



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, December 16, 2023]

Published Saturday

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## Rattlers ranked second in State



Tolar Rattlers coming onto the field at AT&T Stadium on Wednesday, Dec. 13. FOR FULL STORY AND MORE PHOTOS, PLEASE SEE B1.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



### INSIDE: REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A day of remembrance was held in Granbury where community members came together to honor and remember those who lost their lives during the Japanese attack Dec. 7, 1941. This year marks the 82nd year since the pivotal moment in history. Members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) salute to the United States Flag during a performance of "Taps" by Tolar High band member Nic Merkle. See story, A6.

## Candy incident at Granbury Middle School under investigation

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

A press release was sent out by the City of Granbury regarding an incident that occurred Dec. 12 in the early afternoon at Granbury Middle School.

According to the release, eight GMS students ate candy initially believed to include a narcotic that was distributed by a student. Granbury Police and Texas EMS responded, and the students were taken to the hospital. All eight students are reported to be okay.

An initial test of the candy resulted in a negative result for THC also known as tetrahydrocannabinol. Additional testing will follow as this in an ongoing investigation. The release also stated police are working with school authorities to further investigate.

Granbury Middle School Principal Andy Smith sent out an email to parents following the incident.

"The safety and well-being of your child is our utmost priority and we wanted to ensure that you are aware of the incident... We are taking every step necessary to ensure the safety of our students and prevent any future occurrences. We understand the seriousness of this matter and are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your children."

Smith went on to tell parents about the importance of educating children about the potential dangers of unknown consumptions as well as reporting any suspicious behavior.

"Rest assured, we are committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for your child. We will continue to work closely with the authorities, review our existing protocols, and implement any necessary additional measures to prevent such incidents from happening in the future," the email read.

Smith closed his email by informing parents they are welcome to reach out to school administration with any questions or concerns regarding the matter.

The HCN reached out to Granbury Police Department Chief of Police Mitch Galvan, who said the agency does not have any additional details or information at this time.

The HCN will continue to follow this story and update as additional details come in.

## County allocates remaining ARPA funds for the purchase of 13 EMS/VFD generators

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court allocated the remaining \$119,494 in ARPA funds for the purchase of 13 EMS and Volunteer Fire Department generators using a grant match program, during a regularly scheduled meeting Dec. 12.

During a previous Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Nov. 14, the court approved the allocation of the \$5.6 million pandemic-

related American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The 3:2 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 Hood County Constables for new equipment — resulting in a total of \$5.1

million.

During the Nov. 28 meeting, the court allocated \$380,000 of ARPA funds to the Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department for the intended purpose of purchasing a fire rescue boat, leaving the remaining funds to be allocated during the Dec. 12 meeting.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson spoke during Tuesday's meeting and ex-

PLEASE SEE **ARPA** | A14



137TH YEAR, NO. 107

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 38 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 38 pages

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS



### The rising leaders of Granbury

Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals group unveils exciting rebrand



#### Chamber Message

In a bold move that signifies a commitment to the future of professional development in the community, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals group has undergone a transformation, emerging as the dynamic and forward-thinking "Rising Leaders of Granbury."

The rebranding initiative marks a significant milestone for the chamber. The change in name is accompanied by a renewed vision, reflecting a desire to encompass a broader range of professionals and provide a platform for leadership growth and community engagement.

Chair of the Rising Leaders of Granbury, Daniel Hernandez, and the RLG committee expressed enthusiasm about the rebranding. "Our mission remains rooted in empowering young professionals, but our new identity as Rising Leaders of Granbury speaks to a broader audience. We want to be inclusive of individuals from all walks of life at any stage in their career journey who are passionate about personal and professional growth, and who aspire to make a positive impact on Granbury's future. The Rising Leaders of Granbury seek to create a network of driven individuals committed to enhancing their leadership skills, fostering meaningful connections, and contributing to the overall prosperity of Granbury," Hernandez said.

In addition to the name change, the chamber has unveiled a vibrant new logo for the Rising Leaders of Granbury program that symbolizes growth, unity and the diverse talents within the community. Plus, the RLG program has a series of engaging events planned for 2024, ranging from after-hour socials, community service days, leadership development workshops, mentorship opportunities and a Rising Leaders Conference in the Fall.

The Rising Leaders of Granbury represent the future of the community. By fostering the development of young professionals and emerging leaders, we are ensuring a vibrant and prosperous future for Granbury and the surrounding area. We are excited to witness the positive impact this group will have on the community.

As the Rising Leaders of Granbury step into this new chapter, anticipation and excitement fill the air. We invite all individuals with a passion for growth and community involvement to join us on this journey toward a future where leadership knows no bounds in Granbury. Please visit the chamber's website at [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com) for more information about RLG 2024 events and how to become a part of this amazing program or email Maegan Derryberry, director of events and membership, at [maegan@granburychamber.com](mailto:maegan@granburychamber.com). We look forward to serving you and making an even bigger impact in the community in 2024.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

Aviva Granbury Senior Living- Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the renovation of its senior living community. Located at 2300 Paluxy Hwy.

## CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

**CHAMBER SUPERSTAR**

**HARBOR LAKES GOLF CLUB**

Make new memories, build new friendships, and become a member at a club that feels like home, where you are treated like family and where you belong.

granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Harbor Lakes Golf Club. "Nestled in the heart of Granbury, Texas, and minutes from historic downtown Granbury, Harbor Lakes Golf Club offers an unparalleled lifestyle in one of DFW's most sought after locations. Make new memories, build new friendships, and become a member of a club that feels like home, where you are treated like family and where you belong. You'll enjoy access to our beautiful 18-hole Dick Phelps championship golf course and the pleasures of gourmet cuisine and dining experience with a variety of dining events for all occasions. At Harbor Lakes we offer something for everyone and provide membership options to fulfill your needs."

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

granbury CHAMBER

**AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT**

**ANN TOWLES**

**Business:**  
Independent Financial

**Time as Chamber Ambassador:**  
1 Year!

IF

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Ann Towles. We are very thankful for our ambassador, Ann Towles with Independent Financial. Ann has served as a chamber ambassador for almost one year! When asked why she loves being an ambassador she said, "I love getting to know my community, meeting new people, and getting to learn about their business. Supporting a new incoming business or celebrating an established business makes me feel great to be an ambassador." Fun Fact about Ann: "I am a mother of seven and as of early 2024 will be a grandmother of seven!" Thank you, Ann, for being an ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

PLEASE SEE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | AX

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2:00pm & 7:30pm

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Politics and quail: Aim small, miss small



**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.

The fall and early wintertime bring back wonderful memories of years gone by. Times spent walking through a field with a good quail dog, wing-shooting ducks from a blind, and being camouflaged sitting against a tree waiting for a Tom turkey were hours spent in the great outdoors enjoying the thrill of the hunt.

Seems like I learned to shoot at an early age, with most of my instruction coming from my grandfather. I remember well the first time we were bird hunting and a large covey of quail rose, beating their wings in rapid ascent, scattering in a thousand directions. The sound

of the birds breaking from the brush overwhelmed my heart with excitement. The gun rose to my shoulder while my eyes took in the chaotic scene. The trigger was pulled, and then pulled again and again and no birds fell from the sky. Turning to my grandfather I could

mutter nothing other than, "how did I miss?" There had been as many as 15 to 20 birds in the covey, and when they rose the sky seemed to be literally full of quail. How could I miss all those birds? We had practiced with a clay target thrower and been proud of the progress I had made. My taste buds were salivating thinking of fried quail in the skillet, and yet I had not dropped a single bird. Granddad had dropped two.

Granddad's face did not change expression. He simply said, "aim small, miss small." The blank look on my face revealed confusion as I tried to interpret what the heck his statement meant. Speaking rhetorically, he elaborated. "Did you look at the covey or did you aim at a particular bird? If you do not focus on one bird at a time, you will miss all of

them. Try to focus your eye to aim at a specific part of the bird. Imagine your target is the bird's eye. If you focus on that specifically, you will hit your target, then you can move to the next bird and do the same thing. You will find you will get a lot of 'doubles' when you aim small."

It took me a bit to let Granddad's wise words settle into my brain. As we walked, I had a pep talk with myself, and the next time the dog stopped on point alerting us a covey was near, I was ready. When the covey rose, I focused on a single quail in the group, dropped the bird, and then swung to aim at another. I missed the second shot, but the results proved the coaching I had received was meaningful. I had focused on the smallest part of the bird and got a positive result.

Texas politics got me to

thinking about "aim small, miss small." One of the reasons why our government keeps getting bigger and bigger is because our politicians do not "aim small, miss small." They focus on grandiose accomplishments, rather than simply doing the job for which they were elected. It seems like most politicians feel like they must do more than their predecessor so they have accomplishments they can recite when they run for reelection, or more often, when they seek a higher office. This "ambition" leads officeholders to expand their office into even more and bigger government.

I am not sure how much I care if a county commissioner, or justice of the peace has an opinion on abortion, on school vouchers or the border. Understand these are all issues that need to

be discussed and debated among the electorate, but none of these issues fall under the duties of those officeholders. If our officeholders would simply invest their time into performing the job for which they were elected, and doing it as well as they can, we would all be better off. Our government would be more effective also. A man or woman officeholder who takes care of the business at hand instead of spending much of their time wooing voters for their next campaign will get my vote. They should get yours, too.

Thought for the day: Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems, and then campaign against them. 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

Dylan Seiber

### Say hello to our neighbor, Dylan Seiber!

For three of his eight years in Granbury, Dylan Seiber has been a fixture at Paradise Bistro on Pearl Street, where he now is the General Manager. Dylan has skills, culinary school skills. A big lesson he learned was how to produce the perfect omelet, an achievement reflected at the time of the interview with high praise from a customer who just enjoyed one. For the most part, Dylan's world does revolve around food, though he does enjoy archery in his off time. Seiber said, "Archery helps me focus and clears my mind." Born in the Texas Hill Country, it wasn't until he grew into adulthood that Seiber came to appreciate small-town life. For Seiber people seem to be a little more down to earth in smaller towns than those in the larger cities such as San Antonio and Austin, both cities he has resided in. Boerne, the town he was raised in, and Granbury are now more to his liking. Seiber likes to pick up on the pulse and find out about our little town by picking up a Hood Country News.

## Granbury City Council Place 4 unofficial runoff election results

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

The Granbury City Council filled Trish Burwell's Place 4 after a runoff election took place on Dec. 9. The election's unofficial results show Gary "Skip" Overdier winning the election over Charles Beard with 617 votes or 65.99 percent over Beard's 318 votes or 31.01 percent as of Dec. 11.

A runoff election was required after none of the three candidates including Overdier, Beard, and Bradley

Benson received more than half of the votes in the Nov. 7 election.

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

the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Beard congratulated Overdier on social media and thanked everyone for their votes and support.

"I remained true to myself and ran a campaign full of honesty and transparency. It is my hope that there will be a grass roots movement, and the average, everyday people will become more involved in the governing offices in order to place more power back into the voters hands," Overdier said in the social media post. "It is important

to keep special agendas in check. I am glad I got the opportunity to serve the city and its residents. I will continue to cover the city in prayer and provide support in various ways, even if not within the public governing sector. It is my hope that positive change occurs and the voices of the residents are not drowned out from the politics."

The election results will be officially confirmed at the next Granbury City Council meeting that will take place on Dec. 19.

## Election filing period closes as 71 Hood County candidates prepare for 2024 primaries

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

After a month-long filing period, the window to file for the 2024 March primaries has officially closed, as more than 70 Hood County residents applied for candidacy in next year's election.

Although some candidates had issues getting an appointment to file their paperwork with the Hood County Republican Party during the beginning of the filing period, they were eventually able to successfully file for candidacy.

A total of 71 Hood County residents filed for a specific position in the county and are listed below, separated by party. This information was taken directly from the Secretary of State website.

### HOOD COUNTY CHAIR CANDIDATES

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - Adrienne Quinn Martin
- REPUBLICAN**
  - Steve Biggers, incumbent (withdrew as of Dec. 12)
  - Greg S. Harrell
  - Joe Smith (rejected as of Dec. 12)
  - Melanie Jensen
  - Tod Gathings (no longer on list as of Dec. 12)
  - Zach Maxwell

### HOOD COUNTY PRECINCT CHAIR CANDIDATES

- PRECINCT 101**
  - DEMOCRATIC**
    - Charles Somerville

- REPUBLICAN**
  - Terry McNew
  - Precinct 103

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - George William

- REPUBLICAN**
  - Tina Lawrence

### PRECINCT 105

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - Mirian Spencer Morrison
- REPUBLICAN**
  - David C. Cook

### PRECINCT 107

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - Patricia McNeely
- REPUBLICAN**
  - Lee McKellar
  - Roger Gaines

### PRECINCT 112

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - Jim Cato
- REPUBLICAN**
  - Laura Tuttle
  - Orville Johnson
  - Robert Granger

### PRECINCT 202

- REPUBLICAN**
  - Craig Maberry
  - Zeb Ullom

### PRECINCT 211

- DEMOCRATIC**
  - Rose Warren Simpson
- REPBLICAN**
  - Ericka Grim
  - Paula McDonald
  - Shannon Wolf

PLEASE SEE 2024 | A7

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10 a.m. Wednesday

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POLICE BLOTTER

# Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Dec. 5 - Dec 11. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

**DEC 5**  
 8:48 a.m., a disturbance was reported on E Pearl St.  
 2:21 p.m., an assault was reported on Crossland Rd.  
 2:30 p.m., a welfare check was conducted on E US Hwy 377.  
 3:12 p.m., a theft was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 6:12 p.m., a suicide threat was reported on Paluxy Rd.  
 \*\*There were also four minor traffic accidents, one major traffic accident, and one traffic stop reported this day\*\*

**DEC 6**  
 10:26 a.m., an assault was reported on S Park Dr.  
 11:25 a.m., a suicide threat was reported on Wedgefield Rd.  
 11:35 a.m., found property was reported on FM 4.  
 12:41 p.m., an intoxication was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 1:00 p.m., indecent exposure was reported on Waters Edge Dr.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

8:33 p.m., criminal mischief was reported on W US Hwy 377.  
 \*\*There were also three traffic stops, two warrant services, and one minor traffic accident reported this day\*\*

**DEC 7**  
 9:05 a.m., a traffic hazard was reported on NE Loop 567.  
 11:23 a.m., a theft of more than \$100 but less than \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 2:47 p.m., a public intoxication was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 3:13 p.m., an incident of solicitation was reported on E Bridge St.  
 7:40 p.m., a motorist as-

sist was reported on NE Loop 567.  
 \*\*There were also two traffic major accidents, six minor traffic accidents, and six traffic stops reported this day\*\*

**DEC 8**  
 12:14 a.m., a DWI was reported on S Morgan St.  
 11:59 a.m., a theft was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 1:29 p.m., a suicide threat was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 3:40 p.m., a hit and run was reported on Parkwood Ln.  
 8:25 p.m., a hit and run was reported on S Pirate Dr. and W US Hwy 501.  
 9:00 p.m., criminal mischief was reported on E US Hwy 377.

11:13 p.m., a noise complaint was reported at E US Hwy 377.  
 \*\*There were also three minor traffic accidents, one major accident, and three traffic stops reported this day\*\*

**DEC 9**  
 12:03 a.m., possession of a controlled substance was reported on US Hwy 377 and Pirate Dr.  
 12:27 a.m., property damage was reported on Weatherford Hwy.  
 1:47 p.m., an attempt to locate was conducted on E US Hwy 377 and Industrial.  
 6:21 p.m., a theft of less than \$100 was reported on S Morgan St.  
 9:38 p.m., a suspicious person was reported on N Park Dr.  
 9:51 p.m., a motorist assist was conducted on E US Hwy 377 and Liberty.  
 \*\*There were also two minor traffic accidents, one major traffic accident, three property thefts, and three traffic stops reported this day\*\*

**DEC 10**  
 1:10 a.m., a disturbance was reported on Quiet Cove.  
 9:54 a.m., suspicious activity was reported on E US

Hwy 377.  
 12:36 p.m., fraud was reported on Waters Edge Dr.  
 1:42 p.m., a hit and run involving damage was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 2:09 p.m., a credit card abuse was reported on N Houston St.  
 8:50 p.m., a suspicious person or circumstance was reported on N Houston St.  
 \*\*There were also two property thefts, two agency assists, and two traffic stops reported this day\*\*

**DEC 11**  
 12:16 a.m., a DWI was reported on E US Hwy 377.  
 10:14 a.m., a welfare check was conducted on W Bluff St.  
 11:13 a.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on Sardijs Blvd.  
 3:59 p.m., a disturbance was reported on S Baker St.  
 5:38 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on N Stockton St.  
 7:34 p.m., a terror threat was reported on W Pearl St.  
 8:27 p.m., a burglary of a vehicle was reported on N Crockett St.  
 \*\*There were also two minor traffic accidents, one major traffic accident, and nine traffic stops reported this day\*\*

## CALENDAR

THROUGH TUESDAY, JAN. 9

**LAKE GRANBURY** Art Association hosts a group show perfect for the holiday season at the Shanley Gallery, 224 N. Travis, Granbury. Gallery hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

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.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN** Church will host a Blue Christmas Service at 3 p.m. The church is located at 5201 Fall Creek Highway in Granbury. This service is designed to offer comfort to those who struggle with emotions at this holiday time of year. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

**HOOD COUNTY** 4-H Pancake Breakfast hosted at the Hood County Reunion Grounds during the week of the Hood County Livestock Show. All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Hood County 4-H youth by funding educational experiences, contests and leadership training. 641 Reunion Ct., Granbury, TX 76048, 6:30-9:30 a.m. For any questions, please contact the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280.

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; noon-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.

## Hood County Sheriff's Office announces change to mail inmates

BY EMILY NAVA  
 Staff Writer

Effective as of Dec. 6, the Hood County Sheriff's Office enabled its new system for mailing those incarcerated at the Hood County Jail.  
 There will no longer be personal mail in paper form as the jail has now moved to a digital system. On Dec. 6, all personal mail, letters, greeting cards, etc. sent to

the jail were returned to the sender. Mail now is required to be sent to a new address and will still require approval by the jail staff.  
 Inmates will be able to view mail through the shared tablets in the jail through the "Getting Out" application. With this application, families and friends can download the mobile app and send messages through there as well.

According to Sheriff Roger Deeds this new system has been in the works for some time now.  
 "Now we have the pads that they can make video calls on and do a lot of things with and now they will have an email account to go to and the mail will be sent so they can read it on the devices," Deeds told the HCN. "In the past people have tried to smuggle things

in the mail, and now they can't."  
 To ensure your mail gets delivered electronically, make sure your mail includes the complete facility name and state with no abbreviations, inmate's full name and identifier, sender's full name and physical address.  
 Only send personal mail such as letters, pictures, and drawings. If your inmate

requires an identity, you can get this information at the Hood County Bond Page.  
 To report mail delivery issues, contact TextBehind support directly at info@TextBehind.com  
 The mailing address new format is as follows:  
 Name of facility, State  
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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Frog Juice Co. "The Frog Juice Co. is locally owned and operated. Our mission is to provide the community with a way to get the benefits of nutrition and healthy produce, wherever on the go. We specialize in cold pressed juice made using organic whole fruits and vegetables, providing important vitamins, minerals, enzymes, and antioxidants that help keep your body alkaline and functioning at its best." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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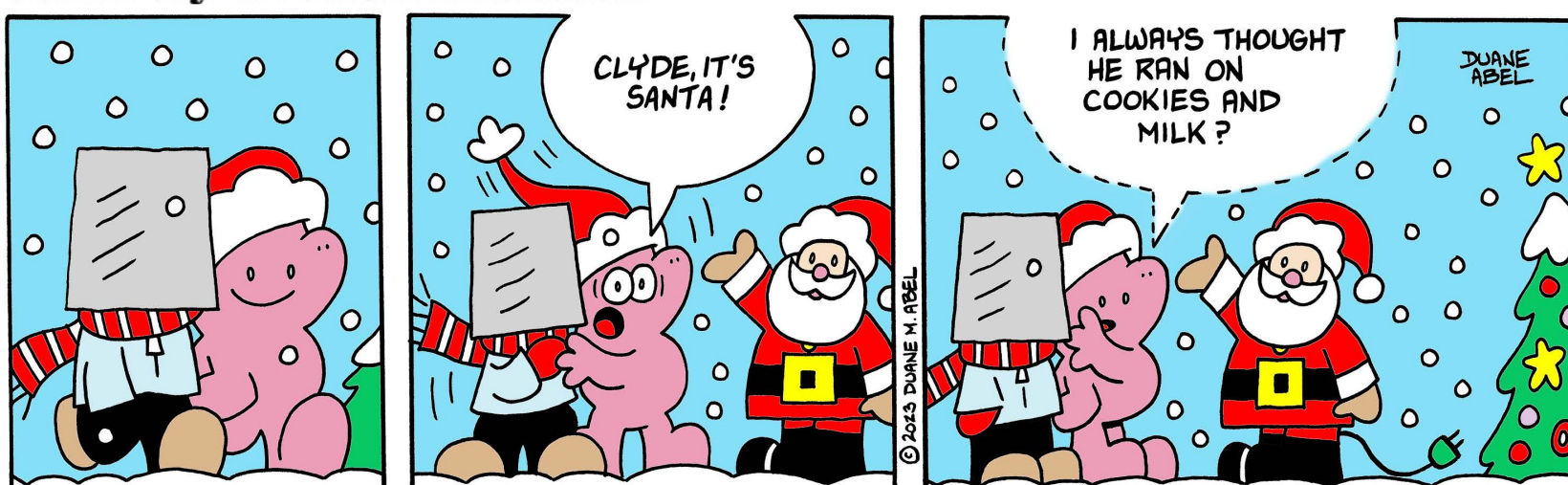
"The Mysterious Scoundrels are a premier rock-n-blues band that steps out with a variety of music to fit your event! Get ready to party with a full stage band or enjoy an intimate acoustic duo setting with lead scoundrel Bobby and his band mistress, Lizz White. They are available for large venues, corporate events, private parties, small businesses, and so much more!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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## ZED by Duane M. Abel







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## Granbury ISD School Board undergoes reorganization



COURTESY PHOTO

Mike Moore swears in after being re-elected onto the Granbury ISD School Board alongside newly elected Trustee Nancy Alana at a meeting on Dec. 11.

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

On Election Day, Nov. 7, Mike Moore was re-elected to the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees Place 1, and Nancy Alana was elected to Place 2. President Barbara Herrington retired from her spot on the board, which required a reorganization of the board during its Dec. 11 meeting. Trustees Melanie Graft and Karen Lowery were not in attendance at the meeting. With Herrington's spot open, the board elected Trustee Barbara Townsend president by a vote of 5-0. The board also unanimously elected

Trustee Courtney Gore to the office of vice president and Trustee Billy Wimberly as secretary. The board thanked Herrington for her 18 years of service on the board — since 2005 — and for her former service as assistant superintendent in the late 1990s. "She is a ferocious champion of public education. She is a friend of everyone that comes across her path, she is an advocate for kids and she's tough as nails," GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said during the meeting. "God bless you Dr. H, we

are proud to have had you as our board president." Herrington took the podium and thanked everyone on the board, the teachers of GISD, the community and the kids. "If it's not for kids it's not for us," Herrington said, explaining the phrase has been her motto during her time of service with GISD. Herrington received a plaque honoring her service at the meeting. Many public comments were also made thanking Herrington for her service and congratulating Trustees Moore and Alana on their election to the board.

## Cresson bypass completion date delayed to late 2025

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

Delays keep coming for Hood County's much-anticipated Cresson Relief Route. Although the bypass project had previously been scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2024, a recent update from the Texas Department of Transportation has confirmed the long-awaited project will not be officially completed until late 2025. Shawna Russell, TxDOT's director of communications for the Fort Worth district, sent an email to Cresson Mayor Teena Putteet Conway Monday, Dec. 4, with an update on the construction. "After reviewing the work needed to ensure and maximize the longevity of the roadway, TxDOT staff and the contractor have determined the project is estimated to be completed in late 2025," Russell's email reads. However, even though the entire project will not be finished until 2025, Russell explained that the updated schedule also estimates the southbound bridge will be open to traffic as soon as the summer of 2024. "Southbound U.S. 377 traffic will be able to drive the length of the relief route over the railroad bridge and reconnect to U.S. 377 south of Old Granbury Road in the summer of 2024," Russell's email states. "The schedule estimates work within the project limits — including the full length of the northbound relief route and the Old Granbury Road intersections — will be finished by late 2025." In addition, illumination lighting is scheduled to be completed after the southbound lanes are in "their final configuration," — which will either be late summer or fall of 2024 — as this will ensure the lines are not damaged by further construction activity.

in the past month from several community members requesting an update on the Cresson Relief Route project. Many locals posted on the Hood County Breaking News Facebook page asking if work had stopped on the bypass as they stated active construction had not been taking place on the project in quite some time. To confirm the construction delay, the HCN reached out to TxDOT Public Information Officer Bethany Kurtz who confirmed construction was paused due to a soil stabilization issue. "Work on the Cresson Relief Route Project ran into a soil issue, which resulted in the need for additional soil stabilization work," Kurtz said, in an email to the HCN. "This work began in November and will continue into the spring of 2024, when paving work is scheduled to resume. Much of the work over the next few months is inside the project area and may not be visible from U.S. 377. Motorists are encouraged to always drive safely and remain aware through the corridor, as it remains an active work zone." Russell's email to Conway also confirms the soil delay, when she states, "Work has resumed, and crews are working to address the areas requiring soil stabilization treatment. It is both exciting and encouraging that work is underway again." Kurtz also told the HCN that TxDOT is "actively working with all partners in the project corridor, including the relief route contractor and Fort Worth & Western Railroad (FWWR). "Our top priorities are minimizing the disruptions currently being experienced by the intersection of FWWR's rail line with U.S. 377 and advancing the relief route project as safely and quickly as possible," she said, adding that TxDOT is working with the contractor to "pursue options to expedite the project."

constructioncorp.com, the Zachry Construction Corporation was awarded the \$61 million contract in April 2019 to construct a relief route along U.S. 377 and State Highway 171 in Cresson. The project entails constructing a three-mile route west of Cresson and building two bridges over the FWWR tracks to increase driver safety and ease commuter delays. According to a previous article in the Hood County News, the project was updated in January 2023 to reveal that the three-mile relief route will be a new four-lane divided highway with an overpass over the train tracks beginning one mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 377 and state Highway 171 and ending one mile north of that intersection. The current U.S. Highway 377 lanes will then become Business Highway 377. Once finished, motorists will no longer have to endure the lengthy backups that sometimes occur at the intersection of U.S. 377 and SH 171, where there is a railyard switching station.

**SAFETY**  
As motorists drive through the construction zone, TxDOT recommends drivers to be mindful of work zone safety and to protect themselves, their passengers and construction workers. Drivers are encouraged to:

- watch for construction traffic entering and leaving the work zone.
- follow the posted work zone speed limit and proactively adjust their driving to match road conditions.
- avoid distractions like phones; and
- don't tailgate. Rear-end collisions are the most common kind of work zone crashes.

The HCN will continue to update the public on the Cresson Relief Route as more information becomes available.

**CONSTRUCTION DELAY**

An update on the Cresson bypass couldn't come at a better time, as social media has been flooded with posts

**HISTORY**

According to zachry-

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# A day of remembrance and reflection



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The community of Granbury came together to remember those who fell during the attacks on Pearl Harbor. For more photos, please visit [www.hcnews.com/photos](http://www.hcnews.com/photos).

## 82 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

A day of remembrance was held in Granbury where community members came together to honor and remember those who lost their lives during the Japanese attack Dec. 7, 1941. This year marks the 82nd year since the pivotal moment in history.

More than 2,400 people were killed as a result of the attack which destroyed the United States naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii. The lives taken included 2,000 United States Navy, 218 Army, 109

Marines and 68 civilians. A total of 1,178 people were wounded. Hundreds of Japanese fighter planes destroyed nearly 20 American naval vessels including eight battleships and over 300 airplanes according to

the History Channel. The first dive-bomber struck at 7:55 a.m. and the entire attack lasted an hour and 15 minutes.

It was after the attack on Dec. 7 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

On Aug. 3, 1994, the United States Congress designated Dec. 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

On Dec. 7, Friends of Memorial Lane hosted an event at Jim Burks

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EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
A piece of the USS Arizona was displayed at an event to remember Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.

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# County commissioners nominate Rod Litke to HCAD Board of Directors

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court voted to appoint Rod Litke to the Hood County Appraisal District Board of Directors during its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Dec. 12.

In accordance with chapter six of the property tax code, each taxing unit is eligible to cast votes for the board of directors of the appraisal district in proportion to its tax levy. It takes 834 votes to be cast for an individual to be elected to the board of directors.

The Hood County Commissioners Court is allocated 1,187 votes, the city of Granbury is allocated 319 votes, and the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees is allocated 3,177 votes.

In a previous meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court, two residents were nominated to the HCAD Board of Directors: Greg Harrell and Rod Litke.

However, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill revealed during the Dec. 12 meeting that Greg Harrell "graciously withdrew his application."

Ron Sutton, who was previously on the HCAD Board of Directors, spoke on behalf of Litke during the public comments section of the meeting.

"I want to thank you all for supporting me two years ago to sit on the board as a director for the Hood County Central Appraisal District," Sutton said. "It's because of that service that I have a hands-on perspective of what would make a great board member, and that's why I'm here to speak on behalf of Mr. Rod Litke."

Sutton explained that Litke has been a rancher and

farmer in Hood County for the past 30 years. He claimed Litke "knows rural Hood County property values," as he also owns residential property in Granbury.

"He's the former president of the Texas Farm Bureau for Hood and Somervell Counties, where he oversaw various ag projects and addressed issues specific to Hood County," Sutton said. "He was owner/operator of Jericho Energy and has been since 2014, and he is registered with the state as a P-5 producer based in Hood County."

Sutton said one of Litke's greatest assets for serving on the HCAD Board of Directors is his strong financial background.

"In any office of public service, a strong financial background is a true asset," he said. "He retired from PricewaterhouseCoopers as a partner. He was a managing partner for the central part of the United States over utilities. He has been involved in all aspects of business, finance, information technology, mergers, acquisitions and strategic projects. Here's another unique thing about Rod. He is CEO of Customer Service Week and has done that since 2012. He served on the board for 28 years."

Sutton said Litke's brother asked Litke why he wanted to serve on the HCAD Board of Directors and Litke responded "because I want to give back to the community that has been so good to me

and my family."

"When you read through Rod's resume, the thing that jumps out that he has in common with each of you is a heart for service," Sutton said, as he addressed the Hood County Commissioners Court. "I appreciate your support of Rod Litke to sit on the Board of Directors of the Central Appraisal District."

Following Sutton's comments, Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle stated he wanted to give a summary recap of how the Granbury ISD Board of Directors and the Granbury City Council cast their votes for the HCAD Board.

The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees cast its votes during a regularly sched-

uled school board meeting on Nov. 13 where the board voted to put 834 votes to Scott Bradley, 834 to Rick Frye, 834 votes to Mark McDonald and 675 votes to Eddie Rodriguez.

During the Granbury City Council meeting on Nov. 21, the city also cast 319 votes in favor of Rodriguez for the HCAD Board of Directors.

"The city council, last week, voted," Eagle said. "They had 319 votes to add so they cast all their votes for Mr. Rodriguez. We had two candidates, Mr. Greg Harrell, and we had Mr. Rod Litke, who I finally had the pleasure of meeting and visiting last week and was very impressed with Mr. Litke. I went to city council when they put this up for a vote and I stood up for Mr. Litke at that point in time, urging them to vote for Mr. Litke 'cause those 319 votes for Mr. Litke would have given us a chance to put two people on the HCAD, Mr. Litke, and Mr. Harrell — that was my goal. And I was trained to be an advocate for my client in law school, and my client, in my opinion, is the taxpayer. So I went to city council, not to tell them what to do, but to urge them to vote for somebody that's not affiliated with the school district, because they already have three people on there."

The HCN previously reported on the Granbury City Council meeting where Eagle had spoken during the public comments.

"My understanding is that Ron Sutton has sent you all an email talking about Rod Litke, proposing that he be considered to be put on this board. I urge you to consider Mr. Litke. With no aspersion to Mr. Rodriguez, I urge you not to put your votes on Mr. Rodriguez, and it's nothing personal or anything else against Eddie," Eagle said, during the Granbury City Council meeting on Nov. 21.

"In law school they told us if it doesn't look right, you might not do it even if it's legal. The optics are bad, and I think that there is a potential conflict of interest by having a board member being a council member on

the board. Also, there's familial affiliation with GISD with Mr. Rodriguez and to me that doesn't look right either. I urge you to save Mr. Rodriguez from himself and put somebody else on there and relieve him of being put on there."

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

"The appraisal district represents all of Hood County. I don't think there should be any question in any of the citizens' minds that there's a conflict there," Mayor Jim Jarratt said during the city

number of votes that they possess," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the city council meeting. "Personally, I feel like as a citizen of Granbury, it's inappropriate for a governing body from another jurisdiction to walk in here and dictate to you who you should vote for. I'm offended by that. On the record I'm offended by that."

During the Dec. 12 meeting of Hood County Commissioners Court, Eagle responded that he thinks he made "somebody mad over there" by speaking during the public comments.

"I didn't talk down anybody or anything," Eagle said. "I advocated for Mr. Litke and I'm in full agreement with Mr. Ron Sutton on Mr. Litke, and Mr. Harrell was

*"When you read through Rod's resume, the thing that jumps out that he has in common with each of you is a heart for service. I appreciate your support of Rod Litke to sit on the Board of Directors of the Central Appraisal District."*

**RON SUTTON**

Previous member of the Hood County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

lic comments.

"I would feel confident that the county has all the votes they need to put Mr. Litke on that board with the

council meeting. "Why create that type of controversy? Mr. Rodriguez is a very respectable man but at the same time we have five other candidates."

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

The council voted with four votes for Rodriguez by councilman Greg Corrigan, Rodriguez, Vale and Burwell and one vote for Litke by Mayor Jarratt.

"I would feel confident that the county has all the votes they need to put Mr. Litke on that board with the

gracious enough to withdraw his candidacy for this position, which means we've only got one person to vote for."

Eagle then pointed out the county has had some "serious issues with the HCAD board over the last few months."

"We need people to represent these taxing entities on that board besides the school district," he said.

"The school district has their majority, and they're going to get what they want, and my goal was to get a couple of people on there that will stand watch for us, the county, and the other taxing entities. Didn't work out that

PLEASE SEE **LITKE** | A14

## 2024

FROM PAGE A3

### PRECINCT 216

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Laura Bernice Mull

**REPUBLICAN**

• Jim Lilly  
• Tim Bolton

### PRECINCT 218

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Roger Butler

**REPUBLICAN**

• Clinton R. Helton  
• Matt Westlund

### PRECINCT 310

### DEMOCRATIC

• Jerry Chappelle

### REPUBLICAN

• Brian O. Gaffin  
• Zane Hatch

### PRECINCT 313

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Will Montgomery

**REPUBLICAN**

• Earl Erdmann  
• Stephen Erickson

### PRECINCT 314

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Vickie L. Butler

**REPUBLICAN**

• Bret Deason  
• Gary Merritt

### PRECINCT 317

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Jaclyn Hale

**REPUBLICAN**

• Cathy Hays

• Jason Gore

### PRECINCT 404

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Elizabeth Boyes

**REPUBLICAN**

• Alejandra Munoz  
• Mark A. Jackson

### PRECINCT 408

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Harold Granek

**REPUBLICAN**

• Deborah Sagan (withdrew as of Dec. 12)  
• Melanie Graft

### PRECINCT 409

**DEMOCRATIC**

• Katie Coleman

**REPUBLICAN**

• Brad Yarborough  
• Rachel Reed  
• District Attorney  
• Ryan Sinclair

### HOOD COUNTY ATTORNEY

• Matt Mills, incumbent  
• Hood County Sheriff  
• Roger Deeds, incumbent  
• Scott London  
• Johnny Rose Jr.

### HOOD COUNTY TAX

**ASSESSOR COLLECTOR**

• Andrea Ferguson, incumbent

### HOOD COUNTY

**COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1**

• Kevin Andrews, incumbent  
• Morris Durree

### HOOD COUNTY

**COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3**

• Jack Wilson, incumbent  
• Nathan Criswell

### HOOD COUNTY JUSTICE OF

**THE PEACE PRECINCT 1**

• Dean Armstrong  
• Sissy Freeman  
• Clint Head

### HOOD COUNTY JUSTICE OF

**THE PEACE PRECINCT 4**

• Dub Gillum, incumbent

### HOOD COUNTY

**CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1**

• Chad Davis, incumbent

### HOOD COUNTY

**CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2**

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• Steven Smith

### HOOD COUNTY

**CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3**

• Randy Ellis, incumbent  
• Greg Neal

### HOOD COUNTY

**CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4**

• Chad Jordan, incumbent

The 2024 primary election will take place on March 5.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

### TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Victory Companies LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 174649.

This application would authorize continued authorization of a Rock Crushing Plant located from the intersection of US Highway 377 and Hill City Highway 56 in Tolar, travel south 4.04 miles to Nix Road turn right, then travel 2.16 miles to the plant entrance, Tolar, Hood County, Texas 76467. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



Please team up with our sponsors for this year's Match fund for **Habitat for Humanity of Hood County.** Habitat believes affordable homeownership *changes lives.* You can help "build" that change with a donation to the Match.

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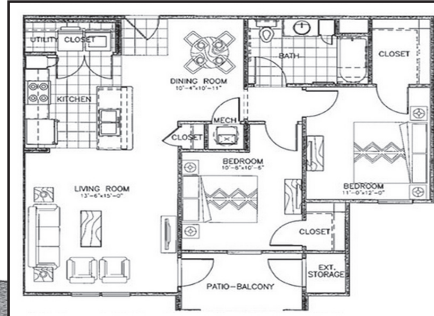
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Nice, clean 1 room efficiency apartment with washer/dryer hookups. 1 person only. Next to lake with dock. \$850/mo, \$450 deposit. Water paid. Leave message, 469-781-1114.  
RENT NOW, AVAILABLE JAN. 1. Furnished, washer and dryer. No pets, No smoking. Inspection required. Maximum 2 people. \$225 weekly, plus deposit.  
Contact Bob King, (817) 279-3768

## Commercial for Rent

1520  
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**

## Duplexes for Rent

1530  
  
2BR DUPLEX - TOLAR 2 BR/2 BA, Duplex, Carport, fenced in yard, 1 year lease, no smoking. \$1,400/mo/\$1000 deposit (817) 578-5293  
1431 & 1433 Walters, 5739 Walnut Creek, 2-1-2CP, fenced yard, \$1,000/mo, \$1000 security. 817-692-6673.

## Homes for Rent

1540  
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.  
500 Longhorn Trail, WHH. 2 bed, 2 bath, all tile, all appliances. Close to town. No smoking. No pets. \$1,300/mo plus deposit. (817)371-3304  
1550  
**Mobiles for Rent**  
Mobile Home for rent.  
Call Hector at 817-919-4487  
Whippoorwill Bay, nice, clean 2-1, fenced yard, \$1,250 a month plus deposit. 817-578-9906.  
2-1, near square, carport, fenced backyard, newly remodeled, \$1,900/mo. 3-2-2, large corner lot, Acton side of town, lake access in community, \$2,300/mo. 3-2-2, Acton side of town, large corner lots, newly remodeled, \$2,400/mo. 254-396-5188.

## 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 CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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

## Cleaning Services

5090  
**KAREN'S EXPERT CLEANING SERVICES** Residential cleaning. Serving our area since 1994. (817)776-0260

## Computer Services

5100  
**NEED COMPUTER HELP?**  
Virus Removal/Repairs/Networks/Upgrades/Programming/Training and more. Over 25 years exp, Residential and Commercial (817) 579-8450

## Clock Repair

5120  
ANTIQUA CLOCK REPAIR  
Specializing in older clocks  
Work guaranteed. 20 yrs exp.  
Call anytime, (817) 559-9123

## Electrical

5140  
**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**  
TECL#22551 50+ years  
Residential/Commercial  
AZZ-IZZ Enterprizes, LLC  
NO JOBS TOO SMALL!  
(817) 613-1465, (817) 266-7239

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[classifieds.hcnews.com](http://classifieds.hcnews.com)

## Fencing

5170  
  
FENCING  
254-434-1967

**DOUG STULTS CONSTRUCTION**  
Since 1970.  
Quality cedar fences.  
Redwood patio pergolas.  
Licensed & bonded. 817-279-8115

## Home Improvement

5200  
**SNODGRASS PAINTING AND REMODELING, INC**  
One Stop Shop  
A-Z Construction & Painting  
A+ BBB Member  
Accepting Credit Cards  
[snodgrasspaintingremodeling.com](http://snodgrasspaintingremodeling.com)  
(817) 578-8387 (817) 271-3324



**CONSTRUCTION WERKS**  
New construction, remodel, carpentry, paint, sheetrock, tile, stone, cement, doors, windows. Interior, exterior. Commercial. Residential. Insured. 817-363-7656

**THE COWBOY HANDYMAN**  
Home Improvement and Repair  
Locally owned  
Brad Stone 806-676-9939  
**Dependable, Affordable Choice!**

**RUSTY SPUR CONSTRUCTION**  
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



**DEVIN'S HANDYMAN SERVICE**  
FALL SPECIAL 15% OFF  
\*Remodeling \*Painting \*Tile  
\*Granite \*Kitchen & Bath  
\*Decks \*Cement \*Brick \*Rock  
\*Power Washing  
\*Sheet Rock Repair  
\*Seamless Gutters  
**FREE ESTIMATE**  
817-629-9608

**CONSTRUCTION**  
Trench digging, Bobcat work, Land clearing, Brush Hog mowing, Tree work, Excavating, Gravel driveways, Demo and haul-off. Free estimates. Call Keith 817-559-0100

## Home Services

5210  
**MDDM DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC** Residential plans for custom homes, additions & remodels. [mdixon@mddmgroup.com](mailto:mdixon@mddmgroup.com)  
Mike Dixon, 817-559-1686

**5L CLEAN UP SERVICES** Fast Service, Great Rates!! Need Space For Your Christmas Celebration? Got Too Much In Your Way, And You Need To Get Rid of it? Call Us And We'll Get it Gone. Residential & Commercial, Free Estimates. (817) 578-5510

## Landscaping/Tree Service

5220  
  
Lawn Mowing & Edging  
Tree Trimming & Removal  
817-559-5152  
also clean and level lots

**1st Choice LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING**  
Make Us Your 1st Choice

**CALL FOR SPECIALS**  
Tree work, gutters. Flower beds, shrubs. Brush hogging, tractor work. Senior discounts. 817-793-2245

**SHORT CUT Lawn Care Service**

**SHORT CUT LAWN CARE**  
Tree and Bush trimming.  
Flowerbed Maintenance.  
Brush hauling, weedat, blowing, mowing, leaf cleanup.  
Call or text for free estimate.  
817-736-5671

Lawn winter clean up - tree trim removal and detail work - shrub trimming removal and detail work - bed cleaning and mulching - gutter cleaning - brush removal - firewood.  
Brad 817-219-8637

## Masonry

5240  
**ANYTHING WITH STONE**  
\*Retaining Walls \*Patios  
\*Houses \*Repairs \*Flower Beds  
\*Planting \*Bobcat Work  
\*Tornado Shelters  
\*20+ years \*Senior Discount  
Insured (817) 919-4487

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

## MERCHANDISE

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

**WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.**  
Call 817-559-3131

## Pocket Stuffers

6635  
Classic wooden glass jewelry box. Great condition. \$5. 817-579-1966, please leave a message.

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## LIVESTOCK & PETS

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](mailto:wilsonjulianne@gmail.com)

FREE 10 YR FEMALE DACHSHUND SWEET LOVING SPAYED LONG-HAIRED DACHSHUND NEEDING TO BE RE-HOMED (817) 578-9514

  
Rehoming male German Shorthaired Pointer. 1 year old, shots, house & kennel trained. (817)333-4275

## Pets Lost & Found

8040  
**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**

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

## NOTICES

9010  
**Happy Notes**  
**WINTER**  
You are a treasure.  
Happy 19th birthday!  
We love you, G-team  
**WINTER**  
God bless you on your 19th birthday and always!  
We love you, Gram & Grampy  
**- SNOWFLAKE -**  
We love you!  
Happy 19th!  
Uncle Jordan, Aunt Carol & Cody

**Find us on Facebook.**  
  
  
  
Keep up with up-to-the-minute happenings in Hood County using one of today's greatest social media sites.  
[facebook.com/hcnews](http://facebook.com/hcnews)



www.hcnews.com

9031

**Public Notices****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](http://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.

**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.

**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 hangars 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 hangars 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](mailto: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.

**PROMOTE YOUR GARAGE SALE**  
**To Print & Online!**  
817-573-7066  
[classifieds.hcnews.com](http://classifieds.hcnews.com)

9031

**Public Notices****NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of RONNIE DALE COMPTON, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2023, in Cause No. P10213, pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: JOELLEN COMPTON.

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

c/o: Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Hyde Law Firm  
827 West Pearl Street  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 07th day of December 2023.

/s/ Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Attorney for JOELLEN COMPTON  
Bar no: 24115896  
Office Phone: (817) 579-5997  
Fax: (817) 573-4933  
Email: [ashleygale@hydefirm.com](mailto:ashleygale@hydefirm.com)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CAMERON RILEY HILL, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. P10045, pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: DANIELLE DELYNNE DUFFEY.

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

c/o: Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Hyde Law Firm  
827 West Pearl Street  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 07th day of December 2023.

/s/ Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Ashley Gale Vaughan  
Attorney for DANIELLE DELYNNE DUFFEY

Bar no: 24115896  
Office Phone: (817) 579-5997  
Fax: (817) 573-4933  
Email: [ashleygale@hydefirm.com](mailto:ashleygale@hydefirm.com)

**CONSTABLE'S SALE - REAL ESTATE**

On the 28th day of October A.D. 2023 in the 68th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas, in Cause No. DC-19-03038,

Michael Combs and Michael Combs Properties, LLC recovered judgment against:

By virtue of a Writ of Execution, I did on 5th of December A.D. 2023, levy upon the Defendant's interest, if any, in the following described land as the property of the above-named Defendant(s), situated in Hood County, Texas, to wit:

Lot No. 7, Block 5 of Spanish Trail Addition, commonly known as 1101 Laguna Vista Drive, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, as shown by the plat thereof recorded in Volume 138, page 419 of the Deed Records of Hood County, Texas.

And I will on Constable Sale on the 2nd of January A.D., 2024, the same being the first Tuesday in January A.D. 2024, starting at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the morning, offer the said land for sale for cash to the highest bidder, at the Hood County Courthouse, said location being the 2nd Floor Courtroom in the Hood County Courthouse, located at 100 E. Pearl Street, in the City of Granbury, Texas.  
For questions, please contact Mary Haller with Constable Pct 2 at (817) 579-3291  
Constable John Shirley,  
Hood County, Texas, Pct. 2  
By: Deputy Constable

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BERNIE MARJE BALDWIN, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0158, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: CHARLES RICHARD BALDWIN.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 6th day of December, 2023.

Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney for Charles Richard Baldwin  
State Bar No.: 24078807  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
E-mail: [skuban@kubanfirm.com](mailto:skuban@kubanfirm.com)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of MICHAEL TIMOTHY BASDEN, Deceased, were issued on November 29, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0176, pending in the County-Cou11 of Hood County, Texas, to: THERESA ANNE SHORES.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 6th day of December, 2023  
Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney for Theresa Anne Shores  
State Bar No.: 24078807  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
E-mail: [skuban@kubanfirm.com](mailto:skuban@kubanfirm.com)

9031

**Public Notices****Notice to Creditors**

Cause No. P10235

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles Frederick Dederichs, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10235 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Charles Snow, Independent Executor.

Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Law Office of Ola Campbell, PLLC, 1020 Macon Street, Suite 8, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present item within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Law Office of Ola Campbell, PLLC, 1020 Macon Street, Suite 8, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, Phone: 817-668-7529, E-mail [ocampbell@ohc-law.com](mailto:ocampbell@ohc-law.com)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Audrey Lee Smith, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10230, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Janet Arlene Kelly.

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

c/o: Janet Arlene Kelly  
4130 Jewel Court  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 11th day of December, 2023.

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Christopher Adam Moninger, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2023 in Cause No. P10121, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Candace Moninger.

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

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

**LETTERS TESTAMENTARY**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas William Harris, Jr., Deceased, were issued on 12-11-23, in Cause No. P10244, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Brenda Pauline Harris. The residence of the Independent Executor is Granbury, Texas; the post office address is: c/o: Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated on the 12-day of December 2023. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Mixed Beverage Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate, by KM Resort Hospitality LLC, dba Blackstar Grille to be located at 551 Sweet Chex Dr, Granbury, Hood County, TX 76048. The Officers are Matthew Bays-Manager and Kimberly Bays-Manager.**

**PUBLIC SALES**

Granbury 76048

**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 &amp; Boutique

  
MISSION GRANBURY  
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.

Granbury 76049

**Garage Sales 76049**

ESTATE SALE: GRANBURY: FULL HOUSE TO EXPLORE: 12/16-12/17 4418 Eastwood Ct. Granbury, TX 76049 Full 3 bedroom house with items for sale in every room. Living-room furniture, Large Appliances, Kitchenware, Bunk beds, Tools, Electronics, Diecast Cars, Christmas Decorations, Home Decor, Medical Equipment, Memorabilia, and more. Garage and sheds will be open to pick through unsorted items as well. Cash only; all sales "as is" & final.

9031

**Public Notices****TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY****NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI)**

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 174649

**APPLICATION** Victory Companies LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 174649

This application would authorize continued operation of the Rock Crushing Plant located from the intersection of US Highway 377 and Hill City Highway 56 in Tolar, travel south 4.04 miles to Nix Road turn right, then travel 2.16 miles to the plant entrance, Tolar, Hood County, Texas 76467 **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcesreview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application: <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=97.918708.32.322561&level=13>. The facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on November 17, 2023. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the Hood County Public Library, 222 North Travis Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Dallas/Fort Worth regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments.

**PUBLIC MEETING.** You may request a public meeting to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if requested by an interested person and the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. If a draft Air Quality Permit is prepared, a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision is required and it will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application and will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING** You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, and daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST.** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Victory Companies LLC, 2802 Flintrock Trace, Suite 214, Austin, Texas 78738-1743 or by calling Mr. Jay Lindholm, Project Manager, Trinity Consultants, at (512) 567-8280.

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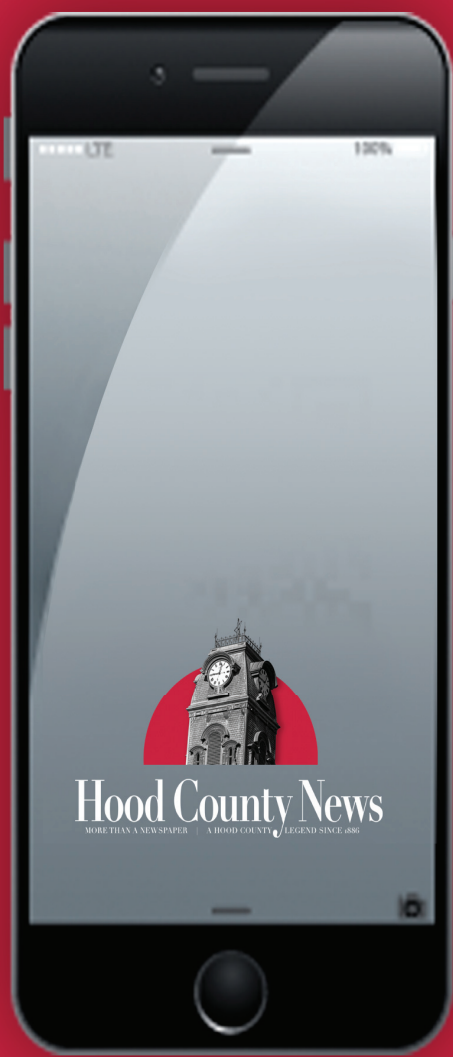
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# LETTERS

## PRAISE FOR GHS CHOIR STUDENTS

As a professional musician I have accompanied many choirs of children, youth and adults (including the Texas Girls Choir). Now I sing with the Granbury Civic Chorus; we were invited to join the Granbury High School Christmas Choir program for several numbers last night.

I just want to say the singing by the high school chorus was unbelievably beautiful. Not only that, the planning and process of moving one group off while another moved on, while a soloist sang, was also impressive. I never would have believed these groups of high-schoolers could move so far, so fast, without making a sound — and then sing with perfection.

I came home feeling joyful and proud from the experience. No wonder these young people have been winning top state awards as long as I have lived in Granbury (35 years). I was also greatly impressed by the accompanist, an accomplished pianist. I think we, the Civic Chorus, sounded pretty good from where I stood, but I really hope we will be joined by some of these young people as they move on into their adult lives.

**Sandy Hearne**  
Granbury, TX

## HOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT

I first want to thank Ms. Terry for the in-depth articles about what is going on in Hood County Commissioner's Court. She manages to print all the details without bias, just the facts, and it's very refreshing to see that from a news organization. I hope your readers are paying attention.

If you have been watching, you will notice that three on this court have their own political agendas. One is the Fire Department; one is Pecan Plantation and the other is a road to Cresson. And they work together to get those things passed. Recently more than 20 people signed up to speak on one agenda item, all but two of them were in

favor of the item. Are we to believe that what those two people said far outweighed the others? I guess so, because those three on the court voted with those two dissenters.

It's my opinion they had their mind made up before anyone started speaking. Much was said about how it's not right to take taxpayer money and give to "charities" aka 501(c)(3) organizations. This county gives to a handful of "charities" every year in the budget. Are they next on the chopping block? When they were reminded that ALL the FDs and the EMS are also defined as "charities," they had nothing to say.

They like to twist words and make it fit to their narrative, just like the DC politicians. They are not listening to us. They make a big deal out of how they have open comments at every meeting, and let us speak on agenda items, but those are just EMPTY WORDS, if they are not listening.

**Tina Brown**  
Granbury, TX

## A BIG THANKS TO TXDOT

I would like to post a big "thank you" to TxDOT for their recent work on U.S. Highway 377. The repaving and striping have improved that section of the highway 100%. Thanks to the hardworking crew that worked all night to minimize the impact on the traffic. Well done!

**Debbie Hood**  
Granbury, TX

## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

# New scam tactic may draw you in — but don't fall for it



COURTESY PHOTO

**A new scam tactic is causing confusion and chaos as people receive phone calls where the person on the line sounds like someone the receiver knows — but it's done through voice cloning.**

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

A new scam tactic is causing confusion and chaos as people receive phone calls where the person on the line sounds like someone the receiver knows — but it's done through voice cloning. The scammer will attempt to create a scary scenario and usually will proceed with asking for money. Another scam being pulled is a number popping up on someone's phone of someone they know, but it's not the actual person. These scams have been circling the United States and have now hit Hood County.

The Federal Trade Commission says most all scammers will ask for a form of payment that is hard to get back such as gift cards, wire money and cryptocurrency.

According to the Federal Trade Commission scammers will often have some information about you obtained through social media or sometimes by just guessing. They will often stress the situation they have made up is urgent and

if the receiver doesn't act quickly, something bad may happen. The scammer will also attempt to play with the receiver's emotions by trying to make you feel guilty if you don't act to help out whoever is in trouble.

The FTC says it is best to hang up the phone and contact the person whose voice was being cloned to ask them to verify if this is true. If the receiver doesn't feel comfortable hanging up, they can ask personal questions about the so-called friend or family member.

If you do happen to send the scammer money, it is best to act quickly based on the form of payment. If you pay with a debit or credit card, you will need to contact the company or bank that issued the charge and alert them of a fraudulent charge.

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds told the HCN the agency has received numerous reports of residents receiving these scam calls and recommended reporting such calls to law enforcement.

Multiple residents in Hood

County shared their stories with the HCN regarding scam calls they received.

Ashley Morgan Ennis was out of town back in June when her husband received a call saying that Ennis had been abducted — the voice was cloned to sound like her. Sharon McLellan also had suspicious calls from what were supposedly her grandsons. They claimed they were in jail and needed bond money to get out. Neither Ennis nor McLellan fell for the scams, but the voice cloning can sound very real, making the calls easy to believe.

There have also been reports of people getting phone calls from their own numbers or calls from a number the receiver thinks is someone they know.

One way to avoid these scary scenarios is to create a safe word among one's family. Using a safe word will ensure that if a family member is ever in trouble, the family will know the situation is real.

To report a scam, visit [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov).

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# “If you build it, they will come”

BY FRANK BUSH

It was true for the baseball movie “Field of Dreams” – “If you build it, they will come,” and it is certainly true for the new Granbury airport. Developed as part of Granbury’s Economic Development Plan, the new runway is now attracting and welcoming corporate jets, increased numbers of private airplanes, and even a 135-air charter service. All this new activity is a direct result of the new mile-long runway.

The economic benefits of the new airport are undeniable. More visitors, more jobs, more buildings, more fuel purchases and more interest in Hood County. As Granbury becomes more competitive with other communities with well-developed aviation infrastructure, these benefits will compound.

And all these new aircraft, at some point, require fuel, maintenance and repairs. Serving those varied aviation needs is Granbury Aviation Services (GAS), owned and operated by Ron Stowell. GAS provides a broad array of services for the aviation community. Everything from 100-hour inspections, annual inspections, pre-buys, oil changes, STC kit installations, repairs, dynamic prop balancing, aircraft weighing for W&B and all levels of engine maintenance. GAS has a full parts department for walk-in purchases as well.

Stowell started in aviation at a very young age. As a child, growing up in the ‘60s and ‘70s, he was fascinated with building model airplanes and launching model rockets. A favorite pastime was daylong trips to the lo-

cal airport, watching the airplanes take off and land and walking the tarmac to look up-close at the parked airplanes. Even at that young age, Stowell knew he was going to be flying and working on those airplanes.

Very bright and highly motivated, he graduated high school at 16 and joined the U.S. Army, continuing a family tradition. He was selected for and trained as a helicopter mechanic. Stowell attended various helicopter maintenance schools and spent nearly five years working on UH-1 Hueys, AH-1 Cobras and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. He served overseas in Germany in the 1st Armored Division, “Old Ironsides,” before finishing his military commitment with the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles) before his honorable discharge.

After his military time, he began working and training in general aviation as a mechanic, working on everything from vintage dope and fabric radial engine aircraft, air freighters, aerial firefighting air tankers, helicopters and observation aircraft.

During these times, Stowell was fortunate to have been



T6 with GAS sign in background.

COURTESY PHOTO

part of two separate restorations. The first, a 1935 WACO CUC-1 N15233 named the “Windharp” that took 1st place distinction at Oshkosh in 1991 for the closed cabin biplane category. In the second, Stowell helped a friend (Steve Pfister) after work and on weekends restoring the only fixed-gear Beechcraft Staggerwing in existence, serial number 1. Steve passed away during the restora-

tion. The plane was donated to, and now hangs in the Beech Heritage Museum, in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Stowell’s other work and training experience includes top secret security clearance work with Northrop / Grumman working on F-14s. After this, he worked for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department in the “Air Unit” maintaining helicopters, Cessnas and

other aircraft (shown below, second from right). It was here Stowell obtained his Inspection Authorization (IA) certification in 1996 and also earned his private pilot’s license (PPL).

As mentioned, Stowell comes from a family with a strong military tradition. His father, for example, had the distinction, as a very young sailor during the second world war, to be

the designated escort for President Harry Truman (shown below) as he traveled to the Potsdam meeting with Churchill and Stalin. Stowell’s son, Alec, continues this tradition as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army at Fort Johnson.

In his time doing maintenance and repair, Stowell has seen some interesting situations. On one occasion,

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# OBITUARIES

## Mary Suzanne Back

November 15, 1952 - December 1, 2023

Mary Suzanne (Zonnie) Back, age 71, of Granbury, Texas died on Friday, December 1, 2023.

Suzanne was born in Monroe, Louisiana on November 15, 1952, to Albert Edward and Mattie Jo Patterson. She has one older brother, Michael, and one older sister, Jo Ann. After Suzanne's birth, she gained two more brothers, Eddie and Geri. She is survived by all her siblings except Geri, who died in October 2019.

Suzanne lived in Monroe, LA, until after her marriage to Jon Back on June 15, 1974. She and Jon graduated from Neville H.S. in 1970. As a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, she was very active in choir, youth groups and Episcopal summer camps. Those activities never stopped, no matter where she lived.

Suzanne and Jon earned degrees at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. She graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Shortly after graduation, she and Jon were married in June 1974. While teaching in Monroe, she continued attending college and earned a master's degree in education.

In 1979, after Jon enlisted in the Navy Nuclear program and finished training, the family moved to the west coast, beginning in San Diego, then Bremerton, WA, back to San Diego, then to San Pablo, CA, a suburb of Oakland. During this time, her son, Joel, was born in 1982 in Bremerton, and daughter, Jessie, was born in 1985 in Oakland. On leaving the Navy, the family moved to Granbury in 1986. Suzanne began teaching in Granbury ISD at Granbury Elementary, then transferred to and remained at Nettie Baccus Elementary. Retiring two years ago, Suzanne taught in GISD for over 30 years. She was instrumental in creating and maintaining a college scholarship program at Baccus, giving many students financial help during their first year of college.

Above all, Suzanne remained a dedicated and faithful member of the Episcopal Church no matter where she lived. As a youth in Louisiana, she attended summer camp every



year at Camp Hardtner in Pollock, Louisiana. Deep in the piney woods of the Kisatchie National Forest, this camp became her heart and focus as camper, then camp counselor and then returning many years for adult camp staff, finally as Camp Dean.

Locally, the family has been a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal church since moving to Granbury. Now in the new church building at 4530 Acton Hwy, Suzanne was always active with Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Christian Education and in 2022, became a member of the national Verger's Guild during a ceremony at St. John the Divine in New York City. She loved her church, and it will miss her devotion and guidance.

Suzanne is survived by her husband, Jon, and children, Joel Back and Jessie Back Aad. Three young grandchildren, Vivian, Noor and Ali, will miss their devoted Nonnie. Christmas and Halloween had special meaning for Jon and Suzanne. Their Granbury neighborhood, South Grove, has always been a Halloween favorite, sometimes seeing over 900 trick or treaters walking with their families and enjoying the costumes and decorations that were Jon's specialty. The Christmas light display is delayed this year but will continue because it was a delight and joy for Suzanne.

A memorial service for Suzanne will be at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2023, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 4530 Acton Hwy, Granbury, 76049. Following the service will be a reception in the Church Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to either the Baccus Elementary Scholarship fund or to Camp Hardtner.

## Roy C. Smith

June 4, 1931 - December 6, 2023

Roy C. Smith (aka Rip) was born to Roy and Frances Smith on June 4, 1931 in Vernon, Texas. He met the most beautiful girl he had ever seen (Lillie Mae Hill) in Hollis, Oklahoma and they were married on July 19, 1952 and were married 71 years, until his death after losing his battle with Parkinson's disease on December 6, 2023 in Lawton, Oklahoma in the Lawton/Fort Sill VA Center.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean war and was later a Texas Highway Patrol officer. He later started his own real estate company and was a homebuilder for many years before retiring.

Rip's family and friends will always remember him being a jokester and always fun to be around because he could tell the corniest jokes.

He and Lil had three daughters: Debbi Greenwade, married to Bill

Greenwade in Granbury, Texas; Phyllis Smith, who resides in Mustang, Oklahoma; and D'lynn Lane, married to Steve Lane in Wichita Falls, Texas. They have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother, Leslie Smith (aka Hoppy) and also had three nephews.

He was quite the athlete in his younger adult years. He was a boxer, played semi-pro football, baseball, racquet ball and could be found on the golf course several times a week after he retired.

Rip was known as a family man. He always demonstrated to his daughters how a man should treat a woman and told them often how much he loved their mother.

His memorial service will be December 18, 2023 in the City Hope Church, 4301 Cedar Elm Lane, Wichita Falls, Texas at 3 p.m.

## William Lee White

October 16, 1943 - December 8, 2023

William "Bill" Lee White passed away peacefully at his home in Granbury on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Born October 16, 1943, in Gorman, Texas. Bill grew up in May and Rising Star, Texas.

He is a US Army veteran, serving in Korea, being honorably discharged in 1964.

Bill and his wife, Ann, moved to Granbury in 1974 to work for his father's construction company, L&W Paving Company. Later, Bill and Ann bought the business and ran it until his retirement. Many of the subdivisions in Granbury and surrounding areas were built by L&W.

Bill was a man who never hard work. He loved Caterpillar equipment, building roads, and was one of the best blade men. Bill was devoted to providing for his family and he loved Jesus. One of his favorite passages was Psalms 23. He took great comfort in reading the bible with his wife, Judy. He will always be remembered for his smile, good heart, joking nature and welcoming spirit. He was a local favorite at the coffee shops in town.



He was predeceased by his wife Roberta Ann Espin and his parents, Lee Roy White and Willie Lavada Ruby Keeler.

Bill is survived by his wife, Judith Martin White, his children: Bruce White and wife Tanya, Laura Riale and her husband Todd, Jennifer Caudle and her husband Danny, Melissa White, and Kent White, and his grandchildren: Clay White, Jessica Kissell, Sara Ubinger, Stephany Downey, Blake Balderaz, Meredith Caudle, Will Caudle, Jacob White, Marty Mendoza, Jessica Gibson, Clay Mendoza and many great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. Service followed at 2 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home, 400 E Highway 377 Granbury, Texas. Commitment followed at Acton Cemetery.

## Alan Merle Cain

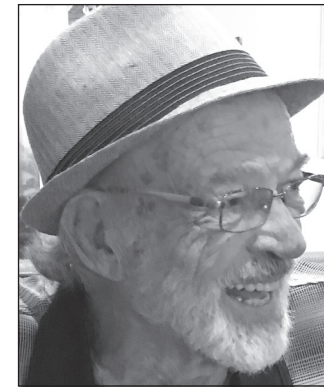
April 8, 1945 - December 4, 2023

Alan Merle Cain, age 78, of Weatherford, TX, passed away on December 4, 2023 in Granbury, TX.

Alan was born in Weatherford, TX to Walter and Mary Cain on April 8, 1945. He worked, wearing many hats, in the oil and gas industry as well as consulting for most of his life.

Alan's hobbies included billiards, fishing and gardening.

Alan is preceded in death by his parents Walter and Mary Cain, wife Sharon Cain and son Shawn Christian Cain.



Alan is survived by his first daughter Tina Martin, second daughter Tiffany Feet and son Keith Cain.

## 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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- what kids do on Christmas morning (3 wds.)
- provoked mockingly
- need a stand to \_\_\_ up a Christmas tree
- some Texans go to this NM area to ski over the holidays
- a main ingredient of Christmas nog
- this TX Winters is a linebacker for the 49ers
- TX Blue Bell flavor: "Cookies \_\_\_ Cream" in Texas (abbr.)
- best little puzzle
- Clyde High School football class
- elves to Santa
- T-bone and Ribeye
- "festive" Archer County town?
- Metroplex Tex-Mex chain (2 wds.)
- TX handyman Carrell and Mr. Neiman
- private detectives (abbr.)
- actress Garr (init.)
- univ. in Lawton, OK
- hot tub or resort
- TXism: "flew off the handle"
- Larry, Moe, or Curly (2 wds.)
- looks through the blinds for Santa
- TXism: "it belongs to me \_\_\_ the bank"
- TX Tanya (init.)
- \_\_\_ McArdle painted "Dawn at the Alamo"
- TXism: "rile up"

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# Avoid tapping into retirement savings early

**TONY MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser

If you want to make a big purchase, such as a new car or a piece of property, or you were faced with a large, unexpected expense, such as a major home or auto repair, would you have the funds readily available? If not, you might look at what may be your biggest pool of money — your 401(k) or IRA. But should you tap into these accounts well before you retire?

Maybe not — and here's why:

**LESS MONEY IN RETIREMENT**  
The more money you invest in your retirement ac-



counts, and the longer you keep it invested, the more you'll probably have when you need it most — when you're retired. Consequently, taking out sizable amounts from these accounts before you retire could be costly, as it would disrupt the benefits of compounding that can be achieved by holding investments for the long term.

**POSSIBLE BUMP INTO HIGHER TAX BRACKET**

The money you take out from your traditional IRA and 401(k) is taxable in the year

of withdrawal. So, if you withdraw a significant amount of money at once from your traditional IRA or 401(k), you could be pushed into a higher tax bracket, at least for one year.

**TAX PENALTIES**

If you take money out of a 401(k) or traditional IRA before you turn 59½, you could face a 10% tax penalty, although some exceptions exist. Penalty-free withdrawals can be made for several reasons, including for education and medical expenses, first-time purchase of a home (up to \$10,000), after the birth or adoption of a child (up to \$5,000) and more (see [irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557](http://irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557)).

With a Roth IRA, which is funded with after-tax dollars, you can withdraw contributions — but not earnings — at any time, for any purpose, without incurring penalties.

Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?

One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely

have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than

59½. But even if you don't leave your job and you do repay the loan, you'll still have taken away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your money compounds, you'll want to minimize disruptions.

Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six

months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.

Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.

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# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

**EVERY DAY**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.** Do you or someone you know have a problem with alcohol? Meetings daily at 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. at 1205 Lipan Hwy., Granbury.

**ACTON 12-STEP** Group. Meeting daily at 7 p.m. 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
**WOMEN'S WAY** Out AA-Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed discussion for women only. Meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. at 301 W. Bridge St. For more information call 317-772-8124.

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**STARTING A** New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 26 years this group has helped people work through their grief process. If you, or someone you know, is suffering from the

loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19. We are Christian-based, non-denominational and welcome all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the parish hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

**EVERY MONDAY**  
**PROMISES AL-ANON** group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S** in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m. A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

**GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK** seminar Sept 13. to Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by

StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175.

**PEDALING FOR** Parkinson's hosted by the Hood County YMCA will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45-minute spin/cycling session. Program will last 12 weeks. For more information call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**TAKE OFF** Pounds Sensibly (TOPS). 8:45-10:45 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133C, 500 W. Bluebonnet Dr. Maximum weight scale: 400 pounds.

**GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY** seminar and support recov-

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

**RE ENGAGE** marriage enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S** in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m. A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

**FIRST MONDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT** Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

**FIRST TUESDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS** support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

**SECOND SATURDAY**  
**GRIEF SUPPORT** group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community, location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight at 817-894-2449 or Danny Dwight at 817-219-9833.

**THIRD MONDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT** Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

**THIRD TUESDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS** support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Build-

ing at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

**FOURTH TUESDAY**  
**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT** Group, 1 p.m. at Lakestone Terrace, 916 E. U.S. Highway 377. Open for those with Parkinson's and their families wanting to understand more about this disease. Details: 817-999-1470.

**FOURTH SATURDAY**  
**GRIEF SUPPORT** group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight at 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight at 817-219-9833



**SUPPORT SYSTEM** calendar will feature recurring activities that provide group support and are open to the public. These items will run each Wednesday. Submit Support System listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

## ARPA

FROM PAGE A1

plained how the need for generators for the local fire departments and EMS stations was made apparent during the winter storm in 2021.

"Several of our EMS and fire stations had to operate with the bay doors open, which put the trucks and the equipment at risk of freezing," Samuelson said. "Water inside the pumps was at risk and could freeze. Some (members of the) volunteer fire departments actually brought heaters from their homes to try to keep the temperature in the base at least 32 degrees so that the equipment wouldn't freeze. Thanks to our resourceful grant writer and our emergency management director, they found a grant specifically for generators for first responders, but it does require a 25% match."

Samuelson explained the 13 generators are estimated to cost around \$500,000 total and

the remaining ARPA money would cover a 25% match up to \$480,000. She explained how an additional \$11,000 from capital would match up to \$525,000.

Hood County Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Campbell told the court she didn't have updated numbers yet on what the 13 generators would cost, but by her estimate, Samuelson's prediction was "probably pretty close."

"These are the generators that we've been talking to the fire departments for forever," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said, during the meeting. "So, I think y'all did a great job on finding the grant money that will get them. I think this is something that we need to do."

Campbell pointed out the grant would also benefit EMS facilities like Pecan EMS, Texas EMS and the new stations that are going to be built soon.

"So, everybody will have a generator," Massingill confirmed.

Ray Taylor, president of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire

Department and EMS, expressed just how beneficial the generators will be for the various volunteer fire departments around the county.

"We need these generators, just for the reasons spoken before — to keep everybody operational during the storm," Taylor said. "Our ambulances sat outside for a week, just so they wouldn't freeze. We had to leave them outside running. We couldn't get our bay doors open and closed, so that's the reason right there. We need it — for the whole county."

Samuelson then made the motion to approve funding the 25% generator grant match needed for the 13 EMS and VFD generators using \$119,494 of the ARPA grant fund, with any remaining match to be funded out of Fund 55. The Fund 55 expense would also not exceed \$11,000.

The motion carried unanimously.

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## LITKE

FROM PAGE A7

way. Mr. Rodriguez, in my opinion is of apparent conflict of interest for him to be on there, but it's not illegal. So of course, they told me in law school if it doesn't look good, you might not ought to do it, even if it is technically legal. But I am very happy that Mr. Harrell withdrew because he's filed to run for the county chair for the Republican Party, so I appreciate that."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson also spoke regarding the "school district's and city council's obvious conflict of inter-

est," by allocating votes toward the "sitting city council member, especially when there are well-qualified individuals that are willing to serve that present no conflict."

"Shame on us, the taxing entities, if we didn't learn anything from what played out in the spring and summer with the HCAD budget and the funds that were being held against the Texas tax code," Samuelson said. "We had a sitting city council member acting as an HCAD board member stand right here at our podium and argue that it was perfectly OK to keep these funds in a fund balance. However, that is

against the tax code. I have the tax code here. It's tax code 6.06J. Then a few days later, as a city council member, voted to reject the HCAD budget that he had presided over as president of HCAD. If that doesn't scream conflict, I don't know what does. Let me remind you that this dual role city council member had been on the HCAD board for 18 months at that time."

Samuelson also brought up another conflict that involved a "member that was president of the school district" who had presided over the formation of a Texas nonprofit corporation to "facilitate a real estate deal for the new appraisal building."

"As we learned, that land was owned by the school district," Samuelson said. "He also made the motion in 2021 to retain funds from the 2020 fiscal year excess budget of \$605,000 to put it into a land and building

fund. This account was not in the 2021 budget. And as you know, retaining excess funds is against tax code."

"There's quite a bit more to this, but I'll just make it short and say that I bring this all up to demonstrate the conflict that this creates when someone that's sitting on a taxing entity is also elected to serve on the board of the appraisal district. We have well-qualified candidates and people that are willing to serve that present no conflict. Why continue to take this conflict forward? Again, I call on the city council member to remove himself from consideration or step down. In closing, I dutifully support Mr. Litke."

Massingill then spoke during the meeting and argued that he doesn't think it's the duty of the commissioners court to "tell another elected body here in Hood County how they should vote."

"It's not our business to go up there and tell them, just like I don't want the city coming down here and telling the county officials how we should vote on county issues," Massingill said. "So, I disagree with Commissioner Eagle and with Commissioner Samuelson about that. I'm going to vote like I always do for the best interest of Hood County since I represent all of Hood County, not just people in one precinct. I want to do the best I can to get the best candidate always."

"Having said that, I do know Rod Litke goes to the same church that I do. I appreciate Ron Sutton, who was a great member on the appraisal board for his service for two years. It was a very interesting and significant two years. You did an outstanding job. And when he saw the resume of Rod Litke with his service, espe-

cially being able to appraise rural property, oil and gas and then to be on the department at Pricewaterhouse, that's really significant."

Samuelson then made the motion to allocate all 1,187 votes to Rod Litke for the board of directors of the Hood County Appraisal District for a two-year term to begin Jan. 1, 2024.

Before the vote, Eagle made one more comment.

"It is OK for us to disagree up here," Eagle said. "It's really OK. The judge can disagree with me, that's fine, but I'll stand with what I did."

The Hood County Commissioners Court then took the motion to vote and the motion passed unanimously.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

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# New e-cigarette law designed to protect youth will begin in January

**Staff Reports**

As of Jan. 1, 2024, it will be a crime in Texas to market, advertise, sell, or cause to be sold an e-cigarette product in certain containers designed to appeal to minors, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminded retailers in a press release.

"It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to minors — these products are dangerous and most contain nicotine, heavy metals and cancer-causing materials — yet these

products are intentionally designed to attract minors," Hegar said. "Texas has taken action to deal with this kind of deceptive marketing and I greatly appreciate the partnership with retailers across this state to help us protect one of our most vital resources: our children."

House Bill 4758 says a person commits a Class B misdemeanor that can lead to civil and criminal penalties if they market, advertise, sell, or cause to be sold an e-cigarette product and the

product's container meets any of the following criteria:

- depicts a cartoon-like fictional character that mimics a character primarily aimed at entertaining minors;
- imitates or mimics trademarks or trade dress of products that are or have been primarily marketed to minors;
- includes a symbol that is primarily used to market products to minors;
- includes an image of a celebrity; or
- includes an image that

resembles a food product, including candy or juice.

A violation can result in a Class B misdemeanor conviction punishable by up to 180 days in jail, a fine up to \$2,000, or both. E-cigarette retailers also can face civil penalties up to \$3,000 and a permit suspension or revocation for repeat violations.

More than 2.1 million high school and middle school students who participated in the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey said they use e-cigarette products, which

were the most popular tobacco product among youth users for the 10th year in a row.

The Comptroller's Tobacco Enforcement Program helps prevent children from obtaining cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. This vital public health mission requires constant vigilance and continuous effort on the part of parents, business owners, government officials and all concerned Texans. The Comptroller's office and

partnering agencies perform inspections for signage and employee compliance concerning the sale, possession and use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and tobacco products.

Violations of tobacco control laws can be reported anonymously by calling the Texas E-Cigarette and Tobacco Hotline at 800-345-8647 or by emailing tobacco.enforcement@cpa.texas.gov.



## BUILD

FROM PAGE A12

he recalled, a pilot called him and said his airplane was running "pretty rough," but felt he could still fly the plane to GAS to have Stowell look it over.

When Stowell opened the engine cowl and began inspecting the engine, expecting a loose wire, fouled spark plug or some such minor problem, he found instead one of the six cylinders had not just a loose wire or a minor crack, but a hole in it. "As I examined the engine, I could clearly see a hole the size of a silver dollar." Stowell held up his fingers and formed a large circle. "It was that big. 'How the heck was he able to fly the thing! Amazing.'"

GAS also works with the local chapter of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) called "Comanche Peak Support Group" or "CPSG." About a year ago, a 1930s vintage biplane called a Fleet Finch was donated to the Granbury chapter of the CAF. Stowell and a team of volunteers flew down to Brownsville to retrieve the

little plane.

Over the course of a full day, Stowell and the team documented and disassembled the plane, loading it onto a large trailer, and had it driven back to Granbury. The rebuild and restoration is currently underway in Stowell's hangar at the airport.

GAS has been a contract maintenance shop for the past four years for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in the state of Texas. In recent weeks, CAP paid a visit to Stowell's shop in Granbury and informed him that GAS is now the number one maintenance facility in Texas for the CAP fleet. CAP operates over 35 aircraft just in Texas and over 600 nationwide, including Cessna 172s, 182s, 206s and GA8s. CAP referenced CAS' commitment to detail, minimal down time between inspections, cleanliness and organization of his shop, citing those as the new standard for CAP. CAP is attached to the U.S. Air Force and is a nationwide program.

Stowell has met with the Granbury High School aviation and engineering students and has made available an introduction and

overview of aircraft mechanics program for the students. He is coordinating with GHS faculty to formalize an A&P (airframe and powerplant) apprenticeship.

Realizing the shortage of certified A&P technicians nationwide, GAS is listed by the Texas Labor Force as a certified A&P apprenticeship program partially funded by the state. GAS' direction is to have a positive impact in the local community overall, but especially in the aviation community by helping train the next generation of airplane mechanics.

Lastly, Stowell has been appointed by the FAA as a DME (designated maintenance examiner) designee. Stowell will be able to administer the FAA's oral and practical O&P exam for students working to finish their A&P certification.

GAS is a huge asset to Granbury Airport. Feel free to give Stowell a call and he'll be happy to show you around the facility. If you encourage him, he may even share a few of his many fascinating aviation stories — he has lots!

COURTESY PHOTO

Ron with hangar in background.

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**KNIEPER REAL ESTATE**

# Real estate signs, the color purple and trespassing



**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.

What do they have in common? First and foremost, it should be noted that real estate signs do not give you a license to trespass. It is always surprising to me when I hear about people opening gates and letting themselves in to explore rural and agricultural properties that are for sale. Folks ... that can be very dangerous, especially during hunting season when

so many large acreage tracts have been leased to hunters. I have a property listed right now that is leased to hunters. If you are interested in purchasing an acreage tract and want to walk or drive it, you should never assume it's OK just because there is a REALTOR® For Sale sign. Call the agent and get permission; crawling through a fence or entering a closed

gate without permission is considered trespassing according to the Texas Penal Code, and quite frankly, you could end up being criminally charged. Worse yet, you could get hit by a stray bullet from a hunter.

This also applies to homes that are for sale. If there is an Open House sign, you can consider that an invitation to walk right in. But a For Sale sign has a phone number on it for a reason. Be smart, call the number and make an appointment. Knocking on the door without an appointment is a very bad idea, walking around the outside without an appointment is

an even worse idea. I know a land surveyor who was hired to survey a property (with a house on it) who failed to make an appointment. While completing his survey he hopped the back fence to gain access to the backyard and was promptly greeted by the homeowner who was pointing a shotgun at him. This could have ended very badly.

And finally, a bit of "not so common knowledge." The color purple brings to mind many things, a hit movie for one. It is considered the color of royalty and wealth. If you are a graduate of TCU, you "bleed purple," and if

you live in Texas, you should think twice before crossing a vertical purple line on a tree or fence post unless you have permission.

Texas is one of a few states that use purple as an official warning color, unlike much of the rest of the world where orange is used to identify hazards. So effectively, in Texas, purple is the new orange. If a property is fenced, posted with at least one sign, or marked with purple paint, it is illegal for anyone to enter, and the fine or jail time for trespassing in Texas can be up to \$2,000 or up to 180 days.

Let common sense be

your guide when approaching any property with a real estate sign on it. Think of it this way. If that property or homeowner wanted to let strangers in and show it themselves, they would not have hired a REALTOR®.

As always, if you have questions about this article or any questions about Real Estate, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com). We would love to hear from you.

[pamK@knieperteam.com](mailto:pamK@knieperteam.com) / 817-219-0456

## PEARL FROM PAGE A6

Memorial to reflect on the day and unveil a new memorial for Pearl Harbor as well as a piece of the USS Arizona obtained by the City of Granbury in August. The piece is from the deck-house superstructure of the battleship that was sunk in Pearl Harbor during the attack.

The event also featured a presentation of colors from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and a visit from Senator Brian Birdwell of Texas Senate District 22. The United States flag was lowered, and "Taps" was performed by Tolar High School band member Nic Merkle.

The Tolar High School band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" as well as "The Tears of Arizona." The band previously had the opportunity to visit Hawaii for the 80th anniversary of the attack. Band members also hand delivered "challenge

coins" to both survivors of the attack and active-duty service members.

"This meaningful dedication by the City of Granbury is sure to remind the city's residents and visitors of the heroic contributions of valued military service members who made the ultimate sacrifice at Pearl Harbor and to evoke in every American a sense of patriotism and pride in our nation's rich history," part of the proclamation read.

After the event was over, attendees were able to get a firsthand look at the piece of the USS Arizona as well as the new statue. The piece of the USS Arizona will be displayed in a glass case at Granbury City Hall for community members to see.

Schools across Granbury, Lipan and Tolar ISD all told the history of the attack and informed the students on what the day means.

No matter how many years go by, the United States will never forget the significance and impact Dec. 7 had.



Senator Brian Birdwell of District 22 reads an official proclamation noting Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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*“Even though we didn’t get the win, I’m glad I was with this team, and I got to wear Tolar on my chest.”*

*-Isaac Blessing*

## Rattlers fall short of state title Still memorable season

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The Tolar Rattlers were in search of history Wednesday, Dec. 13 at AT&T Stadium. They were a part of it, but unfortunately on the wrong end as the Timpson Bears were making their own history.

In fact, Timpson quarterback Terry Bussey made history twice in the first half as the Bears went on to win the first state championship in program history, 49-7 over the Rattlers, who were seeking their inaugural title.

Despite the loss, the Rattlers (14-2) enjoyed the best season ever for the program. They eclipsed the 2022 squad that finished 13-1 and reached the state quarterfinals.

This was the first time for both Tolar and Timpson to play in a state final. The Bears had been eliminated in the semifinals each of the past three seasons.

“I’m so proud of these guys. They showed up from July 31 to Dec. 13 and went to work,” Tolar coach Jeremy Mullins said. “It was awesome. You dream of this moment.”

“A lot of coaches never get to coach in this kind of game in this atmosphere. I’m so grateful to the players and our coaches for making this season so special.”

### BIG PLAYS EARLY

Timpson (16-0) used a pair of history-making plays to take a 21-0 halftime lead.

Leading 7-0, Bussey - who has committed to play at Texas A&M - had back-to-back record-setting touchdowns.

On the first play following a Tolar punt by Brooks Stone that pinned the Bears at their own 3-yard line, Bussey found Dacorion Johnson, who broke through the Rattlers defense for a 97-yard TD. It was not only the longest scoring pass in 2A history, but in all classifications in a state final.

Then, after another punt by Stone that put Timpson on its own 4, on the second play of the possession, Bussey found a seam in the Tolar defense, did a tiptoe on the sidelines to stay in bounds, and raced 93 yards to the end zone. It was the longest scoring run in 2A history.

“You have a plan, but a guy like that, he’s made a lot of players miss,” Mullins said of Bussey. “In a game like that, you’ve got to click early, and we didn’t.”

### SECOND HALF BACKBREAKERS

It seemed the Rattlers were on the verge of getting back on the game when Timpson recovered an onside kick to set them up at the Timpson

43. From there, with quarterback Isaac Blessing picking up 34 of the yards, they marched downfield, with Blessing scoring from a yard out to close the gap to 21-7 at the 8:10 mark of the third quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, however, Timpson’s Amari Bruton returned it 78 yards. Just like that the Bears were back up by 21, 28-7.

On Tolar’s next possession, a tipped pass on fourth down was intercepted by the Bears’ Nate Scourton and returned 49 yards to the Tolar 6. On the next play, Bussey muscled his way into the end zone for a 35-7 Timpson lead with 4:32 left in the third.

### JOINING ELITE COMPANY

The Rattlers accomplished something no public school football team has done in Hood County in almost six decades. Not since the 1966 Granbury Pirates has a public school team played for a state championship.

Unfortunately, like the Rattlers, those Pirates came up a game short.

“When you put it like that it’s really neat,” Mullins said. “This group of guys has been awesome.”

### A MEMORABLE RIDE

The only way this season could have been more memorable for the Rattlers would have been to hoist the state championship trophy. Still,

it was a season that provided many memories for the players to talk about for the rest of their lives.

“I moved here my sophomore year and it’s been special,” senior linebacker Jaxon Riddle said. “I’ve never felt more at home with a team. I looked forward to waking up every morning and going to football.”

Senior quarterback Isaac Blessing added, “Even though we didn’t get the win, I’m glad I was with this team, and I got to wear Tolar on my chest.”

Also, the team earned the right to play on the same field as the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL in one of the nation’s most famous sports arenas.

“It still doesn’t feel real,” Riddle said. “I never got nervous, never got excited, just didn’t believe it was happening.”

“But it’s cool, a pretty cool stadium.”

Class 2A Division I state final at AT&T Stadium, Arlington  
Timpson Bears 49, Tolar Rattlers 7

Tolar 0 0 7 0 - 7  
Timpson 7 14 21 7 - 49

Tim - Colton Carroll 43 pass from Terry Bussey (Tyler Lane kick)  
Tim - Dacorion Johnson 97 pass from Bussey (Lane kick)

Tim - Bussey 93 run (Lane kick)

Tol - Isaac Blessing 1 run (Brooks Stone kick)

Tim - Amari Bruton 78 kickoff return (Lane kick)

Tim - Bussey 6 run (Lane kick)

Tim - Johnson 44 pass from Bussey (Lane kick)

Tim - Bruton 36 pass from Bussey (Lane kick)

Statistics

Team

First downs: Tolar 15, Timpson 15.

Rushes-yards: Tolar 53-157, Timpson 20-178.

Passing yards: Tolar 71, Timpson 311.

Caught-thrown-intercepted: Tolar 8-22-2, Timpson 12-15-0.

Punts-average: Tolar 6-38.2, Timpson 2-36.5.

Fumbles-lost: Tolar 0-0, Timpson 0-0.

Penalties-yards: Tolar 3-40, Timpson 4-20.

Third-down conversions: Tolar 6-of-19, Timpson 2-of-6.

Fourth-down conversions: Tolar 3-of-6, Timpson 0-of-1.

Total offensive plays: Tolar 75, Timpson 35.

Time of possession: Tolar 31:27, Timpson 16:33.

Individual leaders

Rushing

Tolar: Blessing 32 carries, 108 yards, TD; Garrison Nation 6-27; Peyson Brown 15-22.

Timpson: Bussey 10-155,

2 TD; Nate Scourton 2-19; Chris Nickleberry 4-16.

Passing

Tolar: Blessing 8-of-22, 2 interceptions, 71 yards.

Timpson: Bussey 12-15-0, 4 TD, 311 yards.

Receiving

Tolar: Brylen Feist 2 catches, 21 yards; Kelvin Murray 1-13; Nation 1-11; Matthew Behrens 1-9; Clayton Stembridge 1-9; Drake Owens 1-7; Brown 1-1.

Timpson: Johnson 6-187, 2 TD; Carroll 2-55; Bruton 2-46; Nickleberry 1-20; Scourton 1-3.

Punt returns

Tolar: Stembridge 1-38.

Kickoff returns

Tolar: Talan Culberson 3-50, Caden Pate 1-19, Stembridge 1-15.

Timpson: Lane 17, JaCayden Adams 13, Baylor Kimbro 10, Scourton 8.

Sacks

Timpson: Lane, Adams, Scourton.

Interceptions

Timpson: Scourton 1 (returned 49 yards), Bruton 1 (no return).



# GHS Stowaways experience 'magical' challenging performance at Dallas Holiday Parade

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

The Granbury High School Stowaways were filled with Christmas spirit and cheer as they danced the morning away during their third-year performance in the Dallas Holiday Parade Dec. 2.

The drill and dance team had already been invited to perform in the parade for the last two years, but then on Oct. 19, news regarding a third performance in the Dallas Holiday Parade was officially revealed to the Stowaways.

Presented by HTEDance, the Dallas Holiday Parade is the city's largest one-day, outdoor event, according to the event's website. Full of larger-than-life floats and spirited marching bands, the festive parade travels through the streets of downtown Dallas with over 450,000 onlookers, making it one of the largest parades in the country, according to visitdallas.com.

GHS Stowaways Director Shelby Sargent told the HCN Dec. 7 that this year's parade



The Granbury High School Stowaways were filled with Christmas spirit and cheer as they danced the morning away during their third-year performance in the Dallas Holiday Parade Dec. 2.

COURTESY PHOTO

was "really magical." A last-minute float change, however, served as a fun

challenge for the team when the girls had to quickly adapt and learn new choreography.

"Our float ended up changing the last 10 minutes before we stepped off for the

parade and so the girls had to adjust all of their choreography last-min-

ute," Sargent said. "I say that because they're such professionals and I'm so proud of them for how they handled the situation."

Sargent explained that once a drill team is invited to perform in the parade, HTEDance sends out a choreographer to each school to teach the team specific dance moves for the parade. Each team is also assigned a holiday theme complete with costumes to accompany a float.

The first year, the Stowaways performed as candy cane girls, and last year, they were toy soldiers. This year, the girls performed as birthday cake accessories to go along with their birthday float.

Sargent said before the last-minute float change, the girls had planned to dance to a pre-recorded "Jingle Bell Rock" song, but then a live vocal artist was asked to perform "The Man with the Bag," on top of the float.

"It was a good change," she

PLEASE SEE **PARADE** | B8

# Granbury High School volleyball player named All-State

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Granbury High School junior volleyball player Allyson McCabe was named Volleyball All-State by the Texas Girls Coaches Association for the 2023 season.

To be nominated for All-State a player must be nominated by a coach. Up to 50 athletes may be selected per conference.

McCabe is a setter and was also named District 5-5A First Team All-District, Academic All-District and selected to the AVCA Phenom Watch List.

During her junior season, McCabe registered 991 assists (7.5 assists per set), 476 digs, 35 aces and nine blocks. She also surpassed 1,000 career assists.

"I'm honored to be named as All-State for the first time with such a talented group of athletes. I love all and appreciate all the support I got from my coaches this season," McCabe told the HCN. "This season was full of amazing moments including our win against Northwest (High School). I believe we were underestimated after a tough pre-season, but we didn't give up and went 9-3 in our district. Making the All-State team makes me want to work even harder on and off the court."

The team competed in the UIL Class 5A Playoffs and advanced to Area after a bi-district championship win over Arlington Heights.

"She is a great leader on and off the court and she pushes all of her teammates

to be the best that they can be. She is not the tallest, so she has busted her butt to become a threat at the net as well as leading our offense," GHS volleyball coach Des Shahan said in a Granbury ISD news article. "If we do not have her on the court, we would not survive because she is the glue to our team."

When it comes to next season McCabe is looking forward to helping her team go far again and play alongside hitters Blakey Bleeker and Sienna Watts. McCabe added that her ultimate goal is to play volleyball in college and noted she is in the recruiting process now. She hopes to find a school that plays high level volleyball and has a good team culture as well as an interesting academic program.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury High School junior volleyball player Allyson McCabe was named Volleyball All-State by the Texas Girls Coaches Association for the 2023 season.

# Schools react to realignment cutoff numbers

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

Tolar is moving up, while Granbury and Lipan are staying put — for now, at least.

When the University Interscholastic League released its enrollment cutoff numbers for the upcoming biennial realignment Friday morning, Dec. 8, it foreshadowed what lies ahead. For the

Rattlers and Lady Rattlers, that means competing at a higher level next season as their reported enrollment of 282 students moves them into Class 3A for 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

The Rattlers football team, which was playing Timpson for the Class 2A Division I state championship at press time, will compete in 3A Division II. However, much like the rest of the programs

at Tolar have been doing, the football team played higher competition in preparation for district play and beyond.

In fact, three of Tolar's four pre-district opponents in football this season are in Class 3A, with all three making the playoffs, one reaching the third round and another the second round. The Rattlers' lone loss as of press time was to Dallas Christian, which recently won

a third consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III state championship.

"We are a growing community and that was expected to happen," Rattlers football coach and Tolar Athletic Director Jeremy Mullins said. "Tolar has the support to be successful in 3A."

"It's always interesting to see what new districts you land in, but at the end of the

day that's out of our control."

Tolar is 28 students over the cutoff line for remaining in 2A. With the maximum enrollment for 3A being 544, Tolar goes from being one of the largest in its classification to now being one of the smallest.

### HOPING TO KEEP RIVALRY

Among the changes that will come with Tolar moving up: the Rattlers and Lady

Rattlers will no longer compete with rival Lipan in the same district. Lipan does not play football or volleyball, but in all other sports the teams have competed regularly.

Last season the rivalry reached a peak in boys basketball as the Rattlers and Indians played three times, including in the 2A Region

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# Lipan Indian boys' and girls' basketball teams to play on big stage

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Lipan High School boys' and girls' basketball teams get the chance to play on the big stage at American Airlines Center in Dallas, home of the Dallas Mavericks, on Dec 20.

This is not the first time the district has had a chance at this opportunity as they played there eight years ago, according to Brent Gaylor, boys basketball coach.

"It is a pretty neat experience for everyone as it will be most of the players' only opportunity to do something like this," Gaylor told the HCN. "Many of our players have never even been to an NBA (National Basketball

Association) game much less gotten to play an actual game on the same court and in the same venue as NBA players. I know they are excited and looking forward to it. I hope it's a neat experience that they will remember forever."

The Lady Indians will play at 1:30 p.m. against the Bullard Lady Panthers with the boys' game following immediately afterward against the Ector Eagles. The students will then get to watch the Dallas Mavericks face the Los Angeles Clippers at 7:30 p.m.

"It's like something crazy to think, because I've never played in such a big arena. Watching the NBA at night as a kid in Italy and now playing in their arena is something

crazy," foreign exchange student Alberto Andretta said.

Tickets for the game must be purchased through the link on the Lipan ISD website. Tickets purchased are Maverick's game tickets that will give access to both high school games and the Mavericks game. Fans will sit on the lower-level section 106-107 for the high school games and will sit in purchased seat locations for the Maverick's game. Fans will be asked to exit the arena after the high school games are over and will be able to re-enter the doors at 6 p.m.

For additional questions, reach out to Marquie Greene at marquie.greene@dallas-mavs.com or 214-658-7607.







PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Things got ugly on Thursday, Dec. 7 in the GHS Auditorium, when The Pride Of Granbury Pirate Band presented their annual GHS Holiday Band Concert. In the spirit of celebrating the holidays with their favorite band, both audience and performers were encouraged to "get cozy" and wear their favorite ugly Christmas attire. A bake sale and Poinsettia raffle fundraiser took place during and after the performance. Donned in a festive Christmas suit, Granbury High School Principal Jamie Robinson delighted the audience and band alike when he commanded the stage as an esteemed guest conductor.





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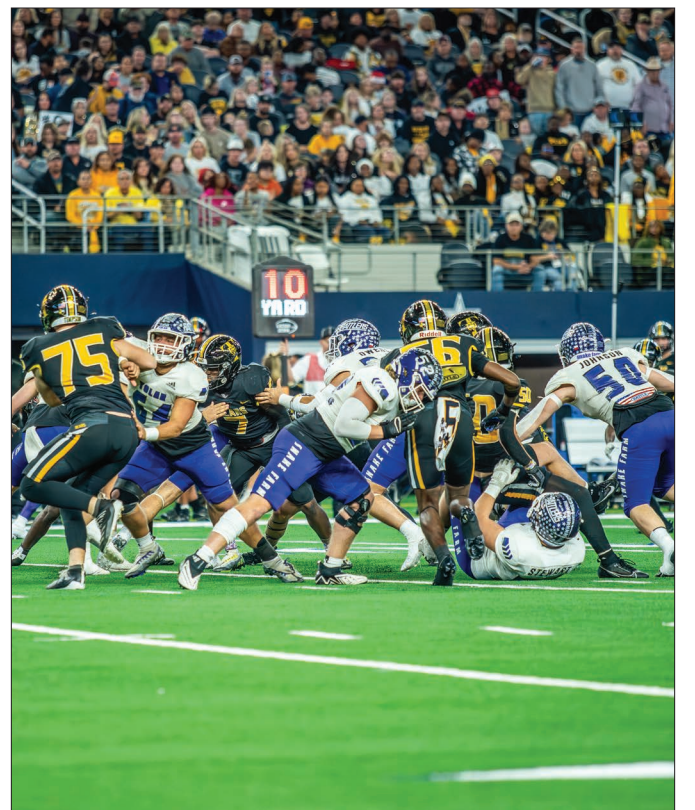
PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cheered on by their Fans the Tolar Football Team Heads to the 2A Division I State Championship game. The buses rolled down 377 escorted by Hood County Sherifs and the Tolar Volunteer Fire Department

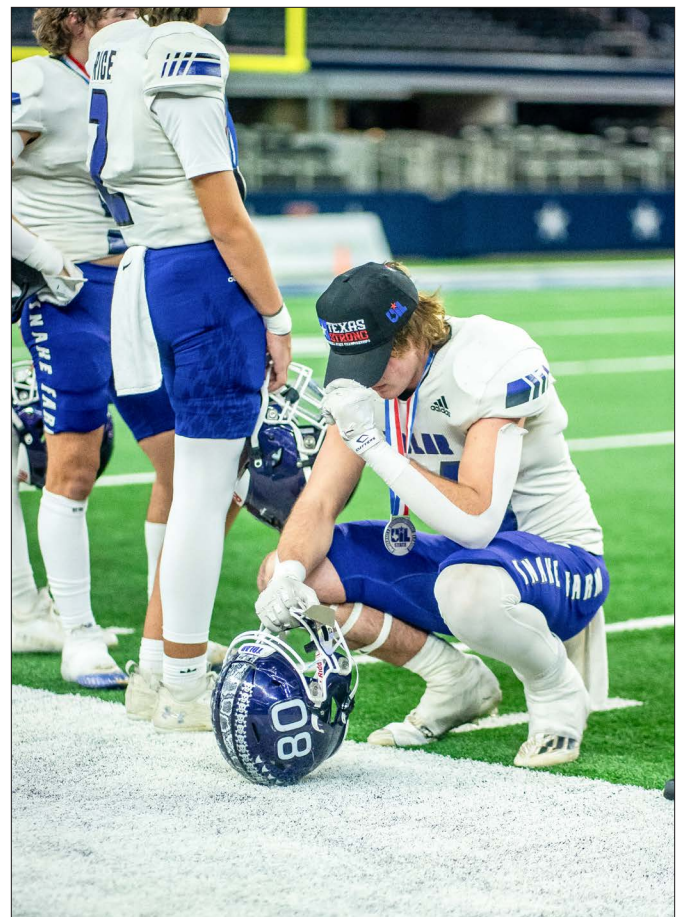


PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar Rattlers fight hard at 2A Division I State Championship game at AT&T Stadium Wednesday, Dec 13. Despite the loss they had a great and memorable season.











# Pirates third in tourney

## Lipan squads playing at AAC

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

The Granbury Pirates finished third in a tournament for a second consecutive week, this time in the Glen Rose Jurassic Classic as they won three of four contests over this past weekend. The Pirates (12-5) opened with a 59-50 victory against Liberty Hill and followed with a 54-50 win over Wall. They fell to Georgetown in the semifinals, 59-48, as Georgetown went 8-for-8 at the free throw line down the stretch and bounced back with a 73-56 victory against Springtown as almost five players reached double figures in scoring.

"I think our team chemistry, hopefully, improved out of some adversity," Pirates coach David Breazeale said.

The Pirates were led in scoring by:

Vs. Liberty Hill - Jenaro Reyes 12, Murphy Page 12, Kensington Colston 11.

Vs. Wall - Colston 10, Page 10, Couto 9.

Vs. Georgetown - Colston 16, Page 10, Dylan Couto 10.

Vs. Springtown - Page 12, Couto 12, Colston 11, Isaiah Trejo 9, Houston Main 8.

The Granbury sub varsity also enjoyed a good tournament. The junior varsity took first place, and the freshmen were second in their divisions.

The Pirates returned to play Monday, hosting Richland. They won 58-57 as Reyes led with 14 points, while Page scored 12 and Couto added 10.

Granbury was playing at Boswell at press time. They compete in The Colony

Tournament Dec. 28-29 to wrap up 2023.

The Pirates are 5-0 in games decided by four points or less and 4-0 in games decided by two points or less.

### GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates (9-7, 0-1 in District 5-5A) defeated visiting Everman 50-33 on Dec. 8 as Ella Garner (17) and Fayth Fry (15) combined to almost score as many points as the Lady Bulldogs' entire team.

The Granbury JV also won 38-13 and the freshmen won 34-16.

Tuesday, Granbury was home again to Brewer to open play in District 5-5A and fell 62-44. They were led by Fry with 14 points and Garner added 11.

The Lady Pirates were hosting Azle in their second district game at press time and step back outside of district to travel to Midlothian on Dec. 19 for a 6:30 p.m. tipoff. They are competing in the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock Dec. 28-30.

### LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians (14-3) and Indians made a trek to Abilene Christian University on Dec. 8 for a pair of contests. The Lady Indians, defending state champions and No. 2 in the state in Class 2A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC), took on Lubbock Cooper, No. 22 in Class 5A.

Cooper jumped out to a 16-5 lead after the opening quarter and kept Lipan at bay the rest of the game en route to a 56-46 victory. Lipan ended the game with an 18-10 run in the fourth quarter after falling behind by 18 through

three stanzas. Hannah Gaylor led Lipan with 38 points, which included four three-point baskets, an 8-for-10 performance at the free throw line and nine two-point baskets.

The Lady Indians began District 11-2A play Tuesday at Ranger, winning 65-16.

Lipan was led by Alisha Green with 15 points and 6 rebounds, while Ashlyn Clark added 12 points and Vega Colas scored 8. Gaylor and Madison Cornelius each grabbed 5 rebounds.

Lipan was playing at DeLeon at press time and hosts Poolville Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m., both District 11-2A games. Then, on Wednesday, Dec. 20 they and the Indians will travel to the American Airlines Center in Dallas - home of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks - where the Lady Indians will play Class 4A Bullard at 1 p.m.

"We are thankful for the support of the school and the community to be able to go play at the AAC," Lady Indians coach Amber Branson said. "We've done it once before back in 2015. I think being able to play on that court in that environment, and hang around and go to the Mavericks game, is a fun experience for the kids."

The Mavericks are hosting the Los Angeles Clippers that night.

The Lady Indians will end 2023 by playing in the always tough Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament Dec. 27-29.

### LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

In their portion of the doubleheader at Abilene Christian, the Indians (11-3, No. 14 in the state in 2A) came from behind to defeat Forsan 46-35. Lipan trailed



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lady Pirates huddled up before the game on Friday evening.

25-18 at the half but outscored Forsan 28-10 in the second half.

Darius Steed paced Lipan with 21 points and eight rebounds. Court Gaylor scored 15 with 7 rebounds and 5 assists, while Alberto Andreatta added 10 points, 9 rebounds and 4 assists.

The Indians were playing Windthorst at press time. They host Poolville, No. 16 in Class 2A, to open District 11-2A on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7:45 p.m. before facing Ector at 2:30 p.m. in their half of the doubleheader at the AAC on Dec. 20. They will join the Lady Indians in the Tenaha tourney.

### TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

Despite a rough outing in the Poolville Tournament, the Rattlers (5-9) remain ranked No. 3 in the state in Class 2A by the TABC. They were slated to be home for the first time since Nov. 17 Tuesday against Grandview, but the game was canceled in preparation for Wednesday's Class 2A Division I state championship football game featuring the Rattlers and Timpson.

Tolar was back on the road at press time, playing at Jacksboro. They host Lake Worth Monday, Dec. 18 at

7:30 p.m. and play in the Eula Tournament Dec. 28-30.

### TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (10-7) went 2-3 over the weekend in the Poolville Tournament. They began with a 42-37 win over Victory Christian, dropped a 42-40 thriller to Windthorst, fell 47-40 to Lubbock Christian, defeated Bethesda 73-12 and fell 47-37 to Windthorst in the consolation final.

Leading Tolar in scoring were:

Vs. Victory Christian - Senne Imel 16, Trinity Rousseau 14.

Vs. Windthorst - Imel 16.

Vs. Lubbock Christian - Imel 17.

Vs. Bethesda - Rousseau 18, Kamryn Kolb 17.

Vs. Windthorst - Imel 18.

Imel was named all-tournament.

The Lady Rattlers were on the road at Santo to begin District 11-2A action Tuesday. They won 42-20 as Imel paced Tolar with 11 points.

Tolar was hosting Hico at press time in another league contest. They will compete in the Eula Tournament Dec. 28-30.

### ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Hood County is well represented in the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State honors.

Team tennis: Granbury - Kaden Bohny, second team; Katie Childs, honorable mention.

Volleyball: Granbury - Bailey Blum, second team; Lauren Franco, second team; Peyton Johnson, second team; Kylie Moody, second team; Maddix Owens, honorable mention; Brooke Marak, honorable mention.

Cross country: Granbury - Alec Wilkinson, honorable mention; Bryce Young, honorable mention.

Football: Granbury - Blake Dennis, second team; Kanon Lightfoot, second team; Cooper Silva, second team; Alan Orocio, second team; Reid Wyss, second team; Carter Grubbs, second team; Sammy Estrada, second team; Tyler Rodgers, second team; Parker Temple, second team; Mann Vaghashia, second team; Davin Jones, honorable mention; Cameron James, honorable mention. Tolar - Isaac Blessing, second team; Abigail Gannon (student trainer), second team; Clayton Stenbridge, honorable mention.

# Lady Pirates win

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School Lady Pirate basketball team beat the Everman Bulldogs 50-33 on Friday, Dec. 8.





# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Texans roll Hardin-Simmons for Division I era record fifth-straight victory

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State men's basketball extended its winning streak to five games with a 92-56 defeat of Hardin-Simmons on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (7-2 overall, 2-0 WAC) improve their longest winning streak of the D1 era and move to 3-0 at home this season. Tarleton now owns the all-time series with the Cowboys (5-3, 2-0 ASC), 5-4, after playing for the first time in 31 years.

Lue Williams led the squad in scoring posting 16 in just 16 minutes of action. KiAndre Gaddy and Jakorie Smith also posted double-figure scoring totals with 13 apiece.

The Texans saw 13 different players take the floor

with 12 recording at least a bucket. Adam Moussa led the team with three assists in nearly 18 minutes off the bench. Traivar Jackson posted a career-high seven points and led the team with a pair of blocks. Bubba Benjamin led the Texans with six boards and added eight points including a behind-the-back reverse slam dunk in the second half. The Tarleton bench contributed for 37 points, the most this season.

The Texans jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the first minute of the game. The Cowboys executed their biggest run of the night with a 7-0 burst to take their first lead of the contest, 16-15. Tarleton would swap buckets but used an 11-0 run to pull out to a 44-28 lead.

Williams led the Texans in the first half with 14. As

a unit, the squad shot 18-for-36 from the floor, a 50% clip. The Cowboys three-point shooting kept them close, knocking down seven from beyond the arc at a 50% rate.

The Texans picked back up where they left off coming out of the locker room in the second half. Tarleton scored the first 11 points after the intermission to take a 59-33 lead with 17:14 remaining in the game.

The Cowboys were unable to get back on track after the first three minutes and were nearly doubled by the Texans in the second half, 44-23.

Tarleton made 18 buckets again in the second half, but this time at a 58.1% clip. The Texan defense forced the Cowboys to shoot two-for-eight in the half from beyond the arc.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State men's basketball extended its winning streak to five games with a 92-56 defeat of Hardin-Simmons on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans shot 54.5% from the floor improving their record to 26-0 in the D1 era when shooting 50%

or better. The Purple and White forced 24 turnovers while committing only half. The Texans won the

battle of the boards, 40-28 and posted 18 steals. The Cowboys tallied eight blocks in the contest.

## Todd Whitten named UAC Football Coach of the Year; 9 Texans earn All-Conference honors

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — In one of the most successful seasons posted by a reclassifying program, it's only fitting that Tarleton State Football earned numerous awards, announced by the United Athletic Conference Friday, Dec. 8.

Head coach Todd Whitten was named the United Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, and nine Texan football players made All-Conference first or second team. Four Texans were UAC First Team All-Conference, two on offense and two on defense. Running back Kayvon Britten and center Tuli Teuhema were on First Team Offense, joined by linebacker Qua'Shawn Washington and defensive back Patrick Jones on First Team Defense.

On All-Conference Second Team, there were three on offense, one on defense and one on special teams. Wide receiver Darius Cooper, offensive lineman Layton Ernst and offensive lineman Hunter Smith made Second Team Offense. Defensive lineman Josh Griffis was named Second Team Defense, and running back Deangelo Rosemond made Second Team Specialists as a returner.

Overall, Tarleton's nine All-Conference players were the second most among all nine conference programs, only behind Austin Peay. Only the Texans and Governors had multiple first team offensive players and first team defensive players. Tarleton also had the most second team offensive players (three).

As for Whitten, he was one of five to earn a superlative award in the conference. It marks his seventh all-time Coach of the Year award, his sixth coming straight from the conference itself. It's his second time being named the conference Coach of the Year over the past five seasons. Whitten led the Texans to second place in the inaugural United Athletic Conference season, taking his team 8-3 overall, 4-2 in conference play. The Texans

finished four spots better than predicted by the UAC head coaches entering 2023, as they were voted to finish sixth in the 2023 Preseason UAC Coaches Poll.

The Texans had the complete package this year across all three areas; offense, defense and special teams. On offense, the Texans finished in the top-two in every important category, taking second (13th FCS) in points per game (33.3), second (14th FCS) in yards per game (430.5) and first (11th FCS) in yards per play (6.4). Defensively, the Texans proved to be explosive, finishing first in the conference (tied-fourth FCS) in defensive touchdowns (four), first (tied-ninth) in fumble recoveries (11), first (tied-28th FCS) in sacks and first (17th FCS) in yards per play (4.76). On special teams, the Texans led the conference (eighth FCS) in average kickoff return (24.3 yards), had no blocked kicks nor blocked punts, and were second (fourth FCS) in average punt return (18.2).

Whitten's Texans opened the year 2-0 with back-to-back 52-point games, winning at McNeese to start the season before beating conference opponent North Alabama by three touchdowns at home. After a loss at Texas Tech, the Texans cruised over Southwest Baptist, then Whitten earned his 100th career victory at Tarleton State with a 14-13 win at preseason Southland Conference favorite Southeastern Louisiana. The Texans had consecutive losses after that, coming in the last moments of the game in each, a one-point loss to Southern Utah and a double overtime loss at Eastern Kentucky. After that, the Texans rolled, winning four straight to end the year — a 42-0 shutout of Morehead State, a 25-23 road win at No. 18 ranked Central Arkansas, a 59-17 drilling of Stephen F. Austin, and a come-from-behind 31-30 win at Abilene Christian in the season finale.

Whitten, who is already the winningest coach in Tarleton Football history, now has a 104-53 (.662) all-

time record for the Purple and White across 14 seasons, and a 129-81 (.614) spot all-time as an NCAA head coach (19 seasons). His eight wins this year marked the most by the Texans at the NCAA Division I level. Since 2018, the Texans have the highest winning percentage among all Texas D1 and D2 programs (.727, 48-18). They also have the longest active streak of winning seasons in the state at six.

Britten earned his second straight First Team All-Conference award, following First Team All-SWAC honors playing for Arkansas-Pine Bluff last season. In 2023, he was one of the best running backs in the nation, finishing with 1,150 yards on 183 carries (6.3 yards per rush) and 16 rushing touchdowns. He scored in 10 of Tarleton's 11 games, averaging 104.6 rushing yards per contest. He added 106 receiving yards and a touchdown on 11 catches, finishing with 17 total touchdowns on the season. Conference-wise, Britten was first in rushing touchdowns (16, third in the FCS) and total touchdowns (17, tied-fifth in FCS). The next closest in rushing touchdowns was at 10, and total at 14. He was second in total rushing yards (1,150, ninth in FCS), rushing yards per game (104.6, tied-11th FCS) and yards per rush (6.3, 21st in FCS). In conference play, Britten led with 10 rushing touchdowns (next closest was at six) and was second at 744 rushing yards. In program history, Britten had the sixth most rushing yards in a single-season and the eighth most rushing yards per game in a single-season. Since 1977, Britten finished with the tied-third most rushing touchdowns in a single-season in program history, tied with Gaylon Bowser's 16 rushing scores in 1987, only behind Xavier Turner's 22 touchdowns in 2018 and Derrick Ross' 22 touchdowns in 2004. Britten scored three touchdowns in a game twice, once in the season opener and another in the season finale. He capped off the year and

Tarleton's comeback victory with three rushing touchdowns and 176 yards on 22 carries. He had four 100-plus rushing yards on the season, all over the last five games, rushing for a season-high 187 yards at Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 14, doing so on 18 carries (10.4 YPC).

Teuhema started all 11 games at center for the Texans in his first year on the team. He was part of an offensive line that provided the best rushing attack in the United Athletic Conference, with the Texans posting 201.7 rushing yards per game, most in the UAC and 12th most in the FCS. They averaged 5.2 yards per rush (second in the UAC, 17th FCS) and went for 25 rushing touchdowns (most in the UAC, 16th FCS). Overall, the Texans averaged 33.3 points per game (second in UAC, 13th FCS), 430.5 yards per game (second UAC, 14th FCS) and 6.4 yards per play (first UAC, 11th FCS). Teuhema and the Texan offensive line allowed just 14 sacks all season, the tied-third fewest in the UAC and the tied-18th fewest in the FCS. They allowed just 3.91 tackles for loss per game as well, the second fewest in the UAC, 10th fewest in the FCS.

Washington wrapped up his Tarleton career with First Team honors after being named Second Team All-WAC last season. A UAC Preseason All-Conference selection, Washington finished the year with 68 total tackles (42 solo), three fumble recoveries, 3.5 tackles for loss, three quarterback hurries and two pass breakups in 10 games. His three fumble recoveries were the tied-most in the conference (tied-third most in the FCS), while his 6.8 tackles per game were tied-16th most in the UAC. He was the UAC Defensive Player of the Week after Tarleton's Nov. 4 win over Stephen F. Austin, where he recorded two fumble recoveries, 10 total tackles and two pass breakups. He logged a season-high 12 tackles, with one fumble recovery, two tackles for loss and a quarterback hurry in Tarleton's conference-open-

ing win over North Alabama Sept. 9.

After earning Second Team All-WAC honors at linebacker last year, Jones made the switch to DB this season and got the UAC First Team All-Conference nod. Jones finished with the most tackles on the team at 73 (49 solo). He also logged the third most pass breakups (six), had an interception return for a touchdown in the season opener, added a forced fumble and a quarterback hurry in 11 games. Jones posted a season-high 11 tackles in the conference opening win over North Alabama Sept. 9, finishing with 11 tackles and a pass breakup. He opened the year with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter to seal a win over McNeese. In the season finale, he had a pivotal forced fumble that helped boost Tarleton to a comeback win over Abilene Christian. He had three games with 10-plus tackles on the season.

Despite missing four games due to injury, Cooper still finished with the tied-most receiving touchdowns on the team (five), the second most receiving yards (622) and the second most receptions (28). His 88.9 receiving yards per game was best on the Texans, the best in the United Athletic Conference, and the 11th most in the FCS. He had the tied-10th most receiving touchdowns in the conference. Preseason All-UAC and Preseason All-American this year after taking All-WAC First Team honors a season ago, Cooper had two multi-touchdown games, which coincided with his two 100-plus receiving yard games. He had a season-high 168 yards on five receptions and two scores against Stephen F. Austin Nov. 4. At Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 14, he finished with 149 yards on six catches and two touchdowns, coming down with a 30-yard TD in overtime on 4th and 15 to keep the game alive. In conference play, Cooper led the UAC with 91.4 receiving yards per game. He had the tied-third most receiving touchdowns (four) and the

third most receiving yards (457).

Last year's Second Team All-WAC offensive lineman had another exceptional year for the Texans. Ernst started nine games for the Texans on the offensive line and shined alongside Teuhema and Smith. Smith got the starting nod this year and had a breakout campaign as he started all 11 games. Mentioned before, the Texan offensive line provided the best rushing attack in the United Athletic Conference and allowed just 14 sacks all season, the tied-third fewest in the UAC and the tied-18th fewest in the FCS. They allowed just 3.91 tackles for loss per game as well, the second fewest in the UAC, 10th fewest in the FCS.

Griffis exploded at the end of the season, especially in conference play, finishing with five sacks, 8.5 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, eight quarterback hurries, 12 total tackles and a pass breakup. Over his past four games, he had a sack in each contest, including a forced fumble in each of the last three games. His best game of the season came in Tarleton's season finale win against Abilene Christian, where he had a strip sack fumble, two tackles for loss and three solo tackles. Griffis led the Texans in sacks, tackles for loss, forced fumbles and quarterback hurries. In the UAC, Griffis was second in forced fumbles (three), third in sacks (five) and tied 10th in tackles for loss (8.5). In conference play, Griffis had the most forced fumbles (three), the tied-third most sacks (three) and the tied-11th most tackles for loss (4.5).

Rosemond served as Tarleton's primary kick returner all season, averaging 25.7 yards across 18 returns (462 total yards). He had three returns go for 50-plus yards, two for 60-plus yards, with a season-long kick return of 65 yards against North Alabama Sept. 9. He had the most total kickoff return yardage in the UAC and averaged the second most. Only one other player in the UAC had a kickoff return go for 60-plus yards, and he posted two of them.



## CUTOFF

FROM PAGE B2

II final. Lipan won all three meetings en route to the 2A state championship, but the Rattlers had their best season in team history, winning 31 games.

With both teams state-ranked again this season, the rivalry is expected to remain strong. The Rattlers are ranked No. 3 in the state

in Class 2A and the Indians are No. 14.

Rattlers coach Scott Richardson said plans are in the works now to continue the rivalry with nondistrict contests.

"It's a fun atmosphere," Richardson said. "We've always played a tough schedule at Tolar. Our district is one of the best in the state and has prepared us for the move up. We are looking forward to the challenge."

## AD SAYS STAYING PUT GOOD FOR PIRATES

The Granbury Pirates and Lady Pirates will continue to compete in Class 5A as they reported 2,249 students and the cutoff before moving up to 6A is 2,274.

That also places the Pirates football team in 5A Division I again. Athletic Director Dwight Butler hopes their geographical situation changes, however. This past

season the Pirates' football district included Red Oak, Midlothian, Lake Belton, Killeen Shoemaker, Killeen Ellison, Killeen, Waco and Cleburne.

"I think it's good for us and hopefully we will get back to a district closer to home," Butler said. "With Saginaw and Chisholm Trail dropping (from 6A to 5A), then Azle, Brewer, Cleburne and Aledo all being (5A) Division I for football, we have a real

chance to stay closer to home, I hope."

## LIPAN

Nothing changes for the Indians and Lady Indians over the next two years as well. They will remain in Class 2A after reporting an enrollment of 139 and the cutoff being a minimum of 105 and a maximum of 253.

## MORE TO COME

Now that teams know

their classification, in less than two months many will learn in which district they will compete and alongside whom.

The 2024-26 alignments will be released Feb. 1, 2024 for football, basketball and volleyball. District alignments for other activities will be released at a later date. More information about UIL alignments can be found at <http://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>.

## PARADE

FROM PAGE B2

said. "We were dancing to her music, and it was really cool to have that collaboration with the vocal artist on our float, and the girls just really enjoyed the experience and soaked it in."

She explained that a similar experience happened to Sargent herself when she was

a performer and stressed how important it was for her team to prepare for a last-minute change.

"We actually trained for scenarios like that during the practices," Sargent said. "It's a life skill. How do you handle pressure? How do you adapt quickly? And how do you make things work for the performance aspect of it? We practiced for those types of scenarios, so they were able

to adapt quickly and that's an aspect of showbiz that people don't always see."

Sargent previously told the HCN she was most excited about the 11 new Stowaways team members getting to share in a unique experience together for the first time — especially as they learn how to dance through televised areas.

"It's very different than just walking in a parade," she pre-

viously told the HCN. "The parade stops and starts because you have performances in the televised areas, and you have to know when you're coming up to the televised section."

But Sargent also explained that the girls are professionals and they handled the challenges "like champs."

"They were amazing. You would have thought they'd been on TV a million times before," she said. "I am

amazed every year at them. Sometimes that can be stressful, but they just performed, they smiled and they were eating it up. They were just really feeding off the crowd and enjoying their energy and putting that into their performance."

Sargent added she hopes the team gets invited to perform in the parade for a fourth time.

"We won't know if we are

invited back until probably August, but I'm gonna go ahead and put it on the calendar as a tentative date, so that way we can start planning for it — but fingers crossed we get asked back again," she said. "The girls just really enjoy it every year. It's something really special that they love being a part of."

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**SUDOKU**  
Solution for the puzzle on Dec. 9 (Puzzle 60).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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December 16

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In stories and real life, underdogs are the ones people might underestimate or overlook. Maybe it's the little turtle racing against speedy hares, or the shy kid in class who turns out to be an amazing artist. Underdogs face challenges and setbacks, but they never give up.

The coolest thing about underdogs is their hidden superpowers - not the kind with capes, but the power of heart, resilience, and hard work. They teach us that everyone, no matter how small or quiet, has something incredible inside.

So, if you ever feel like an underdog, remember you're in excellent company! You have your own unique powers waiting to shine. Embrace challenges, believe in yourself, and get ready to show the world the amazing things you can do!

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**Color Time**

**Famous Underdogs**

Here are some incredible underdogs who became heroes in their own stories:

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Harry, a young wizard, was just an ordinary boy living with his not-so-nice relatives. Little did he know, he had magical powers and a destiny to defeat the dark wizard Voldemort. Through courage and friendship, Harry showed us that even the most unlikely heroes can change the wizarding world.

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In the movie "Rudy," a small guy with a big dream fights against all odds to play football for Notre Dame. His determination and heart inspire us to never give up on our dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem.

**MATILDA**  
Matilda is a clever little girl with magical abilities who triumphs over her mean headmistress and discovers her love for learning. Matilda reminds us that our uniqueness and intelligence are powerful tools to overcome challenges.

**MOANA**  
Moana, a spirited island girl, sets sail across the ocean to save her people. Even though she faces enormous challenges and a fiery lava monster, Moana's bravery teaches us that anyone, no matter how small, can make a big difference.

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# Granbury FFA Senior Agricultural Quiz team places 10th in state

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

Four Granbury High School students have accomplished a goal they have been working toward all year.

Seniors Cadence Morisette, Sarah Boyd, Kelley Sanders and Andrew Nickell placed 10th in the Senior Agricultural Quiz contest during Texas FFA's State Leadership Career Development Events (LDE) in Huntsville Friday, Dec. 1.

The Texas chapter of Future Farmers of America is the nation's largest state FFA association with a member-

ship of more than 156,000 active FFA members, according to the Texas FFA news release. FFA programs teach skills in leadership, career development and personal growth. FFA gives students the opportunity to practically apply classroom knowledge to real-world experiences through local, state and national competitions.

According to the Texas FFA Association website, Leadership Development Events focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities in public speaking, decision making, communication and

their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization. Team and individual events are used to reinforce what is taught in agricultural science classrooms.

All LDE events have elimination rounds at the district and area before the state level competition.

Granbury's Senior Agricultural Quiz team qualified for the state competition by finishing first in one of the state's 66 district competitions and first in one of 12 area competitions.

PLEASE SEE FFA | B10



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury High School FFA Sponsor Trey Keys, left, said his students, Cadence Morisette, Sarah Boyd, Kelley Sanders, and Andrew Nickell, did well in the Senior Agriculture Quiz contest, especially since it involved a 150-question test.

## HOOD OUTDOORS

### Cold water equals slow presentations; Striped bass like to feed in harsh weather



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.

Most people think the warmer days on the water in the winter yield better fishing. This may be true for some species, but I can tell you the colder the day early in the winter season tends to result in better fishing as long as you slow your presentation down. Striped bass have a reputation of feeding during the worst possible weather. In really bad weather, most of us won't go out; however if it's bearable, the avid angler will fish in cold, windy, raining or even snowy conditions as they know these fish will bite when it's cold.

The colder weather early in the winter season with water

temperatures in the upper 40s to middle 50s is prime for striped bass to feed. The colder weather pushes and congregates the baitfish to the warmest spot in the lake which is on or near the channel bottom. The baitfish are lethargic in the cold water and are easy targets for predators.

Many of the predator species gorge themselves in the winter. I am sure they start the fall feeding frenzy and continue on into the winter. The striped bass species is more active than other native species in the colder water. Regardless of the species, this is the time the fish are developing their eggs/

silt for the upcoming spawning season in the spring which is another reason for the winter feeding.

Now, fish will bite on those warmer days as well, but don't rule out the colder days. Watch the moon phases if you can and pick your times to get on the water. Some days early will be best and other days the afternoon bite may be better. Get on the water early, attempt to locate the fish with your electronics and work your baits until they feed. Birds may assist you in locating those feeding fish.

Overcast days are typically better as well, though I have seen the fishing turn on when the sun starts to break through. You never totally know for sure, but if I had a choice, overcast conditions are generally preferred during fishing in any season. Bird action seems to be more

prevalent on those overcast days due to actively feeding fish pushing bait to the surface.

If you can locate the fish, I like to use 3 to 5-inch soft plastics (flukes/swimbait) on a jig head worked real slow. Either a slow troll or "dead sticking" which means essentially no movement at all. When you feel the hit, set the hook. The slow bait mimics a lethargic bait and is an easy catch when the other real bait scatters.

If you are going out in the cold be careful. Dress for the occasion and watch your every step. Launching and loading boats, slippery docks and the danger of hypothermia if you fall in the cold water are real.

I have mentioned that river fishing this time of the year is great for sand bass, crappie, catfish and striped bass. Work the flat adjacent to the

deeper holes on river bends. One great place locally besides the Tin Top area above Granbury is the river below Granbury near Kimball Bend.

#### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury water temperatures are in the middle 50s and falling slowly. Lake Granbury is about a foot low. Some great sand bass are being caught on many areas of the lake and in the river above Granbury on 10-foot flats adjacent to the deeper water. Striped bass are moving and can be caught from Striper Alley on the lower ends to the bend by the Peninsula. Large yellow and blue catfish are good on cut shad on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Largemouth bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on a variety of soft plastics worked slowly near main lake points and near

laydowns on the upper end. Crappie catches are good on small jigs on the upper ends in the river above Granbury and near structure near Water's Edge and upstream near Bentwater subdivision.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) warm water at this power plant lake is drawing in the winter bass anglers and most have not been disappointed. Good blacks to 8 pounds are possible on soft plastics worked near ledges and in the creek channels on the upper ends. Tilapia reports have been good as well, with folks catching as many as they want using cast nets. Channel catfish limits continue to be caught on prepared baits. Comanche Creek is open Thursdays to Sunday and reservations are required.  
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# Acton Nature Center 'going solar' in upcoming energy lecture Jan. 2

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

The Acton Nature Center will be "going solar" next month for its community lecture series on solar panels set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center, 6430 Smoky Hill Ct.

Dave Moore, Texas master naturalist, will present the lecture as he talks about his own personal experience with being a new solar energy homeowner.

"I had been thinking about it for several years," Moore told the HCN. "I've been looking at ways to reduce my carbon footprint, and I've been contemplating buying an electric vehicle, so I figured that would be a nice combination. If I had solar panels, I could use it to charge my electric vehicle, so I've been kind of bouncing around the idea for many years."

Moore decided to finally bite the bullet last summer and had solar panels installed on the roof of his home in July.

He explained that the main

point he wants to touch on in his lecture is for an individual to first figure out their motivation behind wanting to go solar, as their motivation can have "significant changes and hardware" involved.

"What's your objective?" Moore said. "Are you trying to reduce your electric bills? Are you trying to protect yourself from a grid outage? Are you contemplating buying an electric vehicle and want to use them to charge that? Are you trying to minimize your carbon footprint? A lot of those decisions come with increasing costs dependent upon what you're choosing."

Once the motivation is determined, he said they can then move on to solar panel terminology and the various options available, from basic systems to off-the-grid operations.

Although getting solar panels installed is not the right move for everyone, many individuals seem to have the same question: Will it save money on electricity bills?

"It will (save money); it's

just a question of when," Moore said. "And that's one of the things to consider because it's not necessarily a no-brainer to go to install solar just for the purposes of saving money because there's a pretty good upfront expense, and it may take several years to pay that off."

Moore added that if someone is contemplating purchasing an electric vehicle — or they already own one — going solar could potentially help homeowners save money on any unnecessary charging costs.

"If they're careful about how they charge it with the home solar system, they can potentially avoid any kind of charging costs for the vehicle," he explained. "Obviously, there's no gasoline involved, and they can charge the vehicle completely off their solar panels, which would potentially be a big cost saver, as well as really helping with our carbon footprint."

Moore revealed there are also some "significant tax credits available" for solar homeowners.

"Thirty percent of the cost of your solar, you can offset with a reduced tax burden, so there are a lot of incentives out there right now from recent legislation," he explained.

He added that during the lecture he will also discuss battery backup systems, how weather can affect solar energy, and some data from his "real-world experience" in his first-year operation with solar panels.

"Data from my first year's report from my system said the greenhouse gas emissions saved from my solar panels were the same as four passenger vehicles driven in one year," Moore said.

"That's also equivalent to carbon sequestered by 25 acres of forests in one year."

Moore said his background in serving as engineering director and plant manager at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose has helped in learning about solar energy, but the average homeowner does not need to be an engineer to get it installed in their home or to reap the potential benefits.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Moore, Texas master naturalist, will present the lecture as he talks about his own personal experience with being a new solar energy homeowner.

"One of the things I want to make sure people understand is this is not a sales job," he added. "I'm not in the business of selling solar systems. I just thought if anybody's contemplating it or wants to learn a little bit more about it and see what the homeowners' experience

has been, that's what this is all about."

Anyone not able to come to the lecture can register for the Zoom link by sending an email to [actonnaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:actonnaturecenter@gmail.com). [ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) / 817-573-1243

## FFA FROM PAGE B9

In the statewide tournament, more than 5,000 entries were submitted in a total of 15 different events, which reflect classroom instruction in basic leadership skills.

Trey Keys, GHS FFA sponsor, told the HCN that Texas

FFA had previously sent out a breakdown of every contest, noting the Senior FFA Quiz LDE event had 885 teams that had entered this year.

"Each team is four people, and they add their scores up," Keys said. "Of 885, 24 (made it to state) through the elimination process, so there were only 24 teams at state." Keys explained the

competition involved a 150-question test, which is divided into three different categories.

"A third of the test is over FFA knowledge, another third of the test is over parliamentary procedure, and then the remaining third is over a variety of questions that pertain to current agriculture issues, like farm facts and possibly current

legislation issues that affect rural Texas," he explained.

Keys said he is impressed with his team, especially for doing so well on a "tough test."

"You know, to take a test and study for something like that, they're definitely self-motivated, self-driven kind of kids that want to be successful and want to compete," he said. "We want

all of our kids to be successful, so it's good that they got to witness that. They're all seniors, and they've been trying very hard to accomplish that goal, so it was good to see that they made it to state."

Keys added that he trains several different teams, and the goal is to get as many teams to the state competition as possible.

"This year at area, we had four teams and the other three teams that we took were just one place out of advancing to state," he added. "So, we're on the verge of getting a lot of teams to state, and that's what we like to see at Granbury — success."

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Thank you to all our entrants & congrats to all our winners!





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**Yaxeni**

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## AVIVA Granbury celebrates renovations



PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

AVIVA Granbury celebrated its completed renovations after a six-month long process by holding a ribbon cutting with a special visit from CEO and Chairman of AVIVA Chris Finlay on Dec. 7.

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

**A**VIVA Granbury, an independent living, assisted living, and memory care center for seniors celebrated the completion of its renovations at a celebration that featured a ribbon cutting Dec. 7.

The celebration was attended by many members of the community who came to support the renovations as well as a special visit from AVIVA's CEO and Chairman Chris Finlay. Entertainment was provided by 92.1 Hank FM and Granbury's very own Mysterious Scoundrels.

The property was bought a year ago by Finlay and turned into AVIVA. Finlay knew renovations and updates were needed and the building underwent six months of

renovations.

The renovations included new flooring, furniture and updates to the dining hall as well as technological updates. The technological updates include keyless entry to rooms and a new system to keep tabs on all residents to ensure safety through fall detection and GPS systems.

Executive Director Chris Ibarra said during the celebration the changes were

PLEASE SEE AVIVA | C2



Erin Wilde, a radio host from 92.1 HANK FM interviews a resident of AVIVA Granbury during a celebration event.



## The Nutcracker Reimagined

*A Christmas Delight by the Brian Clowdus Experience*

Staff Reports

The Brian Clowdus Experience is bringing a fresh take on the Nutcracker story to Hood County beginning Wednesday, Dec. 20 and continuing through Saturday, Dec. 30 at the Langdon Center in Granbury.

The Nutcracker is the most popular ballet of all time. Originally composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1892, it was commissioned by Imperial Russian Ballet choreographer Marius Petipa to accompany Alexandre Dumas' adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffman's story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

Performed many, many thousands of times throughout the world, the stories vary slightly with some common themes typically present from performance to performance. In Clowdus' version, the story follows young Clara, who has recently lost her father as she is taken into

a magical world with a beloved Nutcracker doll.

Clowdus endeavors to envelop the audience at each of his performances with an immersive experience. The idea is that the attendees will feel a part of the production, to be swept away so to speak.

Hood County residents and visitors are fortunate to catch a Brian Clowdus Experience show as these events only take place in a couple of locations in the country. Clowdus, who hails from Alabama, enjoys bringing performances to historic Granbury which is a favorite location of his. He previously brought "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "A Christmas Carol" and "Charlotte's Web" to Granbury. The historic town provides the perfect backdrop for classic stories with a fresh retelling.

Clowdus believes fans of the classic Nutcracker production will be delighted by this new ap-

proach and those who typically find the classic ballet too long will be happily captivated by the hour-long show. The Brian Clowdus Experience packs a lot of entertainment into the hour; the show includes both ballet and circus-type elements.

Tickets are available at [brian-clowdus.com/performances/nutcracker](http://brian-clowdus.com/performances/nutcracker). General admission prices range from \$34 to \$59 based on availability and day. Military and first responders may use code ThankYou15 to receive a discount. Youth tickets are available to those 12 and under. VIP tickets include a souvenir glass with a beverage as well as an intimate Christmas carol sing-along with the cast as an option.

Most of the event takes place indoors but there are some parts that are outdoors; if rain becomes a problem the show will be postponed for 30 minutes. Ticket protection is available.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGE MEDIA

A performer from the Brian Clowdus Experience's retelling of the Nutcracker.



# Mission Granbury celebrates 25th anniversary

## Announces the establishment of the Kenneth Hill "Heart of Servitude" endowment fund

Submitted item

Well over 250 people came together Saturday evening at the Lake Granbury Conference Center to celebrate Mission Granbury's 25th Anniversary. Hood County News publisher, Sam Houston, spoke about the milestones and growth Mission Granbury has experienced in the last two-and-a-half decades. Following a moving video about the impact the organization has on the community, Houston recognized and thanked the organization's founders, Shirley Hooks, Toni Brown-Belew and Dr. Bill Boyd who, along with Norma Wright, started Mission Granbury in 1998.

The highlight of the evening was when Board President Marilyn Luton and Executive Director Dusti Scovel announced the establishment of the Kenneth Hill "Heart of Servitude" Endowment Fund for Mission Granbury. Since 2019, the Board of Directors has held firm to the vision of establishing an endowment fund as a part of their intentional long term strategic plan. This permanent fund represents long term

financial stability and sound fiscal responsibility, both for current leadership and those who follow in their footsteps. It is the best path for ensuring Mission Granbury will always be there to help those in need and in crisis. At a special reception earlier in the evening, Mission Granbury's Executive Director Dusti Scovel and Board Member Debbie Temple paid special recog-



COURTESY PHOTO

PLEASE SEE GALA | C4 Mission Granbury Gala held Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Residents of AVIVA Granbury enjoy the new renovations of the center while mingling at an event that took place on Dec. 7.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

AVIVA Granbury residents mingle during an event that took place on Dec. 7 to celebrate many different renovations and upgrades.

### AVIVA FROM PAGE C1

necessary and vital for the residents.

"We are so thankful for all of the community support during these renovations and are so glad to make a

safer and more comfortable living space here for our residents," Ibarra said during the celebration.

There is a second AVIVA property located in Fort Worth, but Finlay noted the involvement of the community in Granbury is

strong, and said the town is amazing.

"This could not have been possible without the wonderful team of people here," Finlay said during the celebration. "These properties are all about people and we are so thankful for all of the

people that work here and that made these renovations come to life."

"What's most important is that our seniors are safe and comfortable," Finlay told the HCN. "With these technology updates, we are most likely the safest senior center

locally."

Finlay told the HCN he hopes to continue to grow and expand AVIVA all over and possibly even create more locations in Hood County.

For more information on AVIVA visit [avivagranbury.com](http://avivagranbury.com), email at [agr@avivase-niorliving.com](mailto:agr@avivase-niorliving.com) or call 682-498-3471. AVIVA Granbury is located at 2300 Paluxy Hwy. It operates Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cresson Community Church lay leader and council member Katie Bryant, left, is pictured with Phyllis DeRoos, praise and worship leader and church council secretary.

## Cresson Community Church rebrands, expands ministry to Cresson Pods

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer

After almost 130 years of serving the Cresson community, one local church has recently undergone a complete rebranding, with members of the congregation choosing to expand their ministry to other residents and families.

### PART OF HISTORY

The Cresson Community Church — formerly named the Cresson United Methodist Church — was first formed in 1894, back when some of the original Cresson families were members.

“The Mileses, Teiches and Puttees were some of the original families,” said church lay leader and church council member Katie Bryant, who explained she became a member of the church about 20 years ago. “My husband, Jim Bryant and I, we had just moved out here and I was pregnant. I was looking for a church as I really wanted to baptize my baby.”

After traveling to different churches around the area and not finding a good fit, the Bryant family was later driving down the road when Kenneth Teich waved them down. Thinking he was having a medical emergency, Katie instructed Jim to stop, but instead, the gentleman wanted to invite the family to his church.

“He said, ‘We would love for you to come to our church, Cresson Methodist Church,’ and I said, ‘OK, we’ll try it out,’” Katie told the HCN.

Although the congregation was small, Katie said she instantly felt at home. She then chose to become a member, where she has stayed ever since.

Former Acton Elementary School teacher Phyllis DeRoos was asked to become a piano player for the church about 25 years ago.

DeRoos, the praise and worship leader and church council secretary, explained that the church was “thriving” back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, but later dwindled in numbers.

ing” back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, but later dwindled in numbers.

### REBRAND

Currently, the church only has about 30 members, but both Bryant and DeRoos are expecting to grow that number since the church’s disaffiliation with the Methodist Church on July 1, and the congregation’s current rebranding.

“We’ve disaffiliated from the Methodist Church, and that was a really hard decision to make,” Bryant said. “It was hard on the congregation. I won’t say it split us, but I would say that the devil definitely tried to fracture us. But this was the turning point for us, I think, because we realized how much we loved our church and how important it was to us, and it really made us all kind of raise up, be our best, and really kind of pull together. I think as a result of that, we’re stronger than we’ve ever been.”

DeRoos explained that it was the day of her father’s burial around July 18 when the church members really began talking about the rebranding.

“We are actively at this point seeking God through prayer, and just the study of his inerrant word,” she said. “We’re 100% on that.”

### MINISTRY OUTREACH

While the decision to disaffiliate from the Methodist Church was a difficult decision, both Bryant and DeRoos feel that they made the right move, as it allows the congregation to stay true to the Bible, plus grow the church’s current out-



Phyllis DeRoos, left, and Katie Bryant, right, now host children and family events with the Cresson Pod community as part of the Cresson Community Church’s new rebrand and revival.

reach ministry.

“We’re still a small group, but we’re reaching out and seeing what our ministries might be in — and we’re happy to have a little presence over at the Pods,” DeRoos said.

For the past few months, church members have gone out to the Cresson Pods community to share the gospel of Jesus with residents and their children as part of the church’s new outreach ministry goal.

“Children have been my life,” DeRoos said. “I was a schoolteacher forever, so just one experience with a child can influence them for life.”

Every third Thursday at noon, members of the Cresson Community Church travel to the Cresson Pods to give children a Bible lesson, snacks, music, and arts and crafts.

“Not just planting a seed in the child’s life but planting the seed of God” Bryant said. “That is where you

seek help and seek strength to be saved. When they get into challenges, they might reach back and say, ‘You know, I’m gonna try to pray,’ and that’s all I want. Of course, I want them to have more than that, but if we can offer that seed to them, it’s life changing.”

So far, the church has held a back-to-school event, along with a Halloween and Thanksgiving event at the Pods. The Pods’ Christmas event will be Thursday, Dec. 21, at noon.

During the back-to-school event, Bryant explained it was hard to round up church volunteers because of the summer heat.

“We were kind of just playing music and walking around and people would open their doors, and they were like, ‘I can’t come right now,’ and I said, ‘Well, can I pray? Do you have any prayer needs? I’d be glad to pray with you,’ and everybody is open to that. Always. Nobody ever says

‘No.’ They’re usually like, ‘Yeah, I’d love that,’ so we’ve just reached out in that way, too,” she said.

As far as other community ministry outreach events, Bryant explained that they’re not done yet by any means.

“We are getting (new members),” she said. “It’s been a blessing. People have come back, and we have some new people that feel the same way we do. We’re still evolving. We have a church council, and we have a new chairperson coming in January, so we’ve kind of rewrote our own bylaws, and we’re pretty happy with that. We can do whatever we want to do. We never could have that freedom before.”

“We feel the Lord led us to work with the Pods and then, you know, whatever else we can do,” DeRoos said.

“We’re just trying to put ourselves out there,” Bryant added. “At this point, we’re leaving it to God, and he’ll

show us the needs. He definitely put a care in our hearts for (the Cresson Pod community).”

DeRoos added that her goal is to get young families to join the congregation, as they can help come up with new ideas and events to grow the membership.

“We really are dedicated and doing what God would want us to do, and that is reach out to the community and be of service for others — and that’s our focus,” Bryant said. “As a result of that, I think (God’s) blessing us twofold.”

The Cresson Community Church is located at 110 S. Crook St., across from the fire hall in Cresson. The church service is held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, follow the Cresson Community Church Facebook page.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



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# Nostalgic noel: A journey back to Christmas in the '60s



COURTESY PHOTO

Christmas in the '60s was a time when the world was a whirlwind of change, but the holiday spirit remained as timeless as ever.

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

**A**h, Christmas in the '60s! It was a time when the world was a whirlwind of change, but the holiday spirit remained as timeless as ever. I was a child of the '60s, and the memories of Christmas from that time are still so vivid. Let's take a jolly jaunt down memory lane, shall we?

**ANIMATED CHRISTMAS SPECIALS: THE HEART OF THE HOLIDAYS**

The 1960s is when television reached a tipping point in this country, and by the mid-'60s, most homes had one. Nothing heralded the arrival of the festive season quite like the animated Christmas specials on TV. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was the crown jewel of them all. Who could forget the lovable Peanuts gang? Snoopy, with his doghouse decked out in festive flair; Lucy, offering 5-cent psychiatric advice to anyone who'd

listen; Schroder, lost in his Beethoven renditions; Linus, philosophizing life with his trusty blanket, and Charlie Brown, finding the true meaning of Christmas in the most unassuming of trees. These characters weren't just cartoons; they were old friends visiting for the holidays.

Then there was "Frosty the Snowman," narrated by the imitable Jimmy Durante. I confess tears were shed every time Frosty melted, a reminder of the fleeting nature of holiday magic. And let's not forget "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." To

this very day, it really isn't Christmas until I hear Burl Ives sing the title song and "A Holly Jolly Christmas." These shows weren't just entertainment; they were a cherished tradition.

**THE ALUMINUM CHRISTMAS TREE: A SHINY SYMBOL OF THE ERA**

Another great memory is our aluminum Christmas tree when I was little. While they may seem ridiculous in 2023, aluminum Christmas trees were all the rage in the early-to-mid-'60s. EVERYONE had them. And when you had that rotating color wheel to put under that aluminum tree, it created quite a colorful light show! I would sit for what seemed like hours watching that tree change colors. You must remember this was the '60s, and the TVs with their four channels quit broadcasting at midnight, so we had to entertain ourselves any way we could! LOL!

**FAMILY GATHERINGS: THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HOLIDAYS**

Christmas was also a time for family. I always looked forward to seeing family we usually only saw on holidays. I was the youngest kid in the family, so my siblings and cousins were quite a bit older than me. But I had a second cousin who was a year younger than me, so I always looked forward to the holidays when Freddy would be around. Our holiday antics are the stuff of family legend. From sneaking extra cookies to staging impromptu Christmas plays, our youthful energy was a gift in itself. I'm sure our older siblings and cousins might see it differently, but this is my article, so...

**A FEAST FOR THE AGES**

Christmas also meant food and lots of it! Ours was a family of great cooks, and sometimes, looking back, I think they must have all

been trying to outdo one another because there was more food than any 10 families could eat, and it was ALL good! Turkey, ham, roast; potatoes in at least five different variations, from mashed to au gratin; okra, green beans, corn, and all sorts of peas and beans. And the dessert tables (notice I said tables, plural) would have made Julia Child envious!

**RANDOM REMINISCENCES: THE FABRIC OF FESTIVE FUN**

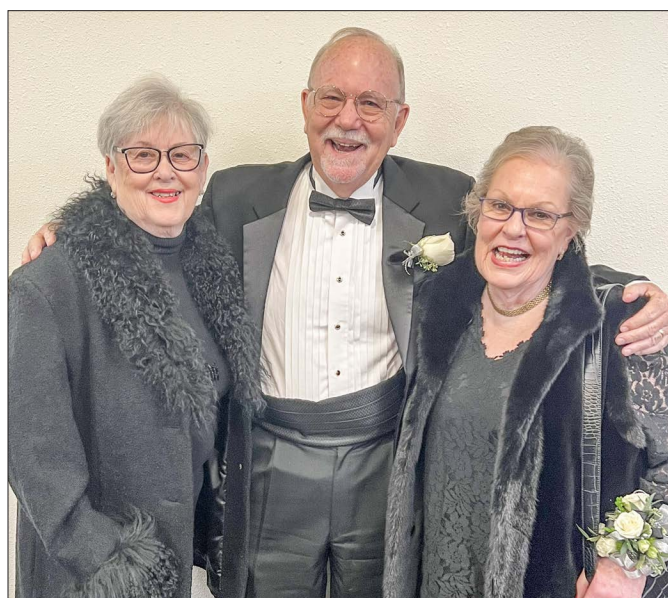
Christmas in the '60s had its own unique flavor. The holiday tunes on vinyl records, the tinsel that seemed to find its way into every nook and cranny, the excitement of leafing through the Sears catalog, dreaming of Santa's bounty... these are the threads that weave the tapestry of my Christmas memories.

There was also the thrill of Christmas Eve, trying to stay awake to catch a glimpse of Santa, only to fall asleep and wake up to the magic of

Christmas morning. The joy of unwrapping presents, the laughter echoing through the house, and the sense of togetherness made it all the more special.

So, there you have it, a peek into my treasure trove of Christmas memories from the '60s. It was a time of simplicity, joy and family. These memories, tinged with nostalgia, remind us that while times may change, the essence of Christmas remains the same — a time of love, laughter and the magic of togetherness.

As we deck the halls this year, let's remember the Christmases of yesteryear and carry forward the spirit of those bygone holidays. After all, Christmas is not just a day; it's a feeling, and in the '60s, we felt it in spades. Merry Christmas, everyone, and may your holidays be as bright and joyful as an aluminum Christmas tree under a rotating color wheel!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Mission Granbury Gala held Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023.



**GALA**

FROM PAGE C2

...nition to other community partners who work alongside Mission Granbury or provide ongoing support during the year. The Foundation Award was presented to Jake Caraway for "believing in the work we do and helping us realize our VISION to renovate the Food Pantry and Resource Center to meet the current and ongoing needs of the community." Judge Ron Massingill was recognized with the Heart of the Community Award for "his commitment, compassion and unwavering support for the many hands and feet who work to help

the underserved." The Hope and Dreams Award was presented to Hood County Children's Charities in recognition of their invaluable partnership with Mission Granbury and other community non-profit organizations to help children in need. First National Bank was presented with the Tidal Wave award for their "unprecedented support in all corners Hood County and for giving hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to support and strengthen the community."

For more information about Mission Granbury and their programs, see [www.missiongranbury.org](http://www.missiongranbury.org) or follow them on Facebook.





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# DAR presents awards at annual Christmas luncheon

From Staff Reports

The Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held its annual Christmas luncheon at DeCordova Bend Country Club Saturday, Dec. 2.

Brigadier General Robin Akin, regent of the chapter, served as master of ceremonies for the festive event, while Liberty Phillips, co-founder and president of Operation Meatball, provided the keynote speech.

Operation Meatball is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and remembering WWII, Korean War and Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans of other foreign wars, and connecting today's youth with the veterans.

Phillips is also founder of Bridge to History: Connecting Our Future to the Past, an education program to give children a hands-on experience and understanding of WWII. The intensive overseas program brings students to the very places where history was made including visits to cemeteries, monuments and bunkers, and engaging with our international neighbors who experienced WWII firsthand.

Phillips was presented with the DAR's Women in American History Award which honors notable women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities. She also received an American flag that has flown over the State Capitol.

The DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal was presented to Kerre Randel-Ortegel, founder and president of Holidays & Heroes, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to show military families they are not alone and that people in the community truly care about them.

Holidays & Heroes supports enlisted military service members who are active, reserve or guard during the Christmas holidays and at events held throughout the year. It provides Christmas gifts for the military families, hosts a large Christmas celebration, provides families with Thanksgiving turkeys, and much more.

The DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal is presented to an individual who exemplifies honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism.

Special guests attending the Christmas event includ-



COURTESY PHOTO

Brigadier General Robin Akin, regent of Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, left, is pictured with Liberty Phillips of Operation Meatball. Phillips was awarded the DAR's Women in American History Award, which honors notable women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brigadier General Robin Akin, regent of Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, left, is pictured with Kerre Randel-Ortegel, founder and president of Holidays & Heroes. Randel-Ortegel was awarded the DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal, as she exemplifies honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism.

ed Brian Birdwell, Texas State Senator District 22; Colonel Greg Akin, U.S. Army, retired; Colonel Jackie Vaughn, USANG, retired, and his wife, Nita; Gold Star Parents Terry and Elisabeth Burgess; photojournalist Rick Irving; Bob

Ortegel, former television announcer for the Dallas Mavericks; and numerous national, state and chapter DAR representatives.

Colors were posted by the Brazos Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Color Guard, and toys were collected at the luncheon for Holidays and Heroes.

All guests received a small bottle of mixed sand from the five D-Day beaches along the Normandy Coast: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword, where Allied troops landed in 1944 in the campaign to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation during WWII.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with more than 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. More than one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

For more information about DAR membership, visit [www.texasdar.org/chapters/ElizabethCrockett/](http://www.texasdar.org/chapters/ElizabethCrockett/).

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# RANCHO BRAZOS COMMUNITY MEETS SANTA

Rancho Brazos Community Center has served as a key resource for Rancho Brazos, Sandy Beach, and Park 377 / Carter Court and surrounding communities for years. RBCC's goal to be the second home to everyone who walks in the door, while offering a future with hope by giving a "Hand-Up" instead of a hand-out, is a constant and worthy effort. The kids of Rancho Brazos recently piled into buses for a field trip to Santa's House on the Granbury Square. Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted kids (and grown-ups too) with open arms, ready to hear their Christmas wishes. Ron Massingill teamed up with Granbury H-E-B to cover the cost of a \$20 gift card for every RBCC child there to visit Santa. For more photos, please visit [www.hcnews.com/photos](http://www.hcnews.com/photos).

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



**Happy Holidays Hood County**



## GARDEN PATCH



COURTESY PHOTO

Bald cypresses are famous for their rust-colored fall foliage. Mature trees also have attractive bark and arching branches

## Seasonal color abounds

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.

It looks a lot like Christmas indoors, but outdoors area landscapes are putting on an extended fall show. Mild winter weather is enabling trees and shrubs to hold onto their foliage longer than usual giving us bold yellow, red, maroon and orange leaves in December.

Before winds and cold temperatures strike their final blows, enjoy an unsung perk of Texas living — cruising backroads and visiting parks to see late season color. You'll witness native maples boasting red leaves, but gorgeous red oaks are more abundant around Hood and surrounding counties. Other plants at their seasonal best include:

**CRAPPE MYRTLE**

These heat and drought tolerant plants exhibit remarkable foliage color despite their smaller-sized leaves. Individual crape myrtles develop yellow, orange, maroon or red foliage with the advent of cool, moist weather. Specific color is hard to predict, but researching cultivars helps you to select plants that best fit your needs regarding size, flower and leaf color. For instance, "Arapaho" cultivars grow 18-25 feet tall, produce bold red summer flowers and maroon fall foliage.

**BALD CYPRESS**

Stately native beauties, bald cypresses are famous for their rust-colored fall foliage. Mature trees also have attractive bark and arching branches. When grown alongside a body of water, tree branches and foliage color are beautifully reflected. The trees' lacy, needle-like foliage holds to branches through early winter. Structures referred to as "knees" form along the base and roots of older trees. Bald cypress trees require moderate moisture. Give them plenty of room to grow to a height of 50 ft.

**CHINESE PISTACHE**

This well-adapted deciduous tree is heat and drought tolerant, making it an excellent selection for Texas landscapes. It also has a high resistance to pests and diseases. In fall, its oblong leaves turn shades of yellow, orange, red and purple. Also in autumn, the berry clusters produced by female trees turn reddish purple. Chinese pistache is a long-lived tree that grows 25-40 feet tall with a wide (to 30 feet), rounded canopy.

**PRAIRIE FLAMELEAF SUMAC**

A native shrub, sumac grows wild in pastures and in natural areas in Central and West Texas. Typically seen as a multi-trunked shrub, sumac may be trained into a single-trunked tree. Average height is 10-30 feet. As evidenced by its ability to survive in uncultivated areas, this sumac is extremely heat and drought tolerant. In fall, the plant produces brownish-red fruit clusters and its leaves turn vivid red.

**TEXAS ASH**

A deciduous native tree, Texas ash grows to 45 feet tall with an oval crown. Its native range is from Central to West Texas, so it is perfectly suited to North Texas landscapes. Its dark green leaves turn orange/red to purple in fall. Texas ash is long-lived and very heat and drought tolerant.

**GINKGO**

This Texas native is reliably showy in fall with striking bright yellow foliage. Leaves are fan shaped and 2-4 inches long and wide. Ginkgo trees grow 75-100 feet tall in moist, acidic soils, but where they're affected by high pH and drought, they grow much shorter.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymaster-gardeners.org.



# SANTA AT EL TESORO

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Camp El Tesoro opened their gates to the public to host their annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 9. Not only was a delicious and nutritious hot breakfast available, a Holiday Market featuring a wide variety of gifts was also set up. Attendees also enjoyed hayrides, archery games, crafts, and last but not least, a visit with Santa! For more photos, please visit [www.hcnews.com/photos](http://www.hcnews.com/photos).



## Picturing Christmas cheer: 4 tips for capturing great pics with your iPhone this Christmas

BY MICKY SHEARON  
*Special to the Hood County News*

As a freelance writer and an enthusiastic iPhone photographer in Granbury, I've navigated the highs and lows of holiday photography. Picture this: you're all set for that perfect Christmas photo of the kids, and just as you press the shutter, chaos ensues — a spilled drink, a sudden tantrum, or the family dog leaping into the frame. Through trial and error and a bit of creativity, I've discovered ways to turn these unpredictable moments into cherished holiday memories, all with my iPhone.

**TIP 1: NATURAL LIGHT IS YOUR BEST FRIEND**

Overhead lights can be the nemesis of a good photo, often casting harsh shadows or giving your images an unappealing color temperature. I've learned to rely on natural light for a softer, more flattering effect. Positioning my subjects near a window during the day allows the gentle light to highlight their features

beautifully. This approach not only enhances the photo's quality but also adds a touch of natural warmth, making the image feel more intimate and inviting.

In the evenings, I play with the ambient light available, whether it's the gentle glow from our fireplace or the soft luminescence of holiday decorations. This indirect lighting can create a cozy, magical atmosphere that's just perfect for holiday photos.

**TIP 2: EMBRACE THE DRAMA OF DARKNESS**

Dark settings are not something to shy away from; they're an opportunity to create something truly dramatic and unique. By exposing for the light source, whether it's a string of fairy lights or the flicker of candle flames, I can capture a mood that daytime photos simply can't replicate. This technique creates a contrast that highlights the warmth and intimacy of the moment.

Using my iPhone's advanced camera features, like adjusting the focus and background blur, I can further enhance the dramatic

effect. This not only draws attention to my subject but also adds a professional touch to the photos.

**TIP 3: GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR SHOTS**

There's a world of creative possibilities in holiday photography, especially when you involve children. Light painting, for instance, is a fantastic way to engage them and capture their wonder. By using a safe light source, like LED string lights, and moving it around in the dark, you create a magical trail of light in the photo. Each shot is a surprise, often resulting in a delightful blend of light and color. Unless you have one of the most recent iPhone models, you will need to use a separate camera app rather than the native iPhone camera — one that will allow for more manual control of your iPhone camera's settings, such as slow shutter. There are quite a few great camera apps on the app store. My favorites are Pro Cam, Slow Shutter and Blackmagic.

Another creative technique I enjoy is intentional

out-of-focus shots. This method can turn a simple photo into an artistic blur of lights and colors, perfect for capturing the essence of the holiday season in an abstract way.

**TIP 4: CAPTURE THE EMOTION**

For me, the heart of holiday photography is capturing the genuine emotions and interactions of the season. Candid shots that showcase real moments — like the laughter during a family game, the quiet contemplation of a child looking at holiday lights, or the excitement of opening a gift — are often the most memorable. These photos tell a story, encapsulating the true spirit of the holidays.

I've found that the best way to capture these moments is to be a quiet observer, camera at the ready, waiting for those spontaneous bursts of emotion. These unposed, natural shots are the ones we often treasure the most, as they reflect the real joy and warmth of our holiday gatherings.

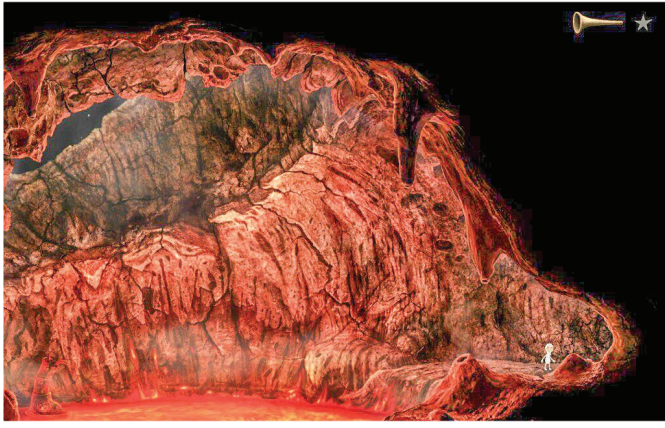


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GAME ON



SCREENSHOT COURTESY AMANITA DESIGNS

Gnome's task on this planetoid is to remove the meteorite from the crater.

# Samorost

## An epic, organic adventure



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.

Amanita Designs is celebrating its 20th anniversary, so now is a great time to talk about the game that started it all, Samorost.

"Samarost" in Czech means "objects sculpted from discarded wood (roots, trunks, branches, etc., usually for decorative purposes.)"

Originally Samorost was created as a thesis project by Jakub Dvorsky, while he was a student at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. The original mini-game is now available as a free download on Steam. It's a cute little adventure about a gnome who needs to alter the course of a planetoid on a collision course with his home. It's a very simple graphic interface, point-and-click adventure.

I was immediately captivated by the game. The gnome lives on a knot of wood covered in lichen, with a rusty bolt visible on one side. His spaceship is an old can that used to contain hot dogs. The planetoid that's on a collision course with his home is a piece of driftwood, covered in moss. The sound effects are cheerful, and the music is undemanding and contemplative.

After Jakub Dvorsky graduated from the academy, he founded Amanita Designs in 2003, a game studio featuring hand-crafted games. In 2005 he released a sequel to Samorost, Samorost 2. It featured the further adventures of Gnome, who must rescue his dog, who was stolen by aliens. Just like Samorost, it features planetoids that look like natural objects. Total playtime was about an hour, which is a little short for a point-and-click adventure, but it was still intriguing for gamers.

In 2016 Amanita Designs released Samorost 3. Unlike 1 and 2, Samorost 3 was a full-length game with high-definition graphics. This was after the successful release of Machinarium, another point-and-click puzzle adventure.

Samorost 3 starts with our hero, the gnome, in the front yard of his home. A golden instrument falls to the ground

from the sky. He picks it up and discovers the instrument has hidden abilities. Dragging the instrument from the main menu onto the sound symbol unlocks animations to help solve the puzzles in the game. He travels from planetoid to planetoid in his trusty tin can rocket ship, fixing the things that are broken in his corner of the universe.

There is no dialogue in this game. Characters show emotion, but all the stories in this game are told through simple animations, usually line art in thought bubbles. The puzzles aren't especially difficult, but it will take you a few minutes of poking around before you figure it out.

What I like most about this game is how organic it is. Bugs are crawling on the ground, and little leaves are shaking on the trees. All the creature noises are done by humans. Many of the textures are inspired by horsehair, fur, leaves, rocks, bark and driftwood.

There's something about this game that feels very kind, in a way that's hard to define. There is no death. The character's motivation is to fix and repair whatever he finds, to make his universe better. The final battle is one of order against chaos. Gnome saves his corner of the galaxy and returns to his house with his faithful dog.

If you're looking for something your child will enjoy playing, I recommend this game highly. It's not violent, the music is interesting, and they'll enjoy solving the puzzles and watching the animations. My child liked going back to different planets to solve certain puzzles again, because the characters in the game will sing a song as a reward.

The soundtrack is done by Thomas Dvorak and features him on clarinet and other wind instruments. I have this on my phone — it's great music to work by.

Samorost 3 by Jakub Dvorsky is available on SteamOS for \$19.99, or you can get the entire Amanita Designs package for \$49.53.

# Celebrating a Lone Star Christmas

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the Hood County News

In the great state of Texas, where the skies are vast, and the spirit of the Lone Star State shines bright, Christmas is not just a season; it's a feeling that resonates through every town and city, from the bustling urban streets of Houston to the one intersection of Guerra and everything in between. While every part of the U.S. has unique holiday customs and traditions, few states can match Texas for its variety of celebrations because of its sheer size and culturally diverse population.

### A HOOD COUNTY CHRISTMAS: LOCAL CHARM AND WARMTH

In Hood County, the holiday season is a time of community, warmth and a touch of holiday magic. The historic Granbury Square, adorned with its twinkling lights and festive decorations, becomes a backdrop for holiday cheer. Local shops and eateries, decked in their holiday best, resemble a backdrop from a Hallmark Christmas movie, inviting visitors and locals alike to revel in the season's joy. Events such as the recent Night of Lights Christmas Parade, Candlelight Tour of Homes, and seasonal entertainment

such as the current stage musical White Christmas at the Granbury Opera House truly give a unique flair to Hood County's holiday celebration.

### STATEWIDE CELEBRATIONS: FROM COWBOY BOOTS TO COASTAL BREEZES

Venturing beyond Hood County, the Texas Christmas spirit is as diverse as its landscape. In San Antonio, the River Walk glows with millions of lights, reflecting off the meandering river, creating a mesmerizing spectacle. Meanwhile, in Austin, the Trail of Lights in Zilker Park offers a dazzling display that turns the city into a festive wonderland.

Dallas brings its own flair to the holidays with the Big D Holiday, showcasing an array of events from the grandeur of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Pops to the whimsical Dallas Zoo Lights. And let's not forget Fort Worth, where the Stockyards celebrate with a cowboy twist, complete with a festive parade and plenty of holiday cheer.

### TEXAN TRADITIONS: UNIQUE AND HEARTWARMING

What sets Texas Christmases apart are the unique traditions that blend the state's rich history with modern festivities. In small towns and big cities alike,

you'll find locals enjoying tamales and barbecue alongside classic holiday fare, a nod to the state's diverse cultural heritage.

In Galveston, the historic Strand district transforms into a Victorian-era holiday scene during Dickens on The Strand, complete with costumed characters and old-world charm. In the Hill Country, towns like Fredericksburg pay homage to their German roots with traditional markets and holiday lights.

### HUMOR AND HEART: THE TEXAS WAY

Amidst all the celebrations, Texans never lose their sense of humor and heart. From quirky holiday displays featuring Santa in a cowboy hat to spirited renditions of "Feliz Navidad" with a country twist, the festive season in Texas is as much about laughter and camaraderie as it is about tradition.

### THE WHIMSY OF TEXAS WEATHER: A CHRISTMAS OF CONTRASTS

Of course, in Texas, it's always about the weather. One of the most charming and sometimes bewildering aspects of a Texas Christmas is the weather. It's where holiday forecasts can be as varied as the state itself. Imagine a Christmas Day where Amarillo is blanketed in a foot of snow,

temperatures dipping below zero, while Brownsville enjoys a sunny, balmy day at a pleasant 80 degrees. This meteorological quirk adds a unique flavor to the holiday season, where one part of the state might be building snowmen while another is enjoying Christmas barbecues on the beach. And regardless of where you might be in Texas, on Christmas Eve, you might be wearing your favorite Christmas T-shirt. Then, on Christmas Day, you have to put the snow chains on the truck to get to Grandma's house!

### THE SPIRIT OF A TEXAS CHRISTMAS

As the holiday season unfolds across the Lone Star State, from the piney woods of East Texas to the desert landscapes of West Texas, one thing remains constant: the warmth and diversity of a Texas Christmas. It's a season where community, tradition and a little bit of Texas pride come together to create something truly magical.

So, whether you're strolling through the historic Granbury Square, marveling at the lights in San Antonio, or enjoying a festive parade in Fort Worth, remember that in Texas, Christmas is more than just a holiday — it's an experience, a feeling and a time to be together, Texas-style.

## BOOK REVIEW

# How many tests do you suppose kids in your grade take each day?

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Lots of them, probably, maybe one a day or more. That's okay, your teacher needs to see what you learned and what you know. But what about all those things you don't know? In the new book "100 Things to Know about the Unknown" by Jerome Martin, Alice James, Lan Cook, Tom Mumbray, Alex Frith & Micaela Tapsell, illustrated by Federico Mariani, Shaw Nielsen, Dominique Byron & Geraldine Sy, being clueless can be fun.

With WiFi, the internet, and all kinds of reference books on all kinds of library shelves, it's hard to believe but it's true: there are lots of things we don't know. Some are secrets, but the majority of them are simply unknown or not yet discovered. The fact is that we're constantly surrounded by mysteries.

"The more we know," say the authors, "the more we know there's more to know." Take, for instance, the



COURTESY PHOTO

"100 Things to Know about the Unknown" by Jerome Martin, Alice James, Lan Cook, Tom Mumbray, Alex Frith & Micaela Tapsell, illustrated by Federico Mariani, Shaw Nielsen, Dominique Byron & Geraldine Sy C.2023, USBORNE, \$14.99, 128 PAGES

planet Venus. All planets spin, but Venus spins opposite all the other planets in our solar system and nobody knows why.

Or monkeys. Did you know that chimpanzees don't ask questions? The inability to wonder may be

"what sets humans apart from other apes" but scientists aren't certain about that. Science doesn't know for sure why we dream, either, or how many numbers are prime numbers, or who created Nushu, a coded Chinese language that was only taught to women.

More than a century ago, a young boy helped a rowing team from Paris to win Olympic Gold. But before they could get his name and give him his award, he walked away. His identity is still unknown. So is the identity of many of the world's Unknown Soldiers.

If you're lost, you probably walk in a circle. Some New York City subways contain DNA that's still mysterious. Nobody's sure how monarch butterflies know how to migrate. And get this: take this book to bed with you and it's okay, nobody knows why we yawn anyhow.

Everybody likes to be perceived as the smartest person around. We all like to know stuff, but "100

Things to Know about the Unknown" lets a shrug be its own fun answer.

There's nothing lofty about that here: from science to pop culture to history and more, this book invites kids to imagine and hypothesize about some of the world's biggest conundrums. In doing that, the authors explain that not knowing how or why or when is a good thing because it leads to more studying and learning.

There's an openness to this book, too, that's very appealing: the authors admit some of the mysteries here might already be solved, which leaves kids clamoring for their own fact-finding mission. For that, the publisher offers a website full of child-friendly links for curious kids.

The target age for this book is 9 and older, but that shouldn't stop an adult from browsing. Pick it up and you'll see that "100 Things to Know about the Unknown" totally makes the grade.

...a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11, RV

### OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Please join us for Christmas Services. Everyone is welcome!

## Worship Schedule

- Christmas Eve Regular Sunday Worship Service December 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am
- Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Candle Light Service
- Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am

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	20-30 Nutcracker Experience-BCExperiences
	2 - 10 Away In a Manger (1,200 Nativity Displays)
	31 HANK FM New Years Eve Party
<b>JANUARY</b>	
	1 Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.)
	13 Mammoth Race: ICE AGE
	20 Goosebump Jump, & Chili on the Beach
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
	17 KHITS Mardi Gras Masquerade
	24 2nd Annual Jazz Fest
	24 Texas Independence Day Celebration
<b>MARCH</b>	
	16 - 17 2nd Annual Pub McDonough Paddy Fest & Parade

Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!



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# CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

**Friday, 08 December 2023 - Thursday, 14 December 2023**

**Anyone But You (R)**  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM

**Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG13)**  
Thurs: 3:15PM, 6:15PM, 9:15PM

**Christmas With The Chosen: Holy Night (PG13)**  
Fri: 3:35PM, 6:30PM, 9:25PM.  
Sat: 12:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM, 9:30PM.  
Sun: 12:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM

**Godzilla Minus One (PG13)**  
Fri: 7:30PM, 10:25PM.  
Sat: 7:50PM, 10:45PM.  
Sun: 4:35PM, 8:00PM.  
Mon, Wed: 10:55AM, 1:50PM, 4:35PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues: 10:30AM, 1:45PM, 7:00PM.  
Thurs: 11:00AM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM

**Migration (PG)**  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM

**Mystery Sensory Friendly (PG)**  
Sat: 11:30AM

**The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 5:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Sat: 11:15AM, 2:40PM, 6:05PM, 9:30PM.  
Sun, Mon, Wed: 12:00PM, 3:30PM, 7:00PM.  
Tues: 12:00PM, 3:25PM, 6:50PM.  
Thurs: 12:00PM, 3:30PM

**The Iron Claw (R)**  
Thurs: 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM

**The Shift (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM.  
Sat: 2:20PM, 5:05PM.  
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:50PM.  
Mon, Wed: 11:05AM, 1:50PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues: 11:00AM, 1:25PM, 4:10PM.  
Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:05PM

**Trolls Band Together (PG)**  
Fri: 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM.  
Sat: 10:50AM, 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 5:50PM, 8:10PM, 10:30PM.  
Sun, Mon, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:20PM, 5:40PM, 7:30PM.  
Mon, Wed: 10:50AM, 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 5:50PM, 8:10PM.  
Tues: 10:25AM, 12:45PM, 3:05PM.  
Thurs: 10:30AM

**Wonka (PG)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM, 10:15PM.  
Sat: 10:45AM, 11:45AM, 1:30PM, 2:25PM, 4:15PM, 5:05PM, 7:00PM, 7:45PM, 9:45PM, 10:25PM.  
Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 11:45AM, 1:30PM, 2:25PM, 4:15PM, 5:05PM, 7:00PM, 7:45PM.  
Thurs: 10:25AM, 12:30PM, 1:05PM, 3:45PM, 6:25PM, 9:05PM

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# PETS OF THE WEEK

**Buddy** is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

**Sammy** is a neutered male domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 8 years old. Sammy is friendly and thrives on attention. His adoption fee is \$25. The adoption fee includes his rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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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

## I'VE BEEN THINKING



COURTESY PHOTO

As we consider the age-old story of Jesus' birth, we immediately think of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Have you ever considered the innkeeper?

## "The Innkeeper's Lament"



### CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

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

Please allow me the freedom to run this column every year at Christmastime because I believe with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday, it is important for us to take time to reflect on the following thoughts.

The season is upon us that focuses on the Christmas story and the event that took place

in Bethlehem that affected the entire world — even centuries later. As we look at that word "Christmas," we immediately see that it begins with "Christ," the focus for many of us during our annual holiday season, along with the remainder of

PLEASE SEE THINKING | C11

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# And thanks for sharing...



### BY DON NEWBURY

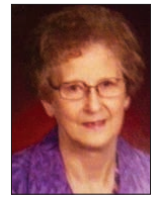
Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

In recent days, Sue provided an account that invited "been there, done that" smiles. In this post, her "high road choice" shone through. Gary's piece, however, revealed his delight in taking the high seas that have beckoned him and wife Teena dozens of times.

The accounts are unrelated, but taken together, allow me to reference high roads and high seas in the same column.

To further identify, Sue, longtime elementary school teacher, was a friend during our five years in the presidency of Western Texas College in Snyder. Later, during 14 years at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, it was my privilege to bedeck Gary with honorary doctoral trappings during commencement exercises. Dr. Dyer was then pastor of Midland's First Baptist Church.

Sue, remembered for her deep compassion, has long been known for her observations made "from the corner of Awesome and Bombdigitty." Facebook provides a convenient outlet for



Sue Gressett



Dr. Gary Dyer

her remarkable creativity and upbeat life views. Gary, longtime Baptist leader, provides enlightening and challenging biblical insights.

Let's review their recent posts. Lady first.

Sue's high road experiences include a traffic violation of five years ago. Never had she seen red lights and sirens employed to bring her to a stop, but they did outside of Abilene. The "do right" guy was courteous and respectful, admitting that speed limit signs had recently changed. But, in the "here and now," she was driving slightly above the posted speed limit.

She made sure he understood she was a "law-abiding

PLEASE SEE IDLE | 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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Isaiah 41:13

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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.

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1 John 4:12

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817-663-5384

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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

citizen” who had never received a traffic citation and praised him for doing his job. This was perhaps his undoing. He gave her a warning ticket instead of a citation for payment or a court appearance. The officer observed, “You can now cross another thing from your bucket list and brag to your friends that you beat the system!” Sue

was greatly relieved, hoping her sons Tommy and Randy would never hear of her brush with the law.

Now at the age identical with the number of notes on a piano keyboard, she says, “My mind still thinks I’m 29, my humor suggests I’m 12, and my body mostly keeps asking if I’m sure I’m not dead yet. I don’t have a loose screw; it just fell out!” I look forward to her future posts from “the corner of Awesome and Bombdigity.”

Now, to Dr. Dyer’s high seas adventures on cruises taken over the years. They greatly prefer cruises to Alaska, having boarded vessels headed there 17 times. He has seen the upside, downside and sideways views of the Inside Passage, and compiled numerous helpful observations that not only help to economize, but also allow one to take full advantage of the cruise experience.

Interestingly — and most sentences beginning with this

word aren’t — he has written a guide he claims to be for “cheapskates.” That’s my kind of guide. On his Facebook post, he offered to provide the guide via email to all folks requesting it, so if you’re planning a trip soon to Alaska, why not do so?

Brenda and I have taken Alaskan cruises twice and agree with Gary that these are our favorites. I read his guide with interest, taking special note of the dumb questions asked, particularly by first-time cruisers.

Dr. Dyer posted more than a dozen; limited space allows me to list a few.

“Has this ship ever sunk? How do I know which pictures in the photo gallery are mine? What time does the midnight buffet start? Does the crew sleep on board? Is this island completely surrounded by water? Do the stairs go up or down?”

In all seriousness: Sue’s late husband, Don Gressett, was beloved by our daughter Jana

in his sixth grade class. The Gressetts’ late son, Randy, was a favorite youth minister of our daughters ...

Gary, a powerful minister now serving parttime at Rockwall First Baptist Church, is as respected as any cleric I’ve ever known.

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**THINKING**

FROM PAGE C9

the year. We find it interesting that He is often referred to as “The Bread of Life,” while the very word “Bethlehem” means “breadbasket.” More than coincidental, I believe!

As we consider the age-old story, we immediately think of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. We also recall the reason for their long journey from Nazareth with Mary being “great with child” — to satisfy an imperial command that all individuals return to their ancestral towns “that all the world should be taxed.”

With the distance between

Nazareth and Bethlehem being approximately 70 miles “as the crow flies,” the journey is estimated to have taken five days — meaning the couple needed to cover approximately 15 miles each day. Although tradition pictures Mary riding a donkey, nowhere in Scripture does it say that. Perhaps she walked, keeping in mind that people walked nearly everywhere they went back then, meaning both parents-to-be were in much better shape physically than many of us today. However, those of us who have borne children can only imagine the trial of such a journey for poor Mary — either walking or riding. Historians estimate Mary and Joseph were in their teens, most likely between

16 and 18 years old.

Yet now we leave the main characters of this story and focus on one character who is often forgotten. Have you ever considered the innkeeper? In his defense, we must remember he was a businessman whose purpose was profit, and the town was filled to capacity with taxpayers. He was, perhaps, being sincere when he told the couple he had no room for them in his inn. There was probably not a room available in the little town, and he did show his kindness by offering them shelter in his stable.

The only available space was certainly not the best accommodations possible, but it did provide protection from the

elements and privacy from passersby. We might believe the innkeeper should have somehow instinctively remembered Isaiah’s prophecy about a Coming King. But we must also remember it had been foretold several centuries prior. And we must conclude that people then were no different than people today. Once an announcement is made of a coming event, and it does not occur within our expected timeframe, we tend to forget about it or believe it was inaccurate.

As time passed and the poor innkeeper perhaps realized his terrible mistake, did he grieve over having turned the couple away from more comfortable surroundings? Did he pos-

sibly, as hotel managers do today, hold one or two rooms in reserve for the highest-paying customers — thus making it possible for him to actually make such a situation more tolerable for the young couple? At some point during the night, did the innkeeper somehow know Mary’s hour had approached and offer the help of a midwife?

Yet the Christ Child was born in the humblest of surroundings, accompanied only by the sounds of the stabled animals bedded down for the night. And who were the first to hear the news of the royal birth? The shepherds — one of the lowest-considered and least-appreciated occupations of the day.

As we consider today’s royalty with all their wealth and luxury, we know they have no realization of how the common man lives. Yet the Christ Child had his beginning in a stable and was raised by a carpenter. Later he endured rejection and torture by those around him, and he can understand the trials we endure today.

Someone once observed that his life went from the cradle to the cross.

I am blessed beyond measure! Perhaps you are, too!

May the true joy, peace and blessings of this Christmas season be upon you and your family!

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Young artists bring holiday cheer with reindeer paint day

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.

**P**ecan resident and artist Heidi Easley led a roomful of artists ranging in age from 5 to 14 when they painted reindeer on canvas and brought Christmas spirit to the Pecan Activity Center. When their projects were completed, the little ones enjoyed hot cocoa before taking home their work. Watch for more painting opportunities at the PAC in 2024.

**TAKE AIM**

Pecan's Archery/Air Gun Association will hold its annual "Don't Shoot Your Eye Out" BB gun event today, Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. at the archery/air gun range. The event is open to children ages 8 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.

**BAITED HOOK**

The Dr. Barna Memorial Kids' Fishing Tournament happens Monday, Dec. 18 at Pecan's number 10 pond with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and fishing happening from 9 to 10 a.m. Participants should bring their own gear; bait is provided. No entry fee, and fun, prizes and trophies will be part of the festivities.

**WELCOME HOME**

Pecan's next new member orientation comes Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. in the

Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. Folks may register by sending email to sarahlord@ppoaweb.com or calling the clubhouse at 817-573-2641, extension 335. All new residents of Pecan, as well as long-timers desiring an update on our community and its amenities, are invited to join the membership committee at this gathering to receive information and ask questions.

**BOOK TIME**

The Hood County Library's bookmobile will be at the PAC on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out books and return them to the bookmobile.

**BOARD ELECTION**

An application 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.



COURTESY PHOTO BY HEIDI EASLEY

Pecan resident and artist Heidi Easley led a Christmas themed paint party for the youngest residents of Pecan where participants completed a reindeer on canvas, listened to holiday music, and enjoyed hot cocoa.

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. Pecan's annual election of board members comes in March.

**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.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

"Beni di Batasiolo" will be the mantra for the evening featuring a wine dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at the

clubhouse. Call the front desk to make reservations for this event: 817-573-2641.

**NEW YEAR**

Pecaners will ring in the new year in style with a Las Vegas-styled evening filled with sparkle beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31 with a cocktail hour. Dinner will come at 7 p.m. and celebratory activities at 8 p.m. "Who's Oscar" will be the band for the night for dancing in the ballroom, and the Brazos Room will transform into a casino where winnings will equal entries for fabulous prizes. The night will culminate with a New York New Year's Eve good night at 11 p.m. Call the clubhouse front desk to secure a spot.

**MARINA SCHEDULE**

Pecan's marina and pit grill have initiated winter hours. The marina store will operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the grill will serve food from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. And here is more good news from the marina: Executive Chef Jordan Ray announces that a breakfast menu from the pit grill is in the works, and when ready for release, breakfast service will begin at 8 a.m. Finally, renovation and redesign work at the marina continues and will culminate in a climate-controlled, indoor eating area (with a lovely lake view!) so Pecaners may enjoy dining through temperature variation and inclement weather.

Neighbors are asked to exercise caution around construction areas.

**CARD DESIGN**

In 2024, Pecan will be issuing membership cards that will allow secure transactions at club facilities by using a card instead of giving out a member number. The cards will work similar to a debit card and thus curb errors of incorrectly charging members' accounts.

Pecan is seeking member input for the design of the front of the card, and any member may submit a design idea for consideration. Pecaners received email with specific instructions about inclusions on the card in addition to a blank template for design use. Submissions should be emailed to communications@ppoaweb.com or delivered to the clubhouse front desk by Dec. 31.

**MUSIC TIME**

Looking for a musical Christmas gift? Carolyn Troland will instruct beginner guitar lessons at the PAC with a new session starting Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. Carolyn will teach students how to play the guitar without reading music with results in six to eight weeks. Lessons are \$25 each and will occur each Thursday. This opportunity is for adult Pecaners, and musicians should bring a guitar with newer strings in place. Folks may contact Carolyn for more information at 580-369-8485 and sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

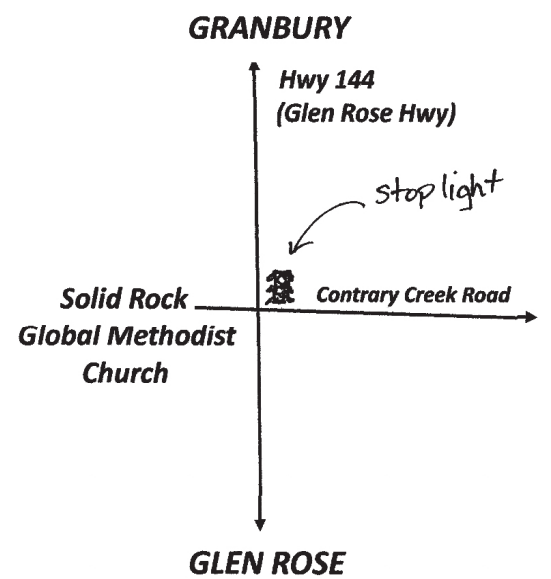
# Solid Rock Global Methodist Church

## Regular Sunday Morning Worship Times

Sunday School - 9:00am-9:45am  
 Hospitality & Visiting - 9:45am-10:00am  
 Church Worship - 10:00am-11:00am

## Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24  
 Candlelight & Communion 5:00 p.m.



3410 Glen Rose Hwy (Hwy 144)  
 Going south, turn right at the Contrary Creek Rd stop light. Going North, turn left at the Contrary Creek Rd Stop light.



Come join us