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# THE HOOKER HAPPENINGS

Hooker High School Newspaper •

23rd Edition •

15 January 2026

## Merritt Classic

by Mollie Baird

The Hooker Bulldogs and Lady Dogs competed in the Merritt Classic from Thursday through Saturday (January 8-10), showing toughness throughout the tournament. The Lady Dogs opened with a win over Mangum before falling to Canute, 13–54, and Mooreland, 38–21, while the JV girls battled hard in all three games as well. The Bulldogs put together an impressive sweep, defeating Moorland, Mangum 48–31, and Canute 51–41 to cap a strong weekend receiving 1st place. Individual honors highlighted the effort, with Keilan Robinson earning Boys MVP, Gunnar Martens named Defensive MVP, and Rubi Hernandez and Justin Palacios selected to the All-Tournament Team.



Credit: Jerri Kerr

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## Bulldog Blessing Box Brings Community Support

Hooker Student Council is proud to announce the installation of a new Blessing Box on school grounds, located near the entrance to the Blue Gym. The Blessing Box provides donated, nonperishable food, hygiene, and baby items to help support community members who may be facing food insecurity. (Some cold weather gear will also be available when possible.)

Following the recent closure of the town's food pantry, the Bulldog Blessing Box serves as a simple but meaningful way to ensure our Bulldogs continue to have access to basic necessities. The box operates on the principle of "Take what you need, leave what you can," encouraging community-wide participation and care.

The Blessing Box is available to students, families, and community members who may need assistance. Donations are also welcome and help keep the box stocked for those in need. Through this effort, StuCo hopes to make a positive impact by offering compassion, dignity, and support to our community.

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# Hooker Clip Cardinals

by Michelle Rodriguez

The HHS basketball teams traveled up to Turpin to play them on their home court on January 6. The Hooker boys did a great job beating the Turpin boys with a score of 38-30. The girls also did great, beating the Turpin girls with a score of 49-43, with Josie Davis scoring 15, Finley Duncan scoring 12, and Allie Metcalf scoring 10 of those points. Both teams did very well at Turpin and continue to try their best at every game.



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## Learning Night for Bulldogs Despite Loss to Eagles

by Haven Romero & Laken Carnagey

At the Hugoton Basketball game Tuesday night, the JH Boys had a tough game. The Eagles managed to overtake the Bulldogs and ultimately beat them. The boys gave their all and managed to score nine points. Although they were unsuccessful at beating the other team, they will not use this to define them for upcoming games. The ending score was 41-9 but the team showed their determination and kept their energy up throughout the game. With more practice and teamwork, the boys will excel in later games, hopefully winning.

The High School Bulldogs suffered a hard loss against the Hugoton Eagles Tuesday night. Both teams put up a hard fight and gave it their all. The Lady Dogs finished the night 42-56.

As for the Bulldogs, they ended 48-67. Defensively and offensively the teams gave great performances. Although this game was not a success, they teams have a chance at redemption this Friday for the big Homecoming game against the Mooreland Bearcats.



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## Paw Patrol

by Laken Carnagey

Justin Carnagey has served in Public Safety since 1989, for over 36 years. Justin was a Police Officer, EMT, Emergency Manager, 911 Coordinator, Jailer, and Police Chief. He served as OKLANENA Regional Vice President for six consecutive years. He joined APCO, where he held a six-year position as Northwest Oklahoma Representative for the Oklahoma Chapter. Justin is currently the Director of the Texas County 911 Trust Authority. He is responsible for hiring dispatchers, radios, and the Texas County Consolidated 911 Center, and Public Trust. Born in Guymon, OK, and a Laverne graduate, Justin believes First Responders run towards danger, not away. His favorite quote from John Wayne reads, "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway." Justin's song choice would be "Bad Boys" by Inner Circle. He said, "If you are the type of person who wants a job that makes a difference in the world and in the lives of other people, Public Safety may be your field."



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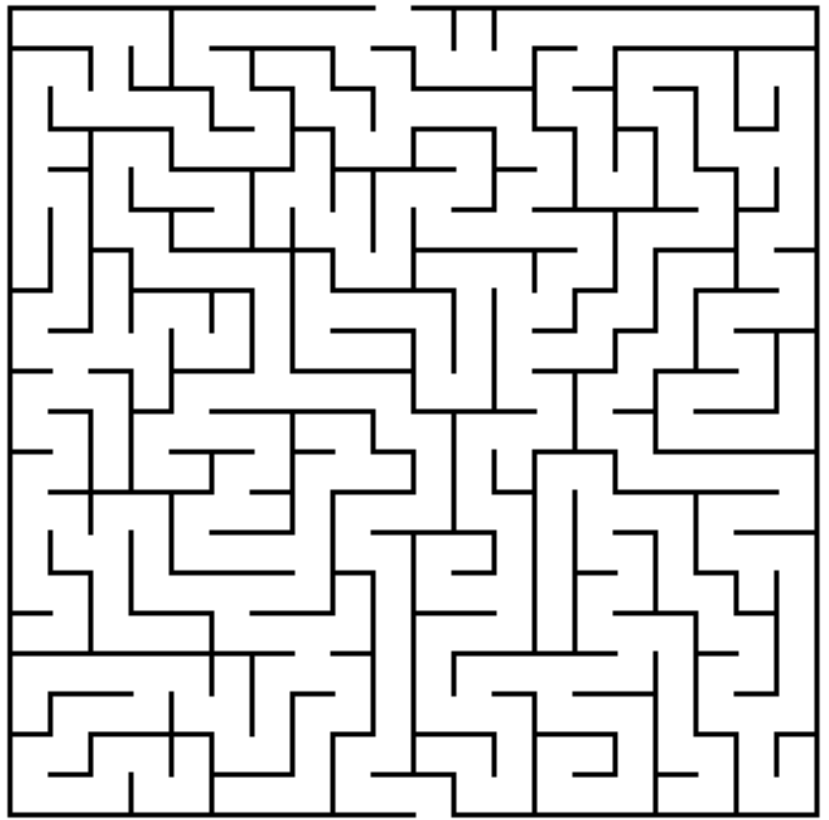
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# Bulldogs Split with Lobos

by Michelle Rodriguez

On January 7th, the elementary girls' and boys' B teams traveled to Yarbrough to play them on their home court. With the help of their coaches, they played with all their energy and worked as a team.

Although the girls lost by 6 points, they played strong with many girls scoring baskets including Leanna, Sedar, Mia, Maria, and Montana. The boys won right at the end by 2 points after tailing Yarbrough the entire afternoon. They will continue to improve and enter the rest of their games this season with a strong front and a hopeful outlook. This basketball season, they are a team to be reckoned with and a tough team to beat.



by Michelle Rodriguez

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# Hooker JH Plays Turpin

by Laken Carnagey

The JH boys lost their home game 41-24. The team fought hard, giving their all, but ultimately lost. Regardless of the loss, the boys showed tremendous performance and were able to obtain more experience for future games. Furthermore, the Elementary Bulldogs clashed with Turpin. After a difficult game, the boys lost the battle 13-36. The Elementary Girls played a rough game Monday night. Hooker had a close-knit game, final score being 17-15. At the end of fourth quarter, the score was 4-2, leading into overtime where Hooker scored seven additional points. Elianna Velasquez along with Marilyn Stanfill scored the most points. Jobbye Rowlan and Myra Parker also led with significant points in the game. The JH Girls game was long and competitive. The girls tried their hardest to win, but unfortunately lost 37-10. Although the girls did not win, they never gave up and managed to score ten points. The ladies who scored the most points were Sianna Velasquez and Jakelynne Ramos, both scoring 4 points.



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# Bulldog Beat

by Aydan, Haven, and Abigail

**Josie Davis** is a junior this year on the Lady Dogs Basketball team. Josie's motivation to continue improving are her teammates. Her most memorable game she has played at is Garden City because she likes their gym. An athletic accomplishment she is most proud of is winning state in both cross country and track. Josie has been playing basketball since fifth grade. Something she would like to accomplish this season is to make it as far as they can go.



**Yedi DeHerrera** is a senior this year on the Lady Dogs Basketball team. Yedi says that knowing she is not as good as where she wants to be in her career is her motivation to keep improving. Her most memorable play was when her sister (Ana) swiped the ball and threw a long pass to Yedi for a layup. One of her proudest athletic accomplishments is getting 2A All-District. Yedi has been playing basketball since she was in the 4th grade. A big accomplishment Yedi would like to accomplish this season is making it to the Big House.



**Hunter Ray** is a senior at Hooker High School. The opportunity to play in state is what motivates him to continue improving. The most memorable game Hunter played in was beating Preston in state to go to the semifinals. He is proud to accomplish making it to state every year. Ever since he could pick up a basketball he started to play the sport. Hunter wants to accomplish going back to the ship and hopefully coming out with a state championship.



**Gunnar Martens** is a junior this at Hooker High School. Gunnar's motivation to continue improving is helping the team win. His most memorable game he has played at is at UCO in football. An athletic accomplishment that Gunnar is most proud of is going to state in other sports. Gunnar has been playing basketball since he was a little kid. This season he would like to accomplish winning a state championship.



**Anjilikue Ugarte** is a junior this year at Hooker High School. Her motivation to continue improving is being driven by a strong desire to prove to herself what she is capable of. Her favorite cheer is Take it to the Top of the Key. Anjilikue says it feels nice knowing that she is making an impact on their childhood. She has been cheering for three years, from seventh grade to eighth grade to now her junior year. Her favorite part of being a cheerleader is the traveling with the other cheerleaders.



**Addi Rodgers** is a junior this year at HHS. Addi's motivation to continue improving is her friends, family, and coaches. The most memorable game Addi has cheered at was the Pink Out game against Cashion. Addi is a 2x World Champion in competitive cheer. That is her proudest athletic accomplishment. She has been cheering for three years, two years of competitive and one year of sideline cheer. One accomplishment Addi wants to reach is lots of friendships.



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# Senior Spotlights

by Aydan, Alyssa, and Haven



**Abriel Peralta** favorite high school memory was his freshman year wellness class. He says *My Love* by Justin Timberlake is one of his favorite songs because it shows the type of music he enjoys. The advice Abriel would give to his younger self is to not rush yourself; enjoy every moment especially in high school because it flies by. Funny, outgoing, friendly are three adjectives that he picked to describe himself. Accomplishing having his own detailing service company in the future is his dream job.



**Aydan Wooldridge** would describe himself as interesting, loud, and honest. His favorite high school memory was when they got to play football at the mask breaks during covid. Aydan would use the song *Purp* by Kodak Black as his theme music. Some advice he would give his younger self would be to be smarter with the decisions you make. Lastly, his dream job is working on an oil rig as a tool pusher.



**Yarel Mesta** A HHS Senior this year, one of Yarel's favorite high school memories is when her, Allie, and GG were painting a little room in Ag their freshman year. Yarel chose the song *In The Air Tonight* by Phil Collins as a theme song for herself. The advice Yarel is giving to her younger self is to take her classes seriously. Hilarious, determined and expressive were the three adjectives Yarel used to describe her personality. Lastly, Yarel's dream job is to be a petroleum engineer.



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# Students Rewarded with “Pie a Teacher” for Blessing Box Donations

Students had some messy fun on Thursday as 7th grade, 8th grade, sophomores, and juniors earned a *Pie a Teacher* reward for donating more than 200 points worth of items to help stock the Bulldog Blessing Box.

The 8th grade led the way with an outstanding effort, donating more than double the amount of items brought in by all other grades combined. Because of their generosity, two 8th grade students were selected to participate. One student each from 7th grade, sophomores, and juniors was also drawn at random.

The chosen students got to pie one of several staff volunteers, including Principal Brian Stalder, Harrison Funderburk, Travis Johnson, and Jace Kerr. The event celebrated student generosity while supporting those in need within the community.



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## What Ifs

by Aydan Wooldridge

1. What if your emails could sing instead of appearing as text?
2. What if *Stranger Things* had a better ending?
3. What if your phone could only make calls to historical figures?
4. What if Fridays were replaced with permanent nap days?
5. What if humans could read each other's minds: would relationships survive?
6. What if your shadow had its own personality?
7. What if you could pause time, but only once in your life?
8. What if you could work from anywhere in the world? Where would you choose?
9. What if books were alive and could argue with you?
10. What if you could know the truth about any unsolved mystery?

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## Jokes

by Haven Romero

1. Why do cows have hooves instead of feet??  
Because they *lactose*.
2. Why don't eggs tell each other jokes??  
They'd crack each other up.
3. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants??  
Because he got a *hole in one*.
4. Why can't you hear a pterodactyl go to the bathroom?  
Because the *P is silent*.
5. I once tried to catch fog...  
I mist.

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## Game Review

by Laken Carnagey

**Werewolf** is a fun interactive game. The objective is for Villagers to seek out and eliminate all the secret Werewolves through a five-minute discussion, ending in a vote. The Werewolves' goal is to secretly kill Villagers each night and not get caught. If there are more Werewolves than Villagers, then they win the game. Special roles are added to make the game more interesting, like Seer, Tanner, Troublemaker, and numerous others. These roles can help identify bluffing and mischief. The game is easy to learn and will get you fighting for your life. Relationships might be challenged in order to survive; everything is on the line!





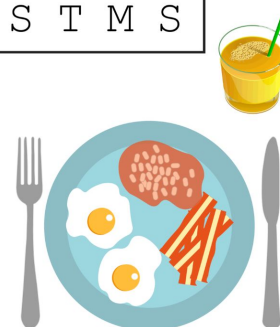
## Breakfast Foods

F	C	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	N
M	H	E	G	X	C	Z	K	J	P
U	O	P	R	E	G	G	S	U	X
F	P	V	A	E	O	I	M	I	W
F	O	Y	J	N	A	S	I	C	A
I	J	Z	O	I	C	L	L	E	F
N	A	N	N	G	T	A	K	D	F
O	M	Q	U	R	U	C	K	L	L
W	B	A	C	O	N	R	E	E	E
J	R	U	T	O	A	S	T	M	S

Word list:

BACON  
CEREAL  
EGGS  
JAM  
JUICE  
MILK

MUFFIN  
PANCAKES  
SAUSAGE  
TOAST  
WAFFLES  
YOGURT



SunCatcherStudio.com

## Ruff Ruff Reads

Alyssa's Recommendation:

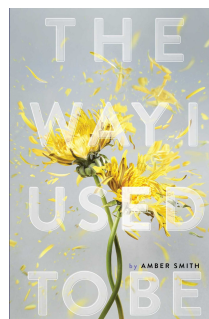
***The Way I Used to be***  
by Amber Smith

This book is about a young woman named Eden. She goes through something really traumatic and it changes her life completely. She gets into doing things she never thought she would. The trauma, loss of friends, not being able to tell anyone, and being alone all sets in and takes a turn for the worst. One person, Josh Miller, becomes her safe space, but the anxiety and fear ruins it all. They have moments they could never forget, and some they wish they could. It's a book full of shock, curiosity, and sadness.

Michelle's Recommendation:

***Are you Sara?***  
by S.C.Lalli

Saraswati "Sara" is a law student in Boston and works two jobs to stay afloat. At her bartending job, she finds a girl passed out in the bathroom, her name is Sarah. The two become fast friends, and after talking for a bit they both order an uber and say goodbye to each other. but they got in the wrong ubers and end up at each other houses. when Sara finally gets home she finds Sarah is deceased. Which Sarah is was the real target?





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# Meet the Pack: Staff Bios

by Aby, Alyssa, Victoria, and Perla



**Mrs. Jana Bledsoe** has been teaching as an educator for 35 years. She has taught at OPSU as Adjunct Faculty for nine years, Guymon Junior High for 22 years, Guymon Adult Learning Center as director and teacher for five years, and here at Hooker High School for ten years and counting. Currently She is teaching 7th and 8th grade ELA and Junior High Quizbowl. The best part of the job for her is watching the students who have been struggling with a concept finally get it. Mrs. Bledsoe's favorite quote/moto is, "To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God," Micah 6:8.



**Ms. Meagan Brown** is teaching her second semester here at HHS. Some qualities she hopes students learn from her classroom are empathy, compassion, and the value of reading and writing. Her favorite teaching memory is the time she fell off a desk. Seeing her students' reaction was priceless. Ms. Brown's reason for choosing HHS is that she needed to get back to her roots—a small town that supports the school, with administrators who support teachers. Finally, she wants her students to remember that they are heard, loved, and supported from her classroom.



**Mrs. Kathy Harrison** has been teaching English since 1982 with a seven year break to take care of her grandsons while their parents worked. She wanted to be an investigative journalist, but later realized being a teacher would be a better fit for her home life. Her family has lived in Hooker for many generations, making it easy for her to stay here as her husband also lived near. Her favorite part of teaching is the positive impact she sees in her students as they continue maturing and thinking for themselves. Her favorite memory is of her honors class re-enacting the final scene in *Dead Poets Society* and their ability to embrace the idea of seizing the day.



**Mrs. Carla Honey** she has been part of the school community for four years, teaching English III, English IV, and AP English III. Her favorite part of the job is the students, who inspire her daily. She became a teacher partly for the joy of June, July, and August, but even more importantly to make a meaningful difference in students' lives. If she had to choose a personal motto, it would be: "Go forth and conquer."



The Hooker Happenings Staff

A special thank you to Aaron Witt Photography, Mills, First National Bank, Hooker Medical Clinic, Physical Therapy on the Move, Pizza on Broadway, Equipales, Mr. Burger, and so many community members for your assistance in our effort to serve the community of Hooker!