



## 'For the next generation'



The TX HOP (House of Pickleball) Club held its groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 920 Tucker Way, across the street from Granbury Baptist Church on Farm-to-Market Rd. 51.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

### Granbury's upcoming pickleball club breaks ground

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

Hood County residents better get their paddles ready and practice their ernes because Granbury's upcoming pickleball club is now officially in the works.

The TX HOP (House of Pickleball) Club held its groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 920 Tucker Way, across the street from Granbury Baptist Church on Farm-to-Market Rd. 51.

The club will include eight indoor pickleball courts, pro cushion playing surfaces, permanent professional nets, LED lighting with no shadows, and spacious well-marked courts that will also be climate controlled.

Located in an almost 24,000 square-foot facil-

ity, TX HOP Club will also feature a lounge and a pro shop area, a 50-by-70-foot patio, skill zones along the walls for players to practice, along with cornhole and food trucks in the back.

Kim Copeland, CEO of the new premier indoor facility, told the HCN the idea originated after touring various pickleball courts around the nation with her sister, Staci Parker.

"We're pickleball enthusiasts and we're entrepreneurs," Copeland said. "We like to put our passion to

work. We traveled the country and looked at places, and then we came up with a plan, found a location that we loved, and here we are."

According to the website, Copeland first invited Parker to play pickleball at an indoor facility. However, the glare from the court distracted Parker. Additionally, while waiting for their next turn on the court, Parker felt her enthusiasm for the game waning.

The next week, Parker went to play at Copeland's outdoor court and enjoyed the experience at first, but after a while, it became a challenge to adjust to the wind and cope with the sun constantly shining in her eyes. Parker's knee also started to hurt from playing on the hard surface and she

eventually developed a sunburn from being outside for too long.

Over lunch, the sisters then brainstormed about what the perfect pickleball conditions would look like, choosing instead to travel the country and play as many pickleball courts as they could find.

They soon realized though, that their dream pickleball facility didn't exist — yet. So, they decided to build one themselves and enlisted the help of Parker's daughter, Jodi Herzog, who had amassed years of entrepreneurial and managerial experience.

With Copeland bringing the pickleball vision, Parker supplying the experience

PLEASE SEE PICKLEBALL | A5



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF GRANBURY FACEBOOK PAGE

In the next few weeks, both sides of U.S. Highway 377 between Davis Road and Fall Creek Highway in Granbury will undergo smoke testing.

### City to start smoke testing in coming weeks

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

In the next few weeks, both sides of U.S. Highway 377 between Davis Road and Fall Creek Highway in Granbury will undergo smoke testing.

"Smoke testing" is a method used by the city about every 10 years to determine where rainwater is getting into the sanitary sewer system and to identify leaks or other bad connections.

Back in September, the city awarded a \$60,636.80 bid to Pipeline Analysis, a water treatment plant from Garland, to blow "smoke" into the pipe network, as the Lift Station 23 sewerage basin had been subject to inflow and infiltration during rain events for the last eight years.

According to the Granbury City Council agenda report from Sept. 19, inflow and infiltration have been the primary cause of many of the sanitary sewer overflows the city has experienced on Kings Plaza and 2nd Street.

The agenda report states the smoke testing proce-

dures will consist of introducing a non-toxic smoke into sections of the sewerage basin and pressurizing it with fans, forcing the smoke out of legitimate holes such as vents and manholes and defects such as broken pipes, uncapped clean-outs and illegal connections.

As crews look for smoke coming out through holes, manhole covers, plumbing vent pipes and other locations where rainwater can get into the sewer system, they will be able to identify the areas still needing repair or rehabilitation.

Jeff Newpher, city communications manager, explained that a better term to describe the "smoke" is "vapor," as it's nontoxic and not harmful to people or pets. Additionally, the vapor is nonstaining, has a slight odor, is white to grey in color and does not create a fire hazard.

"These companies are experts in smoke testing," Newpher said. "They use vapor that's forced into the sewer lines to see where the vapor comes out and if it comes out in unexpected

PLEASE SEE SMOKE | A5

## County allocates ARPA funds for Indian Harbor VFD fire rescue boat

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

In a 3:2 vote, the Hood County Commissioners Court approved the allocation of ARPA funds totaling \$380,000 to the Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department for the intended purpose of purchasing a fire rescue boat, during its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

This decision was made after the hour-and-a-half-long controversial discussion and failed motion involving allocating \$498,852.40 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to two nonprofit organizations: Rancho Brazos Community Centers and Forward Training Center.

During a previous Hood County Commissioners Court meeting on Nov. 14, the court had also 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 Department for new equipment; and \$25,000 to the

with all the needed equipment. Fire Marshal Jeff Young provided the best price option on standard apparatus if the county were to purchase several apparatuses at once. However, the one-off here is the fire

"feed a truck" that's fighting a structure fire.

"Our only limiting factor on using that boat is a source of water supply in the amount of hose that we carry on all the trucks. So technically, in theory,

Young also stated that the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a portable pump and motor and has started working on agreements with homeowners who have swimming pools, so firefighters can

vide water and water delivery. This is just one of those tools in the toolbox that will help us utilize the water that we've already have."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson asked Young if the Brazos River Authority has "authority over the water," and Young replied that it does.

Wilson also asked Young to confirm Indian Harbor has one boat, the BRA had two lake boats, one Jon boat and one air boat, and if the game warden has two lake boats and one Jon boat.

"When I spoke with the game warden yesterday, he advised me they have one boat on Granbury, and I also spoke with both of them yesterday and inquired on what kind of rescue equipment they have on their boat," Young told Wilson. "Their first question was: define rescue equipment? Basically, the equipment they say that they carry on their boat is a certain amount of rope and life jackets."

PLEASE SEE ARPA | A14

*"This vote that we're requesting does not just work for a fire that is sitting on the lake. It's not just the boat dock that's on fire. It's not just a boat accident. It's not just the actual drowning that we help recover with the divers, everything like that — this is a floating hydrant on the water that we have in Hood County."*

JEFF HARPER

Member of the Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department

Hood County Constables for new equipment — resulting in a total of \$5.1 million.

"In the last board, the focus was on the fire and EMS structures and supporting law enforcement," Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson said during the Nov. 28 meeting. "There weren't enough funds to provide the fire department

rescue boat. There is only one needed and according to Mr. Young, does not impact the price of the other apparatus, so Indian Harbor went back and reduced their original request."

Samuelson said Young had informed her the fire boat would not only fight structure fires on the lake but could also be used to

we could stretch the hose two miles if we had to, but probably would not likely do that," Young said. "If we were going to use this as a water source, we would find a place that the trucks had at least a couple hundred feet access to the lake and then they can pump directly into the trucks from the boat."

use the water from those pools in their apparatus.

"That's in lieu of all the tankers and everything else, so even with the tankers, they're great for moving water from point A to point B," Young said. "It still becomes a source of where you get that water from, so the departments are getting very creative on how we can pro-





# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS



### Granbury unites for a Season of Giving

Supporting local nonprofits during the holidays

#### Chamber Message

The holiday season has begun, and the spirit of giving is becoming more prevalent in our community, reminding us of the importance of supporting our local nonprofits. These organizations play a crucial role in strengthening our community, and now, more than ever, they need our support to continue their invaluable work.

Local nonprofits in Granbury tirelessly work to address a variety of needs, from providing food and shelter to assisting those facing financial hardships. The holiday season often amplifies these challenges, making it essential for the community to come together and lend a helping hand.

One way to support local nonprofits is by making monetary donations. Many organizations depend on the generosity of the community to fund their programs and initiatives. Consider allocating a portion of your holiday budget to contribute to a local charity or nonprofit that resonates with you. Every dollar makes a difference and helps these organizations continue their vital work.

Volunteering is another impactful way to give back. Local nonprofits often rely on volunteers to carry out their mission. Whether it's helping at a food bank, building a house, participating in a community cleanup, assembling bikes for kids, delivering meals, shopping for winter clothing for kids and seniors, or assisting with holiday events, your time and effort can make a significant impact on those in need. The list of ways to help is endless. Discovering a volunteer opportunity to serve this holiday season won't take long with the abundance of organizations eager to welcome helping hands.

In addition to traditional forms of support, consider donating goods and supplies. Food banks, shelters, and other community organizations often require non-perishable food items, clothing, toys, and other essentials. Check with local nonprofits to see what items are most needed, and encourage friends and family to contribute as well.

Finally, collaboration is key to creating a strong and resilient community. Bringing the community together for a common cause fosters unity and shared responsibility. Use your voice to raise awareness about local nonprofits and the issues they address. Share their stories on social media, participate in local discussions, and encourage others to get involved. Spreading the word about the important work these organizations do helps generate support and compassion throughout the community.

This holiday season, let our community be a beacon of generosity and compassion. Time, talent, and treasure ring true, especially this time of year. Let's support our local nonprofits so we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need and create a stronger, more connected community for everyone.

For a list of nonprofits to support and ways to get involved, please feel free to call our office at 817-573-1622 or send us an email at info@granburychamber.com. 'Tis the season of giving, where small acts of kindness illuminate the world and create a tapestry of warmth and generosity.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



First National Bank- Pecan Plantation Branch-: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this branch.

COURTESY PHOTO



Mission Granbury: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Remodel of their Resource Center and 25th Anniversary of providing services in this community.

COURTESY PHOTO

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**granbury CHAMBER**

New Member Spotlight

**Texas Lumber**

"With over 25 years of experience in the industry, we pride ourselves on superior Customer Service that focuses on turn-key, total satisfaction throughout your project from start to finish. We are constantly negotiating with our vendors to secure the most competitive price, so we may pass those savings on to you."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Texas Lumber & Building Supply. "With over 25 years of experience in the industry, we pride ourselves on superior customer service that focuses on turnkey, total satisfaction throughout your project from start to finish. We are constantly negotiating with our vendors to secure the most competitive prices, so we may pass those savings on to you. Plus, our knowledgeable staff recognizes and understands the MAJOR importance of accuracy and timeliness on the jobsite. We offer a full array of in-stock lumber, shingles, sheathing, siding... pretty much any building materials you might require for the job...ready for delivery! Specialty lumber and supplies are also available upon request with minimal wait." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

**granbury CHAMBER**

Member Spotlight

The Oaks of Granbury

**The Oaks of Granbury**

"We were founded with a strong belief in the guiding principle of 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' To this day, those are words we live by. It is a credo that informs every decision. Our staff and leadership are dedicated to putting people first. We treat all of our residents with the respect, dignity, and compassion they deserve."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Oaks of Granbury. "We were founded with a strong belief in the guiding principle of 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. To this day, those words are words we live by. It is a credo that informs every decision. Our staff and leadership are dedicated to putting people first. We treat all of our residents with the respect, dignity, and compassion they deserve." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

**granbury CHAMBER**

Member Spotlight

**Morton Buildings**

"Morton operates over 100 employee-owned construction centers that serve as logistical and local hubs for construction services and subcontract networks."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Morton Buildings. "Morton operates over 100 employee-owned construction centers that serve as logistical and local hubs for construction services and subcontract networks. We specialize in building custom farm, garage, hobby, residential, equestrian, commercial, and community buildings." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

PLEASE SEE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | A12

# THE CHOICE IS CLEAR GRANBURY

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Candidate B	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# What to do with two matching coats?



**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.

**T**iming is everything. The very start of life depends on the timing of the egg and fertilization. If an egg is not ovulated or does not get fertilized at precisely the right time, no pregnancy results. For farmers, the timing of rainfall has everything to do with whether a crop grows and creates a bountiful harvest. In sports, there are all sorts of penalties and failures for not meeting the deadline of the pitch count, 24-second clock, or the final buzzer. If the timings off, there is failure.

With the coming of cooler weather, it is the time of the year to get jackets and coats out of the back closet. I have a London Fog golf jacket that I am particularly fond of. It fits me well, and the material is of the weight

that I can wear the coat most days during the winter, and it keeps me warm. It is not bulky nor cumbersome, and I feel comfortable in it. It has a look which never goes out of style and is of a color which goes with

almost anything.

As I have grown old, I recognize that I get comfortable with a particular item and do not really care to try a “new” or different product to replace something I already enjoy. If you are particularly satisfied with a product, why explore a new product which you may or may not like? Unless the new product offers a feature, which is truly a revelation and will thus make a significant improvement in my life, I will stick with what I am accustomed to.

A few weeks ago, when the weather broke, and the first fall “nip” was in the air, I started wearing my favorite jacket. It might have been a little early, but we all know how that fall is: need a jacket in the morning and only need to wear a t-shirt by late afternoon.

Somehow, I managed to misplace my jacket. I could

not find it in my car, office, or at home. I traced steps back to places I had visited where I might have taken off the jacket and forgotten to put it back on, but my search was to no avail. It was frustrating, and I was angry with myself for losing my jacket like a first-grade schoolboy. To prevent myself from being “coatless,” I jumped on the internet and ordered the exact same jacket as a replacement. After all, I knew I liked everything about the coat, the weather was going to continue to get cooler, and I needed a replacement. There was no sense in waiting any longer.

When the package arrived a day or two later, I unwrapped the jacket and cut off the tags, and immediately wore it the next day to work. It was cool that morning, and the jacket felt comfortable, in some ways

like an old friend. It was reassuring. I had gotten a replacement and I had taken care of myself, something which I frequently fail to do appropriately.

Wouldn't you know it, two days later I found the first jacket. While I felt a tiny bit of satisfaction that I had recovered the lost item, there was a sense of despair when I realized I now had two exactly similar jackets. I had removed the tags and worn the new jacket so I could not return it. Suddenly, I felt foolish and a little forlorn. I had spent money I did not need to spend and what the heck was I going to do with two of the same jackets?

Upon reflection, the episode has caused me to laugh at myself for losing the coat in the first place. One friend, upon learning of my plight, joked that perhaps I had one jacket for each of my personalities.

The staff at the newspaper got a good laugh out of my antics.

I know perfectly well that if I had waited two weeks to order the replacement jacket, I would have never found the first one. Was it karma that I had to order a new jacket to find the first one?

I have taken the “newer” jacket and hidden it in my closet. When the “old” jacket gets worn, or rips, or I misplace it again, I will already have a replacement in hand. Think of the time and trouble I will save. After all, timing is everything.

Thought for the day: The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!

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

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

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Shannon Gray

*Say hello to our neighbor, Shannon Gray!*

Shannon has enjoyed life in Hood County since she was 9 years old when her family moved here in the mid-90s. Shannon always has and still loves our small-town town feel atmosphere with hopes the feeling survives as Granbury grows. You may recognize Shannon from our local Golden Chick, where she spends her working hours alongside her mother, husband, and brother. For Shannon, ample opportunities for advancement await with exciting career plans in the works. But right now it's her three children that are her focus. Shannon said, “I'll think about all that when Mom isn't cool anymore.” The Hood County News serves as a constant, positive presence for Shannon. She always loves seeing HCN reporters out in the community. Shannon says, “You know who that person is out there reporting, you don't have to wonder.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Action Donuts was struck by a vehicle after a driver drove through the intersection located at Fall Creek Highway.

# Car crash in Acton results in damaged buildings, two people sent to hospital

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

A car crash in Acton led to two businesses being damaged and two women were flown to a hospital in Fort Worth. The incident happened around 9 a.m. on Dec. 5.

According to Granbury Chief of Police Mitch Galvan, a 34-year-old female was traveling east on Highway 4 and drove through the intersection located at Fall Creek Highway. The woman's vehicle struck another vehicle sitting in the drive-thru at Acton Donuts before strik-

ing the building and traveling through to the business next door, Standpoint Promotions.

Galvan added that the driver had to be extricated from the vehicle and was flown to a hospital. A juvenile female inside Standpoint Promotions was

also injured and flown to a hospital.

Because the driver was flown to a hospital, police were unable to talk to her about the incident. The investigation is ongoing and the HCN will continue to provide updates as the story develops.

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Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

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**THE PAPER YOU LOVE, BROUGHT TO LIFE IN PRINT, ON YOUR DESKTOP, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE**



# Granbury City Council approves permits for new businesses coming to town

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled Granbury City Council meeting Nov. 5, the Granbury City Council voted 5-0 to approve two permits for new businesses and an expansion of one

current business. Councilman Eddie Rodriguez was not in attendance.

A permit for a new animal grooming business requested by Miranda Hankins was approved. The business will be located at 1407 N. Plaza Dr., nestled between Sweet Home and Dance Connection. The groom-

ing business will primarily serve dogs and cats.

A second permit was approved for a wine tasting facility requested by Ryan Collins to be located at 109 W. Pearl St. The building is currently occupied by Market on the Square. Progressive Powersports

Properties requested to amend its existing permit to allow for the expansion of the existing building located at 4332 E. U.S. Highway 377.

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will take place at 5 p.m. Dec. 19 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St.

## POLICE BLOTTER



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## City of Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Nov. 29 — Dec 5. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

### NOV. 29

8:28 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 1300 block of S. Morgan St.

9:35 a.m., suspicious activity was reported at E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:39 a.m., a theft was reported at E. U.S. Highway 377.

10:52 a.m., a minor traffic accident was reported at 1000 S. Morgan St.

6:58 p.m., a major traffic accident was reported in the 300 block of Meander Road.

7:18 p.m., a welfare check was made on Quiet Cove.

\*\*There were also two traffic stops reported this day\*\*

### NOV. 30

12:02 a.m., shots fired were reported in the 3600 block of Woodlake Drive.

10:20 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 600 block of NE Loop 567.

4:02 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on Fall Creek Highway.

4:55 p.m., a child endangerment report was made at E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:58 p.m., a welfare check was made near Meander Road and E. U.S. Highway 503.

10:30 p.m., an assault was reported on Ferry Boat Lane.

\*\*There were also two traffic stops reported this day\*\*

### DEC. 1

4:52 a.m., a hit-and-run was reported at NE Loop 567 and E. Pearl Street.

9:23 a.m., a disturbance was reported on Reunion Court.

9:43 a.m., an incident of child abuse was reported on Crossland Road.

9:47 a.m., property damage was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

3:00 p.m., a minor traffic accident was reported in the 1400 block of E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:49 p.m., an assault was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

\*\*There were also seven traffic stops reported this day\*\*

### DEC. 2

12:18 a.m., a DWI, first offense

was reported in the 800 block of E. Pearl Street.

1:01 p.m., possession of a controlled substance was reported at the 1300 block of S. Morgan Street.

4:50 p.m., a theft was reported at E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:55 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3600 block of Farm-to-Market Road 4.

6:57 p.m., possession of drug paraphernalia was reported on Paluxy Road.

7:09 p.m., a road rage incident was reported at E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:07 p.m., a welfare check was conducted at Old Granbury Road and Meander.

\*\*There were also two traffic stops reported this day\*\*

### DEC. 3

12:00 a.m., an agency assist was conducted at E. Clifton Road and E. U.S. Highway 503.

10:55 a.m., a vehicle or residence lockout was reported on Omaha Drive.

2:36 p.m., property damage was reported on Quiet Cove.

3:08 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 600 block of Fall Creek Highway.

4:46 p.m., a disturbance was re-

ported on Paluxy Road.

4:52 p.m., a theft of less than \$2,500 was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:15 p.m., a minor accident was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

6:50 p.m., possession of a controlled substance was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

\*\*There were also two traffic stops reported this day\*\*

### DEC. 4

8:38 a.m., a major traffic accident was reported at Paluxy Road and N. Meadows Drive.

10:16 a.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 3200 block of Boat Landing Trail.

12:31 p.m., a major traffic accident was reported in the 1400 block of Morgan Street.

12:57 p.m., an assault was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

2:17 p.m., criminal mischief was reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

5:34 p.m., a juvenile problem was reported on N. Meadows Drive.

7:17 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported on Crawford Court.

\*\*There was also one traffic stop reported this day\*\*

## 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.

### 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.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 15 AND SATURDAY, DEC. 16

**JOURNEY TO Bethlehem** at Tolar Baptist Church 6:30-8 p.m. Experience the Christmas Story on a hayride. Enjoy our live nativity, music, snacks and drinks. 400 Tolar Hwy., Tolar. 682-500-0475

### SUNDAY, DEC. 17

**FREE CHRISTMAS** Concert 1:30 p.m. Granbury Jazz Orchestra, First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 12

**MEETING OF** the Hood County Hospital District Board of Directors at noon. Regular scheduled meeting. Subjects will include re-introducing a tax. Annex 1 Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. 76048. For more information call 817-579-3200.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 20

**GOOSEBUMP JUMP** hosted by Visit Granbury. The event will take place at the Granbury City Beach and end with warm festivities at the Hilton Garden Inn. Registration is at the Lake Granbury Conference Center parking lot adjoining city beach park entrance. The event schedule: 10 a.m. registration and sign in; 11 a.m. costume judging and awards; noon — Official Jump; 12-2 p.m. slide activities. To warm up after the jump there will be hot tubbing fun provided by JR Spas. Hilton Garden Inn will host the coffee/cocoa/cookies after-party to begin immediately following the jump.

### 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.

## ZED by Duane M. Abel

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# PICKLEBALL

FROM PAGE A1

in organizing leagues and tournaments, and Herzog delivering the skills to run the business, the family then set out to create the ultimate space and experience for pickleball players of all levels.

“We bring three different skill sets, and we found that they all just meshed perfectly to create a whole,” Copeland said. “And it’s been wonderful to have a family business. We’re building it for the next generation. We’re building it for the family entertainment here in Granbury.”

“It’s been a long journey, and it’s been a lot of ups and downs, but it’s been fantastic for us to all get to know each other in a completely different aspect as far as professionals go,” Herzog said. “The three of us together, we’re all family, but we’re also very different, and once we started putting our talents together, we realized that we could do whatever we wanted. We were unstoppable together.”

The sisters agreed upon a facility in Granbury, as Parker had already resided in Granbury for 10 years.

“We love it here,” Parker said. “We moved here because our grandkids were here, but we love it. It’s just such a friendly community and so supportive. Anybody that needs anything, they come together to help whether it’s a disaster, or just something happens to a family. It’s just a great place to live.”

“Granbury doesn’t have anything like this, and it’s a perfect place to initiate something like this that can involve everybody,” Copeland explained. “Everywhere we travel, the first thing we do is look at where the pickleball courts are. We know that Granbury is a major tourist destination, and we want to be that place that they look for, like we look for other places, so we’re really looking to benefit Granbury as well, and have it be mutually interesting and profitable.”

With help from local realtor Vickie Davies with Knieper Realty, Tony Callaway, president and CEO of Callaway Development Services, con-



**Kim Copeland, CEO of the new premier pickleball facility, right, speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony about what the public can look forward to with the TX HOP Club's 24,000 square-foot facility. Also pictured are Randy Emerson, vice chairman of ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, left, and Tony Callaway, president and CEO of Callaway Development Services, back.**

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

tractor Tony Gresham, and Andrew Donaldson, assistant vice president and loan officer with Texas Republic Bank, the sisters' pickleball dream is finally becoming a reality.

“Two years ago, they put this property under contract, and I really didn’t have any idea of necessarily what it was going to be; I just wanted to be involved in developing a project in Granbury that we could all be proud of,” Callaway said, during the ceremony. “Just about a year ago, these three beautiful ladies showed up on site and we had a meeting and we talked about doing a pickleball facility. I had no idea what pickleball was — none whatsoever — but we’ve had a very interesting journey through this whole process.”

Callaway thanked city officials like City Manager Chris Coffman, Mayor Jim Jarratt and City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle for assisting with the project.

“We had to be very creative in terms of how we can approach things because

we have some things with our ordinances that we’re still working on to improve, but it’s been a joy,” he said. “And I can only thank the city officials because without them, it would not have happened. They jumped in and really helped us from halfway through to the finish line. It’s just exciting to have this today, and it’ll be even more exciting when we have our grand opening.”

Copeland said she expects to have the building up by December, with the official grand opening scheduled for some time in the spring.

“We’re doing it for the next generation,” she said. “Because it’s about pickleball, but it’s also about community. We wanted to do a project together, and we wanted to do something that would benefit us and benefit the community.”

She explained that the first charity event is scheduled for June 16, where TX HOP Club will be co-sponsored by the Parkinson’s Foundation and the Mayo Clinic as they “shine the light” on Parkinson’s

disease.

The facility will also offer open play, membership play, clinics, local and traveling league play, drills and skills sessions, tournaments, and special events all designed to enhance players’ fun and improve their play.

“It’s really going to be a VIP experience for pickleball. We’re designing it much like a tennis or golf club, but it’s more achievable for everybody,” Copeland said. “That’s our motto: VIP pickleball play for everyone.”

“It’s just a fun sport like anybody can come out, you can be good, you can never play before and it’s just fun,” Herzog said. “You don’t realize how much fun it is until you’re out there, and you’re like, ‘Oh, my gosh, it’s been an hour.’ We wanted a place where people could play when they wanted, how they wanted, with who they wanted, and it’s hard to find that here, so we’re super excited for people to be able to play their way.”

Memberships for TX HOP Club vary in terms of pricing and offerings. Family memberships are \$150 a month for up to four family members, a standard individual membership is \$75 a month, and a platinum membership is \$1,800 a year. Non-members can reserve courts on the day of play only, based on availability, and will pay a non-member court fee of \$15 per person for one-and-a-half hours of play.

Another interesting aspect of the new facility is the Donor Appreciation Walkway feature on the gathering patio, where individuals can donate \$500 or more and receive a personalized, engraved brick with up to three lines of text.

“The walkway will be six feet wide by 70 feet long, and it will be paved with bricks that people have bought, either to commemorate it, celebrate it, help sponsor it, or for their kids and grandkids forever to be memorialized in our Donor Appreciation Walkway,” Copeland said. “It gives

people a chance to be a part of the building and a part of the project forever. We’re very excited about that aspect because it gives everyone a chance to feel like they helped build it.”

Individuals can also vote for the pickleball court colors on the website, choosing between the colors of blue and green, blue and gray, or blue and blue.

Herzog, who moved to Granbury for this project in July, said the support her family has gotten from the community members and the players for the new pickleball facility has been absolutely amazing.

“We’re so grateful to be here,” she said.

Copeland added, “We hope it’s going to be a mainstay of Granbury and a destination pickleball location.”

For more information about TX HOP Club and membership options, visit [txhopclub.com](http://txhopclub.com).

[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) / 817-573-1243

# SMOKE

FROM PAGE A1

places, then that indicates where there may be issues that were not visible to the naked eye. It’s a really efficient way to find out where problems are and where water is getting out, and it’s a way to identify the places where you’d have those types of problems or leak-

age in your sewer systems.”

Smoke from the test could enter homes through floor drains and unused toilets, sinks or showers. While all drains have water traps to prevent fumes from entering homes, floor drains in basements or in garages can dry up.

The city recommends residents ensure the drains in their houses have water in them to prevent smoke

from entering. Residents are also encouraged to pour a bucket of water down floor drains, sinks drains, shower drains, or any toilets that haven’t been used in a month.

“We’re just telling people if you’ve got a three-bedroom, two-bath house, and you don’t use the toilet in the one bathroom and you never use the sink, just run the faucet for 30 seconds

and flush the toilet just once this month, and you’ll be fine,” Newpher said.

Many apartment buildings have a basement common area for laundry or storage. For apartment residents, the city recommends individuals pour water down laundry tubs or floor drains in these common areas.

The city also advises individuals to call 911 if they are not certain any smoke

they see is the result of the city’s testing.

As part of this project and contract, the contractor conducting the smoke testing will notify the public beforehand with doorhangers, perform the testing for the entire basin, and submit a report of the findings.

Newpher added that as new phases and neighborhoods are added to the smoke testing, the city will

notify residents of any future testing in their area.

For more information and to stay informed of other city news, visit [granbury.org](http://granbury.org) online.

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# Dynamic duo brings joy: Mother-daughter team begins new nonprofit 'Operation Joy'

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH  
Special to the Hood County News

Joy was overflowing for Tammie Baker, her daughter Hannah Kirkpatrick, Hannah's daughters Arrow and Arabella Grace and their volunteers, not to mention the happy recipients of Operation Joy on Saturday, Dec. 2. This was the first distribution day for the newly formed nonprofit.

"We had a beautiful time; no words could describe what happened there. It is what we prayed for, that (God's) love would be felt. We are in awe, and we are so thankful to be a part of that. Overwhelming love, it was one of the things Hannah prayed for at our prayer session the Thursday before," shared Baker.

Baker and Kirkpatrick have been in outreach ministry for over 10 years. The mother-daughter duo has tried to meet a need whenever one comes across their path and seek others needs as well.

Baker and Kirkpatrick have delivered widow baskets, set up free pop-up shops at a memory care center, on U.S. Highway 377 during a tax-free weekend and at a soup kitchen. They have rented out the movie theater and given away free tickets. They serve at a local food pantry, collect items for Brazos Pregnancy Center, do random acts of kindness and more.

While serving at the Toys for Tots distribution last year Baker and Kirkpatrick saw an unmet need. As Kirkpatrick explained to her own young daughter about the children who would be receiving toys, her daughter said, "Mommy! I pray they

have a home and a Christmas tree!" When Kirkpatrick mentioned the conversation to Baker. Baker replied, "I can't get them a home, but I can get them a tree!"

As the families came through the Toys for Tots pickup at Arrow Feed last year, they received wrapping paper and bows in addition to toys. A young girl who was given wrap and bows was asked if she had a tree. Her reply was "no." "My granddaughter said, 'I have one for you!'" Baker said. This moment moved the room to tears and was the spark of Operation Joy.

Baker and Kirkpatrick named their nonprofit Operation Joy as that is what they endeavor to bring to the recipients. Despite giving and serving all year, the big event for the duo was distribution day for their newly-formed charity. The focus would be to provide a full Christmas experience. Parents could shop as children were entertained. Santa, represented by Sam Morrison of Tolar, would be available as well as a superhero who has an actual Batmobile. The superhero volunteer is former police officer Damon Cole from Parker County who volunteers his time for the Make-



The volunteer team that distributed donated goods for Operation Joy.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A-Wish Foundation and has visited children in 30 states. At the event, Spider-Man was invited to several birthday parties which he plans to attend.

"Families are prayerfully chosen," said Baker, and prayer is offered over the recipients as they pick up their items. "These are families whose child has been ill, the parents have been ill, or the family has had an unfortunate situation arise making it hard for them to buy Christmas."

These families often fall through the cracks of other assistance or do not qualify for other assistance. The families chosen must live in Hood County and not receive benefits from the state or other local Christmas charities.

"Every story is touching," shares Baker.

Families chosen were provided with a Christmas tree and lights, Christmas dinner, decorations, wrapping paper, coats and other clothing needs, a baking basket, gingerbread houses, crafts and three toys for each child up to the age of 18.

In just one year's time Operation Joy was ready to serve Hood County, fully funded by the community. The theme of the nonprofit is to share "Joy and Jesus." Baker said it is so heart-warming to see how Hood County takes care of others. Operation Joy has many partners in the community, both families and retail; they have received generous contributions from Wal-Mart.

"The community has come together; we felt we should lead the charge, but other people have come alongside us. We had the vision but so many people have been the backbone," Baker said.

Donations came in from other communities as well. A lady from Waco sent 100 pairs of pajamas. A lady in Indiana sent Christmas dresses in many sizes. A family participating received three little matching dresses in consecutive sizes for their

three daughters.

In this inaugural year, Operation Joy served 35 families. The goal of 35 families was originally set by Arrow a year ago, when she was just 4 years old.

"We asked Arrow how many families we should serve, and she said 35 without hesitation. We found 34 Christmas trees at Walmart that first night, which was confirmation to us (that 35 was the correct amount). The Holy Spirit can speak to children as well. We always try to listen to what they say," Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick explains that her children, both Arrow, now 5, and Arrabella Grace, who will be 3 years old on Christmas Day, have been very involved in every step of ministry from spending time with the homeless to organizing goods for Operation Joy. Baker's parents allowed their rental house to be used to organize the incoming goods. Arrow organized one of the rooms herself. She now calls the room "Arrow." Kirkpatrick said that serving others profoundly affected Arrow.

"Arrow asked Jesus into her heart this year, and I know that the serving done this year really showed her what it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus," Kirkpatrick shared.

Baker and Kirkpatrick share how blessed they were the day after distribution day. They were at church when a couple showed them a photo of their grandchild-

dren under the tree with matching pajamas provided by Operation Joy. And they received an encouraging text from a recipient as well which read, "I just wanted to thank you and your family so much for the special time you shared with my kids and me yesterday. It was a tremendous blessing in my hardest season of life so far and made us all feel God's love in and through you all. Thank you for choosing my family and for making Christmas special through the true gift of Christ and his spirit through you. It meant the world. I am moved to tears and still overwhelmed at the blessing this was."

Baker and Kirkpatrick agree that Arrow's vision came to fruition, during prayer Kirkpatrick kept hearing the word "reach."


"We did reach the number of families, all the wants and needs were met, in 2023 the goal of spreading Jesus and Joy was met. For our hearts it's giving all glory to Him. Without Him none of this would be possible. It's a blessing that we get to bring Jesus and joy wherever we go. It's not about the presents under the tree, it's about the presence of Jesus," explained Baker.

To donate to Operation Joy, email [operationjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:operationjoy@yahoo.com) or see their Facebook page [operationjoytx](https://www.facebook.com/operationjoytx) and their help the homeless page on Facebook [hopeforthehomelessoftexas](https://www.facebook.com/hopeforthehomelessoftexas).



COURTESY PHOTO

Founders of Operation Joy shown with Santa: Hannah Kirkpatrick holding Arabella Grace and Tammie Baker with Arrow Kirkpatrick.

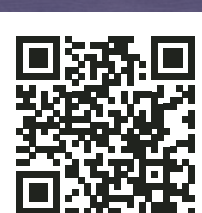



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# Granbury's new regional radio network expands to multi-county communication

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

For the past several years, the Granbury Police Department has attempted to expand its communication with other first responders — not only in Hood County, but in other counties around the metroplex.

But now, Granbury's new regional radio network may be the first of its kind in Texas, allowing the Granbury Police Department to connect with several first responders in the area like Texas EMS, Air Evac and CareFlite medical transport companies, Hood and Erath County Sheriff's Offices and Volunteer Fire Departments, Stephenville Police and Fire Departments, Tarleton State University, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the United States Marshals Service.

Although Granbury's regional radio network officially launched a few months ago, the new communication tool has been in the works for several years.

In fact, Chief of Police Mitch Galvan explained that GPD's attempts to obtain an updated radio system date all the way back to 2006.

"Every other year, we have a graded exercise for the nuclear plant, and we kept getting dinged because we didn't have any interoperability, communication-wise, with anybody in Somervell County, or any other agency for that matter," Galvan told the HCN. "So we, along with the sheriff, started trying to get what's called a P25 radio system that will allow us to talk to other agencies on the law enforcement network, and it failed miserably, because at the time, the quote that we got was just astronomical, and it just didn't pan out."

He explained that moving forward, the GPD continued to have interoperability issues with major events, like the 2022 Chalk Mountain fire in Somervell County — where more than 6,700 acres burned.

"We could talk to the sheriff's office while we were in the cars but couldn't talk to them on our handheld radios," he said. "It was pretty rough."

In April 2019, the GPD officially started a discussion during a workshop with the Granbury City Council and Hood County Commissioners Court about implementing a P25 radio system.

Galvan said that previously, the GPD had been leaving the decision up to the county as it wasn't gaining any ground — that is, until City Manager Chris

Coffman spoke up during the meeting.

"He said, 'I don't care what we have to do. Get it done. We're not gonna wait,' so we made contact with radio companies, and went through that process of them sitting down and going over what the needs were, and what we wanted to do with the network," he said. "We wanted the network to be able to expand regionally and not just within the county."

In May 2021, a contract was signed with American technology company L3Harris, and the new radio network officially went live in August.

"It's been a two-year process of getting it designed and implemented," Galvan said. "A lot of stuff had to happen to get it to the point to where it is now."

## FEATURES

Galvan said one of the features with the new system is a mobile app from L3Harris called BeOn, which extends the capabilities of a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) network to smartphones, tablets and PCs. The app provides secure Push-to-Talk (PTT) communications far beyond the boundaries of regional radio systems, according to L3Harris.com.

"No matter where I am in the world, I can get on that app and toggle the radio, so if I'm away and something's happening and I need to be able to communicate, I can do that via my phone just like I would a radio," Galvan explained.

Although the Granbury Police Department is still finalizing the details, Deputy Chief Cliff Andrews said Granbury's regional radio network will be the "first national deployment" of the Live Earth system — a cloud-based data visualization platform delivering real-time data feeds in a single, simplified view.

Using GPS with a radio transmission, the Live Earth system will allow a mobile radio or car radio to send out a transmission every five minutes that contains the individual's GPS coordinates.

"It tracks the physical location of all the mobile radios, so even when they're out of a car, we can see where they're at, and where they're going, so if we ever lose contact with anybody, then it comes

up," Andrews said.

Another interesting feature, he said, is that if an officer finds himself in an emergency, he can press the emergency button on the radio and the channel will automatically open and transmit what's taking place to other surrounding officers.

"If they're disabled or injured in any way, and they can't get to it, they hit the emergency button or declare an emergency — or remotely, somebody can declare an emergency for them — then they'll get a period of time of typically 20 seconds where they can transmit, and then the channel closes, and everybody can talk, and then that repeats until the dispatcher or the emergency communicator clears the emergency for the officer," Andrews said. "So, if the officer needs assistance, we can get it to him pretty quickly."

"The fact that it does that without him having to do it,

so everybody knows whose radio that is on any network that they're roaming on."

## SIGNAL STRENGTH

Not only does the new radio network have an abundance of useful and beneficial features, but its signal strength is much stronger than it has been in the past.

Galvan explained how previously, GPD officers were unable to transmit radio signals out when they were stationed at Granbury High School, Lake Granbury Medical Center or Walmart.

"Our handheld radios wouldn't transmit out because they're large concrete structures, so we told them going in, 'We have to be able to communicate inside these buildings, so our handheld radios need to be able to get out of these buildings,'" he said.

After identifying every building and structure that posed a barrier in getting

wouldn't know what was going on until they got through and got back to the car on what was happening, so that was always a very dangerous situation for our guys, because they just had no radio coverage whatsoever," he said. "So, the fact that the coverage is so strong now in the county and in Somervell and in Erath County, it just makes you feel much better to be able to get out when you need to."

## IMPACT

Although the regional radio network has only been live for a few months, Galvan and Andrews explained how a recent situation in Erath County allowed the Granbury Police Department to keep tabs on what was taking place in case they needed to step in.

"We had a SWAT call out in Stephenville yesterday and everything flowed to where everybody got on the

us. There's a lot of backend work that's going to take place there, but that's where we're headed now."

"Our ultimate goal, as it is, is to try and get as many of these other networks around the metroplex as we can on one big conglomerate talking to each other, so that if we leave here going in the metroplex, we can still communicate with them," Galvan said. "It's going to be extremely valuable to us and anybody west that joins this network to be able to communicate, well, forever which is just absolutely huge."

Galvan said the whole project took a ton of work, but that Andrews was the one who was really working tirelessly to get it up and running, noting he had to physically touch and program every handheld and car radio — which added up to just over 1,100 radios in total.

Andrews added that

*"We're hoping to get more young blood, fresh ideas and more energy. If we can get some college kids in there and people who are just out of college, they can 'Our ultimate goal, as it is, is to try and get as many of these other networks around the metroplex as we can on one big conglomerate talking to each other, so that if we leave here going in the metroplex, we can still communicate with them. It's going to be extremely valuable to us and anybody west that joins this network to be able to communicate, well, forever which is just absolutely huge.'"*

## MITCH GALVAN

Chief of Police at the Granbury Police Department

because if you're struggling with somebody, it's going to be very hard for you to reach up and hold that mic down and try to talk, so him just hitting the emergency button and then being able to talk is huge," Galvan said, chiming in. "He's able to say what he needs to say, and we're able to hear what's going on, and we're already going to know where he is because of the Live Earth, so we're actively responding and knowing what's going on and where he is."

Andrews said the radios are also tied into a state identification plan, so if a situation like the Uvalde school shooting were to occur with many federal, state and local officers responding, everyone will know who is transmitting on any network due to the state identification number.

"The state identifier that chief has on his radio, he can take that down there, they look at the radio, take his identifier from his radio, plug it into their P25 system and that radio is identified as Chief Galvan of Granbury on their network," Andrews explained. "It's locally controlled by us, but it's issued through the state and tracked at the state level,

communication out, a GPD officer and a consultant on the project traveled to every location and tested radio signal strengths in various rooms — with minimal issues.

"There was one or two spots in the high school," Galvan said. "One was in a closet in the science room somewhere that they had trouble getting out of, and I think there was another dead spot, but other than that, we were transmitting out of all those buildings."

Galvan added that certain areas in Granbury City Hall and city parks also posed an issue before in transmitting a signal — but now, the problem is almost nonexistent.

"Our radios will get out anywhere in the county, and in Stephenville and in Glen Rose," he said. "He (Andrews) lives in Glen Rose, and he gets on his handheld radio and talks to dispatch from his house; that's never been able to be done before."

Galvan expressed the seriousness in the coverage area of the handheld radios, as it is "vital" for the officers to communicate outside of their vehicle no matter where they are.

"Let's say they were chasing somebody on foot. You

channel they needed to get on and we were all talking; that would never have happened before," Galvan said. "Our SWAT team would have showed up and our radios wouldn't have been able to communicate with their radios."

"The SWAT team was working in Erath County in the city of Stephenville, and I was sitting on my desk listening to everything that they were doing, so I could monitor it just from the office," Andrews said. "It's the first time we've ever been able to do that. It's pretty nice."

With Erath County already in the network and Somervell County following close behind, Galvan said the police department will soon be in talks with the counties Parker and Tarrant to potentially join the network, as well.

"The next step in our communication system will tie into Parker County's communication system, and in Tarrant County's regional system, which includes Johnson counties, and inner cities," Andrews said. "The next step for us now is to work that configuration and make sure our system talks to the other systems around

Shawn Maguire and Tyler Brown of the Hood County Emergency Communications Center were instrumental in helping him get the job done.

With first responders using Granbury's new regional radio network, they will have a greater ability to deliver life-saving emergency services every day.

"The benefit to the county is immeasurable because it just ensures that anything that happens here, we're going to all be able to talk to each other without issues, whereas before that was never the case," Galvan said. "I'm glad that it's finally up. We've still got some pieces of it that need to come up live, but we're happy that it's finally operational and functioning."

He added that he credits Coffman and the Granbury City Council for "stepping up, seeing the need and getting it done."

"If it wasn't for them realizing that we had a big problem here, and taking the step to do it, we'd still be operating on the old way," Galvan said.

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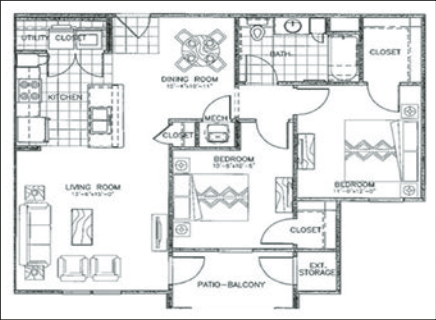

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## CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

<b>Real Estate for Sale</b> 1010 Acreage for Sale 1020 Cemetery Lots 1030 Commercial for Sale 1040 Duplexes for Sale 1050 Homes for Sale 1060 Waterfront Homes 1070 Lots for Sale 1080 Mobiles for Sale 1090 Waterfront Mobiles 1100 Real Estate Notes 1110 Townhomes & Condos 1120 Property For Trade 1130 Want To Buy	2050 Four-Wheel Drive 2060 Motorcycles 2070 Pickups & SUVs 2080 Vans & Campers 2090 Trailers 2095 Heavy Equipment	<b>Farm &amp; Ranch</b> 3010 Corrals & Fencing 3020 Farm Equipment 3030 Feed & Pasture 3040 Stock Trailers 3050 Related Items	<b>Finance</b> 4010 Business Opportunities 4020 Insurance 4030 Investments 4040 Mortgages & Notes	<b>Home &amp; Business Services</b> 5010 Adult/Elderly Care 5020 A/C Heating Repair 5030 Appliance Repair 5040 Automotive Services 5050 Bulldozer Services 5060 Business Services 5065 Carpools 5070 Cement/Concrete 5075 Chimney Sweeping 5080 Child Care 5090 Cleaning Services 5100 Computer Services	5110 Construction 5120 Clock Repair 5130 Dock repair/Rebuild 5140 Electrical 5150 Electronics Repair 5160 Exterminating 5170 Fencing 5180 Floor Coverings 5190 Health Care 5200 Home Improvement 5210 Home Services 5220 Landscaping/Tree Service 5230 Interior Design 5240 Masonry 5250 Mobile Home Service 5260 Moving/Hauling 5265 Plumbing 5270 Sand/Gravel/Soil 5280 Roofing 5290 Painting 5295 Pressure Washing 5300 Septic/Sewer 5310 Small Engine Repair 5320 Secretarial/Office 5330 Storage 5340 Tractor Service 5350 Welding	<b>Merchandise</b> 6510 Antiques 6520 Appliances 6530 Arts & Crafts 6540 Building Materials 6550 Computers 6570 Electronics 6570 Firewood 6580 Furniture 6590 Health 6600 Air Conditioners 6610 Lawn Equipment 6620 Miscellaneous 6630 Musical Instruments 6635 Pocket Stuffers 6640 Portable Buildings 6650 Tools 6660 Trees 6670 Wanted	<b>RV's/Travel Trailers</b> 6070 6080 Sporting Goods	<b>Employment</b> 8510 General 8520 Construction 8530 Food Services 8540 Medical/Dental 8550 Office Employment 8560 Professional 8570 Sales 8580 Salon Personnel 8590 Employment Wanted 8600 Employment Information 8610 Carpool Information	<b>Notices</b> 9010 Happy Notes 9020 Free 9030 Public Notices 9040 Notices 9050 Personal Lost & Found 9070 Card of Thanks	<b>Public Sales</b> 9570 Auctions 9580 Flea Markets 9590 Out of Town Sales Cresson Garage Sales 76035 Granbury Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76049 Lipan Garage Sales 76462 Tolar Garage Sales 76476
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### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1010  
**Acreage for Sale**

100 acres for sale in Haskell Co, TX. \$400K. Owner finance with 20% DN for 10 yrs. Mineral rights for additional \$200K. Call/Text Mike Crouch (817)559-4123.

### REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1510  
**Apartments for Rent**

Nice, clean 1 room efficiency apartment with washer/dryer hookups. 1 person only. Next to lake with dock. \$850/mo, \$450 deposit. Water paid. Leave message, 469-781-1114.

**Taking Applications**

1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Located at Granbury Meadows Apts., Senior Citizen, Handicapped or disabled complex.

1201 N. Meadows Dr.  
**817-579-8612**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

1520  
**Commercial for Rent**

For lease: 2-car garage, 24x24, no utilities, Brandi Ln, Granbury. \$250/mo, 1 month deposit. John 817-578-1045.

**Warehouse/Office/Retail space for lease. 1200 + sf. Hwy 377 W from \$650/mo. 817-349-2535**

1530  
**Duplexes for Rent**

1431 Walters, 5725 Walnut Creek, 2-1-2CP, fenced yard, \$1,000/mo, \$1000 security. 817-692-6673.

2BR DUPLEX - TOLAR 2 BR/2 BA, Carport, fenced yard, 1 year lease, no smoking, \$1400/\$1000 deposit. (817) 578-5293

1540  
**Homes for Rent**

SINGLE FAMILY HOME - GRANBURY 2-bedroom, 1 bath, no smoking absolutely no pets. \$900/mo, \$500 deposit. 707 E Moore St. 682-500-5543.

3/2/2, plus bonus room, WBFP, fenced backyard. Easy access to Loop 567 and Hwy 377. Nice neighborhood. Pets accepted upon approval. \$1,800 a month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 817-296-7999 for showing.

2BR SINGLE FAMILY HOME - GLEN ROSE 2 BR/1 BA, Single Family Home, newly renovated, water and trash service provided

10 minutes from town, all appliances, \$1,250/mo (254) 396-1253  
Littlesister2955@yahoo.com


1550  
**Mobiles for Rent**

Mobile Home for rent. Call Hector at 817-919-4487

Whipponwill Bay, nice, clean 2-1, fenced yard, \$1,250 a month plus deposit. 817-578-9906.

### VEHICLES

2010  
**Automobiles**



2017 NISSAN ROGUE 103,008 miles, Cash/Bank Financing Only Barron's Auto Granbury \$13,850 (817) 573-2828

### FARM & RANCH

3030  
**Feed & Pasture**

Hay for sell. Delivery available. 817-688-0550 or 817-253-7369

### HOME & BUSINESS SERVICES

5070  
**Cement/Concrete**

### DOUG STULTS CONSTRUCTION

**CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION**

SINCE 1970  
**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
Slabs. Driveways. Patios. Retainer Walls. Metal Buildings-RV Covers  
Licensed & Bonded **817-279-8115**

5100  
**Computer Services**

**NEED COMPUTER HELP?**  
Virus Removal/Repairs/Networks/Upgrades/Programming/Training and more. Over 25 years exp, Residential and Commercial  
**(817) 579-8450**


5120  
**Clock Repair**

ANTIQUA CLOCK REPAIR  
Specializing in older clocks  
Work guaranteed. 20 yrs exp.  
Call anytime, (817) 559-9123

5140  
**Electrical**

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**  
TECL#22551 50+ years Residential/Commercial  
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NO JOBS TOO SMALL!  
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5170  
**Fencing**



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ALL TYPES OF FENCING  
FENCE LINE CLEARING  
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FENCING  
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5170  
**Fencing**

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Since 1970.  
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5200  
**Home Improvement**

**SNODGRASS PAINTING AND REMODELING, INC**  
One Stop Shop  
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Accepting Credit Cards  
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New construction, remodel, carpentry, paint, sheetrock, tile, stone, cement, doors, windows. Interior, exterior. Commercial. Residential. Insured.  
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Brad Stone 806-676-9939  
**Dependable, Affordable Choice!**

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Residential and commercial construction. No job too big, or too small. Remodel, new construction, decks, outdoor kitchens and more. Call Charlie Coleman today for a free estimate (817) 905-0983

**HANDYMAN OF GRANBURY**  
No job too small! Light fixtures, ceiling fans, faucets, new furniture assembly, blinds, repairs, odd jobs.  
**Barry Hazel 817-891-2779**



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5210  
**Home Services**

**MDDM DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC** Residential plans for custom homes, additions & remodels. mdixon@mddmgroup.com  
**Mike Dixon, 817-559-1686**

5220  
**Landscaping/Tree Service**



also clean and level lots



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(817) 894-9449  
TexasTreeCare@yahoo.com



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Tree and Bush trimming. Flowerbed Maintenance. Brush hauling, weed eat, blowing, mowing, leaf cleanup. Call or text for free estimate. 817-736-5671

5240  
**Masonry**

**ANYTHING WITH STONE**  
\*Retaining Walls \*Patios \*Houses \*Repairs \*Flower Beds \*Planting \*Bobcat Work \*Tornado Shelters \*20+ years \*Senior Discount Insured (817) 919-4487

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\*Sidewalks \*Retaining Walls \*Mailboxes \*Fireplaces  
No job too small. FREE estimates.  
**(817)279-3212**

6040  
**Guns**

GUN 300 Winchester Magnum Encore Thompson center pro hunter, 3x9 Le-upold scope \$1200 Firm 817-219-4281 \$1,200 (817) 219-4281

6520  
**Appliances**

Washer & electric dryer, Samsung front load with pedestal drawers. \$350 cash. (817) 579-7112

6570  
**Firewood**

PREMIUM Split seasoned oak, \$450 cord, \$300 half cord, delivered and stacked. CASH ONLY. 817-243-6827

6620  
**Miscellaneous**

WAGON YARD.COM: We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery Clocks, Elec Lamps. 817-573-5321

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8030  
**Pets**



Yellow and Red Lab Pups! Excellent bloodlines, exceptional temperaments, well socialized! Call Cyndi at Jubilee Acres. (817) 559-0699



**LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT!**  
Call or visit  
**Hood County Animal Control**  
1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048  
**817-573-4277**



**JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING**  
Very Reasonable; Senior Discount (817) 408-5288  
wilsonjulianne@gmail.com

8040  
**Pets Lost & Found**

**IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact**  
**Hood County Animal Control,**  
1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048.  
**817-573-4277**

### EMPLOYMENT

8510  
**General**



**HERITAGE CLEANERS**  
is now hiring pressers. Apply in person. Heritag Cleaners esta ahora planchadoras. 600 S. Morgan St.  
**817-579-9274**

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

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## NOTICES

### Public Notices

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.

**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 1201 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 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 of THE ESTATE OF Maria A. Rodriguez, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Maria A. Rodriguez, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 29th of November, 2023 by the County Court of Hood County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Maribel Rodriguez-Moores within the time prescribed by law.

My address is: c/o David G. Petter, Curnutt & Hafer, LLP, 301 West Abram Street, Arlington, Texas 76010  
Independent Executor of the Estate of Maria A. Rodriguez, Deceased.  
CAUSE NO. P10210

#### Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Lancrow Self Storage located at 1409 N Plaza Dr - 1301 N Plaza Dr / 2721 Fall Creek Hwy - 4071 Acton Hwy Granbury TX 76048/ 76049 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 12/29/2023 at 11:00AM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Rebecca Wood; Adin Lewis; Amber A Minnich; Valencia Valeriano; Fern L. Bailey (2 units); Kelli Allen; Brent Rosenkranz; Kyle May; Leah Spenser. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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

BLUE BRANCH RANCH, LOT 66R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

### Public Notices

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

BLUE BRANCH RANCH, LOT 10R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Carla M Driver, Cause No.P10252, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Daniel Riffe 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 Carla M Driver, 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 4th day of December, 2023

KATIE LANG  
Hood County Clerk  
P.O. Box 339  
Hood County, Texas 76048  
By /s/ Dean Armstrong, Chief Deputy

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for 2023-21 for 3 Student 77 passenger Bus & 2023-22 for General Merchandise. Bid proposals are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. The bids are open immediately and 2023-21 will close 1/4/24 along with 2023-22 closing 1/12/24.

Please contact purchasing manager Houcine Chraïbi or Purchasing Assistant Bradee Watson with any questions at (817) 408-4029.

LEGAL AD  
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a winery permit by Cresson Bluff, LLC dba Cresson Bluff Winery, to be located at 777 Cresson Bluff Ct, Cresson, TX, 76035 Hood County, Texas.

Officers of said corporation are Karen G Blaylock (Member) and Robert A Blaylock Jr (Member)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the City of Granbury to construct a Granbury Airport Perimeter Road in Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project involves construction of 2,800 LF of 24-foot asphalt perimeter road that will connect the new airport terminal building to the new hangers located on the south side of the airport. The project will also include roadside ditches and 2-18"x30" drainage culverts with headwalls to ensure that the area will continue to positively drain. The perimeter roadway will also serve as a fire lane to address fire needs at the airport.

The project will be located at The Granbury Regional Airport at 400 Howard Clemons Road. Specifically, the project will connect box hangers located on Archer Court to the main terminal on Howard Clemon Road close to U.S Highway 377. Project information is available for review at The City of Granbury, 116 W Bridge St, Granbury, TX 76048, 817-573-1114, Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to: Michael Francis  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
mfrancis@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. central on January 11, 2024, will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

## The HCN Classifieds...

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### Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-87

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.  
Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting amendment to the Specific Use Permit Ordinance No. 21-45, on an approximate 3.951 acre tract situated in the WG Terrell Survey, Abstract 562, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and addressed as 4332 E. Hwy 377 as described in Exhibit 'A' and depicted in Exhibit 'B'; to allow for the operation of sales and service of new and used ATV's, Motorcycles, and Boats or similar craft with the following conditions:

1. All outdoor display locations shall comply with the locations as shown on the site plan in Exhibit 'B'.
2. The existing hard surface areas shall be in conform to the Zoning Ordinance with the building permit plans submittal.
3. The existing chain link fencing shall be replaced with opaque screening fence.
4. Except as provided in these conditions, all development shall comply with the City Code and Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 6.  
Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-88

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.  
Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP) on the property located on a 8.33-acre tract of land described more fully as:

Tract N of Block 3 Southtown Plaza, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, addressed as 1407 N. Plaza Drive, located within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located within the Light Commercial [LC] zoned district with the following conditions:

1. One (1) year SUP term in which the applicant must apply for another SUP once the one (1) year term is complete.

### Public Notices

2. All operations and site improvements shall conform with the site plan (Exhibit A) and floor plan (Exhibit B).
3. This SUP is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule.
4. Any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the SUP may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.  
Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-89

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.  
Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP) on the property located on a 0.15 -acre parcel of land described more fully as:

Lot 8 Block 8 of the Original Town Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, addressed as 109 W. Pearl Street, located within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located within the Central Business District (CBD) zoned district with the following conditions:

1. One (1) year SUP term in which the applicant must apply for another SUP once the one (1) year term is complete.
2. The SUP shall be tied to the TABC permit issued by the State, and remain valid provided the applicant holds, continues and maintains the TABC permit.
3. The SUP shall be in conformance with the floor plan (Exhibit A).
4. This SUP is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule.
5. Any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the SUP may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.  
Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on December 5, 2023, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

## PUBLIC SALES

### Garage Sales 76048

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE  
Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am -1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.

### New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique

  
817-964-3445  
1204 Water's Edge Dr.,  
(Across from the Movie Theatre)  
#heretohelp  
Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm  
Sat. 10am - 4pm  
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 1114 Walters Drive- Dec. Friday the 8th, 8-6 and Saturday 9th, 8-3. Nice wooden futon, wooden chest of drawers, Christmas misc., bedding, dishes, doll house, boys and girls clothes, lots of sizes 10-12 and more, kids shoes, adult clothes and shoes, lots of books, toys and lots of misc, and lots of everything. Rain or Shine.

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSTIONS: GRANBURY 1109 Canvassback Dr.- Ladies clothes, handbags, shoes; men's Hawaiian shirts, cowboy boots; political memorabilia; vintage books; fly/fishing gear; John Wayne artwork; iconic LP record albums; vintage kids clothes, books and toys; tools; camping; books. 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

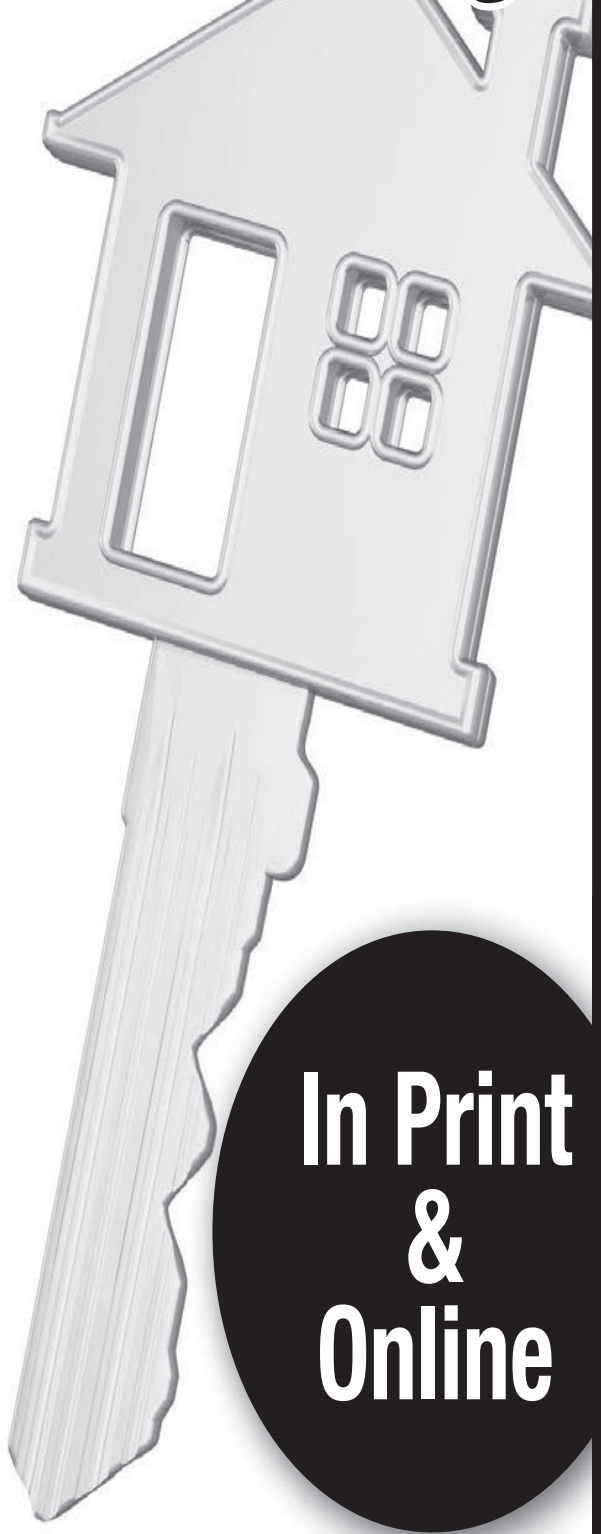
2515 River View Trl. Thu-Sun, 12/ 7, 8, 9 & 10, 7am till dark. Household items, furniture, truck tires, clothing, tools, tractor items, cement mixer & lots of misc.

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# Cresson's Henson Lumber acquires Decatur Lumber Co.

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

Henson Lumber, a leading provider of high-quality lumber and building materials, recently announced its acquisition of Decatur Lumber, a respected family-owned lumber-yard based in Decatur.

Located at 11900 County Road 917 in Cresson, the building material enterprise was first established in 1973 by Jerry Henson and was originally called Henson Lake and Ranch Supply.

"It started off as like supplying for boat docks and things like that around the lake and then in the early '90s (Jerry) converted it as a company into Henson Building Materials," Todd Garner, executive vice president of Henson Enterprises, previously told the HCN. "It was still on (U.S. Highway) 377 where Henson Metal is currently. Then early 2001, they split the one company into two — Henson Metal and Henson Lumber, so that's kind of the family tree of the Henson company."

Henson Enterprises — which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 — services the counties of Hood, Johnson, Parker and Tarrant. Henson Lumber and Henson Millwork are both located at 11900 County Road 917 while Henson Metal can be found at 9200 E. U.S. Highway 377.

"For Henson Metal, we sell metal products for the metal building business," Garner said in a previous interview. "If people are building a barndominium or anything ranch-related, whether they need fencing or metal buildings, that's what Henson Metal does. We also have a little small hardware store right here on 377."

"On the lumber side, we have multiple services. We have our lumber which is any kind of building materials



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENSON LUMBER FACEBOOK PAGE

Henson Lumber, located at 11900 County Road 917 in Cresson, recently acquired Decatur Lumber, a respected family-owned lumberyard based in Decatur.

related to lumber like stick frame and sheathing, and then we also sell millwork which would include like doors, windows and trim."

The acquisition of Decatur Lumber represents a natural synergy between two area leaders committed to providing exceptional products and services to customers, according to Henson's news release. The combined expertise and resources of both companies will enhance the overall customer experience and offer an even broader range of products to meet the diverse needs of builders, contractors and homeowners in the North Texas region.

"We are excited about the growth potential and look forward to expanding and bringing in more products and services to the area," Casey Wallace, chief operating officer at Henson Lumber, said in the news release.

According to Wallace, owners of Decatur Lumber Glenn and Wayne Trachta were ready to sell and retire. After six months of discussions and meetings, the owners chose Henson Lumber to take over the business and officially completed the paperwork on Nov. 13.

"Wayne and I have been patiently searching for the right company to engage in discussions about acquisition. Henson Lumber shares very similar values with us on the way we treat our customers and employees," Glenn Trachta said in the news release.

Customers of both Henson Lumber and Decatur Lumber can expect a seamless transition as the integration process begins. According to the news release, Henson Lumber is dedicated to maintaining the high standards of quality and service both companies are known for, while also exploring oppor-

tunities to introduce new and innovative offerings.

"Our customers won't see any change in this market here where we're in," Wallace told the HCN. "But we're looking at bringing the same type of thing to (Decatur Lumber)."

He said the Decatur location will undergo a complete "store reset," followed by a grand reopening that is currently planned for the spring.

In terms of employees, Wallace said Decatur Lumber is an eighth of the size of Henson. However, he plans to add personnel, equipment and product to "ramp it up."

"Like a lot of areas around the metroplex, it's growing and we're going to be doing every bit of what we're doing here — not that we're gonna make it as big as our location because we're on 80 acres on 23 acres of concrete and there's not that much room to really expand (at

the Decatur location) — but we'd like to double or triple the volume for the next three years just growing the business," he said.

While Henson Lumber offers more home construction products, Decatur Lumber can best be described as a hardware store, according to Wallace.

"It kind of took me back to my roots from when I first got into this industry on a similar type of operation," he said. "They've got a lot more retail than we have. They make keys, they build screens, they have paint departments, and they've got power tools; whereas our location here, we have a door shop, lumber and all of the commodities you need to build a house."

Wallace added that acquiring Decatur Lumber will be a challenge, but both companies have several employees who are more than willing to help with the transition.

"Decatur Lumber is fortunate in having several long-tenured employees which is a testament to Glenn and Wayne Trachta and will be a big plus as we grow our product line and add more staff," Wallace said in the news release. "I can't say enough good things about Wayne and Glenn for allowing us to make this acquisition possible."

To the HCN, he added, "It's a challenge, and I think we're up to it. We're looking forward to the facelift and making it work."

For more information about Henson Lumber, visit [hensonlumber.com](http://hensonlumber.com) online or call (817) 396-4321. Decatur Lumber is located at 901 US-380 BUS in Decatur and can be reached at (940) 627-5962.

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY GRAPHIC  
 Ambassador Spotlight: Esther Schreiber. We are very thankful for our ambassador, Esther Schreiber with Free2BU. Esther has served as a Chamber Ambassador for one year! When asked why she loves being an ambassador she said, "I enjoy being an ambassador for so many reasons! One of them being how wonderful the ambassadors are towards each other and the community we live in is very loving." Fun Fact about Esther: "I am a U.S. Army Veteran having served with the 7th Medical Battalion doing Med-Evac in Helicopters and chosen to work at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital!" Thank you, Esther, for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

## CHAMBER SUPERSTAR



COURTESY GRAPHIC  
 Chamber Superstar: Forward Training Center. "Forward Training Center of Hood County's mission is to educate, support and inspire life-changing growth in men and women."

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COURTESY PHOTOS  
 The Granbury Association of REALTORS® is the December Sponsor for the Hood County Community Pantry. On Friday, Dec. 1, community pantry distributed over 12,000 lbs. of food from the Tarrant Area Food Bank to 268 families in Hood County. In addition to the food, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors used the donation from GAR to purchase small hams for each "Holiday Food Bag". The additional food in the "Holiday Bag", was donated by several churches in the area. There were numerous volunteers to pass out the food and Holiday Food Bags. GAR had 25 volunteers and the Granbury First United Methodist Church had 29. Stars Learning Center had 17 volunteers and the Jr. Optimists had 18.

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# OBITUARIES

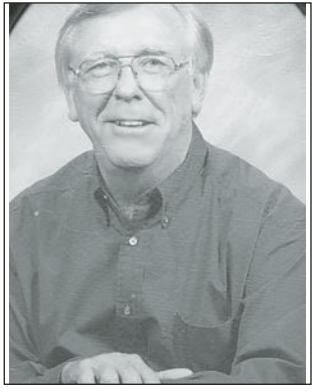
## Thomas Winston Smith

April 15, 1943 - December 3, 2023

Thomas Winston (Tommy) Smith, 80, of Hico, Texas passed away on December 3, 2023 at his home after a short illness. He was born April 15, 1943 in Lampasas County, Texas to Jessie James (Jim) and Gladys Murrah Smith of Pearl, Texas.

Tommy attended public schools in Pearl and Evant Texas, graduating from Evant High School in 1961. After high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Patsy Jean Comer, and they moved to Dallas where he was employed by Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Southland Corporation, Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, and Hershey Foods Corporation. In 1978 he moved to Granbury where he founded the Tommy's convenience store chain which he sold in 1993. In the ensuing years he was a home builder and land developer primarily in Hood and Somervell counties. In 2002 Tommy married Joan Ruth Tubbs.

At various times of his life, Tommy enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, coin collecting, and watching the Texas Rangers, Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Cowboys. He loved spending time with family and friends and was an avid and skilled woodworker



after his retirement in 2004.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Gladys Smith, his brother, James Wendell Smith, and his sister, Faye Blakley. He is survived by his wife, Joan, his children Kellie Smith Kellner and husband Mike of Argyle, Texas, Jim Ed Smith and wife Christine of North Richland Hills, Texas, and his step-children Wesley Bennett and wife Summer of Godley, Texas, Stephanie Fisher of Ruidoso, NM, and Edith Jones and husband Johnathan, of Munford, Alabama. Tommy is also survived by 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Tommy's life will be held on January 6th, 2024. Riley Funeral Home in Hamilton is in charge of the arrangements.

## Stephen James Arlington

May 24, 1944 - November 29, 2023

Stephen James Arlington died November 29, 2023 at age 79 of natural causes. At his specific request he has been cremated and there will be no service of any kind. Stephen was born May 24, 1944 in Rochester, NY to James H. and Elsie Mae Arlington. He was raised in the Town of Greece, a Rochester suburb, and attended public schools there. At age 17 Stephen joined the Navy and served in the nuclear submarine USS Ethan Allen (SSBN608) as a nuclear reactor plant operator. After nine years of active duty he transferred to the Naval Reserve from which he subsequently retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer with nearly 30 years total service. In May 1965 Stephen married his one true love and very best friend Mary Ellen LeBlanc. They spent 58 years together getting to know one another. During this process they had two fine



sons, Kevin and Keith, and three grandchildren, Nate, Hannah and Gaby. Stephen received a BS in Business Administration (cum laude) from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He then graduated (cum laude) from Albany Law School in Albany, NY. Stephen practiced Law in Albany, initially as an Assistant District Attorney, then in private practice until his retirement. He held memberships in various Bar Associations and community organizations.

## Shirley Evonne Timmons Freiley Logan

November 8, 1934 - July 19, 2023

Shirley Evonne Timmons Freiley Logan, formerly of Red Oak, passed away in Georgia on July 19, 2023. Graveside service: 12:00 Noon, Saturday, December 2, 2023, Red Oak Cemetery.



## Hannah Cole

October 24, 2003 - November 15, 2023

Hannah Cole, 20, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Memorial service: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, The Wiley Center Chapel. Services under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury.

Hannah was a loving mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, and niece. She was a beautiful, smart, and ambitious young woman, who spent her life trying to help people in need by giving all that she had. She wanted everyone to feel loved and she spread the love through her wonderful silly personality.

Hannah was survived by her daughter, Addalynn; grandparents, Cliff and Terry Walser, and Mike and Robin Szuma; parents, mother, Kellye Cole and father, Brett Cole and wife Danielle; brothers, Brett



Cole Jr, Zachary Cole, and Cameron Cole; sisters, Cheyenne Haggerton, and Taylor Cole; uncles, John Betts and Cruz Saucedo; aunts, Shelley Betts, Ashley Evans, and Amber Busenbark, and numerous cousins. She was dearly loved, and she will be greatly missed.

## BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

# Holiday visitors? Don't forget lake safety!



**BY KYLE LEWIS**

Kyle Lewis is the project manager/program coordinator at Brazos River Authority's Lake Granbury.

**A**s families plan to visit one another during the upcoming holiday season, don't overlook precautions if the destination is near Lake Granbury.

Just because it's getting colder outside doesn't mean the water has become any less enticing to little ones or any less dangerous.

It's easy to become distracted at this time of year. So it's more important than ever to ensure you've taken advanced safety measures, especially if your home is on or near the lake, river or a swimming pool.

There is an average of 10 fatal drownings a day in the U.S., according to the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, even during winter months. For every fatal drowning, there are another five to 10 people treated in hospitals due to non-fatal drowning injuries.

According to the NDPA, 88% of child drownings happen with at least one adult present. To me, this is absolutely heartbreaking.

During the holidays, many of those who might

not be as familiar with water precautions could find themselves around an enticing dock or seawall, or bundled up to cruise across the water. They could even just be playing in the general vicinity of a body of water.

Don't let this holiday season go from a dream to a nightmare by lapsing on water safety.

Talk to the children, teens and young adults about staying clear of any body of water when alone. Any time anyone gets on the water, put on a life jacket. Remind them to always ask permission to go near docks, seawalls or the water.

This holiday season, remind those you love to be alert. Designate a responsible adult to closely supervise when children are outside near water.

Stay safe this holiday season! Happy Holidays from the Brazos River Authority!

## SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at [obituaries.hcnews.com](http://obituaries.hcnews.com). Advance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary. Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary. The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

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**ACROSS**

- TX Ann Sheridan 1949 film: "I \_\_\_ Male War Bride"
- \_\_\_ gallon hat
- pleased
- TXism: "he \_\_\_ grip like a snappin' turtle"
- "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"
- doctors' assoc.
- a kid who's not the seeker
- TXism: "she has to \_\_\_ the same place twice to cast a shadow" (thin)
- TXism: "she could talk the legs off \_\_\_ stove"
- "Post \_\_\_ of East Texas"
- Jim De \_\_\_ was an Astro starting pitcher, 1985-91
- TX Bobby Fuller's "I Fought \_\_\_"
- \_\_\_ up a little"
- Texas-based "La Quinta \_\_\_ & Suites"
- golf achievement: \_\_\_-one
- gets dirt on jeans
- Comanche Peak, a nuclear power \_\_\_
- assist or encourage a criminal (3 wds.)
- relating to the south polar region
- Texas town or Nebraska city
- whiners

**DOWN**

- TXism: "more than one way \_\_\_ a cat"
- "good \_\_\_ boy"
- road around a Texas city
- high school student, e.g. (2 wds.)
- intelligence agcy. of the Dept. of Defense
- TXism: "\_\_\_ barbed wire for dental floss" (tough)
- "\_\_\_, crackle, pop"
- prong on a fork
- TXism: "if he was a dog he wouldn't \_\_\_"
- Texas jewelry designer, Malouf
- a pen name of Texas romance novelist Sandra Brown: \_\_\_ St. Clair
- small Eurasian deer
- org. for the Spurs, Rockets & Mavs
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- former Ranger
- "closer," Henke (init.)
- jump
- TX \_\_\_ Mae sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- titls, like a Pisa tower
- TX Phillis book: "He \_\_\_ Bum" (resembles)
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave \_\_\_"
- TX Charley Pride tune: "\_\_\_ Rather Love You"
- Salle County
- TX Strait's band: "\_\_\_ in the Hole"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ warm your gullet" (satisfy)
- "it's not a hill I'm willing to \_\_\_"
- TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ after" (resembles)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dig" (a party or dance)
- motor home (abbr.)
- TXism: "bat \_\_\_ eyelash" (blink)
- cocker \_\_\_ (dog)
- gray with a tinge of brown
- "Amos 'n' \_\_\_"

## Know the key benefits of Roth IRA

**CHAD CARROLL**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser

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**NO PENALTIES ON WITHDRAWALS OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

You fund a Roth IRA with after-tax dollars, which means you can withdraw your contributions — not the earnings — at any time for any reason, without facing taxes or penalties. So, you could use some of your Roth IRA money for non-retirement purposes, such as helping pay for a child's college

these criteria, withdrawals of earnings will be subject to taxes and a possible 10% penalty.

education.

**NO REQUIRED WITHDRAWALS AT AGE 73**

With a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you must start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — once you reach 73. But this rule doesn't apply to a Roth IRA — you can keep it intact as long as you like. You may need to tap into it for some of your retirement income, but if you don't use it all, the remainder could benefit your beneficiaries.

A Roth IRA does share one similarity to a traditional IRA: It can be funded with virtually any type of investment,

including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on.

However, unlike a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA does have income limits.

For the 2023 tax year, if your modified adjusted gross income was less than \$138,000 (for a single filer) or \$218,000 (married filing jointly), you can put in the full amount of \$6,500 and an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you're 50 or older. The amounts you can contribute will gradually decline at higher income levels and are phased out entirely at \$153,000 for single filers and \$228,000 if you're married and file jointly. These income

ranges will likely change for the 2024 tax year, so you'll want to consult with your tax advisor for details.

Still, even if you've contributed to a traditional IRA or a 401(k) for many years, you may have a chance to eventually "convert" some, or all, of these funds to a Roth IRA and gain its benefits. It's not hard to do this conversion — it involves minimal paperwork from your traditional IRA or 401(k) provider — but it does come with tax issues. Any money that's converted from a traditional IRA or 401(k) to a Roth IRA will be treated as ordinary taxable income. This can trigger a large tax bill, so, unless you have the

money available from other accounts to pay the taxes, the conversion may or may not make sense for you. But you don't have to convert all the funds at once. By spreading the conversion over several years, you could reduce the effect of a large tax hit in any single year. You may want to consult with your tax advisor before converting any funds to a Roth IRA.

If you can find a way to contribute to a Roth IRA, either directly or through a conversion, consider it carefully — you'll find a lot of upsides to this investment account.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT







# Rep. Shelby Slawson hangs Granbury ornament on Texas House Christmas tree

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

Shelby Slawson, state representative for Texas House District 59, recently placed a new ornament on the Texas House Christmas tree.

The ornament was painted and designed by local artist Teresa Houston to represent Granbury and the rest of House District 59.

According to a previous article in the HCN, Houston was recommended to paint the ornament by Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley.

"Shelby Slawson's office reached out to me and said every year they get a glass ornament to have decorated for the House of Representative's tree," Dooley told the HCN. "It usually reflects the district in some way. They wondered if I knew of a local Granbury artist who might be great. I thought of Teresa. She is an amazing artist. I love her work, and she is a retired art teacher. She really impressed us!"

Slawson made a post on her Shelby Slawson for Texas Facebook page on Dec. 2, showcasing photos of her placing Houston's ornament on the Texas House tree.

"Each year, every district gets to have an ornament decorated and placed on the tree," reads a post from the Shelby Slawson for Texas Facebook page. "This year's ornament was painted for HD59 by the very talented Teresa Houston of Granbury. Thank you, Teresa — it's beautiful!"

A different town is selected

by the offices of the House districts every year and asked to represent each district with an ornament. Granbury was last chosen in 2019 when artist Olivia Banz was chosen to provide the ornament for Mike Lang's office.

Although the Granbury courthouse provides a recognizable symbol of Granbury, Houston told the HCN in a previous article she needed some fresh imagery as the courthouse had been used before to represent Granbury on an ornament.

"I sat down and started thinking about Granbury. I had some imagery in mind," Houston said, in a previous HCN article. "The Brazos Motel sign, the peak. Sure enough, when I googled Granbury those are the images that came up. I also thought about this old truck they used to have in front of Witherspoons — they had a giant Christmas tree in the back of the truck."

Houston used the three images to represent the town; she painted blue across the bottom to signify the lake, while the fiery colors on the top of the ornament symbolize the striking sunsets over Granbury.

The ornament was topped with a sprig of greenery and ribbon.

The Texas House Christmas tree with the ornaments recognizing the House districts of Texas will be on display in Austin through Jan. 2.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



COURTESY SHELBY SLAWSON FOR TEXAS FACEBOOK PAGE

State Representative for Texas House District 59 Shelby Slawson placed a new ornament on the Texas House Christmas tree. The ornament was painted by local artist Teresa Houston.



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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

# Is owning a home still the American Dream for younger buyers?



BY PAM KNIEPER

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

Everyone has their own idea of the American Dream, and it's different for each person. But, in a recent survey by Bankrate, people were asked about the achievements they believe represent the American Dream the most. In fact, according to the survey, owning a home is more important to people than retiring, having a successful career or even getting a college degree. But is the dream of homeownership still alive for younger generations?

A recent survey by 1000watt dives into how the two generations many

people believed would be the renter generations (Gen Zers and millennials) feel

about homeownership. Specifically, it asks if they want to buy a home in the future. The resounding answer was "yes" by a whopping 95.5%

While there are plenty of reasons why someone might prefer homeownership to renting, the same 1000watt survey shows that for 63% of Gen Zers and millennials, sentimental feelings motivate them toward home ownership. It's that your place doesn't feel like "home" unless you own it — maybe you feel the same way.

That emotional draw is further emphasized when you look at the reasons why Gen Zers and millennials want to become homeown-

ers. For all the financial benefits homeownership provides, in most cases it's about the lifestyle or emotional benefits.

When asked their primary reasons for wanting to own a home, the large majority (59.16%) responded with comments like "pride of ownership," "having a place for me and my family to call home," "control over my environment" and "stability." Financial and/or rational reasons such as recognizing that buying a home is a good investment or that it aids in building wealth were much lower (39.37%) on the list of reasons why owning a home is so important to younger generations.

Higher home prices and

rising interest rates have made that dream a little bit harder for some, but it is not nearly as dire as you might think. There is one more thing that is rising and that is inventories, which is a good thing for buyers. More homes on the market means sellers must be a little bit more competitive and while prices have not fallen significantly, sellers are now more willing to work with buyers. Lenders and mortgage companies are also beginning to offer incentives as well. Bidding wars are in large part a thing of the past and intelligent, thoughtful negotiations are coming back to the marketplace.

If you're a part of Gen Z or are a millennial and you're

ready, willing and able to buy a home, give us a call. The Knieper Team buyer's agents are experienced, caring agents that can help you overcome any hurdles you may encounter along the way. Buying a home is a big, important decision that represents the heart of the American Dream. If you want to accomplish your goal, give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at <http://www.wesellgranbury.com/>.

Portions of this article were sourced, with permission, from [www.keepingcurrentmatters.com](http://www.keepingcurrentmatters.com).

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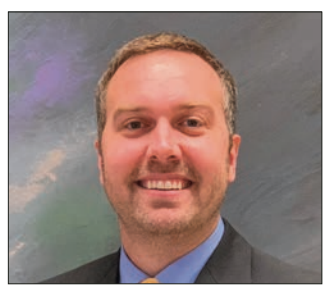
LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

## You may need two shots, or three, to protect your health this fall and winter

Lake Granbury Medical Center

To protect yourself and those you love when respiratory viruses are circulating this fall and winter, getting vaccinated against both the flu and COVID-19 will be important. Individuals who are age 60 or older may also need to get vaccinated against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

These three viral, respiratory illnesses are active this year and hospital admissions for COVID are already starting to increase around the country. Here in Granbury, Lake Granbury Medical Center has already begun seeing more people who need inpatient care for



Dr. Casey Dean, D.O.

their COVID-19 symptoms. Lake Granbury Medical Center is encouraging community members to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation that everyone age 6 months or older get both flu and updated COVID shots this year to bolster immune defenses as the weath-



### LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

er turns colder.

"Vaccinations stimulate the body's immune system to minimize your chances of developing severe illness that requires hospitalization," said Casey Dean, D.O., family medicine physician at Lakeside Physicians. "In addition to helping ourselves, immunization can also slow the spread of viruses to the more vulnerable members of our community." Those at the highest risk

of serious illness from flu or COVID include babies and toddlers, the elderly, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

People ages 60 years and older should talk to their healthcare provider about whether RSV vaccination is right for them as well. Older adults, adults with chronic heart or lung disease, with weakened immune systems

or living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities are at the highest risk for RSV illness.

Dr. Dean continues, "Anyone can get sick from a respiratory virus but vaccination and preventive actions such as avoiding close contact with people who are sick, covering your coughs and sneezes and frequent handwashing with soap and water are the best steps you can take to minimize your

risk."

As for when to get your shots, those who are in a high-risk group or who have not had COVID in the last two months can get vaccinated right away.

Clinical experts say it's safe to get both the flu and COVID shots at the same appointment and the vaccines will be effective in boosting your immune system. Short-term side effects may include soreness at the injection site, headaches, fatigue or fever, but they should pass quickly.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Dean, please call (817) 326-3900.

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## Granbury martial arts students dominate in state tournament



Curtis Harris became a state champion in the weapons category at the state martial arts coemption.

COURTESY PHOTO

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Four martial arts students under the instruction of Danny Williams were recently named state champions at the state tournament on Nov. 18.

The students study at Danny Williams Combat Martial Arts Program located in Granbury where Williams is an instructor alongside his wife Glenda.

The school opened in 2021 and just finished its first complete season where the school competed in numerous tournaments across

Texas. The league is divided into North and South and William's school competes in the North region. The season lasts from January to November and the big state tournament takes place in November.

The students and school as a whole earn points throughout the entirety of

the season leading up to the final state tournament.

Four students took home state championships including Curtis Harris and Michael Miller, along with Danny Williams' wife, Glenda, and daughter, Abby. The school also took home multiple second and third place wins.

Harris took first place in the traditional weapons category. Miller, Glenda and Abby each received first place in point sparring, which consists of points being earned after certain acts of fighting are performed and displayed.

Both Danny and Glenda were thrilled to have students earn championships and are beyond proud of the work that was put in throughout the year.

"It just shows a lot of determination and grit. When you start something and you spend a year working at it and then you get to the end and actually get recognized for your efforts, it just feels fantastic," Glenda said.

"It was very encouraging more than anything. To be able to see the hard work

PLEASE SEE **MARTIAL** | B3



COURTESY OF SONNY GALINDO

JoAnn Galindo took up running in 2007 with her daughter Harley, who was in sixth grade. Now, JoAnn has qualified for the Boston Marathon and plans to run the event in 2025.

## Running with daughter led to race of a lifetime

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

The things parents will do for their children. Often, it ends up being something good for the parent as well.

Such was the case with JoAnn Galindo when she began running in 2007 with her daughter Harley, who was then in sixth grade.

"We started running 5Ks together. Then it turned into 10Ks and half-marathons," JoAnn said.

They ran their first 5K together in 2008. It was the beginning of a successful stretch of running for both of them.

Harley is a grownup now, having retired from competitive running after competing in high school and college. As for JoAnn, she still runs in races regularly.

In fact, she just qualified for the most prestigious race in all of America — the Boston Marathon.

### ACHIEVING THE DREAM

"I made it my goal to qualify for Boston in 2018. Qualifying for the Boston Marathon is based on age and gender, with specific time standards," JoAnn said. "The Boston Marathon's historic significance, challenging course and atmosphere created by fellow runners and spectators make it a prestigious race for those fortunate enough to qualify and participate.

"It's like winning the Super Bowl to runners. I was putting in the work already, so why not go big?"

JoAnn will compete in the Womens 50-54 age group. She will submit her official application in September 2024 to run in Boston in 2025.

JoAnn qualified for Boston with her time of 3 hours, 46.22 minutes in the Fort Worth Marathon on Nov. 12. She needed a time of 3:55 to qualify.

JoAnn noted that reaching a qualifying time is no guarantee of acceptance into the marathon of all marathons. However, an eight-minute buffer on her time very much enhances her chances.

### OTHER MARATHONS

JoAnn ran her first marathon in Louisiana in 2014. "I said 'one and done,'" she said with a smile.

Since then, however, she has run marathons in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and six in Texas.

"I was running marathons to get to different states. Then I realized I could run faster than I was giving myself credit for," she said. "I decided to stick to local marathons and work on getting my BQ — Boston Qualifier. "I set my mind to it and every marathon I would get close, but not close enough. I would struggle with a calf cramp late into the race and it would slow my pace and just keep me short of my time goal."

So she became even more determined to get her BQ. She set up a training plan and stuck with it.

PLEASE SEE **RUNNING** | B2

## Granbury High School robotics team heads to UIL State

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Granbury High School has an after-school robotics program made up of nine different teams that compete in different tournaments. The program is coached by Bethany Smith and Michelle Hunsinger of Granbury High School.

The nine teams include three Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) teams, three high school teams, one high school unified team and two middle school teams. Competitions are com-

prised of three different categories including game play, engineering notebooks and interviews. Each team must maintain a detailed engineering notebook that describes its design progress, challenges, solutions to problems, photos and advancements, which are judged at each tournament. Teams are interviewed about their notebook, robot and the entire process they have endured as a team. Lastly, team members compete on the field against other teams to determine who will walk away as tournament champion. Each year a new "game" is

revealed for the next school year during the world competition in May. The game is changed enough so no robot built the year prior can be used the following year. As soon as the game is revealed, teams begin working to figure out what type of robot they will need to make. They even work through the summer to prepare for the next year's season. The robot is built and programmed from the ground up. Four different programs are needed: two autonomous and two driver modes.

PLEASE SEE **ROBOT** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right - Renee Sermarini, Zac Layland, Ryan Obina and Marcus Hadway are headed to the UIL State Robotics Competition after qualifying at a tournament on Dec. 2.



# American Heritage Girls find a home

**BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

As reported by the Hood County News, Hood County's local American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop 3129 was going into its 10th year and needed a home. A requirement of the AHG organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization must partner with the troop to allow it to charter.

For the past nine years, the troop enjoyed a healthy

relationship with Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) which partnered with AHG to host the local troop, but AHG leadership felt a change would meet their needs going forward. OSLC provided its blessing to AHG, but then the group that agreed to partner with AHG could not do so. This is where Promise Point Church comes into the picture.

An AHG family who attends church at Promise Point approached church leadership to see if AHG might be a good fit. "When

we at Promise Point Church learned American Heritage Girls (AHG) and Trail Life Boys USA (TL) needed a new church to charter with our elders and congregation were elated! It's a privilege to be able to partner with organizations that mentor and help build character in children for God, family and country," shared Alice Jones, children's ministry leader and now troop liaison for AHG.

AHG was created in 1995 when a group of parents desired a faith-based scout-type program for their

daughters. Currently there are troops in every state and in 15 countries throughout the world. The American Heritage Girls organization describes itself as a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls 5 to 18 years of age. AHG, says americanheritage-girls.org is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.

"American Heritage Girls has been such a blessing to our family for the past

11 years and we are so excited to see it continue in Granbury. Promise Point Church has been an amazing blessing to us and has welcomed us with open arms. Our troop is looking forward to seeing all that God has planned for American Heritage Girls and Promise Point Church!" offered Troop Coordinator Chantel Spink. Spink's daughter Sydney has completed 11 years with AHG, nine of them in Granbury.

Both leadership of AHG and Promise Point Church

look forward to a healthy partnership of shared goals and growth. Jones said, "Both organizations also help build a healthy respect for civic and community in different ways, this is another great opportunity for us to partner with AHG and TL." AHG meets the first and third Sundays of the month. For more information on meetings, contact Promise Point Church at 817-910-8868.

## Simple solutions for helping stray animals during the winter season

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
*Staff Writer*

Though the winter season doesn't kick off until Dec. 21, temperatures are coming down with some lows on some days nearing 30 degrees. With these temperatures, many stray animals will struggle to stay warm and survive throughout the month.

The Texas Humane Network says temperatures 40 degrees and lower can be potentially unsafe depending on the breed, making it important to keep an eye on animals.

There are many simple solutions to help animals and make the winter season more bearable for them.

Some of these can include providing food, shelter and blankets.

According to the Animal Rights Foundation, stray animals spend a lot of time and energy in search of food, so it is important to have both water and food available for strays.

Shelter is also key for animals as it allows for some safety as well as warmth. If possible, bring the animals inside, but if not, it is good to keep open a garage or entrance to a building. You can also build a shelter by using wood, cardboard, shoe boxes or a plastic tub. This area can be covered with old clothes and blankets to create more warmth for the animal. It is also important to

check your car before leaving to go somewhere because many cats find shelter inside a car engine due to its warmth. Be sure to bang the hood of the car several times to give a cat enough time to leave the car.

During these cold temperatures it also is important to keep an eye on residents who keep their pooches outside. According to the Texas Health and Safety Code 821.101 a pet owner may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint unless the owner provides the dog access to adequate shelter, a sturdy structure that provides the dog protection from inclement weather including rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the Animal Rights Foundation, stray animals spend a lot of time and energy in search of food, so it is important to have both water and food available for strays.

and both extreme low and high temperatures.

Unlawful restraint of a dog is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a \$500 fine, unless the owner has a previous conviction, which el-

evates the charge to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

It is important to report any violations to local law enforcement or animal con-

trol officers or shelters. The THN also advises those who see neglect to document the evidence.

## Pioneers beat North Hills Prep



COURTESY PHOTO

Pioneers beat North Hills Prep 81-39 in a home non-conference game. The win moves their record to 9-4 for the season. Scoring in double figures were Kyrlyo Nykyforenko with 27, Nikita Kolontayev with 16, Erik Montilla with 15, and Eric Cardenas with 11 on Nov 28.

## RUNNING

FROM PAGE B1

"I didn't make excuses and I found the time to get the work done," she said.

### TRAINING PLAN

JoAnn runs each Saturday morning with the Running Bear Run Club in Granbury. She began running with a club in Hamilton in 2009.

"We start from the pavilion at Hewlett Park at 7:30 am and run through Granbury following the Hike-and-Bike Trail," JoAnn described. "We are a social group that motivates and encourages all running levels. You can run 20-plus miles with us or you

can run one."

The group is currently training for Dallas Marathon, The Mammoth Ice Age (which will be held in Granbury), Dallas Hot Chocolate Run and the Cowtown Marathon.

JoAnn follows a structured training plan that includes a mix of easy, speed, threshold and long runs. Her training plan for a marathon is between 16-18 weeks. She runs six days a week, with her long run on Saturday. She will complete at least three 20-21-mile training runs.

"During these long training runs, I figure out my clothing, nutrition and hydration that I will use on race day," she said, noting that she averages

about 45-55 miles a week during marathon training.

### RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Competition runs — pardon the pun — in the Galindo family. Her husband, Sonny, is the head coach of the Granbury Pirates football team.

"I am blessed to have the best support crew. My husband allows me to sign up for all the races and buys those running shoes!" JoAnn said. "He is always cheering for me."

Sonny sees JoAnn as an inspiration, noting, "I'm a better person because of her."

In high school at Hamilton as a freshman in 2010, Harley qualified for regional com-

petition, doing so again at Saginaw High School in 2012 and 2013. She followed that by competing in cross country and the 400-meter hurdles at the University of Central Oklahoma from 2014-18.

### RUNNING FOR GAVIN

JoAnn runs not just for herself, but for a special friend. She runs for a special little boy named Gavin.

They were matched in March of 2020 through an organization called WhoRun4. Gavin has Trisomy (a chromosomal condition characterized by an additional chromosome).

"Gavin is 12 years old and lives in Wisconsin. He loves ducks and 'Paw Patrol,'" she

said. "Someday, I hope to meet him in person."

"I run for a purpose. I run because I can. I remember those who can't run. What would they give to have this simple gift that I take for granted, and I run harder for them. I run '4' Gavin."

### BUT FIRST, CHICAGO

As she waits patiently — albeit anxiously — for her chance to run in Boston in April 2025, JoAnn plans to run in another of the world's most prestigious marathons in October 2024, the Chicago Marathon.

Will Chicago be the largest marathon you've run?

"Chicago Marathon is

one of the six World Major Marathons. It draws both elite athletes and recreational runners," she said. "It typically attracts more than 48,000 runners."

"I was able to get into Chicago with a time qualifier, but they also have a lottery draw and charity entry."

In the meantime, she is still adapting to the reality that she qualified for her dream race in Boston.

"To be honest, it still feels surreal," she said. "Achieving better than my required time is a huge accomplishment. I am very excited to get the opportunity to run Boston in April 2025."

## CORRECTION

In the Dec. 2 edition of the Hood County News, the culinary 1 teacher at Granbury High School's name is Alissa Hansen.



# SAME PAPER

# AT YOUR FINGERTIPS





# How the month of December can feel bluer for some than others

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

With the days being shorter, less sun being seen, and a chill in the air, many people's moods are affected. Some view December as "The most wonderful time of the year," but for some, it can be a dark and difficult time due to seasonal affective disorder (SAD). This December it is important to be more aware as the month marks Seasonal Depression Awareness Month. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAD is a condition in which some people experience a significant mood change when the seasons change and is a type of depression. It is estimated that millions

of Americans experience SAD, and many go undiagnosed and unknowing.

Studies have found that people with SAD have reduced levels of serotonin, a chemical that helps regulate one's mood. Sunlight affects our levels of serotonin, and with fewer hours of sun during the day, many people don't get to see the sun as often due to work hours.

Lower levels of serotonin can also affect sleep, leading to sleep disruptions and causing mood and behavior changes.

Symptoms can include feeling sad, anxious or "empty" feelings, hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness or helplessness. Some may feel a loss of interest or pleasure in activities they used to enjoy, fatigue and decreased energy,

difficulty concentrating or remembering details, oversleeping/eating, difficulty sleeping, weight gain, social withdrawal, irritability and agitation.

To be diagnosed with SAD, a person must have symptoms of depression above, depressive episodes occur during certain seasons for at least two years, and depressive episodes are more frequent during certain times of the year.

SAD is more typical in women than in men and more prevalent in the winter than in the summer. SAD is also more common in people living in the north where there are shorter daylight hours. SAD is also more common in people who have depression and bipolar disorder. SAD is treatable with light

therapy, antidepressant medication and vitamin D. For more information on SAD, speak with your local health care provider.

During the holiday season, many gather among families and friends, and for those who have lost someone it can be a reminder of that pain and grief.

The season can be particularly difficult for those who are facing the holidays for the first time after losing a loved one.

A survey by Psychology Today showed 35% of the 2,000 people in the study don't look forward to the holiday season due to the loss of a loved one.

According to Psychology Today, "grief is not a passive process," and the holidays can remind people of tradi-

tions and tasks they used to do with a lost loved one.

Some tips from Vitas Healthcare include setting expectations, surrounding oneself with support, avoiding canceling plans, allowing oneself to grieve, and drawing comfort from others.

Setting expectations is important because it allows one to know it is okay if your holiday season looks different than others. It is also important to decide if you can handle the season through all its usual celebrations and let friends and families know how you will be handling the season.

If you do decide to be around family and friends, their support can help you grieve and feel better about a loved-one's passing. You can also share stories and tradi-

tions with them rather than being alone. It is also good to avoid canceling plans or outings to avoid isolation.

Though you may want to be strong, it is never wrong to grieve and take the time to allow yourself to feel all the emotions associated with loss. Some other helpful tips include journaling as well as exercising to ease your mind.

If you want to support someone going through grief or loss, it is important to be present, ask how you can help, continue to reach out after some time has passed, and don't judge how the person handles their grief.

This holiday season, remember to check in on loved ones, mourn those who have passed and celebrate with courtesy and kindness in mind.

# Tolar ISD School Board votes to add second portable building to elementary school

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled Tolar ISD School Board meeting, the board voted 5-0 with two board members absent to add a second portable building to the elementary school.

The first portable building was added during the 2022-

23 school year due to an increase in students and the need for more space.

Tolar ISD Superintendent Travis Stilwell noted the first building has met the school's needs up until this point. The second building is expected to be added in the spring of 2024. Stilwell added that classroom space is at capacity and the addition of

a portable building will allow for expansion and growth.

"We have seen steady growth over the past several years in our district," Stilwell said. "And with the numerous housing additions in various stages of development across our community, we know it is simply a matter of time before we outgrow our current facilities. With

that, we are acting proactively by adding additional classrooms."

Tolar ISD has a long-range plan in place that calls for various building projects to address facility needs.

"The top two priorities of our long-range plan include building a new junior high campus on the 60 acres of land that we have purchased

on Hilly City Highway and adding a new wing at the elementary campus," Stilwell said.

Stilwell added the district does not have the bonding capacity to consider a bond election to meet those needs therefore portable buildings are necessary at this time.

"In the near future, it is our hope that we will reach

the bonding capacity where our facility needs can be addressed in a more permanent manner. As a district, we are blessed with great teachers, students and community," Stilwell said. "And we believe that adding this additional classroom space allows us to continue to meet the needs of our students."

## MARTIAL

FROM PAGE B1

for all our students pay off and see them reach their goals — it's overwhelming. It was a real honor for us," Danny said.

Now that the season has ended, the school is looking forward to next year with some state champions and more experience under its belt. The school will also have a group called "Team Lightning" with over 20 students of a variety of ages competing as a team throughout the state.

The school is also looking forward to hosting its

very own tournament next year on Feb. 17 at STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

"We love Granbury, it's a beautiful town and to be able to share with competitors from around the state what an amazing town we have is something we are really looking forward to," Glenda said. "We would love to see anywhere from 300 to 500 competitors come out."

Signups for entry into the tournament are open until the day of the competition on Feb. 17. For more information on the tournament or Danny Williams Combat Martial Arts Program visit the website at dwcmap.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Glenda and Abby Williams both became state champions in the point sparring category at the state martial arts competition.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Miller pictured with his daughter Mayliah and his son Blaze became a state champion in the point sparring category at the state martial arts competition.

## ROBOT

FROM PAGE B1

In the recent VEX Robotics Harmony School of Innovation competition on Dec. 2, one GHS team even qualified for the University

Interscholastic League (UIL) State Competition. The team members include Marcus Hadaway, Zac Layland, Rhyann Obina and Renee Sermarini.

This team is no stranger to the spotlight as in previous years they have quali-

fied two times for Nationals and made it to the finals one year.

"I am extremely excited and feel very confident about our ability to compete against the other teams," Obina said. "Regardless of if we come home empty hand-

ed or not, it will be a really good learning experience for all of us."

Lt. Col. Scott Casey, senior Marine instructor at GHS, expressed pride in the team's hard work and dedication since the last competition. "They worked tirelessly

on weekends and even during Thanksgiving break to prepare for the event," Casey said.

Coaches Hunsinger and Smith both commented on the team's dedication and comradery noting members have even built a workshop

off campus and spent countless hours working on their own time.

Hadaway, Layland, Obina and Sermarini will compete in the UIL State Competition Feb. 5-7 in Houston.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Dec. 2 (Puzzle 59).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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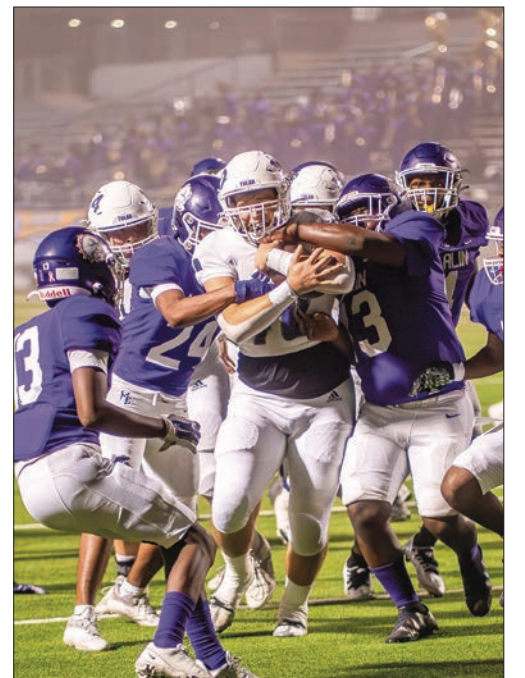
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PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Rattlers beat the Marlin Bulldogs 42-19 at the Midlothian stadium, Thursday evening Nov. 30, and advance to the next round of playoffs.



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COURTESY OF AMBER BRANSON

The Lipan Lady Indians won the championship of the H.D. Howard Classic, which they hosted in their gym this past weekend.

# Lady Indians win own Howard Classic; Pirates second in Van Griffith Invitational

**RICK MAUCH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

The Lipan Lady Indians led a host of area basketball teams in tournament play this weekend, winning their own H.D. Howard Classic. Meanwhile, the Indians took second in the boys side of the tournament.

The Granbury Pirates brought home second place in their own tournament, the Van Griffith Kia Invitational.

In capturing the championship of their own tournament, the Lady Indians, defending Class 2A state champions, disposed of the No. 1 team in Class 2A this season, Martin's Mill, 41-36.

## LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

After experiencing a pair of rare early season losses, the Lady Indians (12-2, No. 3 in the state in Class 2A) are on a roll now. Granted, the losses were to Class 6A Austin Vandegrift and Rains, which is No. 7 in the state in Class 3A, and the Lady Indians have played a schedule that most teams would shy away from.

But if there was any doubt about whether or not they have what it takes to compete again for a title, the Lipan girls erased it as they downed fellow perennial power Martin's Mill Saturday, Dec. 2. The game was tied until the Lady Indians ended the game with a 7-2 run over the course of the fourth quarter.

After disposing of their first two tournament opponents, Christoval and Borden County, No. 14 in the state in Class 1A, by scores of 46-15 and 48-38, things got a little closer for the Lady Indians (13-2). They edged Midlothian

Heritage, No. 19 in Class 5A, 45-41 in the semifinals.

Madison Cornelius, Ashlyn Clark and Hanna Gaylor were named all-tournament for the Lady Indians.

Leaders for the Lady Indians in the tournament were:

Vs. Christoval — Gaylor 14 points, 4 assists, 3 steals; Taylor Branson 8 points; Finley Shockley 8 points; Olivia Benitez 3 steals.

Vs. Borden County — Gaylor 14 points, 4 steals; Shockley 12 points.

Vs. Middle Heritage — Gaylor 15 points, Branson 9 points, Ashlyn Clark 9 points, Benitez 8 points and 5 rebounds, Alisha Green 3 steals.

Vs. Martin's Mill — Madison Cornelius 9 points, Clark 9 points, Gaylor 8 points, Benitez 8 points.

"We're playing with a new energy and toughness. We're starting to find a rhythm and figure things out," Lady Indians coach Amber Branson said.

Following the tournament, the Lady Indians traveled to Holiday, No. 11 in Class 3A and won 53-37. They were led by Gaylor (14), Clark (13) and Benitez (8), who combined to almost match the entire Holliday squad in scoring.

They were playing Lubbock Cooper at Abilene Christian University at press time and begin District 11-2A play at home against Ranger at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12.

## TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers (13-1) were playing in their first ever state semifinal Tuesday against Stratford (14-0) in Vernon at press time. A victory would put them in the state championship game at

AT&T Stadium in Arlington Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. against Timpson (14-0) or Garrison (12-2).

Regardless of the outcome, the Rattlers will have played their best season ever, eclipsing their previous best season — last season, when they finished 13-1 and reached the state quarterfinals for a second time. The first time was in 2015 under former coach Mike Franklin when they finished 9-5.

Since Jeremy Mullins became the head coach in 2017 the Rattlers are 57-29. This includes a postseason mark of 11-5 entering this week's game.

## GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (8-4) finished second in their own tournament, falling to Kennedale 71-61 in the final after winning a couple of thrillers to reach the championship contest. Granbury led by eight points entering the final quarter.

Dylan Couto and Kensington Colston were named to the all-tournament team.

The Pirates made short work of Lindale in the opening game, 75-34. They then slipped past Weatherford 54-53 and Arlington Lamar 52-50 as Daylon Webb made a short jumper in the lane with three seconds to play.

Leading the Pirates in scoring in the tournament were:

Vs. Lindale — Jenaro Reyes 12 points, Couto 9, Max McPherson 8

Vs. Weatherford — Colston 15, Couto 8.

Vs. Lamar — Couto 13, Murphy Page 12, Colston 10.

Vs. Kennedale — Webb 18, Couto 17, Isaiah Trejo 10.

The Pirates won three games during the week by two points or less as they also defeated Everman 57-56 the Tuesday before.

"Our team is getting better based on this week. Always good to learn how to play in tight ones," Granbury coach David Breazeale said. "Our team closeness and connection came back this week."

Two of the Pirates' four losses this season have come to Kennedale, ranked No. 17 in the state in Class 4A.

The Pirates are wrapping up play in the Glen Rose Tournament this weekend. They host Richland Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

## LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (10-2, No. 15 in Class 2A) reached the championship game of their own tournament before experiencing their first loss of the season, falling 47-44 to Childress, No. 9 in Class 3A.

Lipan disposed of Millsap 56-41 to open the tournament and ran away from Elevate 78-27 in the second game. In the semifinals they downed Tenaha 39-25.

In the championship game, the Indians could not overcome a 16-3 deficit after the first quarter despite outshooting Childress percentage-wise in all categories. A big difference in the game was Childress making seven three-point shots compared to four for Lipan.

Leading Lipan in the tournament were:

Vs. Millsap — Darius Steed 17 points, 11 rebounds;

Court Gaylor 16 points, 3 steals; Alberto Andreatta 7 rebounds.

Vs. Elevate — Tyson Tarpley 14 points; Steed 13

points; Gaylor 12 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists; Andreatta 16 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals; Tucker Tims 10 points, 5 rebounds; Kolt Larson 9 rebounds; Payton Cornelius 3 steals.

Vs. Tenaha — Steed 11 points, 16 rebounds; Gaylor 9 points; Cornelius 9 points; Tarpley 8 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists.

Vs. Childress — Gaylor 22 points, 6 rebounds; Steed 11 points, 7 rebounds; Andreatta 8 points, 8 rebounds; Tarpley 6 rebounds.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, the Indians hosted Huckabay and won 53-32 as Gaylor (15), Cornelius (12) and Andreatta (10) combined to outscore the visitors.

Lipan was playing Forsan at Abilene Christian University at press time. They travel to Graford Tuesday, Dec. 12, with a 7:15 p.m. tipoff.

## GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates began play in the Van Griffith Kia Invitational with victories over Waco and Crandall, 39-36 and 52-39, respectively. They then dropped a 42-41 heartbreaker to Bridgeport, No. 12 in Class 4A, and lost 40-35 to Frisco Reedy in the third-place game.

The Lady Pirates (8-6) were led in scoring by:

Vs. Waco — Ella Garner 16, Kate Hamlin 9.

Vs. Crandall — Garner 21, Hamlin 14.

Vs. Bridgeport — Garner 28, Vs. Reedy — Garner 20, Faith Fry 7.

Following the tournament, the Lady Pirates hosted Crowley Tuesday, Dec. 5 and fell 51-40. Garner scored 16 and Fry 7 to lead them.

They were hosting Everman at press time and host Brewer Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:15 p.m.

## TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (7-4) went 2-2 in the Dublin Double-T Tournament. They defeated Crawford 38-25, lost 50-21 to Comanche, lost 44-17 to Cisco and defeated Cross Plains 51-23.

The Lady Rattlers were led in scoring by:

Vs. Crawford — Senne Imel 19.

Vs. Comanche — Trinity Rousseau 11.

Vs. Cisco — Imel 5.

Vs. Cross Plains — Rousseau 17, Imel 16.

The Lady Rattlers were back on the road Tuesday, Dec. 5 at Comanche, No. 9 in Class 3A. They dropped a 51-43 contest as Imel tallied 13 and Rousseau added a dozen.

They are wrapping up play in the Poolville Tournament today and travel to Santo Tuesday, Dec. 12 for a 6:15 p.m. contest.

## TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (4-5), No. 3 in the state in 2A, had a tough time in the Dublin Double-T Tournament. They fell 35-28 to Stephenville, 49-28 to Clifton and 50-47 to Dublin, while defeating Brady 53-45 as Merritt Imel led with 20 points.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, the Rattlers played at Comanche, falling 40-34 in overtime. They led 25-14 at the half before the teams went to OT tied at 34 and Comanche went on a 6-0 run in the extra period.

They are playing in the Poolville Tournament this weekend and host Grandview Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

# Pioneer sports



COURTESY PHOTO

NCTA took 3rd place in the Everman tournament this past weekend. Sophomore Erik Montilla was selected to the All-Tournament team. They lost to 6A public Fossil Ridge 64-54 in the semifinal. They won the championship game by 23 points.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pioneers won 1-0 against Cristo Rey Dallas, a 5A TAPPS school on Monday, Dec. 4. Sava Cadjenovic scored 1 goal. Man of match Babacar Diallo & Uros Jankovic.



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Smith stuns UTRGV at buzzer as Texans win WAC home opener

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Jakorie Smith beat the buzzer from behind the arc to give the Texans a thrilling 77-75 win over the UTRGV Vaqueros on Saturday afternoon in Wisdom Gym.

Fans were on their feet when Smith's shot heard round the 'Ville dropped through the twine in Tarleton's first game-winning buzzer beat as a D1 program. The Texans (6-2 overall, 2-0 WAC) became the first team in the conference to notch two wins this season and the first time in to start Western Athletic Conference play, 2-0. UTRGV (2-7, 0-2) sat stunned after going the length of the court for a lay-up to take a 75-74 lead with 4.1 ticks remaining.

With 4.1 seconds remaining, coach Joseph Jones was pleading for a timeout almost reaching half court trying to get any of the referees' attention. Thankfully, he didn't. Devon Barnes drove the backcourt and found Smith to his left about five feet from the three-point line. Cool and collected, Smith elevated over a Vaquero and the ball left his hands with 1.6 seconds on the clock. Wisdom Gym seemed to move in slow motion for the next few moments before his ball swished through the twine and the red lights illuminated on the board signifying the Texans had won. Pandemonium ensued with the Purple and White surrounding Smith in front of the broadcast table. After a debate, 0.1 seconds was put on the clock, but UTRGV was unable to catch the inbound pass, and Texan



Jakorie Smith beat the buzzer from behind the arc to give the Texans a thrilling 77-75 win over the UTRGV Vaqueros on Saturday afternoon in Wisdom Gym.

nation erupted!

"It felt great!" said Smith after the game. "I shoot shots like that all the time, it felt like it was going in... It was a heavyweight fight, they'd throw a knockout punch then we'd throw one. It just happened that I threw the last one."

"We pride ourselves on never giving up, and fighting until the end, and the guys did a great job of doing that tonight," said Jones after the buzzer beater.

Smith, KiAndre Gaddy, Emmanuel Innocenti, Lue Williams and Devon Barnes became the first starting five to each score in double-figures in a single game in Tarleton's Division I era.

Gaddy posted his third double-double of the season

and almost the first triple-double in Texan history. The senior ended the night with 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks. His seven blocks ties for third most all-time in program history, behind Vincent Bridgewater and Bobby Davis who each recorded eight in 2003 and 2005, respectively.

Despite just having two points in the first half, Smith rallied for 15 in the second session including the game-winner. He was a perfect four-for-four from the line and led the team with three steals.

Innocenti tied his Texan career high with 11 points while shooting 50% from the floor. Williams added 11 to go with five boards and two blocks. Barnes rounded out the starters with 10 points and a

team-high five assists.

In a half that saw nine lead changes, Innocenti made noise in the first minute for the Texans capitalizing with a dunk following Smith's steal on an errant Vaqueros pass. UTRGV responded with an 8-2 run to take the lead for the first time in the game. Just before the under-16 media break, Gaddy picked a Vaqueros' pocket and took it coast-to-coast to bring the Texans within a bucket.

Trailing 17-12, Innocenti sparked a 6-0 Texan run scoring four points in less than a minute to give the Texans the lead for the first time since the opening bucket. After a UTRGV response made basket, the Texans rattled off another six-straight points to take a 24-19 lead, on a 12-2

burst.

The Vaqueros used a 6-0 run of their own followed by a pair of threes to take a 36-32 lead with just over two minutes to play in the half. With a minute remaining, Lue Williams hit the Texans' first three of the half to tie the game at 37. The Vaqueros made a three in rebuttal on the next possession to take a 40-37 lead into the break. The halftime lead marks the first time UTRGV has led on the road this season.

The second half kept illustrating how back-and-forth the game truly was. In total the game featured 26 lead changes and 17 ties. Innocenti came out of the half hot, sinking a three across from the Texans bench to tie the game for the eighth time

at 40. Foul trouble became an issue for the Texans in the second half. With six minutes to play, Gaddy picked up his fourth foul. He joined Benjamin, Williams and Innocenti with four fouls already, who were forced to take time off the floor.

Smith sunk a pair of free throws at the 4:08 mark to give all five Texan starters double-digit scoring totals for the first time in Tarleton's D1 era.

With 2:04 remaining, UTRGV held its biggest lead of the half, 73-68. The Texans responded with a Gaddy lay-up and a pair of made free throws by Smith to cut the deficit to one, with 1:12 remaining. After a crucial stop, Jakorie Smith drove the lane with 31 ticks on the clock to put the Texans up, 74-73. On the ensuing possession, the Vaqueros held the ball at the top of the key waiting to make their move. With 10 seconds remaining Hasan Abdul-Hakim made a charge toward the basket where he found the bottom of the net to give the Vaqueros a 75-74 advantage with 4.15 seconds remaining.

Then, Smith turned the game into one of the best games of all time in Wisdom Gym, hitting the Texans' first game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer in the D1 era.

The Texans won the turnover battle, 17-14 and the battle of the boards, 37-33. Tarleton shot 45.2 percent from the floor (28-for-62) and only missed five from the charity stripe (18-for-23).

## Texans dominate 3rd quarter to win WAC road opener at Vaqueros

### Tarleton State University

EDINBURG — Tarleton State made a double-digit comeback on Saturday, Dec. 2, outrebounding University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 48-32 to win its Western Athletic Conference road opener.

The Texans (2-4, 1-1 WAC) snapped a four-game skid with a 72-66 victory over the Vaqueros (0-7, 0-2 WAC) at UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

After trailing 34-25 at the break, Tarleton State came out firing in the third, making 8-of-13 (.615) from the field, 3-of-5 (.600) from distance and 7-of-8 (.875) from the free throw line. They doubled up the Vaqueros in the third 26-13.

"I'm so proud of our team's effort today and their work ethic in the second half to overcome a nine-point half-time deficit," head coach Bill

Brock said. "I'm very thankful we finished the week 1-1 in conference play."

Tarleton freshman Faith Acker followed up her impressive collegiate debut on Wednesday with a team-high 20 points on 8-of-14 shooting and eight rebounds. Through two games, the true freshman is averaging 18.0 points and 7.5 rebounds.

Elise Turrubiates scored 12 of her 14 points in the fourth quarter, shooting 6-of-10 on the day, adding eight rebounds. Teresa Da Silva powered the bench with 14 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Tyler Jackson added 10 points, six rebounds and two assists.

The Texans have now evened the all-time series against UTRGV 4-4, including a 2-2 mark in Edinburg.

There were four lead changes and four ties in this one, but it was the Vaqueros in

control most of the first half. The Texans held a 6-5 lead and didn't lead again until the third, although the deficit was marginal throughout. The Vaqueros led 17-14 after the first, then quickly built a nine-point lead, 23-14 with 7:41 to play in the second. The Texans held UTRGV to just 11-of-34 (.324) shooting in the first half, but went without a three-pointer in the first 20 minutes, trailing by nine at the break, 34-25.

The Vaqueros led by as many as 10 before the Texans went to work. They went on a 6-0 spurt to cut it to four, then later went on a 14-2 run to jump ahead by five 49-44 with 1:17 left. Da Silva scored eight points in the run. Tarleton led 51-47 after three.

Turrubiates began her takeover of the fourth early and gave the Texans their largest lead of the day at nine, 58-49 with 8:01 remaining. UTRGV



Tarleton State made a double-digit comeback on Saturday, Dec. 2, outrebounding University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 48-32 to win its Western Athletic Conference road opener.

never got closer than four back, finishing on a 1-of-7 (.143) clip from distance in the final frame.

The Texans outshot their opponent for the third straight game, 25-of-56 (.446) to 21-of-67 (.313).

Coincidentally, Acker became the first Texan freshman to score 20 points since

former Texan Iyana Dorsey, who played for the orange and white across the way Saturday, closed her first season in Stephenville in 2020-21 with back-to-back 20-plus point games.

UTRGV's Dorsey scored a game-high 25 points (6-18 FG, 1-9 3PT, 12-12 FT). Arianna Sturdivant tallied 12 points

(4-8 3PT) and four rebounds, and Ashton McCorry had a bench-high 12 points and four rebounds.

## Todd Whitten 1 of 20 finalists for national coach of the year honors

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State football head coach Todd Whitten has led the Texans to four straight winning seasons at the NCAA Division I level through their reclassification period, and his team capped it off with their best year yet, an 8-3 overall record and 4-2 conference mark, good for second place in the United Athletic Conference.

For his efforts, Whitten has been named one of 20

finalists for the 2023 Eddie Robinson Award, which is given annually to the national coach of the year in Division I FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) college football.

"Todd Whitten is an exceptional coach and this is a tremendous honor to be named a finalist for the national coach of the year, which he rightfully deserves," Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Lonn Reisman said. «There is no other coach in the country who could have led this program to this

amount of success through reclassification. He has been and remains one of the best head coaches in the nation.»

This year alone, Whitten's group finished in the top-20 in scoring offense and total offense, despite not having a single senior starter on that side of the ball. Defensively, his group was dynamic, finishing in the top-25 in yards per play, sacks and defensive touchdowns.

The award, first presented in 1987 and in its 37th season, is named for legendary

Grambling State coach Eddie Robinson.

All 13 FCS leagues, comprised from 15 conferences overall, are represented by a Robinson Award finalist. The winner, to be selected by a national voting panel, will be announced on Dec. 7 and honored at the FCS National Awards Banquet on Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas — the eve of the FCS championship game.

Besides Whitten, the other finalists for this year's award are Mark Ferrante (Villanova), Greg Gattuso (UAlbany),

Bobby Hauck (Montana), Clay Hendrix (Furman), Tre Lamb (Gardner-Webb), Tim Murphy (Harvard), Bob Nielson (South Dakota), Trei Oliver (North Carolina Central), Tim Rebowe (Nicholls), Danny Rocco (VMI), Jimmy Rogers (South Dakota State), Pete Rossomando (Lamar), Jerry Schmitt (Duquesne), Larry Scott (Howard), Willie Simmons (Florida A&M), Todd Stepsis (Drake), John Troxell (Lafayette), Scotty Walden (Austin Peay), Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois).

Past recipients of the Eddie Robinson Award include Mark Duffner, Erk Russell, Chris Ault, Jim Tressel, Houston Nutt, Andy Talley, Paul Johnson, Joe Glenn, Mike Ayers, Jerry Kill, Jerry Moore, K.C. Keeler, Deion Sanders, John Stiegelmeier and two-time recipients Mickey Matthews, Sean McDonnell and Craig Bohl.



HOOD OUTDOORS

# Granbury December sand bass action



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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Whatever the case may be the fact remains they are there every year usually around Thanksgiving. These fish can be taken on jigs and spoons as well as small minnows. The best producing bait in my boat this weekend was a small white/chartreuse slab bounced off the bottom

Water levels are essentially normal, water temperatures are in the upper 50s and the fall sand bass action is good on many areas of the lake. Many of these sand bass are located on the main lake, but many will make the trek upstream early in the season. With the current water temperatures, the action is excellent on a variety of baits. These sporting fish offer tremendous action on light tackle and they are great table fare. Most folks do not anticipate any migrating white bass upstream until the spawning run in late January, February and March. However, every year many of these fish migrate upstream when water temperatures fall below 60 degrees. Water temperatures have been slow to fall, but there are numerous fish moving upstream. There are several assumptions/guesses on why these fish are on the upper ends. Some say flow and some say water temperatures turns on the desire for spawning even though they are not ready. Another assumption is that the river is shallower and will warm faster than the main lake and this is generally true. Some say they just follow the baitfish. I think it's probably a combination of all of these to some degree.

Another possible reason is maybe the sand bass come up stream because of the fact that they are river fish. They existed before any of our Texas lakes were created (the only natural lake in Texas is Lake Caddo — all the rest are manmade). Whatever the case may be the fact remains they are there every year usually around Thanksgiving. These fish can be taken on jigs and spoons as well as small minnows. The best producing bait in my boat this weekend was a small white/chartreuse slab bounced off the bottom. Bouncing these slabs off the bottom will draw a strike typically on the fall. First locate deeper pockets holding baitfish (using your graph) and work your spoons or jigs. Try some of the deeper holes and if that does not pan out, you may have to move up on a flat adjacent to the deeper holes. Some days the birds will point you to active fish. Don't be fooled by the birds working the cormorants. The cormorants are back as well. If it gets so cold the baitfish move back to the main lake to deeper water, then these fish will also leave the river. A few days of warming after an extreme cold snap will have the fish back in the river. Some days you may have

to scout a little and trust your electronics. If you can get a chance to get out this December and are looking for some fast and furious fishing, the upper ends of Granbury can be excellent. This kind of fishing does not require a large boat or any fancy equipment. If it is a windy day, fishing the river gives you many places to hide from the wind. The fish are biting now and they will continue to be fairly active all through the winter and into their spawning run in late January and February.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water levels are normal and water temperatures are in the upper 50s. Sand bass action is good on slabs on many areas of the lake and in the river. Look for channel breaks from 15- to 20-feet of water from Sandy Point to Indian Harbor to the Shores and in the river near Tin Top. Striped bass are good in 20- to 30-feet of water in Stripper Alley and in town by City Beach. Look for the birds. Largemouth bass are fair to

good to 7 pounds on 10- to 15-foot humps and ridges off major creek channels. Largemouth are also good in the river close to laydowns. Crappie action continues to be good on submerged timber and deeper docks with best reports coming from north of the old railroad bridge. Big blue and yellow cats continue to be caught on cut shad fished on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) is probably the busiest fishery in north Texas. Channel catfish limits are common

on prepared baits and cut shad. Largemouth numbers are excellent with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds being taken on soft plastics and drop shot rigs worked near channel ledges. Tilapias are abundant as well on this power plant lake. On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass, sand bass and crappie are being caught on the upper ends on small jigs and slabs worked near deeper holes in the river. Lake Benbrook hybrids are being caught near Richardson slough.

# HCN

Junior

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

DECEMBER 2

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SCHOOL BUS

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!

COLOR Time

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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VAN GRIFFITH KIA



# Teacher of the Month

## November



**Misty Rhodes**  
Tolar High School Teacher



**Morgan Tallant**  
Tolar Junior High Teacher

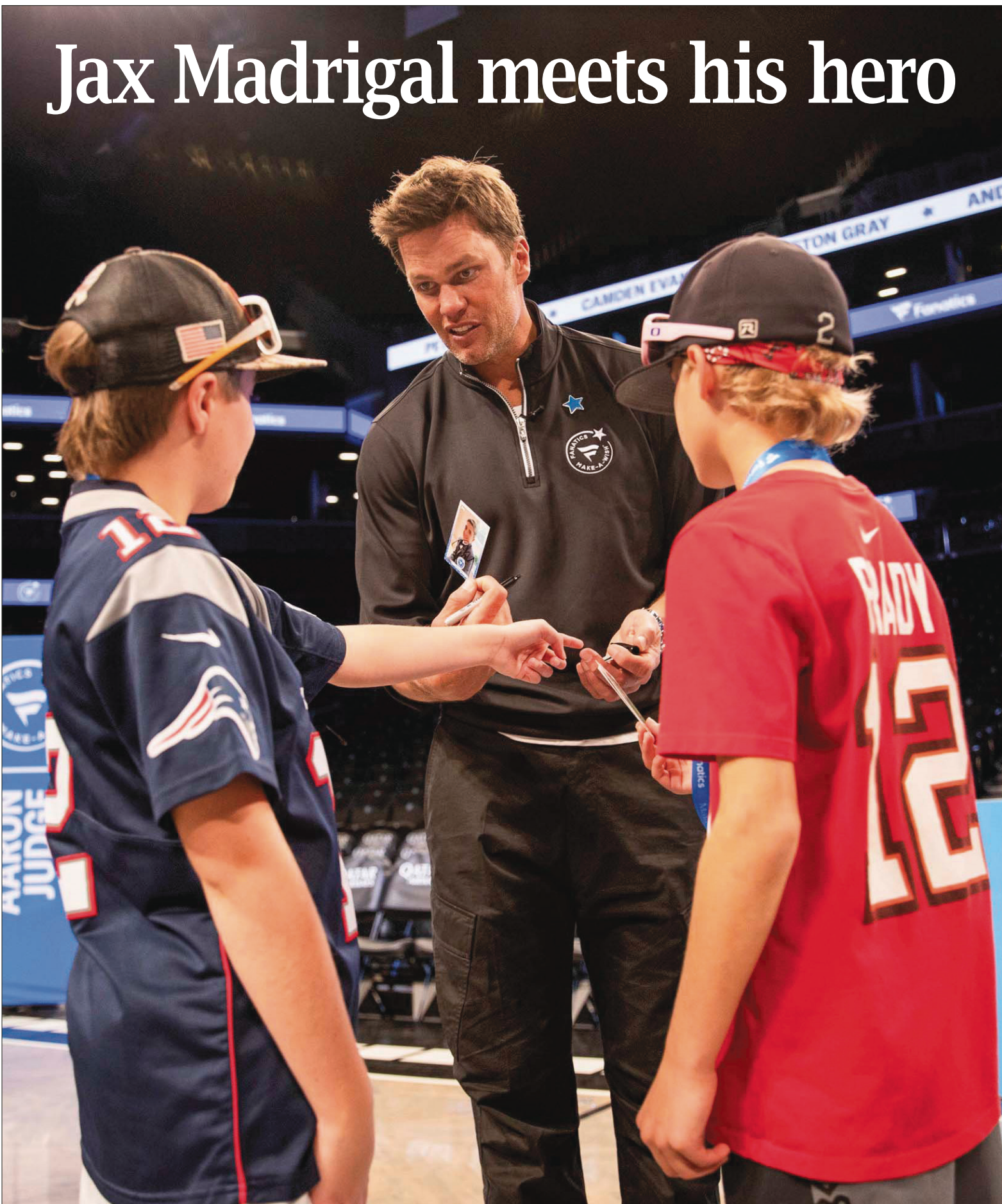


**Stacey Scott**  
Tolar Elementary Teacher

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Jax and Jace Madrigal discuss trading cards with Tom Brady.

COURTESY PHOTO

**BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

Sometimes wishes really do come true. A wish came true for 13-year-old Jax Madrigal of Granbury when he recently met his football idol. Jax, who was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at 2 years old, made a wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation to meet Tom Brady.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a muscle-wasting disease. According to Duchenne.com Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a rare, genetic condition characterized by progressive muscle damage and weakness. The site goes on to say, “Sometimes shortened to DMD or Duchenne, this rare disease is caused by a genetic mutation that prevents the body from producing a protein called dystrophin. Dystrophin acts like a shock absorber when muscles contract. Without dystrophin, muscles become more and more damaged and weakened. They may also lose the ability to repair themselves after an injury. Over time, children

with Duchenne will develop problems walking and breathing.” Duchenne is an irreversible and progressive disease. There is no known cure, though there have been advancements in managing the disease. Duchenne rarely affects females — just one in about 50 million female births has Duchenne. The occurrence in males is one in 3,500 to 5,000. Typically, children are 5 or 6 years old when diagnosed. Jax’s grandmother became concerned when he did not walk until 17 months old. The Madrigals then sought answers about Jax’s delayed walking. Jax’s blood was tested for levels of the enzyme creatine kinase

which is found in the heart, tissue and skeletal muscles. Jax’s results showed very high levels of creatine kinase in the blood, indicating extreme muscle loss. The CK level should be 200 units per liter (U/L) or less, but Jax’s was 27,000 U/L. Incredulous, Jax’s parents, Dustin and Ashlee Madrigal, asked for a retest — the next test showed 31,000 U/L. The Madrigals received the official diagnosis for Jax the day after their other son Jace was born. A sports fanatic, Jax is a natural athlete and a numbers whiz. Just a few years ago, before his illness was more apparent, he could throw a football in a perfect middle-of-the-chest spiral. Jax has scores of sports stats memorized — stats of professional football players, stats of professional baseball players and even some college and soccer stats. The Madrigals wanted Jax to wait to make his wish until they knew it would be a memory he would treasure. They wanted him to make a wish he would be sure of — something that wasn’t just a temporary whim. “We wanted to

wait until Jax was older. We knew we had time, so that he could make a good choice,” offered Ashlee Madrigal. Sports of one kind or another are “constantly” on their television at home, according to the Madrigals. Jax’s little brother Jace, age 11, likes the Raiders of the NFL, Texas Tech and Oregon where college ball is concerned. Mom Ashlee is the sole Dallas Cowboys fan. “They are so mean to me (about the Cowboys!)” she quips. And Jax, naturally, follows Tom Brady. His blanket is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and his favorite college team is Baylor. Jax is a familiar face to Pirates fans, since he has been the honorary captain of the Granbury Pirates football team for 11 years through the Coach to Cure event. The event is a partnership between Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy and local school districts which brings awareness to and raises funds for Muscular Dystrophy. The Coach to Cure event is one of the ways the Madrigals have become active in

PLEASE SEE **HERO** | C2

## Somewhere over the Rainbow Bridge

*Second Chance Farm adoptees serve as characters in touching children’s book*

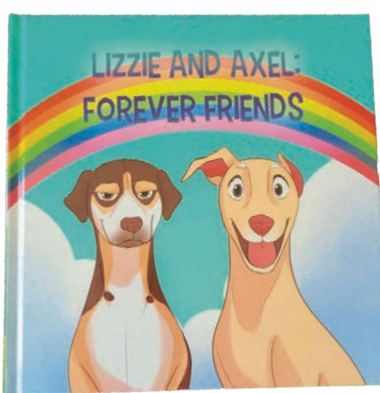
**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
*Staff Writer*

After experiencing a heartache that all pet owners know is inevitable, one local resident sought to change the narrative — a move that essentially transformed a heartbreaking situation into something beautiful. Chyanne Brake, a former Granbury resident, adopted two of her furry friends from Second Chance Farm (SCF), a nonprofit organization that serves as a special needs animal rescue and rehab. Axel, a blind Catahoula, was Brake’s first dog from SCF. Brake soon realized Axel needed a

playmate, and thus Lizzie, a deaf albino Doberman, became a new member of the family. As Brake, 28, realized Lizzie’s facial expressions were quite comical, she started posting videos on TikTok, where she showed clips of Lizzie overlaid with different audio recordings and music. However, Brake was completely unaware of just how popular Lizzie would become on the social media app. “I was just posting Tik-Toks all the time, and then one night I posted a video and didn’t think anything of it. I went to bed, and I woke up the next morning to like a million something views and

then it just kept growing,” Brake said. “Weeks after that, it got up to almost 20 million views, and then people just kept coming back for her; they loved her.” The deaf albino Doberman quickly went viral on TikTok in the beginning of this year, amassing over 30 million views in total. “It felt like a dream come true,” Brake said, in an email to HCN. However, the excitement was short-lived after Lizzie started exhibiting concerning and serious health symptoms. “It was about a 90-day period,” she explained. “First, she developed a condition called mega-

PLEASE SEE **ADOPTees** | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

“Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends” gently helps children understand loss, remember cherished pets, and find comfort in the everlasting connections they share.

PLEASE SEE **LIGHT** | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

Light Up the Night — hosted by Bridgewater Memory Care and The Longest Day Alzheimer’s Association — will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Acton Middle School track, 1300 James Road. The first soon-to-be annual event will allow attendees to honor their loved ones with Alzheimer’s by participating in a luminary lighting ceremony.

## Light Up the Night

*Hood County to shine light on Alzheimer’s Dec. 21*

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
*Staff Writer*

The Hood County night sky will soon be illuminated as residents pay tribute to their family members and loved ones who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Hosted by Bridgewater Memory Care and The Longest Day Alzheimer’s Association, Light Up the Night is a new event scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Acton Middle School track, 1300 James Road. “Basically, the event is solely to honor your loved one and just take a few minutes out of your day to light up a luminary,” explained Jordan Craig, manager of the Longest Day North Central Texas Alzheimer’s Association. As Dec. 21 will also mark the day of the winter solstice — the day of the year with the least amount of sunlight — Light Up the Night will also allow community members to shine a light on the darkness of Alzheimer’s. “Grief is such a big thing and sometimes just taking those little moments to take that break and remember them, a lot of times that helps people to move forward,” said Karen Cooper, community liaison for Bridgewater Memory Care. “It’s hard in dealing with a parent or a loved one that is struggling with those diseases, so I’m just like, ‘We’ve got to do something.’” Cooper explained there are several families of residents at Bridgewater Memory Care who are currently experiencing the effects of dementia and Alzheimer’s on their loved one. “Coming into the holidays is a really hard time because things are no longer the same, whether they’re still alive and they don’t remember or whether they have lost a loved one,” she said. “So, I visited with Jordan and we kind of put our heads together and thought it would be really neat to take a moment right here at the holiday season to give family members and caregivers the opportunity to take a moment and honor or remember their loved one.” “This will be our first annual event,” Craig said. “Karen actually helped me come up with the idea. She wanted to do a walk in Granbury, so we just kind of elaborated on that and made it a little bit further and we came up with this.”

The Light Up the Night event will kick off at 6 p.m., where attendees can mingle, drink hot cocoa and visit with sponsors. “It is a free event, but we do have sponsorship opportunities available,” Craig said. Sponsors can pay \$250 and will receive a booth space, a sponsor sign around the track, one group social media mention and five luminaries. All proceeds will benefit The Longest Day for the Alzheimer’s Association. “We’re asking if people would like to make a donation for a luminary, but it’s not necessarily required,” Cooper said. “If someone didn’t have money to donate, that’s OK. They’re not going to be excluded. They can come and have that luminary just like anybody else, but all of the funds will go to the Alzheimer’s Association to help continue the fight.” The ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m., where attendees will write the name of their loved one on a luminary, place it around the track, and then ev-



# A new and magical experience is coming to Granbury

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Get ready to step into the world of “The Nutcracker,” as an immersive experience by Brian Clowdus is coming to The Langdon Center.

Clowdus has been in the entertainment industry for over 20 years and is both the producer and director of this show. Clowdus noted that his love for music was ignited when his grandmother would play piano in church and when he would sit in her lap and sing hymns with her.

He did community theatre all throughout school, then pursued theatre and acting in his undergraduate and graduate studies. He traveled the world both nationally and internationally as a performer before starting his own company. Clowdus told the HCN that this show has been in the making for years, and that it is something he has been dreaming of for ages. This show is not only special - as this is its world premiere - but also because it is only being shown in Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia, and, of course, Texas.

Clowdus is no stranger to Granbury as he has come here many times, with his most recent experience being the “Edgar Allen Poe” experience back in October. “There is NO place like Granbury.

Truly the most magical town ever,” Clowdus expressed. “The community is why we return each year. Tammy Dooley and her staff at Visit Granbury are the real deal, and we are so grateful for them.”

“The Nutcracker” story follows Clara, whose father has just passed. This is her first Christmas without him, and it is difficult for her as her father always embodied the spirit of Christmas and would make handmade gifts. Before his passing, he carved a nutcracker as his final Christmas gift with a note attached that read, “The Nutcracker will keep the magic of Christmas alive. If you believe in the magic, I’m always with you.” Clara falls asleep and wakes up in a fantasy world that is guided



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGE MEDIA

General Caption – “The Nutcracker” experience is coming to Granbury. The event is an immersive experience that will feature music and dancing.

PLEASE SEE **MAGICAL** | C5

## HERO

FROM PAGE C1

awareness. Jax attends the Granbury High School pep rallies for Coach to Cure, where he acts as honorary football team captain. The coaches share about Jax and the struggles of his disability, and Jax does the coin toss at the varsity game.

As the manager of the Acton Middle School 7th grade football team, Jax remains involved in sports. Jax and Jace are each other’s biggest fans in every area of life, cheering each other on through victory and hardship.

Through the progression of the disease, Jax has participated in drug trials, and each time the family hopes for a slowing of progression of the disease. Qualifying for drug trials can be complicated as pharmaceutical companies are very specific in their qualifications. For one trial, Jax walked too well to be considered.

For one of the trials, the patient needed to be ambulatory if under age 7 and non-ambulatory if over age 7. By the time Jax was considered he was over age 7 and still ambulatory. Jax currently uses a scooter to travel long distances. Early next year he will be fitted for a wheelchair.

In 2022, between May and December, the Madrigals flew to Arkansas every two weeks so Jax could receive infusions, until finally a home health nurse was set up to continue the infusions.

A new trial begins in December. The Madrigals are hopeful Jax will qualify. Gene therapy is Jax’s best hope for delaying the progress of the disease. It was when visiting a clinic that the Madrigals were encouraged to pursue Make-A-Wish for Jax.

The Madrigals originally began the process of submitting Jax’s wish to the Make-A-Wish Foundation several years ago. “We began the process in 2019, but then it was COVID, you can’t fly, etc., then everything fell to the wayside,” shared Ashlee.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jax Madrigal shows the custom trading card made for him along with a Tom Brady card.

The wish was revived at a clinic appointment earlier this year. There they saw a sign that said to let the staff know if they wanted to speak to a social worker about Make-A-Wish. This prompted the family to revisit the idea.

In the few years since he originally conceived of meeting Tom Brady, Jax’s wish has not changed. “Meet Tom Brady” still tops the list for Jax.

Official word that Jax had been chosen for Make-A-Wish came this summer with a phone call. The selection was supposed to be kept a surprise for Jax and plans were underway to send out a film crew for the moment Jax opened the package, but the package didn’t arrive even a week before the event.

Eventually they traced the package to an old address and the current resident. “It was such a God thing,” said Ashlee, when the package was found at the address of a local woman who owns a company



Jax Madrigal is ushered by his mom Ashlee into the Make-A-Wish event sponsored by Fanatics.

that places differently-abled people in jobs.

When Jax finally opened the package, it contained a football.

The message in the package read, “Heard you are a stats guy. Chances of meeting Tom Brady — 100%.”

A company called Fanatics — a

leader in the digital sports platform — has partnered with Make-A-Wish to make all the sports-related wishes come true. Fanatics flew the Madrigals to New York on Sunday, Oct. 22 to begin the royal treatment.

Monday was a sightseeing day for the Madrigal family as they took in tourist sites. “Jax was really into it, especially the 911 memorial,” offered Ashlee.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, was the day Jax and family got to meet Tom Brady, and just as importantly, it was the day Tom Brady got to meet Jax, his family and the other families who attended. There were nine families whose children have various health challenges. Four of the Make-A-Wish participants were there to meet athletes Aaron Judge or Jason Tatum.

The event treated each child like a professional athlete with their own trading card and contracts for each one. Their trading cards were shown on the “Jumbotron.” After a lavish breakfast, each child got to have 15 to 20 minutes of one-on-one time with their chosen athlete. Directly following the meeting, the children attended stations with the athletes where they got to play catch with Brady, basketball with Jason Tatum or baseball with Aaron Judge.

Joy abounded among the Madrigals recalling the event. “Walking down the tunnel to meet Tom and seeing Jax’s smile and watching his dream come true was amazing,” recalled Dustin.

“Oh my gosh! It was incredible! Incredible! After we left the locker room Jax said, ‘Mom, my cheeks hurt, I can’t stop smiling!’ I said, ‘Me too, Bud!’ And Jace was just so genuinely happy for him,” Ashlee said.

“Believe in your dreams! And Tom Brady should do more Make-A-Wishes!” Jace exclaimed.

Ashlee shared, “Tom Brady made you feel special, like it was about you,” adding that Jax was overwhelmed by the experience. “I don’t know what to say. It was more than I expected. It was so awesome!”

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# Mission Granbury celebrates 25 years of providing safety, solutions and success



COURTESY PHOTO

Mission Granbury, a non-profit that serves Hood County, celebrated its 25th year anniversary on Friday, Dec. 1.

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Granbury nonprofit Mission Granbury has been serving the community of Hood County for 25 years — since 1998. The nonprofit organization is the largest in the county and provides nine human services programs and resources for those in need or in crisis.

The nonprofit has a women and children's shelter in Fort Worth known as the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children, which provides 24/7 care to an average of 12 people per night. The shelter also provides individual and/or group therapy with licensed counselors. The organization has court-appointed special advocates serving children in the foster care system, a weekly drive-thru food pantry, an emergency assistance network, non-residential victim assistance, senior care, veterans assistance, disaster relief and a resale shop.

Mission Granbury has had immense success and provided help and care to many around the county, but just how did this nonprofit come to be?

In 1997, 11-year-old Sarah Patterson was abducted and murdered by her brother. The news brought awareness to the community and highlighted the need for victim services in Hood County. This led to a group of concerned citizens coming together at Acton United Methodist Church to address the needs and respond to domestic violence and families in crisis.

On March 31, 1998, Mission Granbury officially became incorporated as a Texas nonprofit agency

with efforts led by Vincent Messina and CPA Glenda Pirkle. That October, the first hotline volunteers began training and in November, a fundraiser was held to support the nonprofit.

In December the first crisis hotline was installed in a real estate office downtown that was answered 24/7 by volunteers including Norma Wright and Launi Webb. The same month Mission Granbury opened its first office located at 106 N. Lambert Street.

The next year, Marianne McCormick was hired to be the first executive director of Mission Granbury. The same year, the nonprofit provided the first client with safe shelter in a private family home. The organization also received a one-year grant from CASA and became the 45th CASA program in Texas.

Mission Granbury's first office opened at 106 N. Lambert Street after a donated house fell apart in its moving process. The center later moved to 416 South Morgan Street in 2001 and launched an \$800,000 capital campaign to build a permanent safe house for victims of domestic violence.

In 2004, Mission Granbury served 2,464 individuals. It wasn't until 2006 that the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children opened

and became an instrumental part of the nonprofit.

As the years have gone by, Mission Granbury has continued to grow, thrive and provide assistance to thousands in need over the years.

In fiscal year 2022, Mission Granbury served a little over 15,000 people. In the most recent fiscal year that ended in August, 24,000 people were served.

"Our organization has grown so much in the last 10 years, adding new programs as we discovered gaps in services and cultivating meaningful collaborations with other Hood County

is a former CEO of a medical clinic. Thinking she wanted to continue to serve in the medical field she applied for a job at Ruth's Place, a nonprofit medical clinic. When she interviewed for the job, she was told she would be better suited for an opening at Mission Granbury, and her resume was sent over to Mission Granbury's search committee.

"I literally had no idea how blessed I was about to be. I've always felt God was preparing me for this job my whole life," Scovel said.

She added that the job is extremely rewarding. She

pounds of pet food to be distributed shares that at one time, he was standing in line for food, and this is his way of giving back. It's those moments that matter the most," Scovel said.

Just recently, two local residents donated a walk-in cooler to expand the food pantry and meet more of the demand. Scovel added the nonprofit has gone from serving 150 families a week to over 350. Scovel also noted the pantry has brought in close to 60,000 pounds of food to fill the shelves.

Scovel mentioned Andi Luna, manager of the food

Granbury board of directors for its work.

"Our board members are actively engaged in the work we do and the decisions we make. They have diversified backgrounds but unified compassion and empathy," Scovel said. "It's that kind of dedication and heart that guides our direction, and right now I feel like we're absolutely on the right track."

Mission Granbury will host its annual gala on Dec. 9; because this is the organization's silver anniversary, the gala will take place at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. The founders of

*"We are all so proud of the work we do and the impact that work has on so many lives. It's been an amazing 25 years, helping tens of thousands of people, and we're proud of that. Now, we're looking toward the next 25 years and making decisions that will endure for Mission Granbury to ensure we can always be here to help."*

**DUSTI SCOVEL**

Mission Granbury Executive Director

nonprofits to ensure we work together and blend our resources to meet the community's needs instead of duplicating services, which is never efficient," Mission Granbury Executive Director Dusti Scovel said. "We are all so proud of the work we do and the impact that work has on so many lives. It's been an amazing 25 years, helping tens of thousands of people, and we're proud of that. Now, we're looking toward the next 25 years and making decisions that will endure for Mission Granbury to ensure we can always be here to help."

Scovel has been with Mission Granbury for about eight-and-a-half years and

described many different scenarios of community members thanking her for her work and helping people during times when they were struggling.

"When the phlebotomist who is drawing my blood thanks me because Mission Granbury helped her when her child was sick, and she couldn't work. When the lady in the grocery store steps closer and tells me quietly how grateful she is that Mission Granbury was there to help her daughter find safe shelter when she fled an abusive situation and how she's back on her feet now, thanks to the help she received from the shelter. When the man delivering 700

pantry, crediting her with the success of the pantry. She added Luna is always focused on collaboration with the other food pantries around the county.

Due to the cost of living being on the rise, Scovel said many families are being evicted and Mission Granbury is seeing an increase in displaced families. She said the organization's partnerships with the Salvation Army and Hood County Children's Charity Fund enable them to do more for families in need.

"Seeing how determined case managers are to find the resources is inspiring," Scovel expressed while also thanking the Mission

Mission Granbury will be honored, and a special video presentation will be shown highlighting the work of the nonprofit followed by a live auction.

One special part of the event will be a seven-foot tall, custom-designed Christmas tree that will be up for auction. The tree will be donated to the Ada Carey Shelter for women and children for everyone at the shelter to enjoy. Glen Aire sponsored the purchase of ornaments and designers Brittany Taylor and Lindsie McKenzie donated their time to bring the tree to life.

The gala has been sold out for several weeks and will take place at 6 p.m.

## "The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Soundtrack"

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the  
Hood County News

Ho, ho, ho, Granbury! It's that time of the year when the Historic Granbury Square isn't the only thing lit up like a Christmas tree — our spirits are, too! And what better way to amplify this festive cheer than with a soundtrack as classic as the Brazos Drive-In? So, buckle up (with a cup of hot cocoa, of course) as we dive into my favorite Christmas albums — one for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas!

### 1. "HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS" BY BURL IVES

For me, it's simply not Christmas until I hear Burl Ives sing, "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas." With his distinctively warm and friendly voice, Ives brings a down-to-earth and inviting charm to this collection of Christmas

classics.

### 2. "ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE" BY BRENDA LEE

This is another "it's not Christmas until" song for me. The title track is a vibrant and energetic Christmas classic that has been a staple of holiday music since its release in 1958. With its iconic opening guitar riff and Lee's memorable performance, the song instantly evokes images of holiday parties and Christmas cheer.

### 3. "WHITE CHRISTMAS" BY BING CROSBY

Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" is as classic as Granbury's historic homes. Picture this: You're taking a leisurely drive down Pearl Street, snow gently falling (okay, maybe that's a stretch in Texas, but a Granburian

can dream!), and Bing's smooth voice is serenading you through the speakers. It's like stepping into a Christmas card, except with fewer horses and more pickup trucks. By the way, don't miss "White Christmas" on stage at the iconic Granbury Opera House Dec. 1-23!

### 4. "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS" BY VINCE GUARALDI TRIO

This jazzy soundtrack from the beloved Peanuts Christmas special adds a playful and heartwarming touch to any holiday gathering, and, let's face it, isn't this Christmas album basically like a Christmas soundtrack for all of us over the age of 40?

### 5. "ELVIS' CHRISTMAS ALBUM" BY ELVIS PRESLEY

"Elvis' Christmas Album" by Elvis Presley is a timeless

treasure in the world of holiday music, much like a cherished heirloom ornament that's lovingly placed on the tree year after year.

### 6. "CHRISTMAS PORTRAIT" BY THE CARPENTERS

The album features a delightful mix of well-known Christmas classics and festive medleys, all rendered with the Carpenters' signature soft pop and melodic richness. From the heartfelt "Merry Christmas Darling" to the joyful "Jingle Bells," each track in "Christmas Portrait" is imbued with a sense of gentle, comforting cheer.

### 7. "MERRY CHRISTMAS STRAIT TO YOU" BY GEORGE STRAIT

While I'm not a huge country music fan, this is one of my favorites. As comforting as a well-worn pair of cowboy boots, Strait's voice adds

a personal and sincere touch to each song, making this album a perfect soundtrack for a holiday spent with family and friends.

### 8. "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH" BY VINCE GILL

Honestly, I could listen to Vince Gill sing a page out of the phone book! Gill's blend of country, bluegrass and pop elements in this album creates a warm, inviting atmosphere, perfect for gathering around the tree and reflecting on the joy and peace of the holiday season.

### 9. "THE LOST CHRISTMAS EVE" BY TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

For this one, you will want to put in those new Bose Noise Cancelling Ear Buds you got for Christmas! Trans-Siberian Orchestra's signature style of incorporating electric guitar riffs, sym-

phonic orchestration, and powerful narration creates a cinematic and immersive listening experience.

### 10. "MERRY CHRISTMAS" BY MARIAH CAREY

The undisputed queen of Christmas, Mariah Carey's album is as essential to the holiday season as the lights around the Historic Granbury Square. Featuring the iconic "All I Want for Christmas Is You," this album is a festive staple.

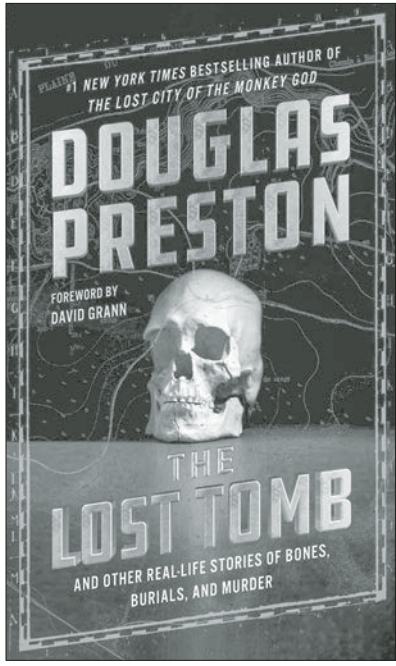
### 11. "CHRISTMAS" BY MICHAEL BUBLÉ

Michael Bublé's "Christmas" album is smoother than a pie from the Square Café! It's the kind of album that makes you want to curl up by the fire — or, more realistically, by the air conditioner because,

PLEASE SEE **TWELVE** | C8



## BOOK REVIEW



COURTESY PHOTO

**"The Lost Tomb and Other Real-Life Stories of Bones, Burials, and Murder" by Douglas Preston** C.2023, GRAND CENTRAL, \$30.00, 320 PAGES

## It was a dinosaur bone

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Not really, but it was fun thinking that it was, even for a while. You were just 7 years old then, and the truth (it was a simple rock) didn't deter you from digging some more. It never stopped you from dreaming of ancient treasure or the rarest of relics. It shouldn't keep you from enjoying those feelings again in "The Lost Tomb" by Douglas Preston.

Does that name sound familiar? It might: Preston is a best-selling co-novelist of history-based thrillers, but his fans may be surprised to learn that he's also a journalist who loves a good fact-based adventure. Digging for a story, for Preston, is almost as much fun as digging in the dirt, and this collection of his articles shows it.

He begins with a tale of murder that was a little close to home: an old friend, someone Preston had lost touch with, was killed years after their last contact. Unearthing the guy's name online, says Preston, "was not knowledge as power; it was knowledge as sorrow."

In 2006, he wrote about The Monster of Florence, a killer who viciously mutilated some of his victims. Preston was so fascinated with the crime that he befriended an "expert on the case," and eventually collaborated on a true-crime book with the man but too much digging got the expert arrested and Preston ousted from Italy.

He wrote in 2020 about an archaeological mystery, and doz-

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | C5

# Hometown holidays: The power of local spending in Hood County

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

**H**ood County's small businesses are the stars on our collective Christmas tree this holiday season. The holidays herald a crucial time for our local small businesses. This period can significantly impact their survival and growth. As we immerse ourselves in the joy of the season, it's vital to recognize the profound effect our holiday spending has on the local economy, particularly on small businesses that form the backbone of our community.

The National Retail Federation recently unveiled findings from its latest holiday survey. This report, distinct from its holiday sales forecast, indicates consumers anticipate spending an average of \$875 on essential holiday items, encompassing gifts, decorations, food and other seasonal purchases. This statistic isn't just a number; it's a beacon of hope for small businesses in Granbury and beyond.

Small businesses, the lifeblood of our local economy, find a lifeline in the holiday season. The surge in consumer spending during these months is a vital remedy for these establishments. A special holiday edition of the Small Business Now report by Constant

Contact underscores the significance of this period. The last quarter of the year isn't just busy; it's essential for the financial health of small enterprises.

Delving deeper into the study, we uncover a startling truth: the holiday season is far more critical for small businesses than many customers realize. Constant Contact's findings reveal a striking fact: for half of the nation's small businesses, holiday sales constitute over 25% of their annual revenue. Retailers, both online and brick-and-mortar, are particularly dependent on this season, with many reporting up to 50% of their yearly income is generated during these festive months.

However, there's a gap in con-

sumer awareness regarding their impact on the financial well-being of these small businesses. Only a third of shoppers believe their holiday expenditures significantly influence the survival of small businesses. This disconnect highlights an opportunity for us, as a community, to change the narrative and foster a more robust support system for our local entrepreneurs.

In Granbury and Hood County, we are blessed with an array of locally owned small businesses. From quaint retail shops offering unique gifts to cozy bed and breakfasts providing a home away from home, our town is a tapestry of entrepreneurial spirit. Our restaurants serve not just meals but experiences, our wineries and pubs offer a taste of local flavor, and our entertainment venues bring joy and culture to our community.

Supporting these businesses during the holiday season is more than a transaction; it's an investment in the heart and soul of Granbury and Hood County. When we choose to spend our holiday dollars at local establishments, we're not just buying products or services. We're helping to sustain the dreams of our neighbors and friends who run these businesses. We're contributing to creating jobs, supporting the local economy, and preserving the unique character of our beloved town.

As we approach this holiday season, let's embrace the spirit of giving in a way that extends beyond the presents under the tree. Let's commit to making our holiday purchases with a purpose. Whether it's buying gifts from local artisans, booking a stay at a local bed and breakfast, enjoying a meal at a hometown restaurant, savoring a glass of wine at a local vineyard, or attending a show at a local entertainment venue, each choice we make can have a profound impact.

In conclusion, the holiday season in Hood County is more than a time of celebration; it's a critical period for our local small businesses. By choosing to spend our holiday budget within our community, we're not just partaking in the festive cheer; we're ensuring the heartbeat of Hood County — its small businesses — continues to thrive. Let's come together as a community this holiday season and show our unwavering support for the small businesses that make Granbury and Hood County the unique and vibrant place we call home.

## GAME ON

## Gubbins: It's a word game!



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.

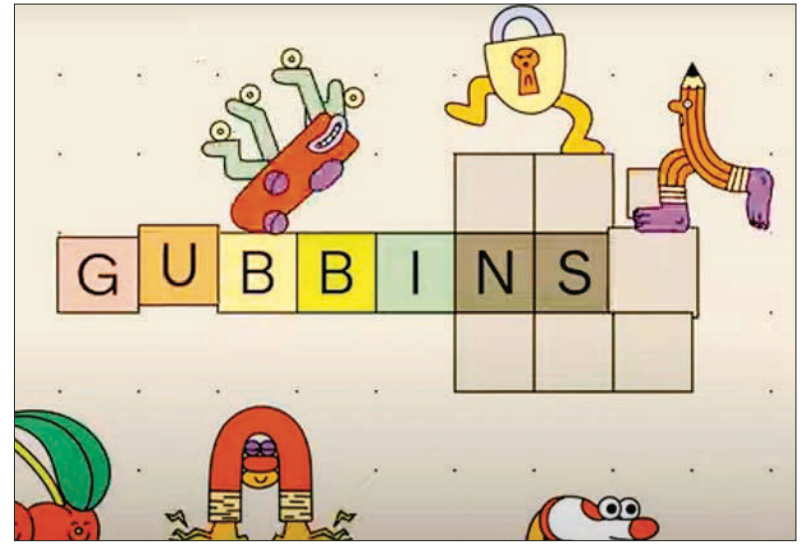
I've followed Hank Green on YouTube for years, so when he recommended a word game the other day, I got my phone out and installed it immediately.

Gubbins is a word game that could be called 'Scrabble-adjacent.' Words can be built vertically or horizontally with a random selection of letter tiles. Unlike Scrabble, when a word is found, it can be selected and removed. Gubbins are "weird little pals" who either help you or hinder your puzzle solving. Rainbows with six eyes, mushrooms with eyes and legs, lightning bolts with muscular arms, trumpets with four legs and arms, all done in a retro style that looks like a combination of Peter Max posters and cartoon characters from the Beatles'

Yellow Submarine. When your game is over, you can make postcards with the words you've used that day in the puzzles, plus cute little stickers and backgrounds.

Created by Studio Folly, Gubbins began as a small game that Darcy Smith and his partner, Jess Shipard, created together. In a post on Reddit, Smith says he was working with game developers back in 2020, but when the pandemic hit, opportunities dried up. Shipard suggested, "Why don't we try and make something small?"

Shipard is a graphic designer, so already had that design sensibility, and Smith had the digital skills, so after the success of Scrabble and Words with Friends, they decided that a word game would be a good



COURTESY PHOTO

## Outline

project to collaborate on.

Their focus was simple — create a game that's fun for non-gamers, no time-sensitive dexterity inputs, and a concentration on quality rather than making a large game. At that time, there was very little innovation in word games, so it seemed like the perfect project.

In 2021, Wordle came out and

was very popular, and its success confirmed that there was still plenty of appetite for a word game. But designing and developing a game can be highly stressful, and they ran out of money several times. Much of their funding came from games production and development grants from Vicscreen, the primary

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | C5

## ADOPTEES

FROM PAGE C1

esophagus, so she had to eat upright in like a highchair for dogs type thing. She started doing really well with that. But then she developed a bleeding disorder, and then on the very last day, I think that bleeding disorder led to her having a stroke and then the stroke is, I think, what finally got her on the very last day."

On July 10, Brake's world came crashing down when Lizzie succumbed to her medical ailments.

"The grief was overwhelming, not just for myself, but also for our other furry friend, Axel, who shared a home with her," she said.

But although the pain in losing Lizzie was indescribable, Brake realized she could turn her heartbreaking experience into something positive.

"When she first went viral, I always wanted to do a business on the side as a hobby, so I had originally written a story of her and Axel having fun and they were going

to go on all these different adventures together and I could do book tours with them," Brake said. "But then she got sick and passed away and I was like, 'I don't want to keep that same fun story when she can't be here for it.'"

Instead, Brake decided to write a story about the "Rainbow Bridge" and what happens to dogs when they pass away.

The book, "Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends," details a heartwarming journey of friendship, love and the power of memories.

"It's about Axel and Lizzie and they're playing one day then Lizzie says it's her time to go, so Axel helps her to the Rainbow Bridge," she explained. "And then Axel comes back alone and just talks about how even though she's not there, she is still there in spirit."

According to the book synopsis, as Lizzie embarks on her final adventure, Axel learns that even though his forever friend is no longer physically with him, their bond remains unbreakable. Through vivid illustra-

tions and a tender narrative, "Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends" gently helps children understand loss, remember cherished pets, and find comfort in the everlasting connections they share.

"Losing a pet is such a traumatic thing and for some people it's just a topic that's not talked about a lot, so maybe if (children) get exposure to it before something happens, when their dog or pet actually does pass away, it'll help them understand it a little better," she said.

Brake's children's book, "Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends," can be purchased on Brake's personal website at [sassy-sentiments.com/collections/childrens-book](http://sassy-sentiments.com/collections/childrens-book).

Additionally, the book will be available for purchase at the Hood County YMCA, 1475 James Road, beginning Dec. 16.

Although Brake currently lives in Gatesville, she continues to adopt from Second Chance Farm in Granbury.

"Axel has separation anxiety, so she (owner Sandi Walker) brought us another dog the same day and we

willingly adopted the dog with the same condition that Lizzie had," Brake said. "If you go to our TikTok page, it's all over there now."

After conducting extensive research online and learning all she could from Lizzie about megaesophagus — a condition that decreases mobility in the muscles of the esophagus — Brake is currently taking care of her new Weimaraner dog, Sterling, who has the same condition.

Brake's TikTok videos about Lizzie, Axel, and newfound family member Sterling, can be found by searching Brake's username: [megadogs\\_megahearts](https://www.tiktok.com/@megadogs_megahearts) on the website or app.

"Our story is a testament to the power of love, resilience and the importance of cherishing the memories of our beloved pets," she added. "We hope that sharing our journey can inspire others and help children navigate the complexities of loss with grace and understanding."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Chyanne Brake, right, is pictured with her husband, Thomas Handke, left, and her two dogs Axel, left, and Lizzie, right.

## LIGHT

FROM PAGE C1

everyone will light their luminaries at the same time. The walk around the illuminated track will begin directly thereafter.

Craig compared the cer-

emonial walk to the Walk to End Alzheimer's — the world's largest annual event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

"We're gonna do it kind of similar to that but at night, and then we'll do a big lighting ceremony," she

explained. "So, that's kind of what the ceremony is going to be, where you kind of just take a few minutes in the holidays to honor your loved ones and those caretakers."

With this being the first Light Up the Night event, Cooper said she doesn't know that she necessarily

has an expectation. However, her hope would be that at least 100 people would come out and take part in the soon-to-be annual event.

"I think it's really important that we take time out to remember and to honor those loved ones, and the lives that they've lived," she

added. "I think that's just so important."

"I'm really excited because I think this is a mission-focused event," Craig added. "Getting to honor your loved ones and do a big lighting ceremony is going to be super unique. It's not something that's been done be-

fore — honoring your loved ones in a different way."

For more information about The Longest Day Alzheimer's Association, visit [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org) online.

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**BOOK**  
FROM PAGE C4

ens of skeletal remains in a lake in the Himalayas. A year later, he wrote an article about another mystery that happened in Russia more than six decades ago and he believes there's finally a solution to what happened — although the latest answer is still controversial.

In two different stories, Preston tackles the issues of skeletal remains found in America, the laws regarding their return to Native tribes, and why there's argument about the subject. He writes of Oak Island, and the possibilities of treasure. He visited a very exciting major archaeological site near the nation's heartland. And he writes about victims of archaeological fraud and targets of internet harassment.

So you say you really dig reading about ancient history, true crime, real-life mysteries, and, well, digging? Put down your shovel, then, because you'll want to use your hands to carry "The Lost Tomb" around with you awhile.

Fans of author Douglas Preston's co-written thrillers may wonder sometimes where he gets his ideas, and this book offers clues. Much like a good novel, in fact, the completely absorbing tales here will make you feel like you're treasure-hunting with Indiana Jones or working a whodunit with Sherlock Holmes. But fear not: this book is nothing but authentic, as Preston relies on science to explain his works in both crime-solving and archaeology, thus speaking to a reader's intelligence. Admit it: that's pretty fun stuff.

If you spent your childhood searching for "fossils" or if you'd love that kind of adventure as an adult now, you want "The Lost Tomb." Make no bones about it, this is your book.

**Friends of the Library offering half-price book sale through Dec. 30**

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

**T**he Friends of the Library for Hood County is offering a half-price book sale at the Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., from now through Wednesday, Dec. 20.

According to its website, the Friends of the Library for Hood County was originally formed in the mid-1960s to serve as an advocacy group to promote passage of a local referendum establishing the first public library in the Hood County area in 1968.

Since that date, the organization has continued to advocate and cultivate public and private support for the Hood County Library and to promote volunteerism in the community.

"A lot of people don't know we exist," explained Ann Jalbert, president of

the Friends of the Library for Hood County Board of Directors. "We've tried advertising, but we have a loyal customer base here. We're located adjacent to the library, so you enter from North Travis Street, and we do have a sign out in front. All our books in the bookstore are donated, and all the money we raise helps sponsor children's programs and anything (the library) needs that we can help them with."

In the last four years, the organization has provided more than \$75,000 in funding to support children's

programming, building maintenance, remodeling and improvement, and special title acquisitions, as well as \$93,000 toward the new Library Expansion Project in support of the Hood County Library and the services it provides.

"The building we're in was the original library before they built on," Jalbert said. "We've had Friends groups from different cities in Texas actually come here and look at our store to see what we're doing, and they're just amazed at how big a space we have, because a lot of them just have like two bookshelves in their library that they sell books on, but we have a whole organized store, and we can accept a lot of donations."

The Friends of the Library engage in a number of activities in support of the Hood County Library, according to the website. These activi-

ties include sponsorship of displays, speakers, book reviews, children's programs, film programs, book drives, and book fairs.

To assist with funding for the library, the store also offers a \$1 book sale every year and half-price book sales twice a year: one in July and one in December.

Jalbert said that the store has approximately 1,000 books in a variety of genres like: children's books, juvenile, young adult, fiction, biography, military, history, quilting, westerns, cook-books, science fiction, religion, and large print.

"All our paperbacks are five for \$1, and most of our hardback books are \$2," she said. "There are some newer books that are \$6, but most of them are \$2."

Jalbert said during the half-price book sale, the hardbacks are \$1, kids' books are 50 cents, and the paperbacks

are 10 for \$1.

"We have a wide variety of books, so I think we have something anyone would want," she added.

Members of the Friends of the Library for Hood County can also get 25 percent off their total purchase every month by paying the \$10 membership fee every year.

The Friends of the Library for Hood County Book Store is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Anyone who is interested in donating their books can visit the library during operation hours or use the two gray bins outside the library doors if the store is not open.

For more information, visit folhoodcounty.com online or follow the Facebook Page at Friends of the Library for Hood County.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

**MAGICAL**  
FROM PAGE C2

by the spirit of her father where nutcrackers come to life and snowflakes dance.

Clowdus noted that this show is not your typical sit-and-wait-for-things-to-happen show.

"You feel as though you are IN the story. The action happens all around you; the performers are directly engaging with you, and you feel like you are IN THE SHOW," Clowdus described.

With "The Nutcracker" being such a classic in the theatre world, Clowdus noted that he and his team completely reinvented it.

"Classic art is meant to be revised. This is a completely different take on 'The Nutcracker,'" Clowdus said. "You will recognize elements of the classic, but there are so many new elements, and it's only an hour long. I say, if you love 'The Nutcracker,' you will love this. And if you typically sleep through 'The Nutcracker,' you too, will love

this."

Clowdus also added that the show features circus acts, and that it is not your typical ballet.

"The Nutcracker" will be at The Langdon Center from Dec. 20 through Dec. 30. General admission prices range from \$34 to \$59 based on day and availability. A 15 percent discount can be used for military and first responders when purchasing tickets online with code ThankYou15. Youth tickets are available for those 12 and

under.

VIP tickets are also available that include a souvenir glass with a beverage as well as an intimate, private carol sing-along with the cast that will take place 30 minutes prior to the show with limited capacity.

The show is accessible to everyone with a majority of the show being seated indoors with heat and a small portion including standing and walking.

If heavy rain becomes prohibitive, the show will

be postponed for 30 minutes. And if the rain does not let up, the show will be cancelled. A ticket protection can be purchased that will either give a ticketholder a refund if cancelled or a rescheduled show for \$5. Ticket protection must be bought in advance.

For more information on the show or to get tickets, visit brianclowdus.com/performances/nutcracker

"This is our most spectacular show to date," Clowdus said. "It is not to be missed!"

**GAME**  
FROM PAGE C4

games funding body in the state of Victoria, Australia. More was made available from Screen Australia, the country-wide games funding body.

But money was still tight, and it was difficult to convince game publishers to take risks on new games, especially ones without a lot of funding.

Then Hank Green came along.

After Smith posted a Tik Tok video about Gubbins

(mainly to test out his new microphone), Hank Green contacted him and wanted to know more about the game. He offered to purchase 10 percent of Gubbins, and in exchange 10 percent of the profits would go toward reducing child and maternal death in Sierra Leone via

Partners in Health. Smith and Shipard were thrilled with the offer and took him up on it immediately. It gave them the funds to get the game up on the App Store.

Gubbins is super simple to play and addictive. Players can play one free game a day. There are in-game purchases,

but no advertising. For only \$5.99, you can play as many times as you want, without limits.

If you like Wordle and other online word games, you'll love Gubbins. Download "Gubbins - A Word Game" on your phone's App store today.



# Granbury—A Candlelight Tour



The Granbury Candlelight Tour of Homes is a self-guided tour of historic Granbury homes. This year included six properties; the Joe Nutt Home, the Hannaford House, the Daniel House, the Mary Brady House, the Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Filling Station, and the Modern Farmhouse. Tourists were encouraged to explore each historic building from Dec. 1-3. For more photos, please see [hcnews.com/photos](http://hcnews.com/photos)

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS





# Mistletoe and movies: Hood County's Christmas film favorites

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

One of my favorite things about the holidays is noticing all the different traditions people have. For some, it's going to look at Christmas lights. For others, it's donning their best ugly Christmas sweater for the neighborhood Christmas party.

For many, a big part of their holiday season is the tradition of watching their favorite Christmas movies. These films, more than just seasonal entertainment, have woven themselves into the fabric of our holiday traditions, becoming as essential as the Christmas tree itself. But why do we cherish these movies so much? Perhaps it's their ability to transport us to a world where miracles are real, love conquers all, and the spirit of Christmas shines brightest.

Local physician Laura Power shares her heart-warming tradition, "My number one movie has to be 'Polar Express.'" When the kids were in preschool, we watched it every single morning before school with hot chocolate." Much like the train it features, the movie takes us on a journey of belief and wonder, a journey that Laura fondly revisits every Christmas Eve with her now grown-up children.

Tammy Dooley, Director of Visit Granbury, finds a piece of our town in her favorite Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." "Bedford Falls is so charming, and it really reminds me of Granbury," she says. "It's



COURTESY PHOTO

For many, a big part of their holiday season is the tradition of watching their favorite Christmas movies.

simply a story about seeing things from a different perspective and realizing things are not so bad, and that we have so many things to be grateful for."

Merry Jayne Flatbush, owner of Merry Jayne's Sweetshop, finds her Christmas spirit in "Miracle on 34th Street." "When it comes to Christmas, nothing is more fulfilling than believing in what's in your

heart!" she exclaims, capturing the season's essence.

Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman finds Christmas joy in "It's a Wonderful Life." Coffman quotes one of his favorite lines from the movie, "Remember, George: No man is a failure who has friends."

Granbury ISD Athletic Director Dwight Butler says that his favorite Christmas

movie, "A Christmas Story," takes him back to when he was a kid. "It reminds me of a simpler time, and it was a great reenactment of real-life events from when I was a kid. Darren McGavin's character reminded me of my dad! It's a hilarious movie. I double-dog dare you not to like it!"

Scott and Viki Young, owners of Red on the Square, share their family's

favorites. "Viki loves the 'Nutcracker,'" says Scott, noting her lifelong passion for ballet. His picks? "A Christmas Story" for its relatable humor and "Christmas Vacation" for its portrayal of quirky family dynamics.

Now, let's stroll through my personal Top 10 Christmas Movies, each a gem in its own right:

"Home Alone": The quint-

essential hilarious tale of a boy's ingenuity and the true meaning of family during Christmas.

"A Christmas Story": A nostalgic trip to childhood, filled with humor and the timeless quest for the perfect Christmas gift.

"White Christmas": A musical extravaganza that dances its way into our hearts with its timeless

PLEASE SEE **MOVIES** | C8

## TIPS FOR A SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

- 1.) **ALWAYS USE SECURE WEBSITES** - secure sites will have a closed padlock in the status bar and its URL starts with HTTPS.
- 2.) **CHECK OUT THE BUSINESS** - if the website is unfamiliar, do research before you make any purchases.
- 3.) **BEWARE OF ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES** - websites offering designer items for too cheap may only exist to get your personal information.
- 4.) **PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD** - you usually get the best liability protection when you use a credit card
- 5.) **AVOID PUBLIC WI-FI** - Wi-Fi networks use public airwaves and your information can easily be intercepted.
- 6.) **DON'T GIVE OUT TOO MUCH INFORMATION** - no shopping website will ever need your SS#.
- 7.) **CHECK YOUR STATEMENTS REGULARLY AND SET UP ACCOUNT ALERTS**

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## Christmas Around the World

Granbury Civic Chorus

December 14, 2023  
7 p.m.

Acton Methodist Church  
3433 Fall Creek Hwy  
Granbury, TX 76049



**MOVIES**

FROM PAGE C7

songs and festive cheer.

**"It's a Wonderful Life":** A reminder of life's blessings and the impact we have on others, wrapped in the warmth of the holiday spirit.

**"Jingle All the Way":** A

funny yet touching story of a father's quest to find the perfect toy for his son.

**"A Christmas Carol (Patrick Stewart version)":** A classic tale of redemption and the transformative power of Christmas.

**"Christmas Vacation":** A laugh-out-loud portrayal of family gatherings, capturing

the chaotic yet heartwarming essence of the holidays.

**"The Santa Clause":** A magical adventure that rekindles our belief in Santa Claus and the wonders of Christmas.

**"Love Actually":** A tapestry of love stories, beautifully interwoven, reminding us that love, actually, is all

around.

**"Die Hard":** Okay, I know some don't consider this a Christmas movie, but for me, it's not Christmas until Hans Gruber falls from Nakatomi Plaza! It's a great blending of action with festive undertones.

In Hood County, as in many places around the world, Christmas movies are

more than just entertainment. They are a backdrop to our holiday celebrations, a catalyst for creating new memories, and a reminder of the timeless joys of the season.

As we gather with our loved ones, these films play on, each frame filled with the magic of Christmas, echoing our own stories and tradi-

tions. So, grab your hot chocolate, gather your family, and let the Christmas movie marathon begin. After all, these shared moments and cherished memories make the holiday season truly wonderful.

So, what's on your family's holiday movie watchlist? Let me know at micky@hcnews.com!

**TWELVE**

FROM PAGE C3

you know, it's Texas — and dream of a white Christmas.

**12. "THESE ARE SPECIAL TIMES" BY CELINE DION**

Dion's emotive interpreta-

tion and the lush orchestration make "These Are Special Times" a profoundly moving and inspirational holiday album. This album blends traditional holiday classics with new, original songs, all delivered with the signature passion and range for which

Dion is renowned. Honestly, the last six notes of Dion's duet with Andrea Bocelli on "The Prayer" are as close to musical perfection as you're ever going to find and are a Christmas gift in itself!

So, there you have it, folks — a Christmas playlist that's

as diverse and charming as Granbury itself. So, do you see one of your favorites on my list? What Christmas albums would you add to the list? Let me know at micky@hcnews.com.

As we wrap up this musical sleigh ride, let's not

forget the real soundtrack of a Granbury Christmas — the laughter of friends and family, the chimes of the courthouse clock, and the rustle of wrapping paper. So, crank up these tunes, pour yourself another cup of cocoa, and let's make this

Christmas one for the books. Or at least one for a very entertaining article in the Hood County News.

Merry Christmas, Granbury, and may your days be merry, bright and filled with the best Christmas music ever!

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**CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT**

Friday, 08 December 2023 - Thursday, 14 December 2023

**Christmas With The Chosen: Holy Night - 125 min (PG13)**  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 6:30PM  
Elf - 97 min (PG)  
Fri: 2:00PM.  
Sat, Sun: 1:00PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM

**Godzilla Minus One - 125 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 9:00PM.  
Sat: 10:10AM, 1:05PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 10:50AM, 4:50PM, 7:45PM.  
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM.  
Tues: 2:55PM.  
Wed, Thurs: 3:00PM

**Krampus - 98 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 9:50PM.  
Sat: 9:00PM.  
Sun: 8:45PM.  
Mon: 7:25PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 7:35PM

**Napoleon - 157 min (R)**  
Fri: 2:30PM, 6:00PM, 9:30PM.  
Sat: 10:30AM, 2:00PM, 5:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Sun: 10:00AM, 1:25PM, 4:50PM, 8:15PM.  
Mon: 2:45PM, 6:10PM.  
Tues, Wed: 3:00PM, 6:30PM.  
Thurs: 3:00PM

**Private cinema event - 120 min (NR)**  
Sat: 4:00PM.  
Sun: 2:00PM, 4:00PM

**The Grinch - 90 min (PG)**  
Fri: 4:25PM.  
Sat: 3:30PM.  
Sun: 3:25PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 5:00PM

**The Holiday - 138 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 6:45PM.  
Sat: 6:00PM.  
Sun: 5:45PM.  
Mon: 6:50PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 7:20PM

**The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes - 157 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:20PM, 5:45PM, 9:10PM.  
Sat: 11:30AM, 3:00PM, 6:30PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 10:15AM, 1:40PM, 5:05PM, 8:30PM.  
Mon: 2:45PM, 6:10PM.  
Tues, Wed: 3:00PM, 6:30PM.  
Thurs: 6:30PM

**The Shift - 115 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.  
Sat: 10:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 10:00AM, 10:30AM, 1:15PM, 4:00PM, 6:45PM, 9:30PM.  
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM

**Trolls Band Together - 92 min (PG)**  
Fri: 2:30PM, 4:50PM, 7:10PM, 9:30PM.  
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM.  
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:20PM.  
Tues: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM.  
Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM

**Wonka - 112 min (PG)**  
Thurs: 4:00PM, 6:45PM  
• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

(82) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

**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.

**Hood County Animal Control**  
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277  
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Maximizing mascot mix-ups



**BY DON NEWBURY**  
Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

The State of Texas is known far and wide for its citizens' love of football. Taken a step further, names of school mascots can cause head-scratching and sometimes absolute disbelief when their plural names are discovered.

There are some "doozies." I don't know if Trivial Pursuit is often a game of choice these days, but Googling for what groups of creatures are called can help us understand why name foul-ups can produce heat when games — trivial or football — are taken seriously.

The public address announcer at a recent playoff football game in Crowley between Brownwood High School and Springtown High School learned quickly that fans of both schools want "plural" of their team

mascots to be "done up right." And, since football is a team sport, the guy at the microphone described multiple Lions and Porcupines numerous times.

It was brought to his attention that referencing Lions and Porcupines as being in packs or bunches simply wouldn't get it done.

The poor announcer already had much on his plate, what with scheduling commercials, pronouncing players' names correctly and discharging other verbal responsibilities. He may have been caught unawares. In previous games, he probably wasn't challenged when referring to multiple players as being in packs or bunches.

He took correction well, however, and subsequent

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | C11

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

# December in the civil war



**BY WILLIAM DYESS**  
William Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Hwy. 377, in Granbury. Bertram Hayes-Davis, a great-great-grandson of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, will present the program. Hayes-Davis, of Vicksburg, Mississippi, holds degrees from Adams State College and the University of Alabama, and is President of the Jefferson Davis Foundation. He has spent over 30 years studying the life of his famous ancestor and has given over 1,000 speeches on the subject. He will speak on the career of Jefferson Davis prior to the Civil War.

The November meeting was held on the 13th. Granbury's own Dr. David Barnett, local historian and author, spoke on "Granbury and the Civil War," and pointed out that while the

Granbury area was virtually unsettled at the time of the war, a great many of the influential citizens involved in establishing the town were veterans of the Confederate army. Their backgrounds and experiences as such resulted in Granbury being much more a "southern" town than a "western" settlement.

**DECEMBER IN THE CIVIL WAR**

While small skirmishes, raids and reconnaissance actions occurred almost daily in all three theatres of the war, there were no major battles fought in December 1861. The major concern to the Union was the continuation of the "Trent Affair," the result of the Nov. 8 forceable removal by the United States Navy of Confederate commissioners James M. Mason and John Slidell from the British ship Trent, bound for England. Britain demanded

PLEASE SEE **CIVIL** | C11

# 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 Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**GRANBURY BRIDGE** Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek 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 Hwy. 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 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**HAND AND** Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 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 Road. 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 St. 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: bskaggs@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** Somerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 377, 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. Highway 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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"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"

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

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### ANGLICAN

Good Shepherd Anglican  
 3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,  
 817-326-2035

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Faith Assembly Of God  
 300 Granbury Court  
 817-326-2270

### BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fairview Baptist  
 5041 Weatherford Hwy.  
 817-573-8968

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

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

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

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

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

Granbury Baptist  
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.  
 817-573-4943

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

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

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa  
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.  
 Lakeside Baptist  
 500 W. Bluebonnet  
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist  
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.  
 817-573-4901

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

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

Paluxy Baptist  
 1844 Acton Hwy.  
 817-579-5111

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

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

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

Southside Baptist  
 910 Paluxy Rd.  
 817-573-1462

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

Tolar Baptist  
 400 Tolar Hwy.  
 254-835-4375

### VINEYARD BAPTIST

320 W. Pearl St.  
 817-573-5318

### WAPLES BAPTIST

1200 Temple Hall Hwy.  
 817-579-0509

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

### BIBLE

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

### CATHOLIC

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

### CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian  
 3314 S. Clifton  
 817-573-0107

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

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo  
 4900 Sonterra Ct.  
 817-578-0626

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

The Evangelical Christian  
 608 Shady Grove Dr.  
 817-326-3041

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Church Of Christ  
 310 W. Pearl St.  
 817-573-9862

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

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

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

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

Church Of God  
 1106 Weatherford Hwy.  
 817-279-6753

### EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal  
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### JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses  
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 817-573-4259

### LUTHERAN

Emmanuel Lutheran Elca  
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 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran  
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 817-573-5011

### METHODIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waples United Methodist  
 4323 Waples Rd.  
 817-573-9076

### MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of  
 Latter-Day Saints  
 1226 Ross Lane  
 817-573-6825

### NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The  
 Nazarene  
 921 Lipan Dr.  
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### PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal  
 3100 Beechwood St.,  
 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury  
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 817-559-7372

### PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian  
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### OTHER

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Bear Creek Community  
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 817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries  
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 817-579-0968

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

Center Point  
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Christian Science Society  
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 817-573-0457

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Hope Community  
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 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy  
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 254-396-3162

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 817-910-8777

Pure Praise  
 2901 Glen Rose Hwy.  
 817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel  
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 Tolar, Texas 76476

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Stonewater  
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 817-579-9175

The Bridge  
 1107 Weatherford Hwy  
 254-522-5330

The Heights  
 1921 Acton Hwy  
 817-558-2121

The Sanctuary  
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 817-326-2709

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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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**IDLE**

FROM PAGE C9

plural references were spot on. It's not news to many folks that two or more lions constitute a pride, but I'm thinking one might need to be closely involved with Springtown athletics to know the plural of "porcupine." So you'll know in the future, when we're talkin' two or more porcupines, they are a "prickle of porcupines." Now you know, and so does that public address announcer. (An aside: With pickleball the

new "semi-athletic" game rage, they'll understandably come up with something called "Prickleball" in Springtown.)

Researching the subject of plural names for animals, birds and other creatures fascinates to the max. Often, two, three or even more names are deemed acceptable.

In the case of guinea fowls, plural names differ, depending on whether they are on the ground or in flight. On the ground, they are a gaggle.

Once in flight, they be-

come a flock. (One of 'em — waddling around on earth or flying alone in search of his or her flock — remains a goose.)

Remember, you read it here first! Without leaving this general topic, let us segue to acronyms, some that are confounding and bitterly misunderstood. An example is the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport in California. When founded, it was called Fresno Air Terminal. Therein is the reason for its airport code: "FAT."

One woman — unaccus-

tomed to flying — was indignant at the luggage carousel, upset that "FAT" was printed in large letters on each bag tag.

"I'll blame it on artificial intelligence this time," she said. "But if I ever visit Fresno again, they'd better 'smarten up.' I don't want to see anything about my weight, on luggage tags or otherwise."

A former travel agent provided the previous account from her list of "you-ain't-gonna-believe-this" memories.

She remembers one guy

who had super-sensitive eyes that called for eyedrops multiple times daily. The travel agent learned this when she asked him if he preferred a window or an aisle seat.

"Oh, an aisle seat for sure," he replied. "I have a terrible time if anything blows into my eyes; if I took a window seat, someone might open a window. No telling what might blow in at 35,000 feet."

While on the topic of air travel, it seems there is a diminishing number of regional airlines. Though it slowly grew to major status, Texas International Airlines started

out as Trans Texas Airways. It included service to smaller towns in Texas, some with population as small as 6,000.

It had numerous nicknames, including "Tree-Top Airways" and "Tinker Toy Airways."

Some wag jokingly described Trans Texas Airways thusly: "Trick or Treat Airways," adding, "a trick to get on and a treat to get off."

[newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)  
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**CIVIL**

FROM PAGE C9

immediate release of the commissioners and sent English troops to Canada to be available if needed in action against the Union. The British representative to the United States advised the English Foreign Minister, "I am so convinced that unless we give our friends here a very good lesson this time, we shall have the same

trouble with them again very soon. Surrender or war will have a very good effect on them." On Dec. 23, Britain made a formal demand for release, and on Dec. 26, at a meeting of the Cabinet, the United States agreed the seizure of the commissioners was illegal, and that they would be released. This decision was relayed to Britain, and war with England was avoided. The action was greeted with dismay by the Confederacy since it less-

ened the likelihood that Britain would formally recognize the Confederacy as a sovereign nation.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Union Private John J. Williams, Company B, 34th Indiana Infantry, was killed on the banks of the Rio Grande River on May 13, 1865, during the Battle of Palmito Ranch. He is generally recognized as the last man to die in the American

Civil War. However, some argue that Corporal John W. Skinner, of the 1st Florida Cavalry (U.S.), who was killed on May 19, 1865, at Hobby's Bridge near Eufaula, Alabama, deserves the honor. The difference is that the Battle of Palmito Ranch was a battle between organized units of the Union and the Confederacy, while the Confederates who killed Corporal Skinner at Hobby's Bridge were acting on their own, out of dismay at having

lost the war. Undoubtedly, both Private Williams and Corporal Skinner would have been happy to have avoided this claim to fame.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets on the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m., at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Hwy 377 in Granbury, and guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information,

please refer to our website: [WWW.ncentexcwrt.com](http://WWW.ncentexcwrt.com), or call either David Wells, at 817-579-5769, or Bill Dyess, at 817-326-8216.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.

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# Hood County News

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PECAN BITS

# Woman's Club golf cart parade ushers in Christmas spirit

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 Woman's Club has brought Christmas cheer to our community for many years through decorating our neighborhood and hosting the holiday tour of homes (which is happening Thursday, Dec. 14), and this season added another avenue of merriment.

The ladies, specifically Barb Brisco with the aid of Kim Wallin, put together a Christmas golf cart parade, and the turnout was tremendous. Many thanks go to the parade participants, spectators (especially the children of Pecan who lined the parade route), our emergency personnel, Pecan's security department, and Santa and Mrs. Claus (also known as Lonnie and Christina McMillan), Chef Jordan Ray, and Pecan's staff and employees for making the day completely memorable. Proceeds from the event benefit the ladies' Hood County charities and their scholarship fund.

**REINDEER ART**

A holiday painting opportunity comes today, Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to noon when Pecan resident and artist Heidi Easley will lead artists ages five to 14 in completing a reindeer canvas painting at the PAC. Christmas music and hot cocoa will complete the day.

**GOLF GIFTS**

Pecan's golf pro shop's "Christmas Card Sale"

continues through today, Saturday, Dec. 9, for folks looking to do some holiday shopping.

**SEASON SINGING**

Christmas Karaoke will be making the season festive tonight, Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 p.m. 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.

**GINGERBREAD EVENT**

The annual gingerbread house building event comes to the PAC tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. A \$15 fee covers all materials, set up, and clean up for one house per family. Sign-up is necessary, and space is limited. Call to secure a spot: 817-573-7952.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Pecan's Breakfast Club is in for a huge holiday treat on Wednesday, Dec. 13 with breakfast service beginning at 8 a.m. and a program at 9 a.m. In addition to a beautiful Christmas breakfast, the day will hold a music program by Pecan residents Mike and Stella Green



The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's inaugural Christmas golf cart parade was a merry success as neighbors came out to enjoy the holiday spirit. Proceeds from the day benefit the ladies' chosen charities and scholarship recipients. Pictured are PPWC members Mary Scott and Claudette Lewis.

COURTESY PHOTO BY PPWC PUBLICITY

and feature performances by North Central Texas Academy's choir as well as Pecan musician Judith Forshee. Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 12: 817-573-2641.

**BRIGHT LIGHTS**

Pecan's Christmas lighting competition is happening this year, and judges will be roaming the neighborhood on Thursday, Dec. 14 to decide who the best and brightest are among us. No need to sign up; just decorate! The winners will be contacted after the judging, and the top three choices will receive Pecan gift certificates.

**TAKE AIM**

Pecan's Archery/Air Gun Association will hold its annual "Don't Shoot Your Eye Out" BB gun event on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. at the archery/air gun range. The event is open to children

ages eight to 13 as well as adults, and sign-up is at the PAC. Prizes will be part of the day, and volunteers are needed. Send email to pecanarcheryairgunclub@gmail.com to join the day.

**COURSE UPDATE**

Equipment and materials needed for a new irrigation system on Pecan's golf course have begun, and over the coming weeks and months, the project will commence. During the system's installation, crews will be working on individual holes, and the golf shop personnel will alert players when specific areas will be closed and thus play adjusted.

**COLLECTION CENTER**

Pecan's collection center's schedule will not change due to the upcoming Christmas holiday. Wednesday, Dec. 27 and Saturday, Dec. 30 will

hold regular business hours for the center.

**GIVING TIME**

Pecan Plantation would not operate well without the work and faithfulness of its employees, and during the Christmas season, residents have the opportunity to "give back" to the folks who contribute to our community's greatness. The Employee Christmas Bonus Fund is now receiving donations, and members received an email with a form to complete and attach to a check, or billing may be added to a member account. Every penny received will be distributed to "behind the scenes" staff (none goes to department heads or managers), and the deadline for donating is Friday, Dec. 15.

**BOARD ELECTION**

Applications for folks desiring to serve on Pecan's

board of directors is now available from the Pecan website in a fillable format. It may be completed and emailed to marilynamos@ppoaweb.com or delivered to the clubhouse front desk. Deadline for application submission is Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m. Questions may be directed to gm@ppoaweb.com or 817-573-2641, extension 340.

**DÉCOR GALORE**

The beauty of Pecan during the Christmas season is spearheaded by a very special lady. Mary Scott, along with her PPWC committee, works tirelessly to put our neighborhood in the holiday spirit as she literally "lights up" our community. Many thanks go to Mary and all the ladies who make our beautiful décor a reality.

**SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Kelly Harding, who passed away Oct. 1, to the family of Rudy Watson, who passed away Nov. 27, and also to the family of Vic Schoepf, who passed away Dec. 2.

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