



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

# Hood County NEWS

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886



[ SATURDAY, December 2, 2023 ]

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## Granbury to be featured on big screen among many stars



PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

"A Christmas Star" films at the Granbury Courthouse where Mayor Jim Jarratt had a scene to light up the town.

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The City of Granbury is no stranger to the big screen as many movies and shows have been filmed in the historic town, such as the Yellowstone prequel series "1883," the horror movie "Dark and Wicked" and much more.

Yet again, the town is the location for another movie called "A Christmas Heart" starring Bill McAdams Jr., Kevin Sorbo and Sorbo's son Shane. McAdams Jr. is also the writer and director. The film will feature singer/songwriter Sarah Reeves and 92.1 Hank FM radio host Erin Wilde.

Sorbo is best known for his starring role in "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" and known for acting in Christian films such as "God's Not Dead" and "Soul Surfer." McAdams Jr.'s most notable credits include "Gallows Road" and "Jose Canseco: The Truth Hurts."

"A Christmas Heart" follows Jack Gilmore — played by McAdams Jr. — a firefighter whose son and wife are killed in a texting-and-driving crash three weeks before

Christmas.

Detective Kent Powers, played by the elder Sorbo, investigates the fatal crash and later discovers a potential connection with the case.

The film will also feature actress Lola Milazzo who plays Krissy. Milazzo said this will be her first film and she is immensely grateful for the opportunity.

"It's very cool to be here. I had a lot of fun with the cast and crew. I really like the chaos and bouncing around and not doing the same thing every day," Milazzo said.

"I'm learning a lot from these people's personal lives and being around people older than me and being able to be behind the scenes. It's been super fun."

McAdams Jr. is an Aledo native familiar with the Dallas-Fort Worth metro-



Bill McAdams Jr. director and writer of "A Christmas Star" watches the monitor during a scene being filmed outside the Granbury Courthouse on Nov. 29.

plex and has shot before in Fort Worth and Aledo. McAdams Jr. knows Sharon K. Campbell, whose great-grandfather was George Granbury, the brother of General Hiram B. Granbury. Campbell's mother was Merlee Granbury.

It was Campbell who facilitated the movie being shot in Granbury; she co-produces the film along with her son, Don Wantz, and her husband, Jim Doss.

"To have the film come with the family aspect behind

it, it's just absolutely thrilling to me. I want Granbury to be known," Campbell said.

"Granbury is a great town. The community has come together to help us do this," McAdams Jr. said.

He added that real Granbury police officers are cast in the film, wearing real police uniforms, along with Granbury Fire Department trucks and suits.

"You can't do that kind of stuff in Hollywood and have that community like you can

PLEASE SEE STARS | A5



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosted a candidate forum for city council candidates Charles Beard and Gary "Skip" Overdier who are running for Place 4 on the board on Nov. 27.

## The fight for a place on Granbury City Council is underway

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosted a candidate forum for Charles Beard and Gary "Skip" Overdier, who are currently running for Place Four on the Granbury City Council, on Nov. 27.

Beard and Overdier are fighting for a spot on the council after neither of them nor Bradley Benson received more than half the votes during the Nov. 7 election.

Beard received 639 votes or 27.83% and Overdier received 1,072 votes or 45.93%.

The forum was moderated by Marcie Reynolds, an assistant professor at Tarleton State University.

The topics discussed included streets and transportation, taxes, city staff and economic development.

Beard's main campaign push is that he is for the people, while Overdier is campaigning on his experience.

Beard is a Christian conservative and is both a United States Army and Navy Veteran. He volunteers around Granbury, is a member of Lakeside Baptist Church and is a substitute teacher for Granbury ISD.

Overdier served in the United States Air Force and has worked in real estate sales and management. He previously served as a city councilman for the City of Destin in Florida for three years. Now living in Granbury, Overdier is a member of the Granbury Rotary Club, is a volunteer for non-profits in the area and has served on the city's Charter Review Commission; he currently serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

When discussing streets and transportation, Overdier wants to find additional land for public parking. He also wants to expand park-and-ride options to ease access for people to get around town and out of town. Overdier also wants to have an established bus route through Granbury, and called for improvements to Old Granbury Road to make the traffic flow better. Overdier also encourages TXDOT to continue to seek the \$240 million needed for the reconstruction project on U.S. Highway 377.

Beard noted roads in the neighborhoods in town are in bad shape and thinks those roads need to be focused on first. He added that the community comes first and side roads and roads that lead to businesses need to be fixed due to tourism. He agreed with Overdier at the idea of having a form of transportation that isn't a car. He noted the city needs to be realistic in what it can achieve when it comes to transportation and roads.

When the topic of taxes came up Beard shared that he is not for any tax increases unless absolutely necessary, but added he would speak to the public if an increase were needed. He

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL | A5

## County denies allocation of remaining ARPA funds to nonprofits

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

A hot topic agenda item during a regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Nov. 28, resulted in a record number of community speakers and a whopping hour-and-a-half-long controversial discussion.

The agenda item in question would've allocated the remaining \$498,852.40 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to two nonprofit organizations: Rancho Brazos Community Centers and Forward Training Center.

However, despite the majority of the community

members advocating for the nonprofits to receive the remaining funds, many residents left the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting disappointed, following a 3:2 vote to deny the agenda item.

During the previous Nov. 14 commissioner meeting, the court approved the allocation of the \$5.6 million pandemic-related ARPA funds in a 3:2 vote.

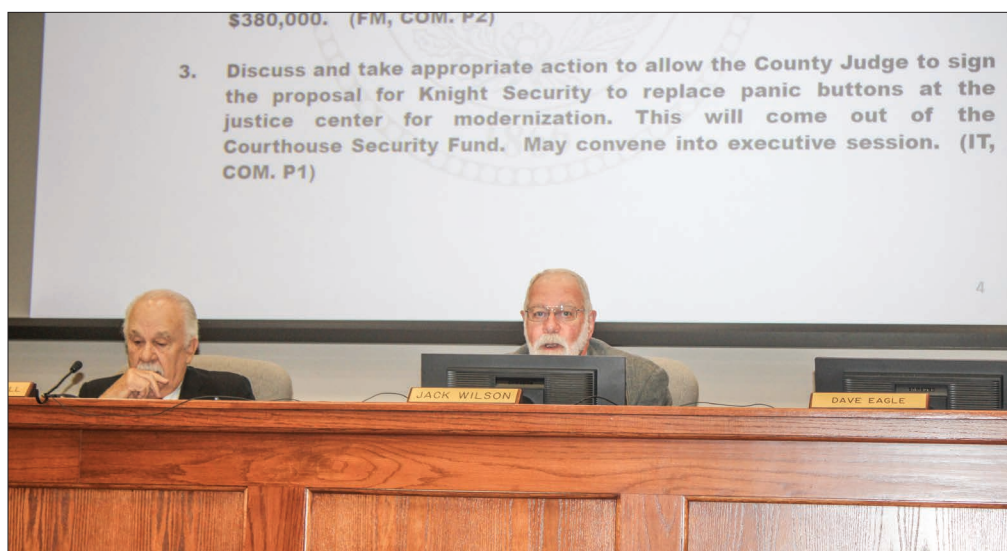
The vote allocated \$3.5 million to construct three new combined fire and EMS stations in Indian Harbor, Baccus and DeCordova; \$1.1 million to expand the current Pecan and Cresson Fire Departments; \$500,000 to the Hood County Sheriff's

ment; and \$25,000 to the Hood County Constables for new equipment — resulting in a total of \$5.1 million.

For new equipment, the Hood County Sheriff's Office is requesting ballistic helmets, rifles, ballistic rifle vests and plates and night vision goggles. The constables are likewise requesting ballistic helmets, vests and plates.

According to the Hood County website, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local and tribal govern-

PLEASE SEE ARPA | A11



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson speaks to the public during a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, as he explains why he believes the remaining ARPA funds should be allocated to the Rancho Brazos Community Centers and Forward Training Center.



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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Granbury Chamber of Commerce urges community support for local businesses this holiday season

### Chamber Message

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce wants to remind the community that supporting our local businesses helps the entire community. In the spirit of giving, the Chamber emphasizes the significant economic impact that patronizing these establishments can have on Granbury and Hood County. We are constantly reminded that doing business locally

leaves an impact beyond the numbers, and that paying the lowest prices and getting 'free delivery' isn't always the better deal.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, contributing to job creation, economic growth, and the unique charm that defines Granbury. By choosing to shop locally, residents and businesses can make a direct and positive impact on their community, fostering a sense of togetherness and solidarity.

The holiday season is a critical time for many small businesses, as increased sales can make a substantial difference in their annual performance. When you shop right here in the Granbury/Hood County area, you're putting your hard-earned dollars into a queue that trickles down to jobs and multiple parts of the community. Shopping local isn't just a good idea... it's GOOD BUSINESS!

Remember the next time you point, click and buy,

there are no Amazon signs at any of the Granbury, Tolar or Lipan schools' facilities. You won't see any Wayfair-sponsored soccer jerseys. There won't be a single Apple, Etsy or Poshmark little league sign. What you WILL see in our community are signs from local banks, car dealers, insurance agents, hometown investment companies, trophy companies, restaurants, real estate offices and more... ALL of them have a presence and commitment to support



this community.

This holiday season, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce encourages residents and other businesses to shop with a purpose, choosing local businesses as their destinations for gifts

and services. By doing so, the community can celebrate the spirit of togetherness and make a lasting positive impact on Granbury's small businesses.

## CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

**CHAMBER SUPERSTAR**

**Concho Hearts Hospice**

Our hospice services are now available to residents of Granbury, Pecan Plantation, and Glen Rose.

granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Concho Hearts Hospice. "Concho Hearts Hospice is dedicated to providing compassionate care wherever you call home."

**CHAMBER SUPERSTAR**

**Josafina's Tamales**

Artisan Handmade Tamales using family recipes from Reynosa, Mexico.

granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Josafina's Tamales. "Artisan Handmade Tamales using family recipes from Reynosa, Mexico."

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

TX HOP Club: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the groundbreaking for TX HOP Club.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**BELOW LEFT: Trusted Foundation Repair LLC.** "At Trusted Foundation Repair we are about helping you to preserve and restore your home. Everything in life should be built on a good foundation. Your home isn't just a place to live, it is where you grow your family, make memories, and your 'go to' place to feel safe and secure. It is our goal to treat customers and our employees like family. We will always give you an honest, free estimate and home evaluation." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

**BELOW CENTER: M.A.M.A.S. Creative Sweets.** "M.A.M.A.S. is an acronym that stands for 'Making A Moment Always Special' and when you walk through the door my goal is to make a moment special for you. My shop is filled with all things 'chocolate'. If you are looking for a creative chocolate shop, then M.A.M.A.S. Creative Sweets is a place you want to experience!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

**BELOW RIGHT: Grill Sergeant.** "We sell outdoor kitchens, grilling equipment, and accessories. We primarily work with contractors, pool companies, remodelers and anyone who might be building an outdoor kitchen. Contact Larry Lindsey at 972-854-8171 to get started today!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

**Trusted Foundation Repair, LLC**

**Trusted Foundation Repair LLC**

"At Trusted Foundation Repair we are about helping you to preserve and restore your home. Everything in life should be built on a good foundation. Your home isn't just a place to live, it is where you grow your family, make memories, and your 'go to' place to feel safe and secure. Our main office is located in Parker County and we serve all of the Dallas/Ft. Worth and North Texas areas."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

**M.A.M.A.S. Creative Sweets**

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"M.A.M.A.S. is an acronym that stands for "Making A Moment Always Special" and when you walk through the door my goal is to make a moment special for you!"

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granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

**GRILL SERGEANT**

**Grill Sergeant**

"We sell outdoor kitchens, grilling equipment, and accessories. We primarily work with contractors, pool companies, remodelers, and anyone who might be building an outdoor kitchen. Contact Larry Lindsey at 972-854-8171 to get started today!"

COURTESY GRAPHIC

**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR GRANBURY**

Experience Leadership Involved Prepared Military Service

Skip Overdier ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Candidate B ✗ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✓

**VOTE SKIP OVERDIER FOR CITY COUNCIL**

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Pol. Ad. paid for by the Skip Overdier campaign

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# A notable life has passed: Rosalynn Carter



**BY SAM HOUSTON**

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

This past week Rosalynn Carter, the former first lady of the United States, passed on. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in February of this year and was placed in hospice just two days prior to her death. Mrs. Carter was 97 years old, and few lived a life as full of service and devotion as did she.

Rosalynn grew up in her future husband's hometown of Plains, Georgia where she later proclaimed not much ever changed "except occasionally someone would open a diner, but it never lasted very long." She was the child of a dressmaker mother and automobile mechanic father. Tragically, her father was struck down with cancer

when Mrs. Carter was a mere 13 years old. From that point forward she helped raise her younger siblings and considered her father's death the end of her childhood. She worked to help provide for the family and learned the valuable lesson of hard work and service to others.

The Carters met through Jimmy's sister, Ruth, who was

Rosalynn's best friend. Jimmy Carter was then a midshipman at Annapolis and when his future wife saw a photograph of him in his naval uniform, she believed him to be "the most handsome man I'd ever seen." It wasn't long until the Carters were introduced and soon thereafter, were wed. The marriage lasted 77 years, something which roughly only 1,000 living Americans can say.

In speaking about his wife, the former President said, "Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished. She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me."

As Jimmy Carter advanced up the political ladder, Rosalynn walked by his side to eventually become first lady, transcending the role from something largely ceremonial to a purposeful role of service to the nation.

Given the nickname of the "Steel Magnolia" by the press, it became a monicker she did not mind, saying that "steel is tough, and magnolia is southern." Early in her career, she was so naturally shy her knees would sometimes knock together when she had to give a speech or meet dignitaries on the political trail. In the White House, Mrs. Carter was the first presidential spouse with her own policy staff and set up offices in the East Wing of the White House.

"Thanks to her mental health advocacy, many people live with better care and less stigma. Because of her early leadership on child immunization, millions of Americans have grown up healthier. And through her decades of work at the Carter Center and with Habitat for Humanity, she spread hope, health and

democracy across the globe," said former President Bill Clinton upon learning of her death.

Former President Donald Trump said of Mrs. Carter, "she earned the admiration and gratitude of a nation. From her days as a U.S. Navy spouse, to her tenure as First Lady of the United States, and her later work at the Carter Center and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, she leaves behind a legacy of extraordinary accomplishment and national service."

Most remarkable is upon leaving the White House, the Carters returned to their native home in Plains, Georgia and led lives as ordinary citizens while working to improve the world around them.

Rosalynn Carter was a voice for women when society did not accept women as a force. She worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others both at home and around the globe

and her work was never an attempt to elevate her personal position in life. She had a Christian servant's heart, and nothing was more important to her than being a good wife and mother.

I am hopeful that young women in America will look to the legacy of Mrs. Carter and attempt to emulate her service and determination. She changed the world and never raised her voice, never screamed a message, and never insulted an opponent. She merely went about doing the task at hand with grace and determination.

We certainly have a few politicians who would be well served to follow her example.

Thought for the day: Don't raise your voice, make your argument better.

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

sam@hcnews.com / 817-573-7066, ext. 260

## Folks around town

**Juanita Burks**

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

### Say hello to our neighbor, Juanita Burks!

Juanita Burks immediately fell in love with life in the country after she made the move from Grand Prairie to Granbury close to 40 years ago. Her reason for moving was her marriage to local resident Royce Burks, who served almost 20 years as a Hood County Sheriff Deputy. Burks describes her late husband as possessing the true heart of a servant in all his ventures. Until his passing in 2016, together they owned and operated RLB Spotted Ass and Goat Farm. On Hood County Junior Livestock Show Auction day they would always support the kids and buy an animal "Whether we needed one or not," says Juanita. Even now she still thoroughly enjoys quality time at the farm with her 9 donkeys. Wonderful visits with her son Bobby, his wife Rachel, and granddaughter Emma also fill Juanita's days. She busies herself with a love for crafting of all types, especially jewelry making. Anytime she spots a Hood County News lying around she will pick it up to catch up on what's happening, and added that it can on occasion bring back good memories with Royce.

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## Indian Harbor shooting incident results in two deaths

From Staff Reports

The Hood County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating an Indian Harbor shooting incident that resulted in the deaths of two Granbury residents.

Around 7:41 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, deputies responded to a report of two subjects who had been shot

around the 1300 block of Chippewa Trail located in the Indian Harbor subdivision.

Arriving on scene, deputies found a deceased 21-year-old white male and a 19-year-old white female who had been shot multiple times but was still alive. Medical treatment was provided to the female; however, she was later pronounced deceased at Lake

Granbury Medical Center, the news release states. Both victims were Granbury residents.

The Hood County Sheriff's Office is aware that the two subjects are familiar with each other and that one lived at the location where the shooting occurred. However, the circumstances surrounding the shooting are still un-

der investigation and further information is not available at this time.

According to the Hood County Sheriff's Office, there are no outstanding suspects in this incident and a handgun was recovered on the scene.

The HCN will follow this story as it develops.

## HCSO: Operation Cold Turkey results in 11 arrests, 23 felony charges

From Staff Reports

The Hood County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit (SCU) conducted a months-long operation that finally came to a head on Tuesday, Nov. 14, resulting in 11 arrests and 23 felony charges.

Operation Cold Turkey was the result of a several-months-long investigation into local narcotics trafficking in and around Hood County.

The persons arrested and charged during this operation resulted in a total of 23 felony charges including: possession of a controlled substance, manufacture, or delivery of a controlled substance, engaging in organized criminal activity, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Listed below are the persons who were arrested and charged during Operation Cold Turkey:

**TIMOTHY COLLINS**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Poss. Con. Sub. PG 1 Under 1g

**MADISON KAST**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 2-2A 4g < 400g

**JACQUELINE NIPPERT**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1

4g < 200g  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Poss. Con. Sub. PG 1 Under 1g

**CANDACE SHEFFIELD**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1-1/B 4g < 200g  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 1g < 4g  
 • Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity

**CHRISTOPHER SPINNEY**  
 • Man/Del. Con. Sub. PG 2 4g < 200g

**TAYLOR WILLIS**  
 • Man/Del. Con. Sub. PG 2-2/A 4g < 400g

**RAY YATES**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 2-2A 4g < 400g  
 • Poss of Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Felon

**DONOVAN BRETON**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g

**EUGENE KASPARI**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g

**HEATHER DUNLAP**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity

**KATHERINE GILBERT**  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1 4g < 200g  
 • Man/Del. Cont. Sub. PG 1-1/B 4g < 200g  
 • Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity

This investigation targeted individuals responsible for selling and distributing illegal narcotics in Hood County and surrounding areas. Additional charges and arrests are expected as this investigation continues to unfold.

Since Sheriff Roger Deeds created the Street Crimes Unit in 2021, the unit has been responsible for the seizure of numerous stolen and illegal firearms, the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles and property and the removal of large quantities of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, hallucinogens and THC from the community.

The Street Crimes Unit's daily mission is to proactively deter the sale and use of illegal narcotics, prevent thefts, recover stolen property and curb the violent crimes that most seriously impact the community. This year the

Street Crimes Unit has also worked to combat overdose deaths by locating and identifying drug dealers who have sold illegal narcotics that resulted in the death of another person and charging them with manslaughter or murder where appropriate, under newly-created legislation.

Sheriff Roger Deeds added, "I hope the work of my deputies and operations such as these will serve as a notice to the criminals in our community that their exploits will not be tolerated in Hood County, and we will work every day to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens through proactive enforcement like today."

The Hood County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the United States Marshall's Office — North Texas Fugitive Task Force, Region VIII Special Operations Group, Hood County Crime Stoppers and the 355th District Attorney's Office for their assistance in Operation Cold Turkey.

The Sheriff's Office asks the citizens of Hood County to continue supporting its efforts by reporting all suspicious and concerning activity to Hood County Crime Stoppers at www.hoodcounty-crimestoppers.com or directly to the Sheriff's Office at (817) 579-3316.

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

# Hood County Appraisal District receives votes on Board of Directors

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Hood County Appraisal District has received votes for members of its board of directors for the 2024-25 year. In accordance with chapter six of the property tax code, each taxing unit is eligible to cast votes for the board of directors of the Appraisal District in proportion to its tax levy. It takes 834 votes to be cast for an individual to be elected to the board of directors. The City of Granbury is allocated 319 votes, and the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees is allocated 3,177 votes. The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees cast its votes during a regularly scheduled school board meeting on Nov. 13

where the board voted to put 834 votes to Scott Bradley, 834 to Rick Frye, 834 votes to Mark McDonald and 675 votes to Eddie Rodriguez. "Ron Sutton did reach out and say that he has enjoyed his time on the board and is happy to serve again, but he wanted to put his endorsement behind Rod Litke," Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said during the school board meeting. "I don't know Mr. Litke but Mr. Sutton spoke very highly of him and said he had vast knowledge and a wealth of experience but again I don't know him, and I can't speak more than that. I wanted you to know that an incumbent is willing to give up their position for Mr. Litke." Trustee Karen Lowery read Litke's credentials. "I will say that the county

actually nominated Mr. Litke and with his impressive resume it sounds like that is the direction the county wants to go with," Trustee Barbara Townsend said. "Considering that (Litke) was their candidate that they nominated, I'd like to make a motion to allocate 834 votes to Scott Bradley, 834 votes to Rick Frye, 834 votes to Mark McDonald and 675 to Eddie Rodriguez," Trustee Courtney Gore said. Trustee Mike Moore seconded the motion, and a 5-2 vote was cast with Trustee Melanie Graft and Trustee Lowery voting in opposition. During the Granbury City Council meeting on Nov. 21 the city cast its votes for the HCAD Board of Directors. Councilman Bruce Wadley was not in attendance at the meeting.

Before the vote, Hood County Commissioner Precinct 4 Dave Eagle spoke during public comments. "My understanding is that Ron Sutton has sent you all an email talking about Ron Litke proposing that he be considered to put on this board. I urge you to consider Mr. Litke. With no aspersion to Mr. Rodriguez, I urge you not to put your votes on Mr. Rodriguez, and it's nothing personal or anything else against Eddie," Eagle said. "In law school they told us if it doesn't look right, you might not do it even if it's legal. The optics are bad, and I think that there is a potential conflict of interest by having a board member being a council member on the board. Also, there's familial affiliation with GISD with Mr. Rodriguez and to

me that doesn't look right either. I urge you to save Mr. Rodriguez from himself and put somebody else on there and relieve him of being put on there." Later in the meeting when the agenda item came up regarding voting for the board of directors, Councilman Rodriguez asked the council to consider voting for him during the meeting. "My intentions are to continue what we have been doing. There's still a couple of items that are still left pending out there and some of those are making sure that the HCAD has a board policy and procedures and also looking at staggered terms. I also want to set the course for the HCAD board to have a strategic planning and also

PLEASE SEE HCAD | A15

## CALENDAR

### THROUGH DECEMBER

**LAKE GRANBURY Art** Association hosts a group show perfect for the holiday season at the Shanley Gallery, 224. N. Travis, Granbury. Reception is 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 25. Gallery hours vary.

### THROUGH DEC. 10

**AWAY IN a Manger Display** of over 1,300 Nativity sets displayed in the Langdon Center Concert Hall, 300 E. Bridge St. Free to attend. Free parking. Wheelchair accessible. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily through Dec. 10, open until 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 3

**FREE CHRISTMAS Concert** at 3 p.m. performed by Granbury Community Band at Granbury High School, 2000 W. Pearl St., Granbury.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 5

**OPERA GUILD** of Granbury monthly meeting and luncheon at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. 10 a.m. Social/check-in; 11 a.m. Entertainment/Christmas in Granbury with The Judge & The Jury; short business meeting at 11:30 a.m. Optional lunch (\$18) at noon – house salad, honey ham, garlic mashed potatoes, bacon and onion green beans, chocolate truffles, rolls, water/coffee/tea. DeCordova Bend has a new chef, and we are very excited to have him there. Reservations required no later than Friday, Dec. 1, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 7

**'IT'S A Wonderful Life in a Wonderful World'** Christmas Market from 6-9 p.m. at La Bella Luna, 7700 Glen Rose Hwy. 'It's a Wonderful Life in a Wonderful World' Christmas Market is the largest annual fundraiser for Forward Training Center of Hood County. The mission of the organization is to educate, support and inspire life-changing growth in men and women through free educational programs to lower generational poverty in our community.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 15

**MELODY BELLES** singers present "Sing We Now of Christmas" annual Christmas concert followed by lunch. Public invited, registration at 10:30 a.m., program at 11 a.m. DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club (great new chef!). \$18 per person. For reservations, call the club at 817-326-2381.

### TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

**Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration.** The Community Calendar is a free listing in the Hood County News to inform readers of programs, special meetings and nonprofit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Email the who, what, when and where. Include the meeting location and a street address for the location. The topic for the meeting, program or guest speaker must be included. Email to: calendar@hcnews.com. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.



# GISD Prop B officially fails by two votes Hood County recount results to be finalized Dec. 1

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

The Nov. 7 election was a whirlwind of emotions for both sides of the Granbury ISD Proposition B bond. What was once a 74-vote lead in favor of the proposition eventually became a six-vote lead against Prop. B, as the counties of Parker, Johnson and Somervell turned in their election results. As final tallies slowly trickled in over the next several days, Hood County residents held their breath as they eagerly awaited the news. On Thursday, Nov. 16, the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees held a canvass meeting, where they revealed the bond had failed by a mere total of two votes, with 6,225 voting "for" and 6,227 voting "against." "The Board of Trustees officially finds and determines and declares the results of said election of Proposition B so submitted has not received a favorable majority vote and has not carried," GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said during the meeting. The results from Prop B in each county are listed below:

**FOR**  
Johnson: 29  
Hood: 6,155  
Parker: 34  
Somervell: 7  
TOTAL: 6,225

**AGAINST**  
Johnson: 32  
Hood: 6,076  
Parker: 111  
Somervell: 8  
TOTAL: 6,227

Glenn also revealed there were 61 voters in Johnson County, 141 in Parker County, 15 in Somervell County, and 12,231 in Hood County, with a total vote count of 12,452. With a two-vote difference deciding Prop B — a 50.01% majority voting against the measure — one resident felt the results were too close for comfort. "As treasurer of the 'For

Granbury ISD Kids' SPAC, I feel it was too close and too important not to be sure the vote tally is sound and correct in its conclusion," Jackson said, in an email to the HCN. "This in no way impugns Stephanie or her staff and the countless poll volunteers and their hard work this election cycle." Jackson spoke to the HCN on Nov. 21 and revealed the recount was limited to Hood County only and had been scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 27 at the Hood County Library. "It's new for all of us," he said. "I would say so far, it's been a little daunting just trying to figure out what the proper steps are to take, and what safeguards we need in place so that should the outcome change, there won't be an outcry of any impropriety. We all want to get it right." Jackson explained to the HCN that two teams — for and against — will be present during the recount and will consist of watchers, counters, callers, and talliers. "I do not have the list of individuals for the teams from the board yet. However, we are looking at doing two teams of counters that will have one caller and two talliers each. Each political committee can appoint two watchers," Cooper said in an email to the HCN. "She has laid out the procedure and she's devised a color-coding system," Jackson said. "She's devised a method of how the ballots will be first sorted, and that one will be time consuming, sorting the ballots by precinct, and then once everything has been sorted, then the actual hand count will take place." He explained that with more than 12,000 votes to count, the recount could take several days to finalize. "(Cooper) told me that the last time they had paper ballots, there were over 7,000 ballots and it took them a day-and-a-half, so it's going to be very tedious, very meticulous," Jackson said. "But I'm confident in my mind that it will be done right, proper, and that all parties concerned will have a set of eyes there." Jackson said Cooper is hoping the recount will be completed by the end of the week on Dec. 1, adding that the main purpose of the recount is for accuracy. "No one wants to see our community divided, and I think maybe we could have

done a little bit better job in our message of the needs that this bond would have taken care of and the fact that it would not have affected the tax rate whatsoever," he said. "Maybe we just didn't get that message out as effectively as we could have." Jackson added that he was one of the voters who went to bed on Tuesday, Nov. 7, thinking that his side had won, only to realize the morning of Nov. 8 that more votes were coming in from the other counties. "Those people have a lawful, dutiful right to vote if they choose and many of them did," he said. "It was Parker County that kind of threw it back, but once the news hit, it was very emotional, and it was hard to believe. I was just stunned for virtually the entire time. I could not believe it swung the other way, but every vote counts and this election certainly proved that." The HCN will publish an updated article online following the results of the election recount. ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

# Granbury utility bills nearly back on track

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

After four months of dealing with utility billing issues due to a city network hack, the end of a stressful situation is in sight for utility billing customers. On July 30, the City of Granbury's computer network was hacked; the event was declared a catastrophe during an Oct. 17 city council meeting. During the network hack, customers were unable to make utility payments online and had to drop off their payments in person. Credit

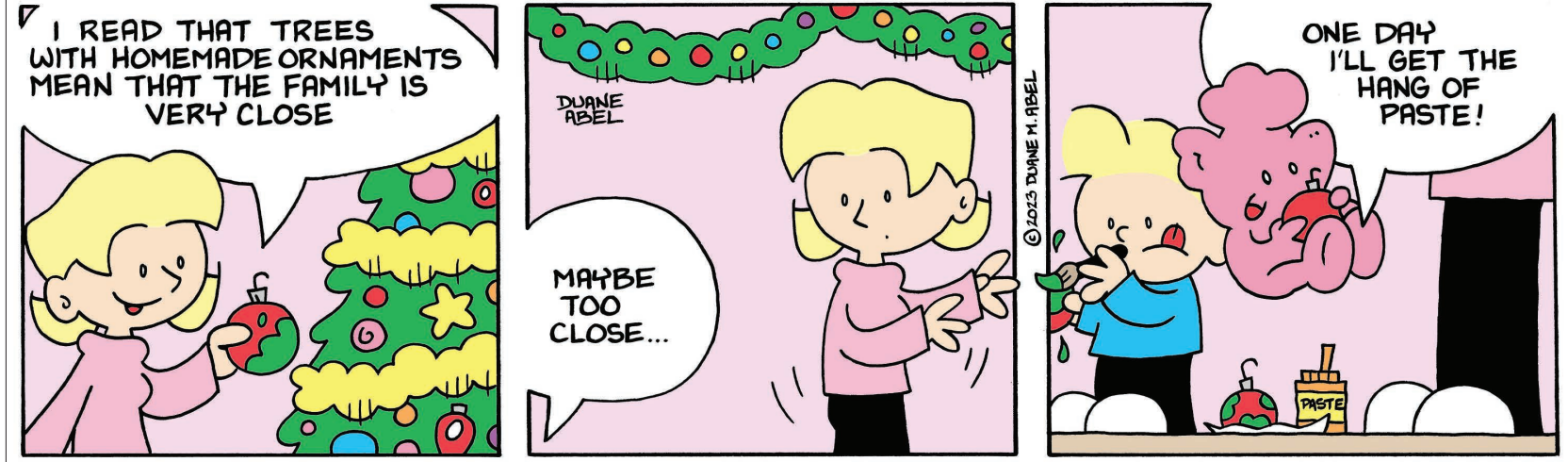
card payments were also not accepted during the outage. Late fees, penalties and shut-offs were not conducted during this time. During a regularly scheduled city council meeting on Nov. 21, City Manager Chris Coffman announced that December bills will be on time and bills will no longer run behind. City of Granbury Finance Director Eva Gregory spoke during the meeting and thanked the utility billing and meter reading teams. "The outage caused a huge impact on our customers. We had a lot of customers calling

and asking about their bills and our team had to explain to them why," Gregory said during the meeting. "Our phones haven't stopped ringing and they're still ringing. I can assure you they're all getting excellent service from our team. In December, customers will not only have their bill on time but they also will have the normal due dates." Coffman also extended his thanks to the utility billing team and the meter reading team during the meeting. "You all have been very patient and very effective in communication with people

(about) what's going on. Thank you all for enduring and staying in the trenches and being patient and professional. It's such a blessing to have you all and I can't thank you enough. "We certainly are happy with the approach that you guys have taken to work and to satisfy customers," Mayor Jim Jarratt said during the meeting. City councilman Eddie Rodriguez also extended his thanks and gratitude to both teams noting they are front-line workers. "In the military we had the front-line and those are the

ones that get hit the hardest and you are the front-line for the city. You take the blunt of the punishment, so I just want to say thank you for being a representative for the City of Granbury," Rodriguez said during the meeting. Utility payments are running normally again and are available to make online, by phone or text. For more information on utility billing contact ub@granbury.org, call 682-205-1777, or visit the office located at 116 W. Bridge St.

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



# Some community members question GISD School Board's procedures

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

The Granbury ISD School Board's most recent meeting on Nov. 13 had some community members feeling shut out.

During school board meetings, there are options for the public to speak about agenda items and non-agenda items. During this time speakers are allowed to address the board and voice their concerns.

To speak, one must fill out a form that requires the following information to be filled out: which agenda item the speaker will discuss and if not an agenda item, what their topic will be about; the speaker's name, date, address, phone number, email and signature; and whether the speaker is a parent of a GISD student, a GISD student, a GISD taxpayer, a GISD employee or other.

Kerri Rehmeier was signed up to speak for both public comments on agenda items as well as non-agenda items. She spoke during the agenda items portion of the meeting and later when she approached the po-

dium to speak during the non-agenda item portion, she was told she wasn't allowed to speak by board president Barbara Herrington.

Herrington told Rehmeier that since she had already spoken once, she was not allowed to speak again.

Rehmeier called out to the board that they allowed her to speak during public comments on both agenda items and non-agenda items on Nov. 9 when the board held a public complaint hearing.

The contradiction between the Nov. 9 meeting and Nov. 13 meeting had Rehmeier upset, and she continued to attempt to speak, but was removed by GISD school marshals after GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn requested she be taken out of the board room due to her being disruptive.

According to GISD's Board Policy under disruption, "The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any individual continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the

presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the individual removed from the meeting."

Todd Daniels also had signed up to speak during the Nov. 13 meeting as well as the previous three meetings but has not been allowed to speak "due to his form being incomplete," Herrington said during the meeting.

Daniels claimed the board was violating his first amendment rights. The HCN also obtained a copy of Daniels' form from the Nov. 13 meeting and every portion of the form was filled out.

According to Granbury's school board policy, "A district shall take no action abridging the freedom of speech or the right of the people to petition the board for redress of grievances."

The HCN questioned the board's action regarding Rehmeier being removed as well as Daniels not being allowed to speak during the Nov. 13 meeting and the district replied with the following statement.

"GISD has clear policies and proce-

dures for individuals to sign up and speak during open forum at board meetings. Individuals who do not follow the district's policies may not be allowed to speak at meetings. GISD doesn't prevent anyone from addressing the board as long as they complete the entire public comment form as required."

During the Nov. 13 meeting, the board adopted several changes to its policy regarding public comments. These changes included speakers now being required to fill out a form online to speak by 9 a.m. on the day of the meeting. There will no longer be public comments on non-agenda items and instead there will be quarterly meetings held to hear people speak on non-agenda items.

During public comments, people who live within the district will be given priority to speak first whereas nonresidents will be allowed to speak at the end. All speakers will be given three minutes, but the board president has the authority to set time limits during all open forums.

Public comments will now be required to take place before a vote is

made on the agenda item a person is addressing.

"I cannot tell you how upsetting it is that they are getting away with what they have been doing to people and there is no recourse for people like me, an average resident in the district. You speak up for yourself; they throw you out and all the audience (filled mostly with school employees it seems) cheers. Sad, sad situation," Rehmeier said.

"There is obvious viewpoint discrimination and coverup going on. They do not like transparency and I'm all about it whenever there's corruption," Daniels told the HCN. "They know they are violating both policies and law in their conduct."

The next regularly scheduled school board meeting will take place on Dec. 11. Registration for public comments will open 72 hours prior to the meeting and will be available on the GISD website. Registration will close at 9 a.m. the day of the meeting.

## STARS

FROM PAGE A1

for an independent film," McAdams Jr. said. "A studio feels detached. I would have to hire a cop and it would all be just people coming in. Here I take the script and I adapt it to the location. It's made it organic and more special."

McAdams Jr. moved to Granbury two months ago to "see what the vibe is" and has spent time observing the community and what residents do around town.

When it comes to writing, McAdams Jr. says he works on hundreds of scripts and puts many on shelves, waiting to make them come to life until the timing is right.

This film in particular hits McAdams Jr. deeply as he lost his brother in a motorcycle accident in 2012.

"It's about overcoming grief, overcoming death — it's about forgiveness," McAdams Jr. said. "It's not a Christmas movie, it's just a drama set during Christmastime. There are tragedies all year long. God doesn't take off December with tragedy. It's for the people that have lost loved ones. It's anti-texting and driving and I think that message should get out. As a writer it's about getting a message and if I can't get across a message then it's like what am I doing and what's the point of making the film?"

McAdams Jr. and Sorbo previously worked together and stay in contact with each other regularly. When McAdams Jr. sent Sorbo the script, Sorbo knew it was the perfect match.

"I knew I wanted to do this movie



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Extras that got to participate in the filming of "A Christmas Star" had the chance to get some hair and makeup touches before going on set for a scene in front of the Granbury Courthouse.

because it had a message instead of the stuff Hollywood is doing. We need more movies like that, that have love and redemption and faith and instead of all the anger and craziness that Hollywood is pushing out," Sorbo said. "I think there's a war going on for the culture of America and Hollywood is winning. There are big money movies out there that are dominating the landscape."

Sorbo is from a small town in Minnesota and says Granbury reminds him a lot of where he grew up; he added that he loves the feel of small towns. He first became interested in the theatre after visiting the Guthrie Theater during a fifth-grade field trip. The class saw "The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare.

"I was mesmerized by the actors and on the way back on the bus I

told my mom, who was chaperoning, that I was going to be an actor," Sorbo said.

He took drama classes in high school before pursuing a double business major with a minor in drama in college.

After commercial work in Minneapolis, Sorbo moved to Los Angeles and successfully pursued his dreams. He says "Hercules" was his biggest success and got him to

where he is today. He also attributed what he knows today to actor Anthony Quinn.

In "A Christmas Heart" Sorbo is getting to work with one of his children, Shane, as in the film they play father and son. Sorbo noted his children have grown up on movie sets and have been around that environment their whole life.

"I hope ultimately (this film) lets people find the definition of forgiveness and redemption and hope. This country needs it more than ever," Sorbo said. "We live in such an impactful world right now."

"There's also a lot of anger," Shane Sorbo added. "Hopefully (the film) makes people take a step back and look at their own lives and think about it."

The name of the movie may potentially change to "Granbury," an idea McAdams Jr. came up with.

"Being a Film Friendly Texas community offers significant benefits. Numerous film production companies have selected Granbury since our Film Friendly designation," Tammy Dooley, director of the City of Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau said. "By working with the film industry, our city brings in new revenues and generates substantial economic impact. It creates jobs, attracts tourists, and it showcases our unique qualities. It also creates a sense of community involvement and pride."

The cast and crew hope to raise enough money to get the film into theatres. The movie is expected to be released around Christmas 2024 and will be shown at Cinergy Cinemas in Granbury.

## COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

discussed tax incentive reinvestment zones, calling them a great opportunity. He also discussed property taxes, noting that when big revenue resources come to town in the future, the city will have a chance to lower those property taxes. When it comes to the tax rate, he said the public needs to accept it is continuing to go up and to be realistic, but also try and keep it as low as possible.

Overdier pointed out Granbury's tax rate is lower than all other cities around such as Burleson, Cleburne, Weatherford and more. He added that reviewing the budget is one of the most important aspects of being on the city council. He attributed the low tax rate to the city council that has worked up to its current board. He said people need to keep inflation in mind and remember the tax rate has even gone down in the last four years. He shared how important sales tax is for the city, as well as tourism. He also noted that although property tax bills have gone up, so have property values. With his experience and work history, Overdier said he is fully prepared to work on the city budget.

City staff was also a topic of discussion, and Overdier said the City of Granbury has a great staff. He said a new computer system has made community development tasks easier for businesses. Overdier mentioned that due to intergovernmental meetings, a lot has been accomplished through the city working with the county as well as Representative Shelby Slawson. He added that the city has a great communications team and keeps the residents of the city informed. The police budget increase was also mentioned due to the work from the city.

Beard said city staff is a second part of the town's foundation and that they should be treated proper-



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Charles Beard speaks to Granbury voters at the City Council Candidate Forum on Nov. 27.

ly. He added the recent pay increase for staff was good and needed to happen. He again stated the public needs to be put first and that they are the ones who elect government officials. He said the public needs to look into who is elected and keep up with their actions as officials. Keeping everyone informed is what Beard wants to do for the public with proper communication. He said it is important to start looking toward the future, knowing changes made today will affect future generations. He also noted there should be funds available for raises for city officials and employees. He added it is important for the public to feel comfortable sharing their opinions and concerns with the city council.

The moderator then asked Beard about how communications will be facilitated across the city staff after he continued to emphasize communication.

Beard expressed that he wants the city council to have quarterly meetings with the neighborhoods in town, church groups and others who are interested. He said not many people attend the Granbury City Council meetings, adding many people tell him they want the "old Granbury." He also wants to add

places around town where the community can fill out a form for comments to give to the city.

Economic development was the next topic and Beard said the city needs to be more open-minded when it comes to new businesses and keep in mind the growth that is coming. He said the city needs to stay on top of the growth and stay informed, remaining open to changing times and changing technology. He mentioned the importance of the airport, saying it should remain in focus as a source of revenue. Beard said the most important aspect of development is whether it will improve the lives of the citizens and communication.

Overdier said a new economic development director was hired and shared that he is working on research and looking at the future of the town. He added that the city needs to continue to work with the county. Overdier mentioned Visit Granbury and the immense economic development they bring in as well as the revenue coming in from the airport. He said new hangers will be added through a 30-year land lease which will bring in more income and jobs. He also mentioned tax incentive reinvestment zones that will at-



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Gary "Skip" Overdier speaks to Granbury voters at the City Council Candidate Forum on Nov. 27.

tract more businesses to continue to come to Granbury.

Beard and Overdier then gave their closing statements before the forum came to a close.

"My whole purpose in being on the city council is to be a voice for the people. I want to get on and do my public service by helping the people and that is the bottom line," Beard said. "If you don't want change and you don't want someone to be able to get in there and hear you, I don't know what to say. I am prepared to do this job and prepared to do anything that is set before me. I look for challenges. I just want to make sure everyone understands I am for you and not for me."

He said although he doesn't have prior experience with the city, he is a fast learner and added he continually researches. Through his service in the military, he added he is a leader and knows what the people want through him talking with the community members in the town.

"I think this campaign comes down to the training, education, experience and community involvement," Overdier said.

He then restated his previous experience and achievements, noting everything he has done has pre-

pared him for this role.

"The city council is not a training program. It should be made up of people with the ability to identify areas that need attention and how to create solutions that meet the needs of the citizens of Granbury," Overdier said. "I know how to be a team player. I may not always agree with other members of the council, but we can work together to find solutions to keep Granbury the greatest town in Texas."

Beard then added that he is not there to be trained and knows what he is doing.

"Time is all I have, and you can say what you want but the bottom line is there is nothing I can't do on city council and there's nothing I can't get accomplished," Beard said.

Early voting started on Nov. 27 at the Hood County Annex in room one located at 1410 W. Pearl St. in Granbury. Polls will be closed over the weekend but early voting will resume on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A runoff election is scheduled to take place on Dec. 9 and voting will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# Filing issues continue for some candidates as drama heats up

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

While some Hood County candidates have been successful in filing for the March 2024 primary, several continue to express their frustrations with the Republican Party of Hood County.

Filing for the March primary elections officially opened on Nov. 11, but a severe lack of communication left many Hood County residents confused as to the procedures behind filing for candidacy.

The day filing began, a post was created on the Republican Party of Hood County's Facebook page letting candidates know they were supposed to contact the GOP headquarters to schedule an appointment to file.

However, candidates like Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds and Bradley Yarborough were not aware of the appointment scheduling policy.

"On Monday night the 13th at 9 p.m., I found out from a Facebook post I was told about," Deeds told the HCN via text.

"Found out on the 12th. I was out of town then filing opened," Yarborough told the HCN. "I waited until I got back to start calling and trying to set up a time."

Deeds said he knew the starting date to file was on the 11th, and he immediately began trying to get in contact with Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers.

He eventually received a response on Tuesday, Nov. 14, with Biggers explaining he was currently not in Granbury.

"I am traveling out of state," the text read. "Parents medical legal stuff. Will contact when available."

Deeds said he waited for a response and attempted to contact Biggers directly several times until he finally received another response on Thursday, Nov. 16.

"On Thursday the 16th I was contacted by text that he would get with me so I could file," he said. "We finally got together Thursday night and he got my paperwork to file and my check. I never was able to set up an appointment, but I had left messages to do so."

Deeds told the HCN he was successfully able to file, and said Biggers told him he has a plan to get the other candidates' paperwork filed.

"He said he has a plan to get everyone filed before the deadline," Deed said, in a text to the HCN.

However, many candidates have said they attempted to reach out to Biggers to schedule an appointment themselves but were met with silence.

"I'm running for Republican Party Chairman of Hood County, and we have made many, many attempts," Granbury resident Zachary Maxwell said, speaking for the other candidates who have yet to file. "We have called every single day since filing has been open."

Yarborough was told he would get his paperwork taken care of

on Friday, Nov. 17, and again on Monday, Nov. 20, but both times no one from the Republican Party of Hood County showed up at the headquarters.

"The rhetoric issued by the Republican Party Chairman Steve Biggers is another example of an attempt to undermine democracy by suppressing several citizens' right to run for public office," Yarborough said in a text to the HCN. "The Hood County Republican Party is playing a very dangerous game by purposely making it impossible for certain citizens to apply for elected positions. It is dangerous because it violates basic rights of representation guaranteed to us as American citizens."

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, the Republican Party of Hood County Facebook page issued a statement which says six applications have already been received and are in the process of being reviewed.

Additionally, the post announced appointments will only be set up on a Wednesday afternoon, with 95% of slots filled for Wednesday, Nov. 22.

"It sounds like based on the Facebook posts that it's taking some time to approve the applications because he said that people have filed and they're awaiting approval," Maxwell said. "It shouldn't take more than two seconds to get approved because he can't actually deny an application unless there's a big glaring error on the application, like if your name was misspelled, or if you didn't check a particular box; that's the only thing that you can deny somebody's application for, statutorily by law. But by law, he also has to make himself available, or appoint a designee or have the Republican Party Secretary — whom he appoints — receive, accept and approve our applications, and he has not done any of those things. He's making it very difficult."

Bret Deason, chairman of the United Republicans of Hood County, sent an email to Hood County Election Administrator Stephanie Cooper on Wednesday, Nov. 15, explaining that he had received "multiple complaints from citizens" who are wishing to file the paperwork for the upcoming primary elections and had continued to reach a voice mailbox at the Hood County Republican Party headquarters.

"It is the responsibility of Chairman Biggers to appoint someone to receive these applications if he is not available," Deason's email reads. "We even have existing elected officials that are wanting to file for re-election and are not receiving call backs from the chairman. Given the chairman's unprofessional behavior leading up to this point, it is highly suspect that this is happening."

Cooper emailed back and explained that "state law does not allow her office to resolve the situation."

Chris Davis, Hood County



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A sign was previously posted on the Hood County Republican Party headquarters stating that no one was available to accept candidate filing paperwork for the March 2024 primary.

Republican Party secretary, replied to Deason, explaining she spoke to Biggers on Wednesday, Nov. 15; Biggers told Deason he would be posting on the Republican Party Facebook page when he will be able to be in the office each week during the filing period. She explained that candidates who are unable to reach Biggers can email Davis herself to set up appointments to come in and file for office.

"Chairman Biggers is doing all he can within the constraints of his busy life and work to make the filing process run smoothly and efficiently. I am sure you can understand and appreciate that," Davis said.

"I and many others have made calls and left voicemails to the party number provided with no returned communications," Maxwell said, joining in the email thread. "I told you, Mrs. Davis, that there were a large group of people that requested next Wednesday the 22nd and it seems from this post that 95% of the slots on that given day are now full? Am I reading that correctly? It's very frustrating as none of those people I mentioned had received a call to date, certainly not since we talked. You made it clear in response to my request that you would make yourself available, have you been ordered otherwise?"

Maxwell added that if they did not get proper clarification, he would be forced to make a formal complaint with proper authorities at the Secretary of State and State Party.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, Maxwell sent an email to Biggers stating that himself and others had attempted to make contact with him to schedule a time to file and have their paperwork approved, but that no one had gotten a response.

Maxwell stated he would be coming by the Republican Party headquarters that day and if no one was present to take his application, he would be taking legal action.

On the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 16, Davis sent an email to Maxwell explaining that Biggers would be "happy to take care of your application for you."

Maxwell immediately sent a response back saying the only reply back he had heard from Biggers was that he "wasn't allowed to contact him."

"So please advise on how and when that is supposed to occur?" Maxwell stated in the email. "Put yourself in my shoes. I have been nothing but respectful."

According to an article on the Texas Conservative Report, a phone call, a text message, and an email were sent to Biggers to inform him a group of individu-

als who needed to file paperwork would be at the Republican Party of Hood County headquarters at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16.

However, when the candidates arrived at the party offices at 1:20 p.m., they were met with a locked door and a shocking notice on the front door.

The sign stated, "Nobody from the Hood County Republican Executive Committee is here at this time to accept paperwork for placement on the 2024 Republican Primary Ballot. Please call Hood County Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers to schedule an appointment."

Additionally, a note attributed to former Hood County Republican Party Chair Nate Criswell stated that five individuals — Zeb Ullom, Michael Ray Davis, Bret Deason, Maxwell, and Yarborough — were not allowed on the premises.

"Let this document serve as official notice to only the aforementioned individuals that you are hereby trespassing, and after reading this clearly posted notice on the door, you have received your warning to leave," the notice reads. "Failure to do so will result in being prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This area is under audio and video surveillance."

"I went with Morris Duree that day to file to enjoy the festivities," Cresson Mayor Teena Conway told the HCN. "The outcome was shocking with the sign posted on the door that called out specific folks that were not allowed 'on the property'. It's one of the strangest things I've witnessed as a citizen."

Conway explained that Criswell and Hood County Commissioner of Precinct 4 Dave Eagle were inside the Republican Party headquarters and would not open the door.

"They yelled out to us on the sidewalk and said, 'We are calling the police.' Three cars and four officers arrived and were delightful to work with," she said. "Commissioner (Jack) Wilson took the lead to speak with the police. The officers then went in and spoke with Mr. Criswell and Commissioner Eagle. This took about 20 minutes and the group just waited patiently to learn if they could file or not."

The incident was also recorded and posted on social media. In the video attributed to Maxwell, an officer can be heard telling the group that they are within their rights to be outside the building on public property, but they cannot threaten or intimidate the individuals inside.

Conway said since Biggers was not in the office, the candidates were told they would have to call

PLEASE SEE ISSUES | A7

FROM MY FRONT PORCH:  
SPECIAL EDITION

## Enough Already



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

It has been an extraordinary couple of weeks in Hood County. We had a candidate for Granbury City Council arrested and charged with possessing child pornography. A former candidate for county judge was arrested and charged with deadly conduct. Then there was a school board meeting where citizens could file grievances for the alleged misdeeds of board members or staff. But wait, there is more!

In addition to all of this, a VATRE election passed, a GISD bond issue failed by only two or three votes and a recount was requested. If this isn't enough political drama for you, a considerable amount of talk and social media frenzy was created over the filing process for those seeking to run for public office on the Republican ticket.

Though some of the events of the past few weeks are indeed shocking, it is the election process which I would like to address as there is a lot of confusion which needs to be cleared up.

The Chairman of the Republican Party, Steve Biggers, has been a controversial figure since being elected to the office. There has been enough strife within local Republican circles that a new Republican organization has been created calling themselves the United Republicans of Hood County and their membership appears to be growing. Comments on social media and in local coffee shops have been heated as the Republican Party of Hood County seems to assert the United Citizens group is made up of people who are not "true Republicans" and can therefore be identified as "RINOS" or "Republicans in name only." The United Republicans seem to assert the local Republican party has been taken over by people who only represent a small portion of local conservative republicans, and do not approve of their leadership style or policies.

Recently, the period for candidates to file for public office began. In either political party, candidates must submit paperwork and a filing fee to the head of their party to be eligible to be placed on the ballot. Recently, some candidates sought to file for local office only to find the Chairman of the Republican Party unavailable. Understandably, it appears he was out of town taking care of an urgent family matter. Some potential candidates made calls to the chairman and made inquiries about filing at Republican Party headquarters, only to be ignored or told their application would be taken care of at a later time.

Texas statutes are clear that the

PLEASE SEE ENOUGH | A7

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# ISSUES

FROM PAGE A6

and make an appointment. "All the participants said they had already called several times with no response," Conway said. "From there I left the site and was disgusted with 'our' Republican party. I shared with Commissioner Eagle my thoughts and he said he has no control over Mr. Biggers."

An updated post was made on the Republican Party of Hood County Facebook page on Sunday, Nov. 19, stating that 15 applications were received that first week — but many have still not been able to file.

Maxwell told the HCN he knows "for a fact" that Biggers personally went into County Attorney Matt Mills' office to pick up his application for reelection.

"I messaged Matt Mills and called him, and he confirmed via phone and on messenger that that was what Steve was doing there was to hand pick-up his application for reelection, yet, none of us have been able to file so only his handpicked people are allowed to file, but we can't file yet," Maxwell said.

Biggers contacted the HCN on Friday, Nov. 17 and said notices explaining the filing process were posted on the party website, along with the Facebook page and office location.

"The process is clear and is working smoothly, with nearly 1/3 of ballot positions having applications submitted," he stated. "The party office is not open on regular hours, as most filing offices throughout the state, and there are only two officials that can receive the applications (Secretary of State regulations)."

He explained that when looking at the best avenue to receive candidates, Wednesday of each week was the best option as all involved have "active lives and work requirements," and that "working in the duties of this free, elected job is sometimes challenging."

Biggers also confirmed that when the filing cycle opened, he was out of town on a family matter. He said candidates who had his personal contact information then reached out to set up times to file.

In regard to the headquarters incident, Biggers explained the party office has a sublet tenant, and over the past election cycle, the tenant's business was "quite disrupted with

all the campaign activity."

"They were working in that office and really wanted no interruptions. The posting on the door was clear," he said.

Biggers explained an issue with the Secretary of State also contributed to difficulties in filing. He said the credentials needed to process the paperwork in the SOS database were not finalized until Nov. 14.

Biggers concluded there is nothing " nefarious, biased or undermining going on with the filing process."

"The few disgruntled citizens were attempting to demand their way and when that didn't happen, made a scene. Pounding on the door demanding entrance. The ten-

In response to the question regarding the post on the Republican Party of Hood County Facebook page, Biggers explained the first post on Facebook and the party website was on Nov. 11, and information on the various positions are made available through the Secretary of State.

In response to Biggers personally picking up paperwork for specific candidates, Biggers explained that he was in "personal contact" with Deeds and that Deeds was aware Biggers was out of town on a family issue.

"His application was secured Thursday. The other mentioned candidates were contacted and appointments set up," he said.

parties plus additional certified officials, plus new cyber training, I imagine they were quite busy," he said.

The HCN attempted one more time to obtain an answer to the question regarding the candidates that Biggers personally picked up paperwork for.

Biggers responded that "every application is personally picked up," and that "releasing any names until filing is finished would be irresponsible and unethical."

The HCN also asked why the credentialing process was not in place on the day the filing period started.

Biggers replied that the Secretary of State underwent a complete re-vamping of the process.

sixth year as a chair and her third as primary.

"If you are unable to log in, you cannot process the candidates on the SOS site, but you can still accept the paperwork and payments," she said.

Somervell County Elections Administrator told the HCN that Republican Party Chair Julie Douglas does not have a designated office space for the party. However, she was set up all day on Saturday, Nov. 11 and Monday, Nov. 13 for candidates to file.

"If anyone else wants to file after those dates, they contact the party chair to set up a time and place to turn in their application and filing fee," Covey said.

Deeds told the HCN this is the fifth term that he has filed to run for sheriff but has never run into this many problems.

"The last four times we knew the start date for filing and the Republican County Chair always was available for people to file," he said. "I don't remember a single problem for me or anyone."

According to the Texas Election Code Sec. 172.022(b), the county chair must post notice on the party's website or in the location where a candidate files an application for a place on the ballot of the address at which the county chair or secretary will be available to receive an application on the last day of the filing period — which is Monday, Dec. 11. If both the county chair and the secretary will be available on that day, then the notice must include an address where both individuals will be available to receive those applications. That notice must be posted no later than the day before the last day of the filing period, which would be Sunday, Dec. 10.

"What happened to the days of being able to disagree with somebody and being able to just live?" Maxwell added. "This is not Republican. It's certainly un-American. It's certainly not Texan, and it's an embarrassment to our community."

*On the afternoon of Nov. 22, the HCN was informed that the Republican Party of Hood County now has a sign on the headquarters door announcing office hours during the filing cycle.*

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

*"The Hood County Republican Party is playing a very dangerous game by purposely making it impossible for certain citizens to apply for elected positions. It is dangerous because it violates basic rights of representation guaranteed to us as American citizens."*

## BRADLEY YARBOROUGH

Granbury resident

ant thought best law enforcement needed to be called," he said.

The HCN reached out to Biggers on the morning of Nov. 14 and asked the following questions:

- In your email this morning, you stated the credentials with the secretary of state to finalize the paperwork for candidates were not done until the 14th. Why were these credentials not created prior to the beginning of the filing period for candidates?

- A notice on the Republican Party of Hood County Facebook page was posted on Nov. 15, with information regarding appointments for filing. Why wasn't this information posted earlier to inform the candidates how to secure their paperwork?

- It is also my understanding you personally picked up some candidates' paperwork for filing. Were you aware Clint Head, Morris Duree and Roger Deeds had announced their intent to file for office? If so, why were these candidates not afforded the same courtesy as other candidates?

Biggers replied on the evening of Friday, Nov. 17, and pointed out that the HCN would have to contact the SOS in regard to the credentialing delay.

He added that on business day three, the "demand to file" occurred, with the threat of legal ramifications if Biggers was not present.

"That's not how the process works. Every interested candidate will have the opportunity to file prior to the Dec. 11th deadline," Biggers said.

The HCN reached out to Biggers again on Monday, Nov. 20, and repeated the question about him personally picking up candidates' paperwork.

The HCN also asked if the credentialing delay was the fault of the Secretary of State.

Biggers responded the same day and said many candidates who have his personal information contacted him seven to 10 days prior so they could find out the schedule.

"I explained Wednesday each week are filing days. Arrangements were made while I was out of town with family issues. Some came to the office, some I picked up while in the area, trying to make the process easy that first week," he said.

In response to the Secretary of State question, Biggers said the SOS "changed the whole system this year."

"With 254 counties times two

"Cyber training had to occur before any access. That training was taken two weeks earlier, submitted around the 1st. It is the SOS' duty to follow through with credentials. Those credentials were not accessible, so I had to contact and secure," he said.

He also added it has been "a long, established practice to set appointments."

The HCN then reached out to several surrounding party chairs and asked what their process is when it comes to filing.

Dave Washam, chairman of the Republican Party of Erath County, confirmed that the Secretary of State does require individuals posting information to the TEAMS system take and pass a security training class.

"My credentials were finalized the week before the filing season started," Washam told the HCN.

Democratic Party of Hood County Chair Adrienne Martin told the HCN she is available anytime for candidates to file.

"Candidates can contact me by phone or email, and I'll make arrangements," she said.

Martin also added she didn't have to attend cyber training through the Secretary of State as this is her

# ENOUGH

FROM PAGE A6

party chairman, even if the filing timeline has started, does not have to accept any applications until they announce when they will do so. It is totally discretionary except the deadline for such an announcement must be no later than the day before the last day of the filing period. This is the law. Arguably, it is a law which makes no sense and is ripe for some-

one to misuse their authority, but it is the law. Mr. Biggers not being available to take applications or making arrangements for someone else to take the applications is within the law. He has until the day before the last day to file to make such a determination. Arguably, Mr. Biggers has done nothing unlawful.

Then why is there so much confusion and angst among so many? An old cowboy I know would say, "it may have been legal, but it is not right, and that makes it worse."

While completely within his authority to take up applications when he chose to do so, why did Mr. Biggers not advise the members of his own party what process he was going to use well in advance of the start of the filing period? Why weren't the rules clear before the "game" started?

In response to questions from the HCN, Mr. Biggers asserted there "is a long-established practice to set an appointment" for candidates wishing to file their paperwork. However, in speaking with candidates who have filed for office in Hood County on multiple occasions in the past, no one recalls such a procedure. As recently as the last election, candidates simply called the party chairman on the first legal day to file, arranged a time to meet and completed their task. The Hood County News, in reaching out to party officials from adjoining counties, found they experienced no problems getting potential candidates filed starting

the first day of the filing period. There was no confusion among their candidates and no issues with the state filing system. Apparently, filing in locations other than in Hood County was a non-issue.

There is no indication the local Republican Party leadership identified a procedure under which candidates could file for office until after the deadline commenced. Clearly several people who wanted to file did not know what the official procedure was at the time filing started. If they had, perhaps all this confusion would not have occurred.

The Hood County News submitted written questions to Mr. Biggers on three different occasions over the period of several days, asking for clarification that while he was unavailable to take applications for some candidates, he apparently went to other candidates and picked up their paperwork. Mr. Biggers failed to respond to this question other than to write, "releasing any names until filing is

finished would be irresponsible and unethical." He did not elaborate as to how or why such action would be irresponsible or unethical.

The HCN has confirmed one of these candidates is County Attorney Matt Mills.

The situation was not improved when candidates seeking answers went to the Republican Party headquarters were not allowed admission to the office and police were called by individuals inside the office who claimed they feared for their safety and who later referred to the candidates as a "mob." Video of much of the incident has been posted on social media and each can discern for themselves if a "mob" was breaching the peace at the Republican headquarters. It speaks volumes that no arrests were made.

I have every confidence that anyone who wishes to run for office will be registered by the deadline. Mr. Biggers has declared he will see to it, and until he doesn't, there is no reason to assume

he won't. He is operating within the law.

In the future, it would serve us all if the rules were spelled out by the Party Chairman clearly before the filing period begins and all candidates were treated in the same manner. Treating everyone the same, everyone knowing the rules, and treating all citizens with the same courtesy and convenience is a testament to leadership and making sure the election process is smooth and fair.

Were the past few days merely bad timing and lack of preparation, or was it political maneuvering? That is something for members of the Republican Party and voters to ascertain.

Thought for the day: Doing the right thing is not a matter of convenience, it is a matter of integrity.

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

sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260



## U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

### PUBLIC MEETING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is holding two public meetings to present its preliminary Environmental Impact Statement results for the license renewal of the operating licenses for Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2.

The first meeting will be held in the form of a webinar on Thursday December 7, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The second meeting will be held at:

Somervell County Expo Center  
202 Bo Gibbs Blvd., W Hwy 67  
Glen Rose, TX 76043

December 7, 2023

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with an open house session  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Central Time

The information for both meeting can be found at the NRC Public Meeting Notice System link below:

<https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>

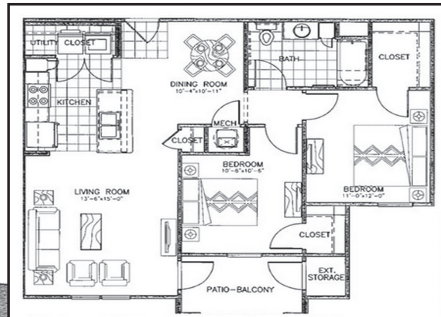
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6620  
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Granbury, Texas 76048  
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wilsonjulianne@gmail.com

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8040  
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1550 Weatherford Hwy,  
Granbury, Texas 76048.  
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**EMPLOYMENT**

8510

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8550

**Office Employment**

Local landscape business looking for experienced secretary that can organize and set everything up from scratch on the computer. Knowledge of Quickbooks a must. PT with potential for FT (817)964-6768 leave msg if no answer

8600

**Employment Information**

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED!** PreK - 12th grade  
Cornerstone Christian Academy is seeking Educators and Staff to join us in educating and inspiring our students for the 23.24 school year. Please contact Kelly Luckie to apply today. kluckie@ccgranbury.com

**NOTICES**

9020

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**Public Notices****LEGAL AD**

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage (MB) permit by Still Hard At It, Inc. dba Vito's Italian Kitchen, to be located at 1468 and 1466 US Hwy 377, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Owners of said corporation are Randy Crawford (Member) and Elizabeth Crawford (Member).**

**LEGAL AD**

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

DE CORDOVA RANCH, PHASE 2, LOT 6R, BLOCK 8

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 22ND, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

**LEGAL AD**

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

COMANCHE COVE, SEC C, LOT 12R, BLOCK 1

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 22ND, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Robert Lawrence, III, Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P09902, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Kara Sue Lawrence.

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: Kara Sue Lawrence, Independent Administrator  
Estate of James Robert Lawrence, III  
1718 Rockview Drive  
Granbury, Texas 76049

DATED the 15th day of November, 2023.

Taylor Seaton  
Attorney for the  
Estate of James Robert Lawrence, III  
State Bar No.: 24115727  
4423 SW 4th Ave.  
Amarillo, Texas 79109  
Telephone: (806) 242-3333  
Facsimile: (806) 381-3560  
E-mail: taylor@deanboyd.com

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**Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** for setting Certain Salaries by 355th Judicial District Judge: Hon. Bryan Bufkin, 355th Judicial District Court Judge, will hold a public hearing at 8:30 am, Thursday, December 7, 2023, in the 355th District Courtroom of the Hood County Justice Center, 1200 W. Pearl Street, Granbury TX 76048, for Setting Salary of the Hood County Auditor for the 355th Judicial District Court. (ref: Local Government Code 152.905; Government Code 53.009; and Government Code 74.104).

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Paul Edward Haworth, Deceased, were issued on April 12, 2021, in Cause No. P09221, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Leslie Corrin Haworth.

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: E. Mark Piland  
Attorney at Law  
1107 W Pearl Ste 101  
Granbury, TX 76048  
E. Mark Piland  
Attorney for Leslie Corrin Haworth  
State Bar No.: 16008870  
1107 W Pearl Ste 101  
Granbury, TX 76048  
Telephone: (817) 579-0207  
Facsimile: (866) 406-4629  
E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dona Lee Brown, Deceased, were issued on 11-17-23, in Cause No. P10199, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Sandra Lee Pierson. The residence of the Independent Executor is Granbury, Texas; the post office address is: c/o: Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048. 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 on the 18day of November 2023. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of David Gaytan, Deceased, were issued on 11-17-23, in Cause No. P-10189, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Humberto M. Gaytan. The residence of the Independent Administrator is Hood, Texas; the post office address is: c/o: Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048 1274. 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 on the 18day of November, 2023. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Carl Frederick Connors, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2023, in Cause No. P10202, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Marjorie C. Connors.

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: Marjorie C. Connors  
7127 Back Forty Court  
Granbury, Texas 76049  
DATED the 20th day of November, 2023.

/s/ E. Mark Piland  
E. Mark Piland  
Attorney for Marjorie C. Connors  
State Bar No.: 16008870  
1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101  
Granbury, TX 76048  
Telephone: (817) 579-0207  
Facsimile: (866) 406-4629  
E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Kathryn Massey Sledge, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2023, in Cause No. P10208, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Pamela A. Walker.

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

c/o: Tracy S. Bush  
201 E. Bridge St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that on August 23, 2023, letters of administration were issued to MARY ELIZABETH SMITH by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled Estate of Joel Emery Smith, Deceased, under Cause No. P10117, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

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

Dated: November 30, 2023  
Mary Elizabeth Smith  
Administrator of the Estate of Joel Emery Smith  
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email:  
marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4090  
Attorney for Mary Elizabeth Smith

9031

**Public Notices**

**CITATION FOR ACCOUNT FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT OF TEMPORARY GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE BY PUBLICATION**

To all persons interested in the Estate of Mary Martinez, Cause No. G00481, County Court, Hood County, Texas.

Gloria Hokanson, of the above numbered and entitled Estate on the 30th day of October 2023, did file his/her Account For Final Settlement of Temporary Guardian of the Estate.

Said Application can be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of posting this citation, the same being the 04th day of December 2023 at the Hood County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

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

The officer executing this citation shall post the copy of this citation at the Courthouse door of the County in which this proceeding is pending, or at the place in or near said Courthouse where public notices customarily are posted, for not less than 10 days before the return day thereof, exclusive of the date of posting, and return the original copy of this citation to the clerk stating in a written return thereon the time when and the place where he posted such copy.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Granbury, Texas this the 21st day of November 2023.

Katie Lang  
County Clerk, Hood County, Texas  
P.O. Box 339  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
By /s/ Dean Armstrong, Chief Deputy Clerk

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Shawn Ebling, Cause No. P10242, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Thomas Ebling 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 Shawn Ebling, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock 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 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 this on this the 21st day of November, 2023

KATIE LANG  
Hood County Clerk  
P.O. Box 339  
Hood County, Texas 76048  
By /s/ Lisa Bustos, Deputy

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by CEFCO, A Partnership, dba CEFCO # 2089 located at 2101 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Partners are Fikes Investors Inc., Fikes Investors Inc. No. 2 and Fikes Investors Inc. No. 3, Raymond Smith, President and Kim Fikes, Secretary and Treasurer, of all partners.**

**LEGAL AD**

**The Granbury Recreational Association Inc. is applying for renewal of their Private Club Registration Permit No. N100032977. Granbury Recreational Assn. Inc. (Granbury Country Club) is located at 1611 Rockview Dr., Granbury, Texas 76049, Hood County. Officers are: Mike Robinson, President; Chris Craven, Vice President; Judy Goforth, Sec/Treasurer.**

**LEGAL AD**

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit (BG) by Lipan Bar, LLC dba Nineteen 25, to be located at 100 S. Kickapoo St., Ste 100, Lipan, Hood County, Texas. Owners of said company are Chelsea Matlock and Bailey Groves.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2023, letters testamentary were issued to Kimberly Sims by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Barbara Sims a/k/a Barbara Ann Sims under Cause No. P10196, pending on the Probate Docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against the above-styled Estate are hereby requested to present them within the time prescribed by law in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Kimberly Sims, Independent Executor,  
Estate of Barbara Ann Sims a/k/a Barbara Ann Sims  
c/o Kenneth A. Richey, Jr.  
THE RICHEY LAW FIRM, P.C.  
12112 Anderson Mill Road, Bldg. 12D  
Austin, Texas 78726  
DATED November 22, 2023  
By: /s/ Kenneth A. Richey, Jr.  
Attorney for Independent Executor

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**Public Notices****ORDINANCE NO. 23-86**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL OF GRANBURY TEXAS DESIGNATING A CERTAIN AREA AS A REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL TAX ABATEMENT; NAMING THE TAX ABATEMENT AREA GRANBURY REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER THREE; DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITHIN SAID ZONE; PROVIDING TERMS FOR ABATEMENT WITHIN THE ZONE; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND MAKING AN OPEN MEETING FINDING.

This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council on November 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION**  
Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, 1st Source Storage Center now Granbury Self Storage, which is located at 212 Temple Hall Highway, Granbury, TX 76049 and 409 Western Hills Trail, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction with storageauctions.com of contents to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on DECEMBER 02, 2023 ending DECEMBER 28, 2023 as posted. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only! The contents must be removed from the property within 48 hours of the winning bid. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw from the auction. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Debra Ritchie and Larry Raleigh

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BOBBY J. DAVIS, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2023, 2023, in Cause No. P10185, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: STEVEN E. DAVIS.

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.

Estate of Bobby J. Davis  
c/o: Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 20th day of November  
Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney for Steven E. Davis  
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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**Public Notices**

CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING AT WHICH THE GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 312.207 of the Texas Tax Code, notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury ("City") will consider approval of a tax abatement agreement at a regularly scheduled meeting.

**Time and Place of the Meeting:** The City Council will consider the tax abatement agreement at its regularly scheduled meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on January 2, 2024, at the City Council Chamber, City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas, 76048.

**Tax Abatement Agreement Information Required by Texas Tax Code Section 312.207:**

- Name of the Property Owner and Applicant for the Tax Abatement Agreement:** The name of the property owner and applicant for the tax abatement agreement is John E. Westhoff Trustee.
- Name and Location of the Reinvestment Zone:** The name of the proposed reinvestment zone in which the property, subject to the tax abatement, will be located is GRANBURY REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER 3 (GRZ3), a tax abatement reinvestment zone, which will be considered for creation by the City Council prior to consideration of the tax abatement agreement. GRZ3 will be approximately 6.34 acres and located at the 2301 Ruth Smith Dr. Commerce Centre of Granbury, Granbury, Texas, as depicted in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto.
- General Description of the Nature of Improvements:** The tax abatement agreement includes design and construction of 39,000+ square feet speculative building and related improvements to be used primarily for industrial or commercial purposes.
- Estimated Cost of the Improvements:** The estimated costs of the improvements are \$5,100,000.

The tax abatement agreement described herein will also appear on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024. This notice has been given in a manner required by the Texas Open Meetings Act at least 30 days before the scheduled time of the City Council meeting described in this notice

**EXHIBIT A****DEPICTION OF GRZ3**

Legal: 6.340, Lot: 1, Blk: 3, Subd: GRANBURY COMMERCE CENTRE, PHASE ONE B.  
Address is 2301 Ruth Smith Drive, Granbury, Texas 76048

ArcGIS Web Map



1/16/2023, 3:46:46 PM  
Street Centerlines  
Primary  
Service/Ramp  
Secondary  
Private/Other  
Granbury Parcels  
Building Footprints  
Specific Use Permits

**PUBLIC SALES**

Granbury 76048

**Garage Sales 76048**

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#heretohelp  
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Sat. 10am - 4pm  
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

Granbury 76049

**Garage Sales 76049**

28208 Weylene Paseo- Fri. Dec 1 & Sat Dec. 2 at 8am. Yamaha home theater, bedding, kitchen, books, furniture, Christmas stuff.

**ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 4121 Mojave Dr.**  
- Southwestern artwork, furniture, decor; vntg stereo components; golf, fishing, hunting gear; appliances; garden tools. Photos at estatesales.net, search 'Southwestern Style.' 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

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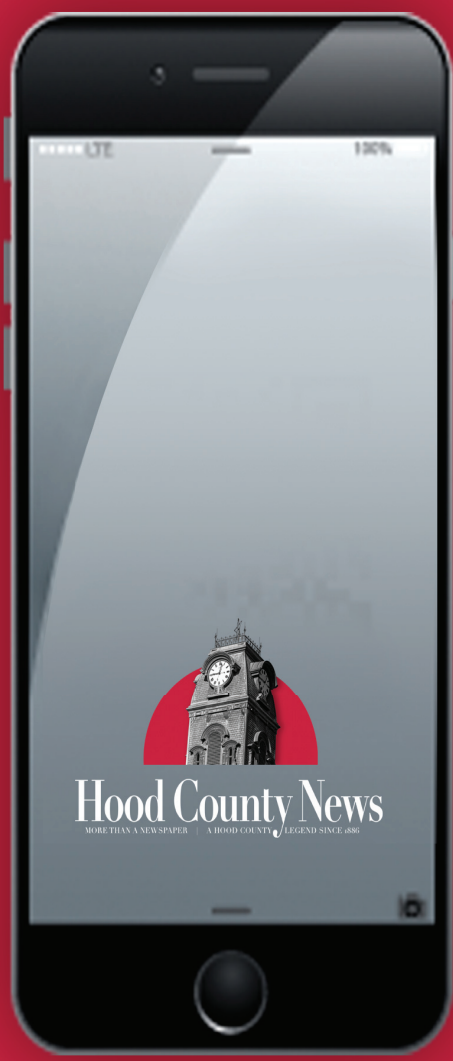
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**ARPA**

FROM PAGE A1

ments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Awards under this program are intended to be used for projects benefiting Hood County that may involve the support of single or multiple organizations. Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026. During the Nov. 14 meeting, the court spent an hour discussing the allocation of the ARPA funds, with Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson disagreeing with the way the funds would be split, and Massingill in particular advocating for a \$500,000 allocation to Rancho Brazos. The final vote included fund donations to first responders only.

For the Nov. 28 meeting, Wilson placed a new item on the agenda, which would allocate \$448,852.40 to Rancho Brazos Community Centers and \$50,000 to Forward Training Center, totaling \$498,852.40. "After the last court where we distributed the ARPA funds to fire, EMS and the sheriff department, the balance that was left was \$498,852.40," Wilson said, during the meeting. "The \$50,000 for Forward Training Center is for the addition after we gave them computers. Initially, they asked for \$69,000. The balance will (also) be used for the long distribution center at Rancho." Wilson added that on the Thursday before Thanksgiving on Nov. 16, Rancho served 374 hot meals to residents in Hood County, and on Tuesday, Nov. 21, Rancho served 204 households and turned 15 vehicles away due to lack of food. On Wednesday, Nov. 22, Rancho assisted 14 households that had no food for Thanksgiving Day.

"All of those people are not Rancho," Wilson said. "These were people from Cresson, people from Tolar, people from Lipan who came to the Granbury area for that food distribution. With this money, they will be able to get started on the distribution center which will make them eligible for Tarrant Food Bank as a distribution center and not just for Rancho; it serves the entire county and beyond in some cases. The benefit for that money going to them is beyond just helping those within Rancho Brazos." Following Wilson's com-

sustainability and long-term employment," but that it does so "without any financial burden on the students themselves by facilitating a pathway to economic growth." "We equip students with resources and skills that are needed in the community. Not only those who are proficient in computer applications, but also specialized training and technical fields, meeting the diverse needs of our community workforce," she said. Offutt also told an "impact story" regarding a young man who attended Forward

resources to the population it serves. "There is a disparity between the knowledge and applicability of using these skills to give them a leg up in their endeavors to get a job so this will help greatly in that effort, and already, they're at a disadvantage because when people do apply for jobs without the networking, communication and resources that we bring to them, they're met with algorithms that kick them out before they even get an opportunity," Hays said. "So, this will greatly enhance our ability to help each person

11,000 backpack meals for the summer months," Landham said. "In the 2023 school year, children in the after-school program read 2,500 books. Every week, they provide 60 to 75 hot meals for our after-school program. Monday through Friday, they average 50-80 breakfasts and lunches for children during the summer, averaging 150 families served through our Tarrant Area Food Bank drive averaging 70 children each day." She said 100 families were served at the fall festival in 2022 and that Rancho served 400 Thanksgiving baskets.

70% of our funding basically came from the church, but that changed starting this year, partly because the church lost about 60% to 70% of their membership, so they're no longer able to support us the way we were in the past. In 2023, we are \$235,000 different meaning they've had that much more to give us last year than they had this year, so that's been about a 60% hit. We're just fortunate to have them and are still supporting us as best they can, but obviously we need other funds." Fred Orcutt has been involved with Forward Training Center since he moved to town 13 years ago, teaching Word and Excel. He said the vision of the center is to have "full employment to all Hood County residents," and for "Hood County businesses to thrive."

*"Partnering with Forward Training Center, we are changing lives in this community. I've only been here since June, and I've already seen several lives — at least four than I can speak of — that came through our office, and their lives have changed."*

**KELLY BREWER**  
Employee at Workforce Solutions in Granbury

ments, Massingill added that this topic brought in "the largest amount of people" who had signed up to speak on any one agenda item since he had been in office for almost five years. "We have 28 people up here," he added, while explaining that the court would give each speaker two minutes each to say their piece. While many residents gave up their time due to time constraints and to simply show solidarity to the nonprofit organizations, several members continued to speak in favor of the nonprofits receiving the ARPA funds, like Executive Director of Forward Training Center Katy Offutt. Offutt explained that the American Rescue Plan Act was put in place to restore the American economic after the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. She said Forward Training Center plays a "crucial role in achieving this objective for the citizens of Hood County," by providing students with education that not only "secures

Training Center's youth program. She explained that he discovered a new direction in life and ended up enrolling in a trade school, which ultimately inspired his grandmother to also enroll in the program. "She said, 'If he can do it, I can do it, too.' She didn't want to live off of her children any longer," Offutt said. "You can see the results of the impact in the area when seeing our students with these good jobs. We believe that this is turning culture around to advance local businesses. Forward Training Center is strictly about empowering people to be self-sufficient, and have long-term sustainability, which is good for our economic situation here in Granbury, and I'd like for y'all to vote 'yes' on the agenda item." Monica Hays, the operations director at Forward Training Center, added to Offutt's comments by explaining that the grant money would allow the center to enhance its technology and bring much-needed

help themselves, and we appreciate you voting for the \$50,000 for Forward Training Center." Crystal Moore, executive director of United Way of Hood County, then spoke to the court and encouraged them to spend the rest of the ARPA funds on nonprofits. "Just to give you some examples, our education services through the agencies with the United Way in the last 12 months went up 287%, our prevention services 487%, transportation services 873%, and healthcare services went up 1,679%," Moore said. "I don't know a lot of businesses that are seeing that type of growth rate, and so we are coming to you and asking you to please consider giving to the nonprofits because if you don't, we're gonna lose people." Granbury resident Faye Landham spoke in favor of Rancho Brazos and the work the nonprofit organization has done to help children over the last few years. "In 2021-22 they packed

She added that Rancho also sponsors extracurricular activities like band, color guard, football and cheerleading. "They established a seeking safety program after the loss and death of vulnerable youth, adolescents and young adults in Hood County," Landham continued. "They have seven key-hole gardens to help provide fresh produce for the community and have been raising chicks since April. I have a whole long list of stuff that they plan on doing, but I would so much ask you to support Rancho Brazos." Ralph Hanna currently serves as the treasurer of the Rancho Brazos Board of Directors. He gave a history of the past funding from Acton United Methodist Church. "After being an outreach for Acton Methodist Church, some forward-thinking people in the church made this a 501(c)(3)," he said. "Although through last year, it was heavily supported by Acton Methodist Church. Over

"Our mission is to educate, support and inspire life-changing growth in men, women and youth," he said. "We serve many of the underserved people here in the county. Many of these people really don't have a good feel for themselves. They don't have a good self-image. They need help and if you don't believe in yourself, when you go to interview for a job, whether you're talented or not, you're not going to get it. And if you're not talented, you're even worse off. We help them to prepare their interviews, and we help them to know how to do the work they're seeking, so I ask that you vote in favor of these two nonprofits." Julia Pannell is a long-time volunteer at Forward Training Center. She said she worked there when "wires were hanging from the ceiling" and there was dirt on the floor. "We're working to inspire people," she said. "Drop the idea that we can raise all the funds on our own to grow. We cannot roll forward with the idea that these funds can expand. What Forward Training Center does is

PLEASE SEE **ARPA** | A12





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# The Granbury Association of REALTORS® 8th annual food drive

## GAR helped stock six food banks in Hood County

### Submitted Item

Six Food Banks in Hood County were recipients of the food donated by members of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®: Lakeside Baptist/Loaves and Fishes; Christian Service Center; Granbury First Methodist; People Helping People; Rancho Brazos and Joseph's Locker

GAR holds a competition each year between the Realtor offices and the Affiliate offices. A winner is named and celebrated. The 2023 Winner of the Broker's office that donated the most single items is Knieper Realty. The Affiliate office champion is Porter Title.

Congratulations to the Office champions!

The chair of the 2023 GAR public relations committee, Eliza Knapp, was thrilled with this year's participation. "I am incred-

ibly proud of the dedicated members of GAR for their unwavering commitment to serving the Hood County community. Despite the challenging times we face, their selflessness and determination have shone through as they stepped up to help feed those in need. This year's competition not only brought joy and excitement, but also provided the essential nourishment our community required. Our focus on quality over quantity reflects our genuine care for the well-being of others. Our members are not just professionals in the real estate industry; they are active and compassionate members of this community, generously giving their time, talents and resources. Together, we continue to make a difference and create a stronger, more supportive community for all."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Six Food Banks in Hood County were recipients of the food donated by members of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®.

## ARPA

### FROM PAGE A11

provide skills that no other agency in town does. When you're creating a product — and that product is skilled, successful citizens — in the long run it will reduce the tax dollars coming from us, so thank you, and please vote for that."

Laurie Lilly, program director at Forward Training Center, explained that the students in the center range from ages 17 to 80, and that when they come in, they're looking for a better life, hope and a sense of value.

"We function 100% with volunteers in our programming, and when these individuals come in and had no sense of even how to turn on a computer, we were so fortunate to have Sheila (Bartley), who functions in all of these roles and teaches all of these classes from basics all the way through QuickBooks," Lilly said. "Now, if we didn't give them that opportunity to learn technology, they can be 80 years old and still need to go to work, and they're handicapped without having that sense of learning or functioning in that role. So that's

exactly what we do, and we can't do that without keeping our equipment updated and allowing them to be successful, so please vote 'yes.'"

Sharla Caro, executive director of Rancho Brazos Community Centers, explained that the centers' benevolence has served 3,421 unduplicated souls in Hood County alone this year, which is 840 families unduplicated. She also stated that freight and charges for Tarrant Area Food Bank has cost Rancho \$500,000, which was "free until March of this year."

"When we speak to the

Douglas Long Outreach Center, I want to be very clear: the goal is to reach a certain dollar amount, and that dollar amount would give us the ability to break ground on that 10,000 square foot complex to really make a bigger impact than we already are. If we are serving close to six- and-a-half thousand unduplicated souls in Hood County annually just this year alone, that speaks to the need."

Caro added that although she is grateful for everything the emergency responders do, once the house fire is extinguished and the people

are left, it's the nonprofits that pay the deposits to get the individuals back in their homes.

"It is the nonprofits that help the families get the clothes on their backs and the furniture recovered for them, so when everyone goes home, that's when the nonprofits come in," Caro said. "I need everyone to understand that we are not in competition. We are sisters in nonprofit. We all look out for one another and we all partner with one another."

She also pointed out that she sent emails to every commissioner inviting them to

come out to Rancho Brazos and only one commissioner actually came out, while another one responded, "Thank you."

"Two never responded at all. I don't understand why because we serve all of your precincts. I hope you see value in what we do, and I hope you vote 'yes,'" she said.

George Sutton said he serves as chairman of the Forward Training Center Board of Directors and served as pastor at Acton United Methodist Church — pointing out that he has been involved with both nonprofits.

To read the full story, please visit [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).

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# OBITUARIES

## Kimmy Lane Hubbard

July 21, 1960 - November 25, 2023

Kimmy Lane Hubbard, 63, of Cortez, Florida, passed away on November 25, 2023, following a long battle with heart failure. Kimmy was born on July 21, 1960, to Gary and Norma Hubbard Sr. at Logan, Ohio.

Kimmy was dealt many more hardships than any one person deserved in a lifetime, and yet she persevered through all overcoming childhood cancer at the age of 16 years and battling heart failure for over 15 years. Despite the hardships she faced, Kimmy usually wore a smile and found happiness in even the smallest of things. Kimmy graduated from Medina Senior High School (Ohio) in 1978. She retired from Cleveland Clinic (Ohio) where she worked on the VIP floor for over 20 years caring for everyone from royalty to politicians and celebrities. She bred and showed Jack Russel Terriers, loved to cook and entertain, and found great joy on any body of water. Kimmy was a gifted artist, an avid fisherman and a skilled hunter. After moving to Texas in 2007, her health took a turn for the worse. Despite her frailty, she met many friends in Granbury and devoted her time to perfecting her green thumb, cooking for elderly and ill neighbors, learning to golf and enjoying Texas culture and cuisine. With a lifelong yearning to be near water, Kimmy relocated to Florida in 2019 where she spent her last years fishing, enjoying boat rides, basking in the Florida sunshine and living life to its fullest.



Kimmy touched many lives and will be forever missed by her parents, Gary and Norma (Graham) Hubbard Sr., and sister Kathy (Jim) Hanlon of DeCordova, Texas; brothers Gary Jr. (Denise) of Florida; Ivan (Mindy) of Georgetown, Texas; and Mark (Dena) of Medina, Ohio; her friend, Mark Johnston of Florida; best friend, Julie (Mark) Ward of Eastlake, Ohio; nieces and nephews: Shannon (Travis) Honaker, Melissa Sellars, Michael (Anneke) Hubbard, Eric (Katie) Hubbard, Nicole (Jess) Huber, Scott (Emily) Hubbard, Sydney Hubbard, Emily (Greg) Langdon, and Lori Hubbard; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Most of all, she will be missed by her loyal companion, her dog, Katie.

Kimmy is preceded in death by her grandparents Clarence and Kathryn Graham, and Clyde and Inez Hubbard.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date in Ohio.

Memorial donations may be made to Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Pediatric Oncology Department.

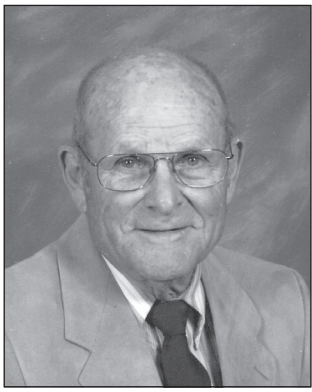
## William Jackson

1929 - 2023

Bill Jackson, 94, passed away in November. Bill was a native Texan, a U.S. Air Force veteran, and a TCU graduate. He raised his family in Fort Worth while working as a test engineer for aerospace companies.

Bill was a great handyman and he started volunteering at Habitat shortly after he retired and moved to Granbury. Bill became an integral part of the Habitat team and worked there until he was 91.

Habitat for Humanity of Hood County operates with 100 percent unpaid volunteers and has served over 100 families. The Habitat matching fund program began on November 15 and runs through January 31. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, their mailing address is Habitat for Humanity of Hood County, P.O. Box 1866, Granbury, TX 76048.



Bill is survived by his brother Tom, his daughters Terri and Jo Ann, and many extended family and friends who dearly love him. He chose to donate his body to UT Southwestern Medical Center's Willard Body Program to advance medical education and research. A Celebration of Life party for Bill will be held Saturday, December 9 from 2-4 p.m. at Wiley Center, 400 Hwy 377 East in Granbury.

## Deborah Elizabeth Sanders

August 9, 1948 - November 14, 2023

Deborah Elizabeth Sanders, age 75, of Granbury, Texas died on Tuesday November 14, 2023.

Deborah was born in Des Moines, Iowa on August 9, 1948 to Grant and Mary Ellen Simpson and welcomed by big brother Grant. Deborah was raised in Austin, Texas where she developed a lifelong love of water. Whether it be at the pool, in a sailboat on the lake, or at the coast, she continued to seek close proximity to water throughout her life. She graduated from Austin High School and attended Sul Ross State University for her undergraduate degree. She completed her master's degree from Oklahoma City University and worked as an elementary reading teacher for the majority of her career.

Deborah married Richard Sanders on August 29, 1970, and they were happily married for almost 50 years until Richard's death in 2020. They welcomed son Elias in 1976 and daughter Emily in 1978. Deborah & Richard raised their family in Big Spring, Texas and retired to Granbury, Texas in 2011.

In her retirement Deborah continued to support literacy by tutoring at local schools. She learned to play bridge and was known to play as often as six days a week. Deborah



met many cherished friends through different bridge clubs and continued to be a student of the game to improve her skills. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Granbury. Debbie is survived by her son Elias and daughter-in-law Heather, daughter Emily and son-in-law AJ, granddaughter Autumn, grandson Riley, grandson Zackary and granddaughter-in-law Danielle with great-grandsons Emerson and Esmar, and great-granddaughter Evie. She is also survived by her brother Dr. Grant Simpson and sister-in-law Karen, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service for Deborah was held on Wednesday November 29, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church 303 W. Bridge Street Granbury, Texas 76048. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to your local library.

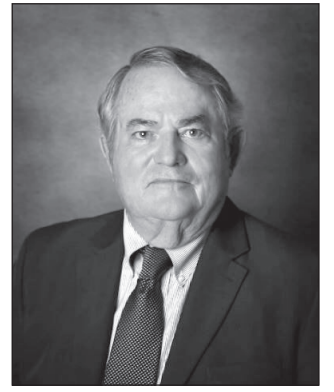
## Jorden Andrew Wood

August 31, 1951 - November 24, 2023

Jorden Andrew Wood departed from this life on Friday, November 24, 2023, at age 72. Jorden was born August 31, 1951, in Brownwood, Texas, to the late Johnnie Wood and Carol (Moss) Wood.

Jorden is survived by his wife of 30 years, Jennifer (Tyler) Wood; two sons, Justin Wood, and Andrew Wood and wife, Venessa; four grandchildren, Justin, Jr., Rhiyann, Andi, and Brooks Wood; siblings, Grace Keith and husband, Doug, Sylvia Teague, and Nathan Wood and wife, Sherrie. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, John and Chris Wood.

Jorden got his start in life as a home builder and developer. Later in life, he became the Director of Tri-County Coop, as well as a Board Chairman for many years. He was a talented political fundraiser and planner for local and state political figures. Jorden will be remembered for his drive and passion to get



the job done well, but especially for his love of family and friends.

A funeral ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 2, 2023, with visitation beginning one hour prior to the service at 10:00 a.m., at the North Side Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center - Fort Worth, 2901 NE 28th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76114.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A14

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### ACROSS

- 1 soreness pain
- 5 former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen
- 6 TXism: "split \_\_\_" (laughed hard)
- 7 TXism: "\_\_\_ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)
- 8 O.J.'s judge
- 9 chili flavorers
- 15 fishing method: "\_\_\_ line"
- 16 environment scientist
- 19 Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County
- 21 TXism: "risky as \_\_\_ a sailor"
- 22 1st US military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin
- 27 \_\_\_ Star State
- 28 TXism: "\_\_\_ a hen, she'll cluck"
- 29 TXism: "running around like a chicken with its head \_\_\_"
- 30 Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz
- 32 \_\_\_ Pleasant, TX (abbr.)
- 33 Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)
- 36 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder
- 37 Irving is the headquarters of this nat'l scouting org.

- 38 in Victoria County on U.S. 87
- 39 immensity
- 41 stat. for Astro Velander or Ranger Eovaldi
- 42 gets whiffs of
- 45 LBJ took \_\_\_ of office on Air Force One
- 46 \_\_\_ Rio, TX
- 47 Jesus' saying on the cross (Aramaic)
- 48 S-shaped curve

- 49 derision
- 52 TXism: "so many you couldn't \_\_\_ 'em with a stick"
- 53 TXism: "burn the midnight \_\_\_" (work late)
- 54 Texas case: "\_\_\_ v. Wade"
- 55 TXism: "heavy as the front \_\_\_ of a John Deere"

- DOWN
- 1 shout of triumph
- 2 gear tooth
- 3 home of the NFL Texans
- 4 this Cowboy was 6' 9" (4 wds.)
- 6 colored eye part
- 9 genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)
- 10 mail place (abbr.)
- 11 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)
- 12 Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 13 these are big on some Texans
- 14 weary exhale
- 15 triple strong eyewear
- 16 Jackson County seat
- 17 Buchanan Dam
- 18 "I told you \_\_\_ out of it!"
- 20 storytelling cowboy, "\_\_\_" Trevino
- 22 this Couples won 1987 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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31 charged atoms  
34 dir. to Gonzales from Pleasanton (abbr.)  
35 TX Perot's old co.  
37 TXism: "wouldn't \_\_\_ a biscuit" (harmless dog)  
40 sporty \_\_\_ wheels  
43 this Loetscher was South Padre Island "Turtle Lady"  
44 TXism: "a sight \_\_\_ eyes"  
50 TXism: "took sick"  
51 TX George H.W. to TX George W.

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owe taxes. Also, keep in mind that any withdrawals will reduce your policy's death benefit and the available cash surrender value.

### POLICY LOANS

Rather than taking a withdrawal from your policy, you could take out a loan. You won't have to go through an approval process or income verification, and policy loans typically have lower interest rates than bank loans and don't assess closing costs. Plus, because your insurer will be lending you the money and using the cash in your policy as collateral, your policy's cash value can remain intact and still potentially grow. However, policy

### CASHING OUT

If you cash out, or "surrender," your policy, you can receive the entire cash value, plus any accrued interest. You will have to subtract any money needed to pay policy loans, along with unpaid premiums and surrender fees, which can be significant.

Also, any amount you receive over the policy's cash basis — the total of premiums you've paid — will be taxed as regular income.

### 1035 EXCHANGE

Through what's known as a Section 1035 Exchange, you can transfer your life insurance policy to an annuity, which can be structured to pay you a lifetime income stream. The exchange won't be taxable but surrender charges may still apply. Given the potential tax implications of the above options, you may want to consult with your tax advisor before making any moves. Also, be sure you are comfortable with a reduced or

eliminated death benefit. Specifically, you'll want to be confident that your spouse or other family members don't need the proceeds of your policy. This may require some discussions about your loved ones' plans and needs. And don't forget that life insurance can help your family pay for final expenses, such as funeral costs and unpaid medical bills.

Whether it's providing you with needed retirement income or helping your family meet future needs, your cash value life insurance policy is a valuable asset — so try to put it to the best use possible.

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## Habitat for Humanity matching gift

### Staff Reports

Habitat for Humanity of Hood County is thankful for anonymous match fund sponsors who will enable

every dollar given to be doubled, up to the amount of the fund, during its Match Fund Drive.

The matching period runs through Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Send your gift to Habitat for Humanity of Hood County, P.O. Box 1866, Granbury, Texas 76048 or give online at [habitatofhoodcounty.org](http://habitatofhoodcounty.org).

## Granbury Opera Guild will hold 10th Anniversary Renovation Celebration

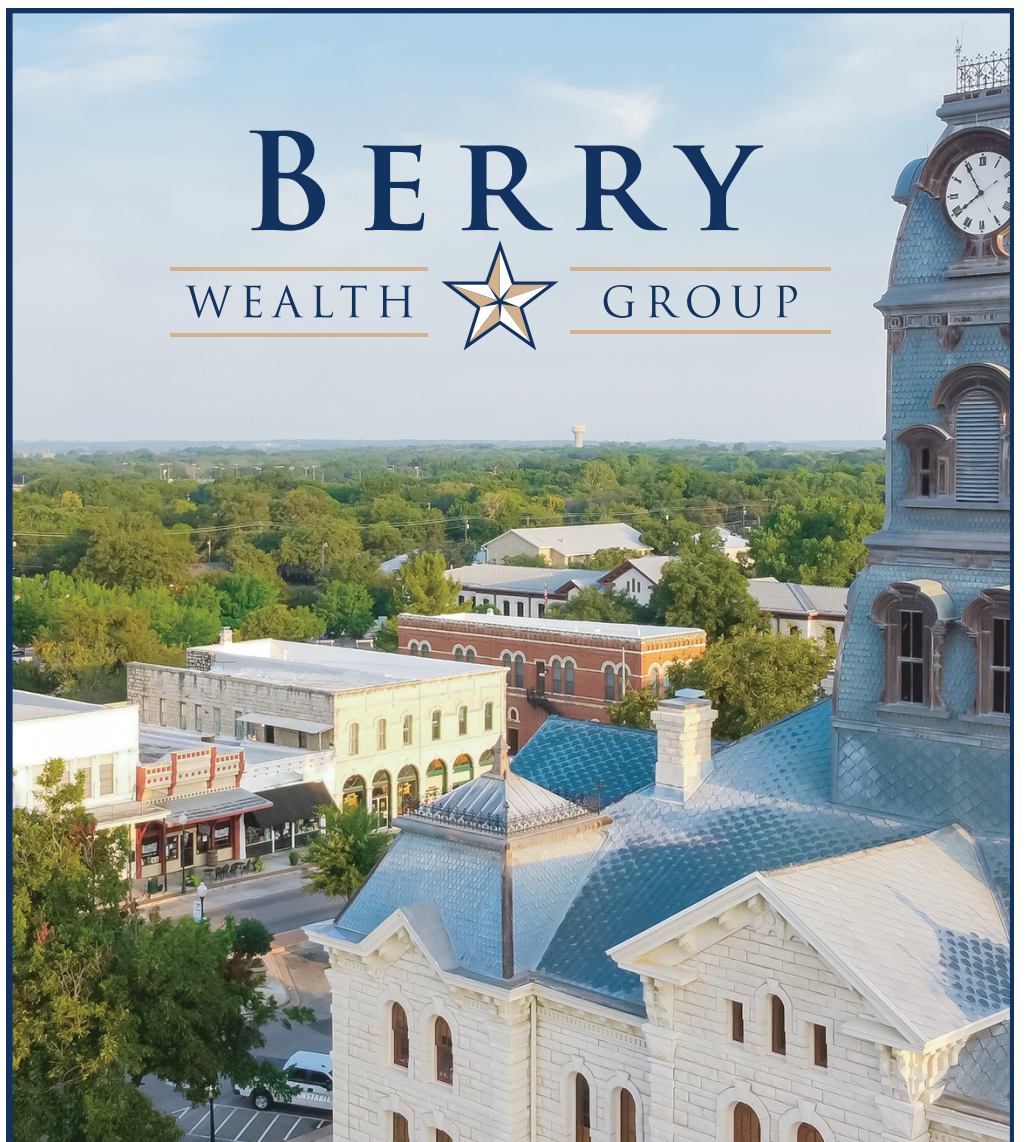
### Staff Reports

On Tuesday, Dec. 12 the Opera Guild of Granbury will celebrate its 10th year since the renovation of the historic Granbury Opera House. The celebration takes place at the Granbury Convention Center and includes appetizers and entertainment.

Speakers for the event are Marty Van Kleeck, former managing director of Granbury Opera House; Chris Coffman, city manager; Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury; Scott Young, president of the Bridge Street History Center; and Micky Shearon, president of the

Granbury Theatre Company.

Check-in for the event is at 5:30 p.m. There will be a cash bar, a display by the Bridge Street History Center and music by B-Ray and the Humans. Tickets are \$20. Text Sally Adamson at 469-387-3477 or email [granburyog@gmail.com](mailto:granburyog@gmail.com).



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

I was not amused after reading the Letter to The Editor titled 'Willful Ignorance' regarding the recent GISD VATRE/Bond election. The author does not think folks have the right to vote as they wish and resorts to name calling and extreme accusations because the bond was not approved by the voters. He singles out elderly neighbor voters in his tirade.

Would his angry letter have been written if the bond passed? He seems to be perturbed that the bond was defeated and he blames voters for "sabotaging the democratic process" and having "willful ignorance" for voting the way they wanted to. Then he continues his rant accusing elderly, property tax-frozen voters of establishing residency in Hood County to avoid paying higher car insurance, lower registration cost for vehicles and lower property taxes (frozen) while living elsewhere.

He is actually accusing these imaginary voters of violating state election and Texas Election Law. Where is your proof, sir? If someone can explain to me how having two residences rather than one actually saves anyone money, I am all ears. The Hood County property tax rate is one of the lowest in Texas. Why would they homestead their property in Hood County and not their other residence, if it actually exists, in order to save a few dollars on car insurance, vehicle registration or property tax and willfully violate Texas Law? The opposite is true as the higher property values, tax rates and the inability to homestead and freeze the property taxes on a second home far offset the small savings mentioned by the authors. Using the term willful ignorance and shameful does not apply to the voters but to this author's letter to the editor.

**Ron Naiser**  
Granbury, TX

### HOOD COUNTY REPUBLICANS

If you think Jan. 6 was an aberration just look toward Hood County Republicans. After locking the doors last week to Hood County

Republicans headquarters during the candidate filing period, The Republican Party has resorted to restricting Republican candidates from filing in an open primary. Republican party county chairman, Steve Biggers, now prefers to have closed primaries where party insiders decide who will be on the ballot.

Biggers, Republican Party state chair Tom Rinaldi, and White Christian Nationalists, billionaires Tim Dunn and Paris Wilks would prefer to have the party's relationship to the state function more like it does in a one-party nation such as The Peoples Republic of China.

Texas politics and Hood County government are dominated by the Republican Party. The Texas Republican Party successfully uses gerrymandering, voter suppression and deep-pocket hidden money for candidate campaigns. The attack on public education in Texas is another tool for liquidating democracy. This past week after reversing her position, Hood County's Texas state representative, Shelby Slawson, now supports private school vouchers.

Our Christian Nationalist Texas governor, Greg Abbot, is now holding the entire citizenry of Texas, including 21 elected members of his own party, hostage. Abbot's intent is to funnel millions of dollars of public money to pay for a multitude of private schools.

Having freshly defeated a public education bond issue for GISD, Texas Republican Party has shown itself openly opposed to adequate facilities for public education. By denying ballot access to candidates whom they don't agree with the party is able to control the outcome of the election.

The attack on our nation's Capitol was an assault on democracy. However, equally reprehensible is the situation right here in Hood County. Sadly, American democracy is unraveling in your very neighborhood.

**William Montgomery**  
Granbury, TX

### SKIP OVERDIER

Dear Editor,  
I write to you today to enthusiastically endorse Skip

Overdier for city council in the upcoming runoff election on Dec. 9. Of the two candidates in this runoff, Skip is by far the most qualified. He served in the United States Air Force for 30 years. When he retired, he could have decided to live a quiet life away from the public eye, but he chose to continue serving the public.

He ran for and was elected to the city council in Destin, Florida. While in Destin, he and his colleagues oversaw the expansion of the main thoroughfare, much like what our own city council will be doing with the upcoming (U.S. Highway) 377 expansion.

When Skip and his wife, Brenda, decided they wanted to move to Texas to be closer to family, they could have moved anywhere, but they chose Granbury. When they arrived, Skip wasted no time in getting involved in his new hometown. He became active in his church and joined the local Rotary (he was named Rotarian of the Year last year, by the way). He served on the local charter commission and then joined the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Now, Skip is running for city council. Plainly said, Skip is by far and away the most qualified candidate for this position in this race. I ask that you join me in voting for Skip on Dec. 9.

**Bob and Julia Pannell**  
Granbury, TX

### GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to [www.hcnews.com/forms/letters](http://www.hcnews.com/forms/letters). Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

Letters should be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions to the Hood County News will become the property of the Hood County News. Letters to the Editor will appear in the Saturday edition of the Hood County News.

Questions: Call 817-573-7066 or contact Publisher Sam Houston.

ed that two years ago the council happily nominated Rodriguez.

"The appraisal district represents all of Hood County. I don't think there should be any question in any of the citizens' minds that there's a conflict there," Jarratt said during the meeting. "Why create that type of controversy? Mr. Rodriguez is a very respectable man but at the same time we have five other candidates."

Councilmember Trish Burwell entered a motion to nominate Rodriguez with the city's full 319 votes. Following that motion Mayor Jarratt nominated Litke with 319 votes.

The council then voted with four votes for Rodriguez by councilman Greg Corrigan, Rodriguez, Vale and Burwell

and one vote for Litke by Mayor Jarratt.

"I would feel confident that the county has all the votes they need to put Mr. Litke on that board with the number of votes that they possess," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting. "Personally, I feel like as a citizen of Granbury, it's inappropriate for a governing body from another jurisdiction to walk in here and dictate to you who you should vote for. I'm offended by that. On the record I'm offended by that."

Mayor Jarratt put forth the motion to vote for Rodriguez for the board of directors with the city's 319 votes, and councilman Vale seconded the motion. This motion passed 5-0.

## HCAD

### FROM PAGE A4

feasibility study on the building that they are currently in. Those are some things I would like to get done. I don't like to be appointed to a board or be on a board and not try to get those things done."

City councilman Steven Vale then asked City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle if there is any legal conflict for Rodriguez serving both on city council and HCAD and SoRelle responded that there is no conflict, and it is legal.

"I think the fact that there are two incumbents, and two new members is good and keeps it balanced," Vale said during the meeting.

Mayor Jarratt then not-

# GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS A look at 2023

BY WHITNEY KNIEPER



Whitney Knieper grew up in and around the real estate industry and has had her license for 12-plus years. She recently earned her broker's license and is a broker at Knieper Realty. Whitney is the 2023 President of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University. Go Frogs!

It's hard to imagine this year is ending already. It seems just the other day we were ringing in the New Year and summer was around the corner. Real estate this year has had its ups and downs, but I'd like to talk about what happened in real estate and within our association.

This year began with interest rates in the low 7% range. While to some, this seemed high, if you compare these rates to those in 1983, a mere 40 years ago, rates were nearly double that at over 13%. And the year before that, 1982, rates were in the 16% range. I know, I know... everyone's saying, "But rates were in the twos and threes for a while." Yes, they were, and if you managed to get a rate during that very low period, kudos to you. But it is very rare for mortgage rates to stay in an extremely low range. Currently, it appears we are ending 2023 with mortgage rates in the upper seven percentile. So, while it seems like there have been big changes in the rates this year, it's not as drastic as it

feels, and it is closer to the country's average rate over the past 50 years. Sales have also slowed down as the year comes to an end and the holiday season begins.

While the real estate market has been wonky this year, our association has given back tenfold to our community. We have very generous members within the Granbury Association of Realtors®, and I'm proud to boast about all our accomplishments this year.

We hosted a Casino Night Fundraiser in the spring where all proceeds went to the Hood County Children's Charity Fund. This event was sold out and held at the Pecan Plantation County Club. Even Elvis showed up in support of the event.

At the beginning of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Real estate this year has had its ups and downs.

summer, our public relations (PR) committee put together "Blessings Bags" for residents at the Harbor Lakes Rehabilitation & Nursing Home. Sixty-five bags were filled with warm, comfy socks, puzzle books and games, pens, lip balms and lotions, and other personal care items. Members delivered these bags to the residents and had the opportunity to visit with them and hear wonderful stories of family and friends. Staff shared that for some, it was the highlight of their week.

This fall, before the new school year, the PR com-

mittee collected donations from members to purchase backpacks for kids. More than 165 backpacks were delivered to Rancho Brazos to be distributed.

GAR's final fundraising event during our "year of giving" was its 8th annual Food Drive. We collected food for six (6) Hood County food banks. We focused on food that kids can manage on their own with easy open containers. It was such a success. I know this is one of my favorite times of the year.

Throughout the year, our association raised money

for the Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee (TREPAC). The fiscal year for TREPAC is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. The first fundraiser was "Turkeys for TREPAC" with a Neighbors Feeding Neighbors initiative in the fall of 2022. GAR presented Neighbors Feeding Neighbors with a check in the amount of \$5,000. Next there was a fundraising event at Warren's Backyard in the spring, and an "Experience Auction" at the August Membership Luncheon. In total we raised \$65,000 for TREPAC! I have enjoyed my

year as president of the Granbury Association of Realtors® and would like to give a huge shout out to Association Executive Denise Huber. She runs the business of the association, and we would not be as successful in all our endeavors without her. Thank you, Denise, for making this year a success — with me. You are truly appreciated.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my articles each month. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**The Pet Hospital of Granbury is excited to welcome our new doctors!**

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**Dr. Jordan Burns**



**Dr. Ali Pryor**

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## Granbury High School culinary students cook up creativity and confidence

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Granbury High School culinary students are getting a taste of real life through their culinary classes.

The Career and Technical Education program at GHS offers four different culinary classes from the freshman to senior level.

The restaurant management class teaches students how a restaurant is run and what it takes to make one run. Sophomores take intro to culinary, which focuses on food safety and learning about kitchen equipment and the different food categories. This class also gives students their first chance at being in a kitchen with around five labs throughout the year. Culinary I is for juniors and takes place in the kitchen all year; students focus on recipes then work toward creating food. Seniors take practicum of culinary where they are able to run "The Galley," a student-run restaurant inside the CTE building at GHS.

The Galley has been operating for around five years and serves the public on occasion as well as the staff of GHS.

The restaurant gives students real world experience running a restaurant through hands-on learning and hospitality. The students plan a menu, plan for shopping, look at recipe analysis and costs as well as recipe conversions.

When the restaurant is open to the public, the students run the kitchen for the entire day and are excused from classes. The Galley



Zeada Sedgewick, Elyssia Hernandez, Tessa Rohleder, and Joana Cuoto show off their eggs benedict on scratch made English muffins.

COURTESY PHOTO

hopes to serve the public every other week when students come back from Christmas break.

"This creates a really great experience for students to have that leadership experience and have some confidence," Culinary I teacher Alyssa Hampton said. "They get to come in and create

really cool things and when they share their food with people their eyes light up. It's really fun to get to watch that happen and that confidence build in these kids."

In previous years the students have served creamy potato soup, Cajun chicken alfredo, Chinese barbecue pork, teriyaki chicken, cal-

zones and much more. "We try to do as many things as we can from scratch just so the kids get as much experience as possible," Hampton said.

The Galley also has a full-service espresso bar, chai tea lattes, protein shakes, smoothies and lemonade. The teachers of GHS can

order drinks from their room and have drinks delivered directly to their door.

Hampton is in her third year teaching Culinary I at GHS. Hampton said she has always had a passion for food. When going into college, she knew she wanted to either run her own restaurant or be a teacher.

Hampton is originally from Oregon, and there you are required to have a master's degree to become a teacher. She got her bachelor's degree in psychology and was planning to get her master's degree but then got married

PLEASE SEE **COOK** | B8

## Granbury High School DECA Club creates opportunities for growth

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Distributive Education Clubs of America, or DECA, is an international business organization that prepares emerging student leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Granbury High School has a group of participating students in the program working to better and further develop themselves. DECA offers training, com-

petition and challenges for future business leaders to gain real world experience, gain confidence and learn how to network.

DECA was active as the work co-op and business education program from the 1970s to the 1990s at GHS. Kylee Peterson, a business/marketing teacher in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department at GISD revitalized GHS' status with the state DECA officer and marked GHS as an active chapter in 2021.

"Our goal at GHS is to provide students opportunities to sharpen their business skills against like-minded youth. Business is not learned in the classroom — it's learned in the business community," Peterson said.

Students can choose from 50 events to compete in at the district meet. There are two types of events, including the individual and team decision making series as well as prepared presentations.

The individual and team

decision making series requires students to take a 100-question test in December in finance, hospitality, entrepreneurship, marketing or management. Then at district, they compete in a role play scenario. They are provided a situation and have a timed period to prepare a response and another timed period to present it to a judge.

For prepared presentations, students write a business plan or report on a completed marketing campaign

which must be submitted in December. Then at the district competition, they present their paper to a judge.

There are also additional events they can compete in like virtual business challenges, case studies and a stock market simulation game.

When Peterson first started there were 16 members and seven of those competed at the district competition. Six of those qualified for the state competition — three in accounting applications

and the sales project team. The sales project team was named alternate to the international competition. Alex Call, who competed in accounting applications advanced to internationals but was points away from competing in the finals.

Last year the group grew to 48 members with 28 competing at district and six qualifying for state in the finance series, retail marketing, finance professional

PLEASE SEE **DECA** | B8

### LIPAN HIGH SCHOOL

## November reflections



BY SARAH MARCANTONIO

Sarah is a senior whose interests include journalism, playing softball, participating in National Honor Society, student council and the local 4-H program

When thinking about the month of November, one typically thinks of a season filled with gratitude. At Lipan, one way we express this thankfulness is through our annual Veterans Day Program. This year's presentation was student led and held in the high school gymnasium on Friday, Nov 10.

Junior high teacher and Junior Optimist sponsor Amber Freeman partnered with elementary counselor Denise O'Bannon to plan this year's Veterans Day program. O'Bannon normally directs the entire process; however, she reached out to Freeman to share re-

sponsibilities. The operation became a collaboration as O'Bannon was in charge of contacting guest speakers and The Weatherford Patriot Squadron of The Civil Air Patrol, while Freeman, with the help of the Junior Optimist Club, organized various activities such as setting up the walk-through museum, decorations and greeting visitors.

As stated before, this year's program was student led, meaning the students were the ones expressing their appreciation. Speakers consisted of class presidents, Junior Optimist Club members, and guest speakers, Lieutenant Gary Kegley of the United States Navy and Major Kristin

Kuhn, United States Army. Both guest speakers encouraged students to find ways they can serve those around them and provided insight on how one's passion can be used for military purposes. A number of others helped make this year's program successful such as the Lipan Band, various students' Veterans Day projects, technology director Mrs. Suzanne Taylor, and many more. The Lipan Band performed several times throughout the program as did Mrs. Christina Rhody's second grade class.

There is much work behind the scenes that goes overlooked. For example, all week Mrs. Callie Pack and her Family and Community Service classes worked hard to prepare a tasty breakfast for our veterans. The class provided and served breakfast before the program began. In addition, because of late night basketball games, set up had to be quick and



COURTESY PHOTO

At Lipan, one way they express thankfulness is through our annual Veterans Day Program. This year's presentation was student led and held in the high school gymnasium on Friday, Nov 10.

efficient the morning of the program. Freeman discusses how helpers jump in at times of need to get the job done.

"The setup was fast and furious and so was the take-down to prepare for more games Friday afternoon," Freeman said, "but it was

made easier with all hands on deck. We truly have a strong tribe and all seem to step up when needed."

Overall, there were many in attendance at this year's Veterans Day program as well as 17 service members. In contrast to previous years'

programs, having students lead and personally communicate their gratitude was a new and outstanding approach. Collectively, we are proud to recognize and celebrate those who have served and made sacrifices for our country.

# Acton Middle School students take the spotlight through news broadcasting class

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Gifted and Talented (GT) students at Acton Middle School have many exciting curriculum opportunities at their school. The sixth-grade students even have the chance to broadcast their talents through a news broadcasting class that started five years ago.

There are two classes where students are challenged and pushed to become better public speakers as well as collaborate and grow individually.

Coleman Gibbs and Stephanie Schinnerer are both sixth grade technology teachers and also each teach the sixth grade GT broadcasting classes where students are able to create and produce a newscast for the students of AMS each week.

The students work together to research news topics, gather questions, conduct



COURTESY PHOTO

Anchors Derek Lundschen, Sophia Olvera Ortiz, Landon Smith, and Kealie Lynch, sit in front of the green screen during their Halloween Broadcast.

interviews, film, and edit videos. Students are assigned jobs such as camera, scriptwriters, reporters, editor, anchor and more to make the broadcast come to life.

“What we’re trying to do is

showcase all the cool going on at AMS to all the different kids at AMS that might not know about certain programs,” Gibbs said.

The two classes switch back and forth from working, being behind the scenes

and being on camera. The students not only focus on AMS but also will touch on Granbury and events happening around the town.

“One of the most fun parts of teaching GT is to challenge these kids. We

hold them to very high standards. We want to take our GT kids and try to make them the business leaders of tomorrow, the engineers working on the NASA space shuttle. We try to push them to the highest level we can

and coming up with ways to challenge a kid that’s not always used to being challenged by their schoolwork is the best part of being a GT teacher,” Gibbs said.

Gibbs added that he assigns one student to be in charge with another being second in command. He noted that this way the students understand the hierarchy of business and are able to be both followers and leaders.

“My favorite part is we get to all work together and get to know each other every week,” CEO of the broadcasting class Harper Fox said.

“I just have a lot of fun doing it,” AMS student Ethan Cessna said.

Gibbs is looking forward to seeing the students grow as the year goes on and is excited for what is to come.

For those interested in watching the AMS videos, reach out to Coleman Gibbs through email coleman.gibbs@granburyisd.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Callum Duncan interviews Acton Middle School Librarian Adina Brassie.



COURTESY PHOTO

Landon Smith interviews Mr. Daniel Longbine about his service in the military for Veteran’s Day.

# Granbury and Lipan ISD create partnership for safety

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Granbury and Lipan ISDs created a partnership that will allow for specific locations within each district to be reunification sites in case of emergency for both students and parents.

The partnership comes after the Texas School Safety Center announced a K-12

Standard Reunification Method V2 Toolkit that offers guidance and resources for schools to have a safety plan for students and parents after a crisis.

According to the TSSC, the “I Love U Guys” foundation introduced the Standard Reunification Method in 2012. Since then, thousands of schools have implement-

ed this method.

“The objective of this manual is to help districts develop, train and mobilize a district reunification team, and implement tangible, on-site and off-site reunification plans. Inherent in this objective is creating or strengthening partnerships with first responder agencies — police, fire and

medical. By having district and school personnel build a well-designed draft plan, it becomes easier to engage the first responders and other key participants in the planning process,” according to the TSSC website.

This is the first year Granbury and Lipan will have a partnership under this reunification method.

“We appreciate Lipan ISD Superintendent Ralph Carter and the Lipan ISD Board of Trustees for this partnership and working together with Granbury ISD to make this reunification site agreement happen,” GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said.

“It is always a pleasure to work with and partner

with Dr. Glenn and I appreciate the fact that he presented this to the board so that we have a place to evacuate to during a catastrophic event,” Lipan ISD Superintendent Ralph Carter said.

Due to safety measures, disclosure of the reunification sites were not shared by Lipan or Granbury ISD.

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# Champs out of the gate

Grace Classical wins state title in inaugural varsity season

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Luke Gjone (pronounced Jonah) had resigned himself to never playing football beyond the pee wee level.

Then, one day he got some great news from his father. His school, Grace Classical Christian Academy, was adding varsity football this year.

There had been talk of doing so, but Luke wasn't sure it would become a reality before he graduated. The school added middle school football a couple years ago, but, of course, he was too old to participate in that, though his little brother Hudson did.

"I didn't think I was going to get to play football this year. I hadn't played since sixth grade," Luke said. "Not only did I get to play, but it couldn't have worked out any better."

Indeed, it couldn't have. Luke played with his freshman brother Hudson, their dad Jim Gjone was the team's defensive coach — and they won a state championship.

The Gryphons (6-4) capped their inaugural season of varsity football this past Saturday by winning the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations Division III state championship with a 48-25 victory over Hill County (5-8), out of Hillsboro, in the contest played at Allen Academy in Bryan.

"Not too many people get to play and win a state championship with their brother — and with our dad being a coach, it was really, really great," Luke said.

## SPECIAL IN SEVERAL WAYS

The Gryphons' season was special in a variety of ways. First, of course, it was their first ever campaign, and state championship or not, those on the first roster of any program are history makers.

To win it all in their first season is a rarity of which very few can speak.

But getting to the pinnacle had its own special challenges and lessons along the way.

For example, they played most of the regular season with only seven players. That's right, a six-man team with only seven players able to play.

When sophomores Bryce Jones and Wyatt Keith both broke their collarbones in the first week of the season, it severely depleted the roster. Even more, both are running backs, which meant head coach Brett Cain and his staff had to get creative in a hurry.

One of those moves involved moving Hudson Gjone, who had only previously played defense, along with sophomore lineman Pierce Thomas and freshman wide receiver Lincoln into some time running the ball.

"We had to adapt quickly and we made it work," Cain said. "It's a testament to their ability to work as a team."

Cain said later in the season Hudson broke his forearm and finished playing with basically one arm.

With only seven players — even with the original roster of nine — there weren't enough players to field an offensive and defensive squad during practices. Coaches focused more on single player

drills.

"We did a lot of 1-on-1 drills to focus on each position. Coaches held dummies (for blocking and tackling)," Cain said. "We just made it work."

Then there was the scheduling. Being a new team made it a challenge to find games, so the Gryphons settled largely on whoever would play them — and it included some tough programs.

"Because it was our first season, we had no strategic plan on who to play in the regular season. We got on whoever's schedule would allow," Cain said. "We just really wanted to play."

Still, five of their seven regular-season games were decided by five points or less. They were 2-3 in those games.

As a result, their strength of schedule got into the playoffs despite going 3-4 in the regular season.

"It turned out it was a really good thing we played those hard teams," Cain said. "We figured by the end of the regular season we'd be looking at basketball, but we just kept winning."

Also, only four players on the team had played any type of organized football beyond the pee wee level, Cain said. They were Keith, Hudson Gjone, Thomas and freshman Drew Ray.

"They believed in themselves and in each other," Cain said.

## WINNING THE TITLE

At the start of the playoffs, the Gryphons became a complete team again as Jones and Keith rejoined them. It added a spark to a program that had found a second life with its



COURTESY OF ASHLEY KEITH

The Grace Classical Christian Academy Gryphons won the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations Division III state championship this past Saturday, defeating Hill County 48-25 in Bryan. Pictured are (back row, from left) head coach Brett Cain, offensive coach Ryan Ray, Drew Ray (freshman), Bryce Jones (junior), Pierce Thomas (sophomore), Tyce Robshaw (junior), Luke Gjone (senior), (front row) Wyatt Keith (sophomore), Noah Bishop (senior), Hudson Gjone (freshman), Lincoln Dolan (freshman) and defensive coach Jim Gjone.

playoff invitation.

"Getting Bryce and Wyatt back allowed us to substitute players a lot," Luke said. "It was definitely an encouragement to see them back — and they came back hard and hungry, and man did it show."

"And something just clicked with all the players on the team."

Against Hill County, whom the Gryphons had defeated 30-25 in a regular season-ending road game, they trailed 13-6 after the opening quarter in the state final. They outscored the Wolves 26-6 in the second to take command with a 32-19 halftime lead.

It was the fourth consecutive victory for the Gryphons, who stood 2-4 at one point in the season. They posted postseason wins of 50-0 over Panhandle Christian Home Educators of Amarillo and

32-19 over San Antonio Town East Christian to reach the title game.

Keith was named the offensive MVP of the state title game after rushing for 128 yards and three touchdowns and catching a 27-yard TD pass. Luke Gjone was named the defensive MVP after registering 13 tackles (2 for a loss) with a sack.

"We were surprised, but very pleased and we're so proud of these young men for the way they fought all season," Cain said. "They represented our program well and were such a joy to coach."

## MORE THAN A CHAMPIONSHIP

Cain said the success of this season was more than on the field. Through it all, the players learned lessons they

can take with them through the rest of their lives.

"You know what it's like, whatever situation you're in, you can get something great out of it if you never give up and work to find a way," he said. "We told the boys, 'You've lost when you shouldn't, you've won when you shouldn't. You play what's in front of you, run the next play.'"

"We want them to have a foundation, so when life hits them when they're dads, have jobs, they know what to do to get the most out of life."

Prior to each practice, the team would hold a short Bible study and devotion. Cain said that was part of their theme to the season, "Moving from pride to humility."

PLEASE SEE **CHAMPS** | B6

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

# "Sugar is sweet... but the body's enemy"



## CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who recently moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky. She has had short stories published in eight editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks.

The American Heart Association recommends no more than 100 calories (six teaspoons) of add-on sugar per day for women and 150 calories (nine teaspoons) for men. However, studies reveal

that the average American consumes 270 calories (17 teaspoons) of add-on sugar per day — two and three times the recommended amount. The average soda has eight teaspoons, so one soft drink puts anyone over

their recommended daily limit.

For some individuals, sugar is an unrealized addiction.

Therefore, for those of us who have decided to give up added sugar (often referred to as a sugar detox), here is what we can expect. Knowing this pattern beforehand can help us prepare for the potential onslaught that may hit us.

One hour after a sugary snack, the initial "sugar

rush" should start to wear off and you find yourself more energized, but you might feel the urge to reach for a sweet or processed snack.

After three days, you might find yourself craving it more than ever. You may even experience withdrawal symptoms including headaches, anxiety and mood swings. It is important to keep yourself well-hydrated during this period of time

that could last for several days.

After one week, you may still be feeling some moderate side effects as your body continues to detox, especially if your before-detox diet was primarily sweetened sodas, juices and other processed snacks. However, you should begin to feel less sluggish and may even find your energy levels increasing.

After one month, you

should be proud of yourself if you have been without added sugar. By now, you will probably start feeling healthier than before. You will likely find sweet cravings subsiding or very limited. At this time, some individuals even realize they might begin craving protein or vegetables instead.

After one year without

PLEASE SEE **SUGAR** | B9

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# The Rattlers Advance

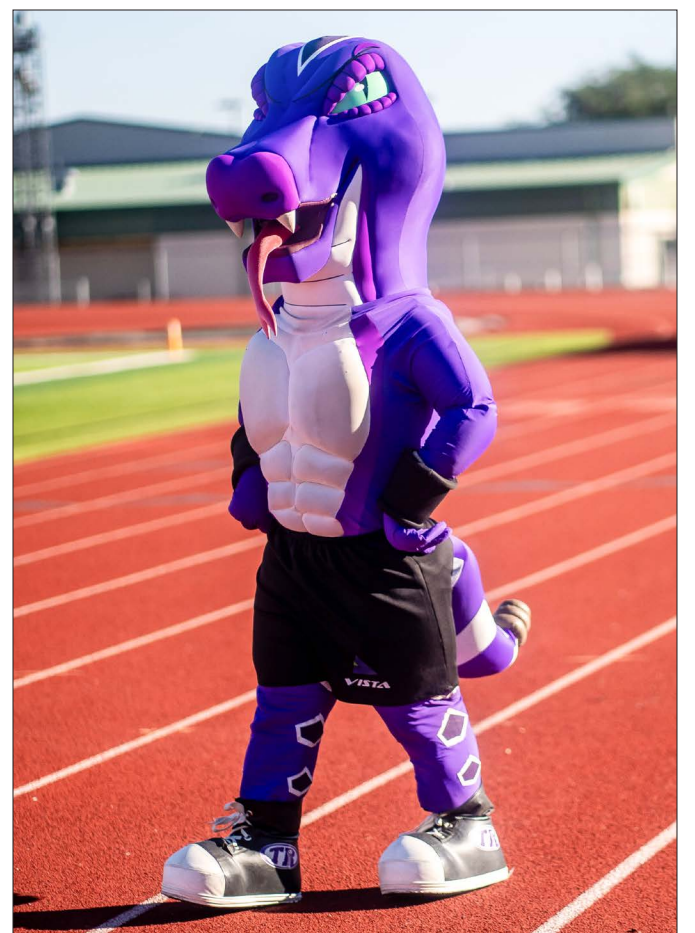
PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
Tolar advances to the next round of playoffs after defeating Italy 61-28.



Cheerleader on the sideline, during the game against Italy.



Isaac Blessing, Sam Stewart, Garrison Nation, Oakley Saffer meet with the other captains for the coin toss Friday evening.



Fang on the sideline during the game against Italy.



Garrison Nation making his way down the field during the game Friday afternoon.



Matthew Behrens with a great catch Nov. 24 against Italy.



Tolar defense stopping the Italy offense Friday afternoon.



Garrison Nation running the ball to the endzone.



Cayden Abrego celebrating a rattler touchdown.



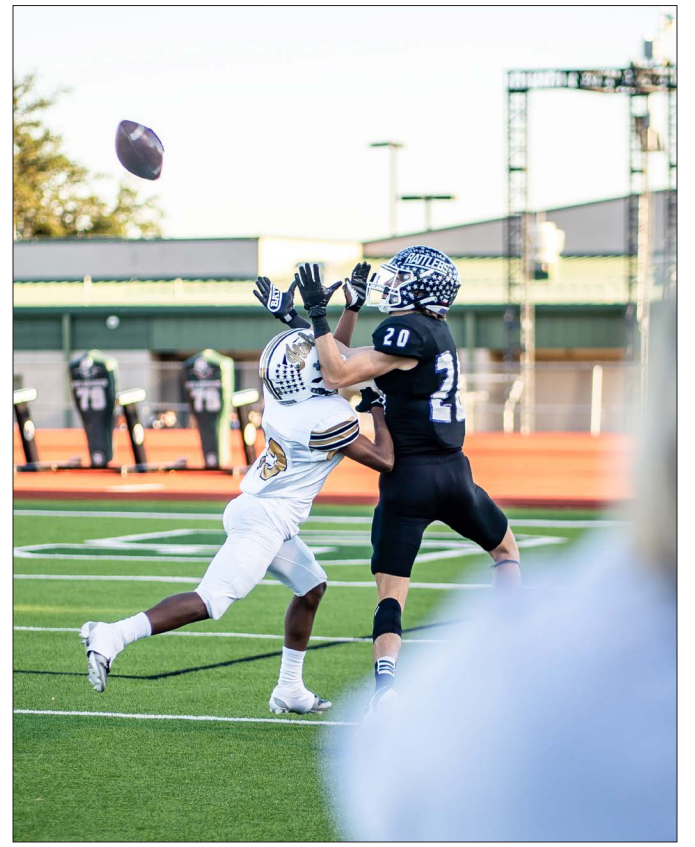
Isaac Blessing with the quarterback keep.



Isaac Blessing handing the ball off to Garrison Nation.



Drake Owens leading the chant before the second half.



Matthew Behrens with a great catch over the helmet of Italy defender.



Brooks Stone on the sideline between plays.



The Rattler cheerleaders during the second half of the play off game.



Kelvin Murray running down the field for a Rattler touchdown.



Hunter Michaels sacking the Italy quarterback.



# SPORTS Roundup

## Pirates, Lady Pirates honored by district coaches

### Area hoops tourneys wrapping up this weekend

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Led by senior fullback Tyler Rodgers, 12 members of the Granbury Pirates football team were honored by the league's coaches on the All-District 4-5A Division I Team.

Rodgers was named to the first team. He rushed 106 times for 500 yards and five touchdowns, along with catching a pair of passes for 68 yards and another score.

Named to the second team were seniors Reid Wyss at center and Jack Damhousse at defensive tackle (28 tackles, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery).

Honorable mentions are defensive tackle Sam Sutherland (senior); defensive end Augie Zapata (senior); inside linebacker Rylan Brenish (senior); inside linebacker Chase Cantrell (sophomore); safety Halston Main (senior); running back Jadon Rogers (senior); offensive tackle Diesel Dooley (senior); utility player Wyatt Riddle (senior); and punter Christian Paddack (senior).

Academic all-district honors went to Rodgers, Rogers and Wyss; along with seniors Blake Dennis, Sammy Estrada, Carter Grubbs, Cameron James, Davin Jones, Kanon Lightfoot, Alan Orocio, Cooper Sliva, Parker Temple, Mann Vaghashia and Josh Rooth.

#### GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

Junior libero/defensive specialist Lily McCall of the Lady Pirates was named the District 5-5A Defensive Player of the Year by the league's coaches. McCall led the team in digs with 808 and serves received with 615.

McCall is one of eight Lady Pirates to be honored on the All-District 5-5A Team. Named to the first team were junior setter Allyson McCabe (991 assists) and junior outside hitter Sienna Watts (430 kills).

Second-team accolades went to senior outside hitter/defensive specialist Kylie Moody and junior right side hitter Blakely Bleeker.

Honorable mentions went to senior outside hitter Rachael Poirier, senior setter Bailey Blum and senior mid-

dle/right side hitter Brooke Marak.

Academic all-district honors were garnered by Bleeker, Blum, Marak, McCabe, McCall, Moody, Poirier, Watts, junior Addi Cowling, senior Lauren Franco, junior Audrey Greinert, junior Megan James, senior Peyton Johnson, freshman Masyn Noe, senior Nicole Petschel and junior Esmerelda Rios.

The Lady Pirates advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

#### TOLAR FOOTBALL

The 2023 Tolar Rattlers football squad is the epitome of a team benefiting from a tough schedule.

Of course, they don't come any tougher than the Rattlers themselves. At 12-1 they were playing Marlin (11-2) in the Class 2A Division I Region II final at press time with the chance to make school history with their first regional championship.

The Rattlers reached this point in dominant fashion, outscoring their three playoff opponents 178-40. Over its previous six games before facing Marlin, Tolar had outscored its opponents by an average of 61-9.

But the Rattlers have feasted on playoff teams all season. Seven times in the regular season they faced an opponent who went on to reach the postseason, going 6-1 in those games.

Even more, four of those opponents advanced to at least the second round, with one (Comanche) reaching the third round. Another (Dallas Christian) is playing for a third consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III state championship.

The Rattlers' lone loss was 37-6 at home to Dallas Christian.

#### GRANBURY GIRLS HOOPS

The Lady Pirates and Pirates are wrapping up play today in the Van Griffith Kia Invitational tournament. The first two days were played at press time.

The Lady Pirates (6-3) entered the holiday break by splitting a pair of contests, defeating Abilene Cooper at home 56-41 and falling 50-47 at Godley on Nov. 20 and 21, respectively.

Ella Garner was the leading scorer in both games with 17 and 24 points. Kate Hamlin scored a dozen against Cooper and Faith Fry added 7 points against Godley, which was ranked No. 16 in the state in Class 4A.

The Lady Pirates have a pair of home games this week as they host Crowley Tuesday, Dec. 5 and Everman Friday, Dec. 8. Both games tip off at 6:15 p.m.

#### GRANBURY BOYS HOOPS

The Pirates, likewise, played the first two days of their own tournament at press time and are concluding competition today.

On Nov. 28 before the tournament, the Pirates won 57-56 at Everman as Isaiah Trejo hit a free throw with seven seconds left in the game. They were led by Kensington Colston with 20 points, while Dylan Couto scored 12 with 8 rebounds and Jenaro Reyes had 4 assists.

Prior to the holiday break, Granbury fell 59-42 at Prosper Walnut Grove as Murphy Page scored 10 points with 8 rebounds.

The Pirates (3-2) are back in action in the Glen Rose Tournament next weekend, Dec. 7-9.

#### TOLAR BOYS HOOPS

The Rattlers and Lady Rattlers became road warriors as the holiday break approached. For the Rattlers, it started with a 41-23 win at Cross Plains on Nov. 21, followed by a 39-35 win at Valley Mills a week later.

They are concluding play in the Dublin Double T Tournament today after the first two days were played at press time.

Against Cross Plains, Merritt Imel led the way with 21 points. Zane Terrell scored 15 and added 13 rebounds. Against Valley Mills, Imel scored 14 and Braven Phillips scored 8.

The Rattlers (3-1), ranked No. 3 in the state in Class 2A, play at Comanche on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. They are in the Poolville Mesquite Pit Classic Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 7-9 and return home to host Grandview on Dec. 12.

#### TOLAR GIRLS HOOPS

because of injury, returned for playoffs); Tyce Robshaw, soph., 39-278, 3 TD. Leading passer: Noah Bishop, sr., 46-of-81, 853 yards, 14 TD, 1 interception. Leading receivers: Robshaw, 9 catches, 249 yards, 4 TD; Luke Gjone, sr., 11-147, 2 TD.

Leading tacklers: L. Gjone 114 (21 for loss), Pierce Thomas, soph., 56; Robshaw 55. Sacks leader: L. Gjone 8. Interception leaders: Thomas 3, Keith 2, Hudson Gjone, fr., 2. Fumble recovery leaders: Robshaw 4, L. Gjone 3.

Roster breakdown: Noah Bishop, sr.; Luke Gjone, sr.; Bryce Jones, soph.; Wyatt Keith, soph.; Pierce Thomas, soph.; Tyce Robshaw, soph.; Hudson Gjone, fr.; Lincoln Dolan, fr.; Drew Ray, fr.

Season recap  
Record: 6-4  
Points scored: 333 (33.3 per game).  
Points surrendered: 249 (24.9 per game).  
Most points in a game: 50.  
Shutouts: 2 (47-0 and 50-0).  
Leading rushers: Wyatt Keith, soph., 53 carries, 412 yards, 6 TD (played in only one regular-season game



The Granbury Pirates distance runners recently began base training and got a visit from school 800-meter record holder Chris Caldwell, who posted a time of 1:55.56 in 1998. He was in town for Thanksgiving and now lives in Florida. Pictured are (from left) Aidan Turpin, Caldwell, Bryce Young, Bryan Hailey, Nolan Segars and James Barber.

The Lady Rattlers ran their win streak to five with a 57-27 win over Hillsboro on Nov. 28. Stats were not available.

That win was preceded by a 33-31 win at Graford and a 67-47 victory at Cross Plains. Against Graford, Jayce Jones led Tolar with 20 points. Against Cross Plains, Jones scored 27 and Senne Imel added 20.

Tolar, which will not play another home game until Dec. 15 against Hico, is finishing play in the Dublin Double-T Tournament today. The team will have played eight consecutive road games and two away tournaments before then.

The Lady Rattlers (5-0) travel to Comanche Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and are playing in the Mesquite Pit Classic in Poolville next weekend, Dec. 7-9.

#### LIPAN GIRLS HOOPS

The Lady Indians and Indians are hosting the H.D. Howard Tournament and finishing play today.

Prior to the tourney, the Lipan girls won 56-51 at Fairfield on Nov. 28. Before the holiday break, they played a pair of games at Martins Mill, defeating Mineola 52-35 and falling 63-56 to Rains.

Leading Lipan were: Vs. Fairfield — Hanna Gaylor 30 points, Olivia Benitez 11, Ashlyn Clark 8. Vs. Mineola — Clark 17, Gaylor 10, Madison Cornelius 9.

Vs. Rains — Gaylor 18, Clark 12, Finley Shockley 7. After concluding tournament play today, the Lady Indians (4-2), No. 3 in the state in 2A, will travel to Holliday Tuesday, Dec. 5 for a 6:15 p.m. tipoff. They travel to Abilene Christian University Friday, Dec. 8 to tangle with Lubbock Cooper at 6 p.m.

Court Gaylor paced Lipan's scoring with 25 points, also grabbing 5 rebounds and delivering 6 assists. Also, Alberto Andreatta scored 8 points with 11 rebounds and Tyson Tarpley was a multiple threat with 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and a pair of blocks.

The Indians (4-0), No. 20 in the state in 2A, are concluding play in the H.D. Howard Tournament today before hosting Huckabay Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6:15 p.m. They travel to Abilene Christian University Friday, Dec. 8 to face Forsan at 7:15 p.m.

The Indians (4-0), No. 20 in the state in 2A, are concluding play in the H.D. Howard Tournament today before hosting Huckabay Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6:15 p.m. They travel to Abilene Christian University Friday, Dec. 8 to face Forsan at 7:15 p.m.

#### GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates Purple team finished second in the District 5-5A Fall Preview

Tournament at Sugar Tree Golf Club in Dennis recently. They had a team score of 381, second to Aledo's 365. Claire Jordan led Granbury with a 90, second overall medalist. Akyah Ditto shot 91 to tie for third-place medalist and Airel Jimenez posted a 99 for 12th place individually.

Rounding out the Granbury Purple scores were Halle Carr with a 101 and Grace Jimenez with a 112.

Granbury Gold shot 457, led by Emily McGuire with a 109 and Ryli Lewis with a 110. Breleigh Barrington and Reagan Neal each finished with a 119 and Emili Winkler shot 137.

The four lowest scores in each round comprise the team total.

The tournament wrapped up the fall season for Granbury.

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#### GRANBURY TENNIS

Tyler St. Don of the Pirates was named honorable mention on the All-District 5-5A Team by the league's coaches. He is the Pirates' No. 5 boys singles player.

Several Pirates and Lady Pirates were honored as academic all-district, including St. Don. He was joined by Braxton Bailey, Shelby Beech, Kaden Bohney, Oakley Boyd, Joselin Briones, Katie Childs, Ava Hamrick, Alexandra Kazmier, Roland Krause, Kyleigh Ledesma, McKenna Moreno, Paloma Sandoval and Colten Whitefield.

## CHAMPS

FROM PAGE B3

"Perseverance is definitely something we learned," Luke said.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Luke and Noah Bishop are the only two seniors on the team this season, so optimism is high for a successful second season. Also, the middle school program should provide some additional bodies to enlarge the roster next season.

"We've got some middle schoolers coming up and I hope what we did inspired them to do this again," Luke said.

Cain praised his two seniors for helping bring the program to the pinnacle so fast.

"They led by example.

They're very quiet guys. They just went to work every day," he said. "We've got a solid group of guys coming back and a good group of eighth-graders coming up. "We might even be able to practice 6-on-6!"

TAIAO Division III state championship  
Played at Allen Academy in Bryan

Nov. 25  
Grace Classical Christian Academy Gryphons 48, Hill County Wolves 25

GCCA 6 26 8 8 - 48  
Hill County 13 6 0 6 - 25

GCCA Statistical leaders  
Passing: Noah Bishop 2-of-4, 47 yards, TD; Bryce Jones 1-3, 15 yards, interception.  
Rushing: Wyatt Keith 12

carries, 128 yards, 3 TD; Tyce Robshaw 7-49, TD.

Receiving: Keith 1 catch, 27-yard TD; Luke Gjone 1-20.

Tackles: Pierce Thomas 14, L. Gjone 13 (2 for loss), Jones 12, Keith 8, Robshaw 8, Hudson Gjone 4.

Sack: L. Gjone 1.  
Interceptions: Keith 2.  
Kickoff/punt returns: Jones 2-78.

Points after touchdowns: H. Gjone 3.

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Sacks leader: L. Gjone 8. Interception leaders: Thomas 3, Keith 2, Hudson Gjone, fr., 2.

Fumble recovery leaders: Robshaw 4, L. Gjone 3.

Roster breakdown: Noah Bishop, sr.; Luke Gjone, sr.; Bryce Jones, soph.; Wyatt Keith, soph.; Pierce Thomas, soph.; Tyce Robshaw, soph.; Hudson Gjone, fr.; Lincoln Dolan, fr.; Drew Ray, fr.



Wyatt Keith (left) and Luke Gjone were named the Offensive and Defensive Most Valuable Players in the TAIAO Six-Man Division III state championship game after Grace Classical Christian Academy defeated Hill County 48-25. e.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarleton State takes home SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship against Cal State Bakersfield

### Tarleton State University

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. — Tarleton State took down Cal State Bakersfield to win the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship, 59-40, on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the JSerra Pavilion.

The Texans (4-2) won their first multiple-team event (MTE) as a Division I program after reaching the Paradise Jam championship game last season. The win marks the second Western Athletic Conference school to win the challenge with Utah Valley winning the inaugural SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship in 2021. The Roadrunners became the first Big West program to reach the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship.

"I am very proud of our team that they were able to come out to California and play two hard games and come home with a pair of wins," said coach Joseph Jones after the celebration. "It means a lot to us to bring home this championship for coach Gillispie."

Jakorie Smith led all scorers with 17 points while draining a trio of triples to be named the SoCal Challenge Sand Division MVP.

KiAndre Gaddy notched his second double-dou-



Tarleton State took down Cal State Bakersfield to win the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship, 59-40, on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the JSerra Pavilion.

ble of the season with 12 points and 12 rebounds. He was named to the All-Tournament Team for his performance.

Freshman Emmanuel Innocenti notched the first double-double of his career with a team-high 13 rebounds and 11 points.

For the second straight game, Gaddy won the tip after surrendering the first four of the season. Devon Barnes put the Texans on the board with an early lay-up to give the Texans their first lead of the game. The two teams swapped buckets in the first eight minutes

with the Texans holding a 12-7 lead at the 11:36 mark. Gaddy pulled down two of his six first-half offensive rebounds in the span as well as adding four points.

Bakersfield broke out for a 7-0 run to take its first lead of the contest, 14-12. The Roadrunners wouldn't hold

it for long as Innocenti tied the game at 14 on a mid-range jumper. Smith countered a CSU-B bucket with a jumper of his own to retie the game at 16. Trailing 18-17, Adam Moussa knocked his first three-pointer of the night that lifted the Texan bench in euphoria.

Tarleton closed with nine more points, including Miles Lewis scoring his first points of the challenge. Smith knocked down his second three of the first half to lead the squad with nine first-half points. Gaddy's seven rebounds led all players.

The Purple and White started the second half with a 9-0 run in the first four minutes to take a 38-24 lead to force the Roadrunners to call a timeout. Lue Williams nailed his first three-pointer of the afternoon during the run. CSU-B cut into the Texan lead responding with a 10-0 run of its own fueled by Ugnius Jarusevicius with five.

The Texans showed the crowd at the JSerra Pavilion just how badly they wanted to return to Texas with the victorious skimboard erupting on a 13-2 run to break the game wide open.

Tarleton State held the Roadrunners to just 16 second-half points, to win the Sand Division Championship of the SoCal Challenge, 59-40.

Tarleton 22-for-57 from the floor, and 8-for-21 from three-point range. The Texans won the battle of the boards, 39-27. In the second half, the Texans shot 50 percent (6-for-12) from three-point land.

## Tarleton State Football finishes 4th nationally in average attendance across 129 FCS programs

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Football wrapped up a successful season across the board, including hosting the best crowds Memorial Stadium has ever seen.

The Texans finished fourth in the nation in average attendance across 129 Football Championship Subdivision programs, hosting 18,697 fans on aver-

age over their five games in Stephenville this year.

Tarleton State saw over 20,000 fans through the turnstiles three different times this year, setting an all-time record for attendance of 23,042 in the homecoming game vs. Morehead State on Oct. 21. The mark broke the recent record of 22,250 fans on Family Weekend on Sept. 23 vs. Southwest Baptist. The

Texans also set a new home-opening attendance record on Sept. 9 vs. North Alabama by hosting 20,127 fans.

At 18,697 average fans, the Texans only trailed three programs; Jackson State (30,060), Montana (26,269) and Montana State (21,610).

In the United Athletic Conference, the Texans served as the hottest ticket. Eastern Kentucky was second at 11,655 average

fans, followed by North Alabama (9,494), Austin Peay (8,309), Stephen F. Austin (8,100), Abilene Christian (7,090), Central Arkansas (7,048), Utah Tech (5,132) and Southern Utah (4,011).



The Texans finished fourth in the nation in average attendance across 129 Football Championship Subdivision programs, hosting 18,697 fans on average over their five games in Stephenville this year.

## Back-and-forth Thanksgiving appetizer narrowly goes to Eastern Washington over Tarleton State

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's Hoops for Hunger game the night before Thanksgiving provided the theatrics on Wednesday, Nov. 22, but it was the road team that left Wisdom Gym with the win.

Eastern Washington (4-1) squeaked out a 64-62 victory over Tarleton State (1-3) on Wednesday night in Stephenville, in a back-and-forth game full of runs.

"I'm really proud of our team's effort and fight this evening," head coach Bill Brock said. "We are playing with lots of different combinations due to injuries, but every one of our players are giving outstanding effort. Hopefully we are developing some depth for the future."

The Texans kept this game tight throughout against the Big Sky Conference pre-season favorites, especially down the stretch. Down 60-53 with 2:22 left, Jakoriah Long had two and-one opportunities over the next minute to get Tarleton down by just a point, 60-59.

The Eagles responded with a layup, and had a big defensive stop after the Texans

got the offensive rebound on split free throws. EWU made a layup after that to go up by two possessions, 64-60. Elise Turrubiates nailed a jumper with 17 seconds remaining to keep Tarleton in it, then the Eagles missed both free throws with 13 ticks left to give the Texans a chance. Long, who had only missed two shots the entire night before the last possession, had a great look from distance for the game-winning shot at the buzzer, but it hit back iron.

Long had a career-high 16 points to lead the Texans on 6-of-9 shooting, adding four rebounds and two blocks. Miannah Little earned her first start and poured in a career-high 10 points. Lexi Bull also made her first start and flirted with a double-double, tallying eight points (3-6 FG), nine rebounds and three assists. Karyn Sanford led the bench with eight points (3-5 FG, 2-2 3PT), while Turrubiates (seven points, six rebounds) and Teresa Maggio (seven points, 3-3 FG) were just behind her.

Tarleton opened the night with a food drive ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday,

offering free entry to any fan who brought five canned items to the game. All proceeds on the night are going toward Saint Luke's Food Pantry.

The Purple and White then took the court for the first time in 10 days, and held an early lead a couple of times, last ahead 9-7 with 4:06 to play in the first. The Eagles ended the quarter on a 7-0 run to lead 14-9 after one.

EWU's lead grew as large as 10 midway through the second quarter before Tarleton got back in the game. The Texans went on their own 7-0 run after being down 24-14, featuring four points by Little, a bucket by Vitoria Carvalho, and a free throw by Bull. Tarleton ended the half in style, with Andjela Bigovic nailing a jumper and Long sending a shot out of bounds at the other end to put the Texans down by just a pair at the break, 29-27.

Eastern Washington scored six quick points to start the third quarter, but this time Tarleton immediately responded after a time out with their own six points to get back within two. Down 42-36 with 4:05 left, Tarleton scored six straight to tie the

game for the first time since the first quarter. EWU then closed the frame on a 6-0 spurt to lead 48-42 entering the fourth.

In the final frame, Tarleton opened with a 7-1 run to tie the game again. EWU took momentum from there and went up by seven late, 58-51 with 3:53 left. Then Long and the Texans went to work and barely dropped the home contest at the end.

The Texans out-shot the Eagles 22-of-54 (.407) to 25-of-63 (.397), out-rebounded them 42-33, and led the bench scoring 41-18. EWU only turned it over eight times to Tarleton's 14 giveaways, which proved to be the difference.

Alexis Pettis led EWU with 16 points on 5-of-6 shooting, including 4-of-5 from distance. Jamie Loera tallied



Tarleton State's Hoops for Hunger game the night before Thanksgiving provided the theatrics on Wednesday, Nov. 22, but it was the road team that left Wisdom Gym with the win.

15 points and three assists. Milly Knowles recorded a double-double with 10

points on 5-of-8 shooting, 12 rebounds and two steals.

## DECA

FROM PAGE B1

selling and the sales project team. The sales project team and William Lillagore from finance professional selling were all named alternates to the international competition. Now there are 91 members and Peterson hopes to take 40 to district competition.

The group also has what it calls "The Anchor Store" staffed by 28 seniors who have completed three years in the business pathway. The store has snacks and food items as well as spirit merchandise including shirts, hats and more. The spirit merchandise is all student-designed. Last year, the store had a gross profit of \$101,000 in sales with this year's goal set

at \$130,000. All the profits in the store pay for DECA registration and travel fees. The store has outgrown its current area in the CTE department but received a grant from the Granbury Education Foundation to launch a second location at the front of the school. "We will be purchasing a new point of sale system and mobile store equipment," Peterson said. "We will also

be launching a website where the community can purchase student-designed and produced spirit apparel." The store also purchased a new direct-to-garment printer that will print full color shirts within minutes. Peterson added that soon the store will take orders from businesses and community partners to print shirts made to order. The store also became

a gold-level school-based enterprise with the DECA national program. For the certification process, school-based enterprise student leaders completed a written project to demonstrate how their SBE met the National Curriculum Standards and showcasing how their retail or food service operation's school-based business adheres to select model business standards.

The group also recently wrapped up a canned food drive campaign for Mission Granbury where students Bodie Chastain and Sierra Couden took charge — over 2,000 cans were collected. When it comes to the future of the group, Peterson hopes to continue to grow the chapter.

## COOK

FROM PAGE B1

and chose not to. Hampton and her husband had kids, and she was a stay-at-home mom but still had that passion for food. She turned her passion into a cooking blog and remodeled her kitchen and turned it into a miniature cooking school. The couple then moved to

Texas after they were ready for a change. After the move, Hampton noticed a culinary teacher job opening at GHS and eagerly applied. "I just knew this is exactly where I was supposed to be and I knew it was going to be the best of both worlds to work with food and work with kids," Hampton said. "It was my dream job, and I was going to do everything I could to get the job." Hampton says she feels

she was gifted this job opportunity. "I'm so happy every single day coming to work. I just feel like I can't believe I get to do this every single day. As a teacher you wear so many hats. You're a mentor, you're a counselor, you help kids figure out what the future may look like." The students are also able to get out into the community and showcase their cooking skills because of how of-

ten they cater for events and groups around the town. "Those kids get an opportunity to learn how to be hospitable and learn how to put all of these things into practice and be good hosts," Hampton said. Some students are working already in the food service industry — Hampton has eight students who currently work at the new Freddy's restaurant off U.S. Highway 377. "I went in (Freddy's) on

the first day and it was so amazing to see the students so equipped to be working there," Hampton said. "They all just seemed very confident in knowing all the ins-and-outs of a commercial kitchen. I feel like they gained so much experience with hospitality and taking care of customers." When it comes to the future, Hampton noted the program is growing immensely, and she is excited

to continue to grow students' passion for the culinary industry. "As we keep growing and getting more creative it just gets more rewarding," Hampton added. To keep up with The Galley restaurant and stay updated on its service days, follow the group on Facebook at The Galley at Granbury High School.

HCN

SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

DECEMBER 2

Special education is like a helping hand for friends who might need some extra support on their learning adventures. In the United States, special education ensures that every child, no matter their unique abilities, gets the special tools and caring guides they

need to learn and shine bright. Imagine a classroom as a big, colorful puzzle, and each piece is a special friend with their own way of learning. Special education teachers are like expert puzzle-solvers. They figure out the best ways to teach and help each

friend succeed, making sure no one feels left out. Whether it's extra time on a test, special lessons, or a friendly helper, special education creates a magical space where everyone's strengths are celebrated. It's like having a superhero team where everyone, no matter their abilities, can be the hero of their own story. So, in the big book of learning, special education is the chapter that shows how amazing and unique each friend truly is!

**GET THE PICTURE?**

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SCHOOL BUS

**PEOPLE FACT!**

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE THAT MOST CHILDREN BEGIN THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION?

ANSWER: AGE 5

**Did You Know?**

Special education in the United States is rooted in the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EAHCA), enacted in 1975. It was later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Nov. 25 (Puzzle 58).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

WEST BLUFF DENTAL CARE

One Trusted Office For All Your Dental Needs

Dr. Smith & Dr. Fisher can now digitally fabricate your crowns and veneers in ONE VISIT! You can be in and out the door in about 2 hours with your new crown securely in place and worry free!

THE Best of Hood County HCNews ★2022

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HOOD OUTDOORS

# Rainbow trout time in Texas

The annual Texas winter tradition of rainbow trout-stocking returns to waterbodies across the



**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.

state to kick off the holiday season. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will stock thousands of rainbow trout beginning the week of Thanksgiving to give anglers a chance to catch one of these iconic fish.

It doesn't take a lot of sophisticated fishing equipment to reel in a rainbow trout. They can be caught using simple, light tackle or hand-tied flies on a fly rod. However, anglers should keep an array of baits and lures nearby as well as ice to keep trout fresh. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish that many anglers look forward to here in Texas.

TPWD plans to stock 343,331 rainbow trout in Texas from Nov. 22 through March 1. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in most areas of Texas after winter, due to the warm water temperatures, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout. Exceptions exist within special trout management zones on the Guadalupe River

downstream of Canyon Lake, which often remains cool enough for rainbow trout to survive year-round. This portion of the Guadalupe River is recognized as one of the top 100 trout streams in the nation and is considered the southernmost trout stream in North America.

Fishing for rainbow trout on Texas rivers and streams is popular among anglers. In addition to stocking the Guadalupe River downstream of Canyon Lake, TPWD also stocks rainbow trout in the Brazos River downstream of Possum Kingdom Lake, portions of the Frio and South Llano rivers, and in the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Some local locations relatively close to Hood County include Byron Stewart Park Lake in Cleburne, Dutch Branch Park in Benbrook, Glen Rose Town Lake and Greenbriar Park in Fort Worth. Please consult the trout stocking schedule online on the TPWD site.

Rainbow trout love cold water and can be caught on

a variety of baits and lures (worms, commercially available pastes, corn, spinners, spoons, flies and more), and are great to take home and eat.

Texas does not require a fishing license for youth under the age of 17, but adults must have a fishing license with a freshwater fishing endorsement. Funds from the sale of fishing licenses and freshwater fishing endorsements directly support efforts by TPWD to provide great fishing opportunities for current and future generations.

An angler fishing in a community fishing lake or on a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout with no minimum length limit, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

The dates and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to check the trout stocking schedule before you head out.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Granbury water temperature is close to 60 degrees



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Coffman (Granbury City Manager) on the right and his friend Gary Free with their Striped bass caught recently on Lake Granbury

and continues to fall slowly. The lake is full and water clarity is good especially on the lower ends. Sand bass are good on white/chartreuse slabs fished in 12 to 20 feet of water near channel breaks. Look for the birds to point you to active fish. Crappies are good to excellent on structure on jigs and small minnows. Best crappie action is reported near submerged timber by Mallard Pointe and the Peninsula. Striped bass are fair to good on trolled Alabama rigs and live bait

fished on the lower ends in 15 to 25 feet of water. Large blue and yellow catfish to 30 pounds-plus continue to be caught on the upper ends on shallow flats using cut shad. Largemouth bass are fair to good near creek entrances and near 10-15-feet on soft plastics and crankbaits. On Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek), limits of eater-sized channel catfish are possible on prepared and/or cut bait. Largemouth bass are good to excellent on soft plastics worked near channel

ledges and submerged tanks. Tilapia continue to be caught using cast nets on many areas of the lake.

On other reservoirs, Possum Kingdom striped bass are good to 13 pounds on soft plastics fished from Hells Gate/Hogs Bend to Broadway. Limits of striped bass continue to be good on Lake Whitney on live bait fished from the State Park to north of the Katy Bridge. michael.acosta@att.net | 254-396-4855

## SUGAR

FROM PAGE B3

added sugar, your body should be adjusted to functioning on essential nutrients, as long as you have replaced your sugar with healthy options. You might be feeling better than you have felt in years... and you may even have lost some weight.

There are outward signs

that you are going overboard with sugar consumption: Older looking skin — dry, wrinkled or sagging skin at a premature age; depression, anxiety or moodiness; increased blood pressure; visceral fat accumulation; cavities and dental infection; frequent thirst, dry mouth; insomnia; frequent infections.

What should you do after eating too much sugar? Flush out all that sweet stuff

from your system by hydrating ASAP with water or other low-sugar fluids, and foods high in water content. Drink plenty of water and go for foods like watermelon, cucumbers, strawberries and yogurt.

The difference between add-on sugar and the natural sugar found in fruit is that add-on sugar adds calories but no essential nutrients (often referred to as "empty calories"). Examples of add-

ed sugar in products include corn sweetener, high-fructose corn syrup, honey, malt sugar, fruit juice concentrate, or sugar molecules, such as dextrose, fructose, glucose, maltose.

As opposed to add-on sugars, natural fruit sugar supplies necessary nutrients. The recommended amount of fruit per day is one-half to two cups for women — and two to two-and-a half cups for men. Is fruit's natu-

ral sugar bad for you? The sugar in fruit is not a cause of concern for most people, considering that it's high in fiber and nutrients. But check those fruits highest in natural sugar content. Which fruits have the most sugar? Mangoes, grapes, cherries, pears, watermelon, figs and bananas.

So why is it difficult to monitor or limit our sugar intake? Researchers have studied why sweets have

such a strong hold over us. In fact, one experiment found that rats preferred intensely sweet substances even over cocaine. And those rodents are not subject to strategically and overly intense marketed sweets in the form of snacks and desserts!

Giving up sugar is not for everyone, but all of us should monitor our intake.

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Lipan High School Teacher



**Mikella Mims**  
Lipan High School Teacher



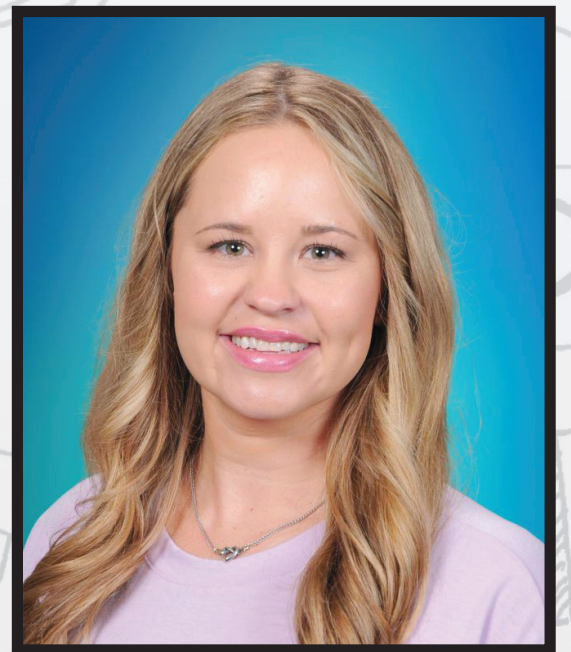
**Steven Bailey**  
Lipan Junior High School Teacher



**Kacy Thornton**  
Lipan Elementary Teacher



**Kim Castillo**  
Lipan Elementary Teacher



**Lacie Steed**  
Lipan Elementary Teacher



Hood County News



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## ROCK FOR BROCK

### Brock's to hold fundraiser following owner's cancer diagnosis

COURTESY PHOTO

Owner of Brock's Food and Drinks James Brock, right, is pictured with his daughter, Jae Crawford, left. Crawford said God has played a huge role in the circumstances following Brock's cancer diagnosis.

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

For years, James Brock has donated his time, giving back to the Hood County community with various fundraisers and charity endeavors. Now it's our turn to help him.

Brock, who is the owner of Brock's Food and Drinks in Acton, was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and has started treatment at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "It has spread," Jae

Crawford, Brock's daughter, told the HCN. "It started in his lungs and now it's in his stomach, liver, neck and lymph nodes. It kind of knocked the wind out of all of us. He definitely needs the support."

Crawford explained that Brock's cancer diagnosis was confirmed in the beginning of November, with his doctors revealing how serious the diagnosis seemed. "The hospital told us that it looked bad and that we needed to get into an oncologist ASAP," Crawford said. "We have friends who are on the board at MD Anderson, and they really helped us get in there. We got a foot in the door immediately, which was a game changer because as aggressive as his (cancer) is,

he couldn't have waited, so God's hand has definitely been in all of this for sure." To assist with the costs associated with the cancer treatment, a fundraiser for Brock will take place at Brock's Food and Drinks, located at 4021 Acton Hwy., at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Crawford said she has no idea how long the event, called Rock for Brock, is supposed to last, as 22 bands are scheduled to make an appearance during the event.

PLEASE SEE **BROCK** | C5



COURTESY PHOTO

Cecilia Smart working on a mural in Cozumel, Mexico.

## Immigrant works to 'leave a mark' wherever she goes

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

An immigrant from Cozumel, Mexico has planted new roots in the town of Lipan and is already making her mark. Cecilia Smart moved to Lipan six months ago alongside her husband and two kids to be closer to her mother-in-law. Although the family has only been in the town for a short time, Smart has loved the change and becoming a part of the community. "Even though I come from an island, I really like this town. The people are very willing to help each other. It's been like family, it feels good and maybe even better living here," Smart said. Smart currently works alongside her husband in their lawn care business and focuses on her passion for art on the side. Smart's love for art was obtained from her father who is an art teacher and was self-taught. "He would create art out of everything. He was an artist from the heart. He kind of pushed me to pursue art," she said. Smart has been painting her whole life and is self-taught. Smart noted she never attended art school or was trained but that continuing to practice has made her better. Smart's primary choice of art is murals and when living in Cozumel, she created many residential murals around the island. "It is a gift and a blessing. I am very grateful to have the ability to share my art," Smart said. "Muralists is about giving a message to the community, and I enjoy that part." Also while living in Cozumel, Smart and her husband had

PLEASE SEE **SMART** | C3

## Pecan Plantation golfers expand Changing of Seasons ceremony

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

The Pecan Plantation Country Club (PPCC) said goodbye to summer and hello to winter during its Changing of Seasons ceremony on Friday, Nov. 17. Jay Arrington, communications director for the PPCC and owners' association, explained that the ceremony symbolizes the transition in going from summer golf into winter golf, as the course changes to its "winter rules." "Winter rules apply to the way the course changes in the winter, when grass stops growing," he said. "A lot of courses play winter rules year-round, but the changing of the seasons we just do because we're going from our traditional warm weather play to our traditional colder weather play and it's just something that we wanted to celebrate." PPCC golf pro Duff Cunningham told the HCN that the Changing of the Seasons ceremony is an event that was first brought to PPCC by a member who wishes to remain anonymous. "I told him that this is his legacy to Pecan," Cunningham said. "It is an amazing event to see all the people who come out and support the event." During the ceremony, renowned bagpiper Don Shannon led a small procession of golfers dressed in ancient and traditional garb to the No. 9 hole and to the clubhouse, all the while playing traditional songs on the bagpipes. Arrington explained that having the golfers dress in kilts and knickers is a symbolic nod to Scotland, where golf first originated. After arriving at the tee box during the event, Cunningham symbolically drove a ball down the No. 1 fairway, ushering in the winter. The ceremony then featured a toast to the previous summer of golf as well as to the golfers who've passed away. "When we did it this year, we decided we wanted to make it a little more substantial," Arrington said. "We wanted to



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Making their way down the 9th green, the Pecan Plantation Country Club (PPCC) said goodbye to summer and hello to winter during its Changing of Seasons ceremony on Friday, Nov. 17.

PLEASE SEE **GOLF** | C5

# BROCK

FROM PAGE C1

"There's no way you could orchestrate all of this," she said. "I mean, God's hand from the oncologist, to the people who came to help us, to where they're staying, like there has been God's hand in every single piece of it. There's 22 artists that have just volunteered their time for this."

Artists who are scheduled to perform for the benefit include: Tommy Alverson, Terry Rasor, Steve Helms, Ben McPherson, Chad Prather, Coby Wier, Doug Rose, Aaron Copeland, Rowdy Decker, Tyrell Choat, Garrett Glover, Andie Kay, Nate Kipp, Clete Bradley, Brock DeWald, Randy Brown, Mike Graham, Garrett Glover, Gary Millhollon, Gary P Nunn, Walt Wilkins, Dave Thomas, Jamie Richards and Bo Phillips.

The event will also include a plethora of raffle and auction items like: a grill, pamper basket, a Right to Carey basket and membership, a black Tri Mini Australian Shepherd puppy, Courville's AR rifle, a Troy Aikman-autographed guitar, a pair of Fenoglio boots, a Dan Taylor painted guitar, and much more.

"I can't even begin to tell you how many auction items have been donated for this," Crawford said. "It's going to be a great night celebrating James and all he has done."

Additionally, Christa Ragland, family friend of the Brocks, designed T-shirts, bandanas, bracelets and koozies, with 100% of the proceeds going toward Brock's cancer treatments.

The T-shirt is available in white and gray and features the phrase "Brock's Army," surrounded by cancer ribbons and a smaller phrase underneath that reads, "We jam together, we fight together!" The back of the shirt features one simple word: "Love."

"Even if you've never met my dad, before you leave him, he always says 'Love,' so no matter who you are, he's gonna tell you he loves you," Crawford said. "(It's why) on the back of the shirts, it just says 'love.'"

Ragland also recently posted the T-shirts on her Facebook page, complete with a heartfelt tribute to Brock, who helped her when her father passed away.

"When my mom was diagnosed with cancer, they were the FIRST to jump on board with a fundraiser for us," the post reads. "If you remember, it was at the old RibShack which is now Brocks Food and Drinks. They got all the live music, silent auction items and food and helped us so much in such a tough time. It's now time that I get to give back to them just a tiny fraction of all they have done for my family."

Ragland's post explained



COURTESY PHOTOS

James Brock, owner of Brock's Food and Drinks in Acton, pictured with his wife and grandchildren. Brock was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and has started treatment at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

*"It has spread. It started in his lungs and now it's in his stomach, liver, neck and lymph nodes. It kind of knocked the wind out of all of us. He definitely needs the support."*

**JAE CRAWFORD**  
Daughter of James Brock

that the best way to support the Brock family would be to eat at their local restaurant, purchase the fundraiser T-shirts, and to save the date for the fundraiser event on Dec. 3.

"I'm 41 years old and my whole life (Brock) has always been a part of fundraising," Crawford said. "So, whether we were living in North Richland Hills, and he was helping out at Thanksgiving and delivering toys for Christmas, to when we moved to Granbury, he's been implementing that as well."

Brock's Food and Drinks also regularly hosts its free Thanksgiving dinner every year, feeding at least 1,000 people at the venue. Even through all his current struggles, Brock still held his annual free Thanksgiving dinner called Pastures of Plenty on Nov. 23.

"Philanthropy is a big deal to both of my parents," Crawford said. "This cancer kind of came out of nowhere,

and it's pretty aggressive."

Crawford added that she is asking for prayers for Brock's healing and comfort.

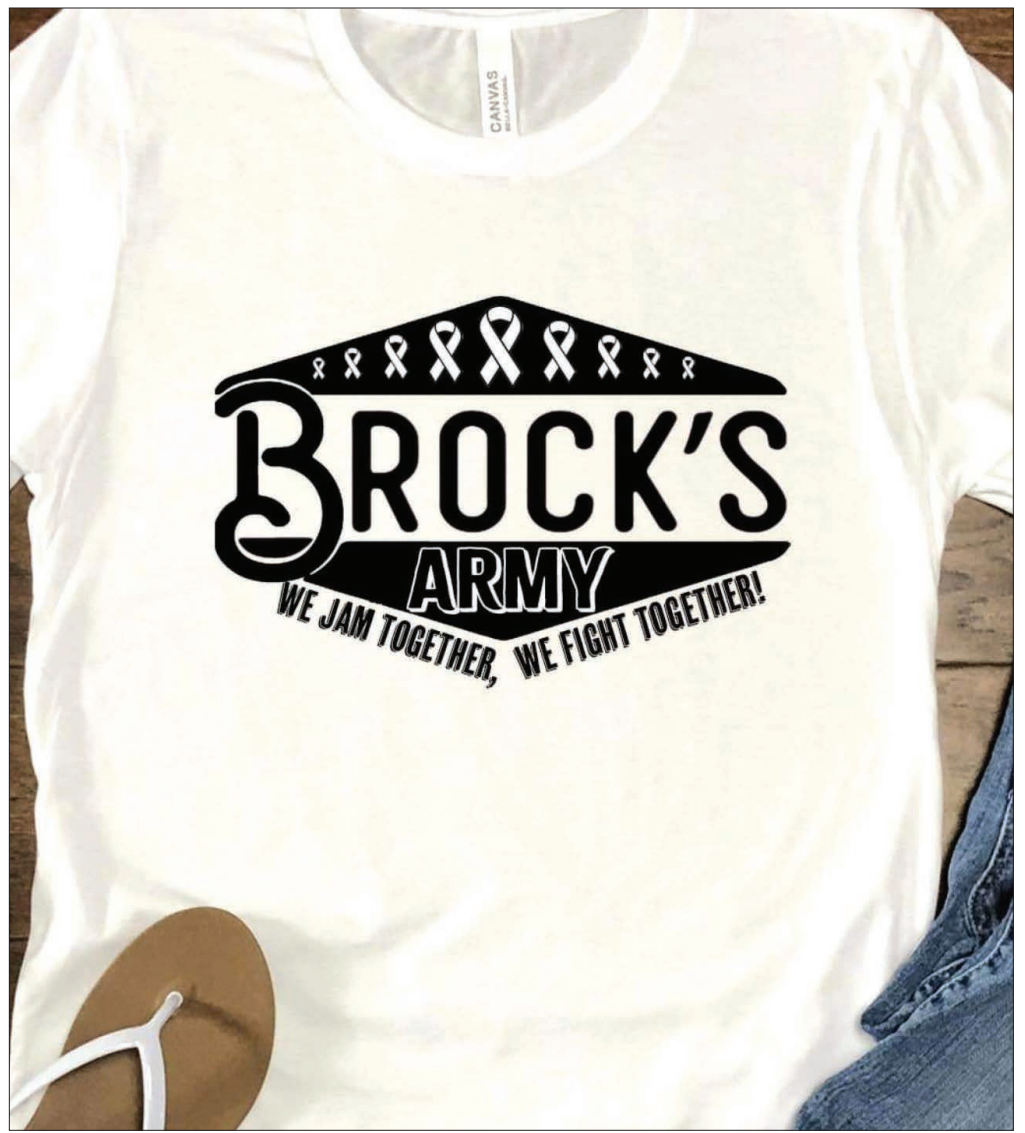
"He's in a lot of pain right now," she said. "The tumor in his lungs is really big, so it's causing constant pain."

Although Brock's diagnosis is severe, Crawford said the main positive she hopes to get out of the benefit is that people will come to know God through the experience.

"We're going to give God the glory," she added. "(His cancer is) very severe, but it's God's will. Our biggest hope is that people come to know the Lord through this — that's been our biggest thing."

Individuals can donate to Brock's wife's Venmo account at Jan-Brock-3. For more information, call Brock's at (817) 326-4752.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243



To assist with the costs associated with the cancer treatment, a fundraiser for James Brock will take place at Brock's Food and Drinks, located at 4021 Acton Hwy., at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Attendees can also purchase a T-shirt in Brock's honor, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Brock's cancer treatment.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Theatre Company is set to present "White Christmas" at the historic Granbury Opera House from Dec. 1 to Dec. 23.

## "White Christmas" Classic brings holiday cheer to Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the Hood County News

As the holiday season approaches, the Granbury Theatre Company is set to present the beloved holiday classic, "White Christmas," at the historic Granbury Opera House. This heartwarming production, running from Dec. 1 to Dec. 23, promises to be a festive treat for audiences of all ages.

### A TIMELESS TALE OF JOY AND ROMANCE

"White Christmas" tells the story of two World War II veterans, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, who find success with their song-and-dance act after the war. The duo follows a pair of enchanting singing sisters to a Christmas show in Vermont, only to discover that the lodge where they are performing is owned by their former Army commander. The show is packed with dazzling musical numbers, including classics like "Blue Skies," "I Love A Piano" and "How Deep Is the Ocean," culminating in the iconic title song.

### A RICH HISTORY OF ENTERTAINMENT

Originally a hit movie musical released by Paramount Pictures in 1954, "White Christmas" starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen. Directed by Michael Curtiz, the film featured 17 songs by Irving Berlin. It became the top moneymaker of its year, setting records in Hollywood. The stage adaptation, which opened on Broadway in 2008, has captivated audiences across the United States with its charming story and memorable music.

### BRINGING THE MAGIC TO GRANBURY

Director Jarrett Self expressed both the challenge and joy of bringing such a cherished story to the stage. "To be put in charge of such a beloved work as 'White Christmas' is definitely a daunting task," he said. "We aimed to recreate the warmth and nostalgia people feel toward it while also offering something new and exciting. It was a difficult needle to thread, but I believe that we succeeded, in no small part due to the unbelievable talent I was surrounded by during this process."

Self had high praise for his lead actors. "Thomas Powderly, who plays Captain Bob Wallace, is a revelation. He brings a depth to Bob that is both touching and genuine, balancing the character's comedic and tender sides with remarkable skill," Self shared. "Jennifer Nickell, as Betty Haynes, is simply phenomenal," Self continued. "Jennifer is one of the best actresses I know, with a powerful voice to match. And she makes playing Betty Haynes look effortless. She brings a level of professionalism and grace to the stage that is awe-inspiring."

"Jake Hamilton, in the role of Private Phil Davis, is a bundle of energy and talent. Jake fits perfectly into the 'little brother' dynamic, and he brings such great energy to every scene he's in. And his voice is stunning. His chemistry with Thomas is palpable, making their scenes together a highlight of the show," Self continued. "And Makenna Clark is a genuine triple threat, and I am so excited we get to show off her immense talents fully in this show. She plays Judy Haynes and lands every single beat in the show while also just bringing a feeling of joy to rehearsals."

### A SEASONAL SPECTACLE NOT TO BE MISSED

"White Christmas" at the Granbury Opera House is more than just a show; it's a celebration of the holiday spirit. With special Thursday and Sunday evening performances added to the regular schedule, there are ample opportunities for everyone to experience this festive production. But don't wait too long; many performances are already selling out!

Tickets for this must-see holiday event are available at [www.granburytheatrecompany.org](http://www.granburytheatrecompany.org) or by calling the Opera House box office at 817-579-0952. Don't miss your chance to be part of a magical journey that promises to fill your heart with the joy and wonder of the Christmas season.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cecilia Smart stands beside her mural that is painted at Ranchers Fed Beef located in Granbury.

## SMART

FROM PAGE C1

a tour business where they would take tourists around the island but have them clean while touring. The trash they gathered would be recycled and Smart used some of the materials that couldn't be recycled to create sculptures.

Smart even created a 9-foot seahorse sculpture out of washed-up sandals from the beach.

"This was to create awareness about trash being washed up onto the beaches," Smart said. "I wanted the message to be not only to take care of the environment but also to show people the impact we can make."

She described her favorite part of painting as "the process. When I'm painting outside, people are able to see the process and be a part of it and see how it starts and how it ends. I really love just painting, but when it's done, I don't want it to be over. I just want to keep going back and adding things."

Smart created her first mural in Hood County for Ranchers Fed Beef in Granbury along U.S. Highway 377.

"When I first got this job, I shared it right away with my dad and he was very happy to hear that I was creating art here in the (United) States," Smart said.

When it comes to the future, Smart hopes to continue to make her way through Hood County and share her art all over wherever she goes. She also hopes to get to



COURTESY PHOTO

Cecilia Smart sits beside her mural that is painted in Cozumel, Mexico.

"This was to create awareness about trash being washed up onto the beaches," Smart said. "I wanted the message to be not only to take care of the environment but also to show people the impact we can make."

**CECILIA SMART**  
Mural Artist

the point where she is able to pursue her passion as a full time career.

"I feel like I haven't had a chance yet to experiment with my style, and here I'm trying to do that. I want to have that liberty and freedom to do so," Smart said.

"Being an artist is about being brave. You have to be confident about sharing your art and what comes out naturally. Being an artist has allowed me to grow and become a better person all while creating connections. You can be yourself when

creating a piece of art and create a piece of you." To get in touch with Smart you can visit her Instagram under the tag c.einstein.

# Going on a Cruise?



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# Riding for a mission



COURTESY PHOTO

Following a community motorcycle ride on Sunday, Dec. 3, local members of Rogue 22 MC will be accepting donations for Mission Granbury from 1-6 p.m. at Lowe's Home Improvement, 1021 E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

## Local motorcycle club to gather donations for Mission Granbury

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

This holiday season, one Hood County motorcycle club is riding for a mission — literally.

Originally based in Louisiana, Rogue 22 MC is a motorcycle club that consists of like-minded individuals who share a brotherhood and a passion for serving the community.

Although the Granbury chapter has only been established for a short while, the members are already making a huge difference in the community — including their most recent fundraiser.

Following a community motorcycle ride on Sunday, Dec. 3, local members of Rogue 22 MC will be accepting donations for Mission Granbury from 1-6 p.m. at Lowe's Home Improvement, 1021 E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

Mission Granbury, located at 3611 Plaza E. Ct., is known as the community hub for help, centralizing resources

under one roof to help those in need or crisis.

The idea for the club's donation event stemmed from Granbury resident Katie Trevino, who regularly volunteers at Mission Granbury.

"The company I work for kind of led us to doing a lot of community outreach and inspired us to step out into the community and see where needs were, and Mission Granbury is one of the places that I chose to do my outreach at," Trevino said. "I have worked with them on multiple occasions now doing their food distribution pantries."

"(Katie) said she sees a lot of people who are in need around the holiday season, so she brought the idea to

PLEASE SEE **MISSION** | C5



Rogue 22 MC President Aaron Gentry explained that "Rogue" in the club's name refers to the freedom the members have, while "22" symbolizes the 22 veterans who commit suicide every day.

# A 'happening' holiday carnival

## Granbury Baptist Church to host fourth annual Christmas Carnival

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

Hood County residents will soon be able to experience Christmas like never before with Granbury Baptist Church's fourth annual Christmas Carnival.

The free event — set for Sunday, Dec. 10 from 4-7 p.m. at 1200 Weatherford Hwy. — was created as a way for families to celebrate the holiday season together.

"We decided everybody does a fall festival," said Granbury Baptist Church Children's Director Disty Short. "So, we decided that we wanted to do something special for Christmas time, especially given that it's our Savior's birth. We wanted to have a family night where families could come and just have a good time with their kids."

With various activities like Christmas crafts, inflatables, cookie decorating and a petting zoo, children are sure to have a blast at the

holiday event.

"We have a s'more station, we give away water, hot chocolate and cold (or snow) chocolate, and then this year, for the first time, we're doing a cake walk," she said. "The Promise in Glen Rose is also bringing their animals for a petting zoo, and they're bringing a camel this year."

Short said along with a camel, The Promise will provide other animals like donkeys, sheep, and goats — noting they will also be used to create a live nativity scene every hour.

The church auditorium will house the "Christmas Around the World" display, where guests can learn about Christmas in countries like Mexico, Greece, Kenya and Germany.

"We give away little stuffed animals, we have crafts, we have really nice baskets that we do drawings for," Short said. "It's just for (residents) to have a family

night around this time of year."

Additionally, the event will feature multiple photo opportunities, discounted food truck meals, free giveaways, and treats provided by Baked Bread & Pastry Co.

"This year, I'm really excited because we have Baked coming and they're creating some savory treats just for the carnival," Short explained. "They have a croissant that has mac and cheese and brisquets on it, and a chicken pot pie. They're also bringing in their sausage roll and the ham and gruyere croissant, as well as their pastries."

Short said although the event is free, the food items from Baked are not. However, attendees will still receive a discount.

"The church subsidizes, so it's cheaper than what it would be if you went to Baked, but that's the only thing that costs money," she

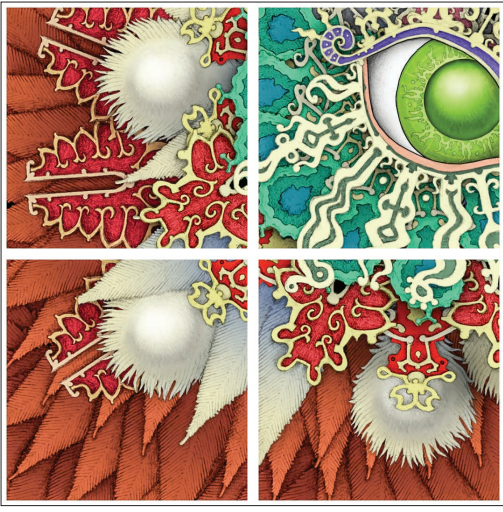
PLEASE SEE **CARNIVAL** | C7



COURTESY PHOTO

The Promise in Glen Rose provides goats, donkeys, sheep — and new to this year, a camel — for a petting zoo for Granbury Baptist Church's annual Christmas carnival.

GAME ON



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF BURIED SIGNAL

One of the stunning illustrations for Gorogoa.

# Gorogoa

Think inside the box



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

I've found that I really enjoy puzzle games, especially puzzles that aren't timed. It's a good morning activity to get my brain going, and much better for my stress level than doomscrolling.

Gorogoa uses combinations of tiles to tell a story through pictures, and the puzzles are solved by combining or moving these tiles. A wall with a broken ledge becomes a pathway to another landscape, a mandala from one illustration becomes a cartwheel in another. Each tile is a separate interactive scene, and you can move around inside the scene, but the tiles can also be moved to create new scenes. Part of solving the puzzle is connecting the tiles or moving them so they're stacked on top of each other to make a new scene.

Jason Roberts, creator of Gorogoa, knew nothing about game design when he started this project. His initial idea was to create an interactive graphic novel, but as indie games became more successful, he decided to create an interactive video game. He quit his full-time job to work on it. It took him six years to complete. In December 2016 Annapurna Interactive began publishing games, and Gorogoa was one of the first.

What makes the game stand out is its illustrations. Each panel is hand drawn in colored pencil, with a lot of delicate detail. Roberts has said the choice to use hand-drawn illustrations probably slowed down the development of the game and kept it small. He says in an interview with GamesBeat "I think I would have gone with the art style regardless, because that was such an important part of the project for me. I like drawing in pencil. That was a requirement for the project that had nothing to do with game design."

There's usually a team of game designers, but in this case Roberts created the game on his own, using the Unity engine to put the game together. Roberts worked with Annapurna Interactive for sound design and music, but everything else was done by him. He says many of the creative decisions he made caused the design to be constantly challenging. He says "Each step was a struggle, finishing the game, but that awkwardness of making the game is connected to why it's unique and special. If you make something through an unlikely, inefficient process, it will seem more magical, naturally."

It's a story of a young boy who grew up in a war-ravaged country, got injured, then healed, and is now reliving those experiences as an old man. But the narrative isn't as clean cut as that. Pieces of the story are not presented in chronological order but are discovered as you play through the game.

In an interview with GamePilgrim, Roberts says "That's one of the thematic ideas underlying the game: that the vivid moments from our life story that stand out strangely in our memory might also belong to a different axis of meaning, like a letter in an acrostic that belongs simultaneously to two different words."

Playing Gorogoa is an almost meditative experience. Its low-key gameplay and beautiful illustrations make for stress-free gaming.

Gorogoa (2016) from Annapurna Interactive is available on SteamOS for \$14.99.

# Free Christmas concert

Staff Reports

Hood County residents and their friends are invited to attend a free Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. The concert features the Granbury Community Band and takes place at Granbury High School Auditorium, 2000 W. Pearl St.,

Granbury.

The Community Band concerts are a treasured tradition in Granbury. Attendees will enjoy pieces such as "Away in a Manger," "Greensleeves" and "The Holly and the Ivy." The band is under the direction of Jeff James.

Members of the Community

Band volunteer their time and practice weekly. Both adult and high school musicians are welcome.

Band manager David Talmage said the Community Band was created after the Granbury Jazz Orchestra was created in 2007.

According to Jim Perry of Stephenville, the band was origi-

nally called the Paluxy Wind Symphony, then the Paluxy River Community Band and finally the Granbury Community Band. Some of the original musicians still participate. For more information on the band see the Granbury Community Band Facebook page.



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jay Arrington leads the toast and recites some poetry on the first tee box.

## GOLF

FROM PAGE C1

make it a little more somber, yet light, so we expanded on what we had as the ceremony. We have lost a lot of folks this year to old age or health issues, and I wanted to incorporate a remembrance of them into the ceremony as well."

PPCC General Manager Rick Lantgen said in the PPCC news release that the Changing of Seasons is a "unique ceremony that is both somber and light-hearted, much like the game itself."

"Golf is played primarily for fun and sport. But the relationships created on the course go much deeper than that," he said, in the news release. "Friendships are developed, bonds are forged, and life lessons are learned. It's a wonderful game, and we want to celebrate it, as well as our brothers and sisters who love to play."

Prior to COVID, the Changing of the Seasons ceremony was a yearly occurrence at Pecan. Lantgen said the PPCC wanted to bring the event back as it's an opportunity for those who love golf to come out and "raise a glass to such a great game and to great people."

"Having a world-renowned bagpiper like Mr. Shannon play for us makes it even more spe-

cial," Lantgen said, in the news release.

Shannon, who is originally from Northern Ireland, has more than four decades' experience in piping and teaching bagpipes. Since moving to the U.S., he has immersed himself in the full-time profession of bagpiping, playing at weddings, funerals, memorials and corporate events.

According to the news release, Shannon has performed for most of the British Royal Family (including Queen Elizabeth II), Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush, and countless other dignitaries and VIPs. He has also appeared on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" and played on numerous occasions with The Chieftains, Ireland's premier musical ambassadors.

Arrington said the PPCC plans to bring the ceremony back next year, with the hope that more folks will come out and join in the procession.

He added, "Our goal is to celebrate the game of golf and to celebrate the memories and the friendships that are bonded on the course and to remember those who are taking their great swings in the sky now instead of on their earthly golf courses."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243



Bagpiper Don Shannon preforms on the first tee box.

## MISSION

FROM PAGE C4

the table, and I was like, 'Well, that's a no brainer. Absolutely,'" said Rogue 22 MC President Aaron Gentry. "We help out quite a few organizations here in town, but for Mission Granbury, this will be our first (time to help). Obviously, we can't help every person out there, but you never know what tomorrow will bring."

The club's event — creatively called "Ride for a Mission" — will allow community members to donate items that will stock the shelves of Mission Granbury, benefiting Hood County families in need.

Items needed for donations include: heaters, sleeping bags, blankets, socks, shampoo/conditioner, soap, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine products.

Trevino said she first spoke

with Andi Luna, EAN coordinator at Mission Granbury, and asked her what the nonprofit organization's biggest needs are during the winter months.

"I made a list and then talked to our ride club and said, 'What do you guys think about jumping in and trying to see if we can't get these items for them?' and they were all for it. They said, 'Take it, run with it, and do what you need to do,'" she said. "It was just something that hit

my heart while I was there with Andi, seeing the people come through and how happy everybody was. The people that work there at Mission Granbury are so giving and their hearts are so big, and I just loved it. I loved working with them and wanted to help them."

"At a time when toys and turkey dinners are on everyone's radar, some of our most critical needs go unmet," Dusti

PLEASE SEE MISSION | C7

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# Granbury Night of Lights Christmas Parade

The day after Thanksgiving, crowds gathered in and around the Historic Granbury Square to join in on the annual Night of Lights Christmas Parade, a local holiday tradition. Decorated to celebrate the birth of Christ, lighted floats and walking groups wound their way through Granbury's downtown Historic District. Spectators enjoyed pre-parade music and entertainment, as well as celebrated Santa's arrival and the beginning of the Christmas season in Granbury. For more photos, please visit [www.hcnews.com/photos/](http://www.hcnews.com/photos/)

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS







Visit the Granbury Santa & Friends at their very own Santa House located on the grounds of the historic Hood County Courthouse. Children of all ages will enjoy the interactive Santa House that is open and free to the public. Bring your camera and take pictures for free. Letters can be dropped in Santa's mailbox in front of the Courthouse on the Historic Square. For more information and Santa's House hours, please visit [www.visitgranbury.com/granbury-santa-house/](http://www.visitgranbury.com/granbury-santa-house/). For more photos, please visit [www.hcnews.com/photos/](http://www.hcnews.com/photos/)

## CARNIVAL

FROM PAGE C4

said. "Our goal is that a family could come in and if they wanted to get dinner, they could feed their family for 20 bucks or less."

As a bonus, DaySpring from Hallmark will also provide 300 bibles for the church to give away during the carnival.

"That was exciting for us because we give away Bibles, kids' books, devotionals and kids' devotionals, so we try to make it exciting for everyone," Short said. "We try to have some (Bibles) in Spanish. The majority are in English, but we also have Spanish books and Bibles that we're giving away."

Granbury resident Judy Hamm will serve as the event clown, while Granbury Baptist Church

Administrative Assistant Beverly Lance will dress up as Princess Candy Cane in her "cool, velvet outfit."

"She looks so good that at our trunk or treat this year, she was dressed up in her outfit, and people were calling her Mrs. Claus," Short said.

"I was already getting present requests to pass on to Santa," Lance said. "It's so cute. It's just a treasure."

Short added the event will go on "rain or shine," and said she hopes the community will come out for the church's "happening" annual holiday carnival.

"Last year, we had almost 2,500 (people in attendance)," she said, jokingly adding that the part she's excited about the most for this year is a tie "between Baked and the camel."

"I think the camel is gonna

be a lot of fun to have and I always love Baked, but the best thing of all, though, is to hear the children just being so excited," Short added. "They're laughing and they love it. A lot of the parents are always like, 'Thank you, there's never anything for the kids this time of year,' so it's wonderful."

For more information, call Granbury Baptist Church at 817-573-4943 or email [info@granburybaptist.org](mailto:info@granburybaptist.org).

[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) / 817-573-1243

COURTESY PHOTO

Last year, members of Granbury Baptist Church donned Star Wars costumes for the Christmas carnival.



## MISSION

FROM PAGE C5

Scovel, executive director for Mission Granbury, told the HCN. "It makes all the difference when a group asks us first what we need, and then puts their time and energy toward meeting that need. This time of year, we can never have enough heaters, blankets and hygiene products to help those in need. We're so grateful Rogue 22 is doing this Ride for a Mission. Every donation will be given to someone in need."

Trevino said she's only been volunteering with Mission Granbury for about three months, but the nonprofit organization has al-

ready captured her heart.

"They have so many different departments there, especially CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), the food pantry, and many outreaches they do with the women's shelter. It all kind of ties into each other," she said. "The different departments help each other out. I absolutely just love it. You can't go in there and work with these ladies and not just fall in love with what they do."

She said the goal is to bring in enough donations so Mission Granbury can be well stocked with enough supplies for the community this year.

"We've gotten the word out," Trevino said. "We

spread it on social media, we've put it out through flyers, we've put it out by word of mouth, our friends, and all of the biker community, so our goal is to have it where they don't have to worry about where these supplies are coming from."

Gentry explained that "Rogue" in the club's name refers to the freedom the members have, while "22" symbolizes the 22 veterans who commit suicide every day.

"Personally, it's like one of (those) feelings you really can't explain," he said, referring to the community donations. "It feels good. There is something about being a leader in a group. You have very high standards that you

have got to follow by, you know, and if I'm not putting off a good image, how do I expect the rest of my guys to? And that's what I want everybody to see."

Gentry added he is excited to build a relationship with Mission Granbury and spread positivity — not only throughout the community, but to his children, as well.

"The holiday season is our favorite time to do this," Gentry said. "My two boys, we're trying to incorporate them at a young age to where they know they're doing something good. That's our next generation. You got to start teaching them young."

Trevino added that some community members have already donated a few items

as they won't be able to make it to the Ride for a Mission event.

"I already have a small stash to take with me to the drive, but I hope a lot more people can come out — cold or not. We would love to see everybody out there," she said.

The meeting place to kickstart the ride will be at RaceTrac on U.S. Highway 377, with everyone meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, and then starting the ride at 1 p.m. Gentry said anyone around Granbury is welcome to join the convoy during Rogue 22's Ride for a Mission.

Individuals can send cash donations through Rogue 22 MC's Cash App:

SRogue22Granbury or Venmo: Rogue22MC-Granbury. For any fund donation, individuals are asked to type "Mission Granbury Items" in the description.

If anyone is also interested in joining the Rogue 22 MC club, they can message the Rogue22 MC Granbury Facebook page.

For more information regarding Ride for a Mission, contact Trevino at 817-578-7547. For more information on Rogue 22, call 817-894-7504.

[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) / 817-573-1243



COURTESY PHOTOS

A good deal is not the cheapest price. The best deals have the best value and quality for the money spent on a trip that meets your personal travel needs.



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. [www.DaydreamVacations.com](http://www.DaydreamVacations.com)

Savvy travelers are always on the lookout for a good deal. Travel deals are not hard to find. Chances are your email inbox is bombarded with sales and marketing emails. If your Facebook ads look anything like mine, you see a sale from every cruise line and resort every day. There is no shortage of companies promoting they have the best price: Expedia, Priceline, Booking.com, AirBnB, VRBO, TimeShares, Costco, and even the cruise lines, airlines and resorts themselves. But how do we know the good deals from the regular deals?

First, we need to define a good deal. A good deal is not the cheapest price. The best deals have the best value and quality for the money spent on a trip that meets your personal travel needs. Here are some examples of how the cheapest price is not the best value or quality for your vacation.

Many all-inclusive resorts in Mexico have a policy hidden in the fine print nicknamed the "walk policy." It allows them to oversell a popular resort and then "walk" guests to their neighboring sister resort as overflow. You quite literally don't get what you pay for. You may experience dif-

ferent amenities, distance or access to the beach and pools, activities, dining options and more.

Some all-inclusive resorts have a neighboring property owned by the resort that is a time-share condominium community. That "good deal" you found online sends you to a resort filled with salesmen harassing you to come visit the property next door and pushing a hard sales technique to get you to buy a time-share. Is the deal you found on your trip worth this hassle?

There are many resorts that have "non-refundable

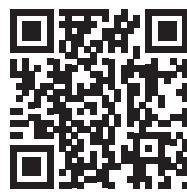
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rates." This means even if you purchase travel insurance you cannot file a claim on the hotel portion if you cancel. Non-refundable hotel rates are not covered by insurance. Your favorite resorts often have this policy in place during peak travel seasons like Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Cruise lines often have deals that aren't really deals. Here is a popular one I see every week. The deal is BOGO50; the first guest pays 100% cruise fare, and the second guest only pays 50%. There is a countdown timer on the website causing you to panic that you'll miss out. After this deal expires the new deal comes out with its own timer. The deal is each guest saves 25%. That's exactly the same price.

These deals flip flop back and forth every week. Beach lovers are often disappointed when they

find a great deal on a beach resort that doesn't actually have a nice beach. It might have a tiny cove beach, or it may be a rocky beach, or they may be in an area that constantly deals with sargassum (seaweed) problems. It's not a good deal if it's not what you want.

Families going to Walt Disney World are often surprised when I recommend a different hotel than the All-Star Resorts. After all, the All-Star Resorts are the cheapest-to-the-penny hotels Disney offers. But that's why I don't recommend them. This is the resort area that all the little league, cheerleader, church youth, and school marching band groups book their stay at. That means it is a loud and chaotic environment that could ruin your family fun vacation. Spend a little extra money for a much better experience!

Contact your professional travel advisor (travel agent) to find the best deals on the vacation that best meets your needs.

How do we know the good deals from the regular deals?



### PECAN PLANTATION BITS



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN GOMEZ

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary recently held a very successful boot drive fundraiser at Pecan's front and back gates. The Auxiliary appreciates all volunteers and patrons for their part in the event. Every cent received goes to support Pecan's emergency volunteers. Pictured are Craig and Patty Eatmon.

## Successful boot drive fundraiser benefits Pecan emergency personnel

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary garnered more than \$3,500 for Pecan's emergency services at a recent boot drive event. The auxiliary thanks everyone who volunteered at the drive as well as the patrons for their donations. The auxiliary will meet again on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Charlie Lee EMS building on Monticello Drive, and folks who would like to enjoy a preceding potluck may arrive at 6 p.m. to partake.

Following the meeting, members are invited to remain for holiday decorat-

ing in anticipation of the Christmas party happening on Saturday, Dec. 14. All ladies and gentlemen interested in fundraising to support Pecan's emergency personnel are invited to attend the auxiliary meeting.

#### WELCOME HOME

A new member orientation comes today, Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse for Pecaners who have recently joined our community as well as for folks who have lived here for a bit and would like to learn about new and updated amenities in our neighborhood.

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C12

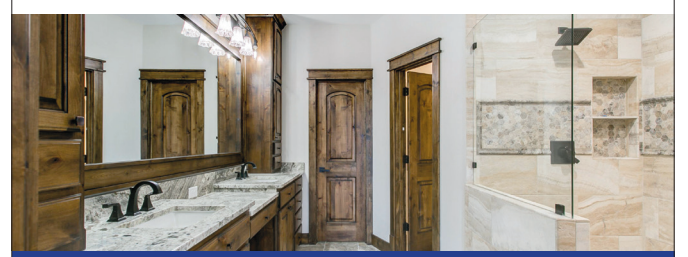
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31	HANK FM New Years Eve Party
JANUARY	
1	Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.)
13	Mammoth Race: ICE AGE
20	Goosebump Jump, & Chili on the Beach
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Fri: 2:05PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM.  
Sat: 10:40AM, 1:25PM, 4:20PM, 7:15PM, 10:10PM.  
Sun: 11:05AM, 3:25PM, 6:20PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM

**Max Lucado's Because of Bethlehem (PG13)**  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 7:00PM

**Napoleon (R)**  
Fri: 3:35PM, 5:00PM, 8:25PM.  
Sat: 10:00AM, 1:35PM, 5:00PM, 8:25PM.  
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:00PM, 5:25PM.  
Mon: 2:35PM, 6:20PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 6:30PM

**The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 5:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 2:25PM, 5:50PM, 9:15PM.  
Sun: 11:10AM, 2:35PM, 6:00PM.  
Mon: 3:00PM, 6:40PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:00PM

**The Shift (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.  
Sat: 10:40AM, 1:25PM, 4:10PM, 6:55PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 10:40AM, 1:25PM, 4:10PM, 6:55PM.  
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 4:00PM

**Trolls Band Together (PG)**  
Fri: 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.  
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM.  
Mon: 2:55PM, 5:15PM, 7:35PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:45PM, 5:05PM, 7:25PM

**Wish (PG)**  
Fri: 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.  
Sat: 10:10AM, 12:35PM, 3:00PM, 5:25PM, 7:50PM, 10:15PM.  
Sun: 11:15AM, 1:40PM, 4:05PM, 6:30PM.  
Mon: 2:15PM, 4:40PM, 7:05PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM

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**PETS OF THE WEEK**

**Buddy** is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

**Sammy** is a neutered male domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 8 years old. Sammy is friendly and thrives on attention. His adoption fee is \$25. The adoption fee includes his rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Making do way back when



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

"You oughta get yourself an Apple watch," a friend suggested. I stopped short of suggesting he should keep time however he chooses. I countered that I will stick with a calendar, sun dial and wristwatch.

Perhaps noting an ever-so-faint smile, he blathered on, explaining what Apple watches can do, even hailing an ambulance if a watch-wearer has a fall. (He did whisper a disclaimer on the 911 call feature if the carpet is too thick or the battery too low.)

I walked away in thanksgiving, not so much seasonal, but thinking I am lucky to have a few friends who embrace technology and really want to do their part in keeping me "vertical and ventilating."

The conversation made me think of my old daddy, who probably never thought himself to be versatile. Familiar with grueling farm work and a do-everything guy with wrenches and pipes,

he greatly valued his wind-up stopwatch used mostly when he officiated basketball games.

Athletically inclined, T. J. Newbury officiated high school basketball games at small schools in Brown and adjoining counties during the Depression.

Usually the only game official, he often endured three days and nights working both boys' and girls' basketball tournaments, usually pocketing \$10 for what today would be considered cruel and unusual punishment for such taxing toil. His duties didn't stop with whistleblowing. He also kept the "official time." He'd likely have been the official scorer, too, had there been a way to hang the book from a belt loop. Further, he kept a close eye on the chalk board, where a youngster kept track of the score for all to see.

Thankfully, this was before the three-point shot, so young score keepers only had to add

one or two points (free throws or floor baskets), so advanced mathematical acumen wasn't required.

At one game in the mid-1940s, a classmate who usually arrived at the gymnasium early enough with chalk in hand to be named score keeper languished at home with a "bad cold."

My dad assigned the youngster's duties to me. During one thoughtless moment, I blundered, and the recollection still causes moistening of eyes and twitching of body.

After a successful three throw, I awarded the shooter two points. Immediately, Dad stopped the game, gently asking for a re-count.

Worse, though, were the cutting comments of classmates, some of whom were snickering that I couldn't even add "one" and get the right answer.

Oh, the cruelty of it all. Dad didn't bring it up on the way home. In fact, he comforted me, just as he had a year earlier when I was a third grader.

During an arithmetic lesson, Mrs. Byrd asked, "Don, what's 'tootum' three, 'tootum' four and 'tootum' five?"

Later, I realized she prob-

ably slurred the word "times," but it sounded like "tootum" to me. I answered, "Mrs. Byrd, I'm not even sure what 'tootum' is."

I spoke to the Southwest Christian School football team recently, conveying details of a recent visit to the doctor, who asked me to recite the alphabet.

Expecting the question, I memorized a modified, rapidly-fired answer: "Z, y, x, w, v, u, t, s, r, q, p, o, n, m, l, k, j, i, h, g, f, e, d, c, b, a." His jaw dropped, the doctor answered, "Now forward, smart aleck."

It made Coach Jeff Dixon think of his late father, whose grade school desk was directly under the letter "Z," one of the big letters of the alphabet strung above the blackboards. Jeff said when the teacher asked him to recite the alphabet, he innocently began with "Z."

Enough of this. I'm not buying an Apple watch. Challenged by QR codes, artificial intelligence and other technical stuff, I have drawn dirt lines that I have no plans to cross.

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## GO PLAY

**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. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Dr., 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 Hwy., Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Info and reservations: 225-933-4074.

**SONS OF the American Legion** Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. 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 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. December program will feature songs of Christmas from around the world. www.granburycivicchorus.org.

**TUESDAYS**

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**GRANBURY JAM** Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing. Details: 505-710-5100.

**BEGINNERS' CHAIR** Yoga 45-minute class. Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Donations for local charities are accepted. Class will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy., 76049. For more information call 817-326-2201.

**AMATEUR RADIO** Weekly

**Social Hour Net.** All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 pm, 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 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**HABITAT FOR Humanity** of Hood County, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

**THURSDAYS**

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**CHESS CLUB,** 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Rd. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

**GENERAL TRIVIA,** 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

**THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club** has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

**FRIDAYS**

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**SATURDAYS**

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

3278.

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**HABITAT FOR Humanity** of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

**SUNDAYS**

**THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club** has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

**FIRST MONDAYS**

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

**LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl 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.

**FIRST TUESDAYS**

**GRANBURY DOLL Club** meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E Bridge St. 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.

**FOURTH TUESDAYS**

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

**FIRST THURSDAYS**

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

**SECOND THURSDAYS**

**HOOD COUNTY CERT** meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

**THIRD THURSDAYS**

**THE HOOD Sommerville A&M Club** meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. Hwy. 376 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

**SECOND SATURDAYS**

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

**THIRD MONDAYS**

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

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

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

**LAST THURSDAYS**

**MEETING MONTHLY** the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd. Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m.

**GO PLAY** calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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Romans 15:13

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Isaiah 41:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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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.

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

# DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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

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254-646-9926

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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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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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GARDEN PATCH

# Celebrate with Texas poinsettia

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



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

Each year, more than 70 million commercially grown poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) sell to an admiring public. Although the plants are native to Mexico, more than 50 percent of poinsettias purchased worldwide are grown in California.

In our country, the scarlet red poinsettia is associated with Christmas. It's used to adorn homes and businesses during the holidays. Introduced to the United States in 1828, more than 100 varieties in various colors exist today. But little is known this plant's small-

er, wild relative known as Texas poinsettia (*Euphorbia cyathophora*).

A native annual plant, Texas poinsettia shares many characteristics with ornamental poinsettias, such as leaf and flower shape. Both are members of the spurge family. And both are tender, perishing with the first freeze. However, Texas poinsettia, much like a wildflower, will go to seed and then readily reproduce.

Texas poinsettia grows 1-3 ft. tall, sporting scalloped alternate green leaves. In late summer, vibrant red markings appear

on the innermost parts of each of the upper bracteal petals that touch the flower's base. At the center are clusters of inconspicuous flowers with yellow pollen. In other words, the plant looks like a small green Christmas poinsettia with red markings on green petals instead of completely red, pink or white petals.

These old-fashioned plants were once common in Texas landscapes. They reproduce by seed, so birds scatter the plants far and wide. If the seeds are undisturbed, Texas poinsettia seedlings emerge in spring, forming multi-stemmed plants by early summer. Excess seedlings are easy to remove. When planted from seed, young plants will emerge in one year.

Texas poinsettias are well-suited for dry Texas landscapes. The green flow-

ers remain despite summer heat — a nice bonus. They respond to moisture, but do not require irrigation. Despite 2023's extreme heat and drought, they performed well. These natives prefer growing in full-to-part sun and in soil that lacks high fertility.

Texas poinsettia is more than a pretty plant. Its yellow pollen benefits pollinators, such as small insects, butterflies and the sphinx moth. Also, the foliage is food for sphinx moth caterpillars. The plants are reputed to be both deer and grasshopper resistant.

When looking to purchase seeds or transplants, know that Texas poinsettia is known by several names. The plant may be labeled as Mexican fireplant, painted euphorbia, desert euphorbia, wild poinsettia or fire on the mountain. However,



COURTESY PHOTO

A native annual plant, Texas poinsettia shares many characteristics with ornamental poinsettias, such as leaf and flower shape.

cream and silver-colored *Euphorbia marginata* is sold in nurseries and labeled as snow-on-the-mountain. Even more confusing, Texas poinsettia may be labeled as *Poinsettia cyathophora* or *Euphorbia cyathophora*.

All euphorbias have a milky toxic sap in their stems, which can be harmful to pets and gardeners. Wear gloves and avoid

contact with skin and eyes when working with the plants.

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

pwebsterco@gmail.com / 817-680-4849

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## BOOK REVIEW

# One thing or another

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

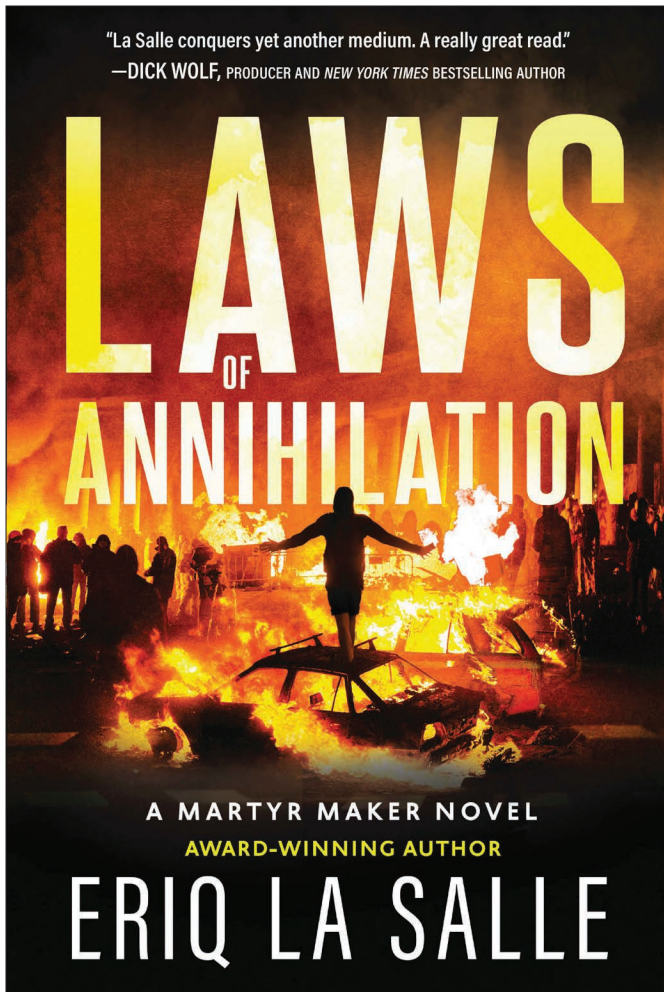
You have to choose, you can't have both. This one or that one, that or the other, think about it and then pick a side. Or maybe you don't even have to think about it. Maybe, as in the new novel "Laws of Annihilation" by Eriq La Salle, the decision was made decades ago.

Agent Janet Maclin wasn't entirely unprepared for the news but still, it's tough to learn that you have incurable cancer and that death is near. The diagnosis explained her constant pain and the ravaging of her entire body on a daily basis but it didn't explain how she was going to break the news to her two partners in the department.

Detective Phee Freeman and Detective Quincy Cavanaugh were not just partners, but friends – maybe the only friends Maclin had anymore – and she was reluctant to share her news. She was not going to survive this, so why would it matter? They were busy enough on a huge case; there was no need to add anything else.

A young Black man had been caught spray-painting hate symbols on a Jewish synagogue and the mob that witnessed his deed chased the young man to his death. Did this lead to the bloody, gruesome murders of Jewish rabbis who had called for peace in the community? Were those deaths connected to the disappearance of a man named Spider, who was heavily involved in an Islamic group in Harlem and who was the young man's uncle? And where was Ezra Pearl, an influential man in the Jewish community who'd been filmed leading the chase that caused the young man's death?

The Mayor of New York was calling for calm but with both sides demanding revenge, two people missing, and a killer (or two) on the loose,



"Laws of Annihilation" by Eriq La Salle ©2023, LAVETTE BOOKS, POISONED PEN PRESS, \$16.99, 413 PAGES

Maclin knew calm wouldn't be that easy. Neither would solving what was a growing list of violent crimes.

As New York City seethed, she hoped she'd live long enough to see this end.

Crack open "Laws of Annihilation" and you might think you'd stepped onto a random sidewalk in a major city somewhere in America. The events in the book are entirely plausible, given current events in the world today and last summer's heatwave. You can almost feel the tension. You can almost smell it.

That realism sharpens the vicious gruesomeness of the murders that pepper this story, as does the authenticity in the details pertain-

ing to religions. The latter is subtle, as author Eriq La Salle leads readers to understand without detracting from the story itself.

And that story...? Well, let's just say that if you plan on sharing this book, you might want to get someone their own copy. Yours will be ripped from ferocious, eager page-turning.

It may go without saying that this thriller contains violence, profanity, and a relatively quick, relatively chaste bedroom scene, but a warning bears repeating. Still, if you love a good thriller with a decent cliffhanger, "Laws of Annihilation" is one thing you should read.

## PECAN

FROM PAGE C8

Folks from the membership committee will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

### HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITY

Since Christmas is right around the corner, the Men's Golf Association's Toys for Tots initiative is underway. The pro shop boasts a bright red Toys for Tots donation box where donors may leave checks, which will in turn be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children in our community. In addition to leaving a donation in the box, folks may participate in the Toys for Tots Golf Tournament scheduled for today, Saturday, Dec. 2 when all proceeds will directly benefit Granbury's local Toys for Tots group. Start time is 9 a.m. for the scramble format event, and the \$50 entry fee also goes to Toys for Tots. Making this year "the biggest and best ever for as many local children as possible" is the goal for our golfing community. Following the tournament, an afternoon shotgun start for regular golf play will begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. Players may sign up on Foretees.

### CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club happily announces a golf cart Christmas parade happening on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Participants will toss candy to children lining the route, and cocoa and cookies with Santa at the clubhouse will end the caravan. To make the day a success, parade entrants are needed, and first and second places in the competition (for best decorations and best of parade) will receive a cash prize. The entry fee for the event (\$30) will benefit the ladies' chosen Hood County charities as well as

their high school scholarship recipients.

### PAINT DAY

The next Pecan Paint-Along with Kathy Yoders is on the calendar for Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. The afternoon promises step-by-step instruction (with no previous painting experience necessary) for a fun lesson in acrylic painting. Supplies are included in the registration fee, and signing up is necessary. Call the PAC to secure a spot: 817-573-7952. More good news: beginning in Jan. 2024, a paint-along workshop will happen monthly on every second Sunday afternoon.

### SANTA SIGHTING

Santa and his horses are coming to Pecan's stables for an open house on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. Vehicles may enter for a \$20 (cash only) entry fee, and attendees will enjoy photo opportunities, horse rides, crafts and holiday goodies to eat. In addition, folks will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a horse camp basket.

### SWEATER GAMES

Ugly Sweater Bingo is on the agenda for Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the clubhouse. Call the front desk to secure a spot: 817-573-2641.

### GOOD READS

The Hood County Library's bookmobile will drive into Pecan and set up shop at the PAC on Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return materials at the bookmobile.

### MAGIC CARDS

On Friday, Dec. 8 Jim Chatham will present "Cards, Cards, Cards" with his set straight from the Magic Castle in Hollywood where he perfected and

presented his show for more than nine years. The fun will begin at 7 p.m. at the PAC, and the attendee number is limited to twelve adults. Interested folks may purchase tickets at the PAC front desk, and the evening promises to be a "top level show" for folks who love card magic.

### REINDEER ART

Another painting opportunity exists when Pecan resident and artist Heidi Easley will lead artists ages 5 to 14 in completing a reindeer canvas painting. Christmas music and hot cocoa will complete the day on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to noon. Sign up also for this event at the PAC.

### GOLF GIFTS

Pecan's golf pro shop will hold its Christmas Card Sale from Tuesday, Dec. 5 through Saturday, Dec. 9 for folks looking to do holiday shopping.

### SEASON SINGING

Christmas Karaoke will be making the season festive on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8 to 11 p.m. in the 19th Hole. Both singers and participants are welcome.

### SEEING SANTA

Sunday, Dec. 10 will feature a Christmas brunch and opportunity for the youngest residents to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The day will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and folks are invited to bring cameras for photo opportunities. Call the clubhouse front desk for a reservation: 817-573-2641.

### SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Rick Lang, who passed away Nov. 12.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

# 100

## 10th Anniversary

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- B-Ray and the Humans Band Plays
- Cash Bar Opens
- 6:00 Social Hour
- Appetizers
- 7:00 Speakers – Marty Van Kleeck, Former Managing Director
- Chris Coffman, City Manager
- Tammy Dooley, Visit Granbury
- Scott Young, President, Bridge Street History Center
- Micky Shearon, President, Granbury Theatre Co.
- 7:30 Presentation of Plaques – Surprise Presentation
- Dress-Business Casual

## TICKETS \$20

Text Sally Adamson at 469-387-3477 or email granburyog@gmail.com