



Happy New Year



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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Republican Party of Hood County announces ballot order for 2024 primaries

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hood County Annex #1 was packed with attendees Thursday, Dec. 21, as county candidates and community members rallied to witness the drawing of the ballot order placement for the 2024 March primaries.

Hood County Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle

began the Republican Party of Hood County meeting by speaking about the precinct/county and state conventions, while also urging the public to sign up as either a delegate or an alternate.

"I've been to the state convention every year since 2012," he stated. "I've been a delegate or an alternate at each one of these. I've drafted resolutions, poured

into the party, et cetera . . . The precinct convention is where it starts. The precinct convention will be on March 23, and at the precinct level, we will nominate delegates to go to the county convention, and we will also draft and pass forward resolutions. Resolutions at that level go to the county. Then we'll adjourn. We'll go to the county commission, we'll

probably take off for 15 or 20 minutes, and then turn right around and adjourn into the county convention. At the county convention, we'll do the same thing, except at the county level, we will vote on delegates and alternates to send to the state convention."

During the state convention, Eagle explained that voting will take place regard-

ing the platform, rules and who to send to the national convention.

The precinct/county convention will take place March 23, while the state convention will be May 23-25 in San Antonio.

"It's your platform, and if you have something you want to see happen, get in there and help make it happen; that's what it's all

about," Eagle concluded.

Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers then adjourned the Republican Party of Hood County meeting and announced the process of the ballot order drawing for county, state, and federal candidates.

Four students — Joshua Rose, Brooklyn Herbert, Matthew Pitts and Nina

PLEASE SEE **BALLOT** | A4



Staying safe this New Year

The New Year holiday is one of the most dangerous with both drinking-and-driving accidents and firework-related injuries.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

With the New Year around the corner, many are planning and prepping for the exciting celebration. It is important to note this holiday is actually one of the most dangerous with both drinking-and-driving accidents and firework-related injuries.

DRIVING

The National Safety Council estimates 375 people may die on United States roadways this New Year's holiday. This estimate is down by 8% from the 408 deaths estimated for the 2023 holiday.

Last year, Texas saw 48,641 traffic crashes during the holiday season resulting in 433 fatalities and 1,695 injuries. Almost a quarter of those deaths involved alcohol-impaired drivers, with 98 people killed and 236 seriously injured.

"With everything going on in the world these past few years, we want everyone to be able to celebrate this joyous time of year without the tragic consequences of drinking and driving," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams in a press release. "Get together with family and friends and have a great time, but please find an alternative way home if you choose to drink. You have many options available."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes it



The National Safety Council estimates 375 people may die on United States roadways this New Year's holiday.

is important to plan ahead for how to get home safely and to stick to the plan. If you are the designated driver, make a commitment to 100% sobriety to keep you and your friends safe.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement immediately. As the year comes to a close and a new

PLEASE SEE **SAFETY** | A2

Hood County crime report for 2023

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Hood County saw an increase in crime across nearly all categories in 2023 compared to the 2022 year. In total, the county had 989 reported incidents, 998 offenses, 1,000 victims and 819 known offenders. This was a 10.03% increase from 2022.

In 2022, there were a total of 895 incidents, 907 offenses, 906 victims and 789 known offenders. Crimes against persons resulted in 353 incidents, 359 offenses, 3,595 victims and 345 known offenders resulting in a 21.21% increase.

Sex offenses were up 114.29% with 14 total incidents, 15 offenses and victims, and 13 known offenders. Homicide offenses were up by 150% with five incidents, offenses, victims and offenders being reported compared to last year where there were only two in each category reported. Kidnapping/abduction was up 300% with two incidents, three offenses, three victims and two known offenders. There were zero human trafficking incidents across the board.

When looking at crimes against property there was a 7.27% increase with 469 incidents, 472 offenses, 474 victims and 275 known offenders. Larceny, also known as the unlawful taking of someone's property with an intent to deprive, was the highest incident count with 224 incidents, 224 offenses, 226 victims and 133 known offenders totaling a 21.08% increase. Fraud offenses were up by 31.15% with a total of 80 incidents, offenses, 81 victims and 30 known offenders. Counterfeiting/forgery was up 275% with 15 incidents and offenses with 16 victims and 7 known offenders.

Destruction/damage/vandalism was down by 7.25% with 64 incidents, offenses and 65 victims and 40 known offenders. Burglary/breaking and entering also was down by 16.42% with 55 incidents, 56 offenses, 55 victims and 36 known offenders. Motor vehicle theft was also down by 37.5% with only 28 reported incidents, 30 offenses, 28 victims and 26 known offenders. Robbery was down by 33.33% with only two reported incidents, of-

PLEASE SEE **CRIME** | A3



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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

January extravaganza: Ignite your New Year with professional growth and community connection!

Chamber Message

As we kick off the new year, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce extends a warm invitation to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to embark on a journey of professional development, networking and celebration. The January events promise a diverse range of opportunities, ensuring there's something for everyone looking to make meaningful connections, enhance their business savvy, celebrate the thriving Granbury business community, or simply unwind in good company.

Kickstart the month with the energizing Coffee & Connections networking breakfast Thursday, Jan. 11 from 9-10:15 a.m. at Aviva Granbury Senior Living. It's not just a breakfast; it's a chance to embrace new opportunities and connections with fellow professionals

from various industries. Whether you're a seasoned entrepreneur or just starting your journey, this event provides a friendly platform to expand your network and forge new partnerships.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 9-10:30 a.m., learn the art of the elevator speech



at the Chamber's business development event. Start the year by refining your communication skills, ensuring that every interaction leaves a lasting impact. A polished pitch can be the key to unlocking doors of opportunity and success in the business world. The event will be at Aviva Granbury Senior Living.

A highlight of the month is the Women in Business Speed Networking Luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 23 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. This event provides a

unique platform for professional women to connect and empower one another and is a testament to the Chamber's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity in the business community. Join this luncheon to expand your network, share experiences, and build lasting relationships that will propel your career forward in 2024.

Marking the pinnacle of the month is the much-anticipated, glamorous, Vegas-themed Best of Business Awards Banquet Thursday, Jan. 25 from 5:30-9:30

p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. This star-studded event celebrates the achievements of local businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Whether you're a nominee, a winner or simply attending to support your peers, it's an evening of recognition, inspiration and entertainment.

Cap off the month Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 5-7 p.m. at Restaurant Anise with Wind Down Wednesday, a casual happy hour social time designed for professionals to relax, socialize and unwind. Building connections doesn't always have to be formal; sometimes the best collaborations happen in a laid-back atmosphere. Enjoy drinks, share stories and build lasting connections with fellow attendees. New location each month.

As we embrace the opportunities of a new year, there's no better time to get involved with the Granbury Chamber and invest in your business and community. Connecting with the community is not just about expanding your network; it's about investing in the growth of your business. The relationships built at these events can lead to partnerships, collaborations and opportunities that will shape the course of your professional path in 2024.

Ignite your year with connection, skills and celebration, and join us for our exciting January events. For more information, visit the chamber website at www.granburychamber.com or call us at 817-573-1622. We look forward to serving you in the new year.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight
La Fondita De Cristina
 Mexican Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

COURTESY GRAPHIC

La Fondita De Cristina is located at 8905 Glen Rose Hwy and offer a delicious and expansive menu of Mexican breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

WOMEN IN BUSINESS COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT
KARA WATSON
 Business: Empire Realty Group
 Time as WIB Committee Chair: 2 years

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Kara Watson. We are very thankful for our amazing Women in Business Committee Chair, Kara Watson! Kara has served as the WIB Committee Chair for 2 years! When asked why she likes being the WIB Committee Chair, she replied, "Our Women In Business goal is to 'Lift Women Up'. I love that we strive to create an atmosphere for women to connect, share, and encourage one another about business and life." Fun Fact about Kara: "I'm a self-proclaimed foodie and cook!!! I love to try and cook new and different foods. (I just don't like to do the dishes.)" Thank you, Kara, for being our WIB Committee Chair of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR
 Hood County Senior Center
 Providing more than just a hot meal, Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver care, compassion, and love to home-bound seniors struggling with hunger every day.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hood County Senior Center. "From humble beginnings at the Shanley House in 1977, we have grown to serve over 6000 meals each month to more than 300 Hood County senior citizens each day. Providing more than just a hot meal, Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver care, compassion, and love to home-bound seniors struggling with hunger every day. In addition, the Hood County Senior Center is open daily for lunch service and transportation assistance is available with limited restrictions and prior reservation. Plus, we offer monthly activities for all to enjoy!"

SAFETY

FROM PAGE A1

one begins, make it a point to drive sober every day.

"Through the holidays people like to drink but then they drive. Deputies are out 24/7 taking calls but keeping people safe on the road they will stop any vehicle that is showing signs of driving under the influence," Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said. "For everyone else, be aware of your surroundings and try to stay clear of those driving erratically on the roadways. Call in drivers like that to dispatch by calling 911 if you feel something bad is about to happen so law enforcement can be dispatched. To report a suspicious driver or situation call the non-emergency phone number 817-579-3307 and press option 2."

FIREWORKS

Many celebrate the start of the new year with fireworks, but it is important to know how to stay safe and smart. Adults 25 to 44 years of age experienced the most firework-related injuries, and children younger than 15 years of age accounted for a majority of injuries as well. The parts of the body most often injured by fireworks are hands and fingers along with head, face and ears, legs and eyes. Burns are the most frequently reported type of injury.

The United States



COURTESY PHOTO

Adults 25 to 44 years of age experienced the most firework-related injuries, and children younger than 15 years of age accounted for a majority of injuries as well.

Consumer Product Safety Commission safety tips for firework usage include never allowing children to play with fireworks including sparklers, keeping a bucket of water or water hose close by in case of any mishaps, lighting fireworks one at a time and moving back quickly to a safe distance from

the firework, never trying to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully, and never using fireworks while impaired by alcohol.

It is important to keep in mind that fireworks can cause PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) for many veterans. The National Center for PTSD shared

some tips for veterans to prepare for the upcoming holiday. Some of these tips include talking with someone about the concerns around fireworks, journaling, working on breathing techniques and limiting alcohol intake. The center also recommends that veterans consider wearing earplugs or

headphones to tune out the sound.

"Citations can be given if (fireworks) are being shot at people, homes or across roadways. Get permission wherever you want to shoot fireworks off," Deeds said. "Be aware that the City of Granbury and some subdivisions in the county do not al-

low fireworks. Law enforcement cannot enforce HOA bylaws — only criminal laws — but be careful you don't cross that line."

However you celebrate the New Year, be sure to stay safe and aware of alcohol intake, roadway and firework safety.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Changes at the the Hood County News



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

It is with sadness I report this last week marked the end of the tenure of Claudia Perez Rivas with the Hood County News. Claudia came to us over a year ago and has served as our Managing Editor. She has been a very positive force for the HCN, but had an opportunity open for her in the Wichita Falls area in a completely unrelated field. Her new role allows her to

be closer to family and provides the opportunity to fulfill a long-time dream of working in the medical field. Claudia's gentle way and smiling face will be missed at the HCN. We appreciate her contribution to our continued growth and the positives she brought to our coverage. Good luck, Claudia, in your new endeavor and warm, best wishes! I will miss you!

DARREN CLARK BECOMES VICE-PRESIDENT OF HYDE MEDIA GROUP

It is with a great deal of pride I announce that Darren Clark has been promoted to the role of Vice-President of Hyde Media Group, LLC. Darren came to work at the Hood County News as a graphic artist, but quickly assumed greater responsibility. Most recently, he has headed our magazine division, creating and producing the Fairway and Column's magazines as well as newspaper special sections and other projects. In his new role, Darren will be coordinating editorial content

and production across all our newspapers as well as improving processes and procedures within our organization. If you know Darren, give him a pat on the back when you see him. This promotion is well-deserved, and I feel confident he will have our newspapers, web site, and social media continuing to lead the way in community journalism. Good job Darren and congratulations!

HAPPY NEW YEARS!

This is the last edition of the HCN before New Years, so I want to take the opportunity to thank every one of you for reading and support-

ing our newspaper. With the New Year will come another election cycle and other important news stories, which the HCN will report. Rest assured, we will continue to report as factually and as objectively as we can, giving our readers the facts and allowing them to draw their own conclusions. I cannot express to you how much it means when I interact with readers, and they comment on how much coverage our newspaper provides and how we keep people aware of what is happening within our community. The staff at HCN works very hard to be the best paper we can be. Our

reporting would not be possible without your subscriptions, advertisements, and ads. Thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for all your support and well wishes. 2024 is going to be a wonderful year in Hood County, and the HCN will be here to report what happens, when it happens. It is what we do.

Happy New Year, friends! Thought for the day: What the New Year brings you has a lot to do with what you bring to the New Year! Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Courtney Malone

Say hello to our neighbor, Courtney Malone!

Until recently, Courtney Malone has lived in many different places across the country, all the while perfecting her culinary skills in her profession as a traveling chef. It was the people of Granbury that triggered Chef Malone to pick to up on the sense of family connectedness we enjoy here, a feeling she never has experienced in her travels. "Crime is very low, and the people care for one another on a completely different level here in Granbury." Chef Malone soon concluded Granbury was the perfect place for her to put down roots, and she did just that a year ago in late January 2023. A chef by trade, Malone cooks at Lakestone Terrace an independent living facility, and she owns her own catering company here in Granbury, Rouge Catering LLC. A Chef by day and a karaoke singer/pool shark by night. She loves the outdoors, hiking, kayaking, fishing, horseback riding. "Anything outside in nature and under the sun!!" says Malone. The Hood County News does a great job on pieces about everything in Hood County! "The one thing to me that still allows a little "smallness" and small-town feel when the hustle and the bustle become too much!!"

Winter guest tourism season begins in Granbury

Staff Reports

Along with the official start of winter Dec. 21, the City of Granbury is ready to kick off winter tourism season. Tourism is Granbury's number one industry and Visit Granbury works year-round to generate tourism economic impact into the community.

Historically, January and February are the slower months for the city and thus the Winter Guest Program was created. The program adds additional advertising and education about

everything the town has to offer in the winter months. Guests planning to come to Granbury can sign up to receive a passport full of deals and offers valid at participating locations from Jan. 1 through Feb. 28.

Numerous participating businesses offer incentives including hotels, restaurants, shopping, tours, entertainment, wineries, breweries, barlours and winter events. Visitors and the community can go to VisitGranbury.com to download the 2024 winter guest season passport.

One highly-anticipated winter event is the annual "Goosebump Jump" where charities compete to win proceeds by having the highest number of people jump into Lake Granbury.

"This award-winning event is a friendly competition with funds raised from the \$10 registration fee along with a \$1,000+ prize generously provided by the lodging association to be awarded to the 501C3 organization that signs up the largest number of participants," Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury

said. "What a great way to kick off any nonprofit organizations' budget than to start with an instant \$1,000 plus! To date, the event has generated over \$8,500 dollars to local charitable organizations."

The Goosebump Jump will take place Dec. 20 and registration is required with a \$10 entry.

For more information on the Goosebump Jump, please contact Rhiannon Crump, event coordinator at 817-573-5548 or go to visitgranbury.com/goosebumpjump/.

County approves funding of roof upgrades on justice center

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the funding of roof upgrades on the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center during a regularly scheduled meeting Dec. 22.

With Hood County Judge Ron Massingill absent during the meeting, Precinct 4

Commissioner Dave Eagle served as judge pro tem.

County Maintenance Director Jay Riley explained the roof on the justice center is 17 years old and is starting to experience the loss of roofing granules.

"If we do this project, it will give us 10 more years on this roof," Riley said. "Basically, what it is, it's

a Teflon-type coating. We may make a few repairs, but we're not going to rip the roof off."

Riley added the repairs will only include the flat roof, not the metal roof.

"It's a relatively inexpensive extension to the life of the roof," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews. "I think it's a very

responsible thing to do. I think it's a good move."

The court unanimously approved the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center roof upgrades. Funding for the project will be paid out of Fund 55 and will not exceed \$120,000.

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CRIME FROM PAGE A1

fenses, victims and known offenders. There were no reported incidents of arson, embezzlement, extortion/blackmail or stolen property offenses.

When looking at crimes against society there was a 2.34% increase with a total of 167 incidents, offenses, victims, and 199 known offenders. Animal cruelty saw a 33.33% increase with four total incidents, offenses, victims and five known of-

fenses. There was a 25% increase in pornography/obscene material with five incidents, offenses, victims and four known offenders. Weapons law violations also saw an uptick of 13.33% with 17 incidents, offenses, victims and 18 known of-

fenses. Drug/narcotic offenses were down by 5.37% totaling 141 incidents, offenses, victims and 172 known offenders. There were zero gambling offenses throughout the year.



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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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10 a.m. Wednesday

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

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Brooklyn Herbert, a homeschool sophomore, draws a numbered golf ball to determine a candidate's place on the ballot during the Republican Party of Hood County's ballot order drawing on Thursday, Dec. 21.

BALLOT

FROM PAGE A1

Jimenez — took turns drawing a numbered golf ball for each position as Biggers called out each candidate's name.

Each candidacy position is outlined below in order in which the candidates' names will appear on the ballot next year:

PRESIDENT

1. Donald J. Trump
2. Ryan L. Binkley
3. Ron Desantis
4. Vivek Ramaswamy
5. Asa Hutchinson
6. Nikki Haley
7. Chris Christie
8. David Stuckenberg

U.S. SENATOR

1. Holland "Redd" Gibson
2. R. E. (Rufus) Lopez
3. Ted Cruz

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 25

1. Roger Williams
2. Matthew Lucci
3. Vince Crabb

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

1. Christi Craddick
2. Christie Clark
3. Corey Howell
4. James "Jim" Matlock
5. Petra Reyes

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2

1. Jimmy Blacklock

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 4

1. John Devine
2. Brian Walker

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 6

1. Jane Bland

PRESIDING JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

1. David J. Schenck
2. Sharon Keller

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS PLACE 7

- Barbara Parker Hervey
Gina Parker

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 11

1. Pat (Patricia) Hardy
2. Brandon Hall



Hood County Commissioner of Precinct 4 Dave Eagle speaks during the Republican Party of Hood County's ballot order drawing on Thursday, Dec. 21.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 59

1. Shelby Slawson

CHIEF JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

1. Bonnie Sudderth

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 4

1. Wade Birdwell

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 5

1. Dabney Bassel

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 6

1. Mike Wallach

DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

1. Ryan Sinclair
2. County Attorney
3. Matt Mills
4. Sheriff
5. Johnny Rose Jr.
6. Roger Deeds
7. Scott London

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

1. Andrea Ferguson

COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

1. Morris Duree
2. Kevin Andrews

COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

1. Jack Wilson
2. Nathan Criswell

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1

1. Clint Head
2. Dean Armstrong
3. Sissy Freeman

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 4

1. Dub Gillum

COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1

1. Chad Davis

COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2

1. John D. Shirley
2. Steve Smith

COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3

1. Randy Ellis
2. Greg Neal

COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4

1. Chad Jordan
2. County Chair
3. Zach Maxwell
4. Melanie Jenson
5. Greg S. Harrell

PRECINCT CHAIR 101

1. Terry McNew

PRECINCT CHAIR 103

1. Tina Lawrence

PRECINCT CHAIR 105

1. David C. Cook

PRECINCT CHAIR 107

1. Roger Gaines
2. Lee McKellar

PRECINCT CHAIR 112

1. Robert Granger
2. Orville Johnson
3. Laura Tuttle

PRECINCT CHAIR 202

1. Zeb Ullom
2. Craig Mayberry

PRECINCT CHAIR 211

1. Paula McDonald
2. Shannon Wolf
3. Ericka Grim

PRECINCT CHAIR 216

1. Tim Bolton
2. Jim Lilly

PRECINCT CHAIR 218

- Matt Westlund
Clinton R. Helton

PRECINCT CHAIR 310

1. Zane Hatch
2. Brian O. Gaffin

PRECINCT CHAIR 313

1. Stephen Erickson
2. Earl Erdmann

PRECINCT CHAIR 314

1. Gary Merritt
2. Bret Deason

PRECINCT CHAIR 317

1. Cathy Hays
2. Jason Gore

PRECINCT CHAIR 404

1. Alejandra Munoz
2. Mark A. Jackson
3. Precinct Chair 408
4. Melanie Craft

PRECINCT CHAIR 409

1. Rachel Reed
2. Brad Yarborough

Following the drawing, Biggers recommended the public put their differences aside throughout the holidays.

"We got the list. We know where we are," he added. "Let's remember the reason that we're here and the season that we're here and why we're doing this. Let's please celebrate Christmas the way you celebrate Christmas. I have no vested interest in this and am just seeing this thing through folks, and I want to do it to the best of my ability. I appreciate the support I've had but between now and January 1st, let's just put it aside, have a good holiday, and just get on after the first of the year."

The 2024 election primary will be held March 5.

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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.

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.

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 see you "doing the most good."

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

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

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Pedaling for Parkinson's: Hood County YMCA helps those with Parkinson's Disease



Pictured is participants in a previous Pedaling for Parkinson's program held at the Hood County YMCA.

COURTESY OF TRACY WADDELL

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Hood County YMCA hosts a free 12-week program known as Pedaling for Parkinson's. This program allows for those with Parkinson's Disease to be active for 45 minutes in spin/cycling sessions to help reduce their symptoms.

Parkinson's Disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves. It's best-known for caus-

ing slowed movements, tremors, balance problems and more. The disease can't be cured but there are many medications that can help control symp-

toms drastically. In 2003, Dr. Jay L. Alberts, a neuroscientist at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institution in Ohio got the idea that cycling may help people with Parkinson's while at a fundraising event. Alberts rode tandem with a Parkinson's patient whose handwriting improved after their ride. Later, a research study was conducted with two groups of Parkinson's patients cycling on stationary bikes

three times a week for months. The study found the group that pedaled at a more vigorous rate had a greater improvement in regions of the brain that deal with movement. Hood County YMCA's program was founded in 2003 and has been going strong ever since. The hour-long sessions on Monday and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. are guided by a trained group exercise instructor. The instructor encourages the

members to start with a 10-minute warm up followed by pedaling for 40 minutes on either a tandem or stationary bike and ending with a ten-minute cool down and stretch. During the last program, there were three participants, and five the time before. Tracy Scroggins is a group exercise instructor at the Hood County YMCA. She loves being a part of the program because, "it gives back to a community

while also helping connect community members." To sign up for the program visit the Hood County YMCA located at 1475 James Road, fill out a packet located at the front desk and obtain a doctor's release to join the class. The next session begins Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. For more information or to submit required documentation, email community-health@ymcaw.org or call 817-624-9791.

Granbury prepares to 'party on the boardwalk'

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

With 2023 coming to an end, Granbury is getting ready to cheer in the new year. "Party on the boardwalk" is set to be a fun-filled event that will take place Dec. 31 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. Hosted by 92.1 Hank FM and K-HITS 95.5, festivities will include music from '90s country music band "90 Proof," dancing, dinner from Ketzler's Schnitzel

Haus & Biergarten, black eyed peas for good luck and a champagne toast at midnight. Ticket prices are \$95 for singles, \$160 for couples or \$600 for a table of eight. Tickets are limited. For requested seating, call 817-505-5483. To purchase tickets, visit 921HankFM.com or KHits955.com. Doors open at 7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8 p.m. The Lake Granbury Conference Center is located at 621 East Pearl Street.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hosted by 92.1 Hank FM and K-HITS 95.5 and catered by Ketzler's Schnitzel Haus & Biergarten, "Party on the boardwalk" is set to be a fun-filled event that will take place Dec. 31 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH



COURTESY PHOTOS

In 2010, former President Barack Obama proclaimed January Human Trafficking Prevention Month. There are estimated to be more than 27.6 million people, including both adults and children, subjected to human trafficking around the world, according to the United States Department of State.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

January is the mark of Human Trafficking Prevention Month after former President Barack Obama created a proclamation back in 2010 with every president thereafter following his steps.

According to the United States Department of State, "Trafficking in persons," 'human trafficking,' and 'modern slavery' are umbrella terms - often used interchangeably - that refer to a crime whereby traffickers exploit and profit at the expense of adults or children by compelling them to perform labor or engage in commercial sex. When a person younger than 18 is used to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion involved."

In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 enshrined the United States commitment to combat human trafficking both domestically and internationally.

"During National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we reaffirm our commitment to ending this inhumane and immoral practice in all its forms. And, as we bring perpetrators to justice, we renew our pledge to help survivors recover and rebuild their

lives," part of President Joseph Biden's proclamation read in January 2023.

THE STATISTICS

There are estimated to be more than 27.6 million people, including both adults and children, subjected to human trafficking around the world, according to the United States Department of State.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline reported that the highest count of trafficking is sex, followed by labor, and then sex and labor. Venues for sex trafficking are highest at massage and spa businesses followed by hotels/motels. Venues for labor trafficking were highest in domestic work followed by construction.

According to a crime data report for Hood County, there have been zero incidents, victims, and offenses of human trafficking in the 2023 year as well as 2022.

"I do not want to say it does not happen in Hood County, but it's been a couple years since we had

a case. There have been reports taken and looked into, and the cases were unfounded," Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said. "With the large amount of human trafficking cases in Texas out of the big cities and along the border, we have not had reports that we found evidence, but cases need to be completely investigated to make sure nothing slips by us."

WHO IS AFFECTED

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, anyone can experience trafficking in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime. While it can happen to anyone, evidence suggests that people of color and LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience trafficking than other demographic groups. Generational trauma, historic oppression, discrimination, and other societal factors and inequities create community-wide vulnerabilities. Traffickers recognize and take advantage of people who are vulnerable.

Some people can be more vulnerable to trafficking if they have an unstable living situation, have

The National Human Trafficking Hotline reported that the highest count of trafficking is sex, followed by labor, and then sex and labor.



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HUMAN | A7



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Protect your family from carbon monoxide poisoning



COURTESY PHOTO

Carbon monoxide alarms are the only way to know if the deadly gas is present in your home.

Staff Reports

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that can be fatal. It forms when fuels like gasoline, natural gas, propane, wood, charcoal and kerosene do not burn completely. Breathing carbon monoxide can deprive the body of oxygen, and may lead to illness, unconsciousness and death.

HOW DO I KNOW?

Carbon monoxide alarms are the only way to know if the deadly gas is present in your home. It is recommended that all residents with fuel-burning appliances or indoor equipment install carbon monoxide alarms near all sleeping areas in their home to alert them of the presence of carbon monoxide. Install a carbon monoxide alarm on each floor of your home and outside of each bedroom. Install new batteries as per manufacturer's instructions and replace alarms every five years, as the sensors degrade.

er's instructions and replace alarms every five years, as the sensors degrade.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

Never use portable generators, charcoal or gas grills, gas or propane powered pressure washers, saws or other fuel-powered equipment inside your home, garage, carport, basement or other enclosed spaces. Opening windows and doors and operating fans is not enough to prevent buildup of carbon monoxide in a

home.

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm on each floor of your home and outside of each bedroom.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe on your standby generator is pointing away from the house.
- Place portable generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Make sure gas dryer vents and automobile tail pipes are not plugged up with snow.
- Have your heating systems, chimney flues, gas appliances, wood stoves and generators checked every year, and cleaned and serviced as needed by qualified heating/appliance contractors.

SAFETY TIPS

- Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and ser-

viced annually by a trained service technician.

- Never bring a charcoal grill into the house for heating or cooking. Do not barbecue in the garage.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Interconnected carbon monoxide alarms are best; when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness and confusion. If

you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Because carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- High level carbon monoxide poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:
- Mental confusion

- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimate death

Symptom severity is related to both the carbon monoxide level and the duration of exposure. For slowly developing residential carbon monoxide problems, occupants and/or physicians can mistake mild to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms for the flu, which sometimes results in tragic deaths.

For rapidly developing, high level carbon monoxide exposures (e.g., associated with use of generators in residential spaces), victims can rapidly become mentally confused, and can lose muscle control without having first experienced milder symptoms; they will likely die if not rescued.

HUMAN FROM PAGE A6

previously experienced other forms of violence, are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare system, are undocumented immigrants, are facing poverty, have someone with a substance abuse issue, or are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

THE SIGNS

While there is not a tell-tell sign someone is experiencing trafficking, here are some red flags that could alert someone to a poten-

tial trafficking situation that should be reported, including:

- Living with employer
- Poor living conditions
- Multiple people in cramped space
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Signs of physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Unpaid or paid very little
- Under 18 and in prostitution

WHERE TO GET HELP

It is important to contact local law enforcement immediately if you or someone you know has experienced human trafficking. For urgent situations, it is important to call 911 and alert the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a 24-hour hotline at 1-888-373-7888. There you can also report a tip, connect with anti-trafficking services in your area and for more general information.



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, anyone can experience trafficking in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime. According to a crime data report for Hood County, there have been zero incidents, victims, and offenses of human trafficking in the 2023 year as well as 2022.

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VETERAN'S VOICE

VA claims agent fees can be challenged

BY LINDA MALLON



Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years.

Whenever a veteran decides to file a disability compensation or pension claim with the Veterans Administration, I often say "don't try this at home."

All veterans can file their own claims directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs but often end up calling a Veteran Service Officer to untangle an unfavorable rating decision because the claim was not fully developed. Veteran Service Officers are required to attend annual training and testing to keep our accreditation and because of our experience, we are the best advocate for the veteran and our services are completely free of charge. However, veterans have an option to enter a fee agreement with an attorney or claims agent to represent them and assist in preparing their case.

It's important to understand that no matter which route a veteran takes, a veteran's advocate cannot guarantee the outcome of a claim. However, a veteran's representative should present the best case they can through thorough evidence research of all treatment records and military service history, provide guidance on additional medical evidence needed and have a full understanding of the current laws. If a veteran believes his attorney or claims agent did not earn the fee agreed upon, or the fee was too high or unreasonable, they can file a motion in writing through The Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General Council (022D), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420. The letter must include the veteran's name and VA file number, a paragraph explaining the reasons why the fee is

not reasonable. Any evidence to support the motion should be attached to the letter along with proof the attorney or case agent was served with a copy of the motion. Proof may include a statement from the person who delivered the motion, a certified mail receipt, and/or date the form was mailed through the post office.

Motions must be filed within 120 days from the date of the VA action or date of the fee eligibility decision. Once the OGC receives the motion, they will review the reasonableness of the case based on several factors including the complexity of the case, what type of services were performed, the skill level and competence of the agent, results, rates for similar services by other agents, or if the claims agent was released as representative. The attorney or claims agent may file a response to the veteran's motion within 30 days of receiving the copy of the motion and provide the veteran with a copy of that response. The veteran then has 15 days to file a reply to the OGC and copy the attorney or claims agent with that reply.

After these time limits expire, the OGC will close the argument, no further evidence will be considered and a decision will be issued. The Board of Veterans Appeals can hear the case if either party disagrees with the OGC's decision.

Feel free to contact my office if you have questions or need assistance with this type of case. Have a very Happy New Year, and we'll see you all in 2024!

lmallon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-579-3292



Older adult safety

COURTESY PHOTO

Falls are the leading cause of both deaths and injuries in older adults.

Submitted item

It is important for older consumers to understand and take precautions against the risks associated with consumer products and activities performed during their daily lives. Hundreds of thousands of seniors age 65 and older are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year due to injuries associated with consumer products. Falls are the leading cause of both deaths and injuries in this age group. Fires are another top cause of deaths among seniors.

Although many injuries to seniors result from hazards that are easy to overlook, there is an easy fix. By spotting hazards and taking simple steps to correct them, you can prevent injuries to yourself or visitors to your home.

TO PREVENT FALLS

- Make sure stairs and other areas in the home are well-lit.
- Install handrails and remove tripping hazards like area rugs.

• To address the risk of fires:

- Use carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.
- Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of the home.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside of sleeping areas.
- Carefully use and maintain space heaters, fireplaces, and all fuel-burning appliances.

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OBITUARIES

Theron Martin Ragle

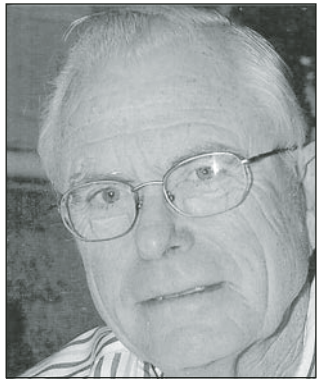
September 20, 1936 - December 19, 2023

Theron Martin Ragle, 87, of Granbury, Texas, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Dec. 19, 2023. Theron is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Janette Ragle; son, Dale Ragle; daughter in law, Ann Gardea Ragle; daughter, Janice McMoran; grandson, Alex McMoran; great-granddaughter, Anastasia McMoran-King; sister, Dorothy Shields; brothers, Gerald Ragle and Morris Ragle; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Tom Sparks Ragle and Ida Bell Ragle, and sister, Lela Mae Watson.

Theron was born on Sept. 20, 1936, and raised in the Dicey Community of Parker County. He grew up on a farm and understood the meaning of hard work, persistence, and dedication. After marrying his beloved Janette in 1957, he began a career as an aircraft sheet metal mechanic/machinist with Boeing Aircraft, later working for the Air Force as a civilian and serving in the United States Air Force Reserve at Carswell Air Force Base. While there, he spent most of his career in aircraft structural maintenance. When he reached government retirement age, he was fond of saying he was too young to retire, and began working for Waples Machine Shop in Granbury, where he spent the next 11 years.

Theron never met a stranger, was extremely friendly and had a very kind heart. He developed a rich network of friends during his life and he was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, whether lending an ear for advice, helping someone move, or making a needed repair. His life on the farm and career as a machinist made him extremely handy. His family and friends marveled that he could "fix anything" and he often used his skills to help others.

Theron and Janette loved water skiing and boating and Theron loved



fishing, prompting them to move to Granbury and build a lake house in 1972.

Theron was very involved for many years in the Indian Harbor Homeowners Association, served on their Volunteer Fire Department and chaired the Roads Committee for over 20 years. He was always there for his community.

Their love of camping and travel led them to all 50 states, with their later years spent taking several cruises with family and friends. Theron enjoyed attending what he called hootenannies, playing domino games with family and friends, watching NASCAR, and watching his beloved Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. He had a wry sense of humor, much to the enjoyment of his family and friends.

Theron was a very devoted husband. He was the primary caretaker for Janette for seven years, who developed Alzheimer's several years ago. He persisted in her caretaking as the disease worsened under very difficult circumstances.

Theron will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, and funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, both at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas, with burial to follow at Clark Cemetery in Parker County.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in his name on behalf of his beloved wife, Janette.

Nancy Durie Duncan

November 17, 1927 - December 22, 2023

Mildred Nanette (Nancy) Durie Duncan, 96, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2023 in Willow Park, Texas. Nancy was born on November 17, 1927 in Waco, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Edith (Kleypas) Durie, her husband, Glenn Wallace Duncan and her sister, Mary Nell SoRelle. She leaves behind three children: Glenn Duncan (Suzanne), Nanette Nadeau, Susan Clemens (Bill); six grandchildren: Scott Duncan (Jennifer), Lindsey Flowers (Brandon), Philip Duncan (Monica), Cameron Kelman (Chip), Cole Thompson (Niki), Brian Felker; and fourteen great-grandchildren: Tanner Ward, Elliana, Evan, Adelaide and Alexis Duncan, Coy and Charley Flowers, Jace, Juliette, Athan and Kai Duncan, Hadyn Felker, Tagg and Troop Thompson.

Nancy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Throughout her life, she showed an overwhelmingly selfless and sacrificial love for her family. It was only fitting that she



was surrounded by family at her passing.

Visitation with family will begin at 10 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Aledo, Texas. A reception will follow. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. at the DFW National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Nancy's name to:

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www.ssmnwestern.org
See full obituary at brownowensbrumley.com.

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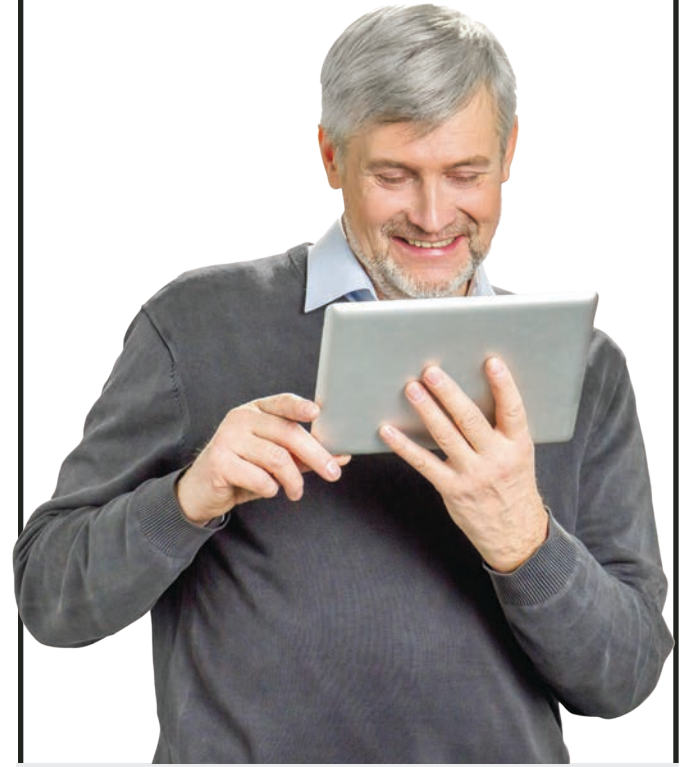
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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- this Meharg was first female Texas Secretary of State
- Mineola's county
- Jackson County seat
- TX Charley Pride tune: "___ Just Me"
- money machine
- TXism: "exciting as a fire at ___"
- TXism: "phoo-water" (perfume)
- TXism: "hot enough ___ a ___"
- horny toad"
- a blimp, e.g.
- TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the ___ Get to Phoenix"
- in Anderson County on U.S. 287
- ___ weevil came to U.S. thru Texas
- TXism: "cut ___ slack"
- married woman in Mexico
- 1960's protests
- this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)
- TXism: "he ___ with the ___ facts" (liar)
- Gulf shrimp catchers
- this conven. was in Houston in 1928
- a ___ pizza is a small one
- Fair Park is on the ___ of Dallas
- "let the ___ settle"
- Odessa's county
- king toppers in cards
- Cowboy Jake Ferguson position (abbr.)
- needed in a drought
- TXism: "just a ___ (small amount)
- more intelligent
- Cheryl of film "Wilson" with TX Harrelson office"
- comfy room at home
- voting yes
- use a needle and thread

DOWN

- female sheep
- a car modification, e.g. (abbr.)
- Wood County newspaper
- TX Robert ___ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1989-92)
- Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 5 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)
- TXism: "plain as the ___ chart"
- TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)
- org. in Europe
- I-20 that runs across Texas
- Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
- Japanese wrestling
- heaven
- ___-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview
- returns a case to a lower court
- UT has 1st photo ever taken, by this French inventor
- sharpen, like skills
- former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)
- modern lights
- "half hitch," e.g.
- did 20-down
- avid paintings collector? (2 wds.)
- welcome rugs
- "don't ___ out your welcome"
- Texas pest: fire ___
- this Nellie was in limo with JFK (init.)
- passed away
- wound reminder
- TXism: "___ on the barrel head"
- TXism: "___ a whipped pup"
- Texans have to ___ car registration annually
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the ___"

New Year's financial resolutions

TAYLOR MOBLY

Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

Now that we've reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others — why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

BOOST YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS
If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored

retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k).

REDUCE YOUR DEBTS
It's not always easy to reduce your debts — but it's worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate

debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can't afford something that's nonessential, don't go into debt for it. "Live within your means" is an old piece of advice, but it's just as valid now as ever.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND
If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months'

worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that's separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

AVOID EMOTIONAL DECISIONS
Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn't mean you need to sell investments to "cut your losses" — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for

your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you'll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that's designed to meet your needs.

REVIEW YOUR GOALS
Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you'd like to work a few more years. If that's the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

REVISIT YOUR ESTATE PLANS
If you've married, divorced, remarried or added children

to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Please mail your donations to:
 Habitat for Humanity of Hood County
 PO Box 1866, Granbury, TX 76048
 or give at habitatofhoodcounty.org

Habitat for Humanity of Hood County

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A lad gone too soon...



BY DON NEWBURY

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

At commencement exercises several decades ago, the speaker droned on about the attributes of a graduate whose mark on the school was incomparable. The crowd hung on his words, uncaring that his extended commentary would throw the ceremony off schedule. So what? A mother - unknowingly standing next to the esteemed graduate's mom - whispered, "I'd give 20 years of my life to have a son like that."

"You didn't miss it far," responded the proud woman, whose only son was her primary focus since his birth.

This memory jarred like bold-face type early on the chilly morning of Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, when a phone call from a distraught mother struck a mighty blow. She shrieked, "Bryson is gone."

His life ended unexpectedly and way too soon - hours before his 20th birthday - when his potential to serve humankind seemed endless.

Immediately, I joined her in the dark of misunderstanding that only parents can begin to fathom. (My wife and I, too, had been jolted by the loss of a child in 2020. Our late daughter, Julie Choate, was struck down at age 50 by a pulmonary embolism, hours before the beginning of her 29th year in education).

Within minutes - when top-sided again with a modicum of composure - the lyrics of a century-old Christian hymn, Farther Along, offered comfort. Seven words in the lyrics help Christ-centered mourners forge on.

The words? "We'll understand it, all by and by."

For the next few hours, my memory in overdrive, I reflected on a friendship with Bryson and his mom,

Chris, that began 17 months ago. We met at a baseball game where Bryson's team was competing against one whose line-up included our grandson, Jonah McDaniel. Jonah's dad, Ryan, overheard Chris mention how she and Bryson prayed for next steps to his pre-law study at a Christian university.

We visited briefly after the game. I had never met a young man with more poise, respect, and determination. At a strapping 6-2, his sea-blue eyes and piercing smile invited friendship. He immediately seemed interested in investigating Howard Payne University, where I graduated in 1961 and served as president for a dozen years late in the last century.

A few days later, I received the nicest letter - ever. He was grateful for our visit and was eager to visit the campus where he'd enroll a year later.

Since that time, I have learned about some of the mountains he and his mom have climbed. Their commitment, to Jesus Christ and each other, no doubt sustained.

They're from Tupelo, MS, where Bryson will be buried alongside his dad, Brett, who lost a three-year battle with kidney disease a decade ago. During the 10 years with his dad, Bryson idolized him.

Even then, Bryson was ravaged by unannounced seizures. He survived the attack of a vicious dog, undergoing facial plastic surgeries, seizures, and body weight that ballooned to almost twice normal size. His mom trudged on, with full attention on him. She was determined to overcome whatever got in the way, including a fire that consumed their only car.

Ever sports-minded, they



Bryson Burks

sought a coach who would understand his situation.

They found one in Memphis, TN, nearly 100 miles away. Chris signed him up, and they didn't miss a practice or a game all season long, despite her driving some 200 miles each trip!

Later, a coach suggested that they get a "fresh start" in Texas. About four and a half years ago, they headed to Keller, TX, where Chris would work for an air-conditioning company and Bryson would set Keller Central High School back on its heels.

Always goal-oriented, Bryson needed only a part of COVID's first year to lose 100 pounds. He went out for both football and baseball, organized a student Bible study, and initiated a debate team that qualified for state competition, even without a sponsor! With sports came injuries, however, but he was regarded as the team leader, even if on the bench in slings or casts.

We were in his hospital room one year ago, where he was recuperating from shoulder surgery, when Chris mentioned, "He's spent more birthdays in the hospital than out."

Determined to play college sports, he was eager for August workouts to begin. Guess what? In the first practice, he injured a little finger and ankle, admitting to neither injury until workout's end.

Soon, he'd undergo ankle surgery back in Keller, with rehab to extend into December. No matter. He forged on, completing part of his courses remotely, with junior status nailed down by semester's end.

Just weeks ago, HPU President Dr. Cory Hines invited me to speak at semester-ending chapel. Brenda and I invited Bryson to drive us to Brownwood. There he'd get to see college "buds," sleep overnight in his dormant dorm room,

PLEASE SEE IDLE | A13

Classifieds

Deadlines: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

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Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday • 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday

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1080
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1510
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EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

ATTENTION!



HERITAGE CLEANERS
is now hiring pressers and front counter. Must apply in person. Heritage Cleaners esta ahora planchadoras. 600 S. Morgan St.
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NOTICES

9031
Public Notices

CONSTABLE'S SALE - REAL ESTATE

On the 28th day of October A.D. 2023 in the 68th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas, in Cause No. DC-19-03038, Michael Combs and Michael Combs Properties, LLC recovered judgment against:

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

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

And I will on Constable Sale on the 2nd of January A.D., 2024, the same being the first Tuesday in January A.D. 2024, starting at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the morning, offer the said land for sale for cash to the highest bidder, at the Hood County Courthouse, said location being the 2nd Floor Courtroom in the Hood County Courthouse, located at 100 E. Pearl Street, in the City of Granbury, Texas.

For questions, please contact Mary Haller with Constable Pct 2 at (817) 579-3291
Constable John Shirley,
Hood County, Texas, Pct. 2
By:Deputy Constable

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in 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: Stephanie Liming- boxes, furniture Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

Public Notices

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Lancrow Self Storage located at 1409 N Plaza Dr - 1301 N Plaza Dr / 2721 Fall Creek Hwy - 4071 Acton Hwy Granbury TX 76048/ 76049 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 1/16/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Aimee L. Watkins; Balie A. Ashmore; Shawn L. Krepinevich; John Wright; Almeta D. Noe; Gayle Notgrass; Kacey Cannon; Jennifer Salinas; Jaden L. Edwards; Jennifer Ralston. 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 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.

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

SUMMERLIN, PHASE ONE, Lots 24R-1R & 26-R-1R.
The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 23rd, 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
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd, 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 site development plan for Dollar General Contrary Creek Addition, located at 3510 Contrary Creek Rd, Granbury, TX

REQUEST FOR TRADE CONTRACTOR PROPOSALS Glen Rose ISD Multi-Purpose Indoor Turf Facility

Teinert Construction. (Construction Manager at-Risk) is seeking proposals from qualified trade contractors for the above referenced project. Access to the contract documents can be obtained from the Construction Manager via email request to Ms. Charity Holder at estimating@teinert.com or via telephone at 325-704-1211. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on site on January 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM CST. Proposals are due to Teinert on Friday January 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM CST. Specific instructions on submission requirements are given in the contract documents.

TEINERT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES ALL HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES (HUB's) TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

WAIVER OF CLAIMS: BY TENDERING A RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, THE PROPOSER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAS READ AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE, AND THE PROCESS USED BY THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR OBTAINING DESIGN-ASSIST SERVICES. FURTHER, BY SUBMITTING A RESPONSE, THE PROPOSER FULLY, VOLUNTARILY AND UNDERSTANDABLY WAIVES AND RELEASES ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AGAINST OWNER, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER, ARCHITECT OR ANY OF THEIR TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND/OR EMPLOYEES THAT COULD ARISE OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, OR RECOMMENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.

Public Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY SUSAN RAID, DECEASED
Administration of the Estate of Mary Susan Raid, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters of Administration to the undersigned on December 18, 2023 by the Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, acting in Cause No. P10209 styled In The Estate of Mary Susan Raid, Deceased, in which court the matter is pending.
All persons having claims against this Estate are hereby notified to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law.
Dated this 18th day of December, 2023.
Bethene Edwards, Independent Executrix, Estate of Mary Susan Raid, Deceased
c/o: Colby G. Berry, Attorney for Bethene Edwards
512 West Hickory, Suite 100
Denton, Texas 76201
940-387-3518
Fax: 844-809-7639
cberry@hbvvlaw.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS:
To all persons interested in the Estate of ALAN MERLE CAIN, DECEASED, Docket No. P10258. TIFFANY FEET filed in the County Court of Hood County, Texas on the 8th day of December 2023 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to declare who are the heirs and only heirs of ALAN MERLE CAIN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said Application can be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the Hood County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas. All persons interested in said Estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such Application should they desire to do so. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL of said Court at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 11th day of December 2023.
Katie Lang
Hood County Clerk
By /s/DEAN ARMSTRONG, Chief Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2023, letters of administration were issued to POLLY CANTRELL by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled Estate of Abigail Joy Cantrell, Deceased, under Cause No. P10194, pending on the probate docket of the Court.
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: December 21, 2023
Polly Cantrell
Administrator of the Estate of Abigail Joy Cantrell
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart
State Bar No. 24045498
Email:
marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
(682) 936-4090
Attorney for Polly Cantrell

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS:
To all persons interested in the Estate of JO ANN COCHRANE, DECEASED, Docket No. P10246. SHARLENE BROWN filed in the County Court of Hood County, Texas on the 22nd day of November 2023 an Application for the Probate of the Last Will and Testament of said JO ANN COCHRANE, Deceased, and for Letters Testamentary.
Said Application can be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the Hood County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas. All persons interested in said Estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such Application should they desire to do so. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL of said Court at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 29th day of November 2023.
Katie Lang
Hood County Clerk
By /s/DEAN ARMSTRONG, Chief Deputy Clerk

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2023, letters of administration were issued to JOLENE ELLEN BRADSHAW by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled Estate of Alvin Derwin Bradshaw, Deceased, under Cause No. P10197, pending on the probate docket of the Court.
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: December 21, 2023
Jolene Ellen Bradshaw
Administrator of the Estate of Alvin Derwin Bradshaw
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart
State Bar No. 24045498
Email:
marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
(682) 936-4090
Attorney for Jolene Ellen Bradshaw

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on December 18, 2023, letters testamentary were issued to CARLENE CLAYTON STEWART by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled In the Estate of Henry Arliss Stewart, Jr., Deceased, under Cause No. P10241, pending on the probate docket of the Court.
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: December 21, 2023
Carlene Clayton Stewart
Executor of the Estate of Henry Arliss Stewart, Jr.
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart
State Bar No. 24045498
Email:
marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
(682) 936-4090
Attorney for Carlene Clayton Stewart

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2023, letters of administration were issued to HARRY H. MORAN, JR. by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled In the Estate of Lily Marie Moran, Deceased, under Cause No. P10062, pending on the probate docket of the Court.
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: December 22, 2023
Harry H. Moran, Jr.
Administrator of the Estate of Lily Marie Moran
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart
State Bar No. 24045498
Email:
marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
(682) 936-4090
Attorney for Harry H. Moran, Jr.

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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>.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

It's time for those resolutions



CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

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

Another year has rolled around, and it's time for those pesky New Year's resolutions. Everyone knows what they are; some folks know they plan to make at least one; and no one seems able to keep abiding by them past the first few weeks of the year (if that long).

It was always difficult for me to keep any that pertained to food (especially those that taste so good and are so bad for you). My daughter's birthday is Jan. 2, my husband's was Jan. 5, and my son's was Jan. 30. So, with three big events within the first 30 days of each new year, I was lucky to keep any resolutions pertaining to better eating habits past the first week.

However, it is good for all of us to keep trying to make resolutions we know will better us in all areas of our life, so let's focus on success -

not failure - of upcoming resolutions. It is interesting to note that the origin of making resolutions rests with the Babylonians who reportedly made promises to the gods in hopes they would earn good favor in the coming years.

As we consider our own resolutions at this time of year, we can take note of the top five resolutions for 2021: Get more exercise (50%), lose weight (48%), save more money (44%), improve diet (39%), and pursuing career ambitions (39%).

Several other resolutions include the following: Live more sustainably, disconnect from phone, read more books, get organized, learn a new skill or hobby, and spend more time with family and friends.

Now that we know the most common resolutions and are probably beginning

to think of our own, please consider the following ten suggestions to make your new year more productive:

1. Try new ethnic foods.
2. Volunteer your time.
3. Educate yourself on the world's most pressing issues.
4. Go vote - but first educate yourself on the issues and candidates.
5. Learn how to have a productive political conversation.
6. Donate your money more effectively.
7. Explore new cultures.
8. Reduce your carbon footprint.
9. Learn a new language.
10. Take action.

Now that we are thinking about possible resolutions, how about 10 suggestions for making them more successful?

1. Start with specific micro-goals.
2. Set resolutions for the right reasons.
3. Document your progress.
4. Practice patience and forgiveness.
5. Schedule in time to



COURTESY PHOTO

Another year has rolled around, and it's time for those pesky New Year's resolutions.

achieve goals.

6. Embrace the buddy system.
 7. Consider your budget.
 8. Slow down and meditate.
 9. Reward yourself for achievements.
 10. Ask others to keep you accountable.
- So, there we have it in a nutshell. It sounds easy, but any of us who have made

resolutions in past years, know it is difficult, especially over the long haul.

Next year, in this end-of-the-year edition of Hood County News, we will consider each of these steps for more successful resolutions in greater detail. Now ... how's that for looking ahead? And, yes, I already have that column written. And, as they say, "Lord will-

ing, and the creek don't rise," we will be here to read those instructions.

Blessings to all of you as we enter a new year, not knowing what is in store, but perhaps promising ourselves we will do and be the best we can!

HAPPY NEW YEAR a few days early!

cgheizer@gmail.com

IDLE
FROM PAGE A10

and visit professors.

Did I mention that it mattered not that he had no wheels, and only weeks earlier got a restricted driver's license? Did I say that he organized a foundation called "Kidney Head" to help youngsters with kidney disease? Did I mention that he championed Tupelo -

his hometown -melting my wife's heart with the declaration that Elvis Presley hailed from there, too?

Oh, there are countless multiple superlatives about this life. It is noted that his efforts in the fading hours of election day helped a Keller city councilman win his race, and how his resolve helped so many people. Hey, maybe Bob Anderson, a family friend

and Federalist author, might consider writing a "Bryson book." (I met Anderson at a vigil held at Keller Central ISD baseball field on Dec. 22, when throngs gathered to remember Bryson.)

His impact at HPU is immeasurable. He was involved in student government, as well as the university's recognized moot court team.

Bryson was a team leader

with a capital "L," whether on football fields or baseball diamonds.

He could have been a "poster guy" for D-III athletics, playing sports for the right reasons, chuckling at the thought of ever signing an N-I-L corporate contract or playing sports professionally.

A "Go Fund Me" account has been set up for Bryson. Within hours, more

than 300 had contributed. Further, the Bryson Burks Endowed Scholarship has been established at HPU. Persons who wish to participate may send checks to HPU, PO Box 2369, Brownwood, TX, 76804, or online at www.hputx.edu/give.

We feel privileged to have Bryson and Chris in our circle of friends.

We are promised to un-

derstand tragedies such as his in the "sweet by and by." In the meantime, we'll promote friendship and understanding, urging everyone to keep - and share with others - the importance of keeping phone numbers to the suicide prevention hotline close at hand.

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Wishing you joy and peace in the New Year

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BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

The Old Hood County Jail—a few memories

**BY MAURICE WALTON**

Maurice Walton is a retired attorney, a longtime Granbury resident, and president of the Bridge Street History Center.

I drive by the old Hood County Jail almost daily without giving it much of a thought. After all, it has been a fixture on the square since it was erected in 1885 at the cost to Hood County taxpayers of \$9,600. Recently, however, as I drove by, my mind went back to the late 1970s, and the memories came rushing in. I don't know what triggered them, they just started. When I came here in June 1978, the old jail was still "the" Hood County Jail, and Henry Robertson was sheriff. I think all the folks who are reading this column who knew Henry will agree with me that he was a character. I mean that in a good way. I don't know anyone who didn't like Henry Robertson. Well, maybe not everyone. I'm sure there were some folks around that Henry had arrested who had to spend some time in that old jail that may not have thought much of him. But, I think the law abiding citizens of Hood County appreciated him. Henry was about to preside over a move from the old jail to the new Law Enforcement Center.

The official move took place on Oct. 26, 1978. It was not a moment too soon. The old jail had begun to leak — not water, but prisoners. The Hood County News reported two men escaped Aug. 3, 1978, and two

more Oct. 12, 1978. Both groups had dug out the old mortar around the cell walls on the second floor to make good their escape. The first group didn't plan too well about what they were going to do after they managed to dig through the rock and mortar. At press time one of them was in the hospital with a broken pelvis. According to Deputy Sheriff Doug Johnson, the second group planned a little better. They used a rope made of sheets and blankets to lower themselves to the ground. Neither group got very far. Henry and his deputies rounded them up pretty quickly. I remember both events very well.

To set the stage for the rest of the story, you have to remember that the Opera House had reopened to great fanfare June 19, 1975. The community, under the leadership of Joe Nutt, had pitched in and restored the Opera House to its former grandeur. That same community spirit was about to be on display again, all be it on a smaller scale. Remember, the old jail had anchored the southeast corner of the square since 1885, and it was about to be retired from active duty. The Hood County News reported Aug. 10, 1978 that the commissioners court was studying what to do with the old jail when the new Law Enforcement

Center opened. The closing of the old jail was obviously an event that was also on the minds of the community, the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce in particular.

On Sept. 24, 1978, the Hood County News reported that representatives of the chamber, including Grant Mabry (editor of the HCN and president-elect of the chamber), Bobbie Jordan (manager of the chamber), Neil Allen (president of the chamber) and Mary Lou Watkins (who needs no introduction) had met with County Judge Milton Meyer to discuss the possibility of the chamber acquiring the old jail. Mary Lou reported there were federal and state funds available to assist in the acquisition and restoration of the old jail. In other words, Mary Lou, through her prestige and connections, had been made aware of this assistance.

Excuse me, but I need to digress here for a moment in order for you to properly understand the rest of the story. In case you aren't aware, at this point Mary Lou was at the apex of her campaign to restore the Granbury square. Her efforts laid the groundwork for what you see today — The Best Historical Small Town in America. Make no mistake, Mary Lou Watkins was the architect of the tourism mecca you see today in Granbury. To illustrate, in a small way, the prestige Mary Lou had attained around the state by the time the issue with the old jail arose, in 1976 she was awarded a Citation for Distinguished Service

from the Texas Historical Commission and The Texas Historical Foundation.

Now back to the story. On Oct. 1, 1978, Judge Meyer announced the commissioners court had studied the issue and would not be able to give or sell the jail to the chamber. Grant Mabry responded that the chamber had already applied for the acquisition and restoration grant in order to meet a Oct. 1, 1978, filing deadline. Recipients of the grants would be notified by April 1979. In May 1979, the chamber announced it had received grants of \$24,500 from the Heritage Conservation Service of the Department of Interior and \$2,500 from the Texas Historical Commission. The catch: they were both matching grants. The chamber had to raise \$27,000. At the same time the chamber announced that Fort Worth architect Ronnie Wooten had been engaged as the architect for the restoration project.

His assessment of the old jail: "It's super functional as well as historically valuable." He added: "It has been unkept to the point that it was beginning to show signs of severe deterioration..."

The challenge was on. Would the community come to the rescue again? You know the answer. They did. If you review the Hood County News and the Village Weekly for 1978 and 1979 you will find account after account of chamber spokespersons reaching out to the community and the community responding. Just a few of the early examples, the Granbury Lions



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER

Granbury, TX

Club gave \$500, Granbury Gardeners gave \$550, \$50 was raised by Granbury Junior High students, and the Granbury Bicentennial Committee gave \$9,000. But the big story on donations was told in the April 17, 1980, edition of the Hood County News. The article contained a list of more than 130 individuals, businesses and organizations that had made donations of \$50 or more toward the restoration of the Old Hood County Jail. The deal was sealed with Hood County on July 5, 1979, when County Judge Milton Meyer and Grant Mabry, president of the chamber, signed a 99 year lease on the old jail.

The actual restoration began in November 1979. The chamber reported at its annual banquet in April 1981 that "substantial strides have been made in the past 12 months toward completion of the Old Hood County Jail restoration project." The chamber moved into its new digs July 9, 1981.

The formal dedication came May 23, 1982. The keynote speaker at the dedication was Texas Governor Bill Clements. The citizens of Hood County, under the leadership of the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce, had done it again. They had preserved another integral part of Hood County history.

Today, if you want to see the Old Hood County Jail, you can. It is operated as a museum by Hood County Museum, Inc. Karen Nace is president of that organization and the person who you will want to talk to about seeing the old jail. The email address is oldjail-museum@gmail.com. You can call Karen at 817-573-5135. They do a fantastic job preserving the history of the old jail and the history of Granbury and Hood County. Go by and let them show you the old jail. If you go upstairs, you will understand why the prisoners back in 1978 were willing to risk an escape.



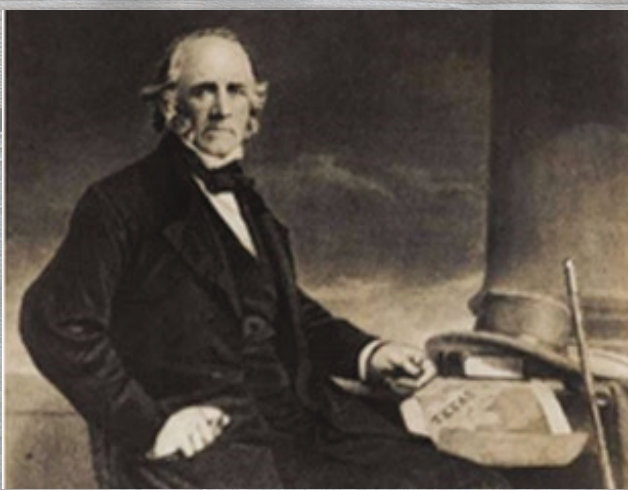
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Soar into 2024 with a first day hike at a Texas state park

Submitted item

As the year ends, so does Texas State Parks' Centennial Celebration, but the fun doesn't stop when the clock strikes midnight. Kick off your resolution to explore the outdoors in 2024 with a First Day Hike at a state park, which will host ranger-guided and self-guided walks, bike rides, paddling trips, and polar plunges in honor of the national initiative aimed at getting people outdoors.

Last year, nearly 8,000 participants shattered the previous attendance record New Year's Day by ringing in Texas State Parks' 100th birthday with a First Day Hike. Texans across the state traveled to one of the 83 participating parks and hiked, biked, and paddled a combined 17,190 miles.

"Texas State Parks' staff had so much fun celebrating the 100th birthday with the people of Texas this year," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "Last year, Texas led the nation in First Day Hikes participation and miles walked. We invite everyone to come back and be part of



COURTESY PHOTO

You don't have to go too far to participate in First Day Hike activities. Jan. 1, will be the 8th year of the Dino Dive. It will take place at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

the fun again this year as we usher in the next century of memories. Whether visiting for the first time, or returning to your fa-

vorite park for more fun, there's something for everyone to enjoy."

Trails at Texas State Parks range in length and

difficulty levels. Some short, easy trails are perfect for family-friendly scenic strolls, while more strenuous ones can chal-

lenge experienced hikers. Trail maps for all Texas State Parks can be found on TPWD's website, the recently redesigned

official Texas State Park app, and individual park webpages.

"I am thrilled to see the continued growth and success of the First Day Hikes program," said Lewis Ledford, executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors. "This initiative has become a cherished tradition, providing individuals and families with the opportunity to embrace the outdoors and kick off the year with a commitment to health and well-being."

TPWD strongly encourages anyone planning a trip to a Texas state park to reserve a day pass in advance, since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Reserve day passes online through the TPWD reservation website or by calling (512) 389-8900.

Examples of some First Day Hikes are listed alphabetically below:

Texas polar plungers can dive into the new year at the West Texas oasis Balmorhea State Park. The polar plunge will take place at 9 a.m. off the diving boards into the pool

PLEASE SEE HIKE | B4



COURTESY PHOTO

Find the Nearest state park and participate in the tradition of the First Day Hike. On Jan. 1, Participants are pictured at Mother Neff State Park in Moody, Texas.



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants enjoy the idyllic views on a First Day Hike at Big Bend Ranch State Park

Granbury Jazz Orchestra needs musicians

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury Jazz Orchestra is looking for a permanent jazz pianist, a guitar player and other jazz musicians who may like to sub. The new year may be the perfect time to dust off your instrument and refresh your skills. There is nothing like a weekly practice and

occasional concert to keep your playing at its best. And if you are a jazz music fan these performances are not to be missed.

Janice Horak, Ted Dolan and David Talmage — with Talmage as "instigator" — began the 21-piece big band in 2007, originally called the Langdon Center Big Band. Since then, it has delighted audiences around the area with dances and concerts featuring music from the 1940s and 1950s. Favorites

like Glenn Miller, Les Elgart, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and others are the backbone of the band's dance sets, and its concerts include the same dance music with more contemporary jazz standards added.

Some of the musicians in the jazz orchestra also take part in the Granbury Community Band which was created a few years after the jazz orchestra.

David Talmage manages the orchestra and also plays

baritone saxophone in the big band and clarinet in the community band. Talmage has been playing since sixth grade, which for him is about 65 years ago. He was a band director in Granbury schools for 32 years, a career he would "pick again in a heartbeat," according to Talmage.

Originally Horak was the vocalist for the jazz orchestra, but now vocalists Dianne Martin and Isaac Duke fill that role.

The orchestra rehearses

every other Sunday at First Christian Church where they have practiced since their inception; the church provides the practice space at no charge. Five or six times a year the orchestra performs — at times for free. The group is a Texas 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and provides scholarships to local band students to attend band camp. Additionally, the orchestra performs at fundraisers.

Look for an appearance by

the Granbury Jazz Orchestra at the Granbury Jazz Fest Saturday, Feb. 24 — they will perform at 11 a.m. in Hewlett Park.

Musicians applying for spots in the Granbury Jazz Orchestra must be jazz musicians specifically. For information please email granburyjazzorchestra@gmail.com.

Texas public schools fair well; earned 29 spots on the Blue Ribbon School list

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

For all the criticism public schools receive, numbers from Governor Greg Abbott's office are encouraging. Of all the public school children in the United States, Texas educates more than one in 10 of them. According to raiseyourhandtexas.org

over five million students are educated annually in Texas public schools, the second highest in the country.

In 2023 Texas garnered 29 spots on the Blue Ribbon School list. A Blue Ribbon School, according to 2.ed.gov/programs, is a school recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for its overall academic excellence or its progress in closing

the achievement gaps in subgroups of students. This program seeks to celebrate American schools that demonstrate all students can achieve high standards.

According to gov.texas.gov Texas is home to 11 of the top high schools and four of the top 50 STEM public high schools in the nation. STEM high schools endeavor to challenge academically bright students

to pursue careers in technical fields.

Texas boasts the third-highest graduation rate for Hispanic students and is tied for the second-highest graduation rate in the nation for black students. Texas also has the third-highest graduation rate for economically disadvantaged students.

Raiseyourhandtexas.org posts that there are 130 different home language-

es represented by Texas public school families. More than 21% of the students are English language learners.

In the field of higher learning, the governor's office states that Texas is home to seven public university systems, including 37 public four-year universities and 80 public two-year colleges. Additionally, Texas is home to 11 Tier One Research Universities

tying the state for most in the nation.

Top-ranked universities for business, engineering, affordability and more reside in the Lone Star State. Doctorates in biotech, engineering and electrical engineering are frequently achieved in Texas schools of higher learning.

Workforce development and training programs in Texas tops over 4 million participants.

2023 was great year locally in sports

Looking back at 2023

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Small communities everywhere are drawn together by their local high school sports programs. Whether it's watching our children or grandchildren — or perhaps even great-grandchildren, we live through them vicariously.

We share their joy, suffer their disappointments, and tell them that — win or lose — we are proud of them. We boast of them to our friends and neighbors, respectfully stepping down to listen to the stories about their young 'uns as well.

Nothing makes better after-church or local diner/coffee shop conversation than talking about what Billy or Jenny did Friday night in their football, volleyball, basketball, etc. game.

Locally, highlighted by a pair of state championships and numerous deep advancements into the postseason, the high school sports scene in Hood County was one to remember in 2023. You can bet the beauty and barber shops were buzzing with talk about what great accomplishments the young heroes and heroines made recently.

Let's take a look back at the highlights of 2023, with sports listed in the order of their time of season from the beginning of the year.

BASKETBALL

While state championships in Lipan are commonplace, the Indians and Lady Indians pulled off the rarity of both teams winning a state championship (Class 2A) in the same season. Not since Nazareth 16 years ago had the feat been accomplished.

Between them, the Indians (14 times, five state titles) and Lady Indians (10 times, three state titles) have celebrated to the very end of the season many times. However, never before had they brought home championships in the same season.

Together, they combined to win 73 games and lost just four. The boys were 38-1 and the girls were 35-3.

On their way to a state title, the Indians met rival Tolar in the Region II championship game. The Rattlers, who finished 30-8, enjoyed the best season in their history, with three of the losses coming to Lipan.

Granbury Lady Pirates senior guard Ella Hamlin capped her program legacy with 1,500 career points as she led the team to the second round of the playoffs for a third straight year. Their 23-12 record was their best since 2011, and during the early part of it they brought head coach Alan Thorpe his 600th career victory.

In fact, two area coaches celebrated milestone victories this past season as Lipan's Amber Branson won her 400th game.

The Granbury Pirates made their first playoff appearance since 2016. Their 20-13 record was the first time they won that many games since 2017.

The Tolar Lady Rattlers also advanced to the playoffs.

Taylor Branson and Hanna Gaylor of Lipan garnered Texas Association of Basketball Coaches all-state honors in 2A, while Branson and Indians coach Brent Gaylor were honored as TABC 2A Coaches of the Year. Branson was also named the Texas Girls Coaches Association 2A Coach of the Year, while Branson and Gaylor were joined by Trinity Benitez as TGCA 2A All-State players.

The Lipan Indians had three TABC 2A All-State selections with Tate Branson, Tripp Phillips and Garrett Smith. Tolar's Reis Brown was also named to the team.

Smith was also named the TABC 2A Player of the Year.

SOCCER

Dominique Callahan's goal off an out-of-bounds free kick by Madison Black came with three minutes left in the second overtime and lifted the Granbury Lady Pirates to a 2-1 Class 5A bidistrict victory against Fort Worth Arlington Heights.

The teams ended regulation tied at 1 after 80 minutes,



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lipan Lady Indians after being named state champions in class 2A for high school basketball.

then played a scoreless first overtime of 10 minutes.

The Lady Pirates' season ended in the area (second) round of the playoffs with a 3-0 loss to Midlothian, the No. 4 team in the state. They finished with a 10-11 record.

The Pirates, in a rebuilding mode, did not advance to the postseason, but showed steady improvement under first-year coach Drew McKinnie.

POWERLIFTING

Six Pirates competed in the 5A/6A Regional Meet, with two qualifying for state. Braydon Olthoff in the 242-pound division and Enrique Sanchez in the 275 class advanced as runners-up.

The Lady Pirates had two alternates to state, Estella Diaz and Jessica Aguado.

SWIMMING

With first-year coach Charles Overton at the helm, five members of the Granbury swim team qualified for state, including three returners. Jordan Buchanan, Tyler Guidry and Braxton Heffernan made a return trip in the 200-yard freestyle relay, joined by newcomer Ryan Solisz.

Mylie Erez joined them, competing in the 100 freestyle.

Also, while swimming is not a 2A event, Tolar's Zane

Herndon swam up in the 4A division and qualified for state, placing eighth in the boys 100-yard breaststroke.

TENNIS

Granbury Jaden Stover and Katie Childs finished third in mixed doubles at the District 5-5A Tournament, while Roland Krause and Gavin Logsdon were fourth in boys doubles.

BASEBALL

In yet another best, the Tolar Rattlers had the greatest season in the history of the program. They advanced to the Class 2A Region II final before losing a heartbreaking three-game series to Collinsville.

Along the way the Rattlers (25-10-2) knocked off defending state champion Valley Mills in a thrilling three-game series, with Tolar taking the third game 7-6.

Also during the season, Tolar pitcher Talan Brown hurled a perfect game. He was named to the Texas Sports Writers Association Class 1A/2A All-State Team as an honorable mention.

The Lipan Indians also reached the postseason. The Granbury Pirates, regulars in the postseason over the years, made a rare absence from the playoffs.

Second baseman Keaton Morrison of Tolar was

named to the Class 2A Super Elite Baseball Team by the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA). Also, Rattlers coach Lance Alford was named the Region 3 Class 2A Head Coach of the Year by the THSCA.

TRACK AND FIELD

Kassidy Kirkpatrick ended her high school career, jumping to the top of the Granbury track record books by winning a silver medal in the high at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet. Kirkpatrick, matched her career-best performance in clearing 5 feet, 6 inches. Her performance is believed to be the best ever by a Granbury athlete at state.

Kirkpatrick has committed to high jump for Tarleton State University. She is the first Lady Pirate to qualify for state since Madison Northcutt in the pole vault three consecutive years (2010-12).

Also for Granbury, freshman Miller Schenewark matched his career-best high jump at 6-6 to finish in seventh place among the boys.

The Tolar season ended with a fourth-place finish by the 400-meter relay at the 2A State Track Meet. The quartet of Garrison Nation, Caden Pate, Wyatt Jones and Dillon Soileau clocked a season-best time of 42.72 seconds. Soileau also competed in the 110 hurdles, posting a ninth-place finish with a time of 15.98.

SOFTBALL

The Tolar Lady Rattlers had a 21-game unbeaten streak and an 11-game win streak on their way to a 20-3-1 season. They advanced to the second round of the Class 2A playoffs.

Pitcher Reese Tryon threw three no-hitters, including one in which all 15 outs in a five-inning mercy rule victory were by strikeout.

The Lipan Lady Indians also reached the postseason, advancing to the second round.

GOLF

Two friends competed against each other and finished in the top five at the Class 2A Girls State Golf Tournament.

Lipan's Hanna Gaylor, making her second straight appearance, finished third and

won a bronze medal. Right behind her was her good friend, Tolar freshman Callan Nix in fourth. Gaylor posted a two-day total of 159 (83-76) at the Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin and Nix fired a 161 (82-79).

The Tolar Rattlers and Lady Rattlers captured the District 11-2A championship.

The Granbury Lady Pirates Purple team overcame a 14-stroke deficit after the first day of the District 5-5A Girls Golf Tournament to qualify for the Region I Tournament. Akyah Ditto led Granbury with back-to-back rounds of 90 for a 180 total.

The Granbury Pirates Purple team finished sixth among the boys. William Lillagore shot 174 (85-89) to lead the team.

FOOTBALL

The Tolar Rattlers did something that had not been done in almost six decades, reaching the Class 2A state championship game. Only one other time had a public school team from Hood County reached a state final, the 1966 Granbury Pirates, also in Class 2A.

Unfortunately, Hood County is still looking for its first public school state football champion as both the Rattlers and Pirates fell in their respective state finals, Granbury to Sweeny in 1966 and Tolar to Timpson.

Nonetheless, it was the best season in Tolar football history as the Pirates finished 14-2. Tolar's only other loss was also to a state champion, now three-time Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III winner Dallas Christian.

All-state football awards are still being decided, but odds are the Rattlers will be well-represented.

Rattlers quarterback Isaac Blessing, in his first and only season as the team's starting quarterback — a year after he was all-state as a linebacker — ended his Tolar career with 51 touchdowns this season. He passed for 30 and ran for 21. He also rushed for 1,276 yards, including 108 in the state championship game.

PLEASE SEE SPORTS | B11



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lipan Indians after being named state Champions in class 2A for high school basketball.

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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 29 December 2023 - Thursday, 04 January 2024

Anyone But You (R)
Fri, Sat: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 11:45AM, 2:20PM, 4:55PM, 7:25PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 10:15AM, 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM, 9:35PM.
Sun: 10:20AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:15AM, 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM

Migration (PG)
Fri, Sat: 10:25AM, 12:40PM, 2:50PM, 5:00PM, 7:10PM, 9:20PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:55PM, 5:05PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:25AM, 12:40PM, 2:50PM, 5:00PM, 7:10PM

The Color Purple (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 12:10PM, 3:20PM, 6:30PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 12:15PM, 3:25PM, 6:35PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 12:10PM, 3:20PM, 6:30PM

The Iron Claw (R)
Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:05AM, 1:05PM, 4:05PM, 7:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM

Wonka (PG)
Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:45PM, 4:25PM, 7:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM

CINERGY CINEMAS

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

PETS OF THE WEEK

Buddy is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

Sammy is a neutered male domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 8 years old. Sammy is friendly and thrives on attention. His adoption fee is \$25. The adoption fee includes his rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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

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

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classifieds.hcnews.com

GARDEN PATCH

Enjoy a festive landscape

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



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



COURTESY PHOTO

Mistletoe may be the berry of choice for New Year's Eve, but many trees and shrubs develop winter fruit. These bountiful berries and berry-like structures are gloriously festive.

Mistletoe may be the berry of choice for New Year's Eve, but many trees and shrubs develop winter fruit. These bountiful berries and berry-like structures are gloriously festive. Also, most of this fruit is edible by wildlife. It's a veritable buffet for birds and mammals.

Perhaps the most recognized plants to sport winter berries are members of the Ilex family, commonly called hollies. Two Texas natives, possumhaw holly and yaupon holly, grow into 25-30 ft. tall, multi-trunked shrubs/small trees. Deciduous possumhaw holly drops its leaves each year as the weather cools. Berries form along its branches in late fall and winter. The bright red berries are particularly showy against bare branches.

Yaupon holly, an evergreen that holds its small leaves in winter, has attractive, mottled gray and white bark, which

contrasts nicely with its dark green foliage and abundant red winter berries.

Winterberry hollies are deciduous native shrubs that grow to 12 ft. tall. They sport brilliant red-to-orange-colored berries in winter. A plant hardy to Zone 4, winterberry tolerates very cold winters. In summer, they adapt to dry environments but fare best when given regular water. Opossums, raccoons, songbirds, and other creatures consume holly berries. Winterberry is particularly favored by migrating robins.

The blue-gray colored berries of the Ashe juniper tree (cedar) are more subtle. These aromatic, evergreen trees grow to about 30 ft. tall with a form similar to a Christmas tree, with longer branches growing close to the ground. Only female junipers produce the tiny blueberry-like fruit. While Ashe juniper is an attractive evergreen, it also

produces abundant golden-colored pollen in winter, so beware of planting this tree if you have allergies.

Many non-native plants also produce colorful fruit. Firethorn (pyracantha) shrubs make striking winter landscape plants, but their berries are not favored by wildlife. Beware of the plant's vicious thorns.

Old-fashioned standard nandinas form large, brightly-colored berry clusters atop tall evergreen stems. Also called heavenly bamboo, nandina domestica forms an ornamental upright evergreen shrub with cane-like stems. Its foliage turns bronze red in winter, and new growth is pinkish red.

For best berry produc-

tion, site these plants in well-drained soil where they receive sun several hours per day. Remember, only trim berry-producing plants before spring flowers develop. Removing the flowering branches will prevent fruit from developing.

Caution: While wildlife love eating many of these winter berries, they can be toxic to humans and pets. If your pet likes to snack outdoors, be diligent about picking up fallen berries.

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

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints! Info and reservations: 225-933-4074.

SONS OF the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. December program will feature songs of Christmas from around the world. www.granburycivicchorus.org.

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing! Details: 505-710-5100.

BEGINNERS' CHAIR Yoga 45-minute Class. Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Donations for local charities are accepted. Class will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy., 76049. For more information call 817-326-2201

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl St. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FRIDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or

10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E. Bridge St. All doll appreciators are welcome!

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

SECOND THURSDAYS

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets on the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

LAST THURSDAYS

MEETING MONTHLY the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd., Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

Preservation scholars program

Staff Reports

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission seek to build interest in historic preservation among students from underrepresented cultural and ethnic groups, engaging a wider range of communities and perspectives in the effort to discover and share Texas' historical narrative through the Preservation Scholars Program.

Launched in 2007, the program is a 10-week, paid, summer internship placement with-

in the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The application period began Nov. 1, and will run through Feb. 20, 2024.

Internship opportunities are available to college students from Texas or those studying to receive an undergraduate or graduate degree at a Texas college or university. Over the course of the internship, students work under the supervision of THC staff at the agency's headquarters in Austin and/or in the field at historic sites to complete a

project of their choosing. Select internship projects allow the option for remote participation in the program. Students meet with staff in each of the THC's divisions and attend weekly "Brown Bag Presentations" with outside preservation organizations to learn about the preservation work happening across the state.

Today's students are tomorrow's preservationists. The THC is able to offer students unique opportunities because of the agency's broad scope of work

within the field of historic preservation. Agency staff range from economists and community planners to marine archeologists, military historians, and graphic designers. Students gain exposure to exciting opportunities in the fields of architecture, archaeology, downtown revitalization, communications, heritage tourism and more.

Education is central to the projects and programs the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission supports. Today's students

are tomorrow's preservationists, and making sure there is a workforce of passionate individuals is vital to the future study of our shared past. The Preservation Scholars Program offers the THC the opportunity to engage students in the agency's important work - whether it's a focus on the economic impact of preserving a rural community's heritage, building the digital presence of State Historic Sites, or assisting regional organizations with cemetery preservation.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Increase the representation of all cultural and ethnic groups in historic preservation careers.
- Increase the number of historic and cultural resources associated with the state's diverse history.
- Increase the number of diverse organizations and communities involved in the field of historic preservation.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

If you're interested in PLEASE SEE **SCHOLARS** | B11

HOOD OUTDOORS

Winter birds in Texas offer viewing and fishing help



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.

Just the other day near Squaw Creek, I saw a bald eagle. I have seen them before, but not many in our immediate area. This prompted me to discuss the many birds that visit our area throughout the year.

Winter is no different, but for an angler, many of these different species of birds may lead to finding active fish. These birds are amazing to watch and many folks do so as a hobby. These folks are commonly called "Birders." There is some "Birder" in all of us as I know I like viewing these creatures when I am on the water (at least most of the species).

Even though the discussion today is on the winter species here in our area, there are many birds sought for viewing in the spring and other seasons in Texas. Some of these species include blue jays, mockingbirds, a variety of hummingbirds, osprey, hawks, and scissortail flycatchers just to name a few. The coastal areas of Texas also have many areas dedicated to many different species of birds. One of the most popular is the Sandhill crane. Consult the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) site for more information

on bird viewing in Texas at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Some of the most abundant birds to come to our freshwater lakes in winter are the gulls. Everybody sees these birds on the water and almost everywhere, including the Walmart parking lot. These gulls are pests to many; however they are friends to the anglers as they can point out active feeding fish. We also have terns in the winter and these are commonly misidentified as gulls. The tern is smaller than a gull and has a forked tail of sorts. Many of these terns stay with us year around.

We are also in the central flyway and we have an abundance of Canadian geese, ducks, coots, etc. that visit our area. Some resident geese and ducks stay with us year around. Duck and goose hunting are popular in Texas and many hunters set up right here on the Brazos. One popular draw to

"Birders" in the winter in our area is the bald eagle. There are numerous nesting sites around our area and you will at times see these huge birds with wingspans to 7 feet soaring over Lake Granbury. Lake Whitney has several nesting sites as well. The best-known area for viewing bald eagles in North Texas is the Lake Texoma area. Thousands of these eagles migrate south each winter and many take up residence in Texas near open water where there is an ample food supply. The bald eagles will roost together in the winter at night in trees, on cliffs and such near the water. They tend to use the same roosting areas year to year. This species came back from near extinction with some human intervention and is now off the endangered species list.

Another common bird found on our waters in the winter is the double-crested cormorant. This bird is not a favorite of most anglers as these birds in numbers can hurt a fishery, especially in a small impoundment. These birds are related to the pelican and dive to catch fish. Cormorants used to be protected, but now you can hunt these birds. Consult the TPWD for rules on hunting cormorants. Many catfish anglers use the cormorant nesting sites as a good place to fish. The cormorants' droppings are essentially pure fish which will, over time,

draw in the catfish. I have also on occasion located hybrid stripers in deep water under feeding cormorants, though this is an exception. Usually if the cormorants are feeding, the fish will vacate as these birds don't discriminate on species. In my opinion, in deep enough water, the bigger fish like stripers and hybrids wait below the feeding cormorants waiting for wounded baitfish to fall their way. Cormorants are spooked easily and will usually leave long before you get close. Cormorants look similar to loons and many times they are difficult to tell apart. One way I know for sure is that the loon is not as spooky as the cormorant, and they will get in on the action when fish are feeding on the surface. The loon also has a distinctive "warble" sound as I call it that certifies the identification of one.

Many North Texas lakes will have loons in the winter. Loons are normally associated with life in the northern states and Canada. I am told that seeing a loon is rare, but I see some each winter especially on Lake Whitney. They are not easily spooked, and they can be seen diving right next to your boat. The only species of loon reported in the Brazos Valley is called a common loon. Other parts of Texas have occasional reports in winter of Pacific and red-throated loons and even yellow-billed loons a

few times and I am sure I couldn't tell the difference. Apparently, breeding plumage loons are fairly easy to identify, but wintering birds are a challenge. Listening to the loons' call is most impressing to me as it is something you do not hear normally in Texas.

Another huge bird that frequents our area in the winter is the white pelican. I am not sure of the species, but they tell me the species we get around here is the American white pelican (there could be other species). You will see numbers of these big birds at times and other times you won't see many. I am sure they move with the food or they may be passing through. Lake Proctor, which has an abundance of bait, is a location where I have always seen pelicans in the winter. Granbury usually has pelicans as well. I have seen a few on the upper ends this year.

There are also many other water birds here in the winter that you see year-round like the crane species (blue heron) for example.

Fishing may be the primary reason for getting on the water, however there are numerous other reasons to be outdoors. Viewing other wildlife is part of the experience.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures re-

bounded some and then started to fall again. The lake is close to full level. I measured temperatures in the middle 50s in most areas on Granbury. Granbury striped bass are located on the lower ends and midlake and are fair to good on jerkbaits and swimbaits. Sand bass action on the upper ends is reported as good on slabs and small bass assassins fished on a quarter-ounce jig head. Granbury black bass are reported to be good to 6 pounds on the upper ends working rocks and timber on those warmer afternoons using watermelon and blue fleck Texas-rigged soft plastics. On the main lake, look for dropoffs near main lake creek channels and deeper docks for largemouths. Big yellow and blue catfish are good on cut bait fished on shallow flats on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Crappie action is good with numbers being caught on small jigs fishing submerged timber from Water's Edge to Mallard Pointe.

Comanche Creek (formerly called Squaw Creek) continues to draw in the winter crowds on this power plant lake. Numbers of largemouth bass with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds are possible on soft plastics, either Texas-rigged or dropshot-type rigs. Eater channel catfish limits are common on prepared baits fished on baited holes.

HIKE

FROM PAGE B1

which is a constant 72-75 degrees year-round. For more information, visit the Balmorhea State Park page.

Flock to Government Canyon State Natural Area from 8-11 a.m. for a guided birding hike though the wildlands on the northside of San Antonio. Participants can

bring their own equipment or borrow a pair of binoculars. Reservations are required, and spots can be secured at the Friends of Government Canyon website. Registration opens on Saturday two weeks prior to the event and closes at noon the Thursday before the event.

Shutterbugs can take part in a First Day Hike photo scavenger hunt at Lake Colorado City State Park. The scavenger hunt

has two options and can be guided or self-guided. Participants can pick up a list at the main office. The guided hike is at 2 p.m. at the Cactus Cut Trailhead.

Welcome 2024 outside during the midnight hike at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. The hike, which starts at 11:30 p.m., will traverse about a mile and a half through the Cross Timbers Trail. The guided hike will explore the creature sounds of the Texas

winter night sky. Staff recommend participants bring a flashlight and water, bundle up for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes for the walk.

Start the new year off by hitting the trail and participating in Ray Roberts Lake State Parks' Tri-Park-A-Thon. Participants can hike at one unit or participate in a hike at all three units and receive a prize. Moderate guided hikes are scheduled at staggered

times throughout the day, so folks can participate in the tri-park-a-thon. More information about the trails and times can be found on the park's page.

Humans and their four-legged family members can start the new year on the right foot (and paw!) with a First Day Dog Walk at Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center. At 9 a.m., participants can hit the trails with Sheldon

Lake's own Bark Ranger for a guided hike. Hikers will meet at the Pond Center to begin. All trails are ADA accessible, and this event is for all ages. Dogs must be leashed to participate. Pre-register for this hike by emailing Victoria.Sharrock@tpwd.texas.gov or by calling (281) 456-2800, x232. Spots are limited.

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Keep up with up-to-the-minute happenings in Hood County using one of today's greatest social media sites.

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HCNEWS.COM

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Dec. 23 (Puzzle 62).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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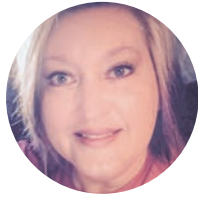
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HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Holidays at the library



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading.

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that? -Bob Hope

We have been showered with love from some of our patrons at the library. This time of year, many of our regular library users bring us yummy treats and pretty cards. Many thanks to our loyal supporters for spreading Christmas cheer to us! Speaking of cheer, we witnessed lots of smiles at our Cookies, Cocoa & Carols event on December 16. The library invited families in for some free fun. Carolers serenaded our cookie decorators, while they sipped some cocoa and made holiday memories. The best part?

Watching them eat their scrumptious creations. It really was a blast! Ninety-eight people joined in the fun that day. If you like jig-saw puzzles, then you will be intrigued by our family event in January. The evening of January 26, from 7-8:30, the library will be hosting a Puzzle Tournament. This event is limited, and registration will be required. Twelve teams of no more than

four per team can enter.

There will be four rounds, with the top three teams winning prizes. Registration for this event will begin Friday, January 19. Look for the registration on our Facebook page or call the library to register by phone. This event is for all ages.

As the new year rings in, many people reflect on the blessings and pitfalls from the previous year. This type of reflection sometimes spurs people to set goals and to find ways to improve their life. Popular areas people look to improve include their mental health, their financial well-being, and their physical fitness. The library can help with this. We have several newer books that focus on a wide variety of self-improvement. Come see us at the library, and we can point you in the right direction for your New Year's resolution needs.

Check out next month's library article to find out just how busy we were in 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Library is closed on Jan. 1. Happy new year!

CHILDREN EVENTS

Mondays: 10:30 a.m. Music and Motion
Wednesdays: 10:30 a.m. Storytime & Craft (Preschool)
Thursdays: 4:30 p.m. Code Club (8-12 yrs) Events for All
Lego Saturday all day every Saturday!
January 26, 7-8:30 p.m.: Puzzle Tournament (Space for 12 teams of no more than four per team)
January 30, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Crafternoon

ADULT EVENTS

January 3, 6-7 p.m.: The Other Book Club; Witch King by Martha Wells
January 9, 6-7 p.m.: Crafting with Tammy: Craft TBD
January 19, 6:30-8 p.m.: Trivia Night @ D'Vine Wine: Jurassic Park
January 23, 6 p.m.-7 p.m.: Novel Idea Book Club: Zero Days by Ruth Ware
BIO: Jennifer Logsdon, Hood County Library Director, is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning her Master of Library Science degree during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking, and of course READING!



Scrumptious cookies and cocoa at the library.

COURTESY PHOTO

GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS

Film-friendly and good shopping

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

We are blessed to live in a wonderful small town with fabulous opportunities.

First, you may have noticed a film crew wandering around town. The Christmas-themed indie movie starring Kevin Sorbo and Sarah Reeves will be in theaters next Christmas. Multiple Granburians appear in cameo and extra roles that will be fun to watch. Put a note on your calendar now to keep an eye out in 2024. And thanks to our far-sighted leaders for making Granbury a film-friendly city.

Second, there are multiple places in town to help you spend your Christmas money to purchase quality art - from artists individually and also from galleries, shows, art studios, and

festivals - and what better time to explore those possibilities than when ringing in the new year (or maybe even providing some late Christmas gifts?).

We can think of art as the "expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power." Notice the significance of "human." AI (Artificial Intelligence) is now being used to create what is called "art" and sold at a lower cost. Buyers have to choose to pay extra for the real thing. Because it does cost more to acquire a unique piece, taking into consideration the significant time, energy, thought, training, and material that went into its creation.

When you purchase art, you are doing many worthwhile things all at once. First, you are acquiring something that by its very beauty or meaning will be a significant personal asset to its owner. Second, you are supporting the artist who spent, sometimes, years developing the ability to see things in such a unique way and produce what you just bought.

Third, you are sending a message to artists everywhere that what they are doing has meaning and is worth nourishing. And fourth, you are influencing watching children to understand the power of their own artistic impressions and experience the freedom of creating as they were created to do.

Given all you're accomplishing, why would you not purchase art? If you are buying as an investment, find trusted advi-



The Christmas-themed indie movie starring Kevin Sorbo filmed in Granbury. Some of our volunteer firefighters got to pose with Sorbo.

COURTESY PHOTO

sors. But, more importantly, buy what you enjoy. And when you're buying as a gift, consider the recipient's taste, style, current artwork, comments they've made - and take a calculated risk. If you know them well enough to buy them a gift, it will probably be something

they cherish. Or, buy them a gift certificate at a place where they can discover what they like for themselves; introduce people who may not think they are art collectors to the fun of choosing.

Now, to make your lives easier, a few places you'll enjoy shopping for

original art: St. Helen's and resident artist James Spurlock; The Eyes of Texas at Baron's Creek; D'Vine Wine; Your Private Collection Art Gallery; Mara Mia Gallery; LGAA's Art of Faith show/gallery at Shanley House and Bridge Street Market; Heron House Gallery

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Celebrate with us in Granbury

DECEMBER	
20-30	Nutcracker Experience-BCExperiences
31	HANK FM New Years Eve Party
JANUARY	
1	Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.)
13	Mammoth Race: ICE AGE
20	Goosebump Jump, & Chili on the Beach
FEBRUARY	
17	KHITS Mardi Gras Masquerade
24	2nd Annual Jazz Fest
24	Texas Independence Day Celebration
MARCH	
16 - 17	2nd Annual Pub McDonough Paddy Fest & Parade
15-17	Founders Day Celebrations
16	Bulls on the Beach
16	Hank FM Home and Garden Expo

Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

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BOOK REVIEW

The bookworm's best of 2023

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Sometimes, reading is like a roulette wheel. You put your money down on a book that looks good, and you take your chances. If you're lucky, you get a good story. If you grab one of these books, you'll have a great story...

FICTION

Almost everybody who had a college friends group harbors a soft spot in your heart for the people in it, and for "The Celebrants" by Steve Rowley (Putnam, \$28.00), it's been years since they've all been together. Once, back when they were practically just kids, they planned their maybe-someday funerals. And now one of them needs to do it, for real. This is a great stay-at-home-and-read book, bookmarks optional.

Imagine starting your life over and over every morning when you wake up. That's what Tommy does in "How to Be Remembered" by Michael Thompson (Sourcebooks Landmark, \$16.99) and it took him awhile to understand that's the way things were going to be. So how can he keep the woman he loves, without scaring her every morning for the rest of their lives? Beware that this clever, clever book starts out rough - but stick around a few pages, and you'll be irretrievably hooked.

Although "Again and Again" by Jonathan Evison (Dutton, \$28.00) might sound the same, it's not. This is the story of Eugene Miles, a curmudgeonly old man who lives in a home for seniors. Eugene is 105 years old - or is he? The man who cleans Eugene's room thinks he is, after he falls for Eugene's tale of love through 1,100 years. This book is a stunner, a great choice for your next book club round.

Fans of author James Lee Burke know sometimes he veers off from his usual Dave

Robicheaux novels. "Flags on the Bayou" (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$28.00) is one of those stories. Set during the Civil War, it's a book about a duel gone awry, a slave woman whose son was missing, a little bit of magic, and a violent man who held several lives in his evil, syphilitic, vengeful hands. Happy Fact: Burke has a new book due out in January, too.

Last in the Fiction list is "The Reformatory" by Tananarive Due (Gallery/Saga Press \$28.99), a scary story of a Black boy who retaliates when a white boy tries to kiss his sister. This act sends the Black boy, Robert, to a reformatory, a place with a fearful reputation. But Robert isn't alone: not only does he make friends quickly, but a few ghosts accompany him. He spots a few more along the way - ghosts who aren't exactly friendly ones. This is one of those novels you want on a dark night when you're snowed in. Sure, read it by candlelight.

NONFICTION

Winter is an excellent time to read "Ice: From Mixed Drinks to Skating Rinks - a Cool History of a Hot Commodity" by Amy Brady (Putnam, \$29.00). Not only does this book share icy weather facts and information about the stuff you slip on, but it'll also send you poolside with ice in your summertime drink. Science-minded readers will love it. Curious readers will, too.

So what do you know about Black history? Don't answer. Read "Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America" by Michael Harriot (Dey Street, \$32.50) first. This is an eye-opening book, one that'll make you wonder why you were never told this stuff, one that'll make you want to read more. Fortunately, that's not hard: this book is written in a fun way that'll have you laughing, too.

Here's a book that may take

a while to read, and you really won't mind: "Dinner with the President: Food, Politics, and a History of Breaking Bread at the White House" by Alex Prud'Homme (Knopf, \$35.00). Beginning with George Washington, this book takes a peek at what (almost) every President liked to have on the dinner table, what he served at State Dinners, and the cooks and servers who made sure the meals were well-appointed and nutritious. There's drama in this tale, insider's gossip, personality peeks and more. History lovers, of course, will want this book - but so will foodies and recipe collectors.

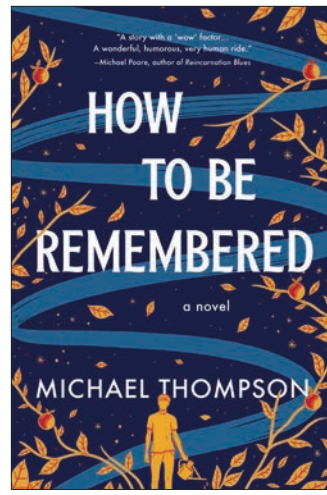
"Who Cares: The Hidden Crisis of Caregiving, and How We Solve It" by Emily Kenway (Seal Press, \$30.00) isn't exactly a sit-down-and-enjoy book for your winter reading, but if you're one of the approximately 53 million adults who are caretakers, it may be the most important one. This book is about you, if you're a caretaker of a spouse, parent, or child who needs extra day-to-day assistance in their life. Kenway offers honest, useful help and advice, pointers, and words you need now, in a way that's warm and not at all clinical. Even if you're not a caretaker this week, it's a book to find and have around, just in case.

And last but not least in this Best of 2023 list is "What the Dead Know: Learning about Life as a New York City Death Investigator" by Barbara Butcher (Simon & Schuster, \$28.99), a book about crime scenes and forensics. Butcher was an MLI (medicolegal investigator) at New York City's OCME (Office of the Chief Medical Examiner) and her stories start out with a heart-clutching near-disaster. This is a memoir of finding yourself, finding your place in life, and true crime fans shouldn't wait to start it.

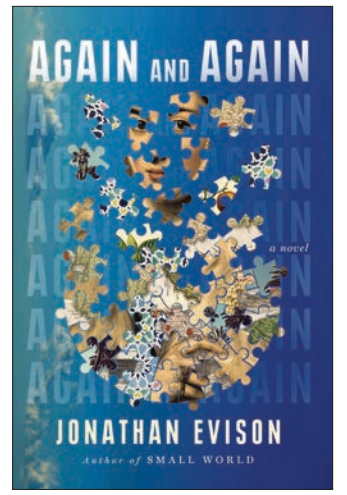
There you are. Ten books to start your new year off right. Season's Readings!



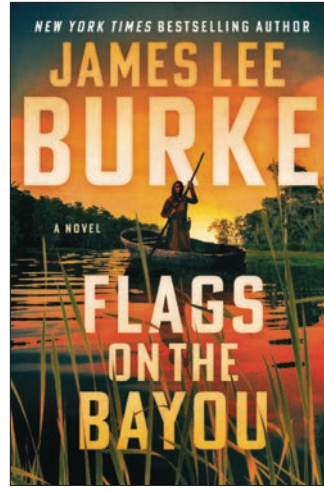
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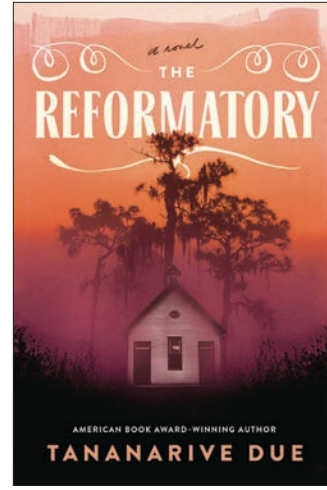
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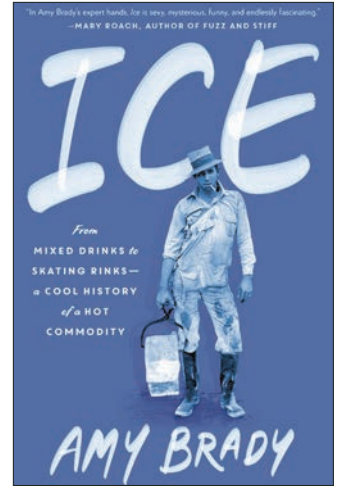
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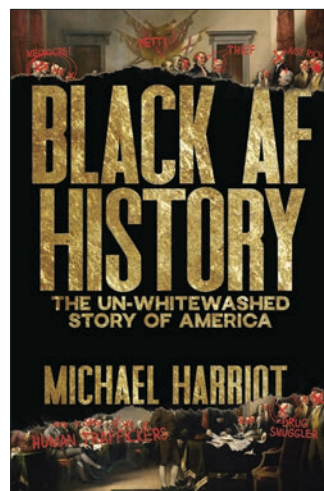
"Flags On The Bayou" by James Lee Burke.



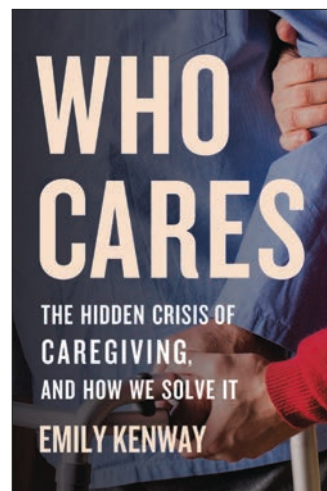
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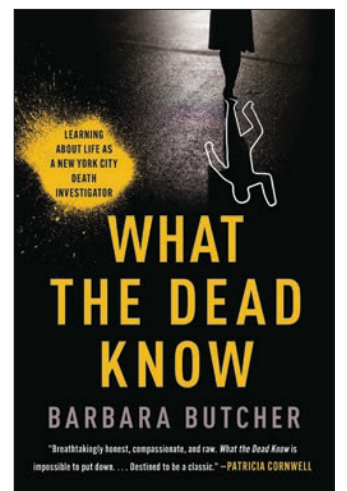
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"Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America" by Michael Harriot.



"Who Cares: The Hidden Crisis of Caregiving, and How We Solve It" by Emily Kenway.



"What the Dead Know: Learning about Life as a New York City Death Investigator" by Barbara Butcher.

National Resolution Planning Day

December 30, 2023

New Years

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F	R
B	W	I	S	H	E	S	R	W	A
A	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E
L	A	K	M	Q	H	H	B	J	Y
L	M	W	G	Y	A	H	N	I	W
O	E	M	M	P	L	M	L	O	E
O	D	R	P	C	K	I	P	S	N
N	D	Y	T	R	A	P	M	I	M
S	J	O	Y	F	U	L	B	A	R
L	S	R	E	V	E	L	R	Y	F

Word Bank

1. celebrate	4. family	7. balloons	10. fireworks
2. party	5. wishes	8. revelry	
3. happy	6. joyful	9. newyear	

Hey, awesome kids! Did you know that December 30th is a super special day? It's National New Year's Resolution Day - a day just for you to think about all the fantastic things you want to do in the coming year!

Imagine it's like having a big, blank canvas, and you get to paint it with your dreams and wishes. What cool stuff do you want to accomplish? Maybe you want to be-

come a space explorer, learn to dance like a robot, or become a master storyteller. This is the day to dream BIG!

Grab your favorite crayons or markers and create a masterpiece. Draw yourself reaching for the stars or inventing a brand-new game that all your friends will love. Share your dreams with your family, and they might even join in the fun!

Remember, National New Year's Resolution Day isn't about making promises that feel like chores. It's about making plans that make you happy and excited. Want to read more books, try new foods, or learn to do a magic trick? This is your chance!

So, on December 30th, let your imagination run wild. Set goals that make you giggle with joy and

COLOR Time

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the staff of Hood County News



COURTESY PHOTO

In 2022, 9.2 million workers were employed as retail salespersons, cashiers or first-line supervisors of retail sales workers

Cashiers among lowest paid retail workers

BY LYNDA LAUGHLIN AND JULIA BECKHUSEN
US Census Bureau

From assisting customers to ringing up sales, retail workers are the economic backbone of the nation's retail industry, especially during the busy holiday shopping season.

In 2022, 9.2 million workers were employed as retail salespersons, cashiers or first-line supervisors of retail sales workers — collectively referred to as retail workers, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

Since 2010, the relative number of U.S. retail workers remained over 9 million, but their share of the total workforce fell from 6.9% in 2010 to 5.6% in 2022.

The decline is expected to continue. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment in retail sales occupations will decrease by 2% between 2022 and 2032.

RETAIL WORK IS COMMON

Despite the decreases in the number and share of retail workers, retail remains a common occupation. In 2022, 3.1 million workers were retail salespersons and cashiers, and around 3 million were first-line supervisors of retail sales workers. Retail jobs ranked just be-

low other large occupations such as miscellaneous managers, driver/sales workers, and truck drivers and registered nurses.

EARNINGS

Between 2010 and 2022, the real median earnings of full-time, year-round workers increased by around \$1,490 from \$55,727 to \$57,216. During the same period, median earnings of first-line supervisors of retail workers and cashiers increased by less than \$1,000 each. The real median earnings of retail salespersons in 2022 was not statistically different from 2010.

Cashiers were among the lowest-paid members of the retail workforce. In 2022, their median earnings (\$27,174) were around 47% less than those of all full-time, year-round workers (\$57,216).

BRICK-AND-MORTAR STORES TO INTERNET SHOPPING

The number of retail



COURTESY PHOTO

Cashiers were among the lowest-paid members of the retail workforce.

workers in department stores fluctuated from around 389,000 in 2010 to about 535,000 workers in 2018 and dipping to about 189,000 workers in 2022. The decline in the number of workers could be related to recent closures of large retailers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research suggests that

e-commerce will assume a larger role in the retail sector. The ACS shows that the number of retail workers in electronic shopping continually climbed between 2010 and 2022, from around 63,000 to around 165,000.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Despite ongoing technological changes in the way

customers interact with retail businesses and general consolidation of retail stores, the retail workforce remains a substantial part of the American labor market.

Yet, retail occupations remain among the lowest-paying jobs, and retail workers often face not only limited opportunities

for advancement, but also nonstandard and unpredictable work schedules.

Lynda Laughlin is a senior advisor in the Census Bureau's Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD). Julia Beckhusen is chief of the Census Bureau's Industry and Occupation Statistics Branch (SEHSD).

2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR

From our family to yours Hood County News





SPORTS Roundup

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Quarterback Isaac Blessing, a senior, led the superlative honors as the district Most Valuable Player. Blessing throwing a pass at the State Championship game Dec. 13 at AT&T Stadium.

Rattlers dominate all-district honors

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

When a team makes history, it stands to reason the players on that squad will receive accolades. In the case of the Tolar Rattlers football team, the accolades came in droves with selections to the All-District 5-2A Division I Football Team selected by the league's coaches.

The Rattlers posted a 14-2 record in 2023, advancing to the Class 2A Division I state championship game. It was their first appearance in the state final and the most victories in team history.

Tolar was also only the second public school in Hood County history to play for a state football championship, joining the 1966 Class 2A state runners-up Granbury Pirates.

Quarterback Isaac Blessing, a senior, led the superlative honors as the district MVP. A year after being named all-state as a linebacker, he moved to the signal caller position and accounted for 51 touchdowns (30 passing, 21 rushing), while throwing just four interceptions. He also rushed for 1,276 yards and passed for 1,825.

Senior Clayton Stembriage was named Utility Player of the Year. An impact player in a variety of areas, as a receiver he caught 23 passes for 391 yards and six touchdowns, along with posting 98 tackles (12 for loss) and seven interceptions from his defensive back position. He also averaged 35 yards on three punt returns and 30 yards on 11 kickoff returns, returning a punt, kickoff and interception for a TD.

Senior Oakley Saffer is the Offensive Lineman of the Year and junior Cash Clark (103 tackles, 12 for loss, 7 sacks) is Defensive Lineman of the Year.

Senior running back

Garrison Nation (1,046 yards, 17 TD rushing; 9 catches, 221 yards, 3 TD receiving) garnered Offensive MVP accolades. The Defensive MVP is junior linebacker Drake Owens (134 tackles, 4 interceptions).

Owens and Nation were honored twice. Owens was also named first-team tight end (9 catches, 75 yards, 2 TD) and Nation a first-team defensive back (59 tackles, 1 interception).

One Rattler was honored three times. Junior Brooks Stone was named first-team punter (37-yard average), second-team kicker (71-of-76 on extra points, 5-of-7 field goals with a long of 33 yards) and second-team defensive end.

Also named to the first team offense were offensive linemen Michael Johnson, a senior, and junior Sam Stewart, along with senior wide receiver Matthew Behrens (32 catches, 740 yards, 10 TD).

Rattlers named to the first-team defense are junior defensive end Hunter Michels (98 tackles, 16 for loss, 6 sacks), junior defensive end Cutter Cain (77 tackles, 12 for loss, 4 sacks), senior linebacker Jaxon Riddle (111 tackles, 9 for loss), junior linebacker Ty McClure (68 tackles, 5 for loss, 2 interceptions) and senior defensive back Braylen Rice (45 tackles, 4 interceptions).

Second-team offensive honors went to senior lineman Jesse Owen, junior lineman Zane Graham and junior wide receivers Talan Culberson (17 catches, 187 yards, 3 TD) and Brylen Feist (18 catches, 209 yards, 2 TD). Junior defensive back Caden Pate (31 tackles, 1 interception) was named to the second-team defense.

Offensive honorable mentions are junior lineman Toby Combs and senior lineman Reid Baugh, along

with freshman running back Kelvin Murray (612 yards, 8 TD). Junior defensive back Grant Sherley (39 tackles, 3 interceptions) and freshman defensive end Caden Abrego (30 tackles, 6 for a loss, 3 sacks) are also honorable mentions.

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Twenty members of the Rattlers also earned academic all-district honors. They are:

Seniors: Baugh, Talan Brown, Blessing, Johnson, Nation, Rice, Riddle and Stembriage.

Juniors: Peyton Brown, Drew Cooper, Ty McClure, Owen, Stone, Combs, Feist, Graham, Michels, Owens, Sherley and Stewart.

LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians and Indians made a trek to Dallas to play on the same court as Luka Doncic and the Mavericks at the American Airlines Center. The Lady Indians pulled away in the second half to defeat Bullard 57-32 Dec. 20.

The Lady Indians (16-3), ranked No. 3 in the state in Class 2A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, trailed 13-9 after the first quarter. They tied the game at 24-24 at the half.

It was all Lipan from there. The Lady Indians outscored Bullard 33-8 over the final two quarters, including 21-3 in third.

Hanna Gaylor led Lipan with 22 points, including a pair of 3-point baskets in the runaway third stanza. Ashlyn Clark added 10 points as 10 Lady Indians scored.

The Lady Indians were playing in the Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament at press time. They return to District competition 11-2A play at Santo Jan. 5 at 6:15 p.m. Lipan is 3-0 in league play.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior Clayton Stembriage was named Utility Player of the year. Stembriage is pictured running the ball down the field at the homecoming game Oct. 20.

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians used a Dallas Mavericks-type run in the opening period to take command of their game against Ector at the American Airlines Center Dec. 20, winning 52-20.

Lipan (14-3), ranked No. 12 in the state by the TABC, led 23-0 after the first quarter and 33-4 at the half.

Court Gaylor led the Indians with 18 points, including four 3-pointers, three of which he hit in the opening quarter. Tyson Tarpley and Alberto Andreatta each scored eight points. In all, 10 players scored for Lipan.

They were competing in the Tenaha Holiday Hoops Tournament at press time and host Gordon Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.

NTHSRA LEADERS

Several area athletes are among the leaders in their respective events as the North Texas High School Rodeo Association reaches its mid-season holiday break.

The top 15 in each category at the end of the regular season qualify for the NTHSRA finals in mid-May.

Joseph Rickabaugh of Tolar leads in chute dogging with 560 points. Two spots back with 350 points is Levi Johnson of Granbury, while Tolar's Toby Combs is just outside the top 15, sitting in 18th with 84 points.

Rickabaugh is also fifth in ride-up goat tying with 462 points. The leader has 623 points. Carsyn Nolen of Granbury is 14th with 105 points and Pyper Boggs of Tolar is 15th with 63.

In walk-up goat tying,

Granbury's Grace Burdick is eighth with 315 points, while the leader has 623. Rickabaugh is in 11th place with 154 points. On the verge of the top 15 is Ashtyn Liming of Granbury with 70 points.

Kylee Kenley of Tolar sits in seventh place in break-away roping with 224 points and within solid striking distance of first place, which is 329 points. Looking to break into the top 15 in the second half is Granbury's Tyler Procter, who is in 16th place with 140 points.

Ainsley Reeves of Granbury is 11th among pole competitors with 161 points, while 602 leads. She is also 17th in barrel racing with 112 points, with 595 leading.

Tolar will host its own NTHSRA rodeo April 5-7.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The defensive most valuable player is junior linebacker Drake Owens. Owens pictured on the sideline at a playoff game on Nov. 16.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Junior Brooks Stone was named first-team punter, second-team kicker, and second-team defensive end.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior running back Garrison Nation garnered offensive most valuable player accolades, and a first-team defensive back.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Jakoriah Long scores most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years, Tarleton State wins big at McNeese

Tarleton State University

LAKE CHARLES, LA. — Jakoriah Long and Lexi Bull had monster performances, powering the Texans to a big win at McNeese Dec. 16, 88-64.

Long scored the most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years, pouring in 34 points (11-13 FG, 3-4 3PT, 9-10 FT), adding two rebounds, two assists and three steals in 37 minutes. Her 34 points mark the most by a Texan in their NCAA Division I era, surpassing Teresa Da Silva's 31 points scored last season. In fact, Long's 34 points are the most by any Texan since Feb. 5, 2014, when Kiara Wright scored 35 at home vs. Midwestern State.

Long is just the third player in the country this year with 34 or more points on 80 percent shooting or better in a game.

The Texans (3-6, 1-1 WAC) snapped a short two-game skid, improving to 2-3 on the road. The Cowgirls (4-8, 0-0 SLC) fell to 4-5 at home at the Legacy Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Bull joined Long with a special performance, recording her first career double-double with 11 points (5-6 FG), 15 rebounds, three assists and two blocks in 36 minutes off the bench. She's the second Texan with 15-plus boards in a game this year, joining Andjela Bigovic, who secured 16 at New Mexico Nov. 12. This is the first time in at least the past 10 years that multiple Texans have secured

15 or more rebounds in a game.

"I'm so proud of our team's performance today for the entire game," head coach Bill Brock said. "We played very solid in all phases of the game. Jakoriah Long had an outstanding offensive game and Lexi Bull anchored our inside game with 11 points and 15 rebounds. We can enjoy this victory for tonight and have to get ready tomorrow for New Orleans on Monday morning."

Tyler Jackson and Faith Acker each scored nine points, with Jackson adding five assists and three rebounds, and Acker five boards. Karyn Sanford chipped in eight points (3-6 FG) and three rebounds off the bench.

The Texan offense returned in a flurry, scoring its second most points on the year, its most since its season-opening 106. The offense made 29-of-61 (.475) from the field, 7-of-15 (.467) from distance and 23-of-30 (.767) from the stripe. McNeese didn't shoot it that much worse (.415 from the field, .333 from three and .773 from the FT line), but Tarleton won the turnover battle 16-9.

The Texans used a big second quarter to take a commanding lead they never relinquished, then capped it off in the fourth to deflate the Cowgirls. Tarleton got to the line 12 times in the second quarter, making 11, to win the frame 29-17, then made 8-of-12 (.667) from the field in the fourth quarter on its way to

a 25-12 frame advantage and 24-point win.

Both teams struggled to get on the board to start, held without a point 150 seconds in, before Long buried a three to start her career night. McNeese didn't score until the 6:15 mark. The Cowgirls stuck around though, and after being down 10-8, used a 7-2 run to take their largest lead of the game at three, 15-12. Long made a jumper at the first quarter buzzer to knot the game after the first, 15-15.

The Texans opened the second quarter with a 7-0 run and led the remainder of the game. Tarleton gave up just three points nearly halfway through, and led by as many as 12 in the frame, which was the halftime difference (44-32) after Long made yet another buzzer-beating shot. She had 15 points (5-6 FG) and three steals at the break.

Each team went back-and-forth in the third quarter, as the Tarleton lead balanced between 9-13 the entire 10-minute frame. The Texans took a 63-52 advantage into the fourth quarter.

After leading 65-55 with 8:16 left, the Texans curbed any further Cowgirl threat with a 12-0 run over the next three minutes to lead by 22. Long dropped 15 points in the fourth quarter alone to put her atop all Texan DI scorers.

One Cowgirl scored in double figures, as Emilia Tenbrock tallied 22 points (7-13 FG, 7-9 FT), four assists and three rebounds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Long scored the most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years. Her 34 points mark the most by a Texan in their NCAA Division I

Tarleton drops heartbreaker to Jax State

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE -- Tarleton State Men's Basketball fell victim to a second-half Jacksonville State rally to fall, 68-65, Dec. 14 in Wisdom Gym.

The Gamecocks (5-7, 0-0 CUSA) overcame a 12-point deficit to knock off the Texans (8-3, 2-0) and earn the second win for CUSA x WAC Scheduling Initiative.

A full, lively crowd filled Wisdom Gym in Tarleton's final home athletic contest of the year. The ZOOperstars! performed at halftime much to delight of the many kids and adults in the crowd. Christmas cheer was spread with an ornament giveaway and music throughout the game.

Devon Barnes led all scorers and set a new career high with 20 points, with 14 coming in the first half alone. He shot 8-for-16 from the field

including 4-for-7 from deep. Lue Williams notched 15 points and added six boards and a pair of steals. He has scored in double-figures eight times this season with six of those performances resulting in 15 or more.

Emmanuel Innocenti grabbed a game-best nine boards and four steals. Seven of his nine boards came on the defensive end and he added six points. He co-led the team in assists with Jakorie Smith tallying four.

The Texans held a 54-42 advantage with 9:44 remaining, their biggest lead of the night. Jax State clawed back executing a 7-0 run in two minutes to cut the Texan lead to five. A made lay-up by Williams increased the lead to seven. Another 6-0 run by the Gamecocks brought the visitors within one with 4:53 to go.

A pair of made free throws by Williams inched the

Texans ahead, but three consecutive Gamecock free throws tied the game for the first time at 58 and to take a 59-58 lead with 2:44 left in the contest. The Texans regained the lead quickly on a Barnes made layup to take back the lead 60-59. The Tarleton lead held until the final 39 second when Tandy gave the Gamecocks the lead for good 62-60. On the ensuing possession Smith had his layup blocked with 14 ticks to go. JSU made the second end of a one-one at the line with the Texans calling a timeout with 13 ticks to go.

Tarleton elected to cut the lead to one with a play designed for Barnes to drive toward the basket for the layup nearly drawing the and-one call. With seven ticks left, the Texans nearly forced a five second violation on the inbound, but the Gamecocks got the ball in and fouled with 4.52 remaining in the game.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Men's Basketball fell victim to a second-half Jacksonville State rally to fall, 68-65, Dec. 14 in Wisdom Gym.

Jax State made a pair extending its lead to 65-62. The inbound pass found the hands of Williams. He drove through a sea of defenders for a near open look at a three to tie the game at the buzzer, but his shot hit the rim as the buzzer sounded.

The Texans never trailed in the first half and closed the session on a 7-2 run in

the final 1:45. Tarleton led by as many as 10 in the first 20 minutes. The squad shot a season-best 63.6 percent from beyond the arc making 7-of-11.

The Texans suffered their first loss of the season when shooting 40 percent or better from the floor. As a unit, they shot 24-for-60, a 40 percent rate. The Gamecocks were

23-for-55 from the floor a 41.6 clip. The Texans won the turnover battle for the ninth time this season, forcing 13 and only giving up eight. For the third time all year, the Purple and White shot over 30 percent from behind the arc making seven at a 35 percent clip.

Texans split Louisiana set, drop Monday midday contest at New Orleans

Tarleton State University

NEW ORLEANS — The Texans split their set in Louisiana, falling at New Orleans Dec 18, 67-59.

Playing at UNO's Education Day at Lakefront Arena in New Orleans, Tarleton State (3-7, 1-1 WAC) lost the turnover battle 17-4 as they dropped to 2-4 on the road. UNO (2-8, 0-0 SLC) snapped a five-game losing streak and improved to 2-1 at home.

Local New Orleans schools showed out Monday at an 11 a.m. tip for Education Day, creating a different environment the Texans had to adjust to. Overall, the Texans outshot and out rebounded the Privateers, shooting 23-

of-57 (.404) from the field to UNO's 25-of-67 (.373) clip, plus a 45-36 advantage on the boards. But a 17-4 turnover disparity and a UNO free throw advantage of 13-23 to 9-of-11 spelled a Privateer win.

"I give New Orleans a lot of credit today," head coach Bill Brock said. "They dictated the pace of the game on the defensive end of the floor and we did not respond well to their pressure throughout the game. Our offensive execution was not smooth and we had too many turnovers and wasted possessions. Our point guards have to do a better job of getting

us into our sets quicker and distributing the basketball in a timely manner. We will work on these areas after the Christmas break and try to do a better job of protecting the basketball. We wish Texan Nation a Merry Christmas!"

Faith Acker led the Texan scoring with 12 points on 5-of-8 shooting, adding six rebounds and two blocks. Teresa Da Silva tallied 11 points, five rebounds and two assists. Tyler Jackson pulled down a career-high 10 rebounds, just missing a double-double with nine points and two assists. Teresa Maggio led the bench with nine points (3-5), Elise

Turrubiates had eight points (3-4 FG), three rebounds and three assists, and Vitoria Carvalho notched six points and six rebounds.

UNO scored the opening four points to start Monday's game, but Tarleton responded quickly with a 9-2 run, capped off by a Jackson three-ball. It was back-and-forth the remainder of the frame, and Da Silva gave the Texans a one-point lead with a layup toward the end, as Tarleton State led 15-14 headed to the second.

The second quarter was all UNO, who didn't allow the Texans to score until the 4:19 mark. The Privateers started

with a 10-0 run to go up 24-15, then extended it to a 16-2 run to go up 13. The Texans shot 2-of-12 (.167) in the quarter to find themselves down at halftime 33-24.

Tarleton forced New Orleans to shoot just 6-of-21 (.286) in the third, and the Texans cut the deficit to seven midway through. UNO recharged towards the end, taking its largest lead of the game of 15, ending the third up 50-39.

The Texans didn't give up and fought their way out of a 15-point hole to down just five points at the 5:29 mark. The Privateers responded with a quick 6-0 spurt, then

held Tarleton at arm's length to win their second game of the season.

New Orleans was led by DeArica Pryor's 16 points (6-14 FG, 4-5 3PT), seven rebounds and two steals off the bench. Jayla Kimbrough (13 points, 6-9 FG, four rebounds) also scored in double figures, while Alexis Calderon tallied eight points, seven assists, three rebounds and three steals.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE B2

Other offensive standouts for the Rattlers include running back Garrison Nation (1,046 yards, 17 TD, 3 TD receiving) and wide receiver Matthew Behrens (33 catches, 740 yards, 10 TD).

The defense was stellar, forcing 40 turnovers. Three players posted more than 100 tackles, Drake Owens (134), Jaxon Riddle (111) and Cash Clark (103), while Clayton Stembriage had seven interceptions.

The Granbury Pirates, with

interim head coach Sonny Galindo, started the season 3-0. Then, hard times hit in District 4-5A Division I and they finished 3-7.

In the private school ranks, the Grace Classical Christian Academy Gryphons capped their inaugural season of varsity football by winning the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations Division III state championship.

The Gryphons (6-4) overcame an early deficit to win 48-25 over Hill County out of Hillsboro.

Wyatt Keith was named

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

Earlier in the year, Rattlers head coach Jeremy Mullins was named the Region 3 Coach of the Year in Class 2A football by the Texas High School Coaches Association. The THSCA regions are different from University Interscholastic League regions, in which Tolar is in

Region 2.

The award was actually for the 2022 season, which at that time was the best in program history. The Rattlers finished 13-1 and advanced to the Class 2A Division I quarterfinals.

VOLLEYBALL

The Tolar Lady Rattlers made a run to the Class 2A Region I final for the first time in their history, finishing with a 25-15 record.

The Granbury Lady Pirates returned to the postseason after missing out in 2022. They advanced to the second

round. It was their best season since 2019.

Both teams got on hot streaks late in the season. For Tolar, it came during the postseason run. For Granbury, the Lady Pirates were once 9-19 after a challenging predistrict schedule but went 9-3 to finish third in the tough District 5-5A.

Both teams were also honored at the all-state level by the TGCA. For Granbury, Allyson McCabe was selected, while Tolar's Maddie Rue and freshman Allie Terrell were also picked. Also from Tolar, Senne Imel was named

as an alternate for the 1A-4A All-Star Match.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lipan freshman Annilee Tarpley made quite an impression in her first high school season, advancing to the Class 2A State Meet.

The Lady Indians narrowly missed qualifying as a team, finishing fifth at regionals.

The Granbury Pirates' successful season came to an end with a seventh-place team finish at the Class 5A Region I Meet. They were led by Bryan Hailey, who was 22nd individually.

SCHOLARS

FROM PAGE B4

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Virtual Information Session 1: Dec. 5, 2-3 p.m. Central - CLOSED

Virtual Information Session 2: Jan. 9, 2024, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Central (register online)

Virtual Information Session 3: Feb. 9, 2024, 12-1 p.m. Central (register online)

For more information go to the website at: <https://www.thcfriends.org/what-we-do/education/post-secondary/preservation-scholars-program-application/>

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