



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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Riding the year with optimism

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With both Pfizer and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines becoming available in December 2020, we started a new year with what we hoped would be a clean slate and a bullish determination to make it so.

The worst of COVID-19 seemed to be behind us when a third vaccine, manufactured by Johnson & Johnson, became authorized for use in February — the same month that Hood County opened the doors to a vaccination hub made possible by community partners and volunteers.

BULLS ON THE BEACH: With the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines in early 2021, life in Granbury took a hopeful turn. The city began hosting events like "Bulls on the Beach" to enthusiastic reviews from residents weary of the pandemic lockdown.

DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

SNOW IN NORTH TEXAS: At Granbury City Beach Park, Chad Wallen pulled up in a Nissan Pathfinder pulling a trailer with an ATV strapped on. "I had to stop to take a picture of the palm tree," Wallen said, as he made his way past the shelters on the sand. "This is incredible," he said. "And beautiful." His father has been teasing him, he said, about how Texas has been getting more snow than Oregon, where he is from.

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But as the end of 2021 drew closer, the omicron variant brought a sense of déjà vu and fears that health care workers might once again become overwhelmed.

Even with that, though, there was good news. For those vaccinated and boosted, omicron appears to pose little risk of serious illness and death.

And there has been other good news in 2021, too. Life has gone back to normal. Schools, churches and shops are open, downtown is bustling with 12 establishments on and around the square that offer live entertainment, and the city's Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues hit record numbers — a sure indicator that tourism is thriving once again.

As we head into 2022, here is a look back on the events that made news in 2021.

JANUARY

Mary and John Brown decide to close their M&J Army Surplus Pig Iron City, a store that sold motorcycle apparel and Army surplus items, after 33 years.

The Tolar High School band is invited to perform for the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 2021 as part of the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremonies.

The city of Granbury and Mission Granbury team up to offer help to city utility customers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the 66th Hood County Junior Livestock Sale raises \$351,647 — more than \$29,000 higher than the previous year.

Jeanette Stone and Will Lyons soar over Granbury as the new owners and instructors of "Aviate at The Lake" flight school at Granbury Regional Airport.

Sixteen-year-old Jolee Tuggle of Lipan is awarded grand champion market goat honors for the third time during the 66th Hood County Junior Livestock Show.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Ron Cotton is named county judge pro tem to lead the Commissioners Court during any absence of County Judge Ron Massingill.

Seventeen-year-old fiddle phenom Ridge Roberts releases his first album.

Tolar High School sophomore Wyatt Wienecke's 1,205-pound European steer "Silver One" is chosen grand champ in the 66th Hood County Junior Livestock Show.

The Granbury chamber board selects Brian Bondy, former president of the Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce, to lead the Granbury organization upon the retirement of longtime president and CEO Mike Scott.

The Granbury City Council votes unanimously to override its fee policies at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, setting the stage for the LGCC to possibly be used by the state as a "mega site" for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.



RURAL SNOWSCAPE: The dusting turned Hood County farmhouses and ranches into landscapes of ice and snow.



WINTER WONDERLAND: Granbury received at least 3 inches of snow Jan. 10, turning this North Texas town into a winter wonderland. Fat snowflakes drifted down on the statue of Mary Lou Watkins at the town's historic square.

FEBRUARY

The county receives 1,500 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Local food pantries provide a lifeline to those economically impacted by COVID-19.

Gym-Kat Sports Center reopens after a remodel.

With COVID-19 vaccine distributions ramping up, the Granbury City Council approves a Specific

Use Permit to allow the Bulls on the Beach event to come back to Granbury in March.

Cody Campbell, a 2008 graduate of Granbury High School, officially joins the Space Force.

Claire Dieterichs, a 9-year-old fourth grader at Lakeside Baptist Academy, prepares for the Texas Heroes Foundation's Student History Fair.

Like every other county in Texas, Hood County is impacted by Winter Storm Uri and the failure of the state's electrical grid.

The Commissioners Court approves the purchase of new voting machines.

Local leaders work to open warming centers for those without heat due to electrical outages.

The HCN reports on continu-

ing hardships posed by the winter storm and electrical and water outages.

MARCH

The city of Granbury expects to be hit with assessment charges from ERCOT, the problematic nonprofit in charge of the state's electrical grid but will seek help through state and federal resources to deal with it.

Founders of the popular Granbury Wine Walk turn the reins over to Chuck Tordiglione of the Bull Lion Wine Shop and Tordiglione Italian Market.

Thanks to federal funding related to COVID-19, the county is able to purchase, at a bargain basement price, a 2005 Pierce Lance Mobile Public Safety Command Center that was used for training by the FBI.

Ethel Rains is treated by Quail Park of Granbury to quite a celebration in honor of her 100th birthday.

After Gov. Greg Abbott allows businesses to reopen at 100% capacity and drops the mask mandate, Hood County Public Health Authority Dr. David Blocker issues a reminder to the public that "the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended."

Lipan's Lady Indians take the state basketball title.

St. Helen's on Granbury Square hosts a fundraiser for the Mays family after the HCN reports on 2-year-old Landon Mays' brain injury.

The city reports that the expansion project for the Granbury Regional Airport is four months



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RIDING OUT THE FREEZE: The frigid weather that blanketed Texas taxed the state's power grid, forcing the utility companies to implement rolling blackouts. The scene is inside an Acton home during a power loss just as the sun sets for the day Feb. 16. Illuminated only by candlelight and her iPhone, Sheila Higgins, 85, waits for the power to be restored.

REVIEW

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ahead of schedule.

Despite the governor lifting the COVID-19 mask mandate, the Granbury School Board votes to keep the mask requirement in place through the end of the school year.

After being canceled the previous year due to the pandemic, the popular Bulls on the Beach event returns to City Beach Park on the same weekend as the Granbury Founders Day Jubilee and Cook-off.

The 130 members of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Hood County hosts a wreath fundraiser after its Charities on the Runway event is canceled out of concern for in-person gatherings.

Advocacy for Trevor Reed, a Granbury resident imprisoned in Russia, continues to grow louder as Republican lawmakers join Democrats in the White House and State Department to demand the former U.S. Marine's release.

As part of the Granbury ISD's Career and Technical Education program, Aviation will have a full four-year sequence of courses beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Elections Administrator Michele Carew announces that she will offer early voting in Cresson and Lipan as a service to voters who otherwise would have to drive to county Annex 1.

About 40% of the Granbury school district staff has received COVID-19 vaccinations at the school district administration building, according to school officials.

The county announces that walk-ins will be accepted at the Hood County Vaccination Hub.

The Granbury School Board approves contract extensions for teachers, coaches, counselors, librarians, nurses and other campus professional staff members after extending principals' contacts the previous month.

Visit Granbury announces that director and producer Brian Clowdus' "The Sleepy Hollow Experience" is coming to the Dora Lee Langdon Cultural and Educational Center to be performed outdoors on dates between Sept. 23 and Oct. 31.

Upon advice from the Brazos River Authority, the city tweaks its plans for an expanded deck and boat slips behind the Lake Granbury Conference Center (LGCC) — a project that is expected to be a boon for tourism because outdoor concerts, festivals and other events can be held there.

Brian Bondy becomes the chamber's new leader, taking the reins from the retiring Mike Scott.

APRIL

The Granbury Independent School District announces that it will offer full-day, district-wide Pre-K at Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy in the 2021-22 school year.

The Granbury Theatre Company re-opens the doors of the Granbury Opera House after a year-long pandemic, offering shows at 50%



DRIVING HAZARD: Temperatures in Granbury dropped into single digits overnight Feb. 15 and snow flurries blanketed the region, leaving nearly four inches on the ground. The snow and ice made driving around Hood County hazardous.



SLUSHY COMMUTE: Morning commuters drove by the the Historic Hood County Courthouse as snowfall intensified.

Like every other county in Texas, Hood County is impacted by Winter Storm Uri and the failure of the state's electrical grid.

capacity.

The HCN reports on a well-kept secret: Charlene Harris, author of the books that were adapted into the HBO series "True Blood" and the only author ever to have nine books at the same time on the New York Times Best Seller list, lives in Hood County.

Andrew Brinker, an environmental science teacher at Fort Worth's Paschal High School and creator

of the Rio Brazos Turtle Project, along with volunteers from the Rio Brazos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program, research various turtle species in Hood County.

J.C. Campbell, a beloved figure in Hood County and a regular attendee of city, county and school governance meetings, dies at 88.

Ben, a popular narcotics dog that served in the Granbury ISD for seven years until his retirement in

2019, dies at age 10.

A development moratorium in the eastern part of town that was extended by the Granbury City Council could eventually envelop the entire municipality if the state does not issue a permit for a second wastewater treatment plant.

Inmates have been sneaking in drugs to the Hood County Jail through the mail, according to Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds.

A formal announcement by the Parker County Economic Development Council makes it official: the Australian company that will build a plant in Cresson and employ hundreds of people is Wagners Composite Fiber Technologies.

Eight Granbury High School swimmers receive Class 5A all-state

honors from the Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association.

Tolar High School boys basketball head coach Ethan Lunn will not return to lead the Rattlers next season.

As child hunger becomes an increasing problem in Hood County, the Granbury ISD takes steps to make sure students are fed.

The Granbury Theatre Company cautiously reopens the Granbury Opera House at 50% capacity.

The Commissioners Court seeks clarity from the attorney general on a statute pertaining to the numbering of ballots.

Steve Dieterichs opens Caring Transitions of Granbury, the country's first national franchising concept specializing in senior moving, downsizing and estate sales.

Captain Kirk's Tiki Cruises sets sail on Lake Granbury featuring a partnership with Mesquite Pit for to-go orders to be consumed during a leisurely boat ride.

A Hood County jury finds former Granbury City Councilman Gary Couch not guilty of boating while intoxicated after hours of testimony that included how Donald Zacharias Zimmerman ended up in the water, leading to his drowning and Couch's arrest.

The city of Cresson files two lawsuits against longtime councilman Jack Farr, claiming breach of contract on a water well issue and numerous violations of the city's building permit regulations.

The sold-out, three-day Granbury Wine Walk takes place under sunny skies in mild temperatures.

Robert Douglas Berry of Granbury is shot and killed while working as a Lyft driver in Mesquite.

Granbury Mayor Nin Hulett is ar-



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

MARKING A CENTURY: Ethel Rains received a birthday sash with lights that blink when she celebrated her 100th birthday at Quail Park of Granbury March 2. Rains has lived in Texas all her life, and she has been in the retirement home since her husband Otis died 8 years ago. The staff at the home surprised her were with a bash replete with balloons, a red carpet, birthday sash, champagne and a chocolate and vanilla cake.

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rested for driving while intoxicated.

MAY

Retired military veteran Tom Scott, 76, makes his lifelong dream of owning a farm a reality.

Granbury Mayor Nin Hulett is booked on a third-degree felony charge after city police officials confirm that a traffic stop near the square in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 25 was his third drunk driving arrest.

A visiting judge denies a request by residents of Indian Harbor for an injunction against security gates at the front entrance that they say cause traffic backups and at times have forced them to call law enforcement because they were denied entry.

District Judge Ralph Walton, who has sat on the bench in the 355th District courtroom for 27 years, announces he will retire at the end of the month due to health issues.

Jack Farr, who served on the Cresson City Council since shortly after the town was incorporated in 2001, loses his Place 3 seat to Lisa Clement.

Voters in Lipan approve a \$9.43 million bond package to fund new classrooms and renovations and elect newcomers Nikki Callaway and Tim Dowdy to the School Board.

Granbury Mayor Nin Hulett, facing a third-degree felony charge for DWI, resigns.

The Granbury ISD seeks to hire eight bus drivers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Granbury Mayor Pro Tem Tony Mobly resigns his Place 5 seat to run for mayor in a special election scheduled due to the resignation of Mayor Nin Hulett.

Members of the community come together to sponsor a fundraiser for Paul and Natalie Alvarez, whose sons Ollie, 4, and Hugo, 2, were diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Five people are hospitalized after a three-vehicle accident on Mambriño Highway.

Vendor spaces and parade spots fill up quickly as the chamber pushes forward with a post-pandemic, three-day Fourth of July celebration.

COVID-19 loosens its grip on graduation ceremonies for Granbury, Tolar and Lipan ISDs.

Granbury High School junior Ty Chilcutt brings humor to his gig as anchorman of the school's Crow's Nest News broadcast.

The weather cooperates for the Texas Hero Foundation's signature event Stroll Thru Texas History at Acton Cemetery.

Two members of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, Steven Vale and Richard Hoefs — file for the Place 5 seat on the Granbury City Council after Tony Mobly vacates it to run for mayor in a special election.

Hood County Public Health Au-



Ethel Rains got the royal treatment on her 100th birthday party, walking on a red carpet.

Jim Jarratt, a virtual unknown to most Granbury residents prior to running for mayor, takes his seat at the center of the dais.

thority Dr. David Blocker issues a COVID-19 update stating that the community is at lowered risk of transmitting the disease and that 35% of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

Peggy Luna joins Lake Granbury Medical Center as chief nursing officer.

An inactive airplane that was being worked on in a hanger at the Granbury Regional Airport is found to have its emergency locating beacon inadvertently switched on, which apparently is what led to a search for a possible downed aircraft.

Four candidates file for mayor and three file for the Place 5 City Council seat in a special election called by the city of Granbury.

Visit Granbury releases details for Father's Day weekend when, for the first time since 1997, the Great Race will pass through Granbury.

Students at John & Lyn Brawner Elementary School enjoy the end-of-the-school-year ritual of a hose from a Granbury Fire Department truck with a ladder three stories tall turning their schoolyard into a water park.

The filing period for the city of Granbury's June 29 special election closes with a crowded ballot — four candidates for mayor and three for

the Place 5 seat.

With help from volunteers, James Brock, owner of Brock's Food and Drink on Acton Hwy., begins serving free, hot breakfast tacos every weekday morning to local students and others in need.

JUNE

Renowned artist Mike Tabor retires after 28 years as an art teacher at Granbury High School.

The Homes for Heroes program offers discount services for teachers, first responders, health care professionals and military personnel when they buy or sell a home.

A retired FBI agent is indicted in federal court for allegedly conning a Granbury woman out of \$800,000 by convincing her that she was on "secret probation" for drug crimes.

Purple Hearts Inc. in Fort Worth kicks off a summer lunch program for children in the Oak Trail Shores and Rancho Brazos communities.

The Hood County Stampede benefiting the Rancho Brazos Community Center kicks off at the Granbury Reunion Grounds with a packed house.

Officials with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) send letters to the city and to TCEQ of the city's planned new wastewater treatment plant

on the east side of town that the permit application meets all legal requirements.

The Granbury Theatre Company and the Granbury Opera House gear back up for full-capacity productions after a year of COVID-19.

The Granbury Brazos Bettys fishing team looks to improve its best-ever fourth-place finish in the Southern Striper Babes while also working toward bringing an all-woman fishing tournament to Lake Granbury.

Patricia Sanchez, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Fort Worth, tells the HCN that two gauges in the county showed rainfall amounts that were "way above normal" for the 31 days in May.

The proposed budget for the city of Granbury for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year calls for 2.5% rate increases for water and sewer but the same property tax rate of 0.3961 cents per \$100 valuation.

The Brazos River Authority declares Lake Granbury unsafe due to debris in the water.

Early voting starts for Granbury's special election to select a new mayor and Place 5 council member.

The chamber sponsors a candidate forum for the four candidates vying for mayor and the three contenders for the Place 5 seat in Granbury's special election.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Ron Cotton announces that he will seek a second term in 2022.

A 52-year-old Granbury woman is one of three people to plead guilty to federal charges in connection with a scheme to obtain confidential tax information from the Inter-

nal Revenue Service, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of New York.

Current and former city leaders say that the careful planning that has gone into Granbury's parks and recreational areas enhance quality of life and boost tourism.

Granbury's "The Pickle Lady" — Cindy Dennis, who has earned more than 30 blue ribbons from the State Fair of Texas — talks to the HCN about, among other things, her "That's Me" dolls, purchased for such celebrities as Lee-Ann Rimes and Troy Aikman.

Premier High School celebrates the graduation of 68 seniors, the largest graduating class in the charter school's 11-year history.

Granbury welcomes the Lone Star Street Rod Association's 46th Annual State Run at Hewlett Park.

With its burgers, steaks, crawfish and more, Razorz Edge diner in Tolar racks up loyal customers despite the pandemic.

County commissioners hold a workshop to discuss possibly creating a public health clinic with federal funds provided through the pandemic-related American Rescue Finances Plan.

Comedian Frank Cheek of Acton struggled 21 years ago when his son Frankie was born with Down syndrome, but now refers to his much-loved child as his road manager when they travel together for comedy.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) asks Texas residents to "reduce electric use as much as possible."

All parade and vendor spots fill up quickly for the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Freedom & Fireworks 4th of July celebration.

Gov. Greg Abbott appoints attorney Brian Bufkin to the bench of the 355th District Court to serve the remainder of Ralph Walton's term after the longtime judge retires due to health concerns.

CrossTown Preschool reopens after being closed for months due to flooding caused by a broken sprinkler head during the February winter storms.

Acton United Methodist Church takes its youth mission trip locally to Sandy Beach Park where kids and adults spend four days cleaning the park and performing other labor-intensive tasks.

Chelsey Gibson is selected as the new principal for Oak Woods School by the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees.

State Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, and state Rep. Glenn Rogers, R-Palo Pinto, announce that they will seek re-election.

James Brock celebrates one year at his Brock's Food and Drink in Acton, an establishment he bought during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hyde Media Group, created a year ago by Granbury attorney Paul Hyde for the purpose of purchasing the Hood County News, buys three additional papers: The Gatesville Messenger, Azules News and



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BULLISH IN GRANBURY: “Bulls on the Beach” returned to Granbury March 20. This was the eighth year that the beachside rodeo has stopped in Hood County. Nearly a thousand spectators cheered the riders on a sunny and speckless day on Lake Granbury.

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Springtown Epigraph.

Members of the Disabled American Veterans chapter in Granbury fight for their fellow soldiers' rights to receive disability benefits.

JULY

Torrential rains did not dampen Hood County's patriotism, as evidenced by the community's turnout for the chamber's July 4th parade, vendors on the square and fireworks spectacular.

About 200 young people converge on Tolar to do three days' worth of volunteer service projects as part of Mipact Missions, Inc., a church-based program.

HCN publisher Sam Houston's "From My Front Porch" column honors Dylan Hulseley, a deceased young man who was once his wife's student at Granbury High School, and management at the local El Chico's restaurant who honored their former employee by closing the restaurant for his visitation.

The Granbury SEALS swim team celebrates its 30th anniversary with a circuit meet at the Hood County YMCA.

As head of Revolver Brewing's innovation program, brewmaster Megan Mares creates beer recipes and brews the beer herself.

City Beach Park receives a daily early-morning makeover from a three-man city crew that clears away debris.

Bryan Bufkin is sworn in as the new judge for the 355th District Court.

Beach monitors hired by the city of Granbury earn money during the summer by making sure beachgoers are following rules.

Early voting starts for the city of Granbury Place 5 runoff between Steven Vale and Cathy Reidy.

Black fire hydrants scattered throughout the county, including in upscale neighborhoods, serve to alert firefighters that the infrastructure may not be able to support water flow needed for fire fighting.

Jim Jarratt, a virtual unknown to most Granbury residents prior to running for mayor, takes his seat at the center of the dais.

A stinky sludge is the key to success for the Mr. Whiskers catfish bait family business.

The Granbury SEALS swim team celebrates its 30th year by hosting a circuit meet competition and being the runaway winner, with local athletes accounting for 153 medals, including 71 gold medals.

For former lawman Charlie Cloud, the movie "12 Mighty Orphans" brings back memories of his years at the Masonic Home Orphanage in Fort Worth.

After moving food pantry service to a drive-through system during the pandemic, Mission Granbury Executive Director Dusti Scovell says the agency will likely stick with that system, which is efficient



EXPERIENCED RIDER: Riders from all over the world converged on a sandy patch near Granbury's historic square.

To the thrill of spectators, stars are out in broad daylight as Farina's Winery & Café is transformed into the Calhoun Hotel for the "Yellowstone" prequel series "1883," featuring Sam Elliott and Tim McGraw, among other big names.

and convenient for clients.

Twenty-five-year-old Brendan Hartman is honored with a Home-town Hero award by the Commissioners Court for actions that may have saved a couple and their grandson who were unaware that a fire had broken out on a generator under which were two plastic tanks containing gasoline.

Palo Pinto County rancher and veterinarian Glenn Rogers stops by the HCN to talk about how things are going in his new role as state representative for District 60.

Visit Granbury, with help from tourism stakeholders, scores a major victory: three years of Granbury hosting Spartan Games and Tough Mudder competitions, bringing an estimated \$19 million in tourism dollars to the region.

Filing opens for November city and school elections for Granbury, Tolar and DeCordova.

The county holds a workshop to discuss possibly creating a public health clinic, a grant program for small businesses and grants for local nonprofits with \$12 million in federal funds related to economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community rallies to assist Air Force veteran Rick Clay, whose family lost their home in a fire.

Eighteen-year-old fiddling phenom Ridge Roberts prepares to play at The Grand Ole Opry.

The Granbury Optimist Club presents a check for \$5,000 to Operation School Supplies, a local charitable organization that provides free school supplies to Hood County schoolchildren from families with economic need.

County Clerk Katie Lang calls a meeting of the Hood County Elections Commission to discuss allegations against Elections Administrator Michele Carew, despite praise of Carew by local leaders and the League of Women Voters and a clean bill of health for the November 2020 election by the Secretary of State's office.

Mission Granbury is awarded a \$30,000 Swalm grant from the Texas Council on Family Violence to be used for childcare services.

Granbury High School freshman Jack Hernandez plays football and soccer despite losing the bottom portion of his right leg in a lawn mower accident at age 5.

A bid to oust Elections Administrator Michele Carew fails by a 3-2 vote of the Hood County Election Commission.

Cathy Reidy wins the Place 5 seat on the Granbury City Council in a runoff against Steven Vale. The Commissioners Court de-

clines a request by the DeCordova Volunteer Fire Department to place a question on the ballot of whether to create an Emergency Services District taxing entity, to be decided by voters in the department's service area.

Three-time world champion Will Lowe won the saddle bronc riding and Roker Steiner was second at the Hood County Stampede.

Stowaways' 2021 graduates Autumn McKee and Olivia Iturralde announced plans to dance on the Texas Christian University and Tarrant State dance teams.

Larry Pollard celebrated 60 years of basketball officiating and recalled tales of Spud Webb, Larry Johnson and calling the Big 12 Conference Championship tournament.

Coach Brad Eppler's Apogee Baseball Camp focused on life skills and decision making rather than pitching, hitting and catching.

The first of three scheduled Lady Pirate Volleyball Camps got underway with 67 athletes taking part.

Future softball players got three days of instruction from new head softball coach Katie Cowan and her staff in a softball camp geared toward fundamentals needed to be a Granbury Lady Pirate.

When most people are still finding their first cup of morning coffee in Granbury, a three-man crew of Jose Juarez, Josue Vargas, and Jesus Vasquez, makes its way on the city beach for the park's daily makeover.

Coach David Breazeale's Pirate Basketball camp had 79 players, with a four-day camp held June 28-July 1 at the James Wann Center on the Granbury ISD campus.

Ashton Lemons topped all 241 runners at Granbury's 8th annual Firecracker 5K with a 17-second victory over 2nd place finisher Wes

Lemons, while Gina Miller topped the women's division.

The Granbury SEALS swim team was a runaway winner during the circuit meet competition held at the Hood County YMCA, with local athletes accounting for 153 total medals, including 71 colored in gold.

Charlie Cloud's vivid recollection of his time at the Masonic Home Children and the Mighty Mites football team was a true homecoming.

Tolar High School has a new principal, and Jason Lawson has already been hard at work developing a leadership team.

The Granbury Optimist Club presented \$5,000 to Operation School Supplies, a local charitable organization that provides free school supplies to Hood County school children from families with economic needs.

The Acton Nature Center is an excellent spot for those wanting to enjoy hiking, bird watching, a butterfly garden, and more in Granbury.

Assistant coach Wesley Hooks is looking to make an immediate impact on Granbury's defensive line despite his goal of one day being an offensive coordinator.

Granbury High School freshman Jack Hernandez has a prosthetic leg, a heart of a lion and one day wants to be a first-team all-district football player.

Beating the heat and keeping it fun was the goal of the Pirate Tennis Camp hosted by new head coach Connor Mason.

AUGUST

The city of Granbury conducts chemical fogging and truck-mounted spraying to reduce the number of mosquitoes and the threat of West Nile virus.

Gary P. Nunn performs on the backyard stage at Brock's Food & Drink in Acton.

Cathy Reidy is sworn in to serve out the remainder of Tony Mobly's term for Place 5 on the Granbury City Council.

A chlorine shortage that is partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic affects Hood County.

Former Granbury Parks Board member Jo McDonnell Parker shares stories from when she was an in-demand model and an actress on several hit TV series during the late 1970s and the 1980s.

Luminant delays the reopening of Squaw Creek Reservoir until January 2022.

The city of Granbury welcomes two new staffers: Community Development Director Kira Wauwie and Communications Manager Jeff Newpher.

Hood County sees an almost 138% increase in COVID-19 cases in a week's time.

Onstage chemistry came easy for Granbury thespians Robert and Haley Twaddell, who became husband and wife three years ago and



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GRANBURY COMEBACK: By the spring, life in Hood County started to bounce back. Jerry Audley played inside the pavilion during the Granbury Wine Walk April 24. The festival is a three-day party on the historic Granbury Square featuring Texas wines, artists and musical acts.

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now run an acting and voice school.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing many to tighten their belts, the Commissioners Court agrees that no county elected officials will receive pay increases for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

D'Vine Wine hosts a fundraiser to help Texas Equine Xperience and Sanctuary (T.E.X.A.S. Rescue) pay for legal fees to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Kidney transplant recipient James Michael McLester hosts a benefit concert at Granbury Live.

Available ICU beds lessen as COVID-19 cases rise largely due to the delta variant.

The closing of the filing period for November city and school elections reveals competition for two Granbury City Council seats and two seats on the Granbury School Board.

Michigan native and award-winning author Laura Drake makes Cresson her home.

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, all ICU beds at Lake Granbury Medical Center are full and 90% of those beds are occupied by COVID patients.

Lillie Davis, a senior at STARS Accelerated High School, becomes the first graduate of the 2021-2022 school year after completing her course work and all state requirements.

The Granbury City Council adopts a proposed tax rate of \$0.386965 — its lowest in more than 25 years.

The fourth annual Wake for Warriors event on Lake Granbury provides wounded veterans a chance to engage in wakeboarding and other fun activities.

Granbury High School graduate Daniel Tomlinson, 38, copes with his wife's gastric cancer diagnosis.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announces that its commissioners will address the controversial wastewater treatment plant planned for the east side of Granbury at its Sept. 22 meeting. Kyle Killinger, a former Marine who is running 3,000 miles across the country to raise awareness for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), passes through Hood County.

A 3-2 vote by the Commissioners Court gives approval for a proposed property tax rate of \$0.420345 per \$100 valuation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the earmarking of an additional \$185,000 in revenue for the county's nine volunteer fire departments.

The Hood Flyers track and field team has eight of its 12 qualifiers for the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) state track and field meet in Corpus Christi.

Believe it or not, Granbury's Barry Osborn loves breaking Texas Park



LIVE FROM THE GRANBURY SQUARE: The Granbury band The Jamigos played the main stage at the festival.



PARTY FAVORS: A guest hangs on to souvenirs from the festival.

The Riley Stephens Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7835 holds a luncheon to honor first responders and victims of 9/11 on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on American soil.

and Wildlife fishing records so much that his appearing in the latest edition of Ripley's Believe it or Not hardly seems to matter.

GISD nominated senior Lu Johns-DeLaGrazia to represent its district at Texas Girls State. This summer, she completed that program, securing the position of City Council Member Place 5, in their elections.

Granbury started its march toward the upcoming football season Monday morning as the Pirates look to return to the playoffs in 2021

Tolar is entering the 2021 football season with a lofty No. 16 ranking and a date with No. 4 Crawford on the schedule Oct. 1, but that's just one of the many obstacles on the Rattlers' very tough schedule.

Coach Chad Zschiesche is happy with what he has seen over the first three days of football practice, and this year's Pirate team is mentally a step ahead.

Don't be surprised if Granbury's receiving record gets smashed this season because if senior Crash Davis gets his way — it's going to

happen.

Granbury's defense was a step ahead of the offense, but that's expected early in a football season, and head coach Chad Zschiesche was pleased with what he saw at Saturday's annual Purple and Gold Scrimmage at Pirate Stadium.

Winning more football games is on Granbury quarterback Austin Jinkerson's checklist as he prepares for his senior season at the Pirates' helm.

The Lady Rattlers opened the 2021 volleyball season with a 3-0 sweep of Whitney as Tolar ran off set scores of 25-14, 25-21, 24-16.

Granbury High School senior Derek Lacy Jr. has plans for a career in real estate, but before that happens, he wants to eat up plenty of ground at his newfound position at wide receiver.

The Rattlers struck early and often as Tolar denied Trinity Valley the end zone during scrimmage action Friday by not allowing big-play opportunities.

GISD senior Lillie Davis is the first graduate of the 2021-22 school year after completing her course work and all state requirements due to Granbury ISD's Self-Motivated Teens Achieving Responsibility and Success (STARS) Accelerated High School.

The Granbury Historic Merchants Association's Lighted Boat Parade is set with an estimated 60 boats competing for the \$500 first-place prize.

The 4th annual Wake for Warriors hit Lake Granbury with four inspiring days of wakeboarding, confidence-building, and straight-out fun times.

Granbury Marine Corps JROTC national champion rifle team members Ashton Arlington, Sarah Folsom, Parker Haydin, and Kaylynn Slaughter sported their championship rings during a small ceremony

at GHS.

Coach Desiree Shahan wants her Lady Pirates to find some consistency after a 4-5 record at the Granbury Classic Volleyball Tournament.

First-year tennis coach Connor Mason was grinning ear-to-ear after Granbury won its first team match by an 18-1 margin, and the Pirates also gave Mason his first varsity win.

Tolar wanted it more Tuesday night as the Lady Rattlers volleyball team topped a scrappy DeLeon squad in four sets of action 25-19, 22-25, 25-15, 25-23.

When your daddy was the starting quarterback, and your mama was the starting point guard in Tolar, Texas, you can either live up to the legacy or surpass it. Senior Baili Deaver has done both.

For the first time in its 21-year history, the Granbury High School Marine Corps JROTC Battalion received the Marine Corps Reserve Association (MRCA) Outstanding Unit award while also receiving its eighth straight Naval Honor School award.

The Granbury Pirate cross country team helped kick off the Miller's Club at Brawner Elementary School.

When he was at his lowest, Granbury senior linebacker Tate Baker turned to his faith to help overcome a hip injury that required surgery following the 2021 football season.

Jackson LeCluyse tossed three touchdowns, and No. 16 Tolar erased anyone's doubts about the Rattlers' ranking with a 48-0 woodshed-style whipping of No. 12 post at Tuscola Jim Ned.

Emery Kirby (22.11) was the top Granbury runner with a seventh place in the varsity girls competition, while Ashton Lemes' clocking of 19:40 was 34th in the boys division at the Paschal Invitational.

Senior quarterback Austin Jinkerson threw for four touchdowns and ran for a 22-yard score, but Granbury ran out of time in a game the Pirates should have won in Fort Worth against Paschal.

The Granbury 2021 Homecoming court included King nominees Gus Hamlin, Derek Lacy, Luke Mankowski, Christopher Martinez, and Brady Porter, and Queen candidates Scout Akers, Landry Basil, Caylin Damron, Jordan Sandness, and Scout Skaggs.

Joyce Burks Dorsey and Jake Caraway, 1971 graduates of Granbury High School, will be honored as the Coming Home Queen and King during GHS Homecoming festivities.

Granbury ISD superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn convened the school year's first meeting of the Student Leadership Council that includes students from all grade levels at Granbury High School.

SEPTEMBER

Granbury's Ethics Commission dismisses a complaint filed by City Manager Chris Coffman against Mayor Jim Jarratt alleging viola-



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

HISTORIC HOEDOWN: Shawn Scott and his wife, Michele, take a twirl around a crowded Bridge Street as Granbury celebrated its sesquicentennial. Vintage attire was recommended.

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tions of the city's ethics code as well as official misconduct.

Johnny Rose, a lieutenant with the Hood County Sheriff's Office, and his wife Lucinda, who fostered four siblings and fought for seven years to adopt them, finally see their dream come true.

Republican Party Chair David Fischer clarifies statements he made during a Commissioners Court meeting that seemed to hint that the party might hold its own primary election in 2022, telling the HCN that he sees no other option than for the party to contract with the county's elections administrator.

To the thrill of spectators, stars are out in broad daylight as Farina's Winery & Café is transformed into the Calhoun Hotel for the "Yellowstone" prequel series "1883," featuring Sam Elliott and Tim McGraw, among other big names.

Chief Appraiser Eddie Roe says that if the Granbury City Council, Granbury School Board and Hood County Commissioners Court vote to adopt their proposed tax rates, the average homeowners' property tax bill may be slightly lower.

The Riley Stephens Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7835 holds a luncheon to honor first responders and victims of 9/11 on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on American soil.

Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt issues a written statement, saying that he sees "lessons" for everyone in the failed ethics charge against him.

Susan Sledge makes plans to host her 35th Granbury High School reunion at her Sledge Distillery.

The city grants a fourth amendment to a Facilities Improvement Agreement with Gold Creek Homes, paving the way for the company's Lake Villas Luxury Apartments to open within six months after being vacant for two years due to issues with wastewater infrastructure.

The community turns out for the 2021 Granbury High School Homecoming Parade.

Winston Properties caters a free outdoor lunch for frontline healthcare workers at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

Visit Granbury receives the Texas Travel Award for Best Food City, Small Market for its Foodie Trail initiative.

The Granbury Pirates win their homecoming football game against South Hills High School, 76-0.

The county continues to see deaths related to COVID-19, and most of the patients in Lake Granbury Medical Center's full ICU are COVID positive.

First Presbyterian Church celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Club Benders, a four-day golf tournament featuring concerts and special dinners, draws a crowd in DeCordova.

The Granbury City Council approves a Specific Use Permit to allow Wiley Funeral Home to renovate the adjacent building that once served as a Sears appliance store, expanding the mortuary's ability to serve the needs of families.



COWBOY ART: Events were held in the Langdon Center and around the Historic Granbury Square Nov. 5-7, including a Western themed art show in Celebration hall.



SESQUICENTENNIAL SOUNDTRACK: Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys provided the music for the downtown party.

The Bridge Street History Center presents "Granbury Follies," a one-act play that tells the story of how the Granbury Opera House was saved and restored in 1974.

World War II veteran and Granbury resident Harry Whisler celebrates his 99th birthday.

A Houston man is arrested after Granbury police discover three improvised explosive devices in the vehicle he had been driving.

A lost 80-year-old New Mexico man with dementia is returned safely to his home 525 miles away after he almost has a head-on collision with a Hood County deputy while driving on the wrong side of the road.

The Bridge Street History Center presents "Granbury Follies," a one-act play that tells the story of how the Granbury Opera House was saved and restored in 1974.

At the request of City Manager Chris Coffman, the Granbury City Council votes unanimously to allow Coffman's ethics complaint against Mayor Jim Jarratt to be withdrawn.

The city of Granbury's planned new wastewater treatment plant on the east side of town is further delayed when commissioners with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality agree to send the matter to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a contested case hearing.

Chad Swanberg comes in first place during audition night for the Voice of Granbury contest benefiting the Granbury Kiwanis Club.

Granbury High School graduate Thomas Christopher (Chris) Ward, son of Mary Rodgers Hattox and the late Tom Ward, becomes a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, a rank just below that of brigadier general.

The Granbury School Board of Trustees approves Superintendent Jeremy Glenn's 2021-22 campus improvement plans for all campuses.

The battle-hardened Lady Pirates volleyball beat Cleburne 25-21, 25-17, 25-19 for a 3-0 sweep that improved Granbury's season record to 12-15 at the James Wann Sports Center.

GHS volleyball players senior middle setter Ellie Alexander and junior setter Sara Welch with the announcement both players are on national watch lists for All-American status.

After a back-and-forth first half, Granbury dominated the final 24 minutes of play as the Pirates evened their season record at 1-1 with a 56-27 win over Waco University.

Granbury High School paid tribute to its seniors during the regular season's first home football game at Pirate Stadium.

Granbury High School students got a big surprise announcement at their pep rally with the news that perfect attendance will earn one GHS student a free car, courtesy of Granbury Nissan and Pinnacle Bank.

Granbury senior Ellie Alexander commits to play volleyball for U.T. Tyler.

No. 8 Tolar (2-1) got back into the football win column in a big way as the Rattlers took over the second half beating Class 3A Boyd 76-48 on the road Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

Granbury had all the points it needed to win 17 seconds into their Homecoming game against South Hills, but the Pirates added 69 more in a 76-0 shutout of the Scorpions for good measure.

Freshman running back Peyton Brown had a breakout night for Tolar as he rushed for 145 yards and three touchdowns as the Rattlers moved their record to 3-1 with a 42-25 win against Comanche on the road Friday night.

Granbury dominated all three phases of the football game to win their District 3 5A opener 49-28 against Crowley Friday night at Pirate Stadium.

Granbury's offense was alive



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

UNDER THE BRIGHT LIGHTS: The Lipan Lady Indians warm up before their big state championship game against Martin's Mill in the Alamodome in San Antonio March 11.

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and well against Abilene Wylie, but the Lady Pirates focus on defense played a big hand in a four-set loss to the Lady Bulldogs 25-23, 25-15, 17-26, 25-21.

Hamilton let the dogs out, and Tolar put them back on the porch as the Lady Rattlers remained unbeaten (3-0) in District 11 2-A volleyball with a 25-17, 21-25, 25, 21, 25-22 win over the Lady Bulldogs.

Tolar was like a steamroller in Valley Mills as the Rattlers got off to a slow start before crushing the Eagles to win their District 7-2A Division 1 opener on the road 55-21.

Emery Kirby paced the Lady Pirates with a third-place finish in the Iredell cross country meet.

Granbury senior volleyball setter Sara Welch is going places, and when she gets to where she is going, it won't be long before she's in charge.

A demographer's five-year forecast predicts the Granbury ISD's student population will be 9,000 in the 2026-27 school year.

Thirty-six Granbury Middle School eighth graders were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society during an evening ceremony.

Granbury dominated the annual Briggs Berry Memorial Golf Tournament on Oct. 4, as three Pirate golfers finished in a 1-2-3 sweep, and GHS claimed first and third place team titles at Pecan Plantation Country Club.

OCTOBER

Voter registration ahead of the Nov. 2 election is offered at the Hood County Library.

Former Marine James Farrell is the recipient of a red 2009 Chevy Silverado pickup through Midas Granbury's Project Spark program.

Granbury ISD seeks to hire substitute teachers and program aides.

A demographer's five-year forecast predicts the Granbury ISD's student population will be 9,000 in the 2026-27 school year.

The City Council delays a review of City Manager Chris Coffman's contract at the end of a two-and-a-half-hour public meeting during which some criticized Coffman but most, including city department heads, praised him.

The driver of a Ford pickup that was involved in a four-vehicle accident on SH 144 is booked into the Hood County Jail charged with multiple criminal offenses.

The Granbury City Council votes unanimously to extend for one year a development moratorium in the eastern part of the city due to ongoing delays in building a second wastewater treatment plant, but delays until further review a city-wide development ban.

Fernando "Don" Dulnuan Jr. breathes new life into a dying oak at a Pecan Plantation home through his talent with chainsaw carvings.

Two Hood County men, Jessie Frank Diaz and Harry Lee Ives IV, face first-degree felony murder charges.



ON CENTER COURT: Maggie Peacock lifts the trophy as she and her teammates celebrate the Texas Class 2A girls basketball title in San Antonio.



HAPPY RATTLETS: The Tolar High School baseball team celebrates its bi-district playoff win over Moody High School May 8.

Rick and Katy Barnett become the first people to be baptized in Lake Granbury by Faith Assembly of God church.

Granbury mourns the loss of well-known local musician Jesse Overton, who passed away from COVID-19 complications.

Michele Carew, Hood County's elections administrator, resigns after months of being in the cross-hairs of a faction of Republicans despite kudos for her work from the Texas Secretary of State's office, the League of Women Voters, and others.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson makes good on a campaign promise and, with help from a vote by the Commissioners Court, brings a Texas Department of Transportation driver's license office to Granbury.

The Commissioners Court ap-

proves higher pay for election workers.

The HCN publishes an article about the role that outlaw Jesse James plays in local lore.

Early voting starts for the Nov. 2 election.

The Commissioners Court approves a driver's license office at Annex 3.

The Hood County Substance Abuse Council (HCSAC) is one of four organizations in Texas to receive a \$50,000 grant from CARA (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act) to conduct education and prevention services regarding opioids in the local community.

The 50 Fellas Food Festival at the Granbury Reunion Grounds draws a crowd, raising money for the Granbury Education Foundation.

The HCN features former Air Force pilot Michael Brake as part of its salute to local veterans leading up to Veterans Day.

The Hood County Substance Abuse Council collaborates with Cook Children's Safe Kid Program to hand out lock boxes during the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

Nathan Criswell, who resigned as Hood County Republican Party chair in 2019 after coming under a family violence protective order and is currently co-host of Facebook videos that focus on local

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politics, pleads guilty in a Tarrant County courtroom to having violated the protective order.

The community mourns the passing of Brenda Hyde, beloved friend to many and former events coordinator for the Historic Granbury Merchants Association.

Hindered in building a much-needed second wastewater treatment plant, the city of Granbury expands its development moratorium on the east side of town to include the central and western portions of the city and its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The second annual Taste of Granbury Whiskey & Wine event exceeds last year's inaugural festivities, with proceeds benefiting the Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury's Lois G. Cleveland Memorial Scholarship Fund.

For the first time in quite a while, Hood County Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Webster's weekly COVID-19 update shows that Lake Granbury Medical Center's ICU is no longer at capacity.

Another discussion about Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman's contract placed on the City Council agenda by Mayor Jim Jarratt ends with no action taken.

As part of its focus on charitable organizations, the HCN features Hood County Cancer Services, an organization that keeps every dollar it raises in Hood County.

Granbury resident and Air Force veteran Terry Russell lives in the former vacation home on Lake Granbury that he transformed from a 600 square foot cabin into a 3,400 square foot home with three bedrooms.

Paced by Ty Holbrook's top individual score of 70, Granbury's Purple team shot an overall score of 315 to top second-place Burleson Centennial's 334 mark.

Tolar (3-2, 1-1) got robbed on Homecoming night as #4 Crawford (5-0, 1-0) benefitted from several controversial calls, including one that cost the Rattlers a touchdown to escape with a 19-7 District 7-2A football win.

Granbury improved its District 5-5A volleyball record to 2-3 with a 3-0 sweep of Wichita Falls High School at the James Wann Sports Center.

Granbury MCJROTC defeated Robinson Rifle Team 1620.0 to 1578.7 in the National Air Rifle League.

With the whitetail deer archery season not even a week old, first-year bow hunter Weston Turner has harvested two "bucks-of-a-life-time" in less than 48 hours.

Granbury took a while to get off the bus and found itself behind by two touchdowns as Brewer tagged the Pirates with a 56-35 District 5-5A football loss in Fort Worth.

A bevy of students (32) from Acton Middle School and the Granbury Middle School have qualified for the All-Region Choir following auditions at Fossil Ridge High School in Keller.

Peyton Brown rushed for five touchdowns, and Jackson LeCluyse passed for three more as Tolar separated the pretenders from the contenders Friday with a 70-6 District 7-2A football win over Hamilton.

Granbury High School has 59 students focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers, and they have been inducted into the WIT (Workforce Industry Training) society for the 2021-22 school year.

The Granbury ISD announced Oct. 13 that 26 Acton Middle School and Granbury Middle School band members have emerged from auditions to earn spots in the 2021 Invitational Honor Band - the precursor to All-Region auditions.

A third-place finish at the District 5-5A cross country meet Friday in White Settlement has qualified the Granbury boys team for the regional meet on October 25 in Lubbock.

Granbury's top runner was Senior Ashton Lemens, who led the squad with a finish of 18:52.82 to earn 10th individually.

The Granbury Pirates weren't making a fashion statement with their pink and green but wanted people to know they supported the cures for cancer in their football game against Azle.

Nineteen Granbury High School students were selected for All-Region Choirs, while eight are advancing in the multi-level process to qualify for All-State Choirs. The TMEA Region 30 second-round auditions were held on Oct. 16, 2021, at Burleson Centennial High School.

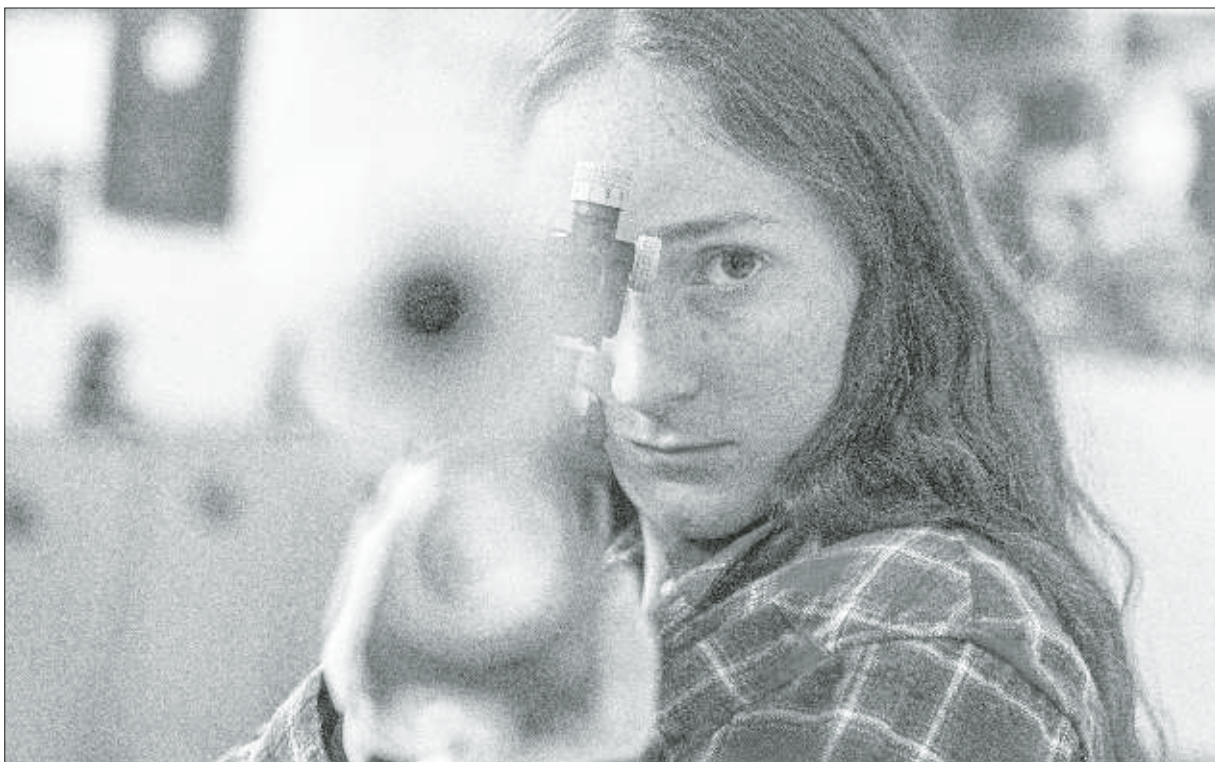
Jax Madrigal is only in fifth grade at Acton Elementary School, but he holds the Granbury ISD record for consecutive years as a football team captain thanks to Coach for the Cure, a nationwide initiative seeking to fund research for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Granbury ISD staff members



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POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE: Granbury High School class of 2021 finally completed perhaps the longest year of their young lives as they lined up on the field of Pirate Stadium May 28 to receive their diplomas. A fireworks show signaled the culmination of the commencement ceremony.



DEAD EYE SHOOTER: Sarah Folsom looks through the sights of a Walther electronic trigger competition rifle inside Granbury High School's competition rifle range.

Granbury High School has 59 students focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career, and they have been inducted into the WIT (Workforce Industry Training) society for the 2021-22 school year.

Brenda Pickett and Molly Whisenhunt were named assistant principals by the Board of Trustees on Oct. 18, 2021.

The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees honored former 35-year teacher Teresa Thomas at its regu-

lar meeting.

Slade Middlebrook, a student at the Little Buccaneers GISD Staff Childcare Center, was honored by Granbury ISD school board for being named the American Heart Association's National Heart Hero.

The Granbury ISD Education Foundation's eighth annual 50 Fellas Foodfest raised more than \$130,000 that will be turned into grants to fund innovative teaching.

Senior Missy Varni came up with 53 digs Tuesday night and it landed her in elite company as the single-season digs record holder for Granbury High School volleyball.

The National Junior Honor Society received 60 new inductees with a ceremony held at Acton Middle School.

The Granbury High School theater musical "Little Shop of Horrors" wowed audiences during its three-day run at the GHS Bagby-McMahan Performing Arts Center.

Lipan sophomore Ashlyn Clark

will be making her second trip to the state cross country meet after finishing third at the regional meet in Grand Prairie.

Defense was the name of the game early, and Tolar (7-2, 4-1) got off to a slow start before kicking Bosqueville (5-4, 3-2) to the curb and into third place in the District 7-2A Division 1 football standings with a 63-7 victory.

NOVEMBER

The number of COVID-19 cases in Hood County remains the same as the previous week (385), but occupancy of the ICU ward at Lake Granbury Medical Center continues to decline.

A new Crime Stoppers Club is formed at Granbury High School.

United Way of Hood County presents humanitarian awards to Gordon Bond with Bond Arms; the Granbury Chamber of Commerce; Jim Brock of Brock's Food and Drink; and Bob and Julia Pannell.

Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court ponder what, if anything, they can do about John Shirley, a constable who some said they have not seen for months and who, according to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, failed to obtain required training despite having been in office for three years.

For the third consecutive year, Granbury wins top honors in USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice Travel Award contest as the Best Historic Small Town in America.

Incumbent Bruce Wadley and Steven Vale triumph in the Granbury City Council election, but 12-year incumbent Nancy Alana loses her Granbury School Board seat to Melanie Grant.

The Granbury City Council approves three requests by Blue Dia-



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

CURTAINS UP: After a year weathering mandatory closures due the COVID-19 pandemic, the Granbury Opera House on the Historic Granbury Square opened its doors April 9.

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mond Builders, paving the way for a 63-lot housing development on East Moore Street east of the Granbury Cemetery and near the Hood County Senior Center.

Granbury celebrates its sesquicentennial with a street dance and other activities on the square.

Granbury ISD holds a grand opening for its new Technology Learning Center.

Former Granbury City Council member Cissy Wilson is featured in the HCN after her photo of actor Sam Elliott wins Photo of the Month for September in The Universe of Colour Photography's international photo contest.

School enrollment numbers for Granbury ISD spike sharply as the district braces for a forecasted student population explosion.

Shad Ramsey, a beloved photographer who captured beautiful images of Granbury, its people and its special events, dies at 73.

Outgoing Elections Administrator Michele Carew announces at Commissioners Court that she will run in 2022 to unseat Katie Lang, the county clerk who tried to fire her despite kudos from the state for her running of elections.

The State Office of Administrative Hearings schedules a preliminary hearing pertaining to Granbury's proposed second wastewater treatment plant, which is opposed by a group called Granbury Fresh.

American Legion Post 278, The Waterin' Trough and H-E-B of Granbury announce they will sponsor a second annual free Thanksgiving meal to disabled military veterans and their families the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

McAlister's Deli prepares to open in early December at the former Taco Bueno site on US Highway 377.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Cresson Mayor Teena Putteet Conway say that the Cresson Relief Route will not be open to motorists until late 2023 instead of sometime in 2022 as previously planned.

The Hood County Commissioners Court agrees to research whether to strike a policy requiring homeowners with aerobic septic systems to have maintenance contracts and pay for annual inspections.

U.S. Rep. Roger Williams, who represents the 25th Texas district in the U.S. House and is Hood County's new representative due to redistricting, comes to the courthouse on the square to meet with constituents.

The Hood County Commissioners Court approves new precinct boundaries based on 2020 Census population figures.

The Tolar Rattlers easily win their bi-district football championship with a 56-6 swamping of the Cayuga Wildcats.

Granbury Church of Christ members share recipes favored by the county's first responders, who have been treated to a weekly lunch of delicious homemade dishes for the past six years.

The Granbury Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of animal grooming services for the PetSmart store planned for the



RETURN TO NORMALCY: Brock's Food and Drink in Acton started a Tuesday jam session where patrons heard the sultry stylings of Lizz Schellhorn.



WATER WORLD: Students at John & Lyn Brawner Elementary School in Granbury, Texas went out with a splash May 20.

Granbury Church of Christ members share recipes favored by the county's first responders, who have been treated to a weekly lunch of delicious homemade dishes for the past six years.

former Bealls site.

Friends of Memorial Lane and Visit Granbury partner with Mary Mullen of Forge Laser Creations & Designs to create handmade wooden "challenge coins" designed for Pearl Harbor survivors, which members of the Tolar Rattler Band

will personally deliver when they perform on Dec. 7 in Hawaii during the 80th anniversary of the attack.

A 19-year-old Granbury man is arrested on multiple felony charges after allegedly stealing Tolar's "Squad 90" fire truck twice in two days.

Melanie Graft (Place 3) and Courtney Gore (Place 4) are sworn in to serve three-year terms on the Granbury School Board of Trustees.

The Granbury City Council allows the developer of the multi-story Dolce Vita apartment complex for seniors to go vertical and extends its Facilities Improvement Agreement.

Locally owned Martin's Office Supply scores a big sale: more than \$400,000 in office furniture for Granbury's new police station on NE Loop 567.

The community, along with tourists, turns out for the annual Nights of Lights Christmas Parade, which heralds the beginning of the

Christmas season and the arrival of Santa.

The Granbury City Council appoints volunteers to fill vacancies on city boards, selects Trish Reiner as the mayor pro tem, and halts an effort led by Mayor Jim Jarratt to possibly hire a different city attorney.

U.S. Navy veteran David Hanes receives quite a present for Veterans Day: a free new roof provided by Texas Vets Roofing.

A broken leg suffered in eighth grade delayed Joseph Arce's varsity career, but his faith and personal perseverance are now paying off for Tolar's senior running back.

While it will depend on the newest numbers set by the University Interscholastic League, Granbury High School has a good chance at remaining at the Class 5A level after turning in an enrollment number of 2,138.

The Granbury ISD held the grand opening of its new Technology Learning Center that opens the door of opportunity for students in careers related to innovative technology integration.

Granbury High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) held its induction ceremony for new members of the student organization, a part of the career and technical education program, in the GHS CTE Center.

The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees approved salary increases for district employees during its regular monthly meeting.

Acton Middle School cross country runner Bryan Hailey won the Middle School Cross Country national championship with a time of 12:52.90 at Tom Sawyer State Park in Louisville, Kentucky.



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

COVID CULTURE: Face coverings became a ubiquitous accessory as the pandemic burned through North Texas. Athletic events were not exempt. Granbury's 86-pound freshman May London, who lifted 100 pounds, wore her required mask while competing in a meet at Granbury High School Jan. 18.

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Granbury ISD enrollment figures are up sharply, and the Long-Range Planning Committee's predictions say that's just the tip of the iceberg for a district about to face a student population explosion.

Seven Granbury Lady Pirates received postseason honors, and seniors Ellie Alexander and Missy Varni were tabbed for superlative volleyball awards by District 5-5A coaches.

Seventeen students from Acton Middle School and Granbury Middle School were selected for the All-Region Band during tryouts held at Trinity Springs Middle School in Keller and Cleburne High School.

Granbury's state champion horse judging team brought home individual honors from the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo held in Indianapolis, including gold, silver and bronze rankings.

Emery Kirby and Ashton Lemens were named MVP runners for the Granbury High School cross country teams during an end-of-season party.

Senior defensive end Dustin Jones has his sights set firmly on the future in wildlife management while also remembering to soak up every minute of his senior year at Granbury High School.

Defending Class 2-A basketball state champion Lipan (1-0) made short work of Paradise (0-2) as the Lady Indians used 23 steals to hammer out a 68-26 win at home.

Tolar (9-2) placed a stranglehold on Cayuga's (3-8) running game and put on a highlight-laden offensive display as the Rattler easily won their Bi-District championship with a 56-6 swamping of the Wildcats.

There were plenty of great football plays by the Rattlers in their 56-6 bi-district playoff win over Cayuga, but an interception by junior Cade Moody stood out because the Tolar defensive back looked more like the intended receiver than a defender.

Outlaw country music singer and songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is a Tolar Rattler football fan and sent the team a specially adapted version of his song "Snake Farm" to show his support of the team's playoff run.

Class 2A's No. 2, Lipan opened its season with a stunning 113-57 runaway victory against Class 4A Brownwood as Garrett Smith's 27 points led six Indians into double-figure scoring.

The No. 16 (2A) Rattlers' Grady McQuain had plenty of big moments in scoring 26 points against No. 9 (1A) Huckabay, but none were more significant than his follow-up rebound and bucket that lifted Tolar to a 52-50 overtime win.

Two-way starter Gus Hamlin is the District 3-5A Utility Player of the year and leads a roster of 16 Granbury Pirates, earning All-District honors for the 2021 football season.

The Granbury Education Foundation Party Bus traveled all over



HOOKED ON MASKS: Lipan High School attached hooks behind chairs athletes could use to hang their masks during basketball games.



OFFICIAL ATTIRE: A basketball referee wears a mask to officiate a playoff game at Aledo High School Feb. 26.

the community on and the Granbury ISD Education Foundation announced the winners of grants and special awards totaling over \$110,000 - bringing the group's 10-year giving total to \$725,000.

Granbury Middle School theater students presented the musical "All Together Now!"

Acton Middle School theater students presented the musical "Mary Poppins JR."

Ninety-four Granbury High

School students were inducted into the National Honor Society at a ceremony in the GHS Bagby-McMahan Performing Arts Center.

Granbury picked up its first basketball win of the season, as Ella Hamlin scored 28 points to lead the Lady Pirates to a 70-41 victory over the Bursleson at the James Wann Sports Center.

Junior quarterback Jackson LeCluyse roared back from a couple of miscues as he ran for two

scores and caught a touchdown pass to lift the Rattlers to a 35-24 win over Cooper as Tolar claimed a Class 2A Area football championship at Denton's Bronco Field.

The Rattler's record-setting football season came to an end at the hands of a better team in Alvarado as Marlin (10-3) handed Tolar (10-3) a 52-36 loss in the regional semifinals of the Class 2A playoffs.

Granbury High School hosted a Letter of Intent Day at the James

Wann Sports Center for seven athletes who will be taking their skills to the next level in college competition next year.

DECEMBER

Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenues for the city of Granbury reach more than \$920,000 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, an "all-time high" for the city, according to City Manager Chris Coffman.

The Tolar High School band heads to Honolulu, Hawaii for a pair of concerts and memorial wreath-laying events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Stephanie Cooper, interim elections director for the Pinal County Elections Department in Arizona, accepts the Hood County Elections Commission's offer to head up elections in Hood County following the departure of Michele Carew.

Second Chance Farms founder Sandi Walker opens a new business called Canine Cabins.

A Yik Yak post about a gun on the campus at Granbury High School results in a frantic scene, with police cars crowding entrances to the school and worried parents lining up to check their students out of class.

The Hood County Commissioners Court approves the creation of a 12-member Sexual Assault Response Team.

The Granbury City Council delays



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A PATRIOT'S PRAYER: Shawn Thompson says a prayer amidst hundreds of American flags planted on a field just off U.S. Highway 377 May 31. The Memorial Day display put on by the Rally Project brings to mind the sacrifice made by American military service men and women.

REVIEW

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voting on revisions to its noise ordinance until February but holds a public hearing in which support is expressed for venues on and around the square that offer live music.

The Granbury High School boys choir prepares to head to San Antonio in February to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association state conference after an invitation was extended to the tenor-bass ensemble.

Due to redistricting, Hood County will be in Texas House District 59 instead of District 60.

The Granbury ISD Long Range Planning Committee unanimously endorses a resolution calling for a \$394 million bond election that will include a new Granbury High School campus for 3,500 students with career and technical education as well as athletic components.

The Granbury City Council approves the rezoning request of Realty Capital Management, a company planning a 48-acre waterfront retail and residential area behind The Home Depot and PetSmart.

Two Weatherford developers purchase most of Granbury developer Ike Thomas' Cresson Crossroads and plan residential projects encompassing 800 acres.

The filing period for the Spring 2022 primaries closes with a slate of candidates vying for local offices and with several Republican officeholders facing challenges from within their party.

The city of Granbury seeks application from those willing to mow after losing about a dozen people who had previously provided those services.

People flock to the square to view live performances at the Granbury Living Christmas Cards event, sponsored by Lakeside Baptist Church.

Granbury police seek information on a third driver who fled the scene after a fatal crash.

The Granbury City Council agrees to hire Halff Associates, Inc. to help in creating a Trails and Sidewalks Master Plan for the purpose of extending the city's popular hike-and-bike trail.

The Granbury City Council votes to create its first Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ), an economic development tool that funds infrastructure without burdening all taxpayers.

The Leonard Farms Pecan Store and Ranch Oak Smokehouse in Cresson combines turkey, ham and pecans to create the ultimate holiday store.

The Tolar Lady Rattlers are undefeated at 8-0, after a 93-13-win against Diamond Jarvis as Baili Deaver scored 29 points and Hailey Burt pumped in 26.

Tolar looked a little rusty early,



RAIN DELAY: Granbury High School Pirates wait out a rain delay at Tidwell Field May 3. A severe thunderstorm forced the cancellation of the baseball game.



GOLF ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: Mason Lewis, a golfer for Granbury High School, was named Golf Athlete of the year for Class 5A and 6A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

but once the Rattlers (4-0) got rolling they were not stopping as they rolled past Trinity Valley 57-21.

The Indians are the kings of their own court after rattling off four straight wins against quality opponents, including beating Class

4A Glen Rose 49-27 to win the H.D. Howard Classic over the weekend in Lipan.

Coach Alan Thorpe went into the Van Griffith KIA Invitational basketball tournament with the idea to physically challenge his Lady

Pirates, and Granbury responded well with a 2-2 mark and a fourth-place finish.

The focus was on defense for the No. 2 Lady Indians, and coach Amber Branson got four solid games and a second-place finish in Lipan's

H.D. Howard Classic basketball tournament.

Granbury picked up its first two wins of the season as it finished fourth in the Van Griffith KIA Invitational basketball tournament over the weekend and gave coach David Breazeale his 500th career win too.

Granbury High School's football program landed 13 players on the Academic All-State football teams, and all three of this year's record-breakers are on the list announced by the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Brawner Elementary School students Korayma Aguado, Jose Sanchez and Eliana Aguado are headed to the regional Spanish Spelling Bee competition in Feb. after topping all other students in local competition.

Tolar barrel racer Jordon Briggs and her horse Famous Lil Jet saved their best for last as the duo won the average and the 2021 Wrangler National Finals world title in record-setting fashion in Las Vegas.

Tolar tie-down roper Marcos Costa is coming home from the PRCA Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas with some spending money after placing in three rounds and finishing 9th in the world standings with \$167,721 in total winnings.

Ella Hamlin scores 42 points against Lovelady the third highest point total in Lady Pirate basketball history.