



# GRANBURY ★ Hood Cour

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD CO

[ SATURDAY, November 2, 2024 ]

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**On Tuesday, Oct. 22, Mission Granbury hosted the Light the Night candlelight ceremony at the Courthouse Gazebo to honor all survivors of domestic violence and remember the Texans who lost their lives to domestic violence in 2023. See more photos, A6.**

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**INSIDE**  
 See pages B4 and B5.  
 Pictured is Pirate quarterback Hayden Meyer.  
 LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**PIRATE HOMECOMING**

## Hood County 2-cent tax increase on 2024 ballot

**BY LAUREN DAVIS**  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

Hood County residents will soon decide whether to approve a proposed 2-cent increase in property tax that aims to fund medical care for low-income and uninsured people in the area.

The measure, on the Nov. 5 ballot, is intended to ensure that essential healthcare services remain accessible to residents who may otherwise go without necessary medical attention.

### ABOUT THE LEGISLATION

Hood County Hospital District was created in 1976, with the Texas Legislature's passage requiring local governments to provide medical care to poor and low-income families who meet certain criteria and live within the jurisdiction.

Medically indigent patients include persons for whom medical bills would threaten the household financial viability. This legislation remains in place and continues to ensure Texas residents who do not qualify for other healthcare assistance programs receive healthcare services.

The act also aims to prevent or limit the effects of diseases and disabilities among those who cannot pay for care. The Texas Constitution allows hospital dis-

PLEASE SEE **TAX** | A4

## Comanche Peak Unit 2 goes offline for scheduled refueling and maintenance

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
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Unit 2 at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose has officially gone offline due to a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage.

The outage — which began Sunday, Oct. 20 — is scheduled to last 25 days, according to outagecalendar.com.

Justin Daily, senior manager of nuclear communications

at Vistra Energy, the company that owns Comanche Peak, explained that a refueling outage is a brief interruption in power production to swap out old fuel for new.

While the outage may appear unexpected, Daily explained that this happens on a schedule that is set years in advance.

"Both units at Comanche Peak are on alternating 18-month refueling cycles. Therefore, we typically have one refueling outage each year,

and two — one for each unit — every third year," he said.

The licenses for the two units at Comanche Peak — initially granted for 1990-2030 and 1993-2033 — were also recently renewed this past summer for an additional 20 years, extending their operating licenses through 2050 and 2053, respectively.

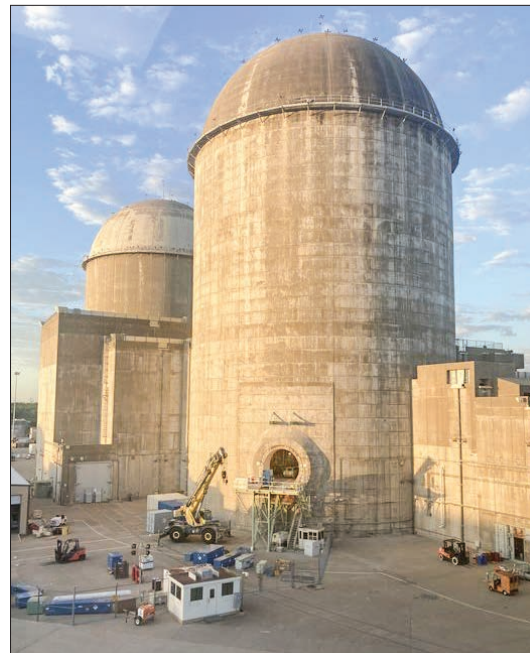
This renewal not only reinforces the plant's commitment to long-term energy production but also highlights its capac-

ity, as each unit generates approximately 1,200 megawatts — providing reliable electricity to thousands of homes in the area.

"In Texas, one megawatt is enough to power about 500

PLEASE SEE **UNIT 2** | A2

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN DAILY/VISTRA ENERGY  
**Unit 2 at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose is currently undergoing a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage.**



138TH YEAR, NO. 44

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 36 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 36 pages

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**SELDEN SOLUTIONS**

**Selden Solutions**

Our mission is to provide your team with actionable and realistic tools and insights to help drive your business forward.

COURTESY GRAPHICS

**New Member Spotlight: Selden Solutions.** Our mission is to provide your team with actionable and realistic tools and insights to help drive your business forward. Located in Granbury, but not limited by location, Selden Solutions can help you develop a unique approach customized to your business needs. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!



**ClearWater Express Wash**

**ClearWater Express Wash**

Mission: To exceed the expectations of our guests and deliver a clean, dry, shiny car every day!

**New Member Spotlight: ClearWater Car Wash.** Our priorities at ClearWater are the safety of your vehicle and the environment. Our car washes are meant to rid your vehicle of unwanted grime and leave it sparkly clean, but gently so with our soft-touch equipment. Mission: To exceed the expectations of our guests and deliver a clean, dry, shiny car every day! Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**MISSION GRANBURY**

**Mission Granbury**

MISSION GRANBURY is Hood County's largest non-profit organization with a unique service model that includes multiple interrelated human service programs under one umbrella.

**Member Spotlight: Mission Granbury.** Through strong collaboration with other local organizations and a wide range of resources, Mission Granbury is the community hub for help, centralizing resources under one roof to help those in need or in crisis. Above all, we strive to treat each person and family with dignity and respect, assessing every individual situation and providing immediate and long-term assistance to move them to self-sufficiency. Hood County's largest nonprofit organization with a unique service model that includes multiple interrelated human service programs under one umbrella. Thank you for being a member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce and for all that you do in Hood County!

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



**AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH**

**KATHY CHEEK**

**Business:**  
Century 21 Judge Fite Company

**Time as an Ambassador:**  
2 years

**Kathy Cheek**  
CENTURY 21  
Judge Fite Company

**Ambassador Spotlight: Kathy Cheek.** We are so thankful for our amazing ambassador Kathy Cheek with Century 21 Judge Fite Company! Kathy has been an ambassador for 2 years. When asked why do you like being an ambassador? Kathy said "I love being an ambassador for a few reasons. I love all the new people I get to know through either their new business coming into Granbury or an established one that is being reinvented. I love being involved in our community and I love getting to know other ambassadors and encourage others to become ambassadors. The Chamber of Commerce is such an intricate part of Granbury." Fun Fact about Kathy: I am the mother of 25-year-old twins who are college graduates and becoming such successful adults. Thank you for being an ambassador, Kathy!

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Women in Business Holiday Fashion Show

By the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

This holiday season, the stunning Hotel Lucy will play host to an inspiring event that combines fashion, community and empowerment: the Women in Business Holiday Fashion Show. Featuring local boutiques, this show promises to be a fun, festive celebration that highlights some of our local businesses. On Nov. 19 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Seats are limited so buy your ticket today; \$50 for members and \$75 for general admission.

Set against the elegant backdrop of Hotel Lucy, known for its sophisticated ambiance and beautiful décor, the fashion show will showcase a curated collection of holiday attire. Come grab a drink and have some yummy Hard Eight char-

cuterie, thanks to our refreshment sponsors Atmos Energy, Pearl Dentures & Dental Care and Capital Title. Mingle with friends and make new ones. Jump in on B & A Media Tech's 360 photo booth for a one-of-a-kind video thanks to our presenting sponsor Town Square Title.

### THE SHOW

The fashion show will feature two models from a variety of local boutiques, each bringing its own unique flair to the runway. From trendy dresses to stylish accessories, the pieces will not only highlight the latest fashion trends but also emphasize the importance of supporting local businesses. Some of the participating stores are:

**The Pearl:** Known for its modern styles and vibrant colors.

### Jeans Crossing:

Specializing in timeless pieces for the sophisticated woman.

**Bella Rosa:** A consignment gallery full of all kinds of treasures.

**The Class Act:** Glam and glitz for the classic woman.

**Velvet & Verde:** Showcasing the latest in contemporary fashion.

**Southern Star:** Unique vintage and retro finds new, used and recycled.

### GIVING BACK

As part of the holiday spirit, the event will also include a charitable component. Each year the WIB committee selects a local charity to receive all the proceeds from the raffle. Choosing to help local women in need, the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children has been selected this year. This commitment to giving back

adds an important layer of meaning to the festivities, reminding attendees of the impact they can make. With each boutique donating a door prize to the raffle, you know they will be fabulous.

The Women in Business Holiday Fashion Show at Hotel Lucy promises to be a dazzling event filled with style, inspiration and community spirit. As local boutiques take center stage, attendees will not only enjoy a night of fashion but also celebrate the power and potential of women in business. Join us this holiday season for an unforgettable evening that uplifts, empowers and unites!

Do you have your tickets yet for our annual Women In Business Holiday Fashion Show? This exclusive event is sure to be sold out! So don't hesitate and get your tickets today!

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

Keller Williams Brazos West.

## UNIT 2

FROM PAGE A1

homes in normal conditions or about 200 homes during periods of peak demand, typically during extreme heat or cold," Daily said.

In addition to replacing fuel, these routine outages provide an opportunity for workers to complete maintenance that cannot be

done while the unit is on-line and producing power.

"Our talented team performs thousands of maintenance activities during these outages to ensure our plant is reliable and can continue to provide the state with the energy it needs," said Ken Peters, Vista chief nuclear officer.

Daily also pointed out that the maintenance helps to ensure that the unit performs reliably during the

next operating cycle.

"Nuclear reactors produce carbon-free electricity every hour of every day for the full 18 months between refueling outages," he added.

With the outage bringing in an additional 700 to 1,000 extra workers to the area to assist with needed duties, Daily highlighted that this will also create an economic boost for hotels, restaurants and related

businesses.

As the community prepares for this economic influx throughout the outage, Daily also emphasized the importance of the timely and safe completion of the task, stating that the unit will return to service as soon as all work is finished.

"Our team is working diligently to complete the refueling outage safely and efficiently," he added.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# In the game of life, you may never get to spike the football



**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.  
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It is the opinion of many that football has overtaken baseball as America's favorite pastime. Though I have been a lifelong baseball fan, I tend to agree with the conclusion. It makes no difference whether it is high school, college or pro, football has a huge following and its audience only seems to grow.

People also seem to like the raw emotion of football. The touchdown celebration is certainly a fan favorite with explosive cheering from the audience coupled with the exuberance of the player spiking the ball in the end zone upon scoring. It denotes an accomplishment: a "score" which can lead to "winning."

This past weekend I had an interesting discussion with a young musician friend of mine named Joseph Neville. I met him several years ago during the production of a show which had a theme like some of the national talent shows you have watched on TV, like "The Voice" or "America's Got Talent." There were 10 shows over

a span of months, and each show had a winner selected by a panel of judges. At the end of 10 shows, those 10 winners competed in a championship show.

We were lucky to have some extraordinary talent compete in those productions. Andrew Sevenser, who won the competition, later went on to finish third on "The Voice." Joseph was one of the finalists, and though he did not win I have always had a warm spot in my heart for him. He is a wonderfully kind and sweet man that I think almost anyone would like to call "friend," but primarily he is a talented musician with his own style and a unique voice. His looks remind me of Lyle Lovett, but his skills and demeanor have a contemporary James Taylor sort of vibe.

Since our first encounter, I have kept track of Joseph's progress. He had taught school, but he gave up his job to work at music full

time. He gave up his apartment for the road and spent the night on the sofa at friends' houses or slept in his car. He suffered through the shutdowns of Covid. He played wherever he could, for whatever they would pay him, but he invested in himself and learned his trade. He grew and developed, matured and became musically "seasoned." He learned the subtleties of performing live, of how to connect to an audience, and the importance of making an audience not only hear his sound but to "feel it." His progress has been steady and his growth inspirational.

This past weekend, Joseph was the entertainment at a VIP event of a prominent art show. It was great to hear him perform and spend some time with him. I commented on how much he had grown and evolved and how proud I was to see his growth. At one-point Joseph turned to me and said, "I

have learned that it is important to keep working and to not get caught up in little 'wins' and milestones I may accomplish. I have seen my friends in the business have a big moment, and then they want to rest on their laurels only to find they have lost their momentum and learn they may never get the momentum back. I have come to realize that to be successful, it takes work and commitment, dedication and never being satisfied with what you have accomplished but always asking for more from myself."

I responded by affirming his thoughts. In the game of life, there is never a time where we get to spike the football, and the game is won. Each day is a new challenge, and we must prove ourselves to the world around us. It is important to show that we belong and deserve what we seek. We are entitled to sit on the lofty porch of success, but that

entitlement only comes by paying the price to get there. The coin of the realm is dedication and hard work.

All too often people say they "deserve" success, or they should be able to have what they want merely because they desire it, not because they have earned it. I am proud of my young friend Joseph and relish the joy I receive seeing him grow, learn and earn his place in life.

Joseph may have yet to "spike the football," but I sure would not bet against him. If you get the chance to hear him and appreciate his talents, you will not bet against him either. He has what it takes, on stage and in life.

Thought for the day: Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it; those folks succeed on purpose.

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

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Debbie Inman

### Say hello to our neighbor, Debbie Inman!

Debbie Inman has called Pecan Plantation home since 1999 when she moved from Arlington. She has always loved Granbury and often reminisces about her first visit in 1969 while still in college. On that occasion, she enjoyed a day trip to Lake Granbury on a date, swinging from trees into the lake near Highway 377 by the Lake Bridge.

Inman cherished the opportunity for many return visits when her mother-in-law at the time got married to a Granbury man. The young family spent numerous weekends enjoying lake life, especially boating. Fast forward to the year 2000: practically on the day her Arlington home sold, a house in Pecan Plantation hit the market. Inman and her husband, Craig, were the first to tour the home before purchasing it, and they still reside there today.

Inman found her church home at Acton Methodist, where she spends Wednesday mornings volunteering in the office. She initially brought her small business from Arlington but found the process challenging until she established a relationship with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, which she credits for helping her transition. Nowadays, Inman is deeply involved in volunteer work. She participates in a guardianship program for people who are mentally incapacitated and unable to make decisions for themselves. Inman stated, "It's a wonderful organization to be involved in," explaining that her Chamber ties and faith in God led her there. "These people can't make any decisions on their own whatsoever."

Inman didn't stop there; she recognized the need for assistance in supporting clergy in serving fellow church members and initiated the Compassionate Care Committee. Inman shared, "This has been very rewarding to me. I love people and try to see the good in all of them. God is the vine, and we are the branches."

Inman laughs when she recalls when she first moved to Granbury, which was still small enough for the Hood County News to publish the full police report. At times, she found it amusing, especially some of the lame excuses people gave for making non-emergency calls to 911. She appreciates that the Hood County News has kept the crossword puzzle throughout the years and loves checking out the picture pages of events, particularly the ones she couldn't attend.

## County considers salvage yard/junkyard order amid community concerns

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
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Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court deliberated on the possibility of enacting a salvage yard/junkyard order during a regularly scheduled meeting Oct. 22.

A draft of the order — which would impose restrictions on certain businesses like flea markets, junkyards, automotive wrecking and/or salvage yards — was created in response to multiple resident complaints regarding a neighbor's property.

During a previous Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Aug. 13, the court addressed the issue of an environmental hazard complaint at 3800 Mabery Drive — a case that has sparked significant community concern and is now awaiting trial at district court.

Several residents spoke on the matter in August, including resident Cindy Holley, who called the property a "literal junkyard," comparing it to the television show "Sanford and Son." She also detailed the extensive debris littering the yard, which includes washers, dryers, mowers, mattresses, clothes, sofas, filing cabinets, refrigerators, hot tubs and a burn pile she said measures about 15 feet in diameter.

"The fire department's been out there at least four times," Holley said Aug. 13. "The last time was approximately three weeks ago at 2:30 a.m. in the morning. I called because I'm sitting on my porch, and I keep smelling these odors, and then I flip my light on and the smoke is just coming around the corner."

As many complaints surfaced that morning, it was also revealed that the case is currently pending in district



PHOTO COURTESY OF YEVHEN, ADOBESTOCK.COM

**A draft of the order — which would impose restrictions on certain businesses like flea markets, junkyards, automotive wrecking and/or salvage yards — was created in response to multiple resident complaints regarding a neighbor's property.**

court, where legal proceedings are underway to address the concerns.

While no action has been taken regarding the matter yet, several county officials composed a draft of a salvage yard/junkyard order, which would impose restrictions on certain businesses, mandating that they be located a certain distance from residential properties, and be screened to minimize visibility from neighboring houses and roadways.

However, county officials noted that the order may not be created if existing regulations prove sufficient to address the ongoing issues.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that ever since the initial situation was brought to her attention, she had been working with Hood County Development Director Clint Head, County Attorney Matt Mills and Environmental Health Director Jeannie Stacks to see if they could prevent future situations from occurring.

"I don't expect there to be any action today," she said. "I just wanted to present this, since that situation caused a lot of (concern)."

Mills explained that the group discussed whether the proposed salvage yard/junkyard order would provide any additional enforcement capabilities beyond existing laws.

He also cited Section 343.011 of the Health and Safety Code, which defines public nuisance as "keeping, storing, or accumulating rubbish, including newspapers, abandoned vehicles, refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tires, and cans, on premises in a neighborhood or within 300 feet of a public street for 10 days or more, unless the rubbish or object is completely enclosed in a building or is not visible from a public street."

"The property that we discussed specifically with tons of junk cars on it, arguably, is already covered under public nuisance," Mills said. "What we talked about ... is maybe pursue what we already have and see if this works essentially in court

without putting in a new set of regulations, and if it doesn't, then we can come back and revisit."

Stacks also pointed out that the criminal penalties outlined in the Health and Safety Code enable the county to take significant action against violators.

"The court can order an abatement, which means we can get it cleaned up by the people," she said. "If they choose not to, the first fine is \$200 subsequent for \$1,000, and that can be for each day it's in violation. They can also receive six months in jail for each violation, so we have the teeth to do what we want; it's just the county has never used that to our ability."

Head also emphasized that if the court were to adopt this order, it would apply to everyone, adding that it would also be "forever."

"It's easy to adopt the order — not too easy to undo it," he advised.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill agreed and ex-

PLEASE SEE **ORDER** | A4

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# Commissioners court takes stand on taxpayer-funded lobbying

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
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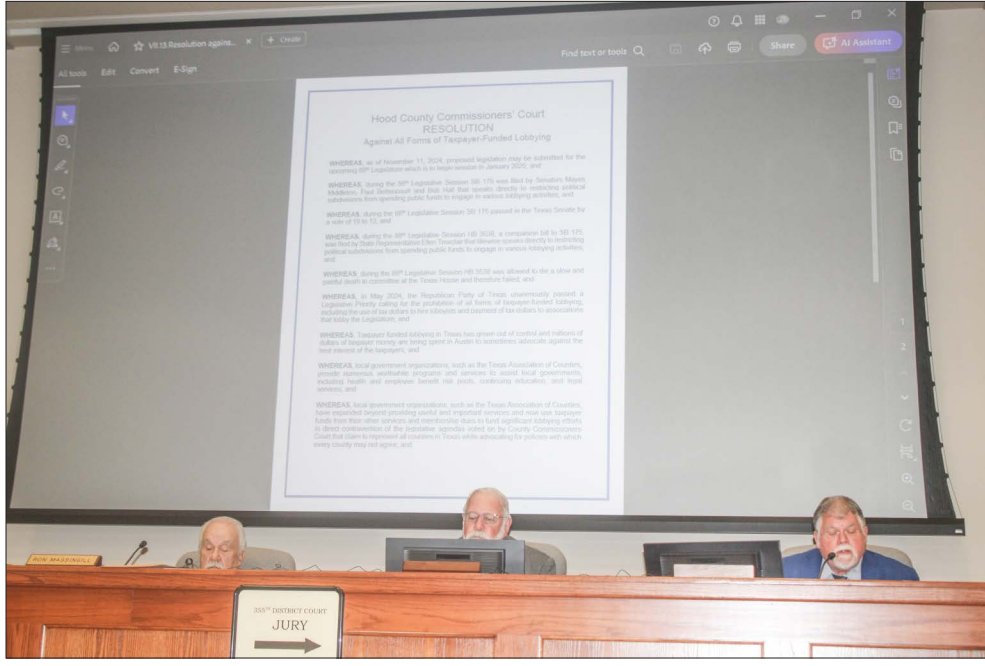
In a 3:2 vote Oct. 22, the Hood County Commissioners Court passed a resolution urging the Texas Legislature to ban all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying.

Taxpayer-funded lobbying is defined as the practice of using funds that come directly or indirectly from taxpayers for political lobbying purposes.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle — who placed the item on the budget — noted that as of Nov. 11, proposed legislation can be submitted for the upcoming 89th Legislature, which is set to begin in January 2025.

Eagle emphasized that during the Republican Party of Texas State Convention last May, a key legislative priority was established — to ban all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying. He stated that this includes prohibiting the use of tax dollars for hiring lobbyists or funding lobbying associations.

During the 88th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 175 was filed by Sens. Mayes Middleton, Paul Bettencourt and Bob Hall, which aims to speak directly to restricting political subdivisions from spending



**Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle reads a resolution that urges the Texas Legislature to ban all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying during a Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Oct. 22.**

public funds to engage in various lobbying activities. The bill successfully passed in the Texas Senate by a vote of 19 to 12, according to the court's resolution.

Eagle explained that although SB 175 passed in the last session, it ultimately did not advance in the House, due to a "political difference between the Senate, House and the Texas Legislature."

"Senate Bill 175 passed last session, passed by a majority, but it went and died a

natural death in the House," he said. "This resolution is going to come back. This legislation is going to be revisited and I'm in support thereof, because I agree with the concept. I put this on the agenda for a vote of the commissioners court."

The resolution states that taxpayer-funded lobbying in Texas has grown out of control and that millions of dollars of taxpayer money are being spent in Austin to sometimes advocate against

the best interest of the taxpayers.

The resolution also acknowledges that local government organizations, like the Texas Association of Counties, offer valuable services, such as health and legal support, to local governments. However, it raises concerns that these organizations have expanded their role to include significant lobbying efforts

PLEASE SEE **COURT** | A13

## ORDER

FROM PAGE A3

pressed that it might be more effective to utilize the existing broader regulations rather than create new ones, as current laws already address various nuisances, including rubbish and abandoned items, beyond just junk cars.

"If people let their own yard get to that state, they're not going to show up and answer any summons," Massingill said. "And then if you go on their property with the wrecker or whatever, and start picking that property and take it off, I, as an attorney, was concerned about a liability for the county. That old adage about one man's treasure is another man's junk certainly applies to this. Some of these people will just think that that old car out there, that old washing machine or something, may come in handy for parts or whatever, and they want it ... I think that we have a better chance of enforcing what's already on the books."

Mills advised that the county should move forward with pursuing the case in court to see how the judge addresses the issues at hand. He suggested that if further action is needed later, they can reassess the situation at a later date.

## CALENDAR

### ONGOING

#### FORWARD TRAINING

Center "Beginner Typing Skills" class. Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org

#### THE GRANBURY Doll Club

is looking for docents and volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays. Call 817-894-5194.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 5

**OPERA GUILD** monthly meeting at DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 County Club Drive. Social and registration begins at 10 a.m., entertainment: Matt Beutner & Granbury Academy students at 11 a.m., 11:30 business meeting, optional lunch at noon, \$18, turkey and gravy, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, roll and pumpkin pie. Reservations required by Friday, Nov. 1 for lunch. 817-776-2898 or granburyog@gmail.com.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 8

**OPEN HOUSE** at Grace Classical Christian Academy from 8:15-11 a.m. All school convocation opens the day, visiting students are welcome to go to the age appropriate classrooms after while parents hear about classical Christian education offered at GCCA. Free but registration required at graceclassical.com.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 9

**CHISHOLM TRAIL 100 Club** "Honoring Our Heroes" golf tournament at 9 a.m., Squaw Valley Golf Course, Glen Rose. Benefits the mission to "Stand in the gap for our first responders and their families in times of tragedy." For more information or to donate please visit CT100.org.

**LORD'S ACRE** fundraiser from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Casserole, pie and bake sale, barbeque lunch at noon, live auction at 12:45 p.m. Special quilt for auction donated by Andy Rash. The quilt was begun by Rash's late wife Lee. Members of her quilt group finished the quilt.

### MONDAY, NOV. 11

**VETERANS DAY** program at Granbury High School auditorium at 9 a.m. All vets and their families are invited. Guest speaker Joshua L. Holm, combat veteran, author, minister and life coach.

**VETERANS CEREMONY** by Friends of Memorial Lane, 11 a.m. Jim Burks Memorial Park. Thirty minute ceremony, gift for all veterans.

PLEASE SEE **CALENDAR** | A15

### 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.

## TAX

FROM PAGE A1

districts to levy a tax not to exceed 75 cents per \$100 of valuation of all taxable property within the District.

### HOOD COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS USED TO PAY THIS TAX

Many people think the hospital district runs Lake Granbury Medical Center, but that is not true. HoodCounty.Tx reports the hospital is part of Community Healthcare Systems, a large for-profit healthcare network.

Historically, Hood County residents paid a hospital district tax until 1996, when the hospital district leased the local hospital, Lake Granbury Medical Center, to a private operator, Hospital Corporations of America, as reported in July by the Hood County News.

This lease agreement provided the district with \$15 million over 30 years, allowing it to meet its obligations without taxing residents. However, with the lease ending soon and healthcare costs escalating, the need for a tax to fund essential services has become pressing.

According to HoodCounty.tx, the current property tax rate for the hospital district is zero, which has led to challenges in ensuring adequate ambulance services across the county.

### WHO WILL BENEFIT

The proposed 2-cent property tax increase will benefit low-income residents and seniors who are frequent users of emergency medical services.

In fact, 72% of emergency calls come from individuals aged 60 and older.

With nearly 68,000 residents in Hood County, many of whom are older or living in poverty, the demand for medical care continues to grow. Approximately 26.7% of residents are aged 65 and older, and 15.4% are classified as medically indigent, meaning they struggle to pay for healthcare.

This funding will help improve response times and ensure that necessary medical services are accessible to all residents.



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

According to hoodcounty.gov, the current property tax rate for the Hood County Hospital District is zero, which has led to challenges in ensuring adequate ambulance services across the county.

### THE DOWNSIDE

However, some residents may be negatively impacted by the tax increase, particularly those with higher property values, as their annual taxes will rise. For instance, a home valued at \$100,000 will see an additional \$20 in taxes annually, while a \$400,000 home will incur an extra \$80.

### HOW WE COMPARE

Hood County's proposed hospital district tax rate is significantly lower than those in neighboring counties. Here's a quick comparison from HoodCountyTX.documents-on-demand-com dated Sept. 25, 2024:

- Parker County: 11 cents per \$100 valuation
  - Somervell County: 17 cents per \$100 valuation
  - Palo Pinto County: 30 cents per \$100 valuation
  - Hood County: 2 cents (proposed)
- In terms of total property tax rates for 2023, Hood County also has a lower rate (28.2 cents) compared to its neighbors, with Parker at 28.7 cents, Somervell at 42 cents, and Palo Pinto at 30.5 cents.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TAX DOESN'T PASS?

If the proposed tax does not pass,

the consequences could be significant. Residents could experience reduced ambulance services, staffing cuts, and a halt in new service expansions. Essential equipment and vehicles may not be replaced, impacting the quality of care.

In the worst-case scenario, the Hood County Hospital District could be dissolved, shifting the responsibility of providing healthcare costs for low-income residents to the Hood County Commissioners Court.

Visit hoodcounty.texas.gov for detailed information about where and when to cast your vote in regard to this tax.

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



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# Butterfly kisses and garden wishes

## Monarch butterfly sculpture to debut at Hood County Library

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

**H**earts will flutter and spirits will soar with the debut of the Hood County Library's latest sculpture depicting the life cycle of a monarch butterfly.

The sculpture — titled "Life Cycle," — was generously donated by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners as a way to bring life to the library's front flower beds.

Library Director Jennifer Logsdon explained to the Hood County Commissioners Court Oct. 22 that she initially contacted the master gardeners for assistance in revitalizing the area, as the library's flower beds were "looking really sad."

"When I went to talk to them about it, they said, 'Hey, we also have this sculpture that we need a place for. This might be a good partnership,' and I'm like,

"Sounds like a good plan to me," Logsdon said. "They needed a place to put this where it's going to be visible to the community, and the library was a perfect educational place to put that. We'll also design the flower bed around the sculpture, so it's a win/win for both of us."

With the sculpture standing 6 feet tall and featuring intricate, three-dimensional elements, viewers will be invited to explore the fascinating journey of monarchs.

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners member Deborah Rollins — also known as the

"butterfly lady," — explained that the organization has been working for about three years to create an art sculpture that it could donate to the city.

She emphasized that the sculpture aims to celebrate the community's status as a favorite destination for migrating monarch butterflies, while also serving as a teaching tool about the butterfly's life cycle.

"We're looking at a timeline of approximately spring of 2025 to put the garden in all around this 'Life Cycle' sculpture, which will be for pollinators," she said. "So, we'll have butterflies — my favorite thing — flying around the door of the library and all around this garden."

Rollins added that the sculpture will be positioned on a 5-foot-by-5-foot concrete pad at the ramp leading to the parking lot, and will measure 36 inches in diameter.

"It's very interactive. It's three dimensional, and there'll be a sign that's descriptive, so kids and adults alike can learn about the life cycle of monarch butterflies and how that applies to us in our community, for life, hope and continuity," she said. "This is what we do. We're a teaching entity within the county."

"Finally, something to brighten my day," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said.

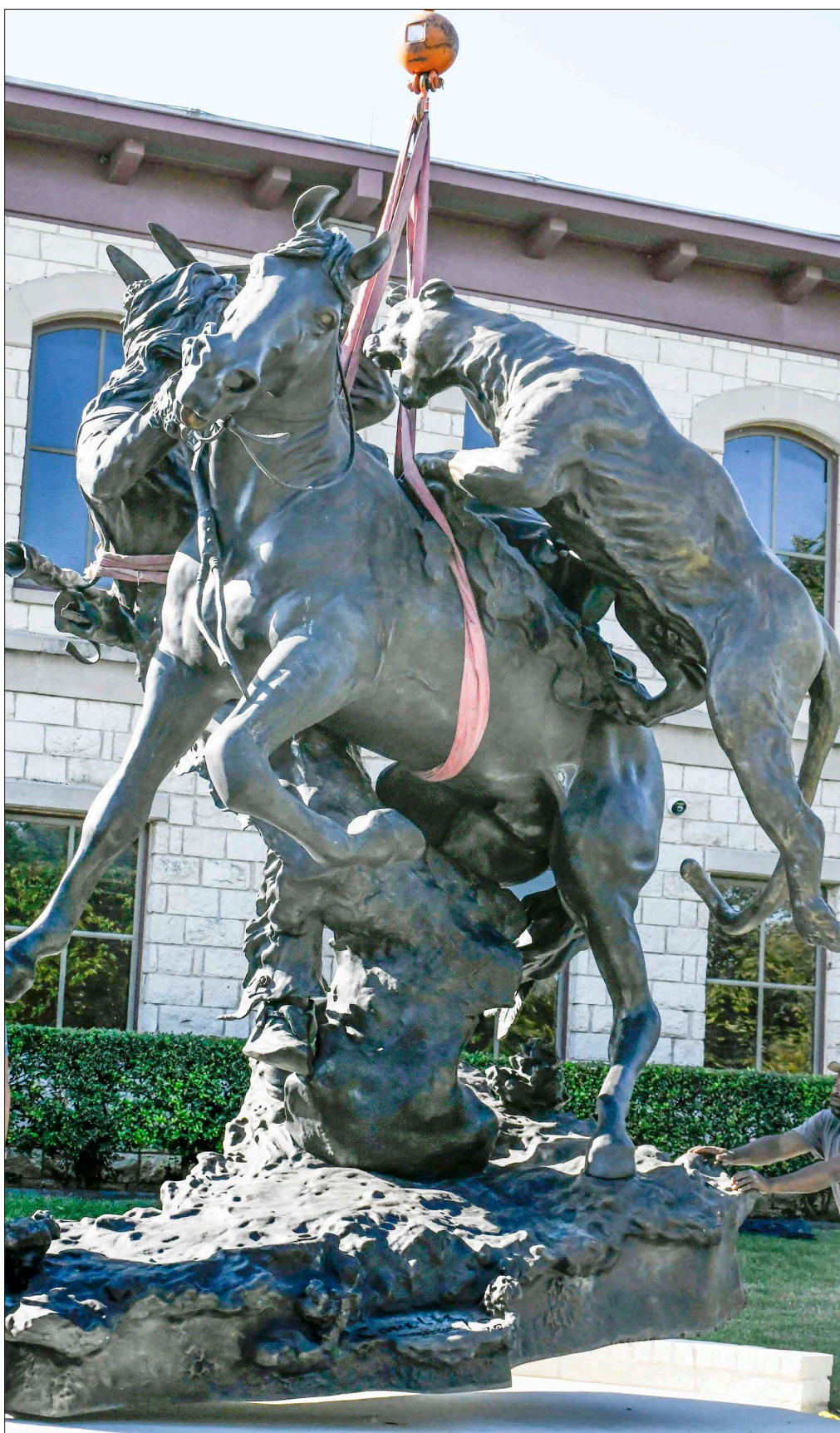
Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson made a motion to accept the donation and placement of the metal art sculpture from the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners to the Hood County Library. Following a second from Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, the motion passed unanimously.

A grand opening of both the garden and sculpture will be held at a later date.

COURTESY PHOTO

**A new sculpture depicting the life cycle of a monarch butterfly will be placed at the Hood County Library, thanks to a generous donation by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners. The sculpture — titled, "Life Cycle," — will stand 6 feet tall and will feature intricate three-dimensional elements, allowing viewers to explore the fascinating journey of monarchs.**

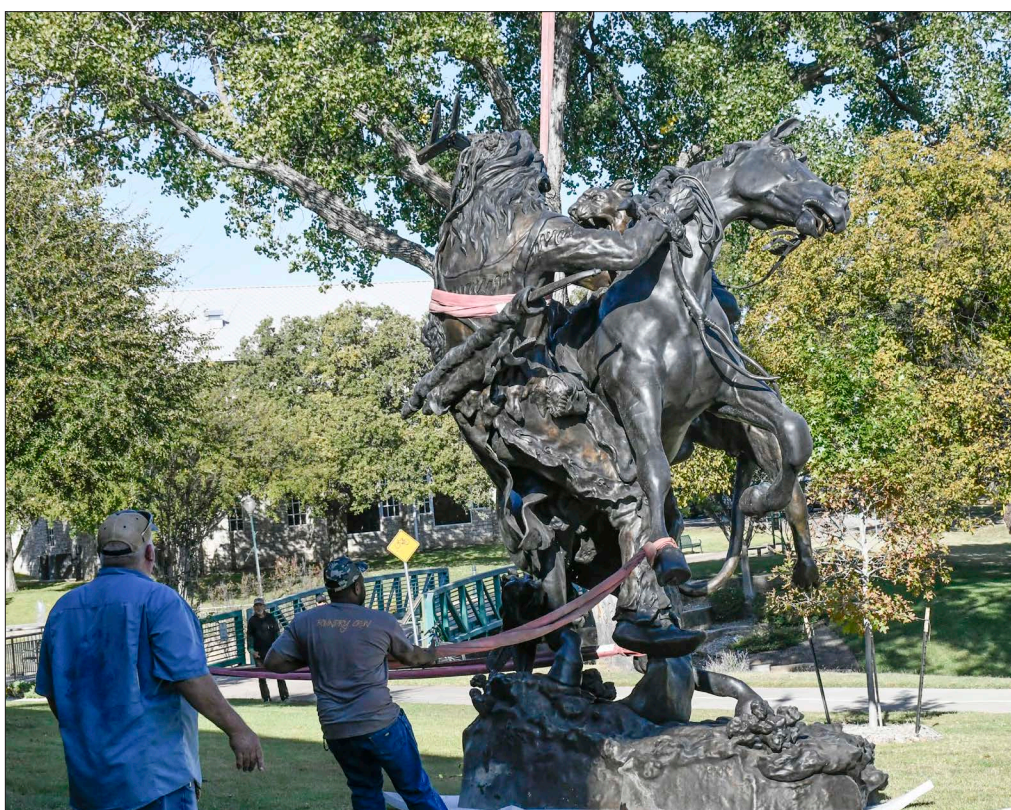
# Covelle bronze sculptures arrive at Shanley Sculpture Garden



"Silent Prey" has found its way home to Shanley Sculpture Garden. The bronze sculpture by artist Covelle Jones, weighing 6,000 pounds, arrived via flatbed Wednesday morning and was hoisted into its perfect placement with a crane. The impressive piece depicts a Comanche warrior on horseback being attacked by a puma. It now commands a prominent spot on the Shanley lawn directly behind Granbury City Hall.

Across the bridge, near the Hood County Library and close to the Hike and Bike Trail, stands another beautiful bronze sculpture by Jones titled "Black Star." This piece represents a Comanche healer and wise woman, originally from the area, and was placed earlier Wednesday morning.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS





# Light the Night



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On Tuesday, Oct. 22, Mission Granbury hosted the Light the Night candlelight ceremony at the Courthouse Gazebo to honor all survivors of domestic violence and remember the Texans who lost their lives to domestic violence in 2023. Candles were lit, each accompanied by personal stories written on ribbons, honoring the 205 Texas women, men and children who were killed by someone who claimed to love them. These ribbons were created by survivors.

From Sept. 1, 2023, to Aug. 31, 2024, Mission Granbury provided services to 322 clients, both residential and nonresidential. Among them were 142 women, 70 children and nine men. The dedicated staff at Mission Granbury answered 950 hotline calls and sheltered 142 women and 70 children in the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children.

Domestic violence occurs in our nation every minute, approximately every 15 seconds. Many people do not fully understand the reality of domestic violence and the number of lives it touches. Sadly, most cases remain hidden behind closed doors. This is why Domestic Violence Awareness Month is essential: to educate the public, raise awareness, and provide the support and strength that victims of domestic violence need.

Please consider donating to support any of Mission Granbury's programs. To learn more and contribute, visit [www.missiongranbury.org/donate](http://www.missiongranbury.org/donate). For assistance, call 817-579-6866 or the 24-hour Crisis Hotline at 844-579-6848.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## READ BELOW; READ THESE CLARIFICATIONS BEFORE YOU VOTE TUESDAY!

### It's the law in Texas.

Local governments (counties) are REQUIRED to be responsible financially for ensuring persons living in their jurisdictions who do not have health insurance or qualify for healthcare assistance programs RECEIVE MEDICAL SERVICES.

26.7% of the county's residents are 65 and older. 15.4% are medically indigent. AND 72 % of all emergency calls are made by persons aged 60 plus.

If the Nov. 5 tax proposal fails, the District could be dissolved. Hood County Commissioners Court would be responsible for paying for healthcare and EMS as required by law.

### Hood County Hospital District Estimated Tax Rate Calculations

	Home Taxable Values	Annual Taxes
Tax Rate for Every \$100 of Value:	\$100k	\$20
	\$200k	\$40
Taxable Value of County Property:	\$300k	\$60
	\$400k	\$80
Anticipated Annual Revenue:	\$500k	\$100
	\$600k	\$120

### The District does NOT fund or operate the hospital.

Lake Granbury Medical Center, whose parent organization is Community Health Systems (CHS), is part of one of the largest for-profit healthcare networks in the U.S.

Passage of the proposed tax rate would provide funding for expanded and improved Emergency Medical Services COUNTY-WIDE.



<https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/hchd>



GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

# What to know when hiring a Texas REALTOR®

**JACQUE GORDON**



Jacquie and her husband David moved to Granbury in 2007. They have five children and 15 grandchildren. A REALTOR® since 2017, she has been with Keller Williams her entire career and in Gary Keller's top 200 agents in the company for the past year. She was a Granbury Association of REALTORS® board member for three years and is now president of the board. jacquiegordon@kw.com | 817-243-4324

**N**o one is better at guiding you through a real estate transaction than a REALTOR®. Your REALTOR® is a trusted professional who can help you understand local conditions, find and market properties, negotiate, and keep your transaction on track through closing. Here are a few things to know when hiring a REALTOR®:

**THERE IS NO STANDARD COMPENSATION**

There are no rules that set the amount brokers charge. Each brokerage independently decides what to charge and what services to provide. Some brokers charge a commission, while others charge a flat fee, hourly fee or fees

for specific tasks.

Just like when you hire a lawyer, car mechanic or architect, you get to shop around for the real estate brokerage that best suits you — the one that provides the services you want for a price you are willing to pay.

Some brokers may choose

to negotiate fees and services with clients, while others may decide not to. It is an independent business decision up to each broker.

**EXPECT A WRITTEN AGREEMENT (EVEN IF JUST LOOKING)**

Business relationships work best when all parties are on the same page. Whether you are buying or selling, you and your REALTOR® will sign a written agreement that spells out what services the broker will provide and how you will be charged. Even if you are just looking and a broker agrees to show you homes for no charge, you should expect a written agreement noting those details.

**COOPERATIVE COMPENSATION IS AN OPTION**

Selling brokers are not required to share their compensation with the buyer's broker (a process referred

to as cooperative compensation). However, many home sellers and listing brokers do offer cooperative compensation to help market the home. Why? Most mortgage lenders don't allow broker compensation to be added to home loans, and many buyers do not have the financial ability to pay their buyer's broker out-of-pocket on top of the other costs of buying a home. Cooperative compensation can make a home more affordable to a greater number of buyers.

Your REALTOR® is the professional who can make your next move as smooth as possible. REALTORS® have the knowledge and skills to help you make informed decisions and reach your real estate goals.

If you are looking for a real estate professional, you can find a full list of REALTORS® and contact information by visiting the Granbury Association of REALTORS® website at [www.Granburyrealtors.com](http://www.Granburyrealtors.com).



COURTESY PHOTO BY DEAGREEZ, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Your REALTOR® is the professional who can make your next move as smooth as possible. REALTORS® have the knowledge and skills to help you make informed decisions and reach your real estate goals.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**VOTER FRAUD**

Have you heard of the businessman whose product had been accused of not functioning as he promised? He hired two consulting firms, paying over a million dollars to prove if it worked

or not. Both firms demonstrated the product did not function as promised. However, the businessman went on to keep advertising that it worked. This harmed many people. What should be done about this? That businessman is

Donald J. Trump. He hired the consulting firms Simpatico Systems and BGR to prove massive voter fraud. They did the opposite. They were hired in November 2020 and finished their work well before Christmas. So, Trump knew he had lost the

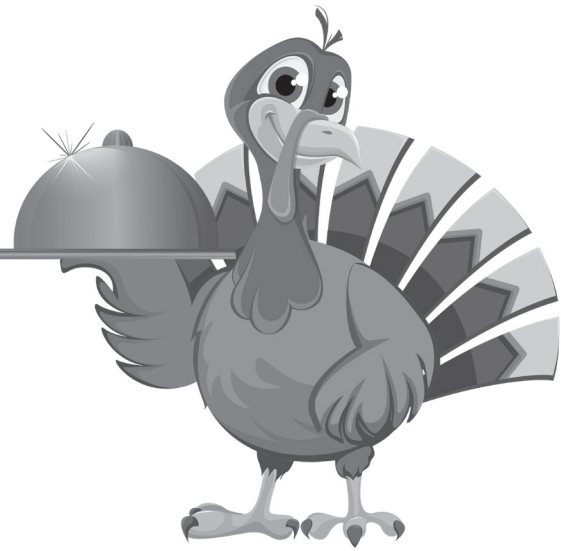
2020 election because there was no mass voter fraud. Still, Trump promoted that the election had been stolen, called for the crowd to come to Washington, D.C. Jan. 6 to stop the constitutional proceedings to certify the 2020 election.

So please, when Trump claims there was massive voter fraud if he loses the 2024 election, don't get upset and take up arms. Just ask for real proof and not just Trump's word. If you don't believe me, check out the owner of Sympatico

Systems Ken Block's book "Disproven: My Unbiased Search for Voter Fraud for the Trump Campaign, the Data that Shows Why He Lost, and How We Can Improve Our Elections."

**James McCalip**  
Granbury

# Brookshire's **WIN A FREE TURKEY**



### Rules:

1. Fill in the entry blanks on this page and deposit them at the named establishments.
2. One winner will be drawn from the entries in each of the 21 sponsor's boxes.
3. Drawing for the 22 turkey winners will begin **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**.
4. No purchase necessary, and participants must be 18 years of age or older.
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**PLEASE SEE MORE | A10**



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

5260  
**Moving/Hauling**  
HAULING & CLEAN-OUTS  
Usually same or next day service, no job too large or small. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

5260  
**Plumbing**  
PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE WORK  
Clean-outs, French Drains, and French Pit. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

**SPORTS & RECREATION**  
6040  
**Guns**  
LOOKING FOR Small gauge shot gun. Small caliber rifle & handgun for grandchildren. Text 432-582-3019.

6070  
**RV's/Travel Trailers**  
2019 Coachman Freedom Express 192RBS 22.5ft. / 4142lbs. Always kept in covered storage within Granbury city limits. \$13,900. Email mav1999@yahoo.com for photo.

6570  
**MERCHANDISE Firewood**  
PREMIUM Split seasoned oak, \$450 cord, \$300 half cord, delivered and stacked. CASH ONLY. 817-243-6827

6620  
**Miscellaneous**  
WAGON YARD.COM We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery Clocks, Elec Lamps. 817-573-5321

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

**LIVESTOCK & PETS**  
8030  
**Pets**  
JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING  
Very Reasonable; Senior Discount (817) 408-5288  
wilsonjulianne@gmail.com

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

8040  
**Pets Lost & Found**  
IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact  
Hood County Animal Control,  
1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048.  
817-573-4277

**EMPLOYMENT**  
8510  
**General**  
Granbury ISD is currently looking for a Director of Maintenance to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysid.org/jobs>  
Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Part time security officer in the Fort Worth area for day shift. Also local special events. Ed Herne (817)326-4933 Heron Security

**Hood County News**  
The Hood County News is hiring a part time delivery driver.  
Hours variable, evenings included.  
Clean driving record required.  
Competitive pay and great work environment.  
Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.  
Come join the Hood County News team!

Granbury ISD is currently looking for Food Service Workers to join our outstanding Child Nutrition team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysid.org/jobs>  
Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Granbury ISD is currently looking for a Director of Maintenance to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysid.org/jobs>  
Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Hood County News**  
Find Contractors, Service Technicians, Landscapers, Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Carpenters, Painters, and more in the  
**CLASSIFIEDS**  
[www.hcnews.com](http://www.hcnews.com)



8510

**General****PECAN PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

Part-time receptionist for front desk. Shift 2pm-10pm. \$12.50-\$13 an hour. Part-time & full-time housekeeping staff. \$12-\$13 an hour. Contact sarahlord@ppoaweb.com or call (817) 573-2641 ext 335

Facilities maintenance, pay based on experience, full-time. Roads and grounds department, \$14-\$16 an hour, full-time. Contact Daniel VanPatten, daniel@ppoaweb.com or call (817) 573-2641, ext 342 (leave message for return call).

Granbury ISD is currently looking for a Carpenter to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysid.org/jobs> Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for an HVAC Assistant to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysid.org/jobs> Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Hood County News

**The Hood County News is hiring a responsible, committed leader in our insert room.**

**The insert supervisor is responsible for coordinating the insert team to effectively meet multiple daily deadlines.**

**Must be detail oriented, have flexible hours and be comfortable in a fast-paced warehouse environment.**

**Mechanically inclined and forklift experience are pluses.**

**Competitive pay and great work environment.**

**Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.**

**Come join the Hood County News team!**



Hood County News

**The Hood County News is hiring responsible, committed part time help in our insert room. Job duties include labeling, bundling and preparing papers for shipment.**

**Competitive pay and great work environment.**

**Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.**

**Come join the Hood County News team!**

8520

**Construction**

Experienced painters and remodelers needed. Pay based on experience. Must have transportation and phone. 817-578-8387.

**NOTICES**

9031

**Public Notices**

LEGAL AD

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

CANYON CREEK, UNIT 3, LOT 24R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, November 12th, 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.

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Gandhari Enterprises Inc., dba Gandhari Enterprises Inc., to be located at 535 S Morgan Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of the corporation are Rakesh Gandhari, President.**

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Gandhari Enterprises Inc., dba Gandhari Enterprises Inc., to be located at 2201 S Morgan Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of the corporation are Rakesh Gandhari, President.**

9031

**Public Notices**CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
TRC 109 & 114  
CAUSE NO. C2023463

CHEYENNE NICOLE GALINDO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF E.G. AND H.G., MINORS vs.

NOAH SHAWN DYKES AND JACKIE LYNN DYKES  
IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: NOAH SHAWN DYKES AND JACKIE LYNN DYKES

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of the issuance hereof. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation, a judgement may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.TexasLawHelp.org)."

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by CHEYENNE NICOLE GALINDO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF E.G. AND H.G., MINORS as Plaintiffs, against the above named person(s) as Defendant(s), by Plaintiffs Original Petition filed on the 30th day of NOVEMBER, 2023, in a certain suit styled:

CHEYENNE NICOLE GALINDO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF E.G. AND H.G., MINORS. VS. NOAH SHAWN DYKES AND JACKIE LYNN DYKES. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2023463.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff CHEYENNE NICOLE GALINDO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF E.G. AND H.G., MINORS, by and through their attorney of record, LEES. "KENNY" PEREZ OF KENNY PEREZ LAW, 1900 NORTH EXPRESSWAY 77, STE. A, BROWNSVILLE, TX 77821 brought suit under Cause No. C2023463 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas. On November 02, 2022, Plaintiff's Cheyenne Nicole Galindo and her minor children, E.G. and H.G., were traveling Northbound in the 1100 block of South Morgan Street. Defendant, Noah Shawn Dykes, while attempting to make a left turn on to a parking lot, failed to yield the right of way, and struck the Plaintiffs' vehicle. Defendant, Noah Shawn Dykes was operating a vehicle owned by Defendant, Jackie Lynn Dykes.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 19TH day of SEPTEMBER 2024.

WITNESS: ROBERTA ZAMARRON CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS BY Sarah A. Roach, Deputy

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On-Premise Permit by Whisker Creek Ventures dba The Twisted Whisker, to be located at 1901 S. Morgan Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Amber Hausler Co-Owner and Gayle McGuire Co-Owner.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Monika Gerlinda Molder, Deceased, were issued on September 25, 2024, under Docket No. P10387 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Joe Marvin Molder.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Joe Marvin Molder, Independent Executor of Estate of Monika Gerlinda Molder

c/o Jacob Pelley Scott Pelley, P.C.  
717 North Crockett St.  
Sherman, TX 75090  
Telephone: 903-964-0852  
Telecopier: 903-487-0273

By: /s/ Jacob Pelley State Bar No. 24071120  
jacob@scottpelley.com  
Attorneys For Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on October 24, 2024, Letters of Guardianship of the Person and Estate were issued to LeAnna R. Valdes by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Guardianship of Sara M. Rodriguez, an Incapacitated Person, under Cause No. G00520, 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: October 28, 2024  
LeAnna R. Valdes  
Guardian of the Person and Estate of Sara M. Rodriguez  
c/o Christian & Christian PLLC  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email: marjoe@christianandchristianlaw.com  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4003  
Attorney for LeAnna R. Valdes

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on October 24, 2024, Letters of Guardianship of the Person and Estate were issued to LeAnna R. Valdes by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Guardianship of Sara M. Rodriguez, an Incapacitated Person, under Cause No. G00520, 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: October 28, 2024  
LeAnna R. Valdes  
Guardian of the Person and Estate of Sara M. Rodriguez  
c/o Christian & Christian PLLC  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email: marjoe@christianandchristianlaw.com  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4003  
Attorney for LeAnna R. Valdes

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on October 23, 2024, Letters Testamentary were issued to DONALD SPRING by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Venita V. Spring, Deceased, under Cause No. P10509 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.

9031

**Public Notices**NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF  
ADDITIONAL MEETING PLACES  
OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

TO THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF CRESSON CROSSROADS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2 AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Cresson Crossroads Municipal Utility District No. 2 (the "District"), at a meeting of said Board held on September 19, 2024, established additional meeting places outside the boundaries of the District at 16000 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75248; and 15950 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 125, Dallas, Texas 75248. The meeting locations are hereby declared to be public places and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board. Additionally, pursuant to Section 49.062(b), Texas Water Code, the meeting locations are not located within ten (10) miles of the District, as such locations are more cost-effective meeting locations than locations within ten (10) miles of the District.

CRESSON CROSSROADS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2

/s/ Bill Cherry  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:  
/s/ Timmy Yeary  
Secretary, Board of Directors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on October 23, 2024, Letters Testamentary were issued to DONALD SPRING by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Venita V. Spring, Deceased, under Cause No. P10509 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: October 23, 2024  
Donald Spring  
Independent Executor of the Estate of Venita V. Spring

c/o Christian & Christian PLLC  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/s/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email: marjoe@christianandchristianlaw.com  
1405 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4003  
Attorney for Donald Spring

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bessie Irene Poe, Deceased, were issued on October 23, 2024, in Cause No. P10504, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Don Carl Poe.

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

c/o: Tracy S. Bush, attorney for Don Carl Poe  
201 E. Bridge St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Paul Randolph Baranowski, Cause No. P10537, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Margaret F. Pointelin in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Declare Heirship and for an Agreed Independent Administration, Appointment of Independent Administration with Power to Sell Property and Serve without Bond Pursuant to Sections 401.003, 401.005 and 401.006 of the Texas Estates Code, or Alternatively, for Appointment of a Dependent Administrator of the said Estate of James Paul Randolph Baranowski, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

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

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 24th day of October 2024.

Christine C. Leftwich  
Hood County Clerk  
P.O. Box 339  
Hood County, Texas 76048  
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

Granbury Independent School District is requesting quotes RFQ 2024-18 for Acton Elementary School Serving Lines.

The specifications are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. Quotes will be accepted until closing on November 22nd, at 10am.

All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online.

If you have trouble connecting to ionwave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or [Bradee.Drake@granburysid.org](mailto:Bradee.Drake@granburysid.org)

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, August 23, noon, at Hood County Annex I meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information, 817-579-3200.

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, August 23, noon, at Hood County Annex I meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information, 817-579-3200.

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9031

**Public Notices****TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN AIR QUALITY STANDARD PERMIT FOR PERMANENT ROCK AND CONCRETE CRUSHERS

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 177776

**APPLICATION.** Scott, Daniel, 1821 County Road 2960, Kopperl, TX 76652-4607 has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration Number 177776, which would authorize construction of a permanent rock and concrete crusher. The facility is proposed to be located at 10905 W US Highway 377, Tolar, Hood County, Texas 76476. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.965625,32.373467&level=13>. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on October 3, 2024. The executive director has determined the application was technically complete on October 16, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** Written public comments about this application may be submitted at any time during the public comment period. You may submit public comments either in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/). Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. The deadline to submit public comments is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.** A written response to all relevant comments will be prepared by the executive director after the comment period closes. The response, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and requested to be added to the mailing list. The response to comments will be posted in the permit file for viewing.

The executive director shall approve or deny the application not later than 30 days after the end of the public comment period, considering all comments received within the comment period, and base this decision on whether the application meets the requirements of the standard permit.

**CENTRAL/REGIONAL OFFICE.** The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office and the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office, located at 2309 Gravel Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76118-6951, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning the first day of publication of this notice.

**INFORMATION.** For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Scott, Daniel, 1821 County Road 2960, Kopperl, TX 76652-4607, or by calling Mrs. Melissa Fitts, Senior Vice President, Westward Environmental at (830) 249-8284.

Notice Issuance Date: October 24, 2024

9031

**Public Notices**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. SUP-2021-12 Specific Use Permit for Dwellings, Single-Family, attached use in Central Business zoning; located at 210 E. Ewell St.

2. SUP-2024-12 Specific Use Permit for Office, Professional, General in R-7 Single-Family Residential located at 605 W Doyle St.

3. Z-2024-11 Planned Development Amendment from Planned Development/Multiple-Family to Planned Development/Multiple-Family; located at 717 Hill Blvd.

4. CP-2024-02 Future Land Use Plan amendment from Medium Density Residential to High Density Residential located at 805 Hill Blvd.

5. Z-2024-07 Zoning Change from Light Commercial to Multi Family located at 805 Hill Blvd.

6. CP-2024-03 Future Land Use Amendment from Retail Office to Commercial located at 3700 FM 4.

7. Z-2024-08 Zoning Change from Interim Holding to Heavy Commercial; and from Interim Holding to Light Commercial, located at 3700 FM 4.

8. SUP-2024-05 Specific Use Permit for Daily Outdoor Display in Heavy Commercial zoning; located at 3700 FM 4.

9. CP-2024-04 Future Land Use Amendment from Low Density Residential to Retail/Office located at 4120 E US Hwy 377.

10. Z-2024-14 Zoning Change from Interim Holding to Planned Development Light Commercial; located at 4120 E US Hwy 377.

11. PL-2024-27 Replat of Lot 4R Blk 5 Crites Addition; located at 912 W Bridge St.

For more information, contact Community Development at 682-279-8250, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

Granbury 76048

**Garage Sales 76048**

3801 Kikaga Rd - Fri & Sat 11/1 & 11/2, 8am-4pm. Home decor, vintage cast iron, furniture and much more.

**New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique**

817-964-3445  
1204 Water's Edge Dr.,  
(Across from the Movie Theatre)  
#heretohelp

Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm  
Sat. 10am - 4pm  
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

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

Granbury 76049

**Garage Sales 76049**

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 4320 Old Granbury Rd- ONE DAY ONLY - Furniture, Fall and Christmas decorations, western art, household items and tools Saturday November 02

**Garage Sales 76049**

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 4320 Old Granbury Rd- ONE DAY ONLY - Furniture, Fall and Christmas decorations, western art, household items and tools Saturday November 02

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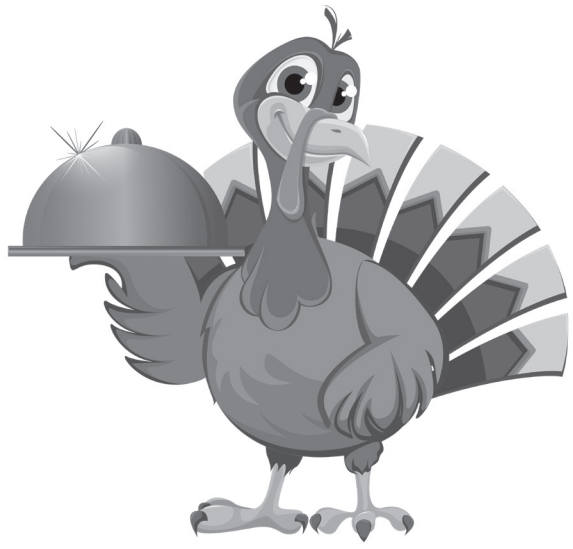
GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 4320 Old Granbury Rd- ONE DAY ONLY - Furniture, Fall and Christmas decorations, western art, household items and tools Saturday November 02

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 4320 Old Granbury Rd- ONE DAY ONLY - Furniture, Fall and Christmas decorations, western art, household items and tools Saturday November 02



**Brookshire's**  
food & pharmacy

# WIN A FREE TURKEY



## Rules:

1. Fill in the entry blanks on this page and deposit them at the named establishments.
2. One winner will be drawn from the entries in each of the 21 sponsor's boxes.
3. Drawing for the 22 turkey winners will begin FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15.
4. No purchase necessary, and participants must be 18 years of age or older.
5. No photo copies ...please.
6. Employees of this paper or contest sponsors are not eligible.

Register now at any of these participating businesses!

**Win A Turkey**



608 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, Tx 76048  
682-205-1337  
www.bbqgrillsergeant.com  
ENTRY VALID ONLY AT THIS LOCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph \_\_\_\_\_

**Win A Turkey**



1460 E Hwy 377 Granbury  
(817) 573-2008  
www.sandibeachestx.com  
ENTRY VALID ONLY AT THIS LOCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph \_\_\_\_\_

**Win A Turkey**



1462 East US Hwy 377, Granbury  
(817) 279-1160  
www.facebook.com/p/Firehouse-Cafe-Granbury  
ENTRY VALID ONLY AT THIS LOCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph \_\_\_\_\_

**Win A Turkey**



600 S. Harbour Court, Granbury, Tx 76048  
817-326-3134  
www.skinmdonline.com  
ENTRY VALID ONLY AT THIS LOCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph \_\_\_\_\_

**Win A Turkey**



TEXAS STATE OPTICAL  
Since 1936  
1316 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, Tx 76048  
682-498-8750  
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# County reconsiders catalytic converter grant amid Flock camera privacy concerns

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

A resolution that was initially approved as a promising solution for crime prevention Oct. 8 was reconsidered last week, as the Hood County Commissioners Court revisited the discussion due to privacy concerns.

**INITIAL APPROVAL**

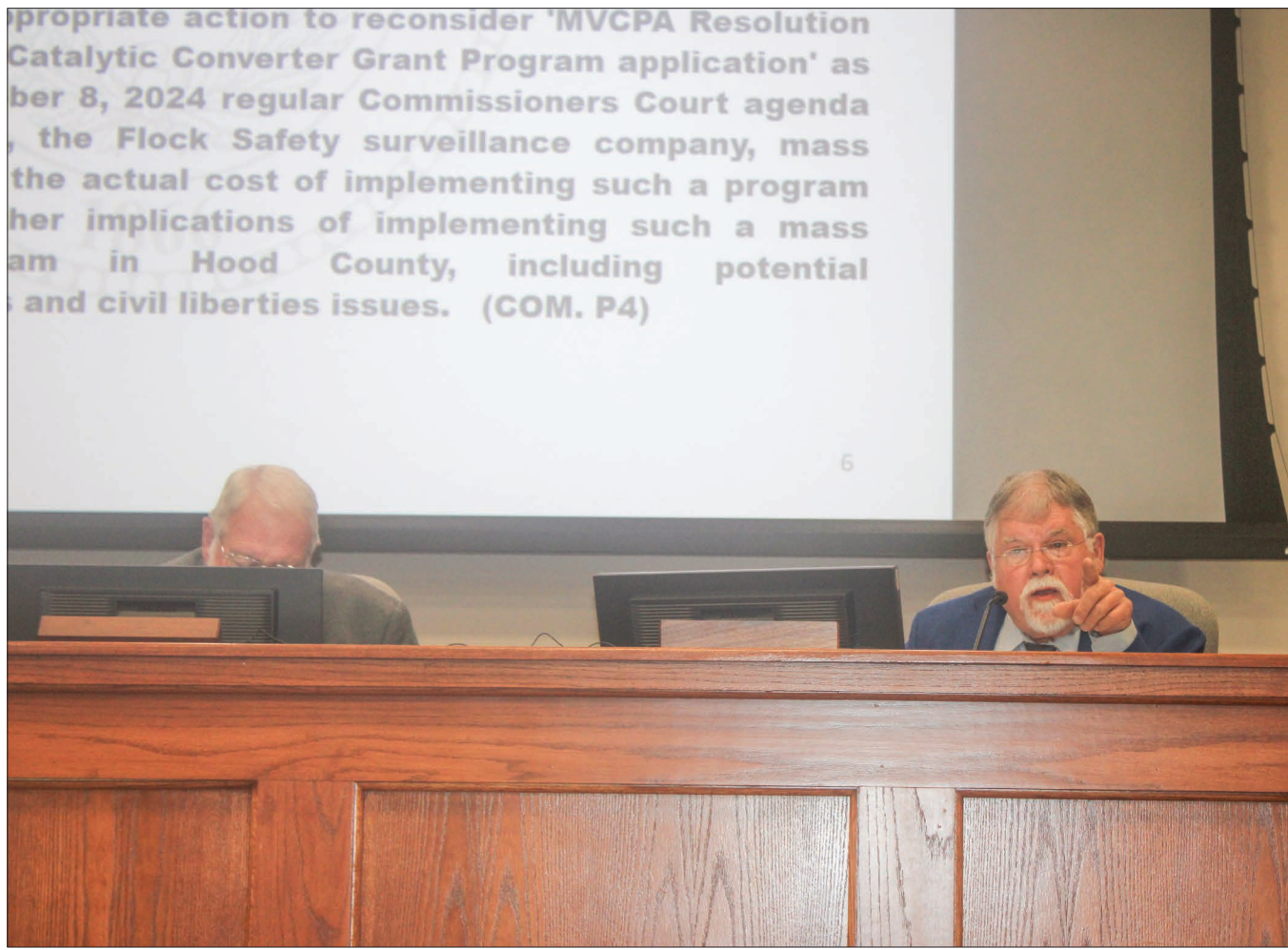
During a regularly scheduled meeting Oct. 8, the county approved a resolution that will ultimately fund the installation of surveillance cameras along key highways and intersections.

The resolution — issued by the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority — was required to be signed by Hood County Judge Ron Massingill in order to apply for Senate Bill 224's Catalytic Converter Grant Program.

According to the resolution, entities are eligible to receive grants from MVCPA to provide financial support to law enforcement task forces and agencies for economic motor vehicle theft, including catalytic converter theft.

Last court, Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Campbell explained that after talking with the Hood County Sheriff's Office, she believed the most effective approach in tackling auto theft is to install cameras along U.S Highway 377.

Using the company Flock Safety, cameras would be installed along several key roads, like Weatherford Highway, Temple Hall Highway, Lipan Highway,



**Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle expresses a privacy concern over Senate Bill 224's Catalytic Converter Grant Program during a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Oct. 22.**

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Massey Road and Cleburne Road. License plate recognition cameras would also be placed at major intersections on U.S 377, including locations at Overstreet Boulevard, Water's Edge Drive and Farm-to-Market Road 4, as those areas have a history of serious accidents.

**RECONSIDERATION**

While the agenda item initially passed last court, Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle placed it back

on the agenda for reconsideration, citing the need for transparency and a thorough discussion on the potential implications for privacy and civil liberties.

He explained that the agenda item initially focused on the catalytic converter grant program, and that it lacked clarity regarding costs and the involvement of surveillance cameras.

"There's nowhere in there that says anything about Flock, there's nowhere in

there that says anything about the cost, so I was concerned," he explained. "So, I didn't really pay that much attention to that agenda, until it came to the podium, but when we got to the agenda item, it became a lot more, so I had some issues with transparency."

Eagle cited Texas Government Code 551.041, which states, "A governmental body shall give written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of each

meeting held by the governmental body." He also referenced the Open Meetings Act Handbook of 2024, which states, "The notice must be sufficient to apprise the general public of the subjects to be considered during the meeting."

"It's already been voted on, but I felt like this needed to be a subject of discussion, because most people that can read the agenda in the way that was written wouldn't know exactly

what it was about," Eagle said. "There's a whole lot of controversy out there about these Flock camera systems, and I felt like this needed to be a discussion where if somebody wanted to come up and discuss it or voice their opinions, I think we should be afforded to listen to that."

Eagle also highlighted a significant issue surrounding the reasonable expectation of privacy, referencing a 2012 Supreme Court case, United States v. Jones, which addressed the legality of extensive surveillance. By using a GPS device on a vehicle, law enforcement successfully arrested several suspects, but Eagle pointed out that Justice Antonin Scalia ruled the surveillance as an "unreasonable search and seizure."

He also noted the decline in catalytic converter thefts in Hood County, stating that while the county has had 59 occurrences total, only one incident occurred this year and only six in 2023.

"It's an upside-down pyramid," Eagle said. "We're down to one this year so far, so we're headed to zero for catalytic converter thefts, so I have to question: Is that really what we're doing here?"

Eagle also noted that he believes there will be a case developing out of the Flock software, due to concerns about its implications for privacy.

"We shouldn't do anything without having a reasonable, fact-based discussion about it, and listen to all viewpoints," he said. "Then, if the decision is made with both eyes open to go forward with

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RAMBLINGS OF A GRILL SERGEANT

# BRING ON THE BRINE

*Using brines and injections to lock in moisture and flavor*

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIRIPONG, ADOBESTOCK.COM

By Larry Lindsey

**B**rining is a great way to guarantee your Thanksgiving turkey is juicy and full of flavor. Whether you are smoking, roasting, frying or even cooking your bird on a rotisserie, a good brine locks in moisture, while adding flavor to every bite.

There are several options available for preparing your brine. You may simply make your own brine by mixing salt, water and the additional seasonings of your choosing. A very basic recipe is nothing more than kosher 1/2 cups salt, 1/2 cups sugar, brining liquid or water, and seasoning of your choosing. Mix together, boil for 5 minutes. Let cool to 40 degrees. Place turkey in brining bag, or food safe holding container and store under refrigeration for about an hour a pound.

A 12-pound turkey should be refrigerated for about 12 hours.

Many of the current pitmasters offer brining mixes and kits to make it simple and easy. At Grill Sergeant, we have available Meat Church's "Bird Baptism" brine, which is excellent for both turkey and chicken. We also offer Sucklebuster's "Area 51 brining kit," which includes a brine bag, a basic brine mix, and a pack of mixed herbs for additional flavor. Heath Riles' "Chicken

Injection and Brine," and his "Butter Bath & Wrap," round out our selection.

In addition to brining, you may wish to consider injecting as well. Yes, both. Doing both the brine and injection takes that everyday yardbird to a whole new level of flavor excellence. At Grill Sergeant we stock injectors, injections, brine buckets and bags, and all the essentials for getting your turkey ready for the grill, smoker, fryer or oven. Don't overlook that rotisserie you probably seldom use. Whatever cooking equipment you choose, the brining and injecting will take your Thanksgiving dinner to a new level of flavor, tenderness, and of course, juiciness.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DIPO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

A very basic brine recipe is nothing more than kosher 1/2 cups salt, 1/2 cups sugar, brining liquid or water, and seasoning of your choosing.

## Give this beloved side a tasty twist this holiday season



(MetroCreative Connection)

Hosts have free rein when it comes to planning a holiday menu. Despite that freedom, many hosts feel obligated to prepare some holiday season staples their guests will surely expect when they sit down at the dinner table.

Stuffing is a dish many celebrants can't wait to see on the holiday dinner table. For hosts trusted with preparing holiday meals, the beauty of stuffing lies in its versatility. A host of unique ingredients can be added to holiday stuffing without adversely affecting the popularity of this beloved side dish. In fact, adding some unique ingredients can make people love stuffing even more. Such could be the case with this recipe for "Pecan-Cherry Bread Stuffing" from Lines+Angles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WAHYU, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Adding some unique ingredients can make people love stuffing even more. Such could be the case with this recipe for "Pecan-Cherry Bread Stuffing."

### PECAN-CHERRY BREAD STUFFING

Makes 8 servings

- 1 loaf crusty white or wheat bread, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus extra for baking dish
- 1 medium yellow onion, peeled and diced
- 2 large celery stalks, rinsed, trimmed and diced
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 cup packed dried tart cherries
- 1 cup roughly chopped toasted pecans
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh sage leaves
- 1 tablespoon crushed fennel seed
- Coarse salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup fresh chopped parsley
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth

#### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Position oven racks in the middle and lower third of

the oven. Arrange bread in a single layer on two rimmed baking sheets. Toast until dry and golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool.

2. Lightly butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion, celery and garlic and cook, stirring frequently, until onion and celery are softened, about 7 minutes. Add cherries, pecans, sage, and fennel seed; cook, stirring for 1 minute. Transfer to a large bowl and season with salt and pepper.

3. Add parsley, eggs and bread to the cherry mixture; stir to combine. Add broth in two additions, stirring until absorbed. Season generously with salt and pepper; transfer stuffing to buttered baking dish. Bake on middle rack until the top is deep golden brown, about 25 to 30 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

**Preparation time:** 30 minutes  
**Cooking time:** 50 minutes  
**Resting time:** 5 minutes

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# COURT

FROM PAGE A4

— often funded by taxpayer dollars and membership dues. As this lobbying can conflict with the interests of individual counties and the legislative priorities set by the Hood County Commissioners Court, the resolution calls for legislative action to restrict these lobbying activities.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Harold Granek expressed concern that the proposed legislation might hinder beneficial initiatives for the community.

Granek said he believes that while taxpayer-funded lobbying should be scrutinized, the influence of wealthy individuals in lobbying can overshadow public interests, particularly in politics. He cited an example involving SpaceX, where lobbying led to public beaches being closed, because the “person who heads Space X has managed to use lobbying to get his advantage.”

“I think this just needs to be looked at much more carefully,” Granek added.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill also emphasized the critical role of the Texas Association of Counties and its legal advisor, Jim Allison, in providing valuable support to Hood County. He also noted that all members of the commissioners court have relied on TAC for guidance on various issues, advocating that TAC is an invaluable service to Hood County.

“Using the term ‘taxpayer-funding lobbying,’ this sounds good, but it would bar local officials from expending funds to contact the legislator or support non-profit associations that communicate on their behalf, like the county judges and Commissioners Association of Texas,” Massingill said. “This misguided proposal would silence the voice of local officials while increasing the influence of special interest groups. That’s what the real problem is up here.

“If this could say, ‘except for Texas Association of Counties,’ I’d probably be all over this, because that is one thing that this county needs, and all rural counties really need is to keep the Texas Association of Counties and Jim Allison (because they’re) fighting on behalf of what is in the best interest of all counties.”

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews acknowledged the valuable services provided by TAC, such as research and advice. However, he emphasized that these benefits do not justify activities like lobbying.

“Some of the stances that TAC takes, I very much think are against the taxpayers individually, and the taxpayers have a voice,” Andrews said. “People have a voice ... What we have with taxpayer-funded lobbying is a dominance by the cities, Houston, Austin and San Antonio, and those groups that are spending huge money lobbying the legislators to get specific

things passed that harm the counties. This is the kind of thing that I’m opposed to, and I’m absolutely in favor of this resolution.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that she previously spoke in favor of banning taxpayer-funded lobbying, as she came up to the podium at a prior commissioners court and opposed a resolution from her predecessor.

“I am also in favor of banning taxpayer-funded lobbying for the same reasons that Commissioner Andrews has mentioned,” Samuelson said. “Since being in this chair, I have seen communication from lobbyists that we are supporting with your tax dollars, supporting people in positions that are pro-taxation, pro-big government, and anti-free market and anti-citizen, and I get those emails and I’m like, ‘We’re paying for this,’ and I am not in favor of this position or this person, and yet we are sending your tax money to support that organization.”

Samuelson stated that she has used TAC frequently as a resource to interpret the law or to give advice, but she said she advocates for letting her constituents have a voice.

“I’m supporting you,” she said. “You asked me to get in touch with the legislature, which I’m doing, as you know, on our situation out in Mitchell Bend. I’m talking to not just (Rep.) Shelby Slawson and Sen. Brian Birdwell, but other legislators as well, and so I have that voice. I don’t pay a lobbying firm that doesn’t agree with the way that the citizens that I represent voted me here to do.”

Eagle also added that the resolution acknowledges TAC as a valuable resource. He stated that recently, he attended a TAC legislative session and discussed the issue with Jim Allison, highlighting that while he respects Allison’s expertise, they disagree on this particular matter.

“Jim Allison is a great attorney, and he’s got some great ideas, and he’s very, very helpful in many areas, but on this particular point, we just disagree — and that’s okay. This is the Republican platform. This is the Republican legislative priority. This was voted on by the Republicans that bothered to go down to the convention and take part in this process. This was a legislative priority, one of eight.”

Eagle then made the motion to approve the resolution, which is in support for legislation that would ban all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying. Following a second from Andrews, the motion passed 3:2, with Massingill and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson voting in opposition.

Copies of the resolution will be transmitted to Sens. Middleton, Bettencourt and Hall, as well as to Reps. Slawson and Ellen Troxclair as well as the Texas Legislature to ensure the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying be discontinued at the highest levels.

# OBITUARIES

## James R. Osborne

August 8, 1941 - October 26, 2024

James “Jim” Osborne, 83, of Castle Rock, Colorado, died Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, peacefully in his sleep.

He was born on Aug. 8, 1941, in Elmhurst, Illinois, to Conrad and Dorothy Taylor Osborne. On Jan. 4, 1964, he married Janice E. Miller in Villa Park, Illinois.

He retired in 1998 after 36 years from AT&T. He spent his career in micro-wave, digital and analog. He was also an amateur radio operator belonging to several radio clubs. After he retired, he relocated to Granbury, Texas where he was active in the Hood County Amateur Radio Club and the Lions Club.

With the radio club, he assisted the Hood County Sheriff’s Office as a severe weather spotter, and assisting in emergency disasters. He often said, “it was the only place I ever lived where I was friends with the county judge, county attorney and the county sheriff.”

He served in the United States Army for three years, and as a Vietnam veteran was a lifetime member of the American Legion. In Granbury, he belonged to the Joiner-Fitzhugh Post 278. He served as a 6th district commander in Texas for two years.

He is survived by his



wife Janice; sons Jeffery and Jamie (Sylvia); granddaughters Ashley, Nicole (Ivan), Kristi (Justice), Brynna, and Sloane; great-grandchildren Aiden, Jamie, and Brooklynn; sister Nancy (Frank), niece Julie (Al), great-nieces and great-nephews, and cousin Alan (Miki).

Visitation for Jim was held Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Olinger Andrews Caldwell Gibson Chapel, 407 Jerry Street, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104.

Committal service will occur Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, Colorado.

His amateur radio call sign was NJSO. To all his amateur radio friends: his mic is now silent.

Memorial contributions can be made to American Legion, Lions Clubs International Foundation or Wounded Warrior Project.

## Charles Nelson Baldwin

January 27, 1922 - August 27, 2024

World War II pilot Charles Nelson Baldwin “slipped the surly bonds of Earth” for the final time Aug. 27, 2024 — five months shy of his 103rd birthday — as one of nine grandchildren and one of 18 great-grandchildren read the poem “High Flight” at his bedside. He passed peacefully in his Granbury, Texas residence.

Baldwin was born Jan. 27, 1922, in Clarendon, Texas to Charles Rodney and Willie Nell Richards Baldwin. Raised in Artesia, New Mexico, Charles graduated from Artesia High School before enlisting and serving in World War II as a P-47 fighter pilot, flying 51 missions in the European Theater.

Upon his discharge from active duty at war’s end, Baldwin returned to Artesia and the family’s clothing store business, marrying high school sweetheart Peggy Hamill and starting a family that would eventually include three children: Rick, Judy and Russ.

The family moved to Lamesa, Texas, in 1964 where Charles managed Baldwin’s Department Store until his retirement in 1987. A community leader, Baldwin was known for his integrity, humor, and commitment to family.

Annual family summer trips to Colorado partially satisfied his life-long love of fly fishing and camping. But it was upon his and Peggy’s retirement that they were able to truly embrace their love of southern Colorado, serving as U.S. Forest Service campground hosts for many years.

During that time, Baldwin tapped into his thespian side by performing before campground audiences. Appearing as “The Spirit of Robert Service,” Baldwin recited such classics as The Cremation of Sam McGee and The Call of the Wild.

A stroke and the subsequent passing of wife Peggy in 2005 was followed by a serendipitous second marriage in 2011, to for-



mer Lamesa resident Myrna Bogle. The two resided in Lubbock, Texas, until 2022, when they moved to Granbury to be closer to daughter Judy and son-in-law Michael.

Baldwin was active to the end. In February he was able to re-experience his World War II years by flying in a vintage AT-6 trainer, the plane that prepared him to serve during the war. In June he, his son Russ, and a group of 65 other veterans flew to France, where they joined in commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

He was preceded in death by first wife Peggy, sister Bernie Marie, and brother Sonny Boy. Survivors include wife Myrna, now of Mineral Wells, Texas; Judy Brooks and husband Michael of Granbury, Texas; Rick Baldwin and wife Bobbie of Kenai, AK; J.R. “Russ” Baldwin of Anchorage, Alaska; nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was a wonderful stepfather and was loved dearly by his stepchildren: Mike Strahan (deceased), Randy Strahan, Neil Strahan, Ted Strahan, and Shari Strahan John.

His celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2024 at Stonewater Church in Granbury, Rev. Paul Carpenter from the First Christian Church in Lubbock will officiate. Memorials can be made to Steel Hope (steelhope.org), an organization dedicated to helping veterans and first responders in need.

## SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- home of the Dr. Pepper Museum
- TXism: “mean \_\_\_ old range cow”
- TX Don Henley co-wrote “Life in the Fast Lane”
- religious FM in McCook, TX
- TXism: “if a hog \_\_\_ wings he’d be an eagle”
- George H.W.’s Avenger was shot down in WWII
- 1st pres. of Rice: Edgar \_\_\_ Lovett
- TXism: “\_\_\_ been a snake it would have bit you”
- Texas rancher Chuck Norris film: “\_\_\_ Silence”
- TXism: “\_\_\_ caged cougar”
- C&W singer, Conway
- TX Roy Orbison hit: “In \_\_\_”
- former Cowboy lineman, Newton
- TXism: “bid \_\_\_”
- naval construction worker
- TXism: “a \_\_\_ bones” (skinny)
- \_\_\_ phone
- San Antonio’s “Tower of \_\_\_”
- TXism: “opossum on the \_\_\_” (armadillo)
- TXism: “in the \_\_\_ luxury”
- TXism: “went \_\_\_ once too often”
- they can be illegal
- TXism: “got an overdose of \_\_\_” (sad)
- “Ground Zero, Texas” was a 1993 game
- hot peppers: jala \_\_\_
- Cowboy Micah Parsons position (abbr.)
- in Concho County on U.S. 83 & 87
- possesses fed. gov.’s broadcasting “Voice” (abbr.)
- to be human
- wide blue yonder
- State Fair mo.
- Texas-based Pillow-tex made \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ pillows
- actress Adams of “Racquet” with TX Lynda Day George
- Nocona Boot slogan: “\_\_\_ Rodeo!”
- TXism: “\_\_\_ of breathing room”
- assn. for Texas care providers (abbr.)
- “Hello Walls” singer Faron (init.)
- former Cowboy, “Prime Time” (init.)
- concerning
- apiece
- Confederate general Robert \_\_\_
- starred with TX Martin in “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”
- Santa Anna ruse at San Jacinto (2 wds.)
- TX Hyer film: “The \_\_\_ of Katie Elder”
- TX Kenny Rogers’ “\_\_\_ Believes in Me”
- Sinatra in film “Four for Texas” (init.)
- med. testing (2 wds.)
- TXism: “\_\_\_ a soul” (no one)

# Cutting spending can help boost retirement savings

**TAYLOR MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser

If you’re a parent, like most of us, you may someday want to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Your ability to achieve this goal will depend on how much you save — but it also matters how much you spend.

And saving and spending are certainly related: The more you can reduce your spending, the more money you could have available to save for retirement through your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Over many years, even relatively small amounts diverted



Taylor Mobly

from spending to saving and investing could add up substantially.

How can you go about potentially reducing your spending? Here are a few suggestions:

### USE A BUDGETING TOOL

If you’re not already doing so, you might want to consider using a free online budgeting tool. Among other capabilities, these apps can place your spending in categories — groceries, travel, entertainment, and so on — which can reveal redundancies that,

once eliminated, could save you money. For example, you might find that you’re spending a not-insignificant amount on streaming services you rarely use. Or you might be surprised at how often you go the grocery store, rather than consolidating your visits and reducing the likelihood of “impulse” purchases.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

If you work for a mid-size or large company, you may have an extensive employee benefit plan, which could include discounts on some products and services. Also, if you are enrolled in a

high-deductible health plan through your employer, you might have access to a health savings account (HSA) or flexible spending account (FSA), either of which may let you lower your out-of-pocket health care costs by using pre-tax dollars to pay for deductibles, copayments, coinsurance and some other qualified expenses.

### SHOP AROUND FOR INSURANCE

To some extent, we are all creatures of habit, which can be good in some circumstances and not so good in others. In the “not so good” category, many people stick with their auto, homeowners

and life insurance policies year after year, even though they might be able to save some money by switching to another company. But even if you stay with your current company, you might find ways to save money by taking steps such as adding a home security system. Check with your insurer to learn more.

### COMPARE CREDIT CARDS

There’s a piece of financial advice that essentially says: “Pay cash for everything” — and this isn’t a bad idea. Ideally, you might want to use a credit card rentally for items such as car rentals or hotel reservations, and you should pay off the bill

each month to avoid interest charges. Sometimes, though, you may need to use your card for other purposes, and it may not always be possible to pay your bill in full. That’s why you’ll want to review credit cards periodically to find one with lower interest rates, a favorable balance transfer offer and a better rewards program.

It’s not always easy to cut down on your spending, but when you do, it can provide more peace of mind — and an opportunity to boost your savings for what could be a long and active retirement.

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# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

### EVERY DAY

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

### SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

**ACTON 12** Step Group meets at 7 p.m. at 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 grief support group meets from 3-5 p.m. for those who have lost a loved one through death, including the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 28 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. Next session begins Oct. 20. Christian based, non-denominational and welcome all who are suffering. Parish Hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Phillis and Bill Brewer at 817-573-8915 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.

**ACTON AL-ANON** 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information call 817-308-3300.

**ONGOING PEDALING** for Parkinson's classes at the Hood County YMCA. Stop by front desk for paperwork packet and info. Doctor's release required before your first class. Classes are on stationary bikes and assistance is provided by certified instructors. Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. Pedaling a bike from 80-90 RPMs for 40 minutes has been proven to help with Parkinson's symptoms. Call for more information 817-408-0559.

### EVERY TUESDAY

**PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S** in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m. A noncontact 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. Next session begins Sept. 10, 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: Grief-Share.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY,** Christ-centered recovery program. Free dinner 6-6:45 p.m., large group meetings 7-8 p.m., small group meetings 8-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

**ACTON 12** -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

### EVERY THURSDAY

**TAKE OFF** Pounds Sensibly (TOPS). 8:45-10:45 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133C, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 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 Thurs-

day at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com.

**ACTON 12** -Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

**ONGOING PEDALING** for Parkinson's classes at the Hood County YMCA. Stop by front desk for paperwork packet and info. Doctor's release required before your first class. Classes are on stationary bikes and assistance is provided by certified instructors. Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. Pedaling a bike from 80-90 RPMs for 40 minutes has been proven to help with Parkinson's symptoms. Call for more information 817-408-0559.

### EVERY FRIDAY

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY,** Christ-centered recovery program. 12 step groups 7-8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

**ACTON AL-ANON** 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information

call 817-308-3300.

### 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 MONDAY

**LOCAL CHAPTER** 238 of the Disabled American Veterans now meets at Charterhouse, 959 Charterhouse Circle, Granbury at 7 pm. The purpose of each meeting is to help the Veterans Administration keep its promise to take care of disabled veterans and to promote camaraderie among veterans, both men and women.

### 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 817-894-

2449 or Danny Dwight 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 Disease 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 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 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.

## GRANT

FROM PAGE A11

something like this, then that's fine."

### COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Hood County Republican Party Chair Greg Harrell echoed Eagle's sentiments as he expressed serious concerns about deploying Flock cameras.

"We have had a number of items presented before this court talking about the deployment of Flock cameras, and on the surface, it seems good ... but we have to be concerned about the practical and the principles when we talk about the deployment of Flock cameras," he said. "Number one, in terms of practical is, 'OK, who owns that data?' and number two, 'Where is the data stored, and who has access to the data?' These are concerns that ought to really be in the forefront of each and every citizen, especially here in free Hood County and free Texas."

As for the principal perspective, Harrell explained that an invasion of privacy is a huge issue, as he referenced Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, who noted that we must safeguard our freedoms even when government actions seem beneficial.

"On the surface, it seems like these are good things that we are doing, but they do lead to something that can be really, very badly abused. We have to be concerned about that," he said. "When we talk about the Flock cameras, we talk about the issue of deploying at large this type of surveil-

lance against the public. I think we need to stop, take a deep breath and really consider what we're doing here in the long run."

Resident and Precinct 409 Chair Bradley Yarborough expressed concerns similar to Harrell regarding access to data from Flock cameras. He suggested limiting access to the Hood County Sheriff's Office or just allow access for a few authorized employ-

ees to prevent misuse.

Yarborough also criticized Eagle for not paying attention to agenda items and for bringing the matter back for discussion after a vote had already been calculated.

"On this agenda item in Eagle's own words, he said, 'It was on the agenda and I didn't pay attention to it.' A commissioner, not paying attention to an item that was on the agenda? That's your job, so that kind of concerns me a little bit," Yarborough said. "And then another area of concern is he said he's putting it back on the agenda because y'all didn't get a chance to discuss it ... You had all the opportunity in the world to discuss this, but what I'm hearing is, 'I didn't

like the way the vote went so I'm going to put it back on here."

### SECURITY SAFEGUARDS

As discussion from county officials began, Shawn McGuire, the emergency communications manager for the Hood County Sheriff's dispatch center, emphasized the importance of oversight in the use of surveillance tools. He explained

court?" Eagle asked.

In response, McGuire referenced an Attorney General opinion from July 1999, which established that certain medical information within CJIS could not be released. The ruling indicated that the National Crime Information Center is a nationwide database that protects sensitive criminal justice information from public access, thus affirming

times that is looked at and viewed as going against the department's policy, because it's not for a criminal investigator," she said.

MacLeod added that all of Flock Safety's data is held in the Amazon Web Services government cloud, which is "encrypted end-to-end," and "held in the highest security."

"Your data is defaulted to a 30-day retention, and

tains no sensitive or biometric data and that the devices do not have public-facing IP addresses, which reduces the risk of hacking.

Samuelson also brought up the point of "bad actors" obtaining more than just license plates, including the make and model of someone's vehicle.

McGuire reassured Samuelson that the surveillance system operates differently than what many people might imagine from movies. He explained that the data is not monitored live; instead, alerts appear on their screens when a stolen vehicle is detected. He explained that the information provided includes only a photo of the license plate and basic details about the vehicle, without any additional context or surveillance footage.

Rather than recording video like several surveillance cameras, McGuire noted that the Flock cameras only capture still photographs, adding that one Flock camera takes 1,035 snapshots in one hour — similar to toll cameras.

With Johnson County and the city of Granbury already utilizing the Flock cameras, McGuire stressed how beneficial they are, especially when it comes to Silver or Amber Alerts.

"I know we talk about criminal, criminal, criminal, but it's way more than just getting vehicles back and catalytic converters," he said. "There's way more to this than just that."

"I appreciate y'all having the ability to uncover crime and Amber Alerts," Eagle said. "You know, somebody with dementia driving around. We don't know what happened to grandpa, but he took the car ... I get all that."

Eagle then made a motion to nullify the last vote to allow the court more time for research on SB224's Catalytic Converter Grant Program and to place the item on the agenda for a future meeting. However, the motion failed for lack of a second, meaning the original 4:1 approval from Oct. 8 still stands.

*"It's already been voted on, but I felt like this needed to be a subject of discussion, because most people that can read the agenda in the way that was written wouldn't know exactly what it was about. There's a whole lot of controversy out there about these Flock camera systems, and I felt like this needed to be a discussion where if somebody wanted to come up and discuss it or voice their opinions, I think we should be afforded to listen to that."*

### DAVE EAGLE

Precinct 4 Commissioner

that mechanisms such as audits and data retention policies are in place to maintain accountability, while data that's collected would be retained for only 30 days and then deleted.

"The data is ours. We said that last time. It's retained for 30 days, and then it's gone," McGuire said. "The transparency portal will be set up today, on the Hood County Sheriff's Office web page, and it will show how many vehicles have been looked at through the Flock camera."

According to McGuire, the portal would provide public access to information about vehicle searches conducted through the cameras and would also include data on recoveries of stolen vehicles and other items. He clarified that the system is designated as a Criminal Justice Information System, which means the data is not accessible through public records requests.

"That is our data at the sheriff's office," he said. "Nobody else is going to be entitled to it."

"You said that they've certified that the public cannot get their hands on this data via an open records request, but has that been tested in

that similar data collected by its system would also remain confidential.

McGuire noted that the cameras would only be looking for crime, as it's for "law enforcement purposes only."

"The Flock Safety license plate reader images are just taking the image of the back of a vehicle and storing that for law enforcement to be able to use for criminal investigative purposes," Flock Safety representative Blaine Parsons said. "There's no personal identifiable information associated with that image. It's just an image of a vehicle. It doesn't tell law enforcement who drives the vehicle, who owns it, who's in it, or what they're doing."

Flock Safety Community Affairs Manager Kristen MacLeod addressed the commissioners to clarify the handling of public records related to their data. She emphasized that all data collected is fully owned by Hood County and will never be accessed or sold without the county's explicit consent.

"Many jurisdictions have interpreted that if there is a broad public records request, where someone is wanting all of the license of the information on this date from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., many

**Last Puzzle Solution**

S-1714

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# Oak Trail Shores community advocates for road repairs at county meeting

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Residents of Oak Trail Shores recently gathered at a Hood County Commissioners Court meeting to advocate for the county's acceptance of Lakeshore Drive as a maintained road.

While a failed motion ultimately left community members feeling discouraged, residents Terry McDonnell and Donald Rohde remained determined to make their voices heard, as they discussed how the road's deteriorating condition poses a potential safety hazard to the community.

McDonnell, who previously served as president of the Oak Trail Shores homeowners association, spoke at the meeting Oct. 22, and explained that he successfully advocated for several road repairs in the community with the help of former Precinct 4 Commissioner Steve Berry.

"I got all the roads except two in Oak Trail Shores done, and of those two, one of them is a side road, and the other one is Lakeshore Drive," McDonnell said. "It took me almost two years to convince him (Berry) (to get the roads fixed). I hope it's not going to take this long this time."

He noted that there is a provision for safety which requires that roads be maintained in a manner that ensures safe access to the com-



**Donald Rohde, Oak Trail Shores resident, advocated for the county to accept Lakeshore Drive as a maintained road, during a Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Oct. 22.**

munity. McDonnell urged the commissioners to vote in favor of this motion and invited Rohde, another resident from Lakeshore Drive, to share additional insights about the road conditions and its impact on the community.

Rohde, a new resident to the community, explained that he had been "thrown into the fire" to represent other neighbors on Lakeshore Drive as they advocate for change. He shared several letters from fellow residents requesting urgent repairs, adding that the road is in "really bad shape," and marked by huge potholes. He also recounted a personal experience where emergency responders struggled to access the road after his niece was injured on a jet ski, which re-

sulted in a lengthy detour to reach her.

"I don't know that I've seen another road in Hood County that's in this kind of condition," he said. "It's really a mess over there ... We pay the same taxes as everybody else in Hood County, and we just want roads that look like everybody else's; that's all we're asking."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle explained that the subject of Lakeshore Drive has been raised multiple times. He emphasized that certain requirements must be met for the road to be accepted into the county maintenance system, so he arranged for Road Operations Director Donald Linney to inspect the road and provide an evaluation.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Linney noted that he visited Lakeshore Drive Oct. 10, and observed several significant issues, including numerous potholes and areas that have settled unevenly. He pointed out that some sections lack adequate drainage, likely due to past landslides affecting the hillside.

However, he explained that, based on the 2019 policy established by the Hood County Commissioners Court, the road does not currently meet the necessary criteria for acceptance into the county road system.

"Here's the problem," Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews said. "I get a lot of calls on this situation too, especially being on the more rural part of the county. We have a lot of roads out

here that aren't great, like private maintained roads, and for us to take all of these into the county system, that cost would be hundreds of millions of dollars to take these roads in, to fix them and bring them all up to spec. What we require is that if the road is brought to our standards, then we will adopt and take over maintenance."

"There's a precedence," McDonnell added. "There's a precedence here that was done at the time we did the roads the first time, and to look into that precedent, it says that those roads are supposed to be maintained to where they're safe ... It is a safety issue, it's a health issue, and it's a problem that can be solved ... Eventually you're going to have something happen down there that needs to be addressed, so why not get ahead of it, and get them maintained now, to where we can travel around those roads?"

Linney elaborated that the situation regarding Lakeshore Drive had been discussed previously when Berry served as commissioner. He noted that the road's right-of-way is not very wide, which raised concerns among past commissioners if the county were to assume liability for the road.

Eagle also explained that for a road to be maintained by the county, a developer must first dedicate the road to the county, and then the county would need to formally ac-

cept it for maintenance. He emphasized that without this acceptance, the county cannot maintain the road.

He also noted that in the past, the county encountered issues where it accepted roads that were not built to the required specifications, which resulted in significant costs for taxpayers — a situation that has led to stricter guidelines since 2019.

Linney also noted that while the roads have been repaired and chip-sealed since 2019, the county still faces challenges in maintaining them due to limited resources for repairs.

"Since this is in my precinct, I'm going to try to help these folks out," Eagle said, as he made a motion to accept Lakeshore Drive in Oak Trail Shores as a county-maintained road from Forrest Park to Canyon Trail.

However, Eagle's motion died for lack of a second from his fellow commissioners, leaving both McDonnell and Rohde frustrated.

"What do we do when it's washed out?" McDonnell asked. "How do the emergency vehicles get to you when it's washed out?"

"You're going to have to fix it at some point," Rohde said. "Sorry, gentlemen," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said, as he added a suggestion that the homeowners association take on the responsibility of repairing the road.

## POLICE BLOTTER

# City of Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Oct. 22-28. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

**OCT. 22**  
12:07 a.m.: shots fired on S. Morgan Street  
9:18 a.m.: noise disturbance on Prestwick Court  
3:07 p.m.: suspicious vehicle on W. Pearl Street  
3:25 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on S. Morgan Street  
4:42 p.m.: disorderly conduct on N. Park Drive  
5:32 p.m.: criminal mischief on Thorp Spring Road  
\*\*One major accident, two

minor accidents and 32 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*  
Oct. 23  
1:02 a.m.: suspicious person on W. U.S. Highway 377  
12:42 p.m.: theft on Second Street  
1:38 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377  
4:02 p.m.: missing person on Harbor Lakes Drive  
4:57 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
5:14 p.m.: noise disturbance on Crawford Court  
5:37 p.m.: animal bite on W. Bridge Street  
5:55 p.m.: assault on W. Pearl Street  
\*\*Two major accidents, four minor accidents, a warrant service and 31 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**OCT. 24**  
12:33 a.m.: terroristic threat on W. Mill Street  
9:27 a.m.: child found on E. Pearl Street  
10:59 a.m.: sexual assault on W. Pearl Street  
1:14 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377  
4:00 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
7:47 p.m.: threat on E. U.S. Highway 377  
8:45 p.m.: noise disturbance on N. Plaza Drive  
\*\*One major accident, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 13 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**OCT. 25**  
12:37 a.m.: noise distur-

bance on S. Cherry Lane  
10:13 a.m.: theft on Spanish Oak Drive  
11:10 a.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377  
1:26 p.m.: criminal trespass on Sunflower Lane  
2:48 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
8:45 p.m.: noise disturbance on Granbury Lake Drive  
\*\*One major accident, a warrant service and 46 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**OCT. 26**  
12:03 a.m.: intoxicated person on S. Morgan Street  
1:07 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
1:23 p.m.: noise disturbance on S. Park Drive  
9:06 a.m.: harassment on

Cherry Lane  
1:23 p.m.: noise disturbance on S. Park Drive  
1:58 p.m.: animal bite on Post Oak Street  
7:33 p.m.: minor in possession of tobacco on S. Morgan Street  
\*\*Four minor accidents and 22 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**OCT. 27**  
12:54 a.m.: harassment on Chanel Drive  
3:12 p.m.: identity theft on Crawford Court  
5:07 p.m.: theft of property on Tahiti Drive  
6:49 p.m.: mentally ill person on Torrey Street  
7:15 p.m.: fraud on Fowler Drive

7:20 p.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377  
\*\*One minor accident and 25 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**OCT. 28**  
12:12 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377  
7:12 a.m.: noise disturbance on Donna Circle  
10:48 a.m.: vehicle recovered on Western Hills Trail  
12:36 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377  
12:55 p.m.: theft over \$750 and under \$2,500 on Chanel Drive  
\*\*One minor accident, a warrant service and 13 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

## CALENDAR

**FROM PAGE A4**  
**THE NORTH** Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 East U.S. Highway 377. Program will be presented by Dr. Richard Selcer, professor at Texas Christian University and author of Civil War books. Selcer will speak about the causes of the Confederate loss at the Battle of Gettysburg. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first time attendees.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ncentextcwr.com>, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Election of new officers and political discussion. 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 East U.S. Highway 377. Details: 254-716-5195.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 12**  
**SALVATION ARMY** Women's Auxiliary monthly meet-

ing begins at 10 a.m. at the Acton Methodist Church youth building, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Guest speaker is Lt. Scott Casey speaking about the MCJROTC program and the seven-time National Championship Rifle Team. The Local Cafe will provide lunch, pot roast and stuffed potato, for \$15. Cash preferred, tip included. Make checks to SAWA. RSVP by Nov. 5 to elizabethjw@hotmail.com

**FRIDAY, NOV. 15**  
**HOOD COUNTY** Hospital Dis-

trict board of directors regular scheduled meeting at noon in the second floor Courtroom, 100 E. Pearl St., Granbury. Questions? Call 817-579-3200.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 16**  
**JEEP ONLY** Club and Rogue22 MC will host the 11th annual Jeep and Motorcycle Show Toy Drive benefiting Hood County Christmas For Children. The event will be held at Brock's Food and Drink from noon-4 p.m. Entry to the show is a new unwrapped gift. Donations as well as raffle items

will be onsite. For additional information, text 817-821-8980 or email [jeeponly@yahoo.com](mailto:jeeponly@yahoo.com).

**"HOMICIDE IN the Hood"** book launch and signing with Hood County native and local author Kelli Martin at Hood County Library from 2-5 p.m. Panel discussion. Books available for purchase; autographs available.

**MONDAY, NOV. 18**  
**AWARD PRESENTATION** for Veterans Day Essay Win-

ners at 5:20 p.m. GISD board room foyer.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20**  
**LAKE GRANBURY** Master Gardeners monthly meeting, 1 p.m. at the Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. Program "Crown of Thorns" with Bill Utley of the Fort Worth Succulent and Cactus Society. For more information call the Hood County Extensions Office at 817-579-3280.

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**GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE**

November 9th, 2024 | 7:00pm  
**Tom Jones Tribute**  
Vince King as Tom Jones

November 15th, 2024 | 7:30pm  
**Mad Men Band**  
Classic Rock hits of the 60s - 80s

November 16th, 2024 | 7:00pm  
**Heartbreaker**  
America's Premier Pat Benatar Experience

November 22nd & 23rd, 2024  
**Josh Weathers**



# Great Granbury Cleanup



PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF GRANBURY

High School group photo.



Student teams clean up near their school.



Full bags collected on Crawford Avenue near Harbor Lakes Drive.



Rotary Club members near Walmart.



Rotary Club member on U.S. Highway 377 near Water's Edge Drive.

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*Happy Thanksgiving!*

As we gather with loved ones and reflect on what we're grateful for, we want to take a moment to express our deepest appreciation to YOU, our loyal customers. It's your trust in us that keeps our family business thriving and allows us to continue serving this incredible community we call home.

From our Daffan family to yours, we wish you a Thanksgiving filled with warmth, joy, and countless blessings. 🍁

Thank you for being part of our Daffan family. Happy holidays!

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## Granbury Homecoming

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School Quarterback Hayden Meyer throwing the ball during the homecoming game Friday, Oct. 25. See more photos B4.



COURTESY OF ERIC WILKINS

After spending many of his younger years wondering if he'd ever have a home, Eric Wilkins has found success in Granbury with VYBE Realty.

## Wilkins' long journey led to success in Granbury

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

Eric Wilkins understands the need for a nice, warm home. Growing up, he bounced around, living under a variety of roofs.

Now, that memory is a driving force in his business, VYBE Realty, a part of VYBE Marketing and Media. In fact, it is an inspiration for all he does in life.

"Growing up in Dallas was both amazing and tough at the same time. When my mom and I moved here when I was 2 years old from North Carolina, we moved in with my one family member that I loved, my great uncle," Wilkins recalled. "I had a stepdad for several years, and that was not a favorable situation for me in many ways.

"Eventually, it was back to my mom, myself and my half-brother living in apartment complexes and basically living on the poor side of things. However, I was exposed to many people who were very different from me in race, religion and lifestyle. It taught me a lot about true American culture. I took a little bit from all of those relationships growing up to become who I

am today."

What he is today is a Granbury and Hood County citizen who loves living here and contributing to the people who have helped make it the most comfortable home he's ever had. He has enjoyed being a local businessman for years, starting GreenFox Marketing in 2016, which has morphed into VYBE post-COVID and serves clients from California to Tennessee.

However, getting to that point required overcoming another more recent challenge.

### ESCAPING THROUGH A SPORT

Like many young people, Wilkins found an escape through sports, in this case rugby, which he started playing in the 10th grade. He recalls his team winning a state championship and finishing third in the nation, which earned him an opportunity to be starting on the Texas All-Star Team.

"Our team won the USA competition of state against state," he said.

PLEASE SEE ERIC | B2

## Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve Forging a path through FFA

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH  
Special to the Hood County News  
eden@hcnews.com

First in a series of stories the Hood County News is providing to its readers about the journey of FFA students during the course of the school year.

The Future Farmers of America began in 1928 by a group of young farmers, according to the organization's website. The mission was to "prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population." More than just planting and harvesting, the group taught that agriculture is a science, a business and an art.

Growing in scope since the 1920s, the motto of the current National FFA organization is "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

Leadership is the key feature of FFA, and with a commitment to the individual student, FFA endeavors to offer each student a path to leadership, personal growth and career success. FFA has grown to include students who want to engage in agriculture while aspiring to be farmers, teachers, doctors, scientists,

business owners and more.

For some students, an interest in FFA comes naturally as their parents and grandparents participated in the organization; for other students, FFA was something they felt drawn to without any family heritage in the group.

The FFA program offers three programs of study under the umbrella of agriculture. These programs are plant science, animal science and agriculture mechanics.

FFA programs are robust programs in Hood County at each of the three public school districts. At Granbury ISD, there are currently 820 students in the program. For the first time ever, a principles of agriculture class was offered at the middle schools — now eighth graders have the opportunity to begin the FFA program.

"Our FFA chapter is extremely diverse. Students from all backgrounds find a home in our program. Many people think that FFA is just showing animals, but boy are they wrong. FFA is about learning leadership, work ethic, teambuilding and integrity and applying it in every aspect of our program. Yes, a majority of our students are

involved for the livestock and ag mechanic shows, but there are also several that only compete on our leadership or career-based teams," shared Erin Wilson, ag science teacher.

Teams vary according to semester. For the fall semester, the GISD FFA teams will be participating in various teams in Leadership Development Events.

This fall, GISD FFA students will participate in the agricultural quiz team consisting of students who will take a 100-150 question test over farm facts, Parliamentary Procedure and FFA knowledge.

The agriculture advocacy team consists of students who prepare a presentation for judges advocating for agriculture.

In the spring, GISD FFA students will compete in Career Development Events such as the vet science team that identifies breeds, tools and parasites/organs that a veterinarian would need to know. Additionally, they have to show competence in skills such as removing sutures.

The entomology team requires

PLEASE SEE FFA | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Young participants in GISD's FFA will be participating in an ongoing feature of The Hood County News. Top Row (left to right): Braden Neal, Audrey McKee, Trace Coker, and Trevin Coker. Middle Row (left to right): Audrey Dunston, Carleigh Kohls and Kynlee Greene. Bottom Row (left to right): Garrett Neal, Alex Richards and Caden Campbell.



# A recipe for success

## GISD enhances free and reduced meal program to ensure food accessibility

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District is taking significant steps to improve its free and reduced meal program — ensuring that every student has access to nutritious food.

As required by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the district has implemented a charge policy this year that allows students to accumulate up to \$20 in meal debt. According to squaremeals.com, charge policies outline how school nutrition programs can provide meals to students when payment can't be collected at the time of service.

Once the \$20 charge limit is reached, students are provided with an alternate meal — or a "café combo meal," — which will allow students to enjoy meals without having to worry about an unpaid balance.

While the previous alternate meals consisted of a cheese sandwich, fruit and milk, Director of Child Nutrition Amy Whiteley explained that the district didn't believe that was enough to meet the nutritional needs of students.

"We wanted more for our kids, so we decided to make it a reimbursable meal," she said. "Now, they can get an entree, a fruit, a vegetable, a grain and milk."

With the café combo meal offering significantly more substantial food options than before, Whiteley noted that the program has seen strong participation — even with students who are not in the free and reduced lunch program.

"Because it's a reimbursable meal, any student can pick it up," Whiteley said. "It doesn't have to just be the student who has met their charge limit, so that really helps kind of eliminate that stigma, especially with students who know they're (on the) free and reduced (meal program)."

An added bonus to the program, Whiteley said, is that while a student may accumulate a negative balance during the school year, that debt is wiped clean at the end of every year.

"Our program cannot carry a negative balance or a negative debt," she explained. "The funding from the district actually pays that."

Whiteley noted that community donations have also been instrumental in supporting unpaid meal accounts.

"We've had lots of people actually call just in the last couple of weeks about want-

ing to donate to kids' meal accounts that are in debt," she said. "It's amazing that the community wants to provide for the kiddos — just like we do."

GISD Board President Barbara Townsend also pointed out that with students' lunch debt getting wiped clean, parents don't have to worry about the amount accumulating the next year.

"It's not hurting the kids at all. It doesn't change anything," Townsend said. "There were stories out there that we make the kids work it off by working in the front office, and that's all wrong. We don't do that ... There's no obvious stigma for the families or the students. I mean, we just want to make sure they're fed."

Currently, GISD is serving about 50% of its student population through the free and reduced meal program, which prioritizes a diverse selection of foods — including an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables.

While the program has seen increased participation overall, many parents and community members still have concerns about the district opting out of last year's meal program.

In May 2023, GISD approved the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision program for the following academic year, which provided free breakfast and lunch to all students in the district.

However, due to a district revenue loss of \$326,065, GISD decided to opt out of the program for the 2024-25 school year.

"Unfortunately, at the end of the year, we ended up losing quite a bit of money from it, and because we can't maintain that loss, we decided it was best to move back to our regular program of having households fill out their free and reduced meal applications," Whiteley explained.

Townsend explained that the district could have maintained last year's program if more families had filled out the free and reduced lunch application. However, since students were already receiving meals for free under the CEP program, many families didn't see the need to fill out one.

"We lost funding because the people saw no reason to fill the form out, and we had no way of documenting the number of people that were at that economic level, so that's what ended up happening," Townsend said. "We could not force anybody to fill out the form, so that's where that problem came from."

She added that many

complaints online were also based on the belief that the program would remain in place for four years, as the program operates on a four-year qualification cycle.

Townsend said while there was the possibility that the program could continue, it also depended on the district being able to demonstrate sufficient participation numbers. Without the documentation from the free and reduced applications though, Townsend noted the district had "no way to show the numbers."

Although the district may not have access to the CEP program now, school officials still do what they can to provide free nutritious meals for students — not only during the school year but throughout the summer as well.

Since 50% of GISD's students participate in the free and reduced meal program, the district is required to host a summer feeding program for at least 30 days every summer. The summer feeding program ensures that students receive healthy food options, while also helping to address food insecurity and support families in the community when school is out of session.

In addition to the required 30 days for the summer feeding program, the district also extends the program every year to meet the ongoing needs of the community, as many families rely on this support during the break.

Whiteley states that the district doesn't provide weekend meals, as district regulations stipulate that the program must operate only during regular school calendar days — but there are other community organizations that step in to help.

Nonprofit organization Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, which provides food security for Hood County residents in need, supplies backpacks filled with food for students to take home over the weekend.

"Kids can't learn unless they're fed," Townsend said. "Hungry kids don't learn — so we do everything we can, and it hurts my heart to see stories that make it sound like we, as a district, would do something against our kids."

Townsend also praised Whiteley for her efforts in sourcing fresh vegetables and fruits from local farmers, adding that she's brought the meal program a "step above where it was before."

"We're all for feeding kids," Whiteley added. "And feeding nutritious meals."



COURTESY PHOTO

Case Brown enters the ring with his red and white calf at the Granbury Young Farmers "Fall Shoot Out."

### FFA

FROM PAGE B1

students to identify and classify insects. FFA students will also be competing in Speaking Development Events in the spring. These events require the students to present to judges various topics related to agriculture.

There are also various special opportunities that arise for the students.

"We have a student who is currently participating in the National FFA Chorus, Audrey McKee. She got to go to

Indianapolis, Indiana, and will be performing at each of the National FFA Convention sessions. RFD TV streams the convention live," said Wilson.

FFA offers something for every student's interest while still honoring the original intent of the organization.

Interviewed for this series were Caden Campbell, Audrey McKee, Alex Richards, Kynlee Greene, Carleigh Kohls, Audrey Dunstan, Braden Neal, Garrett Neal, Trevin Coker and Trace Coker, who will be featured in upcoming stories in the Hood County News.

### ERIC

FROM PAGE B1

That then earned him an opportunity to try out for the United States Under 19 National Team. At the tryout they were picking players for two teams, a travel team and a local developmental team that would compete at the Washington, D.C. Mall in an international competition against other countries.

He became the captain of his team and they won the prestigious Cherry Blossom Tournament in Maryland, an event featuring teams from across the nation.

"This whole experience taught me a lot about leadership, growth, competition, hard work, winning and fitness, all which I use today," he said. "I also lost 100 pounds through playing rugby. I do not play anymore, but I do like to go watch my previous local team, the Dallas Harlequins."

### COMING TO GRANBURY

In 2005 Wilkins' youth pastor and friend, Jeremy White, told him he was moving to a town called Granbury to start a church. Wilkins had no idea what or where Granbury was, but said he felt a strong call to go with him and be the worship pastor.

"So that's what I did. I was the worship pastor and eventually became the creative director overseeing all the service (welcome team, worship, lighting, audio, outreach, events and more)," he said.

He did this for 14 years and is still involved by playing guitar in the band on Sundays and helping with events from time to time. His wife, Autumn, is on staff in children's ministry.

### BATTLING BACK

COVID took its toll on Wilkins' GreenFox business. He had to let all but a half dozen employees go. He also went through a divorce.

"I clung to my faith in Jesus and stayed strong knowing that God was going to one day redeem everything that was going on. I had no idea how or what it would look like but I knew he was going to do it," Wilkins said.

"He gave me the idea to mix the marketing

company with being a real estate agent and create a marketing, real estate machine. So that's what I have now."

He noted that he recently sold his 50th property of 2024.

"For reference, the average agent closes six to 12 properties per year," Wilkins said.

He added that his largest sale to date is a Hood County record, the highest-priced home sold on less than an acre. He said it closed for \$2.45 million in June 2023.

### AN INSPIRATION

Wilkins does consider himself an inspiration and proof that you should never give up.

"I like to think of my story as inspiring for sure," he said, adding that he himself is inspired by the stories of others, especially the "rags to riches" ones.

"One of my inspirations is a real estate broker in New York. His name is Ryan Serhant," Wilkins said. "He has a similar story to mine and now has a marketing agency and a real estate company. I look up to him and his continuous pursuit for marketing and real estate excellence."

Wilkins said his faith and his past also continue to drive him daily.

"I am not one of these kids who grew up with a white picket fence and a great home life. I grew up walking to and from school over a mile from home in a rough part of town with no money and no luxuries," he said. "So I was forced from a young age to just see the good in what I had and what I have in every moment. This is a biblical principle as well."

"Many people know the verse 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.' But the prior verse is what leads to that one and it says 'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.'"

Wilkins also advises surrounding yourself with others who are humble and absorbing the wisdom of their words and the value of their experience. And while he realizes it can sometimes be a challenge, stay positive.

"It doesn't have to be like this forever. Humble yourself, try to find the positive in everything that is happening and whatever you do," he said. "Don't just sit in the mess, get up and do something about it."

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## Celebrate with us in Granbury

<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>11</p> <p>29</p> <p>22-Dec. 23</p> <p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>Nov.22-Dec. 23</p> <p>6-8</p> <p>7</p> <p>6-15</p> <p>31</p> <p><b>JAN</b></p> <p>1</p>	<p>"God's Here" Movie Premiere at Brazos Drive-In Theater</p> <p>Lost in Texas Music Festival</p> <p>Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Memorial Lane</p> <p>Night of Lights Lighted Christmas Parade</p> <p>Santa's House</p> <p>Santa's House</p> <p>Candlelight Tour of Homes</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony</p> <p>Away In a Manger (1,200 Nativity Displays)</p> <p>Hank FM Party on the Boardwalk</p> <p>Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.)</p>
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# Hood County Volleyball

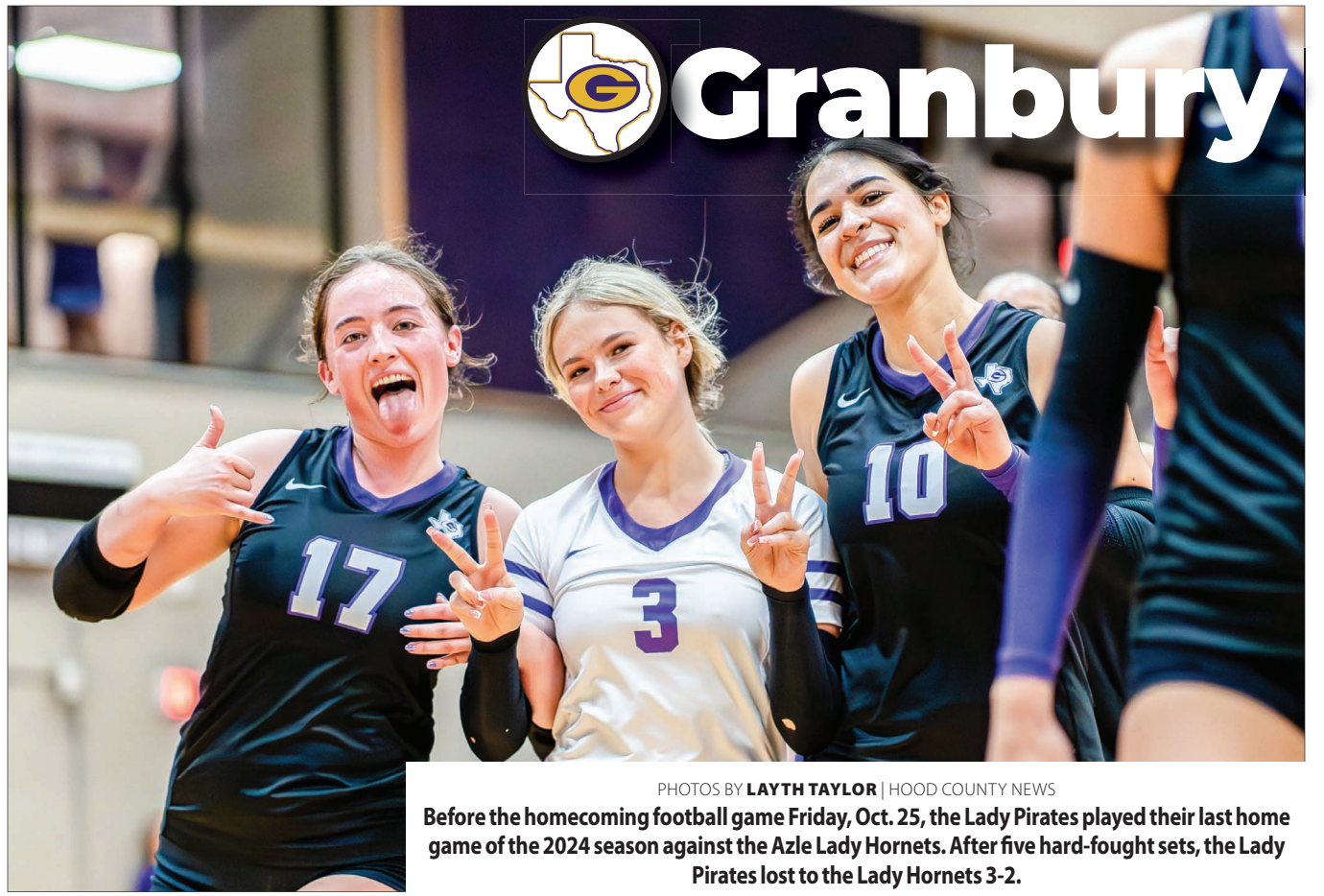


## Tolar



PHOTOS BY **JESSE RAMIREZ JR.** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Tuesday, Oct. 15, the Lady Rattlers faced off against the Millsap Lady Bulldogs in a thrilling match at the Tolar gym. The Bulldogs fought hard, claiming the second set, but the Lady Rattlers secured the victory in the end, extending their winning streak to five games. For full gallery go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com)



## Granbury

PHOTOS BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Before the homecoming football game Friday, Oct. 25, the Lady Pirates played their last home game of the 2024 season against the Azle Lady Hornets. After five hard-fought sets, the Lady Pirates lost to the Lady Hornets 3-2.







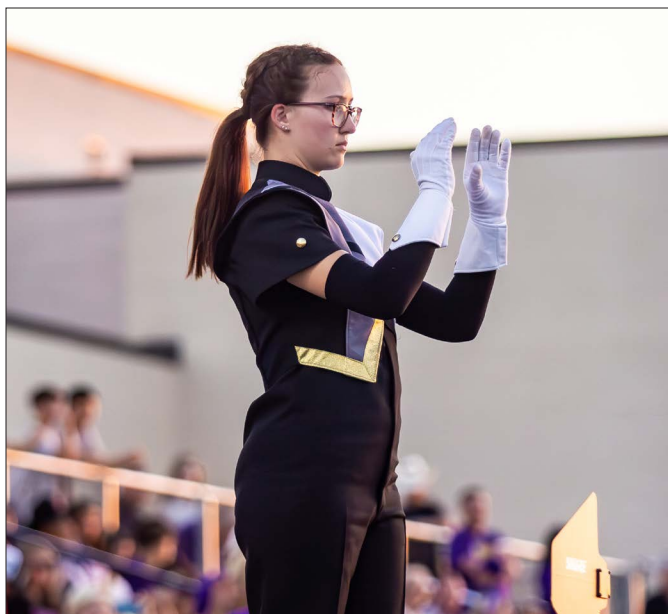
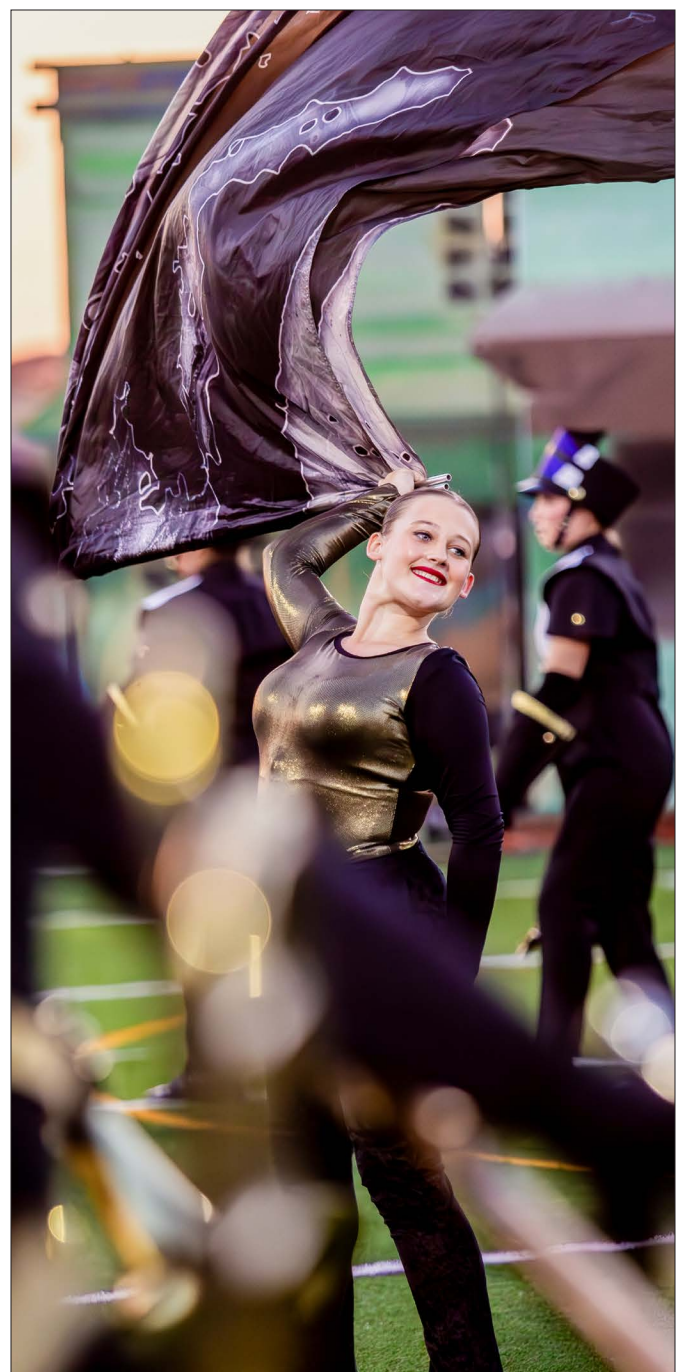
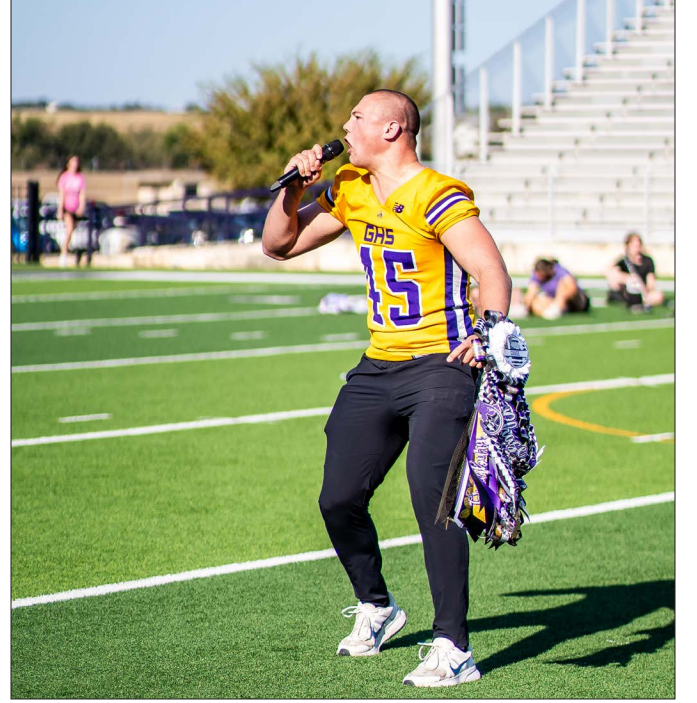
# Homecoming 2024



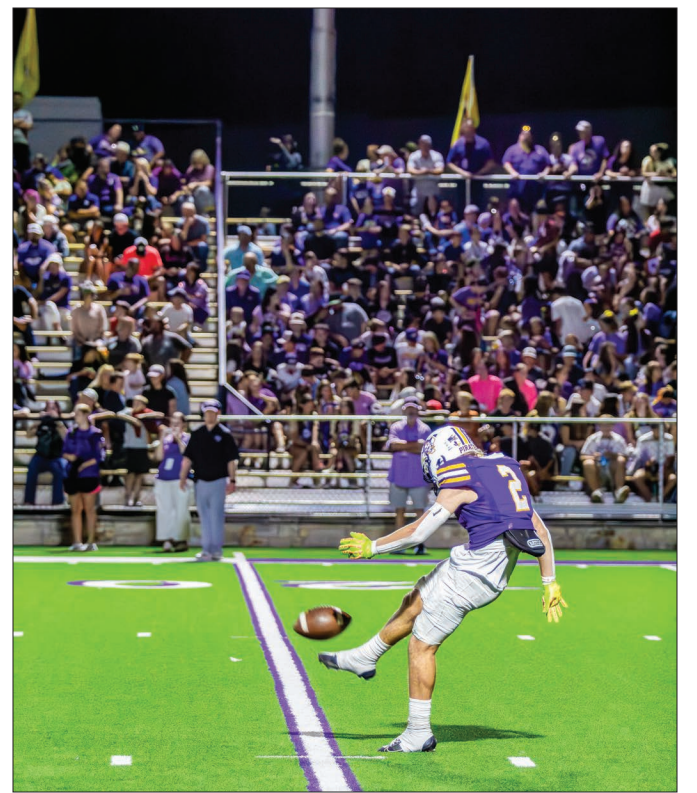
PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School kicked off its homecoming Friday, Oct. 25, with a morning pep rally, where Luis Ramirez-Ortiz was crowned homecoming king. That evening, the DECA team introduced the new "Pirate Cove" tradition, offering barbecue cooked up by the GHS BBQ team and community vendor games before the Pirates faced the Azle Hornets. The Pride of Granbury marching band opened the game, but the Pirates fell to the Hornets in a 14-28 loss. During halftime, the Stowaways performed, and the family of Johnny Perkins, namesake of the GHS football field, was honored before Karmyn Williams was crowned 2024 homecoming queen.

To view the full photo gallery, go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).











PHOTOS BY MELISSA CARROLL AND KELLY MOODY

The Tolar Lady Rattlers volleyball team has set a program record with 29 victories this season as they prepare for the Class 3A playoffs.

# Tolar's Brown reaches milestone

## Lady Rattlers, Lady Pirates prep for postseason

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

With Peyton Brown reaching a milestone, the Rattlers (7-1, 3-0 in District 5-3A Division II at press time) won their 15th consecutive district game dating to 2021 when they won 41-0 at Clifton (5-3, 2-1) Oct. 25.

The senior running back scored the 100th touchdown of his high school. He ended the night with 112 yards on 13 carries with three scores.

For his career, Brown has 5.441 yards with 100 touchdowns despite missing about half of his junior season with an injury.

Tolar was hosting Brady (7-1, 3-0) at press time in a game that will likely decide the district champion.

Tolar ends the regular season at Eastland (3-5, 0-3) Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

Brady ends the regular season by hosting Clifton Nov. 8.

Other offensive leaders vs. Clifton: Briton Rice 9-of-11, 162 yards, TD; Kelvin Murry 36-yard TD run; Cash Clark 3-yard TD run; Brylen Feist 35-yard TD catch; Noah Yanish three catches, 64 yards; Dacen Watkins three catches, 41 yards.

Defensive leaders vs. Clifton: Drake Owens nine tackles, one for loss; Hunter Michels seven tackles, two for loss, fumble recovery; Yanish six tackles.

Eastland offensive player to watch: Cayden Alford 94 yards rushing per game.

Eastland defensive players to watch: Alford 7.4 tackles per game, Cameron Wilson three sacks.

The Mavericks have defeated the Rattlers in each of their previous two meetings.

### GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (25-21, 8-4 in District 5-5A) dropped a thrilling 3-2 home contest to Azle on Oct. 25, leaving them, the Lady Hornets and Chisholm Trail in a battle for second place entering the

final week of the regular season. The trio finished tied.

Aledo has won the league title.

After dropping the first game against Azle 25-19, Granbury won the next two 25-10 and 27-25, before the Lady Hornets won the final two 25-23 and 15-12.

Granbury ended the regular season with a 3-0 win at Brewer, securing third place in the league.

Leaders vs. Azle  
Kills: Sienna Watts 25, Blakely Bleeker 16  
Aces: Watts 3  
Blocks: Watts 3  
Digs: Lilyan McCall 42, Allyson McCabe 27, Watts 21, Audrey Greinert 20  
Assists: McCabe 42  
Receptions: Greinert 22, McCall 18, Watts 17, Mattie Weaver 16

Leaders vs. Brewer  
Kills: Wells 12, Bleeker 10  
Digs: Weaver 19, McCabe 19, Greinert 15, McCall 14  
Assists: McCabe 34  
Receptions: McCall 18

The Lady Pirates will begin the playoffs Monday, Nov. 4 against Colleyville Heritage (32-6), ranked fourth in the state, at the Arlington Athletic Complex on Division Street at 6 p.m.

### TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (29-9, 13-1 in District 8-3A) set a program record for victories in a season with wins of 3-1 at Early Oct. 26 and at home against Comanche Oct. 29.

In the process, Abbie Soileau recorded her 1,000th career assist and Senne Imel registered her 1,000th career kill.

The 29 wins breaks the previous mark of 28 in 2014 and 2019. The Lady Rattlers have also won 22 of their past 23 matches entering the postseason.

"Pretty cool," first-year Tolar head coach Amber Terrell said of the record. "Just a talented team with so much drive. They work hard every day. I'm just so honored to be a part of this special season."

Standouts against Early were Kamryn Kolb and Emori

Murphey for their defense and serving.

The Lady Rattlers and Peaster ended the regular season tied for first place in district and split their two matches. The Lady Greyhounds won 3-2 in Peaster and the Lady Rattlers won 3-2 in Tolar.

The coaches were flipping a coin for first and second in district at the league's meeting at press time.

Tolar begins the postseason Monday or Tuesday against Jacksboro or Henrietta.

### PIRATE LEGEND HONORED

Family members of Johnny Perkins, namesake of Granbury High School's football field at Pirate Stadium and a Pirates legend, were on hand for an honoring ceremony during halftime of Granbury's homecoming football game against Azle at Pirate Stadium Oct. 25.

Following graduation from Granbury High School in 1972, Perkins attended Ranger Junior College for one season after an all-state high school career. In 1974, Perkins transferred to Abilene Christian University, where he led the nation in receiving in 1975, catching 50 passes for 1,195 yards and 12 touchdowns. In 29 games for ACU, he had a school-record dozen 100-yard receiving games. At the time of his passing, Perkins was the highest draft choice (32nd overall) in ACU football history after his second-round selection by the New York Giants in the 1977.

Perkins spent his entire NFL career (1977-83) as wide receiver for the Giants. He played 71 games and had 2,611 yards receiving and 18 touchdowns on 163 catches.

After retiring, Perkins and his wife Debra lived in Granbury where they raised their two children, Jasmine and Jia, who went on to become a basketball legend herself, playing for Granbury, Texas Tech and in the WNBA. He became a radio broadcaster of Pirate

football games.

A member of the Granbury ISD Athletic Hall of Fame, Perkins was also inducted into the ACU Sports Hall of Fame in November 1990. In August 2005 he was voted to the ACU Football All-Century Team.

### GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates (1-7, 0-6 in District 3-5A Division I at press time) fell at home to Azle, 28-14, Oct. 25. At press time they were playing at Denton (1-7, 0-6) and host Brewer (3-5, 3-3 at press time) at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 to end the season.

Offensive leaders vs. Azle: Anthony DeBello eight carries, 111 yards, including 85-yard TD, four catches, 30 yards; Spencer Taylor 12 carries, 70 yards.

Defensive leaders vs. Azle: Chase Cantrell 12 tackles, two for loss, sack, blocked kick returned for TD; Eli Sisco seven tackles; Caleb Johnston six tackles.

Brewer player to watch: Kameron Coleman 162.5 yards rushing per game.

Brewer leads the all-time series 10-3 with a tie.

### GRACE CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL

The Gryphons (1-7, 1-2 in Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations) fell 66-6 at home to Bartonville Harvest Christian (4-4, 2-1) Oct. 25. They were ending the regular season at Temple Centex (2-6) at press time.

### GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates Purple team won the championship of the Buzzy Open in Azle at Cross Timbers Golf Course Oct. 22. The tourney was a preview of teams in District 5-5A.

The Purple team shot a 308. The Gold team shot 338 and finished third.

Granbury Purple's Lincoln Sherrill posted a 2-over-par 74 to win the individual championship. Teammate Henry Ballew was second with a 76 and Parker Jones



Tolar volleyball players Senne Imel (left) and Abbie Soileau collected their 1,000th kill and assists, respectively, this past week.

was fourth at 77. Rounding out the Purple individual scores were Carter Martin with an 81 and Jacob Reagan at 94.

The Gold team was led by Quinn Bradley, whose 77 placed him third (he won a playoff). Also, Caden Davis, Briar Rouse and Drew Haynes each shot 87 and Kamden Aparicio posted a 90.

The four lowest individual scores comprise the team score.

Playing as medalists, Braxton Pugh and Will Webb shot 84 and 85, respectively.

The tournament ended fall play for the Gold team, while the Purple team ends fall competition at the San Angelo Invitational Nov. 8.

### GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates got a look at other teams in District 5-5A while winning the Buzzy Open Oct. 22. The Purple team was first with a 345 and the Gold team shot

436 to finish fifth.

Rylee Rainosek led Purple with an 82 for second overall individually, while Claire Jordan shot 83 for third and Halle Carr's 86 was fourth. Also, Ariel Jimenez shot 94 and Grace Jimenez finished with a 100.

Ava Redwine led Gold with a 101, followed by Drew Barrington at 109 and Autumn Merendon at 110. Kamden Thomas posted a 116 and Joyzlynn Johnson shot 118.

The Lady Pirates conclude fall play in the State Preview in Georgetown Nov. 8-9.

### LIPAN BASKETBALL

The two-time defending state champion Indians will enter the season ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 2A in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches preseason poll. The Lady Indians, who last won state in 2023, enter the season fifth.

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# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## TSU knocks off reigning UAC champs, sets new D1 era longest winning streak

Tarleton State University

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. - If there were still any doubters, Tarleton State Football surely silenced them with a road win at the defending United Athletic Conference champions Saturday, Oct. 26.

The No. 8 Texans (7-1, 4-0 UAC) set their longest winning streak in their NCAA Division I era at six games with a 27-17 win at Austin Peay (3-5, 2-3 UAC) at Fortera Stadium in Clarksville, Tennessee. Tarleton State has now won 11 of its last 12 games, with 11 straight wins over nonFBS opponents. The Texans last lost to a nonFBS opponent more than a year ago, Oct. 14, 2023.

Saturday was a bit of an uncharacteristic win for the Texans, who lost the turnover battle for the first time this season, and they averaged just 4.0 yards per rush. They entered No. 2 in the nation in average turnover margin (plus-1.57) and No. 19 in the country at 5.1 yards per rush.

On brand, however, was Tarleton's big-play ability on offense, forcing takeaways on defense and limiting the Governors to just 17 points on the day.

Quarterback Victor Gabalis connected with wide receiver Darius Cooper for a 75-yard touchdown to erase a short Tarleton deficit in the second quarter. Caden Holt recorded his first interception, AJ Owens and Donta Stuart tag-teamed on a fumble take-away, and the Texans forced three straight turnovers on downs to seal the game. Tarleton forced the Govs to just 62 rushing yards as a team, an Austin Peay unit that entered at 180.1 per game, 29th best in the FCS.

Saturday marked Tarleton's first game in the



If there were still any doubters, Tarleton State Football surely silenced them with a road win at the defending United Athletic Conference champions Saturday, Oct. 26.

state of Tennessee in program history and its first matchup with Austin Peay. The Governors won the United Athletic Conference last year at 6-0, going 9-3 overall with a run to the NCAA FCS Playoffs.

This was Austin Peay's homecoming game. Tarleton is now 3-1 on the road over the past two seasons when playing at an opponents' homecoming game.

Gabalis, who improved to 14-3 as the starting quarterback at Tarleton State, completed 17-of-30 for 264 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Kayvon Britten rushed 30 times for 106 yards and a touchdown, reaching the century mark for the seventh time in eight games this season. Cooper finished with 112 yards

and a touchdown on three receptions, while Benjamin Omayebu recorded nine receptions for 84 yards.

Holt had six tackles and a TFL to go with his interception. Owens had six tackles and a sack to go with his forced fumble, and Stuart also had six tackles to go with his fumble recovery. Brandon Tolvert had a team-high eight tackles and two tackles for loss, with one sack, his team-leading fourth of the season. Devin Sterling returned from a three-game absence to post a sack, 1.5 TFL and seven tackles.

In the kicking game, Corbin Poston went 2-for-2 on field goals and 3-for-3 on extra points, and punter Adrian Guzman booted a pair, both inside the 20-yard line, including a 70-yarder

that pinned the Governors on their own 1-yard line.

To start the game, Tarleton put together a solid drive that stalled near the endzone. After a false start pushed the Texans from 4th and 5 at the 25 to 4th and 10 at the 30, Austin Peay forced the turnover on downs to get its first possession. The Govs marched down and sneaked a 53-yard field goal inside the right upright to lead 3-0 halfway through the first quarter.

The Texans marched down the field again on their second drive and punched it in this time, with Britten scoring his 12th rushing touchdown over the past five games and his 13th on the season. The Texans' running back scored from two yards out to push Tarleton ahead

7-3, a score that remained at the first quarter break.

With about 10 minutes to play in the second frame, Austin Peay's Jesse Johnson III picked off Gabalis, and later fumbled (Cody Jackson forced) but the Govs recovered at the Tarleton 13-yard line. Romon Copeland Jr. scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown to give the Governors their second lead of the day, 10-7.

On Tarleton's first offensive play after throwing the interception, the Texans went right back to the air and soared one deep to Cooper, who hauled it in and took it the rest of the way for a 75-yard touchdown. That gave Tarleton a 14-10 lead.

Several punts ensued over the remainder of the first half until the very end, with

Poston splitting the uprights on an 18-yarder to put Tarleton ahead at halftime 17-10.

Austin Peay had some juice coming out of half-time and put together a solid drive that was spoiled on a trick play. The Texans had sniffed it out, with Stuart breaking up a pass after a handoff and Holt coming down with the ball. But Tarleton threw its own interception just two plays later, and the Governors took advantage, finishing with a La'Ve'll Wright 2-yard touchdown to tie the game 17-17 at the 9:31 mark in the third quarter.

The Texans drove to the Govs' 6-yard line before having to settle for a field goal, which Poston made from 23 yards out. Tarleton led 20-17 after three quarters.

One of the most pivotal plays in the game came with 12 minutes to go. Austin Peay had crossed midfield, but Owens forced Austin Smith to fumble and Stuart came up with the football. Tarleton turned that take-away into points to go up two possessions, leading to a Braelon Bridges 11-yard rushing touchdown. The Texans led 27-17, which ended up being the final score, as Tarleton forced three straight turnovers on downs to leave Fortera Stadium 7-1.

The Texans have continued their best D1 start to a season. They last started 7-1 or better in 2019, when they were 8-0.

Tarleton State has four regular season games remaining, with three at home at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville. That's where the Texans will be as they host Eastern Kentucky Saturday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. for their Military Appreciation Game.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men's Golf completed the fall portion of its season at the Monterrey Collegiate Classic Saturday, Oct. 26.

## TSU Golf completes fall season at Monterrey Collegiate Classic

Tarleton State University

MONTERREY, Nuevo Leon, Mexico - Tarleton State Men's Golf completed the fall portion of its season at the Monterrey Collegiate Classic Saturday, Oct. 26.

The Texans had two top 20 finishes individually, with seniors Alvaro Huidobro and Carson Gallaher shooting 3-under-par to finish tied for 20th. Tarleton State finished 11th as a team with a 54-hole score of 873. North Dakota State won the team title with a 54-hole score of 838.

Huidobro shot 3-under par through his first 36 holes before shooting an even-par to close out his tournament. The Spaniard collected his second top 20 finish of the season and the sixth top 20 finish of his career.

Gallaher, who competed in the Monterrey Collegiate

Classic as an individual, came up with an eagle on day one of the event en route to a 3-under-par first round. He shot 2-under par in his next 54 holes before finishing the third round with an 18-hole score of 74.

Sophomore Juan Ballester collected his best finish of the fall as a Texan, finishing 35th with a 54-hole score of 220. Junior Cristobal Sepulveda finished just behind Ballester at 41st with a 54-hole score of 221.

Freshman Drew Ironside compiled a 54-hole score of 224 in his first event in the Tarleton State lineup. Fellow freshman Kellen Young had a 54-hole score of 225 in his fourth event for the Texans.

Tarleton State begins the spring portion of its season Feb. 10 at the Bentwater Intercollegiate in Montgomery.

## Tarleton State Tennis' Noelia Lorca clinches inaugural WAC Tennis Invitational Singles Title

Tarleton State University

ABILENE - Tarleton State senior Noelia Lorca captured the first-ever WAC Tennis Invitational singles championship by defeating UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jimenez in three sets 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-4 in Sunday's final at John TL Jones Tennis Center.

Lorca, who won four matches Oct. 25-Oct. 27 as the No. 5 seed, is the WAC's singles qualifier for the 2024 ITA Conference Masters Championship Nov. 7-10 in Rome, Georgia. The Spaniard will be one of 32 singles players fighting for four automatic bids to the NCAA Singles Championship Nov. 19-24 in Waco.

"Noelia is a fighter," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "She continues to impress me every time she competes. She came into this tournament with one goal in mind: to win. It wasn't the prettiest tennis, but it was exciting. She gained more confidence with every match and proved she is the grittiest player in the WAC. She goes down in history as the first-ever WAC Singles Champion and that will be something she will remember forever."

Lorca earned her trip to the singles final by clinching two wins Friday and knocking off the No. 1 seed Lamija Avidic (Seattle) Saturday.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State senior Noelia Lorca captured the first-ever WAC Tennis Invitational singles championship by defeating UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jimenez in three sets 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-4 in Sunday's final at John TL Jones Tennis Center.

After winning her quarter-finals match in three sets, Lorca came up with a bagel in set one of the semifinals en route to winning in straight sets to reach the championship match.

Going back-and-forth in set one, Lorca clinched the ninth game to take a 5-4 lead. Jimenez bounced back to win the next two games, but Lorca responded by taking the 12th game to force a tiebreak. Lorca closed out the tiebreak victorious and took the first set.

After Jimenez won the second set 6-1, Lorca answered the bell by breaking serve in set three. The senior

took advantage and led set three 3-0.

"I wanted to win so bad," Lorca said. "I knew it was going to be a hard match because I already played against (Jimenez) two times and it was two tough matches and two long matches. I knew I was going to have to go through that again and I knew it wasn't going to be easy."

Jimenez answered Lorca's firepower and strung together a string of games won in the third set, but the senior was unfazed. Lorca clinched the seventh game to swing the advantage and came up with a critical

clinging point to put her one game away from the title.

Lorca seized the moment and came out on top in the final game to grasp the third set and the conference's fall singles title.

"In this final, I had to win it and give it everything because it's my last fall semester," Lorca said. "I wanted to finish it the best I could for me, my team and my coaches. I am really, really happy."

Lorca and the Texans await the singles draw for the ITA Conference Masters Championship in Rome, Georgia starting Nov. 7.



HOOD OUTDOORS

# Catching big fall/winter catfish



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all his life and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

ger taste. Personally, I don't seem to notice much difference. Many folks will cut up the meat from a large catfish in squares and deep fry them in cornmeal batter. Great eating in my opinion.

Flathead, yellow (opelousas) and blue catfish are species sought out by many anglers. Though channel catfish is probably the most popular eating fish, many anglers would rather catch a huge yellow or blue catfish.

The fact of the matter is that the yellow and blue catfish, as I call it, can grow to enormous size. This is usually why folks fish for these species. Jugline, trotline and rod-and-reel anglers know the excitement of bringing in a 30 to 50 pound fish. The Texas state record flathead caught on a rod and reel is 98.5 pounds. Other species of catfish can get big as well. The Texas rod and reel record for channel catfish is 36.5 pounds and the rod and reel record for blue catfish is 121.5 pounds. If you are looking to catch a big fish, you might look at fishing for some of these monsters.

Lake Granbury has been producing quite a few records for yellow and blue catfish in the last couple of years. In February 2023 a 56.56 pound record blue catfish was caught on Lake Granbury and in March of 2024 a 56.16 pound record yellow catfish was also caught there. A new junior Granbury Lake record blue catfish of 38.8 pounds was caught in January 2024. Those big fish are out there.

Many folks focus their efforts on catching these big flatheads and blues in the late fall and winter. These fish can be in a variety of waters, but many anglers look in rivers or major feeder creeks. In a river, these fish are best located near deeper holes. Trotlines are set up across these deeper holes or bends in the river because sooner or later these fish will move through these areas. Rod-and-reel anglers will set up similarly near these deeper holes. Locating

fishing "holes" in a river is usually much easier than trying to fish a large reservoir. However, jugline anglers normally focus more on the open water as they can cover a big area with numbers of jugs. Even in open water, choosing an area where the fish are more apt to feed is a good idea. For instance, you might choose an area close to a river channel with a feeding flat close by or you might want to place your jugs near an entrance to a feeder creek.

Catfish are known to take a variety of natural and prepared baits. The yellow catfish species is best known for its appetite for live bait. Live bream (e.g., sunfish or perch) are generally the preferred bait when fishing for this species. Many anglers prefer fishing for yellow cats because they will chase a live bait more so than a channel catfish. Blue cats are also known for taking live perch or shad but cut shad is typically used.

Rod-and-reel anglers normally set up several lines with a variety of sizes of bait on a feeding flat. Many of these fish are caught in shallow water on the upper ends in the winter.


When you do hook up with a large catfish you may believe that you are hung up on the bottom. Eventually the big fish will move and the fight is on. Of course, you will need some heavy-duty gear so that you can keep pressure on the fish and keep them out of possible snags. Even with heavy-duty tackle, it may be a while before you can turn a large fish.

In my opinion, large yellow and blue catfish are good to eat. Some folks will disagree. Generally, bigger fish are known to be not as good to eat as the smaller fish as the meat can be tougher and, in some cases, will have a stron-

## HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures have been slow to fall as it has stayed warm for quite a while with no rain. Rain is expected Halloween weekend — hopefully we get enough runoff to help lake levels. Granbury is about 1.5 feet low as I write this article. Water temperatures are in the low to middle 70s right now. White bass (sand bass) are good to excellent on many areas of the lake. Lots of small fish with some bigger ones mixed in. Striped bass are slow to fair to 10 pounds on slabs and live shad fished on the lower ends. Largemouth bass to 7 pounds are possible on crankbaits and soft plastics fished on shallow humps near creek channels. There are some good reports of largemouth bass in the river north of Hunter Park on lay-downs. Big catfish action is fair on cut shad fished on the upper ends. Channel catfish are good on hot dogs fished under deeper docks. Crappie action continues to be good on flooded timber and bridge pilings on small jigs and minnows. Some good crappie catches have been reported from near Water's Edge to the timber by the Peninsula.

In Comanche Creek, formerly Squaw Creek, largemouth bass to 8 pounds are good on a variety of soft plastics including drop shot rigs. Anglers are boasting about catching 40 to 70 bass per day. Limits of eater-sized channel catfish are also being caught using prepared baits. There are lots of smaller catfish with a few bigger ones mixed in. Tilapia are abundant and are an invasive species. You can catch all you want without any restrictions. You are not allowed to return the Tilapia back to the lake.



**LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF GRANBURY?**

The City of Granbury has several advisory boards and commissions that make recommendations to the City Council on a variety of issues impacting City services, community development, parks and recreation facilities and more. All have members whose current terms of office expire in January 2025. The City is now accepting applications for those seats.

Applications must be submitted to the City Secretary's Office by Tuesday, December 31, 2024

More Information and Applications:  
[www.granbury.org/boardscommissions](http://www.granbury.org/boardscommissions)

City Secretary's Office  
116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, TX 76048  
817-573-1114

Appointments will be made by City Council in January 2025.  
Applicants will be notified of appointment by mail.

**BUILDING STANDARDS, PLUMBING, ADJUSTMENTS, AND APPEALS BOARD**  
Hears and decides on appeals of decisions made by the building official or fire inspector. Hears and makes rulings on dangerous building and property maintenance cases. The Board consists of eight members including a general contractor, insurance agent, electrician, plumber, three members at-large from the building industry and the Hood County Fire Marshal.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Assists the City Council in adopting land use assumptions, monitors and evaluates the implementation of the capital improvements plan, and advises the City Council of the need to update or revise the land use assumptions, capital improvements plan, and impact fees. The committee consists of not less than five members who are representatives from the real estate, development, and building industries, as well as one representative in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city.

**ETHICS COMMISSION**  
Hears complaints of allegations of violation of the code of ethics against a Councilmember. The Commission pool of candidates consists of six residents of the City of Granbury.

**GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
Works cooperatively with private citizens, foundations, corporations, institutions, and agencies committed to the preservation and development of programs and activities related to the arts and makes recommendations on art-related expenditures. The Commission consists of seven members at-large, and a majority of the members must reside within the City of Granbury.

**GRANBURY PARKS BOARD**  
Researches and recommends policies regarding development, operation, and maintenance of the municipal parks. The Board consists of nine members at-large.

**GRANBURY REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD**  
Recommends policies regarding the operation and maintenance of the airport. The Board consists of eight members at-large.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
Adopts criteria for the designation of landmarks, promotes historic preservation, and increases awareness of the value of historic, cultural, and architectural preservation. Hears and decides on applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for properties in historic districts. The Commission consists of seven members; one may be a member of the Hood County Historical Commission and a minimum of four members must be owners of a landmark or of property in a historic district. The remaining members may be residents or own property located within the City of Granbury.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
Makes recommendations to City Council regarding requests for Specific Use Permits, zoning changes, ordinance amendments, and plats. Renders decisions regarding Tree Conservation Plans and gives recommendations regarding achievable goals, plans, programs, and policies for the total development of the City. The Board consists of eight members at-large, all of which must be current residents of the City of Granbury and have resided here for at least twelve months prior to appointment. All members must also be registered voters of the City of Granbury.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**  
Hears and decides appeals and variance requests and may modify decisions or determinations related to the zoning ordinance. The authority and responsibilities of this board are established in Texas Local Government Code. The Board consists of five regular members at-large and two alternate members. All members must be residents and qualified voters of the City of Granbury.

The City of Granbury appreciates all who are eager to donate their time and join the team of citizens serving the Granbury community.



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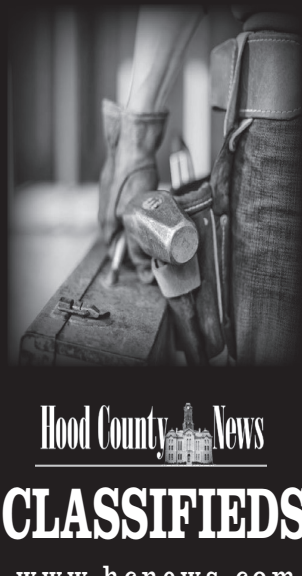
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## HCNEWS.COM

### SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on October 26.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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



# \$2M donation boosts GCCA's campus expansion

From Staff Reports

**G**race Classical Christian Academy, founded by Ike and Trisha Thomas and Ryan and Anne Thomas, has received a major boost for its capital campaign, thanks to a \$2 million donation from Tom and Susan Durant.

This contribution supports the school's effort to develop a new facility on Loop 567, where it aims to build a campus that will serve generations to come. The Durants' contribution reflects their generosity and Tom Durant's deep-rooted connection to GCCA co-founder Ike Thomas, a friendship stretching back to middle school in Granbury and later

reinforced during their football careers at Texas Tech University.

GCCA opened its doors in 2012 and is known for its commitment to "providing an exceptional education rooted in a Biblical worldview." The school serves around 100 students from pre-K through high school and emphasizes critical thinking skills and Christian values. In December 2023, GCCA acquired a 30-acre property near Granbury's historic town square, an ideal site for the new campus and a future home to the growing school community.

Reflecting on his success after relocating Durant Chevrolet to Grapevine, Durant noted with humor,

"Chevrolet told me I could build a 2.9-acre, 20,000 sq. ft. facility. Instead, I built a 45,000 sq. ft. facility on 11 acres." In 2024, Classic Chevrolet was named the #1 Volume Chevy Dealer in the World and has received the Dealer of the Year award 22 times, marking the dealership's growth and influence under Durant's leadership.

GCCA's groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for noon Nov. 8 at 1500 Loop 567. The public is invited to celebrate with the Durants and other generous donors who have contributed \$7.9 million toward the campaign's initial \$12 million phase, with an overall target of \$18.9 million.



AERIAL PHOTO COURTESY GCCA

The architectural rendering of the new building for Grace Classical Christian Academy. Groundbreaking is Friday, Nov. 8 at noon, 1500 Loop 567.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom and Susan Durant (back row, center) contributed \$2 million to Grace Classical Christian Academy, founded by Ike and Trisha Thomas (back row, center-right), along with Ryan and Anne Thomas (not pictured). This donation supports the school's capital campaign for a new building and campus in Granbury.

## HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hosted by Hood County Library in partnership with Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Event: Fall Soil Prep for Flower Beds & Volunteer Day

Date: November 16

Time: Starting at 10 AM

Location: Hood County Library

**GARDENER'S CORNER**

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Join us at the Hood County Library, where the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners will teach you how to prepare your flower beds for fall — while helping out in the library's own gardens! Bring gloves and any tools you prefer, such as rakes or shovels, and be ready to dig in. Please wear closed-toed shoes. Come prepared to learn, work and grow together!

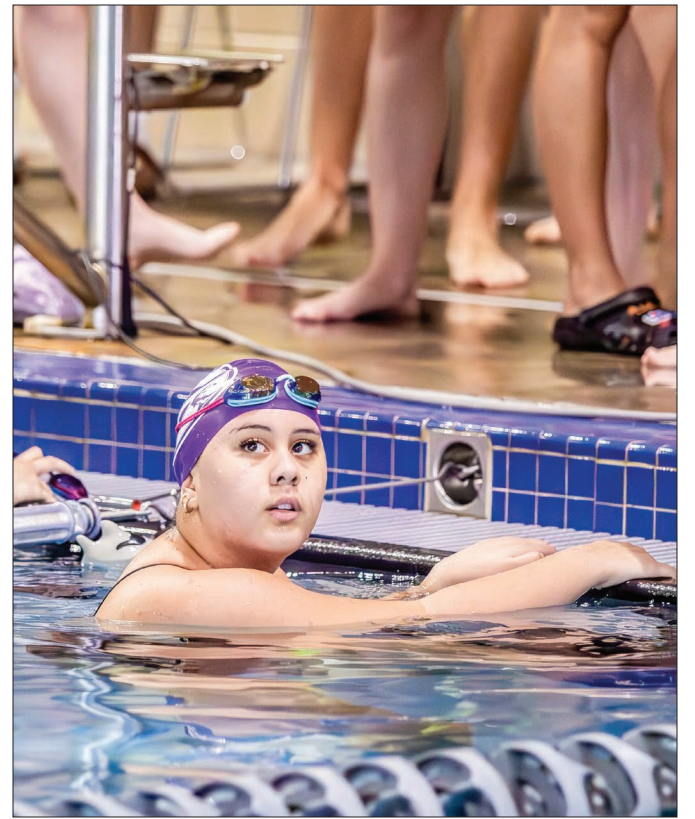




# GHS Swimming

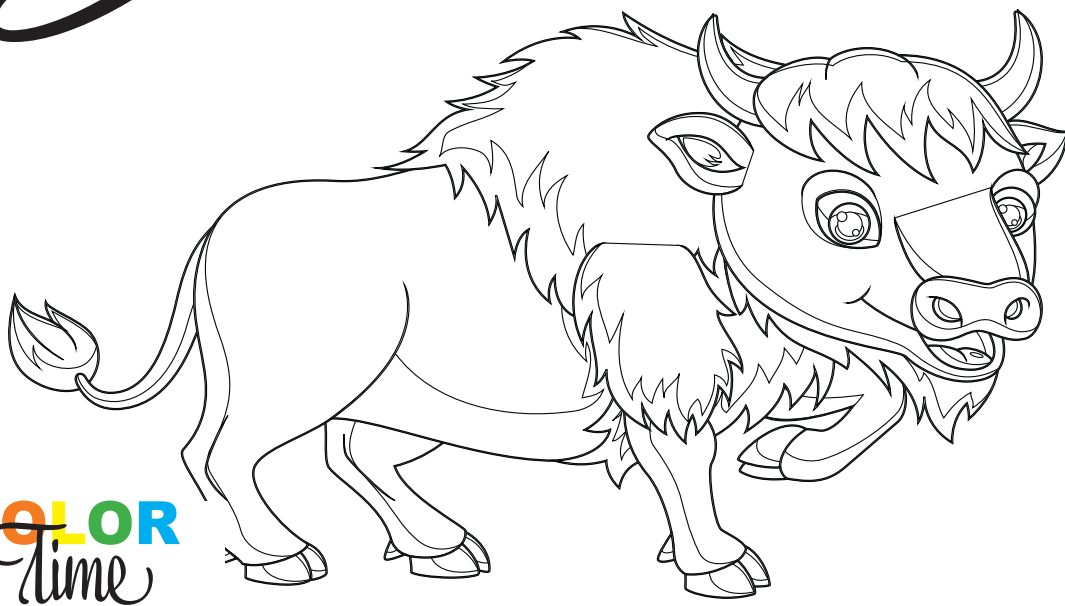


PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
The Granbury High School Pirates swim team hosted the Aledo Bearcats and Cleburne Hornets Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Hood County YMCA in a district meet for the 2024-2025 swimming season. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



## HCN Junior

### National Bison Day



COLOR Time

National Bison Day, celebrated annually on the first Saturday of November, honors the iconic American bison, also known as the buffalo. This majestic creature holds profound cultural, historical, and ecological significance and plays a vital role in the heritage of the United States.

Bison, once numbering in the millions and roaming freely across the plains of North America, were integral to the survival and way of life of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These resilient animals provided food, clothing, and shelter, and their presence shaped the landscapes they inhabited.

However, by the late 19th century, unregulated hunt-

ing and habitat loss led to a dramatic decline in bison populations, bringing them to the brink of extinction. Thanks to conservation efforts and the establishment of protected areas such as national parks and reserves, bison populations have rebounded, although they remain a symbol of conservation and restoration efforts.

National Bison Day serves as a reminder of the bison's enduring legacy and the need to continue working towards their conservation and preservation. It's a day to celebrate the resilience and strength of these magnificent creatures and to recognize their importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

On National Bison Day, individuals and organi-

zations come together to raise awareness about bison conservation, promote sustainable practices, and celebrate the cultural heritage associated with these iconic animals. Events such as educational programs, guided tours, and community gatherings offer opportunities for people to learn more about bison and their role in the natural world.

Additionally, many zoos, wildlife refuges, and national parks host special activities and presentations on National Bison Day, allowing visitors to observe these magnificent animals up close and learn about ongoing conservation efforts.

Beyond their ecological and cultural significance, bison also hold a special

place in the hearts of many Americans as symbols of strength, resilience, and freedom. Their majestic presence on the prairie evokes a sense of awe and reverence, serving as a reminder of the natural beauty and diversity of the American West.

As we celebrate National Bison Day, let us recommit ourselves to ensuring the continued protection and preservation of these iconic animals. By supporting conservation initiatives, advocating for responsible land management practices, and raising awareness about the importance of bison, we can help secure a brighter future for these magnificent creatures and the landscapes they inhabit.

### Did You Know?

BISON, A KEYSTONE SPECIES, HELP CREATE HABITAT ON THE GREAT PLAINS FOR MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES, INCLUDING GRASSLAND BIRDS AND EVEN MANY PLANT SPECIES.



STANDING 6 FEET TALL, THIS ANIMAL IS THE LARGEST MAMMAL TO CALL NORTH AMERICA HOME.

ANSWER: AMERICAN BISON



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COURTESY OF CHARLIE NANGLE

Nangle uses humor in his displays to make them not as scary!

## Skeletown: Where skeletons and community spirit come to life

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
*Special to the Hood County News*  
micky@hcnews.com

One of the best things about Halloween is the thrill of ghost stories and haunted houses. There's something special about gathering with friends and family to share in the spooky, spine-tingling fun of the season. From tales of ghosts to eerie decorations that send a delightful chill down your spine, Halloween invites everyone to step into a world of playful frights and fantastic displays. And right here in Granbury, there's one haunted spectacle that captures this spirit perfectly: Charlie Nangle's Skeletown.

If you drive through the Abe's Landing subdivision this Thursday through Sunday — weather permitting — you may notice

something bone-chilling and grin-inducing at 3606 Abes Landing Drive. It's not just a house — it's "Skeletown," a Halloween wonderland built by Nangle. What started as a small collection of five skeletons doing aerobics in 2018 has grown into a full-fledged, free-to-enter haunted house the whole neighborhood and beyond can enjoy.

Nangle, a Hood County resident since 2017, has turned his yard into a ghoulishly delightful display, bringing laughter and a touch of fright to everyone who stops by. "A neighbor told me I needed more skeletons," Nangle recalls, chuckling. "So off we went!" And he certainly delivered. Now, five years later, Skeletown boasts a spine-tingling array of skeletons, animatronics and other Halloween figurines, each with its own humorous touch.

Each year, Nangle ups the ante, doubling Skeletown's size and content to keep visitors on their toes. You'll find everything from life-sized skeletons rocking out on guitars to an aerobics class of skeletons in mid-stretch. "It's a labor of love," says Nangle. "It's for everyone to enjoy, and it's free to the public." True to his generous spirit, Nangle has even added a donation box where visitors can contribute to Mission Granbury, a local women's shelter, if they feel inspired to give back.

Skeletown isn't just about the displays; it's an experience. Nangle encourages visitors to mingle with the skeletons and snap as many photos as they'd like. "People really get into it," he says. "Kids and adults alike have fun posing with the skeletons and making memories." His goal is to create a

space where people can experience Halloween in a fun, family-friendly way while also offering them a place to come together and share some laughs.

Nangle's quirky sense of humor shines throughout the display. Among the skeletons, you'll find little details and jokes tucked into every corner. There's a giant skeleton with glowing eyes, a skeleton band jamming out, and even a few comical warning signs. One sign humorously reads, "I Died Because I Didn't Send \$20,000 to That Nigerian Prince to Claim My \$10 Million Inheritance." These playful touches add a lighthearted feel to Skeletown, making it clear that this haunted house is here for entertainment and fun, not for scares.

Skeletown has become a

PLEASE SEE **SKOLETOWN** | C3

## Sparkling for 40 years

*The Lake Granbury Beautification Council's Jewel Ball*



COURTESY PHOTO

Nestled in the now renamed Shanley Sculpture Garden is the Jewel Ball Fountain, also known as the Brady Fountain, named after deceased member Bob Brady. The fountain has become the backdrop for many special occasion photos in Granbury.

**BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**

*Special to the Hood County News*  
eden@hcnews.com

This Saturday, Nov. 9, the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Jewel Ball. The Jewel Ball is the primary fundraiser for the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Committee.

Founded just two years prior to the first Jewel Ball, the LGABC was established in 1982 to beautify and better the city and county.

The Jewel Ball has a different theme each year as members and supporters gather to enjoy a formal dinner, auction and dance.

Funds from the Jewel Ball are used to support the many projects of the LGABC. The LGABC is an active behind-the-scenes organization that is responsible for many of the little luxuries the public enjoys in Granbury.

Over the years the organization has done much to improve the beauty of the community by seeking to instill a sense of community pride.

### HISTORY

Beautification as a movement began in earnest in the United States around the turn of 1900. The idea was to bring beauty to cities and towns to inspire citizens.

There was an additional push to beautify in the mid-20th century as legislation was passed at the national and state level that made some prior notions into law. Specifically, laws were passed to control the advertising on highways with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 under President Lyndon Johnson and the Highway Beautification Act of 1972 to comply with national law.

Around the same time national interest piqued to make our communities attractive, the DeCordova Bend Dam was finished in Granbury.

According to Hood County News articles from 1969, there was a group of landowners and officials interested in beautifying Lambert Branch as it meandered through town.

The landscape of Granbury was literally and figuratively changing as Granbury was on its way to becoming a hub for surrounding areas.

By the early 1970s the nation was abuzz with preparation for the Sesquicentennial celebration of our nation. In Granbury, the lake had been established and key citizens joined forces to put Granbury on the

map so to speak, particularly with the July 4th celebration.

Between the early 1970s and the early 1980s, groups were gelling in Hood County to further bring beauty to the community.

According to an article that appeared in the July 2, 1978, issue of the Hood County News, the Lake Granbury Chamber of Commerce celebrated receiving a beatification award at the Beautify Texas Conference in Waco.

The chamber was undertaking an extensive, county-wide beautification project calling on clubs, schools and churches to join the effort to keep roads, highways and businesses "sparkling clean," according to a Hood County News article from 1981.

A subcommittee of the chamber was created to handle the beatification — planting a generous amount of crepe myrtles around town. In March 1981, a parade was planned to celebrate with the theme "Everything is Beautiful in Hood County."

In an effort to take on the extensive projects required for beautification, the Lake Granbury Beautification Council was born from a committee of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce in 1982.

The first Jewel Ball occurred in 1984 as a means of fundraising for the group.

In 1985, LGABC leased the LaRoe Picnic Green; the area was leveled and terraced with rock walls then planted with crepe myrtles. An irrigation system along with picnic tables and benches were added.

The LGABC acquired the Houston Street property in 1990, a joint venture with the City of Granbury and First National Bank. Plans ensued to develop the Houston Street Park.

In 1992, the Donor's Honor Roll was added with surrounding landscaping with names added for the following eight years.

Laveta Roe, owner of the Houston Street property, donated the area to LGABC in 1993.

A dedication was held in 1993 for the fountain and waterfall at North Houston and Rucker Street. The project helped circulate water in Lambert Branch. Council member Bob Brady designed and contracted the fountain at no charge.

In 1994, the footbridge connecting the Houston Street property to Shanley Park began and the following year an additional bridge was added near the waterfall. A rose arch was added as well as concrete

PLEASE SEE **SPARKLING** | C3

## These boots were meant for cruising

*Charity auction won by Richard and Carol Hoefs*

**BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*  
eden@hcnews.com

Carol Hoefs is sporting a famous pair of boots after her husband Richard Hoefs pulled out all the stops to secure the pair for his bride. The truth is acquiring the boots wasn't all smooth sailing.

Married for 35 years, Richard and Carol are retired and have lived in Granbury for seven years. Formerly of Tucker, Georgia, the two have been involved in the community since moving here.

Richard is often seen at local meetings of city and county officials and Carol volunteers at the hospital. The Hoefs are also Diamond members of Carnival Cruise line.

The Hoefs had learned about a special pair of boots from an announcement by their friend and Carnival Brand Ambassador John Heald's Facebook page.

In an email Richard Hoefs explained.

"Both Carol and I follow John's page for the latest information from Carnival and also to enjoy John's humour (humor). (John is British as is his humour so I have used the British spelling)."

Parker Boot Company of Houston designed two custom pairs of red, white and



COURTESY PHOTO

Cruise Director Kyndall Fire highlighted the custom boots made by Parker Boot Company at the Military Appreciation event onboard the new Carnival Jubilee with Richard and Carol Hoefs.

blue boots. The boots were designed to celebrate a new Texas-based Carnival Cruise flagship, the Carnival Jubilee.

The Jubilee had its inaugural cruise and naming ceremony in Galveston. The Hoefs attended the naming ceremony as passengers on the maiden voyage.

One pair of the custom boots was worn by Carnival Cruise Line president Christine Duff at the arrival festivities of the Jubilee. After Duff wore the boots for the event they remained on permanent display onboard the ship.

A chance to win the second pair of boots was offered in a silent auction with the proceeds from the auction benefiting Operation Homefront.

Operation Homefront is an organization dedicated to providing support to military families. Its goal is to provide relief and recurring family support programs and services to help military families overcome hardships.

"The military is important to us both. Richard's dad served in the Korean War. My one brother served in the Army for 24-and-a-half years and was a tank commander

in Desert Storm. I have other relatives who have served in different branches of the military," explained Carol Hoefs.

Carnival Cruise Line raises funds weekly for Operation Homefront through onboard programs as well as collecting funds from passengers for the cause.

Richard Hoefs found a dual purpose to bid for the boots — a chance at acquiring a truly unique pair of boots for Carol while also supporting military families.

PLEASE SEE **BOOTS** | C2



# It's their move: Texas Trading Cards 'shuffles' to new location

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

With a fresh deck of possibilities, Texas Trading Cards is ready to deal an exciting hand from its new location.

Formerly known as The Card Shop Games, Granbury's No. 1 store for Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, and Warhammer has officially relocated to a new venue at 220 S. Morgan St., Suites 220 and 222 — near Taco Delight.

Since 2010, the shop has been a beloved staple for trading card enthusiasts and fans of tabletop games alike. By fostering a vibrant community, players can connect and compete with others through their favorite games, all while immersing themselves in their own unique fantasy realms.

Under the stewardship of former owner, Jonah Baca, and now Sheldon Hughitt, the shop has continued to thrive, bringing fresh energy and exciting events that keep the community engaged and passionate about gaming.

Hughitt, who purchased The Card Shop Games in November 2023, officially rebranded to Texas Trading Cards — but after only a year of ownership, Hughitt realized that the shop desperately needed to expand.

With 20 to 30 regulars visiting each week, along with five to 20 newcomers, the shop had since outgrown its 1,300 square foot location — prompting Hughitt to seek a larger space that could accommodate the growing community.

"It's more playing space so that we can have bigger events, and we can advertise more to Fort Worth (residents)," Hughitt told the Hood County News. "Hopefully, I can start being a part of standard show-downs and start having big tournaments where a lot of people from Fort Worth will start coming in."

At 2,400 square feet — and combining two vacant shops — Hughitt has been able to essentially double his previ-

ous space. "It's the same width, but it's two locations," he explained. "I'm getting a place the same exact size, and a little bit shorter in length, but two of them."

Hughitt explained that this expansion will allow for a wider selection of singles for Magic: The Gathering and provide ample room for various groups, including Commander, Legacy, Modern and Standard players. He said his goal is to engage with the Magic: The Gathering and the trading card game tournament scene, so that he can be "on the map" for major events to allow players from the metroplex to join.

At its core, Magic: The Gathering is a collectible card game where players cast spells and summon creatures to defeat their opponents, creating an ever-evolving landscape of strategy and competition that thrives within this vibrant community.

Despite efforts to attract more Pokémon and Star Wars fans to the shop though, Hughitt acknowledged that Magic: The Gathering continues to be the strongest draw.

"I go through card games like it's a style," he said, adding that the trading card game Disney Lorcana is on the verge of being discontinued due to its low sales. "Any new card games, I try to get in to see if it's worth getting. Altered is the only one that has been worth it for now, and it might just die off in six months. Flesh and Blood was our number two for the longest time, and then Warhammer took it over, and then nobody started playing Flesh and Blood after three years of people playing it up here competitively — but it doesn't mean the games don't exist; it just means that they're not popular here."

While Magic: The Gathering is by far the most popular game at Texas Trading Cards, Warhammer comes in at a close second, Hughitt said.

Warhammer is a tabletop wargame where players col-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JP TERRY

Texas Trading Cards is Granbury's No. 1 store for Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons and Warhammer. The shop also sells paints, books and dice.

lect, build, paint and battle miniature plastic models of armies. With two main universes — Age of Sigmar and 40K — players can opt for more of a fantasy setting (AOS) or science fiction (40K).

"We're having a special 40K event to try to get more 40K players to show up," Hughitt said. "They're our second margin."

Self-described as a "nerd collectible shop," Hughitt encourages game enthusiasts of all ages to come to the new location and try their hand at a variety of trading card games or a tabletop battle — as they may just enjoy it.

"Our doors are always open," he said. "For anybody new that is interested in getting into any trading card game, I know how to play all of them that are

here, and I can sit down and teach anybody."

For those familiar with the previous location, the hours of operation will remain unchanged — for now, that is.

"We'll still be open from 2 to 10 p.m. (and closed on Mondays and Tuesdays)," Hughitt said. "I've thought about opening up at 12 p.m., and then maybe trying to open up on Tuesday, but it's still just not enough people (to warrant the change)."

With a dedicated office in the back for sorting and trading, along with a potential partnership with White Box Games, Hughitt believes the new location will provide a fresh experience for both newcomers and regulars. He also expressed excitement about the collaboration, noting that White Box Games is developing a new website that will eventually feature his products.



Formerly known as The Card Shop Games, Texas Trading Cards has officially moved to its new home located at 220 S. Morgan St., Suites 220 and 222 — near Taco Delight.

As Hughitt looks to the future, he's officially ready to level up the shop — prov-

ing that with the right cards in hand, the possibilities are endless.

## BOOTS

FROM PAGE C1

"Carol is a wonderful, caring person who has blessed me by being my wife for 35 years. She supports and encourages me in all my endeavors.

"She has a pure servant's heart, and volunteers with the Hospital Auxiliary at Lake Granbury Medical Center. When we learned about the auction and discussed how much we should bid, she said she would like to add these boots to her wardrobe.

"Obtaining these boots was a small gesture to thank her for all she does for me and our community," shared Richard Hoefs.

The silent auction to

win the custom boots was conducted by email with the current bid posted just once per day. Emerson Hankamer, bidding on behalf of Vacations To Go won the auction with a bid of \$25k. Hoefs bid came shy of that amount.

When Richard Hoefs came in second to Hankamer's bid, Hoefs assumed that was the end of the line for the cruise boots.

"I was surprised when Carnival Cruise Line contacted me and offered to make another set of boots if I would match the winning bid. I agreed with the condition that the auction winner agree, as he had bid on an exclusive pair of boots," shared Richard Hoefs.

Hankamer was happy to

allow the Hoefs to also acquire a custom pair of boots with the matching bid of an additional \$25k going to Operation Homefront.

Carol found Richard's generous bidding to be in harmony with his character.

"Richard has always been a hard worker. He worked for the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta for 32-and-a-half years. He is involved in committees here in Granbury and serves on the board of directors for the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. Richard and I always talk about which charities we want to support. We are friends of Texas Christian University and have endowed six scholarships to the school in different areas."

The Hoefs went to Houston in March for Carol's feet to be measured for the custom boots. They returned to Houston in August for a fitting and to take the boots home. Though the process to make the custom boots took five months, Carol Hoefs says they were worth the wait.

"The boots are extremely comfortable; these are the first custom made footwear I have ever had," said Carol Hoefs.

Carol Hoefs wore her boots on the maiden voyage of the Carnival Jubilee in September and was able to let the local folks get a gander at them at a recent Rise and Grind function of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Carol Hoefs sports her custom-made boots from Parker Boot Company. The boots were auctioned by Carnival Cruise Line to celebrate its new Texas-based cruise liner, the Jubilee. Money raised from the auction benefited Operation Homefront.



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# Sip, Sip, Hooray! Granbury's Wine Celebration pours itself anew

From Staff Reports

This fall, Granbury's beloved Texas wine festival will take on a new identity as the Granbury Wine Celebration: A Texas Wine Showcase. Set for Nov. 8-9 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., this year's festival promises an immersive experience in the heart of Texas wine country on Granbury's historic square.

Formerly known as the Granbury Wine Walk and the Granbury Winter Wine Walk, the event will continue its tradition of gathering Texas wineries, artisans and boutique vendors around the iconic courthouse square.

The festival, originally created in 2010 by a group of locals seeking to boost the economy during tough times,

now welcomes wineries and vineyards from across North Texas — a departure from the recent focus on Cross Timbers Wine Trail members. "We're thrilled to broaden our scope," said an event spokesperson. "By welcoming more wineries from across the entire North Texas region, we're offering a richer array of Texas wines for wine enthusiasts to discover."

The rebranded event will honor tickets purchased for the previously named Granbury Winter Wine Walk. A highlight for ticketholders will be the opportunity to enjoy 15 one-ounce tasting samples from 10 Texas wineries. Attendees can expect great wine and the warm, welcoming ambiance that has be-

come the hallmark of the festival, with vendors clustered in intimate groups around the square.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the 2024 Granbury Wine Celebration has selected United Way of Hood County as its charitable partner. This choice reflects the festival's dedication to supporting meaningful local causes, ensuring that proceeds contribute directly to efforts benefiting the Granbury area.

For those looking ahead, details for the April 2025 event will be announced later. Additional information is available at GranburyWine.com or by calling the Granbury Wine Celebration Team at 682-500-4121.

## Creating your own sunshine: Overcoming the seasonal blues with daily joy

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the  
Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

Ah, the dreaded end to Daylight Saving Time is once again upon us. Within a matter of days, the sun will be setting before you can even make it home from work!

When the days grow shorter and the temperatures start to drop, it's easy to fall into the trap of waiting for winter to pass. We might long for the return of sunny days, thinking joy will naturally return with the change of seasons. But what if, instead of waiting for better days, we actively create joy even in the darker months?

Seasonal blues — sometimes known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD — can affect many of us, making winter feel heavy and prolonged. The good news is you can take control and bring brightness into your life by embracing small, meaningful changes. Here are five practical strategies to overcome seasonal blues and create joy throughout the colder months.

**1. Micro-adventures: Break the routine.** We often associate adventure with grand, far-away experiences, but what if adventure could be a part of our everyday lives? Micro-adventures are small, spontaneous activities that can add excitement to your routine and boost your mood, even on the coldest days.

These could be as simple as taking a new route home, exploring a park you've never visited, or setting up a cozy picnic in your living room. The goal is to shake

up your daily patterns in fun and easy ways. These small breaks from routine help reset your mind, stimulate creativity, and add a sense of play to your life, something that's especially needed when winter feels monotonous.

By engaging in these mini adventures, you allow yourself to experience new things, which can rekindle a sense of wonder and joy during the winter months.

**2. Daily joy rituals: Make happiness a habit.** Creating joy doesn't have to be a grand gesture — it can be woven into the fabric of your day through small, intentional actions. Establishing daily joy rituals is a powerful way to remind yourself that happiness is an active pursuit.

These rituals could be anything that consistently brings you a sense of contentment. Maybe it's brewing your favorite tea in the morning, listening to music that lifts your spirits, or taking five minutes to dance around the house just because it feels good. It could even be something as simple as lighting a candle in the evening to create a calming atmosphere.

The key is to make these moments sacred, little oases of happiness that you look forward to each day. By creating rituals that speak to you, you anchor yourself in positive experiences, even when it feels like the world outside is cold and dark.

**3. Mindful gratitude practice: Start and end your day with joy.** Gratitude is one of the most effective tools for combating negativity, especially when the environment feels bleak. A mindful

gratitude practice encourages you to focus on the positive moments in your life, no matter how small.

Each morning, take a few minutes to reflect on what you're grateful for. It could be something as simple as a warm bed, a kind word from a friend, or the smell of coffee brewing. Before bed, revisit your day and find a joyful moment to appreciate, no matter how small it may have seemed at the time. This simple practice can train your brain to focus on the good, even when the season might tempt you to dwell on the negative.

By starting and ending your day in gratitude, you're essentially bookending your daily experience with joy, which helps shift your mindset in a positive direction.

**4. Creative expression: Let go of perfection and have fun.** Winter is the perfect time to dive into creative projects, but the goal is not to create something perfect. The focus is on using creative expression to have fun, reduce stress, and bring some color into one's life.

Whether it's painting, knitting, writing, cooking or trying your hand at photography, the act of creating something for the sheer joy of it is incredibly therapeutic. Let go of the idea that your creative work needs to be flawless and instead embrace the messiness of the process. Creativity helps us reconnect with a playful, childlike part of ourselves, which can be a great antidote to seasonal gloom.

Remember, the aim is not the end product but the joy that comes from the act of creating itself.

**5. Joyful movement: Exercise in a way that uplifts you.** Exercise is a well-known mood booster, but in winter, it can feel more like a chore than something enjoyable. The key to overcoming this is to engage in joyful movement — exercising in ways that feel uplifting, not obligatory.

Instead of forcing yourself to follow a rigid fitness routine, find activities that genuinely bring you happiness. Maybe it's going for a brisk walk while listening to your favorite podcast, dancing around your living room, or practicing yoga, focusing on relaxation rather than achievement. Movement doesn't have to be intense to be effective — it just needs to feel good.

By reframing exercise as a source of joy rather than a task, you can motivate yourself to stay active and beat the winter blues at the same time.

**Joy is something you create**

Seasonal blues can make winter feel like a time of waiting — for longer days, warmer weather and more sunshine. But the truth is, joy is not something you wait for; it's something you actively create. By incorporating micro-adventures, daily joy rituals, gratitude, creativity and joyful movement into your life, you take control of your happiness, even in challenging seasons.

Winter may be long, but with these proactive steps, it can also be full of joy. All it takes is a little intention and a willingness to seek out happiness, even on the darkest days.



Skeletontown started in 2017 with just five skeletons doing aerobics.

## SKELETON

FROM PAGE C1

community tradition, with people of all ages stopping by to marvel at Nangle's elaborate setup. "It's great to see neighbors and families coming together," says Nangle. "Halloween should be about having fun, and that's exactly what Skeletontown is all about." As each Halloween season draws to a close, Nangle begins planning next year's version of Skeletontown, brainstorming new ideas and expanding his ever-growing skeleton crew.

Nangle says the displays

will be ready for viewing at 5 p.m. Halloween night, Oct. 31. "Weather permitting — the animatronics hate rain — I'll leave them up through the weekend. We will be open Halloween night until the last guest leaves," he said.

So, if you're in Granbury this Halloween, don't miss a visit to Skeletontown. With its spooky skeletons, cheerful community vibe, and the chance to support a great cause, it's the perfect way to celebrate the season. Just bring your camera, bring your friends, and prepare to enjoy a "haunt" that's unlike any other.

## SPARKLING

FROM PAGE C1

benches.

Streetlamps identical to the ones on the courthouse square were added as the contribution of the LGABC in 1996.

The Christmas lights display was created in cooperation with the City of Granbury in 1997, and in the following years underground electricity was added and Christmas lighting was doubled.

In 1999, in cooperation with Hood County and the City of Granbury, erosion control and restoration of the Lambert Branch took place.

A white stone wall was added in 2003 in front of Houston Street Park and in 2004 a wrought iron archway.

In 2011, the limestone fountain that became a centerpiece of Shanley Park was constructed. Designed by Jackie Smith, it was named The Jewel Ball Fountain and is also known as the Brady Fountain after the late Bob Brady.

In recent years the LGABC provides the giant Christmas trees that decorate each corner of the square every year — appearing Thanksgiving week. LGABC also provides the lighted trees around the square as well as the green metal benches that invite residents and visitors to sit and rest while taking in festivities; they also provided improvement to the public restrooms behind the Opera House.

LGABC contributed money to the new Dan Coates sculpture, which will reside in the Shanley Sculpture Garden, and added the Pink Heart Sculpture in front of the LaRoe House where it recently updated the landscaping. The Pink Heart Sculpture allows people to write a message on a lock et and add it to the heart.

Other recent projects of the LGABC include furniture in the expanded Hood County Library, a new sign at the Hood County Senior Center, as well as landscaping around the traffic light at Loop 567 and Pearl Street.

Proceeds from the Jewel Ball, private donations and countless hours donated by volunteers in LGABC as well as other civic organizations make these improvements and future improvements to our community possible.



# HALLOWEEN BOO BASH

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Attendees were dressed in their boo-tiful best, ready for an enchanting evening filled with fun, frights and festive delights at the Rancho Brazos Community Center's third annual Boo Bash. On Thursday, Oct. 24, the Conference Center transformed into a spook-tacular venue where glamour took on a ghostly theme.





# COATES WESTERN ART EXHIBITION

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Art enthusiasts and locals enjoyed a unique experience at the much-anticipated Coates Western Art Exhibition and Sale held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center.





## PECAN BITS

## Pecan resident secures sweet award at Texas State Fair



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 30 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 17 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianelong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Big congratulations go to Pecan resident and candy chef extraordinaire Melanie Hill whose pecan brittle took third place in the nut brittle category of the 2024 Texas State Fair. After contemplating entering the fair for 10 years, Hill decided this year was her time to try, and obviously the judges found her offering delicious. The pecans in Hill's candy came from the trees in her yard, and not only did her dish win a ribbon, but her recipe also goes into next year's State Fair Cookbook. Hill, who hosts an annual candy making event with family and friends before Thanksgiving, says entering her candy in the fair's competition was a great experience from which she learned much.

## WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member class is happening today, Saturday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. The event is open to new neighbors as well as long-timers who would like a refresher on the amenities of our community. Contact Sarah Lord for a reservation: 817-573-2641 extension 335.

## VOTE DATE

Tuesday, Nov. 5 will find Pecaners casting ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the PAC gym.

## VETERANS DAY

A very special observance happens in Pecan Plantation in honor of Veterans Day, and the event for 2024 will arrive Wednesday, Nov. 6. Folks planning to attend

should call the clubhouse to reserve a spot as attendance is limited, and seats will fill quickly: 817-573-2641. The festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. in the clubhouse lobby followed by a fly over, music program, featured speaker and breakfast buffet.

## GIVE LIFE

The American Red Cross will be in the PAC gym Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a blood drive. Folks may make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org and enter the code Pecanplantation; walk-ins are also welcome. Donors will receive coupons good for a pulled pork sandwich at The Pit and a cup of coffee at Deja Brew Pecan.

## TEACHER MEETING

The Pecan Educators Network will hold its second meeting Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pecan clubhouse. Refreshments will be provided. The group convened for its first gathering earlier this month where it discussed organizational goals, shared stories and enjoyed fellowship with other educators. PEN is a new, nonpolitical organization open to any Pecan residents who are currently working or have worked in education, including the positions of teachers, paraprofessionals and administration. For more information on the group or its upcoming event, contact Teela Watson: 817-393-3070.

## EVENING EVENT

Pecan Plantation's Widows

and Widowers Club's next meeting is on the calendar for Thursday, Nov. 7 beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a "thankful month" theme for the gathering. Folks will meet in the Pecan ballroom to share their many blessings as well as bring gifts for BeeHive Assisted Living and provide assistance to Joseph's Locker, both located in Granbury. Some folks have cards designating which group to support, but if not, attendees may choose one for a contribution. Joseph's Locker president Cindy Tow will be at the meeting to discuss how the organization supports residents of our community. To further promote the theme of thankfulness, Donna Thompson will present "Choose Gratitude" to the attendees.

Items helpful for BeeHive include toiletries for men and women, magazines, games and playing cards. Joseph's Locker will also appreciate receiving the same items in addition to canned and boxed food items and paper products. Donations should be bagged and ready to add to the receptacle in the ballroom. Membership in the club is open to any widow or widower who lives in Pecan, and folks may contact Caryl Mahaffey (caryl.mahaffey@charter.net) for more information.

## GOLF GAME

Pecan's MGA will hold its annual breakfast and meeting Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 a.m. in the clubhouse ballroom. All MGA members are invited to attend as voting on future officers and making golf-related decisions are on the agenda for the day. Following the meeting, the MGA will host its monthly Saturday tournament at 9 a.m., and the competition's format is a two-man scramble/shamble, choose your

own partner. Pecaners received an email with a sign-up link, and registration may also be completed in the golf pro shop.

## TOURNAMENT TIME

A veteran-exclusive nine-hole golf tournament is coming to Pecan's course Tuesday, Nov. 12 in honor of our neighbors who have served in our country's military. The tournament is a four-person scramble with an entry fee of \$10. Folks may assemble their own teams or be placed on one by the golf pro shop and scoring and a social gathering will happen in the pavilion following the tournament. Pecaners are invited to attend and cheer on our veterans playing in the tournament.

## CLUB FITTING

A Titleist club fitting event is coming to the Pecan driving range Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attendees must have an appointment. Residents received email with both a link and a QR code for securing a spot during the day.

## GOOD READ

The Hood County Bookmobile will be in the PAC parking lot Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return library materials to the bookmobile.

## HELPING HAND

The PAC is participating in Mission Granbury's annual food drive, "Pantries of Plenty." A collection bin will remain by the front entrance through mid-November.

## ROAD NEWS

Road work on the back gate's expansion lane has been temporarily delayed but will resume as soon as a few issues are resolved.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE LONG

Pecan resident Melanie Hill entered her pecan brittle in the 2024 Texas State Fair and won third place in the nut brittle category. Melanie received a ribbon for her prize and her candy recipe will be included in next year's State Fair cookbook. The pecans for Melanie's candy came from her own pecan trees.

Culverts have been replaced on Airpark Drive, and the milling of this area is still on the agenda. Crews will be laying asphalt on Wedgfield Road when the back gate and Airpark Drive projects are complete. Pecaners are asked to observe slower speeds and use alternate routes during our community's resurfacing projects.

## HOLIDAY CHEER

Pecan's general manager Rick Lantgen announces that our community's Employee Christmas Bonus Fund is one opportunity that helps our association retain its valuable employees who make our neighborhood run

on a daily basis. Members received a donation form in their October statements, and a second form will be included in the November statement; donations may also be made online from a button received in email last week.

All monies received are distributed among waitstaff, security officers and office staff, in addition to grounds and maintenance crews and kitchen and housekeeping employees. Department heads and managers are not included in the disbursement. Questions about the fund may be directed to the general manager's office: gm@ppoaweb.com or 817-573-2641, extension 340.

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

## Out on a limb



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

The deeper one dives takes into life's hourglass of time, the more likely one is to ponder nuggets of health news that might affect longevity.

One jumped out at me the other day when a physician's findings gave me an additional reason to keep as close an eye on my cane as I do my cell phone.

At first glance, I thought his findings might involve physical exercising. (Asked the other day if I jog, I responded, "No, I get my exercise serving as pallbearer for my friends who jogged.)...

But no! His study centered on standing, so I made a mental "sign up," figuring I'd finally encountered an exam I could ace. Again, I'd jumped to conclusions, and I know, such a decision doesn't count as exercise.

I've done quite a bit of standing in my life, clinging to the belief that anyone who doesn't stand for something is likely to fall for anything.

Perhaps I smirked a bit upon learning that my ongoing commitment to remain vertical and ventilating could hinge — of all things — on my ability to stand ...

All I was asked to do was to stand on one leg for five seconds. Piece of cake, I thought. Why, I could do that with one arm tethered posteriorly, and maybe even with eyes closed.

Wayda minute! This was not an easy assignment! Three seconds seemed to be my limit.

Looking for loopholes, I read further into the study, learning that my chances of making it for five seconds would be enhanced if I tried using my "nondominant leg." Now that's a real puzzle! I immediately wondered if bull riders — just trying to stay lodged on the snorting animal for eight seconds — are given any kind of instructions involving leg dominance ...

Truth to tell, I didn't — and don't — have a clue as to which of my legs is dominant. The study suggested this could be determined merely by remembering which gym exercises

seem most difficult on which leg.

Beats me.

The only leg exercises I get at gyms involve simply twitching or making multiple trips to the concession stands ...

Respect for the doctor's findings seems important, however. He cited a sobering stat that senior adults who are not able to stand on one leg for five seconds are much more likely to experience falls in the coming year.

AND, he emphasized that some 30% of us will do so.

Whether we have a leg to stand on or not ...

'Course doctors ain't always right. It's hard for me to take seriously their admonitions to get my belt size down to a size 38 when theirs is a 48.

The internet claims there's a long-time physician in Austin who is quick to brag about how he has maintained his exercise regimen delivering babies throughout Texas. He claims to be "slap happy" about his thousands of deliveries. "Slap happy?"

Yeah, I guess that fits. He further admits that in his early years in delivery rooms, he was absent-minded, often holding newborns up by their hands and spanking their faces. Maybe admissions are in order by some of our leading governmental officials — in both Washington, D.C. and in Austin — who came into the world in this unorthodox manner. Trouble is, they are supported by deep-pocketed people who may have been delivered by the same physician. This would explain much ...

I recall an old doctor who served a rural community faithfully for many years. On his day off — en route to his favorite fishing spot — he dropped off some prescription orders at the drug store.

While inside, several young people gathered around, poking fun at his ancient farm vehicle.

Hearing their giggles, the physician expanded, "Kids, this truck is paid for." Then, finger pointed at several of them, he added, "But, you're not, and you're not, and you're not." ...



COURTESY PHOTO BY SAB, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Nothing will cause parents' hearts to overflow with love and gratitude for their children than to spend a few hours, a day or a weekend away from them periodically.

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Who's in the playpen?



BY CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

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

The story is told of an American couple who decided to send a playpen to their friend in Northern Canada who had just given birth to her fourth child. The friend wrote back in appreciation, "Thank you so much for the pen. It is wonderful ... I sit in it every afternoon and read. The children can't get near me."

We chuckle at such a story and wonder if it actually occurred, or if it was from the imaginary mind of a bedraggled mother. Either way, it proves a vital point. There are those times when parents and children need their private space. Nothing will cause parents' hearts to overflow with love and gratitude for their children than to spend a few hours, a day or a weekend away from them periodically. Such action does not say, "I wish they weren't here." It simply says that we must have those occasional times to ourselves so we can put all our responsibilities in proper perspective.

We must remember that our perspectives and those of our children differ greatly. Three-year-old Bobby didn't like the routine of his daily scrubbing, especially when soap was used. He had frequently fussed in typical 3-year-old fashion until one day, in total frustration, his mother asked, "Bobby, don't you want to be nice and clean?"

"Sure," Bobby replied, "but can't you just dust me?"

I am certain we do not need advice on what to do with those private times we occasionally steal for ourselves. But how about some suggestions for adult-child activities that will delight both generations and help to bring back the wonder of childhood for the adult?

Play in a pile of leaves and don't worry about leaf bits or dust in your hair.

Collect stones and talk about their characteristics. Give them names.

Go to a park and swing. See who can swing higher.

Look at the clouds and tell what each one resembles.

Act out a play using hand puppets.

Go to the lake and watch the ducks.

Play rhyming word games.

Make a batch of cookies and don't be concerned if some of them are misshapen. Don't fuss if the young one wants to make a blue Christmas tree or a purple Easter bunny.

Walk through a pet shop and watch the young one's glee at observing young animal behavior. Ask if people do the same thing.

Go down a sliding board and feel the breeze in your face.

Such activities may seem insig-

nificant to us as adults, but they create lasting memories for our children and grandchildren.

My daughter has a mug that advises, "I'm done ADULTING. Let's be DRAGONS," along with a delightful picture of a green dragon with pink ears. Perhaps all of us would benefit from taking some time off being adults and decide to be dragons for a little while. I once asked my son Mark (then a young man) what he liked best about being at home with mom during those early years. He surprised me when he said, "Sailing leaf boats in the creek."

What was "sailing leaf boats in the creek"? No, we had not made little boats out of some wonderful material. We merely picked a leaf from the ground, dropped it into our creek, and watched it float down its watery path. Sometimes we tried to keep up with it as it began its journey, but it often left our sight before long.

Was the activity expensive? No. Did it require creative imagination? Not much unless we made up a story about the boat's destination.

Did it require preparation time? Not at all.

Was it worth the effort? You bet! In the mind of a little boy, it left lasting impressions of something that was so much fun to do, and he still remembered it as an adult.

Remember, we must take time to enjoy our children and grandchildren. We must also take time away from them occasionally. And if we remember these two bits of advice, we will have to spend less time in the playpen.



## DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

# Give the gift of travel for the holidays



**BY ZAC WILSON**

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. [www.DaydreamVacations.com](http://www.DaydreamVacations.com)

The most magical part of the holidays is the time spent with family and friends. Gathering together reminds us of the importance and value of our relationships. Ask any mom and she'll tell you her favorite time of year is when the kids come home, or the grandkids visit. Our time shared together, the bonds we strengthen, the memories we create, are

all part of the quality time that make the holidays so special. During this season of gift giving, it's no surprise that I recommend giving the gift of travel together.

The best gift you can give is a shared life experience. Parents can take their kids on an adventure. Families can enjoy a reunion in an exotic destination. Spouses can rekindle the romance

or celebrate an anniversary. Friends can explore the world together. Although a new gadget or toy can be fun in the moment, your travel experiences shared together become a part of your history and relationship forever.

Alexandra Farrington, luxury travel designer, states it like this: "The best gift you can give is a meaningful life experience, filled with warm memories of the people and places that shaped it. What life experience makes a better gift than the gift of travel?"

Here are a few of my top reasons to give the gift of travel:

1. Toys come and go, but

your travel memories remain. As a young parent I bought my kids lots of toys as gifts. They were fun for a time, but eventually most of them ended up in a garage sale, donated to the Goodwill, broken or lost. But my sons still tell the stories and share the photos of their travel adventures to anyone who will listen. My favorite photos are my boys swimming with dolphins in Cozumel.

2. Souvenirs with meaning. Our home is decorated with items we have collected from around the world. We have paintings from Bulgaria, wood carvings from the Caribbean, arts and crafts

from Europe, memoirs from Disneyland, formal night photos from cruises, and more. They not only remind us of our adventures together but inspire conversation and storytelling when guests admire them.

3. Travel enriches you and changes your worldview. Experiencing different cultures, peoples, cuisine, art, history and more helps you connect with our world. This becomes more important as our community grows from a small town to a global community. To know thy neighbor, is to love thy neighbor.

4. "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss is one of my favorite children's

books. Surprise your family or friends with a trip to see the pyramids in Egypt, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Machu Pichu in Peru, or Glacier Bay Alaska. Experience Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Oktoberfest in Germany, a luau in Hawaii, or take the kids to Walt Disney World!

Practically speaking, science has proven that travel creates happiness. Travel supports the economy of nations that rely on it. Tourism is a major force in the economy for smaller nations. And if you use a travel advisor it can be a hassle-free shopping experience!

**Friday, 01 November - Thursday, 07 November**

**God's Here - 120 min (NR)**  
Sat: 12:30PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM.  
Mon: 12:00PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince - 153 min (PG13)**  
Thurs: 6:30PM, 7:40PM

**Here - 104 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.  
Mon: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.  
Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM

**Heretic - 110 min (R)**  
Thurs: 7:00PM

**Smile 2 - 127 min (R)**  
Fri: 12:30PM, 3:25PM, 6:20PM, 9:15PM.  
Sat: 6:45PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM.  
Mon: 12:00PM, 2:55PM, 5:50PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM.  
Thurs: 4:50PM

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - 99 min (PG)**  
Thurs: 4:00PM, 6:30PM

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Early Access - 114 min (PG)**  
Sat: 4:00PM, 7:00PM

**The Carpenter - 112 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.  
Sat: 4:30PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 1:45PM, 4:25PM, 7:05PM.  
Mon: 2:50PM, 5:30PM, 8:10PM.  
Tues, Wed: 4:50PM, 7:30PM

**The Wild Robot - 102 min (PG)**  
Fri: 12:45PM, 3:15PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:35PM, 4:05PM, 6:35PM.  
Mon: 12:05PM, 2:35PM, 5:05PM, 7:35PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:05PM, 4:35PM, 7:05PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM

**Venom: The Last Dance - 109 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:50PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:35PM, 4:25PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:35PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM.  
Mon: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:50PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM

**We Live in Time - 108 min (R)**  
Fri: 1:55PM, 4:30PM, 7:05PM, 9:40PM.  
Sat: 4:25PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM.  
Sun: 11:10AM, 1:45PM, 4:20PM, 6:55PM.  
Mon: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:45PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.  
Thurs: 3:55PM

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## 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.

## 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. Pilates. 5-6 p.m. intro to meditation, private class. Location is 1321 Water's 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 Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome; come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.

**SONS OF** the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. at 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, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See [www.granbury-civicchorus.org](http://www.granbury-civicchorus.org) for schedule and activities. Questions: [granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com](mailto:granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com).

**FORWARD TRAINING** Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up, email [info@forwardtrainingcenter.org](mailto:info@forwardtrainingcenter.org) or call 817-573-6677.

## TUESDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com)); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com)); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Water's 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.

**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

**HABITAT FOR** Humanity Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown Trail

every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

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

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Quits of Valor (third Wednesdays) contact Kathy Cosand 618-407-9914; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

## THURSDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m.; noon-3 p.m. Quilting classes (second and fourth Thursdays, private fee required) 682-529-7492; noon-3 p.m. newcomers cards; Pilates; 5 p.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**CHESS CLUB**, 6-9 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. Youth membership not required. Details: [HoodCountyChess.com](mailto:HoodCountyChess.com).

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

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

**MELODY BELLS** singers of Granbury, women's choral group, seeks new members who love to sing 3-part harmony, especially first or second soprano. Also seeking experienced piano accompanist. Weekly Thursday rehearsals for Christmas concert season start Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to noon at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts performed during first two weeks of December. For more information, please call 817-999-1364.

## FRIDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

## SATURDAYS

**HABITAT FOR** Humanity Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

**HOOD COUNTY** Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets 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 for a mission (free with food donation); 10 a.m. Mexican Train. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

## 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** Loving Hands 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.

## SECOND MONDAYS

**MEETING OF** the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions, call 361-510-6820 or email [simanek1@charter.net](mailto:simanek1@charter.net).

## THIRD MONDAYS

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

**LOVE KNOTS** Loving Hands 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

## FIRST TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY DOLL** Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. 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.

## THIRD TUESDAYS

**THE PECAN** Plantation Genealogy Group meets at the EMS Training Room, 9518 Monticello Drive behind the fire station. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a resident to attend. Tell gate security you are attending the genealogy meeting in the EMS Training Room. Questions? Email [kcal13219@gmail.com](mailto:kcal13219@gmail.com).

## 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 at 817-279-2995 for additional details.

**MONTHLY MEETING** of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

## FIRST THURSDAYS

**BRAZOS RIVER** Corvette Club meets 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](mailto:bskaggs8@aol.com).

## SECOND THURSDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. [HoodCoCert@gmail.com](mailto:HoodCoCert@gmail.com).

**THE GRANBURY** EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

## THIRD THURSDAYS

**THE HOOD** Somervell 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](http://hscaggies.org).

**THE HOOD** County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

## THIRD FRIDAYS

**LEGACY CHRISTIAN** Academy of Granbury sponsors skating dates year round at Granbury Skating Rink from 10 a.m. to noon. All Christian music. \$8 cash at the door. No outside food or drink.

## LAST THURSDAYS

**MARINE CORPS** League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

## SECOND SATURDAYS

**SECOND SATURDAY** Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com) and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.  
1 John 4:12*

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John 15:4





COURTESY OF PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Landscapes that intentionally mesh plantings with varied colors, textures and sizes are considered layered.

GARDEN PATCH

# Build a multi-layered 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.

The term "layered" has many meanings when it comes to landscaping. A layered landscape might refer to one that contains plants with mixed heights and widths. It could also describe gardens with multi-season interest or diverse plant types. A great layered landscape makes good use of varied plant sizes, colors and textures to create a cohesive visual show.

If you look at your landscape and think it is missing something, perhaps you need to add layers, which give a garden a sense of lushness and depth. To create layers, you will need to select plants that grow well together. Plan to fill spaces vertically and horizontally while allowing each plant the resources and room needed to reach healthy maturity.

Layering begins with the intentional selection of trees, shrubs, grasses, vines and flowers. Always consider how your landscape will look from season-to-season. Taller plants and evergreens anchor landscapes year 'round, so you'll want to include trees and/or large shrubs. Evergreens unite the various plants in your yard into one

harmonious landscape while deciduous plants generally provide seasonal interest, such as fall color and blooms.

The design principles used to create a layered landscape include repetition, flow, scale and depth. Common layered designs include plant rows and sections. Each section descends in height from back to front. Plants in staggered foreground, mid-ground and background arrangements create depth and work well in both casual and formal garden settings. Example: Trees grow in the back and corners of a landscape with shrubs placed in the middle-distance. Taller perennials and grasses layer between the mid-distance and foreground, which includes low plantings as well as lawns, paths and pavement.

Repetition is created when plants are installed in drifts — similar plants and/or similar colors grouped together. Working with the scale and size of plants keeps a garden in balance proportionally. Repeating some of the same plants in every section helps to balance the overall landscape and create visual flow from one area of the garden to

another.

Care should be given to how a garden's various layers are blended. For best results, do not plant in precise rows. Instead, stagger a few plants slightly to the front of their "row" and a few slightly behind as you work your way around the landscape. Weaving plants in and out of layers also helps to create depth.

Another layering tip is to plant odd-numbered groupings around the garden, such as three, five or seven of the same plant. In between similar groupings, grow larger plants or a contrasting grouping. Contrast is created by different leaf shapes, colors, textures, forms, flowers, fruits, etc. An example would be a grouping of yellow chrysanthemums adjacent to a grouping of purple fountain grass. These plants contrast in both color and form.

Other aspects of a layered landscape include flowing, connected garden beds with a lack of pocket plantings (i.e., rose gardens, herb gardens etc.); landscape elements such as trees located inside garden beds; and deep landscape beds instead of foundation plantings.

At their best, layered gardens are multi-dimensional and complex. Their mix of varied plant sizes, textures and colors adds life to their design.

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 lakegranbury-mastergardeners.org.

BOOK REVIEW

# Bandit Heaven

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You're home now, safe. Shut the door. Lock it behind you.

The world is entirely outside your four walls but you can pretend that it's not. All the danger, all the worries that send you scurrying are far away. Everything you need is home but as in the new book, "Bandit Heaven" by Tom Clavin, you can only hide there for just so long.

Under normal circumstances, John Chapman was an easy-going man. Easy-going, to a point: Chapman settled down in 1878 on a ranch of his own in northwest Wyoming, to raise cattle and horses. Because of that, rustlers like Butch Cassidy were mighty interested in Chapman's ranch.

Chapman, tired of theft of his animals, was interested in catching Cassidy.

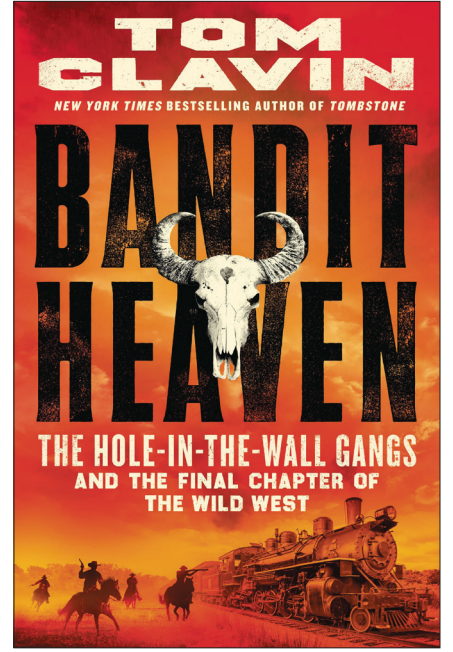
Born to Mormon parents in the spring of 1866, Bob Parker was given the nickname "Butch" as a young man, possibly when he worked for a butcher. Around then, he hung out with a man named Mike Cassidy, who taught Bob to be a good cowboy and a marksman. Bob figured out the cattle rustling thing by himself when he realized how easy it was to siphon off a horse here or a beef there while working for someone else.

At some point in the 1880s, Bob and Mike Cassidy parted ways, and Bob was alone. If, says Clavin, you were a drifter-bandit in Wyoming and Utah back then, there were three main spots for you to hide, all connected by the Outlaw Trail; Bob first landed at Robbers Roost but likely didn't stay long. He left there to find valid employment in various small, far-flung towns, while also running a grift with other young men and women and stealing horses.

About then, he'd permanently adopted the name Butch Cassidy, a moniker he was known by when he went to prison for stealing a cheap horse. Nearly two years later, Cassidy was released, unrepentant, and he set his sights on one goal: to form a new gang of outlaws ...

You say that true crime books are your thing. You devour them by the dozens each year. So why not try some real true crime inside "Bandit Heaven"?

Everything you need in a true crime story is here, as author Tom Clavin



COURTESY PHOTO

"Bandit Heaven: The Hole-in-the-Wall Gangs and the Final Chapter of the Wild West" by Tom Clavin, c.2024, St. Martin's Press, \$30, 304 pages

makes the Wild West seem a little wilder: gunfights, lawlessness, fast chases, murder and sheriffs who were often ruthless and corrupt. Indeed, you can't get any truer than crime inside history, told along with Clavin's wry sense of humor in unexpected places.

Along the way, you'll wonder how your forebears ever survived.

That's all wrapped up in a well-people, surprisingly short-timed tale that includes twists and turns and leaves readers breathlessly hanging because, as Clavin tells it and despite what Hollywood has brought you, the real end of this story is still an unknown.

Readers who love Westerns or history books and those who love the genre on TV will, of course, enjoy this book but try it, if you're into a good old-fashioned story. For you, "Bandit Heaven" is a pretty safe bet.

Want more about the Wild West? Then "Tilghman: The Legendary Lawman and the Woman Who Inspired Him" by Howard Kazanjian and Chris Enss (Two Dot, \$28.95), a book with outlaws, hosses, cactus and the best part of a love of a cowboy.

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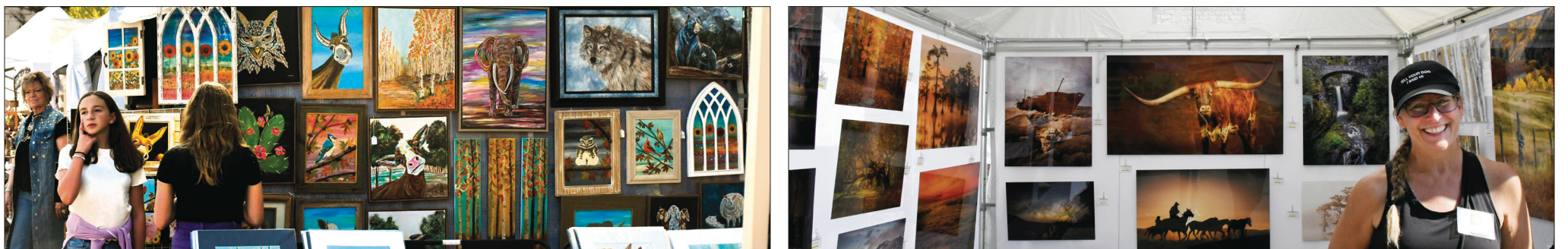
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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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