Music, ballroom instruction, refreshments and a photo booth will make the day memorable for participants. Formal attire is welcome but not required. Space is limited, and spots fill quickly. Call the PAC to make a reservation: 817-573-7952.

Music man

Mark H. Morton and his popular "road trippin' music" of classic rock, blues and country will entertain attendees from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 in the 19th Hole.

Nature scene

Pecan Plantation has become home to "George and Martha," a pair of bald eagles who have made their home in a riverside tree just beyond the clubhouse's gazebo and across the Brazos River. The couple is tending its nest and preparing to raise a new generation, all within view of our neighborhood. Of course, named for our country's first "first couple," the pair has arrived in our area in the year the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary of independence. Pecaners may view George and Martha from the gazebo, and binoculars are helpful for sighting the pair.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Max Odle, long time Pecan resident, who passed away Jan. 10.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360



