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# THE HOOKER HAPPENINGS

Hooker High School Newspaper •

6th Edition •

December 4, 2024

## Hooker Topples Pocola in 2nd Round Clash

By Raul Garcia



Credit: Ulisses Jiminez

On November 22nd the Hooker Bulldogs took on the Pocola Indians. The Bulldogs came out on top with a 46-30 win. Junior Keilan Robinson threw fourteen passes for 172 yards and three touchdowns in total. Moving from wide receiver to a QB can't be easy, but you wouldn't know that by looking at Keilan! The Bulldogs didn't just have success in passing the ball, they also had a dominant run offense as they have proved time and time again. Hooker finished the game with 303 rushing yards and five touchdowns. Wide receiver Trace Duncan (Sr.) had five catches, ran for 114 yards, and scored two touchdowns. Sophomore Justin Palacios rushed for 196 yards. Aydan Woolridge led the team in sacks, with three throughout the game against the Indians. Hooker will play Pawnee in Alva (NWOSU) at 7:00 on Friday, December 6.

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## Bulldog Brawl

By Rylee Stegman

Friday, November 15th, the Hooker Bulldogs took on the Minco Bulldogs in the first round of the playoffs. In a Bulldog vs. Bulldog fight, Hooker came out with the victory, winning the game 20-0. (So.) Gunnar Martens came in at quarterback unexpectedly after (Sr.) Kleat Martens went down with a devastating knee injury. Gunnar came in and threw 5 completions on 12 attempts for 93 yards and 1 touchdown. With an amazing defensive game for Hooker, junior Aydan Woolridge led the defense with 12 total tackles and junior Keilan Robinson had an interception and a receiving touchdown. Hooker Bulldogs are looking like an unstoppable force with their very dominant run offense and untouchable defense. Good luck in the playoffs Bulldogs!



Credit: Dariel Medina

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# Hooker Festival

By Michelle Rodriguez

The Hooker Junior High basketball teams competed in the Hooker Festival on the 18th, 19th, and 21st of November. Both boys and girls competed against Perryton, Walsh, and Turpin. The girls did a great job against Walsh, winning 41-19, but they were not so fortunate against Perryton, losing 39-31. As well as losing to Turpin, 31-21. The boys beat Walsh 35-25, lost to Perryton 24-41, and beat Turpin 23-19.

The junior high basketball teams will compete December 2nd, 5th, and 7th at the Panhandle Conf. Tournament in Hooker. Good luck Lady Bulldogs and Bulldogs!



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## Quiz Bowl

By Gissel Medina

On November 16th, the academic bowl students were overjoyed to head to regionals, located in Cashion, Oklahoma. There were many challenging questions, most being about literature. After the competition, everyone enjoyed eating at a Chinese Buffet restaurant and visiting other entertaining locations. Although the team did not win the regional championships, everyone was glad to have made it far into the academic bowl season.

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## FFA

By Flor Mesta

The FFA team traveled down to OPSU to compete at the Interscholastics Meet. Before the competition, they did a lot of studying and tests to prepare themselves. One of the teams ended up getting first in Farm Business. Mrs. Alm was very impressed with everyone who competed, she also mentioned how she wants to take them to NOC or Northwestern Oklahoma State University for the chance to

compete in more contests. That way they can have more practice and be ready for state competition. The livestock team also performed well, they ended up placing 16th out of 58 people. This past Saturday, November the 16th, they hosted their Belt Buckle auction. This event will help raise money to help with all the expenses. This year they have a very good team and are very excited for what's to come.

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## Calendar

December 2, 5, & 7: JH Basketball Conference Tournament @ Hooker

December 6: Early School Release @ 2 (Football send-off @ 1:45)

Football Playoffs, Semi-Finals @ NWOSU in Alva

December 8: 4th Annual XC Celebration Luncheon Fundraiser

December 9: Board Meeting

December 10: Last Day of the STUCO Annual Canned Food Drive (HJH & HHS)

December 13: Class A-1 Football Playoffs, Finals

December 23 - January 3: Christmas Break

January 6: 2nd Semester Begins

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# Bulldog Beat

By Nate, Neomi, Abigail, Ruby, Aaliyah, & Yadira

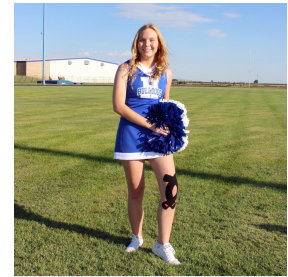
**Jonathan Cano** is a senior for Bulldog football. He has been playing football since he was 6 years old and his teammates motivate him to keep improving. He takes great pride in the team's collective effort and determination. His most memorable game is last year's semi-final game against Hominy. His goal this season is to bring home the Gold Ball!



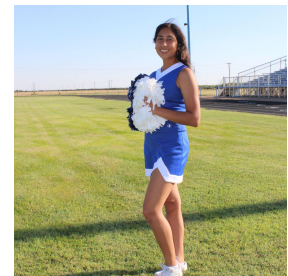
**Tatum Trimble** is a senior on the HHS football team. He has been playing football for 10 years. This year he strives to have five catches a game, score two touchdowns in one game, and win state! The feeling of getting second at state is what pushes him to continue improving. The most memorable place Tatum has played is at UCO.



**Harper Harris** is a cheerleader for the Hooker Bulldogs. She is a leader who holds others accountable, shows up for her team, and makes jokes whenever she. She is also an NHS member, and strives to be an active role model for younger girls who want to be in cheer!



**Kiona Padilla** is a senior this year. She has been cheering for two years. She states that her favorite cheer is *Defense Get Tough!* When asked what motivates her the most, she stated seeing how hard all the other girls work makes her want to be better.



**Lucy Simpson** is a senior who is a part of the Hooker High school band. When asked why she decided to participate in band she stated that both her parents were in band and her mom suggested it. Her favorite memory from the band is playing with the OPSU band and other high schools at an OPSU football game.



**Hayden Hayes** is this year's mascot. Some of his favorite activities include playing with his 9 pets, playing basketball, football, baseball, making crafts, watching spooky movies, and growing plants. He loves being the mascot because he gets to dance, watch the game, and the costume he wears.



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# Senior Spotlights

By Jacky, Harmani, Andrea, & Nate



**Senior Esmeralda Herrera** is a thoughtful, passionate, and curious individual who shares her favorite high school memory of dancing with her brother at prom. She advises her younger self to explore and cherish family moments rather than stress about the future. Her dream job is to own a pastry shop, but she believes in teaching. Her motivation stems from her future vision and the opportunity to make a difference, influenced by her parents' college experiences and her own educational journey.



**Zahid Fernandez** is a senior at Hooker High School. His favorite high school memory is winning the state title twice with his friends. The song that would make the best theme music for him would be "Swag Surfin by F.L.Y." He said that if he could give advice to his younger self, he would say to run cross country in Junior High to help him have more experience when running long distances. The three adjectives that would best describe his personality are analytical, considerate, and agreeable. When asked what motivates him to work hard he said, the friends I've made during school and when running.



**Adrian Reza** is a senior this year! His favorite high school moment is when he was a freshman he experienced his first Pep Rally, it was an exciting time. He said he would tell his younger self to prepare for the hard things that he will face later on in the future. He would describe himself as sincere, ambitious, and adaptable. His theme song would be En Silencio by La Zenda Nortena.



**Cale Metcalf**, HHS senior, dreams of working on the farm. He has set goals for his future self and is motivated to reach them. Cale is hard-working, a problem solver, and a good listener. If he could give advice to his younger self, he would tell himself to try to enjoy being a kid more. Cale's favorite part of high school has been spending time and laughing with his friends.

# Dogfest Results

The 30th Annual Dogfest was full of games, fun, competition, and unadulterated joy. The grand total raised between admission, concession stand, and yearbook sales was \$5,396.

With points earned for spirit day dress-up, yearbook sales, votes at the door, class posters, and games the winners of this year's Dogfest

were (for junior high) 9th grade with 394 points and (for high school) seniors with 407 points. In the junior high category 7th grade finished second with 299 points and 8th grade game in third with 213 points. For the high school competition the juniors came in second with 308 points and the sophomores came in third with 194 points. Congratulations seniors and freshmen!

**Junior High Game Results:** The freshmen class nearly swept the competition, winning 8 out of 9 games. The competitions won were tri-volleyball, the blanket relay, ping pong ball race, dodgeball, the body parts game, paddle palooza, kangaroo hop, and yahtzee. Tri-tug-o-war left the freshmen in second place with the 7th grade coming out on top.

**High School 1st Place Game Results:**

- Tri-Volleyball: Sophomores
- Blanket Relay: Seniors
- Ping Pong Ball Relay: Juniors
- Dodgeball: Sophomores
- Body Parts: Juniors
- Paddle Palooza: Sophomores
- Kangaroo Hop: Seniors
- Yahtzee: Seniors
- Tri-Tug-O-War: Juniors

Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, watched, and participated in this year's Dogfest!



## PTO's Open House

The PTO held their annual chili supper, silent auction, and Open House at the elementary school on November 25. This fundraiser assists the PTO in being able to support Bulldog students and teachers throughout the year.

At the Open House student work was displayed in classrooms and hallways, 5th and 6th grade science fair projects were displayed in the gym, and 6th grade students presented live biographies about famous people in the gym as well.

The PTO would like to thank teachers, parents, faculty, sponsors and students for their effort in making this year's Open House run smoothly. A special thanks for the FFA members who helped serve the meal and clean up afterward, as well as HALO members who were available to translate.

If you're interested in joining the PTO, their next meeting will be December 4 at 6:30.



Thane Nunley prepared for his live biography as Shaquille O'Neal.

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# 4th Annual Cross Country Fundraiser

We invite you to join us for lunch and silent auction!

When: Sunday, December 8  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: Hooker American Legion Building

We'll be serving a pasta meal, Zuppa soup, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and yummy fresh-baked desserts!

Your generous free-will donations will directly support our Hooker High School Girls' State Cross-Country team, helping them to get their hard-earned State Rings! Donations will also support the HHS track program.

We are truly grateful for the incredible support of our community as we come together for our 4th annual XC celebration luncheon fundraiser. Thank you for being part of this special event!



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## World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser

Earlier in the year you may have had a knock on your door or a smiling face stepping into your business, asking if you wanted to buy any chocolate. Our elementary Bulldogs held their annual chocolate fundraiser, selling a total of 292 boxes of chocolate. The funds raised ensure each elementary student will receive a Bulldog t-shirt and elementary yearbook each year.

As students sell boxes, the company incentivises them with various prizes, such as fidgets, robots, and other kid-approved goodies. On top of that, the three students who sell the most boxes receive special prizes from the school as a reward for being the top sellers. This year's top sellers were: Tommy Kennedy with 13 boxes, Jace Oakes with 11 boxes, and Elianna Velasquez with 8 boxes. Great job Bulldogs!



Tommy Kennedy, Jace Oakes, & Elianna Velasquez

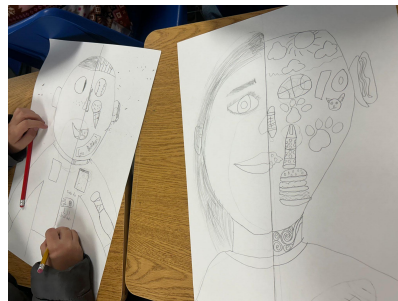
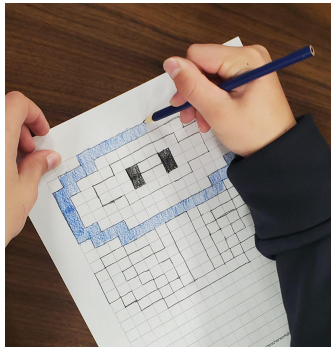
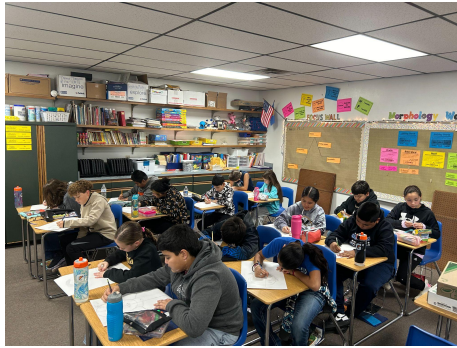
# 5th & 6th Grades

By Yadira Mendoza

## Mrs. Adams' Science Class

In 6th grade Science this year, they have been learning about living organisms in the biosphere through various labs. Sixth graders have also been recycling plastic bottles. They have collected over 200 bottles!

Fifth graders have been learning about matter through various labs as well. They enjoy hands-on activities. Both 5th and 6th graders have been working on their Science fair projects. They will be on display during Open House from 5:00-6:30 pm. They all have enjoyed learning about Science through these experiments. The students have had a pet wolf spider in their classroom for about three months. They named her "Lady Dog". They enjoy feeding her and taking care of all her needs. Two Students have also brought caterpillars. They have watched them make cocoons and are awaiting their escape to become butterflies.



## Mrs. Rose's Math Class

5th grade students have started working on their Pixel projects for Open House. They could pick one out of the four Pixel Pictures to re-create and make their own. Their final projects will be on display in the carpet gym for Open House!

6th grade math students have been working on planning their dream Road Trip complete with a travel trailer they design. They have learned how to calculate their mileage from place to place and how to keep track of daily expenses. They have learned that a trip takes a lot of planning and a lot of money, even when staying in your own travel trailer. Stop by the carpet gym during Open House to check out all their projects.

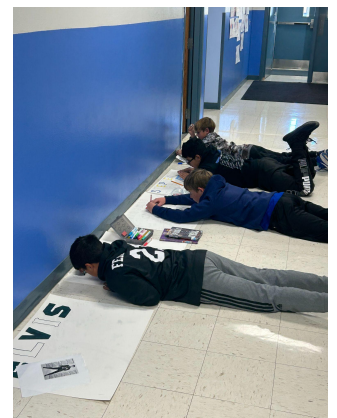
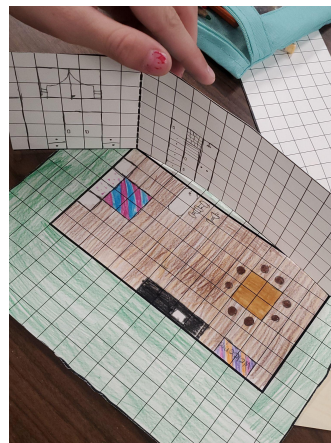
## Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Cook, Reading & English

5th Grade: Students wrote an informational text about an inventor and their invention. They researched, drafted, and typed the assignment. They also included a coordinating illustration. They are excited to show their writing skills.

In Mrs Duncan's class the 5th graders have been working on their project that shows half of their face and half of their favorite things on the other half. 6th grade has also been working hard on their biographies, which will be at Open House! Make sure to come and see all of these students' hard work and cool projects!

6th Grade: Students wrote a personal narrative about a mistake that turned out to be a success. They brainstormed, drafted, and typed their written work. They also included an illustration of their favorite scene.

In addition to the personal narrative, 6th graders have also completed and exhibited a biography text for Open House. They have read and researched the early years, obstacles, and achievements for each character that was chosen to be portrayed that night.



# Dog Chow

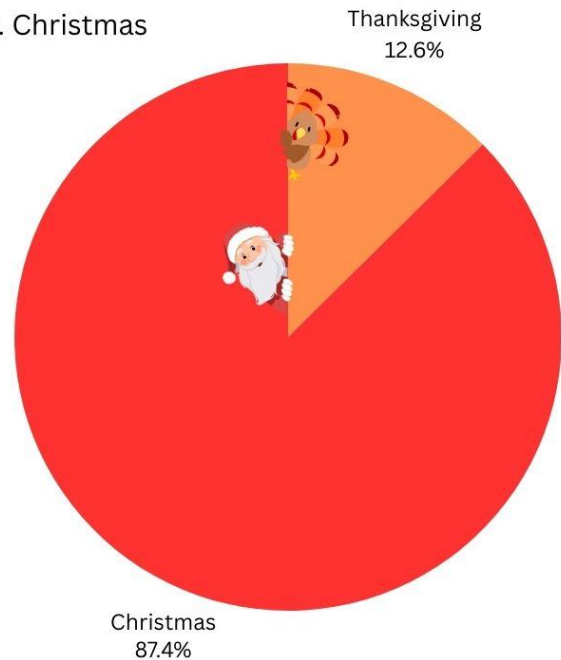
By Harmani Villa

Chapalas is a great place to eat breakfast, dinner, and lunch. Many people come after work, a game, or just to enjoy a nice meal. Chapalas has been around for a while now and has been of great service for the community. I'm sure we can all agree that the food is amazing and delightful. Many of the employees are some of our high schoolers today! From sophomores to seniors, they all have a great attitude when it comes to the community and serving their meals. Different people come in and out of the door everyday with different stories, which seems pretty amazing!

# Poll

High school students were asked - Which is the better holiday: Thanksgiving or Christmas? With an abundance of votes, Christmas is the clear winner!

Thanksgiving vs. Christmas



# Ruff Ruff Reads

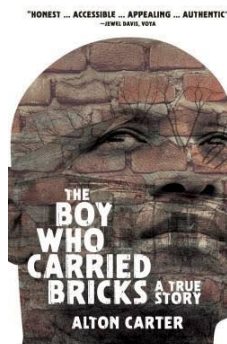
Sara's Recommendation  
***The Boy Who Carried Bricks***



By Alton Carter

*The Boy Who Carried Bricks* is a nonfiction book that tells the story of Alton Carter's challenging childhood and his journey through the foster care systems. The book describes the hardships he faced including neglect, abuse, and the struggle to find a sense of belonging. Despite the difficulties, Alton's resilience and determination shine through as he works to overcome his circumstances and build a better future for himself.

It's an inspiring tale of perseverance and the power of hope.

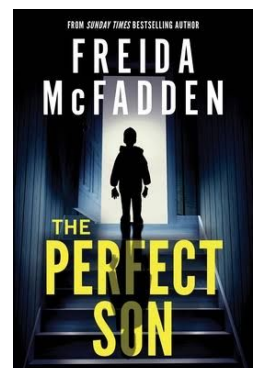


Andrea's Recommendation

***The Perfect Son***

By Freida McFadden

Erika Cass has a perfect family and a perfect life. Until, a high school girl has vanished from her quiet neighborhood, and the police suspect the worst. Erika's son, Liam, was the last person to be seen with her alive. She has always sensed something different in her teenage son. He's charming, smart, and popular, but Erika knows there's more to her son than meets the eye. She wants to believe him, but as more evidence starts to add up, she can't deny the truth. Liam may have done the unthinkable.





# Block Out Hunger

HHS STUCO is hosting their annual canned food drive. Each class, grades 7 - 12, competes to see who can bring the most items for the Hooker Fights Hunger Food Pantry.

Items are based upon a point system, with each "pound" earning a point. STUCO's goal is to reach 5,000 points for the food pantry.

1 can = 1 point

\$1 = 1 point

2 boxes of macaroni or ramen noodles = 1 point

large cans, bags of flour, sugar, beans, etc. will be counted using their total weight (ex. 5 pound bag of sugar = 5 points)

All donations, whether physical or monetary, will directly help the people of Hooker, OK. If you would like to donate, your support in reaching the 5,000 point goal would be greatly appreciated!

# Counselors' Corner

- Oklahoma's Promise -

**Oklahoma's Promise** allows students who meet necessary requirements to earn full or partial tuition at an Oklahoma college, university, or technical school. Students in grades 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th may apply.

In order to qualify parents' federal adjusted gross income must meet the following requirements:

\$60,000 with 1 or 2 dependent children OR

\$70,000 with 3 or 4 dependent children OR

\$80,000 with 5 or more dependent children

\* Special income provisions may apply.

For more information you can reach out to Mrs. Nunley or Mrs. Kennedy at the high school, go to [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org), or scan the QR code below. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for Oklahoma families!



Hooker High School FCA  
presents



## Flock A Friend

To book a flock  
please message  
Heidi Nunley  
(806)979-0176

## Surprise your friend with flamingos!!

Yard flocking will take place through  
**OCTOBER 2024 -  
APRIL 2025**

The flamingos will remain in the yard for a few days then we will clean them up and move on to the next!

**\$40**  
per flocking



The Hooker Happenings Staff

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# Hooker Schools Staff Spotlights

By Alyssa, Abigail, Izabella, & Yadira

**Our Principal, Mr. Stalder** has been a principal for 13 years, all of them being at Hooker High School. He said that he went into education to shape the lives and futures of young people, to be able to remain in education, and to provide for his family. He loves public education and helping students. When asked why he chose Hooker High School, he said that he loves Panhandle people and how they take the time to help each other in this community. Another reason is because he is closer to family and it's a great environment to live in. Lastly, his favorite memory from his career was a hard one to pinpoint, but he said that one thing that's special to him is seeing many former students wanting to help young minds like he has so far.

**Amy Urias** is a Speech-language Pathologist who teaches communication skills including speech pronunciation and receptive/expressive language skills here at Hooker. Amy has been teaching in public schools for 21 years, but has been a speech-language pathologist for 28 years. Amy stated that she has a passion for helping people learn to be better communicators. After working for a cooperative that served five rural schools, including Hooker, she chose to work at Hooker full time because there was a need for increased services. She states that Hooker, in her opinion, was the best school out of the other four. Amy says that her favorite part of being a speech pathologist is watching her students and their peers grow to be proud, successful Hooker Bulldog graduates, and has made for a rewarding career.

**Lexi Rose** is currently a 5th and 6th grade math teacher at Hooker Elementary. Over her ten years at Hooker, she has also taught Pre-K and 2nd grade. Lexi loves working with her students, and her favorite part of teaching is watching their eyes light up when they finally grasp the concepts she's been teaching. When asked about her favorite day or activity of the year, it was a tough choice, as she has several favorites! Her most cherished days are at the beginning of the school year when she has the opportunity to meet her new students and get to know them. Another favorite day of hers is the 5th and 6th grade Christmas Party, where she enjoys watching the students interact with their friends and participate in fun activities as they move from class to class. Lastly, her favorite activity with her students is the Open House project. With her years of knowledge and experience, Lexi is a highly skilled teacher who uses her abilities to help her students learn and grow!

**Charlene Johnson** is in her 24th year of teaching. She has taught all grades from second grade to seniors. Eight of those years have been here in Hooker. She wanted to teach originally because her mom wanted to be a teacher. She never got that opportunity because when she was a sophomore in college, she had to have major surgery and dropped out of school for recovery. She was never able to go back due to finances. As Mrs. Johnson got into her classes at college, she realized she truly wanted to become a teacher because she wanted to impact students' lives like many of her teachers impacted hers. She chose to come teach in Hooker because she knew that it was an excellent school, both of her boys graduated from here, and she wanted to teach in the town she lived. Her favorite thing about teaching is seeing the "light bulb" come on when students grasp a new concept. "It is the greatest thing to see the look and smile on their face when they realize they truly understand something." She also enjoys getting to help make her students' day a little better by smiling at them, laughing with them, and encouraging them to do their best.



**We're Online!**

Find us on the Hooker Public Schools website under the Community Information icon!

Next Edition: December 18