GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, December 20, 2025]

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City OKs nearly $10 million to relocate water, sewer lines

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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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. The council authorized City Manager Chris Coffman to execute contracts with Alcott Inc., doing business as TCH Underground, for $4,327,227.25 for Lake Granbury water line crossing; with Fambro Construction LLC for $1,892,658; with EGW Services for $1,679,844; and with B&L Construction for $2,091,404.

Chris Hay with Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd of Granbury, the engineer of record on the project, said the work is broken out into four service contracts.

"We're pleased with the amount of responses we received from contractors," Hay said.

He said the overall cost of less than $10 million was about $150,000-$160,000 less than original cost estimates.

Funding for the work will come from the state infrastructure bank through the Texas Department of Transportation, City Manager Chris Coffman said. It will be a "20-year note with a 3.99 percent interest rate."

"It's queued up and ready to

PLEASE SEE **CITY** | A7



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Oh, what fun everyone had at the annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro, located at 7710 Fall Creek Highway. A cherished, long-standing holiday tradition, Breakfast with Santa offered families the chance to create meaningful memories with activities including free digital photos with Santa, holiday crafts, hayrides, archery games, one-on-one chats with Santa, and hands-on holiday fun for children of all ages. And to top it all off, a delicious hot breakfast in the WoHeLO Lodge Dining Hall was available for purchase.



Granbury PD, GISD work together on cyberbullying

Case involves impersonation on Snapchat

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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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.

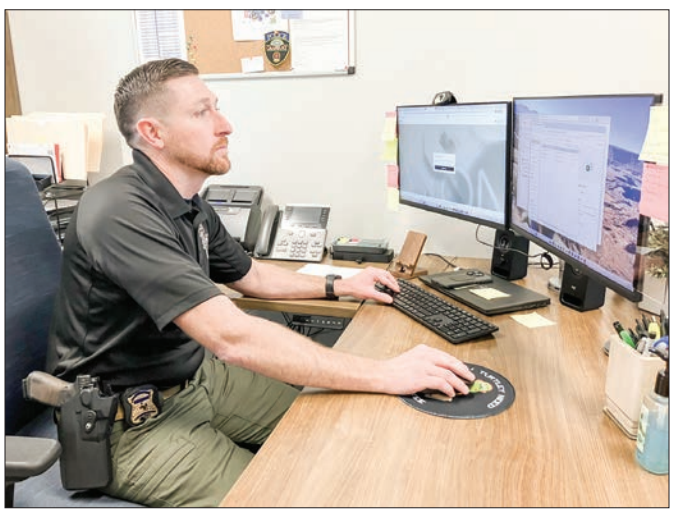
Another teen, who did not even know the victim, was able to use the victim's social media profile in an attempt to get revenge on other students, dragging the victim into a feud he knew nothing about.

The victim's mother, whose name is being withheld to protect her son's identity, contacted the Hood County News to talk about the impact this crime had on her and her son, and to thank those involved in working to protect her son and clear his name of allegations of wrongdoing.

The mother described her son as being successful academically, who is "well-liked by his teachers and peers for his friendly demeanor and sense of humor. He's never had any major conflicts with any other students. In the spring (of the 2024-25 school year), he was unexpectedly confronted by an upperclassman he didn't know. The student accused him of posting inappropriate messages and photos online, called him names and threatened him.

"After a few days of unsuccessful attempts to provoke my son into a fight, the student moved on. We thought it must have been a case of mistaken identity," the mother wrote. "But a few weeks later, it happened again. Then a few weeks after that. Multiple students he didn't know surrounded him, yelled accusations and sent

PLEASE SEE **CYBER** | A7



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Police Department Sgt. Dustin Causey, who investigated a case of cyberbullying involving Granbury High School students, was able to obtain information which resulted in a suspect confessing to the crime.

WE'RE CELEBRATING '5 WHO MATTER'

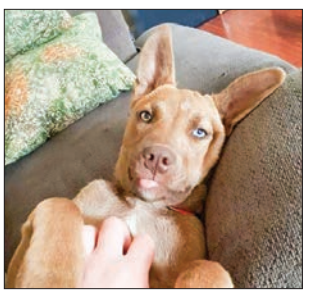
Publishers Note:

We all are thankful to live in a community where people care about one another, lend a helping hand to those in need and work to affect positive change in our county. We have dozens of nonprofits and even more churches, and they all play a part in serving people in need. But all these organizations need those special individuals whose contributions allow them to be successful. As publisher of the Hood County News, I am fortunate to frequently interact with and witness those in the community who go above and beyond in lending a hand. Often, these individuals do not receive public affirmation for what they have done. It is time for them to be recognized.

It is with great pleasure I am announcing an important series of feature stories which soon will appear in the Hood County News. Starting Jan. 3, and then every other week thereafter for a total of five issues, we will have a centerpiece feature story entitled "Five Who Matter." Each episode will be an in-depth story on a resident of Hood County who through their work, efforts, gifts and deeds, truly "matter" to our community. While these five will not be an exhaustive list of special contributors, I believe you will appreciate reading their story and better understanding their contribution.

It is my hope you will enjoy reading the stories of these wonderful people and will join me in expressing our gratitude and thanks for all they do.

–Sam Houston
Publisher Hood County News



Sookie 'Homeward Bound' in time for Christmas

–See Page A8



Lipan fishing team catches Christmas kindness

–See Page B1



Passion for preserving the past

–See Page C1

State leaders enact 143 laws impacting schools

Local district highlights impact of some of them

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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The state legislature recently passed 143 laws that impact Texas schools, students and educators, and Tammy Clark, Granbury ISD assistant superintendent, highlighted a dozen of them for the Board of Trustees on Dec. 15.

Among the items enacted by state leaders are requirements for school board minutes to reflect each member's attendance and how he or she votes, and board agendas be posted a full three days before meetings. Also, items related to cybersecurity and a district's critical infrastructure may be discussed in closed sessions.

There also was a change in the district's competitive bid threshold which raises the price of expenditures from $50,000 to $100,000 before board approval is required. However, Clark said staff will continue to present items over $50,000 to the board.

One of the big changes is a new law which makes it a criminal offense for a vendor to enter into a contract with a district if that vendor has a close relationship with a school board member. Clark said it is considered the vendor's responsibility to keep this in mind.

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A5



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark talks to members of the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees about how changes in state laws are affecting school districts.

139TH YEAR, NO. 47

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 28 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 28 pages

INSIDE

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Local U.S. Marine Corps veteran awarded car

BY JAXON HANSARD
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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.

Roeder accomplished his childhood dream of joining the U.S. Marine Corps and served from 1993-95 as a communications lineman with an Artillery Battery at Camp Lejeune. Roeder suffered a severe knee injury during a training exercise and earned an honorable discharge.

"It's important to me. David's story resonated with me ... We should not have veterans who don't have transportation, so I think this is kind of the minimum we can do to give back

ROBERT RANGEL
Midas Franchise Owner



Granbury's Midas franchise owner Robert Rangel sits in thePasenger's seat of a donated Toyota Camry, detailing to recipient David Roeder, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, the car's various features. The Dec. 10 donation was part of the Midas Project Spark.

Injuries and an attempt to be an electrician led to a difficult time in his life. After a time of homelessness, Roeder relocated to Granbury in 2022 to care for his aging father.

Through service and volunteering with American Legion Post 491, he was able to help people experiencing homelessness by connecting them to food, housing, transportation, and home repairs. His life was renewed and rebuilt, he said.

Roeder had a Chevy HHR with more than 219,000 miles and had left him stranded multiple times. He averages more than 150 miles each week to visit and assist his father, and hundreds more for volunteer service. Midas franchise owner Robert Rangel heard Roeder's story and immediately stepped in. Rangel's mother researched and helped veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, and he had a cousin who served in the U.S. Air Force, so helping a veteran was a priority for him.

"It's important to me. David's story resonated with me. He said there was a time he was homeless, and then he moved here to help his parents and I just think it's unacceptable that we don't take care of our veterans. A lot of them get forgotten about and I just think, at minimum, we shouldn't have homeless veterans. We should not have veterans who don't have transportation, so I think this is kind of the minimum we can do to give back," Rangel said.

The refurbished car had been at Rangel's store as a donation for months and had a blown head gasket. Through the generous donation of parts from Carquest, a subsidiary of Advance Auto Parts, along with support from 1-800-Cars, the Midas employees volunteered their time to fully refurbish the Camry. It was road-ready for Roeder's service and ongoing commitment to helping others.

"We were really struggling because the car has more dollars and parts put into it than it's really worth. The Project Spark program cut us a check for a new engine, no problem. We had to put an engine in it, and then we got NAPA, O'Reilly and Autozone to donate brake parts and struts. We did some of the basic safety, maintenance and fluids to get it in good shape and make it reliable," Rangel said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Marine veteran David Roeder (Right) shakes hands with Midas owner Robert Rangel, who was instrumental, through Midas Project Spark, in securing a car and selecting Roeder as the recipient.

For Roeder there is no sadness about letting his former car go.

"It was a blessing. You know, my car's on its way out, 220,000 miles, and more than it's worth. So having a good time," Roeder said.

He couldn't be more appreciative for the vehicle as the stress of his daily trips have been significantly reduced and enable him to continue showing up for the people who depend on him. His plans with his new ride are to continue helping veterans and seeing his father.

"I'll take them out to get groceries or bring their medication. I go pick up homeless veterans and put them in hotels, sometimes get them started in a VA process to get their claims and into a more stable environment," Roeder said. "Whenever I'm needed."





MY FRONT PORCH

The 'good ol' days' really were that good … and basic



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

The weather turned much cooler this past weekend. While the high temperature Friday was nearly 70, the forecast for Sunday called for a high of 42 with temperatures dropping down to 27 Sunday night. We are not experiencing weather like those in Bismark or Minneapolis, which currently is sitting at a toasty negative 1, but for us, it is an injection of winter into our lives. Not really a winter storm, but just a reminder that winter does still exist and how the weather changes how we think, how we perceive and how we live.

For me, the cool weather is a good thing. The Cowboys are on television, I have a load of firewood ready to go into the fireplace and my wife is going to make some green chili stew for us to eat. Sounds like perfect cold weather living, doesn't it? And my wife's green chili stew would make almost anyone jump up and down with anticipation. The night will be cozy, comfortable and will make my soul feel relaxed and happy. Why is that? I think this is because it takes me back to other similar days; days which were carefree and simple. Everything about the day nurtures my soul.

This happens a lot around the holidays. Memories of past experiences come to the forefront. Fond memories of being at a grandparent's house surrounded by family and enjoying the wonderful meal prepared by loving hands. This is what we remember and how we remember it. For whatever reason, we recall the very best parts, the ones that make our heart smile, and we sort of discard or ignore all the realities that came along with the holiday.

We tend to forget the arguments between siblings while riding in the car to grandma's house. How dad complained if someone wanted to stop and use the bathroom, and the physical threats from parents to stop the car and "educate" us on proper car-riding behavior if the siblings kept fussing and arguing. Those memories are not the first ones we think of during the holidays.

We all reflect on the past and often refer to them as the "good ol' days." Remember, 50 years ago there would have only been one television in Grandma's house; no one would have had a cell phone to keep in touch with friends or entertain themselves. The average house was about 1,200 square feet so there often wasn't room for everyone to eat at one table or even be in one room.

There was no cable or television on-demand, so depending on where you lived, getting the holiday football games could be problematic. There was no PlayStation or Xbox to entertain the kids, no movies on demand, no video players, and no Tik-Tok or other social media. There was no Amazon to shop at and no "online" to go to. The only camera to take pictures was the 35mm camera Uncle Jim had. We would not see the photos he took for weeks as we waited for them to get back from the drug store and then get circulated throughout the family.

Yes, we did survive in those prehistoric times without the benefits of all the modern conveniences which we now enjoy. We played cards, talked about politics and events of the day, and got up ball games, where most of the family participated. Even in the cold weather, we children would engage, go outside and participate in the activities. We simply called it "playing."

How did we endure those shortages and deprivations? Yet, those experiences are the first place our minds drift when we think about the holidays. Funny, isn't it. The "good ol' days" were not that good by today's standards.

Or were they?

Thought for the day: Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived that distinguish one man from another. Ernest Hemingway

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

sam@hcnews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seeing too many hardened hearts

I am not one to dwell on the negative, but I am very irritated as I do not understand some local folks' inhumane behaviors. Not only the irresponsible, unkind treatment of children and pets, but our local wildlife.

In the last few months an Egyptian Goose was hit and killed by a large white pickup on Harbor Lakes Drive near Alexandria.

This white-truck driver drove off without trying to stop and help this innocent bird. This left behind a grieving Goose Partner that was screaming with sadness.

Then, a few days ago, I was driving along U.S. Highway 377 near the cut off to our square. A car ahead of me hit and killed a small whitetail deer and drove off.

This deer had terrible head injuries, bled profusely and three cars drove past her as she struggled for her life, kicking her legs.

A young man and I stopped to help her and get her off 377 to the side grasses. Still alive, I remained with her petting her and talking to her as she died.

How in the world do decent human beings merely drive off when hurting an animal?

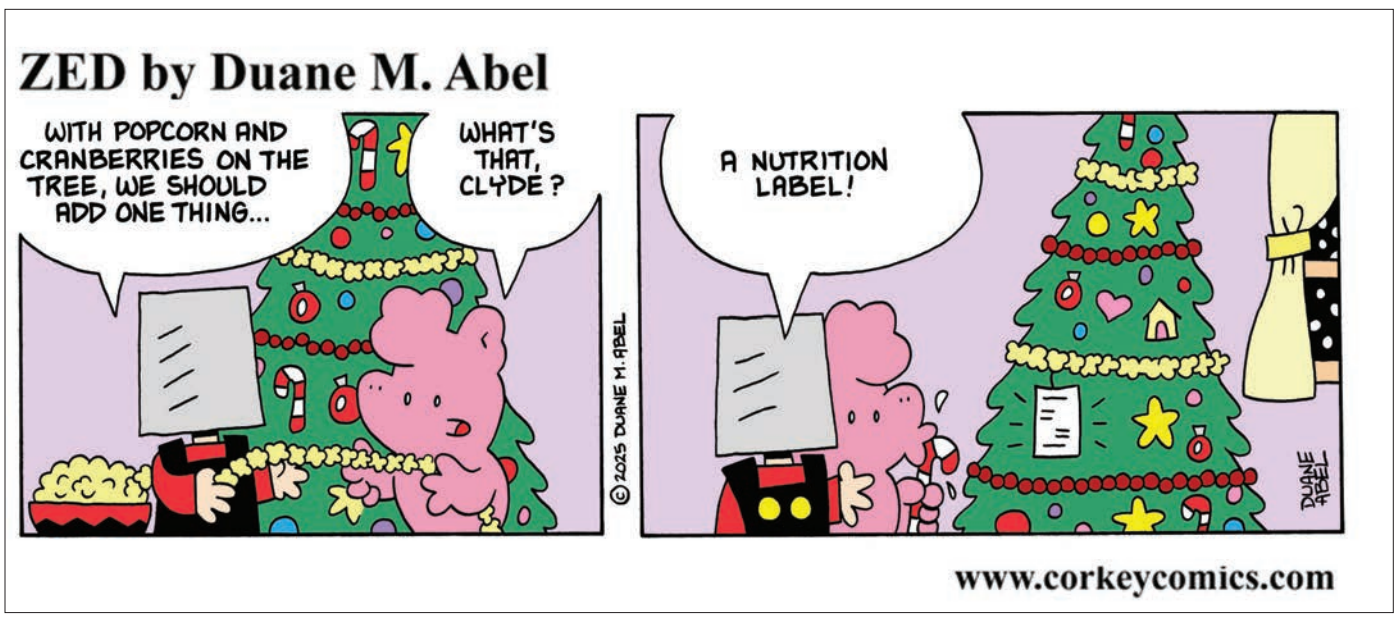
I question the moral makeup of killing an innocent animal besides the horrific treatment of one's children or their pets.

This is not the loving, kind nature of most people, so it must be pointing to others' ignorances and hardened hearts.

Stop this behavior; be responsible and think of others with kinder hearts please!

Neva Sundvahl
Granbury

Submit your Letters to the Editor
HCNEWS.COM/FORMS/LETTERS



Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Say hello to our neighbor Karen Cooper!

Karen Cooper is the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's director of Operations and Finance — and more.

Cooper possesses extensive experience and passion for the well-being of children in her daily life. Her focus has always been on youth ministry, before she left the tiny town of Iredell.

It was about 20 years ago when friends suggested she just move to Granbury; it's a great place. Cooper was working at the Comanche Peak Power Plant and reasoned it would be pretty convenient. Once here, Cooper got involved with First United Methodist Church. When Associate Pastor Burt Johnson approached her to say the church needed a children's ministry and offered her the position as its minister.

Her answer was, "Yes," sharing, "I've always loved working with the kids, so that's what I did, and I did that for 13 years."

The next few years after her time at FUMV, Cooper occupied herself with her aging mother's well-being, leaving the church to take time to square away things in Waco and get her comfortably settled here in Granbury.

Cooper said her mother is a big fan of the Hood County News. With love and support on the home front from Russell, Cooper's husband of 16 years, she decided it's time to go back to work. She thought to herself, "I'll just look." A job opened at the chamber where she worked for a year when the opportunity arose to work for Bridgewater Memory Care.

Cooper said, "But I have to say, you know, it's funny how God works. I went to work for Bridgewater. I learned about senior care and got to meet people in the industry. I ended up moving my mom over there. I worked in hospice care when my dad got sick. So I tell people never underestimate God; he knows what he's doing."

Chamber President Holly Craddock Martin's campaign to entice Cooper back succeeded about a year ago.

The Coopers enjoy fishing and life with their daughter Heather, her husband Kevin, and two grandsons, Robert, 10, Whitt, 7. They stay busy attending games together and anything else that has to do with the kids. Cooper thoroughly enjoys writing and fondly recalls documenting when her oldest grandson was 3 years old, when they took a solo trip to South Padre.



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OBITUARIES

Philip Juneau Klein
1940 – 2025



Philip Klein set out on his final adventure Dec. 1, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, quirkiness, and wonderful memories. He and his surviving wife of 63 years, Barbara, created four children, Becky, Beth, Todd and Jenny, who multiplied into eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Never one to settle for following the rules, Phil lived his life on his own terms. Although successful in his 40-plus-year career, Phil didn't place value in material things. Indeed, it could be said that the favorite of his hobbies, which included golf, refinishing old furniture, hiking and camping, was the never-ending hunt for a great bargain. Phil often said that you should only buy two things new … toilet paper and food … and even the food bit had its gray areas.

Phil found his joy in helping others and solving problems, even if they occasionally were problems that only he thought to be problematic. A native of Chicago's South Shore and graduate of DePaul University, his problem-solving skills took him on a tour of the Midwest working in the insurance industry. He ultimately landed in Texas in 1975, where he and two of his good friends, the three of them affectionately known as the "Michigan Mafia", started a little company in Fort Worth called Gainsco, Inc. Phil eventually segued away from the company side of insurance and ended his long career as an MGA with Specialty Insurance Managers, Inc. His problem-solving skills shone brightest when he applied them to family, friends, and even complete strangers. Whether it was rigging up a pulley system to a vintage sled and motor in order to haul a 600-pound sofa bed up a set of 21 steep and narrow stairs for his daughter, passionately discussing politics with his friends from the other side of the aisle, or driving a stranger over 50 miles to get him to his court date on time (while on a family vacation), he was always there to try to solve the world's problems. He never stopped trying to emulate his hero, Harry S. Truman, firmly believing in "the buck stops here." Integrity and being willing to take responsibility for one's decisions, no matter the outcome, were his guiding principles, reminding his children and grandchildren often over the years, "do what you say you are going to do – that's enough." And though "you can't get to Heaven on roller skates," we know that Phil is up there with skates on anyway, breaking the rules, golfing, reveling in the bargain hunt, and probably singing around a campfire. A memorial will be set for the spring of 2026. In the meantime, if you would like to honor Phil's memory, help a stranger today and don't tell anyone about it.

Marcus James Marlin
1937 - 2025



Marcus James Marlin, lovingly known as "Papaw," passed away peacefully at his home in Granbury, Texas, on the morning of December 12, 2025.

Marcus was born on June 29, 1937, in Melbourne, Arkansas, to Ernest and Cassie Marlin. He lived a life defined by hard work, faith, family and service to others.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Cassie Marlin; his sister, Ernestine Marlin; his beloved wife, Margaret Marlin; his sons-in-law, James Sumrall and Robert Jarvis IV; and his special friend and companion, Lanelle Hyde.

Marcus is survived by his daughters, Teresa Sumrall and Felicia Jarvis; his granddaughter, Kristine Stafford and husband Ryan; his grandson, Jason Sumrall and wife Alexandria; his great-grandchildren, Gracie and Wyatt Sumrall; and a wide circle of friends and extended family.

Marcus retired from Pittsburgh Paints after many years of dedicated service. During his career, he made history as the first Regional Sales Manager to achieve membership in the Million Dollar Sales Club – an honor he earned multiple times.

Marcus' faith was central to his life. He faithfully served as a deacon, usher and greeter at his church. He was also an active member of the community, serving on several committees within Pecan Plantation, Lakeside Baptist Church and Granbury Opera Guild.

A devoted fan of the Arkansas Razorbacks, Marcus also had a deep love for the outdoors. He cherished playing golf with his grandson at Pecan Plantation and spent many happy hours fishing for rainbow trout on the White River or catfish with family and friends at Squaw Creek. He was a classic country music enthusiast and enjoyed the performing arts. He generously volunteered his time at the Granbury Opera House.

Marcus will be remembered for his strong work ethic, servant's heart, love for his family and his unwavering faith. His legacy lives on through the many lives he touched and the family he loved so deeply.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Loaves and Fishes at Lakeside Baptist Church, the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

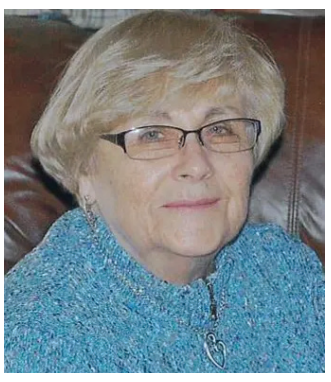
A visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Services will be held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Lakeside Baptist Church, Granbury, Texas beginning at 11:00 am.

Burial will follow at Acton Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care of Wiley Funeral Home.

Gayle Sargent Meyer Nye
1939 - 2025



Gayle Sargent Meyer Nye was born Jan. 10, 1939, in Fort Worth, Texas, to JD and Bessie Fitzhugh Sargent. She died peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, in Granbury, Texas. Gayle attended Tolar schools and graduated in 1957. She married Edwin Max Meyer on June 1, 1957. They had three sons, Mendel, James and Aaron.

Gayle and Max raised their three boys on the farm in Tolar, truly making it a family affair. She instilled in them the value of hard work and the ability to see the accomplishments that come from it and because of that her legacy will live on. Gayle had a zest for life and it was apparent to anyone who knew her. She was up for a challenge and never turned down an opportunity to go shopping. She had a wealth of knowledge and would share it with anyone who asked and sometimes even if you didn't ask. Her personality shined throughout her life and brought joy to all who knew and loved her. Gayle never met a stranger but her family was her pride and joy, especially her grandchildren. When she was able she could be found in the stands of whatever sport or activity they were involved in, cheering them on. She was a member of the Tolar Methodist Church and attended the Cowboy Church in Granbury.

Gayle has had many professions in her lifetime and was never scared to take on new opportunities. She began hauling cattle to the Fort Worth Stockyards by herself when she was 13 years old. She owned and operated three restaurants in Tolar between 1974 and 1980. She was an amazing cook, and anyone who has had the privilege of a meal she prepared would agree. She opened Gayle's Quick Stop, the first convenience store in Tolar. She had a women's clothing store which she operated for several years. Gayle had a true servant's heart and opened, in her home, an assisted living residence that she lovingly called "The Retreat," which she ran for eight years. She was the first female school board member at Tolar ISD as well as the first female mayor in Tolar. She served her time on the school board and as mayor with honesty and integrity and on occasion ruffled a few feathers. She worked diligently to improve the town she deeply loved hoping to prepare it for the growing pains she knew were coming. She was instrumental, during her term as Mayor, in the building of the water tower.

She is preceded in death by her parents, JD and Bessie; her spouse of 43 years, Max Meyer; spouse of eight years, Harold Nye; son, Mendel Meyer, and his wife, Ginger; and brother-in-law, Stan Weinberg.

She is survived by sons, Jay Meyer and wife Attice of Tolar, and Aaron Meyer and wife Terri of Tolar; adopted son, John Williams of Tolar; grandchildren, Rusty Rushing, Angie Lasley, Avery Meyer, McKinley Rodriguez and Kyli Meyer; six great-grandchildren; sister, Delores Weinberg and her family; as well as other loving family members and friends.

Visitation was held Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Services were Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas, beginning at 1 p.m.

Burial will follow at Tolar Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care of Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas.

Waunell Bennett
1931- 2025



Waunell Bennett, 94, passed away at her home with her family by her side on Sunday, Dec.14, 2025. She was born on Sept. 10, 1931, in Hood County, Texas, to Earl and Esther Porter.

Waunell was a member of Baker Baptist Church and the Granbury Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #530.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard Bennett; and her four brothers, Earl Porter Jr., Luther Garland Porter, Marvin Whalon Porter and Glenn Edwin Porter; and great-granddaughter, Arwen Collier.

Waunell is survived by her three children, Vicki (Randy), Gary (Claudia, and Charlotte (Chad); nine grandchildren, Amy (Glenn), Bradley (Fleur), Janet (Jeremy), Patti (Brent), Jeffrey (Kayla), Lauren, Bailey, Alexandria (Payton), and Mary; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson; as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

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OBITS CONTIUED ON A6

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- Think long-term. Many people treat their HSA like a checking account, spending the money as soon as medical bills arrive. Another strategy, however, is to leave your HSA funds alone if you can afford to pay medical expenses out of pocket. This approach lets that money grow for future healthcare needs, including retirement. This strategy transforms your HSA from a spending account into a powerful savings tool. You can always reimburse yourself later for those out-of-pocket medical expenses, even years down the road, so long as you keep your receipts.
- Invest for growth. Most HSAs offer investment options, yet only 9 percent of account holders take advantage of them according to a 2025 Devenir HSA survey. The remaining 91 percent keep their entire balance in cash, missing out on potential growth opportunities. Consider investing at least a portion of your HSA funds, especially if you don't expect to need the money soon. Just keep enough cash available to cover any immediate and significant medical expenses you might face.
- Avoid early penalties. Before age 65, taking HSA money for non-medical expenses means paying income tax plus a 20-percent penalty. But once you hit 65, that penalty disappears and your HSA works much like a traditional IRA for non-medical withdrawals.

Of course, using HSA funds for qualified medical expenses remains tax-free at any age, making it the ideal use for these dollars.

- The bottom line: With healthcare costs continuing to rise, an HSA offers an opportunity to save money while reducing your tax burden. Whether you're planning for next year's medical bills or healthcare costs decades away, maximizing your HSA contributions could be one of the smartest financial moves you make.

Whether you're planning for next year or catching up for 2025, your HSA can help turn today's savings into tomorrow's financial security.

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

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

A spattering of fun: GHS forensic class holds blood-analysis lab

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

The juniors and seniors of Granbury High School's forensics course, under the careful guidance of forensics teacher Alicia Gabrielson, were causing a scene — a crime scene that is — Dec. 8 during their blood-spatter analysis lab.

The six forensics classes enrolls more than 160 students, many of whom intend to use the skills they learn to pursue the school's Career Technology Education's law tract.

"I want to say about, probably about 20% or so of the students are in the law pathway," Gabrielson said. "So, we're trying to gear that forensics towards those students, because if it's going in depth then it should be helping them to go in the field — whether it's forensics or criminal justice."

However, many others simply had a science credit to fill and had received word from former forensics students that Gabrielson's class was the most engaging science the school had to offer.

"We do a lot of hands-on stuff, which is so fun. Also, it's kind of weird, because it's not just like a normal science," student Charlie Melancon said. "This is something really specific and niche."

The students on this class day were given miniscule vials of blood.

"This is our introduction to blood-spatter lab," Gabrielson said. "Essentially, they're looking at behavior of blood from different heights, the way it drips and how that affects the spatter."

Gabrielson then explained to the class their objective was to drop droplets of blood from different heights and onto different materials to see how the droplets would respond. They were then supposed to measure each droplet and see how the distance and materials used affected the data.

After about five minutes of instruction, the students were released to their bloody task.

Teams of four broke out their yard sticks and clipboards, stained from previous blood labs, and carefully measured the distances from which they would release the droplets of blood.

According to Gabrielson, blood-splatter analysis has numerous uses in the field of forensics, including determining details about both the victim and the suspect, from how far away and from what direction the suspect struck and what weapon was used.

"I didn't realize how much physics was behind it," Gabrielson said. "You can have predictability because of blood, based on surfaces and heights and stuff like that. So, that's really neat to see. You can even figure out if the person is right- or left-handed based on spatter patterns."

This is the seventh year Gabrielson has taught forensics at Granbury High School. While she admits she finds the subject interesting, her favorite part of the job is watching her students engage with the subject.

"I like how much the kids enjoy it," Gabrielson said. "Like, I enjoy forensics — the topics anyways, but seeing how much the kids are interested in it is what I like."

And according to many of the students, Gabrielson and her dedication to making the class interactive is what makes the course so interesting.

"Forensics is just an interesting science; it's really fun," student Cayson Sobczak said. "I enjoy coming to this class a lot — Mrs. G makes it interesting."



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Students JoyInn Johnson (left) and Larin Oliver work together to drip fake blood on paper during a lab in their forensic science class at Granbury High School.





Granbury High School teacher Alica Gabrielson gives instructions to some of her students during the blood spatter lab.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

Starting in 2029, all school buses will be required to have standard three-point seatbelts for every seat. GISD Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield said that will require an investment from the district, adding "a substantial amount of buses do not have that."

Teacher certification and emergency permitting requirements now are more stringent, and mandatory CPR and automated external defibrillator training is required of several staff members.

The district has until March 1, 2026, to decide whether or not to set aside specific time for prayer.

Board member Barbara Townsend said the district already observes a moment of silence.

Parent involvement is another emphasis, with added focus on Internet connectivity between parents and districts.

"The parent portal is a good way for parents to get a quick response to their question," Clark said.

If staff members suspect a child has been abused or neglected, they now have 24 hours to notify authorities, where previously the law gave 48 hours to make such a report.

When it comes to student expulsion and discipline, virtual education can be considered an effective alternative. This must comply with all requirements for an alternate education program.

A new law allows sports officials to eject someone from a venue for behavior problems without giving a warning. People also can be ejected from other areas of school property not involving a sporting event, but in those cases a warning is required.

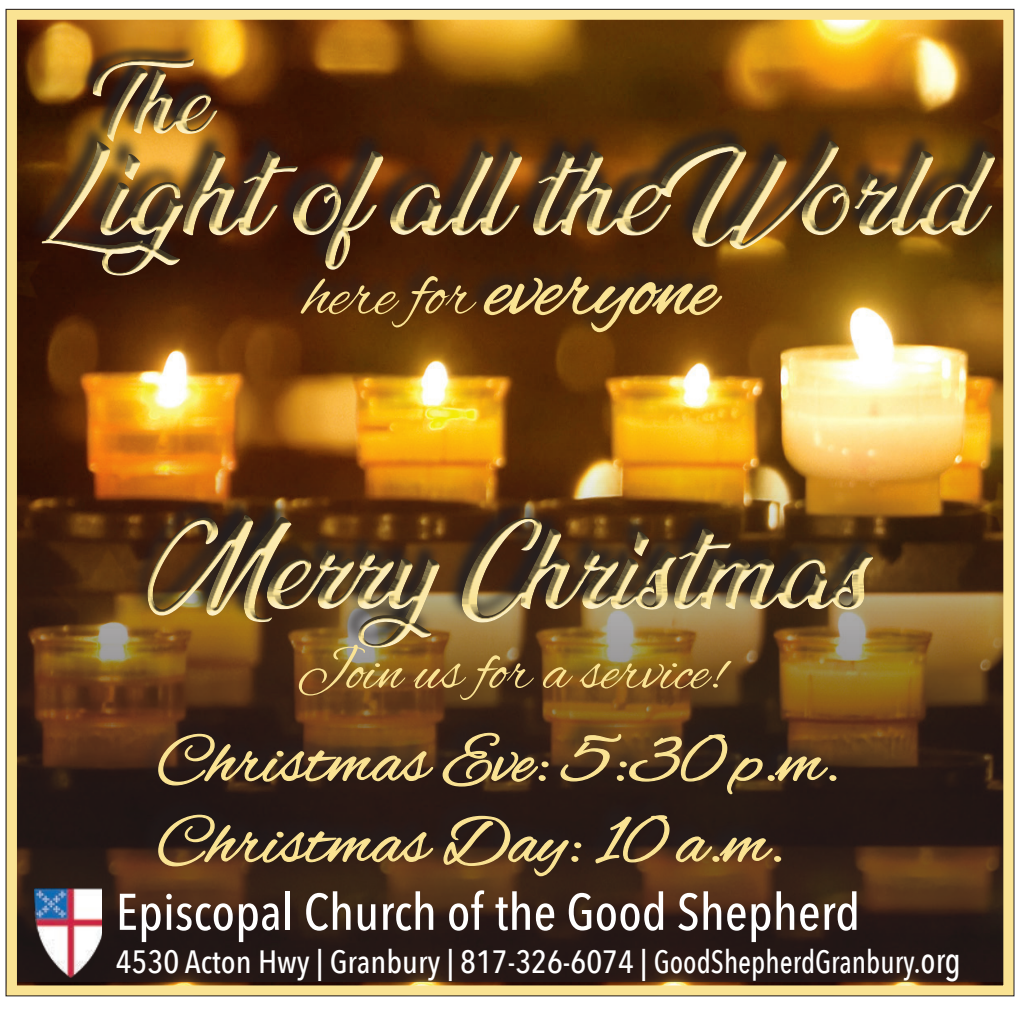
Clark encouraged board members to take their time and look at all 143 changes.

"There are a lot more, these are just the top 12," she said.

In other action, the board:

- Decided not to take action on a proposal to change school board terms from three years to four years. A story detailing discussion of the proposal will appear in an upcoming issue of the Hood County News. This included comments from seven community members.
- Adopted the 2026-27 course catalog for Granbury High School. New academic courses will include an Advanced Placement precalculus course, creative writing, college-prep math, college-prep English and a leadership course. New career technical education courses will include Kinesiology 1 focusing on exercise and sports science; Construction Technology 1; Advanced Culinary Arts; Entrepreneurship 1; Advanced Placement Business and Personal Finance; and Forensic Science 2.
- Whitefield said the district had $218,531 in interest revenue for the financial reporting period compared to $116,000 for the same time period last year. He credited a $16.8 million advance of state funds for the extra income.





Pinnacle bank celebrates 5 years serving Granbury

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Pinnacle Bank celebrated its fifth anniversary this past week with a ribbon-cutting and shrimp boil.

The bank has been serving the Granbury community since Dec. 9, 2020, and Friday, Dec. 12, they got to see the fruits of their labor and celebrate with the people they proudly serve.

Those in attendance at their event were the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, community leaders and the bank's customers — all of whom were served a shrimp boil and chicken-and sausage-gumbo hand prepared by the Pinnacle Bank team members.

According to the bank's Granbury Market President, Michael Gifford, the old adage rings true — time really does fly when you're having fun.

"Time has seemed to fly by as it only seems like yesterday that we opened our branch," Gifford said. "We are definitely looking forward to our next five years and beyond."

According to Gifford, Pinnacle Bank has been able to be a strong supporter in the Granbury community because of its small-town feel backed by corporation resources.

"Pinnacle Bank as a whole operates under a community-bank model," Gifford said. "This allows us to operate our branch in a way that fits best with the Granbury community but also lets us utilize the vast resources of our Pinnacle Bancorp operation. We always strive to treat all of our customers like family and welcome all the members of our community to build a relationship with us."

Not only does Pinnacle Bank serve the community by acting as a hub for its financial happenings, but according to Gifford, the bank also has invested itself into giving back.

"Our team at Pinnacle Bank Granbury strive to be the best community members that we can," Gifford said. "We are involved with many community advocacy and GISD groups, donating monetarily as well as our time to many different groups in Granbury."

As Pinnacle Bank closes the chapter on the first five years of serving Granbury, the team looks forward to the opportunities that await them in the future.

"Our hope is that we continue to grow and strive in Granbury and always prove to be a valuable member of this phenomenal community," Gifford said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce and Pinnacle Bank celebrate Pinnacle's five years in Granbury Friday, Dec. 12, at the bank, 4535 E. U.S. Highway 377.

Spreading Christmas cheer to Rancho Brazos program



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Homer Robertson (left) and Hood County Judge Ron Massingill (right) each donate $300 Dec. 10 to the Rancho Brazos program so the enrolled children each could have $20 to purchase Christmas gifts. Pictured with them are Santa (Ken Holland), Mrs. Claus (Arlis Holland) and elf Lisa Bell.

OBITUARIES

Carolyn Sue Melville
1941-2025

Carolyn Sue Melville, born on Nov. 17, 1941, in Girard, Kansas, passed away on Dec.12, 2025, in Granbury, Texas. Carolyn was a woman whose life embodied the essence of love and communal spirit. Carolyn's journey from her birthplace to her residence in Granbury, Texas, was marked by an enduring legacy of nurturing, giving, and inspiring. She was a devoted homemaker, a gifted cook, and a beloved figure at the Pecan Baptist Church. A deep sense of service characterized Carolyn's life, whether through her 23-year career at Lockheed Martin or her tireless efforts in volunteering for her community and church.

In her younger years in Columbus, Kansas, Carolyn played basketball and was in the marching band during her school years. Following her marriage in 1959, she embraced motherhood with the birth of her daughter, Trudi. Carolyn's move from Kansas to Joshua, Texas, in 1975 marked a new chapter in her life where she became an active church member and dedicated volunteer, further enriching the lives of those around her.

Carolyn had a knack for making every day special. Her grandchildren always looked forward to "Nana's cookies," and her talent for knitting and quilting brought warmth and comfort to many. She was renowned for her culinary skills, regularly bringing breakfast to church on Sundays and preparing food for various events. Her joy was contagious, and she was known for her love of playing games, bringing a sense of fun and camaraderie wherever she went.

Carolyn is survived by her daughter, Trudi DeRouen, and son-in-law, John DeRouen. She was the proud grandmother of John Braeden, Keeton and Rylan DeRouen. She is also survived by her sister, Phyllis Meyer, and her husband, Mike Meyer, and numerous



nephews and nieces; and sisters-in-law, Irna Humble, Stella Euilene Humble.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Elva Humble; her brothers, Marvin and Melvin Humble; and her sister, Shirley (Ralph Dean) Ulery.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Carolyn Melville will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at 2 p.m. at the Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, 400 U.S. Highway 377 E., Granbury, Texas, 76048.

The service is under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home - Granbury.

Armor David Brown
1953 - 2025

Armor David Brown II, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, entered into God's eternal care on Dec. 8, 2025, at the age of 72. It is with profound love and deep sadness that we honor the life of Armor, whose distinguished military career and generous spirit left an indelible mark on soldiers, students, colleagues and friends. He was also deeply proud of his Arapaho heritage, carrying it with him throughout his life with honor and gratitude.

Armor was born on Aug.5, 1953, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to Armor J. and Erma Jean Brown. Armor grew up with a strong sense of purpose that would guide his life of service. After graduating from the University of Kansas, he enlisted in the United States Army and began his career with the Military Police. Following Officer Candidate School, Armor was commissioned as a second lieutenant Armor officer, serving faithfully for 23 years and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Achieving Ranger was a highlight of his career, and he shared many stories from his challenging training course. His leadership, integrity, and dedication were evident in every duty station and role he held.

Among his many assignments, one of Armor's most cherished was serving as the Professor of Military Science at Stephen F. Austin State University. He delighted in mentoring students, helping shape their character, and preparing future leaders for service. After retiring from active duty, he continued his commitment to developing young people as an ROTC instructor at Edison High School in Alexandria, Virginia. Armor later continued to support national defense through government contracts and eventually through civilian service with the Department of Defense at the Pentagon.

In retirement, Armor continued to live a life of service, volunteering as a Meals on Wheels driver for the Hood County Senior Center. He found great fulfillment in helping others and giving back to his community in meaningful, personal ways.

Armor's greatest joy, however, was his family. In 1996, he married the love of his life, Janet. Their union created a beautiful and blended family of seven children: Courtney (Clayton) Vanlangendonck, Gwendolyn (Christian) Fricke, Sarah (Zach) Brown, Drew (Magdalena) Loertcher, Armor David III (Olive) Brown, Alexander (Maureen) Brown, and Catherine (Mena



Patrone) Brown.

He is survived by his beloved mother, Erma Jean Brown; brothers, Robert Brown and Mark Brown; sister, Sonja Frye; his children; and 19 cherished grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense pride and happiness.

Family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate Armor's life on Tuesday, Dec.30, 2025, at noon at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Hood County Senior Center or the Salvation Army Women's Association, organizations that reflect Armor's lifelong commitment to service and community.

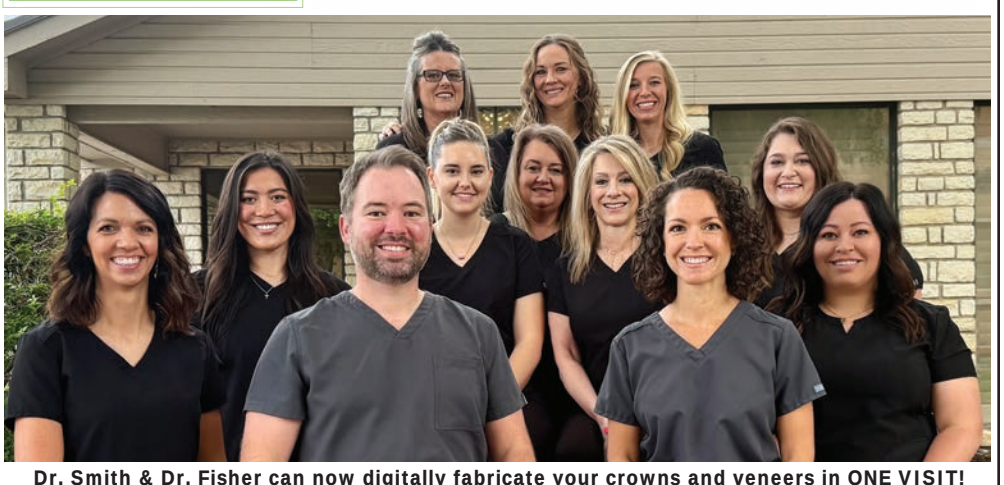
May he rest in peace, remembered always for his quick wit, kindness, and the legacy of leadership he leaves behind.

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Choose your favorite **"Aww!"** moment from pre-selected Letters to Santa (published digitally at hcnews.com) from each campus. The child whose letter receives the most **"Awws"** will be awarded a prize package from the Hood County News.
Vote online once a day through Dec. 26 by accessing the voting page through the QR code.
The winner will be announced on the HCN Facebook page.

Hood County employee luncheon



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Greg Corrigan, a member of Granbury City Council and one of the judges of the Hood County dessert contest, stands by the firs- place entry, Heaven in a Pan. This dessert was baked by Andrea Johnston.



Deanna Payne, an employee of Hood County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Earl "Dub" Gillum, serves herself a piece of Hawaiian banana bread, baked by Cindy Davis. This dessert won second place in the county dessert contest.



Elba Garcia, an employee of Hood County's Housekeeping and Maintenance Department, gets a slice of chocolate pecan pie during the Hood County employee luncheon Dec. 10. The pie, baked by Laura Self, won third prize in the county's dessert contest.



County Judge Ron Massingill (right) prepares to enjoy a plate of food during the Hood County employees luncheon Dec. 10 at Triple Cross Cowboy Church. Those on the serving line included, from left, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Precinct 2 County Commissioner Nannette Samuelson and County Development Director Clint Head.



Kevin Andrews, Hood County Precinct 1 commissioner, adds dressing to a salad for Tod Gathings during the Hood County employees lunch Dec. 10 at Triple Cross Cowboy Church.



Precinct 1 County Commissioner Kevin Andrews offers salad options to Renee Rocha, an employee of the Hood County Library.

CITY

FROM PAGE A1

roll," he said. "If for some reason (that proposal) is not approved, we will award bids."

Mayor Jim Jarratt said there were between four and eight bidders for each of the four projects.

"I appreciate the work on this to get the right contractor for the right price to get this done right on time," Jarratt said.

Coffman said the contractors selected were "not the high bid and not the low bid, but we felt it was the best bid for the city."

Councilman Zeb Ullom asked about the estimated timeframe for the work to be completed.

Hay said it is scheduled to be finished by the end of September 2026, based on an expected start date in mid-January 2026.

"Two-hundred-seventy days," Coffman said. "We've taken action tonight to invest millions of dollars in our community, all due to growing pains. We are investing in our future."

Coffman expressed his gratitude for a $57.8 million grant the city received to help deal with infrastructure needs.

"You should be proud of that," Jarratt said. "It is an outstanding achievement."

The council also approved a proposal from Schneider Engineering, doing business as SEnergy to perform additional engineering services along Highway 377 between Pirate Drive and west of Overstreet Boulevard related to a state construction project at Highway 377 and Highway 144.

"This project has been underway since September last year and it's gotten to the point that more work needs to be done," Coffman said. "A lot has been done but more needs to be done. If we approve, we will be able to submit it to TxDOT for approval."

He said the scope of work for the project highlights changes causing the city to spend more money to update the original design. That's because arms on powerlines extended beyond the right of way, "And it's cheaper to change the profile and not spend money on right of way."

Purchasing even small amounts of property to meet right-of-way requirements can get expensive, Coffman said.

"The reason I'm so scared of (right-of-way issues) — there's one area of about 13 feet and the state had to pay $900,000 for that little strip of land. The cost to change (a utility) pole will be $30,000-$40,000, and that saves us a lot of money on right-of-way."

In other action, the council:

adopted a resolution requesting a principal forgiveness agreement with the Texas Water Development Board for the $57.8 million toward construction of a new water treatment plant.

"I just want to shout from the rooftops that we're going to receive $57.8 million," Coffman said. "That's so rare."

Amended the master fee schedule to provide for the collection of fees for the Granbury Regional Radio Network.

"Basically, we've taken on Somervell County as a participant in our radio program, and we're happy to have them," Coffman said. "This reduces our monthly fee to $14 per device."

Approved SEnergy proposal for a Global Information System electrical inventory.

Kenneth Causey, director of electric utilities for Granbury, explained the project.

The contractor will be "Doing a GIS inventory of the complete electrical system," he said. "What we have is not accurate. We have done this previously with water and sewer. They will identify every electric utility pole and put a GIS device on it."

Coffman said the city "Is trying to determine any deficiencies in the system and put together a comprehensive five-year plan to address them."

Causey said the work "Will help upgrade the electrical system. It's never been done before. It's a good time to do it and a good project."

Approved the purchase of 12 Axon body cameras and software for the Granbury Police Department not to exceed $188,000 for the remaining four-year contract period.

Approved the purchase of information technology equipment to replace the existing city hall Nutanix Server from Calian Corporation for $318,438.



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury City Council members (from left) Angela Parker and Bruce Wadley listen as City Manager Chris Coffman informs them about a utility relocation project while Mayor Jim Jarratt takes notes.

Engineer Chris Hay, with Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd of Granbury, speaks Dec. 16 to Granbury City Council about how utility lines will be relocated because of road construction.

CYBER

FROM PAGE A1

him cruel private messages. Rumors spread, and at one point I learned a few adults were even gossiping about my son, claiming falsely he was arrested. School became stressful; he never knew what to expect next."

The victim's mother said it "broke my heart" to read what her son wrote about his experience.

"I never know if people I'm talking to think I did something wrong," the teen wrote. "I used to think of myself as a leader, but now my self-confidence is gone."

The victim's mother thanked GISD leaders for getting involved.

"When GISD Superintendent Dr. Courtney Morawski learned the full scope of the situation, she personally reached out to me," the mother wrote. "I'm confident she and the district are committed to student safety online and off. The assistant principals at GHS treated my son with kindness and never made him feel his innocence was in question."

Granbury ISD issued this statement to the Hood County News in response to the incident:

"Granbury ISD is committed to maintaining a safe, supportive environment for every student. When concerns about bullying or online misconduct are reported, the district responds promptly and partners closely with local law enforcement to ensure the situation is fully investigated and appropriately resolved.

"We are grateful for our strong partnership with the Granbury Police Department, the Hood County Sheriff's Office and the ongoing efforts of our Safety and Security Team led by Chief Wade Clark and our district marshals. Their collaboration is essential to protecting our students and staff, and we remain dedicated to preventing and addressing bullying, harassment and online impersonation throughout the district."

GISD leaders contacted Granbury Police Department, and investigator Dustin Causey, an administrative sergeant with the department, took the lead role in the case.

After months of work, in which Causey kept the mother and son updated, an arrest was made.

"The juvenile offender confessed," the mother wrote. "He didn't know my son. Other than his name and grade. He used my son's name and likeness to 'catfish' classmates as part of a poorly thought-out revenge plot. My son had the random misfortune of being chosen to be his fall guy. I hope this student gets the help he needs and that the consequences of his actions lead to better choices in the future."

The mother thanked the police department and Causey for their attention and dedication to solving the case.

"Our family is deeply grateful to Officer Causey and the Granbury Police Department," she wrote. "They could have dismissed this as 'teen social media drama,' unworthy of the time and resources to investigate. Instead, they understood the seriousness of this crime and committed to solving the case. Because of them, my son's reputation is restored."

She added he was able to go to school "free from stress and fear."

The mom said in addition to thanking the school district and GPD, she was sharing the story to warn parents.

"Keep an open dialogue with your kids about social media," she wrote. "Bullying and abusive behavior run rampant on these platforms with little oversight.

PLEASE SEE CYBER | AX

Sookie makes it home for Christmas

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Some Christmas magic was worked recently for the McConnell family as their dog, Sookie, a half-huskie, half-labrador, was found after disappearing for eight days.

On Dec 6, Dani McConnell's pet of nine years escaped after slipping out of her collar. The family of four was heartbroken.

"We spent the whole night out, driving cars and calling names and crying a lot. My daughter was in kindergarten and the boys were only 3 years old, so they've never really known anything other than having her," McConnell said.

McConnell took to social media, asking people to look for her family's dog and to alert her if they found her. She thought Sookie would be more friendly but multiple people contacted her saying she would not come to them before running off.

Pecan Plantation residents Kyndall and Nathan Bond work with McConnell at Bond Arms so when someone posted a picture of a similar-looking dog on the "Next-Door" app, Then she went looking to help her friend.

They participated in one of the search parties that looked around the golf course but with no luck. There was a freeze that Saturday night, so Kyndall Bond and McConnell became more worried as the weather worsened. On their way to church the next day, the Bonds drove by the back entrance of Pecan Plantation to find Sookie.

"We were heading to church, so we pulled over and she didn't want to come to us. I don't think she wanted to come to anybody, really, other than Dani," Kyndall Bond said. "I'm glad that it was us who found her because we had Dani's direct line. We just kind of sat with her and made sure we had eyes on her until Dani come out.

"Whenever she called her, she ran right up to Dani and was jumping up on her and giving her kisses and all that kind of stuff. Dani was very emotional about the fact that she finally got her dog back, because she was really missing her dog," Kyndall Bond said.

McConnell didn't mind an early morning phone call.

"Sunday morning, I woke up to my phone ringing. I answered it real fast. It was Nathan Bond. He's like, 'Hey, your dog is OK, but she's on the side of the road and she won't come to me.' I hopped in my car, I drove down there," McConnell said.

Bond said the dog did look a little worn out when they found her. They believe she had been hiding out by some brush for warmth and maybe getting into trash for food since she was gone for eight days. McConnell lives in Canyon Creek, so they believe she walked up the creek and traveled over six miles.

"I started calling her name and she wouldn't even lift up her head. I think she actually had to smell that it was me. Her head went up and she took off. She was probably 10 feet away. She ran out there and came straight out to me and I could tell that she was tired and wore out," McConnell said.

McConnell said Sookie smelled a little like skunk but was not sprayed directly. The dog seemed OK, but McConnell took her to the vet.

"They gave her a check-up, and she lost a half of a pound. She's perfect health, nothing broken, nothing scratched, nothing skimped, She's fine. She's going to eat and sleep a lot, which she has, but she was perfectly fine. I guess it was luck," McConnell said.

The whole family was relieved and maybe cried a little when Sookie made it home.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sookie is happy to be back home after an unscheduled eight-day excursion. The family pet was located quite a distance from home.

CYBER

FROM PAGE A7

Kids should know apps like Snapchat are not private, and that anything done online can follow them for years.

"My hope is that with more awareness, families can help teens and preteens recognize the risks of social media and prevent this from happening to other students in Granbury and beyond."

Causey, who has worked for the police department for 11 years, said this was the first case he investigated of social media being used to bully someone.

The charge against the suspect is a third-degree felony. For adults, it is punishable by 2-10 years in prison and a fine of up to $10,000.

Shelli Berry, Hood County juvenile probation director, said she could offer no information related to the case because the suspect is a juvenile. However, she did say the maximum punishment for a juvenile convicted of the crime is probation up until their 18th birthday.

"I don't think kids understand the seriousness of this," Causey said. "They don't understand what the cost could be of doing something like this."

This case involved a 14-year-old student using Snapchat, and when the victim was able to send a message to the suspect, the suspect responded by saying, "Hmmm ... why am I texting myself?" Causey said.

Snapchat is a popular social media platform for teens because messages disappear once they are read, unless someone takes a picture or screenshot of them, Causey said.

When the victim began experiencing problems at school, officials with Granbury ISD contacted the police department in February 2025.

After initially considering this a case of harassment, it rose to the level of online impersonation and became a felony investigation.

The case was assigned to Causey in March, and he began a methodical search for information, contacting Snapchat to get subscriber information, as well as Google; which had information about the suspect's email and contacts, and Charter Communications, which was the Internet service provider.

"I reached out to Snapchat and sent a letter with a preservation request (for information)," Causey said. "So that account couldn't be deleted, and the information couldn't be lost. Shortly after that, I sent a subpoena trying to get user info. I already had the username and the victim had screenshots of messages."

It was an interesting case, Causey said, because there initially were no suspects.

"The victim said he got along with everyone at school, had no squabbles with anyone and was nice to everyone," Causey said. "This was very out of character."

The investigation took time, as Causey said the expression "hurry up and wait" often proved to be true.

"Snapchat eventually did get with me and gave me the IP (internet provider) addresses used. Those are unique to specific addresses," Causey said. 'I also received an email address with a name followed by (contact) numbers.

"The school district provided us with the suspect's name, address and emergency contact information. That in itself was not enough for an arrest. At that point, we had a person of interest," he said.

Google was the next to respond, providing the email account holder's name and an IP address which matched the suspect's Snapchat address.

"It took a long time for Charter to get back with me," Causey said. "That was the last piece of the puzzle to have a strong case."

With the information Snapchat, Google and Charter provided, "I knew without a doubt (the suspect) was the individual we wanted."

Causey said as an investigator he has seen many crimes and police often are not personally affected by a particular crime.

"This was different," he said. "The victim in this was a kid who hadn't done anything wrong. A group of 20 kids came up and were yelling at him and calling him names while he was at lunch. Little did they know he wasn't the person doing it (putting negative information about them on Snapchat)."

"It wasn't until July that I received the subpoena results from Charter, and I sent the subpoena to them back in April," Causey said.

Every day of delayed justice was difficult for the victim and his family, but Causey said he contacted them regularly to provide updates.

"That's the nature of the beast with some of these cases," Causey said. "You're at the mercy of the provider and all you can do is wait. I tried to have good communications with the family," Causey said.

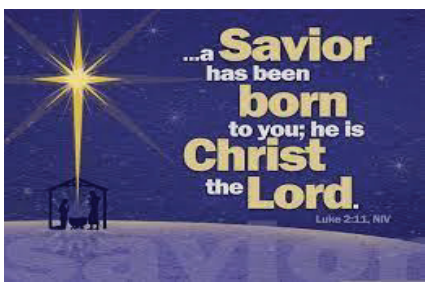
After collecting all the necessary information, Causey reached out to the suspect's guardian and informed them about "a little of the story. I didn't tell them 100 percent right away. They agreed to bring him to the police station."

Because the case involved a juvenile, a magistrate became involved, and then the suspect agreed to speak with police.

"He was pretty reluctant at first to say anything, and at first he denied it," Causey said. "After I laid all the evidence out, he understood, and his demeanor changed. He teared up and admitted what he had done. He said if the victim was here now, he'd apologize. He admitted he had no beef or squabble with the victim. It was like he just picked a name and went with it. He remembered the messages and admitted to sending them."

The case was assigned to Hood County Juvenile probation. The juvenile probation office was contacted to get an update regarding the status of the case, and the Hood County News is awaiting a call back with information.





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City charter set for 4-year review

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Those who would like to have a voice in how local government decisions are made have an opportunity to volunteer for the city of Granbury's Charter Review Commission, which meets every four years.

The city charter has been compared to a local version of the U.S. Constitution and lays the foundation for how often city government entities meet, their focus, how long people serve on city government bodies and how often elections are held, among other responsibilities.

The deadline to apply to serve on the commission is noon Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Once the seven commission members are selected, they will be contacted to determine a time and date for their organizational meeting. At that meeting, commission members will decide the time and date of their future meetings, how frequently they will meet and what priorities they will to focus on.

Councilman Skip Overdier served on the charter review commission in 2022. He said one of the important duties of the group is to respond to changes in state law that impact local government.

"The problem is the legislature keeps changing so much stuff," Overdier said. "It's important for cities to keep up with that, and it affects the city charter.

"The 2022 board didn't make that many changes, but the one before us, in 2018, did some major rewrites. Like the U.S. Constitution, our charter lays out what you can do and what you can't do. We are able to do whatever the state doesn't prevent us from doing."

The state legislature recently passed 160 laws that affect the way Texas cities are able to govern, so commission members will look at those changes when looking at the city charter.

"Our city charter tells us what to do, when to do it, how to do it and gives us the framework, and we make decisions based on those guidelines," Overdier said.

He said the 2022 charter review commission met five or six times.

The maximum term of the commission is six months, but the work can be done in less time.

Those who are residents of Granbury and are interested in applying to serve on the commission can go to the city's website, granbury.org, and select the government tab which directs them to the boards, committees and commissions page. An application is available there. The application can be returned by email, mail or delivered in person.


Skip Overdier

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department criminal activity report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurring through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Dec. 7-13. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

Dec. 7

5:31 a.m.: report of loud music in the 1200 block of Crawford Court.

9:01 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1400 block of Spanish Trail Drive.

2:42 p.m.: report of an assault in the 600 block of Reunion Court.

3:11 p.m.: report of a DWI in the 5800 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:48 p.m.: report of property damage in the 100 block of E. Bluff Street.

police 77 incidents, including one major traffic accident and 13 traffic stops.

Dec. 8

2:29 a.m.: report of stock out near S. Pirate Drive and Paluxy Road.

6:53 a.m.: repot of an animal in the 1000 block of Quiet Cove.

6:55 a.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1500 block of S. Morgan Street.

8:37 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 100 block of Meadows North Drive.

9:10 a.m.: report of burglary in the 100 block of Seabiscuit Court.

9:49 a.m.: k-9 sniff in the 1000 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:17 a.m.: report of an animal near Loop 567 and Boston Smith Parkway.

10:27 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1100 block of N.E. Loop 567.

10:28 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1300 block of N.E. Loop 567.

11:16 a.m.: report of an animal in the 2000 block of Weatherford Highway.

12:11 p.m.: report of an animal in the 1400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 101 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 20 traffic stops.

Dec. 9

12:18 a.m.: report of a noise in the 1500 block of N. Plaza Drive.

1:09 a.m.: report of loud music in the 1500 block of 2nd Street.

9:12 a.m.: report of an animal in the 3600 block of FM 4.

9:25 a.m.: report of an animal in the 4000 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:56 p.m.: report of a parking problem in the 1200 block of W. Pearl Street.

7:04 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 1200 block of N. Plaza Drive.

police reported 131 incidents, including two major traffic accidents, one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 24 traffic stops.

Dec. 10

9:51 a.m.: report of drug possession in the 5200 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:19 a.m.: report of noise in the 500 block of Brazos Harbor Drive.

11:13 a.m.: k-9 sniff in the 5200 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

4:27 p.m.: report of fraud in the 4000 block of Cornerstone Circle.

11:47 p.m.: report of criminal trespass in the 900 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 71 incidents, including one major traffic accident and 31 traffic stops.

Dec. 11

9:27 a.m.: report of an animal in the 4200 block of Acton Highway.

2:17 p.m.: report of an animal in the 4700 block of Topaz Lane.

5:15 p.m.: report of an assault in the 1300 block of James Road.

5:25 p.m.: report of threats in the 2000 block of W. Pearl Street.

8:29 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 4100 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

9:01 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 100 block of W. Pearl Street.

11:14 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 800 block of Harbor Lakes Drive.

police reported 68 incidents, including one hit and run traffic accident, two minor traffic accidents and 16 traffic stops.

Dec. 12

8:45 a.m.: report of an animal in the 1300 block of N. Meadows Drive.

9:06 a.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1200 block of Stanton Court.

9:14 a.m.: report of an animal in the 400 block of Bridge Street.

10:124 a.m.: report of a parking problem in the 100 block of S. Crockett Street.

10:55 a.m.: report of theft between $30,000 and $150,000 near Loop 567 and Lipan Highway.

11:08 a.m.: report of an animal in the 300 block of Holly Hills Cemetery Road.

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

11:55 a.m.: report of fraud in the 700 block of Rolling Terrace Circle.

4:07 p.m.: report of an animal bite in the 2400 block of Waters Edge Drive.

4:21 p.m.: report of an assault in the 3900 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

7:54 p.m.: report of an assault in the 300 block of Loop 567.

8:29 p.m.: report of loud music in the 2100 block of W. U.S. Highway 377.

11:49 p.m.: report of drug possession in the 3700 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

police reported 63 incidents, including three hit and run traffic accidents, five minor traffic accidents and 17 traffic stops.

Dec. 13

9:36 p.m.: report of a disturbance in the 1500 block of 2nd Street.

police reported 58 incidents, including one major traffic accident and 25 traffic stops.

Unique Christmas traditions found around the world

Christmas celebrations span the globe. According to a 2025 report from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, there are roughly 2.6 billion Christians worldwide, a figure that undoubtedly contributes to the popularity of Christmas. Christianity continues to have the most adherents of any religion in the world, and the Christian population is expected to top 3 billion before 2050.

Christians bring unique cultural touches to their Christmas celebrations each year. Celebrations vary widely, and here's a look at some notable Christmas traditions across the globe.

Yule goat

The Yule Goat is a Christmas tradition in Sweden. The goat is believed to be an invisible spirit that ensures Yule preparations are done correctly. A popular theory connects the goat to the Norse god Thor, who rode a chariot pulled by two goats.

Krampus

While many people celebrate the benevolence of Santa Claus, some celebrate a much grumpier alter-ego of sort. Krampus is a man-goat, half-demon monster who punishes misbehaving children at Christmastime, Britannica reads. He is the evil companion of St. Nicholas, and is believed to have originated in Germany. His name comes from the German word "krampen," which means, "claw."

Christmas chicken

Christmas Eve is a popular romantic occasion for couples and families in Japan. In addition to gift-giving and a romance, many people choose to feast on a meal of KFC fried chicken and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Roller-skating to mass

In the city of Caracas, Venezuela, it's customary for Christmas Eve celebrants to roller skate to early morning mass. Known as "Misa de Aguinaldo," these special church services take place on the days leading up to Christmas, with the most festive held Dec. 24. On this day, the streets of Caracas are closed to automobiles, enabling revelers to cheerfully skate to church.

Mummering

In Newfoundland, Canada, celebrants known as mummers dress in elaborate disguises featuring mismatched clothing and whimsical accessories. The mummers obscure their identities and visit neighbors' homes during the 12 days of Christmas, performing songs, skits or dances while others attempt to guess their identities.

Las Posadas

In some Hispanic regions, including Mexico, participants reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem through vibrant processions. They travel from house to house, singing traditional songs and requesting shelter only to be turned away until they reach a final home or church that will symbolically welcome them in.

Spiderweb decorations

Individuals in Ukraine decorate their Christmas trees with artificial spider webs. This tradition is inspired by a tale of a poor widow and her children who didn't have money for tree ornaments. Upon waking up on Christmas morning, they found their tree covered in sparkling, glimmering spider webs that resembled tinsel. A spider had spun the beautiful display as thanks for finding shelter and warmth in the family's humble abode. Today's spider webs symbolize unexpected blessings and gratitude.

Decorative cookies Santa cannot resist this Chirstmas

Kids know cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all across the globe. That sustenance often is provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won't leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations, courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen
2 cups flour
1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 large egg yolk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 large egg white
1 pinch cream of tartar
2 cups confectioners' sugar
Sprinkles, for decorating

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.

2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about two minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.

3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2-3 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out one piece of dough between sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1Ú8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm).

5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for five minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool). Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, rerolling scraps only once.

6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1-2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or water.



7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.

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Helping homeless veterans is her calling

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Asking for help can be difficult, but when you are a veteran who has fallen through the cracks of the system and are used to being tough and self-sufficient, it can be even harder.

One of those who is reaching out to veterans — especially those who are homeless and may have few places to seek help — is Diana Vasquez, a resident of Pecan Plantation and a veteran of the U.S. Army who knows firsthand how important it is to get help.

Vasquez spoke to the Granbury Lions Club, which meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Spring Creek Barbeque, to give them information about her nonprofit group, Stars, Stripes & Sacrifice, which provides assistance to veterans in need, including the homeless. She also has written a book, "Stars, Stripes and Sacrifice," which details her experiences.

Vasquez was a sergeant in the U.S. Army and served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. She was involved in military intelligence and was wounded in Baghdad, in 2004. She was evacuated by medical helicopter and has undergone 53 surgeries in the aftermath.

"I've had more surgeries than I am years old," she said.

While someone who has suffered through those experiences easily could sit back and let someone else work hard, Vasquez has chosen a more difficult path, but it's something she said she has an intense commitment to doing.

"I love my family and I'm thankful for their support, but if I didn't have it, I would still do this," she said. "I would sell my last drop of blood to help veterans. They deserve better."

Vasquez and her family were blessed with a new house built for them through Operation Finally Home in 2017. She said without the help she received; she easily could have experienced the same things homeless veterans endure.

"I founded my organization because there are so many homeless veterans and so many homeless in America," Vasquez said. "It just shouldn't be that way. I have been doing this for five years. The first three years everything came out of my own pocket because I knew the need was there. I've had a 501(c) 3 (official nonprofit status) for the last two years.

"This is a cause I fully believe in. We work hard from sunup to sundown and don't have a lot of money, but I still donated $12,000 last year because this is that important," she said.

Vasquez's charity provides backpacks filled with essential items with a total value of $250-$300.

"Necessities are things like blankets, hoodies, hand warmers, toboggans, mittens," she said. "In spite of what everybody thinks, Texas winters can get cold. We try to fill their backpacks with as many items as we can. I also include non-perishable items where possible. They want food.

"These are our brothers and sisters in arms. To me, it is unacceptable that they have put their lives on the line, and they have been overlooked and forgotten. That could have been me and my family living on the streets," Vasquez said. "We need to put ourselves in their shoes. What if we or somebody we loved needed this help?



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Michael Wells stands next to his friend, author Diana Vasquez, founder of Stars, Stripes & Sacrifice, a nonprofit group which helps homeless veterans. Vasquez talked about her mission during a recent meeting of the Granbury Lions Club.

"Sometimes people walk by and don't give them a second thought when they could ask, 'Are you OK?' or 'Is there anything we can do?' This program means a lot to me. I'll do this until my last breath. I'll always keep fighting for the veterans," she said.

Vasquez said the number of homeless she helps varies. She may get a notification from Fort Worth about 70 or 80 females and 60 males who need help at any given time.

"They do have shelters they can stay at for three days but then they are back out on the streets," Vasquez said. "There are more female veterans who are homeless than males, for whatever reason. A lot of women veterans are unseen."

She said her license plate specifies being a veteran, and people often thank her husband for service, not realizing that she is a veteran.

"They don't acknowledge me and that's OK, I don't have to be recognized, but often people don't even think about women being veterans," Vasquez said.

Her nonprofit often receives donations from Tractor Supply, and she said she goes to local garage sales looking for quality used items that can help veterans.

"I won't give them a ripped or stained shirt," Vasquez said. "Veterans deserve our best, even if they are homeless. Hopefully, one day we will be able to offer them housing."

One of Vasquez's neighbors "Knitted a ton of hats so we can put one in each bag," she said. "We also include a Bible, an American flag, two T-shirts and try to give them some kind of leggings, because dressing in layers is always best."

Many homeless veterans are reluctant to ask for help, Vasquez said.

"They are afraid they'll be rejected," she said. "Also, it's the military way to suck it up and move on. A lot of it also involves depression. When you don't know where to go for help, it weighs on you."

Those who want more information on ways to help can visit Vasquez's Stars, Stripes & Sacrifice website and Facebook page. She said all proceeds from sales of her book go back into her nonprofit to help veterans.

"I'm just trying to help them get through another day or two days or three days," Vasquez said. "They need help and I just want to lend them a hand."

'Following the trail' to Granbury: Massey's BBQ opens new location off the square

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Todd Massey is the proud owner of Massey's BBQ, an operation born out of his family's long standing barbecue tradition — to serve the cowboys and cowgirls running the rodeo circuits.

Now, Massey is opening a third location at 607 N. Houston St., the former location of the Local Goat Distillery, and as he himself said, "following the trail" down to Granbury.

The Massey family legacy didn't start out in the barbecue trade, but instead, in the red dirt of a rodeo arena. Locals of Alvarado, the Masseys are the proud owners of the M7 arena — a local hub for rodeoing.

Over the years the Masseys would serve their family's handed-down barbecue recipes, garnering praise from the arena's visitors.

Eight and a half years ago, Massey's son, Dakota, pitched the idea of a brick-and-mortar restaurant to his father.

Massey said he considered the proposal and decided they'd give it a go, as Alvarado had no other local barbecue spots and a whole lot of hungry cowboys — the perfect combination to begin Massey's.

According to Massey, the family decided to center their restaurant not only around good ol' fashioned Texas barbecue, but on the concept of doing things together, and giving other families in their community a place to do the same.

"Our motto is 'Where families gather together,'" Massey said. "Family is huge, and barbecue plays into that. My uncle did always say — 'Everybody's got to eat!'"

Together, the family opened the doors of their restaurant and quickly became the best barbecue spot in town — even if they were the only barbecue spot in town.

At the smoke pit's helm was Todd's cousin, Terry Massey.

"My cousin was an award-winning barbecue guy," Massey said. "He had a motor home and a barrel smoker, and he'd take off anywhere from here to Canada and win all of the barbecue competitions."

Terry died shorty after the Alverado store opened, but his legacy is carried out through the barbecue the Masseys serve daily.

"The recipe is still my cousin's — we still use the family's recipe book," Massey said.

These recipes earned the restaurant local notoriety, and following their success the Massey's opened two more locations; one in Cleburne and one in Glen Rose.

However, according to Massey, following COVID the Glen Rose location began to suffer.

Hard times don't stop this family, though, and according to Massey a large portion of the Glen Rose location's clientele were driving in from Granbury.

So, the team decided to work towards closing the Glen Rose location and opening a fresh spot where the majority of their fans could be found.

"Over 90 percent of our customers at the Glen Rose location were from Granbury, so we decided to follow the trail," Massey said. "I'll be sad to leave Glen Rose, but we've got to go where the masses are. Look at all that Granbury does; y'all got one of the best chamber-of-commerces, period —and all those tourists, too."

The team has done a complete renovation of the building just off the squrare, nearly doubling its capacity.

On the right side of the building is a state-of-the-art bar, complete with a space for small, live music performances to highlight local artists — a priority of the Massey family.

The left side of the building is where the cafeteria-style barbecue service line will be housed, with a window into the kitchen so patrons of the establishment can see the pitmasters hard at work.



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Todd Massey(right) and Tony Calloway have completely renovated the new location's building, which previously housed the Local Goat distillery.

The new addition to the back of the building houses additional seating, as well as a space for private meetings and parties.

According to Massey, following the opening, they hope to develop the outdoor space surrounding the restaurant into a concert venue — and even one day maybe a public farmer's market.

He said Massey's BBQ stood apart from other, more commercial spots due to its dedication to participating in and becoming a space for the local community.

"This is more family-style (than other barbecue spots), and it's really community focused as well," Massey said. "We really want to make this a place the community can use."



Come check out Massey's BBQ's new Granbury location, located at 607 N. Houston St. when it opens in mid-January.



Todd Massey is opening a Granbury location for his family-run restaurant, Massey's BBQ.

Christmas Holiday Festival at VFW





MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Georgie Thompson of Granbury presents a stunning selection of handcrafted snow globes for attendees of the VFW Christmas Holiday Festival.



Who could resist free Santa selfies? Eight-year-old Hannah Poltz couldn't. Santa and his wife, Julie, enjoy volunteering at the VFW whenever possible. Julie enjoyed overseeing the crafting and games area.



Mae Burns, Santa's helper, is the go-to person for the Christmas Holiday Festival on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Riley Stephens VFW Memorial Post 7835.



The free VFW Christmas Holiday Festival community event includes a variety of vendors, both indoors and outdoors.

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A golden beginning unfolds for new GISD group

Golden Pirates formed to support district

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

Seeking to involve some of the community's most experienced people in a way that helps support Granbury Independent School District students and staff, GISD Superintendent Courtney Morawski introduced the Golden Pirates during the group's first meeting Dec. 16.

The group is comprised of members age 55 and older and the focus is to "strengthen the connection between Granbury ISD and our 55-plus community members by fostering meaningful relationships, encouraging two-way communication and honoring the experience and wisdom they bring to our district," Morawski wrote in an introductory agenda given to the group.

"This group provides a welcoming space of engagement, conversation and involvement, allowing members to stay informed, share perspectives, support students and staff, and contribute to the continued success and culture of Granbury ISD — and of course, to have fun while doing it," Morawski wrote.

After enjoying a performance of Christmas songs sung by members of the Granbury High School choirs, directed by Kendra Fisher, the group heard an overview of the district.

Morawski told the Golden Pirates GISD has about 7,900 students and 1,350 employees, including 539 classroom teachers. Starting salary for GISD teachers is $61,000, and teachers have an average of 11.5 years' experience. The district has 10 campuses and is considered a medium-sized school district in Texas.

Further details include 55.3 percent of the students are considered to be economically disadvantaged, qualifying for free- and reduced-cost meals at school; 19.3 percent are part of the special education program; 93.5 percent of students take at least one career and technical education class at GHS; and 7.86 percent are identified as gifted and talented.

GISD's strategic plan is 200 pages, Morawski said, and one priority is focusing on how to improve and strengthen relations with the community. Forming the Golden Pirates was a step in that direction.

"Academics are on the rise," Morawski said. "We are rated a B district with an 83 grade. We improved from a C to a B."

The average ACT (American College Test) score for Granbury students was 21, while the state average is 19.3 and the national average is 19.5. The average SAT (Standardized Aptitude Test) for GISD students was 1047, compared to 978 statewide and 1028 nationally.

GISD has two graduates attending the U.S. Naval Academy and one graduate attending the U.S. Military Academy, and the three met up before the recent Army-Navy football game.

GISD has a $98-million budget, Morawski said, and received a superior rating for financial integrity. She said 85 percent of the district's budget goes to salaries.

Morawski asked group members what the district is doing really well and what it can improve.

Responses for what the district is doing well included:

Trying to reach out and involve the community



JEFF OSBORNE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of the newly formed Golden Pirates organization, from left, Dianna Cocanour and Debbie Stevens speak with GISD Superintendent Dr. Courtney Morawski, third from left, and Lissa Oliver, director of community relations for the district.

Financial stewardship

Taking care of students and making them feel welcome

Outstanding Career and Technical Education and Junior ROTC programs

Responses for areas to improve included:

Better communication on details of school events, including athletic events

Communicating more on how to help students at lower levels of achievement

Finding ways for people to communicate with teachers and provide ways to make their lives easier

Morawski said community members can go to the Granbury ISD website and find detailed information, including the school's academic and activity calendars, with specific details related to each school.

"We have worked really hard to make this information available online," she said. "It's a great tool and I want you to be aware it's there."

One group member said she was able to be added to her grandchild's Dojo account through the parents, and school activities often were listed there before they were listed on Facebook.

Dojo, or ClassDojo, is an online educational communications program that helps link teachers and schools with families.

One addition GISD is considering is the Mentors Care program, which will allow approved community members to mentor high school students, offering them support and encouragement. That idea will be presented to the school board in March 2026 for possible inclusion in the 2026-27 school year.

"We want to make sure any program for mentors does not create an extra burden for staff, that there is a vetting process to make sure it is safe and secure," Morawski said. "This program could help bring people from the community who are passionate about helping out. We are excited about it."

Another possible change Morawski told the Golden Pirates about is the addition of a virtual school.

"We are very much looking at the possibility of a virtual school next year," she said. "It could be a great way to offer flexibility for some families. It would be a hybrid. The students involved would come to school every day for a class at least, and could participate in extracurricular activities, but could have some courses online.

"I feel like families who may want a little bit more of a private school feel could benefit. This could be a great compromise," Morawaski said.

The district also is seeking more ways for community members to become involved as volunteers also while making sure to protect the safety of everyone on campus.

A volunteer page is available on the GISD website, which includes an application with a background check. More information about the Golden Pirates is also published on the website. The next Golden Pirates meeting, in February 2026, will include a tour of some district campuses.



Shoulder injuries don't have to keep you from living your life

GUEST COLUMN
Lakeside Physicians Orthopedic Surgery

Shoulder pain is a frequent complaint that brings patients to an orthopedic surgeon. The shoulder is a highly mobile joint, which makes it more vulnerable to injury. Two of the most common issues are rotator cuff tears and frozen shoulder.

Understanding rotator cuff tears

The rotator cuff is a group of muscles and tendons that hold the shoulder in place and allow you to lift and rotate your arm. Tears may result from a sudden injury, such as lifting something heavy or develop gradually from repetitive use. Patients often notice weakness, pain when lifting the arm and difficulty sleeping on the affected side.

Dr. Cody Hartshorn, orthopedic surgeon with Lakeside Physicians said, "Rotator cuff injuries are common in both athletes and people who do overhead work. Not every tear requires surgery. Some respond well to physical therapy, steroid injections and rest, while others may require minimally invasive repair."

Frozen shoulder

Also known as adhesive capsulitis, frozen shoulder causes stiffness, pain and reduced range of motion. It typically develops gradually, often after an injury or period of immobilization, and can take months to resolve.

Dr. Corey Mark, orthopedic surgeon at Lakeside Physicians said, "Frozen shoulder can be very frustrating for patients. Conservative treatment with physical therapy, anti-inflammatory medication and sometimes injections usually leads to improvement, but in rare cases, a minor surgical procedure may be needed."

Conservative vs. surgical treatment

Conservative care may include rest, physical therapy, medications and injections.

Surgical care is considered for persistent pain, weakness or limited mobility that does not improve with therapy. Arthroscopic surgery is often effective for rotator cuff tears.

Local impact

In Granbury, Glen Rose and Stephenville, shoulder injuries are especially common among ranchers, construction workers and athletes. Early evaluation helps prevent long-term complications and allows patients to return to work or sports sooner.

Dr. Hartshorn said, "The key is early intervention. If we can see patients when symptoms first appear, they often avoid more complex procedures."

When to see an orthopedic surgeon

Seek care if you have:

Persistent shoulder pain or weakness

Difficulty lifting your arm

Pain that disrupts sleep

Stiffness lasting several weeks

Takeaway

Shoulder injuries don't have to keep you from living your life. With proper diagnosis and treatment, most patients regain function and return to their daily activities.

Appointments with Dr. Cody Hartshorn or Dr. Corey Mark at Lakeside Physicians can be made by calling (817) 579-2020.





Tolar shows growth with younger football team

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Tolar had a younger team this season and fewer results in the win column, but head coach Blake Mouser feels they learned a lot about Friday night football. The Rattlers had four victories and seven losses on the season with a 2-3 district record earning Tolar a fourth-place district finish, making the playoffs for the seventh year in a row.

Keeping the playoff tradition alive was something Mouser was proud of, along with the five seniors who stuck this season out.

"We're always going to have high expectations here of wanting to compete and win trophies. We knew we would have a young team, and as the year went on, we got younger. We had some kids who got called up from JV who ended up having big goals for us. Our team at the end of the year was hopefully not the same team you saw at the beginning, we thought we could continue to get better and I thought we did," Mouser said. "I'm proud of the five seniors who stuck it out. A lot of guys could have quit but they didn't."

With students not finishing the season due to injuries or other reasons, Mouser and his staff looked at players from the JV teams who could mentally handle the struggles of a Friday night. At one point, there were six sophomores and one freshman starting for the defense.

"The difference between Thursday and Friday night is such a physical difference. You have to be strong enough and mentally tough enough. Guys who usually make plays on a Thursday night, make tackles, break tackles, score with the ball, that stuff translates to Friday nights. Can they give that effort and that extra little bit that are needed on Friday nights," Mouser said.

Going forward with students who were called up is a "great feeling" for Mouser. The younger students played good and he's identified what they want them to build on to be more prepared for the physical toll of a Friday night. The weight room will be a focus on the snake farm.

"Being thrown in the deep end to learn how to swim, those guys did and I'm so proud of them. They stuck with it and showed that they can do it. Offseason we'll be in the weight room, that's our big goal. Get stronger in our legs, get stronger in our body, get some weight and get faster," Mouser said. "We have 22 out of 27 guys coming back, about nine starters on both sides of the ball. We're excited, already geared up and started off-season workouts."

The physical difference between a younger Tolar team and teams with more juniors and seniors was a key struggle they couldn't address besides playing through it and Mouser liked how the players handled it.

The coaching staff led the team on the sidelines in many ways. The younger makeup of this Rattler team showed in their less than vocal nature. While Mouser is proud of the kids who were thrown into the deep end and swam, he wants them to teach other's to swim now.

"To say we're perfect would be a lie. We still have things to work on in terms of player leadership, player accountability.

PLEASE SEE **TOLAR** B2



JOSH BURTON I HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Head coach Blake Mouser addresses his team after the 41-20 loss to Jacksboro in the first round of playoffs.

UIL numbers reveal Granbury moving to 6A in 2026-27

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The University Interscholastic League conference cutoff numbers have been released for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Granbury ISD's official enrollment number of 2,264 places them in Conference 6A for UIL competition beginning in the 2026-27 and 2027-28 schools years. The cutoff for 6A is 2,215.

District realignment will be announced Feb. 2 by UIL.

"Moving from Division 5A to 6A transition reflects the continued growth of our student population and the strength of our community." Granbury Athletic Director Lamont Moore said.

"Competing in 6A will challenge our teams to raise their standards while continuing to emphasize sportsmanship, integrity and academic responsibility. Our coaching staffs are prepared to support this transition by focusing on athlete development, preparation and ensuring that our student-athletes are positioned for success both in competition and in the classroom," he said.

"We recognize that this move brings new expectations and challenges; however, we are confident in our athletes, coaches and the strong foundation of our programs. Our goal remains to create a positive and competitive environment that prepares student-athletes for future opportunities while representing our school and community with pride," Moore said.

"We appreciate the continued support of our parents, staff and community as we take this step forward in our athletic program," he said.

Other Hood County Schools such as Tolar ISD and Lipan ISD are expected to stay in their respective classes — 3A for Tolar and 2A for Lipan.v

Lipan fishing team throws back some holiday kindness



COURTESY

Miguel Munoz (left) and Riggin Morris (right) shop with their carts full of gifts and necessities for kids in need of a good Christmas.

BY JAXON HANSARD
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The Lipan fishing team spread some holiday cheer Dec. 9 when they turned a team dinner into hallmark moment. A few years ago, Lipan second grade teacher Calie Vance started a tradition that when the fishing team has it's team dinner at the Rosa's café in Weatherford, they also go to Walmart to adopt Angel Tree kids.

"Angel Tree is a holiday assistance program in which an individual or group sponsors a child 'Angel' and purchases new toys, clothing, shoes or gift cards for children ages 0-12," according to the Salvation Army.

The team has more than 30 sponsors who helped fund the Christmas shopping trip. With the trip being paid for by the sponsors and community members, the students are allowed to embrace the goal and experience of giving back to their community.

"Giving back is a big part of what the Lipan Fishing Team stands for. These kids learn responsibility, leadership and sportsmanship through fishing and they wanted to use those values to make a positive impact in the community, especially during the Christmas season," team advisor Celica Munoz said.

PLEASE SEE **LIPAN** B8

Academics and volleyball, Mattie Weaver does it all

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

From left are Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark, Mattie Weaver, Remi Chastain, Assistant Coach Kayla Overton, Head Coach Desiree Shahan, Superintendent Courtney Morawski. Weaver and Chastain received their Academic All-State awards, along with Weaver receiving her AVCA Best and Brightest.

One of the Lady Pirate volleyball seniors isn't only leading her team on the court, but also in academics. The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) selected Mattie Weaver to the Best and Brightest awards second team. This team recognizes her with some of the top high school senior student athletes in the nation. Being selected for the second team means she has a 3.65 unweighted GPA/4.15 weighted GPA or above.

"It came as such a shock, but I was so honored at the same time. It's such an honor to be recognized for stuff, even if it's not just for volleyball. The best and brightest award is about what's on and off the court. It's so cool to get recognized for something I'm so passionate about, but also something I work hard in," Weaver said.

Head volleyball coach Desiree Shahan nominated Weaver to give recognition for her fantastic ability to balance schoolwork and sports. Weaver also made the Academic All-State team.

"it's super important for people to know that we're not just athletes. They're students first and that's most important. It's something that I harp on to them from the very beginning. The ultimate goal as a senior to me is getting Academic All-State and getting the Best and Brightest and those types of awards, because it means not only are you a good athlete, but a fantastic student," Shahan said.

Weaver is balancing her grades, playing volleyball, her emergency medical training (EMT) classes, dual-credit classes and a new job. She is grateful for the reinforcement she gets from her parents and coach to stay on top of her grades.

While some days are a drag, she really does enjoy school. Between seeing her friends and learning new things, she enjoys her school life. Her EMT class is the hardest class she's taking, it is her favorite and a foreshadow to what she wants to pursue after Granbury High School. In her spring semester she will get to work in an ambulance on 12-hour shifts.

"I just love learning about anything medical and I love helping people and just knowing what I need to know in order to do that," Weaver said. "I kind of want to go into nursing school and

PLEASE SEE **ACADEMICS** B3



OPTIONS PLUMBING

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Hood County News

Lady Pirates win district opener against Fossil Ridge

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The Granbury Lady Pirate basketball team won it's district opener 51-48 against Fossil Ridge. The Lady Pirates now are 1-0 in district play coming off a four-game losing streak and have snapped Fossil Ridge's 10-game winning streak in new head coach Brad Blalock's district debut for Granbury.

"It's fun because we put a lot of effort into it. They're phenomenal. They've won 10 in a row and we've lost four, so the momentum was definitely on their side. I thought we did a phenomenal job defensively in the first half. I told them in the locker room defense won the first half and offense in the second half." Blalock said.

Blalock mentioned how prepared his team was for this big district game. The night before, the team had a motivational meeting to discuss and empower each other before district play started.

Defense headlined the first half with a tied score of 19-19 at halftime. The intense and "handsy" energy of the Lady Pirates kept Fossil Ridge from making threes or driving into the paint.

Senior's Jillian Williams, Hannah Dafoe and junior Mollie Barnes were at the root of almost every defense play for Granbury. Williams had 11 points; Dafoe had seven points and Barnes had five.

"They're relentless. I asked our coaches a couple times on the bench if we need to give them a breather and they're like 'Nah they got it' We're really proud of that effort, and that effort you can't coach, so it's a big deal," Blalock said.

While Granbury had good open shots in the first half of the game, they became easier, more open and started to fall in the second half. They scored 19 points in the third quarter and 13 in the final quarter.

"At halftime, we said you're 16 minutes from beating a 14-2 team. We said they're going to come out hot, and third quarter's typically have not been really good, but I don't have to get any extra motivation in the district opener. I think our transition opened up and that worked in the second half for our offense," Blalock said.

Freshman Jenna Marquardt was added to the varsity roster before the Granbury Kia tournament for a two-week period the Hayes sisters were out. Since her addition, she has fit into the team bench guard role "tremendously." She finished the game with seven points.

"She stepped in really well and got some valuable minutes in the Kia tournament. She probably logged four games prior to that point. She has composure to get the steals and make the layups at the time that she did," Blalock said.

In the fourth quarter, both teams traded some three-point makes before playing the foul game for the final minute. A 51-48 victory came through for the Lady Pirates and a good start to district play.

Senior Jolie Hayes had 17 points and her twin sister Jayla had two points with several rebounds.

Previous Lady Pirate coach Alan Thorpe was in attendance for the game and talked to Blalock and assistant coach Kensey Gamboa. Thorpe joked with Gamboa about the free throw percentage in the final minutes of the game.

"He congratulated me and I said I'm just trying to build off what he'd done for me. It's nice to get him at home," Blalock said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Coach Brad Blalock addresses senior Jolie Hayes during free throws. Hayes had 17 points in the district opener.

Lady Tolar Rattlers cruise to 2-0 in district play

Junior has 1,000 career points.

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

The Tolar Lady Rattlers won their second district game of the 2025-26 season. They beat Breckenridge 63-16 Dec. 16. Tolar started game with a frenzy baskets to get them going and stole the ball from Breckenridge at least three times in the first quarter. The Lady Rattlers scored 23 points before Breckenridge scored a three-point shot with 1:23 left in the first quarter.

While everything seemed to be going smoothly for the Lady Rattlers, head coach Ericka Halfmann spotted things that did not go as planned or worked as good as she hoped, but was proud for how the girls kept their games going. Turnovers was one of the complaints Halfmann had but some were expected with the pace her team plays at.

"They were playing hard and even when things didn't go the way that we wanted it to go, the energy and effort was still there. They just kept on working. We set goals for each quarter and we knew what the expectation was for each quarter," Halfmann said.

Junior Jaycee Jones and freshman Macy Price shared point guard responsibilities and orchestrated the offense for most of the game. Price had 16 points (four 3-pointers), one block, two rebounds, five steals and two assists. Jones had eight points, two rebounds, four steals and six assists. Tolar lead 41-7 at halftime.

With a 50-10 lead in the third quarter, bench players for Tolar finished out the game and received more minutes than they usually play with. She was proud of these girls because she could see they were bought in on the culture of the team and played hard.

"Everybody is ready to step on the court and excited. They're just hungry to do anything and everything they can do. We're working on just when it's your time, go be 110 percent, and if you go hard for two minutes, we can sub and it's not a bad thing that we're subbing you. I think it's huge that we got everybody in the rotations," Halfmann said.

Sophomore Reilyn Brown and Junior Loryn Wienecke were players she mentioned of improving more and achieving goals they had set with their extended play time. Brown finished the game with four points, one block, three rebounds and two assists. Wienecke had two points, two rebounds and one assist.

Jones was honored after the game with a sign congratulating her on scoring more than 1,000 career points. She accomplished this milestone in Tolar's 68-21 victory against Dublin Dec. 12.

"She's special and she's only a junior still. That doesn't happen a lot and I've been blessed with some great athletes and some great kids. Jaycee is just a hard worker, She knows what it takes," Halfmann said.



JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lady Rattlers team celebrates with junior Jaycee Jomes, who reached more than 1,000 career points in their district win against Dublin.

TOLAR
FROM PAGE B1

The best teams are player led. I tell the guys all the time, we've got to hold ourselves and our teammates to a high level during workouts. I heard a coach say this and we've been using a lot, 'It's really easy to take the elevator up, the right way is to take the stairs,'" Mouser said.

The staff received major props from Mouser in their ability to show up every day and put together good gameplans that allowed their team to make plays. They retained a lot of their coaches from last year, so continuity won out again for Mouser.

"To fill the void of so much leadership yourself as coaches, it's not easy. So, I'm happy with our coaching staff and then you can see the success we had at the junior high level. We worked really hard there," Mouser said.

Converting third downs on offense and defense was a struggle for Tolar this year, as was fourth downs and the team's offense when they were inside the 20 yardline. Plays and schemes will be evaluated to help the offense convert a third down and stay on the field, while the defense will get off the field after four stops. Mouser said if their redzone offense scored like they were supposed to, they would have had two or three more wins.

"We're always trying to get better, but a lot of that is also just strength. Those short yards are tough yards. So we've got to get stronger anyway, We have to add some weight," Mouser said.

He feels confident going forward with his young group because of their experiences this year and the past summer they will get stronger and are committed to the snake farm. During the summer weightroom sessions and football camps, Mouser had 100 percent attendance for the most part and students that were not present were accounted for.

"We had 100 percent attendance for the most part and kids who weren't there, were checking in and we knew where they were at. The fact they're here, committed to being here just shows their commitment level. That's stuff that you can build on. So now as coaches, and we have to have a good off-season again. Get their bodies right, their mentality right and then we'll be able to go from there," Mouser said.

While the season was not as successful as the players and coaches wanted or as the community is accustomed to, the support from Tolar meant a lot to Mouser and his staff.

"This place is special. It's a great small town community, great Friday night atmosphere. We don't want to be out of the playoffs in the first round, and well get back to work and on that, but it was a transition year. A lot of building blocks are there, so now we just have to go work at building it back up," Mouser said.

The Rattlers had 1,684 passing yards for 15 passing touchdowns, 1,656 rushing yards for 18 rushing touchdowns, 1,683 receiving yards for 16 receiving touchdowns.

First-team offense
Briton Rice
Kelvin Murray
First-team offense and defense
Cayden Abrego
Noah Boulanger
Second-team offense
JW Rickabaugh
Miles Cooper
Ryder Rhodes
First-team defense
aAnson Laminack (second team offense)
Second-team defense
Matthew McCarten
Kallen Mitchell
Bentlee Collins
Defensive newcomer of the year
Nolan Cauble
Honorable Mention
Eli Stewart
Casey Fisher
Ethan Tidwell





Time to talk about winter crappie, as the season has arrived for Texas



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.

It wouldn't be December if I did not talk about winter crappie fishing. Catching crappie in the winter can be the best time to chase these tasty little slabs.

Many fishermen believe you cannot catch crappie anytime except the springtime. This is not true. Just look at the anglers up north who catch crappie through the ice. If they can catch them through the ice, we certainly can catch them here.

Crappies do spawn in the spring and they do congregate in the shallows, however the truth is crappie can be caught any time of the year. The key to catching more crappie in the winter months is just like fishing for any other species. You need to understand their seasonal habits and how to locate them.

Right now, many anglers are catching limits of crappie in the river above Whitney on small minnows and jigs. Fishing piers above deeper water also are great places to catch crappie. Deeper water typically with structure is where you will find them. Granbury crappie action continues to be good with many anglers reporting good catches. Many are caught in the deeper holes in the river near Tin Top as well.

To catch winter crappie, start your search along old, submerged creek and river channels or points and drop offs in the 15-30-foot depths. Using a good quality depth finder will help you make this job easier. What you want to be on the lookout for is brush/structure along these channels. Crappie will be holding somewhere around that brush.

Some days the crappie might be holding tight to the brush or trees. If this is the case, you'll have to work a jig in tight. This is where a graphite rod and light line will come in handy so you can "feel" your way around. You might lose some jigs and fish, but that is part of fishing timber.

Using a minnow during these times can be tricky as the minnow will tangle you up in the trees or brush. Find an open space where you can present the bait close to the trees/structure and not lose your tackle.

If you don't have a boat, look at deep water marinas. Fish these marinas and you will catch fish. Just make sure you have permission to fish these docks. Another place bank fishermen can try for Winter Crappie is anywhere a bridge crosses a lake. In some cases, the bridge will be above a creek or river channel. This is where you'll have to experiment with minnows below slip floats to find the depth the crappies are holding.

Winter crappies are not as aggressive chasing bait as they are during the Spring. This means you'll have to move your bait slowly or very little. They also are light biters during the Winter. Many times you'll just feel a little extra pressure on the line when they hit. Again, a good sensitive graphite rod with real light line will help you put fish in the boat.

If you're using a slip float, I suggest the tiny quill or pencil floats. Watch them closely because it can be difficult to tell when you're getting a hit or if the minnow is swimming around.

On really warm winter days, you may find crappie a little scattered on flats next to river and creek channels. That is a good reason to fish the ledge and work back and forth from the flat to the drop off.

Catching winter crappie is not magic. Many anglers focus on these fish this time of the year. Use a little patience and you will put fish in the boat.

Hood County fishing report

Granbury water temperatures are in the middle 50s. The lake is full and water clarity is good. Best reports continue to be crappie numbers fished around submerged structure. Some good reports from the Bentwater to Hunter Park near submerged trees. Striped bass are hit and miss but are fair to six pounds on five-inch soft plastics worked in 20-30 feet of water. Sandbass have been slow to fair but are good on small jigs worked midlake from Indian Harbor to Western Hills. Look for the birds. This also is trophy blue and yellow catfish season and they can grow to enormous sizes. Best blue cat reports continue to come from the upper ends fishing cut bait on flats adjacent to the river channel. Blue and yellow cats to 30 pounds are possible. Largemouth bass are good on soft plastics near drop-offs near main lake points and near deeper docks. Some good black bass reports are coming from fishing laydowns in the river above Granbury.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continue to produce largemouth and channel catfish. Largemouth anglers boast on catching 40 plus fish a day with an occasional bigger fish to seven pounds. Limits of eater sized channel catfish on prepared baits is common. Tilapia (invasive species) also is abundant and are great table fare. Use of worms fished under a cork is recommended for Tilapia.

This week in the outdoors — winter weather arrives in Texas — stay warm



BY LUKE CLAYTON

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

Winter weather has finally arrived in the Lone Star State and with it came that long awaited influx of waterfowl that has been a bit slow in arriving.

Those fat mallards and pintails that have been eating well on the harvested grain fields in the upper Midwest were forced to head south, their dinner tables are now covered with snow in many areas. Duck hunters should enjoy some great hunting and tasty bowls of duck and goose gumbo from now until the end of the season.

We deer hunters finally have some cold weather that hopefully will get the deer up and moving. The peak of the rut is finished and the heavy acorn crop in many areas is about depleted. Those corn feeders and food plots will pay big dividends until the end of the season.

Until recently, it just hasn't seemed like deer season, but with the cooler nights we now can hang our venison a day or two without having to worry about rushing to a processing plant immediately or quartering and icing the meat.

It's been a typical winter's week for me, a little hunting and even a little bass fishing coupled with the general pre-Christmas duties around the house making ready for a big day with the family soon. I made the jaunt up to Grayson County to hunt with my friend Bill Carey with Striper Express.

Grayson is a bow only county and well known for some bruiser whitetail bucks. The game cameras on Bills place had evidenced several heavy antlered bucks and fat does coming to the feeders and food plots. Our mutual friend Jeff Rice, who produces our "A Sportsman's Life" television show joined was able to break away from his video editing for a short afternoon sit in the deer stand.

Bill hunted deer a lot in his younger years but for the past four decades, serving as head honcho for his Striper Express guide service on Texoma has kept him busy. Bill invited me to hunt turkey on his place last spring and while setting down to a lunch of freshly killed fried turkey nuggets on the banks of his pond after the hunt, I think I lit a spark that got his hunting blood pumping again.

After all man cannot live by fish along (although Bill comes close). The weather was warm and deer movement slow but just before dark a 2.5-year-old spike came easing out of a bedding area through a heavy stand of broom sedge. The buck walked within 23 yards, stopped and turned perfectly broadside presenting the perfect shot opportunity.

I came very close to drawing the bow from inside our pop up see-through blind but I held off. I was amazed that he was a 2-year-old with such short spikes, much like one would expect on a 1.5-year-old buck. My friend Larry Weishuhn, aka "Mr. Whitetail," later informed me 6- or 7-month-old does often give birth to "late blooming" buck fawn that can produce heavy antlers later in life. A deer hunt with good friends is always a success, venison on the meat pole or not.

Bass for lunch

Another highlight of the week, one which I refuse to take for granted, is my access to some great deer and hog hunting close to home. I'm talking about a quarter mile from my home. A neighbor allows me to hunt and fish on his ranch which has a deep five-acre spring fed sand and gravel pit.

The pond is not really managed, but full of native Texas bass, I drive past it on my way to check the camera on one of my feeders and I often carry a bass rod rigged with either a Rat L Trap or Texas rigged worm. I mostly catch and release until I am in the mood for very fresh fish for lunch. I was in the mood for fish on this outing.

I made four casts and caught two bass on the Rat L Trap, I kept the one that weighed about 1.75 pounds and back at the house, filleted it and cut the fillets into small chunks. I love fried fish but I do an altered form of blackening that most folks really enjoy, it's a fast and easy way to cook fish. Seasoned well with blackening seasoning, I added the chunks to a cast iron skillet with enough butter to sizzle the fish.

About two minutes on each side is all that's needed to create some tasty blackened fish. You don't want to overcook the fish and dry it out. The butter coupled with the blackening seasoning is the perfect combination. I've tried this on everything from walleye and pike up in Saskatchewan to catfish here in Texas and it's always tasty.

A new trick for catfish

I have a good friend who has been a catfish guide for many years. He's been guiding for more than a quarter century and catfishing since a boy. When he talks catfishing, I listen. He recently gave me a tip that might revolutionize the way I fish for channel catfish.

He recently witnessed a fellow limit out using this technique. Most 'catters' know cattle range right out of the sack makes an awesome chum for attracting both blue and channel catfish but especially channels. My buddy puts a few range cubes in a coffee can and adds just enough water to create a thick slurry. Then he soaks small pieces of cloth form a dish towel or even very small pieces of sponge in the solution.

Using just a single J-type hook, he says the scent from the cubes is very effective in attracting strikes from catfish. I haven't tried this method just yet, but I am confident it will work. On many occasions, when fishing straight under the boat with punch bait, I have caught channel catfish with just a tiny bit of cattail (used for a binder for punch bait} left on the hook. Range cubes have become the go-to chum for many catfish anglers; catfish are accustomed to the smell and are readily attracted to it. Why wouldn't this be a good bait? I'm about to find out on my next fishing trip.

Email Luke Clayton through his website at catfishradio.org Catch his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.



COURTESY

Luke is talking about everything from bass fishing to butchering wild pork this week. Here are a couple of wild hog hams Luke has cured and in his smoker. Photo by Luke Clayton

ACADEMICS

FROM PAGE B1

get a feel for what I want to do then. That's my plan."

The proximity of Weatherford College and their nursing program is the biggest appeal to her currently.

Having a mental schedule was one key she has to balancing all of her responsibilities. Even if she couldn't finish one project, she would make some progress to help. Sometimes she did fall into a rush to stay up late and finish all her homework or cramming for exams but it still got done and had a good grade.

Her procrastination has been a major improvement throughout high school. Keeping an empty homework folder did become overwhelming at times but an empty backpack and clean slate of due dates made it worth it. While she never made lower than an A in chemistry, it has been one of her struggles through high school.

"I did get really overwhelmed, but at the same time, it's always a relief to get stuff done and then you don't have to worry about it. Sometimes I procrastinate and I'm like, I'll do this tomorrow, and then it bites my butt about the due date but I stay calm," Weaver said.

Weaver is a team captain and defensive specialist in volleyball and has been on varsity for two and half years. Since being called up to varsity for the playoffs in her sophomore year, She has earned four kills, 77 aces, 681 digs, 47 assists and 659 receptions in 234 sets played.

She's played since the fourth grade and partly because of her older sister (who she had better grades than).

"I remember going home my parents saying 'Gracie, why do you have this great in this class?' I'm like my lowest grade was a 90 something. Now I realize how she got those grades, because it got a lot harder throughout high school. So, I can't really say anything now," Weaver said.

During the volleyball season, The 19-24 Lady Pirates comprised mainly of sophomores and juniors just missed the playoffs but Weaver was proud of how the team worked.

"I was super proud of myself and super proud of the team. We were a very young team. Everyone was so quick to learn and come together. We formed so well and that helped me to be able to stay positive about everything. I think my stats went up from last year playing the same amount of time, so it was just really nice to see that excel," Weaver said.

As a natural competitor, she loves the drive and reward of playing hard for a goal. That same drive carried into the classroom. Failing never has been a good feeling for her.

"I never want to feel down on myself but I always want to excel and everything, same with on the court. If I miss a point, I get mad at myself, but I'm quick to bounce back from it. I've always been next point, next fall, let's go get everything. That's kind of also how I feel about school work," Weaver said.

As one of the three seniors on the team, she always felt on the same page as Shahan.

"Maddie was always on our page. Because of that competitive drive, she was really good at bouncing back. There was never a time she went down that negative roller coaster where you're harping and focusing on it. She bounced back, She knew she made the mistake and She'd go back out there. She's very coachable. She did a really good job of leading our team by example," Shahan said.

She is excited to finish her senior year and go to prom.

"To even be awarded is such an honor but also knowing the support I have from my coaches and my teammates in order to uplift me, to do this good in school and on the court," Weaver said.



JAXON HANSARD| HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior Mattie Weaver is set for a reception. In her senior year she had 44 aces, 372 digs, 34 assists, and 313 receptions in 113 sets played.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State receives highest award at NASA-TSGC Design Challenge in League City

LEAGUE CITY — Engineering students from Tarleton State University's RELLIS campus received the highest award for their NASA-based research project at the Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge Showcase held Nov. 17-18 in League City.

Team RELLIS LTV (Lunar Terrain Vehicle) took first place as Top Design Team and was awarded $1,000 individual scholarships for each of the six students on the team, as well as $1,200 to be used to support the team's project expenses. The group also won first place in Best Poster, second place in Top Peer Review and third place in Best Video.

"Our team participated in both the poster and oral presentation sessions, and our performance was outstanding among the 24 competing teams from universities across the state of Texas," said Dr. Nourouddin Sharifi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering Technology and the RELLIS team's faculty advisor.

The team's winning project was titled "Next-Generation Lunar Terrain Vehicle (NextGen LTV) for Human and Robotic Exploration." Students were tasked with developing the design and prototype for an innovative Lunar Terrain Vehicle (LTV) concept optimized for long-range, energy-efficient and autonomous exploration of the Moon's South Pole.

"This next-generation rover will address mobility, safety and operational challenges to enable sustained human and robotic missions on the Moon, supporting Artemis program objectives,". Sharifi said. "Our team developed an innovative prototype supported by experimental testing and simulation analysis."

Posters, models and oral presentation were reviewed during the two-day showcase event. The RELLIS team's poster and oral presentations were evaluated across multiple categories, Sharifi said, and there was a line of attendees waiting to see their poster.

Team RELLIS LTV is composed of seniors Nicholas Ekleberry and Syeda Roushan and juniors Yashasvi Gullapally, Irving Wistam, Alyssa Castro and Behram Khan.

The NASA-TSGC Design Challenge invites undergraduate students to propose, design and build innovative solutions that support NASA's research priorities. Sponsored by NASA and managed by the Texas Space Grant Consortium, this program offers students a valuable opportunity to develop their skills, gain hands-on experience, and grow both academically and professionally. Each participating team collaborates with a NASA mentor and submits five deliverables to TSGC per semester. The two-day NASA showcase provides an opportunity to present research through posters and oral presentations.

The Texas Space Grant Consortium is a network of more than 50 Texas institutions united in their mission to make the benefits of space research and technology accessible to all Texans.



COURTESY

The RELLIS LTV team shows off their winning Lunar Terrain Vehicle prototype. From left are Syeda Roushan, Alyssa Castro, Behram Khan, Yashasvi Gullapally, Nicholas Ekleberry Irving Wistam.

Historic season ends in FCS Quarterfinals for Tarleton State

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Football's historic 2025 season ended in Dec. 13's FCS Quarterfinals at Memorial Stadium, with No. 12 seed Villanova defeating the No. 4 seeded Texans 26-21.

The Texans finished the 2025 campaign with a 12-2 record, with the 12 wins matching the most in a single season in program history. The season included an FBS win at Army, a regular season conference championship and the Texans' highest seed ever in the FCS Playoffs. Tarleton State was the first FCS team since 1993 (Troy) to make the quarterfinals in its first two seasons of playoff eligibility (8+ team format in FCS).

"Tip your hat off to Villanova," head coach Todd Whitten said. "They played well and made more plays than we did. They ran the ball well while we did not. I thought it was a hard-fought game and our guys fought until the end. I couldn't be more proud of our team, especially our seniors. It's been a great season."

Tarleton track and field

Tarleton State long jumpers Sofia DeGroot and Lokesh Sathyanathan each earned the Western Athletic Conference's Field Athlete of the Week following their performance to start the indoor track and field season.

In just the first week of the season, Tarleton State's jumpers swept the WAC's Field Athletes of the Week. Sathyanathan was one of four Texan men last season to win an indoor weekly award. This week marks Sathyanathan's second indoor weekly award to combine for his third total WAC weekly award. DeGroot earns her second WAC weekly award in her indoor career after earning her first a season ago.

Sathyanathan opened his season at the OU Winter Field Fest, earning second place. He notched his best season-opening jump of the year with his best of 7.75 meters. His leap is currently the second longest in the NCAA after the opening weekend. In his series, Sathyanathan tallied three jumps of at least 7.50 meters. The senior was just 0.02 meters behind Oklahoma's Kennedy Stringfellow who captured the individual title and holds the best indoor long jump of the season so far.

DeGroot led the Texan women with a third-place finish in the long jump at the meet. Her best leap of 6.04 meters came on her second jump. DeGroot now ranks third in indoor program history and is one of four Texans to have an indoor personal best of at least 6.00 meters. The junior is ranked 14th in the nation so far this year in the women's long jump. She improved her personal best by more than a tenth of a meter. It was her only leap of at least six meters and one of five in the entire competition.

Tarleton football

The United Athletic Conference All-Academic club is an exclusive one, and two Tarleton State Football players were honored with joining it, the conference announced Dec. 10.

Tight end Dawson Hearne and quarterback Daniel Greek were among the 12 players across the entire conference named UAC All-Academic.

The UAC All-Academic team includes 12 student-athletes representing seven different programs. Student-athletes nominated for the UAC All-Academic team must have maintained a cumulative 3.5 GPA, have participated in 90 percent of contests during the season or be a starter in 66 percent of contests and must be at least a sophomore both athletically and academically.



COURTESY

Tarleton State's historic 2025 season ended in Dec. 13's FCS Quarterfinals at Memorial Stadium, with No. 12 seed Villanova defeating the No. 4 seeded Texans 26-21.

Tarleton State schedules upcoming Hall of Fame golf tournament in Fort Worth — registration now open

STEPHENVILLE — The 3rd Annual Tarleton State Athletics Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, presented by Focused Care Partners, will return to Fort Worth in 2026. The tournament is set from noon to 3 p.m. Feb. 1 at Top Golf in Fort Worth.

This unique event brings together Tarleton State alumni, fans, and community members for an afternoon of friendly competition, networking and celebration, all while supporting Texan Athletics and the Tarleton State Athletics Hall of Fame.

Registration is now open for the tournament, set for $600 per team (up to six participants) or $150 per individual. Each registered player will receive complimentary food provided by Tarleton State Athletics and two alcoholic beverages, courtesy of The Law Office of Brady Pendleton and Peacock's Restaurants.

The tournament will feature a full Top Golf round to crown the winning team. Each member of the top team will receive a custom pair of Tarleton State branded Nike Pegasus shoes. Mulligans will be available for $5 each or five for $20.

A silent auction with exclusive items and experiences will also take place throughout the event.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, including bay sponsorships ($500) and digital sponsorships ($250), offering individuals and businesses a chance to show their support while gaining valuable visibility among Tarleton State alumni and fans.

The deadline to register or secure a sponsorship is Jan. 26. For more information or to sign up, contact Tarleton State Athletics at 254-968-9736 or visit tarletonsports.com/HOFgolf.

Hood County News CLASSIFIEDS

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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033 Legal Word Ads

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114
STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO.C2024330
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
VS.
BRANDON MICHAEL RUSSELL, BONNIE RUSSELL AND SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

033 Legal Word Ads

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HOOD
NOTICE OF SALE
By VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION - 90 DAY issued out of the 355th Judicial District
Court, Hood County, Texas on a judgment rendered in said county on the Cause No: C2025093
Comanche Harbor/Ports O'Call Owners Association
vs.
Tracy Galloway
I did on the 12th day of November 2025, at 11 :00 AM. Levy upon the following property of:
TRACY GALLOWAY
MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1115 INDIAN DRIVE, GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048, BLOCK 1 LOT 23/24/25, OF SECTION D, COMANCHE HARBOR SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THERE OF RECORDED IN VOLUME 1, PAGE 150, PLAT RECORDS OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS AND THE DEED RECORDS IN DOCUMENT #2017-0004916
On the 6th day of January, 2026 between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M., more specifically at 10:00am. At 100 E Pearl St Granbury, TX 76048 in Hood County, Texas I will offer for sale and sell at public auction, for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of the property of the said.
Tracy Galloway
Dated at this 4th day of December A.D., 2025
Chad Davis
Hood County, Constable Precinct 1

033 Legal Word Ads

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

033 Legal Word Ads

Granbury ISD is seeking competitive bids for VM Infrastructure replacement all scope of work, specifications, timeline listed on our electronic bidding system granbury.ionwave.net under bid# RFP 2025-37.
Questions related to the bid must be submitted in IONWave any technical questions please contact Kami Timmons in the Finance Dept. kami.timmons@granburyisd.org.

033 Legal Word Ads

Granbury Independent School District is issuing a Request for Proposals under RFP 2025-38 Demolition of Technology Building.
The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Submissions will be accepted until closing on January 16th at 2pm.
All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online in Ionwave.If you have technical issues connecting to Ionwave please contact the purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburyisd.org

033 Legal Word Ads

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RORY DON BLACKWOOD, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Rory Don Blackwood were issued to Jennifer Dawn Blackwood Edwards on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. 20022 pending in County Court at Law No. 1 of Hunt County, Texas.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:
Jennifer Dawn Blackwood Edwards
c/o Mark F. Maples
WHITAKER CHALK SWINDLE & SCHWARTZ PLLC
301 Commerce St., Suite 3500
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 20th day of December, 2025.
WHITAKER CHALK SWINDLE & SCHWARTZ PLLC
By: /s/ Mark F. Maples
Mark F. Maples
State Bar No. 24092757
Attorneys for Estate
301 Commerce Street, Suite 3500
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 878-0500
Facsimile: (817) 878-0501
mmaples@whitakerchalk.com

033 Legal Word Ads

Notice of Public Sale
Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, DONE Storage, located at 4508 Old Granbury Road, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction at www.LockerFox.com of contents to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on January 3, 2026.
Unit contents will be sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash only. Cleanup deposit is required. Contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All units contain household items unless additional items are noted. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Thomas H Foster, Thomas N Barton.

033 Legal Word Ads

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Jay Anthony Gossage, Cause No. P10868, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Jay Anthony Gossage, II in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship with
Letters of Administration and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Jay Anthony Gossage, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 oíclock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at the above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 12th day of December 2025.
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

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Merry Christmas

Tolar pulls away in close win against Bosqueville

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Tolar evened up it's record (6-6) with a big win against 12-6 Bosqueville Dec. 16. The Rattlers won in a close 54-51 game that came down to the final minute of fouling and free throws.

The first half was a back-and-forth test for both offenses as they worked through their sets and players to see what would work. The largest lead of the game was when Tolar was ahead 17-10 in the second quarter. With the game being close, head coach Andy Atkins thinks the team handled the runs of Bosqueville well.

"That is something we talked about at halftime and the past weekend (at the Mesquite Pit Classic). We've had some games where we had some lulls and we talked about those. There's going to be a run or a lull in every game. It's going to be on both sides. The good teams are the ones who can extend the runs and really shorten up the lulls," Atkins said.

While they are not perfect at handling adversity and still can get frustrated, Atkins understands and wants to teach them lessons as they still are teenagers. He wants them to know it's ok to miss and fail, but for them to keep going.

Junior Madok Delgado started the third quarter by making a quick dribble move and drive that dropped a Bosqueville defender to the ground, allowing Delgado to step back into a three-point make that tied the game at 25-25. Four more three-point shots would be made by the Rattlers in the third quarter and a flashy behind-the-back pass from junior Cayden Abrego to sophomore Taylen Pendleton for an under-the-basket score. That run only put Tolar up 41-39 at the end of the third quarter.

"At halftime, we just reminded each other of our habits and what we do in practice. You don't have to force this here because you have option B and C that are also happening behind you. We were a little more patient in the second half, that whole second half was kind of chaotic," Atkins said.

Abrego had 14 points (four 3-pointers), two rebounds and two assists. Delgado had 11 points (five free throws), two rebounds, one steal and five assists. Pendleton had four points, four rebounds and two assists.

Junior Kelvin Murray's impact on the game increased as the game continued. Whatever Tolar's offense was struggling with, Murray could pick up the problem and play hard to push them forward. Murray had six points, two rebounds and two steals.

After trading some baskets, Tolar had some steals and forced two Bosqueville turnovers. The game turned to fouls and free throws for the final minutes. With four seconds left in the game and a 54-51 lead, Murray got his hands on the Bulldogs' inbound pass and tipped the ball for Delgado to steal and hold for a Tolar win.

"It's nearly impossible to work on in practice because the pressure isn't there. Teaching as much as possible throughout those possessions. We've had some other games where we've had to do that same thing or we've had to be the team on the bottom side trying to come back. I thought we were a little bit more calm, even though the atmosphere may have felt a little crazy," Atkins said.

JAXON HANSARD | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Madok Delgado and Cayden Abrego celebrate after their win against Bosqueville.

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033 Legal Word Ads

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHERINE PATRICIA WILSON, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2025, under Docket No. P10845, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Kimberly Ann Wilson.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,

Estate of Katherine Patricia Wilson

c/o Kathleen Crow

CROW-HENLEY LAW PLLC

9413 Bellechase Rd.

Granbury TX 76049

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

Dated December 10, 2025.

By Kathleen Crow

Attorney for Applicant

033 Legal Word Ads

City of Tolar

Request for Proposal (RFP) | Municipal Waste Collection and Disposal Services

The City of Tolar is seeking proposals from qualified waste management companies to provide comprehensive municipal waste collection and disposal services. The selected contractor will be responsible for the collection, transportation, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Current Contract Expiration Date:

Scope of Work

The awarded contractor will provide the following services:

—Weekly curbside collection of residential solid waste.

—Scheduled collection of commercial waste from businesses within the city.

—Provision of appropriate waste receptacles (poly carts/dumpsters).

—Transportation and disposal of collected waste at an approved facility.

—Compliance with environmental and regulatory requirements.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested bidders must submit a complete proposal, which should include:

—Company Information: Name, address, contact details, and years in business.

—Experience & Qualifications: Details of similar contracts performed, including references.

—Service Plan: Proposed collection schedule, equipment to be used, and customer service strategy.

—Pricing Structure: Detailed cost proposal, including per-unit collection fees and optional services.

—Environmental Compliance: Description of waste disposal methods and sustainability practices.

—Insurance & Licensing: Proof of necessary liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage.

Submission Deadline and Contact Information

Deadline: All proposals must be submitted no later than January 9, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered. Contract will be awarded on January 20, 2026

Submission Address: City of Tolar 8712 W. Hwy 377 Tolar, TX 76476 or email to mburdettecityoftolar@windstream.net

For any questions regarding this RFP, please contact:

Michelle Burdette at 254-835-4390 or email mburdettecityoftolar@windstream.net

The City of Tolar reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The selected contractor must enter into a formal agreement with the City off Tolar.

The City of Tolar looks forward to receiving proposals from qualified waste management providers. Thank you for your interest in serving our community.

033 Legal Word Ads

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Bobby Don Newberry, Cause No. P10865, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Crystal Jade Stewart in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Bobby Don Newberry, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 oíclock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at the above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 11th day of December 2025.

Christine C. Leftwich

Hood County Clerk

P.O. Box 339

Hood County, Texas 76048

By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

033 Legal Word Ads

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN FRANKLIN ADCOCK, JR., Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2025, in Cause No. P10854, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: OLIVIA DIANE ADCOCK.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban

Attorney at Law

107 E. Pearl St.

Granbury, Texas 76048

DATED the 4th day of December, 2025.

Steven G. Kuban

Attorney for Olivia Diane Adcock

State Bar No.: 24078807

107 E. Pearl St.

Granbury, Texas 76048

Telephone: (817) 573-8872

Facsimile: (817) 579-1651

E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of ROBERT KELLY WELLS, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2025, in Cause No. P10832, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: ROBERT C. WELLS.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban

Attorney at Law

107 E. Pearl St.

Granbury, Texas 76048

DATED the 4th day of December, 2025.

Steven G. Kuban

Attorney for Robert C. Wells

State Bar No.: 24078807

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: RITA MILLER, Respondent:

GREETINGS:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "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 a.m. of the first Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of THOMAS LEE BEAN Petitioner, was filed in the DISRTICT Court of Hood County, Texas on the 18TH of NOVEMBER, 2025, against RITA MILLER Respondent, numbered D2025073 and entitled "In the Matter of the Marriage of THOMAS LEE BEAN and RITA MILLER". The suit requests: ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE as is more fully shown by the Petition on file in this suit.

"The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage, providing for the division of property, which will be binding on you."

Issued and Given under my hand and the Seal of Said Court at Granbury, Texas, this the 15TH day of DECEMBER A.D. 2025.

MELANIE GRAFT

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Hood County, Texas

By: Susan Ashmore, Deputy

Getting back to Lipan basketball

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lipan improved to 14-1 after defeating Jacksboro 78-44 Dec. 16. While a 34-point deficit would win Lipan the game, they had a rough start with their energy that affected the defense.

"We're real sluggish to start, missed a lot of open shots from the perimeter and I think that got our head down," head coach Brent Gaylor said. "Our body language wasn't real good because we missed some open shots and that affected us on the defensive end and that can't happen because its apart of the game."

Gaylor praised junior Wyatt Yates for his energy early in the game that kept them in it before the offense really took off. Yates' defense and playmaking sparked some of his teammates to help pick up the slack. Yates had three points and multiple assists in the first quarter.

The third quarter is when they got back to playing "Lipan Basketball." They took the lead, played more connective defense and didn't look back for the Tigers.

Junior Evan Lott had 17 points. Sophomore Brayden Harrison had 16 points. Sophomore Billy Smith had 15 points. Junior Court Gaylor had 10 points and senior Darius Steed had eight points.

"We have to get back to playing Lipan basketball and we did that in the third quarter. We were able to take control of the game in the third quarter doing what were supposed to do on both sides of the court," Gaylor said.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Michael Bolfing lays the ball up with his right hand below the Lipan lights.

Lady Indians catch hot hand in win against Poolville Dec. 16

BY JAXON HANSARD
jaxon@hcnews.com

Lipan defeated Poolville 72-16 Dec. 16 to 1-0 in district play and 15-3 overall. They have continued to keep their intensity and effort since their home tournament Dec 4-6.

While it was the first district game of the 2025-26 season, to head coach Amber Branson everyone has a 0-0 record. She kept her team focused and emphasized three key parts of the basketball season, the Preseason, district and postseason.

Senior Finley Shockley became the beneficiary of Lipan's offense last night and scored 33 points off of 11 three-point shots.

"We were still running offense, but they would get it to her and she'd be open, and she really couldn't miss so it was kind of fun," Branson said.

Despite running their normal offense, they were able to generate 11-plus open shots for Shockley. Branson praised the teams unselfishness.

"We were just running our regular offense, they're really an unselfish group. They may drive and have a decent shot, but they know if they kick it out and maybe make an extra pass here or there that will get a better shot. than that. They're just doing a really good job of sharing the ball," Branson said.

She said she has not emphasized shooting any more than normal. She credited the girls shooting ability to how much time and effort they put in the gym of working on their games.

"They've made themselves great players. We're just thankful and lucky that we have them and we get to try to make the best team. When you have good players, it makes you look really good," Branson said.

Junior Kynzi Callaway had 11 points. Freshman Skylar Harrison, Sydni Gaylor and Junior Jacy Bolton each had six points. Senior Peyton Lawerence had five points.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Jacy Bolton jumps into the paint for a layup.

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LIPAN

FROM PAGE B1

Five angel tree kids were adopted and Lipan Anglers (fishing team students) bought them clothes, shoes, arts and crafts, Barbie dolls and everyday necessities. When the shopping is completed, the gifts were organized and delivered to Angel Tree coordinators at Lipan ISD.

Charity is common for the Lipan fishing team. Throughout the year, they will work in multiple ways to serve their community such as concession stands, fundraising, care baskets and giving scholarships at the end of the year.

"It is our goal to show our anglers that we have been blessed as a team by the generosity of our community, therefore we also gift back to others that may be experiencing hardship or other situations," Munoz said.

During their shopping trip, multiple people from the community joined in on helping kids in need of a good Christmas.

"Several moments from the trip stood out. One parent immediately offered to pay for their assigned Angel Tree child out of their own pocket without hesitation. A former Lipan angler also joined the group, simply because he loved the experience and wanted to help again. While checking out, a Lipan ISD staff member recognized the team and donated additional funds to support the Angel Tree kids. Most of all, it was inspiring to see how seriously and joyfully the anglers took the experience, thoughtfully choosing gifts and truly embracing the spirit of giving back," Munoz said.

"I think one of the biggest moments that stood out to me was all of us coming together at the end of it and realizing that we help a family who really needed it," Lipan senior Riggin Morris said. "There's not enough words to say about the experience of shopping for Angle Tree, we are just a bunch of high schoolers who get asked to step up and help a family when they need it and it really shows how we are as a team and we couldn't be more blessed with the opportunities to do this every year."

"I think that Angel Tree shopping has been something amazing for our fishing team to do, giving us time to bond about our shared love of this sport while being able to help people in need," Lipan freshman Juan Munoz said.

"Christmas is such a magical time of year. Our family has always been blessed, so it brings us so much joy to give back to kids in our community who may need a little extra help during the holiday season. My mom taught me how to shop at a young age, and that skill has definitely come in handy. Picking out gifts for the angels is truly one of my favorite parts. It's fun, meaningful and a great team bonding experience," Lipan freshman Casher Rhodes said.



COURTESY

Hunter Mills (left) and Jackson Posey (right) shop with their cart for their Angel Tree kid. The Lipan fishing team has more than 30 sponsors who helped fund the Christmas shopping trip.

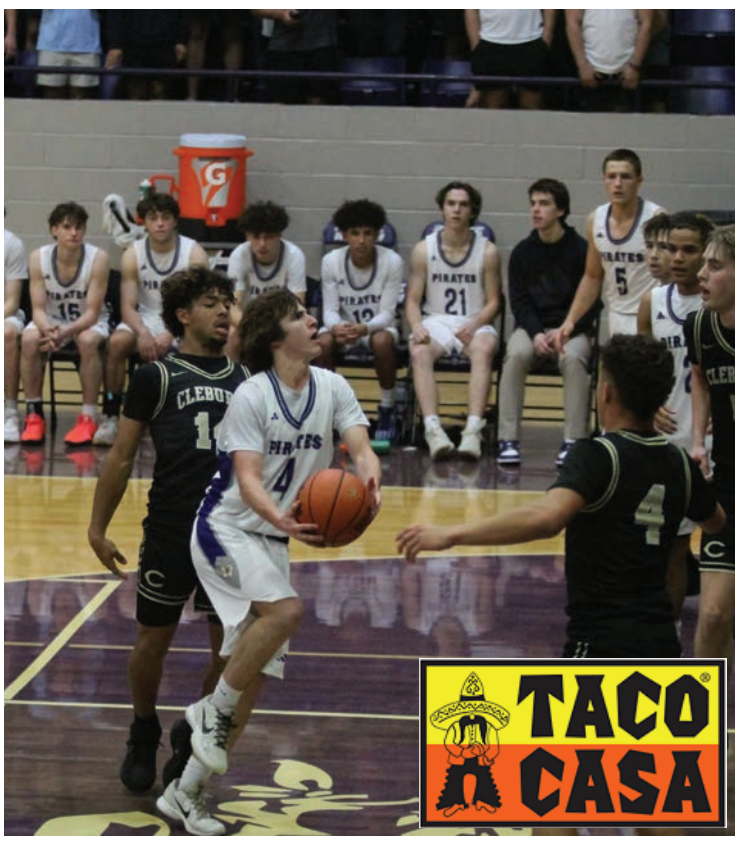
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Hood County High Five Athlete of the Week
Tyler Harrison

GHS boys basketball - Junior Tyler Harrison had 10 points in Granbury's 51-44 win against Weatherford Dec. 6 in the Granbury KIA tournament. Harrison had a consistent tournament and made several free throws to keep the Pirates rolling in their lone tournament win. (Credit: Jaxon Hansard)

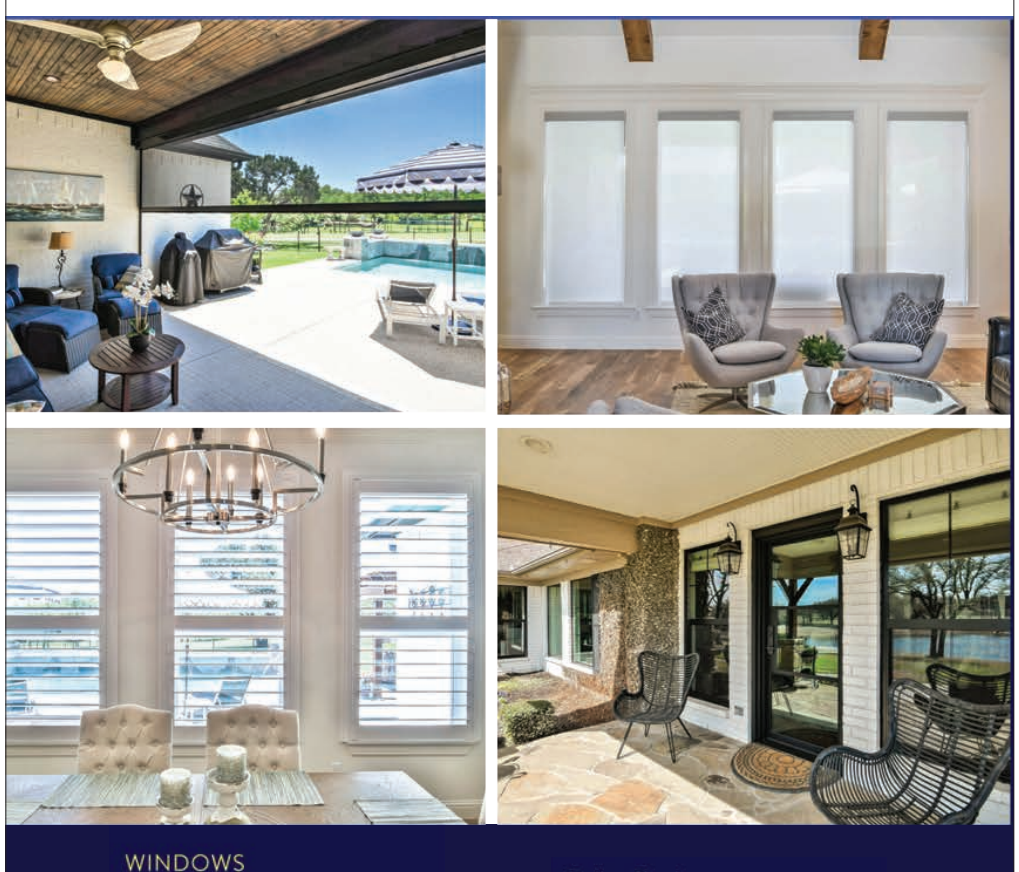
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is all about celebrating the athletes who inspire us with their talent, dedicatation, and sportmanship. Eash week, our community has the chance to cheer on local standouts and give them the recognition they deserve. Shining a spotlight on Hood County's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

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Hood County News

LIFESTYLE

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C

SATURDAY, December 20, 2025

Passion for preserving the past

Preservation commission focuses on authenticity

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

When it comes to focusing on history and keeping Granbury's unique appearance, the city's Historical Preservation Commission is on the front lines of the effort.

Among those on the commission is longtime Granbury resident Claudia Southern, the wife of former Granbury mayor David Southern.

Southern has served on the commission for five or six years recently, she said, and also was on the board previously.

Asked what led her to volunteer for the commission, Southern said it was her love of history and her connection to Granbury's past.

"Zeb and Alison (Ullom, Southern's son-in-law and daughter) are living in a house that I lived in that was built in 1905 — the Baker-Carmichael House," she said. "It is an important part of Granbury's history, and we've always tried to maintain the history of the house. It's important to do that for the community and to preserve the past."

The Southern family moved to Granbury in 1980, and David Southern served as mayor for 15 years and an additional 10 years on city council. He continued to volunteer and serve on advisory boards after his 25 years of council service.

Southern said she has seen some amazing changes in the nearly 46 years she has lived here.

"Absolutely," she said. "Granbury was a very small town when my husband and I moved here, and it's still small, but not like it was."

The Southern family lived in a rental house along Doyle Street when first arriving in town, later moving to Southtown and Water's Edge before finally moving to the Baker-Carmichael House.

"I like that Granbury is a historical community," Southern said. "A lot of work has been done to maintain the historical character of the town. The square is an extraordinary place, and a lot goes into maintaining the look of the square.

"We have so many really wonderful homes in the historic district. Many of them have been here more than 100 years, and we have people who want to maintain that historical integrity."

History always has appealed to her, Southern said.

"I've always loved history," she said. "I studied it in high school and in college. It links us to the past and allows us to connect to the future as well. It goes both ways."

Southern said she is proud of the efforts the commission and the city have made to preserve Granbury's history.

"I think having the historical preservation commission is an important part of what the city has done, and I'm thankful for it," she said. "We don't want our city to turn into something it's not. We want to keep it authentic."

However, there are obstacles to maintaining the historical look.

"The biggest challenge is when people decide they're not going to follow the historic preservation (guidelines) and let the historical property go.

"The Aston House (at 221 E. Bridge St.) was built in 1904 and it's crumbling in on itself. It's very sad to watch and very hard for us. It has deteriorated so much it would probably be dangerous (to enter). The city says it's not hurting anyone. I disagree. I think it's hurting the community."

She said she hopes the necessary repairs will be made to restore the house.

When it comes to showcasing history, Southern said Granbury can stand tall.

"What's important is that we are considered the best little historic town in Texas (the designation was actually a national award)," she said. "That's wonderful. It's great to maintain our history and keep it as an important part of who we are. It's one of the things that gets people to come here."



COURTESY PHOTO

Claudia Southern has lived in Granbury for nearly 46 years and is dedicated to helping preserve its history as a member of the Granbury Historic Preservation Commission. Her late husband, David, was mayor of Granbury for 15 years and served on the Granbury City Council for 25 years. The David Southern Lake Granbury Convention Center is named in his honor.

Prioritizing the past fuels Peters' goals

BY JEFF OSBORNE
jeff@hcnews.com

With a 53-year history in Granbury, Cindy Peters has seen a multitude of changes in the community throughout the years, but keeping a strong connection to the historic past is a top priority for her.

Peters, who serves as chair of the Granbury Historic Preservation Commission, said the changes here since 1972 are "absolutely shocking. We dialed phone numbers (on the telephone), we had one grocery store and one little Chinese place. It was tiny, tiny. There weren't many schools.

"We were right on the verge of the renaissance on the square," Peters said. "Mary Lou Watkins (a pioneer of Granbury historic preservation in the early 1970s) started that, and all those businesses were refurbished by individual owners — there were no grants. It was quite an undertaking."

A consultant recommended the city tear down many of the buildings on the historic square to give people a clearer view of Lake Granbury ,and city leaders may have followed through, "except they didn't have the money to do that, fortunately," Peters said.

That — along with Watkins' efforts in working with other community members to save the square — helped preserve the architecture and atmosphere so many visitors enjoy today.

Peters has served on the Historic Preservation Committee for "seven or eight years," she said. What sparked her interest in preserving historical buildings was her purchase of the historic Walthall-Carswell House in 2007.

"I have a vintage 1940s house," Peters said. "It's very interesting trying to keep the integrity of the historic district for everybody who visits today and for the people who come after us. My interest in keeping history alive is keen — old buildings and houses are way better than new ones."

Peters only is the third owner of her home. When the landmark plaque was dedicated, family members of the two original owners also were able to attend.

"It has some great, unique features," she said. "The newspaper did an article a few years ago that described the house as a fortress. It is not your typical Victorian house. It is a ranch-style house that incorporated part of a grist mill built into the rock. The 2-by-4s are hardwood and don't have any nails. It is pier and beam and has no rebar. It was built scavenging old farm implements for metal.

"He (Walthall) built it to stay. He had been in West Texas and lost everything in the Depression and rebuilt here. It is very solid and meant to last."

The commission pays close attention to historic details, Peters said.

"We try really, really hard — we spend hours and hours and hours getting rules and regulations together (regarding intricate details on building repairs). It's a balance between authenticity and flexibility."

That attention to detail has paid off for the community in terms of tourism and national recognition.

"The buildings on the square aren't sitting empty, they have life in them and that's really what we're trying for," Peters said.

What would she like people to know?

"A lot of people don't even know there's a historic preservation board you have to come before (when considering changes to a historic building)," Peters said. "We are getting brochures to all the Realtors and title companies, so people don't make modifications to buildings that change the historic character too much. It can be hard to undo changes once they are made."

People are welcome to ask questions of those on the board, or city staff members, including Kira Wauwie, director of city development, and Angela Durant, assistant development director, Peters said.

"The historic preservation commission is a wealth of information and so are our city staff," she said. "The goal is to be helpful with all the important details. We're not scary or mean, and we're easy to work with."



COURTESY PHOTO

Cindy Peters, third from left, celebrates her home along Baker Street, receiving a historic landmark in 2018. Pictured with her, from left, are Rosemary Walthall, the daughter of local dentist Dr. Walthall, who originally built the property; Tony Mobley, who was mayor pro tem; Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman; and Mrs. Carswell, the second owner of the house.

Dayna Morgan-McCully is 'A.C.E.s'



Dayna Morgan-McCully

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

Dayna is a special education teacher at Granbury Middle School who provides inclusion support. She was nominated by student Lauren Desormeaux.

Lauren has this to say about Jennifer: "Mrs. McCully is an extraordinary Special Education teacher whose dedication shines in everything she does. She consistently goes above and beyond the responsibilities of her role, making essential information easy to access and understand. Her mastery of data — collecting it, organizing it and turning it into clear, usable documents is top-notch. This supports our entire team and ensures students receive the services they need. Her organization is exceptional, but it's her heart for students that truly stands out. She is kind, patient and unwaveringly supportive. She is always ready to help a colleague or step in wherever she is needed. She often says, 'I just want to teach students,' and she lives that passion every day. With a heart for teaching and a mind made for math, she is a remarkable educator and the kind of teacher that I wish I had growing up. Mrs. McCully deserves this recognition because she is exceptional, dependable, and wholeheartedly devoted to helping students succeed and helping her team thrive. She is truly the kind of educator who makes a lasting impact."

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

GISD honors staff with EECU Award

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnew.com

Each month, members of GISD's school board visit one of the district's campuses and awards two of its staff members the Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) Customer Care Award.

The EECU Customer Care award seeks to honor GISD staff members who have gone above and beyond for their campus. Each honoree is awarded $50 from the credit union and recognized during that month's school board meeting.

Below are each month's winners, and a statement on why they were awarded.

AUGUST

The two winners of the EECU award in August were Patti Young and Marissa Beisel of Acton Elementary School.

Acton Middle School Principal Maggie Walton said this about Young:

"Patti Young goes above and beyond to serve students and staff alike," Walton said. "She not only delivers targeted dyslexia intervention but also jumps in to support all learners wherever she's needed. Patti leads with heart, advocates fiercely for students, and continues to grow professionally so she can make an even greater impact. Her passion and leadership are felt across the campus and district."

Walton said this about Beisel:

"Marissa Beisel radiates compassion, patience, and positivity in everything she does. She supports our students with grace, even on the most challenging days, and brings calm and kindness to every interaction. Her compassionate heart shines through in all she does. The students she serves and the staff she supports are truly blessed by her presence. Marisa loves deeply and consistently serves as a light and a voice for our students who face the most challenges."

SEPTEMBER

The staff members who won the EECU award in September were Bianca Guerrero and Charley Henderson from Brawner Elementary.

Brawner Elementary Principal Sandy Ruiz said the following about Guerrero:

"Dear Bianca, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible impact you've made on our school and your students. You always see a need and get the job done with a level of dedication that inspires everyone around you. Last year, you worked with 34 students in a self-contained classroom, and despite the challenges, you never once complained. Instead, you set high expectations and pushed each of your students to reach their best.

You are truly an asset to both your team and our entire school. Your "whatever it takes" mindset, your strong teamwork, and your ability to connect deeply with both students and parents make you stand out. It's clear that your students adore you, and the rapport you build with families strengthens our school community every day.

Thank you for being such a shining example of commitment, care, and excellence."

Ruiz said the following about Henderson:

"Dear Charley, Your dedication and heart for our students never go unnoticed. You are always the first to volunteer, making sure our students never go without. From Purple Star and yearbook to Student Council, UIL coordination, and even teaching academics during library time. You give so much of yourself in so many ways.

What stands out most is that you do it all with the biggest heart, a constant smile, and genuine care for every student. You go above and beyond daily, not because you have to, but because you truly want the best for our kids. That spirit makes you such a gift to our school.

Thank you for the countless ways you support our students and staff. Your joy, energy, and willingness to step in wherever needed make a lasting difference, and we are truly grateful for you."

OCTOBER

Representing Nettie Baccus Elementary School, Jonneice Montgomery and Michelle Castaneda were the two staff members given the EECU award in October.

Baccus Principal Dr. Lacey Padgett said the following about Montgomery, the campus's PE teacher:

"Jonniece Montgomery exemplifies what it means to care deeply for our Baccus students, families, and staff. As our PE teacher, she knows every student by name and takes the time to build meaningful relationships with them and their families. Her connection extends beyond the classroom—she frequently attends student games, performances, and community events, showing her genuine support and pride in our kids.

Jonniece goes above and beyond every day to ensure our school runs smoothly. Each morning, she helps in the front office and greets families with a smile. No matter the weather—rain, wind, sun, or snow—she's outside for car rider duty, ensuring students arrive safely and families feel welcome. She always has a positive attitude and a willingness to help wherever needed."

Her dedication, reliability, and caring spirit make Jonniece a cornerstone of the Baccus community and a perfect recipient of the Customer Care Award."

Dr. Padgett said the following about Castaneda, a special education paraprofessional:

"Michelle Castaneda consistently goes above and beyond to support our students, staff, and school community. After serving as a dedicated Special Education paraprofessional, she has seamlessly transitioned into her new role as our Librarian Paraprofessional. Michelle has embraced this position with enthusiasm and creativity, working closely with teachers to support their technology needs and enhance student learning experiences.

Under her leadership, the library has become a vibrant hub of innovation and curiosity. She has implemented a Maker Space for our students, giving them opportunities to explore, create, and problem-solve in engaging, hands-on ways. Michelle's initiative, adaptability, and positive attitude make her an invaluable part of our Baccus team."

NOVEMBER

The two winning staff members of the EECU award for November were Hannah Everitt and Bobby Stivers at STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

STEAM Principal Melissa Shipp said the following about Everitt: "Hannah Everitt exemplifies what it means to have a great attitude and willingness to do all things for kids. This year after in-service started, we needed a teacher, and Hannah was moved to us, after she had just unpacked and set up her classroom at Oak Woods. She comes every day with the best attitude, wants to grow and often asks what she can do better — she is amazing. She offered to take a hard student from a teacher early on, even having her own hard kiddos and has worked diligently with her class and seen great success. What a blessing we would have missed out on if she had not been moved to our campus. Hannah is making an impact at Mambrino that will last for many years to come."

Shipp said the following about Officer Stivers:

PLEASE SEE **EECO C7**



COURTESY PHOTO

The two winners of the EECU award in August were Patti Young and Marissa Beisel of Acton Elementary School.



COURTESY PHOTO

The staff members who won the EECU award in September were Bianca Guerrero and Charley Henderson from Brawner Elementary.



COURTESY PHOTO

Representing Nettie Baccus Elementary School, Jonneice Montgomery and Michelle Castaneda were the two staff members given the EECU award in October.



COURTESY PHOTO

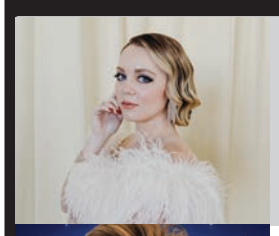
The two staff members who won the EECU award in December were Laney Collins and Miriam Delaney of Oak Woods Elementary.



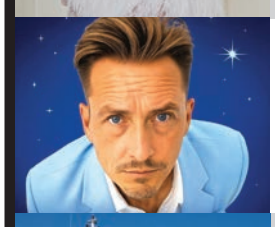
COURTESY PHOTO

The two winning staff members of the EECU award for November were Hannah Everitt and Bobby Stivers at STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

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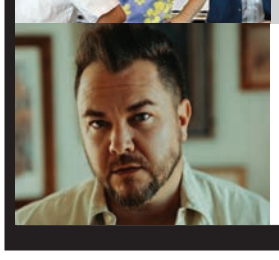
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12-29 Christmas Carriage Rides
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31 K-HITS & Hank FM Party on the Boardwalk
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17 Goosebump Jump & Chili on the Beach
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17 The Ice Age 5k
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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.
Psalm 94:18-19

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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1 John 4:12

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Faith Assembly Of God
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254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
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817-579-5424

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

Dennis First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-565-9027

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

Fairview Covenant Church
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

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

First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-613-2322

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

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

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

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

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

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

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.

Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

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

Oak Trail Baptist
4501 Peppertree Rd.
817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

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

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

Rainbow Baptist
1571 North Fm 200,
Rainbow
254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
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682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
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254-835-4375

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817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
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817-579-0509

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

BIBLE

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
3314 S. Clifton
817-573-0107

First Christian
2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
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817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
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817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
608 Shady Grove Dr.
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Downtown Church Of Christ
310 W. Pearl St.
817-573-9862

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1905 W. Pearl
817-573-2613

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

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

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

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

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1106 Weatherford Hwy.
817-279-6753

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4530 Acton Hwy.
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1400 N. Meadows Dr.
817-573-5011

METHODIST

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

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110 South Crook St.,
Cresson
469-730-6496

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

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

Temple Hall United Methodist
5601 Temple Hall Hwy.,
682-317-9385

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

Waples United Methodist
4323 Waples Rd.
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MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints
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682-990-8551

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1950 Acton Hwy.
817-579-0968

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

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817-554-3432

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Generations Church
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Hope Community
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254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
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3755 Acton Hwy.
817-910-8777

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5904 Walnut Creek Cir.
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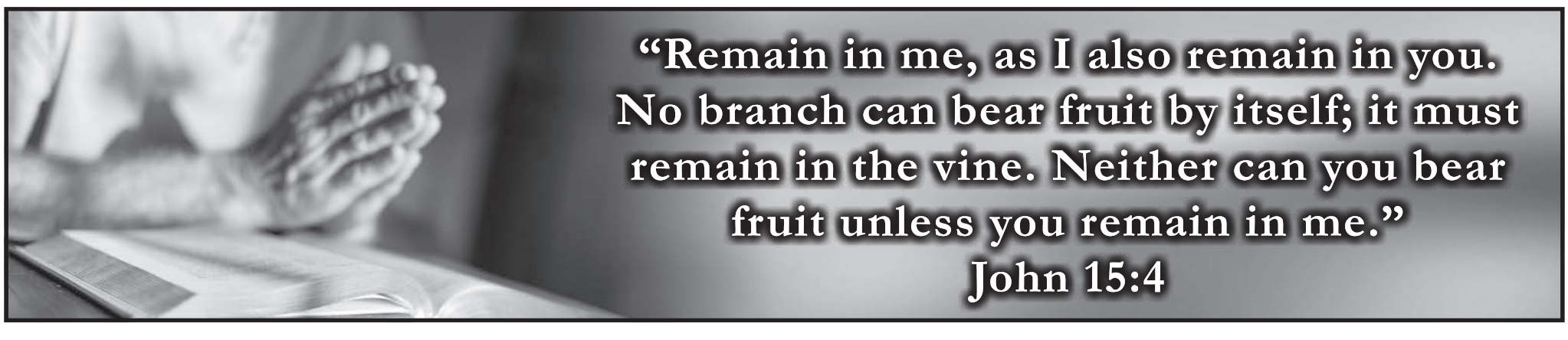
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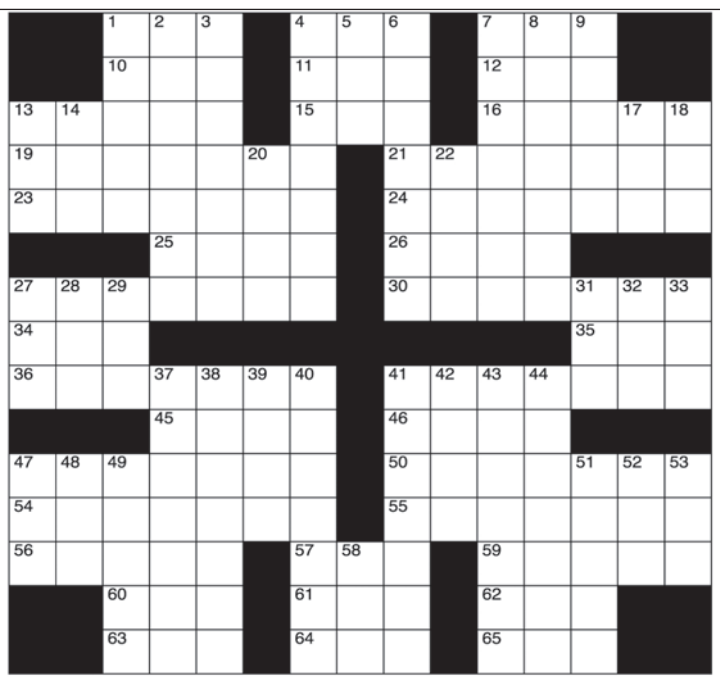
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CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan
4. Tire term
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Connected with touch
21. Pen stain
23. Monetary units
24. School kids' art project
25. Early Bell Canada executive
26. Sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie _ __ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot
36. Carrier on vehicle
41. A path to get through
45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
46. Spiritual leader
47. Flowing
50. Respectful compliments
54. Cure
55. Soft, lightweight fabric
56. Building material
57. Japanese delicacy
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. You might get one in summer
62. Wreath
63. Thus far
64. They __
65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Intestinal condition
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. Alphabetical lists
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
13. Engine additive
14. Explorers group
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Opposite of first
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. NY Giants great
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Wildly popular sport
39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid
43. Able to be marketed
44. Not as large
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter chemical
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Main tributary of the Rhine

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

Level: Advanced

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Aries, you have been looking for some new ways to make some extra money, and now might be the time to start putting your plan in motion. Good fortune awaits.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

Passion is on your mind this week, Taurus. Get together with a spouse or romantic partner and enjoy an evening with just the two of you. Embrace this chance to let the sparks fly.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

A gift would be a wonderful surprise for a loved one or friend this week, Gemini. Perhaps there is something that this person has had an eye on for some time now?

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

A group activity may bring new information and people into your life, Cancer. You might meet people from different backgrounds. Keep your eyes and ears open.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

Leo, you might be interested in expanding your horizons. You could think about attending a lecture or seeing a documentary on a particular subject. The education will enlighten.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Virgo, a long-awaited phone call or text from a person who has been out of touch for some time could come through this week. This may reopen the lines of communication between you both.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, if finances have been on your mind, now is a good time to read the financial pages or study the stock reports. You also may want to sit down with a financial planner.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

Scorpio, keep communication with business partners warm, open and honest. This will help you see your ideas come to fruition. It's always easier to catch flies with honey than vinegar.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

Sagittarius, your tasks should go smoothly and quickly this week, particularly any paperwork you may have. Others are willing to help out if you need it.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, newfound communication heightens the relationship you have with a romantic partner this week. Feelings and memories are shared willingly, and you may learn something new.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

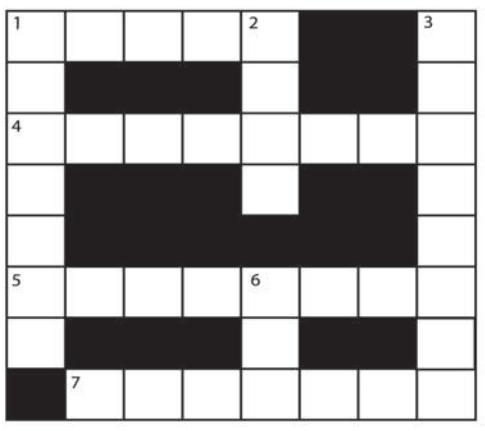
A number of interesting visitors may come to your home this week, Aquarius. At least one may present some fascinating facts on a subject that is new to you. Enjoy the interaction.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Pisces, expect some interesting new neighbors to move in shortly. A friend will likely introduce you to these people, and a relationship could bloom.

kids' corner

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1. Chocolate powder
4. Fruit growing areas
5. Outside of a place
7. Eats

DOWN
1. Handheld desserts
2. Not at home
3. Sweet treats
6. Fish eggs

Answers:
Across
1. Cocoa 4. Orchards 5. Exterior 7. Ingests
Down
1. Cookies 2. Away 3. Desserts 6. Roe

CANADA MONTH HISTORY

1904

The Great Toronto Fire destroys much of the city's downtown. Fortunately, no one perishes in the fire.

Food FACT:

This dessert is made from dough that is either rolled, cut or pressed into shape.

Answer: Cookie

NEW WORD

CHIP

a small piece of solid chocolate

How they say that in...

English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig

Did You KNOW?

Twisting the cookie cutter when cutting out the cookie dough can prevent the dough from rising properly and create inconsistent shapes.

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Rolling pin

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1773

ACROSS
1 in Hays County off I-35
5 TXism: "got knocked down _ ___ or two"
6 ex-Cowboy coach Campo (2000-02)
7 TXism; "nip __ __ the bud"
8 a capitol open-air rotunda in the extension building (2 wds.)
17 TXism: "___-horse town"
18 TX Hagman TV film: "Getting ____ ____ __ All" (1972)
21 Longhorn univ.
22 NM & CO tribe
23 parent company of Denton Peterbilt
24 TX McFarland was one as "Spanky"
29 TXism: "hits the ____" (satisfying)
30 TXism: "chew the fat"
31 21st governor: _ _ Culberson (1895-99)
32 French actor in "Texas Across the River" (2 wds.)
34 Texas singer/actor Kristofferson
35 battery terminal (abbr.)
36 TXism: "cute as a ____ ___"
37 police subduer: ____ gun
38 foot part
39 TXism: "hot as _ _____ _____"
41 Jim Wells County seat
42 TXism "windy" (2 wds.)
43 TXism: "that dog won't ____" (bad idea)
44 savory smells
45 TXism: "___ the i's and cross the t's"
46 ___ Houston cruiser was sunk in WWII
47 actress Dickinson
48 in Dallas: R.L. _____ Freeway
50 crook in "Oliver Twist"
51 TX Foreman win, e.g. (abbr.)
52 TXism: "no flies on ___" (attractive)
53 Astro pitcher stat.

DOWN
1 TXism: "want it so ___ _ _____ ____" (desire)
2 TXism: "hard as putting __ _ ____ in a windstorm"
3 in Medina County off I-35
4 LBJ's last words were to a secret service _____
9 tattletale (2 wds.)
10 TXism: "smells like _ ___ dog"
11 ___ Colinas, TX
12 Astro Verlander won the "__ Young Award" in 2022
13 TXism: "house __ ____" (a gym)
14 "Permian Basin" was named after area in the Russian _____
15 "Enchanted ____" in Gillespie County
16 cable movie net.
19 TX Shelby worked for this Lee at Ford & Chrysler
20 vandalizes
22 TXism: "put __ __ ____ up"
24 TX oil well fire-fighter "Red" (init.)
25 Ranger/Astro leag.
26 San ____, TX
27 El Paso neighbor: _____ Juarez
28 San _____, TX
29 bed support
30 film: "____ Grit"
33 equal opport. employer (abbr.)
34 Fort Worth TV
35 TXism: "have to _____ my mouth to spit" (thirsty)
37 TX Farrs' group: "____ __ ___ Pioneers"
38 "Lone Ranger's" companion wore _ ____ cloth
40 slang for "buttocks"
41 gas in fluorescent lighting
44 against
47 Texas has a lot of these mohair goats
49 leaf collector

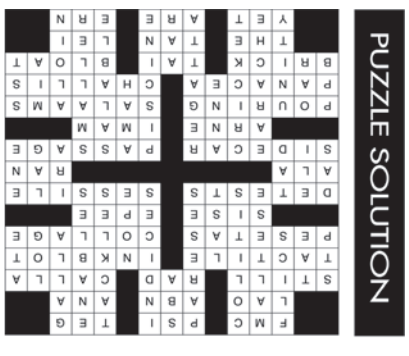
FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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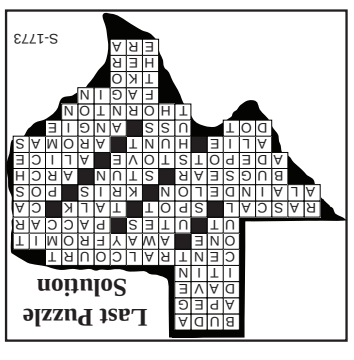
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

A LA CARTE
ALLERGENS
BUSSER
CHAFING
COMPLIMENTARY
COST
COVER
EXPEDITER
GRIDDLE
GUEST
HOUSE
MENU
PANTRY
RESTAURANT
RUNNER
SALE
SEATING
SERVICE
SOMMELIER
TABLE
TIP
TURN OVER
WALK-IN
YIELD



PUZZLE SOLUTION



Last Puzzle Solution

S-1773

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

Dec. 16, 1965
60 years ago

· "Love Transcending," the cantata of the greatest story of the ages, will be presented by the First Baptist Church Dec. 19. T. Marshall Collins Jr. is director of the 28-voice choir which has been in rehearsal for several weeks.

· Four people were injured Dec. 12 when a head-on wreck occurred in front of Norman Lumber Co. All except one were treated at Granbury General Hospital and released. One was hospitalized overnight before being transferred to Carswell Air Force Base.

· A member of an engineering firm will be here Dec. 16 to meet with the committee on selection of a site for the proposed recreation center. The committee is made up of Jack Riley, Jack Copeland, Rope Wood, Gene Durant and Jack Caskey. Three sites will be considered.

Dec. 19, 1985
40 years ago

· The agenda item that drew the most comments from City Council members Dec. 17 was the request for a variance on height restrictions for a proposed hotel-condominium project behind McDonald's at the intersection of Highway 144 and U.S. Highway 377.

· Architect LeeRoy Hahnfeld, the school board members and Superintendent James Wann appear to be in dispute with Howe Construction, builder of Emma Roberson Elementary School, regarding details of construction that isn't satisfactory.

· Hood County election talk is gaining steam, even though the primaries are more than four months away. Though the Democratic and Republican primaries aren't until May 3, candidates start filing for offices on the ballot Jan. 4.

Dec. 17, 2005
20 years ago

· Christmas and New Year's Eve revelers will find a somewhat limited selection of fireworks at the stand in Hood County this year. Due to the potential fire hazard with dry conditions across the area, county commissioners agreed to ban aerial fireworks for the holiday season.

· The typical boater on Lake Granbury is using a 19-foot vessel, powered by an "average" 162-horsepower motor and will spend 20 weekend days and 28 weekdays boating on the lake per year. The Brazos River Authority compiled boating use statistics and concerns in a survey conducted between May 28 and Aug. 15.

· Members of Granbury's First United Methodist Church close 122 years of worship at the southeast corner of the Granbury square with a deconsecration service Dec. 18. The first service in the new worship center along Avery Road near FM 51 will begin that same day.

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

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

***

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

***

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

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

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

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

***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CENTER MENUS

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

MONDAY, DEC. 22
Ham with mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls and a peach crisp.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23
Beef steak fingers with red roasted potatoes, spinach, mandarin orange fluff and bread.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24
Beef taco salad with Spanish rice, corn and black beans, tortilla chips, pineapple and mandarin oranges.

THURSDAY, DEC. 25
Closed for holiday

FRIDAY, DEC. 26
Closed for holiday

Granbury locals share their family's go-to holiday activities

BY CHLOE LAING
chloe@hcnews.com

Whether it's special meals or cookie competitions, Granbury residents are embracing the holidays by returning to — or creating their own — favorite family traditions.

LEANNE BYRD
Leanne Byrd's children now are out of the house, but that doesn't stop her family from gathering for a good time. Around the holidays, everyone makes the trek home, and the members of her family play games with one another.

"My kids are grown, so we just play little fun activities," Byrd said.

AMY HEWITT BYRD
Amy Hewitt Byrd likes to incorporate a little global influence into her yuletide traditions.

Every Christmas Eve, her family plays "Indian Christmas" (also called white elephant) while they eat her home-cooked meal influenced by flavors from south of the border — tortilla soup.

"I always cook tortilla soup," she said. "They (her children) don't always get it, depending on who's able to make it home that year — but they always want it."

HAILEY WHITE
Hailey White's family holds a Christmas cookie competition.

"My family holds a contest where everybody picks their favorite cookie, and then we'll all bake and share them."

After the flour settles and the winner is announced, White and her siblings gather around her grandparents while they read them the Christmas classic, "The Night Before Christmas."

"My grandparents always will read it to us, and we have like a custom book that has all of our names in it."

CASEY COVINGTON
Casey Covington's family tradition surrounds their matriarch's favorite holiday film, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

"My mom's favorite Christmas movie is 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation,' so every Christmas Eve, we bake cookies, we all get in our matching National Lampoon's Christmas T-shirts that my mom gets us every year, and we watch the movie together," Covington said.

As their family grows, new additions to the family tree are invited to join in the fun — often adding their own bits to the tradition.

"My boyfriend got added in as well, and his little own tradition is that every time we get to the part in the movie quoted on our shirts, he always goes, 'That's what's on our shirt,'" Covington said laughing.

SAMANTHA AVERY
Samantha Avery has just started a family of her own, and with a new baby girl at home, Avery decided it was the perfect time to start a new tradition to commemorate her.

"I just had my first daughter, so we're going to do ornament hand and feet prints, where you press their little hand into clay to make an ornament," Avery said.

EMMA REVETT
Emma Revett's family tackles a sensory-full holiday agenda each Christmas Eve, complete with all of the sights, tastes and sounds that make Christmas, Christmas.

"Every Christmas Eve, we go to Braum's to get holiday-flavored ice cream, and then we go look at Christmas lights," Revett said. "Then we go home and put on our matching Christmas pajamas and watch 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'"

KIM YOUNG
According to Kim Young, her family has no set family tradition and instead prefers to "switch it up."

This year, switching it up looks like a full family vacation to Colorado.

"This year we're going to Colorado, close to Breckenridge. We've got some people who like to downhill ski, some who like to cross country ski and some who can't ski at all, so we thought it would be fun," Young said.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Weary of it all and ready to deflate some egos



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.

I'm weary of television and Internet ads, namely those promising more than is usually delivered. My focus today is largely on outlandish appeals thrust upon us by lawyers and political candidates. (If lawyers omitted references to 18-wheelers, their commercials would be significantly shorter).

Much of my frustration can be traced to my computer's delete key. When I press it, my intention is to subtly unsubscribe from future emails. Many political candidates — as well as some office-holders already in place — wouldn't get my vote if they were aspirants for dog catcher or mall cop.

Often, politicos want to know why I request "no more emails." It matters little if I respond, because my email address stays on their "send lists."

I sometimes "fill in the blank" with insulting phrases, like, "I'd rather pick a name from the phone book," or "your candidacy has made me decide to change parties," etc., etc.

Usually, I hang around to see if the computer message warning — that it will go blank in five seconds, as promised--ever does so.

It has not, so far.

Granted, I tend to paint the present tense and the past perfect, but there were more political figures worthy of admiration back in the day. For example, Christian statesmen — like the late Congressman Charles Stenholm — are in short supply.

Stenholm held big summer picnics on his West Texas spread near Stamford. Typically, he was accompanied by a fellow congressman. Once, the late Charles Rangle — a longtime New York representative in Congress — contrasted his district's size to Stenholm's. "It takes Charlie the better part of a day to drive between distant points in his district," he laughed, "I can walk across mine during the noon hour."

I remember one state representative back in the 1970s crowing that he had "become a Christian statesman." Shouldn't such descriptions be made by others? (Painting with a broad brush, Carl Anderson made this observation about many elected officials: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and you can fool all of the people some of the time. That's usually enough to get you elected)."

Maybe I'd best drift back into my "wheelhouse" (if I have one) — higher education administration.

My brother — who also has spent his professional life on the "teaching" side — has received virtually all faculty honors. He's heard the wails and moans (is there any difference) of many students trying to gain sympathy and/or improving their class standing in numerous other ways.

Dr. Fred G. Newbury, Professor of Economics, has been associated with

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** C6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event included in the Community Calendar, send an email to submissions@hcnews.com. Be sure to include "Calendar" in the subject line.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

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

***

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

***

Granbury Live presents "A Winter Wonderland" at 7 p.m. with songs and stories by Sarah Reeves. Reeves is a powerhouse singer, songwriter and producer with more than 174 million streams worldwide. Known for her emotionally rich voice and captivating stage presence, she's scored two No. 1 hits on the CCM Hot AC charts and landed major syncs with Disney, Netflix and top television networks. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

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

***

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

MONDAY, DEC. 22

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Granbury Live presents Midweek at Midnight New Year's Eve with Michael Hix. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and show begins at 7:30 p.m. The show will feature live performances of pop love songs, funky soul and party anthems from Marvin Gaye to Bruno Mars. Attendees should dress to impress: sparkles, suits and sass encouraged. The event features a champagne countdown and a kiss from a loved one. Tickets can be purchased at granburylive.com.

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.

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.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

Granbury Live presents ZZ Tex/Kraig Parker ZZ Top Tribute at 7 p.m. t'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 nations 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.

ONGOING

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

MONDAYS

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

TUESDAYS

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

***

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

***

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

WEDNESDAYS, SATURDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

***

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

***

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

***

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

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

***

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

***

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

***

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.

FIRST MONDAYS

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

***

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

SECOND MONDAYS

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

THIRD MONDAYS

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

***

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

***

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

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

THIRD TUESDAYS

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

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

***

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

THIRD WEDNESDAYS

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

SECOND THURSDAYS

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

***

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

***

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

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

***

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

LAST THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS

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

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

IDLE

FROM PAGE C5

Dallas College's Richland Campus since it opened in 1972. He remembers recommending to a whining student that he join a study group, particularly one organized by several international students.

"No way," he responded, "All they do is study."

Here's another story from my career. Two late, respected colleagues sometimes were center stage in pratfall situations. Both were chancellors of Tarrant County College. Dr. Joe B. Rushing — founding CEO in 1965 — served for some 25 years. Executive Vice-Chancellor C. A. Roberson was promoted to succeed Dr. Rushing.Both wore eyeglasses, a fact irrelevant to this story. Late one evening upon arrival at the Austin airport, they were "buffaloed" by a red light on their rental car dashboard that simply wouldn't turn off.

When all efforts failed, they appealed to an agent for assistance.

In a flash, the young man — even without glasses — solved the issue. "The red light means 'high beam'," he chuckled.

Sometimes, educational leaders have airs of superiority rarely observed in lesser mortals.

During my "pre-presidential" years, I enjoyed deflating arrogant egos whenever possible. (Granted, I eased up on criticizing when I became one).

At a Fort Worth luncheon some 40 years ago, a banquet hall was filled largely by college and university presidents. I began my remarks thusly: "If a bomb exploded here today, it would set education forward by two centuries." (It was a gentler time, when jokes could include words like "bomb)."

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Emergency personnel celebrate Christmas with community



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



PHOTO COURTESY OF VFD/EMS PUBLICITY

Members of Pecan's emergency service groups, along with Santa Claus, the Grinch and several elves, celebrate Christmas by welcoming neighbors for cookies, hot cocoa and a visit with Santa.

Volunteers with the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service welcomed neighbors to the emergency services compound along Monticello Drive last weekend when Santa, the Grinch and elves offered cookies and hot cocoa to neighbors and wished attendees a Merry Christmas. Thank you to the men and women who care for Pecaners year-round; your service definitely is a gift.

LIGHT BRIGHT

Judging for the 2025 Pecan Christmas lighting and home exterior display contest has begun and runs through Sunday, Dec. 28, thus giving residents plenty of time to shine. Winners will receive gift certificate prizes and homes will be evaluated on creativity and originality, theme execution and effort, visual impact, craftsmanship or technical skill and overall presentation.

GOOD SHOT

The Pecan Plantation Archery/Air Gun Association is holding its annual "Don't Shoot Your Eye Out BB Gun Shoot" from 11 a.m. to noon today, Saturday, Dec. 20, at the archery/air gun range for participants ages 4-16. A hot dog lunch will be part of the day, and winners in each group will receive a Red Ryder BB gun.

DATE CHANGE

With Christmas coming soon, Pecan's bulk trash day for Dec. has been rescheduled to today, Saturday, Dec. 20, so services will continue without interruption during the holiday season. The collection station also is open from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday afternoons for branches and recyclables. For complete information on the collection station in our community, folks may contact Director of Operations Daniel Van Patten at 817-573-2641, extension 342.

In addition, the tennis shop recycles aluminum cans with proceeds benefitting Pecan's tennis programs.

TUNE TIMES

Mark H. Morton will entertain folks with his "road trippin' music" from 7-9 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Dec. 20, in the 19th Hole. All neighbors are welcome.

PAINT PARTY

Popular and accomplished Pecan artist Kathy Yoders will lead students in completing an art on canvas piece from 2-5 p.m. tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 21, at the PAC. The finished products promise to make lovely Christmas gifts. Call the PAC to secure a spot: 817-573-7952.

FISH DATE

Little anglers will want to save the date of Monday, Dec. 29, for the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kid's Trout Fishing Tournament. This Wildlife Committee sponsored event grows in popularity each year as the youngest residents of our community have proven themselves skilled at reeling in healthy catches. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the pond behind the clubhouse pool. Fisher boys and girls should bring their fishing poles; bait will be provided. Ages 17 and under are invited to partake, and participants will fish for one hour, compete for prizes and then keep their catch.

TAKE AIM

Also Dec. 29 while Pecan children are out of school, they may participate in a very popular dodgeball event at the PAC. Free and no sign up needed. All ages are welcome. Show up and enjoy.

NEW YEAR

Pecaners will have a party in our neighborhood to celebrate the coming of 2026. Beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, folks may enjoy an evening consisting of a meal (including black eyed peas!), a champagne toast, live music and dancing; in addition, the dress code for the party is bright and glowing clothing to complement the neon theme. Reservations may be secured through member portals or by calling 817-573-2641.

GOVERNING GROUP

A board of nine directors serves Pecan Plantation, and each year three members complete their terms and thus our community elects three new members for the group. Neighbors who are passionate about our Pecan and desire to make a difference in our vicinity are invited to complete an application qualifying them to be on the ballot next year. Dedicated members who guide our association into the future and lend their voices in decisions concerning our homes are invaluable. Members 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.

GIVING BACK

The Pecan Plantation Employee Christmas Bonus Fund is open and receiving donations from members who would like to recognize our dedicated staff. Folks may visit the Pecan website or stop by the front desk to participate.

APP UPDATE

Pecan Plantation has debuted its updated PPOA/PPCC mobile app and through it offering members a fresh design, improved capabilities, and easier navigation.

Members will be prompted to update their app when opening the current version. The previous version will only remain functional for a short time, so members are encouraged to complete the update promptly to ensure continued access to all features.

DELIGHTFUL DECOR

Many thanks go to the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's Christmas Décor Chairperson, Debbie Wright, along with all of the ladies who volunteered to "light up Pecan," literally, during the holiday season. The ladies recently gathered in the 19th Hole for lunch and fellowship before moving to the clubhouse's Teen Room to assemble holiday goodies for Daniel Van Patten and his employees who contribute to the decorating effort each year by moving containers and getting items in place of which the biggest accomplishment is connecting all the lights in common areas, especially on the bridge. Neighbors offer much gratitude for a job well done. Each year, Pamela Vannoy paints a picture (which Debbie Wolfe framed) for Operations Manager Van Patten's office and has the print made into notes of appreciation for all employees. What a tremendous team effort to make our community so festive.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I wish all the readers of Pecan Bits a very Merry Christmas filled with love and peace.

EECO

FROM PAGE C2

"Officer Bobby Stivers — where do I begin. First and foremost, he takes his job very seriously and is always watching for ways we can be a safer campus. He catches things that others do not always notice, paying super close attention to detail — exactly what we need in an officer! In addition, and probably the thing that stands out to me the most is his innovative ideas for involving our dads — he started our DADvocates program and has started a "Gentlemen in Training" club where dads come and volunteer their time to mentor our 5th grade boys. He is a part of it also and works so hard to mentor the students in and out of the club. He even started bringing golf clubs and taught the students at recess how to play — coming up with something else for them to try to keep them engaged and out of trouble. His DADvocates have done countless workdays making our campus beautiful! In my book Bobby gets 5 stars all day long."

DECEMBER

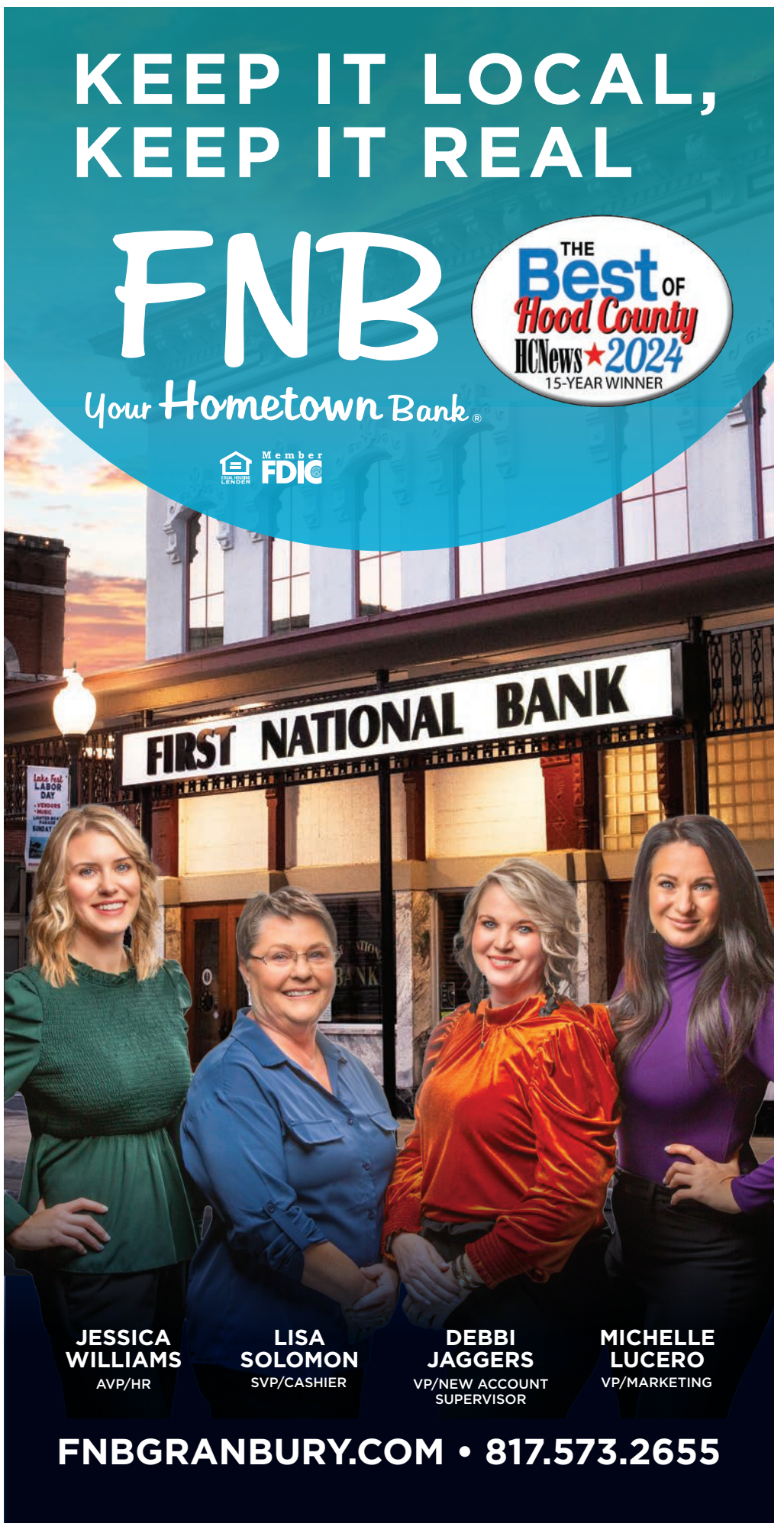
The two staff members who won the EECU award in December were Laney Collins and Miriam Delaney of Oak Woods Elementary.

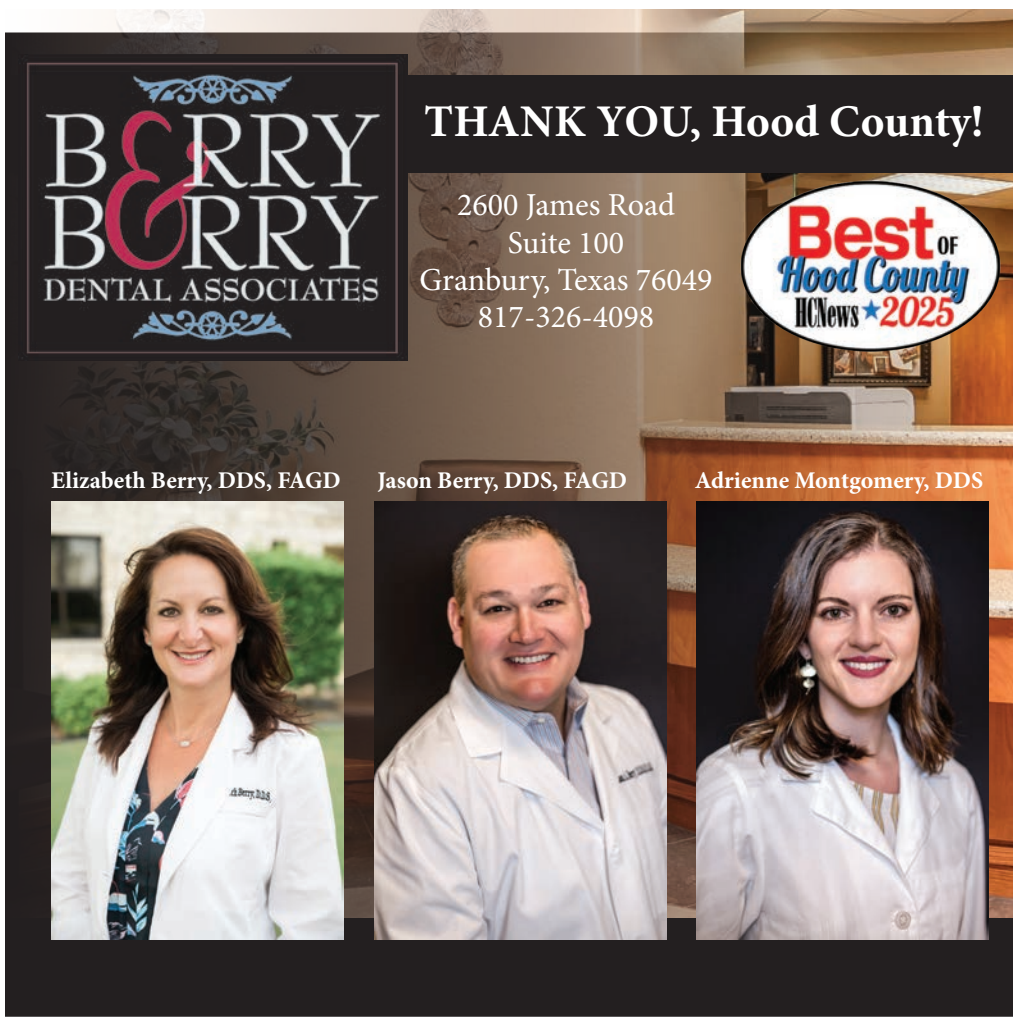
Oak Woods Principal Chelsey Gibson said the following about Collins, an instruction and intervention specialist:

"What does Laney Collins not do? There is only one of her and 33 teachers, and she supports them all. She goes above and beyond for students and staff. She serves beyond her expected duties to promote a positive morale overall. She lends a listening ear when needed, she is the keeper of all things curriculum, when she doesn't know an answer, we know she's going to find it, and she is a great encourager. Laney always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Thank you, Laney, for being dependable, uplifting, and just an overall good teammate."

Gibson said the following about Miriam Delaney, a GISD substitute:

"Miriam Delaney is the Queen of Subs. She is practical, reliable, and loyal service. As a long-time substitute on our campus, she consistently steps in with a calm, helpful spirit, and a true commitment to our students and staff. Her dependability and willingness to support wherever she is needed make a tremendous difference each day. We are grateful for her steady presence and the care she shows our school."





Book looks into the biggest FBI cases in history



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 wouldn't call yourself a perfectionist.

Still, if something is amiss, you feel a need to make it right. Something's broken, you fix it. If it's off, you make it right. That goes for minor issues or, as in the new book "The Grave Robber" by Tim Carpenter, matters of grave importance.

The tipsters were adamant. Don Carlin Miller had "Indian bones."

And so, on a cool, cloudy fall afternoon, FBI bomb tech coordinator and sometime art crime expert Tim Carpenter and one of his associates headed to a remote property near Indianapolis., in search of the truth.

Miller was well-known to the FBI; years earlier, he'd bragged he was involved in the Manhattan Project and had some uranium in his possession. A case was filed in 2008 and he gave up those souvenirs, but this was different: Carpenter, who was "eager for a good art crime case," had gotten photographs of Native American remains on Miller's property.

A meeting was arranged and Carpenter was careful to stay above the law. Introduced as someone with interest in antiquities, he paid close attention as Miller showed him around, and he noticed items that gave him pause. Furthermore, Miller, then around 90 years old, loved to tell stories and some of his tales confirmed what Carpenter suspected.

In the course of decades, Miller had robbed Native American graves. Recovering them would take enormous effort.

Miller ultimately gave up the remains and stolen items without a fight and so, during the course of several days, Carpenter waded through many months of bureaucracy and red tape before leading an FBI team of experts, students, and agents through Miller's home and outbuildings. There, hidden in secret rooms, moldering closets, paper bags and in plain sight, they found "hundreds of people's bones" — most dug hastily and amateurishly, some in abysmal shape, most stored or displayed disrespectfully.

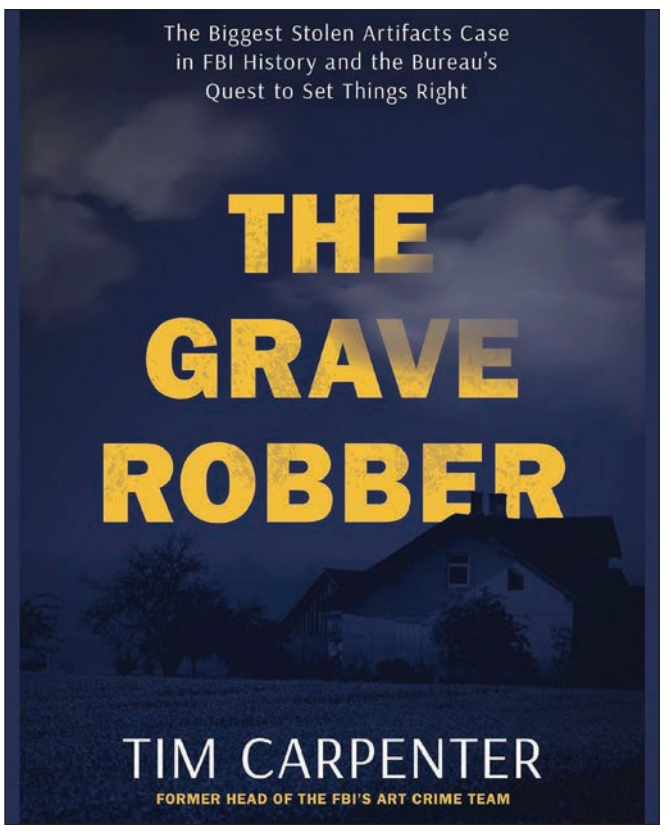
Miller considered himself somewhat of an expert in the field, but that wasn't the case at all. Says Carpenter, he "wasn't just a bad digger, he was far worse — nothing more than an unabashed grave robber."

Wow. Be prepared to say it loud and say it often because "The Grave Robber" is a stunning story on many levels.

There's the book's raison d'etre: the sometimes-thrilling tale of horrifying plunder and wrongly assumed privilege, both set right like a skewed, often obscene treasure hunt in reverse. True crime fans and those who love a good FBI procedural will be excited to see how author Tim Carpenter explains his case, how it proceeded and how it ended, with just enough biography inside the tale to make it personal. And history buffs will absolutely relish the backstory and the reasons the case came about in the first place.

If you're a fan of all of the above genres, well, what are you waiting for?

Though it contains what is often a confusing alphabet soup or FBI acronyms, "The Grave Robber" is a can't-miss story that'll have you glued to your chair. For nonfiction readers like you, it's perfection.



COURTESY

The book, "The Grave Robber: The Biggest Stolen Artifacts Case in FBI History and the Bureau's Quest to Set Things Right" by Tim Carpenter, is available for $29.99.

Are you ready for a home inspection?



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

When selling a home, it is almost certain the buyers will have inspections done. A general inspection is the standard, after that there are inspections for termites, hydrostatic tests for plumbing, septic systems, lead-based paint, and because we live in the great state of Texas with frequent hailstorms, roof inspections are routine. If your roof is more than five years old, don't be surprised if you are asked to file a claim with your insurance carrier and have an adjuster determine the condition. It's that big a deal and it happens regularly.

A normal inspection typically takes three to four hours, and it is recommended sellers leave for the duration. It also is normal for the buyers to attend the last hour of the inspection for a summary report on any issues that were identified.

Safety issues like faulty wiring, gas leaks or any fire hazards also are a big deal. Depending on the age of your home the breaker box can be a nasty surprise. There are a few older brands that, while not officially recalled, have been deemed unsafe. If you have one of them, it will be flagged and you could be asked to replace it.

Designed to keep us safe and prevent electrical shocks or worse, the requirements for placement of GFCI's (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) have changed in time. If you don't have them in every kitchen, bathroom, garage and outdoor outlet, an inspector will most likely identify that as a deficiency.

Another Texas-driven issue is your HVAC system. Especially the air conditioning side of that system. With the record-setting heat we enjoy in our great state, you can expect the HVAC system to be thoroughly tested.

As a seller there are a few things you can do to prepare for an inspection that are very helpful. Walk through your home to fix small issues like leaky faucets or burned-out bulbs, lay out a copy of service records for the major components, like HVAC maintenance, roof repairs or pest treatments. Ensure attics, crawl spaces and breaker boxes are easy to reach and unobstructed. For vacant properties, make sure all the utilities are on and if the home uses propane there should be enough fuel in the tank for the inspector to check any appliances that use propane.

Home inspectors are licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission and must follow the Texas Real Estate Commission Standards of Practice, ensuring consistency and thoroughness. They have a specific criterion they must follow; they really aren't just making it up as they go. So be prepared, and expect inspectors to find something, because no home is perfect. Try not to get offended or irritated; it's an important part of selling your home. At Knieper Realty we take pride in helping our sellers navigate and negotiate through the inspection process to successful closings. We would love to do the same for you when you are ready to sell.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have questions about home inspections or just want to talk about real estate, give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at WeSellGanbury.com. We would love to hear from you.

