

GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

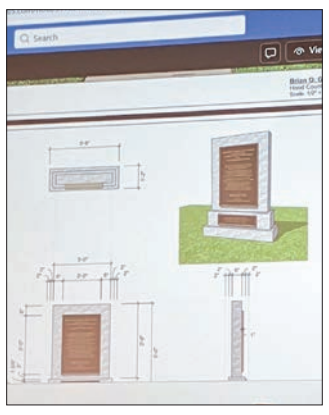
[SATURDAY, January 3, 2026]

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82-year-old gets one more time in the cockpit

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Plaque to recognize courthouse honor from 1974

– See Page A10



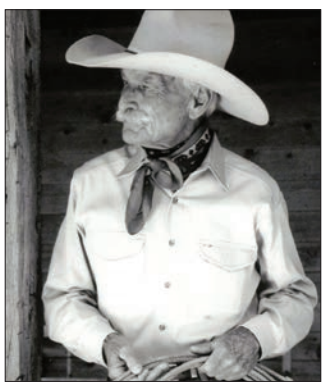
'Lion of Texas' coming to Opera House

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Awww award winner

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Ranch Repose statue honoring Dan Coates nearing completion

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GHS boys, girls soccer teams on the pitch

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Year in Review: A look at some of the stories published in 2025

From Staff Reports

Editor's Note: The Hood County News staff compiled the following stories from each issue July through December of last year. These are not the "top" stories of the year, but rather a glimpse of news coverage from each issue. The January through June review was published in the Dec. 27, 2025, issue.

July 5

State Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, will not seek re-election.

Birdwell made the announcement Monday, June 30.

"Today, I inform you of my decision not to seek re-election for another term as your state senator," Birdwell said via press release. "It has been the high honor of my life, on par with commanding United States soldiers, to serve my fellow Texans for more than 15 years. At my swearing-in ceremony in Hillsboro after winning the 2010 special election, I made clear I was not elected to a position of authority for the citizens of District 22, but rather elected to a position subordinate to them so that I could steward their seat in the state senate."

***

During a regular meeting June 24, Hood County Commissioners Court voted 4-1 to approve a resolution establishing a 20-percent homestead exemption on property taxes.

A homestead exemption lowers the taxable value of a homeowner's primary residence, meaning Hood County residents will now pay property taxes on 80 percent of their home's appraised value.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews was the lone voice in opposition on the court.

July 12

Lowell Ercanbrack, chaplain for the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, has been elected statewide chaplain by the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Ercanbrack, who also serves as

PLEASE SEE **YIR** | A6

'Oh captain, my captain'

CAP honors senior with Amelia Earhart Award

BY CHLOE LAING
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Cameron Roberts, a senior in the Hood County Civilian Air Patrol, recently earned the Amelia Earhart Award, one of the organization's most prestigious honors. Roberts now is one of only four cadets to have earned this designation within the Hood County squadron.

According to the CAP website, the Earhart Award marks completion of Phase III of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character.

According to Roberts, the only way to succeed in the program and make it through the ranks is by possessing the "want to" to make it happen. It was this very drive that earned him the award.

"The biggest thing to be successful in CAP is to be self-motivated and self-driven, because we're not going to force you to do any of the ranks," Roberts said. "We'll get you your first promotion, and then it's on you to get everything accomplished that you need to be done for your next promotions. You're not going to be forced to do anything — you have to make those decisions yourself."

Once a cadet earns the Amelia Earhart Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet captain and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets at the local and state level.

It was this aspect of being awarded and becoming a cadet captain Roberts found most exciting — and the most daunting.

"It definitely is fun. I really enjoy it — but it is a lot of work — and there's a lot of work you don't think to expect," Roberts said. "As you get into leadership, you're responsible for yourself — but then also all the other cadets."



COURTESY PHOTO

Cameron Roberts (left), of Granbury, receives the Civilian Air Patrol program's Amelia Earhart award Dec. 15, earning himself the designation of "cadet captain." Also pictured is Capt. Gary Force.

With his newfound cadet captain status, Roberts' next CAP goal is to lead one of CAP's events — one of the highest honors of the program. During his time in the program's leadership, he's worked 11 events, but has yet to be the lead.

"To get there, you just have to have lots of experience, and kind of slowly climb up the chain of command through different events," Roberts said. "And so, you'll start low, and then you slowly start working your way up into serving the executive staff roles. Typically, you have to be a cadet captain."

Following his high school graduation, Roberts will leave the CAP program — but he's not straying too far from the military-guided life he's known.

In the fall, he will attend Texas A&M, where he will study business and become a part of the Corps of Cadets.

A really big show

Youth ag projects on exhibit at 71st Junior Livestock Show

BY RICHARD NELSON
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The Hood County Junior Livestock Show and Sale begins Monday, Jan. 5, and ends with the auction Saturday, Jan. 10.

The show, presented by Hood County Livestock Raisers Assoc. is in its 71st year, will feature about 350 4-H and Future Farmers of America youth exhibiting about 840 entries in 28 divisions.

"The show has continued to grow year after year. FFA and 4-H allows these kids to have projects which include animals, arts, crafts, food and ag mechanics. They teach hard work and leadership which allows these kids to find their paths in life," said Patricia Becker, association treasurer. "Our show with our buyers supports the dreams of these kids with unbelievable generosity. Many of the kids use their income from projects to pay for college or trade school. For some families, it's a family business doing all the majors and others just an opportunity to be part of a stock show at the county level, but everyone has a chance to win."

The sale has brought in more than $10 million in the last 10 years, which has gone to the FFA and 4-H youth exhibitors.

GCH Concrete and Materials has been the top buyer for the past three years, and the association directors extended a heartfelt thank-you. But, you don't have to be a top buyer to contribute.

"Our Premium Sale on Saturday has a minimum bid or add-on of $250. Any amount can be contributed to the buyer's pool or done in an add-on for a specific kid. We have an online add-on auction that anyone, anywhere can access through our website and put money on the kids' projects that entered the show, not just those that made sale," Becker said. "We also have a silent auction for all the family-living items which didn't make the premium sale and those items are purchased on Saturday and taken with you."

The show kicks off Monday with the Skill-A-Thon Contest. Youth enrolled in

PLEASE SEE **LIVESTOCK** | A2

Five Who Matter: Gordon Bond is a gift that keeps on giving

BY RICK MAUCH
The Hood County News

If Gordon Bond looks lost in thought when you meet him, there's a good reason.

He's probably thinking about who he can help next.

There are those who give and those who live to give. Gordon is the latter.

If there's a charitable cause to be found in Hood County, odds are Gordon and his wife, Francine, have contributed to help in some way.

It's more than a donation. It's their way of saying, "I've been there. I understand. We'll get through this together."

"Being young, I did all sorts of jobs trying to find myself, but did not do very well at it," Bond, now 67, said. "I got married, lost my job, and ended up working three jobs trying to keep food on the table and nearly went homeless in the process.

"I learned how to work, and these tough times and struggles are the main reason that we now help with so many different groups, because we have been there and understand the struggles," Bond said.

Bond is the owner of Bond Arms firearms manufacturer in Granbury, which had its 30th anniver-

PLEASE SEE **BOND** | A3

Five Who Matter
ONE KINDNESS AT A TIME

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.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Gordon Bond is pictured with one of his guns

139TH YEAR, NO. 49

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 24 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 24 pages

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LIVESTOCK

FROM PAGE A1

4-H and FFA compete against each other, focusing on their range of knowledge of animal science and livestock management practices. Among the contests are:

- Livestock Equipment Identification — Identifying the proper name for 25 pieces of equipment used in livestock production;
- Livestock Breed Identification — Identifying from photographs 20 livestock (beef, swine, sheep and goat) breeds;
- Feedstuff Identification — Identifying 10 feedstuffs by the proper name;
- Feed Tag Knowledge (Juniors, only) — With a provided feed tag, read and analyze the information and answer five questions regarding the information; and
- Quality Assurance (Seniors, only) — With a provided medicine label and livestock scenario, answer 10 questions regarding label use, withdrawal times and proper injection location.

Beginning Tuesday, the exhibitors will be judged on their livestock projects as well as artwork, crafts and food projects.

See the attached schedule of events.

This year's Hood County Livestock Raisers Assoc. officers are Bobby Davis, president; John Liles, vice president; Patricia Becker, treasurer; and Kassie Hooser, secretary. The Board of Directors are Dan Becker, Debra Parish and Brandon Montgomery (Granbury); Caroline Brooks and David Melton (Lipan); and Kasey Cody, Shannon Felan and Ashley Meek (Tolar).

For more information on the show, visit the association's website at hoodcountylivestockraisersassociation.org/county-stockshow. Visitors can click the "Buyers Registration …" tab to be a buyer … or go straight to hood.fairwire.com.

Hood County Junior Livestock Show & Sale Jan. 5-10

Monday, Jan. 5

Fairgrounds open at 4 p.m.	
5 p.m.	Skill-a-Thon Check-in. Buckle presentation at conclusion of contest

Tuesday, Jan. 6

8:30 a.m.	Broiler Show
10 a.m.	Rabbit Show

Wednesday, Jan. 7

6:30 – 10 a.m.	4-H Pancake Breakfast
11 a.m.	Sheep Show
3 p.m.	Goat Show

Thursday, Jan. 8

9 a.m.– Noon	Ag Mechanics Show
Noon	Family Living Division Judging
1 p.m.	Breeding Gilt Show
2 p.m.	Market Swine Show
6 p.m.	Famioly Living Division Opens / Silent Auction Begins

Friday, Jan. 9

6:30 a.m.	Family Living Division Silent Auction Continues
11 a.m.	Heifer Show
1 p.m.	Market Steer Show

Saturday, Jan. 10

10 – 11:30 a.m.	Buyer Meal
11 a.m.	Family Living Division Silent Auction Closes
Noon	Premium Auction Sale

The flight bug

Ken Edney returns to the sky in celebration of his 82nd birthday

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Ken Edney (left) and his In the Pattern flight instructor, Jonathan, take to the skies to celebrate Edney's 82nd birthday.

After 35 years, Ken Edney made his brave return to the skies on the day of his 82nd birthday, Dec. 27, 2025.

"I just wanted to experience flying again, and the feeling of flying," Edney said.

Edney's love for flying began in 1979 because of his love for his wife.

It was on their honeymoon to Hawaii that the couple got the opportunity to fly in an engineless glider plane, the feeling of which gave Edney what he affectionately deemed the flight "bug."

"Flying is a combination of enjoyment and fear," Edney said. "It's like driving in Dallas."

When he got back to his home in Orange County, Calif., he enrolled in classes to earn his personal pilot license — a process that took him several years, but had an impact he joked would be felt for much longer.

"I started looking into flying and started taking flying lessons, and that led to the long downhill slide to financial disaster," Edney said,laughing.

After obtaining his license, Edney purchased a plane of his own.

For the next several years, he and his wife flew all across the county, sightseeing and visiting friends wherever their hearts and the winds would take them.

However, according to Edney, the "bug" ate up all of the couple's green.

"It's a financial investment," Edney said of flying. "You have insurance on (the plane), which is expensive. You have to place to keep it, which is expensive. Whatever maintenance is required that you have to pay annually, or to repair things. So, it's a commitment."

Because of the expense, Edney made himself a deal.

"I had pledged myself at the time that if I wasn't flying at least 100 hours a year, I would sell the plane, because you need to have proficiency to fly," Edney said.

In 1990, Edney made the financial decision for his family and sold his pair of wings back to the manufacturer.

According to Edney, he didn't regret this decision in the 30 years that have since elapsed — at least not until about two weeks ago when the "bug" came back to bite him on the eve of his 82nd birthday.

According to Edney, two weeks ago he found his old pilot's logbook, where he saw that in 1980, he had taken his first introductory flight.

When his wife asked what he wanted for his birthday, he said, "I think I'd like to go flying again.'"

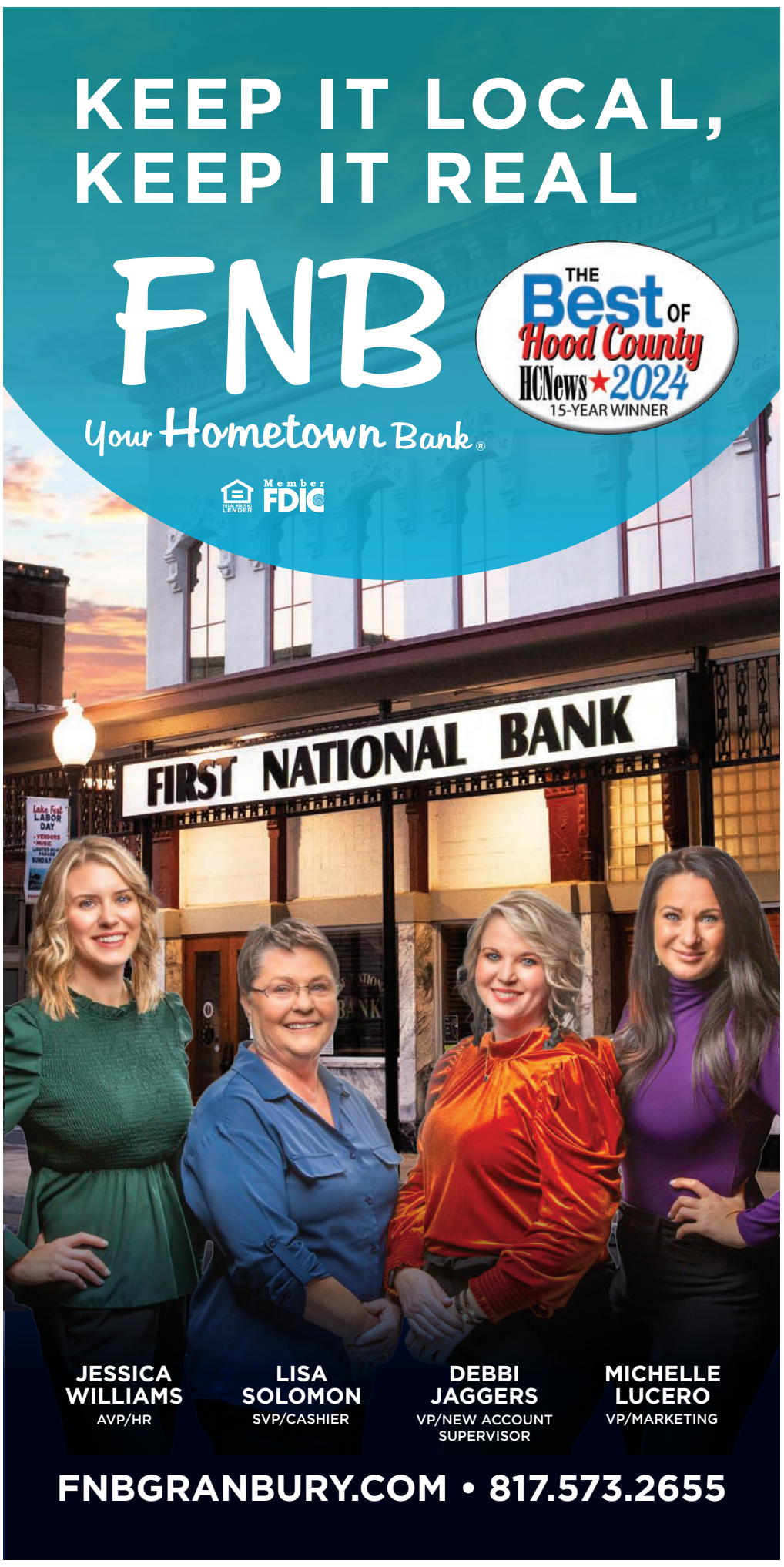
So, his wife booked him an introductory flight with In the Pattern, a flight school that has operated out of the Granbury Regional Airport for the past three years, and together they planned the flight for his 82nd birthday.

"When I showed up this morning, she (the In the Pattern employee checking him in) asked me, 'How you doing today?' I said, 'Well, I've got mixed emotions, because I don't know if this is really what I want to do, what the reaction is going to be. Am I going to feel euphoria? Am I going to feel nervous?' I think all of that was there," Edney said.

According to Edney, he and his flight instructor, John, used the time in the air to go on a birds-eye sightseeing tour around Granbury.

He shared he was able to pilot the plane for about 15 minutes of the hour-long flight, and apparently, that was enough to squash the "bug" again after all of these years.

"The one thing that I came away with is that I don't want to take flying lessons again," Edney said. "It satisfied that need I had from the memories I have from 30-40, years ago," Edney said. "Your brain tends to forget bad stuff or remember good stuff. Well, all the good stuff is still there, but I forgot about the jostling."



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Goranson Bain Ausley
FAMILY LAW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Goranson Bain Ausley Expands Granbury Office, Strengthening Local Family Law Services

Granbury, Texas | December 2025

Goranson Bain Ausley, the largest family law firm in Texas, has expanded its Granbury office with the addition of Associate Attorney **Samantha Beirne** and the promotion of **Clayton Bryant** to Partner. Both attorneys live and work in Granbury, and the firm says the growth reflects its continued commitment to serving families throughout Hood County.

The expansion builds on the leadership of **Cindy Tisdale**, a longtime Granbury attorney and former President of the State Bar of Texas. Tisdale practiced law in Granbury for more than 20 years before joining Goranson Bain Ausley in 2023.

More Local Support for Families and Business Owners

With the addition of Beirne and Bryant's promotion, the Granbury office will offer expanded support for residents navigating divorce, custody issues, and complex property matters. The attorneys work with a wide range of clients, including local business owners, ranching families, professionals, and those with high-asset or financially detailed cases.

"When people in Granbury face difficult family transitions, they deserve guidance they can trust. Our role is to deliver clear strategies and sound legal counsel so they can move forward with confidence."

Meet the Attorneys

Clayton Bryant, Partner
Bryant has more than 15 years of family law experience and regularly handles high-asset divorce, business-owner divorces, property division, and high-conflict custody matters. He is also a certified mediator and has served the community through roles with Grace Classical Christian Academy, the City of Glen Rose, and his local church.

Samantha Beirne, Associate Attorney
Beirne, a graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law, brings strong analytical skills, careful preparation, and a compassionate, client-focused approach to helping Granbury residents navigate family law matters.

Cindy Tisdale, Partner
Tisdale continues to serve clients in the areas of complex property division, custody matters, and high-net-worth divorce. Her decades of experience in Hood County help anchor the firm's local practice.

A Longstanding Commitment to Hood County
For more than 45 years, Goranson Bain Ausley has helped Texans navigate family law matters involving divorce, child custody, financial issues, and mediation. With the expanded Granbury team, local residents will have direct access to statewide resources and specialized support without leaving Hood County.

"We're proud to be part of this community," Tisdale said. "Our goal is to help families find solutions that allow them to move forward in a healthy way."

Goranson Bain Ausley has offices in Granbury, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Midland, Plano, and San Antonio, and includes one of the largest groups of family law attorneys in the state.

For more information or to schedule a consultation with a Granbury family law attorney, visit gbafamilylaw.com/granbury-family-law.

Another trip around the sun



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.

New Year's is upon us, and all sorts of people will be declaring "resolutions" for 2026. Throughout the years, I have come to know that New Year's declarations should be called "January Resolutions" because most of them are long abandoned and forgotten by the time March 1 comes around, much less lasting the entire year.

The solemn affirmations to eat better, exercise regularly or to take more time away from work all are made with good intentions, but somehow the test of time shatters the commitment, and we end up right back where we were. Such is human nature. It is hard to change old ways and even harder to start and keep new habits.

I really thought 2025 was going to be the best year of my life. I went into January full of expectations and objectives to meet, but things did not go quite as I wanted. If there is anything I have learned in my many years is life keeps throwing challenges at us and you never arrive at an age or a time when problems all disappear.

There never is the day when we get to "spike the football" of life and everything is perfectly wonderful. There always will be issues with health, or relationships with a family member, or problems at work or in the community where we live. Why is that? Because we all are humans and we are full of flaws. In this life, there is no perfection or peaceful landing place which is pure bliss; there merely is life, and the challenges it places before us.

A lot of times people think of their problems as being caused by a lack of money, and if only they had more cash, things would be better. There is no doubt that having a bloated bank account does solve problems many people face, but it often creates other issues. Problems do not disappear; they simply change costumes.

Instead of not having a place to live or an ability to pay the rent, there remains the practical problems of how to maintain a house, pay the taxes and who is in the house with you. True, some problems are bigger than others and certainly more immediate, but problems still exist.

I am not really making resolutions this year, but if I did, I'd be one-for-one, as I made vow to myself before the new year. I followed through on my plan to take off Christmas Day. The past five years, I have worked at least half the day on Christmas, going to the office to get a jump on the rest of the week. This year, after the grandkids and family opened their presents, I took advantage of the warm weather and sat on the back deck and reflected. As the sun kept me warm and lifted my spirits, I solemnly reflected on myself, who I am and what I do.

Time will be spent evaluating how I handle things, my interactions with others and my relationships with those I work with and serve in our community. I will set goals for myself and earnestly attempt to be a better man than I was in the past 365 days. Maybe the years have taught me that personal change often is glacier-like and only happens a little bit at a time.

There is no expectation to be perfect, simply grow and be better. Heaven forbid the day ever comes when I don't feel the need to change or recognize my own shortcomings and failings. It is good to be content with yourself, but shouldn't we all want to be a better version of who we are?

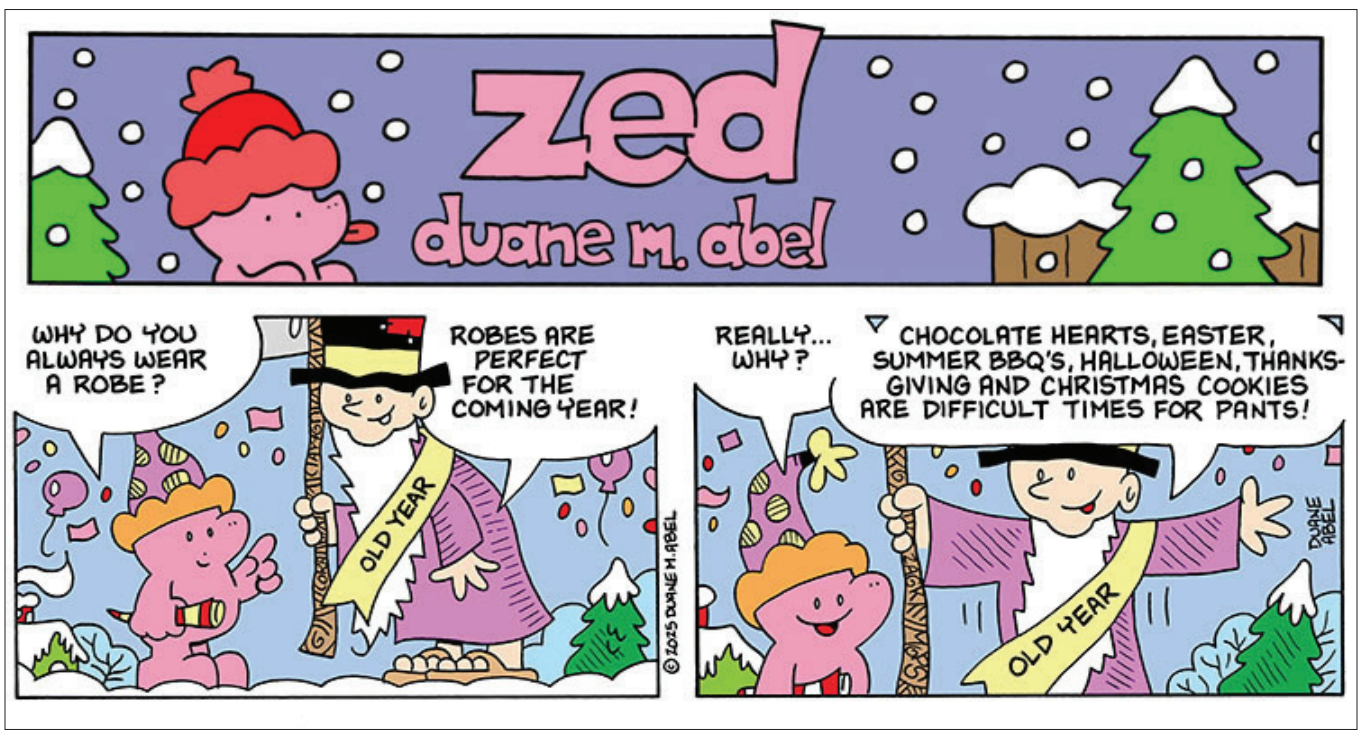
Mostly, while I listen to the waterfall as it drops into the lake behind my house, I will think about how to be a better husband, father, grandfather, boss and friend. I'm not seeking an award or even earned recognition, just wanting to make the lives of the people around me a little brighter. Not much of a resolution, but a pretty darn good goal for all of us.

May you have a wonderful holiday with your family. May our community at large and each of us individually have a terrific 2026!.

Thought for the day: Live like you were going to die tomorrow. Learn like you were going to live forever. Gandhi

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

sam@hcnews.com



Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Adian Aguado!

Adian Aguado has lived in Hood County for all of his 14 years, and that's just fine with him. He lives in Rancho Brazos with two cats, and is the second youngest of seven siblings, four brothers and two sisters.

Aguado envisions his future enjoying life in Granbury, living in his own home close to the historic square. He does like small-town living and being close to his friends.

It's evident Aguado puts a lot of thought into his interests and talents, and plans to carry them into adulthood. Aguado is an avid reader and aspires to be a fantasy book author. He also likes drawing and writing poetry.

With that in mind, after high school, Adian is college-bound. He probably will attend a community college first to get the basics under his belt before considering the literary direction.

Debate and ceramics currently heighten Aguado's interests. A lot of Aguado's time is spent at the Rancho Brazos Community Center to help out with his mom, Patricia.

He said, "Everyone is nice there. Rancho has so much to offer to the community, and I like that." He sees his future self staying involved at RBCC. Please let us at the Hood County News know when you get that first book published, Adian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The gentle hand behind the technology

We often think of modern medicine in terms of cold machines and high-tech scans. But recently, I was reminded the most important part of healthcare isn't the technology itself; it's the person operating it.

I've worked within the healthcare system for more than 34 years, from Wisconsin and Illinois to Texas, but recently, I found myself in a position many of us dread: I was the patient, and I was terrified.

I needed an MRI with contrast for my shoulder. For those who haven't had this specific procedure, it involves more than just sliding into a scanner; it requires an injection of contrast dye directly into the shoulder joint to ensure the images are clear.

I'll be honest: I was scared. The idea of a needle going deep into my shoulder joint had me incredibly anxious. That is when I met Dr. Murthy Chamarthy, an Interventional Radiologist at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

Interventional Radiology (IR) often is called "surgery without the surgery." These specialists use live imaging like X-rays and ultrasound to guide their instruments with pinpoint accuracy.

When Dr. Chamarthy entered the room, the atmosphere changed. He didn't just see a shoulder; he saw a person who was genuinely afraid. He took the time to set my mind at ease, explaining exactly what he was doing and why. His calm, confident demeanor acted like a sedative for my nerves.

The result? Despite my mounting "needle-phobia," I felt virtually no pain. His precision was world-class, but his bedside manner was what truly made the difference.

Usually, to find this level of specialized, minimally invasive care, patients assume they have to travel to a major city or a massive university hospital. Having someone of Dr. Chamarthy's caliber right here in our community is a gift.

Interventional Radiology allows for:

Targeted Treatment: Procedures are done through tiny nicks in the skin rather than large incisions.

Faster Recovery: Because it's minimally invasive, you're back on your feet much sooner.

Reduced Anxiety: As I experienced firsthand, when you have a doctor who masters both the tech and the human touch, the "scary" parts of medicine become manageable.

Yep, I work at Lake Granbury Medical Center, but I felt I needed to share this because, in the end, the best kind of healthcare is the kind that pairs technical excellence with a simple, steady hand that puts a neighbor's mind at ease.

Tom Jensen
Granbury

BOND

FROM PAGE A1

sary in 2025. However, just as he lives his life, Bond did nothing flashy to celebrate. He quietly went about business, which includes using his good fortune to change the fortunes of others.

A Christian from his youth, Bond said he didn't really understand the significance of giving until he and his family went through these really hard times. Now, he's glad they did.

"My wife told me about tithing, so even though we were dead broke, we would tithe and give money away before we would even pay our bills — and guess what? God provided," Bond said.

They became diligent givers and amazing things started to happen.

"Even though I flunked chemistry in college, I ended up getting a job in the chemical industry that led me to opportunities in treating oil and oily waste," he said.

It fascinated him, so he ran thousands of experiments in his old horse barn and ended up formulating his own products.

"Even though I did not qualify for that work or even have a college degree, I learned how to streamline processes, which later came in handy when I took over Bond Arms in 2007," he said.

Creation of Bond Arms

Bond's brother, Greg, started Bond Arms in 1995. After graduating from North Texas State University, Greg got a job as a tool-and-die maker. He immediately fell in love with metal working.

So, he returned to school, attending Texas Tech University to get a mechanical engineering degree.

"It's amazing when you find your calling and enjoy what you do; you learn to focus," Gordon said.

Greg Bond later went to work for a small gun company in Central Texas that made derringers.

"Greg was not a fan of derringers because of the terrible reputation that they had of being a cheap, dangerous, throwaway gun, but it was his entrance into the firearms industry, so he took it," Gordon Bond said.

Greg Bond was able to improve the process and improved the quality of the product. But he believed he could design a safer and better product, so he did.

"He designed it using better materials — stainless steel — and patented a rebounding and locking hammer to make it safer, and designed it to have interchangeable barrels," Gordon Bond said. "Greg had very little money, so he would work with machine shops that had an FFL (Federal Firearms License) to manufacture firearms to make his first guns."

After he built some of his first guns, Greg Bond wanted to go to the Shot Show in Las Vegas — the industry's biggest show. Gordon Bond said his brother asked him, "My 23-year-old Toyota won't make the trip, can you drive me to the show?"

Gordon Bond also helped design and pay for the first banner they used at the show.

Greg Bond found a partner and they started Bond Arms. After a few years, he bought out his partner with a bank loan.

"Greg never really wanted a business to run; he just wanted to design and engineer," Gordon Bond said. "I was the one who always wanted a business."

One day, Greg Bond called his brother and said he was tired of running the business. Gordon Bond, who was living in Vancouver, Washington, bought it, moved back and business has been good ever since.

"I was not qualified, didn't have the education, didn't have any money, never had successfully run a business, was not an engineer, but I had faith that God would take care of us," Gordon Bond said.

He was able to completely pay off his brother in less than three years. They moved from the small 3,000 square-foot building where the business had started to their current 14,000 square-foot building.

"Giving to help others opens the door for God to bless you. Learn to use the superpower God has given

PLEASE SEE **BOND** | A4

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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

Linda Ruth Stevens Huchel
1948 – 2025

With profound gratitude to the people who made her life the wonderful journey that it was, Linda Ruth Stevens Huchel, affectionately known by some as "Lucky Linda," 77, returned home to God. Born in 1948 in Newark, New Jersey, Linda lived a life grounded in faith, service and joy. She is reunited in heaven with her husband of over 50 years, Richard John Huchel.

Linda attended Montclair State College in New Jersey, where she majored in elementary education with an emphasis in physical education. It was there she met Richard in a criminology class, beginning a lifelong partnership filled with travel, community and shared purpose.

A devoted Catholic, Linda lived her faith through service. She was an avid substitute teacher at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Elementary School in Oceanside, California, and volunteered with CASA,



after-school programs, and Interim HealthCare of Granbury Hospice, offering warmth, steadiness, and a helping hand wherever she was needed.

Linda loved travel, playing tennis, dominoes, dancing, attending theatre, and friendly competition, often winning with her trademark phrase, "Old age and treachery over youth and vigor!" She was known for keeping conversations light and people happy, bringing cheer and encouragement into everyday moments.

Linda is survived by her daughters, Kathleen Baligad, Sarah Huchel and Abigail Hoiland; and her grandchildren, Aiden, Sebastian and Gwendolyn, who brought her great pride and joy. The family extends sincere thanks to all who supported and prayed for Linda. It is with sadness and gratitude that we remember a life that brought cheer, movement and light to all who knew her.

UT Southwestern Medical Center carried out the cremation service. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause Linda supported regularly and that was important to her.

Special thanks to Interim HealthCare of Granbury Hospice and to the many friends who offered support and prayers.

Suzanne Margaret Walshe Cooley
1940 – 2025

Suzanne Margaret Walshe Cooley, with her two daughters by her side, passed away at the age of 85 on Dec. 11, 2025, in Granbury, Texas.

As she would say, she finally "faded into the mist."

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, on March 18, 1940, Suzanne came to the United States in 1955 and later became a naturalized citizen of which she was immensely proud. In 1958, Suzanne married James R. Cooley and moved to Breckenridge, Michigan, her husband's hometown. Separating in 1966, Suzanne moved with her four children to Lansing, Michigan, where she began her career with the State of Michigan.

Suzanne's ardent interest in the Arts led to her fulfilling that passion through costume design. She has been an independent costume and clothing designer since the late 1970s. Her creations found their place in a wide range of settings, including theatre, opera, national pageants, charity events, weddings, church programs, parades, and many other occasions. Suzanne's name and accom-



plishments are no strangers to the local newspapers from Sag Harbor, New York to Lansing, Michigan, to Granbury, Texas.

"Mention excellence in costume design, and one local name comes to mind – Suzanne Cooley. And there's ample proof of that: The Lansing State Journal has been giving out its Thespie awards, covering the entire local theatre scene, for six years. Suzanne has won five times." Lansing State Journal, Saturday, Oct. 27, 1984.

The most difficult crisis Suzanne faced was her inevitable kidney failure. After enduring dialysis for three years, she received a cadaver transplant in November 2010. This gift allowed her to be uniquely her for over 15 years.

She is preceded in death by her former husband and father of her children, James Richard Cooley; her eldest son, James Austin Cooley (survived by his wife, Darcey Cooley); her youngest son, James Whitney Cooley; and her grandson, Keaton Cooley.

Her legacy lives on through her two daughters, Victoria Kemp (married to Richard Kemp) and Linda Whitmer (married to Bud Whitmer), along with her grandchildren: Richard Kemp (April Kemp), Jennifer Cooley, Ryan Kemp (Jennifer Kemp), Garrett Whitmer, and Emily Cooley. Her great-grandchildren: Matthew Cooley, Blake Kemp, Rose Cooley, Ryland Kemp, Calob Kemp, Adalyn Kemp, and Hope Kemp, along with numerous cherished friends and acquaintances, will miss her dearly.

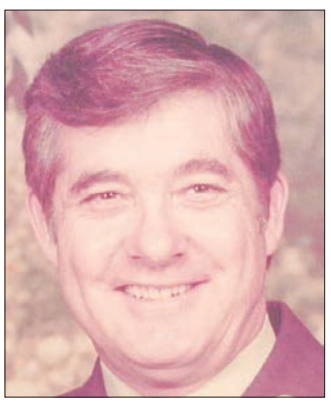
Please join us to celebrate Suzanne's life Jan. 9, 2025, at 11a.m. at Acton Methodist Church. Reception to follow.

James Cecil McLellan
1931 – 2025

James Cecil McLellan, the youngest child of Grady and Abbie Lee McLellan, passed away peacefully on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, surrounded by his loving wife, Arlene and close family members.

Funeral services for James will be held 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, at the Martins Funeral Home, 100 S. Morgan St., in Granbury. Burial will follow at 2:30 p.m., at Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, with Military Rites.

James was born on Oct. 14, 1931, in his hometown of Milton, Florida. He lived a life marked by his strong faith



and devotion to God, exemplary career military service, exceptional work ethic, love of country, and a deep, abiding love for his family.

James is survived by his loving wife Alta Arlene McLellan, his daughters Marchale Silcox, Vickie Coogle, Donna Calvert, Carol Westmoreland, Tracie Annette Harrison, stepsons Jimmy and David Batterton, grandchildren, Joey Silcox, Chad Calvert, Megan Ashfield, Lexi Gates, and great-grandchildren, Iris Marie Calvert, and Steven Ashfield; and by his older sister Abbie Jean Weekly, 95 of Milton, Florida.

James was preceded in death by his two older brothers William (Bill) and Norman McLellan.

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HCNEWS.COM

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Managing risk at different stages of life

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Tony Mobly

As an investor, you always will need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

When you're starting out … If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you likely can afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk — because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the "middle stages" … At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement … You may have already achieved some key goals — perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired … Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.

BOND
FROM PAGE A3

you and start helping someone in need today," Gordon Bond said.

Giving everywhere

Among the many causes the Bonds have helped are tornado and hurricane destruction areas in Kentucky, Texas and elsewhere in the country. They also have donated water wells to several communities in Africa, built housing in Cambodia, and donated a full mobile medical van to poverty areas in India.

They even helped Granbury High School students learn how to print 3D masks when masks were unavailable during COVID.

Although his family didn't have much money growing up, his father gave back to the community by helping run the Spanish Boy Scout Troop in Floydada, many of whom became Eagle Scouts.

"I'm also an Eagle Scout because of my dad. He was a good man," Bond said.

Today, Bond's daughter, Kyndall, joins him in doing charity work, he said.

"She has a similar spirit, and she and her husband (Nathan) do much for the community, too," he said.

Testimonials

Several folks offered examples of the impact Bond has had in helping their organizations.

From Dusti Scoval, former director of Mission Granbury: "In the heat of summer, our case managers were working with an elderly man living alone in a dark trailer, powered only by an extension cord from a neighbor. He had just completed chemotherapy, had no phone, no electricity and little hope. He told the deputy doing the welfare check he was 'waiting to die.'

"With help from the Bond Arms fund, we were able to get his electricity restored, set him up for food delivery, purchase an emergency phone and get his water turned back on. A few weeks later, the man who had been 'waiting to die' walked into our office to thank the case manager and to get some help getting his application filed for his social security."

From Monica Hays, executive director, Forward Training Center of Hood County:

"From the earliest days of Forward Training Center's fundraising efforts, Gordon stepped forward as one of its first sponsors, setting a tone of faith and confidence that helped propel the organization forward. For approximately six years, he has served as the major sponsor of Forward Training Center's annual Clay Shoot, an event that has become a cornerstone fundraiser supporting life-changing workforce and job-readiness programs."

From Steve Berry, with Steve Berry Auction Services: "My team does approximately 30-40 live auctions a year, and about half of those in and around Hood County. Whether it be a fundraiser for a cancer patient, a child dealing with diseases, Optimist Club, Jewel Ball committee or many of the local groups, Bond Arms gives their amazing derringer and always has a spokesman at the location to assist with firearm licensing and explaining and supporting the cause.

"When you think about the auction price for a derringer is usually around a thousand or more dollars, and they have donated close to 500 guns since they started donating, that is a half million dollars of charitable donations made by Bond Arms."

From Ryan Lenamon, chief development officer, Texans on a Mission: "Bond Arms has helped people after this summer's tragic flooding in the Texas Hill Country. In 2024, they helped support relief efforts after Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina and Hurricane Beryl slammed into the Texas coast. In 2023, Bond Arms helped provide meals following tornadoes in East Texas that left almost 175,000 Texans without power. In 2022, Bond Arms partnered with Texans on Mission to serve those affected by the Ukraine war. Year after year, Bond Arms has partnered with Texans on Mission to stand in the gap for those in need here locally, and around the world."

From Becky Mauldin, former director of United Way in Granbury: "The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 made for a very challenging time for every business and every individual in our country and across the world. I never cut out early from work, but this particular Friday, the week before Christmas, I decided to leave the office early afternoon and head home.

"As I was packing my laptop, I received a call from Gordon Bond. He asked if I had a minute to stop by his shop at Bond Arms. 'Of course,' I said. A few minutes later, I met Gordon at his office door. There, he handed me a check. It was a very large donation with a designated purpose. I don't recall saying much more than 'Thank you' as tears filled my eyes.

"He asked that the funds be used to pick up the slack where the year's donations had been lacking. He specifically asked that the funds be used to assist families who were struggling. The United Way board and Gordon decided to launch the 'Operation Christmas Kindness' program that year, five years ago."

The right thing to do

"I'm to the point where I thank God in all things and know that he will work all things out for my good, and then I take another step forward," Bond said.

He said he was asked once at a local meeting why they help so much, and if it is to help promote the business. He laughed and politely said, "No."

"We are a national business and we probably only do way less than a fourth of 1 percent of our business here in this area," he said. "So, no, we don't do this to promote our business, we do this because it is the right thing to do."

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YIR

FROM PAGE A1

an active firefighter, said he plans to elevate the chaplain's role in supporting the mental health of first responders.

As part of the association's executive board, Ercanbrack will help facilitate chaplain training and certification across the state.

***

It's the middle of summer, and that means it's also the middle of baseball season. Texas baseball fans can escape the heat inside Globe Life Field in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers. While fans are there to support their favorite sluggers or have some peanuts and Cracker Jacks, the promotional staff are on a strict schedule to make sure everyone has their moment and the game can start on time.

One of the traditions of a Major League Baseball game is the singing of the National Anthem. If fans happened to be at the Rangers game June 30, they would have heard Granbury's very own Caitlan Leblo belt it out.

Leblo is a Granbury native and an avid theatre contributor. She regularly helps act and direct music for shows at the Granbury Opera House and Plaza Theater in Cleburne. She had some friends who had performed the National Anthem before in similar situations and they encouraged her to try.

July 19

After years of countless discussions and repeated claims of "kicking the can down the road," officials now have a cost analysis in hand revealing how a jail expansion could end up saving Hood County millions of dollars.

According to a recently completed jail study, the county could save more than $70 million during the next two decades by expanding the jail instead of continuing to house inmates in other counties — a costly and unsustainable practice that's only expected to worsen in time.

While the county's last jail bond was voted down by residents in November 2024 — and a decision was made to hold off on a bond for the May ballot — county officials now have started discussing the possibility of placing a new, scaled-back jail bond proposal on the ballot for this November.

***

Following the adoption of the Master Thoroughfare Plan in March — which aims to address congestion and safety issues along key roadways — Hood County Commissioners Court now is eyeing a $717 million bond proposal for November 2025 that would fund 11 key transportation projects.

July 26

One small church in Tolar is proving someone doesn't have to be big to leave a legacy — especially one spanning 100 years (and counting).

From humble beginnings to a century of community service, Tolar United Methodist Church has proven time and time again the family who prays together, stays together.

***

Two people died in a house fire early Monday morning along Longhorn Trail in the Western Hills Harbor subdivision in Granbury.

Hood County volunteer fire departments were called out at 1:21 a.m. Monday, July 21. The call initially came in as a small grass fire, but was changed when a firefighter who was returning from another call saw the glow of the high flames and asked the call to be changed to a structure fire. The change from grass to structure fire changed the response package that would be sent out, specifically the vehicle requirements, according to fire department officials.

***

The Fort Worth district of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is developing a master plan, which includes widening U.S. Highway 377 from the Oklahoma border to the Mexico border.

The overall project is divided into three segments. The portion of the highway that runs through Granbury is in the northern segment.

As part of the master plan, TxDOT is forming a steering committee to begin the discussions. The first meeting is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Fort Worth City Hall.

Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt has been asked to chair that committee.

Aug. 2

Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department and EMS soon will be operating out of a newly renovated and expanded station — just in time for the winter season.

During the groundbreaking ceremony Friday, July 25, Pecan VFD Fire Chief Sam Greif shared details regarding the 80-by-85-foot project, which will include the addition of a new training/storm room and dedicated bunk rooms.

***

Granbury Independent School District's Board of Trustees, following new state law, approved June 21 a new bathroom facility policy based on biological gender.

Texas Senate Bill 6, which was passed during the last legislative session, reads: "A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a policy requiring each multiple-occupancy bathroom or changing facility accessible to students that is located in a school or school facility to be designated for and used only by persons based on the person's biological sex."

This means individuals, by law, only are permitted to use the bathroom corresponding to the gender they were assigned at birth.

Aug. 9

The Texas Rangers have taken the lead in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting Thursday, July 31, in the Indian Harbor neighborhood just outside of Granbury's southeastern limit.

According to information from law enforcement sources released that day, "The morning of July 31, 2025, at approximately 9:15 a.m., Hood County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 4000 block of Lands End Court in the Indian Harbor subdivision to serve a felony arrest warrant on a subject.

"Upon contact, the subject presented a firearm toward the deputies. In response to the immediate threat, deputies discharged their weapons, striking the subject. The suspect was pronounced deceased at the scene.

"There is no active threat to the public, and no deputies sustained injuries."

The Texas Rangers are a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety with lead investigative responsibility for officer-involved shootings. They conduct these investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and the legality of the use of force employed by the officer.

***

As part of his visit to Granbury Monday, Aug. 4, U.S. Rep. Roger Williams visited the Granbury Regional Airport to meet members of the Granbury Independent School District and the district's aviation program.

The city of Granbury completed major upgrades to its airport, which included a new 5,200-foot concrete runway and a parallel taxiway.

The city also renovated and expanded its terminal building by constructing a 4,000-square-foot new terminal, which includes enhanced services such as upgraded security features like fencing and surveillance, and better vehicle access.

Aug. 16

Production lights beat the sun to Granbury's square Aug. 6, illuminating the historic Texas landmark for Steve Doocy as he praised the "Celebration Capital of Texas" during Fox and Friends' "Main Street America" segment.

The 16-minute segment highlighted everything, making this little slice of Americana so special to its 12,000-plus residents and thousands of annual visitors. From the businesses that thrive here to the colorful characters who keep Granbury lively, Doocy got a taste of it all.

***

Meet two of Granbury's largest and hardest-working employees: Pearl and Crockett.

At its Aug. 8 Rise and Grind event, Visit Granbury unveiled the official names of Granbury's two new iconic and retro-inspired trollies. These two trollies hit Granbury's streets in late February, replacing the trolley that had serviced the city since the trolley system was introduced more than a decade ago.

Many names for the two trollies were submitted to the contest via Visit Granbury's Facebook page, with several making the final round, including Brazos Breeze, The General, Fannie, the Celebration Express and of course — Pearl and Crockett. But while each of these names were hits, in the end there only could be two winners.

The matter was put to a town-wide vote via social media, and Aug. 8, it was announced the people of Granbury had deemed Pearl and Crockett the winners.

Aug. 23

A 33-year-old man is dead following an altercation and a stabbing at a family get-together in Hood County.

According to a Hood County Sheriff's Office press release, deputies responded to the 900 block of Meadowlark Circle regarding a disturbance in progress Saturday, Aug. 16. Prior to arriving on scene, deputies were updated that an individual had been stabbed, and CPR was in progress.

Once deputies arrived on scene, they provided medical care to a 33-year-old male until EMS arrived. The male was taken to Lake Granbury Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased.

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said the situation took place during a two-family "get-together" that "went a wrong direction after dinner."

***

Hood County's elected officials soon will be seeing a 10-percent salary increase reflected on their paychecks, with annual increases ranging anywhere from $8,000-$11,000 across the board.

The increase — which was approved Aug. 12 by the Hood County Commissioners Court— will bring higher salaries to all elected officials, including commissioners, constables, justices of the peace, sheriff, tax assessor, treasurer, county judge, district clerk and county clerk.

Aug. 30

Granbury Independent School District has announced the newest members of the district's Athletic and Academic Hall of Fame for the Class of 2025.

These distinguished honorees represent the very best of Pirate tradition — athletes, coaches, educators, community leaders and alumni whose achievements have left a lasting impact on Granbury and beyond.

This year's Athletic Hall of Fame inductees include Olympic gold medalist Dana Vollmer, legendary coach Fred Weir, state champion distance runner Rachel Collins Downey and baseball standout Eric Tomlinson.

The Academic Hall of Fame welcomes military leader and storyteller Chase Millsap, community partner First National Bank of Granbury and longtime educators and community servants Biff and Nancy Peterson.

***

Hood County Judge Ron

PLEASE SEE YIR | A7



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Susan Sledge, of Sledge Distillery, reports an uptick in business following her interview with Steve Doocy on the Fox News show Fox & Friends.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The crowd watches as the July 4th parade passes by Granbury's Historic Square.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury ISD has announced the newest members of the district's Athletic and Academic Hall of Fame for the Class of 2025.

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YIR

FROM PAGE A6

Massingill has been cleared of criminal allegations involving Mitchell Bend's petition to become an incorporated city.

"As of this time, there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by Judge Massingill," Hood County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Lt. Gary Roberts wrote in an email to the Hood County News.

Hood County resident Cheryl Shadden filed a complaint Aug. 20 against Massingill, alleging misconduct and election interference after he had vacated the order approving Mitchell Bend's incorporation petition — one he had already signed and approved May 2.

Sept. 6

The lyrics to an aptly named country song, "Sam," by Sturgill Simpson read, "Many good dog was a friend to a man, but Sam was the greatest one." It's a sentiment Lt. Josh Lane repeated of his four-legged partner, a black lab named Sam, upon his passing Aug 14.

Sam and Lane first met in 2012, when the Hood County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) decided it was time to reward then-narcotics officer Lane's drug-busting successes with a narcotics dog to aid in his mission.

Now, for the first time in a long time, 13 years and 500 drug busts later, Lane is once again without Sam.

***

The Hood County Citizens Collection Station may be doing too great of a job in helping residents dispose of unwanted items — especially since it has completely exhausted its waste disposal budget for the year.

According to Jeannie Stacks, director of Environmental Health, a recent increase in public use has posed a significant funding problem for the facility.

During the most recent Commissioners Court meeting Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson moved to approve additional funding not to exceed $30,000 for the Hood County Citizens Collection Station contract waste disposal. Following a second from Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, the motion passed unanimously.

Sept. 13

Officials with Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department and Texas Emergency Medical Services broke ground Sept. 4 on a new Station 50 at 3809 Contrary Creek Road.

The concrete foundation will be laid this week with the steel going up the week after. Both parties are shooting for construction to be done by mid-December.

A new station is something Indian Harbor fire chiefs have wanted for a long time, but only in 2023 was Texas EMS able to get money from Hood County commissioners and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In 2021, the court received $5.6 million from ARPA as part of a federal stimulus bill to support state, local and tribal governments across the country in recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

***

Texas historians and David Crockett descendants gathered Friday, Sept. 5, outside the gates of Acton Cemetery to watch as artist Gary Foreman unveiled a plaque commemorating the Crockett's and their migration across Texas.

Foreman is a Crockett historian and filmmaker. He is married to Crockett descendant Laurie Foreman, who also attended the unveiling, along with other descendants, Bridget Flannery Clary, Errol Flannery and Mike Long. They are members of The Direct Descendants Camp and Kin of David Crockett, which is a non-profit organization that began four decades ago. It celebrates the life and times of its namesake with descendants, fans and friends from all across the country.

According to Phil Harris, a Texas Heroes Foundation board member, following the infamous fight at the Alamo, Davy Crockett's second wife, Elizabeth Crockett, was awarded 320 acres four miles north of the Acton trading post after David nobly laid his life down for Texas' freedom.

Sept. 20

A jury sentenced Bradley Jay Benson, of Granbury, to 19 years in custody — split between state jail and prison — along with 10 years' probation and $110,000 in fines, following a four-day trial Sept. 8–11.

After Benson pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of possession of child pornography, a 12-person jury in Judge Bryan Bufkin's courtroom found Benson, a former city council candidate, guilty Sept. 9, and he was subsequently placed under arrest.

According to Rob Christian, one of Benson's attorneys, the jury sentenced Benson to five years in prison for three of the counts and 10 years' probation on the remaining eight. The jury also assessed a fine of $10,000 for each count — $110,000 total.

***

Be an Angel has performed yet another "miracle" by supplying Granbury ISD with the quality of life-enhancing tools needed to help special-needs students achieve their goals, whether it be the high school senior with cerebral palsy working to walk across his graduation stage come May, or the 9-year-old girl with CP who just wants to be able to sit with her friends and tell knock-knock jokes.

The grant received from Be an Angel was worth about $70,000, which allowed physical therapist Wayne Cooper, who has worked with the special-needs children of GISD for more than 28 years, to purchase seven top-of-the-line Rifton activity chairs, and two Rifton gait walkers.

Sept. 27

Mission Granbury broke ground Tuesday, Sept 17, on its new Marilyn Luton Annex Building and included a ribbon-cutting in collaboration with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Luton is a long-time member of the Mission Granbury board, who, since the retirement of Dusti Scoville, has served as the interim executive director for the organization during its search for a new executive director. Once the search is completed, Luton will return to her place on the board.

Oct. 4

About 50 Hood County residents concerned about Wood Hollow I attended and spoke Thursday, Sept. 25, during a public hearing hosted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and held at Granbury High School's auditorium.

Hood County Commissioner Nanette Samuelson and Somervell County Commissioner Chip Johnson were in attendance and spoke.

TCEQ was seeking public comment on Wolf Hollow I Power's request for a renewal of a permit authorization operation of its fossil fuel electric power generation site.

About 2,500 people attended the third annual Texas Cowboy Symposium Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27, at Warren's Backyard in Granbury. The symposium included about a dozen chuckwagon cook-off teams, Western Swing live music both nights, as well as cooking demonstrations and other activities. Funds from the event go toward Hood County FFA and 4-H programs, as well as the Granbury High School BBQ team.

Oct. 11

The city of Granbury received a $7.8 million grant from the Texas Water Development Board to build a new water treatment plant near Lake Granbury.

This funding will cover a large portion of the planning, design and construction of a new $100 million water treatment facility, also while adding advanced treatment capabilities at the existing plant. Together, the two facilities will ensure Granbury continues to deliver clean, safe, great-tasting water that meets the community's needs, according to city staff.

***

Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosted a forum Wednesday, Oct. 1, for candidates running for places on the Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees.

All six candidates participated in the event held at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. They are, in order they are listed on the ballot: Place 5: Dr. Calvin Lawrence and Monica Brown; Place 6, David Rogers and Barbara Townsend; and Place 7, Jessica Wark and Stuart Neal.

Oct. 18

The city of Granbury and United Way of Hood County, which utilizes the historic Decker Gym facility in town, agreed to work together regarding utilities for the facility. That agreement came during the Oct. 6 City Council meeting.

United Way asked the city for utility assistance of up to $30,000 a year.

"We've put a lot into Decker Gym and being able to bring all the different nonprofits in to help our community all together has been transforming in the nonprofit world for Granbury and Hood County," said Crystal Moore, United Way of Hood County executive director.

The partnership, Moore said, would help the organization.

***

Criminals beware — law enforcement officers with the Hood County Sheriff's Office have a little extra pep in their step and reliability on the road thanks to the purchase of 14 new vehicles.

The Hood County Commissioners Court approved buying the 2025 and 2026 vehicles for $1.015 million from Sewell Fleet Management during the Oct. 14 court meeting.

Oct. 25

A trip down Penrod Drive in Granbury results in feeling a jolt every few feet with trenches cut in the road, as well as the presence of multiple large construction vehicles working to complete the job.

The work isn't going nearly fast enough for Ronald Van Cleave, who lives along the street and contacted the Hood County News to express his frustration at the disruption caused, as well as the pace of the work.

The city is every bit as frustrated with project delays as the neighborhood residents are, said Chester Nolen, Granbury's director of Public Works.

***

Granbury ISD's Board of Trustees met Oct. 20 to discuss the purchase of new school buses, approve the district improvement plan and recognize several students' successes.

In the past, the acquisition of new buses has been a point of contention for the district, as Granbury ISD has put out bonds for the addition of new school buses.

However, because of the current board's stout fiscal conservatism and the leadership of the district's new superintendent, Dr. Courtney Morawski, an emphasis has been placed on preserving the district's fleet; replacing buses when no other option is available.

Because of this initiative, to keep the district's transportation system in top operating order, the board needed only to purchase five 77-passenger student buses and one 54-passenger special education school bus for the present school year.

***

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosted a forum Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, for candidates running for the city of Granbury mayor and city council. They are, in order they are listed on the ballot: mayor, Trish Burwell and Jim Jarratt; and council, David Farris and Angela Parker.

The event was moderated by Dr. Amy O'Dell, head of the Department of Government, Legal Studies and Philosophy at Tarleton State University.

***

After serving both his country in the U.S. military and his state as a senator, Granbury's Lt. Col. (ret.) Brian Birdwell has received new marching orders. President Donald Trump has nominated the Hood County Republican for the post of assistant secretary of defense/war.

Nov. 1

More than 40 million Americans who rely on low-income food assistance are expected to receive less help with grocery bills in the coming days and in Hood County, the effects could be felt immediately.

Mission Granbury learned this past weekend if the federal government shutdown extended beyond Oct. 27, there will be a pause in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. With more than 4,000 Hood County residents currently eligible for SNAP, that interruption almost certainly will drive a surge of families and seniors to Mission Granbury's food pantry for help.

***

Members of Granbury High School's JROTC Program members are standing proud after receiving a special letter of recognition from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Association.

According to Senior Marine Instructor Scott Casey, the letter designated the program as an official "Marine Corps Reserve Association Unit" for the 2024-25 school year.

***

A four-hour, 15-minute meeting of Hood County Commissioners Court largely was focused on public concerns related to the Marathon bitcoin mining operation and potential data center and power plant construction in the area.

During the citizens comments section of the meeting, 12 people spoke, while during later portions of the meeting specifically related to development issues, 17 citizens were signed up to voice their views.

Nov. 8

What Marathon Digital Holdings could not stop in federal court, Hood County voters stopped at the ballot box — a plan to incorporate the Mitchell Bend area.

Voters opposed incorporation by an 86-52 vote — a margin of 62.32 percent to 37.68 percent.

***

Road improvements in Hood County received a massive boost Nov. 4 as did plans to upgrade the county jail thanks to the passage of two bond proposals with a combined $149 million price tag.

Voters approved a $124 million proposition to help fund road construction to alleviate the area's congested roads. Known as Proposition B, it received 8,790 votes in favor (61.06 percent) and 5,605 votes in opposition (38.94 percent). The funds are intended to help supplement additional state and federal funds for roadwork.

***

A blend of the familiar and the new reflected Granbury City Council election results Nov. 4, with Mayor Jim Jarratt retaining his post and Angela Parker being selected to join the council.

Jarratt, who campaigned on a platform of completing unfinished business, kept his leadership role, receiving 1,480 votes (57.72 percent), compared to 1,084 votes (42.28 percent) for challenger Trish Burwell. Burwell previously had served on the council.

Parker received 1,283 votes (53.02 percent) while David Farris received 1,137 votes (46.98 percent).

***

A trio of candidates were elected to the Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees Nov. 4,

PLEASE SEE YIR | A9



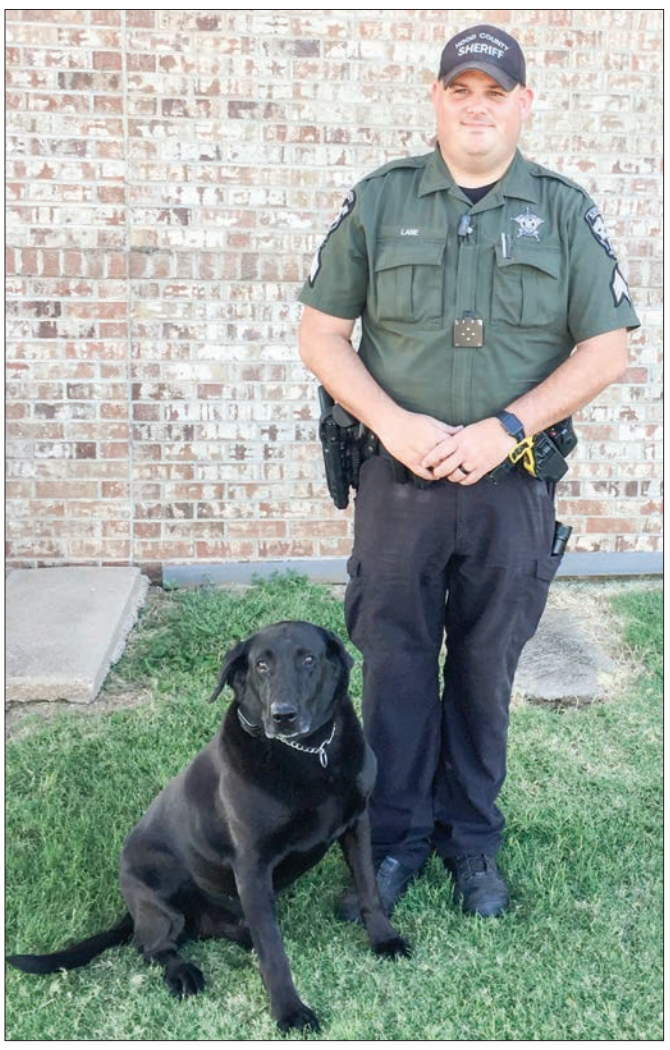
FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Mission Granbury board members throw the first shovelfuls of dirt, kicking off the construction of Mission Granbury's Marilyn Luton Annex Building.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of Solid Rock Global Methodist Church place flags on the graves of veterans.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lt. Josh Lane and narcotics dog Sam worked together to keep Hood County's streets clean, before Sam's passing earlier this year.

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 02 January 2026 - Thursday, 08 January 2026

Anaconda (PG13)
Friday - Wednesday:
10:35AM, 1:05PM, 3:35PM, 6:05PM, 8:35PM, 10:05PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG13)
Friday - Wednesday: 3:20PM, 6:00PM, 9:15PM
Thursday: 7:50PM

Avatar: Fire and Ash in 3D (PG13)
Friday - Sunday: 11:15AM, 7:25PM
Monday: 11:15AM
Tuesday & Wednesday: 11:15AM, 7:25PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 6:05PM

David (PG)
Friday - Wednesday: 10:15AM, 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:45PM

Primate (R)
Thursday: 7:00PM, 9:25PM

Song Sung Blue (PG13)
Friday - Sunday:
10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM
Monday: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:25PM, 9:35PM
Tuesday & Wednesday:
10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM

The Housemaid (R)
Friday - Wednesday:
10:10AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM, 10:10PM
Thursday: 3:15PM, 6:15PM, 9:15PM

Zootopia 2 (PG)
Friday - Wednesdy: 10:15AM, 12:50PM, 3:25PM
Thursday: 2:00PM, 4:30PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

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Cindy Tisdale*
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Hood County families have even more reason to turn to the top family lawyers in Texas.

GBA is proud to announce that Clayton Bryant has been promoted to Partner. We're also pleased to welcome Samantha Beirne to our Granbury office as an Associate Attorney. Both attorneys live in Granbury, bringing a personalized approach to their work with professionals, business owners, and high-net-worth individuals. Our growth in Granbury builds on the leadership of Cindy Tisdale, a Past-President of the State Bar of Texas, who has practiced in Granbury for more than 20 years. It's a strong team, made stronger by the state-wide resources of GBA, the largest family law firm in Texas. When you need family law counsel, rely on the attorneys who not only know the law, but also know Granbury like no others.

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Granbury chamber announces top nominees for Best of Business Awards

GUEST COLUMN
Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the top three nominees in each category for the 2025 Best of Business Awards. Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan, 29, 2026, at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center — the presenting sponsor of this year's celebration.

Step back in time and swing into Granbury Gatsby, where the spirit of the Roaring '20s comes alive. Leave the stresses of everyday life behind and enter a world of vintage glamour, sparkling celebration and timeless elegance. This dazzling night will be filled with lively laughter, decadent cuisine, classic cocktails, and an atmosphere inspired by the jazz-age charm and sophistication of the 1920s.

The dress code for the evening is "Gatsby Glam," inviting guests to don their finest flapper dresses, feathered headpieces, sharp suits, suspenders, bow ties or elegant business/cocktail attire. Dress to impress and embrace the glitz and glamour of a bygone era.

In addition to recognizing outstanding businesses and leaders, this year's banquet also will feature a special tribute honoring our outgoing chair of the board of directors and a formal welcome of our incoming chair, celebrating their leadership and service to the chamber and community.

A fair and fabulous selection process

In true Roaring '20s fashion, the excitement began with nominations from the heart of our community. Submissions poured in from Granbury residents and business leaders eager to recognize those making a meaningful impact.

New for this year's celebration

This year introduces an exciting enhancement to the Best of Business Awards. All top three nominees in each category will be recognized during the banquet for their exceptional accomplishments. The winner in each category will be revealed live that evening, adding to the anticipation — with the exception of Ambassador of the Year, which already has been announced.

Nominations were collected from the general public, then carefully reviewed by the Best of Business Banquet Committee to ensure eligibility and adherence to award criteria. Final selections were determined through a blind vote by the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, preserving fairness, transparency and integrity throughout the process.

Straight from the speakeasy spotlight — the nominees are

Join us in celebrating the businesses and leaders who exemplify excellence, innovation and commitment to our community. The top three nominees for 2025, listed in alphabetical order, are:

Small Business of the Year
- Aviva Granbury Senior Living
- Caring Transitions
- Glenn Aire Company

Large Business of the Year
- Constellation Energy/ Wolf Hollow II
- Kroger
- United Cooperative Services

Rising Star Award
- 817 Print
- Four Pillars Hospice
- Options Plumbing

Rising Leader of Granbury Award
- Crystal Moore, United Way
- Kathy Cheek, Century 21 Judge Fite
- Shane Deshoutel, First National Bank

Women in Business of the Year
- Charlotte Kuykendall, Holiday Inn Express & Suites Granbury
- Jacque Gordon, Keller Williams Brazos West
- Michelle Lucero, First National Bank

Ambassador of the Year 2025 Award Recipient:
- Jordan Porter, VYBE Marketing

Howard Clemmons Person of the Year
- Steve Berry, Steve Berry Auction Services, Keller Williams Brazos West
- Tom Loughrey, Taco Casa
- Vicki Nivens, Hard Eight BBQ, Hotel Lucy, The Pearl

These distinguished awards honor the dedication, leadership and vision of the individuals and businesses who make Granbury a vibrant place to live, work and thrive.

The Annual Best of Business Awards Banquet is more than a celebration — it is an opportunity to network, build meaningful relationships and look ahead to the future of our dynamic business community.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses seeking valuable exposure while supporting the continued growth and prosperity of Granbury. For sponsorship information, please contact Taylor Hatfield at 817-573-1622 or taylor@granburychamber.com.

Individual tickets are $100 through Jan. 9 or $150 after Jan. 9, and may be purchased online at granburychamber.com.

Let's make Granbury Gatsby the talk of the town. Join us for an evening of jazz-age elegance, celebration and community pride — where Granbury's best and brightest take center stage. We can't wait to celebrate with you.



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce help with distributing Meals on Wheels for clients recently.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce celebrates Super Lamb's relocation with a ribbon cutting Dec. 19 at 219 E. Pearl St. C107.

YIR

FROM PAGE A7

with Calvin Lawrence, Stuart Neal and Barbara Townsend getting chosen by voters.

Lawrence was elected to Place 5 on the Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees. He received 6,794 votes (55.58 percent), defeating Monica Brown, who received 5,429 votes (44.42 percent).

Townsend was re-elected to Place 6 on the GISD board. She received 6,983 votes (56.78 percent), defeating David Rogers, who received 5,315 votes (43.22 percent).

Neal was elected to Place 7 on the GISD board. He received 6,593 votes (54.27 percent), defeating Jessica Wark, who received 5,555 votes (45.73 percent).

***

Hood County residents soon will be able to stay much closer to home to shop at Academy Sports & Outdoors and Hobby Lobby. There also are reports two well-known restaurants are considering Granbury locations.

Both of those stores have been officially confirmed for the area, adding convenience for local shoppers.

***

Granbury Regional Airport's Aviation Director Cody Mathis and supporters of the airport were flying high Nov. 4 with the approval of a bid award of more than $1.5 million for facility improvements.

Granbury City Council approved a bid for $1,597,531 for concrete pavement from Granbury Excavating Inc., authorizing City Manager Chris Coffman to execute the agreement.

The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded a $1.54 million grant to the city for the improvements. That grant will cover most of the cost of the planned upgrades.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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

Nov. 15

Following the SNAP benefit cuts enacted Nov. 3 by President Trump, food banks across the country have been scrambling to figure out how they are going to keep their patrons fed — and Hood County's food banks are no exception.

To address these issues, the Hood County commissioners met for an emergency special meeting Nov. 6, with discussion centered around whether or not the county could provide the $100,000 needed to provide emergency food assistance to local food pantries for the next two weeks.

***

Riley Stephens Memorial VFW Post 7835 hosted a Veterans Day Breakfast Sunday, Nov. 9. The event was free for all veterans, and everyone was invited to join in honoring heroes with a hearty breakfast. It provided a wonderful opportunity for good company, great fellowship and a celebration of those who have served and continue to serve our country.

Among the honored guests was World War II Navy Veteran Clinton McIntire, who celebrated his 99th birthday June 19. He lives on a farm in the Paluxy area of Hood County.

***

Kolton Krottinger, who posts on a social media site that includes news about Hood County, was arrested Nov. 5 and faces potential charges of online impersonation.

Krottinger allegedly posted a meme on Facebook that showed a local woman supporting a political candidate she says she does not support.

The case was dismissed in December.

Nov. 22

The kids of STEAM Academy at Mambrino are floating — well, not in the air. Recreating Macy's famous Thanksgiving Day Parade has become a tradition for teacher Tina Turnage's elementary art classes, revered across the campus by students and teachers alike. This is the seventh year of the tradition.

Each fall, the students spend two weeks learning all about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and everything that goes into its production, Turnage said. They then get to design their own contributions to their very own "parade," with the younger students creating the floats and buildings, and the fourth- and fifth-graders receiving the ultimate honor of crafting the balloons.

***

Frank Sinatra famously sang a song titled "Fly Me to the Moon" in 1964, but for 2023-24 the Granbury Independent School District's transportation department traveled that distance and back three times.

That's a detail that GISD Transportation Director Brian Caruthers provided during a report to the GISD Board of Trustees during their Nov. 17 meeting.

Nov. 29

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce marked a new chapter of its history Friday, Nov. 21, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating its new office building, located at 301 S. Morgan St.

Chamber staff and members, local leaders and friends gathered to celebrate the occasion with the chamber, resulting in a full-blown party complete with live music from former Mayor Nin Hulett, a catered meal and speeches.

Dec. 6

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

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

Dec. 13

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

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

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

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

PLEASE SEE YIR | A12

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Court recognizes Flores, Victim Assistance Program

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Reaching out to help people who are experiencing some of the darkest moments of their lives is the mission of Mary Flores, who works closely with the Hood County Sheriff's Office's local Victim Assistance Program.

While Flores was honored during a Dec. 19, 2025, meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court, she made sure to shine the spotlight on two churches and two other nonprofit gorganizations for their sustained contributions — Lakeside Baptist Church, Granbury Church of Christ, the Hood County Children's Charity Fund and the Salvation Army of Hood County.

"They have given 10 years of financial support and a lot of dedication to those we serve," Flores said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said Flores' work has made a tremendous difference in people's lives, and Sheriff Roger Deeds said the efforts she has made are invaluable to helping crime victims recover and get their lives back in order.

"She is also involved with the SART — the Sexual Assault Response Team — and does a fabulous job for the county," Massingill said.

Flores said the Victim Assistance Program has been involved with 4,499 cases in the past decade and submits a quarterly report to the Texas Attorney General's Office.

"We serve by phone calls, walk-ins, social media and out in the field," Flores said. "We respond to crimes that include homicides, sexual assault, family violence and other things.

"I alone cannot accomplish this without the help and support of others, including churches and nonprofits," she said, adding volunteers help with numerous needs, including prayer.

"It's important for people to be aware of the support we receive," Flores said.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, Mary Flores with the Victim Assistance Program and Sheriff Roger Deeds recognize Charlotte Kuykendall and the Hood County Children's Charity Fund for their contributions to the program.



Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, Mary Flores with the Victim Assistance Program and Sheriff Roger Deeds recognize Jonna Eccles and Pastor Scott Thibodeaux of Granbury Church of Christ for their church's contributions to the program.



Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds recognize Mary Flores for 10 years of dedicated service to the Hood County Sheriff's Office's Victim Assistance Program.



Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, Mary Flores with the Victim Assistance Program and Sheriff Roger Deeds recognize Sharlinda Bedford and the Salvation Army of Hood County for their contributions to the program.



Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, Mary Flores with the Victim Assistance Program and Sheriff Roger Deeds recognize Vicki Allstot and Pastor Paul Rummage of Lakeside Baptist Church for their church's contributions to the program.

Plaque to recognize courthouse honor from 1974

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Capitalizing on the old expression, "Better late than never," Brian Gaffin of the Bridge Street History Center asked for — and received — permission from Hood County Commissioners Court to place a plaque at the Hood County Courthouse recognizing its national attention received in 1974.

The courthouse was the first in Texas to receive historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior more than five decades ago. The plaque will be installed at the south entrance on the historic courthouse grounds, east of the steps. All costs of the project, which were not yet available, will be paid for by the history center.

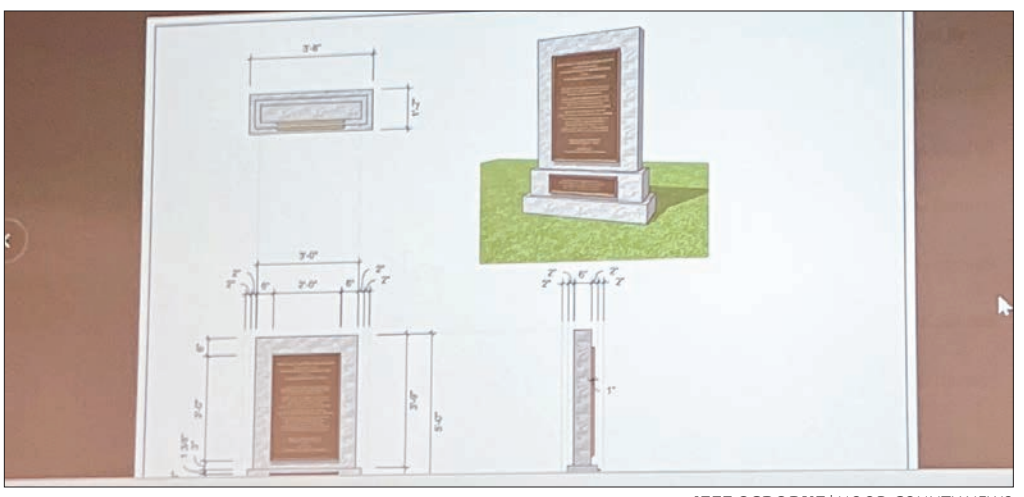
"This will be across from the Victory or Death Letter of (Alamo leader William) Travis," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said.

"We preserve and protect life stories of people who have grown up or lived in Hood County for a significant period of time," Gaffin said. "I realize this is 52 years late. It's been ignored for 52 years — we feel like it's important."

Gaffin said it will likely take a couple of months to get the bronze plaque, which will be placed at the courthouse, adding the community will be able to celebrate the milestone "maybe sometime in late February (2026)."

Massingill said Gaffin designed the plaque.

"Being an architect gives you a special perspective of how something should look and where it ought to be," Massingill said.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A graphic presented at the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Dec. 19 shows an artist's rendition of a historic plaque that will be located in early 2026 at the Hood County Courthouse.





Brian Gaffin of the Bridge Street History Center speaks to Hood County Commissioners Court about plans for a commemorative plaque recognizing the national importance of the Hood County Courthouse back in 1974.

Texas history takes the stage: 'The Lion of Texas' comes alive at Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON
micky@hcnews.com

Granbury may be where Texas history lives, but the Granbury Opera House is where it comes to life.

The stage of the historic Granbury Opera House will echo with the voice, wit and wisdom of one of the most towering figures in Texas history Jan. 16-17, when "The Lion of Texas: A Conversation with Sam Houston" takes audiences on a deeply personal journey through the life and legacy of the man who helped shape a state.

This is not a dusty history lesson or a recitation of dates and battles. Instead, "The Lion of Texas" is a lively, funny and often moving one-man show that invites audiences to spend an evening with Sam Houston himself — seeing Texas through his eyes, hearing his stories, and feeling the pride, struggle and determination that defined both the man and the state he helped build.

The show is written and performed by Sam Houston, publisher of the Hood County News, who brings the legendary general, statesman and Texas icon vividly to life. Houston, who led the Texian Army to victory at the Battle of San Jacinto and later served as president of the Republic of Texas, governor and U.S. senator, emerges not as a marble statue from a textbook, but as a flesh-and-blood human being — brilliant, flawed, humorous and deeply committed to his vision of Texas.

Houston said the inspiration for the show came from another legendary one-man performance.

"Many years ago, I saw Hal Holbrook perform his award-winning one-man show, Mark Twain Tonight," Houston said. "I was fascinated by the production, but I immediately thought the story of Sam Houston and Texas would be even more entertaining, so I vowed that one day I would write the play and perform it."

That vow became "The Lion of Texas," a show that has resonated with audiences across the state.

"It has been tremendously rewarding to see such a warm response from audiences across the state," Houston said. "Clearly, the show touches on emotions and feelings of pride, which all of us Texans carry with us."

Those emotions aren't accidental. The show blends humor, surprising historical details, and powerful storytelling to create an experience that feels both intimate and inspiring. Audiences don't just learn about Texas history — they feel it.

And the authenticity of the performance has earned praise from those with the closest ties to the man himself.

"The audience has found the show tremendously entertaining," Houston said. "I have performed before four direct descendants of Gen. Sam, and it was exciting to hear them voice such strong support and approval. They indicated they felt like their famous ancestor was in the same room with them."

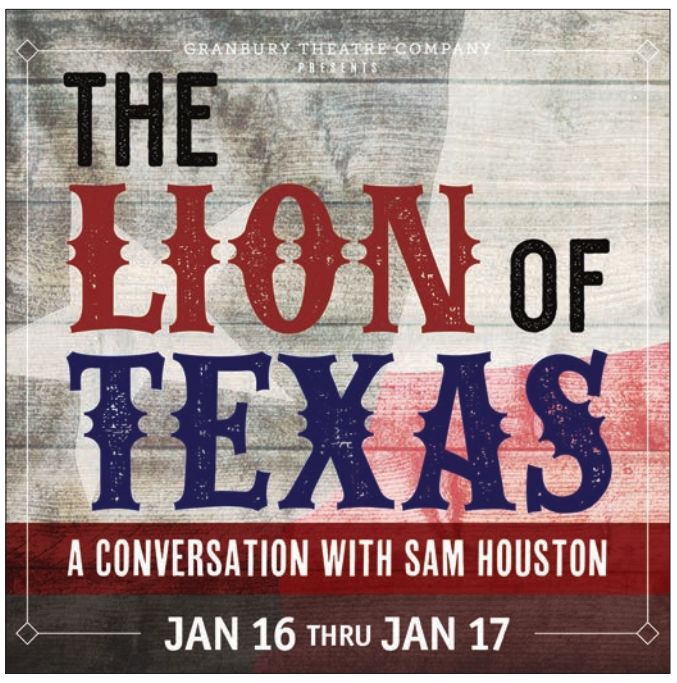
That sense of presence — of history stepping off the page and onto the stage — is what makes this production such a perfect fit for the Granbury Opera House. With its rich heritage and intimate setting, the venue allows audiences to connect directly with the story in a way that feels immediate and unforgettable.

"The Lion of Texas: A Conversation with Sam Houston" will be presented for three performances:

- Friday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Performances take place at the Granbury Opera House, located at 133 E. Pearl St. in Granbury.

Tickets are available online at granburytheatrecompany.org or by phone at 817-579-0952 through Granbury Theatre Company.



If people love Texas history, powerful storytelling, or simply a great night at the theatre, this is a show not to be missed. Come laugh, reflect and feel the pride of Texas brought vividly to life on one of the state's most beloved stages.

Seats are limited — so don't wait. Get tickets now and experience The Lion of Texas at the Granbury Opera House, where Texas history doesn't just live … It comes to life.

You made Santa and Mrs. Claus say, 'Awwwww'

Santa, Mrs. Claus and all the elves chose one letter out of the more than 1,200 submitted to Santa as the cutest. Xavier, a first-grader in Granbury ISD, won the "Awwwww" Award and wins $100 and four ice-skating tickets to the Stockyards Rodeo Rink. This year Hood County News published the Letters to Santa on its website. Couto Homes was the title sponsor of the project. You can still check them out at hcnews.com.





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Young Xavier, a first-grader in Granbury ISD, picking up his winnings from the 2025 "Awwwww" Award.

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Make 2026 the year you take control of your health

GUEST COLUMN
Lake Granbury Medical Center

The New Year often brings the hope of a fresh start. If you've been struggling with weight, persistent dieting without long-term success or health issues tied to obesity, then resolving to reclaim your health in 2026 may be your smartest decision yet.

At Lake Granbury Medical Center's Bariatric Surgery Center in Granbury, we believe weight-loss surgery is a powerful, life-changing tool that can unlock health, mobility and confidence, when paired with ongoing support.

Why now?

More than one-third of American adults struggle with obesity. Extra weight can raise the risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, joint pain and heart disease. If diets and exercise plans haven't produced long-term success, making a different kind of resolution this year may be the answer.

What we offer, right here at home

Our program is recognized as a Blue Distinction Bariatric Surgery Center and has earned the Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval. Board certified general and bariatric surgeon Todd Belott, MD, FACS, FASMBS leads our program along with an experienced team dedicated to long-term patient success.

"Bariatric surgery isn't about giving up. It's about giving yourself a real chance. When patients pair the procedure with healthy habits and long-term support, we see life-changing improvements in health, energy and confidence," Dr. Belott said.

A note on popular weight-loss injections

New weight-loss injections, including GLP-1 medications such as semaglutide and tirzepatide, have gained enormous attention. They can be helpful for some patients, but they come with important limitations.

These medications require consistent, long-term use to maintain results. Once stopped, weight regain is extremely common. Studies show while GLP-1 therapy may help patients lose around 10 percent of their body weight, bariatric surgery typically delivers far greater and significantly more durable weight loss, often in 25- to 30-percent range or more. With surgery, many obesity-related conditions also improve or resolve, and long-term outcomes are stronger overall.

For the right candidate, bariatric surgery remains the gold standard for the most effective and lasting weight-loss results.

Am I a candidate?

You might be a good fit if:

- Your BMI is 35 or higher, or 30+ with obesity-related conditions
- You've tried other weight-loss methods without lasting success
- You're motivated to make lifestyle changes and follow up regularly

Surgical and non-surgical options

Our team will help determine the option that fits your health needs and goals. We offer:

- Gastric Sleeve
- Gastric Bypass (Roux-en-Y)
- Revisional Bariatric Surgery
- Gastric Band Care & Removal
- Medical, non-surgical weight-management support

More than weight loss

Patients often experience improvement or resolution in:

- Type 2 diabetes
- High blood pressure and cholesterol
- Sleep apnea
- Joint pain and mobility
- Day-to-day energy and confidence

The journey

Our process includes:

- Medical consultation and assessment
- Nutrition and lifestyle preparation
- Minimally invasive surgery
- Long-term follow-up and support

A resolution worth keeping

If your goal this year is a healthier, more confident version of yourself, consider making 2026 the year you take action. The real question isn't whether you can change, but whether you're ready to take a step that finally works.

To learn whether bariatric surgery at Lakeside Physicians is right for you, start with our online bariatric assessment at lakegranburymedical.com/WeightLoss or register for an online seminar. You also can call (817) 579-7562 to schedule a consultation.

YIR
FROM PAGE A9

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

***

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

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

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

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

Dec. 20

Granbury City Council approved nearly $10 million for four combined projects to relocate water and sewer lines which will be affected by road construction along U.S. Highway 377.

The work is in conjunction with the Highway 377 expansion and the total cost is expected to be $9,991,133.25, with an additional contingency amount of $2 million set aside.

***

A Granbury High School student was caught in a nightmare scenario last school year. He was confronted by angry people he didn't even know accusing him of posting negative things about them on social media.

Not only was the accused teen innocent of the crime, he hadn't even met his accusers before they confronted him. This dilemma continued for several weeks, but finally, thanks to the diligence of the Granbury Police Department and Granbury Independent School District employees, the mystery was solved.

***

U.S. Marine Corps veteran David Roeder has been down on his luck for a while, but despite his struggles he's been taking care of elderly family and assisting other needy veterans.

One of his largest hurdles in helping others was his elder vehicle that had about 220,000 miles on it and was not very dependable. However, Dec. 10, Midas in Granbury fixed that with a donation of a refurbished Toyota Camry as part of the nationwide Midas Project Spark, which helps deserving veterans and families get back on the road to independence.



FILE PHOTO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Volunteer Fire Department members of the year for 2025, from left, are Brian Serratelli, Ami Bush, Eric Fleckenstein and Carter Chance.



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Hood County News

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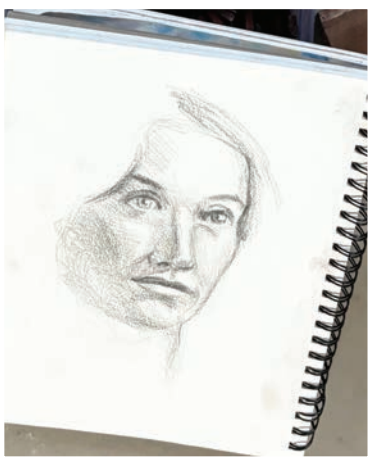
GRANBURY ★ CRESSON ★ TOLAR ★ LIPAN

B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

Last Saturday Gallery Night at the Shanley House 'draws' handful of artists







CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The LGAA portrait group usually meets every Monday morning but wanted to add on an extra day once a month to accommodate the schedules of additional community members.

CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The LGAA portrait group is for anybody — from the area's best portraitists to emerging artists who have never held a charcoal.

COURTESY PHOTO

Artists of the Lake Granbury Art Association's Portrait group are initiating a new event, the Last Saturday Gallery Night, where the gallery's current exhibitions are on display to the public, as well as a demonstration of the portraitists drawing from life.

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

The portrait group of the Lake Granbury Art Association is opening the doors of the Shanley House Gallery once a month for Last Saturday Gallery Night, a free opportunity where guests are welcomed to explore the gallery's current exhibitions and watch as the group draws or paints a community member from life.

The group routinely meets privately every Monday morning, and wishes to extend that schedule to include this new gallery night for several reasons: so that people who wish to draw from life but work a regular 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. can participate in the group; to source more models to draw; and to invite members of the community to watch a traditionally closed practice.

Each gallery night will be from 5-8 p.m., with the live portrait drawing happening for two hours within that timeframe. In addition to the exhibition, wine and charcuterie are offered to all in attendance.

The next "Last Saturday" is scheduled for Jan. 31.

For updates about the LGAA and Last Saturday Gallery Night, please follow the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/LGAAShanleyHouseGallery.

A moment worth celebrating at Shanley Park

BY SHAY CUELLAR
shay@hcnews.com

A walk through Shanley Park begins not with a sculpture, but with sound. Water bubbles softly from the Jewel Ball Fountain, its steady rhythm cuts through the Texas heat.

Just past it, another bronze figure tells a story. *Silent Prey*, depicted as a Comanche warrior on horseback in battle with a puma; was crafted by Covelle Jones and arrests the eye with sudden tension. The sculpture captures both the strength and vulnerability of life on the frontier.

Nearby, the tone shifts. *Black Star*, also sculpted by Jones, stands with quiet authority. A Comanche healer and medicine woman who once lived near Comanche Peak, is portrayed not in battle, but in dignity.

And then, at the heart of the garden, a long-held dream will soon take shape — and the moment calls for celebration.

"This is a time to celebrate the goal we've reached. *Ranch Repose* — that's the name. It's time to celebrate that we've reached our goal and to thank the generosity of the bank and others who stepped up," said Jason Hodges, president of the Shanley Park Association.

That sense of gratitude is rooted in far more than a single gift. It reflects a relationship that stretches back decades — one defined by an all-hands-on-deck mindset and a shared belief that community spaces, art, and heritage matter. Few institutions embody that spirit more consistently than First National Bank, led by Vice President Jake Caraway, who made the contribution on behalf of the bank.

From the earliest days of Shanley Park, when the Shanley House and its surrounding 4.7 acres were at risk of being lost, the bank played a meaningful role. In the early 1970s, the property had fallen into disrepair. The owners lived out of state, the Shanley family was local, and the future of the land was uncertain. A group of concerned citizens stepped forward with a clear goal: preserve the property as permanent community green space.

That effort became formalized through the Hood County Bicentennial Commission, formed during the national Bicentennial movement. But vision alone wasn't enough — practical support was needed.

When funds were tight, the bank stepped in, assuming the note on the property after John S. Luton paid the note to the Shanley House, giving the committee time to work steadily toward repayment. Throughout the years, as the Shanley House was refurbished and adapted for community use, including time as a senior center. The bank remained involved, helping ensure the project stayed viable.

At the same time, the community did its part by raising funds through creative means, including the now-legendary buffalo burger fundraisers at Fourth of July celebrations. Together, grassroots efforts and institutional support secured the land, expanded it and locked in its purpose. The park's bylaws still clearly read that Shanley Park must remain community green space.

That same philosophy continues today.

First National Bank has embraced the idea that art belongs in everyday life. Walking through the bank's lobby feels less like entering a financial institution and more like stepping into a gallery — filled with paintings and sculptures by local, regional and nationally recognized artists. This commitment to the arts has been part of the bank's identity for generations, reflecting a belief that creativity strengthens community.

That same spirit carried on into the completion of *Ranch Repose*, the bronze sculpture honoring Western sculptor and community promoter Dan Coates — a founder in spirit and action. As the park's 50th anniversary approached, the board recommitted to finishing what had been a dream. Work on the sculpture began several years ago, as early as 2018, with Coates' close friend and local artist, Mike Tabor, donating his time and artist's fee entirely. Tabor described Coates as, "An uncle figure, that was a great resource for me in navigating this world," and has incorporated a subtle detail into the statue he calls "The Dan Coates Stance."

"I don't think most people will notice or remember, but Dan always turned his right foot in when he was standing there talking to you. It was just a little thing he did. It was the thing that made him unique," Tabor said.

However, timing mattered. Foundry costs were rising. Contracts needed to be secured. A major bill came due. The board moved forward in faith — and once again, First National Bank stepped in at exactly the right moment along with others in the community.

Their contribution, alongside the personal generosity of John Henry Luton; Caraway; Dominic Inge, in memory of her beloved husband Charles Inge; along with a generous contribution from the Granbury Arts Alliance, among others pushed the project across the finish line. Years of quiet work, patience and hope suddenly became real.

"It's been a dream since 2018," Hodges said. "And now it's happening."

This is the time to celebrate — and to say, "Thank you."

For nearly 50 years, Shanley Park has been a joyful reminder of what a caring, close-knit community can accomplish together.



COURTESY PHOTO

A model of the future Ranch Repose statue honoring Dan Coates



COURTESY PHOTO

Ready to cook some buffalo burgers during the 1988 Granbury July Fourth celebration, from left, are Darrell Morgan, Jake Caraway, John Henry Luton, Craig Davis and daughter, Danny Reed, James Hodges, Kent Reeves, Greg Warren, John Cox and Jerry Don Hodges.

Crystal Kemper is 'A.C.E.s'



Crystal Kemper

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

Crystal is an English language arts teacher at Acton Elementary School. She was nominated by student Jesse Melancon.

Jesse has this to say about Crystal: "What makes Mrs. Kemper extraordinary is her patience to help people. She is very understanding and makes sure you know what you are learning/doing. Mrs. Kemper is also extremely kind. She knows when you're off, and she makes sure you feel better. She loves teaching; she is doing what she was called to do. She is a phenomenal teacher."

About A.C.E.

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

--Nancy Pricer

TACO CASA

Lady Pirates soccer is quick to return for the 2026 season

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lady Pirate soccer returned in the new year with the season starting Jan. 2 in Stephenville. David Winkleman returns for his 33rd year at Granbury High school and 21st year as head coach.

Last season ended in the bi-district round to the state runner-up Colleyville Heritage. To keep up the competition, the pre-district and scrimmages are against tough opponents such as Everman, Abilene Wylie and Waxahachie. Playing tougher competition is expected to help get them ready for district opponents.

Winkleman was excited with how many athletes showed up to his summer soccer camp.

"Summer camp was great. We have a great crop of freshmen this year, girls who can play at a high level," Winkleman said.

Conditioning and speed were focuses for the players while Winkleman emphasized the structure of his team's attitude.

"We got stronger and faster. We improved our touch. We worked hard this off season. Coaches work hard to maintain a culture of resilience, hard work and team-oriented players," Winkleman said. "I am excited about our leadership from our seniors and about our young players. I am excited about the players who we share with basketball. I think we have great character and are a great bunch of young women who play hard."

The team leadership coming from the returners is "great." He's also impressed with Molly Thompson and Jillian Williams who will be splitting time between soccer and basketball.

"We've got great leadership and blazing speed with our returning captain, CJ Burnfield, and Ari Gamez is also speedy and effective," Winkleman said. "They play well together. Jill Williams and Molly Thompson, who are splitting time with basketball, are real threats on the pitch. We've got a back line that is playing well and really works hard to cover each other led by Esperanza Trujillo, Presley Davila, Addy Clark and Allie Oelschig," Winkleman said. "I am super excited about our middies. Betsy Sanchez, Ava Stein, Braelyn Desormeaux, Brooke Crump and outstanding play as a defensive mid, Emilee Walls. Backing all of them up is our starting keeper, junior letterman Zoey Dunagan. She just keeps getting better and better."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Lady Pirates soccer team members, front row from left are Elyse Jernigan, Braelyn Desormeaux, Carly Jo Burnfield, Presley Davila, Allie Oelschig, Emilee Walls, Avery Crump, Ari Gamez, Ava Stein, Brooke Crump, Betsy Sanchez, Kylie Ortiz. Back row are Elizabeth Damian, Zoey Dunagan, Ruth Power, Mamie Moore, Addison Clark, Esperanza Trujillo, Emily Hernandez. Managers Riley Breeden, Kaylin Quicksall and Chance Chandler. Not Pictured are Jillian Williams and Molly Thomas.

Every team is different year to year and for the 2025-26 team, they traded size for speed. Winkleman said he wants this year's team to be dynamic when they attack the goal with multiple threats. This team should be able to finish around the goal from two touches.

Returning starters are Dunagan in goal, Davila centerback, Crump attacking middle, Burnfield striker, Oelschig outside back, Clark defensive middle and centerback, Stein middle, Sanchez middle and Walls defensive middle. Other returning players are Desormeaux, Esperanza Trujillo, Ari Gamez, Ruth Power and Kylie Ortiz.

Winkleman has his eyes set on Aledo as the team to beat as they return almost everyone from last year. There are no easy wins for the Lady Pirates as everyone in district play is a threat. To get through district, he wants his team to have each other's back and be good teammates. If they can do that, they should "score a lot of goals and allow nothing," he said.

The defense will be team-oriented with three different formations available for the team to switch between to put high pressure on their opponents. A former Lady Pirate athlete and disciple of Winkleman has returned to Granbury and will be an assistant coach this year.

"We have a new assistant coach. JV Gold and assistant to varsity Kayla King (who played for me). I have returning Patricia Frey, the JV Purple head coach and varsity assistant," Winkleman said.

The goals for this year's team are simple — do well in district and the playoffs.

Pirates have their sights set on playoff soccer

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

After missing the playoffs in the final game of the season in win-or-go-home scenario, Granbury is looking to correct that result this year and make the playoffs. The Pirates are led by Joshua Croft who has been a high school soccer coach for six years and head coach at Granbury for two.

"We play in one of the toughest districts in the area. Saginaw made it all the way to the state semifinals last year, Aledo won the district and Chisholm Trail finished fourth and still went three rounds deep in the playoffs. We will see high-level competition every night," Croft said. "Our goal is to make the playoffs. It's a tough district, but we believe we can find a way to earn a spot."

For non-district play, Croft will challenge his team with two strong tournaments. One will be in Waco and the other Crowley. The goal of the tournaments are to get reps for the players and build the team's chemistry.

Croft held some summer soccer camps for athletes to practice, become more familiar with the sport or work on things they want to improve on for the upcoming season. These camps produced a "strong turnout." The numbers gave Croft hope about continuing the growth of his camps and getting athletes involved in soccer.

"This offseason, I attended several coaching clinics and studied different systems of play in preparation for the season. Got some great new drills and made some great connections with coaches who have more experience than me," Croft said.

Experience will be the biggest difference in this year's team compared to last year. The 2024-25 team graduated 17 seniors. With only seven seniors on the 2025-26 team, Croft will have to rely on a younger crop of players his year. While he thinks they are talented, they also have limited varsity experience. To keep some familiarity, they will use a "4-3-3" system on offense. With seven sophomores, eight juniors and one freshman, Croft expects some growing pains as his team matures throughout the year. Adjusting to the physicality and speed of more experienced teams will take time.

One returner is Junior Aiden Funez who won the District Goalkeeper of the year. He is a good returnering goalkeeper who Croft feels will bring a strong leading presence to the field and an anchor for the team. Senior Deklyn Caudle will be another leader and defensive anchor at center back.

Returning starters include Funez, Antonio Diaz and Eledoro Tovar. Varsity returners also include Caudle, Salvador Briones, Isai Garcia, Erick Esquivel and Conner Burdett.

"We have a lot of new players, but our entire coaching staff is returning. With it being year two for this staff, the players understand expectations better, and the program is running much more smoothly," Croft said.

Defense is the expected side he thinks the team will excel at.

"Defensively, we will stay organized and structured. Relying on our returning experience in the back line and our goalkeeper leadership to keep us solid," Croft said. "I think we will excel in our effort and on the defensive side of the field. We return a lot of experience in the back, and our younger players stepping into those roles are strong defensively as well."

There are a few young players he has identified as players who will have the opportunity to grow this season and improve.

"I am excited about a few younger players. Micah Macintyre, a sophomore center back who had an outstanding offseason and continues to work hard. I think he's primed to be a big-time player for us this year. Another player to watch is (Salvador) Briones, he was a role player last year as a sophomore and I believe he is ready to take a major step forward in the midfield. (Eledoro) Tovar and (Erick) Esquivel are poised to have strong senior seasons and provide exciting goals," Croft said.

The Pirate soccer season began at at Eagle Mountain high school Jan. 2 and their first home game will be 7 p.m. Jan. 13.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Pirates soccer team members, front row, from left, are Carson Duncan, Adan Espinosa, Conner Burdett, Erick Esquivel, Eledoro Tovar, Ismael Juarez, Alexander Tovar, Deklyn Caudle. Middle Row are Alexis Coronilla, Ismael Santos, Cecil Blum, Aiden Funez, Jeffery Bowerman, Isai Garcia and Salvador Briones; back row, Coach Joshua Croft, Manager Patrick Shelly, Micah Macintyre, Hayden Bowers, Samuel Herrera, Antonio Diaz, Maxx Litts, Coach Victor Sanchez and Coach Aaron Yates.







Tired of turkey and ham? *Three recipes for the holidays using fish*



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.

I know I have had my fair share of food this holiday season and the new year's resolution will be to shed some of those added pounds. We are so blessed in this country to have essentially anything we want. Others are not so fortunate. However, there are times where the left-over turkey just does not sound desirable and maybe fish is good option for January.

Well, I'm not a chef but I will share the three recipes we typically use for fish. When the weather keeps us at home, you may consider preparing some of that fish you have in the freezer. Even better is fresh fish if you have some from a recent trip.

The first step to good tasting fish is to prepare your catch properly. Removing the bloodline and red meat in the fish will improve the taste, though some people like the red meat. I filet my striped and white bass and really any species in the same fashion, just as the boys down at the coast do. I use a large enough knife/blade suitable to cut through the rib cage of the fish. For a larger fish a serrated blade may be preferred If cutting though bones.

I cut behind the head and run my knife through the ribcage and along the backbone to the tail and stop before you cut through. I flip the filet and run my knife along the skin allowing the knife to be slightly above the skin to help remove the layer of red meat just under the surface of the skin. I then cutoff the ribcage and filet any remaining surface red meat. You can then notch the filet at the tail on either side of the bloodline and pull the bloodline out. It will pull right out, if you're not comfortable with that you can cut the bloodline out by notching the filet on each side of the bloodline.

Your finished filets should be rinsed thoroughly to remove any blood. Once you have your filets ready, you can use one of my simple recipes below. Don't forget to prepare your homemade hush puppies before you fry your fish. Pick up some Cajun hushpuppy mix and add jalapenos or whatever you desire.

For fried fish, which the kids prefer, I use a Louisiana type fish fry batter available at your grocer. Corn meal works great too. Heat your oil of choice to 375 degrees and coat the fish and fry. You can spice up your fish slightly by coating the filet with Tabasco sauce before rolling or shaking in the batter. This works on chicken also.

Broiling fish is easy and is real tasty. The first is to coat your filets with lemon and pepper or your choice of seasoning. We have used fajita seasoning in the past and it was great. Place your prepared filets in tin foil, add three tablespoons of butter and lemon juice and seal the foil and place on the grill until the fish is done. This is definitely a "Keto friendly" dish. Awesome eating.

The next recipe also is Keto friendly and is probably my favorite. Blackened fish is typically prepared outdoors so you don't smoke up the house. Use of an iron skillet is typically preferred. Dry the filet first and coat one side of the filet with butter or butter flavored cooking spray. Put your Cajun blackened seasoning on and put in the preheated iron skillet. Do the same to the other side of the filet. Cook until done turning once. This is a spicy dish and you may need to have some cold beverages available.

If you can even think about food after the holiday season, hopefully you can use these simple recipes. Enjoy.

Hood County fishing report

Water temperatures have been see-sawing from the low to upper 50s depending on the weather. The lake is close to full pool and clarity is good. There are some floating hazards on the upper ends due to water releases from the north. Fishing reports have been slow to fair for most species except for crappies. Crappies are good near submerged structure when baitfish are holding. Crappies are good on small jigs worked real slow. Best crappie reports are from in town and upstream. Striped bass are slow to fair on live bait and jigs worked in 20-30 feet of water on the lower ends from Striper Alley to the dam. Whitebass are slow but are suspended in the channel or near channel ledges from Sandy Point to Indian Harbor. Catfish action has been fair to good on cut bait fished on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Some good blue catfish catches have been reported near Wate's Edge. Largemouth bass are good on main lake points and near major creek entrances on soft plastics worked near drop-offs. Largemouth bass to 6lbs are possible when located. Some largemouth are being caught mixed in with the striped bass in deeper water.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to boast on excellent fishing for largemouth bass and eater sized channel catfish. Limits are common on many areas of this power plant lake. Tilapia are abundant and are good on worms fished under a cork.

White bass like it cold — spring runs beginning soon



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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



COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

Guide Brandon Sargent with his little "Deck Hand" daughter Brooklyn who is not only cute as a button but also a very experienced angler for someone of her tender years.

With the beginning of each year, I begin thinking about all the exciting things coming up in the outdoors. Muzzleloader deer season opens in a matter of days, and I have my CVA 50 caliber Optima all cleaned, sighted in and ready to go.

If there was an official hog hunting season it would begin with the close of whitetail season. I absolutely love hunting wild hogs year around, but there is no better time than cold weather for putting that great eating wild pork in the freezer. Spring turkey season only is three months away and there are not many things that gets my blood pumping like the sound of a big gobbler answering my call from back in the woods on a spring day when the woods are adorned with those first touches of green.

The first fishing event of the year, other than fishing stocked ponds and city lakes for rainbow trout, is the white bass run. I look forward to fishing creeks above our many lakes with healthy white bass populations during the spring "run," which often begins in early February and lasts through April. But there is no better time than the present to stock the freezer or have a fish fry of freshly caught white bass fillets.

This past week, I joined Lake Ray Hubbard guide Brandon Sargent with Lead Slinger's Guide Service and good friend Jeff Rice for some fast-paced white bass catching. This time of year, white bass stack up on the lower end of lakes in huge schools and go on a feeding frenzy in preparation for their spawn. In a few weeks, depending on weather and rainfall, they will begin their annual migration up toward the creeks and rivers that feed the lake but right now the majority of "whites" can be found in the lower lake and catching can be red hot.

As Brandon eased "Big Bertha," his big guide, out of Sapphire Bay Marina, he gave Jeff and I a preview of how he expected the morning to go. "We will fish the lower lake, and I'll be looking for huge balls of baitfish (shad) in water around 20 feet deep. Find a heavy concentration of bait and we will find the white bass. Let's head to a spot that has been packed with both white bass and baitfish. I've been limiting out in this area on most recent trips; occasionally it's necessary to move a bit to keep up with the fish but the area has been consistent for catching jumbo size white bass with many in the 14-16-inch range."

As we approached the area he had been fishing, the GPS trail on his graph looked like a bowl of spaghetti. It was obvious he had spent a great deal of time in these few acres of the lake the past few trips.

We didn't begin fishing immediately, Brandon studied his sonar carefully and we watched several small balls of bait pass below the boat. He said we could catch a few fish from these small schools but not the mother lode would be holding around the big concentrations of bait.

After a few minutes of searching, he activated the Spot Lock that keeps the boat perfectly positioned, turned on his BoBo's thumper and the little trolling motor that churns the water on the surface. Game fish are attracted to the thumping sound and the water churning on the surface helps trigger the bite. One the screen of his forward-facing sonar, clouds of white bass began to show, many in a vertical pattern that indicated feeding fish.

We were using half-ounce lead slabs Brandon custom builds and the drill was to position the baits just above the fish and slowly crank them up, mimicking a baitfish fleeing for its life. Nearly every strike came as the fish came from below to catch the bait. For many years, I've caught white bass in the dead of winter by keeping slabs right on bottom. Back in the days before modern sonar, we had no idea they would chase baits vertically up the water column in the winter when the water was cold.

I tried my old winter pattern of dropping the slab to bottom and just holding it there, giving a slight jiggle to the rod to imitate a wounded shad but nary a bite. I have no explanation as to why this old method did not produce but I didn't stick with it very long, the whites wanted a vertical presentation and that's what we gave them.

Ray Hubbard first was stocked with pure strain striped bass back in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s before learning hybrid stripers were a better choice for inland lakes. I caught my very striped bass back in the early 1980s very close to where we were fishing. Many younger anglers or newcomers to Ray Hubbard have no idea the lake used to provide good striper fishing.

Back 20 years ago, RH produced lots of big hybrid stripers, a cross between a pure striper and white bass, I've caught a lot of hybrids here in the 6-10-pound range, mostly on live perch or shad. Thanks to a recent aggressive stocking program by TPWD, it's again common to catch hybrids, we landed several on this trip that were just under the legal limit of 18 inches.

Hybrids are fun to catch and great table fare, before long, possibly next summer, these hybrids will be of legal length. Right not, it's important to check your catch carefully when white bass fishing. It's easy to mistake a 15-inch egg laden white bass for a hybrid striper.

We kept enough of the white bass for a great meal of tasty fish tacos back at the marina, prepared by Chef Brandon.

The key to a good tasting white bass fillet is to remove the red meat. The fillets on larger white bass have a thin layer of red meat on the outside of the fillet which easily can be trimmed by leaving the fillet knife blade an eighth inch or so above the skin side of the fillet. Properly trimmed white bass are great tasting fish and it takes little time to trim the red meat.

Brandon also is doing evening wild hog hunts near Crandall using thermal scopes around corn feeders. To learn more about his fishing and hog hunts, contact Lead Slingers Guide Service at 469-989-1010.

Listen to Luke's weekly radio show/podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton" just about everywhere podcast are found. Email Luke through his website catfishardio.org.

Coach Branson captures 500 career wins

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

After wining Dec. 29, Lipan girls basketball coach and athletic director Amber Branson achieved her 500th career victory.

Lipan was 15-4 going into the Tenaha ISD Holiday Hoops tournament from Dec. 29-31. The Lady Indians defeated Sabine 86-22 to secure Branson's 500th win. Branson is in her 19th year at Lipan and 18th as head coach where she has won three state championships across class 2A and 1A and led multiple deep playoffs runs.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lipan girls head coach Amber Branson leads a timeout with senior Finley Shockley.



JOSH BURTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Amber Brason adjusts her teams plan in a timeout. Branson is in her 19th year at Lipan and 18th as head coach where she has won three state championships across class 2A and 1A and led multiple deep playoffs runs.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan. 3

Granbury Live presents Windbreakers "Yacht Rock" Tribute at 7 p.m. The group is a distinctly smooth "Yacht Rock" tribute dedicated to resurrecting the best music ever to hit the airwaves — 1970s and 1980s "AM Gold." The Windbreakers are all multi-instrumentalists and lead vocalists who harmonize magnificently together. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

The Opera Guild will hold their January meeting at De Cordova Bend Country Club, located at 5301 Country Club Drive. Check in and social time will begin at 10 a.m., entertainment from singer/guitarist Nin Hulet will begin at 11 a.m., the business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by an optional lunch at noon. ($20 per plate) The guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

Friday, Jan. 9

Granbury Live presents ZZ Tex/Kraig Parker ZZ Top Tribute at 7 p.m. It's fuzzy guitars, long beards and cheap sunglasses. Experience the explosive sound, look and style of that iconic band from Texas, ZZ TOP. It's ZZ TEX, one of the nation's premier tribute acts. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

Saturday, Jan. 10

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

Monday, Jan. 12

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

***

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

Tuesday, Jan. 13

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

Friday, Jan. 16

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

Saturday, Jan. 17

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

Friday, Jan. 23

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

***

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

Saturday, Jan. 24

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

***

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

Sunday, Jan. 25

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

ONGOING

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

Mondays

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Tuesdays

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

***

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

Wednesdays

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

***

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

Wednesdays, Saturdays

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

Thursdays

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

***

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

***

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

First Mondays

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

***

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

Second Mondays

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

Third Mondays

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

***

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

***

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

First Tuesdays

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

Second Tuesdays

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

Third Tuesdays

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

Fourth Tuesdays

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

***

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

Third Wednesdays

Lake Granbury Area Master Gardeners meet at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month except December; meetings begin with a one-hour educational horticultural program, which is free and open to the public. Location typically is 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 at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

Third Thursdays

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

***

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

Last Thursdays

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

Fridays, Saturdays

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

Second Saturdays

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

GRANBURY GONEBY



BY JOSH BURTON

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

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

Dec. 30, 1965

60 years ago

Judge Lloyd Musick is the first to authorize the News-Tablet to place his name in the political column., which begins in this issue and will be carried through the primaries. Judge Musick is serving as county judge and ex-officio county superintendent and is seeking reelection.

Three people were injured Dec. 22 7.5 miles south of Granbury along Highway 144. The accident involved a car and farm tractor. There was major damage to the car and tractor, according to Patrolman Alan Langston, who investigated the accident.

Telephone bills will be lower in January. Southwestern Bell customers will benefit from the reduced telephone excise tax beginning in January. All bills mailed after the first of the year will reflect the 7 percent excise tax reduction.

Dec. 29, 1985

40 years ago

Two men were in county jail Dec. 27 facing charges of both manufacturing and possessing amphetamine after an early morning drug lab raid. According to Hood County Sheriff's Investigator Larry Carter, Steven Rufus O'Neal, 23, and Richard Brian Devereaux, 26, were arrested during the raid at a small house along FM 167 between Acton and U.S. 377.

Hood County's first official sesquicentennial ceremony is set for Dec. 30 on the courthouse lawn. In honoring the state's 250th birthday, County Judge Milton Meyer will plant an oak tree in the shadow of the courthouse. The public is invited to attend the festivities.

A Fort Worth man, who fled Sept. 26 after being found guilty of a Dec. 1983 Hood County burglary, was in jail at press time Dec. 27 after being chased down in Fort Worth Dec. 28. According to Hood County Warrants Deputy Charlie Cloud, he and sheriff's Investigator Mike Stanley captured Glen Keith Watss, 30, at a northside residence.

Dec. 29, 2005

20 years ago

More than 100 Hood County volunteer firefighters battled a wildfire Dec. 27 that destroyed 21 homes, five out buildings, on travel trailer, an 18-wheeler and numerous vehicles. The fire destroyed 250 acres in southeastern Hood County.

Hood County residents will join people across the world ringing in 2006 at midnight Dec. 31. But there's a New Year's Eve tradition in Granbury that may be different from others. Saturday is the Southern Gospel New Year's Eve Concert and festive midnight prayer service. This year's concert at the Granbury Opera House features groups Kings River, Southern Charm, The Herrin Family and the Southern Joy Quartet.

Hood County animal control, 240 Bray St., is the place to go to locate pets displaced by the wildfires in the Canyon Creek area. Animal Control Director Beverly Hicks and Animal Control Officer Roy Fenwick rescued about 23 small animals.

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

***

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

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

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

***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CENTER MENU

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

Monday, Jan. 5
Honey garlic chicken with buttered new potatoes, roasted brussel sprouts and cinnamon pears

Tuesday, Jan. 6
Beef steak fingers with roasted garlic mashed potatoes and cream gravy, capri veggies, Texas toast and strawberry gelatin parfait

Wednesday, Jan. 7
Chicken and dumplings with a tossed salad, rolls and a salted caramel apple crisp

Thursday, Jan. 8
Herb baked chicken with mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, rolls and peaches with cream

Friday, Jan 9
Baked ham with black-eyed peas, seasoned okra, cornbread and pumpkin spice blondies

COURTESY PHOTO
Blessing of the Water is an ancient Christian celebration. Good Shepherd Anglican Church and the All-Holy Trinity Orthodox Church are celebrating a "Blessing of Lake Granbury at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Churches together blessing Lake Granbury

Good Shepherd Anglican Church and the All-Holy Trinity Orthodox Church would like to invite you to the first Blessing of Lake Granbury.

Every year we celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. Epiphany and Blessing of the Water is an ancient Christian celebration that goes back to Apostolic times and is one of the oldest and most important feast days. From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

The blessing will take place from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Granbury City Beach Park.

The service of the Great Blessing of Water itself reveals the meaning of the event for the Christian people. The readings from the Holy Scriptures, particularly the messianic words from the Prophecy of Isaiah, and the litanies and prayers and hymns all serve to tell us what the meaning of the Epiphany, and indeed of the whole Christian Faith, is for us men and for the entire world. For in the beginning the Voice of the Lord spoke, as at the time of Jesus' baptism, and "the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). The tradition is that anyone who wants to can take home some of the Holy Water, so we will have some special bottles for you or you can bring your own container.

The Good Shepherd Anglican and All-Trinity Orthodox churches are located on Fall Creek Highway next to the Acton State Historic Site where Elizabeth Crockett is buried, the smallest state park in Texas.

GHS All-District football awards

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Granbury Pirate football has seven All-district nominations to represent for their 2025 season. All-District players are listed below.

First team All-District
Senior linebacker Chase Cantrell
Senior linebacker Cooper Cumba

Second team All-District
Sophomore offensive tackle Brooks Meyer

Honorable mention All-District
Senior offensive tackle Cody Tribble
Senior safety/wide receiver Bryson Hager
Senior defensive end Aiden Ford
Senior wide receiver Miller Schenewark

The following seniors made the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State honors.
Chase Cantrell
Schenewark

Second team academic all-state honors
Grady Molder

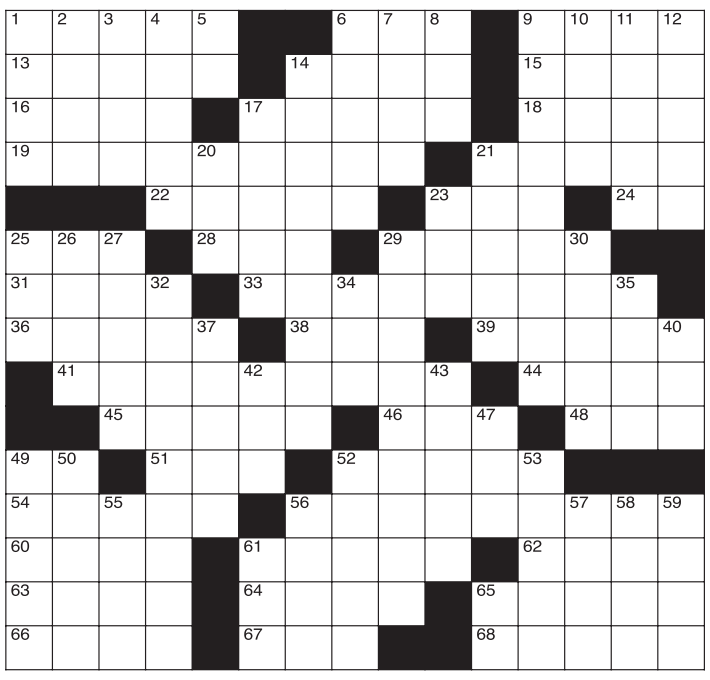
Honorable mention
Cooper Cumba
Lucas Dimas
Gavin Osko
Noah Garrett



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Senior linebacker Chase Cantrell celebrates after a tackle. Cantrell was selected All-district first team with 113 total tackles, one sack, one fumble recovery, five tackle for loss and one rushing touchdown in 10 games for the 2025 season.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Senior linebacker Cooper Cumba made the All-District first team with 70 total tackles, five tackles for loss and one forced fumble in 10 games for the 2025 season.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy
36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques __, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to "oohed"
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

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

Level: Intermediate

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Aries, look for ways to boost your income this week. Be open to dealing with people who may otherwise not come on your radar. Some extra earnings will be useful.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

Taurus, you may be happy to socialize this week, especially with new people who are friendly and congenial. Enjoy some time out on the town and the chance to meet new people.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Right now you are anxious to work and be productive, Gemini. However, obstacles seem to get in your way left and right. You might need to devise a plan to overcome the challenges.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Your involvement in sports, groups and clubs will be a positive experience for you this week, Cancer. Not only will you enjoy the interaction, you will feel a sense of optimism.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

Leo, there's no better time to identify financial commitments and make some changes to how you move your money than right now. The doors of financial institutions will open for you.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Virgo, you might make an excellent impression on others today, especially a boss that has had their eyes on you for some time. Fear not; you are only projecting good things.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

This is the perfect time to travel or try a new activity, Libra. Go someplace you have never been before. That may involve exploring your own neighborhood or city.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

Enjoy the company of others this week, Scorpio. People will be warm, friendly, inclusive, and generally happy to share ideas and experiences with you.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

Work-related travel may be on the itinerary this week, Sagittarius. You also might find yourself more involved with foreign affairs or people from other cultures.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, accept invitations to socialize with others this week. This is a great opportunity to have fun. It's a good time to enjoy movies, the arts or the entertainment world in general.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Think about inviting someone over for coffee or pizza. You might be motivated to have an impromptu social gathering, Aquarius. Others will be happy to take you up on the offer.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Convincing others to embrace your way of thinking may require a little more effort than you are able to put forth right now, Pisces. Be patient and things will change for the better.

kids' corner

People FACT:

This term for restaurant workers typically refers to those who wait on tables.

Answer: Servers

Math Blocks

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

		11	34
2		15	27
	5		20
29	18	34	

Solution

7	5	8
2	10	15
20	3	11

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

KMEA A SERVRENOTAI

Answer: Make a reservation

CANADA MONTH HISTORY

1803

First Canadian Paper Mill is built in Quebec. It is established by Walter Ware and Benjamin Wales, and is considered to be the beginning of Canada's pulp and paper industry.

NEW WORD

GRATUITY

a tip given for service

How they say that in...

English: Food
Spanish: Comida
Italian: Cibo
French: Nourriture
German: Essen

Did You KNOW?

When it comes to the busiest day of the year for the restaurant industry, Mother's Day tops the list for bookings and footfall.



Get the PICTURE?



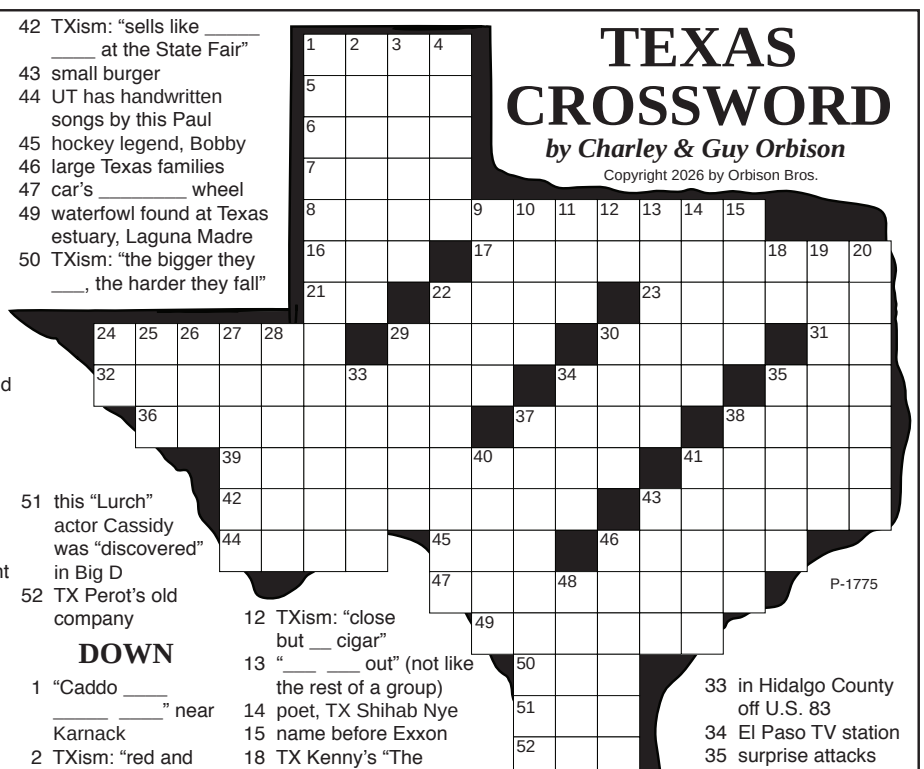
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Restaurant host

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1775

ACROSS

1 this Alan starred in TX-based film "The Big Land"
5 TXism: "_ ___ piece" (long way)
6 Jacksonville AM
7 TX singer ____ Mae Morse
8 TXism: "you got two chances: ____ ___ ____" (not likely)
16 XIT Ranch covered ___ counties
17 Gov. Wilbert ___ _____ was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941
21 Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (init.)
22 barbed-wire tycoon, TX John "___ _ Million" Gates
23 submissive, obedient
24 21-across, e.g.
29 bundles of money
30 bullets and shells
31 init. of TX Stevie Ray without the "R"
32 this woman was an famous gambler in early Texas (2 wds.)
34 Kingsville FM
35 famous Texas case: "___ vs. Wade"
36 TXism: "lower ____ ____ scum"
37 TXism: "packed like sardines in _ ___"
38 TXism: "ole ____ and chain" (spouse)
39 hymn: "_____ __ the Promises"
41 Texas singer, Charley
42 TXism: "sells like _____ ____ at the State Fair"
43 small burger
44 UT has handwritten songs by this Paul
45 hockey legend, Bobby
46 large Texas families
47 car's _____ wheel
49 waterfowl found at Texas estuary, Laguna Madre
50 TXism: "the bigger they ___, the harder they fall"
51 this "Lurch" actor Cassidy was "discovered" in Big D
52 TX Perot's old company

DOWN

1 "Caddo ____ _____ ____" near Karnack
2 TXism: "red and yeller, kill _ _____" (coral snake)
3 in Erath County on U.S. 377
4 TX Hagman's "I _____ of Jeannie"
9 in Parker County on FM 1187
10 Gulf shrimp catchers
11 agcy. that watches for drugs on the so. border
12 TXism: "close but __ cigar"
13 "___ ___ out" (not like the rest of a group)
14 poet, TX Shihab Nye
15 name before Exxon
18 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part __"
19 "__ ___ __ Texas" (the Texas sun)
20 adjustable washing machine foot, e.g.
22 outlaw motorcycle club formed in Texas
24 nickname for retailer Abraham Lincoln Neiman
25 TXism: "___ gut" (liquor)
26 not MWF classes at a Texas univ.
27 in Hill County on I-35
28 seat of San Patricio County
29 fast food restaurant was named for this daughter of founder
30 "__ __ impasse"
33 in Hidalgo County off U.S. 83
34 El Paso TV station
35 surprise attacks
37 sum of its parts
38 TXism: "____ home the bacon"
40 Mexican name: "Rio Grande del _____"
41 Cowboy schemes: "game _____"
43 TX Chisum cut a ____ in cattle ears
46 religious beliefs
48 made a mistake in Daikin Park

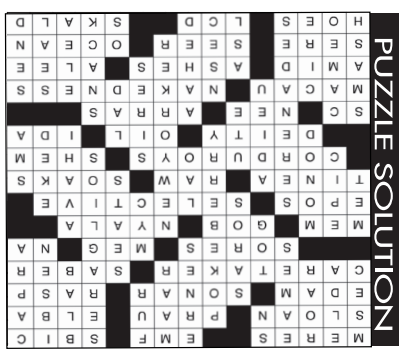
RESOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH

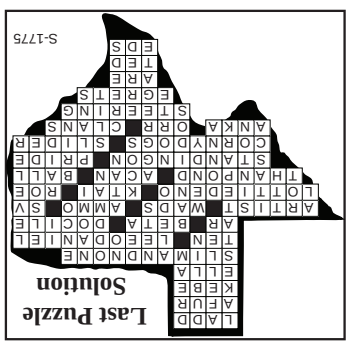
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I	E	C	Y	R	P	A	N	O	A	H	A	F	C	T	C	O	U	E	E
U	B	W	C	R	R	N	D	N	T	N	I	F	O	G	H	A	S	D	G
N	I	O	H	O	T	S	F	Y	G	I	M	E	O	I	E	C	W	C	C
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I	P	J	N	T	E	O	T	A	E	W	P	A	N	E	U	I	U	I	C
T	R	E	P	G	N	R	N	C	N	P	E	R	T	D	M	S	I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

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

WORDS

ACCOUNTABILITY
ACHIEVEMENT
ASPIRATION
CHANGE
COMMITMENT
DETERMINATION
DISCIPLINE
FOCUS
GOAL
HABIT
IMPROVEMENT
INTENTION
MILESTONE
MINDSET
MOTIVATION
OBJECTIVE
PERSISTENCE
PLAN
PROGRESS
PROMISE
RENEWAL
ROUTINE
TRANSFORMATION
VISION





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

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

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

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

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1 John 4:12

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817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
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817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
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First Baptist
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254-646-2484

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1851 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-7137

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

Glen Rose First Baptist
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Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
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817-573-4943

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Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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Lakeside Baptist
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Mambrino Baptist
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817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
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817-279-6430

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817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
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940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
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682-205-1565

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1571 North Fm 200,
Rainbow
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682-936-4988

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254-835-4375

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Waples Baptist
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817-573-5431

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Granbury Church Of Christ
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817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
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Cresson
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Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
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682-498-3838

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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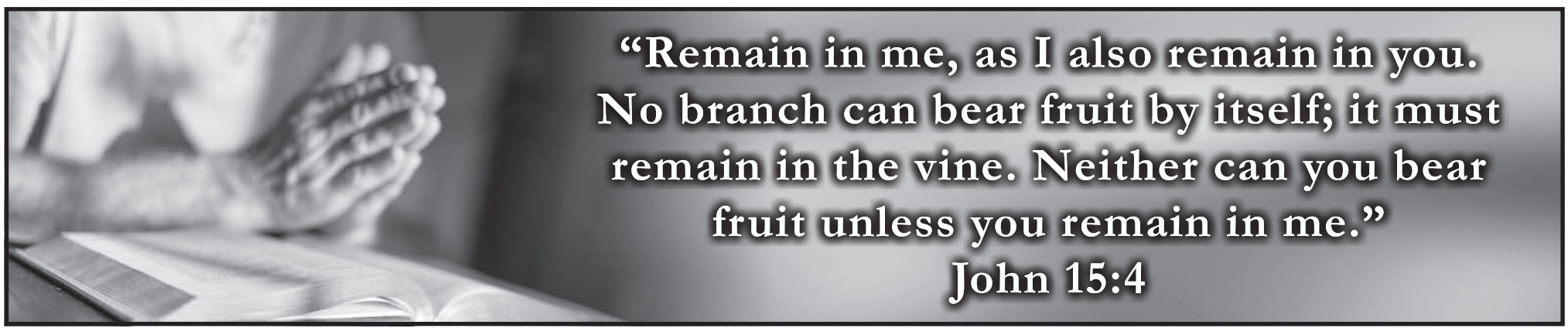
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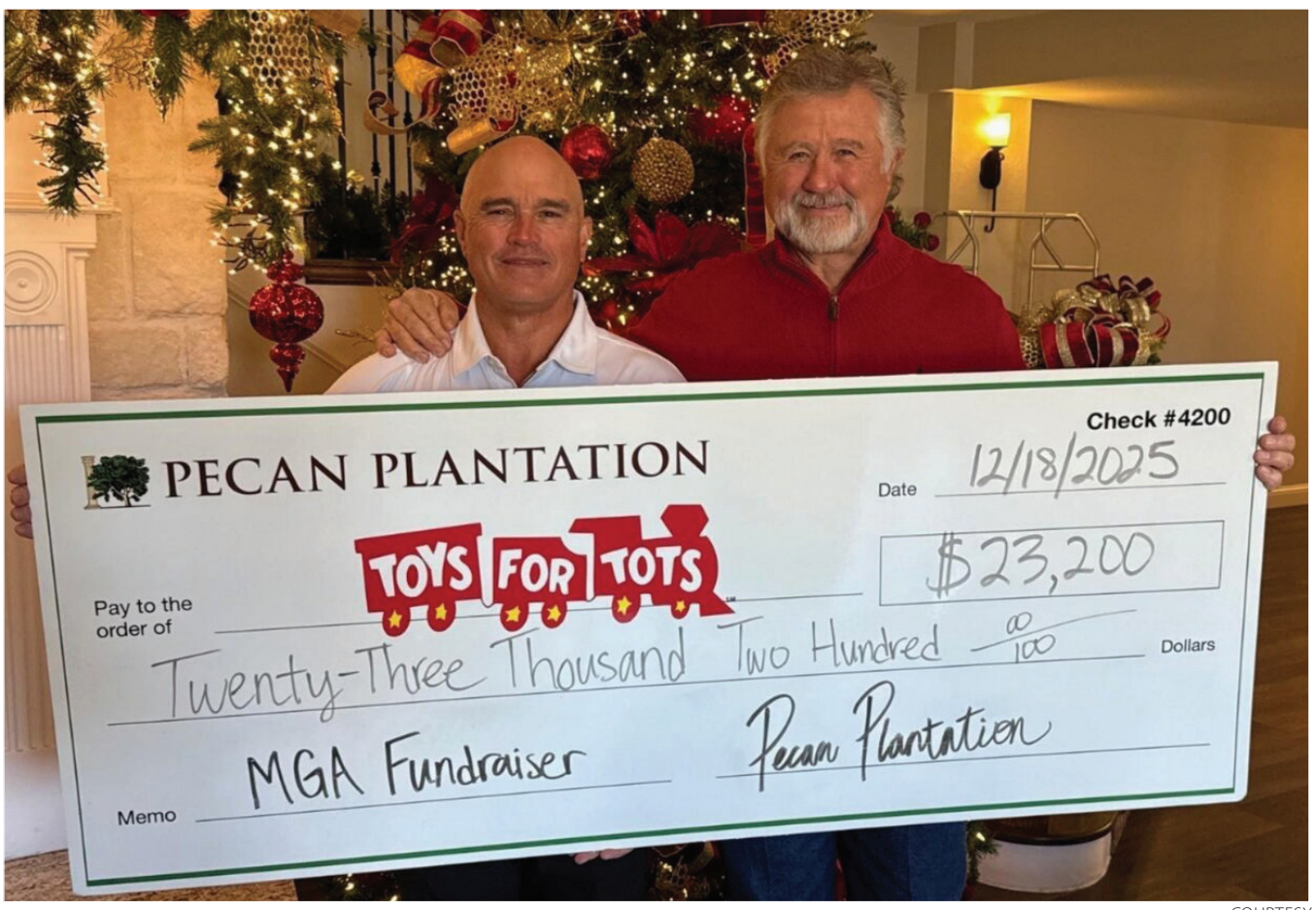
PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Toys for Tots golf tourney fundraiser yields generous results



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



COURTESY

Reggie Hargrove (right) accepts a check for Toys for Tots from Pecan Plantation Country Club Head Golf Professional Duff Cunningham following the annual golf tournament and fundraiser at Pecan Plantation. The event drew 144 players, additional community donations, and marked the sixth year of the tournament, surpassing last year's fundraising total.

The Pecan Plantation Men's Golf Association held its sixth annual Toys for Tots Tournament last month, and the event drew 144 players and received additional donations from residents in our community. The generosity of participants caused the monies raised to exceed last year's fundraising total. At the event's conclusion, Pecan Head Golf Professional Duff Cunningham presented a check totaling more than $23,000 to Reggie Hargrove, receiving on behalf of Toys for Tots.

In addition to Duff and Reggie, thanks for the most successful endeavor go to Kim Wilson, Phillip Ritchey and David Breazeale for their help and support in making the tournament possible. Furthermore, the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club helped raise funds for Toys for Tots with its Christmas parade; much gratitude goes to Kay Jones for her involvement and support in this project. Every contribution helps make Christmas brighter for children in our community.

Tournament day also held the announcement of raffle ticket winners and congratulations to everyone who won a prize: Duff Cunningham, Paul Holiday, Jon Olmstead, Kim and Rick Wilson, Lynn Curry, Judith Forshee, Lois Akers, Chad Kukorola, Wayne Sissom and Debbie Dewey.

Well done to Pecan Plantation for its giving spirit, and may the 2026 tournament be even more successful.

Sportsman's club

The Brazos River Sportsman's Club looks forward to its next gathering set for Thursday, Jan. 8, at the clubhouse when Bob Lusk will be sharing information about ecology, plant and animal life, and water quality of the Brazos River. Also on the horizon is a chili cookoff happening Thursday, Feb. 12. Folks interested in this group may send email to Joe Fritz at jcfritz56@gmail.com.

Good game

Pecan's Entertainment Committee will ring in the new year with its next bingo night set when buffet dinner service begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, followed by bingo play at 6:15 p.m. The clubhouse front desk is currently receiving reservations: 817-573-2641.

Breakfast club

The very popular Breakfast Club in Pecan gathers again Wednesday, Jan. 14 with guest speaker Kevin Pratt of Pacifico Energy coming to discuss the data center planned for development opposite the Brazos River. Both coffee service and a full breakfast option will be available. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the clubhouse front desk: 817-573-2641.

Governing group

A board of nine directors serves Pecan Plantation, and each year three members complete their terms and thus our community elects three new members for the group. Neighbors who are passionate about Pecan and desire to make a difference in our vicinity are invited to complete an application qualifying them to be on the ballot next year. Dedicated members who guide our association into the future and lend their voices in decisions concerning our homes are invaluable. Members have received email with both an application link and a QR code containing an application, and the deadline for submission of paperwork is 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Newly elected board members will be announced at Pecan's annual meeting Saturday, March 7, and take office immediately. Board service is a volunteer position that requires attending monthly meetings and dedicating time each week to projects, email, training, and committee liaison roles.

Woman's club

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will gather collectively for the first time in 2026 with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the clubhouse ballroom and the meeting coming to order at 10 a.m. All ladies in Pecan are invited to join this group whose tenets include friendship, fellowship, philanthropy, and a pursuit of the arts. Ladies may visit myppwc.com for membership information.

Meeting time

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club will gather again Thursday, Jan. 22. This group welcomes all widows and widowers who are Pecan residents and meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information on the group and its presence in our community, send email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

Net news

"Camp Frosty" will come to Pecan's tennis courts for players age 6-12 from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, and Thursday, Jan. 7. Tennis, basketball, whiffleball, hot chocolate, and reindeer games will be part of the fun. Call the tennis shop to sign up: 817-579-9412.

Good tunes

Amy Mings, who teaches piano lessons for both adults and children at the PAC, recently held a recital for her students. Lessons happen Thursday afternoons, and prospective students interested in instruction may contact the PAC front desk for registration: 817-573-7952.

Community activities

Exercise classes in Pecan continue with yoga, chair yoga, Pilates, and aerobics every day of the week, and line dancing comes from 10:30 a.m. to noon Fridays. Call the PAC front desk to join any of these gatherings: 817-573-7952.

Pickleball play

Pecan's pickleball community is a thriving one with open play (all levels) from 9:30 a.m. to noon every day, advanced level play from noon to 1 p.m. on the half court, and ladies only play time from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, resuming Jan. 6.

Recycling spot

Now that the fall holiday season has passed, the monthly operating date for Pecan's collection station will return to the final Saturday of the month, the next of which is Jan. 31. The center is open from 4-6 p.m. weekly on 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.

New year

January has arrived and brought us into 2026. May this year be a happy and healthy one for our community and its residents, and I look forward to writing stories of our neighborhood's events and its people.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of James Isbell, who passed away Dec. 17.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360





Hood County High Five Athlete of the Week
Jolle Hayes

Senior Jolie Hayes had 14 points (four 3-point shots) in Granbury's 54-48 victory against Hood County opponent Lipan. Hayes also made the final two free throws to give the Lady Pirates a two-possession lead in the final seconds. (Credit: Jaxon Hansard)

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.

Hood County News CLASSIFIEDS

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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032 Miscellaneous
033 Legal Notices

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033 Legal Public Notices

A Public Hearing will be held by the Hood County Commissioners' Court on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Justice Center, 1200 W. Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048, for the discussion and input into the following proposed traffic regulation and take appropriate action: a. Establish a 45 MPH Speed Limit on Star Hollow Rd from Bluff Dale Rd to FM 56 North/ Tolar Hwy.

033 Legal Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO.C2024330

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS. BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL, BONNIE RUSSELL AND SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. TO: BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL, DEFENDANT Defendant, Greeting: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you." You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiffs Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 12TH day of JANUARY, 2026, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN, 355TH Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 25TH day of NOVEMBER, A.D. 2024, in the above entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by and through its attorney of record, Kelly M. Doherty of Codilis & Moody, P.C., 20405 State Highway 249, Suite 170, Houston, Texas 77070, brought suit under Cause No. C2024330 in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, for enforcement and foreclosure of Deed of Trust Lien on the following described real property of which Defendant, BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL is a potential party in interest: LOT 483 OF DE CORDOVA BEND ESTATES, UNIT VIII, A SUBDIVISION IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 1, PAGE 47 OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. Commonly known as 6319 Sonora Dr, Granbury, TX 76049. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 24TH day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

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

033 Legal Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 CAUSE NO. C2025166.

THE STATE OF TEXAS. SHONDA RENEA BAILEY Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED, Defendant IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. To UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUANITA OREAR, DECEASED. Defendant(s), GREETING:

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

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

033 Legal Public Notices

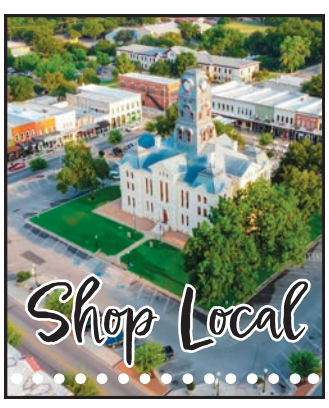
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: THE LANDINGS EAST, LOTS 3799-R, RESERVE AREA C-R & THE RANCHES AT PECAN PLANTATION, PHASE 1, EQUESTRIAN SPORTS AREA-R. The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to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

REQUEST FOR BIDS RFB2026-02 CORRUGATED STEEL CULVERTS

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

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

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Tarleton State awarded FirstGen Forward Transformation Grant

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University has received a $5,000 FirstGen Forward Transformation Grant in support of its initiatives serving first-generation college students.

The university is one of four FirstGen Forward Network Champion institutions selected to receive the inaugural Transformation Grant. Supported by the Gates Foundation, this award will enable Tarleton State to leverage Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP) data to advance meaningful, data-driven improvements for first-generation college students.

"We are extremely honored to be selected for the FirstGen Forward Transformation Grant," Dr. Rachael Weldon-Caron, Tarleton State's Assistant Vice President for TRIO and First-gen Initiatives said. "The FirstGen Forward Network has been an outstanding partner of support, and receiving this award demonstrates further the organization's commitment to its university partners in first-generation student success."

The unrestricted funding supports the strategic use of PDP data to:

Strengthen data-informed decision-making practices that improve overall institutional effectiveness.

Launch or expand programs, events and initiatives tailored to first-generation college students.

Enhance the services and support systems that promote the success and retention of first-generation students throughout their academic journey.

Tarleton State's award will help the university further strengthen academic outcomes for first-generation students through the IGNITE initiative, created by Dr. Kristin Herrmann Phillips. Designed for students in the College of Science and Mathematics, IGNITE provides mentoring, increases awareness of research opportunities and offers career guidance to build confidence, expand access and prepare students for future success. The initiative aims to ensure first-generation COSM students thrive both academically and professionally and are retained at higher rates after their first year.

Dr. Sherri Benn, Tarleton State vice president for the Lozano Long Division of Global, Community and First-gen Initiatives, said the award reflects the strong collaboration and shared vision between Drs. Weldon-Caron and Herrmann Phillips.

"Their partnership brought together student success expertise, data-informed planning and innovative programming to create a compelling proposal that will strengthen support for first-generation students and advance meaningful outcomes across the university," Dr. Benn said.

Dr. Stephanie Bannister, president of FirstGen Forward, said with more than half of the country's undergraduates identifying as first-generation, helping these students succeed will spark life-changing, multigenerational impact and open doors to greater educational, career and life opportunities for them and their families.

"Tarleton State has displayed a commitment to data-informed solutions that advance the success of their first-generation students, and their selection as a recipient of the FirstGen Forward Transformation Award is both a recognition of their efforts to date and fuel for their future success," Dr. Bannister said.

All award recipients will prepare a brief outlining their work, including defined learning outcomes, success metrics and early results from their programs, services or initiatives. They also will be encouraged to showcase their efforts at prominent conferences supported by FirstGen Forward. These briefs will be widely distributed through FirstGen Forward's network channels and highlighted in network sessions to share effective practices and inspire peer learning.

To learn more about first-generation efforts at Tarleton State University, visit tarleton.edu/trio/first-generation. To learn more about FirstGen Forward, visit firstgenforward.org.



COURTESY

Tarleton State University has received a $5,000 FirstGen Forward Transformation Grant in support of its initiatives serving first-generation college students.

Six Tarleton athletics programs set or tie record for GPAs in fall 2025

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's student-athletes keep excelling, both on and off their playing surfaces.

Every semester since Tarleton State reclassified to NCAA Division I, several programs have set new GPA records, and the fall 2025 semester was no different. Six Texan programs in total set or tied new GPA records this past semester.

Tarleton State women's tennis had the highest GPA among all programs this semester at 3.79, with eight student-athletes earning a 3.5-plus GPA. That mark tied its best semester GPA on record in program history.

Five others set new term GPA records; beach volleyball at 3.76, women's basketball at 3.67, baseball at 3.63, men's golf at 3.62 and football at 3.02.

Among Tarleton State's roughly 400 student-athletes, they averaged a 3.26 GPA, nearly matching last year's record setting fall semester GPA of 3.27. More than 20 percent of Tarleton State's student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 this semester, more than 50 percent of Tarleton State's student-athletes earned a 3.5-plus GPA and 75 percent earned a 3.0-plus GPA.

Tarleton women's basketball

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's junior forward Shadaisa Brackens earned her and the team's first weekly award of the season, being named Western Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Week on Monday.

Brackens nearly averaged a double-double this past week, averaging 14.5 points per game and nine rebounds per game in the ACU Christmas Classic. She gS her fifth double-double of the season Dec. 19 with 10 points and 10 rebounds, helping the Texans to a win against defending WNIT champions Buffalo. Brackens was one point shy of a career-high in Dec. 20's game against Montana, scoring 19 in the non-conference finale.

The former North Texas forward has been an immediate contributor in her first season with the Texans. Brackens has the most double doubles on the team with five this season and currently leads Tarleton State in rebounding (91, 8.3 rebounds per game). Her five double-doubles through Dec. 19 made her the first Texan since 2016 to have at least five double-doubles in Tarleton State's first 10 games (Mackenzie Hailey).

Brackens has shined since her Texan debut, scoring 14 points and 11 rebounds in the season opener against Schreiner. She was the first Texan in the Division I Era to have a double-double in a season opener and the first to accomplish that feat since 2016. With teammate Allie Myers also getting 10 rebounds in the game, Brackens was part of the first Texan duo to record 10-plus rebounds in game one since 1996.

Tarleton tennis

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Tennis will host 11 matches at the Tarleton Tennis Facility and will play 23 contests overall in the 2026 spring slate.

The Texans also will play a pair of teams that qualified for the 2025 NCAA Tournament and will face every Western Athletic Conference opponent before the conference tournament at the Arlington Tennis Center April 17-18.

Tarleton State had a fall season to remember in 2025, winning 99 matches to go with sweeping the WAC Fall Invitational titles. Sophomore Maria Castano (singles and doubles) and freshman Aya Ishii (doubles) earned the automatic bid to the ITA Conference Masters Championships in San Diego, where they picked up the program's first win at the event with a doubles victory against Richmond. Freshman Marissa Minetti, who went undefeated in singles in the fall, finished ranked No. 111 in the country by ITA.

"We had a very successful fall, highlighted by 99 match wins and the singles and doubles WAC Fall Invitational championships," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "That success sets a high standard for our team as we head into the spring. Our schedule is designed to prepare us for conference play, and our focus is on continuing to build, compete at a high level and put ourselves in position to win a team conference championship. I encourage all of Texan Nation to come out, watch some high quality tennis and support us as we pursue that goal."

Tarleton State opens the spring season Jan. 15 with a doubleheader in Norman, Oklahoma, starting with Wyoming in the morning and Oklahoma in the afternoon. Oklahoma finished the end of the 2025 season ranked No. 10 nationally and will be one of the two NCAA Tournament teams from last season the Texans will face.

Tarleton men's basketball

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State junior guard Dior Johnson was named to the Lou Henson Player of the Year Early Season Watch List announced by CollegeInsider.com.

The Lou Henson Award is awarded annually to the top mid-major college basketball player in the country. Johnson is on the list as one of the best 50 at this point in the season that could potentially take home the honor at the end of the season. The junior is one of three WAC players on the list joined by Utah Valley's Jackson Holcombe and California Baptist's Dominque Daniels Jr.

"What a great recognition for Tarleton State University and Dior Johnson to be considered for the Lou Henson Award, honoring one of the best players in the nation," head coach Billy Gillispie said. "He's one of 50 right now. He has started the season really well and I hope that he continues to play at a very high level. I was fortunate enough to know coach Henson well, coach against his teams, learn basketball from him, and appreciate his greatness. For Dior to be considered to be involved with anything with Lou Hensons' name on it is pretty cool."

Johnson is one of the most elite scorers in the country averaging 24.0 points per game in his first eight contests as a Texan. After the first six games of the season, he led the nation in total points, free throws and field goals made. He missed four games due to an injury but returned in the Texans' last game at Mississippi Valley State Dec. 16. He led the team in scoring for the sixth time this season all off the bench with 27 points on 10-15 from the floor.



COURTESY

Tarleton State's junior forward Shadaisa Brackens earned her and the team's first weekly award of the season.



COURTESY

Tarleton State junior guard Dior Johnson was named to the Lou Henson Player of the Year Early Season Watch List announced by CollegeInsider.com.



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BOOK REVIEW

Check out these books about ecology, Earth studies and nature



COURTESY

These books discuss ecology, Earth studies and nature. They are on sale at various stories and sites.



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.

You've decided the next few months are going to be it.

They'll be your time to get outdoors more, to learn about wildlife and plants you see out your window every day. You want to explore trees, of all things, and you're intrigued by the pattern of tiny pawprints you spotted last week in the dirt. There's a whole world outside your door, and these great books help you enjoy it.

So. Where to begin?

How about with your cell phone, a few inexpensive gizmos, and "The Urban Naturalist: How to Make the City Your Scientific Playground," by Menno Schilthuizen, illustrations by Jono Nussbaum (MIT Press, $32.95)?

In this book, Schilthuizen explains how he and a group of regular citizens launched a study that's easy enough for you to do at home — even if (and especially if) "home" is a concrete building surrounded by pavement. Look for insects you normally don't notice. Learn about roadkill and how dead animals matter to science. See the innovation skills of small secret architects and watch how things grow in places that might seem inhospitable. This is smart book, perfect for inviting your whole family outside.

Here's another volume that will entice you to look closer at nature: "The Hidden Seasons: A Calendar of Nature's Clues," by Tristan Gooley (The Experiment, $25.95). The difference is this book asks you to look up and down.

Not only do the stars in the sky, the moon and the clouds tell you about nature in every season, but even the tiniest individual ice crystals on the trees and the ground are worthy of study.

Here, Gooley takes nature month-by-month, showing readers what to watch for, creatures to spot and noteworthy natural phenomena amid the changes of season. This is a book to read if you're already someone who loves the outdoors already but needs guidance for the small stuff; it's great for a teen nature enthusiast, and it's an excellent excuse for anyone who needs a reason to get outside at any time.

And finally, if foraging sounds like a challenge you'd like to try, then look for "Gathered: On Foraging, Feasting, and the Seasonal Life," by Gabrielle Cerberville (Harper, $32). Your dinner this weekend doesn't have to cost a lot; in fact, you might be able to find nutritious food for free on your daily walk around the neighborhood. In this meditative, quiet book, Cerberville helps you forage in any season, grow your own food and herbs to go with it, and she shows you how to be a good steward of the land so that others may forge, too. Bonus: recipes.

And if these three unusual books on nature and the outdoors aren't enough for you, then go to your nearby bookstore or library and ask for more books on the outdoors, the seasons and eating off the land, or ask for a book of recipes for the delicious things you've harvested. If you need more impetus to enjoy going outside now or later, these are books it.



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

The greatest among us, writers spend too much time on 'what was,' 'what will be'



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Often, I believe, writers spend too much time on the "what was" and "what will be" instead of the "what is."

I admit to such whimpering occasionally, and this time, make no promises to do better, but I'll try.

Keep in mind, though, that my promises — if golf shots — typically veer off to both the left and right, perhaps no closer to the hole than when teed up. Like golf, life isn't a straight-down-the-middle fairway.

So, I'm but "semi-promising" on most topics as this column enters its 24th year. It remains a joyful project with final wording and punctuation of each improved by the sharp eyes of a handful of "pre-readers," all greatly valued.

In 2026, I hope some observations will be helpful, and I'm pretty sure I won't pass along any "can't miss" recipes. I shared one long ago, and it was a disaster. Better ones are found on the label of grocery items. (A couple of ingredients were omitted, two others mistakenly measured and the recommended baking temperature way off).

In this year's final piece, however, I want to mention two bloggers who seriously are devoted to writing, and whose topics each time make me want more, knowing that "more" awaits in their next writing cycle.

Both are unashamedly Christians, regularly providing challenges to make the rest of us who claim to be followers of Christ better ones.

One is Clint Hurdle, a former major league baseball player for a decade and in managerial and coaching roles for an additional quarter-century or so. All told, he has been associated with five major league baseball teams.

A great communicator, he writes daily blogs, as well as passing along favorites of others he has perused along the way. He began with a dozen email recipients more than a decade ago, and today he has more than 7,000 followers. It is simple to sign up for his free blog at clinthurdle.com.

Melissa (Mrs. Chad) Edgington isn't a baseball authority, but in the prose world, is in a league of her own. I much admire her "juggling" of activities/schedules/family matters in Olney, a small northwest Texas town where her husband is a minister.

Married for 26 years, the Edgingtons' lives have included his leading a rock band in Nashville, then "lawyering" for the Wagstaff Law Firm in Abilene before he became an East Texas music minister, and finally, senior pastor of Olney First Baptist Church. (Though still practicing law, it's much on the back burner).

A stay-at-home mom and mother of four children, Melissa is a former English teacher "hooked" on writing. Several years ago, she decided to write "something" every day. That "something" has become an inspirational blog called "Your Mom Has a Blog," and she writes when she has time. Several thousand recipients look forward to her free emails. To sign up, simply click "Yes" at her website, yourmomhasablog.com.

She writes what she feels, sometimes with seasonal topics, but always on target, underscoring whoever first said "Life is what happens to us while we're making other plans."

Bottom line, she's a "serious" Erma Bombeck. If you were in a household where many of the conversations include remembrances of a rock band in Nashville, a courtroom in wherever, pastor (and wife) in a small-town church and rearing children — seemingly from here to eternity — you, too, might have plenty of column fodder. (Their children — Adelade, 20, Sawyer, 17 and Emerald, 13 — now have a little sister, Ivy Joy, who has been a part of the Edgington family since she was 11 weeks old, and officially "theirs" since 2024. She's now age 4).

Initially, Melissa "blogged" for her children, saying, "When my face is only a memory … when I want them to be able to 'read' me … for my words to come to them in lessons, as gentle whispers from God, as instruction and encouragement."

She's a favorite in the Olney Enterprise, and, thanks to blogging, her wonderful words of encouragement and inspiration have no limits.



COURTESY
Clint Hurdle, Former Major League manager/player/blogger



COURTESY
Melissa Edgington, Blogger/wife/mom/encourager

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