



Several local volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel aided in rescuing a 2-year-old from a burning apartment Sunday, Nov. 10.

## Live TV comes to Granbury

BY CHLOE LAING  
Staff Writer  
chloe@hcnews.com

The early bird gets the worm — or so they say — and WFAA Daybreak is here to prove the statement's truth. Get up and head down to the Granbury Historic Square dressed in your holiday best for the live filming of WFAA Daybreak from 5-7 a.m. Nov. 22.

WFAA Daybreak is a weekday segment of ABC Dallas specializing in early morning broadcasts that highlight the daily lives and stories of those living in North Texas.

"This is an extreme honor for the city of Granbury," said Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury. "This is a perfect event to create excitement for the Celebration Capital of Texas, and spark anticipation for the upcoming Christmas season."

Daybreak's live filming will take place on the Historic Granbury Square. The event will feature some of Granbury's favorite festivities, such as the Historic Downtown Square decking the halls — and their storefronts — for the holiday season. A visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be a highlight of the event, along with performances from Visit Granbury's history ambassadors in their full historical garb. Horse and carriage rides courtesy of Eagle Eye Ranch and free breakfast burritos served from the Triple Cross Cowboy Church's Chuckwagon will be available as well.

"These types of opportunities are what makes Granbury so special. We have the unique opportunity to highlight Granbury through a television show that not only highlights our beautiful small town, but also articulates some of the people, events and places that make it the Best Small Town in America," states Dooley.

Get out of your pajamas and get down to the square Nov. 22 at 5 a.m. for the exclusive showcase of the unique charm and celebration of the City of Granbury.

## HOOD COUNTY HEROES

### Local firefighters, EMS rescue 2-year-old from burning apartment

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
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The quick and heroic actions of several local volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel saved the life of a 2-year-old early Sunday morning.

According to a Facebook post from the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, at approximately 12:50 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, Hood County 911 received a report of an apartment fire in the 300 block of Parkwood in Granbury. Upon arrival, first responders were instructed by dispatchers that a child was trapped in a second-floor bedroom. Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Bradley

Snyder explained that the second-story apartment was fully engulfed in flames, prompting firefighters to quickly react and split into two teams. "One team tackled the fire while the other team rescued the child from the burning apartment," Snyder said, in an email to the Hood County News. GVFD volunteer Brian Serratelli laddered the bedroom window while North Hood County VFD Lt.

Jonathan Head climbed up and entered the building. Together, they successfully removed the 2-year-old from the burning apartment. Snyder said the child was handed down the ladder to members of Texas EMS, where the child was treated and transported by a medivac helicopter for further advanced care in Fort Worth. "The fire was quickly extinguished and Red Cross provided housing for the displaced residents," he added. Head, who was instrumental in the rescue, said he gives glory to God for his protection over everyone involved. "When we hear 'there is someone trapped,' we

know every passing second is the difference between life and death," he said, in an email to the HCN. "Everyone involved in this response had one thing on their mind — 'Get to that child.' This was a prime example of what we train for. We never know when that moment will come to use our skills we have acquired, but in the moment it all becomes second nature. My thoughts and prayers are with the family for a speedy recovery." GVFD Training Lt. Diego Guerrero also posted on Facebook about the incident, saying that seeing the rescue unfold and being performed in real life "gives me chills and brings me so much joy." Guerrero explained that

the firefighters performed a technique called VES, which stands for Vent, Enter, Search — a method that has been performed numerous times in training. "One firefighter goes in, opens a window, searches the room, and brings the victim out, handing him off to his crew," Guerrero wrote in his post. "We harp and train on this specific scenario countless times, masks blacked out, to simulate conditions exactly like the ones found on this scene with little to zero visibility. I cannot express enough how proud I am of every single person on this scene and our fire departments in Hood County." PLEASE SEE RESCUE | A8

## Wimberly vs. Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS Board Judge Bufkin denies Wimberly's injunction to stop election

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
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Billy Wimberly's effort to halt the Nov. 9 Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services board election was denied by Judge Bryan Bufkin during a hearing Friday, Nov. 8. Wimberly — whose name was excluded from the ballot after he submitted his application — filed a lawsuit against the board, seeking an injunction to stop the upcoming election and to have his name placed on the ballot.

**BYLAWS DISPUTE**  
The main point of con-

tention in the case revolves around Wimberly's former role as a 30-year PPVFD firefighter. According to Article 6, Section 2 of the PPVFD/EMS bylaws, members of the board of directors cannot be active members of the PPVFD or EMS — a rule Wimberly contends he had already complied with by resigning Oct. 1, about a month before the election. During the court hearing, each side was given 45 minutes to present its arguments before Bufkin made a ruling on the temporary restraining order (TRO). Wimberly testified he had submitted his resume and application for a place on the board Sept. 1, while

the deadline was Sept. 17. He noted that his resignation Oct. 1, should have allowed him to run, as he had resigned prior to the Nov. 9 election. The defense countered that Wimberly was not qualified to be on the ballot because he had not resigned from the fire department by the time he submitted his application. "You were on the fire department until Oct. 1, so you were not qualified to be on the board," said attorney Ken Campbell, who represented the PPVFD/EMS board and board president Phillip Mayeux. "On Sept. 17, you put in an application knowing you weren't qualified." "It doesn't say when you

apply you can't be a member," Wimberly said. "On Oct. 1, I left. I was no longer a member." **ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF BALLOT PROCEDURES** Wimberly's lawyer, Kathleen Henley, pointed to a failure in the election process, claiming the board did not send out ballots to Pecan Plantation residents in accordance with the bylaws. According to Article 6, Section 5 of the PPVFD/EMS bylaws, names, qualifications of the nominees, and ballots shall be mailed to the group membership at least 30 days before the election. However, Wimberly's team argued that this timeline was not adhered to, as bal-

lots were postmarked Oct. 10, and the ballots originally stated the election date was Nov. 7, not Nov. 9. In response, Campbell argued that the ballots had been sent out in compliance with the required timeline, and that the election had already been set into motion by the time the lawsuit was filed. He explained that despite some minor errors, the election process was largely in line with tradition. **WRITE-IN CANDIDATES/ BALLOT STRUCTURE** When Wimberly discovered his name was not on the ballot when he received it in the mail around Oct. 10, he decided to run a write-in campaign. However, he later

saw a social media post indicating that any write-in votes would be invalidated. Wimberly's legal team stated that because of the improper exclusion of potential write-in candidates, the election process had been marred. Mayeux, current board president, testified that he did not write the ballot and that the bylaws do not stipulate that write-ins had to be allowed. Dave Raffa, who served for 22 years on the PPVFD board before stepping down in 2016, testified that when he was chief, they "never had a ballot structured like this." He added that the board

PLEASE SEE WIMBERLY | A10



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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Shop local this holiday season: Support Granbury's small businesses

By the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The holiday season is a time for giving, and there's no better way to spread joy than by shopping local. Shopping locally not only helps your community thrive but also provides a more personalized and unique gift selection. As you make your list and check it twice, we encourage you to explore the unique, high-quality gifts our Granbury businesses have to offer.

### WHY SHOP LOCAL?

When you shop locally, your money stays in the community and helps create jobs, sustain local infrastructure, and support area schools and charities. Local businesses are the backbone of Granbury's economy, and by shopping at your favorite stores, you're directly contributing to the vibrant

character and success of our town.

### 1. UNIQUE, ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFTS

Granbury's local shops are brimming with unique gifts that you won't find in big box stores. Whether you're looking for handcrafted jewelry, locally made art, vintage finds or gourmet food products, our shops offer something special for everyone on your list.

### 2. PERSONALIZED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Local shop owners know their products and customers intimately, offering personalized service that makes shopping feel more like a connection than a transaction. Whether you're getting a custom gift basket, a personalized keepsake, or advice on the perfect gift for someone special, local busi-



nesses go the extra mile to ensure your experience is unforgettable.

### 3. STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

Each purchase you make at a Granbury business helps keep our community strong. Local business owners are your neighbors, and they often give back to local charities, sponsor community events, and support local schools. By shopping locally,

you're investing in the heart of Granbury and helping to keep our town a place people are proud to call home.

### GIFT CARDS AND EXPERIENCES

Not sure what to get someone? A gift card to one of Granbury's wonderful restaurants, shops or spas is always a hit. Or consider giving the gift of an experience — a wine tasting at a local vineyard, a relaxing

afternoon at a day spa, or tickets to a live show at the Granbury Opera House or Granbury Live. These experiences are a great way to show your love for someone, all while supporting our local businesses.

### SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL CHOICES

Granbury's local businesses are often committed to sustainable practices, such as sourcing materials locally

or reducing packaging waste. When you shop here, you're helping make a positive environmental impact, too.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is here to support both businesses and shoppers throughout the season. Check out our online directory for a list of local shops, restaurants and services, or visit our website for information on upcoming events and promotions. Together, we can make this holiday season the best one yet for Granbury's small businesses.

This year, make the decision to shop local. It's not just about buying presents — it's about investing in the people, places and businesses that make Granbury such a wonderful place to live and visit. Every purchase you make supports your neighbors, friends and the community you love.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



Wellington State Bank.

COURTESY PHOTO



The Joint Chiropractic.

COURTESY GRAPHIC

# 'A real hero': County honors Billy E. Boedeker with official Medal of Honor request

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
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Hood County's own Billy E. Boedeker received the honor of a lifetime Nov. 12, when members of the Hood County Commissioners Court signed an official request asking Congress to award the Army veteran a prestigious Medal of Honor.

Described as the highest military award in the United States, the Medal of Honor is given to members of the Armed Forces who perform acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

Boedeker — who served with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade — was recognized for his "extreme gallantry" and "selfless bravery," as noted in the county's letter, he risked his life in connection with military operations with an armed force in the Republic of Vietnam.

According to the county's request, Boedeker served as assistant machine gunner in an airborne infantry company, where he participated in a search and destroy operation on Hill 882 near Dak To in Vietnam Nov. 18, 1967.

During the mission, when Pfc. Boedeker advanced with his unit toward the crest of the hill, he came under intense automatic weapons fire, rocket fire, and small arms fire from an estimated two companies of North Vietnamese Army soldiers.

In an act of outstanding bravery, Boedeker raced to the heaviest



Billy E. Boedeker's family came out to celebrate in the honorable veteran's special recognition, during the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Nov. 12.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

point of contact, set up his machine gun and returned devastating fire upon the hostile forces, killing six enemy soldiers before being wounded himself.

After he was treated for his wounds, Boedeker returned to the forward position, where he was

struck six more times by enemy bullets.

He was then evacuated to the rear, where he was treated and instructed to remain with the other seriously wounded men.

However, in a courageous act of bravery — and without con-

cern for his personal safety — he returned to his position to return fire to North Vietnam, where he was once again wounded and removed from the battlefield to a hospital.

The county's official request to Congress states that Boedeker

exemplifies valor through his actions as the word is defined as "great courage in the face of danger."

On behalf of Boedeker — who was initially awarded the

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# How about we follow the Constitution?



**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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This past week the Commissioners Court considered a resolution to “Limit Governmental Power to US and Texas Constitutions.” This proclamation was brought to the agenda by Commissioner Dave Eagle, and it specifically states that it was presented in support of the Republican Party-backed, proposed legislation that would repeal Texas Government Code Sec 418.001 et seq. It goes on to make several assertions such as:

- Constitutional rights should never be trampled;
- Executive orders, by and large, are in direct contravention of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions;
- The Republican Party

platform calls to limit overreaching state government and county officials;

- The unconstitutional overreach during COVID was never more egregious than during the COVID

lockdowns.

Upon learning of the proclamation and reading it, I found myself shaking my head at the actions of the misguided commissioner from Precinct 4. Why is this proposition before the court and what is he trying to accomplish?

It certainly sounds good; “We the people” want our government to follow the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. I am all for that, as is everyone I know, and of course that is already the law of the land. So once again, why is this “proclamation” before the court? Is Mr. Eagle unaware of the supremacy clause in the U.S. Constitution? The reality is that state and county officials are by law prevented from overreaching. If they attempt to do so, the courts and the rule of law are there to make sure the Constitution is upheld. Such is our system, and it has served our nation very well for almost 250 years.

The proclamation indicates that for the most part, executive orders are unconstitutional. This is quite a comprehensive assertion and misstates the law of the land. Has the U.S. or Texas Supreme Court made that ruling? It has not, so why is it made in the proclamation? Neither a political party nor an individual decides what is constitutional. They may have opinions, they may voice concerns, but the rule of law and the Constitution determine that the courts will make that interpretation. It would seem Mr. Eagle

wants to protect the Constitution in his proclamation. He has been quoted as saying, “I have read the Constitution and know what it says.” Perhaps he might consider giving his copy of the Constitution a second glance, because what is “constitutional” is not his call, and certainly not the call of the Commissioners Court. If he or anyone else feels something is wrong with an action on the part of the government, he needs to seek redress as the law demands: go to court and allow our justice system to exercise its constitutional duty and make a ruling. This is what the Constitution requires. When politicians make decisions about the rule of law, the result is anarchy.

The proclamation also indicates the COVID closures were a constitutional overreach and particularly egregious during the COVID lockdowns. President Trump’s White House set guidelines for behavior during the COVID crisis and Gov. Abbott’s executive orders March 19, 2020, followed President Trump’s directives, shutting down a large part of our society.

Who among you envy the heavy responsibility the president and the governor had in the spring of 2020? No one knew if COVID would kill a thousand people or 10 million. They took steps which they thought would save lives and protect our nation based on the information they had at the time. Our leaders have no greater responsibility than to pro-

tect the health and welfare of our nation. Would you rather they had sat still and done nothing? What would you have said if 50 million people had died because of inaction? Fortunately, 50 million did not die, but who knew what would happen? It is very easy to criticize after the fact, but does anyone seriously question they were doing the best they could to protect us under confusing and uncertain circumstances? Special circumstances like COVID do not abrogate the rights granted under the Constitution and no one here is suggesting they should, but individual rights do sometimes take a backseat to the needs and safety of the nation. This is why the courts exist — to make those determinations as to what is constitutional. This is our system of checks and balances, and this is the constitutional way. This is the American way.

When the Hood County Commissioners Court enacted orders in pursuance of the directives issued by the governor concerning COVID, it was fulfilling its sworn duty to follow the laws of the State of Texas. To have done otherwise would have been a violation of the oath of office which they swore to uphold. It was not the County Court’s role to interpret the constitutionality of the acts of the governor. If Mr. Eagle or anyone else thought the actions were unconstitutional there was a remedy: follow the rule of law and allow the courts to decide what is constitutionally permissible.

Mr. Eagle, if President Trump’s and Gov. Abbott’s acts during COVID were so egregious and you are so firm in your support of the Constitution and this proclamation, why did you support the two so strongly in their recent reelection bids?

The proclamation is pure political theater, orchestrated by state political officials and initiated by their local minion. Political operatives seem to think these proclamations carry significant weight, when in fact they have no power whatsoever other than if someone votes against it, they use that vote to misrepresent the reason why they voted in opposition. In this case, a vote against the proclamation is a vote in favor of the rule of law and the Constitution and a vote in favor is nothing more than political caterwauling.

We have real problems in Hood County to address, like the needs for a new or remodeled jail, funding for indigent health care, traffic issues and economic development. How about the court working to solve problems rather than utilizing the court’s agenda for a political statement that does nothing but take up the time of the court.

Thought for the day: “All rights secured to the citizens under the Constitution are worth nothing, and a mere bubble, except guaranteed to them by an independent and virtuous judiciary.” — Andrew Jackson

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

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

**Michelle Lucero**

### Say hello to our neighbor, Michelle Lucero!

Michelle Lucero moved to Hood County in the eighth grade, nearly 28 years ago. If there’s a worthy cause in Hood County, there’s a good chance Michelle Lucero is involved. She serves on four local boards: Mission Granbury, Kiwanis, Beau Bear, and the Granbury ISD Education Foundation, and she engages with many other charitable organizations.

Michelle feels fortunate that eight years ago the First National Bank took a chance on a bartender, allowing her to become the rise to vice president of marketing. Her role at the bank provides endless opportunities to give back to the community. She genuinely loves people, and her social battery never runs dry. Michelle believes that everyone has unique gifts to share, and we all bring different gifts to the table.

Living in the Acton area with her husband, Lonnie, Michelle loves the beautiful town and its family-oriented activities. The couple has two daughters, ages 20 and 21, and an 11-year-old son. They are passionate sports fans, with attending sporting events being their favorite family pastime. Michelle notes, “We are a big sporting family, definitely a house divided with our teams.” Their son participates in peewee sports, and right now their time is centered around him. “He’s our free time.”

From her perspective as VP of Marketing, Michelle believes that opting in on the Hood County News special sections gives businesses like First National Bank an extra avenue to reach out, honor veterans, congratulate graduates, celebrate the holidays, and so much more.

## It’s a draw: City Council appoints Lee Daniels to P&Z Commission following three-way tie



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of the Granbury City Council deliberated Tuesday, Nov. 5, about who to appoint to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
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The Granbury City Council experienced a rare deadlock last week when members found themselves in a three-way tie during the appointment of a new mem-

ber to the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

With current P&Z member Earl Erdmann recently submitting his resignation, the council began accepting applications for who would fill the remainder of his two-year unexpired term.

Since three candidates ap-

plied to fill the vacant seat — Jerry Allen, Lee Daniels and Alexander “Alex” Wolf — the council was faced with an important decision.

“There’s a lot of bread and butter there (in Planning and Zoning),” Mayor Jim Jarratt said, during the meeting Nov. 5. “There’s a

lot of work that has to be done to keep the city moving in the direction that we all hope and want. This is a tough job. This is real work.”

What is normally a quick and simple process, however, soon turned rather com-

PLEASE SEE **P&Z** | A5

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# LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

## Advertisement to Bid City of Granbury

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive proposals for qualified firms to serve as the airfield aviation fuel supplier at the Granbury Regional Airport until November 26, 2024, at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048 Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department Aviation Fuel Supplier for Granbury Regional Airport RFP No. 24-25-02 401 N. Park Street Granbury, TX 76048 Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/> Purchasing starting November 12, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or [crussell@granbury.org](mailto:crussell@granbury.org). Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

## Advertisement to Bid City of Granbury

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive proposals for the construction of a building to store fuel trucks at the Granbury Regional Airport until November 27, 2024, at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department Fuel Truck Building at Granbury Regional Airport RFP No. 24-25-01 401 N. Park Street Granbury, TX 76048 Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/> Purchasing starting November 12, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or [crussell@granbury.org](mailto:crussell@granbury.org). Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

The Granbury Housing Authority has 3 bedroom units coming available to be leased, therefore effective Monday, November 18th the 3 Bedroom Waiting List will RE-OPEN to accept applications. Applications are to be made in person at 503 N. Crockett Street between the hours of 9am - 12 noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Visit our website [www.granburyhousing.org](http://www.granburyhousing.org) for eligibility information and required application documentation.

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Bruno Enrique Ruiz, Cause No.P10545, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Juliana R. Patino in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Bruno Enrique Ruiz, 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 this the 4th day of November, 2024 Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Deputy

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To Cassandra Zan Pedigo Stockton and all persons interested in the Estate of Lena Zan Thomas, Cause No.P10459, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Charles Michael Tidwell in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship, for Agreed Independent Administration and Appointment of an Independent Administrator with Power to Sell Property and To Serve Without Bond Pursuant to Sections 401.003, 401.005 and 401.006 of the Texas Estates Code and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Lena Zan Thomas, 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 this the 31st day of October, 2024 Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Chief Deputy

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Jose Cruz Tovar Hernandez, Cause No.P10479, County Court of Hood County, Texas. ELIZABETH TOVAR in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Amended Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Jose Cruz Tovar Hernandez, 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 this the 5th day of November 2024. Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Deputy

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gerald O'Russell Griffin a/k/a Gerald O. Griffin, Deceased, were granted on October 31, 2024, in Cause No. P10531, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: June M. Griffin. 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: Samuel I. Reid Attorney at Law 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 DATED the 31st day of October 2024. The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for June M. Griffin By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid Steven J. Reid State Bar No.: 16747900 Samuel I. Reid State Bar No.: 24105702 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 Telephone: (817) 573-3718 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732 E-mail: [steve@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:steve@reidfirmpc.com) [samuel@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:samuel@reidfirmpc.com)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Leslie Martin Estes, Deceased, were granted on October 31, 2024, in Cause No. P10528, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: John James Liversedge. 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: Samuel I. Reid Attorney at Law 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 DATED the 31st day of October 2024. The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for John James Liversedge By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid Steven J. Reid State Bar No.: 16747900 Samuel I. Reid State Bar No.: 24105702 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 Telephone: (817) 573-3718 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732 E-mail: [steve@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:steve@reidfirmpc.com) [samuel@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:samuel@reidfirmpc.com)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Frank W. Clover, Deceased, were granted on October 23, 2024, in Cause No. P10446, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Steven H. Clover. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 23rd day of October 2024. The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for Steven H. Clover By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid Steven J. Reid State Bar No.: 16747900 Samuel I. Reid State Bar No.: 24105702 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 Telephone: (817) 573-3718 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732 E-mail: [steve@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:steve@reidfirmpc.com) NOTICE TO CREDITORS - Page 1 of 1 S:\SJR\Individuals\C\Clover, Steven H\Probate of Frank W Clover [samuel@reidfirmpc.com](mailto:samuel@reidfirmpc.com)

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0013786001

APPLICATION. Aqua Texas, Inc., 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 400W, Austin, Texas 78723, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0013786001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0089338) to authorize constructing a new wastewater treatment plant to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed 115,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 5207 River Ridge Street, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The discharge route is from the plant site to directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on September 25, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Hood County Courthouse, 100 East Pearl Street, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. 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 the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.731027,32.400044&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.**

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "I/we request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

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

Further information may also be obtained from Aqua Texas, Inc. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Scot Foltz, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 512-990-4400.

Issuance Date: October 31, 2024

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**THE GRANBURY**

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

**FRIDAY, NOV. 15**

**HOOD COUNTY** Hospital District board of directors regular scheduled meeting at noon in Annex I Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Drive, 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 Winners at 5:20 p.m. GISD board room foyer.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 19**

**LAKE GRANBURY** Ministerial Alliance monthly luncheon at noon at Mission Granbury, 3511 Plaza East Court. Speaker this month is Dusti Scovel, executive director of Mission Granbury. Scovel has served as executive director since 2015. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, writer with 30 years' experience in the nonprofit sector. Information at [granburyministries.org](http://granburyministries.org).

**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.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 23****PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

sponsored by the Granbury Lions Club from 8 a.m. to noon. Donations only. Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court.

**LAKE GRANBURY** Master Gardener's "Horticulture in the Hood" Series beginning at 9 a.m. at the Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. "Busting Tree Myths — Diseases and Pests" with speaker Kimberlee Peterson, woodland ecologist, Texas A & M Forest Service. For more information contact the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280

**"HOMICIDE IN the Hood"** book signing by native and local author Kelli Martin at The Shops in Tolar from noon to 2 p.m. Books available for purchase and autographs available.

**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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com).

Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

**HCNEWS.COM**

# Branching out into fun

## Lambert Branch Park acquires new play features

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com)

Lambert Branch Park is officially getting a rock-solid upgrade with its recent addition of new nature-inspired play features — perfect for an afternoon of fun.

Located at 304 E. Rucker St., Lambert Branch Park is now equipped with netted rope climbs and a playful "wobble leaf," offering exciting new challenges for young adventurers ages 2 to 12.

Crafted from sustainable materials, these new additions are specifically designed for outdoor play in Texas weather — meaning they don't get too warm or too cold.

For added safety and comfort, the play area's base is also carefully cushioned with soft, shredded rubber nuggets to provide a protective surface that helps reduce the risk of injury during play.

"This has more of a natural type theme of playground equipment," City Manager Chris Coffman explained during the Granbury City Council meeting Nov. 5. "So, you (may) wonder why we went all natural like that. I took my grandsons to one of our play parks and there was a tree log that had been cut and laid there, and they actually played on that log more than they played on the \$100,000 (equipment). We learned that kids like nature, so we tried to buy playground equipment that's similar to nature."

According to Aaron McLain, the City of Granbury's internal services director, the decision to create a more natural play space at the park was also largely credited to the Parks and Recreation staff and to the City of Granbury Parks Board. He stated that the goal was to design a playground that would blend seamlessly with the park's natural surroundings, including the lakeshore that borders the park to the east.

"It's constructed of large timbers, providing the op-



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lambert Branch Park is officially getting a rock-solid upgrade with its recent addition of new nature-inspired play features — perfect for an afternoon of fun.



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portunity for children to climb, slide, crawl, and balance on the timbers, and it is constructed of a renewable product," he explained. "It is cooler to the touch in hot Texas summers while providing the contact with nature that you may not experience on traditional play structures."

McLain explained that when he began his career with the city 20 years ago, Lambert Branch Park only featured vintage playground structures. Although the equipment was later removed due to maintenance needs, McLain noted that the construction of the nearby Hike and Bike

trail highlighted the need for a renewed focus on revitalizing the park.

"The city partnered with local nonprofits and funded the first phase of the Lambert Branch Park playground and landscaping," he said. "It consists of a large artificial climbing boulder, turtle, and climb-

through log. This new phase was funded by the city with a portion of those funds coming from park donations."

McLain added that the city has also applied for a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to fund additional improvements to Lambert Branch Park. The city will not find out the results of the applications until February.

"If we get the grant, some planned improvements include a paved walkway that goes from the playground and runs alongside the lakeshore, connecting to the fishing pier and boat dock, then to the existing Hike and Bike Trail," McLain said. "Benches, solar lighting, and covered picnic tables are also included in the plans."

Aside from the new playground features, Lambert Branch Park offers a fishing pier and a spacious open area perfect for recreational activities and events. The park also connects directly to the Hike and Bike Trail for those who want to explore even more.

**P&Z****FROM PAGE A3**

plicated — especially when each candidate received a nomination from a different council member.

Place 4 Councilman Skip Overdier nominated Wolf, stating that he had gotten to know Wolf and his family well last year during the pair's campaigns for city council.

"He (Wolf) is involved in the community, and he's volunteered for several other boards and commissions here in Granbury," Overdier said.

Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale nominated Allen, a 26-year resident of Granbury, local realtor and musician.

"As you know, I've had the opportunity to serve on P&Z before I did city council," Vale said. "I served for three years, so I'd like to nominate Jerry Allen. Jerry worked eight years at our conference center here in

Granbury, and he's a past president of the Granbury Association of Realtors, so he's involved in our community — and he understands our community. I know Jerry, and I think Jerry is very well qualified to serve on our Planning and Zoning Commission."

To make sure Daniels' credentials were recognized, Jarratt explained that the council's last applicant had served as president of P&Z for close to 30 years, adding that he has been a "longtime advocate" for the city of Granbury.

"We have three exceptionally qualified people here today," Jarratt added.

Place 2 Councilman Eddie Rodriguez then pointed out that Daniels' extensive experience in various commission boards makes him the most qualified candidate for the role.

"Not to say that we don't think that the other two candidates aren't good

candidates to do this, but if we're going by experience on this ... I know Mr. Daniels doesn't have a resume in there but he served on the Planning and Zoning Commission when I served," Rodriguez said.

"Are you nominating Mr. Daniels?" Jarratt asked Rodriguez.

"Yes, Mayor, I nominate Mr. Daniels — just to make it more confusing," Rodriguez said, as members of the public chuckled.

With three nominations on the table, Jarratt referred to City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle, who advised council members to only vote for one candidate to ensure a clear outcome.

"This will be the hardest time of the night," Jarratt said.

As voting commenced, the council soon found itself in a rare deadlock, with each candidate receiving two votes: Overdier and Jarratt for Wolf, Vale

and Place 3 Councilman Bruce Wadley for Allen, and Rodriguez and Place 6 Councilman Greg Corrigan for Daniels.

To break the tie, SoRelle highlighted the fact that Wolf currently already serves on the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

"While not illegal, there's an inherent conflict that possibly could come up by someone sitting on Planning and Zoning — making a decision on something and then being on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and hearing that later — so I just want you to consider that," SoRelle said. "It doesn't exclude him, but it's something you might want to be aware of."

The council then held a revote, which resulted in Daniels securing the spot on the P&Z Commission with three votes — from Jarratt, Rodriguez and Corrigan — compared to

two votes for Allen and one for Wolf.

Since Wolf was present at the meeting, Rodriguez took that time to address him directly, stating that he is doing a "wonderful job" on the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

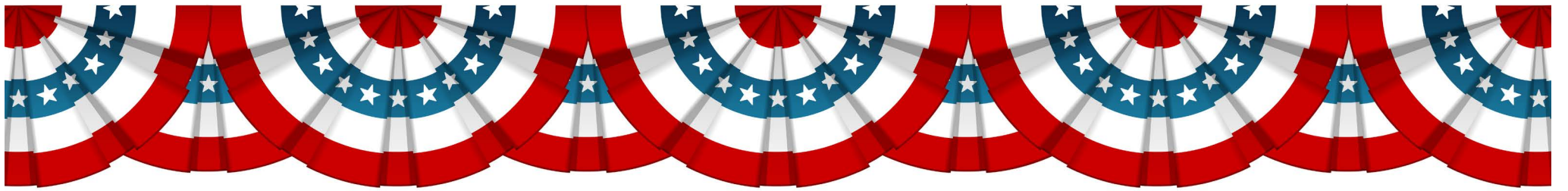
"I hope that if we have another opening on Planning and Zoning that you continue to make the efforts, continue to be resilient and continue to apply for those positions," Rodriguez said. "We value your contribution to these commissions and our commission boards, so thank you for the service that you have provided so far."

Daniels will officially join the Planning and Zoning Commission alongside Chair Reda Kay, Vice Chair Tim Hallman, and members Thomas Class, Richard Hoefs, Jim Jones, Randall Moore and Kevin Watson. His term will expire in January 2026.

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## ELECTION STATISTICS



# Hood County voter participation soars

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County didn't disappoint this year in terms of voter turnout, with nearly 72% of registered voters coming out to cast their ballots for the 2024 election.

During the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Nov. 12, Elections Administrator Stephanie Cooper presented the county's election statistics, which highlighted the impressive turnout.

Even during voter registration, the high turnout was predicted, as Cooper explained that 95 voter registration applications were submitted online and 255 applications were sent in either through the mail or in person — all submitted Oct. 7, which was the registration cutoff date.

"If you've been in the hallways this past month or so, it's been packed," Cooper said. "During early voting, we had around 185 limited ballots, which is something that my office has to handle, so we ended up having voting booths in our hallway so that people can vote on these limited ballots."

She noted that for the first time ever during a presidential election, Hood County had two early voting locations: Annex 1 and the Acton Methodist Church.

"I'm very thankful for (the two locations) because about 35% of the voters who voted early voted through our secondary Acton location, and about 65% voted at the annex, which is the normal location," Cooper said.

While only 6,300 Hood County residents voted on Election Day — which was

lower than Cooper anticipated — she said the county had a "tremendous" early voting turnout, with nearly 29,000 residents casting their vote during the two-week period.

"On Election Day, we had the 10 locations like normal and about 130 voting machines," she said. "Our overall turnout was close to 72%, which was good for a bigger election."

With more than 100 workers, Cooper stressed that the success of the election was made possible by the tireless efforts of her team. She also recognized two employees, whom she described as being the "glue of the department."

"They had a great attitude showing up every day and put in countless hours," she said. "This last pay period Deanna had 96 hours and

Steve had 126, which is significant for two weeks — and that's not even including Election Day."

"I love seeing that great teamwork y'all have together," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said. "And thank you very much on behalf of all citizens of Hood County."

During the citizens comments portion of the meeting, Hood County Republican Party Chair Greg Harrell also recognized both the staff members and the volunteers who have dedicated their time working the election.

"They are working so steadfastly over there to make sure that our republic is protected and our voices are heard," he said. "They did a wonderful job, so I just want to underscore that."

He also reported that hundreds of Hood County volunteers worked tirelessly to encourage voter participation — and it worked.

"We, as a party, had a huge get-out-the-vote effort here in Hood County ... that resulted in a Hood County election turnout in excess of 70%," Harrell said. "Now, let me put that in context for you. There are 50 counties in the state of Texas with over 50,000 registered voters — and Hood County finished in the top four of those counties in terms of voter turnout in this last election cycle; that's something to be very proud of."

He noted that in addition to "turning out the vote," Hood County was also one of the four counties that exceeded the 70% voter turnout.

"From my perspective,

and maybe more importantly, to all of us as Republicans, we exceeded the statewide Republican voter turnout by about 25% across the board," Harrell said. "In other words, when Texas delivered statewide 56% of its vote for Donald Trump, we in Hood County delivered over 82% of our vote for Trump. Likewise, across the board, we exceeded the statewide results from Ted Cruz by about 25% all the way down the ballot."

"What this tells us is that Hood County is indeed a Republican stronghold. We are a Republican county. The county Republicans are energized, and I'm just pleased to give each of you this good Republican report."

Hood County's next Election Day will be May 3, 2025.

# Tolar water causes a stink with some residents

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the  
Hood County News

Friends, there's trouble — trouble in Tolar, Texas. Trouble with a capital T and that rhymes with P and that stands for "pee-yew!"

While it's not quite the same trouble Robert Preston found himself facing in the musical "The Music Man," it is nonetheless a stinky situation in Rattler Land. Several citizens have voiced complaints about the smell coming from the water in the creek near the city's water plant.

The city is in the process of building a new water plant, something Mayor Matt Hutsell hopes to have completed late next year. In the meantime, there is an ongoing battle with the smell.

"We'll try to do whatever we can to eliminate it," Hutsell said. "We don't want it to stink."

"We've got kids who go to school there, and when you pass by it, you don't want your windows down," said Sam Morrison. "There was also a lot of stuff floating in it that wouldn't normally be in water."

Morrison, who used to live near the water plant when it was built several decades



COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN SPENCE

Several folks in Tolar have complained that the water in the creek near the water plant is emitting a foul odor. A new water plant is on the way, but in the meantime, the mayor said measures are being taken to deal with the smell.

ago, now lives in the country. He said there has been a slight smell for quite some time, but it has gotten worse this year.

Hutsell said the problem appears to stem from one of the chambers at the water plant having more sludge than water in it. He said that problem has been addressed and, hopefully, the smell will get under control.

Melissa Andres has lived right by the creek for 15

years. She said the smell started increasing around March.

"When it got hot and dry, it got unbearable," she said. "When you go around the corner, the creek runs by the road. It's a grayish-white water and it smells all the time."

Christian Spence also lives nearby, for the past eight years. She, likewise, began detecting an increased smell in the spring, she said.

"It used to be only after it

rained, then on weekends when there was more usage, but now it's all the time," she said. "Week before last it was so strong I could smell it with my windows closed."

Spence said she contacted the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, who responded by telling her they will come to town and take a sample from the creek in the next month.

Hutsell said sludge from the plant is sent out for test-

ing on a weekly basis to the TCEQ and water that flows into the creek is tested daily. He said if the agency finds anything, the city will act accordingly to deal with the situation.

"I highly doubt there is sewage in the creek, but if there is we'll do whatever has to be done to fix it. We'll do whatever the TCEQ tells us to do," Hutsell said.

He added that the city has also hired a company to

smoke test the sewer lines. This is a method to determine if there are any defects in the lines.

"Hopefully, with the change in the way we're running our system it won't happen again," Hutsell said.

He also assured folks that, while the smell is indeed a challenge, they need not worry about their drinking water or water they use for cooking, bathing, etc.

"We're all well water," he said. "We chlorinate it and put it into the system."

Tolar continues to see a plethora of growth over the past quarter century. The population was less than 650 in 1999 and is now close to 2,000.

With that growth has come plenty of new homes, which, of course, require water from the plant. Hutsell said the new plant will increase daily production from 100,000 to 300,000 gallons per day.

The new plant will be located in the same area as the current one, which Hutsell said will be destroyed. He also said the new plant will be underground, whereas the current one is above ground, making the new plant easier to maintain and easier to grow as more people make Tolar their home.

# Pearl Street repaving, traffic signal upgrades now underway

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury's busy Pearl Street is about to receive an extreme makeover.

Those who regularly travel Business Highway 377 will soon start to see improvements from Mustang Trail all the way to Holmes Drive, as crews from the Texas Department of Transportation begin the process of repaving the road and upgrading traffic signals.

According to a news release from the City of Granbury, traffic signal work will take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., beginning at the intersection of Pearl and Morgan Streets. Once that intersection is complete, crews will start upgrading traffic signals at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center and at Loop 567.

According to an email from TxDOT Public Information Officer Bethany Kurtz, various lanes of Morgan Street will be closed as needed for pavement work from U.S. Highway 377 to Pearl Street. The repaving officially began Wednesday, Nov. 13, and will be done in sections from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. weeknights through Friday, Nov. 22.

Additional paving work will also begin Wednesday, Nov. 20, for several weeknights of pavement repair. This will include the roads east of the Farm-to-Market 4 intersection with U.S. 377, and west of the Farm-to-Market 4 intersection with Farm-to-Market 167. Closures for this work are also weeknights from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

During these hours, flaggers and pilot cars will guide traffic safely through the work zones.

"We appreciate TxDOT's work on the Pearl Street repaving and traffic signal project currently underway," City Communications Manager Jeff Newpher wrote in an email to the Hood County News. "The city has received and shared with TxDOT the numerous compliments about the recent 377 project, particularly how it was completed in sections and when fewer people were traveling. The Pearl Street project will follow a similar approach, ensuring minimal disruption. The result will be a safer, smoother journey for both Granbury residents and visitors."

The project is currently scheduled for completion in the fall of 2025. Drivers are also encouraged to pay attention to all warning signs within the work zone as crews complete this project as safely as possible.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Various lanes of Morgan Street will be closed as needed for pavement work from U.S. Highway 377 to Pearl Street. The repaving officially began Wednesday, Nov. 13, and will be done in sections from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. weeknights through Friday, Nov. 22.

# VETERANS HONORED AT MEMORIAL LANE



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

Friends of Memorial Lane held a touching Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:11 a.m. Nov. 11, Veterans Day. See more photos at hcnews.com.



# NEW ER

## Full-Service ER Now Open in Fall Creek

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRILL SERGEANT

# Thoughts on preparing your 'Turkey Day' feast



COURTESY PHOTO BY JW STUDIO, ADOBESTOCK.COM



BY LARRY LINDSEY

Owner, Grill Sergeant LLC

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, to follow are a few additional thoughts on preparing your "Turkey Day" feast.

Let's start with thawing the turkey. There are three common ways to do so:

**REFRIGERATOR**

This method is safe and recommended by the USDA. It is slow, but the thawing takes place over time with a consistent temperature reduction. Typically, you should allow 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds of turkey. Once thawed, you can safely leave the turkey in the refrigerator for an additional one to two days prior to cooking.

**COLD WATER**

Submerge the turkey in a leakproof bag in cold water. Change the water every 30 minutes. Using this method,

you should cook the turkey soon after thawing. Do not store in the refrigerator.

**MICROWAVE**

You may certainly use the microwave to do the thawing. Simply refer to the owner's manual for the proper power level and time per pound. Place the turkey on a microwave-safe plate to catch the juices. Cook the turkey immediately after thawing.

**TURKEY TIME, WEIGHT AND TEMPERATURE**

The recommended temper-

ature and time for cooking a turkey depends on whether it's stuffed and its weight. For an unstuffed turkey, the USDA recommends cooking the turkey at 325°F for about 15 minutes per pound. For a stuffed turkey, cook the turkey at 350°F for about 15 minutes per pound.

Here are some approximate cooking times for different turkey weights:

**7-10 pounds**

Unstuffed: 2.5-3 hours  
Stuffed: 2.75-3.5 hours

**10-18 pounds**

Unstuffed: 3-3.5 hours  
Stuffed: 3.75-4.5 hours

**18-22 pounds**

Unstuffed: 3.5-4 hours  
Stuffed: 4.5-5 hours

**22-24 pounds**

Unstuffed: 4-4.5 hours  
Stuffed: 5-5.5 hours

**Temperature**

The turkey is done when it reaches a USDA-recommended internal temperature of 165°F. You can use an instant-read thermometer to check the tem-

perature in the thickest parts of the breast and thigh meat. The lowest temperature you see should be 130°F or above.

Whether using your home oven, a Big Green Egg, a smoker or pellet smoker, you can find your favorite rubs, seasonings, brines and injections at The Grill Sergeant. We also now have in stock brining bags and food safe brining buckets.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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**RESCUE**  
FROM PAGE A1

Guerrero noted that when people ask, "Why do y'all volunteer?" "Why are you always up at the station?" and "Why are you there every Saturday?" he points to moments like this.

"This is why we do what we do and have a strong passion for it," his post continues. "I am proud to be a part of such a great group of men and women committed to serving and protecting others so that when the day comes that we are called to service, we are in a state of readiness."

Snyder explained that Granbury Fire Marshal Kevin Jones and the Hood County Fire Marshal's Office are currently investigating the incident. However, he emphasized that the building's sprinkler system and fire alarms were fully operational, which played a crucial role in saving lives during the emergency.

"The community of Granbury and Hood County should be proud of their volunteer fire department, who worked tirelessly to save lives in this incident," he added.

The GFVD also credits Snyder for incident command, as well as North Hood County Fire Department's Peyton Smith for the video documentation of the incident.

"We are all volunteers, but we are professionals," the GFVD Facebook post reads. "We train to the highest standards and expect that from all of our members."

Other local agencies who assisted in the rescue include Tolar Volunteer Fire Department, Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department and Hood County Station 70 Volunteer Fire Department — with all first responders working together seamlessly to ensure the safe rescue of the young child.

"This is a testament of our training and why we dedicate so much time to getting it right every time," Serratelli said in an email to the HCN. "I am beyond grateful that firefighter Jonathan Head and I had the opportunity to make this save and give this little boy a chance to live through such a traumatic incident in his young life."

According to a Facebook post from Selden VFD, the child is currently under observation and is said to be "doing well."

# Rabies alert: Officials urge caution after rabies-infected bat found in Granbury

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County officials are urging residents to be on the lookout for rabid animals after a bat that was found in Granbury recently tested positive for the rabies virus.

According to a release from the City of Granbury, Hood County Animal Control responded to a report Wednesday, Oct. 30, of a bat lying on the ground at 409 E. U.S. Highway 377. When animal control arrived, they discovered the bat had just died. The animal was collected and submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services for rabies testing, where it was confirmed it was positive for the rabies virus.

Hood County has reported four positive rabies cases from January to October, according to the city's news release. While these positive reports may raise concern, officials are emphasizing the importance of caution in dealing with wild animals in order to keep residents as safe as possible.

To ensure safety, residents are advised to avoid handling or approaching wild animals like bats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks and feral cats



COURTESY GRAPHIC BY CITY OF GRANBURY

Hood County officials are urging residents to be on the lookout for rabid animals after a bat found in Granbury recently tested positive for the rabies virus.

or dogs, as they may carry the virus. Though not all wild animals are rabid, those infected may not show obvious signs of illness.

**RABIES SYMPTOMS**

Rabies can be transmitted through bites or scratches, and infected animals may spread the virus before symptoms appear.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the first symptom of rabies may be very similar to those of the flu and may last for days.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Headache

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Agitation
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Hyperactivity
- Difficulty swallowing
- Excessive salivation
- Fear brought on by attempts to drink fluids because of difficulty swallowing water
- Fear brought on by air blown on the face
- Hallucinations
- Insomnia
- Partial paralysis
- Once a person begins showing signs and symptoms of rabies, the disease nearly always causes death. For this

reason, anyone who may have a risk of contracting rabies should receive rabies vaccinations for protection.

**PREVENTIONS**

The Mayo Clinic states that there are many preventative measures to take that will reduce the risks of coming in contact with rabid animals. Those include:

- **Vaccinate your pets:** To protect both humans and pets, all cats and dogs need to be vaccinated against rabies, as vaccination remains the best defense against rabies exposure. Pet owners should ensure their animals are up to date on rabies vaccinations and may also consider vaccinations for livestock. Please consult your veterinarian for additional guidance on how often your pets should be vaccinated.
- **Keep your pets confined:** Keep your pets inside and supervise them when outside. This will help keep your pets from coming in contact with wild animals.
- **Protect small pets from predators:** Keep rabbits and other small pets, such as guinea pigs, inside or in protected cages so that they are safe from wild animals. These small pets

PLEASE SEE **RABIES** | A9

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# OBITUARIES

## Jackquelin Jean 'J.J.' Budny Mainord 1938 - 2024

Jackquelin Jean "J.J." Budny Mainord died Nov. 6, 2024.

A remembrance service will be held at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway in Acton at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. Officiating will be Dawne McAlphine.

Donations may be made to Acton United Methodist, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Acton, Texas 76049 for Rancho Brazos or Forward Training Center.

J.J. was born Oct. 28, 1938 in South Bend, Indiana, where she graduated from New Carlisle High School. She attained a B.S. in education from Ball State University and a master's degree in education from Washburn University.

She was a teacher, beloved by her students in California, Virginia, Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, Germany and Okinawa. While in Okinawa she married Air Force Capt. Bill Mainord. When Bill retired, they settled in Granbury.

J.J. was a planner, organizer and a "go getter" in the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce, HOST program, Baccus School, Brazos Pregnancy Clinic, CWJC, Child Protective Services, Operations School Supplies, Mission Granbury, United Way Hood County Library, Kids Summer program, Habitat for Hood County, Woman's Wednesday Club and Leadership Granbury.

As a member of Acton United Methodist Church she was president of United Methodist Women, chairman of Adult Ministries and Administrative Council and worked as a greeter, usher and in the welcome center. She served on mission trips to UMCOR, Louisiana, Red Bird, Kentucky and Casa de Hagar in Mexico. One of her most prized experiences was the Walk to Emmaus where she served as a lay leader,



treasurer and a board representative. Mrs. Mainord was a Sunday school teacher, reader for the Wednesday Kids Program, taught Vacation Bible School at Rancho Brazos and served on the board.

J.J. had a passion for theater. While at Andrews AFB she organized and participated in 11 productions of the Officers Wives Club. She was a season ticket holder at the Granbury Opera House, was usher chairman for 11 years and Opera Guild president for three years. She also acted in 10 productions at the Opera House. She was master of ceremonies at Acton Star Search for six years. She modeled in annual fashion shows over the years for various organizations and more recently, at a charity event as a survivor of breast cancer.

J.J. lived a full life and never missed an opportunity to help out or step up when needed. She will be greatly missed in this world, but heaven rejoices.

She is survived by daughter Sharman Allen; son-in-law Jim Allen; grandsons Jordan and Daniel; brothers Skip Budny and Rick Budny; step-brothers Pat Glon and James Glon; nephews Jeff Budny, Brent Budny and Mark Mainord; as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and a multitude of treasured friends worldwide.

## Lorraine "Lori" Price Swaim 1957-2024

Lorraine "Lori" Price Swaim died Nov. 2, 2024, after a long battle with lung disease.

A remembrance service will be held at Sledge Distillery from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 7; lunch will be served.

While not a native Texan, she moved here 46 years ago from Boston to join her husband, Royce Swaim, in farming, ranching and raising a family. She quickly adapted to farm and ranch life, growing peanuts, hay and cattle, and even losing her Northeastern accent. In her 30s, she discovered a love of sculpting and painting and was accepted into nationally recognized art shows. She and Royce were also avid travelers who took countless trips and cruises all over the world.

Those who knew her well also knew she was a life-long reader and learner. Her expertise in subjects from medicine to psychology far surpassed most who hold degrees in the subject.

Her inquisitive nature, knowledge and bluntness made her a reliable source for a fair and informed opinion, even when it may not have



been what you wanted to hear; but you needed to hear it. It led to her being a community activist, whether it was working for candidates in local elections, serving on the child advocacy board, or fighting the company who tried to put a for-profit prison in her town.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Royce Swaim; sons Adam Swaim and Ben Swaim; nephew Drew Jordan; sister Janet Knaub; mother-in-law Sybil Swaim; grand-daughter, Bentley Swaim; grandsons Jack Swaim, Hudson Swaim and Andrew Swaim; and, of course, her pup AJ.

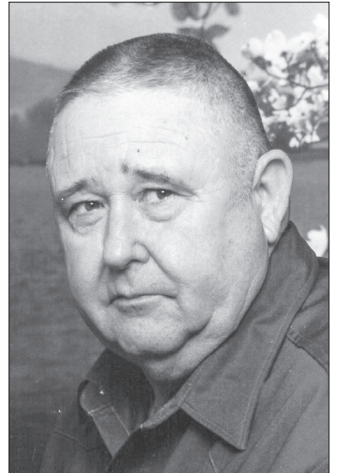
## Don Johnson 1941-2024

Don Johnson passed away Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, at his residence. He lived a long and happy life before going to join his wife in heaven.

A graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 with full military honors at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Visitation is set for 5-7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel in Granbury. Services are under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home of Granbury.

Don was born Dec. 8, 1941, to Robert Carlton Johnson and Oma Lee Taylor in Fort Worth. Don was the oldest of three boys. He and his brothers were born and raised in the Kennedale area. He met Shirley Ann Taylor and married her in August 1960. They had five children. They were married 57 years before Shirley passed away. He served in the United States Army for 23 years before retiring as a chief warrant officer.

Don had many careers after the Army. He worked as security at Oak Trail Shores and at Domino's Pizza in Granbury. He spent most of his life in scouting and still has many scout friends in the area.



Don was preceded in death by his parents, both his brothers Jimmy and Curtis, his loving wife Shirley, and one sister-in-law.

Don is survived by his children: Terry and his wife Sam, grandsons Nolan and Logan, great-grandson Azurix; Richard and his wife Jan; Martha Donise Johnson; Tasha Knoupf and ex-husband Chris, grandchildren C.J. and Isabella; John and his wife Crystal, granddaughter Nalani; three brothers-in-law and their spouses; two sisters-in-law; and multiple nieces and nephews.

## RABIES FROM PAGE A8

can't be vaccinated against rabies.

• **Report stray animals to local authorities:** Call your local animal control officials or other local law enforcement to report stray dogs and cats.

• **Don't approach wild animals:** Wild animals with rabies may seem unafraid

of people. It's not normal for a wild animal to be friendly with people, so stay away from any animal that seems unafraid.

• **Keep bats out of your home:** Seal any cracks and gaps where bats can enter your home. If you know you have bats in your home, work with a local expert to find ways to keep bats out.

• **Consider the rabies**

## vaccine if you're traveling or often around animals that may have rabies:

If you're traveling to a country where rabies is common and you'll be there for an extended period of time, ask your doctor whether you should receive the rabies vaccine. This includes traveling to remote areas where medical care is difficult to find.

## MORE INFORMATION

Residents are advised to contact the Hood County Sheriff's dispatch center at 817-579-3311 if they see a wild animal in an area accessible to people or pets.

For more information or assistance, contact Hood County Animal Control at 817-573-4277 or Granbury Animal Control at 817-573-2648.

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## ACROSS

- Maureen O' \_\_\_\_\_ starred in 1950 film "Rio Grande"
- Arab ruler
- Waco once hosted "The Great Texas Race"
- NW Tarrant County on highway 199
- Texas actor Tommy Jones
- TX Harvey who wrote the music for "The Fantasticks"
- TX Steve Forrest film "The Longest Day" was about this
- TXism: "he \_\_\_\_\_ his mouth" (talks without thinking)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ hill for a stepper"
- TXism: "feel like \_\_\_\_\_ chewed up and spit out" (sore)
- Farrow of 1978 film "A Wedding" with TX-born Burnett check your blind \_\_\_\_\_ you drive
- dough balls
- trucker radio
- Dawson County seat
- Texas critic, Rex
- Spanish explorer in El Paso area: Juan de \_\_\_\_\_
- Lone Star team that won the 2023 World Series
- TXism: "hot as road \_\_\_\_\_ July"
- 1960s TV western
- 8th governor, Clark (init.)
- El Paso PBS station
- most tidy
- invisible (2 wds.)
- in Taylor County on highway 84
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_\_\_" (finalize)
- 2nd governor: George \_\_\_\_\_
- TXism: "paint \_\_\_\_\_ red" (celebrate)

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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11 TX Hilary Duff TV show: "\_\_\_\_\_ Met Your Father"

12 sound made by Texas' "Enchanted Rock"

13 "\_\_\_\_\_ potential"

14 TX Patrick Swayze's younger brother (init.)

15 Cowboys first coach, Landry

17 TXism: "get \_\_\_\_\_ built" (be still)

19 what TX McMurtry writes mostly

20 border town in El Paso County

24 actress Long of film "Caveman" with TX Dennis Quaid (init.)

25 singer Boone who attended UNT

26 biblical dry measure person who resides in Lone Star state

28 TXism: "mad \_\_\_\_\_ hen"

29 square dance move

31 Ryan of film D.O.A. with TX Quaid

32 Texas youth entry in football: \_\_\_\_\_ wee

33 TXism: "agile as a \_\_\_\_\_ a hot road"

38 sparked

40 "\_\_\_\_\_ of passage"

41 lemon or lime suffix

42 this Texan recruited lots of Texans for OU (2 wds.)

48 tech college with 11 Texas campuses

50 "dos" in Mexico

51 pig mama

56 a Marx brother

57 English assignment

Hood County News

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# Which IRA is right for you?

**TONY MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser



Tony Mobly

pay no taxes on them until you start taking withdrawals. (If you take withdrawals before you reach 59½, you'll be subject to ordinary income tax and a 10% IRA penalty.)

When you invest in a Roth IRA, your contributions aren't deductible, but they can be withdrawn at any time, tax- and penalty-free. And you can typically withdraw your earnings on these contributions tax free once you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. (If you don't meet

these conditions, withdrawals of earnings are subject to income taxes and the 10% penalty.)

So, are you better off by taking the immediate tax break offered by a traditional IRA or the long-term benefits of tax-free withdrawals available with a Roth IRA?

If you think you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, you might want to consider a Roth IRA, especially if you have a long time until retirement. This will give you more opportunities to put away funds that can be withdrawn tax free. Conversely, if you think you might be in a lower tax bracket upon retirement,

you might lean toward a traditional IRA, as you'd get the tax benefits now, when you're in a higher bracket, and can eventually make your taxable withdrawals when you're in a lower one.

Here's something else to keep in mind: Once you turn 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must start taking taxable withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA. But if you have a Roth IRA, you won't face RMDs and can essentially keep the money in your account indefinitely. If you don't need all the funds in your Roth IRA for your retirement, you

can pass them on to your heirs.

Ultimately, though, your income may determine which IRA is right for you. You can earn any amount and contribute to a traditional IRA, though if you exceed certain income limits, your contributions may no longer be tax deductible. If you and your spouse don't have a 401(k) or other retirement plan through your employers, you can make a full, deductible contribution to a traditional IRA regardless of your income.

But you may not be able to contribute to a Roth IRA, or at least not make the full maximum annual contri-

butions, if your income is above certain levels. Your tax advisor can explain these levels, which often increase from year to year. (In 2024, the most you can contribute to either IRA, depending on your income, is \$7,000 per year, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older.)

Under some circumstances, you can convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, though you'll need to pay taxes on the conversion. In any case, think carefully about your options and make the choices that are appropriate for your needs.

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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).

**GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK** seminar. Next session begins Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Gran-

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

## GRIEFSHARE 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.

## REJENGAGE MARRIAGE

Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Stone-

Water 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.

## MEDAL

### FROM PAGE A2

Distinguished Service Cross — the court requests that U.S. Rep. Roger Williams put forth the recommendation to Congress to have Boedeker's award be elevated to the prestigious Medal of Honor.

During the meeting, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill stated the presentation was the "highlight" of his career as a judge.

"I was approached by Joyce Dorsey ... who wanted me to see if I would write a letter to Congressman Williams in support of a person well deserved to receive a medal of honor. I said, 'God, that's something important,'" Massingill said. "As I understand it from all of his comrades, some of whom are here today, this person turned down the Medal of Honor while in Vietnam, saying he didn't deserve it."

To emphasize just how important the recognition is,

Massingill also asked state Sen. Brian Birdwell — whom he described as being "our own hero" — to read the official request in Boedeker's honor.

Massingill introduced Boedeker, stating that he's always referred to the honorable veteran as "Gene," referring to his middle name, Eugene.

"He's right here, folks," he said. "This is a real hero."

In honor of the special recognition, Massingill also invited all Boedeker's family and Army comrades to partake in the group photo. He added that he hopes the letter and endorsement will encourage Congress to approve the request.

"You know, I really think it was in God's plan for Gene to get the Medal of Honor this time so that it could be hung around his neck by President (Donald) Trump," Massingill said, chuckling. "We're going to send all of this to Congressman Williams, telling him that this guy deserves this."



**Billy E. Boedeker served with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade in the United States Army. He is pictured with his Army comrades, as they honored his bravery during the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Nov. 12.**

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## WIMBERLY

### FROM PAGE A1

"didn't preclude anyone based on experience," and that write-ins were allowed.

During cross examination, Campbell also pointed out that Raffa was a member of the fire department and on the board because he was the fire chief. He also stated that there was nothing in the bylaws that dictates how ballots should be prepared.

Richard Beardsley, a member of PPVFD for close to 30

years, was also called to the stand. He testified that, like Wimberly, he was still a firefighter when he submitted his application for the ballot.

"You applied even though you knew you were not qualified?" Campbell asked.

"I was going to resign in October," he replied.

"Where in the bylaws does it say that?" Campbell asked.

"Applying doesn't mean I'm on the board," Beardsley said. "It was my understanding I would have to resign."

"The bylaws speak for

themselves," Campbell said.

## DISCREPANCIES IN ROSTER

Another key point of contention in the case was that Beardsley's name did not appear on the PPVFD training records for 2021, 2022 or 2023 — even though Wimberly's name did. Campbell pointed out that this irregularity raised doubts about Beardsley's active membership in the fire department, further proving his eligibility to run for the election. Mayeux confirmed that Beardsley's name did not appear on any training record for the fire department, adding that several files — including one from 2024 — had been deleted.

"It's full sabotage if you ask me," he said.

However, during Beardsley's testimony, he pointed out that his name had actually been on the signature of his resignation from the fire department — proving that he was a member.

Mayeux responded by stating that multiple individuals had examined the signature, but they were unable to decipher it clearly.

## CONFUSION OVER BALLOT MAILINGS

With concerns over the

election's transparency, Wimberly's legal team also questioned the handling of ballot mailings. Several residents, including Douglas McDaniel and Cynthia Huahulu, testified that they had not received their ballots by the expected date.

Henley also highlighted other irregularities in the mailings, including the improper distribution of ballots. She explained that with a typo in the Pecan Plantation ZIP code, ballots may have been mailed to the wrong address.

Julie Gillett, a member of the PPVFD/EMS nominating committee, confirmed there had been a typo in the ZIP code on the ballots, but she attributed it to a simple error. She also explained that ballots could be dropped off at several locations in the community, which she argued helped mitigate issues for voters who were out of state.

## CLOSING ARGUMENTS

In closing, Campbell explained that it all boils down to the temporary restraining order, adding that there is no legal basis to stop the election.

"You can't stop something that's already been done," he said.

He explained that the nominating committee had acted

as quickly as possible, even though they missed the deadline by a few days. He claimed Wimberly himself had admitted to not being qualified at the time he submitted his application, and the ballot had already been approved. While Campbell acknowledged there were minor issues, such as typos and a potential delay in ballot distribution, he asserted that none of these errors were significant enough to invalidate the election process.

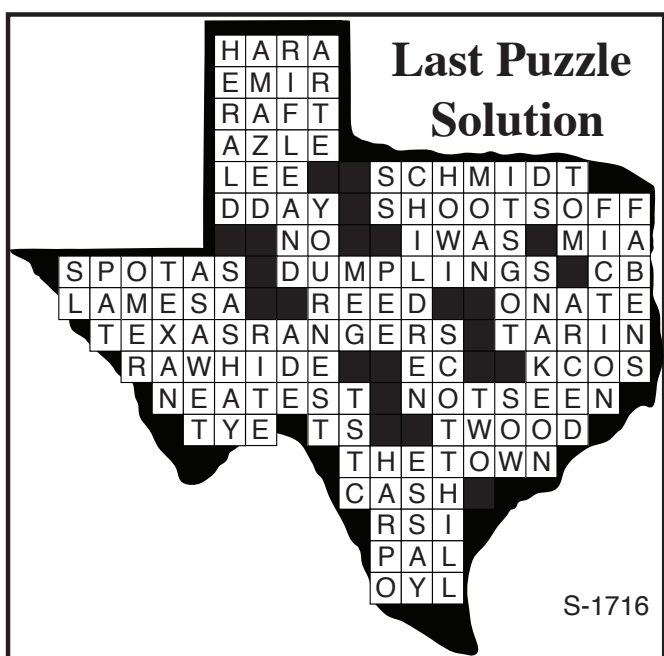
Campbell also contended the election had already been set into motion, with 600-700 ballots already cast, and that there was no need to postpone or alter the vote.

"We're done," he said. "We know why he's not on the ballot."

Henley, representing Wimberly, countered that the issues with the nomination process, including the improper exclusion of write-in candidates and the failure to meet required procedural deadlines, warranted intervention. She argued that the process was flawed to such an extent that it would be unfair for the election to proceed without addressing the irregularities.

## FINAL VERDICT

After hearing from both







# THE GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® FOOD DRIVE

The Granbury Association of REALTORS® recently held its ninth annual Food Drive. This year, the membership's donations helped fill the pantries of seven food banks in Hood County including Lakeside Baptist / Loaves and Fishes, Christian Service Center, Granbury First Methodist, People Helping People, Rancho Brazos, Joseph's Locker and Lipan Food Pantry. There was also a competition among the broker offices and among the affiliate member offices to see who could contribute the most donated items. Winston Properties had the most contributed items among the broker offices while Town Square Title brought in the most donated items among the affiliate members. The association will also serve as the December sponsor for the Neighbors Feeding Neighbors food distribution for the holidays.

COURTESY PHOTOS






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# HONORING HOOD COUNTY VETERANS

Readers, Last week in the process of creating our special Veteran's section, an error occurred which caused some of the Veteran's photos to be missed. This mistake was not intentional, and we ask that all our readers accept our

apology for failing to include the submitted photos. We have included those photos in this week's paper. Thank you for understanding.

Sam Houston  
Publisher Hood County News



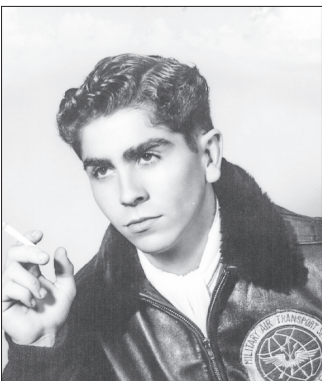
**James Bankhead**  
1969-1972  
United States Army  
E-4



**Donald Caldwell**  
1967-1968  
United States Army  
E-4



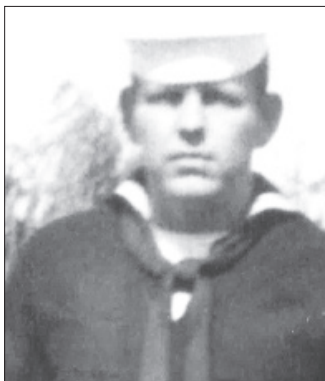
**Chris Georgopoulos**  
1969-1973  
United States Air Force  
Sergeant



**Roger Gilmore**  
37 Years  
United States Air Force  
Master Sergeant



**Billy C. Hand**  
1954-1958  
United States Marine Corps  
Sergeant



**Larry Hooten**  
1960-1964  
United States Navy  
TBD



**John F. Kolar**  
1958-1987  
United States Air Force  
Lieutenant Colonel



**Travis Lowrance**  
1960-1987  
United States Navy  
Chief Petty Officer/E-7



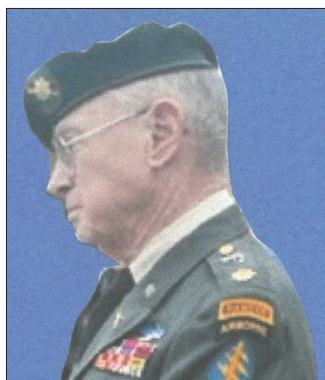
**Robert Meyer**  
1973-1977  
United States Marine Corps  
Corporal



**Robert Paige**  
1957-1977  
United States Air Force  
Master Sergeant



**Ralph Roberts**  
1965-1967  
United States Army  
Sergeant E-5



**Fred J. Stubbs**  
United States Army 1963-1981  
United States Marine Corps 1956-1958  
Major



**Dick Stultz**  
1964-1989  
United States Air Force  
Lieutenant Colonel



**Leon Tubb**  
1947-1953  
United States Air Force  
Staff Sergeant



**Shores (Sam) Turner**  
1968-1970  
United States Army  
E-5

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## A born cattleman

FFA's Caden Campbell

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News  
eden@hcnews.com

Caden Campbell is a freshman at Granbury High School. He is part of a series of stories the Hood County News is providing readers concerning the journey of FFA students during the course of the year.

Caden Campbell was dressed sharply for his interview with the Hood County News in a crisply pressed button-down, best and a felt hat by his side. He greets with a firm handshake and warmly holds eye contact. Already a southern gentleman, he is a credit to his upbringing and the support of FFA. Like his peers in FFA, Caden's answers either begin "Yes, ma'am" or "No ma'am."

Caden's primary focus is FFA. Before high school, Caden participated in junior FFA. He now participates in Leadership Development Events, referred to as LDEs among FFA students. Specifically, Caden's events are Agriculture Issues and Job Interview. Caden also competes in Career Development Events (CDEs). His CDE is Livestock Judging.

Caden shows rabbits, a barrow pig and a heifer. He is the secretary for the Granbury Junior FFA officer team, and a Hood County Junior Livestock Ambassador. Caden is a member of the American Junior Brahman Association and serves in the greeter ministry at Pecan Baptist

PLEASE SEE FFA | B3



Caden Campbell and his show heifer Oakley in the GISD's FFA ag barn.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## Area boys basketball previews Lipan goes for three-peat

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

It's hard to imagine what else the Lipan Indians could accomplish on a basketball court. The program has 15 state tournament appearances and six state championships, including the past two.

And last season's came in the most improbable of fashions as they graduated all five starters and returned two bench players.

Now, they are attempting to do something never before accomplished in Lipan basketball history — a three-peat.

The Indians return three starters and seven varsity players in all as they begin the quest. Returning starters are sophomore guard Court Gaylor (19.2 points per game, 3.1 rebounds, 3.2 assists), along with junior Darius Steed (11.7 points, 9.4 rebounds, 1.8 assists, 1.7 blocks) at post and Payton Cornelius (5.5 points, 2.6 rebounds, 2.2 assists) at guard.

Gaylor and Steed were co-district MVPs last season, along with gar-

nering all-region and all-state honors. Cornelius received first-team all-district accolades.

Also back are senior forwards Colby Scott and Dillon Hall, along with sophomores Tucker Tims at guard and Wyatt Yates at post.

Lipan will compete in District 11-2A with DeLeon, Graford, Hamilton, Hico, Poolville and Santo. The Indians enter the season ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 2A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, while Graford is No. 6.

"It will once again be highly competitive this year," Lipan coach Brent Gaylor said. "We lose Tolar and Ranger, but are replacing them with Graford, who has won state two of the past three years in 1A, along with a very good Hamilton team we played last year in the playoffs.

"Going to be another fun year. We will definitely be tested before the playoffs with games versus 5A Dallas Adamson, top 15 Sam Rayburn (Class 2A), defending (Class 1A) state champion Jayton,

and Top 5 (1A) Gordon."

### TOLAR RATTLETS

Andy Atkins takes the helm at Tolar after Scott Richardson left to coach at the new Eagle Mountain High School in Saginaw. He takes over a program that has advanced to at least the second round of the Class 2A playoffs in each of the previous four seasons.

Now, the Rattlers will test their mettle in the 3A ranks. They have three returning players, including a pair of starters, to lead the way.

Back as starters for the Rattlers are sophomores Cayden Abrego (9.6 points per game, 7.1 rebounds, 1.2 assists, 1.5 steals) at forward and Briton Rice (2.0 points, 1.3 rebounds, 1.6 steals). Also returning to battle for a starting spot is senior forward Zane Terrell (7.1 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.3 assists, 2.1 steals).

All three players were honored in the all-district selections. Abrego was named Newcomer of the Year,

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL | B4



Returning for the Indians is sophomore guard Court Gaylor. Court during the state game earlier this year in San Antonio.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## Dobbs named lone finalist in Lipan ISD superintendent search



LISD lone finalist Jimmie Dobbs

COURTESY PHOTO

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

Lipan Independent School District named Jimmie Dobbs as the lone finalist in the search for a superintendent Oct. 29. After the 21-day required waiting period, Dobbs will officially assume the role of Lipan ISD Superintendent Nov. 20.

Formerly of Poolville, Dobbs brings extensive experience to the superintendent role. Dobbs took on the role of interim superintendent after he was named in the July 22 meeting of the Lipan ISD board of trustees. The superintendent position was opened after Ralph Carter resigned to move to Hereford ISD.

Dobbs looks forward to taking the post as superintendent after spending months as the interim

superintendent as he shared with the Hood County News.

"It has been an honor to serve Lipan ISD as their interim superintendent for these past few months and even a greater honor to have been named the lone finalist in the board's search for the next superintendent of Lipan ISD."

The community has received Dobbs warmly, and all reports are that Dobbs is well-liked and seems a great fit.

"It has been exciting to learn about the school and community. The people of Lipan, both at the school and throughout the community, have been amazing and it is for that reason that I decided to apply for the open superintendent position. From day one, I have felt very welcomed here and have felt like part of a great team," said Dobbs. "As we move forward, I intend to keep learning about the district and the rich traditions

that are part of the school and community. I intend to serve in a manner that honors and respects the community's expectations for their school. It's clear that those expectations are high and that is a great thing."

The Lipan community is very involved with the school district, a highlight to the role for Dobbs.

"I've been very impressed with how engaged the community is with Lipan schools. I hope to build upon those relationships as well as nurture the growth of new ones in the coming days. The school is often the focal point of small communities like Lipan and my message to the community is that we are here to serve you and your children. We want and expect nothing but the best for them."

Looking forward, Dobbs has a plan for every student of Lipan regardless of their plans after high school.

"When students graduate from Lipan, we want them to be well rounded and able to be successful at whatever they want to accomplish when they embark on the next chapter in their lives. I intend to emphasize the importance of hard work because no matter what they decide to do, if they work hard, they can be successful at it," Dobbs explained.

As teamwork is especially important in smaller communities in order to meet the needs of each student, Dobbs looks forward to emphasizing a team approach to student success.

"I look forward to working with the board, staff, students and community to set a pathway for Lipan's future. Lipan ISD has demonstrated success in many areas and the community has good reason to be proud. My goal is for us to continue to excel and to be competitive in everything we do."

# GHS HONORS VETERANS

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON / LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A community ceremony took place Nov. 11, Veterans Day, at the Granbury High School Auditorium to honor veterans of the United States Armed Forces. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.







MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Caden Campbell seeks council from his "Papa" Bryan Cousey. Both are shown with Cadens show heifer Oakley.

**FFA**  
FROM PAGE B1

Church where his family worships. Students in the FFA program learn all the ins and outs of farm and ranch life and food production. For some students this is all new information, but for Caden, who has grown up on a ranch, agriculture is part of his lifestyle and his family's culture.

When asked his favorite to animal show Caden's quick reply is, "definitely cattle." Together with the Ballew family, the Caden family owns 104 Cattle Company. Campell and his younger brother Hunter, age 12, help dad Blake and mom Amber with the chores that are required on a ranch. Perhaps that is why Caden enjoys showing cattle best, because he feels he knows them best.

"Growing up on a cattle ranch makes it a little bit easier. Knowing how they will react in certain circumstances for example," shared Caden.

Blake Campbell participated in FFA while a student in Dayton. Amber Causey Campbell is local to Granbury. The two met at Tarleton and chose Hood County as the place to raise their family.

Blake Campbell had shared with his son about his FFA days, which partially influenced Caden to join FFA.

"My Dad grew up showing calves himself. He told me about his experiences and how he had a bunch of fun doing it. It was mostly just my choice, because when I heard about what he did, I said, 'I want to do that,'" said Caden.

Selecting the heifer Caden would show was a family affair.

"So for my heifer, we — actually me and my family — we went out and just in Texas, and we drove around. We'd already scheduled appointments with these breeders, but we went around looking at different breeders. And pretty much from that, we chose which one I wanted the most," Caden said.

Caden keeps his Oakley (the heifer) at the ag barn on the Granbury ISD property, where he spends at least 10 hours a week caring for her.

Acquiring Caden's pigs works differently than cattle.

"The ag teacher will go up north to get pigs. Normally they'll ask for cash and they'll go up there and they'll purchase your pig based on what they think looks best for you. So that's how I got my pig. I had the ag teachers purchase it," Caden explains. Caden has named this year's pig Earl.

And the rabbits?  
"There's just a great big rabbit breeder — just brings in tons of rabbits. I normally will come up here (to the ag barn) and we'll just pick out which ones we want," shares Caden. The FFA students receive their

rabbits in December. Caden believes it is both breeding and good care that yields a good show animal.

"There's definitely a lot (of success owed) to breeding, but the care they get — the level of care, especially the show animals (is instrumental), because they need it, because you can't just turn them out to a pasture," Caden said. "I could go to regular pasture cattle — whenever you try to get a halter on them, they'll freak out, they will run, so it's definitely a lot of both."

FFA helps teach financial literacy as well. "All my animals that I bought ... my parents helped fund my very first project which was rabbits my seventh-grade year. After that, luckily, I've made the sale, and I've been able to make a little bit of money from the sale at the county show. And from there, I'm able to reinvest my money into my new projects," Caden shares.

FFA students build a strong bond with their animals. Some animals will be sold at the end of the year and some go back to the breeders, and a select few are kept by the students or given to a rancher they know.

"With the pigs — since I show barrows, they're castrated males. So those will actually go on and at the major shows, they will get put onto a trailer. And I get about roughly \$100 for the pig, but it just goes up to big processing plants, and they normally just get processed and sold," Caden said.

Oakley will have a different fate.

"My heifer, I plan on, I guess, showing her for three years. This year I'll show her as just a heifer. Next year, I'll show her as a bred heifer. After she calves, I'll show her as a cow/calf pair."

And the rabbits?  
"My rabbits, we normally either sell them or we always give them away, but I think this year we're actually planning on dispatching them."

But that is months away, so for now Caden feeds and grooms and shows and cares for his animals with his eye on doing his best at each show.

"I hope I can place high with them all, but I'm hoping to build a strong bond and relationship with them, especially the heifer. I've had her since July. I'm hoping that I'll be able to have a strong enough bond with her, for all my major shows coming up, so that she'll be able to trust me in a show ring. In that way she can believe I won't hurt her."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Campbell family at the San Antonio stock show in February. Shown from left: Blake, Hunter, Caden and Amber Campbell.

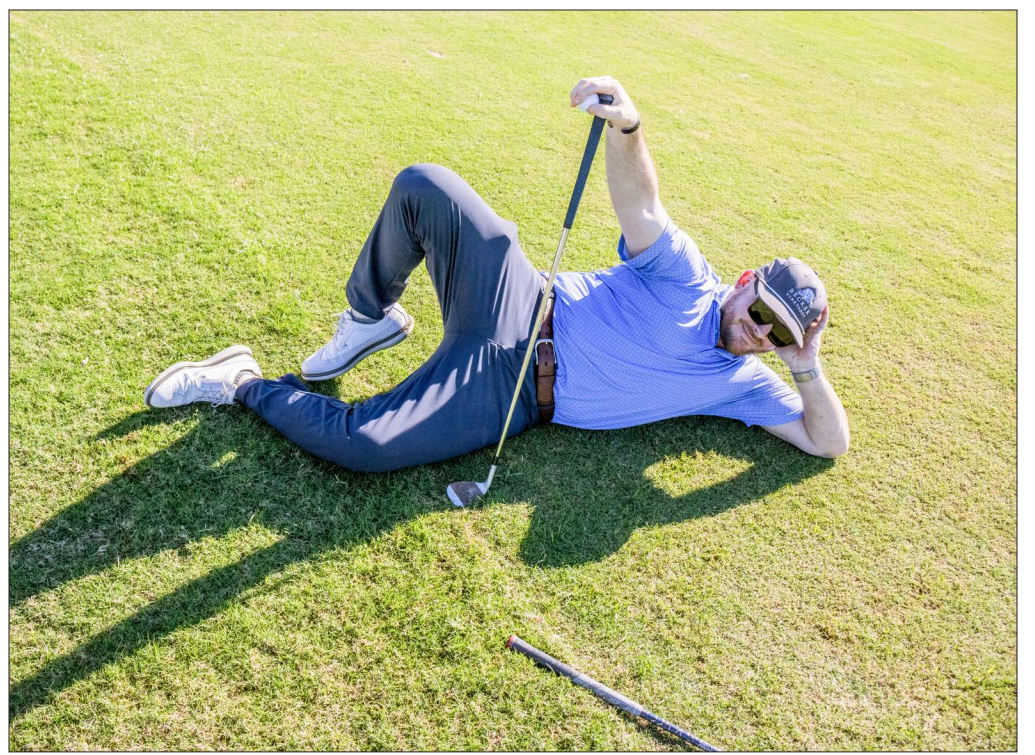


MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
Caden Campbell leads his show heifer Oakley in GISD's FFA ag barn.

# Honoring Our Heroes Golf Tournament

PHOTOS BY JESSE RAMIREZ JR. | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Nov. 9, the Chisholm Trail 100 Club hosted the Honoring Our Heroes golf tournament and fundraiser at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose. The nonprofit organization provides various types of insurance at no cost to all first responders in Johnson, Somervell, and Hood counties. After the tournament, Holy Smokers served burgers and hot dogs for everyone to enjoy during the live and silent auctions. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
Returning for the Rattlers is senior forward Zane Terrell. Terrell is pictured playing during a game early this year against Lipan.



Returning for the Pirates is Junior guard Miller Schenewark. Schenewark is shown shooting a three pointer in Azle during a game early in the year.

## BASKETBALL FROM PAGE B1

Rice was a first-team pick and Terrell was on the second team. "We have a few other players that played some varsity minutes early in the season last year while the football team made their run to the state game. They will play bigger roles for us this year," Atkins said. The Rattlers are once again in the football post-season after capturing the District 5-3A Division II

championship. The Rattlers' basketball district will also include Breckenridge, Comanche, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Millsap and Peaster. "New district, new classification. We are excited about being a part of it," Atkins said. "Peaster is always a strong basketball program. Breckenridge will bring back a strong team that got third in district last year, including a win over Peaster. There are some very strong athletes littered throughout the rest of the district. "With our football team

being so strong it will take us a bit once we get our full team to really know how the season will go. It will feel like two different seasons as we will start with only half our available players. "We are excited about what we can do during that time and will have to relearn some things once everyone gets in the gym. "We will be young and fairly inexperienced, but we will have some talented players that once they find their basketball will make some noise in district." Atkins was formerly the

head coach at Class 3A Bowie near Wichita Falls. He led the Jackrabbits to three straight playoffs in his three seasons leading the program, including a third-round appearance in 2023. **GRANBURY PIRATES** Jeremy McFerrin is the new head coach of the Pirates, a program that has reached the postseason the past two seasons under the now-retired David Breazeale. He returns two players and no starters from a 19-11 team. Junior guard Miller

Schenewark and senior forward Murphy Page will lead the charge. Schenewark is coming off a season in which he was named second-team all-district. The Pirates will play in District 5-5A alongside Aledo, Azle, Fort Worth Chisholm Trail, Keller Fossil Ridge, Saginaw and White Settlement Brewer. "I am excited about our district. I have the opportunity to compete against some old colleagues," McFerrin said. "This district will be challenging and great competition for all teams

from top to bottom." McFerrin's resume includes guiding Trinity Christian-Lubbock to a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Class 4A state championship in 2017. As was the case throughout Breazeale's 14 seasons, the Pirates will face a challenging predistrict schedule. It often paid off in reaching or competing for a playoff berth. "I hope that our preseason gets us better and ready to make a playoff run," McFerrin said.



# 2024 CCA Homecoming



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Friday Nov. 8, the Cornerstone Christian Academy Crusaders basketball team took on the Covenant Classical Cavaliers for the Crusaders' 2024 homecoming game. During halftime, Sam Green and Leah Kirk were named the 2024 homecoming king and queen. The Crusaders lost to the Cavaliers 48-59. For full gallery go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).





PHOTO BY JESSE RAMIREZ JR. | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Court Gaylor working the ball down the court past the Peaster defenders for Lipan Tuesday Nov. 12 at Lipan High School.

# SPORTS Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

Having already set the program record for most victories in a volleyball season, the Tolar Lady Rattlers (32-9) continued their postseason run Thursday, Nov. 7 with a 3-1 victory against Comfort (22-16) in their Class 3A Division II area (second round) playoff match in Lampasas.

They followed with a 3-0 victory against Alpine (23-19) in the Region II semifinals.

Tolar has won 25 of its past 26 matches and is ranked No. 10 in the state in Class 3A Division II by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. The Lady Rattlers were playing Holiday (26-7), the No. 1 team in the state, at press time in the regional final.

It's Tolar's second consecutive season to advance to a regional final, the only two times in program history.

Leaders vs. Comfort: Senne Imel 19 kills, 10 digs; Allie Terrell 15 kills, 2 blocks; Kamryn Kolb 100% serving, 10 digs.

Leaders vs. Alpine: Terrell 11 kills, 4 digs; Imel 8 kills, two aces, two blocks, nine digs; A. Kolb eight kills, three digs; K. Kolb two aces, 10 digs; Walters two aces, eight digs.

"We are getting better each game, but I still think we have more to give," first-year Lady Rattlers coach Amber Terrell said. "The drive and determination that these girls have is unmatched. They work so hard and really give it their all every single match."

"We have a saying that we've used all season, 'Love your teammates well!' and 'Winners win!'"

"They do both every game. They love each other enough to show up every single day,

each doing their part — and they always find a way to win.

"Win or lose from here on out, I'm so proud of them."

### GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates (1-9, 0-8 in District 3-5A Division I) ended their season with a 29-20 home loss to Brewer (4-6, 4-4) Nov. 8.

Offensive leaders: Hayden Meyer 11-of-22, 131 yards, TD, interception; Anthony DeBello 24 carries, 156 yards, two TD, three catches, 33 yards; Jackson Arnett three catches, 60 yards, TD.

Defensive leaders: Cooper Cumba 10 tackles; Chase Cantrell nine tackles, one for loss; Elijah Johnston eight tackles, one for loss, interception; Bryson Hager seven tackles, interception.

### TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers (9-1, 6-0 in District 5-3A Division II) ended the regular season with a 35-7 victory at Eastland (4-6, 1-5) Nov. 8 as running back Peyton Brown surpassed 1,000 yards this season.

Tolar, No. 10 in the state in 3A Division II according to "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" rankings, then turned its attention to bidistrict, where it faced Millsap (4-6) at press time at Bear Stadium at White Settlement Brewer High School. The Rattlers defeated Millsap 36-20 at home Sept. 13.

The Rattlers ran their dis-

trict winning streak to 17 games dating to 2021.

Offensive leaders vs. Eastland: Brown 16 carries, 139 yards, three TD; Zane Terrell 11-of-17, 135 yards, two TD, interception, two catches, 15 yards; Noah Yanish three catches, 70 yards; Dacen Watkins three catches, 48 yards, TD.

Brown has 1,077 yards and 15 touchdowns this season. In his career he has 5,808 yards and 105 TD rushing.

Defensive leaders vs. Eastland: Drake Owens 10 tackles; Cutter Cain eight tackles; Ty McClure eight tackles; Hunter Michels six tackles, one for loss; Kelvin Murry six tackles, one for loss.

### GRACE CLASSICAL FOOTBALL

The Gryphons (3-7) defeated Round Rock Ignite 53-0 in the opening round of the Texas Association of Independent Athletics Organization Division III playoffs Nov. 8 at Granbury Middle School. The Gryphons are the defending state champions.

Offensive leaders vs. Ignite: Keith Wyatt 10 carries, 120 yards, five TD; Jones Bryce four carries, 65 yards, three TD.

Defensive leaders vs. Ignite: K. Wyatt seven tackles; Cross Wyatt six tackles; RobShaw Tyce five tackles, fumble recovery

Next up is Mineral Wells Community Christian (7-5).

### GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates (3-1) won 49-44 in overtime at Joshua Nov. 8. They followed with a 35-31 at Burleson Nov. 12.

In the win over Joshua, the Granbury defense clamped down in the extra stanza, outscoring the Lady Owls 5-0.

Leaders vs. Joshua: Kate Hamlin 27 points, Jolie

Hayes 7 points.

Leaders vs. Burleson: Hamlin 12 points, Hayes 11 points.

The junior varsity defeated Joshua 29-24 and won 29-16 against Burleson. The freshmen won 45-6 over Joshua and 39-22 over Burleson.

The Lady Pirates are competing in the Crandall Tournament this weekend. They travel to Glen Rose, No. 6 in the state in Class 4A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches and Texas Girls Coaches Association Nov. 19 at 6:15 p.m., and are at Everman Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

### TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (1-1) got the season underway with a 39-25 loss at home against Gorman (No. 9 in Class 1A by TABC) on Nov. 8 and won 54-35 at Saginaw Eagle Mountain Nov. 12.

Leaders vs. Gorman: Jaycee Jones 7 points, two steals; Milly Taylor 6 points, six rebounds, three steals; Loryn Wienecke 6 points.

Leaders vs. Eagle Mountain: Jones 26 points, Taylor 8 points, Callan Nix 7 points.

Tolar was hosting Little River Academy (No. 21 in Class 3A by TABC) at press time. They host Grandview Nov. 19 at 6:15 p.m. and play in the Hamilton Tournament Nov. 21-23.

### LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians (1-1), No. 4 in the TABC rankings and No. 2 in the TGCA poll, fell 43-40 to Comanche (No. 15 in Class 3A by TABC) at home Nov. 12. Leaders were Hanna Gaylor, 21 points, five rebounds; Finley Shockley 12 points; Jacy Bolton 3 points, eight rebounds, four assists; Peyton Lawrence six rebounds.

Lipan was hosting Godley (No. 22 in 4A by TABC) at press time. They will play

Wall (No. 10 in Class 3A by TABC) in Cisco Nov. 19 at 6:15 p.m. and are in the Marble Falls Tournament Nov. 21-23.

### GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (1-1) fell 64-51 at Haltom Nov. 9 and edged Joshua 48-47 in their home opener Nov. 12. In the victory, the Pirates held off a late charge by the Owls after Granbury took a 39-32 lead into the final quarter.

Leaders vs. Haltom: Kylan Loving 14 points, Aaron White 14 points, Miller Schenewark 10 points. The Pirates hit nine 3-point shots, including three by Loving.

Leaders vs. Joshua: Grant Young 14 points, Murphy Page 14 points, Schenewark 7 points.

The Pirates play at Kennedale (No. 14 in 4A by TABC) Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m. and at Cleburne Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. They will play in the Southwest Legacy Tournament in San Antonio Nov. 21-23.

### LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (2-0), two-time defending Class 2A state champions and No. 2 in the TABC rankings, opened the season in the Jimmy Gales Showcase in Dallas Nov. 9. They defeated Dallas Adamson 80-15.

They came home to defeat Peaster 54-41 Nov. 12.

Leaders vs. Adamson: Court Gaylor 20 points, seven assists; Brayden Harrison 15 points, six assists; Darius Steed 10 points, 12 rebounds; Evan Lott 9 points. Lipan was 10-of-20 from 3-point range, including 4-of-5 by Gaylor.

Leaders vs. Peaster: Gaylor 27 points, Steed 9 points, Lott 8 points, Harrison 8 points. Gaylor connected on five 3-pointers.

Lipan was hosting Sam Rayburn, No. 15 in 2A by the TABC, at press time. They will play in the Port Aransas Tournament Nov. 21-23.

### GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates Gold team competed in the San Angelo Invitational Nov. 8 to wrap up its fall season. The tournament was reduced from 36 to 27 holes after the Quicksand Golf Course received 17 inches of rain.

"The boys played hard and navigated through the mud and all the bunkers that were filled with water," coach Steve Ward said.

Granbury finished 11th as a team with a score of 520. Pirate individual scores included Kamden Aparicio, 125 (43-82); Henry Ballew, 129 (46-83); Jaxson Vaughn, 129 (45-84); Aiden Matherne, 139 (46-92); and Hunter White, 138 (45-93).

The four lowest individual scores in each round comprise the team score.

The Pirates junior varsity competed in Burleson at Hidden Creek earlier, finishing third with a score of 391. Individual scores were Ashton Heimer, 94; Justice Fowler, 97; Dade Wilson, 98; Cameron Ward, 102; Tyler Johnson, 107; and Caleb Kemp, 113.

### GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates played in the State Preview Tournament in Georgetown Nov. 8-9. They finished 11th out of 18 teams with a score of 739.

Granbury was led by Rylee Rainosek with a two-day total of 174. Hallie Carr shot 179, Claire Jordan 180, Ariel Jimenez 206 and Ava Redwine 225.

The four lowest individual scores in each round comprise the team score.

The tournament ended the fall season for the Lady Pirates.



COURTESY PHOTO

At time of press the Lady Rattlers are playing in the Regional Finals in Graham, Texas after defeating the Alpine Lady Bucks in a clean sweep of 3 sets to 0, in Wall High School Tuesday, Nov. 12.

- 1 SOPHIA WALTERS
- 2 KORAL BOZEMAN
- 3 SENNE IMEL
- 4 ALLYSON DOBBS
- 5 KENZI MCQUAIN
- 6 LANEY BONNELL
- 7 LILY DEWITT
- 8 LANE GARDNER
- 9 ABBIE SOILEAU
- 10 EMORI MURPHEY
- 11 EMMA JACKSON
- 12 ALLIE TERRELL
- 13 ATLEY KOLB
- 14 LANDRY GARDNER
- 16 KAMRYN KOLB

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarleton State sets new D1 road record

*Tarleton State University*

CARROLLTON, Ga. — Tarleton State Football rebounded from a rare loss with one of its most complete games of the season.

The No. 14 Texans (8-2, 5-1 UAC) set a new NCAA Division I program record for road wins, finishing their regular season 5-1 away from Stephenville, following their 38-21 win at West Georgia (3-7, 0-7 UAC) Saturday in Carrollton. Tarleton's eight overall wins match its D1 program record from last year, with two regular season games remaining this season.

Tarleton played a well-rounded game throughout the contest at University Stadium, with two passing touchdowns, two rushing touchdowns, one defensive touchdown, four takeaways, one sack, six tackles for loss, 6-for-6 on kicks and a 50-yard punt average. The Texans commanded the time of possession, holding the ball for 36:36 compared to UWG's 23:24. Tarleton was penalized just twice and outgained West Georgia 391-312.

This marked the tied-second-most points Tarleton has scored on the season, and the tied-most on the road. The Texans have also allowed just 13.8 points per game over their last four contests.

This win by Tarleton sets up one of the biggest games in program history next week. The No. 14 Texans will host rival No. 15 Abilene Christian at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville Saturday at 6 p.m. The winner of that game will lock up at least a share of the conference championship. Tarleton Athletics has set up a great

ticket offer for the game. For just \$25, fans can get a general admission ticket to the Abilene Christian game.

If the Texans win, fans get a free ticket to the Central Arkansas game Nov. 23. No quantity limits apply. Or fans can use promo code "LEGENDS" at checkout for \$5 off any general admission ticket Nov. 16 vs. Abilene Christian. The offer can be found here: <https://tarleton-tickets.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=2297>

On Saturday, Tramaine Chism and Bam Smith gave Tarleton State a fast start with a scoop and score on the third play of the game. Chism forced Rajaez Mosley to fumble, and Smith picked it up at the UWG 18-yard line and housed it to put Tarleton ahead 7-0.

On the Wolves' next drive, Tarleton forced another takeaway via fumble, as line-backer Ty Rawls forced T.J. Lockley to cough it up, recovered by Donta Stuart.

On Tarleton's first offensive drive, the Texans drove 45 yards before turning it over on downs. West Georgia took advantage and used a Quincy Casey 7-yard touchdown pass to Dylan Gary to tie the game at 7-7 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second frame, Texan DB Omar Emmons earned his second interception of the season, giving Tarleton great field position at the UWG 32-yard line. Texan RB Kayvon Britten later cashed in a 4-yard touchdown rush to lift Tarleton up 14-7.

Britten again scored on Tarleton's next drive, a 12-play 84-yard march. He scored from a yard out for his 15th rushing touchdown of the season to make it 21-7 Tarleton State.

West Georgia didn't quit



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Football's 2024 schedule has been altered, with four changes announced June 10 to the previously announced campaign.

though and responded with a 75-yard scoring drive. Wolves QB Davin Wydner found an open Lockley for 27 yards out for the touchdown to cut their deficit in half, 21-14. Texan DB Dabari Hawkins earned an interception at the end of the first half on a UWG Hail Mary attempt, and the teams went to the locker room with the Purple and White ahead 21-14.

To open the second half, Tarleton struck quickly, as Gabalis found a streaking Darius Cooper for a 42-yard touchdown to make it 28-14. That marked Cooper's sixth receiving score of the year.

The Wolves responded again with a 75-yard scoring drive, this time a Wydner 8-yard touchdown pass to Cedric Seabrough. Punts the

rest of the frame ended the third quarter with Tarleton ahead 28-21.

The Texans scored on their first drive in the fourth quarter, a Corbin Poston 42-yard field goal to make it a two-possession game, 31-21. The Texan defense then stood tall immediately, forcing a turnover on downs on the first set of downs, getting the offense the ball back at the West Georgia 34-yard line. Tarleton took advantage, with Gabalis lobbing a 17-yard touchdown to Cody Jackson to make it 38-21. That essentially iced the game, with Tarleton forcing two more three-and-outs to win by 17.

Gabalis finished 20-of-28 for 242 yards and two touchdowns. Britten rushed for a pair of scores, see-

ing his streak of 100-yard rushing games end at seven, finishing with 74 yards on 26 carries. Braelon Bridges carried it 15 times for 55 yards. Cooper recorded his third 100-yard game over the past four contests with 117 yards and a touchdown on five catches. Jackson added a touchdown and 38 yards on four receptions.

Smith had a team-high six tackles to go with his scoop and score. Hawkins had two pass breakups and three tackles to go with his interception. Rawls had three tackles and a pass breakup to go with a forced fumble.

Saturday's game marked the first meeting between Tarleton State and West Georgia. This is the first year of NCAA Division I reclassification for West Georgia,

a brand new team in the United Athletic Conference. This was Tarleton's second ever game played in Georgia and the first in over 50 years (at Georgia Southwestern in 1983).

Tarleton has two regular season games remaining, both at home. The Texans will host Abilene Christian Saturday, Nov. 16, for their Legends Game, in which the winner will lock up at least a share of the conference championship. On Nov. 23, Tarleton will host Central Arkansas at 2 p.m. on Senior Day. That game could decide who receives the automatic bid to the FCS playoffs, depending on next week's results.

## Tarleton State women's basketball defeats New Orleans in home opener

*Tarleton State University*

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Feeding off the energy from Comanche Elementary students in the crowd, Tarleton State women's basketball came out of its home opener at Wisdom Gym Tuesday victorious with a 57-48 win over New Orleans in its second Education Day game of the season.

Seniors Jakoriah Long and Arieona Rosborough led Tarleton State in scoring with 11 points each, with Long collecting a career-high nine boards. Senior forward Elise Turrubiates grabbed a career-high 11 rebounds to go with eight points while sophomore Faith Acker scored 10 points to go with seven rebounds off the bench. Acker also matched a career-high four blocks, her third career game with four blocks.

The Texans won their eighth straight home opener and remained undefeated in home openers in the Division I era. New Orleans' 48 points marked the third consecutive season the Texans allowed less than 50 opposing points in their first game of the season at Wisdom Gym.

New Orleans attacked first following the opening tip by going on a quick 6-0 scoring run, but the Texans came back with eight unanswered points to swing the advantage. Following a layup by the Privateers to tie the game, junior guard Karyn Sanford drained a 3-pointer to give Tarleton State the advantage again. A free throw from Rosborough allowed the Texans to take a one-point lead through the first 10 minutes.

After New Orleans took the

lead with a layup three minutes into the second quarter, Long knocked down a 3-pointer and sparked a 9-0 Texan scoring run following her second straight bucket. The Texans took an 8-point lead after a Rosborough jumper, but New Orleans responded with a layup and hit a free throw to make it a 28-23 game going into the locker room.

Rosborough once again opened the Texans' scoring in the third period, with Tarleton State getting a scoring spark off the bench from Acker. The Winnsboro native nailed a basket while drawing a foul and converted inside the paint to stretch the Tarleton State lead 39-30. A third free throw by New Orleans following a Turrubiates layup made it a 7-point game heading into the fourth quarter.

Long's 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter allowed the Texans to go out in front by double-digits, using another 9-0 scoring run to move ahead 55-38. New Orleans, however, would not go away quietly and cut the Tarleton State lead down to 7 points with a minute-and-a-half to play.

Acker capped off the Texans' scoring with a jumper and Tarleton State blocked two of New Orleans' final three shots to secure its first win of the season.

Tarleton State plays its second home game of the season Saturday (today) at 1 p.m. against Northwestern State. Tickets start at just \$10 and can be bought online or by stopping by the Tarleton State Athletics Ticket Office. Fans with a purchased ticket to Tarleton State Football's

home game against Abilene Christian will receive free admission to the women's basketball game.

### POSTGAME NOTES

Tarleton State won its eighth consecutive home opener with a 57-48 win against New Orleans at Wisdom Gym. The Texans remain undefeated in home openers in the Division I Era.

The Texans gave up just 48 points in its home opener, the third straight season they have allowed less than 50 points to the opposition in the opening game at Wisdom Gym. Tarleton State has given up just 54 points per game this season.

Senior guard Jakoriah Long scored 11 points to go with a career-high nine rebounds in Tuesday's win. She made her first appearance in the starting lineup this season.

Senior forward Elise Turrubiates grabbed a career-high 11 rebounds, including five offensive boards. It was her first game with at least 10 boards since Feb. 18, 2023 (at Sam Houston).

Sophomore center Faith Acker matched a career-high four blocks in Tuesday's game to go with a season-high 10 points and seven rebounds. She has blocked four shots in three different games during her Tarleton State career.

Tarleton State played its second Education Day game of the season (first one at home). The Texans, who lead the nation in Education Day games played this season with five, are 1-1 in Education Day games.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Playing four years on the varsity golf team at Lake Travis High School, Papacharalambous was instrumental in his team's success in 2024. The Cavaliers won the UIL 6A state championship in 2024, Lake Travis' first state title for boy's golf since reclassifying to 6A.

## Tarleton State men's golf signs Austin native Nicholas Papacharalambous

*Tarleton State University*

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Tarleton State men's golf has signed Austin native and Lake Travis High School golfer Nicholas Papacharalambous ahead of the 2025-26 season, the Texans announced Wednesday.

"I'm excited to have Nick join our program next year! He's been coming along nicely this summer and continues to make great strides," head coach Chance Cain said. "He's the exact kind of player we are looking for with his energy and work ethic. I know this is just the

beginning for him."

Playing four years on the varsity golf team at Lake Travis High School, Papacharalambous was instrumental in his team's success in 2024. The Cavaliers won the UIL 6A state championship in 2024, Lake Travis' first state title for boy's golf since reclassifying to 6A.

Papacharalambous won the individual title in his team's local event, clinching the LT shootout with a 6-under-par performance. He shot 3-under-par in both 18-hole rounds to win the event by two strokes.

In addition to his indi-

vidual title with Lake Travis, Papacharalambous also collected four top 10 finishes over the summer. The Austin native finished in second individually at the STPGA Spring Break Classic. He also came in fourth place at the LJT Collegiate Preview.

Off the course, Papacharalambous is a member of the National Honor Society at Lake Travis High School and intends to major in business at Tarleton State.

Tarleton State Men's Golf starts the spring portion of its season Feb. 10-11 at the Bentwater Intercollegiate in Montgomery.

HOOD OUTDOORS

# Birds, birds and more birds!



**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.

It is that time of the year as I have mentioned in previous articles. The gulls and other wintering birds are returning to area lakes, and they can point you to active fish. Some of these birds can also fool you into thinking there are active fish when in fact it is not fish they are working. Learning to read the birds can help you on the water.

Most everyone knows when the birds are diving on feeding fish you may have found the “hey day” you have been looking for. From a distance, you may see the gulls working but they may not be on feeding fish. They may be working diving cormorants. You will see gulls and terns working cormorants on all our area lakes. As you approach the birds, the cormorants will take off as they are a “spooky” fish. Keep a good pair of binoculars on board to make sure the working gulls are on feeding fish and not cormorants or someone throwing crackers off their dock.

Another bird that frequents our area in the winter is the loon. When you find loons diving, you are probably on fish. These birds are never here in large numbers, but when you locate them they are on fish or very close

to fish. I have seen them on Granbury, but I see more at Lake Whitney and other reservoirs. The loons are not as easily spooked by your boat as the cormorants are. They look like a cormorant from a distance, but they have distinct differences.

I have caught feeding hybrids below where cormorants were feeding but that was an exception. Catfish anglers like to fish below cormorant roosts. The droppings from the cormorants are essentially pure fish and the catfish are there for the easy meal.

Other birds called terns are similar to gulls but smaller and they may be working surface-feeding fish or they may be picking up bugs near the surface. Many anglers call these terns “liar birds” as they can fool you to think they are on surface feeding fish when in fact they are

not.

You can and will see osprey and bald eagles on occasion and they will dive for their dinner. The numbers of gulls are probably more reliable for finding active fish but I would not discount where those big birds are diving.

When you find birds either hovering over an area or if they are diving on splashing fish you more than likely have found the spot

The egrets typically fly from one place to another and are not known to point anglers to active fish, but I have seen egrets working active fish with the gulls. The cranes can also point you to active fish. They all will take an easy meal if it is available. The key is to watch their actions. If they are circling or diving they are probably on fish.

The sand bass are numerous on Lake Granbury and when they feed, the gulls/birds will likely locate them. Striped bass feeding is also a possibility. The largemouth are feeding with the sand bass right now on Granbury. This fall feeding scenario will be the case on most of our North Texas reservoirs.

When you approach a group of birds working fish, do not run through them with your big motor. Put your trolling motor down and work slowly around the school. You will catch fish. If for some reason another boater runs through the fish you are working, give it a few minutes and sometimes the



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Matt Adams with his catch of sandbass and striped bass caught this last week on Granbury.

fish will resume their feeding after the water settles down.

If there is an ongoing golden algae bloom (heaven forbid), the birds will be flying all over picking up dead fish. Hopefully that will not happen this year. If a bloom is ongoing, you need to find clean water to find fish as the birds will not help you here.

The gulls will be with us throughout the winter and they are a welcome asset to most anglers. If you get a chance, the birds are active on most every reservoir in our area right now.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Water temperatures have finally fallen into the up-

per 60s to low 70s and will continue to fall. Water levels continue to be about a foot low on Lake Granbury. Striped bass are close to channel ledges and are best on live shad or trolled umbrella rigs on the lower ends. Some good striped bass are also being caught from the Shores to the Bentwater area. Sand bass action is tremendous on many areas of the lake. Most of the sand bass are small, but there are good fish mixed in. Sand bass are good on slabs and spinners on shallow humps and flats in 7 to 20 feet of water. Look for the birds. Largemouth bass continue to be good in numbers with some good fish to 6 pounds possible on main lake points and around creek entrances. Many are

feeding with the sand bass and are good on rattletails, crankbaits and soft plastics. I have caught several largemouth on slabs while sand bass fishing. Catfish are fair to good with lots of smaller fish being caught with a few really large blue and yellow catfish possible mainly on the upper ends. The best catfish bait is cut shad.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) largemouth bass and catfish continue to be good to excellent. Black bass are being caught in numbers on soft plastics and crankbaits. Drop shot rigs are popular. Eater sized channel catfish are good on prepared baits. I don't have a Tilapia report this week, but they are abundant in this reservoir.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

# The holidays can bring on F.O.G.

**BY CANDICE SHERIDAN**  
Public Information Coordinator

Candice Sheridan is a former public school educator focusing on community education for the Brazos River Authority.

The holiday season will start soon with Thanksgiving dinner. With all the craziness and exhaustion that follows a huge get-together, you might not think twice about rinsing greasy pans or leftover oils down the sink. But this simple act can wreak havoc on your pipes, especially during the holidays when gravies and deep frying are common.

Pouring fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain is common, yet it poses serious risks to both your home plumbing and the broader environment.

While washing these substances down the sink may make cleanup easier, this simple act can lead to costly repairs or worse — sewage backups in your kitchen or baths during the holidays.

**WHAT ARE FATS, OILS AND GREASE?**

FOG comes from animal

fats, vegetable fats and oils used to cook and prepare food, including cooking oils, butter, lard, meat scraps or fat, and dairy products. When these substances enter your plumbing system, they don't remain liquid for long.

As they cool, fats and grease solidify, clinging to the walls of your pipes and creating stubborn blockages. Over time, these blockages build up, trapping other debris and ultimately obstructing water flow.

In municipal systems, FOG buildup can cause major sewer blockages, requiring expensive maintenance and sometimes resulting in sewage overflows. This can pose health risks to communities and lead to contamination of local water bodies.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly and illegal wastewater spills. In the end, the cost of maintenance can affect local wastewater rates, making your utility bills higher.

FOG not only affects plumbing systems but also has environmental concerns. When blockages lead to overflows, untreated wastewater

can spill into rivers, lakes and oceans, polluting ecosystems and endangering wildlife.

The good news is that preventing FOG-related plumbing issues is simple and requires just a few easy changes to your kitchen routine. Here are some ways to keep fats, oils and grease out of your drains:

**1. Cool it and toss it:** After cooking, allow FOG to cool and solidify. Once solid, scrape it into a disposable container and throw it in the trash.

**2. Wipe it down:** Before rinsing pots, pans, and dishes, wipe them with a paper towel to remove excess grease. Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings or sauces down the sink or toilet.

**3. Scrape it off:** Scrape food scraps into the trash with a paper towel or napkin, not in the sink. The garbage disposal does not remove FOG, it just makes the pieces smaller. Using cloth towels or rags to clean plates or greasy dishware will end up in the sewer when the cloth is washed.

**4. Use a grease container:** Keep a designated container in your kitchen specifically



COURTESY PHOTO

Pouring fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain is common, yet it poses serious risks to both your home plumbing and the broader environment.

for collecting used cooking oil. Once it's full, dispose of it according to your local waste disposal guidelines.

**5. Compost when possible:** Some solid fats, such as bacon grease, can be composted if you have a composting system that can handle it.

Taking a few simple steps to keep fats, oils and grease

out of your drains can protect your home's plumbing system and prevent costly repairs. Not only will you save money, but you'll also contribute to environmental protection and help ease the strain on your municipal wastewater systems.

Remember, it's much easier — and cheaper — to prevent FOG-related issues than

it is to fix them. So, the next time you're in the kitchen, think twice before letting grease slide down the drain. Taking a few extra steps to dispose of it correctly can protect your pipes and your wallet.

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**SUDOKU**  
Solution for the puzzle on November 9.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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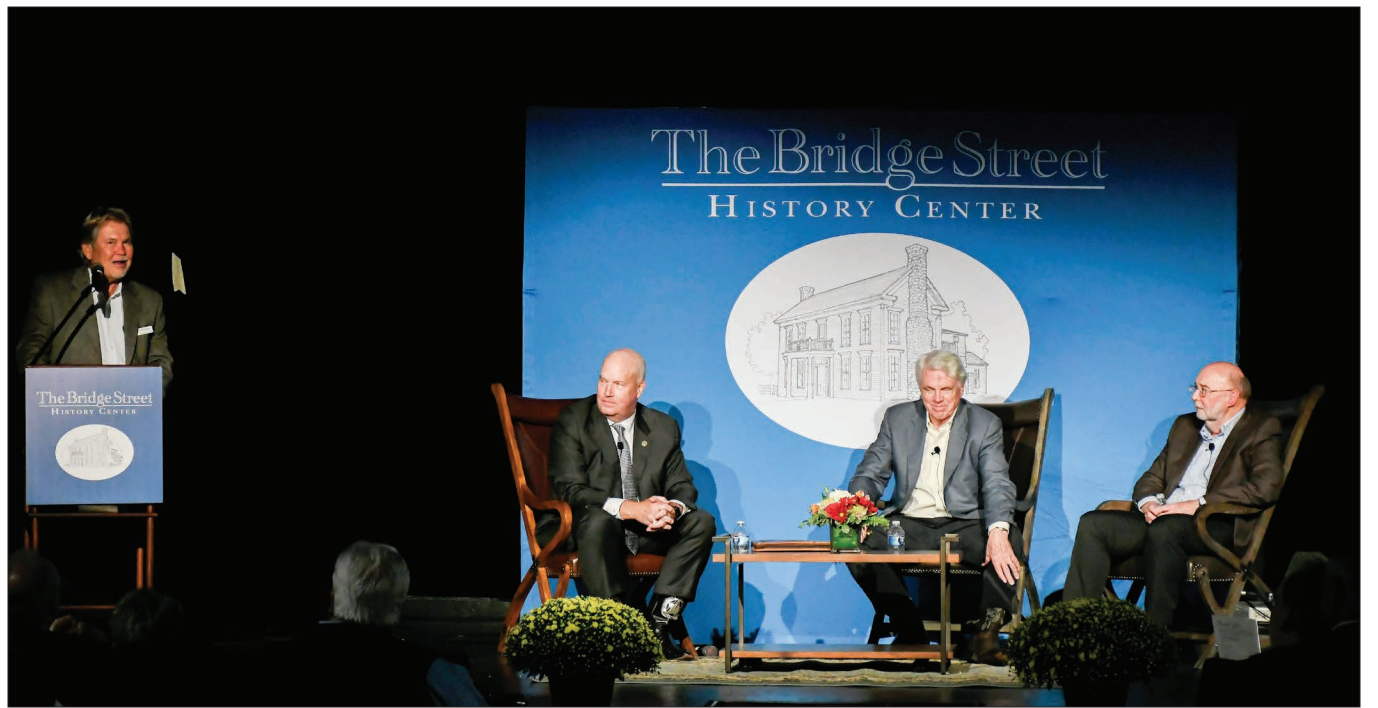
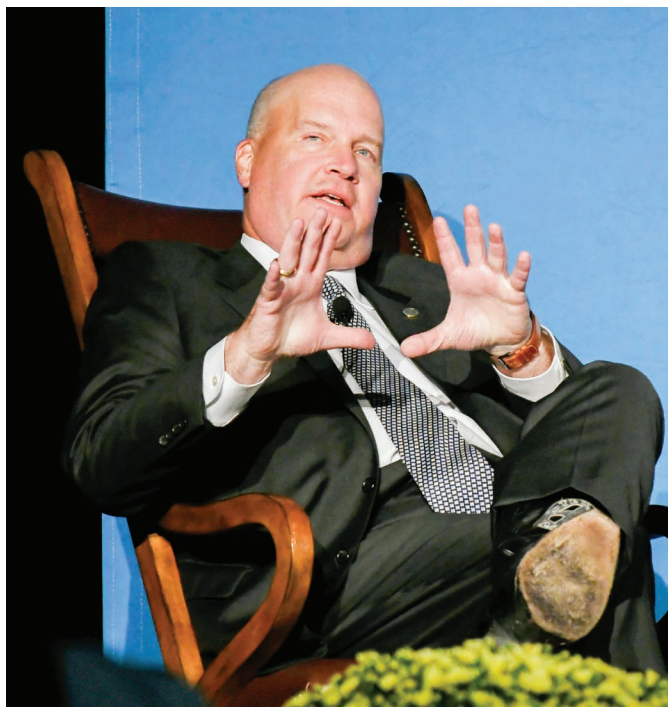
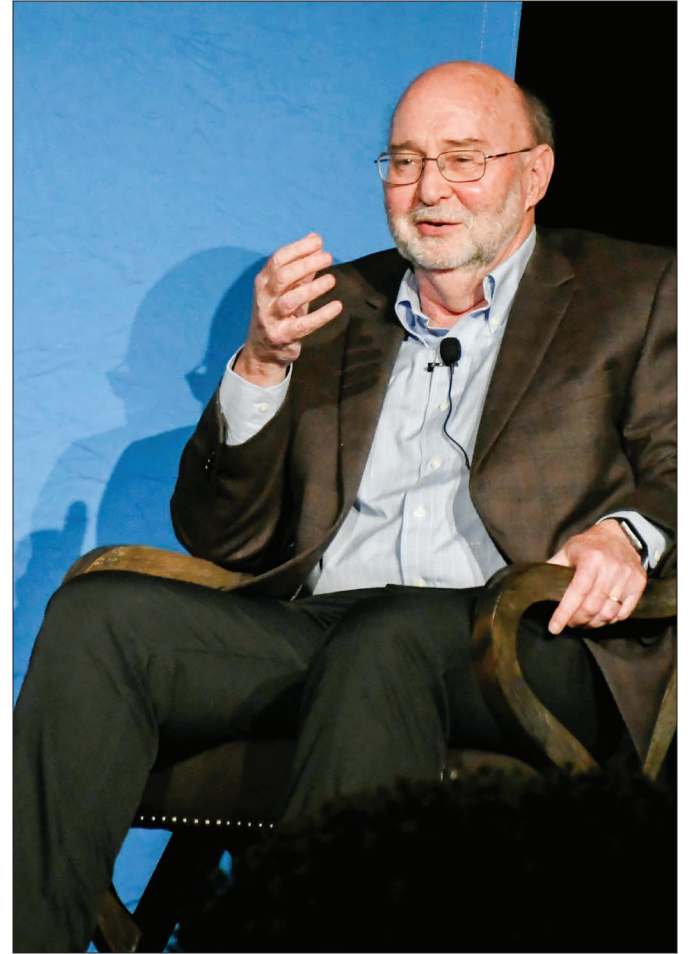
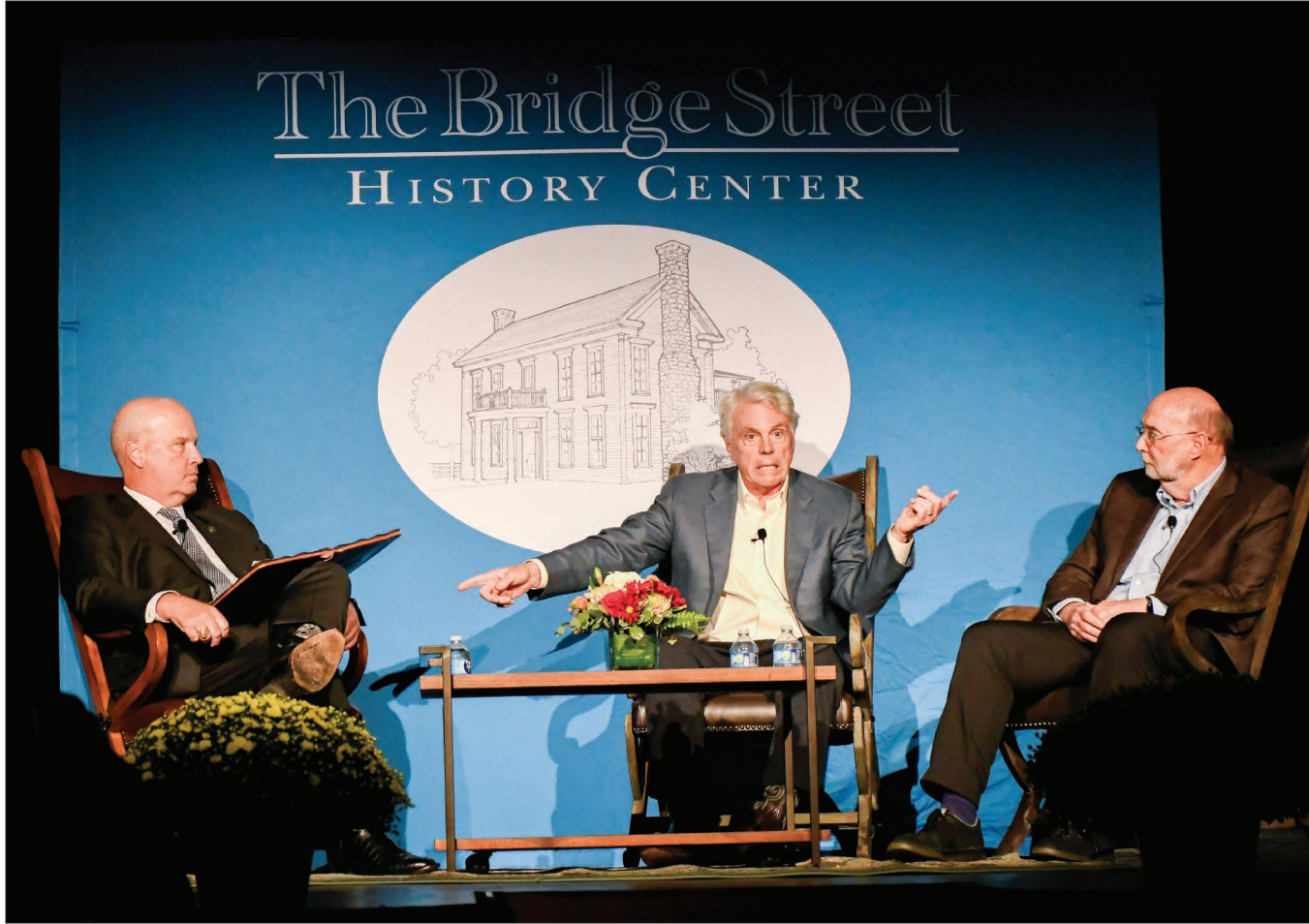
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# Ramay-Macatee Lecture Series

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Thursday, Nov. 7, The Bridge Street History Center presented the Ramay-Macatee Lecture Series. The event featured Texas authors S.C. Gwynne and Stephen Harrington, with Justice Ken Wise as moderator. Attendees enjoyed an intimate atmosphere at the lecture — a fun, insightful and enlightening experience for the lucky attendees of the sold-out event. Audience members also took the opportunity to interact with the three speakers during a question-and-answer session following the presentation. A reception occurred immediately afterward, where representatives from Arts & Letters Bookstore were on hand to offer a selection of the authors' titles for purchase, with the chance to have them signed. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



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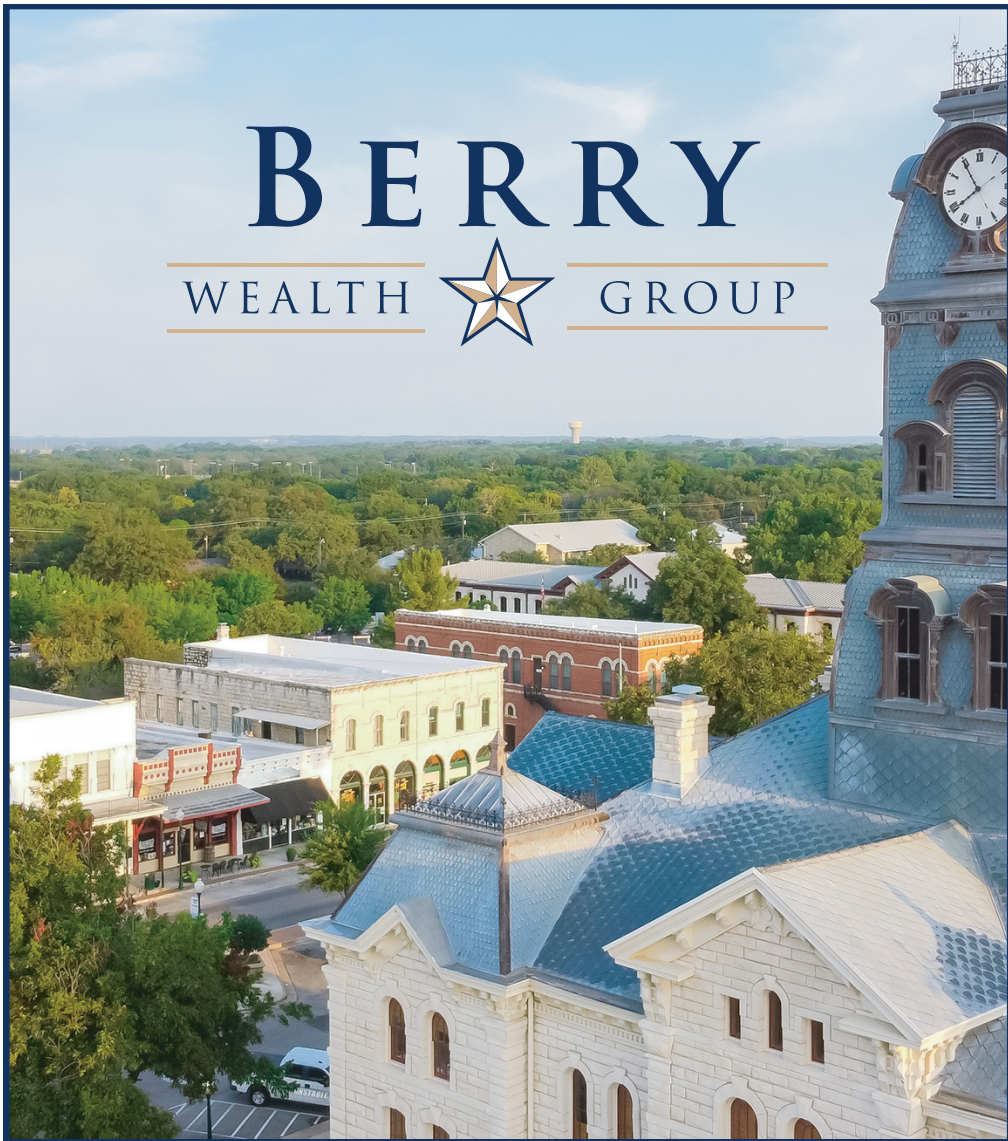
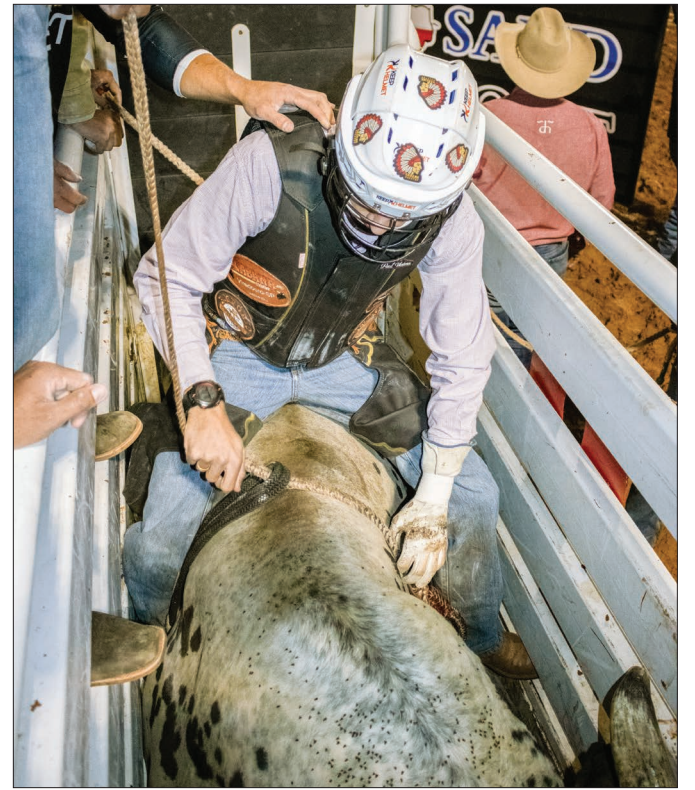
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**An ELVIS Christmas**  
*Kraig Parker*



# Battle of the Bulls

PHOTOS BY JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Battle of the Bulls rodeo brought high-energy action to the Granbury Reunion Grounds Nov. 9. The event thrilled spectators with bull riding, mutton busting and bull fighting, while live music before and after the show kept the crowd entertained. Local vendors provided food, making it a full evening of excitement for all in attendance. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



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## GRANBURY WINE CELEBRATION



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Wine Celebration held Nov. 8-9 showcased wineries, artisans, and boutique vendors from across the North Texas region. Each ticket allowed participants to stroll the Granbury Square while sampling up to 15 different wines. Please see Photo Page, C5.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JON AND JANE MCCONAL

Jon McConal (far right at the back) helps carry the casket of accused Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald November 25, 1963.

## Beyond Hercule Poirot: The romance novels of Agatha Christie, aka Mary Westmacott

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

Most readers know Agatha Christie as the mastermind behind some of the world's most celebrated mysteries, like "Murder on the Orient Express" and "And Then There Were None." Over the course of her prolific career, she authored 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, most of those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. Indeed, Agatha Christie's books have sold an estimated 2 billion copies, making her the best-selling fiction writer of all time, according to Guinness World Records.

But there's another side to this iconic author, one that's lesser known yet equally fascinating. Under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, Christie ventured into the world of romance novels, creating works that explored the depth of human emotion, personal trauma, and the vulnerabilities she kept hidden from the public eye.

Christie's public persona was famously guarded, a deliberate choice made more apparent after her 1926 disappearance, which stirred up a storm in the British press. Though the circumstances of her 11-day disappearance remain unclear, one thing is certain: Christie didn't take kindly to intense public scrutiny. The mystery novelist wasn't a fan of baring her personal struggles, yet her life was far from untouched by hardship. And while she remained reserved, the emotional turmoil she experienced found an outlet — quietly and in disguise.

### The birth of Mary Westmacott

In 1930, Christie adopted the name Mary Westmacott and published the first of what would become six romance novels under this alias. For nearly 20 years, her readers had no idea that these intimate, heart-wrenching stories were penned by the queen of crime. The Westmacott novels offered Christie a rare opportunity to reflect on her own life experiences, including the painful separation from her first husband, Archie Christie, and the challenges she faced as a mother.

Writing as Westmacott was a cathartic escape for Christie. Unlike the structured, logic-driven world of her detective novels, her romance novels allowed her to be deeply introspective and expressive. These stories opened doors to her soul that she was unwilling to open as Agatha Christie. Biographer Laura Thompson captured this sentiment well, noting, "The Westmacott (novels) always said things that Agatha couldn't express any other way." Through her pseudonym, she ventured into a world where she could explore her emotional landscape without sacrificing her cherished privacy.

### Exploring loss and vulnerability in "Unfinished Portrait"

While unmistakably different from her detective stories, the Westmacott novels still display Christie's sig-

## From Texas tales to a Kennedy assassination twist: The story of Jon McConal

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

If you're over a certain age, you're sure to remember the advertising campaign for Dos Equis beer from a couple of decades ago. The ads featured actor Jonathan Goldsmith as a bearded, debonair older gentleman who always had some humorous or outrageous story that conveyed upon him the moniker of "The Most Interesting Man in the World."

We've probably all met people at some point in our lives we find so pleasantly interesting that we feel as though we could sit and listen to them talk and tell stories for hours on end. One of those people for me will always be the late writer and Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Jon McConal.

McConal's name resonates with readers across Texas, especially those who followed the pages of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. For more than four decades, McConal brought a unique perspective to the people and places of his beloved home state, capturing stories as big as Texas itself. Known

for his ability to paint pictures with words, McConal didn't just write about Texas — he celebrated it. Through columns, features and books, he documented the highways, byways and hidden gems of the Lone Star State, connecting readers to the soul of Texas.

Beyond the newspaper, Jon's writings reached readers through his books, each one a love letter to Texas. In books like "Jon McConal's Texas," "A Walk Across Texas" and "Bridges Over the Brazos," McConal's prose carried readers along on journeys through winding backroads and introduced them to characters that stay with them long after they've put the book down. His words made you feel as if you were walking beside him, seeing Texas through his eyes, with all its quirks, charm and history.

I first met McConal almost 30 years ago now through mutual friends David and Norma Wright. McConal and his wife, Jane, quickly became two of my favorite people. We would often find ourselves at parties and get-togethers at the Wrights' house on the north end of Lake Granbury, affectionate-



Jon McConal (July 27, 1937- September 5, 2019) was a prolific writer and a Star-Telegram editor and columnist for over 40 years.

ly known as "Wright's Point." One early November night in 2003, as we sat on the back deck at Wright's Point looking out onto Lake Granbury, someone made mention of the fact that we were coming up on the 40th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination in November 1963. Knowing I was an avid student of the events surrounding the Kennedy assassination, Norma Wright looked at McConal and asked him, "Jon, have you ever told Micky about your connection to the Kennedy

assassination?" Obviously, I was immediately curious. Of course, McConal initially downplayed it and almost shrugged it off as a joke, but I persisted in wanting to know the story. In what can best be described as reminiscent of the scene in "Jaws" where Quince starts telling the story of his being a crew member aboard the ill-fated USS Indianapolis, McConal began telling us the story. As a young reporter with

PLEASE SEE TALES | C2

PLEASE SEE POIROT | C3

# County designates November as American Indian Heritage Month

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

The Hood County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 12.

According to the county's proclamation, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by American Indians and indigenous peoples.

The contributions of American Indians have also enhanced the freedom prosperity and greatness of America today, as their customs and traditions are both respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the U.S.

An official Native American Awareness Week was originally created back in 1976. However, recognition for the culture was later expanded when President George Bush designated the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month in August 1990.

In honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational and historical activities have been planned around the nation.

As a way to both celebrate and honor the historical occasion, the Hood County Commissioners Court proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage Month for the county. The court also urges all residents to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Margaret Cook, an honorary regent for the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was present during the meeting to join in the recognition.

"DAR has sponsored and supported the American Indians for many, many years," Cook said. "We have two Indian schools that we support. One's in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and the other is in Salem, Oregon. We have supported their history and culture in everything that they do. We have scholarships for the American



The Hood County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 12.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Indians, and we also have grant programs for any Indian projects. Over the years, we have continued to

support them." The proclamation by the Hood County Commissioners Court serves

as a reminder of the ongoing importance of honoring and preserving the rich history and contributions

of American Indians — a tradition that will hopefully continue for many years to come.

## TALES

FROM PAGE C1

the Star-Telegram, McConal's life took a surprising turn when he found himself at the heart of one of America's most pivotal moments — the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In a twist that sounds almost stranger than fiction, McConal became part of the story when he was asked to serve as a pallbearer at the funeral of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin.

November 22, 1963, marks a day America will never forget. President John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas shocked the world, leaving a nation grappling with grief and countless questions. Reporters from all over the world scrambled to cover the unfolding tragedy, and McConal was among the many journalists on the scene. His reporting focused on the reactions of Texans and the somber events that followed Kennedy's death.

However, McConal's story took an unexpected twist in the days following the assassination, as the spotlight shifted to Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin. Oswald was shot and killed on national TV by nightclub owner Jack Ruby just two days after the assassination, making his own funeral a strange and subdued event. It was here that McConal found himself not only covering a story but unwittingly becoming part of it.

McConal, who had gone to report on the event, quickly realized the funeral director was in a predicament: there was no one to carry Oswald's casket. With no mourners on hand but Oswald's family, fu-

PLEASE SEE TALES | C3

## BOOK REVIEW

### Nothing starts until you're all together

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You'll hold dinner until the last person's seated. The engine doesn't start until all seat belts are buckled; and if everybody's not paying attention, you'll wait. Hail, hail, the gang's all here: as in the new novel, "My Three Dogs" by W. Bruce Cameron, things aren't right until everyone's gathered.

Liam was nearly mute with awkwardness when he met Sabrina.

He didn't know how to engage her, couldn't manage to charm her, but she fell in love with him anyhow and they moved in together. Riggs, Liam's Australian shepherd, was distant with Sabrina at first, but he warmed up to her. Luna, Liam's Jack Russell terrier, chose Sabrina as his "person." And they lived happily every after, mostly.

But this puppy was the last straw.

When Liam brought Archie, a neglected eight-month-old Labradoodle, home with him, he was afraid Sabrina'd be angry and he was right. Wasn't it chaotic enough that they had to move every time Liam finished fixing the houses they lived in and then sold them? Wasn't there enough pressure at Sabrina's job? And now a puppy? She told Liam she needed space to think. She went to stay with her sister



W. Bruce Cameron

in a nearby Denver suburb.

This wasn't right, and Riggs knew it but he was powerless to fix Liam's sadness. Luna missed her Sabrina terribly; even Archie knew something was wrong.

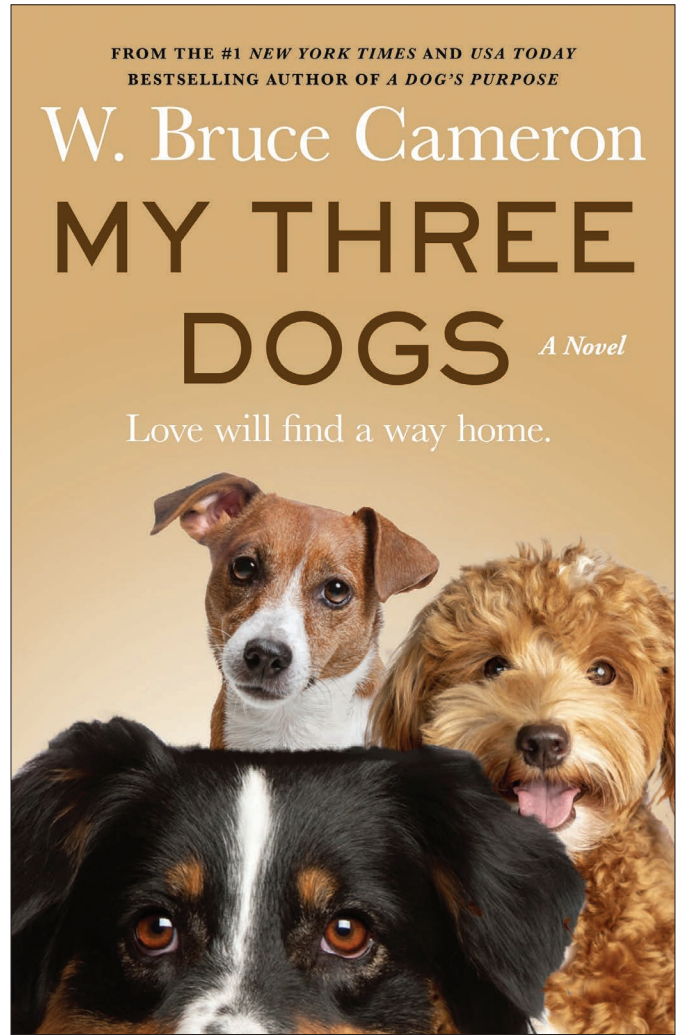
And then things got worse.

One day, Liam left the house and he didn't come back. Luna finally figured out how to reach water and food, and they all felt like bad dogs but there was no human around to let them. Days later, Liam's brother came and took the dogs for a car ride to a noisy

place with lots of animals in many cages. Riggs was watchful. Luna became depressed. Archie, well, he was clueless. How would Liam and Sabrina ever find them all?

OK, here's fair warning: bring glue when you read "My Three Dogs."

Bring lots of it because, by around page 80, your heart is going to break into a thousand tiny pieces. And it'll shatter just a little bit more for the next 150 pages or so. You'll need that glue to hold yourself together somehow, since author W. Bruce Cameron



COURTESY PHOTOS

"My Three Dogs" by W. Bruce Cameron, c.2024, Forge, \$27.99, 288 pages

won't let you go until you're nearing the end of the tale.

Sorry, not sorry. The heartbreak only makes you love each of the characters more as you get to know Riggs, who drives this novel and makes the story make sense. He's your typical Aussie: responsible, logical, loyal, watchful, and his love of his pack will charm the socks clean off you. Even the bad char-

acters are good here, and you'll wish there was more; in fact, this book is one you really won't be ready to finish.

Obviously, "My Three Dogs" is a treat for animal lovers, dog people in particular. You'll want to sit and stay until you run out of pages or introduce it to your book club and you can read it together.

## ALASKA

### FREE SHOW!

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 1pm

Don't book Alaska until you see this show! Meet 'Mr. & Mrs. Alaska' for travel tips on wildlife, routes, ships, weather, what to wear and how to get the most from your \$\$\$!

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# Time for me to fly: The best times to fly from Dallas-Fort Worth this holiday season

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News  
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With the holiday travel season just around the corner, it's time to think strategically about when to fly. Finding the right flight isn't just about finding the best price; timing can significantly impact your overall travel experience. From avoiding peak crowds and long delays to securing affordable fares, timing your flight wisely can turn a potentially stressful trip into a breeze.

Here's a breakdown of the best times to fly from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and why a little planning can go a long way this holiday season.

## The best time of day to fly

When you fly can determine whether you breeze through the airport or face crowds and delays. Here's a look at how flight times affect your experience:

**Early morning, before 8 a.m.:** Experts consistently recommend early-morning flights for those seeking a smooth and efficient travel experience. Flights in the early hours typically encounter fewer delays as planes and crews are fresh and ready to go. Plus, airport security lines are shorter in the early morning, making it a breeze to get through. Though it may require an early wake-up call, travelers often find it worthwhile. Once you land, you'll have the entire day to settle in or explore your destination.

**Midday flights, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:** Midday flights strike a balance between convenience and comfort. These flights are ideal for travelers who aren't fans of early wake-up calls or late-night travel. While midday flights can sometimes be busier, they are less likely to face the same degree of delays as evening flights. This time slot is especially great if you're traveling with family or prefer a relaxed start to your journey.

**Evening flights, after 6 p.m.:** Evening flights can offer affordability and

convenience for travelers who can't leave until after work. Though delays tend to increase later in the day, evening flights can be ideal for those heading to destinations that don't require immediate plans upon arrival. For long-haul flights, evening flights offer the added benefit of sleeping through much of the journey, helping you to arrive at your destination rested.

## The best days of the week to fly

While the travel experience can be shaped by the time of day, the day of the week also matters. Choosing the right day can lead to less crowding and even some savings:

**Tuesday and Wednesday:** Flying midweek is often a wise choice if your schedule allows it. Tuesdays and Wednesdays tend to be the least crowded and typically offer lower ticket prices, making it ideal for budget-conscious travelers. Additionally, midweek flights are less likely to experience delays caused by weekend congestion. For those with flexible travel plans, these days offer a win-win of affordable fares and reduced airport chaos.

**Fridays:** While not the cheapest, Friday flights are popular with travelers embarking on weekend getaways. If you're planning a short trip, flying out on a Friday might be your only option. However, keep in mind that prices are usually higher due to increased demand, and airports are busier, especially in the late



## Time For Me to Fly:

### The Best Times to Fly from Dallas/Fort Worth this Holiday Season

COURTESY PHOTO

**Early morning, before 8 a.m.:** Experts consistently recommend early-morning flights for those seeking a smooth and efficient travel experience.

afternoon and evening. If you choose to fly on Friday, booking an early morning flight can help avoid crowds and delays.

## The best months to fly

The time of year also has a significant impact on the cost and convenience of air travel. While holiday periods tend to be busier and more expensive, certain months offer a respite from the usual crowds and high prices.

**October:** October is one of the best months for air travel. It offers a comfortable escape from peak summer and holiday travel seasons. Flights are generally more affordable, and destinations are less crowded. The weather across the country is often mild, making it ideal for both domestic and international travel. October is perfect for those who can plan a vacation outside the traditional

summer or winter holiday periods.

**February:** February is another excellent month to fly, especially if you're craving a break from winter. By this time, holiday crowds have dissipated, and travel demand is generally lower, making flights more affordable. Whether you're heading to a sunny destination for a mid-winter break or just seeking a change of scenery, February offers affordability and less competition for flights.

## Additional tips for holiday travelers at DFW

For travelers flying out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, here are a few extra tips to make holiday travel a bit easier:

**Arrive early:** During the holiday season, airport traffic increases, which means longer security lines and

potentially delayed check-ins. To avoid stress, it is recommended that you arrive at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours before international flights.

## Use the DFW Airport app:

The official DFW Airport app offers real-time flight updates, gate information and estimated security wait times, allowing you to plan your journey through the airport with minimal hassle.

## Consider parking and transportation options:

Parking at DFW can fill up fast during peak travel times, so consider reserving a parking spot in advance if you plan to drive. Alternatively, taking a rideshare service or the DART Orange Line can help you avoid parking congestion altogether.

**Pack smart and know the TSA guidelines:** Holiday

travelers often carry gifts or extra items, which can lead to TSA security headaches if they aren't packed correctly. Remember to avoid wrapping gifts until you arrive and ensure liquids meet TSA regulations.

## In summary: Timing is everything

Traveling during the holiday season doesn't have to be a headache. By choosing the right time of day, the right day of the week, and even the right month, you can avoid many of the common stressors associated with air travel. Whether you're planning a holiday getaway or simply looking to visit loved ones, flying out of DFW at the optimal time can help you arrive at your destination with ease.

## TALES

FROM PAGE C2

neral director Paul Groody and local police officers drafted six men to help carry the coffin.

Of the six men the police called upon to help carry Oswald's casket, two, including McConal and reporter Jerry Flemmons, were from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. One was the late Associated Press reporter Mike Cochran, and the other was United Press International reporter Preston McGraw. One's identity has been disputed for years, and the final man's identity has never been known and remains a mystery to this day.

In an interview years later, McConal described the moment with his characteristic dry humor, admitting he hadn't expected to end up carrying the casket of one of the most notorious figures in American history.

When McConal finished telling us his story that evening, you could have heard a pin drop. More than anyone else I've ever known, McConal was a master storyteller. On several occasions after that, he graciously showed me some of his mementos from those days back in November 1963 and related many of his memories from that period of his life.

Though sadly no longer with us, McConal's contributions live on through his columns, books and the stories he left behind. He saw Texas not just as his beat but as his life's work, treating each piece he wrote as a love letter to the state he adored. His legacy as a writer, storyteller, and accidental participant in one of history's most infamous events speaks to his dedication to journalism and his sense of humor about life's strange twists.

Jon McConal is a true Texas original. He brought the tales of the Lone Star State to life and, for one surreal moment, found himself in the story of a lifetime. For me, Jon McConal was most definitely "The Most Interesting Man in the World."

## POIROT

FROM PAGE C1

nature skill in examining the human condition. Perhaps the most autobiographical of these novels is "Unfinished Portrait" (1934), a story that eerily mirrors the author's own experiences. In the novel, Celia, a woman scarred by personal loss, escapes to an exotic island where she meets a painter. Over time, she recounts her painful life story to him as he works on her portrait.

For Christie, "Unfinished Portrait" was more than fiction. It explored the emotions she grappled with after her husband left her for another woman. The novel also reflects her struggles with motherhood, her sense of identity, and the immense sadness she experienced from these experiences. The painter in the story serves as a surrogate therapist, echoing Christie's desire for understanding and relief from her own burdens.

In an era when women's voices, particularly on issues of mental health and personal struggle, were often suppressed, "Unfinished Portrait" stood as a quiet but significant expression of female vulnerability. In Celia's story, Christie could be honest — perhaps painfully so — about her own heartbreak and confusion. Readers, unaware of Christie's true identity, were touched by the emotional resonance of the work, finding comfort and relatability in Celia's struggles.



COURTESY PHOTO

Over the course of her prolific career, Agatha Christie authored 66 detective novels and 14 short stories.

The revelation of Mary Westmacott

Christie's alias remained intact for nearly two decades, until 1949, when the "Atticus" gossip column of the Sunday Times outed her as the real author behind the Westmacott novels. It was a revelation Christie had dreaded, but it did not deter her from finishing her journey as Mary Westmacott. She went on to publish two more novels under the pseudonym, though she remained insistent that her real name be kept out of the promotions.

Despite the exposure, Christie continued to

draw a boundary between her two literary identities. The Westmacott novels continued to reach audiences who valued their introspective nature and emotional candor, allowing Christie to maintain her carefully constructed public image as an unflappable mystery writer while still exploring the parts of herself that her mysteries didn't touch.

The power of writing and reinvention

Through her contrasting identities as Agatha Christie and Mary Westmacott, Christie demonstrated the power of writing as a means of reinvention and self-dis-

covery. Her mysteries are exercises in intellect and control — intricate puzzles that captivate the mind. Meanwhile, the Westmacott novels reveal a softer, more open-hearted side of the same woman, showing how one person can contain multitudes, each with its own story to tell.

Christie's journey with her alter ego, Mary Westmacott, reveals a truth often hidden in the world of fame and fiction: that even the most renowned storytellers sometimes need to tell their own stories. For Christie, creating Mary Westmacott was not only a means of

sharing her experiences and emotions but also a path toward healing. Through her words, she worked through loss, trauma and the ongoing quest for personal fulfillment.

For the countless fans who only know Agatha Christie for her gripping mysteries, the Mary Westmacott novels offer a profound and moving glimpse into the private world of an author who kept her heart largely hidden. Today, these works remain a testament to her versatility as a writer and her courage in facing her deepest fears on the page, albeit under a name few would recognize.

# Soup up your soup this fall: Six ingredients to make your soup taste amazing

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the  
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As “hot-umn” finally gives way to cooler temps, my tastebuds immediately start craving soup! Face it: on a cool fall or cold winter day, nothing is more comforting than a warm bowl of soup or stew. While store-bought broths and canned soups make quick meals, they often lack the depth and richness of homemade soups. But don't worry! Elevating your soup from simple to sensational is easier than you think. Here are six flavor-boosting ingredients that will add richness and depth to your pot, making it taste like it simmered all day — even if it didn't.

## 1. Tomato paste: A little goes a long way

Tomato paste is a secret weapon in the kitchen, especially for soups and stews. This concentrated tomato essence packs a punch of deep, savory umami flavor that can transform any broth. For the best results, add the tomato paste early in the cooking process, along with a bit of garlic. Allow it to “toast” in the pot, which caramelizes the natural sugars and intensifies the taste. Your soup will thank you with a richer, deeper profile that feels like hours of slow simmering.

## 2. Parmesan rind: Don't toss it—toss it in!

Parmesan rinds are the unsung heroes of soup-making. If you've ever finished a wedge of Parmesan cheese, you know that thick rind left over. Rather than throwing it out, add it to your pot of soup. As it simmers, the



Elevating your soup from simple to sensational is easier than you think.

rind releases a salty, savory essence with a hint of nuttiness, adding a complex, aged flavor to the broth. It's especially wonderful in vegetable soups and bean-based stews. Just remember to fish out the rind before serving.

## 3. Miso: The fermented flavor bomb

Miso paste is famous in

Japanese cooking for its briny, earthy taste. It's a brilliant addition to any soup. A spoonful dissolves into the broth, bringing a salty, umami-packed flavor that's hard to match. It works wonders in vegetable and mushroom soups, but feel free to experiment. If miso isn't on hand, soy sauce or even a splash of

fish sauce can offer a similar umami boost. Just add these ingredients toward the end of cooking to maintain their delicate flavors.

## 4. Herbs: Layered aromatics

Herbs are a fantastic way to elevate soups. Dried herbs like thyme, rosemary or bay leaves can be added early

as their flavors deepen and spread during cooking. Fresh herbs, such as basil, parsley or cilantro, are best added right before serving to maintain their bright, fresh taste. Don't be afraid to mix and match — herbs are versatile, and they bring everything from warmth to brightness to your soup.

## 5. Lemon or vinegar: A splash of brightness

For a hint of freshness, try a splash of acidity. A squeeze of lemon juice or a dash of vinegar just before serving can lift all the flavors in your soup, making each spoonful pop. This acidity balances the richness of heavier ingredients, especially in meat-based or creamy soups. Try experimenting with different kinds of vinegar — apple cider, balsamic or red wine — to see what flavor twist you enjoy most.

## 6. Concentrated bases: Amp up store-bought broth

If you're using store-bought broth, jarred bases like Better Than Bouillon are a game-changer. These concentrated pastes add an intense, savory flavor that's often missing from boxed broths. Just be cautious with the quantity, as they can be high in sodium. Start with a small spoonful and adjust as needed. The result is a robust, flavorful broth that tastes homemade.

## Bringing it all together

Each of these ingredients brings its own layer of flavor, taking your soup from basic to gourmet. Don't be afraid to mix and match to find your favorite combination. By adding even one or two of these boosters, you'll be surprised at how much depth and richness you can achieve with minimal effort. This winter, elevate your soups with these easy tricks and transform your kitchen into a cozy, flavor-packed haven.

Happy cooking, and may your bowls be filled with warmth and deliciousness!

COURTESY PHOTO

# See the difference: The 5 best upgrades in the iPhone 16 camera

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the  
Hood County News  
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If you know me even a little bit, you know that I am a passionate advocate of iPhone photography and videography. I know, I know, the “real” photographers out there roll their eyes and turn up their noses dismissively when anyone starts talking about using their iPhones for taking “real” photos and videos.

However, using the correct settings and picture-taking techniques, you can get exceptional results from your iPhone camera. As with all tools and technology, it's knowing how to get the best out of the equipment that matters.

And now, the iPhone 16 is making waves with its camera upgrades, appealing to everyone from casual shooters to professional photographers. For those who rely on their iPhones to capture life's best moments — or create stunning videography — these advancements might just make the iPhone 16 your new favorite tool. Let's dive into the five most exciting features of the iPhone 16's camera and how they elevate mobile photography.

## 1. Enhanced low-light performance: Night mode perfected

Apple has continually improved its Night Mode since its introduction, but the iPhone 16 takes low-light performance to a new level. The camera now captures far more detail in dim conditions, making it easier than ever to snap photos in the evening or indoors.

The enhanced Night Mode automatically reduces noise and improves color accuracy, making your nighttime shots crisp and clear. Whether you're capturing city lights, a concert or a quiet dinner, the iPhone 16's low-light capabilities let you photograph scenes that previously would have needed a DSLR.

Why it's great for photographers: This improvement makes low-light photography easier and more reliable, especially for those who en-

joy capturing the ambiance of nightscapes or indoor events without relying on artificial lighting.

## 2. 48MP main camera sensor for ultra high resolution

One of the most talked-about upgrades is the impressive 48-megapixel main camera sensor, which promises ultra-high-resolution images. This increased resolution allows for much sharper details, making a big difference when cropping images or printing them in larger formats.

With the iPhone 16, you can crop or zoom in without sacrificing quality, an advantage that was previously limited to professional cameras. Whether you're capturing landscapes or portraits, the 48MP sensor opens up new possibilities for detailed and flexible editing.

Why it's great for photographers: The 48MP sensor is a game-changer for anyone who wants to edit, crop or print their photos without worrying about losing quality.

## 3. Improved optical zoom range: Get closer without



Apple has continually improved its Night Mode since its introduction, but the iPhone 16 takes low-light performance to a new level.

## compromise

The iPhone 16 features an expanded optical zoom range, with up to 5x optical zoom on its telephoto lens. This allows photographers to capture close-up shots from a distance without relying on digital zoom, which often reduces image quality.

From wildlife photography to capturing candid moments without intrusion, the enhanced zoom gives users the flexibility to shoot from various perspectives. Additionally, the stabilization feature makes long-zoom shots less susceptible to blurriness, ensuring that distant subjects appear sharp and clear.

Why it's great for photographers: For those who love capturing moments from a distance, such as wildlife or street photography, the improved zoom range is incredibly useful and makes a noticeable difference in image clarity.

## 4. Smart HDR 5: Lifelike colors and perfect exposure

The latest Smart HDR 5 technology brings out the most accurate colors and

well-balanced exposures in each shot. The iPhone 16's HDR improvements intelligently enhance highlights and shadows, making it easier to capture balanced images even in challenging lighting conditions.

With this upgrade, the iPhone 16 achieves a much better dynamic range, handling scenes with both bright and dark areas seamlessly. Imagine a sunset photo where both the sky and the landscape are perfectly exposed, or capturing vibrant colors during a bright sunny day without losing detail in shadowed areas.

Why it's great for photographers: The enhanced HDR gives your images a more lifelike quality, making it ideal for landscape, portrait and high-contrast scenes where capturing natural color and lighting is key.

## 5. ProRAW and ProRes enhancements for advanced editing

For those who love post-processing, the iPhone 16's enhanced ProRAW and ProRes capabilities make it easier to get professional-

grade results straight from your phone. Apple has improved its ProRAW format, offering even higher quality and flexibility in editing, while ProRes upgrades allow for better control over video capture, especially in low light.

These features are a boon to anyone who enjoys fine-tuning their photos or videos to perfection. With higher fidelity and more options in editing, photographers can push their creative limits even further.

Why it's great for photographers: ProRAW and ProRes are essential for photographers and videographers who want full control over their post-processing workflow, allowing them to achieve results that were previously only possible with dedicated cameras.

## Final Thoughts



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

Donations received November 15, 2024 - January 31, 2025 will be matched up to the amount of the sponsor fund.

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



# GRANBURY WINE CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Wine Celebration: A Texas Wine Showcase gathered Texas wineries, artisans, and boutique vendors Nov. 8-9 around the historic courthouse square. As part of its 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.



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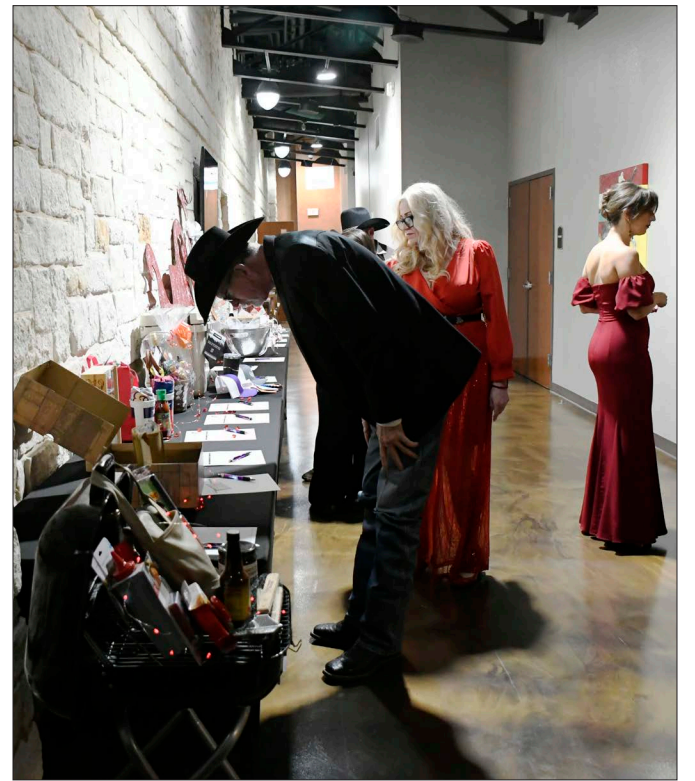
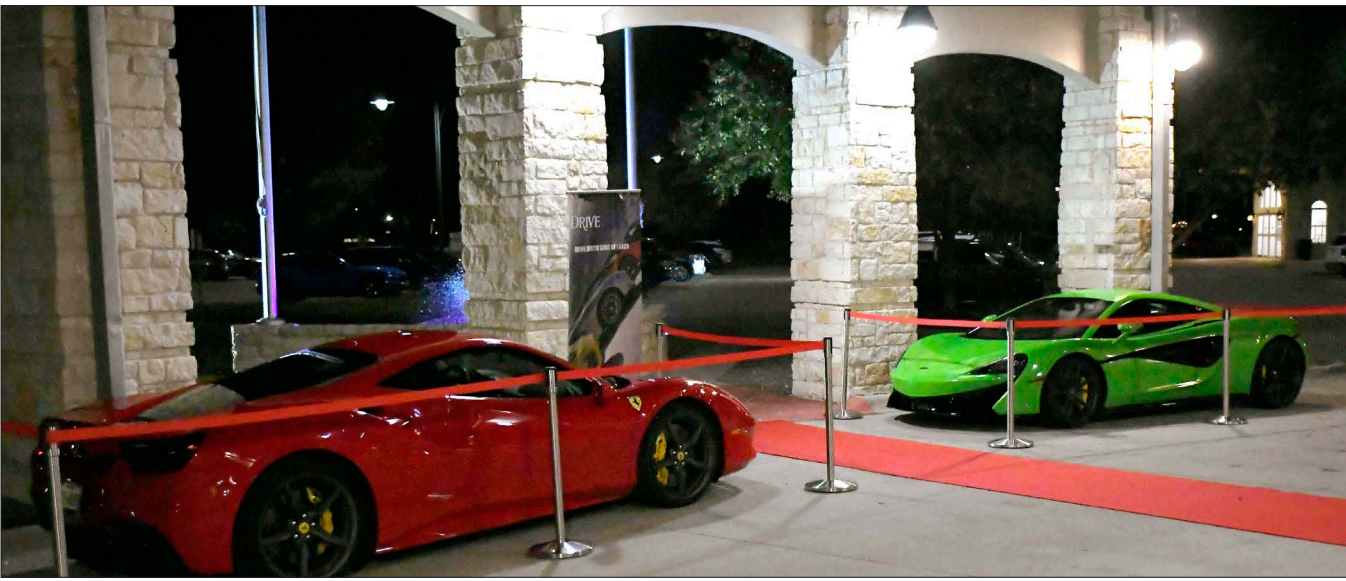


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# Jewel Ball 40th anniversary

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

This year's Jewel Ball celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council. Held Saturday, Nov. 9, the "A Ruby Rendezvous" event was a remarkable evening at the conference center. It featured live music, a champagne reception, a live and silent auction, a seated dinner, and casino games. The Jewel Ball is the sole fundraising event for the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council, enabling the organization to fund various outdoor projects that enhance the Lake Granbury community.



# Local Goats Vote

COURTESY PHOTO

“Taco” Harris went to vote with her human “mom” Emily Harris on Election Day. Taco is a bottle-fed orphan who lives at Acton Farms. Just two weeks old at the time of the election, Taco goes most everywhere with Harris.

Taco makes a stir wherever she goes with her bleating. As soon as she arrived with Harris at the polling location at Acton Methodist Church, voters in the parking lot offered to “kid-sit” Taco so Harris could go in to vote.

Originally slated for Christmas dinner as the dish she is named after, Taco has some fans that are rallying for her freedom.

“The consensus is that Taco might be saved from the slaughter now that she is going to make the paper. The town loves her and now I have to reconsider enjoying cabrito tacos this Christmas with her newfound fame,” shared Harris.

“The kids down the street are making shirts with #SaveTaco because they think it’s preposterous that anyone would want to eat her,” Harris said.

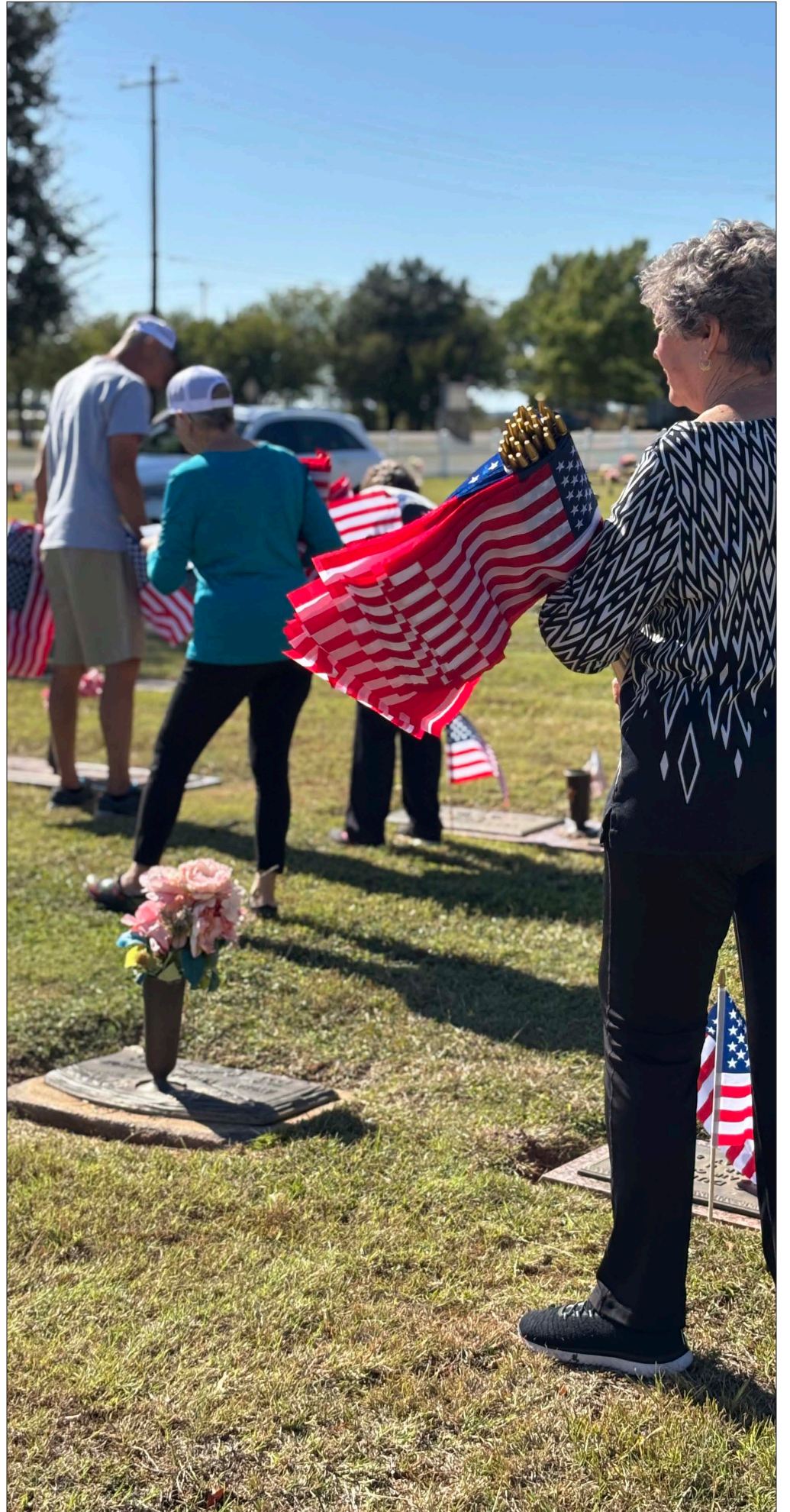
Harris is a chef, organic farmer and proponent of eating well. Not surprisingly, Harris said Taco’s advice is to “Make America healthy again.”



# SOILD ROCK GLOBAL METHODIST

COURTESY PHOTOS

17 Members of Solid Rock Global Methodist Church purchased American flags and placed them on veterans’ graves at Holly Hills Cemetery as part of this month’s “Change the World,” ministry.



## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# When boredom seems terminal



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.

Now that the election is over, my ancient Uncle Mort and his domino-playing buddies down in the thicket can resume their usual mostly-minutia confabs that too often lack authenticity.

This reminds me of the annual extravaganza birthed in 1929 when old-timers of Burlington, Wisconsin held their first-ever "Liars' Contest." They called it "harmless fibs for fun and folly."

The contest caught on nationally, thanks to hundreds of newspapers providing free publicity. One winner, some 50 years ago, was

the late Choc Hutcheson of Lubbock, a brilliant eccentric before he learned to shave. He "lied" about a man who invented a duck call so authentic that it attracted decoys ...

All this to say that Uncle Mort and his gang may usher in a new contest. Its goal in some respect is to mimic the Burlington bunch, but entries must be based on facts, even if loosely hinged.

Soon, Burlington will announce its 2024 winner, near New Year's Eve on a slow news day.

Shucks, Texas may have bigger liars every year than

contestants in Wisconsin, but the East Texans' slant may garner even more attention than outright lies. They, too, are expected to announce their winner around year's end ...

They're requiring contestants not only to cite threads of truth, but also to restrict entries to a topic. The first will center on the two most unlikely robberies in Texas history.

Someone mentioned the Santa Claus bank robbery that occurred Dec. 23, 1927, in Cisco. In those days, bank robberies were commonplace, occurring an average of four times daily in the Lone Star State. Who "woulda thunk" jolly old St. Nick would brandish a pistol while he and his gang made a record haul of \$12,400 in cash and \$150,000 in negotiable securities?

The record was disallowed, however, since the goods were left behind during the melee of gunfire that followed ...

"Baloney, that was 'chump change,'" Mort asserted. "A far more unusual robbery occurred on Sept. 4, 2024. The total grab was \$240 million and, even with inflation, this record figure eclipses \$12,400, even with inflation factored in. And not a single shot was fired." Three sets of eyeballs would have been hard-pressed to open wider. "What, in the name of the National Football League, are you talking about?" one asked.

Mort had done his homework, pointing to Dak Prescott's \$240 million contract as quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys. This is the largest NFL contract in history, and no doubt it will be

eclipsed next year.

"It's been more than 96 years — nearly 36,000 days — since the robbery in Cisco, so I think it's time to pinpoint a more recent unusual 'robbery,'" Mort chuckled. He mentioned that the bank robbers left their treasure behind, but Dak — and/or his agent — had enough "smarts" to include a guaranteed payment of \$231 for the four-year commitment."

As their "yakking" continued, someone mentioned that Dak's being paid almost \$1,000,000 per game, regardless of the outcomes and whether or not he's sidelined by injuries, as is currently the case.

Another quickly added that he earns more in one quarter than the \$985,000 San Francisco's Brock Purdy makes for the entire season. (Footnote: The 49'ers beat

the Cowboys, and Purdy's salary will shoot upward next season.)

The fourth member of the "geezer group" suggested comparing Prescott's salary with Babe Ruth's record haul of \$70,000, grudgingly paid to the baseball star for the 1914 season. One reporter commented that Ruth's salary was more than President Wilson's. "I had a better year than the president," Ruth responded.

Who can blame Prescott? There are two signatures on the contract. And all this craziness is supported by gullible fans whose football appetites are insatiable. Stay tuned for Burlington's 2024 winning lie. It may pale compared to the East Texans' powerful comparison that has more than a few shreds of truth ...

## PECAN PLANTATION BITS

## Pecan's Woman's Club will shine with fashion and friendship



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club has a spectacular day planned for its next meeting Thursday, Nov. 21 when "fun and funky meet fashion and friendship" with a "Boogie Wonderland" theme. The day will begin with social time at 9:30 a.m. followed by President Gerta Howell calling the meeting to order at 10 a.m. After the ladies check off their items of business, they will enjoy a fashion show put together by committee chairs Kim Wallin and Barb Brisco featuring the latest trends from merchants in the Granbury and Glen Rose areas. Lunch prepared by Chef Jordan Ray and the clubhouse staff will complete the day.

The PPWC also has its annual casserole and bake sale scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23 beginning at 10 a.m. at the PAC. Ladies have been busily preparing dishes for sale, and the proceeds from the event will support the group's chosen charities and projects, both within and outside our community.

Finally, Saturday, Nov. 30 will bring a PPWC-sponsored Christmas parade beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Nutcracker parking lot and ending at the Pecan clubhouse. Decorated vehicles, golf carts and horses are welcome, and participants and attendees are asked to bring a new toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

## ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild is holding a pop-up art show today, Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pecan clubhouse with a special feature of the day including the raffle drawing of a nine square painting with work contributed by Kathy Yoders, Jimmie Borum, Barbara Brown, Connie Gilmore, Gwen Hutson, Cheryl Moore, Judy Tarbinger and Pamela Vannoy. Raffle tickets are currently on sale from PPAG members and proceeds from the raffle will benefit Pecan's Emergency Medical Service.



COURTESY PHOTO OF PPWC PUBLICITY

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will gather collectively on Thursday, Nov. 21 when the ladies will conduct their business meeting, view a fashion show with items from local merchants, and enjoy lunch prepared by the clubhouse staff. Pictured are new members to Woman's Club: Linda Parks, Ruthie Labrum, Vickie McCormack, Virginia Hale, and Renee Rogers.

## 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 tomorrow, Nov. 17.

## GENEALOGY GROUP

Pecan's Genealogy Group has its next meeting on the calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 19 beginning at 10 a.m. at the EMS training room located on Monticello Drive. Everyone is welcome, and being a Pecan resident is not required for participation. The topic of the day will focus on organizing family history, and folks attending will have the opportunity to share their strategies in completing the task. For more information on the Genealogy Group and its presence in our community, call or text 682-459-5718. Ideas for future meetings and presentation topics are welcome.

## PICKLEBALL PLAY

The Pecan Plantation Pickleball Association invites neighbors to a fall social Tuesday, Nov. 19 beginning

at 6 p.m. at the PAC outdoor pickleball courts. Fellowship, pickleball and good food are on the agenda for the evening when the PPPA will provide hotdogs, chips, and drinks, and attendees are asked to bring sides and desserts to share. Folks should also bring chairs and pickleball gear to enjoy the evening.

## GIVE THANKS

For Pecaners who would like to dine at the clubhouse Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28, the reservations line is open for seatings at 10 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.: 817-573-2641.

In addition, Chef Jordan Ray and the clubhouse staff boast a bountiful offering of food to be ordered and picked up for dining at home for the holiday. Members received a menu via email, and orders are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 and will be available for pick up Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## 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 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.

## THANK YOU

Pecan's Breakfast Club has met and enjoyed enlightening programs, delicious food, and friendly fellowship for 42 years, and for the past bit of time, the group has been led by Ron Liddell. Ron has

hosted the group, facilitated programs, and communicated with the Pecan community, and now he is retiring from his post. Many thanks go to Ron for his work and dedication to the group; he will be missed.

## NEW OFFICERS

Many thanks go to the folks who volunteered as judges and vote counters for the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Board election last weekend. The results are complete, and congratulations to the men and women who will serve on the board next year: Philip Mayeux, president; Gary Marks, vice president; Janie Narducci, treasurer; Jeanie Curry, secretary; Ken Vehstedt; VFD Chief Sam Grief; and EMS Chief Brandl Stephenson. Much gratitude goes to our community's emergency service volunteers who work diligently to keep our community safe.

## UPCOMING ELECTION


The first Saturday of March each year brings Pecan's annual member

meeting, and at that time, new board members will be selected to serve a three-year term in our community. Any member in good standing who wishes to run for an office should complete and submit a candidacy application, which is due by 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 with delivery by mail, in person or via email. Residents received an email application link last week, and paper copies are available in the general manager's office. Contact Marilyn Amos for paperwork or for more information: 817-573-2641, extension 340 or marilynamos@ppoaweb.com.

## MOVING ON

The Pecan Plantation Recreational Vehicle Club is a fun bunch that is literally always "on the go." Bill Winkler is the group's new website editor, and his work provides folks all kinds of helpful and up-to-date information about the club: www.ppoarv.org.





**Friday, 15 November - Thursday, 21 November**

**Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin. - 132 min (PG13)**  
Wed, Thurs: 6:15PM

**Gladiator II - 148 min (R)**  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:15PM, 8:55PM

**God's Here - 87 min (PG13)**  
Fri, Mon, Tues: 2:05PM, 4:30PM.  
Sat, Sun: 11:50AM, 2:05PM, 4:00PM.  
Wed, Thurs: 1:30PM, 4:40PM

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 - 130 min (PG13)**  
Thurs: 6:30PM

**Here - 104 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 6:45PM, 9:15PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:15PM, 8:45PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:15PM.  
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 6:45PM.  
Wed: 2:00PM, 3:45PM.  
Thurs: 1:35PM, 3:45PM

**Heretic - 110 min (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun, Mon, Tues: 4:20PM, 7:00PM.  
Wed: 2:00PM, 6:55PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:55PM, 9:35PM

**Red One - 122 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM.  
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 7:15PM.  
Wed: 4:30PM, 6:55PM.  
Thurs: 4:30PM, 7:20PM

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - 99 min (PG)**  
Fri: 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.  
Sat: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.  
Sun: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM.  
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:15PM.  
Wed: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 7:20PM.  
Thurs: 2:05PM, 4:05PM

**The Wild Robot - 102 min (PG)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM

**Venom: The Last Dance - 109 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.  
Sat: 11:25AM, 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.  
Sun: 11:25AM, 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.  
Thurs: 9:15PM

**Wicked - 160 min (PG)**  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:30PM

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# GO PLAY

## 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.granburycivicchorus.org](http://www.granburycivicchorus.org) for schedule and activities. Questions: 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.

**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, be-reaved, 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, be-reaved, 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 [kcall3219@gmail.com](mailto:kcall3219@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: [bskaggs@aol.com](mailto:bskaggs@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. HoodCo-Cert@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.

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**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.

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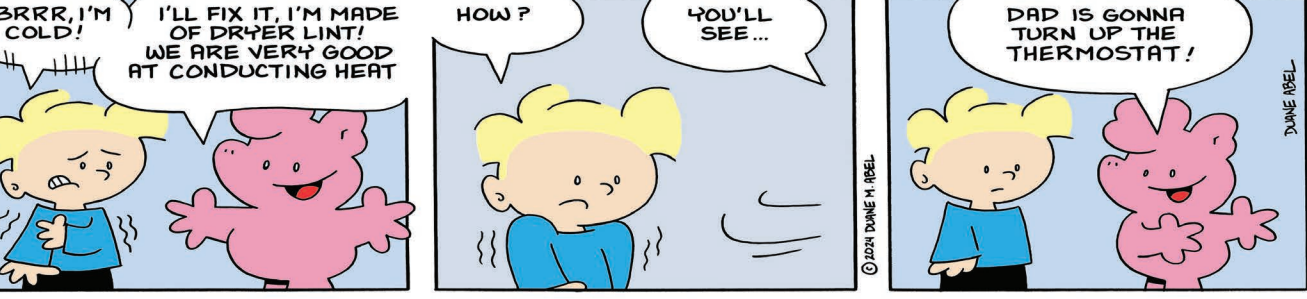
**MARINE CORPS** League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

## 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.

**ZED by Duane M. Abel**



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John 15:4

I'VE BEEN THINKING

# A new arrival



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 soon-to-be-mother labored under the pangs of birth. It seemed to have gone on an awfully long time. No one had told her it would be quick. No one told her it would be easy. But somehow she was surprised at the duration and intensity of the pain. The stork was about to make its appearance, and she was grateful.

The pregnancy had been rather uneventful, but all she could focus on now was the increasing discomfort. Those who loved her were standing nearby, ready to assist in any way they could. But in reality, they could do little to relieve her pain. She knew that. And they knew that. Their only recourse was to stand by her in her suffering, gently rubbing her, telling her how much they loved her, and reassuring her it wouldn't be long now.

She didn't know all the medical terms of the process, but she knew she must go through this process to bring new life into the world. She appreciated the fact they had dimmed the lights and had been speaking in hushed terms for quite a while. She seemed to focus only on what was happening within her body, yet all her senses seemed to be in a heightened state of awareness.

Each sound seemed especially loud. Every small movement seemed stronger than she had ever noticed. Excessive movement distracted her, and she wondered if she would ever feel normal again.

As the pain increased, she tried to focus intently on the outcome of her labor, the fresh life within her who was struggling to make its appearance. She knew that the little one, too, was tired. Somehow, she had lost track of time and wanted it simply to be over. The world outside had ceased to exist as she seemed to go inside herself more and more. She was becoming so very weary. She didn't know how much longer she could go on.

The last moments of labor seemed to defy description, but as Mother Nature brought the process to a close and she saw him for the first time, her heart swelled with more pride and love than she could understand. Never before had she felt this way.

Did all mothers feel this way? Did they all feel this protective of their newborn? Did all of them feel their little one was the most beautiful of all arrivals? Did all of them forget the pain as they looked upon that precious little body?

She was thrilled in the joy of having given birth to one that represented the next generation. Oh, so many thoughts. So many emotions. She would give of herself in any way necessary to protect this little one against any and all threats or harm.

As her precious offspring lay beside her, she suddenly knew the true meaning of "puppy love" as she began licking him clean.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

# Peter Garland and the Choctaw Tom incident: A turning point in Texas frontier history

By Cody Martin

Peter Garland, a man born of Revolutionary and War of 1812 stock, carved out a controversial legacy on the Texas frontier. His journey from Mississippi, where he juggled roles as circuit court clerk, deputy sheriff, and saloonkeeper in the 1840s, to the wild expanses of Texas, paints a vivid picture of 19th-century American ambition and conflict.

Settling in Erath County, Garland transformed himself into a rancher and family man, yet his reputation would be forever shaped by his fearless — and often ruthless — approach to Indian fighting. In 1858, he led a bloody raid on a camp of friendly Indians in Palo Pinto County, an event that many historians mark as the spark that ignited the Reservation War. This action earned him both fierce criticism and fervent admiration, with some branding him a murderer while others hailed him as a frontier hero. Elected as Hood County's first treasurer in 1867, Garland's life story reads like a microcosm of the American frontier experience, from circuit clerk to saloonkeeper, from rancher to Indian fighter.

THE CHOCTAW TOM INCIDENT

In the winter of 1858, a tragic event near Palo Pinto marked a pivotal moment in the state's frontier history. Known as the Choctaw Tom Incident, this confrontation between settlers and Native Americans living on reservations had far-reaching consequences for Texas-Indian relations.

Choctaw Tom, once an interpreter for Texas President Sam Houston, led a band of peaceful Indians who had initially camped on Sunday



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER  
Granbury, TX

Creek southeast of the present town of Santo. After a brief stay in Palo Pinto, where they were initially well-received, the band moved its camp to the Indian Hole on Elm Creek, about six miles north and slightly east of Palo Pinto. This location, situated on the Slaughter Ranch, would become the site of the infamous raid.

On Dec. 27, 1858, a group of 20 men from Erath County, led by Capt. Peter Garland, launched a surprise attack on the camp. The raiding party included several prominent citizens: Daniel Thornton, J. Hightower, E. Fireash, T. Wilie, W.E. Mothreal, Dr. W.W. McNeill, Robert Duval, J.P. Harris, W. Fitzgerald, A.L. Braw, R. Dupuy, W.J.F. Lowder, W. Wood, Samuel W. Stephens, J. Barnes, H. Highsaw, J.R. Waller, Dalton, and George Harden.

The attack began just after dawn, catching many of the camp's inhabitants off guard. Garland's men charged down a roadway between the teepees, firing in both directions. The camp, which consisted of eight men, eight women and 11 children, was thrown into chaos. Despite the element of surprise, some of the Indian men managed to mount a defense, but they were severely outgunned.

The assault left seven Indians dead and eight wounded, including women and children. Among the ca-

sualties were four men and three women killed, with three men, two women and three children wounded. Choctaw Tom's wife was among the dead, and his daughter suffered a gunshot wound to her hand. The raid also claimed the lives of two Caddos and five Anadarkos. The violence wasn't confined to the Indian camp; Samuel W. Stephens, a 17-year-old member of Garland's party, was killed during the fighting, possibly by friendly fire. Another raider, J. Barnes, was wounded and later died from his injuries in Palo Pinto.

The attack was allegedly in response to increased horse thefts and other depredations attributed to reservation Indians. However, the brutality of the incident and the targeting of a peaceful band raised serious questions about the settlers' motives and methods. Some accounts suggest that Garland's men had been looking for Indians who had caused trouble in Stephenville and had decided to attack Choctaw Tom's band despite warnings from locals in Palo Pinto.

AFTERMATH AND CONSEQUENCES

The aftermath of the attack was chaotic. C.C. Slaughter, a prominent rancher, heard the gunfire and rode to the site of the massacre. He then rushed to report the incident to the agency, encountering a war party en route to Palo Pinto for revenge. Slaughter managed to dissuade them from attacking the town and instead helped bury the dead at the massacre site.

Panic spread through nearby settlements as fears of retaliation grew. J.H. Baker, a Palo Pinto school teacher, noted in his diary that the mas-

sacre scene was "gruesome" and "beggars all description." The incident exacerbated existing tensions between settlers and both reservation and wild Indian tribes, ultimately contributing to the escalation of conflicts in West Texas.

The response to the incident highlighted the complex and often divided opinions on Indian relations in Texas at the time. While some local citizens supported aggressive actions against Indians, others, including law enforcement officials, sought to hold the attackers accountable. Judge Battle of the 19th District Court ordered Col. Rip Ford to arrest Garland's men, but Ford declined, stating it was a matter for local law enforcement. However, no sheriff would act, as Garland was seen as acting on the standing orders of John Baylor, publisher of the newspaper "The White Man," who advocated killing Indians at any opportunity.

The Choctaw Tom Incident serves as a stark reminder of the violent clashes that characterized the Texas frontier. It underscores the complexities of settler-Indian relations and the tragic consequences of unchecked aggression. As we reflect on this event, we're reminded of the importance of understanding our shared history — even its darkest chapters.

POSTSCRIPT

In an intriguing historical connection, Sue Garland Nutt, daughter of Peter Garland who led the raid, and her husband David Lee Nutt built the home at 319 East Bridge Street in Granbury. This house now serves as The Bridge Street History Center, offering a tangible link to the complex history of our region.

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GARDEN PATCH

# Harvest holidays from your garden

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.

There is something special about harvesting the fruits of your gardening labor for holiday celebrations. Thanks to this year's mild fall weather, gardeners continue to pick herbs, tomatoes, greens, peppers and more. With such abundance, it's a pleasure to craft meals that take advantage of this bounty.

At Thanksgiving, incorporating our gardens' fresh ingredients into dinners reminds us to be grateful for the gifts provided by nature, such as delicious food. For many, this celebration marks the beginning of the holiday season. So, it's also appropriate to take a moment to appreciate the farmers and gardeners in our lives who work hard to provide us with nourishment.

What sounds yummy? Cool season vegetables

thrive in autumn weather. Leafy greens such as spinach, kale and Swiss chard are often ready to harvest in November. Spinach is used in fresh salads, prepared as a side dish or added to casseroles for a nutrient-rich flavor boost. Kale adds heartiness to soups and shakes. It can also be baked and served as an appetizer. Swiss chard is used in stir-fries or sauteed and served as a side.

Root vegetables are another great addition to your menu. Carrots, radishes and turnips planted in early fall should be ready to collect. Their rich, earthy flavors will complement the savory dishes often served at Thanksgiving. Try carrots roasted in olive oil with herbs such as thyme or rosemary or make a sweet side dish or dessert. Carrots are also great additions to

soups and stews. Radishes offer a sharp, peppery flavor when added raw to salads; roasting turns them sweeter. Like potatoes, turnips may be mashed with butter and herbs or roasted and added to vegetable medley.

In Texas, it's appropriate to mix peppers into any meal to add zest and color. Try them in casseroles, roasted and served alongside meats, mixed in salads or stuffed with meats and cheeses. If you are still harvesting tomatoes, toss them into salads, sides, sauces and salsa.

What Thanksgiving meal would be complete without the addition of herbs to season all the dishes? Garden herbs add the punch that's needed to elevate a simple meal into a grand feast. Mexican mint marigold, rosemary, sage, thyme and parsley generally thrive in fall gardens, making them readily available to cooks, which is why these fragrant plants are often key ingredients in holiday recipes ranging from stuffing to turkey.

As a kitchen herb, Mexican mint marigold

leaves may be tossed into salads. They are also used to flavor chicken, fish or various sides. Rosemary infuses flavor into roasted meats or potatoes. It's terrific blended into sauces and butter. And it makes a festive garnish. Sage is a classic herb used in stuffing or roasted turkey dishes. Thyme is often added to vegetable dishes and casseroles or baked into breads. And parsley may be blended into spreads or used as a fresh garnish.

Other popular fall garden favorites include pumpkin, sweet potatoes and squash. Factors such as soil type, soil pH, microclimates and available water will determine any crop's success. To protect kitchen gardens from chilly weather, spread mulch over the soil in the plants' root zone. If frost threatens, add frost cloths atop tender crops.

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



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Garden herbs such as rosemary add a flavor boost to holiday meals.

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