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# THE HOOKER HAPPENINGS

Hooker High School Newspaper •

18th Edition •

2 October 2025

## Bulldogs Cruise to Victory over Eagles

During a September 26th game, the Bulldogs continued their now nine game win streak against the Sayre Eagles. Hooker cruised to a solid 37-19 victory over the Eagles. Senior Justin Palacios rushed for 98 yards and a touchdown, with his explosive 58-yard run being one of the highlights under the Friday night lights. Quarterback Keilan Robinson threw for 188 yards and two touchdowns, completing an impressive 80% of his passes. Robinson also rushed for a total of 28 yards.



Credit: Aaron Witt Photography

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## Breakout Performances Shine at Hugoton XC Meet

by Mollie Baird

Hooker Jr. High and High School cross country teams had a strong showing at the Hugoton, Kansas meet. The JH boys took 1st overall, led by Braven (5th), Layton (6th), Ethan (10th), Kevin (11th), and Messer (13th). The JH girls also placed 1st, with Rosilyn finishing 1st, Myra 4th, Kylie 5th, and Emily 13th. HS girls dominated for 1st overall—Yarel (4th), Finley (6th), Yedi (9th), Ember (10th), Jenna (12th), Josie (16th), and Kimberly (18th). HS boys placed 10th, led by Callen (8th).



# Bulldogs Blaze The Course At Laverne

by Haven Romero

As our Cross country runners traveled to Laverne on Saturday, our girls brought home second place. With Yarel Mesta( 3rd ) , Yedelin DeHerrera (8th), Ember Stevens(9th), and Finley Duncan(10th), as the top ten runners rounding up 30 points for HS. For Jh, the girls placed 2nd overall. Rosliyn Smith (2nd), Hartley Stevens(4th), Kynlie Stokes( 9th), and Myra Parker(10th). These girls racked a total of 25 points. Jh Boys brought home first place with Braven Paden(2nd) leading the team. With that, Joshua Gribble(5th), Layton Gilmore(8th), Ethan Estrada(9th), and Jacob Ibarra(10th).These boys scored a total of 24 points. The HS boys brought home 6th place with Sophomore Callen Duncan being the only boy in the top 10 placing 8th in Laverne. The boys had a total of 78 points.

# Olive Warner Memorial Library



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Storytime 5 pm	3 VIRTUAL DAY 8 am-3 pm	4
5	6	7 Build your own Halloween Buddy @ 4:30 pm	8	9	10	11 Guess the Horror Movie Contest @ 3 pm
12	13	14	15	16 Storytime 5 pm	17	18 LEGO Play Day ALL DAY
19	20 	21 Paint by Numbers: Fall @ 4:30 pm	22	23 Library Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 HALO Storytime 4 pm	30 Cookbook Club 5:30 pm	31 Halloween!	

# Back-to-Back Battles

by Victoria Cano

This September the high school softball girls worked their hardest as the season was coming to an end. They beat Texhoma 5-2 on the 15th. They lost both games at Turpin and in Hobart.The scores being, 2-17 in Turpin and 0-10, 4-14 back in Hobart. Overall, they did their best this season and we bid farewell to the senior girls in softball as this was their last season here in Hooker.

The Lady Bulldogs headed to Merritt on September 25th and 26th for the Regional Tournament. After suffering a difficult loss to Morrison in the 1st round, 0-15, they came back the same day for a solid win against Watonga, 12-2. The next day they faced Morrison again, ending their play-off run with a 4-14 loss, an improvement from the day prior.



2025 Lady Bulldogs Fastpitch Softball



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# Bulldogs Bulldoze Spearman

by Michelle Rodriguez

The Junior High and Junior Varsity Football teams traveled down to play against Spearman, on September 11th, and they dominated. The Junior Varsity team won 22-8. All the players did exceptionally well. The one player who stood out the most was Jayden Mata; he scored three touchdowns. The Junior High team also did an amazing job and won 30-8. According to Coach McBee, as well as the other coaches, both teams are working very hard, and their determination is clearly showing.

# Bulldogs Show Strength

by Michelle Rodriguez

The Elementary and Junior High football teams faced Mooreland on their home field on September 22nd, and both teams gave it their best effort. The Junior High team played strong and came out on top with a 36-8 victory, showing great teamwork and skill. The Elementary football team fought hard but unfortunately fell short, losing 30-0. The Junior High and Elementary teams also went down to Texhoma and played against them. The Junior High reigned victorious and won 37-8. Despite their best efforts the Elementary team lost 40-0.

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# Lady Bulldogs Give It Their All

by Michelle Rodriguez

The Junior High Softball team traveled down to Guymon on September 23rd to play their last game this season. The Junior High team won 17-5 and 9-4 to finish 10-5 on the year. Coach Ruiz says that he is super proud of them and all their hard work this season. Way to finish the year strong, Lady Bulldogs!



The High School Softball Lady Bulldogs took the field at the Shattuck Tournament, and they faced some tough competition. The Lady Bulldogs started strong and won on Thursday, September 11th, against Texhoma, dominating 9-7. Although the lady bulldogs left it all on the field, they came up short when they played Shattuck and lost 0-11. They also played Beaver and lost 6-9. Despite losing to Shattuck and Beaver, the Lady Bulldogs continue to show their determination and continue to work extremely hard to improve.



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# Bulldog Beat

by Aydan, Haven, and Abigail

**Justin Palacios** is 16 years old and a junior at Hooker High School. Justin stays busy year round playing nearly all the sports you can at Hooker, including football, baseball, track, and basketball. Simply playing, practicing, and competing keeps Justin hungry enough for more playing time. Justin has been playing for 5 years after transferring from Guymon to better himself. The most memorable game he has ever played in was his sophomore season state runner-up game at UCO; he enjoyed the big crowd and atmosphere. Discipline and his resilience are his greatest accomplishments of his whole athletic career later. This season he wants to accomplish making it back to UCO, but this time coming out with a state championship ring.



**Hunter Ray** is 17 years old and a senior at Hooker High School. He is a multisport athlete playing football, baseball, and basketball. Kindergarten is where he started his sports chapter. Teammates around him motivate him to keep going, helping him through tough times. The most memorable game in Hunter's career was the second round at Minco his sophomore year, winning the game by one point with the final score being 21-20. Accomplishing the state runner up back to back is one of Hunter's most proud moments in his amateur career. With this last year coming and going fast, Hunter wants to accomplish another state appearance with a better outcome this year taking home the gold ball.



**Sydney Hill** is another senior this year at HHS and participates in softball. She says that her teammates motivate her to keep improving even after a hard loss or a tough practice. The most memorable game she has played in is when Ana dove into home for the winning run. Sydney is proud of how far the Softball program has come since her freshman year. She has played softball for the last 8 years. This season Sydney wanted to accomplish at least one regional win.



**Mollie Baird** is a senior this year and participates in softball. Mollie's motivation to continue improving is winning games and having fun with her teammates. A diving catch in Shattuck at the Lady Dogs softball camp was her most memorable play. Her proudest athletic accomplishment was making it the furthest in softball in school history. Mollie started her career in T-Ball and has played ever since. Her accomplishment this season is to get further in the Regional games than last year.



**Yedelin DeHerrera** a senior at HHS this year is Yedelin and she participates in softball. Yedlin's motivation to continue improving is the fact that she is never at the level she wants herself to be at. Her most memorable game was against Balko-Forgan when she laid a bunt down for her sister Ana to score the winning run. Her proudest athletic accomplishment is making all conference in softball. Yedelin has been playing softball since she was 4 years old. She wants to accomplish making it past the 2nd round of regionals.



**Burke Lambley** is a junior and participates in cross country. Burke says this is his fourth or fifth year, he is not sure. He's 67% sure it is his fifth year. His main motivations are Jarret Kachel, Luis Ibarra, and David Goggins. His most memorable moment was at Prestate his freshman year when Emmanuel almost died. Burke states he started doing weird things like laying on the floor. His most proud accomplishment is retirement, when he gets there. This year he wants to accomplish finishing the season.





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# Senior Spotlights

by Alyssa, Abigail, and Mollie



**Matthew Deatherage** would describe himself as nice, creative, and funny. His theme song would be *Ole Red* by Black Shelton. The advice he would give his younger self is to stay in the present moment, look into the future, and don't go back. His favorite high school memory is when he made it to semifinals at Gigaverse on Halo for ESports. And finally his dream job is to be an automotive salesman.



**Lexi Adair** is a senior this year at Hooker High. Her favorite high school memory was at regionals and they started singing Walmart chants to convince the coaches to take them to Walmart. Some advice she would give her younger herself is don't be afraid to leave situations if you are not growing or learning. A song that would make the best theme for her is *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. Three adjectives that best describe her are enthusiastic, ambitious, and honest. Lexi's dream job is to become a physical therapist for a college or pro sports team. In ten years Lexi sees herself in Broken Bow, Ok with her husband and children, pursuing physical therapy and living a wonderful life.



**James Curtis**, a senior at Hooker High School, is known for being thoughtful, determined, and introverted. His most memorable moment from high school? Failing a front squat max with no safety bars and almost dying. The soundtrack to his life would be *Pony* by Ginuwine. James plans to pursue a career in architecture, driven by a clear goal: financial stability. His advice to his younger self is direct—"Stop overthinking everything."

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## Calendar

Oct. 3: Virtual Day  
HS Football @ Hinton  
Oct. 4: XC @ Watonga  
Oct. 6: Elem/JH FB vs. Guymon  
Oct. 9: Powderpuff Football @ 6

Oct. 10: HS Football vs. Cashion (Pink Out)  
Oct. 13: Board Meeting @ 6:30  
Oct. 14: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30 - 7:30  
Oct. 15: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30 - 5:00  
Oct. 16 - 20: Fall Break, No School  
Oct. 16: HS Football @ Fairview  
Oct. 18: Regional XC @ OBA

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# New Staff, Cont'd from Previous Editions

by Abigail, Alyssa, and Haven

**Mrs. Choi** is one of the new staff members this year. Ms. Choi teaches Spanish I and II. She has taught at many places including Dallas, Arlington, and South Korea. Has been teaching for 16 years in the classroom and about 15 years as a private tutor. Ms. Choi was born in Mexico and grew up and graduated in Boise City. After graduating from college in Texas she went to South Korea as a missionary. After five years she returned to Arlington, Texas. She and her husband lived there for eight years, then returned to South Korea for another 20 years. Ms. Choi says that the people here are quite friendly and the staff is very hard working.

**Mrs. Johnson** teaches first grade, and has been teaching for ten years. She strived to be a teacher because of all the excitement the children have for learning. This was the main reason she obtained her degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Johnson chose Hooker because she grew up here and always enjoyed her time at Hooker Schools. It was her first decision on where to teach, and she's happy to have the chance to teach here again. Her favorite part of teaching is being given the opportunity to be a small part of a child's life. She also loves to learn their hobbies, quirks, interests, and their personalities. She always hopes to leave a positive impact on the little ones.

**Mrs. Burkhart** is a new teacher at HHS this year. She teaches World History and 8th grade history. This year is her seventh year teaching. Mrs. Burkart comes from a family of teachers, and one of her favorite teachers asked her to become one with her. What made her choose HHS was the discipline and the backing of teachers was better. Her favorite memory is having multiple of her students say they want to become teachers because of her.

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## Big Cheers from Little Bulldogs

by Haven Romero

Elementary students joined in the annual mini cheer program. In this program the girls are given three day camps to learn all of the stuff to prepare them for their performance on Friday. Within the three days of camp, the girls learn jumps, technique, cheers, chants, and a dance to perform at halftime of the football game. This program is short, fun, and exciting for the girls. This is their moment to feel like a big cheerleader. This program is for students (ages kinder-sixth) to just learn the basics of cheerleading. Since a lot of the girls look up to us big cheerleaders, it is our job to make sure they are having fun, and know what life is like to be a cheerleader. As role models for these girls we want them to have the best night of their lives cheering for the boys. The cheer coaches Jerri Kerr and Crystal Eliot have put in a ton of time and effort to make this program a success.



# Paw Patrol

by Abigail Sarabia

Guerrero Garcia, mainly known as G, is a police officer for the town of Hooker. He became a police officer to make a difference and help others and has been doing so for nine years. His favorite part of being a police officer is working with K9 Echo and other agencies. G grew up and graduated here in Hooker in 2012. Soon after he went to OPSU on a football scholarship. G became a police officer in 2015 after completing the C.O.P.'s program at OPSU. He started his career in Texhoma in January of 2016 while still being a student athlete. He moved back to Hooker at the end of summer in 2017 and has been here since. G has one daughter and one on the way. He also has three dogs, including K9 Echo, that like to keep his wife up all night.

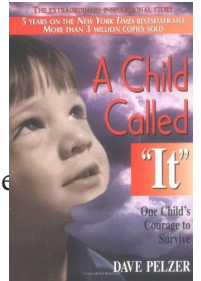
# Ruff Ruff Reads

Mrs. Nunley's Recommendation:

## ***A Child Called "It"***

by Dave Pelzer

This is a true story about a boy who suffers terrible abuse from his mother. Even though the book is sad and sometimes hard to read, it shows Dave's strength and courage. It was one of my favorite books to read with my junior high students because it led to meaningful discussions about resilience and compassion. His story is inspiring because it proves that even in very hard situations, you can survive and find hope.

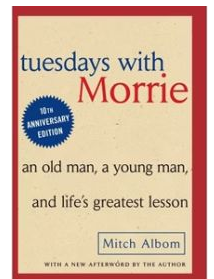


Mollie's Recommendation:

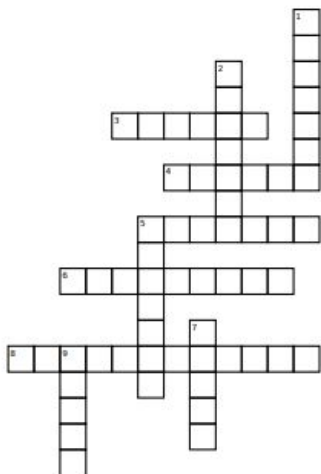
## ***Tuesdays with Morrie***

by Mitch Albom

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is a memoir by Mitch Albom about his weekly visits with his former college professor, Morrie Schwartz, who is dying from ALS. Through heartfelt conversations, Morrie shares profound life lessons about love, death, and what truly matters.



## Fall Crossword



Down:

1. A large orange fruit often carved for Halloween.
2. Warm clothing worn as temperatures drop.
5. The gathering of ripe crops.
7. A popular apple-based fall drink.
9. The nut of an oak tree.

Across:

3. These fall from trees and change color.
4. The season between summer and winter.
5. A wagon ride often taken through fields or farms in fall.
6. A figure dressed in old clothes to scare birds from crops.
8. A fall holiday focused on gratitude and food.





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# Superintendent's Newsletter

## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from the Superintendent's Office! Since we no longer have the Hooker Advance to report on school news, I thought this would be a good way to inform and update the Hooker School Community on events and projects.

First and foremost, the staff at Hooker Schools are blessed to have parents and a community that supports our students in such a great way. We appreciate the way of life that the Oklahoma Panhandle still supports and we feel blessed that the values remain steadfast in our small town.

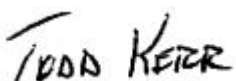
As we start off this school year, I would like to inform you of the many academic, activity, and maintenance projects that have been in progress and are near completion or completed.

- Security grants from the State of Oklahoma have allowed us to update fire alarms, camera systems, install a controlled access system for all of our buildings, and install ballistic window tint to help improve safety for all our students and staff.
- The Oklahoma Redbud School Funding grant funded by medical marijuana tax revenue allowed us to purchase one new route bus this past school year.
- After two years of working with OSIG Insurance we were able to make significant repairs to our roofs with the funds from the insurance claim.
- Federal Government reimbursements from Child Nutrition have allowed us to provide another year of free breakfast and lunch for our students.
- We have continued to work on academic alignment through professional development for our teachers, along with updating curriculum and technology to provide the best possible education for our students. This includes purchasing supplemental instructional programs and over two hundred desktop and laptop computers for the benefit of all students.
- After many setbacks, we have continued to press forward with the completion of a Greenhouse for our students. At this point, we are waiting for approval from the State Fire Marshall to complete the project.
- Through community partnerships/donations we have also made improvements to our FFA farm, purchased a new scoreboard for our softball field, and an inflatable run-through for our football team.
- We applied for and received a fifteen thousand dollar Oklahoma Local Food for Schools Grant from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to purchase local beef for our cafeteria.

There have been numerous improvements and continued maintenance to our facilities and transportation fleet to ensure safety for our students and staff to show the pride we have in being a Hooker Bulldog!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by the Superintendent's Office at 220 North Swem or call 580-652-2162.

IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A HOOKER BULLDOG,



Todd Kerr, Superintendent