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## Farewell to Vale City honors Mayor Pro Tem as Wadley, Ullom swear in

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
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The emotions at Granbury City Hall were palpable, yet mixed Tuesday, Nov. 19, as Granbury City Council swore in two members — and bid farewell to another.

As the candidates for both Place 3 and Place 5 both ran unopposed, the city canceled the election for this year, automatically naming incumbent Bruce Wadley for Place 3 and newcomer Zeb Ullom for Place 5.

Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale, who served for three

years in Place 5, announced his official retirement back in May and stated he would not be seeking another term.

“Sometimes it becomes necessary to pause, reset, change your attitude and change your latitude,” Vale wrote on social media earlier this year. “I’ve always thought that serving in politics should be a temporary privilege, not a career.”

Vale previously announced that he and his wife, Lori, plan to relocate to an area close to where Vale grew up near Tampa, Florida. The couple also plans to pursue their passions for traveling,

meeting new people and experiencing what it’s like to live in different parts of the country.

“We wish council member Steve Vale all the best, as he goes on his journey,” Mayor Jim Jarratt said during the meeting. “One of the things that you count on when you are mayor is the mayor pro tem, and I’ve been very fortunate to have two of the best, Mrs. (Trish) Reiner and Mr. Vale. They have always been there, and I am truly and honestly very appreciative of everything that they’ve done to make this job ... I don’t want to say, easier, but they



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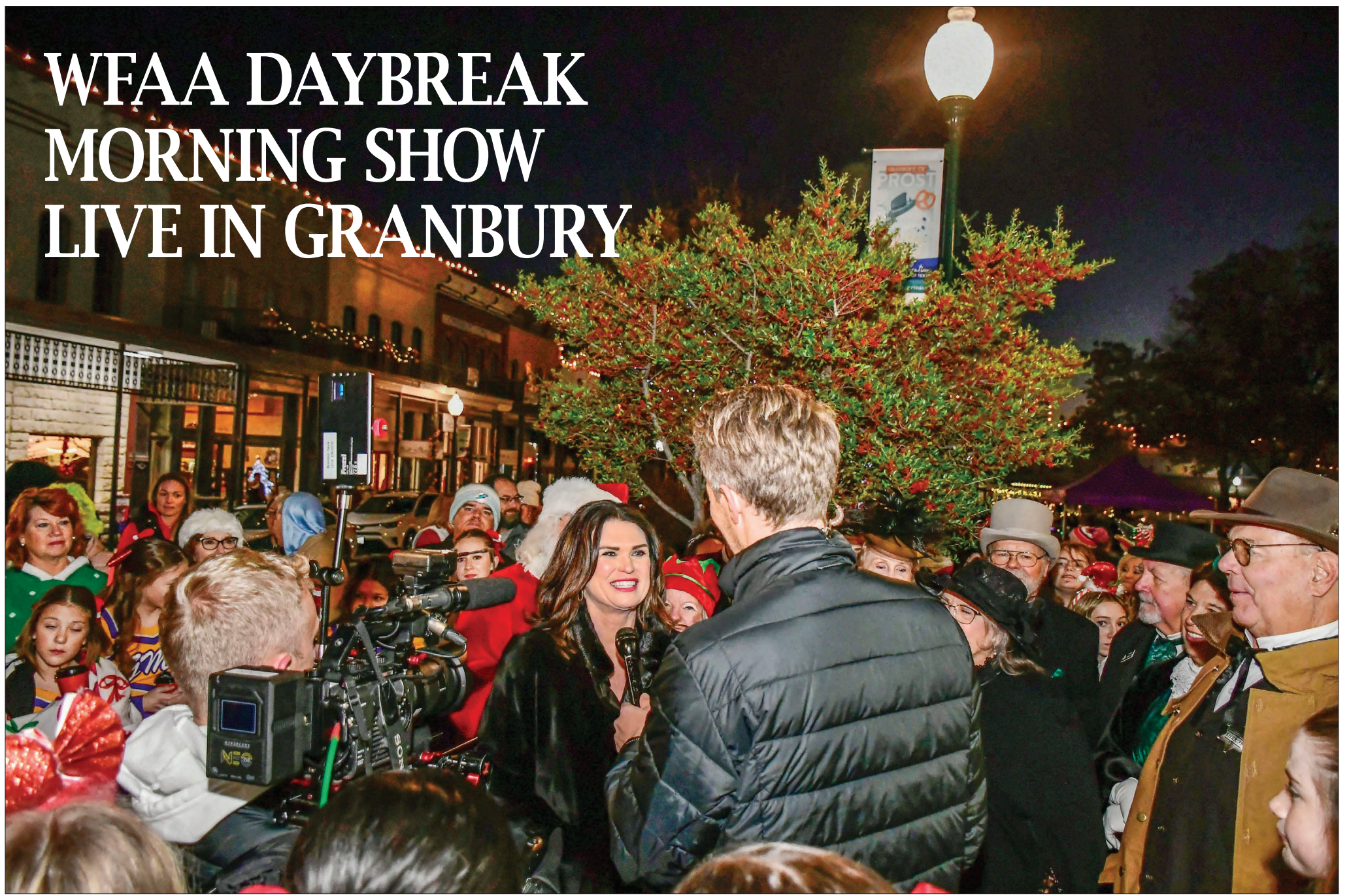
Outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale speaks about his time on the Granbury City Council as he bids farewell to the community Nov. 19.

certainly let me go to sleep at night. It’s been good. Thank you, Steve.”

To honor Vale, the city showed a video compiled from various council meet-

ings that featured clips of

PLEASE SEE VALE | A2



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Channel 8, WFAA Daybreak morning show audiences were treated to fantastic live segments from Granbury beginning shortly after 5 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 22. Please see more photos, A5.

## City gives update on capital improvement projects

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
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The city of Granbury is making significant strides in its development, as ongoing capital improvement projects are transforming the once-small town into a thriving hub of activity and growth.

With several construction projects in the works,

Director of Public Works Chester Nolen provided an update to the council Nov. 19 about the various capital improvement initiatives underway — everything from water treatment enhancements to road reconstructions.

### KNOX GROUNDWATER STORAGE TANKS

Nolen explained that

the Tank #1 on the Knox Groundwater Storage Tank is online and being used daily, but the top will require rehabilitation in 12-18 months.

The Tank #1 — which supplies water to residents on the west area of town — was slated for improvements after the top of the tank rusted.

Knox Tank #2 is also slated

for future refurbishment, with Nolen noting that it will be taken care of in a future budget.

“The tops, they have rusted considerably because of the amount of chlorine that was being injected and the gas was causing some rust up there on the top,” Nolen said. “The structure itself is still sound.”

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The city’s Water Treatment Plant is now fully operational after a second water pump was rehabilitated and reinstalled.

The plant, which went online in 2017, is responsible for producing safe and acceptable water in accordance with State and Federal health standards.

“Operationally, we ran

for about a month with just one pump, because the repair time on the pumps is considerable,” Nolen said. “I think (City Manager) Chris (Coffman) and I both were tired of rolling the dice on that with just one pump working, so we had the other pump installed just recently, so we’re operating on two pumps and every-

PLEASE SEE CAPITAL | A4



138TH YEAR, NO. 48

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Women in Business wraps up another great year with Holiday Fashion Show

By the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

As the holiday season quickly approaches, Women in Business wrapped up an exceptional year with its annual Holiday Fashion Show, a glamorous event that has become a tradition for both members and the wider community. The show, held at Hotel Lucy, drew an enthusiastic crowd of business professionals, entrepreneurs and fashion lovers eager to celebrate the season in style. With its blend of high-end fashion, community spirit and networking opportunities, it was clear why tickets to this event are so highly sought after.

### A NIGHT OF GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

The atmosphere inside the tent was nothing short of magical, with sparkling lights and festive decor setting the stage for an unforgettable evening. Guests were treated to a runway

show featuring the latest holiday collections from local boutiques and luxury brands. Western style was the theme we saw from many of the boutiques this year, as well as comfortable fashion.

With Tracie Harper from



Daffan Cooling & Heating as master of ceremonies, there is never a dull moment. B&A Media Tech kept the tent jumping with great music. A fantastic charcuterie spread was provided by Hard Eight BBQ.

"This event is one of the highlights of the year," said Kara Watson, WIB committee chair. "It's not only a great opportunity to see amazing fashion, but it also brings together such a dy-

namic group of women who support each other's businesses and personal growth. The energy in the room tonight is incredible!"

### SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

As always, the fashion show provided a platform for local businesses to showcase their holiday styles. The boutiques are women-owned, reinforcing

the organization's commitment to empowering female entrepreneurs. The event also served as a reminder of how the WIB network fosters strong connections and encourages collaboration among its members.

It's not just about fashion; it's about building a community where women can thrive professionally, support one another and create lasting relationships. The event raises funds each year

to give to a local charity. The WIB group thinks it is important to support local women in need; that is why this year's funds are going to the Ada Carey shelter for Women and Children.

### LOOKING AHEAD

With the success of the Holiday Fashion Show, Women in Business is already looking ahead to 2025. Plans for the upcoming year's events include more opportunities for networking, professional development, and community engagement. The next event is the Jan. 28, 2025, Speed Networking Luncheon. The organization's commitment to empowering women in business remains stronger than ever, and next year promises even more exciting events and initiatives.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

Grace Classical Christian Academy.

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**  
 Diamond A Ranch Events  
 Community Christmas Party  
 December 10th  
 Ribbon Cutting at 4pm  
 9855 Lipan Hwy  
 granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHICS

Diamond A Ranch Community Christmas Party.

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**  
 David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center  
 Renaming Ceremony  
 December 5th  
 Ribbon Cutting at 10am  
 621 E Pearl St  
 granbury CHAMBER

David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center (re-naming)

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury City Council swore in Place 5 newcomer Zeb Ullom during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 19.

## VALE

FROM PAGE A1

Vale recognizing city workers and communicating the city's priorities to state legislators.

"You might have seen a theme — Mr. Encouragement," City Manager Chris Coffman said. "He's leaving Texas for wetter pastures ... but more than anything, we wanted to show that video to express to you our gratitude of unwavering support — holy cow — and your encouragement and enthusiasm."

Coffman said Vale's dedication to the community reminded him of the Bible verse Ecclesiastes 9:10, which states, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your strength, for there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in the grave, where you are heading."

"Whatever you can find to do, do it with all your heart," Coffman said, paraphrasing the scripture. "And you are 100% that person. We thank you for all the encouragement, all the love that you give us and support — not only the administrative side of being a council member, but the extra side of being that support — and encouraging our team every chance you get. I mean, if you don't believe it, I've got the video for you, so you can watch it again later."

As a token of appreciation, Vale also

received a clock, with Coffman jokingly reminding him to change the time zone as soon as he gets to Florida.

Members of the Granbury City Council then took time to express their own appreciations for the beloved council member, as they looked back on their time together as they served the city of Granbury.

"I really didn't know Steven until we ran (for office) together two years ago," Wadley said. "We've become really good friends. He's a great encourager."

"But the other thing I noticed in the video is — and I see this a lot of the time — he likes to talk a lot," Wadley continued, chuckling. "It's been just a real pleasure knowing Steve and working on council."

Place 2 council member Eddie Rodriguez said he is going to miss Vale — especially their conversations.

"That's what's great about being on city council is the diversity ... and just the different lenses that we bring," Rodriguez said. "I would just say that he (Vale) has been very impactful. He brought a different type of lens to our city council, a different way of thinking and a different way of providing solutions to different problems."

Place 6 council member Greg Corrigan described Vale as a person of integrity, stating that he put his heart and soul into every

PLEASE SEE VALE | A12



Place 3 incumbent Bruce Wadley took the oath of office to serve on the Granbury City Council during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 19.



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Thanksgiving Day Tradition Revisited



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

Families seem to have certain traditions when it comes to the holidays. Some clans gather at Grandma's house to eat the same meal, year after year. People seem to want and need to have the same meal. They want the green bean casserole, the candied yams, and the holidays pies which most of us eat at no other time of the year. The consistency of the celebration is comforting in the ever-changing world in which we live. Knowing you will see the same faces around the table, reminisce over the same family stories while watching football before or after the meal is something that can be counted on. We depend on it, crave it and seek it.

For the years I was in the horse business, I would spend Thanksgiving in Oklahoma City at the

National Reining Horse Futurity. The futurity has traditionally been the sport's biggest event with people traveling from all 50 states and some 25 different countries to participate. Because of the size of the show, the event starts Thanksgiving Day, which means all the vendors, participants and fans are far away from home on that special day. Many tend to their horse show responsibilities and then come together for a mass dinner which the NRHA arranges. While I think it was a great idea to have a dinner catered on the grounds, I would always leave the fairgrounds and go to Furr's Cafeteria.

I was far away from my kids and folks on these Thanksgivings. They understood I was working, and it was necessary for me to be gone, but part of me always wished we could all be together. From this loneli-

ness I started my own tradition of going to Furr's and "finding a friend." By that I mean I would go to Furr's, go through the line for food, and then find someone who was sitting alone and ask if I could sit with them. I know that sounds a little crazy, but then again, maybe not.

I would scour the room looking for someone who was older and alone. The room was always full of families eating but there would be several people who would be sitting by themselves. The first year I approached an elderly lady and asked if she would mind some company. Maybe it was my cowboy hat, the smile I gave her, or even the tone of my voice, but she instantly smiled and said, "Why sure, are you alone, too?" I explained why I was in Oklahoma City and how I was taking a break from the horse show to eat a Thanksgiving meal. She informed me she was a widow

with no children and while friends had asked her to come eat for the holiday, she felt like she would be intruding on their family meal, so she had decided to eat her Thanksgiving meal by herself.

She told me about her husband, how they had moved around the country as he had served in the military, and they had finally settled in Oklahoma. She had been an elementary school teacher and regaled me with one story after the other of her humorous and sometimes ornery students. We visited for almost an hour; long after our food was gone. I picked up her check with mine and told her I wanted to treat her to her meal. She asked me why I would buy a meal for a stranger, and I told her, "You're not a stranger. Now we're friends."

I continued this tradition for nearly 10 years and until my fortunes changed and

I left the horse business. For each of those years my "new friend" had their own unique background and story which was unknown to me before I sat down. The brief moments we shared will always be treasured. I believe all those folks were lonely and in need of some simple human companionship. I came away with an appreciation of the lives lived by others and feeling like a person's Thanksgiving had been made better. My new friends also filled a void in my heart.

I sure do miss some traditions.

Thought for the day: Sometimes reaching out to someone is the beginning of an amazing journey and on other occasions, it allows others to enjoy your journey.

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

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Dan Vanderburg

Say hello to our neighbor, Dan Vanderburg!

Dan Vanderburg grew up and lived most of his life in the Dallas area, but arrived in Granbury as fast as he could about seven years ago. He fell in love with the town because of its rich history. Dan is a historian and an author with seven full-length novels about early Texas to his credit. He's also published a collection of short stories and poetry. He is proud to offer his recently released non-fiction book about the history of Granbury, titled, "Granbury: Where Texas History Lives" at St Helen's gift shop on the Granbury Square. He will sign his books there the weekend of Dec. 13, 14, and 15 — just in time for Christmas shopping.

Having retired from the high-tech industry in 2008, Dan enjoys spending time with his extended family and dog and working on home and landscaping projects. He also enjoys volunteering with several groups around town. Additionally, he enjoys his fun part-time job at Visit Granbury, greeting and welcoming visitors and sharing useful information about our historic town. But his true passion is researching, writing, and sharing facts about Texas and local history.

Vanderburg is sometimes known as David Lee Nutt, one of the founders of early Granbury and a co-owner of the Nutt House Mercantile and Hotel. He enjoys portraying that character as a member of the Visit Granbury History Ambassadors. The History Ambassadors are a group of local history enthusiasts and volunteers who, on Saturday afternoons, dressed in period attire of the 1890s, greet visitors on the downtown sidewalks, welcome them to our historic town, and share brief historical tidbits about Granbury. We also give interesting history tours on the trolley as it winds its way through the historic district. The History Ambassador's goal is to provide interesting entertainment and leave visitors with smiles on their faces and good memories of Granbury to take home.

Vanderburg looks forward to each edition of the Hood County News. The generally non-biased and common-sense approach to reporting the news is refreshing in today's changing world.

## CCMC buys McMahan Pharmacy in Goldthwaite

**BY CHLOE LAING**

Staff Writer  
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Comanche County Medical Center, a full-service healthcare provider serving Central Texas, has recently added McMahan Pharmacy in Goldthwaite

to its system. McMahan Pharmacy has served the Goldthwaite community since 1975, providing nearly 50 years of quality health services to the area's inhabitants.

In a statement, CCMC announced the two organiza-

tions will work in cohesion with each other throughout the entire transition process, and said both organizations are thrilled with the opportunities and access to quality healthcare this merger will give the Goldthwaite community.

"We are grateful for the trust that the Goldthwaite community has placed in us, and we look forward to being a part of this great town for many years to come," added Dr. Lary Troxell, CEO of CCMC Health System.

## Honoring Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona

**BY CHLOE LAING**

Staff Writer  
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On Dec. 6, the city of Granbury will be hosting an event in Granbury's City Hall Council Chambers in memoriam of those who lost their lives in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. The event will feature a relic from the USS Arizona, the ship which suffered the highest casualty rates during the attack.

The relic, obtained from civilian Jim Newman with the Commander Navy Region Hawaii, has held

residence in Granbury's City Hall since it was gifted to the city in 2023. The relic is always on open display for anyone who may wish to visit, however, as many Granbury residents are unaware of its presence, the city is coordinating the event to raise awareness for the relic and honor the fallen heroes of Pearl Harbor in conjunction with the 83rd anniversary of the attack.

The relic's display will be accompanied by a 10-minute presentation on the USS Arizona, the United States involvement in WWII, and the importance of Pearl

Harbor; both before the attack and its modern implications. There will be a discussion following the presentation honoring the USS Arizona and the 1,177 fallen soldiers it entombs.

"The real purpose of the event on the sixth is to invite people to come in and see it, to not have groups of people just kind of filtering through during the rest of the year. It's really kind of a special invitation for that day.... But we really wanted to say, well, not only will we be able to see the relic, but you'll get some education about how it got here, and

kind of a brief retrospective on Pearl Harbor," said Communications Director Jeff Newpher

The relic will then travel to the Jim Burks Fireman's Memorial Park on Dec. 7 to be part of the second annual Friends of Memorial Lane Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony. The ceremony will feature presentations and discussions led by veterans in memory of the service and lives of those who passed in the bombing of Pearl Harbor, with the USS Arizona relic serving as a solemn reminder of their sacrifice.

# There's more inside than just headlines.

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# CAPITAL

FROM PAGE A1

thing is good at the water treatment plant.”

He noted that a council-approved additional pump is expected to arrive mid-next year, as it has a six-to-seven-month delivery time.

## SOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The South Wastewater Treatment Plant is officially complete, with Nolen adding that steps are currently being taken to address an odor.

“We have identified the source of that odor,” he said. “Right now, we hope to get to the point where we have no odors coming from that plant, or at least they’re so minimal you can’t smell it.”

According to the city website, the plant will produce water with even less phosphorus and nitrates. The water will continue to be sold to the Harbor Lakes Golf Club and also returned to Lake Granbury.

## EAST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

As for the East Wastewater Treatment Plant, construction is currently four-to-six-weeks ahead of schedule, with completion anticipated in 2026.

“The contractor is very insistent that they’re going to try to keep that schedule and be in here and out of here and have a finished product for us, so that will help greatly,” Nolen said. “That will also allow us to move forward with development in the city, as far as new construction.”

He also added that nearly 5,000 cubic yards of concrete have been poured and most treatment units are already built.

## CALINCO DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION

The Calinco Drive Reconstruction project is currently about 65% complete, as Nolen explained that there have been a few delays due to weather.

“We switched from asphalt to concrete and we’ve



Nov. 19, 2024

COURTESY YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

The Hood County Commissioners Court heard an update on the various capital improvement projects currently in the works during a regularly schedule meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19.

had a couple of little interruptions with the rain that have caused us to have to wait for the material before we can start laying concrete,” he said. “But they are moving forward with that, and we hope to be completed in the month of January.”

## PEARL STREET PIPE/SEWER UPDATE

Nolen noted that a contractor is currently in town working to address the sewer manhole and pipe bursting situation that occurred on east Pearl Street and Brazos Street.

“We have a crew, and they are hard at it,” he said. “We have one of the owners of the company in today, and he is here to inspect what’s going on. We had a little hiccup when the cable that we were using to pull pipe through the old pipes broke and it broke under Pearl Street. We had to get a permit from TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) so we’re moving forward.”

## RED WATER ISSUE

Nolen also provided an update on the red water issue that was affecting residents on Elizabeth Street and Penrod Boulevard back in September.

“We have engineers that are designing the water lines to replace the galvanized mains on Elizabeth

and Pembroke,” he said. “Once we get the engineering work, I believe the city manager is prepared to move forward with construction on those two areas of installing new water lines, and that will take care of the red water that we currently see in that area.”

## MAIN LIFT STATION

Nolen explained that after an inspector and engineer were able to check the rotation on the pumps and the control panels of the city’s Main Lift Station, it was revealed that the programming is not quite ready to do a startup.

While it’s not quite operational, Nolen noted that they hope to have the project completed before the first of the year.

“We’re pushing to get it ready. I don’t think we’re far off from being able to start up, but I’ll keep you posted as they progress,” he said. “That is moving forward, and ... certainly, I

would like to have it (ready) within a week or two after Thanksgiving.”

## U.S. HIGHWAY 377 AT ARCHER COURT

During the discussion, Mayor Jim Jarratt asked about any updates regarding the construction at the airport — including the right turn lane at Archer Court.

In response, Coffman deferred to Deputy City Manager Michael Ross, who’s the project manager regarding the airport.

Ross explained that the Archer Court project has received approval for a change order, which will allow the construction of right and left turn lanes on U.S. Highway 377, along with necessary signage to direct drivers to the airport.

He also mentioned that a survey of the airport property is underway to help finalize land leases and plans for future development.

## FUTURE ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Place 4 Councilman Skip Overdier also brought up how the city has pledged a million dollars a year to repair roads, but that the amount would never be enough to fully address the city’s road repair needs.

“That’s never going to get us ahead of the game,” he said. “Are we at some point going to be looking at all the roads that we have and say, ‘OK, these are all the roads that need repairing,’ and just kind of rank them, A, B, C and D, try to get the worst ones first, and then figure out how much we need?”

Coffman explained that a study is currently being conducted on all the city streets to see which ones need to be repaired.

“As we talked about in the budget workshop, we’re not getting caught up at a million dollars a year so we’re going to have to do something different,” he said.

“And what we’re seeing is a lot of these streets that were done in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are going to need complete reconstruction.”

Coffman explained that the previous approach of grinding off the surface and applying an overlay to the roads hasn’t been effective, as some streets have had to be replaced even sooner than expected — within 10 years.

He also pointed out that when he became city manager in 2015, two streets that had been repaired at that time have since already needed to be replaced.

“We’re going to pay for those bad decisions made over a decade ago, but you don’t know what you don’t know,” he said. “It’s going to take money, and we need to put together a bond package, as we talked about, and do a big group of streets. We have to figure out what we need to do to move forward and strategically find a solution.”

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store permit by Casey’s Marketing Company, dba Casey’s, 2101 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Hood Co, TX 76048. Officers: Samuel James, President, Brian Johnson, VP, Douglas Beech, Secretary, Eric Larsen, Treasurer.**

### CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DISSOLUTION OF A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Sections 372.009(c) and (d) and Section 372.011 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas (“Granbury”), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the “Petition”), filed by RCM Lakeview LLC, a Texas limited liability company, (the “Petitioner”), requesting that Granbury dissolve the existing Lakeview Landing Public Improvement District (the “District”) that was created by Resolution No. 23-19 adopted on September 5, 2023. The Petition is available for inspection during normal business hours at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

**Time and Place of the Hearing.** The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m. on December 17, 2024 at Granbury City Council Chambers, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

### CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Section 372.009(c) and (d) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended (the “Act”), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas (“City”), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the “Petition”), filed by RCM LAKEVIEW, LLC a Texas limited liability company (the “Petitioner”), requesting that the City create the Lakeview Landing Public Improvement District (the “District”) to include property owned by the Petitioner and further described herein (the “Property”).

**Time and Place of the Hearing.** The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m. on December 17, 2024, to be held at Granbury City Council Chambers, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas, 76048.

**General Nature of the Proposed Authorized Improvements.** The general nature of the proposed public improvements to be provided by the District that are necessary for the development of the Property within the District and which shall promote the interests of the City and confer a special benefit upon the Property, may include: (1) landscaping; (2) erection of fountains, distinctive lighting, and signs; (3) acquiring, constructing, improving, widening, narrowing, closing, or rerouting of sidewalks or of streets, any other roadways, or their rights-of-way, including related landscaping, lighting, traffic control devices, screening walls and retaining walls; (4) construction or improvement of pedestrian malls; (5) acquisition and installation of pieces of art; (6) acquisition, construction or improvement of off-street parking facilities; (7) acquisition, construction, or improvement of water, wastewater, or drainage facilities or improvements; (8) the establishment or improvement of parks; (9) projects similar to those listed in (1)-(8), above; (10) acquisition, by purchase or otherwise, of real property in connection with an authorized improvements; (11) special supplemental services for improvement and promotion of the District, including services relating to advertising, promotion, health and sanitation, water and wastewater, roadways, public safety, security, business recruitment, development, recreation, and cultural enhancement; (items (1) through (11), collectively, the “Public Projects”); and (12) the payment of expenses incurred in the establishment, administration, and operation of the District, costs of bond issuance, legal and financial fees, letter of credit fees and expenses, capitalization of bond interest, the creation of a bond reserve fund, funding debt service, and capitalized interest reserves and credit enhancement fees of any bonds issued by or on behalf of the District, if necessary (the “Administrative Expenses”) (together with the Public Projects, the “Authorized Improvements”).

**Estimated Cost of the Authorized Improvements.** The current estimated cost of the Authorized Improvements is \$25,000,000.

**Proposed District Boundaries.** The District is proposed to include approximately 47.271 acres of land generally located east of Lake Granbury and south of US Highway 377, located within the corporate limits of the City and as more particularly described by a metes and bounds description available at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas 76048 and available for public inspection during regular business hours.

**Proposed Method of Assessment.** The proposed method of assessment is to impose a special assessment to be paid in installments on all useable property within the District according to the value of the property or in any other manner that results in imposing equal shares of the cost on property similarly benefitted. After creation of the District, a service and assessment plan will be prepared showing the special benefits accruing to property within the District and how the costs of the Authorized Improvements are assessed against the property on the basis of special benefit received by the property from the same.

**Proposed Apportionment of Cost between the District and the City.** The City will not be obligated to provide any funds to finance the Authorized Improvements, other than from assessments levied on property within the District. No municipal property in the District shall be assessed. The Petitioner may also pay certain costs of the improvements benefitting the District from other funds available to it as the developer of the District.

During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the establishment of the District and the advisability of the improvements to be made for the benefit of the property within the District.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Hood County Commissioners’ Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: CANYON CREEK III, UNIT 8, LOT 49R. The Hood County Commissioners’ Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 20th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Hood County Commissioners’ Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for: CANYON CREEK III, UNIT 8, LOT 28R. The Hood County Commissioners’ Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, December 20th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

### BID FOR VEHICLE

Acton Municipal Utility District (AMUD) is requesting bids on a vehicle with the following equipment. Brands listed are from original specs but actual bid may include like-kind items that function the same. Chevy 5500 Reg Cab 4x2, Palfinger Pa1Pro39-11 SS60CS Crane Rated Bed Palfinger, PSC6025 Hydraulic Crane w/ Wireless Remote, Palfinger PRC45 Hydraulic Rotary Screw Compressor w/ Cox Hose Reel, Custom Hydraulic Tank (Mounted Under Crane) Workbench Bumper w/ Passthrough Compartment Hydraulic Outriggers (Power Out and Down), Streetside/ Curbside Compartment Divider Trays (2 shelves per cabinet), Masterlock System Back Up Camera Springs, Rear Step-Up Handles and Steps, 4 LED Work Lights, LED Compartment Lights, 2 Tall Drawered Toolbox (Streetside First & Second Compartments), Line-X Bedliner, E-Track System w/ Divider Wilton 746 Vise, 4,000-Watt Power Inverter, LED Strobe Lights (Installed Front, Rear and Sides), 48” Emergency Light Bar (Installed on Top of Headache Rack). Bids due to AMUD office at 6420 Lusk Branch Court, Granbury, TX 76049 no later than December 6, 2024 at 11:00 am.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS GRANBURY ISD’S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Granbury ISD will hold a public meeting on December 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the GISD Administration Board Room, 217 N. Jones St., Granbury. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Granbury ISD’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Max Howard Keller, II, Cause No. P10555, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Jacy Madison Keller 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 Max Howard Keller, II, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 21st day of November 2024

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



# WFAA DAYBREAK MORNING SHOW LIVE IN GRANBURY



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Channel 8, WFAA Daybreak morning show audiences were treated to fantastic live segments from Granbury beginning shortly after 5 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 22. During the broadcast, Tammy Dooley, the Director of Visit Granbury, showcased all the exciting activities planned for the holiday season. The community gathered in large numbers to show their support, creating a truly infectious festive atmosphere.



**SEE MORE PHOTOS AT [HCNEWS.COM/PHOTOS](http://HCNEWS.COM/PHOTOS)**





MARY VINSON | HCN FILE PHOTO

The Hood County community remembered fallen veterans, honored those who serve, and taught the next generation the value of freedom at a previous Wreaths Across America ceremony.

# Wreaths across America returns to Acton Cemetery

BY CHLOE LAING  
Staff Writer  
chloe@hcnews.com

On Dec 14, the Elizabeth Crockett chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will gather in Acton Cemetery to lay more than 500 wreaths on the graves of fallen veterans as an act of reverence to United States veterans in participation with the national Wreaths Across America event.

According to the Wreaths of America website, in 1992, Morrill Worchester, a businessman from Maine, began the tradition of laying wreaths on the graves of veterans resting in Arlington National Cemetery; a tradition he would continue for the rest of his life. In 2007, he founded the organization Wreaths of America, which would allow volunteers to lay wreaths on the graves of fallen U.S. veterans all over the nation, all organized into one day.

"It is important for the families of these and all fallen warriors to know their service was not in vain and will be remembered, appreciated and valued by the community. Even more crucial is that our children learn the value of military service, so they continue the tradition of honoring our nation's veterans," said Kathy Hanlon, location coordinator for Wreaths of America in a previous article in the Hood County

PLEASE SEE **WREATHS** | A14

# Life is what you 'bake' it

Hood County Employee Holiday Luncheon a 'sweet' success



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson give a warm smile as they feast on the Thanksgiving meal held at Triple Cross Cowboy Church Nov. 21.

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Thanksgiving is a holiday filled with togetherness, tradition and, of course, a whole lot of turkey — and that's exactly how Hood County employees celebrated their holiday luncheon Nov. 21.

Every year, all the county departments gather for the Hood County Employee Holiday Luncheon, where employees share a holiday meal, enjoy camaraderie among co-workers, and celebrate a year of hard work and success.

But one portion of the holiday event was just a tad sweeter than the rest

PLEASE SEE **SWEET** | A14



Nine desserts were on hand to be judged at the Hood County Employee Holiday Luncheon Thursday, Nov. 21.

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We would like to thank everyone who made our event this year a resounding success, especially the following people.

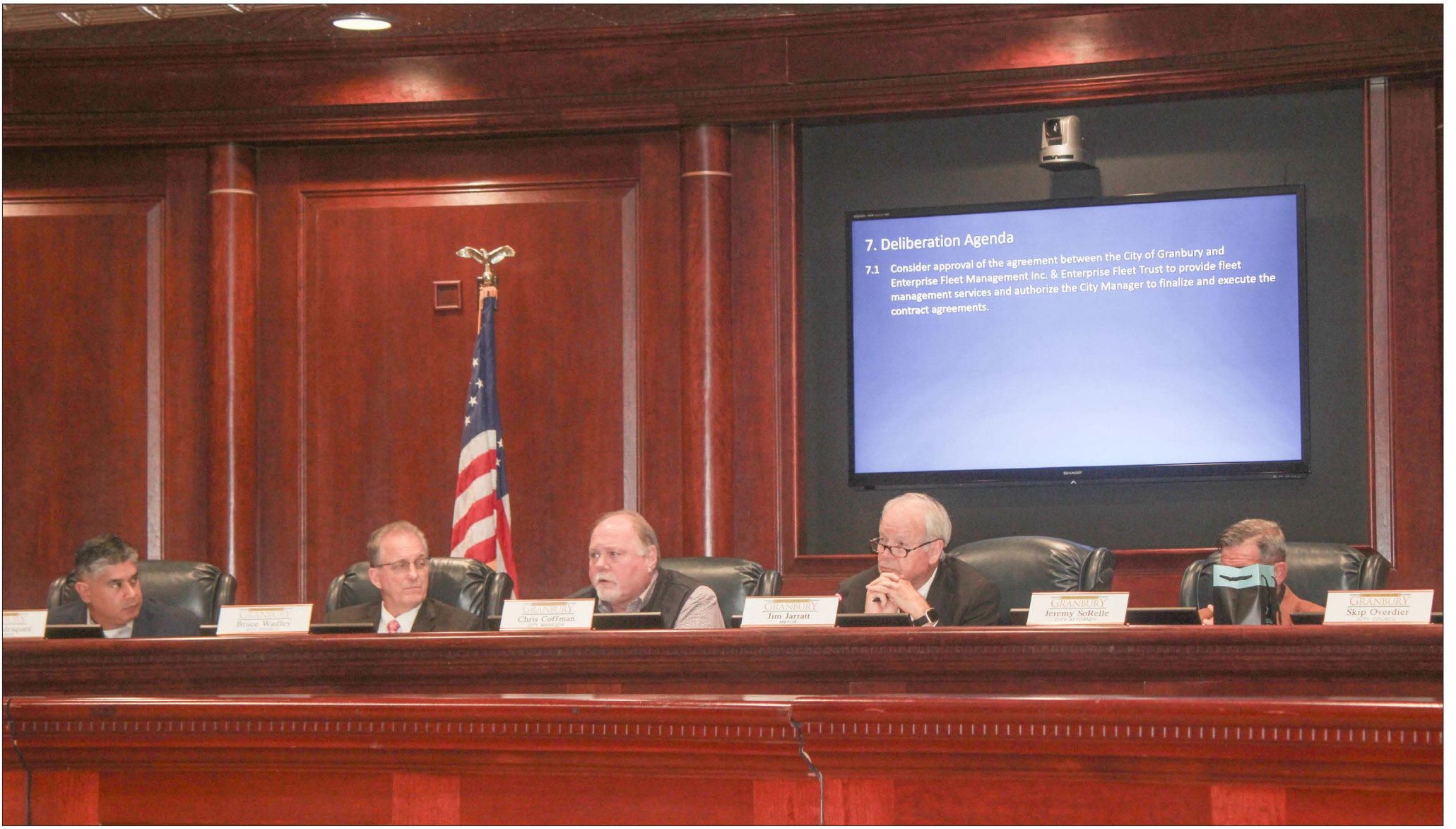
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[www.bshc-granbury.org](http://www.bshc-granbury.org)



# City signs new agreement to help manage and replace aging vehicles



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City Manager Chris Coffman speaks about Enterprise, the fleet management company, during a regularly scheduled Granbury City Council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19.

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

The city of Granbury has approved an agreement with a fleet management company that will assist in managing and replacing its older vehicles.

During a Granbury City Council meeting Nov. 19, the council unanimously signed an agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management Inc. & Enterprise Fleet Trust to provide fleet management services to the city.

"For many years, the city of Granbury has faced the challenge of managing our aging fleet, which has resulted in consistently high maintenance and repair costs," Deputy City Manager Michael Ross explained during the meeting. "Our current fleet of 107 vehicles has an average age of 12-and-a-half years, leading to frequent and unexpected maintenance issues as well as inefficient fuel consumption."

Due to this issue, Ross explained that the city has been working for almost a year to identify a solution that would fit within the city's budget but would also address the need for effective vehicle replacement and cost savings.

The city began to consider if outsourcing the fleet management services to Enterprise would be the best path forward.

According to the city's agenda report, Enterprise offers a "proactive, streamlined approach" for buying and selling fleet vehicles that should bring the city up to the proper industry standard for fleet replacement.

The report also states that in 2022, Enterprise sold more than 600,000 client vehicles at an average of 107% above the Black Book value.

"Enterprise has a proven track record," Ross said, adding that the company currently serves nearly 250 cities across Texas.

Ross added that the city had also explored alternative solutions, like an in-house leasing and financing option. However, after thorough review, it was determined that Enterprise offers the best value and solution at this time.

"This evaluation is com-

plete and staff is prepared to recommend Enterprise as our fleet management service provider," Ross said. "Staff recommends moving forward with replacing all vehicles older than 10 years in the first year of this program in addition to the four police vehicles and three airport courtesy vehicles." While this option will re-

technology that will proactively manage our fleet and ensure a high level of service tailored to the city's day-to-day needs."

The city had originally allocated \$640,000 in the current fiscal year budget to replace seven vehicles, including four police vehicles and three airport courtesy vehicles.

Under the Enterprise leasing program, Ross said it is estimated that the budget will cover the replacement of the aging 45 vehicles, plus the seven planned replacements — but the city will also receive funds through this process.

that that's going to come as well. All we factored was the cost of the vehicle lease when we leased them, the up charge, the upfit to any police cars, and then the equity at the end that we sell them for, and that's where you get the net \$327,000 — which is the estimate for the year — and we'd have \$640,000 in the budget for this year."

Place 4 council member Skip Overdier also asked if the "right person" would get the "right vehicle," adding that he wanted to make sure everyone would be driving the appropriate vehicle for their needs and department.

ly made the decision," to maintain its current staff in the fleet department.

"We maintain control at all times. If we decide that we need to keep these vehicles longer, we can do that," Coffman added. "This is not a closed-end lease, like you or I would go down to a car dealer and lease a car. With that, you can only have so many miles on it before they penalize you (and) you're dedicated for that entire lease, and then you take it back at the end of three years, and you end up with zero equity."

"This is an open-ended lease where we can con-

financing perspective, but explained that the city doesn't have the "depth and breadth" of that ability nationwide like Enterprise does.

"This is why we're here tonight," Ross said. "We think this is the overall best solution, along with 250 other cities in the state of Texas."

Corrigan also posed a hypothetical question and asked what the parameters were for getting out of the agreement if the city ended up deciding that it wasn't working out with Enterprise.

Ross explained that the city currently does not have a contractual term with Enterprise, so if the city wants to back out, it would only be responsible for the vehicle replacements that were already underway.

"We can back out anytime," he said. "We just have the obligation of finishing what we started with — any vehicle that we've already put in place."

Coffman reiterated that the open-ended lease allows the city to do anything, anytime that it deems necessary.

"If we were upset with them and didn't want to work with them anymore ... you make that decision. We never want to do something that will cause us to lose money, but you do have that ability to do that, if that's what you want," Coffman said. "There's going to be some additional work internally for us that we've never done before, because we've never taken on this many new vehicles and procured this many vehicles all at once. It's going to cause some growing pains internally, but we're going to try to provide the additional help where we need to help those folks that are bringing these in ... to make sure they have a smooth transition."

Overdier made a motion to approve the agreement between the city of Granbury and Enterprise Fleet Management Inc. & Enterprise Fleet Trust to provide fleet management services and to authorize Coffman to finalize and execute the contract. Following a second from Wadley, the motion passed unanimously.

*"For many years, the city of Granbury has faced the challenge of managing our aging fleet, which has resulted in consistently high maintenance and repair costs. Our current fleet of 107 vehicles has an average age of 12-and-a-half years, leading to frequent and unexpected maintenance issues as well as inefficient fuel consumption."*

**MICHAEL ROSS**  
Deputy City Manager

place 45 vehicles in its first year, a more aggressive option, Ross said, was also considered, which would have replaced 70 vehicles in the first year. A more slightly conservative seven-year plan was on the table as well and would have replaced 65 vehicles.

"After careful consideration, we believe the 10-year plan replacing 45 vehicles in year one strikes the best balance for the city's needs and budget," he added.

Ross highlighted that there will also be some expected additional benefits in using this particular fleet management solution — like newer vehicles and reduced expenses.

"The new vehicles will be more fuel efficient and require less maintenance, which translates into additional long-term savings for the city," he explained. "With Enterprise, the city will be able to integrate newer, safer and more reliable vehicles into our fleet. Staff will also benefit from a dedicated account team equipped with cutting edge

Ross explained that by selling the 45 vehicles that are scheduled to be replaced, the city is expected to receive about \$322,755 in revenue, which will result in a net cost to the city of approximately \$327,245.

Bruce Wadley, place 3 on the council, asked if the cost savings from the fleet management program take into account the vehicles' depreciation over time.

"Traditionally, we'll buy a police vehicle, and police drive it 'til the doors fall off, and then we give it to one of the other departments to use until the doors literally fall off," he said. "Oftentimes, you buy a new vehicle and it depreciates an awful lot, and then it gets to a point where there's almost no depreciation, so it's basically like driving it, excluding the maintenance costs, which I'm sure you're going to address ... Is all that taken into account with this cost savings?"

"We didn't try to actually factor in the fuel savings and the maintenance savings," Ross explained. "We just left that out, knowing

"We're not going to be taking any of the old vehicles and then passing them down, like, say, for example, taking one of the old squad cars and taking that out to the airport?" he asked. "An appropriately sized vehicle will be out at the airport, rather than passing a vehicle down that we'd sell and make more money on it, right?"

"Yes sir," Ross said. "That's the primary benefit of this program."

Ross also explained that a comprehensive cost analysis has been completed, and every vehicle in the fleet has now been carefully evaluated.

Using this data, he noted that the most "suitable replacement vehicles" had been selected for each unit, as they have taken into account the expected workload and appropriate responsibilities for that vehicle.

City Manager Chris Coffman explained that the city actually had the option to outsource maintenance on its vehicles to Enterprise, but said that it "conscious-

ly made the decision," to maintain its current staff in the fleet department.

With guidance from Enterprise, Coffman explained that the city may be instructed not to replace a vehicle at that time, adding that the city would then listen to the advice and make a decision.

"It's not a closed lease," he added. "It has plenty of flexibility to allow us to make decisions and control our own destiny."


Place 6 council member Greg Corrigan asked what other options the city had considered before ultimately deciding to go with Enterprise.

Ross responded that the city's primary goal was to see if it could do something similar from a lease



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

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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](mailto:granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com).

**FORWARD TRAINING** Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up, email [info@forwardtrainingcenter.org](mailto:info@forwardtrainingcenter.org) or call 817-573-6677.

**TUESDAYS**  
**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com)); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com)); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

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

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**HABITAT FOR** Humanity Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

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

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Quits of Valor (third Wednesdays) contact Kathy Cosand 618-407-9914; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**THURSDAYS**  
**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m.; noon-3 p.m. Quilting classes (second and fourth Thursdays, private fee required) 682-529-7492; noon-3 p.m. newcomers cards; Pilates; 5 p.m. lifelong yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**CHESS CLUB,** 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Youth membership not required. Details: [HoodCountyChess.com](http://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.

**FRIDAYS**  
**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**SATURDAYS**  
**HABITAT FOR** Humanity Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

**HOOD COUNTY** Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10:30 a.m. yoga for a mission (free with food donation); 10 a.m. Mexican Train. 1321 Water's Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

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

**SECOND MONDAYS**  
**MEETING OF** the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions, call 361-510-6820 or email [simaneck1@charter.net](mailto:simaneck1@charter.net).

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

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

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

**FIRST TUESDAYS**  
**GRANBURY DOLL** Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

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

**THIRD TUESDAYS**  
**THE PECAN** Plantation Genealogy Group meets at the EMS Training Room, 9518 Monticello Drive behind the fire station. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a resident to attend. Tell gate security you are attending the genealogy meeting in the EMS Training Room. Questions? Email [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, from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: [bskaggs8@aol.com](mailto:bskaggs8@aol.com).

**SECOND THURSDAYS**  
**HOOD COUNTY CERT** meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. [HoodCoCert@gmail.com](mailto:HoodCoCert@gmail.com).

**THE GRANBURY EWMA,** Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

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

**THE HOOD** County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

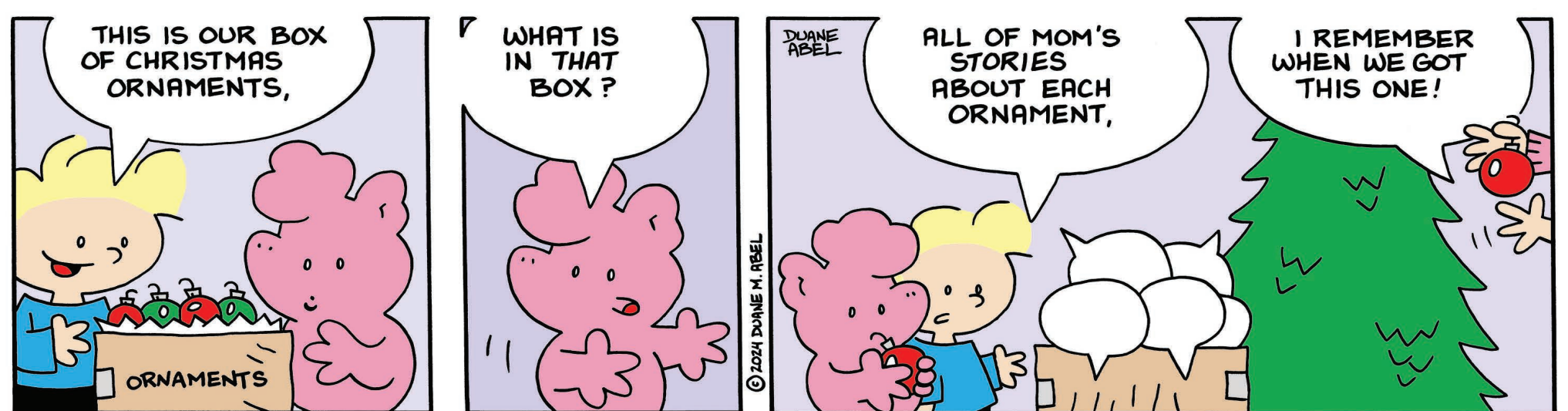
**THIRD FRIDAYS**  
**LEGACY CHRISTIAN** Academy of Granbury sponsors skating dates year round at Granbury Skating Rink from 10 a.m. to noon. All Christian music. \$8 cash at the door. No outside food or drink.

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

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

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

**ZED by Duane M. Abel**



THIS IS OUR BOX OF CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS,

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A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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1 John 4:12

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# City greenlights roof replacement project at Granbury Square Plaza

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

**E**xciting upgrades are coming to the Granbury Square Plaza — a major historical landmark that has been serving the community for more than a decade.

The Granbury City Council unanimously selected a contractor to lead the plaza's roof replacement project in the amount of \$252,090 during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 19.

Granbury Historic Properties Corporation — a subcomponent of the city for historic preservation — first recommended that the plaza undergo a roof replacement after the city acquired the building in June. "It was kind of like a three-legged stool of why we bought it," City Manager Chris Coffman said in a previous Hood County News article. "Historic preservation (is one). It's the front door to our historic square and it's an old building that needs to be preserved."

Since 2009, the plaza has served as an iconic location for the city by providing retail and office space for businesses, as well as an outdoor area for events like birthday parties, weddings, bands and other intimate gatherings.

Located at 201 E. Pearl St., where First United Methodist Church used to be, the plaza is also home to Visit Granbury, whose economic benefits have played a large role in preserving the historic building.

"Visit Granbury's there and they're our shining marketing tool for the city. We want to keep them front and center," Coffman previously said. "The building's

pretty much rented right now, but as tenants churn through, there's a need for temporary office space for these companies that we're trying to attract to come to town to create jobs. They need temporary office space until they are able to get their building built."

Coffman said the goal is to turn the plaza into a "shining star" — something that attracts tourists to Granbury when they first pull into town and see it.

"It's really in a demise condition right now," he had said. "We're working to repair the air conditioning, the roofing, the painting, and some structural woodwork needs to be taken care of on that old plaza area itself, where the wood's rotted. It doesn't give us a good look, so we want to clean it up and make it really attractive."

With the roof being one of the first projects to restore the plaza, the city quickly opened for bids Oct. 24 and received eight proposals from contractors.

After reviewing the bids, the city's five-member staff team evaluated the submittals and narrowed it down to the top three contractors: CS Advantage, Streamline Roofing and Tryggr Roofing.

During the Granbury City Council meeting Nov. 19, Deputy City Manager Michael Ross told the council that staff interviewed all three companies and recom-



ASHLEY TERRY | HCN FILE PHOTO

The Granbury City Council unanimously selected a contractor to lead the Granbury Square Plaza roof replacement project in the amount of \$252,090 during a regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 19.

mended Streamline Roofing for the bid in the amount of \$229,173.40.

"Staff and the GHP also recommend approving a 10% contingency to cover any unforeseen roofing-related issues that might arise as the project progresses on these historic buildings," Ross explained. "The total expenditure amount being requested this evening is \$253,090."

He noted that both Streamline and Tryggr were good contractors, had great references and were considered "high quality." However, Ross added that while Tryggr had more experience, the price was the guiding factor — which led to the city recommending

Streamline for the project. "We came in lower than we had originally estimated," Ross added. "We were thinking around \$300,000 for the project, but the \$229,000 plus the 10% for contingency, I'm pretty pleased."

According to Ross, the project will not negatively impact the current tenants in the plaza. Road closures are also not expected to take place around the area during construction.

"The other good thing about the low bid is they were also the fastest," he added. "They put five days (for completion), which some don't believe is possible, but even if it takes 10 days, we're thrilled at the

end of this, because they're going to mobilize and have crews working on all three (buildings) simultaneously."

Coffman added that the crew is also willing to work with the city, meaning construction will not interfere with any weekend festivals or events.

As for the future of the plaza, Coffman said in a previous council meeting that the city has talked about potentially expanding the current parking lot and has also envisioned creating an economic development incubator system to help provide resources and services to new and growing businesses.

"There would be workspace available for new

startup businesses through grants and other things to help fund that to get them up and going," he previously said. "We don't have the vacancy to start that incubator program yet, but that's kind of what we're doing."

The council previously approved a budget totaling \$600,000 to fund the improvements to the Granbury Square Plaza, including roof replacements, parking lot overlay and miscellaneous other minor repairs and improvements, as approved by the GHP.

For more information about Granbury Square Plaza or for booking details, go online to VisitGranbury.com.

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**VALE**

FROM PAGE A2

race for city council.

"When he ran the first time, and the second time, and the third time, he had a rough go," Corrigan said. "But he gave his best effort, and just the fact that he came back to go through that again ... Anyone that has ever run for public office knows that it's not just taxing on your time, but it's taxing on your emotions, it's taxing on your family and everyone that's in your support circle. So, to do that as many times as he did, to stick with it and to keep going until he was successful in his election, just speaks volumes to the type of person that Steve is."

Jeremy SoRelle, city attorney, touched on how quickly he and Vale became friends. He added he appreciates how Vale always supports organizations like Forward Training Center and Rotary Club of Granbury.

"I can't go to an event or a gala or anywhere in town supporting any charities without seeing Steve there, always with a smile on his face, always supporting everything that he can. The entire community is going to miss you man — the whole community," SoRelle said. "I do have one issue, though."

"There's always a caveat," Vale remarked, as he chuckled.

"Now I have to teach someone else to read my handwriting when we come out of executive session," SoRelle joked.

Ullom mentioned how Vale had encouraged him to run for his position since February, but that he has some "very large shoes to fill."

"I can only hope that knowing that he's had my back this whole time, knowing that my family's had my back, and that the community's had my back, that we're going to be able to go forward and hopefully I'll have a modicum of

comparativeness to you," Ullom said. "But thank you so much, and I appreciate you."

Place 4 council member Skip Overdier said Vale has not only been a great city council member, but also a great friend to him and his wife, Brenda. Overdier jokingly explained how he was "ambushed," by Vale and other city council members who tried to convince him to run for a place on the council.

"As soon as he did that, he kind of became my de facto campaign manager, and he was with me throughout the whole campaign to explain to me exactly what I need to do every hour of every day. He was just a great inspiration to me. When I grow up, I want to be just like Steven," Overdier joked.

While Overdier expressed how difficult it is to see Vale go, he acknowledged that Vale's contributions have made Granbury a better place than it was when he first came here.

"That's a real measure of a person," he said. "And Steve, I will tell you that certainly says a lot about you."

Jarratt said that while the council had given some insight into Vale's character, they didn't touch on the tremendous knowledge he brought with him into the organization.

"He will talk about his business experience; it was solid. He will talk about the work that he sent out at the airport, and it's solid," Jarratt said. "I mean, that knowledge that he brings to the council is going to be missed, as well as the rest of your family ... You have made a big impact on this community — and it's not too late to change your mind."

Vale chuckled and said, "I got a 26-foot truck over at the Hilton Garden Inn that would say we're headed out in the morning."

Following the touching remarks from his fellow council members, Vale expressed congratulations to both Wadley and Ullom for earning

a place on the council.

"I don't know about the rest of you, but hell, I can't remember voting for either one of them," Vale said, with a smile.

He also shared how former council member Tony Mobly and former Mayor Nin Hulett "cornered" him downtown and encouraged him to run for city council. After saying no about two or three times, he decided to instead serve on the Granbury Planning and Zoning Commission for three years.

"I decided to run (for city council) in 2021 to have some stability in our community and on our city council," Vale said. "I ran on the platform to keep Granbury moving forward, and that's really what I tried to help do — mission accomplished."

Vale touched on how he also came up with the idea to host the Great Granbury Cleanup in 2023, while he and Coffman were on their way to a Texas Municipal League training session in San Antonio.

"It's just been a passion of mine," he said. "I look around the room, there's no trash. That's good. Anyway, Chris was very receptive to the idea, and these guys did a ton of work, Jeff (Newpher) and Chuck (Licata), in putting it all together ... It's nice driving around with a clean town, so hopefully it's a little bit better."

He added that sometimes, it's necessary to pause in life and take a reset — to "change your latitude," and "change your attitude."

"That's kind of what we're doing," he said, referring to his and Lori's move. "I just want to say thanks for all your encouragement, support and love that you've given to Lori and I."

With tears in his eyes, Vale reflected on his time on the council and all the meaningful connections he has made over the years.

"God bless you all," Vale added. "And God bless Granbury, Texas."

**Oh, deer, here we go again**

BY CHLOE LAING  
Staff Writer  
chloe@hcnews.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN COFFEY, UNSPLASH.COM

**According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas is home to over 5.6 million white-tail deer. Of these 5.6 million doe-eyed friends, 61,000 of them will meet an untimely demise at the end of a bumper each year, a number that begins to skyrocket in November.**

Some quick stats for all my number-lovers out there: according to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas is home to over 5.6 million white-tail deer. Of these 5.6 million doe-eyed friends, 61,000 of them will meet an untimely demise at the end of a bumper each year, a number that begins to skyrocket in November specifically, but why?

Objectively, November's a busy month for deer. In Central Texas, deer enter their 28-day long "rut," or mating season in mid-November. Coincidentally, as rifle season opens Nov. 2, the rut aligns with that special time of year when deer hunters begin to don their camo and take to the woods armed with their rifles and visions of a lovely backstrap pot-roast.

These two factors and how they coincide force deer to act erratically and adopt different migratory patterns. Unfortunately for you, dear reader, sometimes these erratic migratory patterns just so happen to be directly in the path of your poor Honda Civic.

Now I know we've all heard the term "like a deer in headlights," but why exactly do deer freeze when

faced with imminent death?

According to an article in the New York Times, "by human standards, deer are 'legally blind.'" As they are typically most active during the early morning and at dusk, their eyes are adapted to low-light scenarios, meaning their pupils are smaller and more light-restrictive than humans.' This means that as you suddenly flash your headlights into their eyes, they're temporarily blinded, restricting their ability to flee.

So, what can you do to stop the madness? According to the Insurance Information Institute, there are several tactics you should consider as a driver to protect yourself — and our town's native fauna — from incurring any damages:

- **Use high beams** — Using high beam headlights when there is no on-coming traffic increases your field of vision at night and allows you to see any critters that may enter your path.
- **Stay attentive during peak deer activity** — deer are most active between sunset and midnight, so be exceedingly cautious during

these times.

- **Take notice of deer-crossing zones** — areas with high deer traffic are marked by a diamond shaped sign with a deer in the center.

- **Understand deer travel in herds** — if you see one deer on the shoulder, there likely are other deer in the area that you have yet to see.

- **Brake firmly and stay within your lane** — give both yourself and the deer time to process the situation by braking firmly and be sure to stay in your lane at all costs in case of oncoming traffic.

- **Use your horn** — if you notice a deer on or near the road, give your horn a short blast to scare it away.

- **Just hit them** — if worse comes to worst and it's too late to implement the above tactics, just hit the deer. The sad truth is that you have much greater odds of not getting into a serious accident by hitting them than you do by trying to swerve around them.

For more tips and tricks, see [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov).

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31ST ANNUAL

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# CALENDAR

**ONGOING FORWARD TRAINING**  
Center "Beginner Typing Skills" class. Call 817-573-6677 or email [info@forwardtrainingcenter.org](mailto:info@forwardtrainingcenter.org)

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

**FRIDAY, NOV. 29 "HOMICIDE IN the Hood"** book signing by native and local author Kelli Martin at Paradise Bistro and Coffee Company from 4-6 p.m. Books available for purchase; autographs available.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 3 DOG MAN** book release party from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Arts & Letters Book Store, 113 E. Bridge St., Granbury. The 13th book in the series titled "Big Jim Begins" will be available. Event includes snacks, games and maybe even Dog Man himself! Special guests are shelter pups available for adoption. Call for preorders.

**OPERA GUILD** of Granbury meeting at DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. Check-in/social time at 10 a.m., entertainment "For His Glory" begins at 11 a.m. with meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. Buffet lunch is at noon. \$18 for lunch (ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable medley, salad and rolls, red velvet cake) payable by cash or check. Contact [granburyog@gmail.com](mailto:granburyog@gmail.com) or 817-776-2898.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 6 MELODY BELLES** singers present "Believe" annual Christmas concert at First Presbyterian Church, 303 W. Bridge St. at 6 p.m. Candlelight Tour musical entertainment. Free to the public. Donations welcome. Details: 817-999-1364.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY** Festival at VFW Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835, 3670 W. U.S. Highway 377 from noon to 6 p.m. Free Santa selfies, children's games and crafts and ven-

dors. For more information, 817-578-9358.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 8 DR. ZVONY** Nagy performs an Advent Organ Concert from 4-7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, 3601 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury. The world-renowned organist will present a beautiful selection of Advent carols from well-known favorites to classical compositions. After the performance, please stay and enjoy a delightful reception with light refreshments.

**MONDAY, DEC. 9 THE NORTH** Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Program by Dr. Anne Bailey, professor emerita of history at the Liberal Arts College of the University of Georgia, who will speak about reasons and attitudes of the Texans who fought for the Confederacy. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncentexcwrt.com>. or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

**GRANBURY MEMORIAL** Chapter 238 of the DAV business meeting, 7 p.m. at 959 Charterhouse Circle. Discussions about items affecting Veterans and their families. For information call 682-719-5560.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 "OH, HOLY Night"** Christmas concert at 7 p.m. performed by the Granbury Civic Chorus at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury. Questions call 832-465-6159

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 MELODY BELLES** singers present "Believe" Christmas concert followed by lunch. Public invited. Program, 11 a.m. at DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club. \$18 per person. For reservations, call the Club at 817-326-2381.

## 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.

## VETERAN'S VOICE

# Should I hire an attorney to file my claim?

BY LINDA MALLON



Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years. [lmallon@HoodCounty.Texas.gov](mailto:lmallon@HoodCounty.Texas.gov) | 817-579-3292.

If an attorney tells you they need payment up front to prepare your claim, I say absolutely not. A VA accredited attorney will file for power of attorney and a fee agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs and charge the claimant a fee after a decision has been made on the claim.

"Based on your experience" will this claim be approved? Or "how will this claim be rated?" I can't answer that question because every case is different and the examiner who handles your case may have information at the time of their review that I don't have. We send the best evidence we can with the most complete and correct claim information and wait for the VA to make a rating decision before we move forward either to accept the decision, challenge it with new evidence, request a higher-level review, or appeal if needed.

Attorneys cannot guarantee an outcome on a claim any more than I can, so beware of any representative who says "oh, yeah we'll

get you rated 100% on this" or "this will absolutely be approved." We also cannot predict how long it will take to process a claim. The VA has been experiencing backlogs in the mail portal and there are other factors, such as where the claim was assigned and how much more information they may need in the evidence gathering process. My rule of thumb is to wait at least 30 to 90 days before making an inquiry. Once you hire an accredited attorney and appoint them as your representative, I am no longer your representative and have no further access to your claim file, so any questions on status should be addressed to your attorney.

Some people are un-

aware that the Department of Veterans Affairs has Veterans Service Officers like myself assigned in every county, trained affiliates accredited through recognized Veteran Service Organizations who file these claims free of charge. This lack of knowledge can make some people vulnerable to predators who advertise guaranteed results on VA claims for a fee. "Pension Poachers" prowl independent and assisted living facilities targeting potential residents and charge for their services, stating they can guarantee a favorable outcome for your VA claim to help pay for the facility through the VA's Pension Aid and Attendance Program.

These poachers often convince senior veterans to hide assets, make financial maneuvers and engage in other unethical practices, artificially qualifying individuals for VA benefits. Once the claimant pays the fee and the VA rating is received, the whole thing can backfire because of the VA's three-year look-back rules on financial assets potentially disqualifying claimants for the benefits they applied for. The advice these poachers give to get a Pension Aid and

Attendance claim approved could also potentially tie up much needed assets. These organizations make a lot of money claiming they can help veterans and are completely unaccountable if the VA should determine that a claimant doesn't actually qualify for the benefit and may even have to pay it back. They don't want you to know about Accredited and Affiliated County Veteran Service Officers like me because it's "bad for business." Remember, they are not accredited so their signature is not on that claim — yours is — so make sure you only use experienced, affiliated and accredited representatives to work with you. Be wise, be safe and before filing for any VA benefits, find an accredited representative near you through the Office of General Council <https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>.

My name is listed there also as the VA Affiliated, TVC and VFW Accredited Representative for Hood and Somervell Counties. Please pass this website on to friends and family throughout the state and the country if they need assistance. Let's put these poachers out of business.

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**ACROSS**

1 many Texans go on these for exercise  
5 Texas-based "Space X's" Elon Musk is a billion  
6 "sounds like a"  
7 teenage bane  
8 capture  
9 TXism: "the mark" (comply)  
12 Spindletop driller, Capt. A.F.  
17 where you can find Australian birds in Texas (2 wds.)  
19 Texas astronaut Ed White died on the first mission  
21 wrenches ankle ligaments  
22 Texas-filmed 1971 film: "The Andromeda"  
23 TX Mark Chesnutt's "Too Cold"  
28 an alma mater of TX George W.  
29 TXism: "gotta play the you're dealt" (inevitable)  
30 Ciudad is across from El Paso  
31 "R" of NRA  
35 Chalk is a native Texas tree  
36 hit for TX Henley's Eagles: "Peaceful"  
42 TXism: "don't get your knot" (calm down)  
44 El Paso has statue of Juan de

46 "jumper's knee" is sports injury  
48 these were found in a large area following Galveston's Great Storm  
49 TX George H.W.'s "Stormin'" general (init.)  
50 2024 election didn't have a large "Gender"  
51 largest continent  
52 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Losing You"

53 George H.W. 1988 phrase: "my lips"  
54 TX Howard of TV's "Dallas" cut off tree branch  
57 TX Perot's co. boot width

**DOWN**

1 WWII enemy fighter plane (2 wds.)  
2 living area provided by early drilling companies (2 wds.)  
3 Hood County seat  
4 "cent" in Samoa  
9 TXism: "the is wagging the dog"  
10 TXism: "colt" (cranky)  
11 paramedic services (abbr.)  
12 "corporate" community in Irving: Colinas

13 TXism: "tie ends" (finalize)  
14 this Seton wrote cowboy romance novels  
15 Aida of "The Aviator" about TX Hughes  
16 the Astro into second base  
18 fed. agcy. which regulates aviation  
20 TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave"  
23 TX racer, Foyt (init.)  
24 abdomen informally (abbr.)  
25 Lukas of "Leap of Faith" with Texas-born Steve Martin  
26 parentless child

13 TXism: "headed" (silly)  
38 TXism: "a bug in a rug"  
39 South Asia country  
40 water nymph in Greek mythology  
41 today, Verizon has this old phone co.  
43 "boob tube" abbr.  
45 former Cowboy RB Emmitt (init.)  
47 one installment of old TV's "Dallas"  
48 TXism: "a real burner" (exciting)  
55 church alcove

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AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# Inflation-fighting strategies for retirees

**TAYLOR MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser



Taylor Mobly

years, you may want to move your portfolio toward a somewhat more conservative approach by owning investments that offer significant protection of principal. However, these same investments offer little in the way of growth, which means they are susceptible to inflation. Consequently, you'll also need to own a reasonable amount in growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based securities. Of course, these investments will fluctuate in value as the financial markets move up and down, but by owning some more

conservative investments, you can reduce the overall impact of market volatility on your portfolio.

## CONSIDER INFLATION-ADJUSTED BONDS

You might want to consider Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), which are indexed to the Consumer Price Index, so the principal increases with inflation (and decreases with deflation). Another inflation-adjusted Treasury security is the I bond, which differs from TIPS in that the principal doesn't change but the interest rate does, every six months, based on a combination of a fixed interest rate and the inflation rate. Like all investments, though, TIPS

and I bonds have various features and risks of which you should be aware before investing.

## DELAY TAKING SOCIAL SECURITY

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your monthly checks will be much bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, likely between 66 and 67. You would receive the maximum amount if you waited until 70 before collecting. Of course, if you need the money to help support your retirement, you may not be able to afford to wait, but if you can, your big checks can be a big help against inflation.

## DON'T HOLD TOO MUCH CASH

During your working years, it's a good idea to have an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses in liquid, low-risk accounts. And when you're retired, you might want to have up to year's worth of expenses in such a fund. But be careful about holding too much cash, as it will lose purchasing power each year due to inflation. Instead, when keeping cash, seek the "Goldilocks" solution — not too little, not too much, but just the right amount.

## THINK ABOUT EXTENDING YOUR EMPLOYMENT

If you like what you do,

you might want to consider working a few years longer than you had originally intended. Not only will you be bringing in more income, but you could also continue to contribute to retirement accounts, including your IRA and 401(k). Even if you don't want to continue working full time, you could do some part-time work or consulting. Any earned income you bring in can help in your fight against inflation.

You can't control the cost of living, but by making some of the moves described above, you can help yourself mount a defense against the effects of inflation during your retirement years.

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# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

**EVERY DAY**

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

**SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**

**ACTON 12** Step Group meets at 7 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

**EVERY SATURDAY**

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

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**STARTING A** New Life grief support group meets from 3-5 p.m. for those who have lost a loved one through death, including the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 28 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. Next session begins Oct. 20. Christian based, non-denominational and welcome all who are suffering. Parish Hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Phillis and Bill Brewer at 817-573-8915 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

**EVERY MONDAY**

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

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

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**

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

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

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

**REJENGAGE MARRIAGE** Enrichment meets every

Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Stone-Water Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewater-church.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 817-894-2449 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.

## SWEET

FROM PAGE A6

— literally. The highly anticipated dessert competition allowed employees the opportunity to test their culinary skills and creativity by baking a favorite family recipe that would impress the local judges. As Granbury Chamber of Commerce Interim President Holly Martin, Place 6 council member Greg Corrigan and yours truly served as judges, it was clear this decision would not simply be a piece of cake — pun intended. From decadent pies to rich cakes, the competition was fierce as nine employees tried their hand at creating a dessert so mouthwatering that we would have no choice but to crown them the ultimate holiday dessert champion.

While it was a tough decision, three treats stood out among the rest — proving they were truly "batter" than the competition.

The top three winners were awarded cash prizes, with first place taking home \$100, second place receiving \$70 and third place earning \$40.

- The winners were:
- First place: Pecan Pie Cheesecake by Emily Guerrero
  - Second place: Memaw's Mountain Dew Apple Dumplings by Kristen Hicks
  - Third place: Bundt Butter Pumpkin Cake with caramel sauce by Patricia Ridley

With the winner receiving not only bragging rights, but also a "sweet" cash prize, the dessert showdown was definitely a delicious highlight for everyone involved.

"I had a blast judging the desserts for the Hood County Employee Annual

Holiday Luncheon," Martin said. "It was not easy choosing the top three desserts ... they were all so good! I definitely got my sugar fix for a while! I was honored to be a judge and would love to get to do it again next year."

For Corrigan though, this wasn't his first rodeo, as the council member shared this was his fourth year to serve as a dessert judge for the luncheon.

"Every year the quality of dessert gets better and more difficult to judge," he said. "I always appreciate the invite and will continue to judge as long as they will have me."

While the dessert competition may have been the icing on the cake, Hood County Treasurer Leigh Ann McCoy shared that the event's goal is a way to thank all 389 county employees for a job well done.

"We look forward to the county luncheon every year, to give back and serve the employees," she said. "I hope the employees always know how much they are appreciated by each and every one of the elected and appointed officials."

As Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Roger "Cotton" Howell led the event with raffles and cash give-aways, employees were treated to a delicious holiday meal complete with turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, cranberry sauce, and — as mentioned above — a lot of desserts.

The event was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of local businesses and individuals, including:

- Jacque Gordon - Keller Williams Brazos West
- Babe's Chicken Dinner House

- Bob's Off the Square
- Raising Canes Chicken
- Chick-Fil-A
- Christina's American Table
- Farina's Winery & Cafe
- Firehouse Cafe
- Fisherman's Corner
- Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses
- Fuego Mexican Food
- Granbury Theatre Company
- Grumps Burgers
- Hill City Chop House
- Ketzler's Schnitzel Haus & Biergarten
- Massey's BBQ
- Mimi and B's Mercantile
- Pastafina
- Pearl Street Station
- Randy's Shrimp & Oyster Bar
- Silver Saddle Saloon
- Steve Berry
- Stumpy's Lakeside Grill
- Texas Flatbread House
- Triple G Cafe
- Visit Granbury
- Vito's Italian Kitchen

For me, I truly enjoyed getting to serve as the third judge for the dessert competition, but it was definitely not a "cake walk!"

With each bite, I was not only amazed by the creativity and effort that went into every dessert, but the deliciousness as well, which made it nearly impossible to choose the top three.

Ultimately though, I had a great time and I was honored to be part of such a sweet tradition with two of Hood County's finest leaders.

As another Hood County Employee Holiday Luncheon comes to a close, everyone involved can reflect back on an afternoon filled with delicious desserts, generous donations and camaraderie among coworkers — reminding us all that life truly is what you "bake" it.

## WREATHS

FROM PAGE A6

The ladies of the Elizabeth Crockett chapter invite you to join them in Acton Cemetery at 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 to share in honoring the sacrifices of veterans and their families. Acton Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 500 veterans, meaning the ladies of the DAR need over 500 wreath donations to reach their goal. Each

wreath costs \$17, and for each wreath purchased, \$5 will be returned by Wreaths Across America and donated to the Granbury High School JROTC.

Acton Cemetery is a 20,000-acre Texas historical site housing more than 3,000 graves, 500 of which are the final resting places of fallen United States veterans. Acton Cemetery is notable for the grave of Elizabeth Crockett, Texas revolutionary and wife of Alamo hero Davy Crockett, and the woman for whom

Granbury's DAR chapter is named. The chapter will lead a brief ceremony commemorating the service of the fallen, prisoners of war, missing in action, and currently active members of the U.S. military, followed by the solemn distribution of wreaths.

Wreaths can be purchased either through the Wreaths of America website www.wreathscrossamerica.org, or through Kathy Hanlon by mail at 6316 Carrizo Drive, Granbury, TX 76049.



### TexSCAN Week of Nov. 24-30, 2024

#### AUCTIONS

**Commercial Office and Warehouse** on 2+ Acres For Sale Via Online Public Auction. 975 Southview Circle, Center, TX. Bid Online Nov 23rd - 26th at capauctions.com.

**43rd Annual Oklahoma Select Sale** — Sat. Dec 7, 11 a.m., Atoka Livestock Auction. Selling 60 Limousin & LimFlex Bulls, 25 Lim-Flex Bred and open heifers. Bid online at LiveAuctions.TV, ronn@cj-auctions.com, 918-629-9382.

**Construction Equipment Auction** — Thurs., Dec. 5. Houston items sell no reserve. Includes: haul trucks, excavators, dozers, wheel loaders and more. All items sold "AS IS." 10% buyers premium applies. Aaron McKee, TX Lic. #16401. Bid now, purplewave.com.

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#### EVENTS

**Pleasanton, TX** — Merry on Main, Dec. 6 & 7. Light parade, fireworks, a variety of vendors, live music, carols, Little Miss Merry on Main, and the lighting of the Christmas tree that marks the start of the season.

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COURTESY GRAPHICS

# A winter wonderland awaits at Granbury's Christmas Showcase and Market

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

**G**ranbury is lighting up this holiday season with a brand-new Christmas tradition that promises to become a staple for years to come. Introducing the Granbury Christmas Showcase and Market, a 25-day extravaganza blending festive fun, family-friendly activities and a touch of holiday magic—all nestled in the beautiful pecan orchards of Warren's Backyard.

**AN ENCHANTING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL**  
Running nightly from Nov. 29 — Black Friday — to Dec. 23, the showcase invites visitors from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and possibly later if the holiday cheer demands. The event is a first for Granbury, and its organizers, Brandon Stier of Stier Events and Jeremy Newberry of Warren's Backyard, are thrilled to bring this magical experience to the community.

"This event is a full-blown Christmas light showcase," Stier explained during our interview. "We're talking about a massive walk-through display of inflatables and lighting setups, all spread under the gorgeous, historic pecan trees that are over 80 years old. It's an incredibly Texan setting, and there's nothing quite like it."

The immersive experience doesn't stop at twinkling lights. For kids, and kids at heart, there's a 200-foot inflatable Christmas obstacle course — a highlight that combines bounce house vibes with friendly competition. Tickets include unlimited access to the obstacle

course, so feel free to race your friends or take a leisurely stroll through its festive twists and turns.

And don't worry if you've seen the light show once — there's always something new to discover. A rotating holiday marketplace ensures that visitors will find unique vendors and delicious treats each time they return. "We've designed it so that no two visits are exactly the same," Stier shared. "The market changes, the food vendors rotate, and there's always something fresh to enjoy."

**A TASTE OF THE HOLIDAYS**  
If holiday cheer makes you thirsty, Warren's Backyard has you covered. Guests can enjoy warm drinks for all ages, from hot chocolate and hot cider to creative concoctions like their "Cinnamon Toast Crunch Hot Chocolate." For adults looking to unwind, the bar will also serve holiday-inspired cocktails. "It's all about making the experience magical for both kids and parents," Newberry said. "The property will be set up so that parents can

grab a drink while their kids enjoy the activities — everything's safe and contained."

**FESTIVE ACTIVITIES GALORE**  
In addition to lights, food and drinks, there's plenty more to keep the whole family entertained:

**Let it snow:** While Granbury may not see real snow this year, the event promises a flurry of faux snow for kids to play in.

**Photo opportunities:** Don't forget to "take an Elf" at one of the many holiday photo stations scattered throughout the venue.

**Treasure hunts:** Kids can embark on a scavenger hunt through the displays, with prizes like stickers and candy canes for those who solve the puzzle.

**TICKET PRICING AND CHARITABLE GIVING**  
Tickets are available only at the gate, making entry simple and stress-free. The prices are:

- Ages 2 and under: Free
- Ages 2-8: \$10
- Ages 8 and over: \$15

Best of all, the event has a heartwarming mission beyond just spreading Christmas cheer. A portion of every ticket sale will be donated to Along Comes Hope, a nonprofit organization supporting children in the local area battling cancer. "I've worked with this nonprofit before, and they do incredible work," Stier said. "We're honored to contribute to their mission through this event."

**A COMMUNITY EFFORT**  
The Granbury Christmas Showcase and Market isn't

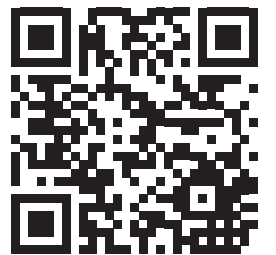
just about creating a fun holiday atmosphere; it's also about celebrating community partnerships. While Warren's Backyard provides the perfect venue, Visit Granbury and downtown merchants are working hand-in-hand with the event to make the holiday season truly magical.

The organizers have also secured local sponsors to help make the event a reality, including Built to Last Furniture, the Hilton Garden Inn and more. Free parking sweetens the deal, ensuring a hassle-free visit for guests.

"Everything about this event has been built with the community in mind," Newberry emphasized. "We want people to feel like this is a part of Granbury's holiday tradition for years to come."

**PLAN YOUR VISIT**  
Whether you're coming for the lights, the food or to bask in the holiday spirit, the Granbury Christmas Showcase and Market has something for everyone. Make it a part of your family's holiday plans this year and prepare to be dazzled!  
For more information, visit the event website at [www.granburychristmas-market.com](http://www.granburychristmas-market.com) or scan the QR code below.

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## BACK WITH RENEWED ENTHUSIASM

### TOLAR'S BROWN HAS NEW OUTLOOK AT GAME



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

If it seems as though Tolar running back Peyton Brown is on a mission this season, well, he is.

While it was a season ago, the ankle injury that sidelined him for almost all the regular season (seven games) in 2023 is now an inspiration to him in a comeback year — which also happens to be his senior season.

"I've learned to focus more on the entire team, everybody have fun, not just me running the ball," Brown said.

Of course, it's hard not to focus on Brown. After all, he runs the ball so well. This season, at press time he

entered the Rattlers' second round playoff game with 1,268 rushing yards and 19 rushing touchdowns.

For his career, despite the injury, he is one of the state's most prolific running backs. Through the opening round of the playoffs, his career totals of 5,999 yards and 108 touchdowns rank among the best ever in the state.

In 2022 his 2,777 yards and 49 touchdowns ranked him among the best in the entire nation.

And while he's proud of those numbers, he's even more proud of how he has bounced back and how he has a renewed enthusiasm for the team portion of the game. Not that he wasn't a team player before — without question he always has been, whether it was running the ball, catching a pass or even throw-

ing a block — but now there's an even more concerted effort to be a well-rounded player.

"That's a big part of what I am now, I know it's not just me," he said. "I had to sit on the sidelines. I didn't want to, but I had no choice, and it hurt not being able to help my teammates."

Even while playing in a limited capacity last season, Brown rushed for 560 yards and a dozen touchdowns. His return in the season's ninth game and throughout the postseason helped the Rattlers reach the Class 2A Division I state championship game.

In fact, since he joined the varsity as a freshman, Tolar was 47-7 through bi-district of this sea-

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | B5

PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY AND MELISSA CARROLL

Tolar's Peyton Brown has carved out one of the top high school running back careers in the state in his four seasons as a Rattler.



COURTESY OF RYAN COX/GISD

Julia Pannell, community representative for the contest, speaks to the GISD board of trustees in recognizing five students for their riveting essays regarding our country's veterans Monday, Nov. 18.

## GISD honors Veterans Day Essay Contest winners

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

Every year, students in Granbury Independent School District honor our service members by crafting heartfelt essays as they highlight their bravery and sacrifice — and this year's Veterans Day Essay Contest winners did not disappoint.

On Nov. 18, five students from GISD were honored during the board of trustees meeting for eloquently describing what Veterans Day means to them.

The contest — held every year for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day — was initiated by the late J.C. Campbell, who was a veteran and community leader. Campbell created the essay contests because he felt it was important for students to commemorate armed services personnel who lost their lives while they were in the service.

With more than 400 essays submitted across the district this year, students at every GISD campus poured their heart and soul into their essays, as they tried to express their gratitude for our heroes through the written word.

Before the GISD meeting, a short ceremony was held in the corridor of the administration building, where all five winners were recognized.

The winners include:  
Kai Ellis - Acton Middle School  
Madelyn Schmidt - Granbury High School  
Ronnie Graves - Granbury High School

PLEASE SEE **CONTEST** | B5

## Head, heart, hands and health

**BY CHLOE LAING**  
*Staff Writer*  
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We all know that sometimes managing kids is harder than wrangling a herd of wild animals, but imagine a scenario where on top of this, the kids are doing some animal wrangling of their own. This is the reality of Cornerstone Christian Academy 4H club's co-leaders Nicole Jennings and Christy Stewart, who took over the chapter in August.

"We're just trying to get our feet under us as far as just the day-to-day of the club, and kind of just dabbling in what's out there," Jenkins said.

The chapter, one of the largest in the area with 34 student members and four parent volunteers, has three primary goals: philanthropy, growth, and education — all of which are being achieved with a few extra blue ribbons in hand.

Both Stewart and Jennings understand that it's important to get the kids in their chapter amped about the community they're growing up in. This drive for community service has led the chapter to complete two service projects this year: the first being a surprise donation of pet

food and supplies to Friends for Animals, Granbury's local no-kill animal shelter; and the second being a 138-can food drive for Mission Granbury, a local food pantry.

"We're trying to incorporate service and giving back and also bringing in projects that the kids can do out there in the community," explained Jennings.

The co-leaders not only expressed their desire to educate the kids in their organization about opportunities within the 4H community; but also to give them insight into the ins and outs of the agriculture industry. These kids are from the rural south where their lives and families often revolve around the industry. This 4H chapter is more than lambs and blue ribbons — it's about connecting children to the skills of their community.

"I feel like agriculture these days is not the same as it used to be. It's becoming almost a lost art that people need to know, like about our food and where it comes from in the production side of it and the business side of it, there's so much," said Jennings.

Three young members of CCA's 4H chapter spoke about the events they have



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cornerstone's 4H chapter poses for a picture with Vivian Jennings' show lamb, Willie.

taken part in within the last year, each excelling within their individual divisions.

Reid Holdridge has a passion for all things culinary. Earlier this month, he entered two 4H-related food competitions: Food Show, which involved preparing and presenting a generational recipe, and Cooking Challenge, a team competition like the TV show Chopped.

Reid excelled in both, securing first place in the Food Show with his grandmother's Cranberry Sunshine Relish recipe, and second place in Cooking Challenge with his

team's Teriyaki Surprise.

Olivia Stewart has an eye for aesthetics, a gift that earned her first place in the Hood County Spring Photography Contest's junior photography division. Olivia's award-winning photos feature touching portraits of her neighbor and culinary aficionado Reid, with his two dogs, Holly and Honey. The county waits with bated breath to see what Olivia will capture for her 2025 Stock Show submissions.

Cornerstone's 4H Chapter is also home to Ovine legacy Vivian Jennings. Last year,

Vivian Jennings' first year showing, she earned her show lamb Buttercup the titles of Reserve Champion and Grand Southdown at the Hood County Stock show in January. This year, she's looking to replicate this success with her new lamb, Willie.

When asked what her favorite part of 4H is, Vivian Jennings answered "the experience, having fun and winning!"

This answer is only one example of how each child discussed their events and successes with fervor and confidence, cementing ex-

actly why these organizations are so important — 4H and other ag programs allow kids to try, fail and succeed in an environment that enables them to be the most educated and self-assured versions of themselves.

"If you give the kids a little room and a little space, it's amazing to see what they can do on their own," Jennings explained. "You don't have to over-lead, you can kind of guide and let them take it from there. It might not be perfect, but they do a great job with it."



# GHS DECA Club celebrates growth, student-led success



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN COX/GISD

The Granbury High School DECA Club officers were introduced for National DECA Month by advisor Kylee Peterson during the GISD board of trustees meeting Nov. 18. Front row from left: Sierra Morissette, Emily Ashcraft, Mary Deemer, Alison Galindo, Alejandra Landa and Catherine Morel. Back row from left: Axel Davila, Everett Brown, Reece Hunt and Warner Phillips.

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

The Granbury High School DECA Club is experiencing tremendous growth and success, as student leaders are stepping up to make a difference.

During the Granbury Independent School District board of trustees meeting Nov. 18, DECA advisor Kylee Peterson introduced this year's club officers and gave an update on the club's most recent accomplishments.

DECA — which stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America — is an international business organization that prepares emerging student leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

While DECA was a prominent work co-op and business education program at GHS in the 1970s, the program was discontinued 20 years later in the 1990s.

Peterson, a business/marketing teacher in the Career and Technical Education department at GISD, was later asked to revitalize the program in 2021.

"Our goal at GHS is to provide students opportunities to sharpen their business skills against like-minded youth," Peterson said in a previous interview with the Hood County News.

"Business is not learned in the classroom — it's learned in the business community."

Starting an organization from scratch may seem like an impossible task, but

Peterson quickly made it happen.

When the program officially launched in 2021, 16 students chose to become members of the club and seven competed in the district competition.

"Three years ago, I got seven kids to trust me," Peterson said at the board meeting. "Of the seven that went to district, six went to state, and one went to international our first year."

In 2022, the group grew to about 48 members, with 28 competing at district and seven qualifying for state in the finance series, retail marketing, finance professional selling and the sales project team.

The club also has "The Anchor Store," which is staffed by 28 seniors who have completed three years in the business pathway.

The store, which features snacks and food items as well as spirit merchandise, also recently earned the accomplishment of becoming a gold-level school-based enterprise with the DECA national program.

"We do compete every year at the international level with our school store," Peterson said. "Last year, we took 38, I think, to district, and we took 16 to state, so what we're doing in the business pathway at Granbury High School obviously works. Our kids can compete, not only at the district, but the state and the international level. We are making our footprint all across the country, from Orlando to Anaheim to Atlanta."

With the DECA Club continuing to show remarkable success and growth each year, Peterson shared that she decided to "step back" and let her students lead the chapter from now on.

"This year, I kind of stood back and said, 'You know what? It needs to be student led. We've kind of built a program. I'm going to kind of step off and let them lead the chapter,'" she said. "This year, as of right now, we're at 115 student members. We've hit the century member chapter mark."

She explained that the club has also completed community service projects, including a donation where approximately 1,500 cans of food were given to Mission Granbury.

With an ethical leadership campaign and a panel interview with First National Bank employees, students are also able to gain real world experience and learn how to network in order to better prepare for their future.

"There's a lot of things that they're doing this year," Peterson said. "I know some of you attended The Cove — that was a brand-new homecoming tradition that we introduced that was completely student led."

The Cove is where all Pirate alumni and students participated in a tailgate-style celebration to join in fellowship and share purple and gold memories at homecoming Oct. 25.

"I'm pretty proud this year to say that we are student led, and I've got some really great things that are going

to happen," Peterson said.

She also invited DECA President Reece Hunt to speak to the board about the experience that he's gained just by being involved in the club.

Hunt explained that when he first joined DECA, he didn't fully realize how much it would shape his future.

"(It) provided a platform for us to grow in ways that extend far beyond the classroom. These DECA experiences not only help students succeed in business, but also in life," Hunt said.

He shared that through competitions, he has learned how to develop essential skills like public speaking, tackling complex business problems and learning how to work as a team.

"Through DECA, we learn valuable skills like leadership, communication, problem solving and critical thinking," he said. "These very qualities are what businesses and colleges look for in applicants. It's about learning to navigate challenges, think strategically, lead with confidence — all of which are vital to succeed in any field."

For Hunt, DECA has played a "crucial role" in his college application process, as the leadership opportunities, competitive experiences and business skills that he developed through the club made his application stand out.

He shared that it's because of his involvement in DECA that he was able to

PLEASE SEE DECA | B5

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# Don't sleep on Mattressville ... or rather, do!

BY CHLOE LAING  
Staff Writer  
chloe@hcnews.com

Between never-ending philanthropy and top-notch mattresses, nothing keeps David Davis up at night. The 15-year Granbury resident opened a branch of his business Mattressville in Granbury in 2021 and hasn't looked back since.

Mattressville started as an idea in the head of a man in advertising. In Davis' past life, he owned a small advertising firm. However, he entered the mattress business because he realized the industry had a few holes in it — holes he could fill with quality customer service and dedication to his community.

"Consumers don't have a real positive feeling about shopping for a mattress. In fact, people put it off until they have to go and shop for a mattress. And so, I thought if we could create a better customer experience, then we could maybe create a share of the market that would come and shop with us," Davis explained.

Davis believes he's got the leg up on big box mattress stores due to his company's unbeatable service standards and mom-and-pop shop versatility. Unlike mattress store chains, Davis and his team hand-deliver every single mattress to their customers free of charge, no exceptions. In addition, he'll fix anyone's mattress-related issues, even if the mattress at hand is from an entirely different store.

"We'll get a call from someone telling us they have an issue with their box spring, or something like that, and ask if they can pay one of our guys to come out

and fix it. Usually, it's just a small fix, something that doesn't take us much time at all, and so when people go to pay us, we say no thanks, tell them to have a lovely day, and head back out," Davis said laughing.

Mattressville has another thing on chain mattress stores — same day sales. Davis explained that because Mattressville is privately owned, they can do whatever they please; that if someone needs a mattress the same day, they're welcome to purchase it right off the saleroom floor. This twist on the usual mattress game gives Mattressville's customers same-day satisfaction and keeps inventory turning over.

Davis hates a gimmick almost as much as he hates an overburdening salesperson, so he's eliminated both from Mattressville's business model.

"We didn't want to have that kind of gimmicky sales money approach. No one that works in our stores are on commission, okay? And so, no one is trying to make you buy something you don't want to buy because it helps their paycheck. They're looking to find out what's the best solution for you and steer you in that direction," Davis explained.

In his seven years of operating within the mat-

tress industry, Davis has learned the importance of sleep and the revolutionary difference it can make in one's life. According to him, sleep serves so many purposes that most people either overlook or simply don't know about. That includes everything from the way your brain processes long-term memory to your overall physical and mental health; it all starts and ends with a good night's sleep.

"I know that when we deliver to someone's home, we're going to make a difference in their life. They're going to sleep better. They're going to feel better. I jokingly say they're not going to kick the cat," he said with a smile.

Since opening the first Mattressville in 2017, Davis has opened two other stores: one in Early in 2019 and Mattressville's most recent location in Granbury in 2021. He's a lifelong citizen of the area, living in Stephenville for 25 years before moving to Granbury in 2009. As he had always been heavily involved in the communities he lived in, he knew that when he started his mattress company, he had to do something to give back.

Davis lives by two mottos, noted by signs that watch over every mattress in the store. The first, the company's mission statement, says "Our mission is to be the most helpful mattress store in town," mirrored by another sign reading, "DON'T sell mattresses, DO help people."

It's clear that Davis doesn't just talk the talk but walks the walk. Before even opening Mattressville's Granbury location, the company partnered with



CHLOE LAING | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Davis lives by two mottos, noted by signs that watch over every mattress in the store.

Hood County Christmas for Children, an organization which helps down-on-their-luck families in Hood County give their children a top-notch Christmas.

"I found out how many kids were writing into Hood County Christmas for Kids, saying, what I want for Christmas is a mattress ... If you're 7 or 8 years old, usually you're wanting toys

or you're wanting a bike, things like that," Davis said concernedly. "It was just really heartbreaking to hear how many kids were saying 'I want a mattress' because they were sleeping on the floor," he continued.

Mattressville also supports other local nonprofits in need of mattresses, such as Habitat for Humanity and Mission Granbury, donat-

ing thousands of mattresses since 2017.

"I have the resources to address this challenge, and so I'm going to address the challenge and just know that I'm doing the right thing. And at the end of the day, the chips fall where they may," said Davis of his company's philanthropy.

## PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Christmas season of lights has begun in Pecan Plantation

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 30 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 17 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianelong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

The judging of Christmas lights in Pecan began last night, Friday, Nov. 29, and will conclude Sunday, Dec. 15 with winners being announced and gift certificate prizes being awarded. No sign-up or registration is needed as all decorated homes in our neighborhood are automatically eligible to win. First through third places will be lauded, and judging will be based on creativity, theme, visual impact, craftsmanship, technical skill and overall presentation.

### WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club has two post-Thanksgiving events on its calendar. The first will happen today, Saturday, Nov. 30, when a PPWC sponsored Christmas parade begins at 3:30 p.m. at the Nutcracker parking lot and ends 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.

Next, the annual Christmas Tour of Homes is set for

Thursday, Dec. 12, and the day holds brunch, shopping, home touring and dinner options. Tickets are required, and sales will close Thursday, Dec. 5 for brunch and dinner and Thursday, Dec. 12 for touring. Visit [www.myppec.com](http://www.myppec.com) for complete ticket purchasing information.

### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pecan clubhouse will bring brunch and the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Folks are welcome to bring cameras to take their own photos. Reservations for brunch now being accepted: 817-573-2641.

### GAME DAY

Pecan Plantation's Women's First Wednesday Bridge group continues, and its next date comes Wednesday, Dec. 4 when play begins at 9:30 a.m. following registration. A lunch break (with food prepared by Chef Jordan Ray and the clubhouse staff) is part of the day, and bridge play concludes at 2:30 p.m. This

group consists of a lovely, welcoming group of ladies who are loads of fun, and guests, new players and even players who would like a "refresher" on the finer points of the game, are welcome to join. To receive more information or make a required reservation for the next event, contact Vicki Leggett at [vleggett19@gmail.com](mailto:vleggett19@gmail.com).

### NET NEWS

The final session of junior tennis in our community begins Wednesday, Dec. 4 and runs through Dec. 18. Play happens at the tennis center from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. each week.

### UPCOMING ELECTION

The first Saturday of March each year holds 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 the 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](mailto:marilynamos@ppoaweb.com).

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Men's Golf Association's Toys for Tots Tournament is approaching Saturday, Dec. 7, and the entry fee for the day, as well as donations to Toys for Tots, are being collected. Sign up in the pro shop: 817-573-2645.

### SANTA SIGHTING

Santa Claus and his horses are coming to Pecan Sunday, Dec. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pecan's stables located on Ravenswood Road. Photos with Santa, horse rides, crafts, cocoa, cookies and candy canes will go to every vehicle upon paid entrance (\$20 cash), and hot dogs with trimmings and tickets for raffle baskets will also be available for purchase. For complete information, call 512-694-7065.

### TEACHER GATHERING

The Pecan Educator Network will hold its Christmas party Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., and members are invited to join an evening of fun, food, Christmas trivia and "frivolity." All current and former educators are welcome. Send an RSVP to 940-393-3070.

### SWEET TIME

Pecan's annual family gingerbread house decorating day is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. at the PAC. The \$20 fee covers one house per family as well

as decorations, setup and clean up. Space is limited, and registration is required: 817-573-7952.

### 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 daily. Members received a donation form in October statements, and a second form was included in the November statement; donations may also be made online from a button Pecaners 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](mailto:gm@ppoaweb.com) or 817-573-2641, extension 340.

### FLYING BY

Congratulations to Mark White, who captured on film a Northern flicker visiting the Pecan orchard Nov. 15. Mark says, "I just got lucky and snapped the shot." Thank you to Mark for passing along information about this show of nature in our

community.

### BEAUTIFULLY DONE

Much gratitude goes to Allison Gilmore and her Woman's Club décor committee for a job so well done in transforming Pecan into a picturesque Christmas wonderland! The clubhouse, the PAC, the marina, the bridge and common neighborhood areas all prove festive and bright thanks to these ladies' work.

### GIVING SEASON

Pecan's Woman's Club honored the Rancho Brazos Community Center as its tabletop charity at a recent meeting, and a blanket drive benefiting Rancho Brazos has begun and will run through Friday, Dec. 13. Baby, toddler and throw blankets, in addition to quilts and twin- and full-size comforter sets, are welcome. All blankets should be new and in packaging. Drop off items Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3701 Sundown Trail. Call 817-910-8114 for more information.

### AWARD GIVEN

Big congratulations go to Pecan's own Bob Lusk on being inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame for his fabulous career in pond management. Bob and his achievements were featured in a recent edition of Pond Boss magazine.



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# A match made in heaven

## Dr. Nagy plays historic organ for the community during Advent

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News eden@hcnews.com

On Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., Granbury-based performer, composer, and scholar, Dr. Zvony Nagy will perform in an Advent Organ Concert at Good Shepherd Anglican Church. Good Shepherd is the home to the only functioning pipe organ in Hood County. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

How this extraordinary musician will play the exceptional organ for this revered event is another miracle to appreciate during Advent.

### THE ORGAN

Good Shepherd is grateful to house the beautiful instrument few possess the knowledge to play, and many fewer still have the ability that Nagy will bring to the space Dec. 8.

Originally at home in what was then Central Methodist United Church in Fort Worth, the pipe organ was acquired by Genie Gynn who hosted the organ in her home. The organ required a buildout for that space to work — the custom work was completed by Dan Garland of Garland Pipe Organs.

Next the organ came to reside at Good Shepherd. To accommodate the new location, the expertise of Garland was again sought. Garland and his company completed the extensive casework and woodwork the organ required to visually complement the space in the gallery of its new church home.

### THE PERFORMER

Nagy prefers to go by Zvony, which is a shortened version of the performer's full name, Zvonimir. Originally from Croatia, he came to the United States to further his studies in music. Zvony holds a doctorate in music from Northwestern University. He was trained in piano and organ performance at Texas Christian University, the University of Zagreb-Academy of Music in Croatia, and the École Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot.

Zvony resides in Granbury and serves as Director of Music and Worship at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas. He is keenly interested in music and creativity and has published a book about it. He enjoys discussing and giving lectures on music. His research interests include music, psychology, sacred music, and spirituality. He relishes beauty, cooking, and family.

Zvony has found a unique peace in Granbury.



Dr. Zvony Nagy will perform for Advent at Good Shepherd Anglican Church on Sunday, Dec. 8.

"You know how we have a few places on earth where we can feel God's presence in moving ways. Granbury is one of those unique places for me. It's not just a spot I visit but a place where I feel a special connection. There's something beautifully mysterious about it that exudes a comforting, positive energy," Zvony said.

Zvony did not initially set his sights on the organ. His grandparents raised Zvony, but his father played clarinet and accordion who taught him to play piano. Zvony's love for music had begun even earlier. The violin was his first love.

"I actually had a friend in elementary school who played the violin, and she was also in the church choir (with me)," shared Zvony.

"Hey, I want to play violin," he thought.

Early music education is different in Europe, explained Zvony. In the United States, anyone who pays for lessons can take lessons. In Europe, where a classical approach is taken, students have to show aptitude for an instrument before being accepted as students. Zvony did not pass the violin entrance exam.

"I was devastated," Zvony said.

Zvony really did love violin, so much so that he had made his own version of a violin.

"I (had) made my own violin out of cardboard. I'm not kidding. I got a book about string instruments and building, and I cut it out ... and I was so (distracted after not passing the audition) I didn't know what to do," Zvony explained.

Zvony's initial thought was to pursue an entirely different path. It was toward the end of what would be middle school in the United States.

"I dreamt to make music, to play and create music. I was like, 'Okay, so I'm going to just deal with numbers, you know, because I have a very analytical brain in addition to the emotional thing (right-brained) — there's left brain quite a bit too. I like to analyze things, and I like to make

deductions," Zvony shared.

Zvony explained that some people don't realize the connection between music, math, and creativity.

"And so I got into sciences, and I was excelling in those subjects, thinking that 'OK, so this is ... I wanted to become a physician maybe.' But then I started to prepare for First Communion and ended up in the children's choir," Zvony said.

In choir, Zvony would meet a nun who would change the course of his life.

"Sister Anicka was very caring and played an essential role in helping me fall in love with music again. One day after the choir rehearsal, I ended up in the choir loft all alone."

"But the pipe organ was on ... I come around, and I press a key on the organ."

And that was it.

"I thought, yeah, I want to do that. This is great. This is it. No, seriously, so she gave me some lessons. But I was too old to start a regular elementary music school according to education requirements."

While in Croatia, Zvony was eventually accepted into the school of music to study what is akin to a music education program in the States.

"So, it's not like you're going to major in piano. You can just kind of learn a little bit about music and go from there ... But I came to this young teacher who just got a job, it was just before the war, and I came in and said, hey, you know, I play Bach," Zvony said.

He played some organ music pieces for the piano teacher, and she must have been impressed with his potential.

"She was just so ambitious that she worked with me. So, in two years, I finished what typically would take six to check that box to major in piano performance, got it, went to different competitions in Croatia, and got first and second prizes."

"And then we had to flee because we were on the first line of the Serbo-Croatian



COURTESY PHOTOS

"Zvony" will bring the pipe organ to life at the Advent Concert at Good Shepherd Anglican Church. Good Shepherd houses the only working pipe organ in Hood County. Zvony is shown here with a historic pipe organ in the Southern Methodist University collection.

war in the 90s. So, we went to Hungary because we had relatives (actually, my last name is Hungarian). So, we spent almost a year, like 10 months there."

"There was a Croatian-Hungarian lady who taught music there. So, she gave me a few lessons."

It would be piano performance studies that would bring Zvony to the States.

"I had such a strong drive ... I came to TCU during that time, there were days that I would literally practice for 10 hours or more at the piano, like, really, really committed," he said.

Zvony still ponders his original instrument, his hand-made violin.

"I wish I kept that violin. It was just put in the basement. I think it disintegrated from moisture. I mean ... it was cardboard."

### THE EVENT

Good Shepherd shares that a beautiful selection of Advent carols from well-known favorites to classical compositions will be a part of this Advent celebration.

Advent is the first season of the Church year as celebrated by many Christian believers. The word advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming or arrival." Used by the Church, the

word refers to both the arrival of Jesus, born Christmas Day, and the coming arrival of Jesus Christ who Christians believe will return to judge the living and the dead and make all things new.

Dec. 8 is the second Sunday of Advent which in 2024 begins Dec. 1. On the second Sunday of Advent, followers are encouraged to light two violet candles on their advent wreath to ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus.

According to online source crosswalk.com "The second advent candle ("The Bethlehem Candle") is also purple and represents peace. Peace is a central theme of the Advent season but the main focus of the second week of Advent. One of the prophecies about Jesus calls him "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6-7). When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they ended their message by saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). When Simeon saw baby Jesus in the temple, he thanked God that he could now die in peace for he had seen the Messiah (Luke 2:29-33)."

The Good Shepherd event offers the opportunity for anyone in the community to

hear the pipe organs as well as the masterful approach of Zvony.

Julia Reed, senior warden at Good Shepherd, has heard Zvony play previously. Both she and Zvony shared about the sacredness felt in certain spaces when hearing particular compositions played.

"Listening to the organ, listening to these musicians ... you feel like you're in heaven. You know, you feel like there's something that it just evokes in your spirit that you know when you hear it, you're just like ... gosh ... it's just amazing. I could sit here forever. It was like that when I heard Zvony play for the first time."

"Good Shepherd is so grateful for the gift of the pipe organ and more importantly for the opportunity to share it with the community. Zvony is such a talented musician and hearing him play during Advent is such a fitting way to start this Holy season," shared Reed.

A reception follows the Advent concert. Good Shepherd Anglican Church is located at 3601 Fall Creek Highway. For further questions call 817-326-2035 or go to granburyanglican.org. For more information on Zvony see nagymusic.com.

## HOOD OUTDOORS

# Trout stocking time in Texas



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. A Granbury resident of more than 35 years, he has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

Not only is this Thanksgiving week, it is also when the Texas Parks and Wildlife department starts stocking trout in many locations throughout the state. Many of these areas are in "neighborhood fishing ponds" and chances are there is one located close to you.

Consult the TPWD website for all locations and scheduled stocking dates that start Nov. 26. Scheduled stocking dates may change. If you want to know for sure, you are advised to contact the hatchery to find out if there are any changes to the original stocking dates.

Stocking will occur several times during the winter season. I'm including herein a few local areas relatively close to Granbury with the scheduled stocking dates. Put it on your calendar!

There are no minimum length limits for these trout and you are allowed to keep five trout per day per person.

An angler fishing in a community fishing lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a State Park can use no more than two poles. Trout anglers will need to ensure they have a freshwater fishing endorsement. Youth under 17 do not require a license. If you are fishing within a Texas State Park, no license or endorsement is required. Consult the TPWD rule book for special limits on the Guadalupe River.

These trout are typically taken on salmon eggs, corn and a variety of small spinner baits and flies. I would recommend light line.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury is full and the water temperature is in the low to mid 60s and cooling slowly. Releases from upstream have some debris floating through the lake. Be careful navigating. White bass (sand bass) action con-

tinues to be good to excellent. Lots of smaller fish and a few bigger ones mixed in. Slabs and spinners are your best bet for these tasty sand bass. These sand bass are being caught from the lower ends all the way to Tin Top. Look for these fish feeding on 10-to-15-foot flats. Striped bass are fair to good to 8 pounds on live bait and trolled umbrella rigs. The best action is around the DeCordova subdivision to Blue Water shores. Look for these striped bass to move upstream into the water flows. Largemouth bass are good in numbers in the same areas as the sand bass. Many are feeding together. The bigger largemouths are being caught on Texas rigged soft plastics near main lake points. Some good topwater action has been reported. Crappie are located near submerged structures from Water's Edge to the Peninsula and are good on small minnows and jigs. Catfish action is good on cut bait on the upper ends near channel bends. Some big blues and yellows are being caught. Birds have returned to our reservoirs, and they are pointing out feeding fish

| NAME                                    | LOCATION    | AMOUNT | SCHEDULED DATES   |
|---|-------------|--------|---|
| Holland Lake Park                       | Weatherford | 1,200  | 12/11/2024, 1/6/2025, 2/3/2025  |
| Glen Rose Town Lake                     | Glen Rose   | 2,000  | 12/3/2024, 1/8/2025   |
| Hurst Chisholm Park                     | Hurst       | 1,896  | 11/27/2024, 12/27/2024, 1/24/2025, 2/21/2025                                |
| Joshua City Park Pond                   | Joshua      | 1,700  | 1/12/2025, 2/4/2025   |
| Possum Kingdom Tailrace                 | Graford     | 9,000  | 12/6/2024, 12/20/2024, 1/3/2025, 1/17/2025, 1/30/2025, 2/18/2025, 2/28/2025 |
| Trinity Park (Clear Fork Trinity River) | Fort Worth  | 2,753  | 1/23/2025, 2/4/2025   |

COURTESY GRAPHIC

to anglers. Keep your binoculars handy.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) stays warmer due to the power plant and this attracts many bass anglers in the winter. Fishing

is excellent with most folks reporting numbers of fish being caught with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds. Soft plastics fished on a Texas rigged worm or Carolina rigged for those

deeper fish seems to be the baits of choice. Tilapia continues to be caught on worms fished under a cork. Limits of eater-sized channel catfish on prepared baits are common.





COURTESY OF RYAN COX/GISD

Five Granbury ISD students were recognized for their entries in this year's Veterans Day Essay Contest during a ceremony before the board of trustees meeting Nov. 18.

## CONTEST

FROM PAGE B1

· Jasper Homer – Granbury Middle School  
· Kylie Kamp – STARS Accelerated High School

Ellis, a sixth grader at AMS, was awarded the Overall District Winner and Campus Winner, while Schmidt, a junior at GHS, was crowned the MCJROTC winner.

During the ceremony, Julia Pannell, community representative for the contest, invited both winners to share their essays with the public.

Ellis' essay reads:

"To all the brave veterans,  
"Veterans Day is a special day when we honor and celebrate the men and women who serve or have served our country. When I think of this day, several words come to mind. Selfless, bravery, sacrifice, freedom, and loyalty. All of these words describe who a veteran is, what they value, and their character. However, when I reflect on what this day means to me personally, it is a day of gratitude, so I would like to start by saying thank you from the bottom of my heart, to each and every one of you for your service.

"Gratitude is a feeling of appreciation or thankfulness, and when I think about all of the veterans and what they have done for our country, that is what my heart feels, a great feeling of appreciation. I am so thankful for your bravery and willingness to fight for our country and our freedom. Each of you made a choice to put the needs of our country above your own safety and that is so courageous. In so many ways, we are selfish people but veterans are just the opposite. To sign up for the military knowing your life could be put in danger and you do it anyway! I can honestly say that I don't think I could ever be that brave, but I'm so thankful that there are those of who you are.

"I feel really lucky because my grandfather is a veteran. He went into the Army in 1972 and served until 1975 during the Vietnam War. He makes my family so proud and I can only hope that I am as brave and self-

less as he is one day. I also have three great-grandfathers that were veterans but have passed away. I am honored to be part of a family that values patriotism and has such a great love for our country.

"Veterans Day is special for many reasons but to me it is the selfless sacrifice of each of you that fills my heart with so much appreciation. I'm thankful for each one of the brave men and women who risked their lives for the rest of us. How can we ever repay you? I don't think we can, but one thing we can all do is celebrate you on Veteran's Day and honor you by being unselfish and showing kindness every day in between."

Schmidt's essay reads:

"Dear Veterans,  
"This is dedicated to you. There is a reason we have a special day for you guys. We honor your sacrifices and dedication to people you may not even know. Our country can rest easy knowing that you were out there risking your life for ours while at the same time passing down your knowledge to the future leaders of our country — the ones who will someday be in your shoes and be here, knowing they are being honored as our respectable veterans.

"We come together every year on November 11th to recognize our veterans. While we might write these letters and memorials together for one day, it does not mean we should not remember them any other day. We should acknowledge your honor, courage, and commitment to our country. We respect the fallen, the injured and anyone who has fought for us. While I have never stood in the desert of Iraq or on the rolling hills of Afghanistan, you, our veterans, might have. You were the one to stand in for our country while others were not. To protect me and everyone else from the challenges you faced. The others of our country and I sat in our homes watching the news channel showing your heroic and strong acts of bravery. You, the brave men and women, are fighting for us so we never have to see the day of destruction on our doorsteps. Because of you, I can come home ev-

ery day knowing that my family is safe and that my brother is living a life of service before himself, for me, and the rest of you.

"You, our veterans, might have come from different service branches, but you are one big family from the United States Marines (Oorah), Army, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard. Despite your differences, you all can agree on one thing: that the reason you fight is to uphold peace and defend our country for the sake of our people.

"I thank you, veterans, once again for letting me sit around my dining table every night, knowing that I am safe. As I pray at the table, I pray that you continue to teach and pass on the knowledge you have learned, showing why this day is dedicated to veterans like you.

"I end this with a quote from our former president, John F. Kennedy, that shows, in words, that I cannot express what veterans mean to me and our country. He states, 'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.'"

During the school board meeting, Pannell recognized sponsors like the Military Officers Association of America, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, Carrie Bellamy and Pannell's husband, Bob, for their overwhelming support.

"I have to tell you, you have a jewel in Rene Jackson," Pannell added, as she recognized the GISD staff member for being "exceptional to work with."

She also thanked the trustees for allowing the Friends of Memorial Lane to recognize the winners for this year's contest.

"It's always best when it's about the students," she remarked. "I'm also giving the reins over, so with tears in my eyes, this will be the last (contest) that I'll be doing."

While Pannell may be closing this chapter, she can rest assured knowing that if future generations are anything like these outstanding students, the spirit of gratitude and respect for our veterans will continue to thrive for years to come.

## GAME

FROM PAGE B1

son, including 11-3 in the postseason.

"We're getting in playoff mode. We treat everyone like a state opponent," Brown said shortly before the playoffs began.

### MILESTONES

Among Brown's milestones this season were surpassing 5,000 rushing yards — soon to be over 6,000 — and scoring the 100th touchdown of his career.

"At first I didn't believe it," he said about the touchdown. "Everyone was texting me. It was great to reach that accomplishment."

Before the ankle injury, Brown had never missed a game being hurt. It was a new experience and one he hopes he doesn't have to go through again.

Injuries, ironically, make the milestones even more special.

"The hardest part was just watching and not being able to help. It's tough emotionally," he said. "The hardest part physically is getting your balance back. Running with confidence is the biggest thing for a running back. When it's injured, it's taken away and you've got to get it back. If you have confidence you can come back from anything."

Suffice to say he has confidence. Ask any opponent.

### SENIOR LEADER

First-year Rattlers head coach Blake Mouser is full of praise for his senior leader. Not only was Brown coming back from an injury, but he also had to adjust to the Rattlers moving up to 3A, along with a new head coach and some changes that included passing the ball more.

"He accepted everything we came in with," Mouser said. "He's a senior leader. He was voted captain for a rea-

son. He's a great teammate and he will do whatever it takes to win.

"He's also humble. He always gives praise to his linemen for blocking for him."

In addition, Brown dealt with an ankle sprain early in this season. He refused to let it stop him from having a memorable senior campaign.

"He knows what it's like to lose football. He plowed through it and climbed the hurdle," Mouser said. "He was determined to keep playing."

That included literally clearing a hurdle — an opponent on the field, Mouser recalled. On back-to-back plays Brown ran over an opponent on the first and hurdled over him on the next.

"I said, 'Whatever works,'" Mouser said with a chuckle.

### COLLEGE THOUGHTS

Naturally, Brown is considering continuing to play in college.

"Part of me wants to. If I get the opportunity I'll take it," he said.

Mouser noted that several small colleges have reached out with interest in Brown joining their team.

As for high school, Brown knows the end is coming soon, even if the Rattlers win state. He's ready for it, sort of.

"I do think about it and it's definitely saddening," he said. "I've had so much fun and created so many memories."

Those include being named homecoming king this season alongside Senne Imel, a star Lady Rattlers athlete, as queen.

And while he's accomplished so much in his high school football career, there is one more thing he'd like to add to the list. He's never caught a touchdown pass.

"I do need to catch one of those," he said with a laugh, adding, "I need to throw one, too."



PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY AND MELISSA CARROLL

Tolar standout running back Peyton Brown was named homecoming king with Lady Rattlers star athlete Senne Imel as homecoming queen this school year.

## DECA

FROM PAGE B2

obtain presidential merit scholarships to three business schools: Abilene Christian University, Dallas Baptist University and Flagler College's School of Business.

"The skills I gained from DECA gave me an edge in my college applications," Hunt said. "They allowed me to showcase more than just my grades and test scores. Thanks to DECA, I could demonstrate I was ready for the next of my academic journey equipped with all the practical busi-

ness skills and real-world experience from DECA. But DECA is not just about individual success. It's about what we can accomplish together as a team."

As president, Hunt noted that one of his main goals for this year is to increase participation and expand the impact of DECA at GHS. He shared that he is currently working to send at least 20 students to the state level competition in March.

"I want more students to experience the personal growth and opportunities that DECA has to offer, whether through competition, or by developing the confidence skills needed for

future success in general," he said.

He added that his focus this year is on ensuring that DECA Club "continues to thrive" at GHS by building a solid foundation for new members.

"The growth of our chapter is only the beginning," he said. "By continuing to recruit new members, provide leadership training and support students through the competition process, we can assure that DECA remains an essential part of our school's culture. My goal is to set DECA up for continued success, ensuring that it becomes an ever growing and evolving pro-

gram for students year after year."

Looking ahead, Hunt noted that DECA has been transformative, as it has provided him with opportunities and shaped his leadership abilities so that he can succeed in the real world.

"I'm excited for what the future holds for me," he shared. "I'm confident we can continue to grow our club and provide more opportunities for students just like me, and not only that, but build a legacy of students for excellence in DECA for the years to come."

"I can guarantee you that

the future that's coming for them is greater than I can imagine," Peterson said.

"The kids who have gone on and graduated that were a part of DECA are getting internships, and they're getting into colleges like Mays Business School at (Texas) A&M. I promise that if they will put in the time, it's going to pay off."

She added that with the club expanding recently, they have had to change districts — meaning that the DECA Club will be competing in Irving for the district competition Jan. 15.

"In March, we've got state in Dallas, and then end of April, we will be back in

Orlando. We are getting seats at the academy as it's like a business conference within and then our goal this year, we want another team," Peterson said. "We're ready to go back and compete — that's been our goal — so move out of our way. We're coming."

GHS' DECA Club officers include: Everett Brown, Alejandra Landa, Emily Ashcraft, Catherine Morel, Alison Galindo, Axel Davila, Linda Cortez, Sierra Morissette, Mary Deemer, Warner Phillips, Linda Cortez, and Hunt.



HCNEWS.COM

# SAME PAPER

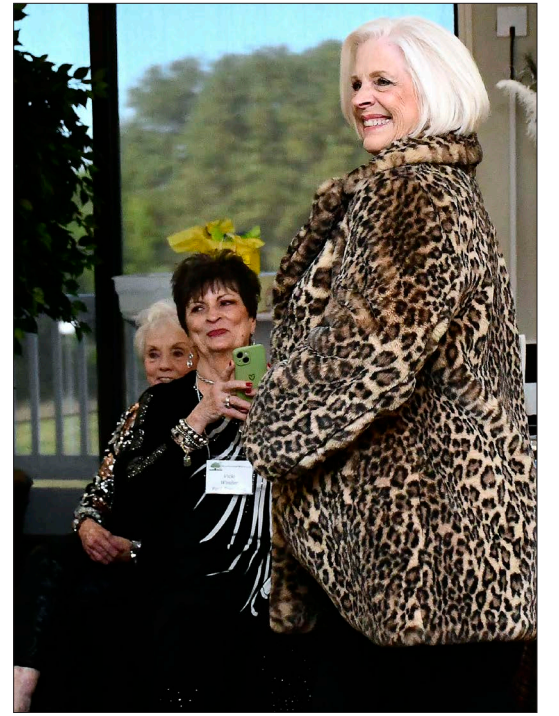
## AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



# PECAN PLANTATION WOMAN'S CLUB'S "LET'S BOOGIE!" FALL FASHION SHOW

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Nov. 21, the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club kicked off its "Let's Boogie!" Fall Fashion Show with a merchant reception. The event featured 36 models representing 18 participating merchants, showcasing the latest fall and winter fashions. The show, held in the PCH ballroom, truly embodied the theme "Where Fun and Funky Meets Fashion and Friendship." This was a testament to the hard work of the 21-member committee that organized the annual fundraiser. Next year, club members look forward to introducing the selected charities that will benefit from the event, which are voted on by the membership, along with scholarships awarded to local Hood County high school seniors.





GARDEN PATCH

# Warmth encourages blooms

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.

In Texas, many plants add visual interest well into fall and early winter, particularly this year as bloomers enjoy the unseasonably warm weather. These flowering plants are accompanied by ornamental grasses with dazzling plumes. Most will be showy until freezing weather sets in. Late season beauties in this fall's landscapes include:

**Salvia greggii** — Commonly called autumn sage, this hardy perennial forms a mounding shrub 3-4 ft. tall and wide. Its aromatic leaves are mostly held on the plant in winter. These plants benefit from being cut back substantially in late winter. Red, pink or white flowers appear in early spring and continue their show until freezing weather. Other salvia species and cultivars, such as purple-

flowering Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), also bloom in late fall.

**Knock Out Roses** — These easy-to-grow roses don't require the same heavy maintenance as modern hybrid tea roses and are extremely disease resistant except for the deadly rose rosette. Healthy roses begin their bloom in late winter and repeat bloom for months, only stopping in the coldest weather. Flowers

are medium sized, single or double blossoms in shades of red, pink, white and yellow. Foliage is somewhat evergreen.

**Turk's Cap** — This Texas native perennial is known for its unusual bright red or pink blooms, which attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. A member of the mallow family, Turk's cap develops into a large spreading shrubby plant in one season. After it freezes, cut it back to a few inches above the ground. Grow Turk's cap in sun or shade.

**Canna** — This tropical-looking perennial is known as a summer bloomer. However, warm fall temperatures allow these plants to have a "second season" of flowering, provided they've received adequate moisture. Many types exist including tall and short bloomers in myriad flower colors. Foliage color depends on variety and ranges from green to deep burgundy or variegated. Trim cannas to the ground when they

PLEASE SEE **BLOOMS** | B8



COURTESY PHOTO

**Salvia greggii** — Commonly called autumn sage, this hardy perennial forms a mounding shrub 3-4 ft. tall and wide.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

# Stranger than fiction

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.

Platypuses sweat milk.  
 Bananas glow blue under a black light.  
 A woman in the United Kingdom called police when

her ice cream did not have enough sprinkles.  
 Russia has 11 time zones.  
 Crocodiles can gallop like a horse.

The internet is controlled by 14 people with seven keys.

An article surfaced in a 2021 study published in the International Journal of Psychophysiology reported that researchers documented a unique case of a man demonstrating the exceptional ability to intentionally alter the size of his pupils at will. To their knowledge, he is the only human known to have this ability.

A cricket's chirps can tell you the temperature. Crickets can be used as a thermometer to estimate the temperature because they chirp faster in warmer temperatures and slower in cooler temperatures. This relationship between temperature and cricket chirping is known as Dolbear's law, which states that the temperature in Fahrenheit is roughly equal to the number of cricket chirps in 15 seconds plus 40. For example, if you count 22 cricket chirps in 15 seconds, it is roughly 62 degrees. The El Paso Weather Forecast Office has a cricket chirp converter that uses Dolbear's law to convert the number of chirps to a temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, Celsius or Kelvin.

However, there are some limitations to Dolbear's law:

PLEASE SEE **FICTION** | B12

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|--|---|
|  | December 12th, 2024   7:30pm<br><b>William Lee Martin</b><br><i>The Nuttier Cracker</i>   |
|  | December 13th, 2024   7:30pm<br><b>Shake Rattle &amp; Roll</b><br><i>Magical Music of the 50's and 60's</i>   |
|  | December 14th, 2024   3:00pm & 7:00pm<br><b>Michael Hix</b><br><i>A Michael Hix Christmas Party</i>   |
|  | December 19th, 2024   7:30pm<br><b>Texas Trio with Jason Roberts</b><br><i>Western Swing Music with Kyle Park, Jason Roberts, John Michael Whitby</i> |

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |   |
| 22-Dec. 23      | Santa's House                                 |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |   |
| Nov.22-Dec. 23  | Santa's House                                 |
| 6-8             | Candlelight Tour of Homes                     |
| 7               | Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony         |
| 6-15            | Away In a Manger (1,200 Nativity Displays)    |
| 31              | Hank FM Party on the Boardwalk                |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |   |
| 1               | Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.) |
| 18              | Goosebump Jump                                |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |   |
| 22              | 2nd Annual Jazz Fest                          |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |   |
| 1               | Texas Independence Day Celebration            |
| 14-16           | Founders Day Celebrations                     |

Information subject to change | Go to [visitgranbury.com](http://visitgranbury.com) for more!





PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENT GAYLOR

The Lipan Indians enjoyed a trip to the Texas coast, along with a tournament championship as they won the Marlin Classic in Port Aransas.

# Rattlers bite Bells, move on to third round

## Indians win Port Aransas tourney

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Different classification, same success.

The Tolar Rattlers (11-1) won their 11th straight football game, defeating Bells (7-5) 21-0 in their Class 3A Division II area (second) round playoff game Friday, Nov. 22 at Saginaw Chisholm Trail High School.

The Rattlers were facing Holliday (10-2) at press time in Mineral Wells. The Eagles defeated Blue Ridge (9-3) 42-34 in their area matchup.

Tolar is ranked No. 10 in the state in Class 3A Division II and Holliday is No. 8.

Both teams have a strong playoff history, particularly in recent seasons. The Rattlers are 12-3 over the past four seasons in the playoffs. This includes reaching the 2A Division I final last season, the quarterfinals the season before and the third round in 2021.

Holliday is 19-7 in the playoffs since 2017 with four state semifinal appearances.

Overall, Tolar is 48-7 since 2021 and Holliday is 91-16 since 2017.

Offensive leaders vs. Bells: Peyton Brown 22 carries, 116 yards, two TD; Briton Rice 10-of-16, 61 yards, interception; Noah Yanish six catches, 33 yards.

Defensive leaders vs. Bells: Kelvin Murray 10 tackles, 90-yard interception return for TD; Drake Owens 17 tackles; Ty McClure 15 tackles; Hunter Michels 13 tackles, 1.5 for loss; Cayden Abrego 10 tackles, three for loss; Cash Clark 10 tackles, sack.

Holliday offensive players to watch: Hunter Jones 3,305 yards, 49 TD passes, 10 interceptions, 210 yards, eight TD rushing; Steele Skinner 572 yards, five TD rushing; Ashtyn Berry 48 catches, 1,265 yards, 16 TD; Jordan Kim 36 catches, 697 yards, 13 TD.

Holliday defensive players

to watch: Owen Hayes 131 tackles, three for loss, interception; Parker Jones 109 tackles, 12.5 for loss, four sacks, two interceptions; Vaughn Hamill 43 tackles, 18.5 for loss, 10.5 sacks.

Brown surpassed 6,000 career rushing yards against Bells. This season he has 1,384 yards and 21 TD, giving him 110 career TD.

The survivor between Tolar and Holliday will advance to the Region II final against the winner between Gunter (10-2) and Jacksboro (9-3).

### GRACE CLASSICAL FOOTBALL

The Gryphons (5-7) moved within one more victory of repeating as champions of the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations Division III. They defeated Georgetown Grace Academy (7-4) in the semifinals at Georgetown Nov. 22.

The Gryphons, who began the season 2-7 before getting hot in the playoffs, will face Slaton West Texas (6-4) for the championship, a game being played in Allen at press time. Slaton defeated San Antonio Jubilee 40-28 in the other state semifinal.

Statistics from the Georgetown Grace game were not available at press time. Offensive standouts for the Gryphons this season include Bryce Jones, who is averaging 168 yards of offense per game (81 passing, 87 rushing) and Keith Wyatt, who is rushing for 100 yards per contest. On defense, Jones and Wyatt are each averaging nine tackles per game.

Isaac Kelly (68 yards rushing per game, 20 TD, six tackles per game, two interceptions) leads the Slaton offense and defense.

Granbury will host Godley Dec 3 at 6:15 p.m. Dec. 5-7 the Lady Pirates and Pirates will host their annual Van Griffith Kia Tournament.

### GRYPHONS NAMED ALL-STARS

Three members of the

Grace Classical Christian Gryphons will be participating in the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations All-Star Game Saturday, Dec. 7 at Allen Academy in Bryan. Game time is 11 a.m.

Gryphons participating will be running back Keith Wyatt, quarterback Bryce Jones and wide receiver Tyce Robshaw.

### LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (7-0) traveled to Port Aransas this past weekend and brought home the tournament championship. They defeated Mabank 72-59, Port Aransas 46-30, Huckabay 54-42, and Fayetteville, Arkansas 78-47. Leaders were:

Vs. Mabank: Brayden Harrison 28 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, three steals; Darius Steed 13 points, 10 rebounds, two blocks; Court Gaylor 11 points, four assists; Evan Lott two blocks.

Vs. Gaylor 13 points, three assists; Da. Steed 11 points, 10 rebounds, three assists; Harrison 7 points, three assists, three steals; Lott six rebounds.

Vs. Fayetteville: Gaylor 18 points, Da. Steed 16 points, Donte Steed 13 points.

Vs. Huckabay: Da. Steed 15 points, Harrison 11 points, Lott 10 points, Gaylor 10 points.

Lipan's boys and girls teams will host the H.D. Howard Classic tournament Dec. 5-7.

### GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates (6-4) fell 39-35 at Everman Nov. 22. Jolie Hayes led the Granbury scoring with 11 points, with Baylee Goodman and Kate Hamlin each adding 10.

Granbury will host Godley Dec 3 at 6:15 p.m. Dec. 5-7 the Lady Pirates and Pirates will host their annual Van Griffith Kia Tournament.

### TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (3-4) competed in the Hamilton Tournament this past weekend. They defeated Llano 41-19, fell 37-32 to Brownwood and 43-41 to Hamilton, before bouncing back with a 44-28 win over Lampasas to wrap up play. Leaders were:

Vs. Llano: Jaycee Jones 17 points; Senne Imel 6 points, six steals, six rebounds, four assists.

Vs. Brownwood: Atley Kolb 6 points; Jones 5 points, five steals.

Vs. Hamilton: Imel 14 points, six rebounds, four assists; Callan Nix 7 points; Kolb 5 points, eight rebounds.

Vs. Lampasas: Imel 14 points, five rebounds, five assists; Allie Terrell 9 points, five rebounds; Jones 8 points, five assists.

Tolar will return from Thanksgiving break to visit Lipan Dec. 3 at 6:15 p.m. and then compete in the Lipan tournament.

### LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians (4-5) played in the Marble Falls Tournament over this past weekend. They defeated Gainesville 64-41, Liberty Christian 62-35 and Helotes O'Connor 57-37, falling 55-39 to Bridgeport and 52-47 to Vandagriff. Leaders were:

Vs. Bridgeport: Hanna Gaylor 22 points, five rebounds; Finley Shockley 8 points; Jacy Bolton 6 points, three steals, three assists; Peyton Lawrence five rebounds.

Vs. Gainesville: Gaylor 20 points, four assists, four steals; Ashlyn Tarpley 13 points, 14 rebounds; Shockley 10 points; Taryn Phillips 9 points; Bolton six rebounds, five assists, three steals; Lawrence six rebounds.

Vs. Liberty Christian: Finley 14 points; Tarpley 12 points, five rebounds; Lawrence 12 points; Bolton 10 points, five steals.

Vs. Vandagriff: Finley 18 points; Gaylor 15, 10 rebounds, three assists; Bolton 7 points, three assists, five steals; Tarpley 7 points.

Vs. O'Connor: Gaylor 15 points, 12 rebounds, four assists; Bolton 12 points, five assists; Tarpley 13 points, three assists; Shockley 12 points.

### GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (4-5) got their first taste of tournament competition last weekend, playing in the Southwest Legacy Tournament. They defeated Del Rio 54-44 and Flour Bluff 61-47, with losses to Fulshear Jordan 80-55, Kerrville Tivy 63-59 and Highland 72-66 in overtime.

Against Highlands, the Pirates went on a 16-4 run in the fourth quarter to force the extra period. However, in the overtime, the Pirates were forced to foul and Highland was 9-of-9 at the free throw line, while the Pirates did not go to the line.

Tournament leaders were: Vs. Jordan: Miller Schenewark 13 points, Kylan Loving 12 points, Grant Young 10 points.

Vs. Del Rio: Schenewark 12 points, Loving 10 points, Brynden Freeman 10 points.

Vs. Tivy: Schenewark 14 points, Murphy Page 12 points, Young 12 points.

Vs. Flour Bluff: Young 21 points, Schenewark 14 points, Freeman 8 points.

Vs. Highlands: Page 24 points, Schenewark 13 points, Young 11 points, Loving 11 points.

The Pirates will also host Everman Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m., followed by their own tournament.

### TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (0-2) will return from the Thanksgiving break to host Jacksboro Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. before going down the road to the tournament in Lipan.

### GRANBURY SWIMMING

The Pirates and Lady Pirates competed in the prestigious Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association North Texas Invitational Nov. 15-16 at Bruce Eubanks Natatorium in Frisco.

"This was by far the fastest meet we will go to all year other than if we make it to the state swim meet," Granbury coach Charles Overton said.

The two-day event began with preliminaries on Day 1. Those who finished in the top 16 of the prelims advanced to the finals on Day 2.

Granbury top performers (distances in yards) were: Girls prelims

50 Freestyle: 15. Avery Young

500 Freestyle: 16. Bailey McDermott

200 Freestyle A Relay: 9. Young, Madison Erez, Carmen Citzler, McDermott

400 Freestyle A Relay: 10. Young, Ma. Erez, Citzler, McDermott

Finals

50 Freestyle: 14. Young

500 Freestyle: 16. Cameron Ward

100 Freestyle: 16. Ward

200 Freestyle A Relay: 11. Jett McFerrin, Michael Kracy, Colton Jernigan, Ward

400 Freestyle A Relay: 11. Ward, Kracy, Sean Kim, McFerrin

Finals

50 Freestyle: 13. Ward

100 Freestyle: 16. Ward

200 Freestyle A Relay: 10. McFerrin, Kracy, Jernigan, Ward

400 Freestyle A Relay: 13. Ward, Kracy, Kim, McFerrin

Granbury will host Burlison and Joshua at the Granbury YMCA Dec. 7.

## BLOOMS

FROM PAGE B7

freeze. They regrow in early spring.

Lantana — These natives and their cultivars bloom profusely in summer and often bloom with renewed vigor in autumn. Small flower clusters cover the plants, which develop into mounding shrubs or low-spreading plants. Flower colors range from red and pink to yellow and orange. Lantanas hardy to North Texas act as perennials and come back year-after-year. Wait until late winter to cut away dead wood and shape the plants.

Purple coneflower — This heat loving perennial is a strong performer in Texas gardens. Its purple, pink or white blooms appear in spring and continue in summer gardens until extreme heat/drought halts the bloom. Fall's mild temperatures and occasional rain once

again promote flower production. Purple cone-flowers maintain low-growing foliage mounds throughout winter. Protect plant roots with mulch, but do not mound mulch atop foliage.

Muhly grasses — Numerous ornamental grasses boast showy fall plumage including Texas native muhly grasses. Gulf muhly is known for its airy pink plumes (seed heads) that wave above the 3-foot tall clumping foliage. Lindheimer muhly has tall, tan-colored plumes that rise above the plant's 3 to 5-foot mounding foliage. Both plants add movement, color and textural interest to autumn gardens.

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

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# When 'tang's' get 'tongueled'



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.

Errors committed when speaking sometimes, sadly, result in word entanglements that are simply beyond repair.

None of us is immune. And getting out of verbal messes can be as difficult as sticking quills back into the goose.

Some folks of national renown are known for their misspoken words, particularly when they open their mouths only to change feet. Two great examples were prominent in professional baseball.

I reference the late Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra, re-

membered for countless entangled remarks. They are endless, real morsels to research if you enjoy hearing hilarious verbal foul-ups.

One of Berra's best lines was about a popular restaurant. "Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded." Many similar "goofs" are found throughout the world of sports, certainly not limited to baseball.

They continue today; a couple are worthy of revisiting, even though one may have been intentional, but probably ill-advised.

Only days separated

laughs by NFL TV analysts in Dallas and Philadelphia. Perhaps weary of watching the Dallas Cowboys' meek surrender to the Philadelphia Eagles, veteran sportscaster Jim Nantz said that "the Keystone Cops had taken over." (Sometimes too much truth is spoken. Remarks like this not only irk fans of the Cowboys but could ignite team owner Jerry Jones. He might order Nantz to find the nearest exit and take it, or the next train, and be under it.) ...

A few nights later in Philadelphia, another veteran announcer, Al Michaels, mentioned the crack in the "Liberty Bowl." Millions of viewers wondered if they heard him correctly, then said it again.

There was no mistaking the gaffe.

To his credit, a few minutes later he asked, "Did I say 'Liberty Bowl'? I meant 'Liberty Bell.'" Apology accepted.

Some professional athletes are remembered more for what they say than how they perform in games.

One baseballer said he could bat from either side of the plate. "I can bat left-handed and I can bat right-handed," he bragged. "Thank God I'm amphibious."

Another claimed that he has "overcome a lot of diversity."

Many "goofs," of course, never make national headlines, but still are enjoyed greatly by locals.

Years ago, a young lady from the news department of an Abilene TV station "filled in" for the sports guy. When

PLEASE SEE **TANGS** | B10



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Texan Men's Basketball drops to #12 Baylor

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men's Basketball played its fifth AP Top 25 opponent, resulting in a 104-41 loss to the nation's number 12 Baylor Bears Sunday, Nov. 17 at Foster Pavilion.

The Texans (1-4) were unable to every get any momentum against the No.12 Bears (3-1).

Joseph Martinez led the team in scoring for the second consecutive game. Martinez was the only Texan to score in double digits, notching 11. The sophomore shot 3-for-4 from beyond the arc, a new career high.

Jordan Mizell got the Texans on the board earlier with a steal and score in the first minute of the contest to make it 3-2, Bears. Then Baylor took over, orchestrating a 7-0 run to break out to a 10-2 lead. A mini Texan run fueled by a Chris Mpaka jumper and a Nick Krass triple put the Purple and White within 5.

Baylor erupted on a 17-0 burst to take the wind out of the Texans. The Bears found the three-ball with 12 of their 17 points during the spurt coming from downtown. BU led 29-9 at the midpoint and the lead only ballooned after.

The Bears finished the half with a 56-13 advantage. Bub Benjamin shot nine of 13 from 3-point land, 69.2% in the first 20 minutes.

In the second half, Martinez jumped out with a 5-0 run of his own. After a smooth wide-open transition triple, Martinez was selected as the shooter after a Baylor technical foul. He sunk them both. Benjamin followed with a fast break layup to cut the deficit to 60-21 on a 7-0 run with 17 minutes to go.

Baylor took control and never looked back in the final 17 minutes of the contest. Tarleton was unable to find any rhythm ultimately suffering its largest defeat of its D1 era. The Texans were outscored 48-28 in the second half.

Baylor shot 52% from the floor (31-for-60) and 47% from deep (15-for-32). Tarleton shot 15-for-39 from the field and five-for-14 from downtown. The Purple and White committed a season-high 28 turnovers and forced 12.

The Texans head to the Bahamas for the 2024 Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship spanning from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men's Basketball played its fifth AP Top 25 opponent, resulting in a 104-41 loss to the nation's number 12 Baylor Bears Sunday, Nov. 17 at Foster Pavilion.

## Tarleton State Volleyball closes out season

Tarleton State University

SEATTLE, Washington - Tarleton State Volleyball dropped its second match of a two-match road trip, closing out the regular season with a tough loss to Seattle U at the Redhawk Center Saturday, Nov. 16.

The Texans (7-22 overall, 2-13 WAC) fell to the Redhawks (8-18, 6-10) in four sets (25-20, 10-25, 19-25, 15-25).

Allison Bryant notched eight kills in her final match as a Texan, becoming the first player in Tarleton's Division I era to reach 400 kills in a single season. Madison Frank added six kills.

Mary Kate Stasevich and Emma Burke each posted a team-high five blocks. This tied a career-high for Stasevich, who has achieved this total in three matches this season. Burke ranks among the top of the WAC, averaging 1.04 blocks per set.

Megan Hodges and Yuna Ansquer both had double-digit assists, marking the seventh match where both setters achieved double digits in that category. Hodges



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Volleyball dropped its second match of a two-match road trip, closing out the regular season with a tough loss to Seattle U at the Redhawk Center Saturday, Nov. 16.

led the team with 15, followed by Ansquer with 11.

Emma Halcomb led the team registering 12 digs, followed by Bryant with 10.

The Texans started off hot in the opening set, going on a

5-0 run to open the match, a sequence that included three consecutive blocks from Burke. The Redhawks pulled within one point at the 12-11 mark. However, the Purple and White sparked a 6-1 run

that contained kills from Bryant, Frank, Burke and LaNeah Lara. Tarleton never let go of the momentum, taking the first stanza, 25-20.

The Redhawks responded with an 10-4 run to open

the second game. Lara was responsible for half of the Texans' first four points. A kill from Tehana Mo'o followed by an attack error from Seattle U brought the Texans within six points,

10-16. Seattle U finished the set on an amazing 9-0 run to even the match with a 25-10 set victory.

In the third frame, the Redhawks started with another dominant run, taking a 10-5 advantage early. The Redhawks continued to sway the momentum in their favor, leading 23-13 late in the third. The Purple and White orchestrated a 5-0 run with an ace from Tatum Busch followed by two consecutive blocks from Stasevich. However, Seattle U overcame the rally, taking the third set, 19-25. Stasevich had a team-high three blocks in the third frame.

The Redhawks took a 12-7 lead during the fourth and final stanza. The Texans rallied within two points thanks to kills from Bryant and Burke, trailing 12-14. A 5-1 run from the Redhawks put them in control of the set. Seattle U never looked back, taking the fourth set, 25-15.

Tarleton State Volleyball concludes its fifth season in its Division I era.

## Tarleton State Women's Basketball wins second straight, beats Northwestern State

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Behind a season-high 45.5% shooting and a season-high eight 3-pointers, Tarleton State Women's Basketball won its second straight game with a 73-56 victory over Northwestern State Saturday, Nov. 16 at Wisdom Gym.

Senior guard Ariona Rosborough led Tarleton State with a team-high 14 points to go with seven rebounds. Senior guard Jakoriah Long added 11 points, going a perfect 3-for-3 from beyond the arc.

The Texans got a lift from their bench Saturday with 40 bench points, with the bench scoring 55% of Tarleton State's points. Senior guard Tyler Jackson led Tarleton State's reserves with 11 points off the bench.

Northwestern State took the early first quarter lead, but back-to-back 3-pointers from Long and Jackson swung the advantage back to Tarleton State. The Lady Demons tied the score back up with a free throw before senior guard Miannah Little converted a basket while drawing the foul to put Tarleton State back in front.

The Texans went on a 7-0 scoring run to stretch the advantage, but Northwestern State knocked in a bucket following a steal to make it an 18-11 contest through 10 minutes.

Tarleton State got a spark from its bench in the second quarter, taking a double-digit lead following back-to-back 3-pointers from freshman Mar'Cyah Willis. The Texans knocked down six straight free throws to end the second quarter to keep its double-digit advantage, but a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Northwestern State cut Tarleton State's lead to 13

points going into the locker room.

The Lady Demons came out firing in the third quarter, shooting over 55% and using a 10-0 scoring run to make it a five-point game. Northwestern State held the Texans to just 25% shooting to make it a 45-38 game heading into the final 10 minutes.

Rosborough helped the Texans regain its double-digit advantage, scoring five straight points to make it a 57-44 Tarleton State lead. A pair of 3-pointers by Long and a basket by sophomore center Faith Acker allowed

the Texans to win its second straight game with ease.

Tarleton State goes back on the road for a three-game away swing, starting at No. 4 nationally-ranked Texas at 11 a.m. in Austin.

Postgame Notes  
Tarleton State shot 52.9% from the floor and 75% from 3-point range in the fourth quarter to win its second straight game 73-56 over Northwestern State Saturday afternoon at Wisdom Gym. The Texans outscored Northwestern State 28-18 in the fourth quarter.

55% of Tarleton State's scoring came from its bench

with 40 bench points. Senior guard Tyler Jackson led Texan players off the bench with a season-high 11 points.

The Texans held their opponent to under 60 points for the third time this season. It is the second time in the Division I Era the Texans have held their opponent to under 60 points in three of their first four games.

Junior guard Karyn Sanford cracked the starting lineup for the first time this season.

Junior guard/forward Kyriana Jones made her Texan debut on Saturday.

**WANT MORE? VISIT TARLETONSPORTS.COM**



# TANGS

FROM PAGE B8

she tried to report the baseball scores, fans of the game quickly realized that she wasn't.

She said something like, "New York beat Cleveland, four points to three points, Chicago topped Houston, six points to three points, and Philadelphia won over Atlanta, one point to no points." ...

I dare not leave out my late friend, Gene Hendryx, long-time owner of Radio Station KVLF in Alpine, Texas.

One day during a stock market report, he cited prices for ewes.

Trouble was, he called 'em "e-wees."

During my growing-up years in Brownwood, twins Jimmy and Eddy Farren, best known for "pickin' and singin'" around the area, owned Radio Station KEAN.

Remote broadcasting — then called "telephonic reporting" — had just begun when Jimmy "covered" the dedication of a colorful spraying water fountain at the old traffic circle. His voice sparkled with excitement as he described the first gushes from the fountain.

"Folks, if you can possibly do so, come on down here," he invited. "I've just never seen such colorful spewers spewing, and some of the spewers are spewing higher than the other spewers are

spewing." (Okay, so maybe he was a better fiddle player than he was a radio guy.) ...

I don't intend to exempt myself from classic blunders. I had a daily sports show on the other radio station KBWD, during college.

At the close of each broadcast, I said, "Don Newbury, reminding everyone that if you can't play a sport, you can be one, and a good one."

One New Year's eve, I added to the usual closure: "And a happy NEWBURY to one and all."

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Yogi Berra and Casey Stengel.



## Hood County News PRESENTS



# Christmas Critters

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### SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on November 23.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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# Safari fun at AVIVA

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Friday afternoon, Nov. 22, sponsors for AVIVA Granbury Retirement & Assisted Living organized a wildly fun safari-themed event for residents and guests, who had the unique opportunity to touch and hold various exotic animals. The presentation featured a wallaby, a monkey, a sloth, and many more intriguing exotic animals.



## GOOD FOR HOOD

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BOOK REVIEW

# “Cookbooks for the Family” by various authors

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

‘Tis the season. The season to bundle up when going outside. To anticipate a holiday tune or two, to admire lights on your evening walk or to decorate your own windows. ‘Tis the season to start looking for recipes to wow your guests this year, so why not check out these great cookbooks ...

Just gazing at the cover of “Al Roker’s Recipes to Live By” by Al Roker with Courtney Roker Laga (Legacy Lit, \$35) is going to make you hungry. Just paging through it is going to make you confident because what’s in here are easy-to-make dishes that your family will want again. Check out the sandwich section for those leftovers.

You don’t have to be from Wisconsin to want “Extra! Extra! Eat All About It!” by Jane Conway and Randi Julia Ramsden (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$30). What you will need,

though, is an adventurous spirit to try the old-time suggestions and a willingness to enjoy the articles that go with them. Tasty recipes plus tasty history equals a yummy book for the person who likes to read cookbooks and then actually use them.

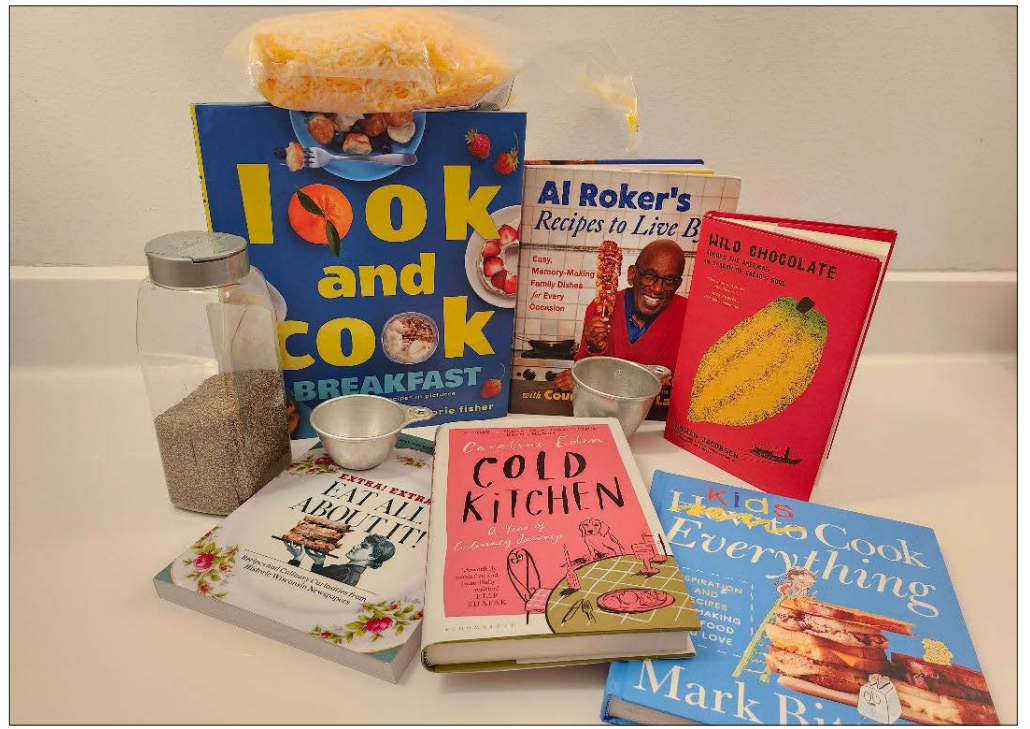
Of course, you want to bring the kids into the kitchen so they can host you someday, right? So have “Kids Cook Everything” by Mark Bittman (HarperCollins Harvest, \$35), a nice hefty book that’s meant for the budding cook in two nice ways: this cookbook is easy for the 10-and-up reader to follow, and the recipes in here are both kid favorites and kid-enticing. The sidebars and illustrations just make it better. Be aware that you’ll want to be around to lend a hand, but then ... how could you not, with this fun book?

For littler kids who need a little-kid-friendly first cookbook, find “Look and Cook

Breakfast” by Valorie Fisher (Astra Young Readers, \$19.99). Step-by-step pictures make this book perfect for the smallest kitchen helper, ages 5 to 8.

So your shelves are full of cookbooks, thank you very much, but you still want to read something new about food? Then look for “Cold Kitchen: A Year of Culinary Journeys” by Caroline Eden (Bloomsbury, \$27.99) and take a trip through Eastern Europe and Central Asia with Eden, a Scottish writer who’s happy to have you along. You won’t find recipes in this book, but you’ll find plenty of inspiration.

Likewise, there are no recipes inside “Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas in Search of Cacao’s Soul” by Rowan Jacobsen (Bloomsbury, \$28.99) but chocolate. Chocolate in its most raw form, in its most hard-to-reach form, and how its fervent fans are working to ensure that the wild cacao doesn’t disappear. It’s a tale of adventure,



COURTESY PHOTO

c.2024, various publishers, \$19.99-\$35, various page counts

perfect for reading between meals and with a big bar of, well, you know ...

And if these great cookbooks aren’t enough for your hosting pleasure or

your kitchen counter, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask to see the cookbook section. Better yet, ask if your favorite bookseller or librarian

has some favorite dishes and where they got them. Because ‘tis the season for (r)eating.

## FICTION

FROM PAGE B5

Crickets generally do not sing at temperatures below 55°F or above 100°F.

Some crickets do not chirp in discrete bursts, they utter a more continuous trill.

A person had hiccups for 68 straight years.

To manipulate humans, dogs can develop “puppy eyes.”

Tulips were once more valuable than gold.

Chins are unique to humans.

Our sense of smell is strongest in the evening. It is lowest between 3 and 9 p.m.

The animal with the strongest sense of smell is the African Elephant.

Pistol shrimp are named for their unusual method of stunning their meals — shooting air bubbles at speeds similar to a bullet. The bursting bubbles create shock waves, complete with flashes of light and loud noise, which have

been known to disrupt underwater submarine communication.

Eleven U.S. states have just one area code.

Henry Ford once designed a plastic car made from soybeans.

Jeep owners spread kindness by exchanging rubber ducks.

The first modern perfume was created for Queen Elizabeth of Hungary in 1370.

Cows are colorblind. And they aren’t the only animals with colorblindness. Others

include dolphins, horses, certain birds and marmots.

Capuchin monkeys gently stick their finger in one another’s eye sockets as a bonding ritual.

The weight in pounds of Craven Heifer, the heaviest known cow, is 4,368.

California currently uses 40 area codes, the most of any state.

Akron, Ohio, is known as “Rubber City” because of its long history of rubber and tire manufacturing.

Hot water will turn into ice faster than cold water.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

Ants take rest for around 8 minutes in a 12-hour period.

“I Am” is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

Canadian researchers have found that Einstein’s brain was 15% wider than normal.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world’s nuclear weapons combined.

You can fry an egg on the sidewalk when the temperature reaches 158 degrees F.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year. (This never happened back when we used feather quills on parchment.)

On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.

**GRANBURY  
COMMUNITY  
BAND  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

**TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 2024  
7PM**

**GRANBURY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1200 WEATHERFORD HWY**

**CONCERTS ARE ALWAYS FREE  
DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**

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**Granbury  
COUNTRY CHRISTMAS  
PETTING FARM**

Brought to you by:

**November 29-December 22**

**\$5 admission**

**Feed & Merchandise available  
for purchase**

**Fridays 4p-8p  
Saturdays 12n-8p  
Sundays 12n-6p**