

SATURDAY, December 23, 2023



GRANBURY * TEXAS HOOD COUNTY EGEND SINCE 1886

Published Saturday



SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

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Look inside to see what our local second graders are asking Santa Claus to bring for Christmas.



Councilman Steven Vale elected mayor pro tem



City bids farewell to Burwell as Overdier assumes spot on council

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

Members of the Granbury City Council bid farewell to Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell as newly-elected council member Gary "Skip" Overdier was officially sworn in during the regular meeting Dec. 19. "This has been an incredi-

ble journey for me," Burwell said during the meeting. "I've been in office for six years now. Greg (Corrigan) and I ran together in 2017, and then we both went unopposed in the next election cycle. I have forged some amazing friendships and long-term bonds, and I really feel like we have — as a council member who's been up here — figured out a way to work together to benefit the city. I've appreciated all of you and the folks that I have worked with before, but thank you, Granbury, for trusting me to be in this position for six years."

Burwell will assume a new role as executive director for the Hood County Senior Center, replacing Jeannette Scott, who will retire in January.

"I will miss you. I'm not

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL | A4

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Place 5 Granbury City Council member Steven Vale, right, gives a send-off to Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell, left, as she steps down from the city council. Also pictured is City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle, middle.

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

Staff Writer

Granbury City Council elected Steven Vale, Place 5 council member, to the office of mayor pro tem during a regularly scheduled meeting Dec. 19, following former Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell's decision not to run for re-election on the council.

During the meeting, Place 3 Council Member Bruce Wadley nominated Vale as mayor pro tem. He explained that although Greg Corrigan has been on the council for six years, Eddie Rodriguez for four, and Vale only two, Vale's three years on the Planning and Zoning Commission speaks volumes to his experience.

"He certainly understands the job," Wadley said. "But the main reason (for my nomination) is he's the most available of all of us. All of us work. We all have jobs, but Steven goes to everything. He's at Rise & Grind every week. He's on other boards. We all are involved in this community, or we wouldn't be up here, but I think he's more involved than any of us and I appreciate his service to the city of Granbury, so he's my nomination."

With no other nominations forthcoming, Mayor Jim Jarratt put Vale's nomination to a vote, with all members voting "aye."

"All in favor of naming Mr. Steven Vale as our mayor pro-tem, say 'aye'. All opposed say 'nay," Jarratt said. "Mr. Vale did not say 'nay,' so I think we're good."

Jarratt congratulated Vale, Burwell and newly-elected council member Gary "Skip" Overdier for their new positions.

"I will say the young lady sitting back here in red, she did a fantastic job as mayor pro tem," Jarratt added, referring to Burwell. "If I was not available, she was the mayor and if I was not going to be here, I knew it was going to be handled great, so thank you, Trish. Thank you again. We're going to be saying that a lot."

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137TH YEAR, NO. 108

Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 46 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 46 pages |

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Celebrating the spirit of Granbury

Wishing a joyful holiday season and gratitude for community support

Chamber Message

We wish Granbury and its surrounding areas a joyful holiday season! The Granbury Chamber of Commerce expresses gratitude for its members and the community's steadfast support in 2023. Thanks to dedicated members, businesses and volunteers, this year has been marked by achievements and growth.

Chamber events, like the monthly "Coffee & Connections" networking breakfast, have been key to fostering connections and promoting economic vitality. From empowering Women in Business to inspiring Young Professionals and Rising Leaders, chamber initiatives have contributed to personal and professional development.

Ribbon cuttings and signature events, such as the Annual Golf Tournament and the Hometown 4th of July Celebration, highlight the resilience and innovation of local businesses, enhancing Granbury's overall prosperity.

As we bid farewell to 2023, we eagerly anticipate the possibilities ahead. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce values the support of its members and the broader business community, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the coming year... including the 50th Anniversary of Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Celebration.

We wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year! Together, let's build a thriving community we can all be proud to call home. Happy Holidays!

RIBBON CUTTINGS





COURTESY PHOTO

Bee Healthy Nutrition Center. Ribbon cutting to celebrate the new ownership and new renovation of Bee Healthy Nutrition Center, located at 1450 E. US Hwy 377.

COURTESY PHOTO

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers. Ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, located at 1430 E US Hwy 377.

New members & Renewals

Welcome to our new chamber members who joined in November!

Michelle McGhee Life & Health **Diamond A Ranch Events** The Simple Assistant, LLC **Bee Healthy Nutrition Center Senior Placement Consulting Eagle Rose Property Management**

Thank You to the following members who renewed their chamber membership in November! We appreciate your continued support!

Swaim Accounting Services, Inc. **BrightView IMS Office Worx** Shelly Fowler - Attorney at Law Linbarger Law Firm Willow Lane LLC **Fall Creek RV Park G-Force & Associates Blue Pearl by Your Host Zeus Heron Security** Clark Real Estate Group - Jane Adams **Renew Home Health Independent Financial Hood County Christmas for Children** West Bluff Dental **Celebrity Pools** Lone Star Ag Credit **Pecan Plantation Country Club Granbury Jazz Fest Granbury Animal Clinic** LEM Hollow Granbury **Chris Thomas Custom Homes** The Miracle League of Granbury **Bluebonnet Meat Company Hood County Agrilife Extension Pitch-In Texas Edge**

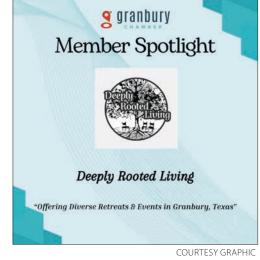


Randy Pearson. We are very thankful for our Board Member, Randy Pearson with Town Square Title. Randy has served as a chamber board member for a total of eight years! When asked why he likes being a board member, he replied, "In short, I truly believe in Granbury and Hood County. We are unique and have so much to offer. Playing a small role as an advocate of our business community and overall economic well-being is sincerely an honor!" Fun Fact about Randy: "I am the proud grandfather ("Pawpaw") of nine amazing grandchildren. "Thank you, Randy, for being a member of the board of directors of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT 🭳 granbury Member Spotlight Kitchen, Bath & Home Simple. Truthful. Peaceful. Kitchen, Bath and Home Texas "Specializing in Residential Design Services, Planning Packages, Products & Project Management." COURTESY GRAPHIC

Kitchen, Bath & Home Texas. "We specialize in Residential Design Services, Planning Packages, Products & Project Management. Webuilt Kitchen, Bath and Home keeping three principles in mind: Simple. Truthful. Peaceful. We use these values in all that we do. We choose to keep Simplicity in the process, staying transparent and Truthful in all that we do, while striving for Peace from start to finish." Thank you for joining the Granbury **Chamber of Commerce!**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Deeply Rooted Living. "We are an LLC that designs and orchestrates events and experiences aimed at fostering spiritual growth through mindful awareness, meaningful relationships, and embodied practices. Our mission is to cultivate an environment of renewal, transformation, and positive community engagement through these gatherings. Our values encompass diversity, inclusive hospitality, spiritual companionship, laughter, the art of sacred storytelling, healing, and nurturing seeds of change." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

FROM MY FRONT PORCH It ain't over until it is over



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

t was a particularly frustrating afternoon this past Sunday. As a loyal Cowboys fan, I dedicated myself to spending three hours watching the Cowboys play Buffalo. Careful efforts were undertaken to complete all my work tasks prior to game time so my mind could focus on the game. Food was purchased and prepared, beverages were chilled and I dressed in my favorite Cowboys jersey. My heart was full of anticipation of watching a close and exciting game with the hope the Cowboys would be victorious. My Sunday was going to be great! Unfortunately, when the game started, things went downhill very quickly. Quicker than I could build a platter of nachos, the game was out of hand. We stunk!

Watching the game was painful, but this is the NFL. The league is built on parity and as the old saying goes, "on any given Sunday any team can beat another." Sure, the Cowboys were slightly favored, but the game was on the road, against a very good team who had been playing better the past few weeks and now desperately needed the win to have a chance to make the playoffs. The Cowboys, on the other hand, have been playing terrific and had won five games in a row including a complete rout of their rival and leagueleading Philadelphia Eagles. With a loss by the Atlanta Falcons earlier in the day, the Cowboys learned before their game started a playoff berth was locked in. For a month, everything had been going great for the Cowboys. Unfortunately, the kickoff

of Sunday's game was the beginning of the Cowboys laying an egg.

Let me remind you such a loss like the Cowboys suffered is not unusual. San Francisco, who many believe is the best team in the NFL, lost three games in a row earlier in the season. The returning Super Bowl Champs, the KC Chiefs, have a worse record for the season than Dallas, and their star quarterback Patrick Mahomes has thrown four interceptions in the last three games. This is NFL football. Ups and downs are to be expected and accepted. It is how the league was built and what keeps people interested in the games.

Despite the fantastic season being played by the Cowboys quarterback, Dak Prescott, and a highly-rated defense, after Sunday's game I saw some fans take to social media bashing the team and their quarterback. They ranted, they criticized and they cursed. Instead of having one of the best season records in the NFL, the loss to Buffalo clearly means the Cowboys are "losers," incompetent and "never going to win anything." Not sure that makes any sense.

A few months ago, after a short losing streak, some Texas Rangers fans began bashing their team, saying they would probably not make the playoffs and were clearly an inferior team. At that time, I wrote a column which expressed that baseball has a long season with lots of ups and downs and people needed to have faith the team would come together at the right time. As fate would have it, the Rangers not only turned it

around, but they turned it around so much they played themselves into a World Championship. I am not saying the Cowboys will win the Super Bowl, but they are a pretty darn good team. Arguably a top four or five team in the league. They will be going to the playoffs, so let's just wait and see how they do when the games are played before we declare them dead as a can of tuna. There is a lot of football to be played, and no championship is ever won before all the games are played.

I had some folks tell me when I wrote the column about the Rangers I was a cockeyed optimist. Maybe so, but as it turned out, my patience was well-rewarded. I am willing to give the Cowboys the same benefit

PLEASE SEE PORCH | A10





Update on Granbury Middle School candy investigation

Staff Reports

According to a statement from the Granbury Police Department, on Dec. 12, Granbury Police Department officers were dispatched to Granbury Middle School for a report of multiple students possibly ingesting some type of drug. The initial information received indicated all the students involved had eaten some candy from the same package prior to becoming symptomatic, and that the candy had been recovered.

Four of the students

were transported to Lake Granbury Medical Center with reported symptoms of being under the influence of some type of drug. Blood tests for all students showed negative results for any type of drug. The candy was taken to

the DEA lab in Dallas for

testing, and the results of those tests showed the candy had a negative result for any type of drug. It is not known what caused the reported issues with the students, but the testing indicates it was not caused by any kind of drug.

Texas State Parks photo contest winner leaps to victory

Submitted item

A photo capturing a family jumping for joy bounded over 17 other finalists to win the Texas State Parks photo contest grand prize. The year-long contest, part of Texas Parks and Wildlife's (TPWD) festivities celebrating 100 years of Texas State Parks, elicited more than 6,000 entries. A panel of judges chose four seasonal winners and runners-up, which were then entered into a public vote to select the grand prize

winner.

Sam Holm of North Texas said his family is thrilled to have taken the winning phopercharge their state park vacations with their grand prize award: a Texas State Parks Pass, a \$500 gift card leged to be a part of that." The fun doesn't stop at state parks when the clock strikes midnight.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hannah Huffman

Say hello to our neighbor, Hannah Huffman!

At first, it was a bit scary for Hannah Huffman, jumping from the San Antonio area she knew so well to advance her career here in Granbury. Hannah didn't know a soul when she moved here over two years ago, but Huffman, an Aggie armed with a wide array of experience and Texas A&M master and bachelor degrees, was more than eager to dive in to work in her nre position as a Hood Country Extension Agent, with the Family & Community Health division under her charge. It wasn't at all long before our welcoming residents made Hood County feel like home. Hannah looks forward to her happiest time of year, the upcoming Hood County Junior Livestock Show. "We are proud of them and I have so much fun being there to support them. I love doing what I can to put the kid's hard work on display." Hannah appreciates the role the Hood County News plays in highlighting young contestants' hard work. Needless to say, Hannah is a busy young lady and the mother of a baby boy! Hannah and her husband William welcomed little Reid into the world five months ago. With Reid every day is a wonderful new adventure for the Huffmans, their world revolves around him and they just couldn't be happier.

to, which captures a new family tradition.

"We took our first jump photo at Enchanted Rock," said Holm. "We decided to try it again at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. We got it in one take."

Holm, his wife and two daughters are avid state park fans and feel "big-time blessed" to have so many natural spaces to enjoy. Now, they'll get to sufrom H-E-B donated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and a VIP curated experience in a Texas state park.

"We are so grateful to everyone who entered the photo contest," said Whitney Bishop, TPWD social media coordinator. "There are thousands of special moments happening every day at Texas state parks, and we feel priviTexas state parks are offering fresh photo ops with their New Year's First Day Hikes tradition. Visitors can choose from an array of events including night hikes, nature walks and polar plunges to ring in 2024. More information about First Day Hikes, including a list of events, can be found on the TPWD website.

There's more inside than just headlines. hcnews.com/subscribe

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IN HOOD COUNTY USPS 249-520 P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Texas 76048 Phone: (817) 573-7066 Fax: (817) 279-8371 THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS is published at 1501 S. Morgan St., Granbury, Tx 76048. weekly on Saturdays. Periodicals postage paid at Granbury, Tx. 76048. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the HOOD COUNTY NEWS, P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Tx. 76048. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may occur in the HOOD COUNTY NEWS, P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Tx. 76048. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may occur in the HOOD COUNTY NEWS will be gladly corrected once brought to the attention of publisher or editor. The publisher is not responsible for copy omissions or typographical errors that may occur other than to correct them in

136 YEARS

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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. 12-18. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

DEC. 12

1:11 p.m., a hit-and-run was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

1:30 p.m., a theft was reported on Deputy Larry Miller Dr.

3:13 p.m., a theft was reported on S. Hannaford St. 7:36 p.m., a suicide threat

was reported on W. Pearl St. 12:24 p.m., a hit-and-run was reported on NE Loop 567.

There were also one major accident and six traffic stops reported this day

DEC. 13

2:54 p.m., harassment was

reported on W. Pearl St. 3:43 p.m., a hit-and-run was reported on M & M Ranch Rd and U.S. Hwy. 503. 7:13 p.m., a child lockout was reported on E. U.S. Hwy.

377. **There were also one major accident, three minor accidents, ten traffic stops and a warrant service reported on this day**

DEC. 14

11:27 a.m., criminal trespass was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377. 12:58 p.m., major accident

involving a DWI was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377. 2:50 p.m., found property

was reported on N. Travis St. 3:00 p.m., a hit-and-run

was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

5:34 p.m., a theft over \$100 and under \$750 was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377. **There were also two minor accidents, five traffic stops and one warrant service reported this day**

DEC. 15

7:58 a.m., a theft over \$2,500 under \$30k was reported on Hannaford St. 9:22 a.m., a violation of

protective order was reported on Quiet Cv. 12:29 p.m., a theft over

\$100 was reported on U.S. Hwy. 377. 1:14 p.m., lost property

was reported on Lambert St. 2:10 p.m., a sex offense was reported on Paluxy Hwy.

4:36 p.m., damage to property was reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

There were also four minor traffic accidents, five traffic offenses, one warrant service and one report of credit card abuse reported this day

DEC. 16

5:37 a.m., assault with a firearm was reported on Bridge St. 6:02 p.m., theft over \$100

was reported. 7:54 p.m., assault was reported on Thorp Springs Rd.

10:46 p.m., a DWI was reported on Doyle St.

11:46 p.m., DWI misdemeanor was reported on U.S. Hwy. 377.

There were also three minor traffic accidents and six traffic offenses reported on this day

DEC. 17

5:44 a.m., a theft was reported on Paluxy Rd. 2:24 p.m., drug possession was reported on Spanish

Trail Dr. 5:27 p.m., found property was reported on Travis St. 8:56 p.m., a mentally ill person was reported on Paluxy Rd.

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. 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!

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

CANDLELIGHT CHRIST-MAS Eve service, 5:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 4530 Acton Hwy., Granbury.

MONDAY, JAN. 8

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Installation of new officers and plans for the coming year, 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

9:09 p.m., drug possession

was reported on Morgan St.

9:26 p.m., an assault was

reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377.

**There was also one ma-

jor traffic accident and two

minor traffic accidents and

nine traffic offenses on this

8:58 a.m., a hit-and-run

was reported on U.S. Hwy.

11:44 a.m., suspicious ac-

tivity was reported on Grove

6:32 p.m., criminal tres-

pass was reported on Grove

8:49 p.m., criminal tres-

pass was reported on Keith

**There was also one mi-

nor traffic accident reported

on this day as well as three

day**

377.

St.

St.

thefts**

DEC. 18

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

SALVATION ARMY

Women's Auxiliary Monthly meeting: DeCordova Country Club Camp Hoblitzelle presented members, Junnie Gage and Andrea Bower. Junnie and Andrea will share their experiences with Camp Hoblitzelle attendees, the effect on the campers and ways to help with this project. Mingle at 10 a.m., meeting at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. Trio salad plate (chicken salad with croissant, fruit salad, pasta salad) and dessert, \$20 (gratuity included, cash preferred). Make checks payable to SAWA. \$5 setup fee (if not staying for lunch). Can't wait to

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FROM PAGE A1

going anywhere," she continued. "I have other things that I will be doing in Granbury with the community, so I will continue to forge forward and work for the community. But I really appreciated being here. Thank you for supporting me."

City Manager Chris Coffman praised Burwell for playing a vital role in getting the new police station built and for her work on other infrastructure projects in the city.

"All the things that we've done for those six years have been high-growth community activity," Coffman said. "Thank you for everything you've done. We are going to miss your logic, and sound approach to the way you handled decisions and your critical thinking process. We can't thank you enough for serving our community."

PLEASE SEE **COUNCIL** | A8



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Mayor Pro-Tem Trish Burwell receives a clock from City Manager Chris Coffman as she steps down as a city council member during a regular meeting of the Granbury City Council on Dec. 19.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

see you "doing the most good."

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

HOOD COUNTY 4-H Pan-

cake 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 76048 from 6:30-9:30 a.m. For any questions, please contact the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280.

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 News A5

MAPPY MOLIDAYS MOOD GOUNTY

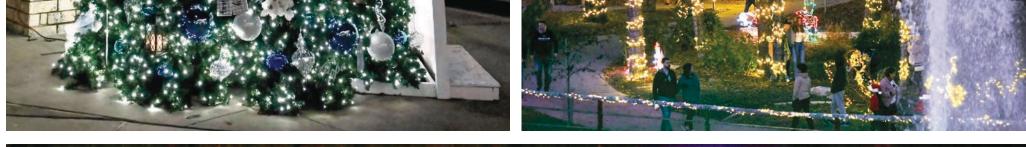
PHOTOS BY **MARY VINSON |** HOOD COUNTY NEWS















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Granbury airport aviation director preparing for takeoff

Pat Stewart honored with retirement ceremony

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

fter eight years with the city of Granbury and serving as the aviation director at the Granbury Regional Airport, Pat Stewart is ready to take flight on a new adventure.

From working 30-plus years in the aerospace industry to serving a vital role in the airport expansion project, Stewart is now preparing for full retirement in the sunny skies of Florida with his wife, Eloise.

To congratulate Stewart on his years of hard work and dedication with the city of Granbury, a retirement ceremony was held Dec. 14, with many community members and city leaders paying tribute — and making friendly, comedic jabs — to the beloved director.

Steven Vale, Granbury City Council member Place 5, explained that he began as an airport attendant in 2014, where he worked until 2021 until he filed for a seat on the council.

"Pat, we just thank you for everything. We're gonna miss you guys — and can we come visit?" Vale said, which resulted in a room full of laughter.

Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley also reminisced on the time she played in a golf tournament with Stewart.

"I was saying, 'Man, how do you ever get off around this place? Like, how do you take time off?' and he said very important advice, which I love. You said, 'Well, the only person that could change that is you,' so I'll never forget that," Dooley said. "And then I also want to know why you never asked me to be on any future teams with you playing golf. That was my one shot at golf, and I evidently did not do that well, so we're going to miss you and your beautiful wife, Eloise, and I wish you guys all the best.

Gary Hawkins, former aviation director, said when Stewart was applying for the job Hawkins, himself, was leaving. He described Stewart as being the "most overqualified percen" he had over seen important thing — and everybody that was here back then knows — that the airport was not a slam dunk. It was a lot of arm-wrestling and trying to educate the public and council on the economic impact. The best feeling I get is when I see the numbers now, because I think we threw the forecast away a long time ago, because it's surpassed. We actually had to subsidize the airport back then, and now it's actually turning a profit."

Former Mayor Nin Hulett explained that a few years ago, the city council had just undergone drama with the Granbury Opera House and then they were suddenly looking at expanding the airport runway.

"I said, 'Man, I don't know if I can take another deal like this at all, because there were people that didn't believe we needed it," Hulett said. "But when Pat came on board and took this thing on, Pat said, 'I got this,' and when he talked about that, I'd go back to Chris (Coffman) and go, 'Where did we get this guy? This guy is overqualified by far.' Pat, I want to thank you for making my life, and really the council's life, really pleasant going through this whole thing because you did a great job and I'll always remember you taking the bull by the horns and taking this thing on and putting it together.'

Jackie Vaughn, chair of the Granbury Regional Airport Advisory Board, said he started flying out of the airport in the late 1990s and then later owned a small business in the mid 2000s. He explained that he watched the airport grow from only having one employee to what it is now.

"You've just done an amazing job, and it's been an honor to serve on the airport board," Vaughn said. "And even though we're an advisory board, you allowed us to have input and we've had some good people that served on the board, and we still do. I just want to thank you for all that you've allowed us to be a part of, and for what you've done for the city." John Roberts, former operations supervisor, said Stewart had first applied for Roberts' job, adding that he also described Stewart as being "way overqualified." After some discussion with Hawkins, Roberts recommended Stewart to the city, and said he is "so thankful that they did" just because of the successful updates Stewart has done for the Granbury Regional Airport since then. "At the airport, you may or may not know it, but people fly everywhere, looking

eight years working with the city. around, checking out our apprivation of the city," Roberts said. "For many years, I would talk to people, and they would look at this the planned-in-the-future runway hat we had, and they would over ask me, "When are we going it w to get started?' And I'd say, Grae "Well, it's still pending.' They were actually looking for a team place to plant businesses. At "Th that time, I knew that we were for the city."

going to hit — if we ever built

that runway — a home run,

appreciate your time." Hawkins then brought up how recently, he witnessed the "biggest dad gum jet" he had ever seen in his life fly over the top of his house, as it was heading toward the Granbury Regional Airport.

"I almost broke out into tears," he said. "I told myself, 'That's what we tried to build for years." He also brought up a snake

story, which Stewart felt the

told Gary point blank, 'You go tell Mitch a rattlesnake comes by me again, I'm gonna shoot it and he can fine me.'"

City Manager Chris Coffman then spoke, stating the city owes Stewart its "heartfelt gratitude," not only from the staff, but from the residents who have watched them build the airport. "The way be did it wall

"The way he did it, wellestablished and built credibility with our organization he has friends."

"Pat, you're a huge picture of success, you got tons of friends, you can count on us to remain your friends, and we just love you to death," Coffman said.

He added that Stewart's attention to details made a difference to his career, along with his professionalism and passion.

"What can I say? You're a successful, retired, American

"It's a situation where I can see why so many people like you. Never mind your accomplishments, which are enormous. But I've enjoyed spending time with you and learning from you, and you've really helped me transition from the commercial side of aviation to the GA side, and albeit in a very short amount of time. Thank you. I appreciate your time."

CODY MATHIS Incoming Aviation Director

Incoming Aviation Di

need to chime in regarding his own experience. "So, I'm opening up the King Air hangar one day, and as the door comes up off the surface, there's a rubber membrane there, and as this door comes up, a sixfoot rattlesnake goes right by me," Stewart said. "I was so stunned, I didn't move; that's probably a good thing, but I'm afraid he's going to go up in the wheel well, so the owner pulls up in his car and I'm like 'Bruce, there's a rattlesnake right there,' so we started tugging, we pull it out and the snake wraps itself around the front axle of the truck. We're pulling it out and finally, it lets loose."

as a whole," Coffman said. "Maybe you don't know it, but he was vice president of the Rolls Royce engine division for American Airlines. I don't know how many years, but he had a \$660 million budget that he administered, so running our airport is kind of like a hobby to this guy. Like they said, he's overqualified to do what he did for us. The citizens have stood back and watched us spend \$16.4 million of grant money and about that much of taxpayer money on that facility, and then seeing the economic impact and the results that that's bringing in, it's huge, and we just can't thank you enough for that. We're sad you're leaving, though, because you've done so much for us in that part, but more than anything, you've become a great friend to all of us, and that's more valuable than anything."

Airlines executive that spent the best of time in our little airport and blessed us, so we are recipients of your blessing, and thank you for that," Coffman concluded.

Stewart was then presented with a gift card and a plaque for his commitment and



in his life.

"He left Oklahoma State two years into his apprenticeship, I guess, as an engineer and went to work for Boeing in Seattle, and they promised him the world and gave it to him," Hawkins said. "Pat, you've been a joy. Eloise, you obviously know what you're doing moving to Florida. But thank you so much for the fine, fine work that you did and you spent all the money that I gave the city, \$30 million."

Former Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Mobly then thanked Hawkins for getting the Granbury Regional Airport to a "certain point," as the city was looking to put the company in "good hands."

"I think we made the right choice," he said. "The most

that have knowledge need to share it with those that don't, so I'll challenge you with that. Pat, I'm gonna miss you, but you've already told me that there's a place to park my RV."

and we got a 30-year plan. We

have already — since that air-

port has been completed -

blew past the five-year plan.

It's amazing. The city and the

people that live in this county

really don't know that, and

somehow, we as individuals

Cody Mathis, the incoming aviation director, said he has been fortunate to have the opportunity to shadow Stewart for nearly a month, adding that he quickly became his friend.

"It's a situation where I can see why so many people like you," Mathis said. "Never mind your accomplishments, which are enormous. But I've enjoyed spending time with you and learning from you, and you've really helped me transition from the commercial side of aviation to the GA side, and albeit in a very short amount of time. Thank you. I After shooting and killing the snake, Stewart explained how during the next staff meeting, Hawkins tells Mitch Galvan, Granbury Chief of Police, that they shot a snake at the airport.

"Just trying to be honest," Hawkins chimes in.

"Allegedly, Mitch tells Gary, 'You tell Pat that he'll get fined if he does that again.' I Coffman then quoted a phrase spoken by Clarence the angel during the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," which states, "No one is a failure if excellence.

In his speech, Stewart said the airport project had been "outstanding," but it wasn't just because of him — it was because of his team.

"A lot of people throughout every department in this city were all working together with one goal," Stewart said. "I was just one of the guys that was part of that team, so thank you all."

He explained how his retirement plan led to him becoming the aviation director at the Granbury Regional Airport. He worked in a highstress industry, so he had a plan to retire at 56. Luckily, he was able to meet that goal and pull the plug. However, before he could, his wife,

PLEASE SEE **STEWART** | A7

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU! A to everyone who supported, voted and encouraged me, thank you. To all of our amazing friends, hard working and dedicated volunteers, thank you. To the citizens of Granbury for your insightful discussions during the campaign, I thank you. To my wife Brenda and our family for their love and encouragement, I am truly grateful.

campaign participation and most of all your votes, sometimes twice, that enabled me to win thin election. I hope you all will now work with me to continue making Granbury the greatest town in Texas.

~ Skip Overdier

Pol. Ad. paid for by the Skip Overdier campaign

Space heater safety: How NOT to burn your house down this winter

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

There's no doubt about it it's cold outside.

But before you bust out that dusty space heater from your attic, you might want to refresh yourself on the dangers associated with heaters and how to prevent an accidental fire.

According to the U.S. **Consumer Product Safety** Commission, portable heaters were involved in an average of 1,700 fires per year resulting in an average of 70 deaths and 160 injuries annually from 2017 to 2019.

Additionally, according to the National Fire Prevention Association, space heaters account for 43% of home heating fires and 85% of associated deaths. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. Unvented, combustion-based space heaters have asphyxiated homeowners or led to explosions.

Although a space heater can be a cost-effective way to stay warm — especially during Texas' bipolar winter months — they can also serve as a fire hazard, which is why the City of Granbury Facebook page recently



Before you bust out that dusty space heater from your attic, you might want to refresh yourself on the dangers associated with heaters and how to prevent an accidental fire.

shared a video detailing four safety tips from the Texas Department of Insurance.

Inspect immediately: Before turning on the space heater, make sure there are no

cracked or broken plugs or loose connections. If the heater shows signs of damage, get it fixed or replace it as soon as possible.

Outlets only: While exten-

sion cords and power strips are convenient, they are not always the safest route when it comes to heaters. Space heaters always need to be plugged directly into a wall

Give it some space: Make

your mattress. Also, don't put space heaters in places where kids or pets might pass by.

Turn it off: Always turn off the space heater before you leave the room or go to bed. To help with this issue, look for space heater models that shut off automatically when tipped over.

According to a CPSC staff report, portable heaters can also present a hyperthermia (overheating) hazard to consumers, particularly children, people with disabilities and senior citizens, who may be more susceptible because of their limited ability to act or react to the elevated ambient temperature. Hyperthermia can result in death. Don't leave portable heaters running unattended in a confined space around infants or individuals with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities.

While these steps are vital to ensuring an accidental fire will not occur, the most important thing to remember is to always prioritize safety. Handle space heaters with care and always maintain vigilant usage.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

STEWART **FROM PAGE A6**

Eloise, told him, "You can't not go to work. You're not wired that way.'

Stewart came up with three job possibilities to help him stay busy following retirement: work in the hardware department at Home Depart, get a job in the municipal airport, or to get on staff at a municipal golf course.

One day, a friend wanted to

introduce Stewart to Hawkins, the city's then-aviation director. Hawkins told him, "John Roberts just gave me his resignation. You need to apply for this job." The rest, Stewart said, was history.

"Gary retired a couple of years later and the city asked me to come on board and take up this runway project," he said. "That runway project was the challenge. It's what kept me coming to work everv day, and doing everything I could to make it successful,

but again, it wasn't me; it was the team.'

Stewart also thanked the city staff, as he had worked for several big corporations in the past and said the Granbury city staff is the best he's ever worked with.

He also honored his "boss" Michael Ross, deputy city manager for the city of Granbury, by saying Ross was the guy he depended on.

Stewart added, "Michael, you are a great leader and inspiration, and thank you."

Mathis will replace Stewart as aviation director of the Granbury Regional Airport. He comes to Granbury from the Waco Regional Airport, where he has been operations manager since 2018. His professional aviation career began in Houston in 2006, followed by leadership positions in Shreveport and Dallas. Mathis is a member of the

American Association of Airport Executives and is certified as an airport security coordinator. Mathis earned

a B.S. in aviation management from Louisiana Tech University.

"Granbury is already known as the 'Friendliest Little Airport in Texas.' That matches my personality and is a reflection of my passion for advancing and promoting the aviation community. I am excited for the opportunity to build on what Stewart and Granbury's management team has already accomplished." Mathis said, in a previous news release.

Mathis said he has "...had a love for airplanes since I was a kid." As a self-proclaimed history buff, he is looking forward to exploring Granbury's past with his wife and four children. All the kids have aviation-inspired first names; the youngest is Amelia, as in "Earhart.'

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243





outlet.

sure your heater is at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire, including furniture, blankets or

SEASON. MAYBE A LITTLE MORE TIME OFF TO SPEND WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. TIME TO CUDDLE BY THE FIRE, WATCHING MOVIES WITH YOUR FAVORITE FURRY FRIEND CLOSE BY.

WE ALL SPEND SO MUCH MORE TIME INDOORS THIS TIME OF YEAR. WE'D LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE **DIFFERENCE DUCT CLEANING MAKES WHEN YOU'RE SPENDING MORE TIME IN YOUR HOME. CLEAN DUCTS COMBINED WITH PROPER FILTRATION CAN MAKE A** WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, ESPECIALLY FOR ALLERGY **SUFFERERS OR FAMILY MEMBERS SENSITIVE TO THE** MANY INDOOR POLLUTANTS. IT ALSO REDUCES ODORS **IN YOUR HOME CREATED BY THOSE FAVORITE FURRY** FRIENDS, COOKING, CANDLES AND SO MUCH MORE.

LASTLY, MORE THAN ANY SERVICE WE CAN PROVIDE, WE WISH YOU THE PEACE AND JOY ONLY OUR SAVIOR JESUS **CHRIST PROVIDES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING** WITH YOU IN THE COMING NEW YEAR.

BLESSINGS FROM THE DAFFAN FAMILY TO YOURS.





MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM



Mastering the art of the elevator speech and storytelling

Staff reports

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce will host its January Business Development Event: Mastering the Art of the Elevator Speech and Storytelling Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024. The presenter will be J. Loren Norris, a certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach, experienced marketing communications strategist, trainer and speaker. He is passionate about helping clients learn how to craft their expertise into a compelling presentation, convey their passion, connect with their audience and lead with the influence of strong relationships.

This transformative business development event will delve into the intricacies of crafting compelling elevator speeches and harnessing the power of storytelling to drive business success. In today's fast-paced and competitive business landscape, the ability to communicate your value succinctly and engage your audience emotionally has never been more critical.

Key highlights of this event include:

• crafting the perfect elevator speech

• the art of storytelling in business

• building genuine connections

boosting brand image

and recognition Being a part of this event

will help unlock the secrets to mastering the art of the elevator speech and storytelling to propel your business to new heights. Elevate your communication, engage your audience and watch your business flourish.

The event will be held

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Aviva Granbury Senior Living located at 2300 Paluxy Hwy. in Granbury. Admission is \$10 for Granbury Chamber of Commerce members and \$20 for nonmembers. For more information, please visit http://granburychamber.com.

COUNCIL FROM PAGE A4

Coffman then presented Burwell with a clock as a token, adding that every time she looks at it, he prays she will remember her time spent on the council as her "happy days."

Eddie Rodriguez, Place 2 council member, thanked Burwell for being a great example of leadership within the community.

"Just the way you make decisions is unique, and I just appreciate your leadership, your candor and the way you represent yourself in the city," Rodriguez said.

Greg Corrigan, council member for Place 6, explained that unlike most of the council, he has had the pleasure of knowing Burwell for well over a decade, adding that she has always been someone who looks at life differently.

"She takes a different approach, which has been welcomed by the council and sometimes much needed," Corrigan said. "We'll miss you. It's been a pleasure working with you up here, and we look forward to what you're doing next."



Gary "Skip" Overdier is sworn in as a new member of the Granbury City Council during a regular scheduled meeting on Dec. 19.

Place 3 council member Bruce Wadley said he didn't know Burwell until he ran for city council. He explained how she also "steered him through" social media.

"Trish has been great,"

he said. "We've gone to conferences out of town. We've done so much together. She's so stable. I don't show much emotion, and then she can just sit there when I'm getting kind of riled up about something, she's like, 'Calm down.' I'm just gonna really, really miss you."

Steven Vale, Place 5 council member, said he has had the privilege of sitting next to Burwell for the last two years, noting she is a "stalwart" on the council.

"She's just been amazing to work with," Vale said. "She's provided tremendous leadership, great passion, great knowledge. She really studies everything that comes before us on city council. It's been a joy to work with her. This is not the end of her journey here. I know that she's got other things planned."

City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle jokingly added that Burwell is the "single council person" who has always listened to him.

"I have watched you go from Reiner to Burwell and been able to personally, outside of this dais, share some of those experiences with you," SoRelle continued. "I love that for you, and I love that for Jim (Burwell's husband) and I love the life that you guys have together. I'm so happy for you for that."

Mayor Jim Jarratt also jokingly commented that Burwell is the "lady who would keep me straight in the back room."

"Skip, you have very big shoes to fill," Jarratt added. "We are going to miss you so much."

As Burwell steps down, Overdier takes her place on the city council for a three-year term.

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December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month



December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

Submitted item

he National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), within the U.S. Department of Transportation, with the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration remind you to celebrate safely this holiday season. We stand with all those who have known the tragic consequences of drugged or drunk driving, and we rededicate ourselves to preventing it this December and throughout the year.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Families, educators, health care providers, and community

road.

Toolkits:

impaired driving. By talking

about the risks and setting

clear expectations, parents

help their children stay safe,

Prevention Resources and

• Traffic Safety Marketing

and other caregivers can

sober, and focused on the

- a website with free cam-

paign posters, TV/radio/

leaders are invited to promote responsible decisionmaking and encourage young people to live free of drugs and alcohol.

Impaired driving includes distracted driving, drugged driving, and drunk driving. All 50 states and the

All 50 states and the District of Columbia enforce the minimum legal drinking age of 21 years. NHTSA asks minors to avoid alcohol and federal resources for information on underage drinking and ideas for combating this issue.

• Teen Drugged Driving: Parent, Coalition and Community Group Activity Guide (PDF) – This guide provides coalitions, prevention groups and parent organizations with: the facts on the dangers and extent of teen and young adult drugged driving; parent and community activities for effective prevention; resources to further assist in prevention activities.

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service compilation of resources on impaired driving, including general information, enforcement, and prevention, in observation and recognition of National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

For More Information: NHSTA's Stop Impaired Driving website provides information to help you stop impaired driving in your community.



COURTESY PHOTO

OBITUARIES

Dee Jowers-Riley

April 9, 1939 - December 18, 2023

Dee Jowers-Riley passed into the loving arms of Jesus on Monday morning, December 18, 2023, with her daughter, Debbie, at her side.

Celebration of Life Service was held at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 at Grace Community Church, 801 W. Bardin Road, Arlington, Tx, with Jonathan Scheffrahn officiating. Interment was at the Hickory Flat Cemetery in Cedar Grove, Tennessee, on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. Dee was born April 9,

1939, in Cedar Grove, Tennessee. She married Eddie B. Jowers on July 2, 1955. They were blessed with two children, Debbie and Tony. Ed and Dee were married for 39 years. The Lord called Ed home on May 31, 1995.

Dee temporarily leaves behind her family who love her dearly; daughter, Debbie Roberts and husband Bruce of Arlington; son, Tony Jowers and wife Sandy of Midlothian; grandchildren, Sarah Scheffrahn, and husband Jonathan, Christopher Roberts and wife Holly, Brandi Ennis and husband Dawayne, Brittany Hoskinson and husband Michael, Bethany Lindsey and Brook Harris and husband Heath, and 25 wonderful greatgrandchildren.

Dee married Dwayne Riley on March 22, 2003. She was also blessed with a blended family that included daughter, Kathy Kennemer and husband Michael of Granbury; Vance Riley and wife Carmen of Granbury; Tamra Riley Cochrane of Granbury; grandchildren,



Justin Kennemer and wife Erica, Connor Kennemer, Jacob Riley, and Coby Riley.

Dee made friends everywhere she went. While working at Texas Commerce Bank and as an Avon representative in the Shady Valley area, she made life-long friendships. At Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury, she served in various ministries. She is probably remembered the most as one of the greeters. This was her most favorite thing to do. She was so good at welcoming people and letting them know they were loved.

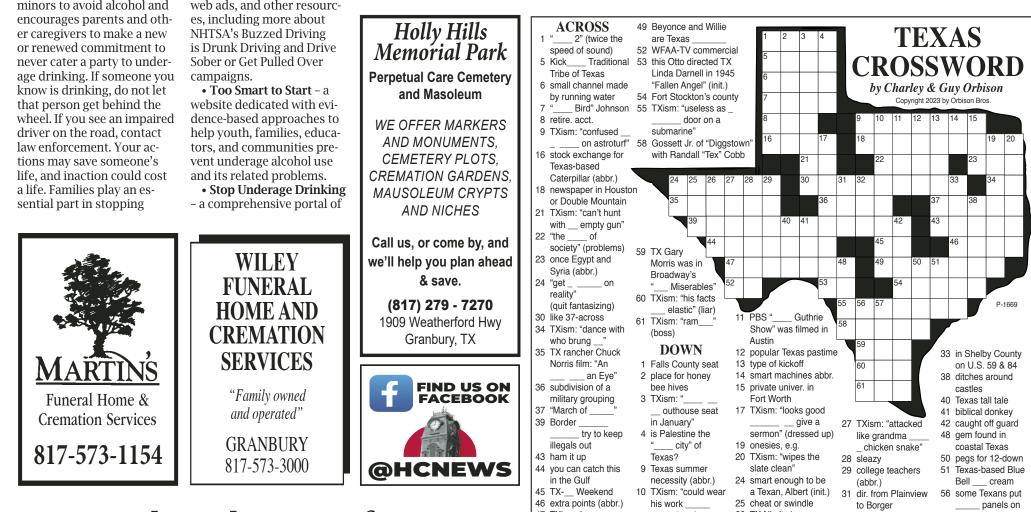
While Dee, also known as Grandmama and Grammers, will be greatly missed, her family is overjoyed that she has seen her Savior, Jesus, face-toface.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider giving to Partners Across Cultures. For info, please go to

partnersacrosscultures.org If you are unable to attend, please watch Dee's Celebration of Life Service at: gracearlington.com/ live

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at 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.



Time: A key element of investing

TY ANDREW

Edward Jones Financial Adviser

Who knows where the time goes? We've reached the end of another year, so it's appropriate to reflect on the nature of time and how it affects us. And time certainly is a key element in the pursuit of your financial goals.

As an investor, time can be your greatest ally. If you hold some investments for the long term, you could achieve an impressive cumulative growth in value. Furthermore, if you keep adding shares to these investments, possibly through a dividend reinvestment plan, you could



Ty Andrew investments, you will experience market fluctuations, but in general, the longer you hold these investments, the more you can reduce the effects of market volatility.

But you also need to consider aspects of time in these contexts:

CHECKING PROGRESS ON ACHIEVING GOALS

When you establish a goal, such as saving for a child's

education or your own retirement, you know the end date of when you'll need the money, but it's also important to mark your progress along the way. So, each year, see how far along you are in meeting your goal. If you're falling behind, you may need to adjust your investment mix.

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY

The time needed to achieve a goal should drive your investment strategy for that goal. For example, when you are saving for a retirement that won't happen for three or four decades, you will need to invest for growth by placing a reasonable percent-

age of equities and equitybased investments in your portfolio, based on your comfort with the various types of risk, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. You will experience some bumps along the way keep in mind that the value of investments will fluctuate and the loss of some or all principal is possible — but you likely have time to overcome the "down" periods. On the other hand, when you are saving for a short-term goal, such as a vacation or a new car or a wedding, you'll want a set amount of money available precisely when you need it. In this case, you may need to sacrifice some growth po-

church

social" (lazy)

47 TXism: "cream

the top" (quality)

tential for investments whose principal value won't fluctuate, such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and bonds.

26 TX Nimitz became a

admiral in 1938

32 "don't

hopes on it"

all you

Keep in mind, though, that when you're investing for long- and short-term goals, it doesn't have to be just one strategy or the other. You can save for retirement with primarily growth vehicles but still have room in your portfolio for shorter-term instruments. And even when you're specifically investing for some short-term goal, you can't forget about your need to save and invest for retirement.

And here's one final point about the relationship between time and investing: Your risk tolerance can, and probably will, change over the years. As you near retirement, you may feel the need to adjust your portfolio toward a more conservative approach. That's because you may want to consolidate any gains you might have achieved while also recognizing that you simply have less time to bounce back from down markets. Still, even in retirement, you'll need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

their roofs

57 DeWitt County seat

When you invest, one of your biggest considerations is time — so use it wisely.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS. 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, nondenominational 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).

GRIEFSHARE 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.StoneWater-Church.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.

GRIEFSHARE 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 CAREGIV-

ERS 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 CAREGIV-ERS 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.



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.

Donations received November 15, 2023 - January 31, 2024

will be matched up to the amount of the fund.

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Bash the Holiday Blues

Lake Granbury Medical Center

"The holidays can be a tough time of the year for many of us," mentions internal medicine nurse practitioner Nicole Cuellar, APRN, FNP-C. "In our recent edition of Live Healthy Newsletter, an excellent article highlighted the importance of understanding the Holiday Blues and what you can do about tnem.

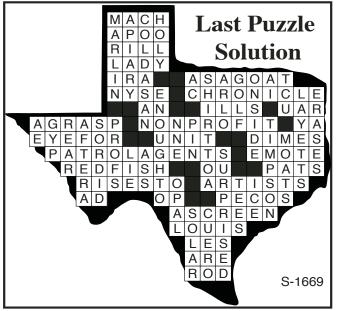


winter blues include changes in mood, feelings of hopelessness or sadness, low energy levels, difficulty concentrating and changes in appetite and sleep patterns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report women are four times more likely than men to be diagnosed with SAD. Though the cause of SAD is not fully understood, several theories suggest a lack of sunlight plays a significant role. The decrease in davlight during winter can disrupt the body's internal clock and lead to changes in serotonin levels, which regulate mood. There are several treatment and coping options available for winter blues:

depression, although the exact reason is still unknown. To ensure you get enough vitamin B-12, incorporate

of seasonal affective disorder for up to 80% of patients. • Strong social ties. Engaging in meaningful so-





One-third of Americans say they're more stressed during the holidays than at any other time. It's easy to understand why — we have a lot of social obligations, we're spending a lot of money and the lack of sunshine is a real bummer.

The American Academy of Family Physicians reports as many as 6% of Americans have seasonal affective disorder (SAD), but as many as 20% of us experience some form of the "winter blues." What we're trying to say is you're not alone if you feel down this time of year even though it's supposed to be a season of jov. Symptoms of SAD and the

• B-12 boosts. Low levels of vitamin B-12 in the blood have been associated with

foods like salmon, trout, eggs and dairy products into your diet. If you're vegetarian or vegan, consider taking a B-12 supplement to meet your body's needs.

• Dietary adjustments. Leafy greens, oatmeal, sunflower seeds, oranges, fortified cereals, lentils and soybeans are great sources of folic acid that can help boost mood. Blueberries, raspberries and strawberries can help combat stress, too.

• Light therapy. Sunshine, or exposure to a light box that mimics natural sunlight, can boost mood. According to The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, light therapy effectively reduces symptoms

cial activities can boost your mood and provide a support system. Whether going for a walk with a friend, having a virtual movie night, or simply having a heart-toheart conversation, connecting with others can bring warmth and comfort during winter.

It's normal to have occasional down days, but if you feel down for days on end, with changes in sleep patterns or appetite, it may be time to see your provider. Remember, asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

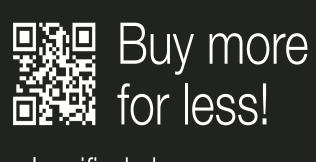
Please call 817-573-8805 to schedule an appointment with Nicole.

Wedding CAnnouncement

Ciera Maldonado and Tristyn Lewis, both of Granbury, were united in marriage Saturday, Dec. 16,2023.

Grandparents of the bride

are Amy and Randy Atwood of Pampa. Grandparents of the groom are Manuel and Tonja Vasquez. The ceremony was officiated by Gordan Lewis II, ordained minister. Torie Walrop was maid of honor and the groom's grandfather, Manuel Vasquez, was best man. The couple will honeymoon in Las Vegas.



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PORCH **FROM PAGE A3**

of the doubt and when the next game is played, I will be watching, hoping for the best. Isn't that what being a fan is all about?

THE LION OF TEXAS ROARS BACK INTO GRANBURY

Ever since the last time it was on the marquee, I have been asked when I

will present another performance of the celebrated show, "The Lion of Texas — a Conversation with Sam Houston." Finally, the time has come and it is with great pleasure I announce two performances at the Granbury Opera House: Friday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and again Saturday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. This one-man show portrays the life and times

of General Sam Houston, perhaps the most iconic figure in Texas history. While historically accurate, it is humorous, entertaining, thought-provoking and tells the story of our Texas in a way which is very impactful to an audience.

The last time this show was performed in Granbury it sold out all three shows, so I urge you to get your tickets early. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the Granbury Opera House. If you are a Texan, this is a

show which will make your heart swell with pride. And if you are not a Texan, well.... the rest of us will all feel sorry for you! I hope to see you all there!

Thought for the day: Being a true fan is not being there at the beginning but being there at the end.

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

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Hood County News

NOTICES

9031 **Public Notices**

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.

I FGAL 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.

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).

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 Marv Haller with Constable Pct 2 at (817) 579-3291

9031 **Public Notices**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DONALD DAVIDSON, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10214, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: STEVEN ROBERT DAVIDSON.

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 c/o: Steven G. Kuban

Attornev at Law 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 12th day of December, 2023. Steven G. Kuban Attorney for Steven Robert Davidson State Bar No.: 24078807 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 Telephone: (817) 573-8872 Facsimile: (817) 579-1651 E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Carolyn L. Vecchio, Deceased, were granted on December 11, 2023, in Cause No. Pl 0227, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Samantha L. Valosek and Laura S. Mason.

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.

DATED the 12th day of December 2023 The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for Samantha L. Valosek and Laura S. Mason By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid Steven J. Reid State Bar No.: 16747900 Samuel I. Reid State Bar No.: 24105702 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 Telephone: (817) 573-3718 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com samuel@reidfirmpc.com

LEGAL AD

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 12th, 2024, at 9 a.m. during the Hood County Commissioners' Court in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. The Commissioners' Court will meet to discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the infrastructure development plan for WAYMAKER COTTAGES AND RV, located at 1410 Billings Rd, Tolar, TX

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration for the Estate of Anna Spohn Welch Marsh, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2023, in Cause No. P10207 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Holly Donigan Marsh McKee and Christian Joel Marsh, Independent Co-Administrators of the Estate of Anna Spohn Welch Marsh.

The address of record and to which claims may be addressed: Holly

www.hcnews.com

Public Notices

9031

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Howard Holmes, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2023, in Cause No. P10247, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Thomas Howard Holmes III. 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, attorney for Thomas Howard Holmes III 201 E. Bridge St. Granbury, Texas 76048

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZON-ING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. CP-2023-09 Amend the Master Thoroughfare Plan to remove Davis Rd between Old Granbury Rd and US Hwy 377.

2. O-2023-02 Amend select sections of the City of Granbury: Zoning Ordinance Article 1, General Provisions Section 1.7 Creation of Building Site; Section 2.3. Amendments; and Subdivision Regulations Section 1 - General Provisions 1.5. Jurisdiction and Section 2 - Procedures. The general purpose is for conformity with new legislation, shorten review timeframes, and offer administrative actions

3. CP-2023-08 Amend the Future Land Use Plan from Low Density Residential to Retail/Office; located at 505 S Morgan St.

4. Z-2023-12 Zoning change from R-12 Residential District to Light Commercial; located at 505 S Morgan St. 5. SUP-2021-12 Specific Use Permit for

Dwelling, Single Family, Attached use in Central Business zoning; located at 210 E. Ewell St.

6. SUP-2023-30 Specific Use Permit for an Amusement Center, Commercial, Outdoor, Temporary in Light Commercial zoning; located at 505 E Pearl St. 7. SUP-2023-33 Specific Use Permit for Auto Sales, Used and Auto Repair, Major uses in Heavy Commercial zoning; located at 4301 E US Hwy 377.

For more information, contact Community Development at 817-573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-90 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BE-LOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 103.361 ACRE TRACT OF THE MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 348 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; APPROV-ING A SERVICE PLAN FOR SUCH TERRI-TORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDI-NANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVER-



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ALMANAC

The gift that keeps you learning - the Texas Almanac 2024-2025 is the premier reference for everything Texas. The entire book is revised with the latest information, including the 254 county maps and population estimates for every Texas town. https://www.legacyoftexas.com/product/ texas-almanac-2024-2025.

BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canvon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

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Estate Sale Log Homes - Log Home kits selling for balance owed, free delivery. Model #101 Carolina, bal. \$17,000; Model #203 Georgia, bal. \$19,950; Model #305 Biloxi, bal. \$14,500; Model #403 Augusta, bal. \$16,500. View plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com, 704-368-4528.

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PUBLIC SALES

Find Contractors, Service Technicians,

Constable John Shirley, Hood County, Texas, Pct. 2 **By:Deputy Constable**

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.

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Lancrow Self Storage located at 1409 N Plaza Dr - 1301 N Plaza Dr / 2721 Fall Creek Hwy -4071 Acton Hwy Granbury TX 76048/ 76049 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via

www.storageauctions.com on 1/9/ 2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Daniel Cherry (2 units); Joshua Biles. 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. NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of TOMMY RAYMOND DUTTON, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2023, in Cause No. Pl 0204, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: JEFFREY W. PIERCE and APRIL LEE PIERCE.

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 12th day of December, 2023 Steven G. Kuban Attorney for Jeffrey W. Pierce and April Lee Pierce State Bar No.: 24078807 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 Telephone: (817) 573-8872 Facsimile: (817) 579-1651 E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

Donigan Marsh McKee and Christian Joel Marsh is as follows: c/o Beth Hampton The Blum Firm, P.C. 777 Main Street, Suite 550 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated: December 13, 2023. THE BLUM FIRM, P.C. /S/ BETH HAMPTON **Beth Hampton** State Bar No. 24072071 777 Main Street, Suite 550 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 (817) 334-0066 - Telephone (817) 334-0078 - Fax bhampton@theblumfirm.com Attorneys for Independent Co-Administrators

PUBLIC NOTICE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www. Storagetreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on January 09, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Stephanee Liming- boxes, furniture Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Willa Dean Long, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2023, in Cause No. P10232, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Elaine Gilbert.

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: Elaine Gilbert 8813 CR 132N Overton, Texas 75684 DATED the 19th day of December, 2023. /s/ E. Mark Piland E. Mark Piland Attorney for Elaine Gilbert 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

ABILITY CLAUSE: PROVIDING FOR EN-GROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-91 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BE-LOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 155.554 ACRE TRACT OF THE MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 348 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVID-ING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-92

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY DISANNEXATION OF TER-**RITORY FROM THE CITY OF GRANBURY** MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BE-LOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 37.213 ACRE TRACT OF THE THOMAS PRICE SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 439 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; REMOVING SERVICE PROVISIONS TO SUCH TERRITORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDI-NANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSS-MENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PRO-VIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on December 19, 2023, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT OF IMPACT FEES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas will hold a public hearing at the Granbury City Hall, 116 W Bridge St., Granbury, TX on February 6, 2024, at the regular meeting of the City Council commencing at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the amendment of land use assumptions, a capital improvements plan, and the imposition of an impact fee. Any member of the public has the right to appear at the hearing and present evidence for or against the update.

Additional information regarding the updated land use assumptions, capital improvements plan, impact fee service areas, and proposed impact fees is available at the Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048 from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.

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SATURDAY, Dec. 23, 2023

Smoking, Vaping and Menthol are extremely difficult to quit; American Lung Association in Texas offers tips The American Lung Association encourages people who use tobacco to make a resolution to quit in 2024, provides tips and resources

Submitted item

This time of year, thousands of people across Texas make resolutions to take on personal challenges, accomplish a significant goal, or improve their life for the new year. This year, the American Lung Association in Texas is encouraging everyone who smokes, vapes, or uses other tobacco products to resolve to begin their quit journey in 2024 and provides tips and resources at Lung.org/ Ouit-Smoking.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease here in Texas, killing 28,030 people each year. Nationally, 16 million Americans live with a tobacco-related disease. While it's best to guit as early as possible, quitting smoking at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life.

"13.1% of adults living in Texas smoke, and 3.9% of high school students use a tobacco product. We know that breaking the addiction to nicotine is extremely difficult. For most people, it takes multiple attempts to quit tobacco for good. Each quit attempt brings a person closer to reaching their goal," Charlotte Maffia, Executive Director with the American Lung Association in Texas said. "Some tobacco products, like menthol cigarettes and e-cigarettes, make quitting even more difficult, so it is critical that people who are ready speak with their healthcare provider about Food and



This year, the American Lung Association in Texas is encouraging everyone who smokes, vapes, or uses other tobacco products to resolve to begin their quit journey in 2024 and provides tips and resources at Lung.org/Quit-Smoking.

Drug Administration (FDA)approved tobacco treatment medications, coupling them with proven effective cessation programs to quit."

Currently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in the process of finalizing rules to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars in the U.S. Menthol is a chemical compound extracted from peppermint or corn mint plants that makes ciga-

rettes easier to start smoking and harder to quit. Flavored cigars often look similar to cigarettes, attract kids, and addict them to tobacco products for a lifetime.

According to the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2.1 million high school and middle school students use e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes deliver a high level of nicotine very quickly, and many e-cigarettes contain as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. This makes them very difficult to quit. While much remains to be determined about the lasting health consequences of these products, the Lung Association is very troubled by what we see so far. The inhalation of harmful chemicals can cause lung damage and lung diseases.

Here are some of the tips and resources the American Lung Association recommends to successfully quit tobacco:

Lung Helpline: Not sure where to start? Call the Lung Association's free Lung Helpline and Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-LUNGUSA, which is staffed with licensed registered nurses, respiratory therapists, and certified tobacco treatment specialists.

Talk to your Healthcare

Provider: Talking to a healthcare provider about your plan to quit smoking is an important step. With your doctor's help, you can include cessation medication into your tobacco treatment plan, which can double your chances of quitting successfully. There are seven FDA-approved medications that are proven to help you quit. Most insurance covers these medications without cost-sharing.

Get Help from a Proven Resource: The American Lung Association offers resources to help adults and teens to guit all tobacco products, including Freedom From Smoking to help adults quit, and Not-On-Tobacco (N-O-T), which is specially designed for teens who are ready to quit.

Quit. Don't Switch. E-cigarettes are tobacco products, and the FDA has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit. Switching to e-cigarettes does not mean quitting. Quitting means ending your addiction to nicotine.

For more information about quitting tobacco, visit the American Lung Association website at Lung. org or call the Lung HelpLine at 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872). Most health insurance covers medications and counseling to help you quit. If you don't have insurance, you can enroll until January 15 in most states. For more information, visit www.lung.org/ openenrollment.

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A14 Hood County News

Texas announces statewide plan to expand access to high-speed broadband internet

From Staff Reports

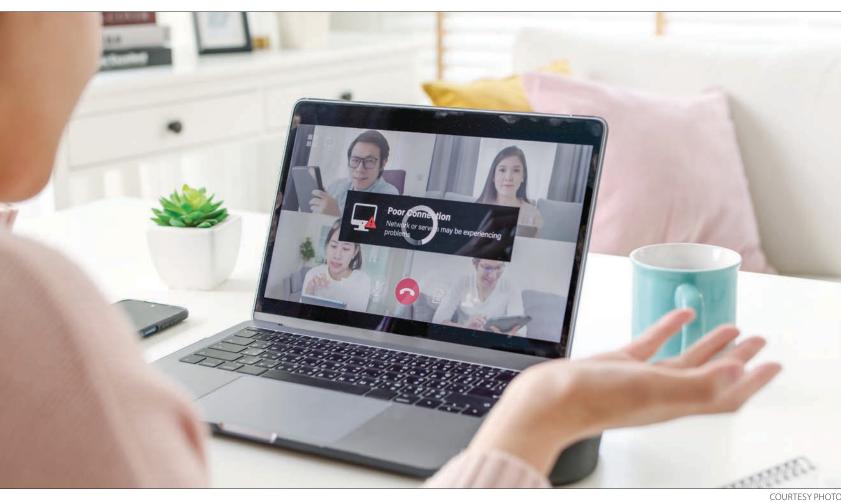
The Texas Broadband Development Office, operated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, recently announced a statewide Digital Opportunity Plan that will expand access to high-speed broadband internet.

Almost 2.8 million households and 7 million people in Texas lack access to broadband, or high-speed internet, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. The Digital Opportunity Plan will provide these Texans with the technology and knowledge they need to fully participate in an increasingly digital world.

"Access to reliable, highspeed internet as a means of advancing education, training, employment opportunities, healthcare and delivery of essential services is critical to the future of our state," said Texas Comptroller of Publica Accounts Glenn Hegar. "But we know that we can't do this without partners in the regions and the communities that need this service the most."

"The Texas Digital Opportunity Plan will allow more Texans to access technology and thrive," said Greg Conte, director of the Texas Broadband Development Office. "We know that starts with improving broadband (or highspeed internet) adoption, device access and digital skills training, but we want to hear more from community members most in need."

Historically, the digital



Almost 2.8 million households and 7 million people in Texas lack access to broadband, or high-speed internet, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. The Digital Opportunity Plan will provide these Texans with the technology and knowledge they need to fully participate in an increasingly digital world.

divide in Texas has disproportionately left out rural communities, communities of color and low-income families, according to a 2016 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas report. Because the internet and technology touch so many aspects of life today, bridging this divide is essential to ensure all Texans can participate and succeed.

The Broadband Development Office is partnering with organizations like the Texas Workforce Commission, chambers of commerce, industry associations, educational institutions and elected officials to highlight how high-speed internet and digital skills training can help Texans realize their economic potential.

From today through Jan 5, 2024, Texans can give their opinions on the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan by visiting broadbandfortexas. com/tdop.

Participants in the public comment period will help

build a stronger, more connected Texas that can offer: Better access for better

lives. Faster, quality internet can improve people's lives by providing better access to education, healthcare and job opportunities, no matter where they live.

Economic growth and job creation. Identifying digital barriers can create more jobs, attract investments and strengthen local economies.

Online learning tools. Sharing ideas about the plan can help close the "homework gap" and make sure students have what they need to succeed in the digital age.

Digital skills for all. The public's feedback will shape training and education plans so all Texans can succeed in a digital world.

Cybersecurity and online safety. It's vital that Texans have the training they need to keep them safe online and protect their personal information.

Hegar added, "Your input,

passion and local knowledge will help us ensure the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan establishes a clear roadmap to bridge the digital divide and promote digital opportunities for all Texans."

To reach the Broadband Development Office for program inquiries, please contact digital.opportunity@cpa.texas.gov or call 833-3-TEXBDO (833-383-9236).





January 12 7:30pm

January 13 2:00pm

The Historic Granbury Opera House





THE LION OF TEXAS RETURNS TO THE GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE FOR TWO SHOWS! A one man show about Sam Houston, the most iconic character in Texas history! Tickets now available at granburytheater.org.



GHS graduate Tyler Wright named to AFCA 35 Under 35 Leadership Institute

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

A Granbury High School graduate accomplished a career goal of a lifetime when he was named to the American Football Coaches Association 35 Under 35 Leadership Institute.

Tyler Wright — current assistant coach and special teams coordinator for the New Mexico State University football team — was chosen from a field of over 175 highly qualified applications.

According to its official website, the AFCA 35 Under 35 Coaches Leadership Institute is a prestigious program aimed at identifying and developing premier, future leaders in the football coaching profession. Selected participants are invited to attend the oneday institute that features a curriculum of interactive lectures focused on topics specifically tailored to emphasize leadership in the coaching profession, ethics, influential responsibilities, career progression and family balance.

Wright, 31, served as a wide receiver for the Granbury Pirates and graduated from GHS in 2011. Following graduation, he attended Tarleton State University in Stephenville, and it was then he initially started pursuing a coaching career. He chose to follow in the footsteps of his stepdad, Earl Gandy, who was also a high school coach, while his



Tyler Wright — current assistant coach and special teams coordinator for the New Mexico State University football team — was chosen from a field of over 175 highly qualified applications, and named to the AFCA 35 under 35 Leadership Institute.

mom, Wendy Gandy, worked in the GISD Administration Building.

"I got into coaching high school football because I wanted to help grow and develop young men," Wright told the HCN. "Football is just like teaching a class. If you're trying to teach them a concept or teach them a blocking scheme or teach them a patch route, you got to find a way to where it resonates with them and make it to where they can go out and execute it." In 2015, Wright started coaching football at Permian High School in Odessa, where he coached wide receivers for a total of three seasons.

But something was still missing for Wright.

"The whole time I was there, I knew I wanted to move up to the college game at some point," Wright said. "I was trying to move up, and obviously it just never happened, but then finally, one of my coaches from Tarleton got the head coaching job at (The University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa) when they were starting their program, and so I went there and coached college football and quarterbacks."

After coaching at UT Permian Basin for a season in 2018, Wright got hired as a graduate assistant at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth in 2019, where he coached through the 2021 season.

In late 2021, a guy Wright worked with at TCU, Jerry Kill, was offered the head coaching job at New Mexico State University. Wright also chose to tag along with Kill to New Mexico — which resulted in his biggest career move to date.

"We took over a program that was literally ranked the last individual football and going on year two, we went 7-6 last year, won a bowl game, and then we're 10-4 currently and playing in a bowl game in the New Mexico Bowl on Saturday, Dec. 16," Wright said, before the game took place. During the New Mexico Bowl, the New Mexico State Aggies played against the Fresno State Bulldogs, resulting in a 37-10 loss.

Although the team didn't win the New Mexico Bowl, Wright said the New Mexico State football team was previously able to defeat Auburn University in Alabama 31-10 and played in a conference championship for the first time in school history.

"It's a pretty big deal that we've been able to come in and kind of turn this historically bad program around and finally win some ballgames, so it's been fun," Wright said.

Wright explained the main difference between coaching high school football and coaching college football is recruiting players.

"In college, you get to go pick your players, and if you don't have good enough players, you go out and recruit and find better players to replace them," he said. "But in high school, you're kind of given the roster that you have, and you got to find a way to coach them up. In high school, you have to be a much more detailed coach because you may have a couple guys that get to go play college football on your high school team, but most of the time you just have high school players who aren't as good of athletes as what we're coaching at the

PLEASE SEE WRIGHT | B2

Granbury ISD announces new head football coach



BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled Granbury ISD school board meeting Dec. 11, the board voted 5-0 to bring on Bobby Allison as the new head football coach and boys' athletic coordinator. Trustees Melanie Graft and Karen Lowery were not in attendance at the meeting.

Allison is taking the place of Sonny Galindo who served as the interim head coach for the 2023 season. Allison comes from Northwest High School where he was the assistant head coach, defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator since 2014. While Allison was at Northwest, the team won three district titles. posted three 10-win seasons, and won its first playoff win in school history.

Allison was named Assistant Coach of the Year for the 2016-17 school year and the Built by Nature Assistant Coach of the Week in 2016.

He has experience coaching at Odessa, Sharpstown, Levelland and San Angelo Central. He also served as special teams coordinator at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Not only does Allison come with football experience, he has also coached track and field and led a student to the state championship in the discus competition. He has taught history throughout his career and was most recently the physical education department head at Northwest High School.

GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn noted during the meeting that Allison comes highly recommended.

"We are certainly blessed to have him and his family here. We spent a lot of time talking to a lot of candidates and we had a very large committee of community members, parents and administrators, and Coach Allison just kept rising to the top," Glenn said during the meeting. "We're looking forward to great things that he is going to bring to Pirate football, but to boys athletics in general. He is a man of integrity, he's a hard worker and he and his family are ready to move to Granbury and get to work.'

GISD Director of Athletics

Dwight Butler also commented on Coach Allison coming to Granbury.

"I think Coach Allison is a great hire to lead Granbury going forward. I think his roots in West Texas are a major plus, because he brings a genuine football heart and understands the concept of needing and using multisported athletes to compete with," Butler said. "Plus, he has a North Texas mentality from multi-years of coaching in the toughest region of Texas with incredible athletes to battle every week. I look for great things for our student athletes, community, and school.'

Coach Allison told the HCN he is honored to step into this role and is looking forward to what is to come.

"I'm excited to build a resilient team, instill a winning mindset, and continue a culture of excellence. Our focus will extend beyond the game; we are committed to developing athletes of high character, instilling values that will guide them not only to success on the field, but also in every aspect of their future endeavors," Butler said.



During a regularly scheduled Granbury ISD school board meeting Dec. 11, the board voted 5-0 to bring on Bobby Allison as the new head football coach and boys' athletic coordinator.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the newly formed BBQ team of middle school students across Granbury including From left to right Harper, William, Eli, Kaylee.

'BBQ Buccaneers' are sizzling with success New Granbury BBQ team of middle schoolers to compete in state competition

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

The brand new Granbury Middle School barbecue team has already made history by making it to the state competition that will take place in May after a successful first season. The team is under the direction of Crystal Burenheide who teaches foundations of restaurant management and intro to culinary at Granbury High School.

After Burenheide attended a couple of competitions last year with Brianna Langdon, head culinary teacher and head barbeque coach at GHS, she noticed there were some middle school teams competing.

When this school year began, Burenheide decided to ask Langdon if she could create a middle school team to see how it would play out. "If we could start BBQ at the middle school level, imagine the talent they would bring with them when they arrive at the high school level," Burenheide said.

A team was formed with four middle schoolers including seventh grader William Burenheide, of Granbury Middle School; sixth graders Eli Erwin and Harper Langdon, and seventh grader Kaylee Leisure, all of Acton Middle School.

During practice, the middle schoolers are able to work alongside the high schoolers and learn from them as well.

The team holds practices after school every other week for two hours. Each practice consists of Langdon teaching different components of BBQ. Students first learn about fire and kitchen safety before moving on to flavor profiles and trimming of protein.

The team first competed back in November at the Granbury BBQ competition with only three members. Burenheide cooked ribs and steak, Langdon cooked chicken, and Erwin cooked pork chops. All three also helped with cooking chili. At this competition the group was the only middle school team competing and they went up against 16 high schools. Erwin's pork chops placed 5th.

In their first competition as a full team, the Buccaneers took 7th place overall at a competition in Athens Dec. 7. The Buccaneers were again the only middle school team competing against 21 high

PLEASE SEE BBQ | B6

'Grinch' spotted as new GISD bus driver

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

The Grinch is a long way from Whoville as he was spotted in his new job as a Granbury ISD bus driver Friday, Dec. 15.

Jack Jackson, lead bus driver for the GISD Transportation Department, spread some early holiday cheer when he decided to fully dress up as the Grinch before starting his shift Friday morning.

"He just loves the Grinch anyway, so the entire month of December, he wears Grinch T-shirts instead of his uniform and he has every Grinch T-shirt you can imagine," Sue Jackson, Jack's wife, told the HCN. "We've always had the Grinch head, which he wears every year, and this year for the first time, he bought the full costume."

To add to the holiday magic, the Grinch was also spotted wearing a Granbury ISD Transportation Department work badge, complete with his own headshot and the name "GRINCH" typed out below in all caps.

"He usually gives out candy," Sue said. "This year, there were Grinch Hershey kisses. He's been doing it for the six years that he's worked there."

Jack, who has been with the GISD Transportation Department for six years, said he's "always a Grinch" and everyone knows it.

"But at this time of year, I get such a kick out of spreading it around," he told the HCN. "I love these kids and it brings me so much joy to watch them smile."

Sue said Jack usually drives the bus around the STEAM Academy at the Mambrino campus, adding that he loves getting to see the special education students.

"It is great," Sue said. "They just go crazy with it. He loves being on those buses. Those are his babies."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243



To add to the holiday magic, the "Grinch" was also spotted wearing a Granbury ISD Transportation Department work badge, complete with his own headshot and the name "GRINCH" typed out below in all caps.



Jack Jackson, lead bus driver for the Granbury ISD Transportation Department, was spotted driving a GISD bus dressed as the "Grinch" on Friday, Dec. 15.

WRIGHT FROM PAGE B1

college level now. But at the end of the day football is still football. You have got to find a way to teach them and get them to learn."

One of the selling points, Wright said, for transferring over to coaching college football is that he didn't have to also serve as a teacher.

"I was social studies composite, so I was certified to teach every social studies (course) from economics, to geography, to world history, to Texas history to U.S. his tory to psychology, but the years that I was teaching, I was doing world geography which wasn't too bad," he said. "It was fine. It's just. you know, I wanted to be a football coach, and not have to worry about the classroom stuff." One of the biggest challenges of becoming a coach, he added, is the realization that playing football and coaching football are two very different things.

coaching, you realize that you don't know near as much as you thought you did about the game of football and the little details, fundamentals and techniques," he said. "The hand placement, the pad level, the footwork, you do all that stuff as a player, but you're not necessarily thinking of 'Why am I doing this?' 'How are we attacking the defense?' Once you trade that player hat in and you put on that coach cap, you learn more about the game of football than you ever thought existed."

With Wright being added

coaches in the profession along with many other great benefits.

Wright revealed that being selected to the AFCA 35 Under 35 Leadership Institute has been a goal of his since 2017.

"I'm not a big self-promoter," he said. "I just want to be a good person, do a good job and coach my players. I want to love my players up and do what I can to help whatever team I'm coaching for win ballgames, because that's ultimately why we get into this — we want to help young men win because this is a results-based business especially. That's kind of what all my focus has been on - it hasn't been on trying to necessarily further my career. Getting this recognition, it was cool because it was kind of the first time other people acknowledged 'Hey, you're a pretty good young coach.' Having somebody else say it, it's some validation like, 'Hey, maybe I am in the right field, and maybe I am doing the right thing and heading in the right direction as far as my career trajectory is concerned."" Wright said his next career



"I feel like I had a pretty good understanding of football, but once you start

to the 2024 AFCA 35 Under 35 Coaches Leadership Institute, he will also receive a stipend to assist with expenses incurred while attending the AFCA Convention. According to the AFCA website, members will be published in "AFCA Magazine," and "AFCA Insider" weekly email blast, and/or have their articles and videos added to the AFCA Educational Library. Additionally, participants will be placed on the AFCA Foundation Committee and become a part of a prestigious network of rising

Wright explained the main difference between coaching high school football and coaching college football is recruiting players.

goal is to earn an opportunity to coach at a bigger school and to eventually work toward becoming a head football coach.

"I am just 31 years old and finishing up my ninth season coaching, and it's been a good nine years so far, but I still have a ways to go before becoming a head coach — things to learn, people to get connected to, things like that," he added. "But for me, the ultimate goal is being a head coach along with trying to do a good job of being present daily in whatever job I have between now and then."

For more information about the AFCA 35 Under 35 Leadership Institute, visit afca.com.

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CORRECTION

The Acton Nature Center article in the Dec. 16 edition of the Hood County News incorrectly listed the date of the "Going Solar" lecture. The lecture will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center, 6430 Smoky Hill Ct.





PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar Rattlers offense lined up against the Timpson defense at the State Championship game Dec. 13 at AT&T Stadium. Their hard work all seaon accumulated to this moment.

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

If it was easy everyone would do it.

The fact is, it's not easy, which is why it's only been done twice in the history of Hood County public high schools — playing for a state football championship, that is

But the Tolar Rattlers did just that in 2023. True, they came up short, falling in the Class 2A Division I championship game to Timpson, 49-7, Wednesday, Dec. 13, but they left an indelible mark.

The Rattlers finished 14-2, playing more games than any other football team public or private school has ever played in a season in the county.

"It is hard for me to put into words what this program, school and community mean to me. I feel very blessed and honored to be a part of it," Rattlers coach Jeremy Mullins said. "I talk to our kids often about the opportunities in football and how there are only a few compared to the amount of time you put into preparing for each week's game.

"When you sit and think about the amount of people who actually have the opportunity to play in a state championship... you really

history, a record broken twice more in the two subsequent years.

"I am really proud of this group for taking what those who have come before them have started and taking it to another level. That is our hope each year, to do things better than they've ever been done before," Mullins said. "That bar has certainly been raised, but that will not change our mission as new groups continue to come through."

RALLYING AS A TEAM

No sooner had the Rattlers begun the 2023 season when they received what could have been devastating news. Junior running back Peyton Brown, who was among the national leaders in numerous categories in 2022, injured his ankle in the very first week of the season.

Brown would miss the next seven games, returning to be a force in the postseason. In the meantime, the team, filled with a plethora of talent otherwise, pulled together and posted a 9-1 regular season, steamrolling to another district championship.

"This team was just that... a TEAM," Mullins stressed, adding that on the wall in each locker room there are four words that comprise the team code — Compete, Team First Relentless



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Friday Oct . 14, Tolar High School had their homecoming game against the Bangs Dragons. The Rattlers beat the Dragons 61-6. Quarterback Isaac Blessing Recevied the snap.

FAREWELL TO 2A

Barring unforeseen circumstances in the future and seeing as the community is growing, the state championshp could very well have been Tolar's last football game in Class 2A. The program is moving up to play in Class 3A Division II next season.

tures plenty of returning talent for 2024.

"We lose 13 seniors from this group that did a great job of leading this year," Mullins said. "We are very grateful for them and excited about all they are going to go on to accomplish.' The roster for the team that played in the state championship game featured 19 juniors, 15 sophomores and 17 freshmen.

the best at letting coaches coach. I believe that is huge in today's world of high school athletics. They trust us to do what's best and do a great job of supporting us however they can.

"Our coaching staff and their families deserve a ton of credit. We are fortunate to have great men on staff who are not just great coaches but great mentors, husbands and fathers. I am lucky to be surrounded by them each day. Their wives and families sacrifice a lot for us to do what it takes to give our teams the best chance to be successful."

RECAPPING THE SEASON

Record:14-2. District 5-2A Division I record: 6-0, champions. Postseason record: 5-1,

- Class 2A Division I state runners-up.
- Points scored: 716 (44.8). Points surrendered: 213
- (13.3)Scored 40-plus points: 12
- times. Scored 50-plus: 6 times.
- Scored 60-plus: 5 times. Surrendered one TD or
- less: 9 times.
- Shutouts: 4.
- Takeaways: 40 (26 interceptions, 14 fumble recoveries).
- Turnovers: 7 (4 interceptions, 3 fumbles).
- Tackles for loss

sr., 1,825 yards, 30 TD, 4 interceptions.

Rushing: Blessing, 1,2176 yards, 21 TD; Garrison Nation, sr., 1,046 yards, 17 TD; Kelvin Murray, fr., 612 yards, 8 TD; Peyton Brown, jr., 559 yards, 12 TD.

Receiving: Matthew Behrens, sr., 32 catches, 740 yards, 10 TD; Clayton Stembridge, 23-391, 6 TD; Nation 9-221, 3 TD; Brylen Feist, jr., 16-188, 2 TD; Talan Culberson, jr., 17-187, 3 TD. Tackles: Drake Owens,

jr., 134; Cash Clark, jr., 103; Jaxon Riddle, sr., 111; Stembridge, 98; Hunter Michels, 94.

Tackles for loss: Michels 16; Stembridge 12; Clark 12; Cutter Cain, jr., 12; Riddle 9; Brooks Stone, jr., 9. Sacks: Clark 7, Michels 6,

Cain 4.

Interceptions: Stembridge 7; Braylen Rice, sr., 4; Owens 4; Grant Sherley, jr., 3.

Fumble recoveries: Rice 2, Cain 2, Stembridge 2, Owens 2, Clark 2.

- Punts: Stone 21 for 37-yard average.
- Punt returns: Stembridge 3-35.0 average, Nation
- 2-55.5.
- Kickoff returns: Stembridge 11-30.0, Nation
- 2-51.7. Scoring: Nation 145, Blessing 120, Stone 86,

Brown 78, Stembridge 62, Behrens 62.

realize how special this year was.'

The only other team in Hood County history to accomplish what the Rattlers did this season was the 1966 Granbury Pirates. They finished 14-1 and also played for a 2A championship, falling to Sweeney in the final, 29-7.

SUCCESS AFTER SUCCESS

Even at the end of the 2022 season there was something magical in the air about the Tolar football program. The Rattlers finished that season 13-1 and advanced to the regional final, something only done once before (a 9-5 season in 2015), and never with that many wins in a season.

This was on the heels of having gone 10-3 in 2021. That season produced the most victories in program

"This group really embodied all three, but certainly showed a 'Team First' mentality throughout the year. It was never about one person, it was always about the TEAM!"

ONLY THE BEST

The Rattlers' two losses this season were both to state champions. In the third game of the season they fell 37-6 to Dallas Christian, which won its third consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III state title this season.

The other, of course, was to a 16-0 Timpson team.

In all, the Rattlers faced seven playoff teams in the regular season before going on their own postseason run.

The Rattlers left their mark in 2A, however. Over the past four seasons they were 42-13.

Tolar was also 12-4 in the postseason over the past four years, going farther into the playoffs each season. They reached the second round in 2020, the third round in 2021, the regional final (fourth round) in 2022 and the state final (sixth round) in 2023.

The Rattlers were previously in Class 3A from 2016-19. They reached the playoffs three times and advanced to the second round once.

PLENTY OF TALENT BACK

While the team loses a fair number of seniors from this season, the roster still fea-

MANY TO THANK

Mullins praised and thanked many folks for their support, noting that no team enjoys the success the Rattlers did this season and before — without a strong support system.

"The support we receive here from parents, school staff and community members is second to none. I would love to take the time to individually mention each name but I don't think you have enough room for that," he said with a smile. "So many people gave their time and resources throughout the year.

"Our parents are some of

Sacks: 27. Individual leaders: Passing: Isaac Blessing,

PAT kicks: Stone 71-of-76. Field goals: Stone 5-of-7, long 33 yards.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS Tolar Rattlers receive, the District Championship trophy after defeating San Saba Nov. 3



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS Isaac Blessing and Matt Beherns fist bumping after a Rattler touchdown in the playoff game Nov. 16.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR HOOD COUNTY NEWS Matt Beherns with a huge catch against Italy during the playoff game Nov. 24.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS Garison Nation going for a Tolar frist down against Marlin during the playoff game Nov 30.

Heffernan following dad on basepaths Pirate signs to play baseball at Navarro

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Braxton Heffernan comes from a family that loves baseball. It's a good thing he's excelling at the sport — so much so he will continue playing at the next level at Navarro College in Corsicana. Of course, there's the little matter of his senior season with the Granbury Pirates in the spring of 2024.

"The person who has influenced me to play baseball the most is my dad, Jimmy Heffernan. He played at the University of Texas, and he has coached me all through my childhood," the younger Heffernan said.

Braxton simply describes himself as "just a natural competitor and baseball player."

He notes, "Baseball is unique in that the combination of skills, talent and hard work can be combined on a field and you will still fail more than you succeed. Other sports will say baseball is easy, but when you fail six out of 10 times (a .400 batting average) and you can still be considered successful in your sport, that's nothing short of special. That's why I love it."

BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

Heffernan has played on the varsity since he was a freshman, though that season ended early with an injury. He came back with a breakout sophomore season, batting .365 with five home runs, seven doubles, three triples and tied for the team lead in runs batted in with 24.

He helped the Pirates

reach the second round of the postseason in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the team had a rare year in which they missed the postseason, but head coach Brad Eppler is counting on Heffernan to play a big role in their quest to get back in the playoffs. "His junior year he was

down statistically at the plate, so we're hoping for a senior year that is a product of experience, maturity and growth," Eppler said. "I look for solid numbers out of him."

Heffernan plays in the outfield, primarily right field for the Pirates and center field for his summer teams.

"I love the outfield because it puts speed on full display, and throwing runners out from the outfield is one of my favorite things to do in the game," he said.

Ask him about his greatest strength and he will humbly say it is his hitting abilities. He's not too humble when he gets to the plate, however.

"I focus on being a tough out at the plate each at-bat," he said. "I will hit for both power and average and being able to do that will not only pose a threat to the opposing team but will help me succeed at the next level."

SUCCESS BEYOND THE DIAMOND

Heffernan is also a standout swimmer. This season he is seeking a third consecutive trip to the UIL Swim Meet.

As do many multiple sports athletes, he finds ways to incorporate the training of one into the other. For example, he said swimming has helped him become a better baseball



Granbury senior Braxton Heffernan (seated, center) is shown signing his letter-of-intent to play baseball at Navarro College following his final season as a Pirate. Pictured with him are (seated, left) his mother, Kristina Heffernan; (seated, right) his grandmother, Jan Heffernan; (standing from left) Granbury Pirates baseball coach Brad Eppler; his dad, Jimmy Heffernan; and Pirates assistant coach Maverick Macy.

player.

"Swimming has benefited my baseball career by keeping me in shape, building shoulder strength, keeping my body loose, and reducing lactic acid in my muscles after the baseball weight room," he said.

"Coaching Braxton these last two seasons has been a blessing. It is not often you get to work with such a talented athlete, let alone one who is talented enough to excel in two sports at an extremely high level," Granbury High swim coach Charles Overton said. "His dedication, discipline and commitment to excellence has allowed him to achieve being a regional champion as part of a relay and a two-time state qualifier. It will also give him a chance to repeat as much and then some, hopefully on multiple relays and as an individual competitor."

While he loves swimming, Heffernan said he does not plan to swim in college. When he's not competing,

he loves to lift weights or play video games at home. "I find that the enjoyment of these activities are not just a break from baseball, but take your mind off life," he said.

COLLEGE AND BEYOND

Heffernan is unsure of his major as of now, but said he is leaning toward the arena of business/marketing.

"He has always worked hard in the classroom, earning a top 25 ranking," Eppler praised.

And yes, like many young players, he does dream of playing at the major league level. Like others, he was further inspired by watching his local team, the Texas Rangers, win the 2023 World Series championship.

"I believe that any baseball player that doesn't dream of playing professionally doesn't have their goals set high enough to have the motivation to be successful," he said. "I want to thank my family and coaches for their constant support of my baseball career. The amount of time they have sacrificed for me is what will make me successful at the next level."

STARS Graduate



COURTESY OF GISD

Twelve students graduated from STARS Accelerated High School during the 2023 Fall Graduation held on Dec. 12 at Acton Baptist Church. Pictured are front row: Mikayla Ward, Idania Huerta-Guia, Natalie Rodriguez, Sydnee Wright, and Alyssa Rodriguez. Back row: Juan Marquez, Joseph Espinoza, Caleb Andrews, Landon Dickey, Joshua Slater, Neil Campbell, and Ryann Mull.

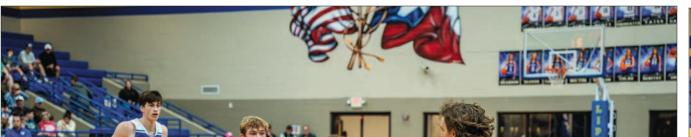


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Lipan Indians Win

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS The Lipan Indians beat the Windthorst Trojans 59-30 at a home game Friday, Dec. 15.













Happy Holidays Hood County



VB honors galore for Lady Rattlers; *Two named all-state, another all-star*

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

It's not uncommon for a team's best season ever to be followed by a host of accolades. It's certainly no different for the Tolar Lady Rattlers volleyball team.

Two members of the team have been named all-state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. A third has been selected as an alternate for next summer's TGCA Class 1A-4A All-Star Game.

Senior right-side hitter/setter Maddie Rue and freshman outside hitter Allie Terrell were honored by the TGCA as all-state selections. The duo was the driving force behind the Lady Rattlers advancing to the Class 2A Regional final before falling to Windthorst and finishing with a 25-15 record.

Rue was a force all over the court. She registered 334 kills and 43 blocks at the net, along with delivering 398 assists, serving 44 aces and having 249 defensive digs.

Terrell posted 268 kills and was a key player defensively with 126 digs.

Rue was also named aca-

Rue was named Offensive Player of the Year; Rousseau (376 digs, 35 aces) is Libero of the Year and Terrell is Newcomer of the Year.

Imel was named to the first team, along with junior setter Abbie Soileau. Secondteam accolades went to junior middle blocker Ally Dobbs, freshman defensive specialist Kamryn Kolb, junior right side hitter Kenzi McQuain and junior middle blocker Lily DeWitt.

All nine Lady Rattlers honored are also academic all-district.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates went into the holiday break in what has become something of a typical style for them this season, winning a close contest. They won 49-45 at Boswell Dec. 15 to improve to 11-4.

Granbury is 6-0 in games decided by four points or less this season.

The Pirates will return to play Dec. 28-29 in The Colony Tournament, where coach David Breazeale said they will face more tough competition. "The upcoming tournament

should be good for us. Good

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (13-3), ranked 14th in the state in the latest Texas Association of Basketball Coaches poll, disposed of visiting Windthorst 59-30 Dec. 15. Leaders for the Indians were Tyson Tarpley (11 points), Court Gaylor (10 points, 5 rebounds), Tucker Tims (9 points), Payton Cornelius (8 points, 7 assists), Darius Steed (7 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists) and Kilt Larson (7 rebounds).

They followed up by opening District 11-2A play with a 31-25 home win over Poolville, No. 16 in the state, Tuesday, Dec. 19. Gaylor led the way with 14 points, while Steed added 9 and Alberto Andreatta scored 8.

The back-and-forth contest saw the Monarchs lead 8-7 after the first quarter, the Indians led 16-14 at the half, and it was tied at 20 after three quarters before Lipan ended with an 11-5 run.

Lipan was playing Ector at the American Airlines Center, home of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, at press time. They are competing in the Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament Dec. 27-29 and host Gordon and 8 points, respectively. Tolar is playing in the Eula Tournament Dec. 28-30. The Lady Rattlers return to district play Jan. 2 at Ranger at 6:15 p.m.

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers traveled to Jacksboro Dec. 15 and fell 55-34. Tolar was led by Zane Terrell, who scored 11 points, while Merritt Imel added 10 and Cayden Abrego tallied 7. The Rattlers then played

host to Lake Worth on Tuesday, Dec. 19 and won 47-41. Imel paced the win with a double-double of 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Terrell added 9 points.

Despite their record being 6-10, the Rattlers are ranked fourth in the state in Class 2A by the TABC. With the Rattlers football team now having finished their season after advancing to the 2A Division I state championship, the basketball roster could see some additions.

The Rattlers will compete in the Eula Tournament Dec. 28-30. They begin District 11-2A play Jan. 2 at Ranger with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

GRANBURY SWIMMING



Terrell posted 268 kills and was a key player defensively with 126 digs.Terrell is Newcomer of the Year



demic all-state, along with senior libero Trinity Rousseau.

In earning TGCA all-star status, junior outside hitter Senne Imel's statistics included 47 aces served, 342 kills, 37 blocks and 449 digs.

"They are very well-deserved honors," Tolar coach Misty Rhodes said. "As a senior Maddie has worked for four years and finished her career with a great achievement.

"All-state as a freshman is a huge honor. Allie will continue to grow and develop into a leader for the program."

Imel is one of only four girls from Class 2A across the state selected as an all-star.

"Senne has proved herself worthy of the highest honors time and time again," Rhodes said. "I am proud that those efforts were recognized, and she has been justly rewarded for that."

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL ALL-DISTRICT

While the Lady Rattlers, ironically, did not win District 8-2A, finishing second to Hamilton, they nonetheless cleaned up in the honors doled out by the league's coaches. teams better expose your weaknesses to prep for district play," he said. "There are tons of coaches who would like to be 11-4, but this is about maxing out how far our abilities can take us."

Granbury begins District 5-5A play Tuesday, Jan. 2 at Wichita Falls Rider. Tipoff is 1:30 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates evened their District 5-5A record at 1-1 (11-7 overall) by defeating visiting Azle 43-31 Dec. 15. Ella Garner (13 points), Kate Hamlin (12) and Fayth Fry (12) combined to outscore the Lady Hornets.

In subvarsity action against Azle, the Lady Pirates freshmen won 52-16 and the junior varsity won 39-29.

Granbury traveled to Midlothian Tuesday, Dec. 19, before taking a Christmas break. They won 40-30 as Garner (14) and Hamlin (10) combined for 24 points.

The Lady Pirates will compete in the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock Dec. 28-30 before returning to league play at Wichita Falls Rider Jan. 2 at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.

LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians made short work of DeLeon, winning 78-27 at home Dec. 15. Leading Lipan were Alisha Green (19 points, 4 steals), Hanna Gaylor (15 points, 5 steals), Ashlyn Clark (13 points, 5 rebounds), Taylor Branson (9 points, 4 assists, 4 steals) and Madison Cornelius (4 steals).

They improved to 3-0 in District 11-2A (16-3 overall) Tuesday, Dec. 19 by defeating visiting Poolville 60-15. Gaylor scored 12, Clark 11 and Finley Shockley posted 10. Kynzi Callaway contributed 8.

The Lady Indians were playing Bullard at the American Airlines Center at press time. They are in the Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament Dec. 27-29 and return to district competition at Santo Jan. 5 at 6:15 p.m.

TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (11-8 overall) moved to 2-0 in District 11-2A with a 43-31 win at home over Hico Dec. 15. Senne Imel and Trinity Rousseau paced Tolar with 12 The Pirates and Lady Pirates competed in the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Invitational in Frisco. The girls finished seventh out of 21 teams, while the boys were 11th.

Top individual finishers for Granbury were (distances in yards): Girls

200 Freestyle - 6. Bailey McDermott, 2:09.29. 50 Freestyle - 3. Mylie Erezo, 25.77. Boys 50 Freestyle - 4. Braxton Heffernan, 22.16. 100 Breaststroke - 9. Bodie Chastain, 1:07.73. Top relays Boys 200 Medley - 9. Luke

Basil, Chastain, Colin Lindsey, Heffernan, 1:44.04. Girls 200 Free - 5. My. Erezo,

Avery Young, Brenna Haynes, McDermott, 1:46.38. Boys 200 Free - 3.

Heffernan, Hunter Jones, Cameron Ward, Basil, 1:31.67. 400 Freestyle 9. My.

Erezo, Young, Ma.. Erezo, McDermott, 3:58.30. Granbury will be back in

the water competing Jan. 6 in the New Year's Classic at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Natatorium.

COURTESY PHOTO

Imel is one of only four girls from Class 2A across the state selected as an all-star.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rue was a force all over the court. She registered 334 kills and 43 blocks at the net, along with delivering 398 assists, serving 44 aces and having 249 defensive digs.

BBQ FROM PAGE B1

school teams.

At this competition, the team prepared five dishes including pork chops, skirt steak taco, smoked half chicken, St. Louis-style pork ribs and chili. Each dish is due at a specific time. Teams are not allowed to prepare or cook anything until the contest begins at 9 a.m.

"Time management and really knowing your ingredients largely impacts your success," Burenheide said.

Burenheide took home 3rd

place with his tacos, Leisure took home 5th place with her ribs, and Langdon earned 7th with her chicken.

Due to its top 10 finish, the team qualified for the state BBQ contest that will take place May 3-4 in Burnet. The team will attend a few more competitions to prepare for the state competition. After the state competition, nationals will follow in the summer.

"If we keep pace and stay focused, (nationals) is definitely a possibility," Burenheide told the HCN.

The team was recognized for its outstanding accomplishment at the Granbury ISD School Board meeting Nov. 11.

"The BBQ Buccaneers demonstrate teamwork, positive mindsets, resiliency, skill and grit," Burenheide said. "They are so eager to learn and eager to prove themselves amongst older peers that they listen intently to instructions, focus on the small details, and take comments from coaches as constructive and positive. They put what instruction and knowledge they gained to work, and it shows."

Landon added that the biggest quality of the middle schoolers is their coachability. Burenheide noted there is talk of possibly adding a second middle school team, and that Langdon would love to generate more interest at the middle school.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured is the newly formed BBQ team of middle school students across Granbury including From left to right Harper, William, Eli, Kaylee.



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY_{TM}

Tarleton State opens indoor season, Angel Gomez breaks 5000m school record

Tarleton State University

PITTSBURG, Kan. - The Texans came out strong in the first meet of the season Dec. 8 and 9 with multiple athletes moving into the top-10 in school history of their respective event.

The Purple and White competed Friday and Saturday in the Boo Rogers Multi Invitational and the Crimson and Gold Invitational. Both events were held at the Robert W. Plaster Center.

"We took a small group to Kansas to get a quality meet under our belt," said head coach Clay Holland. "I was happy to see the progression we have made but we understand that we have a long road ahead of us to get to where we want to be.'

Boo Rogers Multi Invitational

The lone Texan to compete, Jordan Rae, earned a top-10 finish in the Women's Indoor Pentathlon on Friday in Pittsburg, Kansas. She earned 3404 points across her five events. This performance earned Rae the No. 2 spot in school history for the Women's Indoor Pentathlon.

Rae tied for third place in the high jump with 806 points, her best event of the weekend. She had top-15 finishes in her other four events on the weekend. In the 60m hurdles she earned 842 points with a time of 9.33. In the shotput, Rae threw a dis-



Angel Gomez broke the school record for the men's indoor 5000m race on Saturday for the Texans.

tance of 9.94m (32.61 feet), earning her 526 points. The long jump earned her another 578 points in which she jumped 5.07m (16.63 feet). In her final event, Rae earned 652 points with a time of 2:33.33 in the 800m race. Crimson and Gold Invitational

Angel Gomez broke the school record for the men>s indoor 5000m race on Saturday for the Texans. Gomez ran a 14:48.49 setting the new mark to beat. The previous record of 15:09.63 was held by Peyton Heinig (2017). Teammate Angel

Contreras followed close behind Gomez in the men>s indoor 5000m race, locking up the No. 2 spot overall in school history. Contreras earned his place with a time of 14:56.09. Following close behind was Kellen Frickle who now sits fifth overall with a time of 15:10.21.

COURTESY PHOTO

Moving to short distance, the Texans had three athletes etch their names into history. Taylor McFarland, Rese Schoonover and Caterrin Cox all moved up to the No. 2 overall spot in school history for their respective race. McFarland claimed her

first of two spots in the record books with an outstanding performance in the women's indoor 400m race. She ran a 56.36 moving her to No. 2 overall in the 400m for Tarleton State.

Moving to hurdles, McFarland alongside teammate Schoonover share the No. 2 spot for the indoor women's 60m hurdles. Both student athletes ran an 8.89 to set the new school record. Also moving into the top-10 is Mikayla Watson with a time of 9.22.

In the men's hurdles, Cox earned the No. 2 spot in school history in the indoor men's 60m hurdles. Cox ran a 7.96 etching his name in the Texan history books. The Purple and White had two other student-athletes move into the top-10 in Omar Mahmoud and Nathan Franco. Mahmoud ran an 8.20 earning him sixth place while Nathan Franco moved into ninth place with a time of 8.32.

The No. 2 spot in the Indoor Men's High Jump now has a new owner. Davi Torres took control of second place in school history with a jump of 2.06m (6.76 feet).

The Purple and White will head west next time as they will travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to compete in the New Mexico Team Open Jan. 26-27.

Texans' 9-game winning streak against Cardinals snapped

Tarleton State University Texans outrebounded the back to a 13-point defi-

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State has commanded the all-time series against Incarnate Word, but the Cardinals forced a tough offensive outing by the Texans and snapped the Purple and White's ninegame winning streak in the matchup.

The Texans (2-6, 1-1 WAC) fell 57-42 to the Cardinals (5-2, 0-0 SLC) on Sunday at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville, their first loss to UIW since 2008. The Texans still lead the all-time series 20-9.

Turnovers plagued Tarleton State in this one, as the Texans gave it away 25 times to UIW's 12. The

Cardinals 41-29, but UIW outshot them 21-of-55 (.382) to 17-of-50 (.340). The Cardinals entered the game with the 17th best scoring defense in the nation at allowing just 52.2 points per game.

The Cardinals raced out to a 13-2 lead and never looked back. Tyler Jackson nailed a three at the first quarter buzzer to make it a 16-7 Texan deficit, but it was a similar second frame and UIW took a 29-16 lead into the locker room.

Tarleton's offense picked up in the third quarter, and after UIW led by 20, the Texans cut it

cit after three, 43-30. UIW maintained control in the fourth though to earn its fourth straight victory.

Teresa Da Silva led the Texans with 11 points and two blocks. Jackson and Elise Turrubiates each added seven points, with Jackson grabbing four rebounds, and Turrubiates adding six. Faith Acker secured a team-high eight rebounds.

UIW was led by Destiny Terrell's 16 points on 7-of-8 shooting and seven rebounds. Aliyah Collins led the bench with 12 points (4-8), and Nina De Leon Negron chipped in 10 points and three steals.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State has commanded the all-time series against Incarnate Word, but the Cardinals forced a tough offensive outing by the Texans and snapped the Purple and White's nine-game winning streak in the matchup.

Off shooting night leads to Tarleton road loss at Northwestern State



Tarleton State entered the Wednesday, Dec. 6 rescheduled game No. 1 in the WAC in field goal percentage (.460), but an off shooting night led to a Texan loss at Northwestern State.

Tarleton State University

NATCHITOCHES, LA -Tarleton State entered the Wednesday, Dec. 6 rescheduled game No. 1 in the WAC in field goal percentage (.460), but an off shooting night led to a Texan loss at Northwestern State.

The Texans (2-5, 1-1 WAC) shot below 40% for just the second time this season and had a season-worst night from long range (1-10). Despite all that, they still had a chance to win at Prather Coliseum in Natchitoches, Louisiana, but ended up falling 59-51 to the Lady Demons (4-4, 0-0 SLC).

Teresa Da Silva returned to the starting lineup and led the Texans with 11 points on 4-of-7 shooting. Jakoriah Long scored nine points (3-5 FG), Elise Turrubiates tallied eight points (3-5 FG) and six rebounds, while Faith Acker

added four points, five rebounds and four blocks.

The Texans and Lady Demons were tied 40-40 entering the fourth quarter. Northwestern State won the final frame 19-11 as they outshot Tarleton 6-of-9 (.667) to 3-of-16 (.188). The Texans actually outshot the Lady Demons in the game 19-of-56 (.339) to 19-of-59 (.322), but were outrebounded 45-34.

It was a slow start to this one, with a combined three points over the first four minutes of action. The margin was one-possession for either team over the first eight minutes, with Northwestern State taking a 13-9 lead into the second quarter.

After Northwestern State led 16-9, Tarleton fought back with a 7-1 run, then tied the game at 20-20 with 3:15 to play in the second quarter. The Texans held a onepoint lead at halftime, 24-23, forcing the Lady Demons to shoot 6-of-33 (.182) from the field, including 1-of-12 (.083) from beyond the arc in the first half.

The Texans had their best offensive quarter in the third, making 7-of-14 (.500). Neither team led by more than three in the frame, deadlocked at 40-40 entering the fourth.

Tied at 44-44 with 7:14 to play, Northwestern State went on a 10-1 run over the next five minutes to put the game out of reach.

The Lady Demons' Jiselle Woodson scored a game-high 19 points (8-12 FT), adding four rebounds. Carla Celaya notched 10 points, seven rebounds and two steals. Jasmin Dixon finished with seven points, 11 rebounds and three blocks.

American Heritage Girls serve

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATHV

Special to the Hood County News

Troop 3129 of the American Heritage Girls (AHG) bundled up to brace the morning cold Saturday, Dec. 16. Every third Saturday in December the young ladies of Hood County's AHG troop gather to serve Wreaths Across America and to assist the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution in honoring the lives of veterans as they hold a ceremony each

year.

This is the 10th year for the American Heritage Girls in Granbury. Nationally, the group was born in 1995 when a group of parents wished to make a leadership organization for girls with the Christian faith as its foundation. There are now troops in every state and 15 countries.

Service is a core tenet of the group, as is patriotism making Wreaths Across America a great opportunity for the girls to serve where their heart is. The AHG website states the AHG program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity

through service to God, fam-

ily, community and country. AHG is entrusted by the DAR with the special task of placing flags along the path to the site of the ceremonv at the Acton Cemetery. The flags alternate between United States flags and Texas flags. The girls work in teams under the supervision of their troop leaders and parents. The capable young ladies begin this task at just five years old, which is the age of the youngest members. They first hammer a hole with a screwdriver and mallet into the hard ground and then place the flag.

"When 20 or so children, teenagers and adults showed up to place flags for Granbury's Wreaths Across America hosted by the Elizabeth Crockett's Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (ECDAR), they asked with big smiles, 'Can we help carry chairs. Can we carry those boxes?' AHG's dedication to the community exceeds what most groups do. The girls help set up outside for Wreaths Across America in December each year," shared Peggy Freeman, chair for the Constitution events for the ECDAR.

The local AHG troop has partnered with the ECDAR on multiple occasions, assisting with the Stroll Through Texas History and providing support and volunteers for the award-winning Constitution Camp in Hood County every summer.

"In June, they smile through Texas heat to help with ECDAR's Constitution Camp, facilitating 50 to 90 children in crafts, games and of course, water balloon bottles. Several have served as leaders in small groups. In September at DAR's Constitution Day activities, the AHG crew lead pledges,

show respect for the flag, and lend their muscles to set up chairs and tables. The most extraordinary component of this group is that they share our event's purpose. It's not just another badge they earn. They bring their parents to honor the veterans and our history. They show interest in our nation's founders and the Constitution. Best of all, their smiles reflect their love for God," adds Freeman.

AHG desires to serve in areas that align with their ideals and world view. They have hosted diaper drives for

PLEASE SEE AHG | B10

HOOD OUTDOORS Hazards of eating raw freshwater fish



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.

I have covered this before as many folks enjoy eating Sushi. The raw fish-eating craze has been going on for years and has become the norm for many. I am personally not a big fan of raw fish, but I do enjoy eating cooked fish. Eating raw fish is generally not a bad thing, though I get asked questions on occasion if you can eat raw freshwater fish. The answer is freshwater fish that is not cured correctly could infect you with Diphyllobothrium (tape worm). Apparently most saltwater fish don't carry this infection and are preferrable for raw dishes.

Typically, most people who are infected with Diphyllobothrium have little or no symptoms at all especially early in the infection. However, some symptoms can include abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, vomiting and weight loss. Vitamin B12 losses due to the infection may lead to anemia. Some complications include intestinal obstruction and gall bladder disease.

This Diphyllobothrium, as I alluded to earlier, is defined in layman's terms as a tape worm infection. There are several types of these worms, some of which can grow up to 30 feet long. Diagnosis is made by identification of eggs or segments of the tapeworm in a stool

sample with a microscope. Eggs are usually numerous, but more than one stool sample may be needed to find them.

This infection is easily treated with medication (praziquantel or niclosamide are used most often). Typical infections occur in humans by eating raw or undercooked fish as I mentioned earlier. Examples of fish include salmon, trout, perch, walleye, pike and other species — usually freshwater fish. Some fish such as salmon live in both fresh and salt water and can harbor Diphyllobothrium larvae. Lightly salted, smoked, or pickled fish also may contain infectious organisms.

What is the best way to avoid this infection? The best answer is to not eat raw or undercooked fish. The FDA recommends the following for fish preparation or storage to kill parasites.

Cooking: Cook fish adequately (to an internal temperature of at least 145° F $[~63^{\circ} C]$

Freezing: At -4°F (-20°C) or below for 7 days (total time), or at -31°F (-35°C) or below until solid, and storing at -31°F (-35°C) or below for 15 hours, or at -31°F (-35°C) or below until solid and storing at -4°F (-20°C) or below for 24 hours.

I don't want to scare anyone as this infection is fairly rare, but it can happen. I regularly eat fish and our fish is great food to eat. I would make sure you cook your freshwater fish thoroughly or make sure to freeze per the guidelines above. I understand you cannot get infected with fresh raw oysters, which is good news for many of us that enjoy them on the half shell.

So again, I hope I did not affect your ability to enjoy our freshwater bounty. Granbury has some great fish to eat including bass, crappie, catfish, striped bass and sand bass. Keep the oil hot for the freshwater fish!

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the middle 50s and cooling slowly. Water levels are about a foot low. Striped bass are slow to fair and scattered from Indian Harbor to Mallard Pointe but are good to 8 pounds on 5-inch soft plastics fished real slow. White bass (sand bass) continue to be caught all over the lake typically near channel ledges on the main lake and in the river near Tin Top. Best bait for sand bass are small jigs and slabs worked by bouncing off the bottom in 10 to 20 feet of water. Some good catches of small striped bass and sand bass are also being caught in open water under the birds near Sandy Point.

Big blue and yellow cats to 15 to 20 pounds are possible on cut bait fished on shallow flats just off the main channel mainly on the upper ends. Largemouth bass are slow to fair on soft plastics and slow rolling crankbaits near main lake points and near laydowns in the river above Granbury. Crappie are also good on the upper ends near deeper docks and near submerged structures. Best reports on crappie are north of the railroad bridge.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) eater-sized channel catfish limits continue to be hot on prepared baits. The bass anglers are flocking to this warm power plant lake and are catching numbers of fish near main lake points and on submerged tanks and road beds. Some good catches are reported on drop shot rigs. I do not have a Tilapia report on Comanche Creek.

HoodCounty

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Granbury Junior Optimist Club wins national title

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

A student-led club known as the Granbury Junior Optimist Club dedicates its time to spreading optimism and serving the community. Just three years after its inception, the club has brought home a first place national title.

The Granbury Junior Optimist Club's service project took first place in an international organization with more than 15,000 members worldwide. In fact, Junior Optimist Club is also known as Junior Optimist International. The Granbury students were awarded for their service project acknowledging the club has completed the most impactful and wellorganized service project during the 2022-23 year. The club started out with 12 members and has grown to over 150.

Houcine Chraibi who is a member and director of the Granbury Optimist Club has helped guide the Junior Optimist group.

"We feel very proud of



The Granbury Junior Optimist Club assists with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors.

the recognition," Chraibi said. "Our community faces challenges like food insecurity and child abuse prevention. The JOI Club steps up to tackle these

issues, offering a helping hand and spreading awareness. Beyond 'seeing the bright side,' our club fosters empathy, cultivates social responsibility

and empowers students to become future community leaders."

The club has focused on two projects monthly, including offering help

with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors food pantry at First United Methodist Church as well as reading books to elementary students at Acton Elementary School.

This year the Junior **Optimist Club students** were busy with helping across the community including helping at the Christmas parade, tying blue ribbons around town to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month, delivering meals to those in need during the summer school break, serving Thanksgiving meals at STEAM academy at Mambrino, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, painting Pirate Drive and much more.

"My favorite part of being an active member of Junior Optimist is our ability to provide a service organization to our community that is constant," Club Officer Quinn King said. "Whether it be reading to elementary students, helping at the monthly food pantry, or simply honoring individuals that have allowed a club like ours to succeed, it's always such a reward to be able to seek

PLEASE SEE CLUB | B10



The Granbury Junior Optimist Club members work with The Salvation Army by ringing bells during the holidays.



The Granbury Junior Optimist Club helps with repainting Pirate Drive.

COURTESY PHOTO





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National Christmas Movie Marathon Day on December 23rd is a delightful treat for kids, offering a magical prelude to the festivities ahead. As children eagerly anticipate the arrival of Santa Claus, this special day provides a perfect blend

of excitement and joy. Families gather around the television, transforming the living room into a cozy cinema filled with the enchantment of holiday films tailored for the younger audience.

From animated classics like "The Polar Express" to the whimsical adventures of Frosty the Snowman, the movie marathon captivates young hearts with tales of wonder and friendship. The air is filled with the sweet aroma of holiday treats as laughter and giggles fill the room. National Christmas Movie Marathon Day on December 23rd becomes a

cherished tradition for kids, fostering a sense of holiday magic and creating fond memories that will last a lifetime. It's a joyful countdown to Christmas, wrapped in the warmth of family and the magic of the silver screen.

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AHG FROM PAGE B8

Brazos Pregnancy Center, placed crosses for Right to Life, created and led food drives for Mission Granbury and more. Yearly AHG participates in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child by packing piles of boxes with supplies they and their families provide. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that provides shoeboxes full of gifts for children around the world.

Besides serving, the young ladies of AHG enjoy a robust curriculum that provides patches when proficiency is shown in the areas of faith, leadership, social-emotional health, outdoor skills, citizenship and life skills. The organization created the curriculum to increase in difficulty with age, and boasts levels through age 18, with junior leadership offered after the age of 18. AHG offers a challenging "Stars and Stripes" award akin to the Eagle Scout award.

For questions about AHG, see their website, americanheritagegirls.org. Locally Troop 3129 meets the first and third Sunday of each month at Promise Point Church. For information call 817-910-8868.





AHG members Livi Gordon, age 10 and Kaydence Faulkner, age 8 pack shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse

COURTESY OF MELANIE GORDON



COURTESY OF ALICE JONES American Heritage Girls join the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Operation Christmas Child ministry.

American Heritage Girl Phoebe Salas, age 9 places a wreath on a veteran's grave during Wreaths Across America in the Acton Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 16.



COURTESY OF ALICE JONES

American Heritage Girls Gemma Maxwell, age 11, and Wrenley Wynn age 9 accompanied by Gemma Maxwell's little sister Lucy Maxwell, age 3 and their families place flags along the path for Wreaths Across America on Saturday, Dec. 16 at Acton Cemetery.

CLUB FROM PAGE B9

out and meet the needs of our community members." In the upcoming semester, the club looks forward to launching a project focused on bringing kindness and companionship to senior citizens in assisted living homes. "It's an opportunity to bridge generations and strengthen our community ties," Chraibi said. "We have some amazing students in our community, and this club would not be possible without the support of the Granbury Optimist Club, friend of the youth, and of the students, and of the parents/ guardians of the members. We have a loving community, and we love our community

Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution for Wreaths Across America.

back."

The Junior Optimist Club was recognized during a GISD school board meeting Dec. 11 for its national win as well as its community contributions.

"As an optimist, I believe that the world needs more optimists," Chraibi said. He said the Optimist Creed is a powerful statement that helps members to live a more positive life. "Promise yourself: To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true. To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others. To be

too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble," the creed reads.

To learn more about the Granbury Junior Optimist Club visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/granburyoptimists or send an email to GranburyTXOptimistClub@ gmail.com.

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'Where happiness happens'



Kathryn Lospinoso recently opened her new dog grooming business in Granbury called Dainty Paws Salon, located at 816 N. Houston St.

New dog grooming business Dainty Paws Salon opens in Granbury

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

While classic customs like trimming the tree and hanging stockings bring a sense of nostalgia, some families in Hood County have added their own distinctive twist to the yuletide celebration.

Merry and Memorable Hood County's one-of-a-kind holiday traditions

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

The festive holiday season is adorned with the timeless enchantment of Christmas traditions. From the ubiquitous glow of twinkling lights to the aroma of freshly baked cookies wafting through the air, the holiday spirit weaves its magic across the community. While classic customs like trimming the tree and hanging stockings bring a sense of nostalgia, some families in Hood County have added their own distinctive twist to the yuletide celebration.

Lakewood Hills residents Grant and Susan Wood have turned the art of giftgiving into a puzzling affair, quite literally. "Our children decided they only wanted cash for Christmas," shares Susan. This, of course, was unsatisfactory to their parents. "In response, we began devising complicated challenges where our children would have to solve puz to get the code for the money box holding their cash," added Grant. "My personal favorite was the year we used the Fibonacci Code. Their clues included pinecones, the Guggenheim Museum and shells. The game culminated in making their way (blindfolded) through a maze of mousetraps to get their prize." For Hood County residents Ryan and Sarah Harvey-Toth, the holiday season means embarking on an annual Christmas-themed vehicle scavenger hunt. "Most every year, we participate in a Christmas-themed vehicle scavenger hunt," Sarah explains. "It's a \$20 buyin per car, and the first one to complete the list gets the prize pot." Ryan adds, "The list includes selfies from multiple Christmas-themed items ranging from someone in a Xmas sweater to the biggest candy cane you can find." However, one year, this tradition took an unexpected turn. Sarah recalls, "When coming down the back road in Acton, we noticed smoke, and then flames, in a field. There was no one near, and it looked close to a shed. So, we felt compelled to stop and check on it. We quickly realized it was a wildfire head-

ranbury resident Kathryn Lospinoso is ready to give the dogs and cats of Hood County a trans-fur-mation they won't ever forget.

Lospinoso — who moved to Granbury from Florida two years ago — just opened her new dog grooming business, Dainty Paws Salon, at 816 N. Houston St.

"It's a small salon, but it's an old cottage home, I think, from the 1940s, and we gutted it and just rebuilt it into a shop instead of a home," Lospinoso told the HCN. "I just love animals so much, so it's a lifetime dream come true basically."

Although Dainty Paws Salon officially opened Nov. 21, right before Thanksgiving, Lospinoso explained she originally started the process of opening her own pet grooming business when she still lived in Florida.

"Financially is really the reason I ended up having to wait so long and just working toward

this goal," she said. "But I was about to do it in Florida, and that's when my mom called me. She lives in North Carolina, and she called me, and she was like, 'Let's move to Texas.' I was like, 'Is this a joke?,' and she's like, 'No, let's move to Texas,' so we put everything back on hold and came here."

Lospinoso's mom, Laurel Neth, was not only the driving force behind her decision to move to Texas, but she was also the biggest inspiration for her career path.

"I grew up in a groom shop, because my mom was a groomer," she said. "It's just something that I've had a passion for pretty much all my life."

PLEASE SEE PAWS | C5



PLEASE SEE HOLIDAY | C2

Granbury school comes together to help teacher 'rise above'

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

The community within a school in Granbury has come together to support a local teacher recently diagnosed with stage four cervical cancer.

Christina Lambert teaches at First Discoveries Montessori Academy and has been there for over two years. Toward the

end of October, Lambert was diagnosed and has been battling since then. She recently had a port inserted for chemotherapy, which will hopefully reduce the size of a large tumor. Julie Fazio, who is the owner

of First Discoveries, hired Lambert and described her as a perfect match for the school. "Upon starting her new job

with us she had a big learning curve, because the Montessori theory of teaching is very different than the traditional daycare classroom," Fazio said. "She took to the task of learning everything quickly and within a few months she was determined to lead her own classroom.'

Lambert was able to take over

the primary classroom position just three months after she joined First Discoveries.

"She has taken her role very seriously and the students in her room are well-rounded. The

PLEASE SEE RISE | C3

COURTESY PHOTO Pictured is Christina Lambert.

"Upon starting her new job with us she had a big learning curve, because the Montessori theory of teaching is very different than the traditional daycare classroom. She took to the task of learning everything quickly and within a few months she was determined to lead her own classroom."

> **JULIE FAZIO Owner of First Discoveries**



www.hcnews.com

The luck of the draw — and wheel of Fortune LIVE

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

don't consider myself to be a particularly lucky person. If you knew my extensive history of failed relationships before randomly finding JP on Facebook dating, you would understand.

But I digress. Two weeks ago, I found myself surrounded by a surprising burst of sheer luck when my dad happened to win four tickets to Wheel of Fortune LIVE.

In Wheel of Fortune LIVE, America's Game travels all over the United States to various venues where contestants are randomly selected from the audience to spin a replica of the iconic Wheel, solve puzzles and win incredible prizes, like trips to Paris and Hawaii or big money — up to \$10,000 in cash. Audience members can also join in on the fun with interactive games and puzzles, according to wheeloffortunelive.com.

My mom randomly woke up one morning at 3 a.m., turned on the news, and saw a segment detailing how five people would win four tickets to see Wheel of Fortune LIVE in Grand Prairie at the Texas Trust CU Theatre Saturday, Dec. 16.

I didn't think much of it at the time. I entered mine and JP's name and my mom entered her and my dad's name, and I basically forgot about the entire ordeal — until my dad texted me Thursday, Dec. 7, revealing he was one of the ticket winners!

After some disbelief, with me thinking my dad was hardcore pranking me, we realized the tickets were real.

So, the four of us traveled to Grand Prairie — with no idea of the adventures that awaited us.

Wheel of Fortune LIVE is almost exactly like the real game show that airs on TV — except it isn't televised, it doesn't take place in California, the contestants solve puzzles to win points instead of cash, and Pat Sajak and Vanna White are not present during the competition. But other than that, it's really close to the real thing! Hosted by Mark L. Wahlberg — no, not that one — audience members are randomly called onstage to compete against two other contestants in a total of three rounds.

Before the show, attendees were given the option to sign up to participate as a contestant. Although my mom wasn't interested in going onstage, JP, my dad, and I happily threw our hats in the ring.

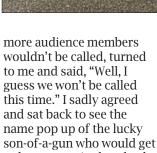
Once we found our seats and looked onstage, we realized the setup was made to look like the actual Wheel of Fortune set, complete with a virtual puzzle and a gigantic wheel — which we learned later is almost an exact replica of the 2,400-pound wheel on the show.

The announcer began by picking three random contestants out of the audience who participated in the first round.

As the first round began, we realized the concept was almost the same as the game show itself, with contestants spinning the wheel and calling consonants or vowels. But instead of the contestants winning the dollar amount following a successful solving of the puzzle, they were instead awarded points, and the points would help determine the winner following the end of each round.

After the first and second rounds ended with none of our names being called to participate, we started to feel a little bummed out. But then we realized we were in a venue of at least 1,000 people, so the odds that one of us would be called up onstage were extremely slim.

During the final round, we were informed the winners of the first and second



a chance to spin the wheel. Imagine my shock and disbelief when I saw "Ashley Terry" flash across the screen!

As JP and I gasped, my mom was still confused — until she remembered I had gotten married in September and my last name is no longer "Inge."

I was so shocked and nervous I didn't even stop to take off my coat before making the trek onstage something the host, Mark L. Wahlberg, mentioned, suggesting I "stay awhile."

One of the production assistants started to explain the rules to me, but my heart was beating so quickly, and my mind was racing like a speed horse; I wasn't paying any attention to what she was saying. Luckily though, I had been watching Wheel of Fortune since I was about 5 years old, so I knew the lay of the game.

The first puzzle I attempted to solve was a Sports Crossword. The announcement elicited groans from my parents and husband as they frankly did not have any faith in me to solve a sports-related puzzle.

But as luck would have it, the puzzle didn't have anything to do with an athlete or the rules of football. It was a crossword, so I knew the words "uniform," "ball," and "scoreboard" already. It was the last word I didn't know.

As I continued to spin the wheel and rack up points, I apparently landed on a Las Vegas, Nevada trip wedge. Unfortunately, I didn't realize each contestant essentially had their own pointer they needed to watch when the wheel spun, so I was really confused when the



HCN Staff Writer Ashley Terry, left, and husband JP Terry right, attended the Wheel of Fortune Live event at the Texas Trust CU Theatre in Grand Prairie on Saturday, Dec. 9. Ashley was chosen as a Wheel contestant and won a four-day, three-night trip to Las Vegas, Nevada.

who participated, I was the one who earned the most. Even the gentleman who went to the bonus round only won about \$400.

But as for me, I won a four-day, three-night trip to Las Vegas for two, and an additional \$200 for playing in the final round.

My total winnings added up to \$1,356 and I will be receiving a Delta voucher in the mail sometime in the next few months.

To make matters even more interesting, the production assistant told me I don't have to travel to Las Vegas if I don't want to. I can use the voucher and the money for the hotel chain to travel anywhere, as long as it is around the same price.

I'm still reeling from the experience and I'm not sure where my sudden burst of luck came from, but I will say one thing: I won't be writing about our future trip to Las Vegas anytime soon, because as they say — whatever happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

rounds would be competing to see who would participate in the bonus round.

But they were still in need of one more contestant. JP, disappointed that three audience started to cheer as I was looking at another contestant's arrow. The host chuckled and quickly clarified the "correct" pointer puzzle.

squat about poker, but I

know JP and my dad were

to look at, and I realized,

ter "T," I finally had that

"lightbulb" moment and

realized the last word was

"team," leading me to solve

the puzzle and win the Las

I could have solved an-

other puzzle early on, as it

was "chocolate chip cookie

dough ice cream," but as

the game relied on points

instead of money to win, I

tried to spin the wheel to

points. Unfortunately, I

landed on "Lose a Turn,'

ed up solving the puzzle.

The last puzzle in the

wouldn't have solved in a

million years: "professional

poker players." I don't know

trying to telepathically send

me the answer during that

round was something I

at least rack up a few more

and another contestant end-

Vegas trip!

'Shoot. I need to solve this."

When I called out the let-

I didn't get the chance to head to the bonus round, but honestly, it didn't matter. Out of every contestant

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HOLIDAY FROM PAGE C1

ing toward what looked like a horse stable. I knocked on the homeowner's door while Ryan stayed on the phone with the fire department and woke the homeowner, who was shocked and thankful. The fire department was able to put out the fire without major structural damage or any injuries. We were able to remain on the scene while the fire department worked diligently. Needless to say, we didn't win the prize money, but my children were left with the feeling of being a hero and doing the right thing even at the risk of losing something they wanted to win so badly. And since then, we talk about that night every year while we drive around looking at Christmas lights or participating in the annual scavenger hunt."

For Granbury City Councilman Steve Vale and his wife, Lori, their family tradition has evolved over the years, transitioning from the excitement of Christmas morning to the nostalgia of revisiting past celebrations. "When our boys were young, we lived in a two-story house with their bedrooms upstairs on the other side of the house," said Lori. "We had an intercom system so they could call us if they needed something. On Christmas morning, they were always instructed that they could not come downstairs until they checked with us if they were to do so. Usually around 5:30 or 6 a.m., we were awoken by a sleepy but excited whisper over the intercom: 'Mom, can we come down yet?' We would jump up and go into action! We would grab the video camera (smartphones with cameras were a long way off), get the fireplace going, and have the Christmas tree lights on. The boys would hurry down the stairs, and we'd be able to capture the excitement on their faces at the first look at what Santa had brought them! Fast forward to our teenage years and beyond, we now sit in the living room, usually on our third cup of coffee, waiting for THEM to wake up! We spend the time watching old videos of

Christmases past."

These Hood County families remind us that the magic of the holiday season lies not only in the traditions themselves but in the joy, laughter and love shared with those we hold dear. As the lights twinkle and the festive spirit fills the air, it's the people and their stories that make this season truly special.



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Heading into the new year The history of resolutions and some from Hood County residents

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

he new year is a way for people to come together to celebrate the end of the year and kick off the start of a new one with fireworks, food and fun. With the start of the new year, many people also create resolutions and goals as a way for a fresh start. This tradition has been around for quite some time but how and where did the beginning of the celebration of the new year and resolutions start?

In 2000 B.C. the Babylonians celebrated the new year by having a 12-day festival called Akitu that began with the new moon after the spring equinox. This was the kickoff of the farming season for planting crops, and during the festival they would crown their king as well as promise to pay their debts. Oftentimes many of their resolutions would circulate around returning borrowed farm equipment, according to the Farmer's Almanac.

This Babylonian New Year was adopted by the ancient Romans along with the idea of resolutions. The timing of when the new year kicked off was shifted with the Julian calendar in 46 B.C. which declared Jan. 1 the start of the new year.

The month of January was named after the twofaced Roman god, Janus. Janus looked forward to new beginnings with one face and backward for reflection and resolution. The Romans would offer sacrifices to Janus as a promise of good behavior the next year.

Resolutions also came from medieval knights who would vow to chivalry by placing their hands upon a peacock, known as the "Peacock Vow." Later, in the 17th century, the practice of setting goals continued to grow and become more common, and in the 1900s, resolutions became more of a spiritual idea to work on one's character and work ethic.

According to a global survey done by Statista in October, the most popular resolution for 2024 is to save more money followed by exercising more and eating healthier. Last year's poll showed the most popular resolution was to exercise more followed by eating healthier and losing weight.

The HCN asked residents in Hood County to share their resolutions for the upcoming new year.

"Go into the new year with more love toward people, not hate," Eric Clayton said. "Mend broken relationships, whether family or friends, and help those in need.'

"Be Kind. Put down the phone and talk to people," Rhonda Cardena shared.

"Be a better person, help those in need and never be greedy," Judy Bell Godel told the HCN.

Many in the county said they weren't making resolutions as they would rather make short-term goals or not worry about setting any.

Some helpful tips for making resolutions include avoiding negative words like "quit" or "stop." The simpler the resolution the easy it will be to follow. It is very easy to not follow through with your resolution if it is too big a goal. A goal must be measurable for you to be able to see if you have made progress. It is important to also set aside time to check up on your goals and track your progress. No matter what, the most important part of making a resolution is to not knock yourself down if you fail and to always get back up.

FROM PAGE C1 students are expressing interest in learning

knew something had to be done. Then a parent at First Discoveries came up with the idea of a bake sale fundraiser to help with Lambert's medical expenses.





all different types of educational material such as math, science, geography, history, spelling and reading," Fazio told the HCN. "The areas in the classroom that Christina makes extra fun for the kids are the practical life and art areas. These always have some creative twists in them to keep the kids engaged."

Fazio also noted that Lambert is certified as a childcare director within the state of Texas.

"Her personality is amazing. She always has a smile on her face. She lights up the room when she walks in. The parents and students adore her because she's always the one who makes them feel welcomed by consoling a child that is having a hard day or asking a parent about their long day after work," Fazio said.

Due to the cancer, Fazio added that Lambert is in a lot of pain and has been having a rough time.

After hearing about Lambert's diagnosis and learning she has no insurance, Fazio

Fazio knew this fundraiser idea needed to happen and over 150 items – cakes, pies, cookies and Christmas treats galore were brought to the Dec. 15 fundraiser by families of First Discoveries.

Over \$1,800 dollars was raised for Lambert and Fazio was thrilled. She plans to have more fundraisers after the holidays are over.

"She will rise above this and find in herself a strength she never knew she had. We will all be here on the sidelines cheering her on and supporting her the entire way," Fazio said.

To donate to Lambert please send funds through Venmo at Christina-Castillo-110 or through CashApp at \$lambertlove82.

COURTESY PHOTO

A fundraiser was held on Dec. 15 for Christina Lambert, a teacher at First Discoveries Montessori Academy who was diagnosed with stage four cervical cancer.

LIMITED RUN



Deck the halls, and the gates too

Ladybug Garden Club decorates depot for over four decades

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

embers of Granbury's Ladybug Garden Club decorated the Granbury Depot Monday, Nov. 20, as they faithfully have for well over four decades. The group cheerfully convenes each year to bring a bit of holiday magic to the historic structure via Christmas décor, making ready for the Tour of Homes that takes place the first weekend in December.

The Ladybug Garden Club has been in existence since 1978, admittedly not as long as the structure it decorates which has stood since 1914. The club has decorated the depot annually throughout the existence of the club. The depot, which once was a bustling



center of travel, is now a quiet icon of the community and home to the Hood County Genealogical/ Historical Society (HCGHS).

The Hood County Genealogical Society is a nonprofit that lacks the funds to decorate its historic home as well as its members would probably like so the Ladybug Garden Club faithfully does this for them. The Ladybug Garden Club is a nonprofit as well, but it pools resources, talents and funds to make the historic site more festive.

Santa and Mrs. Claus cutouts received a sprucing-up last year as member Cheryl Moore and her daughter, Heather Moore, both artists, repainted the pieces. Bows were made to adorn the great steel fences to add to the garland. Members Jim and Mary Sutton provided their airplane hangar to house the decorations during the rest of the year.

"The Ladybugs' dedication to our Christmas decorating of the depot is inspiring and brings joy to all of us who participate each year," said Cathy Gaines, Ladybug club president and chair of the decorating committee. She added, "It's the perfect start to the holiday season and the taking down of the depot decorations is a perfect bookend to the season!"

Lunch was shared after all the hard work decorating the Granbury Depot; social-



Members of the Ladybug Garden Club decorate the Granbury Depot, something the club has done for over 40 years.

izing is an important part of the club. The club shares knowledge at its meetings and on its Facebook page. It sponsors fundraisers to fund service projects where members put their green thumb giftedness to work. Meetings are the third Monday of every month at 10 a.m. For more information on the club see its

Facebook page. The Genealogy Research Library at the Granbury Depot is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and most Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Out-of-town researchers are encouraged to coordinate their desired time to visit by calling Karen Nace at 817-279-2995 or Jim Sutton at 817-326-5877. Meetings of the Genealogical and Historical Society are at the restored Granbury Depot at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except November and December).

Granbury Opera Guild celebrates 10th anniversary since previous renovation



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Opera Guild board's Evening of Entertainment 10-year Opera House Renovation Celebration event on Dec. 12 at Lake Granbury Conference Center was the perfect time and place to mark the 10th anniversary of the Granbury Opera House reopening. After two years of closure for a complete renovation, the opening night for the first show, "A Christmas Carol," was December 12, 2013. Pictured at the podium former Managing Director Marty Van Kleeck enjoys sharing her unique Granbury Opera House insights and memories as she addresses the crowd.

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

The Granbury Opera Guild, an all-volunteer organization that works to support the Granbury Opera House and the arts, celebrated some renovations of the Opera House at an event Dec. 12 at the Granbury Convention Center.

The Guild has operated since 1978 and its mission is to support the many arts in the town of Granbury. Through the Guild's effort, the organization has uplifted and upgraded the Opera House.

The sold-out event Dec. 12 celebrated the 10th year anniversary since the Granbury Opera House reopened after being closed for two years due to the \$3.5 million renovation. The first show after the renovation was "A Christmas Carol;" the Granbury Theatre Company



has staged 79 Broadway productions at the venue since then.

The most recent upgrades include an expansion of the back portion of the Opera House to allow for a bigger rehearsal space, stage and prop area.

The event featured speakers including Tammy Dooley from Visit Granbury, City Manager Chris Coffman and President and Director of Granbury Theatre Company Micky Shearon. President of the Opera Guild Gari Wise told the HCN attendees came from all over to attend this event and support the efforts of the guild.

At the event, plaques were presented containing the names of those who purchased seats in the Opera House back in 1998 and 1999.

"It has been very rewarding (to be part of the Opera Guild). It's given me a purpose and it's helped me be a part of the community and get to know some pretty awesome people," Wise said. "There's a lot of opportunities here and this is a very giving town."

When it comes to the upcoming year, Wise looks forward to the opportunity to give out more scholarships for young thespians. Just this past April, eight students were awarded scholarships totaling \$5,450 dollars.

The Opera Guild also plans to paint the interior of the theater and to convert the gas lights in front of the building to electric.

"Anyone who has lived in Granbury for enough years knows that 'as goes the Opera House, so goes

the economy on and around the Granbury Square.' The Opera House is the engine that drives the economic train," Shearon said. "The initial \$4 million investment by the City of Granbury to fund the Opera House renovations back in 2012 is, in my opinion, the best money the city has ever spent. The Granbury Theatre Company that manages and operates the Opera House consistently welcomes over 50,000 people into the Opera House for its performances every year. The impact that has on local shops, restaurants, hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, etc. is enormous.'

For more information on the Opera Guild or to donate to the organization visit granburyoperaguild. org or visit granburytheatrecompany.org to learn more about the Granbury Theatre Company.



"I grew up in a groom shop, because my mom was a groomer. It's just something that I've had a passion for pretty much all my life."

KATHRYN LOSPINOSO Owner of Dainty Paws Salon

PAWS FROM PAGE C1

Services provided by Dainty Paws Salon include full haircuts, coloring, mini grooms, line cuts, spot shavings, baths and nail trims.

"I do a tidy service that is basically for people who enjoy bathing their own dog and just want to come and get like a little face or feet clean up," Lospinoso said. "I do cats. Really, whatever somebody asks for, basically, we just try to accommodate."

An aspect that makes Dainty Paws Salon unique, she said, is the fact that it's more of an "upscaletype setting" compared to other dog grooming businesses.

"It's probably more affordable than most places as well," Lospinoso said. "All my prices include tax already, so they seem similar to everyone else's (pricing), but they already include the tax so there's no up-charging."

With the tagline "Where happiness happens," Lospinoso also aims to turn Dainty Paws Salon into a comfortable space for both customers and their pets.

"We have high transparency where you see everything," she explained." A lot of places I know, you can't go past the front desk, so you don't really know what's happening to your animal at all, so I try to give people that welcoming feel, like come on in, look at my tubs, look at my equipment and the things I'm doing, so that they really feel confident and comfortable."

Additionally, for customers whose pets don't get along with other animals, Lospinoso will book private and "special" appointments.

"If somebody has a cat, I will do them on Monday or a time even in the evenings when no dogs are here," she said. "I even do a special appointment where people can actually stay with their pet during the groom if they would like to."

Lospinoso also prides herself on having a facility that's clean and "super safe," as she used ideas and elements that were missing from other grooming shops to perfect her own business model.

"Since I was able to do the floor



Lospinoso provides many dog and cat grooming services like coloring, full haircuts, mini grooms, line cuts, spot shavings, baths and nail trims.





Since I was able to do the floor plan myself, I was able to put in a double gate — that way when you open the door, there's no chance of a dog escaping out the front door," she explained. "I just made sure to really try to 'wow' people, so when they come in, it's super clean and super pretty 'cause everybody's starting to get concerned about the new respiratory disease that's going on with dogs, even though from what I know there's no cases in Texas yet, but I've still had lots of people ask me. So, we just do a lot of safety measures like disinfecting in between every client — just normal stuff that sometimes you just don't see at other shops."

Even though Lospinoso has only

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Kathryn Lospinoso is pictured outside her home-turned-business, Dainty Paws Salon, and is looking forward to growing her business in Hood County.

lived in Granbury for two years, she said she already loves it here, and hopes to make her name known with her new business.

"Everyone has been so welcoming, and I just really love everybody in the community that I've had interactions with," she said. "I couldn't have moved to a better place."

Dainty Paws Salon is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lospinoso recommends clients call first and schedule an appointment to ensure availability.

"I'm super passionate, I love animals, and when (customers) bring their animals to me, it's like my own dogs for the time that I have them," Lospinoso added. "I just love them so much and (I want to make sure that) they're safe and they're comfortable."

For more information, follow the Dainty Paws Salon Facebook page, or call (682) 205-1201.

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PHOTOS ABOVE BY **ASHLEY TERRY I** HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Dainty Paws Salon features state-of-the-art washing and grooming stations, complete with a fun bubble-painted wall that owner Kathryn Lospinoso designed herself.



BOOK REVIEW



COURTESY PHOTO BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

History Books Winter 2023 by various authors. C. 2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS, \$27.95-\$35.00, VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

You remember winters like this

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Short, cloudy days, long stormy nights, both perfect for curling up with a warm blanket and reading until it's time for bed – and then reading there, too. So this winter, why not cuddle with one of these great unique history books?

For readers who love to compare life a century ago versus now, "1932: FDR, Hoover, and the Dawn of a New America" by Scott Martelle (Citadel Press, \$28.00) will be just the ticket. The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl both cloaked America in hard times and in the midst of it, two men - both Presidents had different ideas on how to fix things. Readers who enjoy mixing history in their politics will want this book.

Want to take your history back a little farther? Then

look for "God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America's Most Hated Man" by Jack Kelly (St. Martin's Press, \$29.00). Sure, Arnold was a traitor and a snake but, says Kelly, he was a hero before that. This book doesn't try to erase that which made Arnold a symbol of backstabbing and turncoating, but readers will still be very surprised at what they'll learn.

Historians know America's never had a monarchy but in "Flight of the WASP: The Rise, Fall, and Future of America's Original Ruling Class" by Michael Gross (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$30), you'll read about very elite Americans who heavily influenced politics, economics, society, racial attitudes and religion decades ago. The more things change, the more they stay the same? Maybe – and you gotta read this book to understand why.

For the history lover or women's history reader who also craves a bit of romance, look for "Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides After the Holocaust" by Robin Judd (The University of North Carolina Press, \$29.95). It's a book about survival, but also of hope and recovery, love and determination, and if you've read or watched anything about the Holocaust, you need to add this important book to your list. Another Women's History book to look for is "Boardinghouse Women: How Southern Keepers, Cooks, Nurses, Widows, and Runaways Shaped Modern America" by Elizabeth S.D. Engelhardt (The University of North

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | C9

GAME ON



One of the later puzzles, after more colors have been unlocked.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY NOMADA

Overcoming grief and loss through the power of color



From the Steam page

for Gris, the game: "Gris is

a hopeful young girl lost

in her own world, dealing

with a painful experience

in her life. Her journey

grants new abilities to

through sorrow is mani-

fested in her dress, which

better navigate her faded

a meticulously designed

world brought to life with

delicate art, detailed anima-

tion and an elegant original

score. Through the game

light puzzles, platforming

skill-based challenges will

reveal themselves as more

of Gris' world becomes

sequences and optional

reality. Players will explore

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, openworld, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

ris (2018) from Spanish studio Nomada, with artwork by Conrad Roset, is a side-scrolling game that manages to break out of well-worn tropes with the use of stunning artwork, color and contrast. There is no dialogue or narration.

accessible."

The game loosely follows the five stages of grief, beginning with depression. Gris is the name of the protagonist, who has recently lost her mother. The game starts with her sitting in the palm of a crumbling statue of a women. It breaks and she falls to the ground. As she walks forward, she finds structures powered by points of light. But it's still very empty, except for Gris, who travels through these landscapes. As she collects these lights, color begins to return to her world. The first color is red,

which evokes desert landscapes and sunsets. Gris gets the ability to turn into a stone block so that she can resist the strong desert winds. Later she unlocks other colors, all of which give her new abilities to navigate her environment.

This is one of the nicest looking games I've ever played. It's really more like watching an animated movie, rather than playing a game. Subtle layers of color and translucency make some scenes look like a watercolor painting. As each color is unlocked, the story progresses and Gris gains new abilities.

If you're looking for a puzzle game that will challenge you, this is not it. This was created deliberately to not be too difficult. Puzzles are solved by finding and collecting the points of light. The game is meant to be an exploration of the story, rather than a challenge. There is no death, only discovery.

Game designers Adrian Cuevas and Roger Mendoza

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | C9



8 om



r more!



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| 31 | HANK FM New Years Eve Party |
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| 20 | Goosebump Jump, & Chili on the Beach |
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Friday, 22 December 2023 - Thursday, 28 December 2023

Anyone But You (R)

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Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG13)

Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 10:55AM, 12:50PM, 1:45PM, 3:45PM, 4:35PM, 6:40PM, 7:25PM, 9:30PM, 10:15PM. Sun: 10:00AM, 11:40AM, 12:45PM, 2:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM. Mon: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM. Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:20AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM

THE IDLE AMERICAN A blessing of beds



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

We have eyes to see and hearts to serve, yet somehow don't recognize the importance of both purpose and passion until we see needs up close at life's intersections.

Thankfully, such consciousness - the kind leaving lumps in our throats and guilt in our minds — results when we hear accounts from folks whose lives have changed direction through the pursuit of serving others.

In this season of commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, in a strawstrewn stable with no crib for his head, we are jolted by a jarring fact. In the here and now, some 3% of American children sleep nightly on the floor, on worn out sofas and even on piles of clothing worn during the day.

Luke Mickelson, living the good life with his family in

Twin Falls, Idaho, built a bed for a girl named Hailey, a bedless 6-year-old in his town. Seeing her plight, sharing her tears and determined to do more, he began his fulltime philanthropic pilgrimage almost five years ago. The sole purpose of his nonprofit organization, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," is to work toward reducing perhaps even eliminating – what he calls "bedlessness."

Luke's calling has helped him sleep better, too, because he has ignited both passion and purpose in the hearts of thousands of others. There's been a national chorus of "What can we do to help?" Bed-building across the land by volunteers in some 300 chapters abounds. There's no end in sight.

"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town" is a slogan not only fostered, but deeply



Luke Mickelson, charity founder.

heartfelt.

Representatives of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" tell their stories wherever possible, one of their main targets being civic clubs. Thankfully, SHP representative Bruce Crenshaw visited my Burleson Lions Club a few months ago, and the results have been electrifying....

He shared his sense of "passion and purpose" magnificently, and since his visit, 10-12 of our members have built 180 beds for Texas Lions Camp. They've also delivered and set up beds in dozens of area homes and apartments, their joy matching the delight evident in

the eyes of children opening gifts on Christmas morning. One much talked-about recipient kissed her bed.

The impact of SHP is staggering. Magnitude of SHP continues to grow in both the USA and Canada. Want a statistic? Some 57,000 beds have been built and delivered in 2023 alone! Volunteers have built, delivered and set up all of the beds. Mickelson walked away from a well-paying job in favor of giving all his energies to the tax-exempt organization — one which has highest standards in the world of nonprofits. It passes the test of truth and integrity long admired and envied by the Dr. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Mickelson and his followers are sharing with thousands of others the joy of "giving back," kindling the fires of passion and purpose that may have slowly been reduced to smoldering, now aflame with energy, support, and enthusiasm....

Stories about SHP abound on the Internet, including its

PLEASE SEE IDLE | C9

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes: 9 a.m. exer-

cise (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: 225-933-40/4. 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.

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.

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol. com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY CERT meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@ amail.com.

Migration (PG)

Fri, Sat: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 3:35PM, 6:00PM, 8:25PM, 9:45PM Sun: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 3:35PM, 6:00PM. Mon: 1:00PM, 3:10PM, 5:20PM, 7:30PM.

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:20AM, 12:30PM, 2:40PM, 4:50PM, 7:00PM

The Color Purple (PG13) Mon: 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 7:20PM. Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:00AM, 1:10PM, 4:20PM, 7:30PM

The Iron Claw (R)

Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM. Sun: 11:45AM, 2:55PM, 6:00PM. Mon: 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM. Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM, 7:15PM

Wonka (PG)

APPI

Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM. Sun: 10:15AM, 12:55PM, 3:35PM, 6:15PM. Mon: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM. Tues, Wed, Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM



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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 \$251 he 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 vac-cines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.



Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277 Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

ПË Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX 🚺



classifieds.hcnews.com

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! De-

BEGINNERS' CHAIR Yoga

tails: 505-710-5100.

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

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

THURSDAYS

us.

needed. Just come build with

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

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 Histori-

cal 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.

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Sommerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. 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.

GOPLAY 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.





www.hcnews.com

IDLE FROM PAGE C7

website, shpbeds.org. There's also information on how others can get involved by providing time, energy and support — perhaps all three.

It is noted the organization has some national sponsors, the kind who contribute at least \$50,000 annually.

One such sponsor is Lowe's. Here's a grand example of how Lowe's and SHP faithful can "build something together."

On the SHP website, one may identify children who need beds. There will be a positive response, even if it takes a while.

There are many reasons, of course, why this charity has found its place quickly. Though Jesus never had an earthly place to lay his head, he was able to change the world as he traveled the thenknown world on foot.

Crude as the manger was, surely it was immersed in love. He bade little children to come unto him, and, for all of us, he promised assurance of rest. Most of us have more than we need and recognize the importance of a good night's sleep. May God bless you, Luke Mickelson, and all the folks you've inspired.

GAME FROM PAGE C6

had previously worked on games like Hitman, Far Cry, Rainbow Six and Assassin's Creed. They saw an opportunity to create a game with artist, illustrator and painter Conrad Roset that was less violent than their previous work. Visually compelling (story-rich) games like "Journey" and "Ori and the Blind Forest" were an inspiration for Gris. The game's biggest challenge was integrating Conrad Roset's artwork into a playable game. Visual and camera cues were used to indicate where the player should go next.

"We tell a big part of the story through the statues while relying heavily on the colors," Mendoza explains in an interview with The Verge. "The colors mark

The world Gris inhabits at the beginning of the game.

the progression of the story and the characters. That's why at the beginning we did a color script to see the general palette of each area to make sure it worked well with the story." Gris (\$14.99) is available on SteamOS, Windows, MacOS, Nintendo Switch, Playstation, Android and Xbox.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY NOMADA

BOOK FROM PAGE C6

Carolina Press, \$27.95). Here, you'll read about women who changed the way we eat, vacation and live away from home, but with a little innovation, business, racism and independence rolled into this story.

And finally, how about the history of fashion? Try "Pockets: An Intimate History of How We Keep Things Close" by Hannah Carlson (Algonquin Books, \$35). Men's clothing has them. Women's clothing, not always. We stuff 'em with our hands, tissues, wallets, phones and breath mints. We can't live without pockets but what do they mean? Find out here, in a book that won't quite fit in your...

And if these great books aren't enough to satisfy your craving for littleknown history, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. They'll put you in touch with a whole winter's full of memorable books.





817-573-7066 ext. 232 / brittany.bowers@hcnews.com

817-573-7066 ext. 235 / heidii@hcnews.com

817-573-7066 ext. 236 / madison@hcnews.com

DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES

3 Months: \$40/week | 6 Months: \$35/week 12 Months: \$30/week

PECAN PLANTATION BITS Pecan's First Wednesday Bridge Club gears up for new year



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.

he Pecan Plantation Women's First Wednesday Bridge Club has been gathering for card playing and fellowship for more than 40 years, and a new year for the club begins Wednesday, Jan. 3, when the ladies will assemble in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse for its inaugural bridge day of 2024.

Following registration for attendees, bridge play will commence at 10 a.m., with an intermediary lunch break, and then more bridge in the afternoon. The ladies play five hands at each assigned table and then rotate tables for a total of five rounds of play. The outing usually concludes around 3:30 p.m., and prize money goes to the ladies with the highest scores for the day.

Annual dues in the club are \$20, which includes a free lunch in December. Ladies pay a \$2 registration fee each month that funds the prize money for that specific play day. Lunch at the clubhouse is available for purchase at each gathering.

Bridge players interested in learning more about the group may contact Vicki Leggett at vleggett19@ gmail.com or 903-388-2200. Reservations are requested and due on the Friday prior to the first Wednesday play date.

In addition to bridge play, fellowship, mimosas and a delicious lunch prepared by the clubhouse staff at the December meeting, ladies thanked the club's coordinator of many years, Sharon Green, for her dedicated leadership.

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 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 follow 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



Pecan's Women's First Wednesday Bridge Club has enjoyed card playing and fellowship for more than 40 years, and a new year for the group commences Wednesday, Jan. 3. At its December meeting, the ladies enjoyed bridge play, delicious food, fellowship, and gave a special salute to longtime club coordinator Sharon Green. Pictured at the event are (left to right): Kaye Norman, Bunny Earley and Sue Bates.

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: 817-573-2641.

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 like 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 proposal 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 Sunday, Dec. 31.

GOLF INFO

The golf pro shop will be closed Sunday, Dec. 24, but the course will be open for first-come, first-served play on both Christmas Eve and Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day. Players may use the signup page outside the pro shop door; golf cart rentals will not be available. Regular hours will run Sunday, Dec. 31, but the course will be closed as normal Monday,

Jan. 1. Signups for the LGA Low Gross/Low Net Tuesday, Jan. 2 is happening on ForeTees. Registration in the Tuesday morning shotgun Jan. 2 is also on ForeTees by end of business day Sunday, Dec. 31.

TENNIS TIME

"Camp Frosty Junior Tennis Camp" will find Pecan tennis players ages 6 to 12 at the courts Wednesday, Jan. 3 and Thursday, Jan 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. Tennis, hot chocolate, and reindeer games are on the menu. Sign up in the tennis shop: 817-579-9412.

MUSIC CLASS

For Pecaners whose New Year's resolution involves learning to play the guitar, the PAC has just what they need. Beginner guitar lessons will commence on Thursday, Jan. 11 with Carolyn Troland leading students, teaching them how to play the guitar in 6 to 8 weeks without reading music. Lessons happen each Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m., and participants should bring a guitar with newer strings already in place. This offering is for adult students only, and participants should plan on attending all lessons (each with a \$25 fee). Sign up at the PAC by calling 817-573-7952, and contact instructor Carolyn for more information at 580-369-8485.

TRAVEL GROUP

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club enjoyed a fall rally to the Stonewall and Fredericksburg areas, followed by a collective meeting of the club in the home hanger of Don and Kim McDonald. The event boasted a "Cheeseburger in Paradise" theme in honor of the late Jimmy Buffet, and attendees enjoyed dinner from the grill. Nominees for the 2024 board were taken, as well as rally plans for 2024 made. For complete information on the RV Club and its activities, contact David Kroon at dk1341@swbell. net.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Butch Aust, who passed away Nov. 21.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360



ATURDAY, JANUARY 20 CITY BEACH PARK

2024

PRIZES + AWARDS

OFFNING EVEN

GUEST

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- BEST KIDS COSTUME
- BEST GROUP COSTUME
- OLDEST COMPETITOR
- ORGANIZATION (501C3)
 WITH THE MOST JUMPERS

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 - "CHILLY ON THE BEACH" Chili Cookoff (by HGMA)



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SATURDAY, Deg. 23, 2023

Find out what our local second graders are asking Santa Claus to bring for Christmas.

D

D2-D12

Image: Window Structure Image: Window



NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Letters to Santa are presented here as children wrote them. We mostly preserved the original spelling of the letters to maintain authenticity. We hope you enjoy reading them!

Hood County Legend Since 1886

ACTON

Dear Santa,

I am perete good. Like five days but I wunt a Vr had set. I hop vou hav a good vear. I hop you hav a good day. Love, Vihdah Patel

Dear Santa, Santa for Christmas I want barbies, swim suit for them, the operation game, books and clotes.

Love, Aubrey

Dear Santa, I weont a PS5 for my brotheh and for my sister gift cred, and for me pokeomon.

Love, (no name was given)

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. May I have a Pokemon squish and a Pokemon back pack playset and a Pokemon lego set. And just to let you know, Rex the elf and Jolly the nome are super funny and cool. And thanks for your time Santa. Love, Cole Sorrells

Dear Santa, I want a box of pokemon cards. And a new video game. And a binder for my pokemon cards. And new controlers.

Love, Teddy

Dear Santa, Hi Santu. Howr you. I wunt four crismis is a ipod ples? Love, Cole

Dear Santa, I have been good this yeur. I want a dirt bike for crismes. I hope you are happy and had a great yeur. I love crismes! It has snow and I can make a snow man and girl! I'm so happy you make it snow.

Love, Klissa

Dear Santa, I want the shoos that have weals on the heels.

Love, Asher

Dear Santa, Foor crismus I want a noo boic with no training wils. I hav ben good this yer. Love, Emery

Dear Santa, Santa I want a pack of

Pokemon Cards and dennl porden shirt and toy. I will giv you a lot of milk and cucys. I'm so happy that you are comin and I've been good.

Love, Levi

Dear Santa. How are you. For Christmas can I pleas have a amaican girl set kitchen car and can I pleas have a elf? two?

Love, Chloe

Dear Santa, Can I pleas have a iPhone 15 but are you even from the north puol? Any wase we all love you. I mite see you in my house.

Love, Vance

Dear Santa, I know I haven't been the best but this year I relly want a VR hearset and a minie camera a iphone 15 with titaneam and a life size stuff animal and smors and a amarecan girl doll with cloth and acseserys. Love, Mia

Dear Santa, Can you git Lank Bok's for Crismis and I have bin a good boy vis year Santa. Love, Silas

Dear Santa, May I pleas have a blest to the peapol that are homeless. A Judve Beiones book. A real baby tiger. Love and thank you get me that tiger. Make my parents stop fiting. Ples. Love, D.

Dear Santa, Can I have a Minecraft

stuf? Love, S.

Dear Santa, May I please have a puppy

the tipe of puppy I want if

you have one is the cutest

puppy ever. And he is just

mine. Also please help my

parent stop fighting please.

One more thing please help

homeless peopol. Thank

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I want a nowcar skinker makupe my own cloc lips a markin boy doll. Big stuf Anmol clos for my a markin boy and girl a roken. A mor brbe stuf.

Love, Madeleine Hopper

Dear Santa, Can I have a phone. Pleas and thacu. I love you Santa. Can I git a ifon 15 culor pink for Christmas. Love, Blain

Dear Santa, I wunt a scooter and a bike I wunt a big wil. I wunt argordin! I wunt nike clos. I wunt elf. I wunt noo basbol stuf. I wunt drtbike close. I wunt a cunpoodr. I wunt necesis.

Love, Kamdyn

Dear Santa, Can I have a Iphone 15 for

Christmas. Love you santa. Love, Grier

Dear Santa, I what a huvrburd and a puppy or cat.

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I wish I can have PS5 plese. Can I have a cowboys helmet. Can I have a football.

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I wish I could talk to you in person but I want a smart watch and a new ipad and a robox gift card.

Love, Lane

Dear Santa, I want a baby red lab and

some squishmallows. No candy. Chrismas hat for my dog. Flowers for my sister. Baby stufft animal bunny. A pink chrismis tree.

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa,

Can I have for crismis a stuffy? And kinger too? And cane plese.

Love, (No name given)

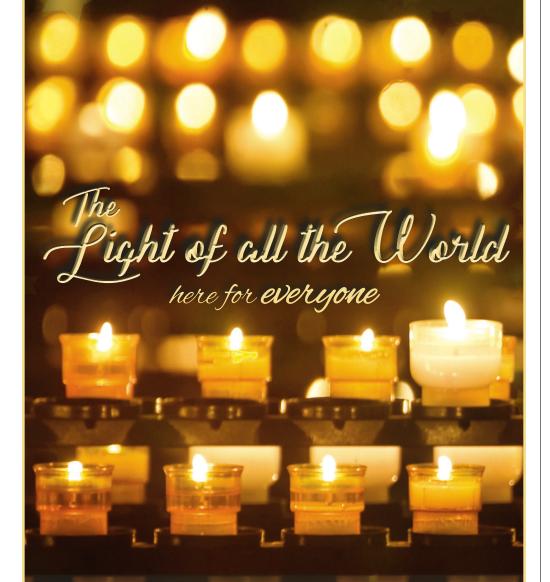
Dear Santa, You are the best santa in the wrld and I wut to go see all uf wrk and love in you gif me giss!

Love, (No name given)



grands toys in it prity plys and a plush of you Santa because I love you Santa.

you! Merry Christmas Love, (No name given) Dear Santa, I gust wentid to say can I hav a toy bare that has mt





Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m.* *Mursery Provided

Christmas Day: 10 a.m.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 4530 Acton Hwy | Granbury | 817-326-6074 | GoodShepherdGranbury.org



May you have The gladness of Christmas which is hope; The spirit of Christmas which is peace; The heart of Christmas which is love.



www.ucs.net

Dear Santa, I hope you stay worm this year. I have been very good this year. How is Rudolph doing?

Dear Santa, I hope you and the reindeer stay warm Santa. I will give all the reindeer carrots.

Love, Colton

Love, Gracelynn Dear Santa, I hope you stay warm this Dear Santa, year. I want a xbox one. Roses are red. Hollies Love, Lawrence are green. You bring joy to world can you see. I am good. Can I a nut ckeracker please. Love, Clayton T.

Dear Santa, I was wondering how Rudolph, comet, cupid, prancer, dancer, donner, Blitzen and vixen doing? Can I have a new hoverbord. Love, Bryson

I want A Lego set and a trumpet and a cat. Love, (No name given)

Love, (No name given) Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, You are the best. This year I want a good Crismis. I want a binder pockemon binder for my brother.

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I want a barby car but I want a hummer. Also a elf it macs me sad wen you don't give me one so can you plese give me one.

Love, Christina

Dear Santa, Thank you for that note this morning and to thos elfs you are the best.

Love, S.

Dear Santa, I know that I am bad tody! But I promis I will be beber. Promis Santa so ples don't give me stone. I want my momy bak ples santa. It's the olee thing I want ples Santa.

Dear Santa, and Santa if you don't git it please git me a helmet please.

SATURDAY, Dec. 23, 2023

I wish for a mouth guard

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I wunt you to com too my

rain deer. Please can I do it? Love, Isaac Sparks

birtha and I wish you to be

This year I have been very

good this year. How is all the

worm this Christmas.

Love, Greyson

Dear Santa,

reindeer doing?

Dear Santa,

Love, Colton

I hope your elfes a

working hard because it

is awmost Chrismas. On

of cheas for Santa Mouse

Can I barowe a elf for

Christmas? I'm going to sind

I have been good. How

hase Bernard been doing?

I hope you have all the toys

ready for all the good boys/

merry Christmas. I hope you

girls. What do elves look

like? Merry merry merry

have a jolly Christmas.

Love, Morgan M.

I really spent my year

if its okay If I can have 2

and a microphone.

waiting for Christmas and

presents if you cant its okay

but printer I want a 3D pen

Dear Santa,

and the squar kind.

Love, Emily

Dear Santa,

Love, Daniel

Dear Santa,

letr.

Chrismas eve I will leave the

reindeers carotes and peasis

relly want to ride all of your

phone and stuffed animale. Love, Kinsley

Thank you for giving us

my first daddy metisin and

back befor Christmas. Can

you give me a poukemon

clechin, barbe house,

Love, Naomi

Dear Santa,

book.

rainbow unicorn sticker

Thank you for my Elf

munky bars. Wut I wunt for

Chrismas is for my mom to

get beter she is sick, huvir

board, water botel. Thank

You are the best. Pleas gev

the homeless kibs prezits.

have a xbox and a moio kart

Thank you for getting all

you for my elf Sam. Want is it

like in the north phole? I bet

it is relly colde in the north

I hope you are having a

geat life. And one of my

to have a home and can

I have a PS5 and an xbox.

And evry thing I circled in

that crismase book. And a

Love, Anderson

Hi Santa I want a

hoverbored a fake elf a

many hoop a Stephen

currey jursey the homeless

I know you are bleseing

bise I wat 4 thakes 4 disne

parde Barbe. A litl live dog

toy. I will see you tomaro.

tikits a barbe dog. A rich

Dear Santa,

to have money.

Dear Santa,

Love, Fielder

football and a new nerf gun.

wishes is for the homeless

of my presents and thank

We love you santa. Kan I

Love, Tripp Lazara

you so so so so mutch.

Love, Skyler

Dear Santa,

24v and a elf.

Dear Santa,

Love, Kaia

Dear Santa,

phole.

gifs. Can you plese give

Dear Santa,

I want Blankets pillow and

can you pleas bring my together again.

www.hcnews.com

mom and dad back Love, Lilly Bell

have a bf game?

Dear Santa,

Love, Jude

Dear Santa,

Love, B.

Dear Santa,

Hove you so much. Can I

I love Cismis I am so exped

for crismis. I hope yor feeling

good! I do not have elf yet

I have a queston wut

hapend to my elf last year

he did not show up. Alsow

peepol alsow wy can you

live for ever alsow sary for

asking you so much. Can

you give howmlis peepol a

pase to sleep and alsow can

I have a bunch of robux and

Love, (No name given)

I thank you for the book

and my elf back. Can I have a

My nem is Aven and I wot

New shoes a new phone a

picture of my family and my

friends and my teacher miss

Can you pleas a homeless

peple food water and a

home and I will relley like a

frendsip necleis for me and

my frend because my frend

Love, (No name given)

I've always wondered

what it's like in the north

for Christmas. I'm your

pole. I want a hover board

a baskit boll hoop and a

good Chrismis and a good

a bunch of v bux.

Dear Santa,

Love, Bella

Dear Santa,

Love, Aven

Dear Santa,

moore a laptop.

Dear Santa,

doesn't have one.

Dear Santa,

Chrismas.

Love, Allison

I want a Chrismas sweter

for mom. A fishing pole for

pods, merry chrismas sign,

I want a transformer and

I wut a phone and I wut a

pink chaire and I wut a min

Dear Santa,

For Cristmas

army toys. Xbox. Star wars

dad, a tire for my bike, air

Dear Santa,

elf, night light.

Dear Santa,

Love, Jaden

Dear Santa,

card that is a cat.

Love, Khloe L.

Love, K.

toys.

Love, Paislee

rainbow.

day.

wut do you give noty

can I please have one?

clothes.

heal but I want a tablet.

l wut a PS5 an a new

Please bring me a sled

and a guiter, a karoke. Can

you chang my mom and

Can I get a PS5 and

madden twenty four and

a fany pak and a miny frige

and a gaming setup and a

For Christmas I want a

football. I want a baseball

and a baseball bat. I want a

For Christmas I want a

and maden 23 and 24 and

a exbox one and exbox 360

and a playstashon 5 and 4.

I want new headphone

fake elf plushie and a phone

and can you ask my mom if

I can have a real lif baby kitty

I wont for Christmas a

miny frij and elves and a

good Christmas with my

family. And a noo phone and noo pujamas and barb

Love, Isabella

Dear Santa,

and a Christmas PJs and a

computer and a phone

Love, Tasen R.

switch I want a cat.

Love, Cutter

Dear Santa,

Love, Jaxon

Dear Santa,

and a bike.

and hors.

Love, Ava

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, (No name given)

Love, Daniela

Dear Santa,

Love, Luke

Dear Santa,

dad about a pet.

Dear Santa,

PC.

phone.

Dear Santa,

I would like some more Love, Caden

I hope I will please get a computer ear pods and For Christmas I don't want thank you! a toy I want something else Love, Ethan I want my mom's neck to

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

you. Love you. Love, B.

Dear Santa,

control razer.

Dear Santa,

Love, Lincoln

want to be youtbr.

Love, Masen

I hope you have a

good Christmas. You are

awesome. And this is going

to be my one questen can

we my class have a elf. And

melton. She didn't get one

I what a elf for Christmas

an aso I what a toy roff the

rain deer an elsa toy set an a

Can I have a elf. You have

person can you get my hool

Love, (No name given)

Thak you for bregin toys.

Love, (No name given)

I want a playstashin 5 and a drtbke and game and chir

so much magic. You are a

very good person a good

class a elf and my techer.

my teachers name is mis

Love, Charlotte

Love, Serenity

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, Kyian

plees.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

last year.

toy you.

Can I have a remote

You are the best in the

a PS5 and that's it and all I

world and for Crismes I want

xbox 5 please and rc car and please let us have snow

Hood County News **D3**

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas

is some cloths. Love, (No name given)

I want vr and a elf. Thank

Love, Genesis

Dear Santa, How are Rudolph, Dasher, Donner, Prancer, Cupid, Dancer, Vixen, and Blizten? I want see you at Christmas night. How are you elfes doing?

Love, Ezra Dear Santa, I hope you stay warm this year. Santa and your raindeer to how are elves

doing?

Love, Brynlee Dear Santa,

Yor the best and I love you Santa. I want to know whut you are doing?

Love, Daytyn

Dear Santa, I was a good boy this year.

Love, Kash

Love, Adi

Dear Santa,

good trip here.

Dear Santa,

Love, Daniel

Dear Santa,

night?

said hello.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

him. How are your rain

deers. Tell the elves that I

Are you staying warm at the north pole? How is Rudolph doing and all the other rainderrs.

How is your best randeer

Love, (No name given)

You are the best. In the

hole world and I wood like a

phone for crismis. Blev me.

What is it like in the North

Pole? Is it in 24-degrae

Love, Ansleigh

How is the North

pole going if you. Don't

I'm not asking for a lot. I

want rolling shoes. And

please help my mom also

remember me I am Kinsley

Dear Santa,

weater? Also how do you

deliver all these gifts in one

doing? I hope you have a

Hello santa how are you?

Tell hopscotch that I missed

Love, L.

Dear Santa, Thank you for all the hard work you done and what is it like at the north pole is it like your snowglobe? I'm your biggist fan! I love you. I want a videi game and its called madden and I wut a xbox and I wunt a ipad too.

Dear Santa,

Love, (No name given)

I love Crismis I just like the

presit toys. And I like your

dears. I also like my faverit

holuday is crismis. Can you

please give me robux.

I know how hard you

So I ben wundering what

it seems hard but the one

you imspeshle me. Can you

chinchilla and a phone and

do

the north pole is. I know

thing that evry one lovs

pleas get me a real baby

arpods. Wen you

thank you

and

work in the north pole.

Love, Grayson

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, Hi Santa I what a 13,500 vbooks card for fortnight. Love, (No name given) Dear Santa, Santa I want some toys for me and a bike and elf. Merry

I also want a phone and a PS5. Love, Connor McCarty

biggest fan. Mery Christmas!

and a little stuffy elfs. Love, Paxton

I want a little bby please

I whant some cloths and

whunt a candl sinmin and a

good Christmas and I whant

I whant a meni fridg and I

new pjamas and I whant

make up for my sister. A

whunt a snow globe.

Love, Raylee

toy elves and barbery and I

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, Can we please have a classroom Elf I want it to be a girl please. Can I please have a tablet for Chrismas and a purple glittery case and please please please a phone.

Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa, I love you as a friend. Love, (No name given)

Dear Santa,

Can you do me a favor can you give my class elf plees and I will like for Christmas a dog!!!!! And I will tell you one more thing you are mine.

Love, Alianna Zirbes

This is a note to you ar

going to love it you ar

Love, Aubrey

amazing you ar the best

prsin in the world thank you.

Dear Santa,

britanic, and a nerf gun and

I wut a tablit. I wut a postr.

For Christmas I want a lot

of things but I will only ask

for 2 things a phone and a

good Christmas. And can

elves? I have not had any

Love, Laney

you send me some of your

I wut a stufe. I wut a mine

I would like a titanic, a a tablet.

Love, Logan

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, Allie

Dear Santa,

frig.

before.



Dear Santa, Can you do me a favor tell snowflake I love her and what I whan't a cute, blue eyed baby doll and make her blonde hair.

Love, Kimlee

Dear Santa, Playstation 5 and the game of spiderman an a vr headset.

Love, Jacob

Dear Santa,

Can I have a Magic Mixy for Christmas pleas I love you so much may I have a LOL Sipric doll that's a

bubbul bath pleas thank you so much.

Love, Andrea

Love, (No name given)

Thank you for snow. I rele

Love, (No name given)

Can I have a elf please

at my grandma and papa

home. And can we have a

elf in the classroom and you

Can you please bring us

a elf. Also make the world

happy. Can you also bring

you also give orphanage

Love, Kimber

Dear Santa,

Love, Tatum

Dear Santa,

want.

new things. Can you make

jessesos have a good b-day.

Can I have Legos and a

drone. And a class elf and

another elf at home and for

everyone to get what they

I whant a Barbie's an LOL

Doll's an Iphone and a bike

and a barbie house. Barbie

accessories an slime mini

Cane you pleeeeeeees

Love, (No name given)

This year I wish for a titanic

lego set and a remot control

Hello can you breg some

legos and a ntelo for my sisrt

and make my mom heppe.

I wish my mom to bee

I wunt 100 lego sets and a

lazr gun and a postr uv babe

Skooter and a bike and a

yodae and a baebe plece.

Love, Becker V.

lot uv pokemon kards.

bring us a elf. Ifone also giv

brands an family's.

Dear Santa,

mune to por pees.

Dear Santa,

dive bomer.

Love, Jackson

Dear Santa,

Love, Jayden

happ! And a electric

Love, Guinevere

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, K.

scooter!

Love, Brooklyn

money to poor famleys. Can

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

are awesome.

Love, Desi

Dear Santa,

Ipad.

mist it.

Dear Santa,

Can you give me aTV and

Dear Santa, For Chrismis can l get a tablet and a car kit and thank you for giving evrebode toys.

Love, Avery

Dear Santa,

Love, Ally

Dear Snata,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

macaroons.

Love, Brooks

freezing. I wunt a elv.

I want a saprise plz?

BACCUS

Hello how are you doing?

There are a few things I

a Nintendo swich case

want for Christmas. I want

and games twister, tie die

kit and lots of books and

Love, Mila Frederick

Love, Phoenix

I love Crismus I wut a brbe

Give snoeball a cote she is

dol and I wut a smol dol kid

and I wut a toy dog big.

Dear Santa, I want a tedey bear and Legos and a papey and star wars toys and a elechreck skootr and candy pleas and take you. Love, J.

peopol muny. Give my famly muny for wat tha need. Can you give me a barbee dream hawse. Love, Nevaeh

What I want for Chrismis is

a pupy. Marry Chrismis!

Dear Santa,

Love, Grave Lessna

Please let us have a elf in

our class room. Give poor

Christmas is a pokemon plushe. Love, Isaac Fuentes

Dear Santa, I want a picacho night

light and picacho beding. want a picacho piloue. And I hope you have a good Chrismas. Love, Bentley Berner

I want to get a playdoh

and you can get me a seris

Love, Daleyza Tovar

I want a scooter, and

Love, Julian Tovar

coler book, marckers, coler

pencls to, little truck. Good

I wont a crasey car and I

wont a pop batman and a

pop spiderman. How are

Love, Kendra Tovar

I wunt electric skuder. I

wunt sharpie. I wunt lamp.

Love, Presley Lawson

For Chrimas I want a Mario

Wander a sonec colers and

Love, Adalynn Stone

You are seris me if you

don't what to you are gift

me for my doll or coler

tencles or a dr mens.

Love, Dalarry T.

and a notebook and a

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Christmas!

you?

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

some potlorad felm.

tavoo.

that is a pichr of my cat. Love, Kiera Ritchie Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

and color.

I wuht present.

Dear Santa,

You look cool and you

see the Chrismis toy I put

fun every time. And a toy

send pressnt to kids and you

around the tree and you will

I wut a subir and a redpue and a pelo and a besi macr.

Love, Abby Juarez

Love, Frank Pierson

For Christmas I want food

How is Mrs Claus doing?

will leave sum cookes out

for you both. Can I please

Love, Elizabeth Fry

I hope you are good in the

North pole. I love December

because its Chrismas time.

swich. This year I tried to be

nice to my sister but they've

Love, Manetzi Palacios

How are the reindeer? This

year I would like a vr headst.

What Christmas cookie is

Love, Daniel Arizpe

Hello! This year I would

love an Iphone for my dad.

And some winter clothes.

And what kind of cookiss do

you like? How is Mrs. Claus

I want my own Nintendo

have a hoverboard? I

promise to be safe.

Dear Santa,

been not.

Dear Santa,

your favorite?

Dear Santa,

doing?

Love, Sarah Maves

Hello! How are you? This year I would like to be with my famile and alive pet and I want to see you and Mrs. Claws.

Love, Tyler Mitcham

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, Hello! Have you been

Love, Saige Blake

working this year? How is Mrs. Claws doing? This year I want a hoverboard. This year what kind of milk do you like?

Hello! How are you? I've

been good this year. This

Year I want a beebee gun. I

want a huver board. I want

a vr head set. What kind of

Love, Griffin Payne

Hello! How are you? This year I would like a PS5 and

haveint been working hard.

Love, Tristin Epstein

Hello! How are you? I've

been good this year. I want

see my gramma. What kind

Hello! How are you. I've

shirt. By the way do you like

the cokis we bake for you?

Hello! How are you? I've

Love, Collyn Linker

been so good this year. I

would like a Taylor swift

a Nintendo Switch and to

of cookies do you like?

Love, Aubrey

Pontbriand

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

a dirt go kart. I hope you

cookies do you like?

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, Matthias

I Love Christmas. I also

love your elf's. You are Great. You are a nice Parsane. You are a cool Parsane. I got to open a gift on Christmas eve. It was a ipad. I broke it. li slip out of my arm. Mclelland

Love, Aria Logan

chrismas gift for all the people in the city. Thank

present's. Thank you.

Love, Esteban

Hernandez

Dear Santa,

you a lot Santa. And when

it is Christmas I will love my

Dear Santa,

I want a cat, I want a Lego sat, I want a giny pig, I want

a 2 pupys, I want a blac it

Love, Leland McFarland

Dear Santa,

Why do you give nice kids toys and bad kids cole? Can

I have a cristin ronodoe jersy for sports?

Love, Ember McIntyre

I really want a eltrix ginny

needs. Can I have a boy t-rex

for my brother? I also want a

snuggle toy. The last thing I

Love, Beylin Navarrete

Can | Have foco pop? |

pokeman Card? I love your

Love, Mateo Olade

I want a new paintied wall

and mony to take my dog to

the Vet. Because my dog has

love your reindeer. I love

you Santa. Can I have a

want is just my Family.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Hat.

pig. I also want a real life

kitten with everything it

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I want a grat Crismis and a grat presit! And family time. Love, Lane

Dear Santa, How are you? I want for Chrismas is pokemon, I figget spinner, and a pirate lego ship. Mary early Christmas! Love, Elijah Clement

Hi Santa I want pokemon

cards. Next what I want

for Christmas is a freddy

fazz bear. What I want for

Dear Santa,

Love, Kurtis Baker

Dear Santa, I want a PS5. I want a toy car. I want a elf. I want a book. I want a toy home. I want wobux. I want a intent swich.

Love, Kasen Stockton

Dear Santa, I want a toy yellow power ranger and I want a toy green power ranger and I want a toy blue power ranger and I want a toy gold poer ranger and I want a robux gift card.

Love, Juan Duran

Dear Santa, I wont a car and I wont a elf and I wont pop batman and I wont a pop spiderman. How do you feal?

Love, Pricila Ramirez

Dear Santa, Hi I was wanting a lot of sqishmellows and a lot of lanky box sqishys. I will make sure to give you cookies and milk.

Love, Natalia

Dear Santa, I want a rscecar and a macup and a pant and a cabisa to and a iyat.

you.

I am so happy to calabrate

I went a puppy. So I can

have someone in my bed.

Love, Charliene Garza

Dear Santa, Hello! I hope your fine. How is Mrs. Claus doing? This year I would like Bluey's house. Are the elves working hard? Love, Elizabeth

been good this year. This year I would like a panda dunks and a VR headset. How are your elfs doing?

Can I have a Cart for

Chrismis? And can I have a

baby doll for Chrismis? And

can I a book for Chrismis?

Love, McKenzie

I all was wanted a

Love, David Arms

I like your hat. I like your elf.

Your sled is so amazing. Also

Can I have a domansiaar

for 1 year to get one.

Dear Santa,

my mom.

Dear Santa,

for Christmas

Dear Santa,

and a bike. Puppy.

Dear Santa,

sword. I have been waiting

Love, Hudson Bales

Santa I wat a fan. Santa

can I see you. Santa I wat a

Santa I wat to spintim wit

Love, Elijah Curtis

have a good Christmas I

want a Train for Christma I

want a pig I want a puppy

Love, Christopher Fry

I want a wachand some

soes a ring and a talor swif

cup and a scwishmellow

Love, Tayanna Fuller

Thank you for all of these

I Love you a lot I hope you

riinetoy. Santa I wat a robot.

Armentrout

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, J. Cabrera Dear Santa,

Love, Landry Rodgers

a huge. Cut on the siad of

Dear Santa,

her it is Vere depe.

What I want for Christmas is a tablet and a big FLUFFY Pellow for my room! I also want a tiny santa puptiet that move's by his owen self. And for my family to have fun!

Dear Santa, You are so kind. To

Love, Lilly Scott

everyone give evrewan a

nathr chances. Love, Addy warren

Dear Santa,

Could I please have a big naja home and a tire hill jerse? Could I Please have a

cany cane? Love, Chayden Zuniga

Dear Santa,

When I met you and misis clos I did not get give my mom a rel Car not a toy car. I like crismus evry day I spors with my brotr

Love, John Davis

Dear Santa,

I want a dog, brbeset and nikes for Christmas. I have been extra good this year.

Love, Jaetyn

Dear Santa, I want pokemons for Christmas I have been extra good this year

Love, Mateo

Dear Santa, I want a byk, paint, and splashe for Christmas. I have been extra good this year. Love, Lazmine

Hello! How are you? I have been good this year. This year I would like a new hover board. I would like to see my Kusins. I want a PS5, drte bike, car.

Love, Finley Brown

Dear Santa, Hello! How have you been. I've been good this year. I would like slime abd a barbie dream house. I'd also amarican girl doll stuff.

Dear Santa, Can I hav a snowbird. Love, Jaxon Sosnoski

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Santa.

Love, Paxton Barnes

I think I want a prize today

Love, Emily Contreras

or nigt today. I love you

I love you you are the best man live I hope you can bring joy to ever won I wish you are do more crisnis you are so speshl to me santa! I want smart woch. Love, Justin Williams

Dear Santa,

and pockemon. Love, Paxton McKay

I whut a intidow and car

Dear Santa,

Love, Daniel Coronilla

Dear Santa, I am happy to meat you santa I want a swich and a phon and shos and last a sckatbord.

I want for Chrismise a

Love, Hunter Lawson

Dear Santa,

Love, Elise Velasquez

I hope you make it because you are the bets man ever you give us presins and you work hard so hard.

Dear Santa, Love, Cayden Bullard

nintindo gift card and a rockit leeg car and stickers and a ball. A Dallus cow boys led ligt.

I want a fone and a xbox.

Rudolph?

Dear Santa,

like?

Sandoval

Love, Kodah James

good day? This year I would like a flying bike! How is

Dear Santa, Hello. Are you having a

How is it in the north pole? I have been good this year I would like a Nintendo switch and the PS5. I hope

your elves have worked a

Love, Ruben

Campuzano

Dear Santa,

lot. What kind of milk do you

I have been good today.

I would like a Nintendo

x-box for my mom. Is it

Pole? Are your elves

working hard?

Dear Santa,

Switch please and a new

snowing yet in the North

Love, Aries Guerrero

huvrbird. I allso wanted a cat toy. And a toy bone.

Hood County News D5



Dear Sanka, I wut other pokemon. You too pls. Love, Kingsley Redd

Love, Lakien Carneal

My name is ahtziri I been

and a pen. Thats all I want for

Love, Ahtziri Salazar

so good this year. How

are you? What I want for

Christmas is a note book

Christmas. Thank you!

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

tree.

Merry Christmas from our kitchen to your's, as we celebrate our Savior!



Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! John 1:29



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41 11

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Dear Santa, I what pokemon. And 10 transformer's and 10 bladebiads. For Christmas I have been extra good this year

Love, Arturo

Dear Santa, I want a cat a bybisck and. a costoom toy christmias. I have been extra good this year

Love, Brantlee

Dear Santa, Hello Santa how is Elle Doing? For Christmas I would like a new ipad I broke mine I'm sorry! I gonna bake extra cokies and milk! Extra love.

Love, Louella Watts

Dear Santa,

My name is Geraldine Guia. I've been so good this year! I would love a ipad for Christmas. I also baked a cokies fo you and I got milk for you! How mene elfs do

you have? Love, Geraldine Guia

Dear Santa,

My name is Arthur. I been

people and I been lessening

so good this year. I helpt

to mom and dad. I would

My name is ezio. I have

been good. I want a huskie

for Christmas. I also want a

trex for Christmas. You look

Love, Arthur Arp

love lagose.

Dear Santa,

Christmas. How do you mak toy! I hav Cookies.

Dear Santa, My name is feliks Aguilar. I wod love a tone traine for

you to.

Dear Santa,

My famaly dont have enee munee but do you know what I want for Christmas? I want a scooder and a arec car but it drives on to welles! Love, Lincoln Kavanagh

I am Monte. I wish for a

rumot cunchrol sub that

has a Camra and Heft you cookes. I wood like to know

many elvs do you have? It

Love, Monte Ramsey

Love, Feliks Aguilar

My name is Karson ive

been so good this year.

I would love a new ipad

for Christmas. I also baked

you you and your reindeer

Love, Karson Morgan

have a good Christmas.

some cookies for you. I hope

Dear Santa,

will be hard to get to my

Dear Santa,

My name is Catherine. I have been good this year! I would love a wenrdog for Christmas. I also Bake some cookies for you and I hope you have a good Christmas even your evles.

Love, Catherine Croom

Dear Santa,

My name is harlon. I would like a Trillion V bucks I will leave you sum Brockie Cookies.

Love, Harlan Mato

BRAWNER

Dear Santa, Can I please have some

toy and slime and prentes.

Love, Vivian

squishmellows, kissy missy

chicken nuggetts and a real

Could I have a art kid and

note book and a pencil case

please. A new pair of shoes

May I please have a magic

kit and a camra. I also would

and a new popit purse

Love, Maegan

Dear Santa,

and huggy wuggy stuff,

pet cat and cat food, kitty

toys, kitty water and kitty

Love, Catalina

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

medicine.

please.

I want a igloo, 10

May I please have a PC ples and thak you. May I have a gta6, gta5. Mine brtbike. PS5 PS6

Love, Gunner Tigert

Can I please have a appel

pinsle2 and a tablit and a pc

Love, Brandon Thomas

I would like a toy dog and

I wut other pokemon. You

Love, Kingsley Redd

May I please have a titan tumah 2.0, a suceiruty cam.

A titah speakerm cup and

Love, Grayseh Lewis

Please give me a lego

sonic and please give me a

lego Minecraft and give me

Love, Shane Lewellen

a toy robot and give me a

a toy cat, and a tablet and a

toy raindeer and a toy elf. I

Love, Aurora Reed

Dear Santa,

stuff

Warer

a dog.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

phone case.

Dear Santa,

lego eve.

Phown15

too pls.

please!

Coald I please have a

manga. I want demon

Barbie dream house and for

my brother he wants Naruto

slayer manga and my utter

brother what's srger things

Love, Audrey-Jean-

I want a toy and a book

and a pet fish and a cat and

Love, Asher Trundie

elve doctor consultatio

x-rays, & exam. A value of \$247.

Dear Santa, My name is Santos. I have a question how do you now where to go? I rily want a pet bool dog. I wold also want sum pokomon cards.

I hope you and your elvs

Christmas ever.

Dear Santa,

and reindeer have the best

Love, Santos Rangel

My name is Laiken. I have

one qweshton for you. How

meny elfes do you have?

And just so you know I've

And I wish for a Pet cat for

Christmas. I left cookies for

been so good this year!

really good. I hope you have a good Christmas. Love, Ezio Wiggins

Dear Santa, My name is Kailee Garza. I been so good this year. I cookis for you.

cat.

cookis.

would love a lego set and a new scoter and I backed Love, Kailee Garza Dear Santa, My name is Alaina Harkom. I wat like a new

microphone. I wat a new

squishmellow. I like a new

Love, Alaina Harkom

My name is Layla. I want

Love, Layla Blanchard

a liet frig. How many elfs

do you have? How many

Reindeer! I baked som

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Love, Luke

like roller skats set.

Please do not give me a fake kittin. Give me a real one. I want an electric scooter, squishmellow, pikachu, Barbie dream house and lol dream house.

Love, Scarlett

Dear Santa, I hope you have a Merry

lpad.

Love, Emrie Kate

I would love a cute little

time with my family playing

Thank you with my heart for

at the park on Christmas.

always giving presents.

May I please have a

IPhone 15 pro and a bean

Love, Annabeth

Dear Santa,

baby bearded dragon. I

would also like a barbie dressed as an elf. And some

Matlock

Dear Santa,

Christmas. Can you give me your phone number? Can I have a Nintendo please? Smushmallow Pikachu for me also. A toy car that I can drive please and also an

Dear Santa, May I please have a dron and aipad for Chrismis please.

Love, Manny Hernandez

Dear Santa,

May I please have a new set of earings, a toy car so l can ride in it, a water bottle, a kichin set, school toys, books, a surprise. Thank you for all you do.

Love, Kaylee Gonyeau

Dear Santa,

I want a iPhone13 and a babybear and 300\$ so I can pay my mom

Love, Eayon Gobot

Dear Santa,

Mae I please have a barbei and a birgbag and tace you for iving me Rosie. I have you a saris for you.

Love, Emersyn Famer

May I please have a camra, shoes, a car, clothes, doll clothes, one of your elf, a big bag art stuff, a gingerbread house, a gumball machine, a claw machine.

Love, Trinity Carpenter

bag and a rubik's cube and a huge ton of paper and a Dear Santa,

choo choo train that shoots out fat smoke. Love, Kevin Dear Santa, I would like an iPad

for Christmas, and more earrings please. A secret. Mackup. Fake to real computer. Hairclips. Headbanz.

Love, Tatum West



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Candlelight Worship

Sunday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. (No Morning Service at 10:15 a.m.)





Dear Sanka, I hope you are good. I hope the elves are ok. I working on my handwriting. I want a PS5. Love, Zaden

Dear Santa, Can I please have a toy gun and a toy puppy and a stuff and then can I have a plushy and a crismus lights and a phone.

Love, Kaidon Cillott

Dear Santa, May I please have a surprise and a crismas pjs and a computer and led lights and a phone and a claw machine

Love, Jordyn Benard

Dear Santa, May I please have a tablit and a tayty bear and a charchr for the tablot for chrismis

Love, Brayleah Baldwin

Dear Santa, May I please have a qest 3 and I wunt a good day and hair die and I want a toy car

Love, Damon Martin

Dear Santa, How are the raindeers and what are my elves doing? Or Christmas I want a stuff unicorn, an X box for my brother, and a pet lizard. I love you Santa.

Love, Clara Swaim

Dear Santa, How is Dasher, Dancer, Perancer and Rohdolf? Will he gide your slaee on Chrismas Eve? Santa may I please have a skerach book, Lego speed champene, and Star Wars Legos?

Dear Santa, I want a playstieshin 5 and I want a iPhone 15 pro max. Love, Myron Yefimenko

Dear Santa,

May I please hav a surprise.

Dear Santa, setup for Christmas. How are you doing? Are you happy to dlever presents?

Love, Ryder Offner

How's Mrs. Clause? How

v-bucks, may I have a bottle

of prime, may I have a cee-

Love, Drake Lancaster

old are you? How are the

reindeers? May I have

dee lamb jersey. Merry

Christmas Santa.

Dear Santa,

Love, Helena Zamora

I wat to see you so I can pet your deers so bad. Can I please have a hed

I wish to have a computer can't wait for Christmas! Am I going to have the same elf again?

set please? And a color set please? Lego box ok? I hope you be safe Santa. Love you so so much!!

Dear Santa,

Love, Jayton Ellis

Love, Robert Wilson

Hello Santa! I love you!

Dear Santa, How are the raindeer? My elf is named elfy and elfried. Who is your favrot elf? May I please have an iphone13 minny and purple slime and Nike shoes please. Thank

you Santa! Love, Hutton Wray.

Dear Santa, How are you? How is Mrs. Cloes? And the raindeer? I am also Charlotte Simpson and I am 7 years old. How are you? And what is your favrot food? Mine is watermelon. May I have an iphone 13 minny and asmr purple slime and Nike shoes please. Thank you Love, Charlotte

Simpson

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Illia. How is Dasher? How is Mrs. Chlos? How is your elfs? What is time in Northpool? I want a plant, a lava lamp, and ugly sweater please. Mary Chistmols.

Love, Illia Rudin

Dear Santa,

how fast are you?

Love, Lilith

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, How are you today? hope the elfes are well. I don't really whant anything. I had a bunch. I do try my best on homework. I just want my family to be happy. Love, Skylar

How are you? I hope the

eles are well. I worked really

How are you? I hope the

are wll. I worked really hard

on my Spanish. Can I please

have a baby kitten I wonder.

Love, Layla Kidd

hard on my civsufs. Can I

please a ipade? I wonder

Love, Degan

Dear Santa, How are you? I no I bin a bad bore. I wil be a gud bore sannty. Haor r eo and misis Clas is doring. I want a nrf qun fr crismis

Love, Braxton

Dear Santa, How are you? I hope that misis clos is good and I bin working on my hand riding and this is wat I want. I want to hag out with my family. Love, Tessa Young

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Caus? I worked really hard on hand writing. Can I please have theas 3 things? A birby dream house, a toy cat that can go potty and eat like a robot and new clothing.

Love, Kaitlynn Walls

Dear Santa, Oll wont for Chrismas is Love, Ryan

Dear Santa,

How are you? I hope you are good today. I work really hard on math. Can I have these two thangs, some heley's and a charsard ex. I wonder are real or fake? Love, Mason Goodale

Dear Santa.

How are you? I hope the elf's are doing well. I am working really hard on my math. Can I please have nerf guns? I wonder what cookeis are you're favret.

Love, Wyeder

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I have ben working relly hard on my hand writing and this is my list. A nerf pump stootgun, a kartun, a x-box and v-bucks and robux please.

Love, Kason Lam

Dear Santa, I hope you are good. I hope the elves are ok. I working on my handwriting. I want a PS5. Love, Zaden





Dear Santa, How are you? Is Dacher ok? May I have a iphone 15 pretty please?

megu a mindcraft redstone golum. Oso is Misiclos ok? How are the elves? Are you ok? I can not wat for Chrismas



Christina Allen Sr. Client Relations Specialist

Dan Phillips CFP[®], CRPC[®], AAMS[®] Certified Financial Planner[™] **Kimberly Thompson** Sr. Client Relations Specialist

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Hood County News D7

Dear Sanka, My name is Justin. Where are you from? Thank you for my stuff last year. Can I please have a PS5 this year? Love, Justin

Dear Santa, How are you? I hope Ms. Cleus is okay. I work really hard on my homework. Can I please have an electronic scooter? I wonder how you deliver prsents in one night.

Love, Mason E.

Dear Santa, How are you doing? Hopefully good. Same with Mrs. Claus. I really want legos!!!!!! I'm doing good on poiano.

Love, Victor

Dear Santa, My name is Amanda Rodriguez I am 8 years. I live in Granbury, Texas. I've been a good girl. Some good things that I did this year were I was cleaning my room. I would like this year an apple pen for my ipad and a computer.

Love, Amanda

Dear Santa, Wow is Mrs Cloz. I learned to croshay this year. Thank you for the yarn. I would like a ice kreem toy. Mary Chrsimis! Love, Lillie

Dear Santa, How is roudoff! What towns do you go too? Thank you for Christmas last year. Can you get me red Legos difrent kinds. Love, David

Dear Santa, How is your year? Thank you for last year. I would like a phone? How are you? How is the rodolf? A I want a toy.

Love, Nolan

Dear Santa, How are you? I'v ben getting good grades. Thank you for last year. Could you please bring me some fake wolf ears? Love you.

Love, Noah

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claws? I got to see great grandma for the last time and I miss her but it's okay. I really want to spend time with my family. Love, Lucy

Dear Santa, How are you doing today? Santa my little sister learned how to ride her bike

without training wheels. Could you please bring me a Nintendo? Love, Liam

Dear Santa, Hiy Santa my name is Brynlee. How are you and Mis Clos? I got a 99 in math. Can you please bring me a toy?

Love, Brynlee

Dear Santa, You know me. How are you? How are the rain deers? Thank you for last year. I would like my brother over plees! Hove you.

Love, Harlow

Dear Santa, Is your reindeers good? Thank you for bike. Could you please I would like a tablet. I would Love, Zaid

Dear Santa, How are you doing? My favorite thing in christmiss is spending time with my family. Could you bring me a baseball book please. Thank you for the yo-yo. Love, Jett

Dear Santa, Hi Santa how is your ranedear? I will lay cooky's and millk and roodoff food yall head a long jerney. I want a singing stich. Love, Karlee

Dear Santa, Do you want to know why my faverete place to go is whinter is starbucks?

Do you know why? Becus I love ther snowman cookey. Its messy and delishos. Also can l get a trampoleen for Chrissmas. Thank you Santa? Love, Karson

Dear Santa,

How are the elves doing? Thank you for giving me a bike. Could you please can I have a phone from you and Misis Clos.

Love, Layla

Dear Santa, Im Hattie. I love dragons very much. Pleass only dragons. Tell Winter that I'm happy to see her. Love, Hattie

Dear Santa, Win is your birthday? Thank you got last year.

SANTA CLAU

FUTURE KIA OWNER

Could you please bring me a new phone.

Love, Addyson

Dear Santa, My name is Justin. Where are you from? Thank you for my stuff last year. Can I please have a PS5 this year? Love, Justin

Dear Santa How are the reindeer?

Thunk you for my gift last year. Can I also have a nerf gun?

Love, Preston

Dear Santa. Hi Santa! How are vou? Long time no see bud! One question, did you put me on the good or bad list? BTW (by the way) can I have a lphone15 Promax? Or a wwe robot to fight me that can't break or Christmas joy? Love, Callan

Dear Santa,

How is Dasher? What is your faveret desert? Mine is ice cream! Can I have a yellow rainbow friends yoy headset, sonic hoody and sonic shorts. How are the elves? They must be great!

Love, Ayden

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you and mrs clows? Can I have a new soccer, cleets, and a silver necklis? And a new wordsurch please? Love, Jexyn

Dear Santa,

Can I have a lego transformer god zilluanda, transformer t-rex that can transform into a hellucopter. And can I have two more Nintendo swich cunchtrollers please. Can I have these things?

Love, Oliver

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How are you? I'm Jayden I live in the USA. I would like a Christmas coat and legos. I hope you have a great Christmas day. I love Christmas day and presints and you. How many elfs you got? Happy Chrsimas day Santa! How is mis clos doing?

Love, Jayden

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Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Állison tengo 7 años. Este año me he portado muy bien sie las cosas buenas. con amor, Allison

Dear Santa, How are you? Can I please have have marker plush, pwer wheel, a quest 2? Thank you. Love, Lucas

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How are you? Santa how old are you Santa? Santa I would love a phone Santa. I would like a hoverboard Santa. Santa this is a wish. I wish my mom dusnt work on the night before Chrismis. Santa is is coold in the north pull? I hope you have a good Chrisimis.

Love, Natalie

Dear Santa, It's almost Christmis! How are you doing Santa? I would like for chrismis is a lol doll, I would like a elctric scooter, I would like some snow. How are you? Love, Elise

Dear Santa, This year I would like cinnamroll stuff. Cinnamoroll build a bear, cinnamoroll squishie, last one milk cinnamorolls and little brother or sister plushie please. Hope you are doing

good and mrs.clause. Santa please don't put me on the nauty list please don't put cole in my stocking. I'm begging you and I'm not doing this to annoy you. Love, Chloe

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How is your day going? Is it going well? Hi Santa can I have a squishmollow; a fox one please. Can I please have a loker, mine is broken please. Can I have an iPhone? How is Chrsimas up in the north pole? Is mrs.clus doing good? How are the toys doing? Are they doing good? How are the candy canes doing? Are they doing good? Love, Dakotah

BRAWNER **SPANISH - LANGUAGE**

Querido Santa, Mi nombrer es Yareli tengo 7 años vivo en Gramburry, Texas. Este año me he portado muy bien siempre, las cosas buenas que hice este año fueron ayudar a mi ma. Este año te pido decorasiones para cuarto. Saludo a Cooki felis

Navidad. Con amor, Yareli

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es mi yamo Luca masomenos ayude a Juanbid icer mi taocigos a gudra la marstra. Con amor, Luca

Ouerido Santa, Mi nombre es Kendra. Portado muy bien. Ayude. Con amor, Kendra

Querido Santa, Mi name is Andrea. Tengo 7 años. Me portato muy bien. Las cosas buenas q hice este año fueron que allude alguien. Este año pido Mama sobresa.

Con amor, Andrea

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Sofi y tengo siete años. Vivo en Granbri Texas. Me portado masomenos. Las cosas que hice bien ayude a mi mama. Con amor, Sofi

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Camila, tengo 8 años, vivo en Gamberi Texas. Este año pido un lego de Poquemon y una sinta con ta que

puedes aser escushis. Con amor, Camila

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Abril. Tengo 7 años, vivo en Grabury Texas. Me eporetdo bien. Las cosas buenas que hice este año fueron lipiare la casa. Este año pido pizarron y un muñuca.

Con amor, Abril

Ouerido Santa, Mi nombre es Kacey M tengo 7 años, vivo en Granbury, Texas. Regular, las cosas que hice este año fueron avudar a la maestra. Este año pido unas postisas. Con amor, Kacey

Querido Santa,

Mi nombre es Evelyn, tengo 7 años, vivo en Granbry Texas. Este año me parta regular. Las cosas buenas que hice este año fue ayudar a mi madre. Este año pido jugeto. Con amor, Evelyn

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Alexis Sanchez, tengo 8 años. En este año me e portado menos bien. Las cosas buenas que a echo en el

año es respirar la amfombra y quiero un VR y una pelota chida de soccer.

Con amor, Alexis

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Arius, tengo 7 años vivo en Granbury, Texas. Este año me he portado mas homenos regular pero puedo explicarlo. Las cosas. Este año pido pokemon laVDs y una pelota de futbol. Con amor, Arius

Querido Santa,

Mi nombre es Mateo Juarez tengo ocho años. En este año me porte bien y yo le ayudo a mi mama limpiar. Este año pido cartas de pokemon y soccer un ps5 y unos zapatos de Nike. Con amor, Mateo

Querido Santa,

Mi nombre es Dayanna. Te quiero y a los relles magos Tambien. Santa te deseo una Buena Navidad. Feliz Navidad Santa. Soy de Grabury Texas. Yo pido una casa de barbie y una raibow brahig y una casita que me pueda meter.

Con amor, Dayanna

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Ismeray tengo 7 años, vivo en Granbury, Texas. Este año me he portado muy bien. Las cosas buenas que hice este año fueron avude a mi papa. Este año pido la mansion de barbie y una Brat.

Con amor, Ismeray

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Allison tengo 7 años. Este año me he portado muy bien sie las cosas buenas.

Con amor, Allison

Querido Santa, Este año me a portado casi vien. Este año quiero colores y papel. Yono se si me vas a trais mi regalo. **Con amor, Cristian**

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Caleb tengo 8 años, vivo en Granbury Texas. Este año me he portado bien. Las cosas buenas que hice este año fueron alludar a personal. Este año pedi un ps5. Con amor, Caleb





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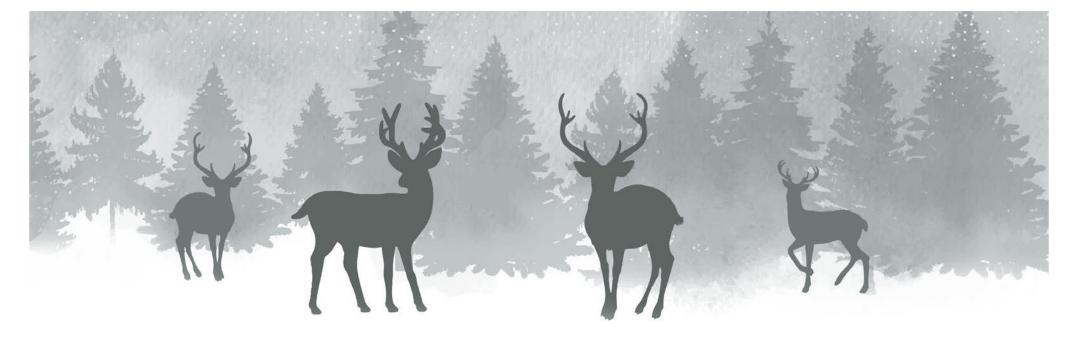
WE ARE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US! **OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

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WALK-IN | URGENT CARE CLINIC

WISHING YOU a

FE&



Querido Santa,

Mi nombre es Alexis A. tengo siete años, vivo en Granburi Texas. Este año me he portado mui vien. Las cosas buenas que ise este año fue ayudar. Este año pido unos pokemons.

Con amor, Alexis

Querido Santa, Mi nombre es Damian. Yo bibo en Texas. Yo quiero 7 gugle plai Tambien quiero 5 poquemans dorados y el marcador mas fuerte rojo y unos erpots.

Con amor, Damian

Querido Santa, Santa mi amor por todo elm undo y tengo un bueno dia y yo soy muy bien en este año y ayude a mi mama.

Con amor, Joan



Dear Santa,

Do you actually make 1,000 presents in one year? Can I please a roblox gift card and a huge tent. May I have a moter cycle. Can you please take me to Nintendo Switch land? Have fun dear Santa!

Love, Marshall James Holbrook

Dear Santa, Do you travel through vortexes? Does your sleigh run on Christmas spiret? Are the raindeer doing well?

I would love a picture of

roudoph. I would like a what

the fluff. Will you bring me

a pets alive smitten kitten.

I hope you have a good

Love, Micah Ruth

May I have a snowman

squishmallows and a cow

squishmallows. Can I have

a makeup box. I would like

a earring box. I hope Santa

is doing ok and Mrs. Clos at

Love, Chloe Fowler

I want happiness for the

World. I would also like a lion

squish mallow. Can I please

have a roblox gift card. May

I please have a robot dog.

Love, Kasyn Carroll

I hope you have a good

Christmas.

Strickland

Dear Santa,

the north pole.

Dear Santa,

Christmas.

Dear Santa,

bike and a phone 14 and a \$100 and May I play have a Bodleapp and a book of the box in the fox and a santa book and a ps5 and a uther \$100.

Love, Isla Smart

Dear Santa, I want a iphone 13 with a sparkly phone case that is pink and I want a basketball goal that is big. For my sister Olivia can you get her a harry styles picture that is small.

Love, Halle Benitez

How are the reindeer

and what about you? May

cause I love zombies 3. May

I have a zombies 3 poster

I also have a big Axalotle

squishmallow cause their

art set. Thank you for the

presents from last year.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

and a ipad.

Dear Santa,

Love, Emory Hunt

Can I have a pet dog. I

May I have a scruis-a-luvs.

Love, Leah Espinoza

I hope you are doing

at work? Are the reindeer

Love, Jaxon Harvey

well. How are the elfs doing

eating? I want a ps5, V bucks,

would like a squishmallow.

so cozy. I would also like an

Dear Santa,

bring a new toy for my dog and a new cat toy for my cat ples. Sum choclot to ples. Love, Rowan Dear Santa,

I don't now if I was good this year. But I really want soom chapter books and one moor thing for my dog, Mom and dad. For my mom I want a coffee cup, my dad a Texes Rangers cap and for my dog a bone.

I have ben rely good

thes year. Ples being me

a hamster and a bird for

crismis thes year ples. Ples

Dear Santa,

Love, Cameron

presens.

plae stashin 5 if I be gud for a wek.

I think I have ben good

this year. I want art stuff

and family to have good

Can I have a diminds

a sprise pokemon, gold

and a miney baker.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Christmas?

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Bounty.

table.

Love, Jeremiah

pokemon, big pokemon. I

also want cristls, 20 dorers,

MAMBRINO

I hope you have a great

I promise that I will leave

Love, Adalyn Sargent

I love you and I will leave

you cookies and milk for

you. Can I have pokemon

Love, William Stacy

I love you Santa! For

15 and more Elf's on the

shelf. Happy Christmas.

Love, Brooke Jacoby

I hope vou will come

to my house to give me

presents this year. I really

Dragons Rising Destiny's

Love, Silas Nikkel

This year I've been good

all the time. This Christmas,

sweater. What I would like

most this Christmas is an

LOL doll house and grey

sweatpants. I promise to

Merry Christmas, Santa!

Dear Santa,

and some clothes.

Dear Santa,

Love, Scarlet Young

I will leave you cookies

Please brint the carrots to

the reindeers. I want heely's

Love, Avery Cantrell

and carrots for the reindeers.

leave out cookies and milk.

my wishes are a heart

Dear Santa,

want a Lego Ninjago

Christmas I want an I-phone

cards and a drone for

Christmas and I hope you

can get a Barbie for me.

milk and cookies on the

Love, Phoenix

Dear Santa,

New Year. Can I have a normal or a superhero stuffy dogman.

please.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

carrots for the reindeer. I

want a robot dog and a elf

Love, Chris Flowers

Merry Christmas and I

Dear Santa, I want another girl elf and 5 LOL dolls please. I also want a big LOL doll. Merry

Love, Lincoln Royer

Christmas, Santa!

I want two fast remote

controls and a 4-Wheelers. I

also want a racing monster

truck. Santa you're the best.

Love, Patrick Ochoa

I'm looking forward to

your visit to our house. I

I would like a jumprope

Love, Elise Shearer

please and thank you.

This year I've been

good all of the time. This

Christmas, my wishes are

an phone. I'll be waiting for

you on Christmas Eve with

Love, James Evans

I'm looking forward to

Dear Santa,

cookies and milk!

Dear Santa,

would like an elf because

it's going to be my first one!

Dear Santa, I want some beyblades and some robux and a drone and a puppie and a

Love, Ella Gonzales

3d printer.

Love, Lo Bechtel

I want a VR and a puppy. I

I wut a basketball. I wunt a

Love, Wesson Eminger

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Clemons

want makeup set.

Love, Kennedy

blabe blade an arena.

Love, Casyn Couto

Dear Santa, I wuld like a new bunny. Kitten. And I want to have my brother and sister.

Love, Rebel Rogers.

Dear Santa, I went new Beyblade and ring. Can you giv my moma presit.

Love, Declan Davis

Dear Santa,

I willy want a ifone 14. I willy want a PS4. Can I have a new tablet. I wish I had a computer. I want a new nike shoes. I wish I could have \$20.

Love, Jaxsyn Hutyra

Dear Santa, Can I have a ipad I have been relly good can I have a makeup toy and Kanetic sand. Even if you gave me cole I will for gave you. Love, Olivia Mondragon

cuped come? And my papa Love, Reese

I want a new makeup kit

Mrs. Vance a new borde. Will

and new art kit. Please get

try to leave cookies out for

wants a fly swater. So I also want a apelosce!

Dear Santa, You might allredy know but in cas you don't I riley riley want that litel phone that can't do texting or calling. And when will

year. What I want is a real army helmint. I want my mom to have a coffee cup. I want my dad to have a now gun. I want my brother to have a blankinet. Love, Jonah

Dear Santa,

Love, Marlie

I thenk I was good this

Dear Santa, I wunt to controllers a

hope you have a Happy four pokemon blimaes. And Love, Gabriel

pad, and mrkers. Can you

being good this year?

Love, Payton

tell Buz to be a good elf. I'm

sum bog man boos and a traforing nrf gun.

Dear Santa, I am wishing for an elf on the shelf. And a phon! And

Please can I have a artset. Thank you for giving me presents ever year. Can I have a teddy bear? I would like to have a shark squishmallowe. May I have Vbucks? Love, Berkley Laney

I want a basketball and a

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Alive that can moy. Can you bring Mama Ilama that has 4 babys. Plese bring a Magic mixie in a big pot. And a scruff-a-luvs that you can shave.

Love, Tyler Beth Linker

I would like a Baby Alive that can eat. And a pets Dear Santa, Can I have a ps5? Can I have a gas wheeler? Can I have a l phone and l pad? Can I have a bike. I would like VBucks and a dog and \$100 and roblox gift card

blaster.

Dear Santa,

Love, Lecil

Dear Santa,

May I have a iphone ples. May I have sume Christmas dekrashans ples. May I have Mario Wondr ples. May I have a kitten ples. Love, Seth Harvey

and a eliktrik skuder and

a fut ball. Can I have a Jill

Love, Noah Massie

I have bin good this

Pekchoo and a 22 gun. I

And a mud for my dad.

year. I would like a stuffed

would like a toy for my dog.

Dear Santa,

May I have a tent ples.

Dear Santa, Can I have a iphone sent over to my house ples? Can I have a stuffed animal horse ples? Thank you for bringing the presents for last year. Love, Creeden Looper

Love, Grayson Spikes

Dear Santa, I would like a small iphone, a ps5, osow a ipad. May I have a roblox gift card and Vbucks. Will you bring me clothes.

Love, Kayleb Berry

a toy gel blast. I also want a dinosoh. Can I have a lego set it is called lego montrocity set.

I your good. I would like

you. Love, Layla

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

My tablit gliches a lot and l

I have been good this year

your elf Cookie has been

watching me like a 10 eyed

elf. I want 2 things first robux

rubix cube. Thank you Santa.

I want some descnd ants

dolls and a makeup kit. My

some barbe frunchr plesee.

I have ben rely good this

you also bring some Vbukes

I've ben a good kid this

so I can read to Jesus on his

man toys so I can play with

birthday. I wish for spider

I want a hlmit a 4 wlr,

phone, ps5, madge 4, VR

ropes, fortenite, football,

legos, a fortenite gun, a l

year. I wish to have a bibebol

year. Can you bring me a

ps5 and a lphone 15. Can

an apple watch series 5.

mom would like a whofle

maker. And I would like

Bring a dog toy for Ozzy.

Love, Saylor

Dear Santa,

Love, Max

Dear Santa,

them outside.

Love, Gripp

Dear Santa,

and the vuxin treasure box

don't like it so can you plees

make me a new one? Can

you also meke a new bike

for my little brother?

Love, Hudson

Dear Santa,

Love you!

Love, Calton

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I will leave cookies and

Love, Thomas Adcock

You are the best! May you

please.

please get me a Nintendo switch and a iphone 15 pro Dear Santa, I would love a new puppy but I still want Wylly. Nike's.

you!

Dear Santa, I want a VR headset. I want a goku figure. I want a vigito. Love, Bryson Griggs

Close for my dog. Thank

Love, Jackson Golden

Dear Santa, What I would rilly like for Christmas is a skate bord with a skelitten skull on it. I rilly want some brick blocks that are card bord. Also I want some more pokemon cards. And a iphone 15 please if not a iphone I can git a iphone when I get older.

Love, Elijah Vega

Dear Santa, I wont a poni and jax and 1,000,000,000,000,000 dollrs.

Dear Santa, I know I've been bad a a moxie and a toy puppy. Love, Darien **Rodriguez.**

little. Also good I would like

Love, Jaxson Cohran

This year I've been good all of the time. I would really like it if you could bring my Amongus. Merry Christmas, Santa.

wishes are a boy and girl and boy great Dane. Merry Love, Remy Unger Dear Santa,

Christmas Santa.

your visit to my house. This year I've been good sometimes. My Christmas

Dear Santa, I wunt a ew puppy at my dad hows.

Love, Sterling Bates

Dear Santa,

Love, Vaiden Ballard

Can I have a pet pupy. I

I want a xbox pleas! I want

vbucks pleas! I want clos

Love, Mason Cantrell

I want. A new jeans light

jeans too. I wat a new barbe

I want a vanity and I would

Love, Saylor Sizemore

I whet a game. I whet a

Love, Nash Sizemore

Can I have robucs. Can

I want a mermaid silk! I

want a skates and a stuffy.

Love, Abigail Crawford

I have new clothes. Can I

have a mermaid tail.

Love, Lyla Mann

love some makeup and

some hair stuff and also I

would like nail polish!

dol. I want a new roller

Love, Callie Rist

skates. Thank you!

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

bok. I whet a shirt.

want a ipad.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

pleas!

Dear Santa, I love the pressins. For Christmas I want a gelebene comptishin and m frend to get a house elf she dzrvs a elf pees that is the only thing I want.

Love, Weston Lee

Dear Santa, I want a toy wuty ples and I want a toy buzz and sum gluvs and a toy t-rex.

Love, Dylan

Dear Santa, Think you for all the presints you get me. Chritmas is my favrit year. Thank you for my elvs Santa. I love you Santa.

Love, Stella M.

Dear Santa, I bin wuten a birbe doll and a lamp. I also wut a lebils for my bebrom and I wut a mer. And a dog.

dit bike. Love, Bennett

Dear Santa, I want a PS5 and I want a

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa, I want a phone, a mattris, a compter, a chrismas tree, some blakits, a pellow, a boardgame, crayons, a cat.

Love, Owen

Dear Santa, Minecraft lego sets, nintindo swich, minecraft figre, minecraft book

Love, Parker

Dear Santa, Maybe I have a drtebike and a huvrord ples I love you so much.

Love, Jacob

Dear Santa, I want a plushy, 10 dollars, new school supplies, and lastly some clothes.

Love, Haidyn

Dear Santa, I know every year you make millions of presents every year. It must be very hard. And that is why I wanted to make you this letter.

D10 Hood County News

Dear Santa, I would want a wach, kitten, nails, bike, skateboard, key chaine, candy, hat. I like roodof because his nose and other randers. Love, Adelina Godfrey

Love, Draven Valverde

Dear Santa, I want for Christmas is a black panther toy, stuffet raindeer.

Love, Brynna Ford

Dear Santa, I want a puppy, dance shoes because I might go into dance please. A elf on the shelf. Mint m&m's. Thank you for the elf's I love the raindeer & you santa.

Can you get me this for Christmas a new book. Love, Kaslyn Aparicio

Love, Lulu Daniels Dear Santa, I what a canmera santa.

Dear Santa, We thank you for the elfs and there suprisis. I hope that ralphi gets beter. I also hope that tyntsl gets ger magic back.

Love, Nolan Musser

Dear Santa, For Chrismas I want an Iphone 14. And legos. And Nintendo switch disks. 20,000 mine coins. I love you Santa! Hope you have a good Chrismas. Am I on the nice list? Pokemon cards.

Love, Harper Sink

Dear Santa, I want a furby and a scruffa-luv and a magic mixie.

Love, Tempy Shaw

Dear Santa, I want a LOL animal surprise and a pokemon toy and a friendship bracelet. And please put my presents at the back of the tree.

Love, Izaak Brinkmeyer

megazord and magnitiles Minecraft lego and luigi 3 games and dominoes and stitch.

> Dear Santa, For Chrismas, I want an elf because I do not have an elf at my house. If I get an elf or not, I will still be happy. Love, Sabrina Brownfield Dear Santa, I want for Crismas, 4 big squishmallows, camera film, a squishy, a makeup kit, a and cleest catax bat. robot servant, a pretend toy phones, a pencil box with a calculator with a pencil sharpener. I love you santa claus. hotwheels city, Micahel Love, Lexi Evans Jordans, and pet eagles stachoo and not Whehs

Love, Ryan Hutchison

Dear Santa, I have been good all these years. I want the world's tarest pokemon. How is Mrs. Claus doing all these years?

Love, Aubrie Garner

Dear Santa, I miss you very very much. And I want to tell you something... can you please get me party lights, VR headset, and a \$500 roblox gift card. I love you very very much.

Love, Nathan Barnes

Dear Santa, I want to know if IV ben good. I want a PS5 for Christmas. I love you so so so so so so so much. You are so nice. You are very nice and lovely. Can I have 5 more elves. I want art stuff.

Love, Silas Hofeldt

I want a PS5 really bad but the thing I want most is a vr quest and my birthday is Febuary 17. I want a PC because mine broke and I can't play pc vr.

Love, Madison Anglen

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I really really really hope you get me a new bike for Christmas and I have a new idea for the village name. I belive Mrs. Clause. Design the village so it should be named Miss Clause Village.

Love, William Hardin

Dear Santa, Can I have a pack of paint markers and upgraded Titan TV man and speaker man a new big notebook can it have 1,200 pages

Love, Renee Weber

key chane, mint m&ms, santa hat, kitten stuffed anamle. Santa I love roodof and the other raindeer and I promis to put cookies, millk and carrits for the raindeer. I love you Santa.

www.hcnews.com

Dear Santa, I want pokemon cards, Grinch toy, PS5, new foot ball and new foot ball jersy eagles, new foot gloves and Chrismas pg's and that it. Love, Aaron Martinez

I want a PS5 and Jordans

Love, Luciano Martinez

I want a Nintendo swich,

Love, Kandace Napier

I love you santa. I wish I

can have a horse. Can I have

a cat. Can I have a brid. Can

want som pokemon. I wish

Love, Jordyn Brown

I want a nerf gun. And a PS5. And a sirsoft gun. And a

TV. And sum Kinetics.

I have a stuffed animals. I

we can have snow.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I want a jet pack please. I would like a painting kit please. I rilly want some tickit's for a Jojo Siwa consirt. I want it to snow this year. Love, Amelia Spirlock

Love, Jose Rios

Dear Santa, I want a Nintendo suitch for Christmas as I've been good I also wondered are boy real?

Holdays and my favoit thing is you when we hang out with are family and can I have a trampoline Love, Rylee Williams

I love the Christmas

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I know that you have been nice. Santa so what are you going wrap presnts? Love, AJ Owens

Love, Zach Derrick

Dear Santa, I have been good but I get in trouble sometimes. Can I have an electric bike? Can I have a scooter?

Love, Coraline Fowler

Dear Santa, I have been waiting to write this to you Santa so I know you know my name so l appreciate you for all you do for all of us. May I please have a minecrafts cat plushy. Please and thank you.

Love, Avigail Blackerby

Thank you for delivering a camera that films and a paint kit.

Dear Santa, to us for years and I just want you to know you don't just bring presents you bring joy. This is what I want for Christmas: an electric car,

15? I might get one of your

elves. Love, Briza Gutierrez

favorite month of the year.

Can you get me an iPhone

Love, Caleb Scott

Dear Santa,

I would like one more

theing 3000000000002

0000000000000000000

pope's and dog's and kitin's

and cat's and all jordans and

baby horse and I wot to met

talreswift and JoJo Siwa.

You are so nise you are

the best Santa can I make

my Christmas list at home?

am going to make the best

to tell you can I have some

I love Christmas beause

he gives presents and more

presents he like Christmas is

the best holiday is Christmas

is the best Christmas.

I love snow I wish for

Love, Elena Salas

I would like toys and a

Love, Layne Mowdy

Stuffed animals and JoJo

Siwa presents and Hello

kitty and colonial cat and

Bluey and Bingo and little

Love, Natalyah

new lego worlds a lot of

Love, Alayna

Mandujano

Dear Santa,

Michael Jordans.

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

COWS.

fridge.

Guzman

patrol set.

Dear Santa,

cookies I have one thing

puppies!!! I am in love.

Love, Wiley Bone

Dear Santa,

Love, Eliza Karl

Dear Santa,

Love, Lucas Ammons

Dear Santa, I want monster jam toys, fortnite toys, and halo toys, a sqoeshmelo, and linky box snaglys, and lego werld video game and dogman, I survived, dyre of a wimpy kid, roblox, chapter books.

ball. And I'v also ben good because I'v standed up for people this year. You look good my friend.

Love, Zachary

Dear Santa, May I please have a LOL sprise magik fliers. A robot. Hot weils. Awso can you give me a elf please. I whut one.

SATURDAY, Dec. 23, 2023

Love, Rosalie

Dear Santa, Can I have a art tablet pleas. Pleas can I get a soft

blanket and a brile Elf thank

you santa.

Love, Summer Dear Santa, Please can I have a

nintindo fall guys and

Love, Edward

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

but it melted.

Dear Santa,

toys.

Love, Scarlett

scwishes.

11-28-2023.

foveing out because I have

den snilenig to everyone on

I want for Christmas is

roller skas and cow kite cow

shet 10 robux card and mor

Love, Jessi Jones

Christmas is comeing

up and I know Frosty my

elf is comeing to night. For

my presints I want a baskit

of like sox and lose of face

jubse. To let you know Frosty

tride to mack a smowman

I want a iphone 14 and

and vbux vr hedset sonick

Please may I have new

rollerskats my other ones

don't fit me any more and

also I have been realy nice

in school and some tovs

please. PS tell Chloe I love

Love, Adalynn

prinseesen 2 axe figers funaf

sonick super stars and

spiderman 2 for exbox

Love, Luke Reed

Dear Santa,

mask and a candy cold

Dear Santa, I want a bike and a

I wunt a bike and a bown airow. Love, Joseph Wentworth

Love, Kinslee Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I wish crismis wood take a logre time becas I want to see you.

I love you! I love your rader, and your elfs!

Love, Fallon

of gifts please. Love, Kenna Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I want for Christmas is monster high, a phone, the elf on the shelf books. Lot's

Dear Santa, I want a parker. I want. Love, Ezekiel

Dear Santa, I want a nintindo switch and a cart. Merie Christmas! Love, Tyler

Love, Raquel

Dear Santa, I love you so moch beckus your my favrit prsen in the hold wrol.

Love, Atticus

Love, Ellis

Dear Santa, I want a new phone for Christmas and new books, and a laptop, and my sister to come home, and a elf at my mom's house and my dad's house.

Dear Santa, I want a pokemon binder and golden pokemon cards. Love, Damien Dalton

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

Can I plees have a

Love, Levi Scoessow

Please can I have some

minrals because I cleaned

also please have the book

Dogman whom the ball

rolls because I helped my

Love, Kade Billings

I was hopeing you could

me a big buff arm and a

big buff leg and amer that

goes with the big buff arm

and leg. And a ninja kid led

grandma pick pecans.

Dear Santa,

I wut a tabli.

Love, Lily

Dear Santa,

my room. Santa may l

conputre and a elf.

Dear Santa, I want a phone an a baby horse and puppies. Microphones an sum dressup wigs please.

I want a PS5. I want a foot

ball. I want a Jordans. Cobra

Kai. Pajamas. Nintendo paw

Love, Jase Reed

Dear Santa, I want a big barby house. I want a stuft Anmol that has a sa fase and a happy fase. I want a baby doll. I want a

her.

Hows Rudolph doing and game.

Love, E.

I Love you Santa. I wish I git a present you don't hofto. I hop thers gis to the noth pole. I love you! I miss vou santa, I wish I gite my elf! Love, lucas Campbell

Love, Emeline Unruh Dear Santa,

stuft Anmol that is a santa. Love, M. Dear Santa,

how is it living in the North Pole? I want a Nintendo and dino toys, and a battle claw

Dear Santa, I hope you are having a marry Christmas. I wold Please like a elf on the shelf

2 please for me and Brynna. Love, Blakely Dawn

Ford

Dear Santa, I want to see you to show me how to make toys. Santa, what year were you born? Can I have a toy train please?

Love, Bentley

Dear Santa, How is Mrs Claus? Drums, shirt, pants.

Love, Alannah

thank you Love, Mason Parten Dear Santa, This is me. I love Christmas

and also my birthday is on

December 15th. That is my

I want my sister to have a great Christmas on December 25, 2023. Because she helps me she is nice to me and she tries to cheer me up when I am sad

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, I've been wanting a macbook for two years now. You don't necessarily have to get me it you know. I love you santa. I'll have a note and a lego super car. And one more thing Santa can you leave me a note on Christmas? I love you Santa! Love, Campbell O'Neill

and last Chrismas Pajamas house. I wish for a sichis toy.

keyboard and mouse and PC. Love, Sebastian Hernandez Dear Santa, I wish you santa a merry Chrismas! I also wish for a iphone. I also wish for a baby

For Christmas is a light saber, a now puppy, I what a roodos remot radey.

Love, Declan Wagner Dear Santa,

Love, Carter Kastner

I love you I want a light

saber and a kitten thank you

Wat I want for Christmas

is a new bike. I will leav milk,

cookis, and carits for rootof.

Also thank you for giving us

Love, Whitlee Meyers

This year I want a pink

and dad to find ther love. I also want a hool pake of owl

diaries. I also want a lite that

can hook on to beds. I will

also leev carits for reindeer.

bike. I also want for my mom

Dear Santa,

for bring yor elfs.

Dear Santa,

a new elf.

Dear Santa,

I will also leev

cookies and

Rose Salt

Love, Katy

Dear Santa,

This year I would like a

new kitten, a

cat friendship

milk.

Love, Brett Sieck

Dear Santa, I liked it when you brought your elf. I want lego star wars for Christmas and a light saber. I will leave carrots for all your reindeer.

Hood County News **D11**

Dear Sanka, How is Rudoph doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? I would like to have 3 things some new shoes, lizard, and a ball.

Love, Jackson Brock-Walder



Dear Santa, How is Mrs. Claus? I want a stich water bottle and a LOL doll. Love, Hunter

Dear Santa, I love Santa. I want Exbox, I want a firnows.

Love, E.

Dear Santa, If its not to much to ask for can I have a new iphone. Love, Adelina Ramirez

Dear Santa, I relly love Santa. I'm relly excited to get my present. I also listened to Christmas music.

Love, Kaydenn

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph and mrs. claus? I want 2 more elves, and I want splintoon 3 for my Nintendo, and that is it. Love, Caleb

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? How is your family? Can I have a bell, a fone, and a sqooshmello. Love, Karis

Dear Santa. How was Rudolph? Can you bring me a baby elf? I will want a bed for my American girl doll. Love, Harper

Dear Santa, How is Rudoph doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? I would like to have 3 things some new shoes, lizard, and a ball.

Love, Jackson Brock-Walder

Dear Santa, How is your family and Mrs. Claus? The three things that I want is a cat caler, new dirtbike helmet, clos and have mony to move.

Love, Boone Marcum

Dear Santa, We all love you! How is Rudolph? Can I please have a brimerch hoodie, firemerch hoodie, and a orange puppy stuffy. We love you! Love, Alice

Dear Santa, How are you doing? If its not to much, can I have lots of slime, a new pet that is a baby, a new 15 iphone. And lots of elves. Thank you.

Love, Stella Takser

Dear Santa. I love you santa. Im thankful for the gifts. I would like a toy lego car, cotton candy machine and last a new soccer ball. Love, Finn Young

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? This is what I want you Chrismus. I wut a fone and a toy casle. Love, Koda

TOLAR

Dear Santa, I hope you are doing well. for Christmas. I would like a LOL home and a gummy food. I hope you can go to my home. You are kind.

Love, Brooke

Dear Santa, I hope you are doing well I would like you to bring me an I phone a drone and heelys. Have a good trip! Love, Collins

Dear Santa, I hope you and Mrs. Claus are ok. I would like a real live puppy. Have a safe time Love, Daniella

Dear Santa, I want Legos, RC cars, yoyo and baseball stuf. I want to met rudof and the elves. Love, Rowden

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well. I would like for you to bring me a phone for Christmas I want a dron and heelys too. thank you

Love, Sutton

Dear Santa, How have you been. I have been wanting Dogman Book's a Rudolph toy too, and a phone. New Barbie's too. Merry Christmas Santa! Love, Arya

Dear Santa, I hope you are ready. I would like you to bring me some spy ninja merch shirts and jeans for Christmas. I hope you don't get cold on the way

Love, Leighton

Dear Santa, Is everyone ok at the North Pole? Can I have an I phone 15 please and thank you. Have a good trip. Love, Dawn

Dear Santa, I hope your rendeer are ok. I would like for you to bring me a football, an apple watch and a band for the apple watch. Hopefully you enjoy your cookies. Love, Nolan

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing well and your elves are being good. I would really love some Heelys. I also want a rabbit. I hope you have a good trip.

Love, Zoey

Dear Santa, I hope that all the reindeer are good. I would like a phone for Christmas. Have a safe trip Love, Will

nice and helping everyone Love, Neal

Dear Santa, I miss you. All I whatis for you to come to Texes. How are you doing Santa? And I am doing fine. I want to know about your life. How is it? I love you Santa. And love you makeing everybody happy. Thank you Santa!

Love, Maylee

Dear Santa, I mis vou and chismis. Can I plees have a PS5 and a trampaleen for me and my sister. And a hoverboard and the utachmins (attachments) PS can I have a dert bike. Ow m

Love, Logan

Dear Santa, Hi Santa. I love that you macke peopol happy. It is so thotfol uv you. and plese get me a bascitball.

Love, Alayna

Dear Santa, I hope you and your reindeers are ok. Santa I hope I can get a iphone or android and last an oculus quest. Thankyou fore being



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Dear Sanka, I like you giving my prasht on crimis thak u so much. I wode like you to gining me a babe dol. Love, Kloyee

Dear Santa, l missyou Santa. I wish you ar her. I wish you git me a bbascolhop (basketball hoop) to prasi (practice) for my bascolcame (basketball game) plesy (please)

Love, Fran

Dear Santa, I like you giving my prasnt on crimis thak u so much. I wode like you to gining me a babe dol.

Love, Kloyee

Dear Santa, Thanck you Santa for giting me a trampuleng. Can vou plees git me a noow huver bord for Cherismis.

Love, Brylea

Dear Santa, Thank you so much for getting me and my brother a huver cark last year Santa.

Love, Kinley Dear Santa,

Thank you for that asome trampolen from last year. But this time I would love a blue atomatik dirt bike. Oh and a a anbirnix pleos Santa.

Love, Shane

Dear Santa, I really want for chrismas is a cross neckless and a four wheeler thank you so much thank you elves. I what a package of gum. Love, Colby

Dear Santa, I really want an I-Phone 15. Give me a soker ball and net. Come to my birthday Love, Molly

Dear Santa, I really want an I phone 15 and I really want a ticket to the North Pole I whant to tell the elf's thank you for makeing the toyes for us I love you.

Love, Audie

Dear Santa, I really want a watch and a hover boord and a I phone pooe max. Thank you for the gives. Merry Christmas! Love, Yuliana

Dear Santa, I really want a pet snak I hope you can get me one. But if you can't pleys give y me a toy rc car. thak you for the toys. I will give you more cookys

Love, Mason

Dear Santa, I really wana lol doll and a pair of ballet shoes. thank you for making boys and girls.

Love, Israel

Dear Santa, I relly want a lphone 15. thank you for giving boys and girls przasetns you are the nicest person in the wooooooooooooold everyone loves you. you better remember that I do toooooooo.

Love, Bode

Dear Santa, I really want a H-Phone 15 and chrom e book. Thank you for be the bet Santa, ever, and thank you for presents.

Love, Emilie

Dear Santa, I really want a Star Wards Lego set. and a Chome Book thank you

Love, Carter

Dear Santa, I really want ruder bans to mak braslet oso a lfon for crismes thank you for being Santa Clos if you wer not wot wout wod we do with

alt you. Love, Essie

Dear Santa, I really want a xbox and a hover board. Thank you. you are the best santa ever!! I love you

Love, Wesley

Dear Santa, I really want a dirt bike a hoverboard: Thank you for giving me presents. I will love my Gif for me. Love, Jackson

Dear Santa, I really want birt bike/ hover khonk you for eivine (leaving) presents Love, Coy

Dear Santa, I really want the pink I-phone: Thank you for giving the pink I-phone!! to me

Love, Brinley

Dear Santa, Merry Christmas I wont a pink I-Phone. and thanck you for evrethane you hav got me

Love, Paizlee

Dear Santa, I would like a airtrack so I can tuball. And I would like my own Stanley. I would like a vand.

Love, Bryleigh

Dear Santa, I would like a intendo swich, x box, tv ruberbands and c clips, stanley. Love, Cailey

Dear Santa, I would like a bunch of gigo weapons. It is going to so cool. I promis you Love, Lawson

Dear Santa, I would like a ber bike. Love, Holt

Dear Santa, I would like a new pink sparkle hufrbord and har chok. And a foowelr. Love, Tenli

Dear Santa, I ouwl like a stuf toy for 8 year and ciniz. Love, Cru

Dear Santa, I would like a Barde campr. pc o cahristmas. I would like a PS5. I would like a baby sistr.

Love, Katie

Dear Santa, I dede a hav huverbord and a for wiler one mor thing som new gelry ok won mor thing a baby brother and tanis Love, Lailah

Dear Santa,

I would love to have teal. blue and purple finfun mermaid tail, a clam floaty, and a camera, a photo albaum.

Love, Marybelle

Dear Santa, I would like purple and white jordans. Love, Fletcher

Dear Santa, I woud like a PS5. and a for whewlr.

Love, Barrett

Dear Santa, I would like a PS5 and a whew dike. Love, Jasper

Dear Santa, I would like a e PSfive. to

Love, Carson

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