



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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TxDOT issues new update for Cresson Relief Route

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

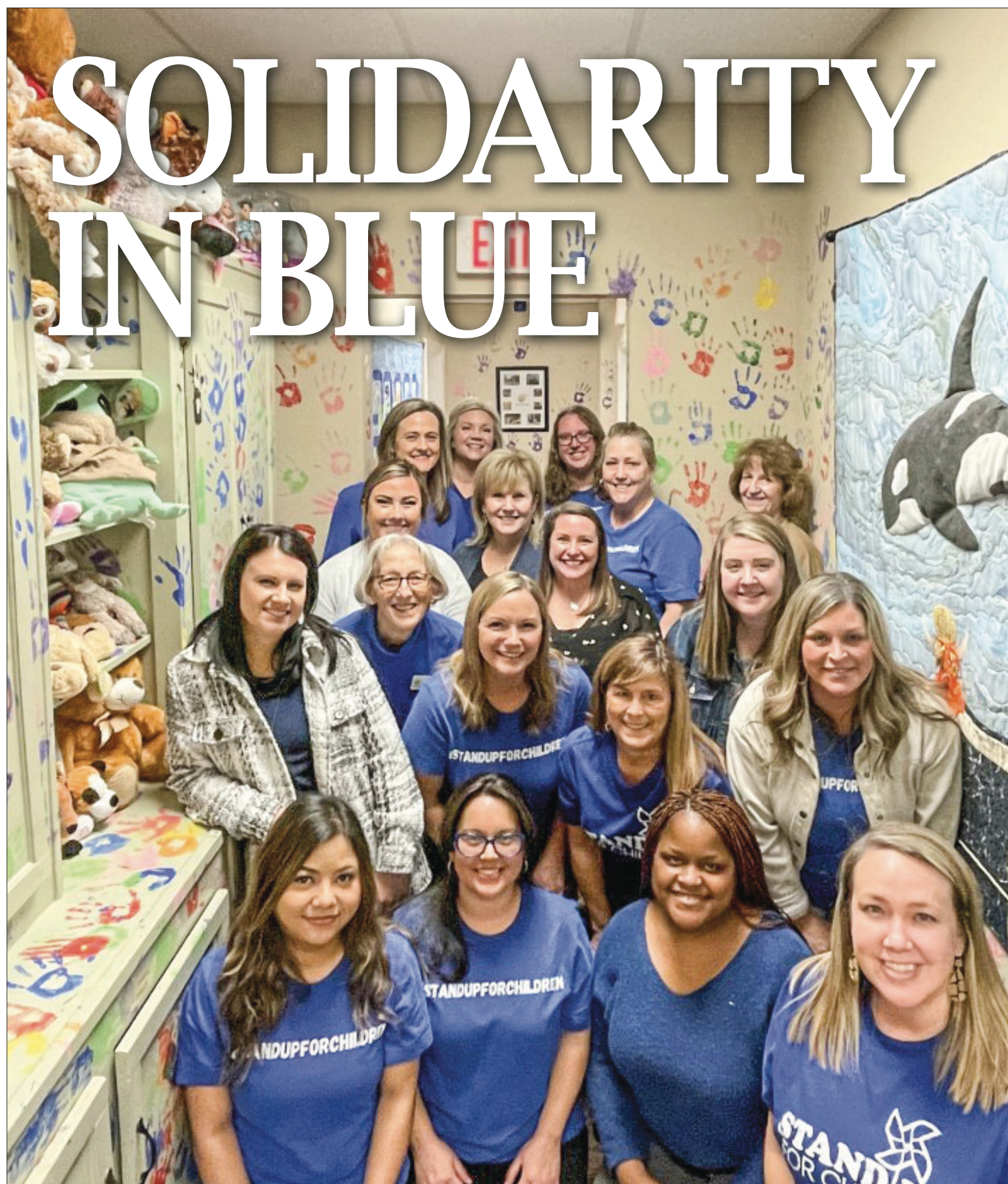
Previous updates on the eagerly awaited Cresson Relief Route have involved delays for the project originally slated for completion in 2022. Now, finally, there's some good news, even though the bypass is still a good ways from being finished. A letter sent to Cresson Mayor Teena Putteet Conway from David M. Salazar, Fort Worth District

Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, said that the project is currently estimated to be completed in summer 2024, several months earlier than anticipated when TxDOT issued its last update. So, progress. "This is actually better news than what they had posted on their website earlier where they predicted the completion at the END of 2024," Conway wrote in an email to the

Hood County News. She continued, "This project is the most asked about item with the city. We, too, are wanting this completed as soon as possible because it does negatively impact our commuters." The slowdown occurred because of design modifications that had to be made after construction began. The changes were required to meet federal environmental wetland protection requirements beyond the

scope of the original project. According to TxDOT, a change order to construct four additional small bridges to protect the wetlands added time to the construction schedule. The three-mile relief route will be a new four-lane divided highway with an overpass over the train tracks beginning one mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 377 and State Highway 171 and ending

one mile north of that intersection. The current U.S. Highway 377 lanes will then become Business 377. San Antonio-based Zachry Construction Corporation was awarded a \$61 million contract in April 2019 to construct the bypass west of Cresson, on the Weatherford side of 377. kcruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Staff members of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center wear blue on Jan. 11, in recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Children's Advocacy Center brings awareness to human trafficking

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month — a presidential proclamation created back in 2010 to raise awareness and educate the public about human trafficking worldwide.

The Blue Heart Campaign is an awareness initiative run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight human trafficking. A blue heart is the official logo for the campaign, representing both the United Nations as well as the sadness of trafficked victims.

To join in the Blue Heart campaign and show support for the initiative, many wore blue on Jan. 11 — including the staff at the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center.

PRCAC INITIATIVE

In 2020, the PRCAC was approached by the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force created by Governor Greg Abbott. "They put together a team and their ideas to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children," said Margaret Cohenour, executive director of the PRCAC. "They were trying to reach out to different communities to start talking about it. Child advocacy centers make perfect partners because there's 71 of us throughout the

state of Texas. Maybe we don't provide all the services that a child would need if they were recovered, but we can coordinate that care."

Since then, staff at the PRCAC have partnered with several local organizations and have worked diligently to educate the community about human trafficking.

"The idea is that we would bring together different agencies and partners in the community and develop a plan on what we're going to do if a child is discovered that's been trafficked," Cohenour said. "We already have a multidisciplinary team that works with child sex abuse. We partner with child protection services, law enforcement, and Cook Children's Pediatrics Granbury."

Cohenour said staff decided to focus on bringing informa-

tion to the community as its first approach, and have already held training seminars for the public as well as for school counselors and law enforcement.

"We brought in someone who had been in the field for years to work with law enforcement and kind of go through some different scenarios with them, and then we did a community-wide human trafficking awareness training in July," she said. "The idea was just to further the education."

STIGMAS

Traci Cooper-Ives, director of community education and engagement at PRCAC, said during the training she provides, she emphasizes the importance in getting away from known stig-

PLEASE SEE PRCAC | A3

Record number of fires in 2022 Cresson VFD seeks more volunteers

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Department made history heading into the new year by responding to 1,000 calls in 2022 — a record high for the department.

Cresson Fire Chief Ron Becker gave a year-end review detailing the department's call statistics during the Cresson City Council meeting on Jan. 10.

A bar graph that Becker presented during the meeting showed that the department's call volume more than tripled since Becker joined the CVFD in 2006.

"For this year that we just closed, it's not a made-up number; we legitimately ran 1,000 calls," Becker said during the meeting. "The last one was about 20 minutes before midnight. It was a fireworks call. Then, we started this year at 11 minutes after midnight with a house on fire. Statistically that's up 16% since (2021) with 135 more call outs, and since I became chief (in 2015), we've more than doubled with 513 more calls and an 11% annual average increase of calls."

In 2022, CVFD responded to 409 EMS assists, 223 fires, 114 motor vehicle accidents, and 129 cancels, where a call is canceled while the department is en route to the scene.

"It's very common," Becker said of the canceled calls. "Like if somebody calls in with 'My house is on fire,' multiple fire departments are dispatched, and if someone gets there, and 'No, it wasn't that the house is on fire, Lisa burned the spaghetti on the stovetop,' then they call us and say 'You don't have to keep coming,' — and that happens more than you realize. About 13% of our calls were ones where we get pretty far down the road and then get turned around, but that's just part of the game."

According to the report provided by Becker, the CVFD responded to 358 Hood County calls, 318 in Tarrant County, 200 in Parker (ESD6), 36 in Parker (city) and 88 in Johnson County.

The average time it took to head out on the calls in 2022 was two minutes and 52 seconds, a shorter

PLEASE SEE FIRE | A6

SEE MORE INSIDE

Benefit for former Tolar teacher battling cancer to be held Jan. 21. Please see story, A12.

Brown, coach reflect on Tolar's all-time great football season. Please see story, B1.

Restaurant Anise to add lunch service Jan. 24. Please see story, B4.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 40

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 20 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 20 pages

INSIDE

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PHOTOS BY WADE BLAKE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury became certified as a Scenic City in 2010 and was recertified in 2015 and 2020. It has a gold rating through the nonprofit Scenic Texas program.

City looks to amend burdensome tree rules while keeping Scenic City label

BY KATHY CRUZ

Senior Staff Writer

Despite a unanimous vote by the Planning and Zoning Commission to recommend changing parts of the city's zoning ordinance related to tree preservation and conservation, the Granbury City Council chose instead to tap the brakes and delay the decision for three months.

The postponement is to allow city staff to conduct more in-depth research into how other cities are handling what, to Granbury, is both an important and complex issue.

Rules related to trees, landscaping, and masonry, while oftentimes controversial with developers who must foot the bill for such aesthetics, have made Granbury what many consider to be an attractive city, enhancing its number one industry: tourism.

The city became certified as a Scenic City in 2010 and was recertified in 2015 and 2020. It has a gold rating through the nonprofit Scenic Texas program, inspired by the beautification efforts of former first lady Lady Bird Johnson.

The city wants to keep that designation, especially since it is used by Visit Granbury in marketing

promotions.

One of the criteria for being a Scenic City is having a tree preservation ordinance.

As a perk for Granbury's involvement in the program, the city recently received an email with an offer of free saplings, according to Community Development Director Kira Wauwie.

But while there are advantages to being green, there are also challenges.

The state Legislature has been taking control away from local governments piece by piece and its reach has branched out to trees.

According to City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill into law during the last legislative session doing away with tree ordinances. Cities that don't have such an ordinance now

cannot adopt one. For those who do have one, their ordinance is grandfathered in — at least for now.

Another challenge is that some developers and property owners feel that Granbury's ordinance is overly burdensome, making their projects considerably more expensive.

City staff has recommended changes but how best to make those changes led to an almost hour-long discussion at a City Council meeting earlier this month.

SoRelle indicated that city staff is trying to find a "balance" that would appease developers while also holding true to the city's commitment to trees.

But the suggestion to make tree preservation a voluntary option was viewed as potentially problematic. (According to Wauwie, the landscape section of the zoning ordinance would continue to be enforced.)

Council member Bruce Wadley expressed concern that making tree preservation voluntary would

"We're a tree city. It's a pretty city. And I think the folks coming in here naturally want their development to look appealing and in line with what's in Granbury now, for a reason. That's why they come here — because we're an aesthetically pleasing city."

TRISH BURWELL

Mayor Pro Tem

PLEASE SEE TREE | A4

According to City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill into law during the last legislative session doing away with tree ordinances. Cities that don't have such an ordinance now cannot adopt one. For those who do have one, their ordinance is grandfathered in — at least for now.



Sheriff: Murder suspect McLaughlin re-arrested

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Jeffrey Bryan McLaughlin was re-arrested and taken back to the Hood County Jail, Sheriff Roger Deeds told the Hood County News at about 2 p.m. Thursday, 72 hours or less after the murder suspect was released on reduced bond. Due to its deadlines, the HCN was

not able to get that news into its Saturday edition but posted the development on social media and the newspaper's website.

Deeds said that District Judge Bryan Bufkin issued a warrant for McLaughlin's arrest due to alleged "bond violations."

McLaughlin, 58, was arrested on New Year's Day, charged with the murder of his wife Venisa, an attorney and former prosecutor in the county attorney's office.

Conditions for his release included an ankle monitor, the surrender of his passport, and having no contact with the victim's two daughters.

McLaughlin's bond was initially set for \$250,000 but was lowered to \$150,000 upon an agreement between his lawyer, Rob Christian,

and District Attorney Ryan Sinclair with approval from Bufkin.

HELP FOR FAMILY

Those who would like to provide financial assistance to Venisa's daughters, Cecily McLaughlin and Tabitha McLaughlin, can donate to The McLaughlin Family Benefit Account at First National Bank of

Granbury. According to a post on Tabitha's Facebook page, a memorial service for Venisa was planned for last Friday in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The post stated that a memorial service in Granbury will be scheduled at a later date.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

The computer age: what future wonders could be headed our way?

Growing up in the age of computerization has been a time of awe and amazement. How can a small machine change and enrich our lives so much? Technology gives us access to information and data at lightning speeds, all while enhancing our lives with the entertainment opportunities it provides.

The computer allows us to connect to people around the world, to have access to weather, news, and sports, and to store an endless number of photos and information. We can order goods and services, learn how to speak a different language, or find out the name of the first movie Cary Grant starred in. Truly remarkable stuff!

I often reflect on how a large metropolitan newspaper could produce both a morning and evening newspaper without the use of computers. The newspaper staff had to be twice as big and work twice as long as what we do now. The stress had to be palpable. Maybe that is why in old movies they depict newspaper editors



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.

as being tattered and worn while they seem to have three cigarettes burning in the ash tray and a bottle of booze in their bottom desk drawer! It would not have been a job for the faint of heart.

I venture to say, few if any people under the age of 40 even know what a "slide rule" is, much less know how to use one. The device was invented by mathematician William Oughtred in 1620 and until the electronic calculator was invented in 1973, it was the instrument of choice for engineers, scientists, and mathematicians for performing complex mathematical computations.

Just this past week I was showing someone a photo of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, taken while the project was under construction in the mid-60s. The stainless-steel arch is 714 feet

high and was designed to be constructed so the legs of the arch grew from ground level to meet at the pinnacle 714 feet above the ground. Importantly, when the top and final piece was set in place, the two legs could not be out of kilter more than 1/2 of an inch. Think about that! Only 1/2 inch of variance over 714 feet! If I had been on the construction crew, we would have been off that much within the first five feet!

All of the Arch design and layout was completed by engineers and draftsmen who used a slide rule; there were no design computers in 1965. The same is true with the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt, and the Brooklyn Bridge. Stop and think how much easier the job would have been if computers had been around on those projects to keep track of logistics,

handle design issues, and schedule tasks for workers. Looking back through contemporary eyes, it is almost inconceivable how such monumental projects could be accomplished without computers.

I recently learned from a "bird watcher" friend that there is a new app to assist them in identifying different species. Basically, it allows a person to record the birds as they sing, and the computer app identifies the species of bird from the sounds they make. This allows a bird watcher to identify birds easily and accurately. Simply by hearing the sounds they make, the computer can distinguish between a Golden Cheeked Warbler and a Black Capped Vireo. Fascinating!

It got me to thinking, will computer engineers eventually do the same thing with human voices? Suppose a computer could listen to someone's voice and identify the speaker's motive? What if somehow the computer could discern if they were telling the truth? Imagine entering a business agree-

ment and the computer discerning if the other side would be a good partner? Will we ever get to such a point?

This could be taken to extremes. Suppose during the first date a computer could tell a young woman if the man she is having dinner with snores, leaves the lid up on the toilet, or leaves his towel on the floor of the bathroom. Perhaps it could tell the young man if the woman he is pursuing likes to shop incessantly, is consistently late, or if she will be a good mother. Would such an app be progress or a recipe for social disaster? If we live long enough, I am sure we will find out.

Thought for the day: The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like computers.

Until next time... I'll keep riding the storm out.

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PRCAC
FROM PAGE A1

mas associated with child sex trafficking.

"All of the people that I've had training from, they're trying to even get away from the phrase, 'child sex trafficking' and go more towards 'commercially sexually exploited youth,' (CSEY) because when you hear the term 'child sex trafficking,' we think it's a prostitute," she said. "There's no such thing as a child prostitute. Any child under the age of 18 cannot consent to commercial sex acts, so they are a victim. I'm really trying to get people to not see them as criminals."

Cooper-Ives said implicit bias — having attitudes toward people or associating them with stereotypes without conscious knowledge — is another type of stigma that can affect judgments, decisions, and behaviors.

"It's trying to change people's perceptions and realize that these kids are probably victims; they aren't just bad kids," she said. "They've suffered some type of abuse already, and most all trafficking victims have already been sexually abused."

STATISTICS

According to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children, 70% to 90% of commercially sexually exploited youth have a history of child sexual abuse.

In addition, trafficking usually begins with a family member like a

parent, grandparent, cousin, aunt, or uncle, according to Shared Hope International.

"A really scary, sad statistic is that 45% to 55% of the time, traffickers are parents," Cooper-Ives said. "One of the parts of our training that we teach is that somebody can stay in one place and still be trafficked. We need people to understand it's not just 'be careful outside of (a grocery store, as an example) because you might get taken away,' which can happen, but it's also something that you wouldn't ever think of; it's not just somebody kidnapping somebody."

Males are just as likely as females to be trafficked by their family, and although 14-16 is a common age for victims to be trafficked, the abuse typically starts at a younger age when it comes to familial victims, according to Shared Hope International.

"It's 80% female and 20% male, around the average age of 14, and usually there's a history of abuse up to two years prior to them being trafficked," Cohenour said. "There's a lot of statistics people aren't aware of, like the fact that at any given time, there are 79,000 children in Texas being trafficked — and those are pretty staggering statistics."

In Hood County alone, there have been six confirmed cases of human trafficking over the last five years.

"We haven't had a lot of confirmed cases, but we've had enough to know that it does happen," Cohenour said.

RESOURCES

Cohenour said the staff at the PRCAC have been trained on a CSEY screening tool that will help identify potential trafficking victims. The screening tool will be used for every child interview and will also collect data for the governor's office.

"Juvenile detention here is getting trained on the tool so they can start to screen as well," Cohenour said. "The idea behind the data is that it helps develop more programs. It doesn't mean every child's going to come out as a clear concern, but it helps you identify risk factors. If there's someone that scores high that hasn't made an outcry about trafficking or abuse, we can at least refer for some services and try to get some extra support."

She said the PRCAC now has a family advocate for human trafficking victims, but they will not be able to provide all the resources that a youth would need following their rescue.

"Eventually, we hope that we have our own programs here, but for right now, we can just continue to provide as many resources as possible," she said.

The whole process in helping the victim, Cohenour said, can take up to two years or longer for them to provide everything that the child is going to need in the future, like counseling, housing, job skills, and food.

According to Shared Hope International, most kids who are sex trafficked don't consider themselves victims and many of them have been conditioned to

normalize their situation.

"Most kiddos don't even understand they're being exploited," Cohenour said. "They've been totally dependent on this person, and they tend to want to go back into that life."

AWARENESS

Cohenour said several local organizations like the Rancho Brazos Community Center, Ruth's Place, YMCA, and Mindful Decisions (formerly called Hood County Substance Abuse Council) have all asked to be more involved in the governor's task force to combat trafficking.

"I'm also going to be collaborating with another person from Cook's care team and we're going to do a sex trafficking training for them, which is cool, because she'll be sharing more from a medical standpoint," she said.

Cohenour said their team is heavily focused on awareness. She said she's talked to different clubs around the community and that another training seminar for the public will be held in June.

"It's called Interdiction Training for Law Enforcement, and it helps train them on what to look for like at a normal traffic stop, or what we can look for at the grocery stores," she said. "We're just trying to raise awareness and share information because it is concerning, and it's growing. If we are keeping our eyes open, maybe we'll see something."

SIGNS

Cooper-Ives said there are eight

indicators that a child may be a victim of trafficking: unstable housing and caregiving; prior abuse and trauma; declining physical health and appearance; harmful environmental exposures; signs of current trauma; coercion from a partner; exploitation, like exchanging sex for money or material goods; and being involved in unhealthy, inappropriate relationships.

"If we're really paying attention and people in the community are confident to recognize the signs (of trafficking) and say something, then we'll be able to spot them because I think it is hidden in plain sight," Cooper-Ives said. "It's right there in front of us, but if we don't know what to look for, we'll miss it."

"For all of us, it's just working with the families in the community to recognize what's going on," Cohenour said. "We will present and educate anyone (on human trafficking), and partner with any medical facility, school, or any other child service organization."

To report on a suspicion of any sex crime in Hood County, call one of these three investigators from the child exploitation unit out of the Hood County District Attorney's Office: Katie Barton at 940-445-0104, Pete Wilkerson at 682-279-4368 or Dan Bradshaw at 682-279-4391.

Individuals can also call the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or the Sex Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

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WADE BLAKE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

One of the criteria for being a Scenic City is having a tree preservation ordinance. While there are advantages to being green, there are also challenges. The state Legislature has been taking control away from local governments piece by piece and its reach has branched out to trees. Another challenge is that some developers and property owners feel that Granbury's ordinance is overly burdensome, making their projects considerably more expensive.

TREE

FROM PAGE A2

mean the rules would "lose their teeth."

However, he also acknowledged a need for the tree ordinance to be revised "because of the burden" it has placed on the public.

He cited as an example someone intending to "revive an existing building" or build an addition, which "triggers the tree ordinance," potentially requiring them to tear up a parking lot.

It was noted during the discussion that, rather than making tree preservation voluntary, developers could simply ask for a variance.

In such cases, the Zoning Board of Adjustment is the ultimate decision maker, not the City Council.

Even with that, though, there are problems.

Deputy City Manager Michael Ross said that developers must prove hardship when requesting a variance and the hardship "can't be financial."

It was also mentioned that the ZBA's failure to grant a variance request could mean a challenge in district court.

A HARDER LOOK

Council member Eddie Rodriquez suggested delay-

ing any action and directing city staff to research how other cities have handled tree ordinances.

Wauwie said that the proposal was based on "best practices" but that city staff had not done a "deep dive" where research was concerned.

"I don't want to approve it, I don't want to deny, I just think it needs to go back to staff (to) possibly give us some more options," Rodriquez stated.

Ross commented, "There's a very good chance that this (proposal) mirrors other cities."

He also stated that staffers have "been hearing loud and clear" that the public would like the city to "make some kind of change."

Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell commented that the 2001 ordinance, which was based on the city's Comprehensive Plan, was revised in 2019 to help appease those who complained that the rules were "excruciatingly expensive."

She also noted that some stipulations seem unfair, especially for developers of smaller projects, and that requirements are not always "aesthetically necessary."

She cited money spent by developers on trees and plants that end up dying because of water restrictions

during droughts.

Burwell further stated that there are "just a lot of variables" involved and that no one knows "what's coming down the pike" where the state is concerned.

The 88th Legislature is currently in session.

"We're a tree city," Burwell said. "It's a pretty city. And I think the folks coming in here naturally want their development to look appealing and in line with what's in Granbury now, for a reason. That's why they come here — because we're an aesthetically pleasing city."

Ross said that the city will have power to negotiate tree preservation with developers "when they need specific things from us."

Burwell indicated agreement, commenting that tax abatements give the city "more control."

Council member Stephen Vale made a motion in accordance with Rodriquez's suggestion that city staff conduct more research. His motion included that the findings be brought before the council at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 4.

Burwell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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OBITUARIES

Luther Jackson Lewallen

August 27, 1951 - December 27, 2022

Jackie Lewallen came to us as Luther Jackson Lewallen on August 27th in 1951. On December 27, 2022, he set out to ride the rivers and explore the caves and caverns of the great beyond, surely finding arrowheads along the way. He had a loving family and many, many friends. Although we all treasured his presence, it was a trip he had to take. He hopes to meet up with his parents, Ozias Jackson Lewallen and Myrtle Beatrice Cole.

His sisters: Linda Heaton and Nancy VanOrsdol; along with his sons Eric Lewallen and Corey Lewallen remain with his four grandchildren to carry on his memories and love. We will always re-



member what a great man he was and all that he brought to our lives.

A memorial gathering celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 1 until 4 P.M., at the Granbury Reunion Grounds, in Granbury.

Richard Keith Wyatt

August 19, 1952 - January 12, 2023

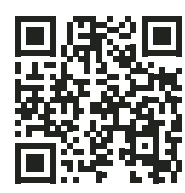
Richard Keith Wyatt January 12, 2023
August 19, 1952 -

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Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary.

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ACROSS

- TXism: "would ___ maggot" (icky)
- this Riley was a LB for the Houston Oilers (1981-86)
- dye for hair coloring
- leaf around
- TXism: "give ___ rest" (shut up)
- assn. for Texas MDs
- stinging insects
- just the tea, please (2 wds.)
- TXism: "busy ___ -armed paper hanger"
- in San Patricio County on U.S. 181 north-westernmost county in Texas
- TXism: "takes a big ___ rope him" (large man)
- saddle ___ (chafed)
- "I don't want to hear a ___ out of you"
- TXism: "___ marm" (teacher)
- city in Nebraska and Texas
- "it's just the ___ the iceberg"
- TXism: "he ___ own two feet" (independent)
- Hereford: "The Town With ___ ache"
- venomous "Texas ___ Snake"
- in Sam Houston State Park: "Long-leaf ___"
- Asian tiered tower
- fifth state due north of Texas (abbr.)
- "do it or ___!"
- TXism: "___ to" (similar)
- environ. protector
- cattle enclosures
- TX Cheyenne Knight golfing assn.
- had supper
- TXism: "hit me like a ___ of bricks"

DOWN

- former event by three singing Texas brothers: "___ Gala"
- DiCaprio was TX Howard Hughes in film "The ___"
- "Come and Take It" flag originated in this Texas city
- poker start
- "love," south of the border
- TXism: "he's got ___ than he can say grace over"
- TX Roy Orbison sang Wilbury's "Not Alone ___ More"
- TXism: "tight ___" (cheapskate)
- TXism: "flat ___"
- "Black Friday" event
- word after "ski" or "telephone"
- Kellogg's "___ Crackle and Pop"
- self-importance
- "Hook ' ___ Horns!"
- this Levi created blue jeans (init.)
- final mo. of the State Fair of Texas
- birth state of Gov. "Pappy" O'Daniel
- camper or infield fly ball (2 wds.)
- TXism: "rootin' ___" (exciting)
- degree for Texas doctors (abbr.)
- TX George Strait tune: "Gone ___ a Girl Can Get"
- Santa's word
- TXism: "a snorter and a snoozer"
- ripped in two
- what an old Texan can tell (2 wds.)
- TXism: "happy as a ___ slop"
- brandin' tools
- TXism: "got an overdose of woe"
- Cowboys' Dalton Schultz pos.
- ___ Grange, Texas
- ___ ___ conclusion" (decide with little information)
- daddy
- this Peter wrote "North Dallas Forty"

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

time than it took in 2021 with three minutes and 45 seconds.

"When you have a volunteer fire department, there's really one drawback — it takes a little longer for us to get out the door because we're not gonna have the full crews," Becker said. "We have a lot of guys that do sleep at both stations, and we work really hard to get out as fast as we can. Normally a paid fire department will get out somewhere in the range of a minute to a minute and a half, and we averaged two minutes and 52 seconds last year, which is a big improvement."

Becker said the CVFD's travel time on average is about seven minutes, so their total response time is around nine minutes — the same amount of time that it takes the New York City Fire Department to respond to a call.

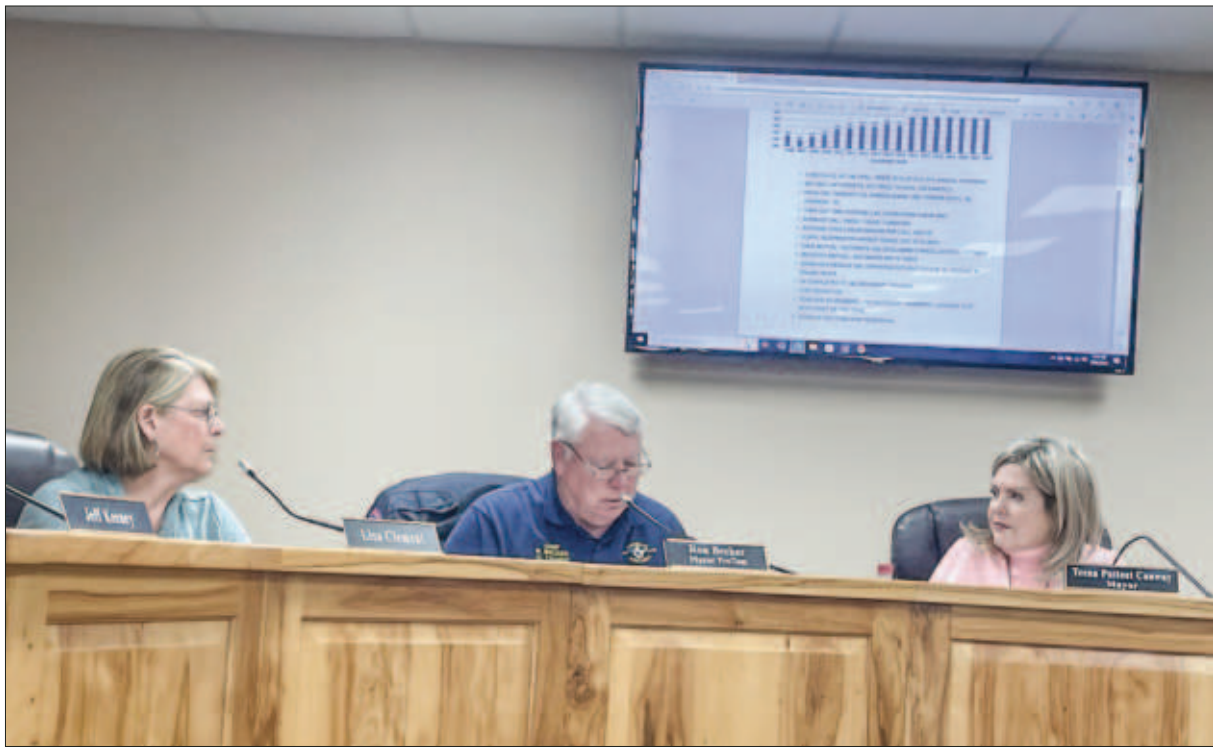
"Statistically our response time matches that of New York City's fire department, so you're in New York City, you call 911, it's about nine minutes or so before they show up and about the same for us," Becker said.

The average call typically took an hour and seven minutes to complete and averaged more than six responders per call.

"The max that we turned out was on a house fire over at Mustang Creek subdivision in Tarrant County," Becker said. "We had 22 of us on that call, and our roster of available responders is between 50 and 55."

He said the "biggest" statistic for the CVFD last year was the number of CPR and respiratory arrest victims that they saved.

"We had five CPR respiratory



Cresson Mayor Teena-Putteet Conway, right, and Lisa Clement, left, place 3 on the Cresson City Council, listen as Cresson Fire Chief Ron Becker, middle, presents the 2022 year-end review of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department during the Jan. 10 city council meeting.

arrest lives that we were able to save by getting there quickly, and that was out of about eight or nine of them," he said. "We're running about 60% save rate on those. AHA (American Heart Association) statistics on saves for out of hospital arrests is only 10%."

The CVFD gave mutual aid to other neighboring departments 117 times and received mutual aid from neighboring departments 14 times last year.

Becker said the CVFD spent 2022 operating without a few trucks, like engine 39 — "the Hood County pumper tanker," — rescue 30, and brush 530, the latter of which

burned up in the fire last year near Tolar.

Fortunately, the CVFD also got the opportunity to acquire a "brand new" rescue truck and are waiting to install its radio.

Every year, the Granbury Fire Department hosts a training school for firefighters so they can earn Firefighter 1 or Firefighter 2 status. Becker said that in 2022, 14 of the Cresson volunteer firefighters completed the training in Granbury.

The biggest challenge the department has faced recently, Becker said, has been recruiting more certified EMS personnel and volunteer firefighters.

"Granbury and Hood County are the two largest fire departments (in this area) in terms of apparatus and personnel, but our manning levels coming out of the year are basically flat with what we started for the year," he said. "If any of you hadn't been around me, I'll try to twist your arm to join the fire department and I carry applications in my truck. The average tenure of a volunteer firefighter is about five years, so when we bring somebody new on, we have to work really hard to try to get them trained and contributing as fast as we can. Right now, we're running with 19 state-certified emergency medical

personnel, and on most calls one or two is adequate, but we did get ourselves up into the mid-20s, and as high as 28 a couple of years ago, so we've got to push on that this year and get more of our folks through that training and certified."

One of the biggest ways that they've gotten more members, Becker said, is through word of mouth.

"The very best way that you get volunteer firefighters is to hope that your current firefighters think enough of your department that they will try to get their friends and their relatives to come and work with us — and we have a fair amount of that that goes on," he said. "I tell everyone, 'We're just a bunch of misfits thrown together trying to make a difference in some people's lives.' The city budget helps contribute toward running the fire department, plus some of the other benefits that the city provides for us, which is a big part of keeping the doors open and keeping things going."

Teena Putteet-Conway, mayor of Cresson, said that when she first became mayor, she was told by Tom Foster, executive director of Johnson County ESD1, that the CVFD was "a unique fire department and not to take it for granted."

"I don't want to embarrass Ron, but I'll be quick to brag on him because he really takes those young guys in, and he shows them the ropes," she said. "It's quite impressive what all they do, and it's pretty exciting what the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department pulls off every year."

To become a member of the CVFD, call Becker at 817-396-4448.

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Hood County News

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



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Noah McDavid (1), a 6-5 sophomore guard from Dallas, congratulates teammate Garry Clark (33), a 6-7 sophomore forward from St. Louis, during Tarleton State University's 68-65 men's basketball home victory over Southern Utah on Jan. 5. Clark scored a team-high 20 points, and McDavid contributed 10 points.

Texans grab three-point win, remain unbeaten at home

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's Texans remained undefeated at home this season as 38 points from the bench propelled the Texans to a 68-65 men's basketball victory over Southern Utah on Jan. 5.

Fireside District Player of the Game, Garry Clark, played a pivotal role on both offense and defense in the Texan win. Clark led the Texans in scoring with season-highs in points (20, 4-6 3PT) and rebounds (8). Lue Williams picked up 15 points for the Texans, also grabbing three boards and two assists.

Shakur Daniel, the lone Texan to play in all 40 minutes of the game, scored

13 points, along with having eight rebounds and a team-high six assists. Noah McDavid was deadly accurate for the game earning his 10 points off 4-of-5 shooting and sinking his only attempted three-pointer. McDavid also recorded four each of rebounds and assists.

Tiger Booker picked up six points, scoring a clutch pair of free throws near the end of the game to help seal the

Thunderbirds' fate. Shamir Bogues earned two points and was instrumental in disrupting the Southern Utah offense throughout the game. Bogues also recorded two steals. KiAndre Gaddy recorded two points and Rod Brown grabbed two steals.

Tarleton (8-7, 2-1 WAC) started off the game hot with a 9-2 run over the first four-and-a-half minutes. Southern Utah (10-6, 2-1 WAC) and the Texans traded buckets for the majority of the first half, with Tarleton maintaining its lead. The Thunderbirds slowly closed the gap and tied the game at 24 with four minutes remaining in the half. A pullup three-pointer from Southern Utah earned the Thunderbirds their first

lead of the game with just over three minutes left before halftime. Tarleton's Garry Clark responded by sinking a three-pointer to gain a one-point lead. The Texans and Thunderbirds traded the lead six times in the last three minutes of the half, but a buzzer-beater jumper by Tarleton's Noah McDavid earned the Texans a one-point advantage heading into the locker room.

Much like the first half, the Texans came out hot with an 11-0 run that consisted of back-to-back-to-back three pointers from Lue Williams and Garry Clark. The Thunderbirds didn't get their first points of the second half until nearly four minutes had expired. Southern

Utah wasn't out of the fight yet, however, as they answered with a 9-2 run to cut Tarleton's lead to five. The Texans built an 11-point lead with just over seven minutes left to play. The Thunderbirds responded with a quick 9-0 run to reduce Tarleton's lead to two, as five minutes remained on the scoreboard. Another round of battling back and forth resulted in Southern Utah regaining its lead with a mere 90 seconds left in the game. The fans in Wisdom Gym looked stunned until a put-back layup by Lue Williams pushed the Texans back in front, reviving the home fans. Tarleton made shots when it counted the most and was perfect from the free throw line in the final

minute of play to secure the win.

Coming into the game, Southern Utah was ranked No. 2 in the nation in scoring at 89.5 PPG and 10th in rebounds per game at 41.4. The Texans not only delivered the Thunderbirds their first WAC loss in school history, but they also tied their lowest scoring competition of the season and outrebounded them 33-31.

The Texans have now won eight straight home games dating back to last season. Tarleton hasn't had a home-court advantage like this since the 2016-17 season, the last time the Texans won as many sequential home games.

TSU women can't overcome slow start in loss to Grand Canyon

Tarleton Sports Information

PHOENIX — Tarleton State University's women's basketball players had their work cut out for them going into GCU Arena, and the start to the Jan. 5 game did them no favors.

The Texans fell behind 11-0 over the first five minutes and never could find their way back into the game, losing 70-51 at Grand Canyon. Tarleton dropped its fifth straight contest to fall to 6-8, 0-3 in WAC play. GCU improved to 10-4, 2-1 in the conference.

Teresa Da Silva led Tarleton with 19 points (4-9 3PT) in 30 minutes. Nyajah Mitchels tallied eight points on 4-of-7 shooting and four rebounds. Mayra Caicedo recorded five assists and three

points. Chloe Callahan led off the bench with six points on two late three-point makes. Also off the bench were Elise Turrubiates with four points and five steals, and Starr Omozee, who finished with four points, six rebounds and three steals.

Tarleton forced a season-high 28 turnovers, but the Texans were outshot 26-of-47 (.553) to 16-of-50 (.320). The Texans were also outrebounded, 39-25.

Da Silva was the only Texan to score in the first quarter, draining two three-pointers to cut Tarleton's 11-0 deficit to 11-6 with three minutes left. GCU ended the frame on a 9-0 run to lead 20-6 going into the second quarter. Da Silva ended up scoring the first 11 points for Tarleton. Mitchels hit a

jumper at the 3:50 mark for the first points by someone else. GCU led 40-22 at the break.

Like the UTA game, Tarleton's energy in the third quarter paid dividends, getting the Texans as close as 13 with three minutes left in the frame. However, GCU ended the quarter on a 7-0 run to go up by 20 points entering the fourth, 53-33. Tarleton never stopped fighting in the final frame, but the result was never in doubt.

Aaliyah Collins paced the Lopes with 14 points on 7-of-8 shooting, to go with three rebounds and three steals. Olivia Lane led Grand Canyon's reserves with 10 points on 3-of-3 shooting, to go with three rebounds.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Karolina Szydłowska, a senior forward from Wroclaw, Poland, fights for position between two Grand Canyon University players during Tarleton State University's 70-51 women's basketball road loss on Jan. 5.

Tarleton continues to show academic success in latest NCAA APR report

Tarleton Sports Information

Following the latest release of the NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR), Tarleton State University continues to thrive in the classroom and maintains its elite standard in the second year of reclassification.

With two years now on the Division I ledger, Tarleton maintained its 976 multiyear APR score and recorded a 987 single year APR score in 2021-22. In addition to the overall scores, seven individ-

ual programs secured perfect 1,000 APR scores: men's and women's cross country, women's golf, men's and women's track and field, tennis, and softball. Four of the seven programs have now recorded back-to-back 1,000 APR scores in each of Tarleton's first two years of reclassification (softball, women's cross country, women's golf, and tennis).

"Our top priority since we made the move to NCAA Division I has always been compliance and academ-

ics," said Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Lonn Reisman. "Our coaches, staff, and student-athletes have continued making this a priority every day. We set an incredible standard with our record scores as a first-year program and I'm ecstatic to see the same dedication in our second year.

"We have shown a first-class dedication to academics," he continued. "We opened a new, top-of-the-line facility in our Academic Success Center our athletics

support staff has been incredible. We have a tremendous group of dedicated faculty and staff working very hard to support our student-athletes," he continued.

The APR, created to be a more real-time measurement of academic success than graduation rates, is a team-based metric in which scholarship student-athletes earn one point each term for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school, graduating, or transferring to another school while meeting

eligibility standards. Every Division I sports team calculates its Academic Progress Rate each academic year, and the NCAA reports both single-year rates and four-year rates.

Teams must compile a multi-year score of 930 or higher to avoid penalties, including losing eligibility to compete in NCAA postseason championships.

The most recent score continues an elite standard set by Tarleton Athletics last year. Tarleton set an unprecedented benchmark in its first

year in Division I with a score that has since been adjusted to 990. That score was and remains the highest of first-year reclassifying schools since 2011 — excluding those whose began in 2019 or 2020 due to COVID-19's delay in the publicity of the scores. Prior to 2019, the highest score of a first-year reclassifying school since 2011 was 977 by UMass-Lowell in 2013-14.

Sports ROUNDUP

Lady Pirates hold off Aledo for perfect week

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Lady Pirates (18-9 overall, 4-2 in District 5-5A) followed a 50-34 home victory over Saginaw (14-9, 2-4) on Jan. 10 with a thrilling 45-44 escape at upset-minded Aledo (12-14, 2-4) on Jan. 13 to reach the midpoint of the district race in third place.

The win over Aledo was ultimately decided by defense as the Lady Pirates led by three points with 15 seconds left but would not surrender the tying three-point basket, forcing Aledo to settle for a two. However, Granbury was able to run out the clock.

"We were defending the three-point line and letting them have the two. The kids defended very well and closed it out," Lady Pirates coach Alan Thorpe said.

The Lady Pirates were led by:

Vs. Aledo: Ella Hamlin, 27 points, eight rebounds; Kate Hamlin, six rebounds, two blocks; Ella Garner, five assists, four steals.

Vs. Saginaw: Hamlin, 21 points, five rebounds; Garner, 13 points, seven rebounds; Mueller, nine points.

Granbury hosts Azle (19-8, 3-3) Friday, Jan. 20, at 6:15 p.m.

ANOTHER HONOR FOR LETA

Former Lady Pirates basketball coach Leta Andrews received another honor recently as the gym at Corpus Christi Calallan High School was renamed after her. Andrews led Calallan to nine state tournaments and the 1990 state championship.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates' (13-9, 2-2 in 5-5A) rough week featured a pair of games that slipped away with a 52-42 home loss to Saginaw (10-12, 2-3) on Jan. 10 and a 38-35 setback at Aledo (11-7, 2-2) on Jan. 13.

Kensington Colston led against Saginaw with 14 points, while Dylan Couto added 13. Colston and Isaiah Trejo each scored 10 against Aledo.

The Rough Riders rallied and forced overtime with a 35-foot basket at the buzzer. In the extra period, Saginaw went on a 16-6 run.

The Pirates, who are now 2-6 in games decided by five points or less, are scheduled to host Azle (14-12, 2-3) Friday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

LIPAN/TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

In a showdown for first place in District 11-2A the host Indians (21-1, 4-0) came away with a 59-33 victory over the Rattlers (19-6, 3-1) on Friday, Jan. 13. This was on the heels of Lipan defeating Hico (3-19, 1-3) 102-26 and Tolar outlasting Poolville (15-11, 2-2) on the road in overtime 66-59 on Jan. 10.

In the Rattlers' win over



COURTESY PHOTO BY LEAH HALEY

The Granbury Lady Pirates won their own powerlifting meet recently.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LEAH HALEY

The Granbury Lady Pirates Purple team finished second in the Joshua Shootout.

the Monarchs, Matthew Behrens led with 31 points, while Reis Brown scored 18. Behrens scored eight in the fourth quarter as Tolar rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final two minutes of regulation and then scored six of his team's nine overtime points while the defense held Poolville to two points.

The Rattlers were playing shorthanded against Poolville due to injuries, only suiting up seven players, and one of those got hurt three minutes into the game. In the overtime another Rattler fouled out, so they ended the game with five players.

The Rattlers also controlled the game at the free throw line, hitting 22 of 31 attempts, including going 5-of-6 in overtime. Poolville was 6-of-10 overall and

0-of-2 in the extra period.

Lipan dominated Hico in every aspect, hitting 70% of their field goals. They were 32-of-39 from two-point range and 10-of-21 shooting three-pointers. They were also 8-of-10 shooting free throws.

Indian players dished out 30 assists and had 20 steals.

Lipan leaders were: Vs. Hico: Garrett Smith, 31 points, five assists, nine steals; Beau Braumley, 21 points; Reese Cook, 20 points, three steals; Tripp Phillips, 13 points, six assists; Tate Branson, seven rebounds, four assists; Darius Steed, seven rebounds, four assists; Cole Reynolds, four assists.

Vs. Tolar: Branson, 17 points, five rebounds, four assists, three steals; Smith, 12 points, five steals.

Against Lipan, the Rattlers were paced by Brown with 10 points and five rebounds.

Tolar boys and girls are slated to host Hico (girls 5-17, 1-3) Friday, Jan. 20, with girls tipping off at 6:15 p.m. and boys at 7:30 p.m. The Lipan boys and girls travel to DeLeon (boys 6-17, 3-1; girls 7-7, 3-2) Friday, Jan. 20, 6:15 tip for girls and 7:45 for boys.

LIPAN/TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians (20-2, 5-0) continued their run through District 11-2A with victories at Hico (80-7) Jan. 10 and at home against Tolar (59-16) on Jan. 13.

Lipan leaders were: Vs. Hico: Hanna Gaylor, 24 points, five assists, three steals; Taylor Branson, 15

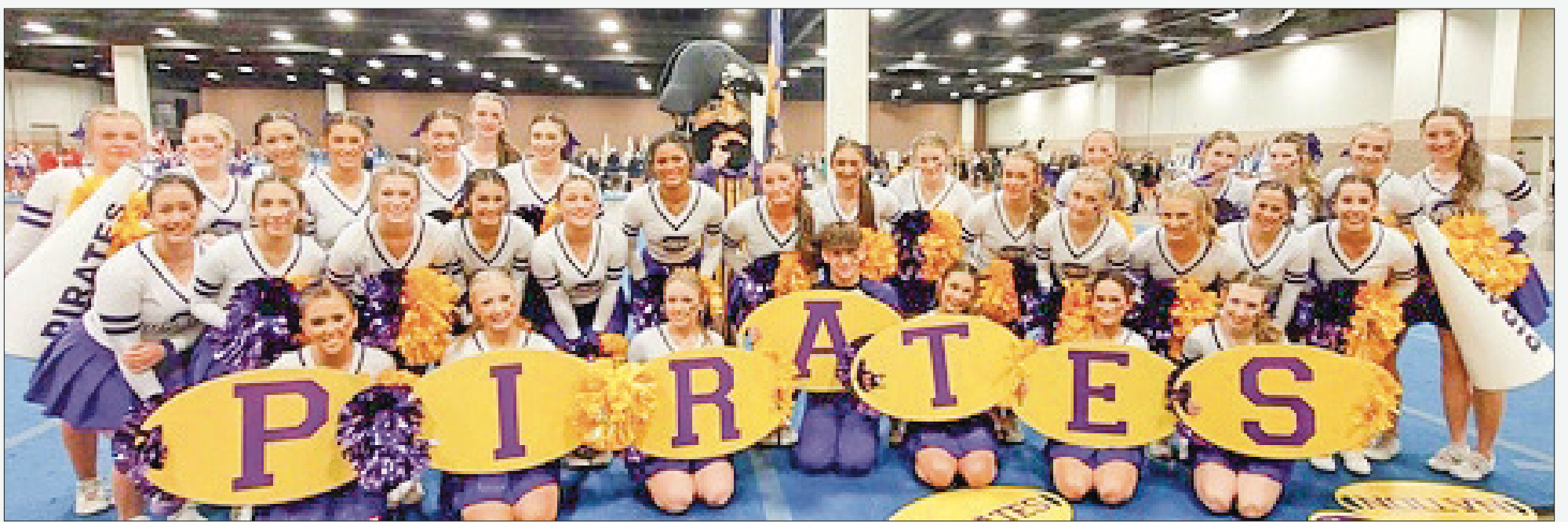
points, five assists, four steals; Ashlyn Clark, 12 points; Trinity Benitez, 10 points; Chelsea Lott, six steals.

Vs. Tolar: Lott, 12 points, seven rebounds, four steals, three blocks; Gaylor, 10 points, six steals; Branson, nine points, five assists.

The Lady Rattlers' (8-15, 3-3) week included a 27-25 loss at Poolville (9-13, 3-3) on Jan. 10. Senne Imel led with 10 points, six rebounds and six steals, while Trinity Rousseau scored 10 points with five steals and Emma Jackson had five rebounds.

Against Lipan, Imel scored eight points with seven rebounds, while Jackson had eight rebounds and Kenzi McQuain grabbed seven boards.

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | A12



COURTESY PHOTO BY SONNY GALINDO

The Granbury High cheerleading team finished ninth in Class 5A Division I at the UIL Spirit Championships.



COURTESY PHOTO BY SONNY GALINDO

The Granbury Pirates powerlifting squad won its own meet recently, besting Brewer and Glen Rose.

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Large Home In DeCordova Bend Est.



6217 Circo Drive, Granbury, Tx. 76049
 \$415,000 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car oversize garage, 2663 square feet, built in 2000. Oversize living room with fireplace, formal dining, breakfast area, study just off the master bedroom! Stunning back yard with 2 patios. Large and mature trees throughout, circle drive. A must see!

1050 Scott Ashford Real Estate, LLC 682.444.3700

Country Home On 10 Acres In Lipan



7708 Star Hollow Road, Lipan, Tx.
 \$770,000 10.25 acres just outside of Lipan in Hood County! Metal barn/minihome built in 2017 with 2000 square feet. 3 bed, 2.5 bath. 30X30 metal shop on slab with electric, 60X40 metal barn with 4 stalls. Fenced and cross fenced. Water well, aerobic septic, gated entrance. Numerous trees

1050 Scott Ashford Real Estate, LLC 682.444.3700

New Doublewide on Nice Lot!



2400 White Oak Trail, Granbury, Tx.
 \$219,900 brand new 2022 Redman Doublewide manufactured home on a very nice corner lot in Comanche Cove. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large open living, kitchen, breakfast area, split bedrooms, and more! Outside features large mature trees, front and back porches, and driveway.

1050 Scott Ashford Real Estate, LLC 682.444.3700

2+ Acre Home Rolling Creek Ranch



8029 White Drive, Granbury, Tx. 76049
 \$825,000 Home located on 2.15 acres with stunning views all around! 2906 square feet, original owner, custom built in 2018. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, separate office or 4th bedroom, 3 car oversize garage! Home is on an elevated lot, pipe fence, sprinkler system, outdoor kitchen and more!

1050 Scott Ashford Real Estate, LLC 682.444.3700

1050 Homes for Sale

Pecan Plantation 3/2/2 Home!



6511 Westover Drive, Granbury, Tx.
 \$425,000 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car side entry garage, 1831 square feet built in 2001. This spotless clean home shows pride of ownership throughout and has only had 2 owners. Beautiful open living room with hardwood floors, screened in sunroom, split bedrooms, fireplace, and more.

1050 Call: (682) 444-3700. \$425,000


Move In Ready In Pecan Plantation



10123 Ravenswood Rd. Granbury, Tx.
 \$355,900 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car oversize garage, 1734 square feet built in 2007. This home backs up to the orchard. Numerous large mature trees throughout. Stained concrete floors, open kitchen, split bedrooms, stainless appliances, walk in closets, wood burning fireplace, granite, and more!

1050 Scott Ashford Real Estate, LLC 682.444.3700

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IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact
Hood County Animal Control,
1550 Weatherford Hwy,
Granbury, Texas 76048.
817-573-4277

EMPLOYMENT

8510 General

FRONT GATE ATTENDANT
needed at North Central Texas Academy. Please pick up an application at our front gate located at 3846 N. Hwy. 144, Granbury, TX 76048.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES - HOUSE MANAGER FOR FAMILY Hours are flexible. Would include some cleaning, laundry, organizing, possibly running errands, and some lite cooking/meal prep. Please text number with experience to apply. Starting pay around \$20 an hour. (817) 219-8596

BULL'S-EYE!

RETAIL - PHARMACY TECH Need a Full time Pharmacy Tech apply at Pecan Discount Drug
9203 Plantation Dr. Ste 1,
Granbury, Tx 76049. (817) 573-9344 (817) 573-9344

Hood Central Appraisal District has an immediate position for a self-motivated person to handle incoming calls and clerical work in a fast-paced office. This is a full-time, entry level position with benefits. Must have good customer service skills, able to multi-task and be reliable. Must be able to pass a background check and become bonded. Qualified Candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to Meg Boomer at megboomer@hoodcad.net

HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Applications are being accepted for Hood County residents interested in serving on the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is a group of private citizens authorized to hear appeals and determine protests for ad valorem tax purposes. The ARB is a separate authoritative body and are not employees of the Hood Central Appraisal District (HCAD). ARB members are appointed by the Local Administrative District Judge of Hood County for two-year terms.

To be eligible for appointment, an applicant must have been a Hood County resident for two (2) years, and never have been employed by, or been an officer or director of the HCAD, along with other eligibility restrictions provided in Texas Property Tax Code Section 6.412.

ARB service is a full-time commitment during April, May, June, and July. The ARB also meets periodically throughout the remainder of the year to carry out supplemental duties. Per diem compensation is in the amount of \$175 a day.

If you are interested in service, applications for potential ARB members will be accepted by the HCAD ARB Coordinator on behalf of the Local Administrative District Judge. ARB member applications can be found on the HCAD website (www.hood-cad.org) under the downloads and forms menu. Submit completed applications by email to: hoodapp@hoodcad.net
Completed applications may also be hand delivered to:
1902 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
or mailed to:
Hood Central Appraisal District
ATTN: ARB Coordinator
PO Box 819
Granbury, TX 76048

GUTTER INSTALLERS
Must have current DL.
Experience preferred.
Immediate openings available.
Call: (817) 243-6560

Looking for persons who love working with children. First Presbyterian Church Granbury is hiring 2 nursery workers. Guaranteed minimum 20 hours per month paid. Text 817-890-9590. Or call 817-573-2337.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for an Electrician to join our outstanding team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at https://www.granburyisd.org/jobs
Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for an HVAC Technician to join our outstanding team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at https://www.granburyisd.org/jobs
Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

8540 Medical/Dental

We are hiring for multiple Hospitality Shifts and PRN in dietary. Please come apply within The Oaks of Granbury 1017 Lipan Highway, Granbury, TX. 76049.

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8550 Office Employment

SEASONAL ASSISTANT Granbury, TX. Applicant needs the ability to work a flexible schedule during the tax season from February to April.

DUTIES/DESCRIPTION:
-Answers and directs calls.
-Greet clients in a personalized, friendly, and inviting manner.
-Maintain office cleanliness and organization of resources with team members.
-Operates standard office equipment such as a multi-function print/copy/scan machine on a regular basis.
-Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

-High school diploma or equivalent.
-Must be able to read, write, speak and understand English.
-Must have excellent verbal and written communication and customer service skills.
-Strong typing and phone skills.
-Strong computer skills required, including proficiency with Google and Outlook
-Must be able to work independently and be team oriented, organized, detailed, goal, and results driven.
-Comfortable with routinely shifting demands.
-High degree of attention to detail.
-Working knowledge of general office equipment such as computer and multi-function print/copy/scan machine.
-Occasional/intermittent lifting and carrying objects/equipment weighing up to 25 pounds.
-Continuous use of bilateral upper extremities in fine motor activities requiring fingering, grasping, and forward reaching between waist and chest level.
Applications accepted via e-mail: granburyresumes@yahoo.com

The Law Firm of William Walsh is looking to hire a full time Receptionist. We are a Christian Law Firm. Applicant must have good phone skills and be proficient in MS Word. Duties also include light clerical work and filing. We are looking for someone efficient and enthusiastic to join our Legal Team. Please call 682-936-4090 to set up your interview today!

NOTICES

9020 Free

HAUL OFF & PICKUP All metal & appliance pickup. We pickup all kinds of things that are in the way you call we haul. Call for pricing (817) 578-5510

9031 Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.StorageTreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on February 09, 2023. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Sterlina Robertson- furniture, stroller, tools
Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

9031 Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ACTON MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
GRANBURY, TEXAS
LIFT STATION #11 IMPROVEMENTS

General Notice
Acton Municipal Utility District (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Lift Station #11 Improvements

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the AMUD Office located at 6420 Lusk Branch Ct, Granbury, Texas 76049 until **Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:
Furnish and install duplex sewage lift station; approximately 40 LF 12" SDR-35 PVC gravity sewer line; 200 LF 10" DR18 C900 PVC sanitary sewer force main; 2 diversion structures; coating of existing wet well; electrical and SCADA improvements; and appurtenances.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **Lift Station #11 Improvements**

Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
www.civcstusa.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:
Enrotec / Hibbs & Todd, Inc.
Project Engineer: Chris Hay, P.E.
1310 Weatherford Highway, Ste. 116
Granbury, Texas 76048
Phone: 682-498-6000

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference will not be held for this project.
Instructions to Bidders.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: Acton Municipal Utility District
By: Richard English
Title: General Manager
Date: January 18, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

City of Granbury
Main Lift Station Improvements
Granbury, Texas

General Notice
The City of Granbury (Owner) is requesting sealed Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Main Lift Station Improvements

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the City Service Center located at 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, Texas, until **Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work: Installation of a new sewage lift station with 12" diameter concrete wet well, three (3) submersible pumps, piping (24" PVC), manholes, all related work and associated site work as indicated in the Plans and Specifications.

Owner anticipates that the Project's total construction cost will be approximately \$2,100,000.00

Obtaining the Bid Documents
Information and Proposal Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
www.civcstusa.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a sealed Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bid Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bid Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Offices for the Bidding Documents are:
Enrotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc.
402 Cedar Street
Abilene, Texas 79601

Enrotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc.
1310 Weatherford Highway, Suite 116
Granbury, Texas 76048

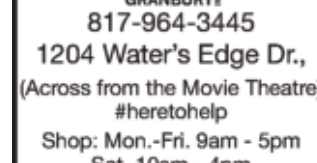
Instructions to Bidders
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: City of Granbury
By: Rick Crownover
Title: Assistant City Manager
Date: January 11, 2023

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
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9031 Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

City of Granbury
Main Lift Station Improvements
Granbury, Texas

General Notice
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402 Cedar Street
Abilene, Texas 79601

Enrotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc.
1310 Weatherford Highway, Suite 116
Granbury, Texas 76048

Instructions to Bidders
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This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: City of Granbury
By: Rick Crownover
Title: Assistant City Manager
Date: January 11, 2023

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AUCTION

45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale
12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, cattlemansale.com.

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TOLAR LADY RATTLEERS VS. DE LEON JAN 6



COURTESY PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY

The Lady Rattlers played De Leon Jan. 6, and fought hard managing to hold De Leon off in the last minute of the game.



COURTESY PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY

#25 Trinity Rousseau, Junior.



COURTESY PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY

#11 Shylar Nunley, Senior.



COURTESY PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY

Pictured is first year coach, Candace Clayton.

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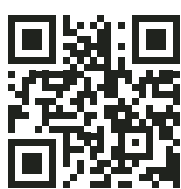
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Weekly Drive-Thru Food Pantry Open

Tuesdays 9am to 3pm
Wednesdays 3pm to 7pm
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Mission Granbury Resource Center 817-579-6866
3611 Plaza East Court

24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848

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. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

THE VOICE Fundraiser for the Granbury Kiwanis Club. This is a fundraiser for the Granbury Kiwanis Club featuring ten singers. Each will perform a song in round one, and the audience will vote on who advances to the next round. The second round will consist of the top five singers, who will then perform a second song. There will then be another round of voting, and the top three finishers will advance to the final round, where they will perform a third song. After a final round of voting, we will crown our winner.

THURSDAY, JAN. 26

MOBILE PANTRY fourth Thursday through Tarrant Area Food Bank. 5 - 7 p.m. Rancho Brazos Community Center, 3701 Sundown Trail.

FEBRUARY

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

LAKE GRANBURY Newcomers Club will meet at DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive, to hear inspirational speaker, author, and voice-over actor Patti Foster. Patti is a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) survivor. She suffered her TBI in

a horrific car crash and sustained multiple injuries and fractures. Patti is an advocate of brain injury and serves on several councils and education awareness committees and speaks often as a speaker for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. Cost \$22 includes lunch and program. Social hour 9:00am, meeting begins at 10:15am. R.S.V.P. by emailing lgnc.reservations@gmail.com or calling 682-719-3343. Reservation required by noon on Friday, Jan. 27.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting/luncheon will be held at deCordova Country Club. 5301 Country Club Dr. Social/Check-in 10:30a.m. Entertainment/Meeting 11:00 a.m. Sonny Morgan - International award-winning singer/songwriter - 12:00 Noon Buffet Lunch Optional (\$18) No lunch, \$5.00 includes water, coffee, or tea. Reservations required no later than February 3rd, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898 General Membership, single \$25.00 joint \$35.00 Business Membership \$35.00. The guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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.

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 Hwy, Granbury.

ACTON 12-STEP Group. Meeting daily at 7 p.m. 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life enters its 25th year with sessions on Sundays, Oct. 2 - Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. This grief support group will meet in the education building at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 2301 Acton Highway. Details: 512-560-4885 or 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.

GRIEF CONNECTION, support for anyone grieving a loss, will meet at First Christian Church on Mondays from 6:30-8 p.m., beginning on Monday, January 9. First Christian Church is located at 2109 W. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76048 (next to Tractor Supply). Please park on the side closest to Tractor Supply and come in that door. Call or text Danny Dwight at 817-219-9833 or Amy Dwight at 817-894-2449 for more information and/or to sign up.

EVERY TUESDAY

PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S in Granbury. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept 13 - Dec. 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, 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.

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed Amateur Radio Operators welcome. 7:00 pm, on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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 SATURDAY

GRIEF SUPPORT breakfast for anyone grieving the loss of someone they love at 10 a.m., The Big O Restaurant, 1302 S. Morgan St. Details: 817-894-2449 or 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 and their families wanting to understand more about this disease. Details: 817-999-1470.

FOURTH SATURDAY

GRIEF SUPPORT breakfast for anyone grieving the loss of someone they love at 10 a.m., The Big O Restaurant, 1302 S. Morgan St. Details: 817-894-2449 or 817-219-9833.

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COURTESY OF

Casey Click, a former Tolar ISD teacher, is currently battling breast cancer for a second time. A benefit in her honor will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at Tolar High School.

Benefit for former Tolar teacher battling cancer to be held Jan. 21

From Staff Reports

A benefit for a former Tolar ISD teacher will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at Tolar High School.

Casey Click — who has battled and beaten breast cancer already — is currently battling breast cancer for a second time as the cancer has returned and metastasized.

The fundraiser will help with increasing medical bills that her insurance is not fully covering.

The benefit will be a by-donation meal of brisket

and trimmings. A silent and live auction will also be held at the event.

Donations of new items, craft items, gift cards and certificates for the auction may be dropped off at the Tolar branch of the First National Bank, at 8401 W. Highway 377. Monetary donations may also be deposited there to her account.

For more information, contact Janet Carter at 817-408-5417, Jherri Carter at 817-219-0694, Deborah Ives at 817-219-9734, or Sandy Galindo at 254-413-3908.

ROUNDUP FROM PAGE A7

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates began the week with a 2-1 loss at Abilene Wylie as Tessa Rohleder scored and Dominique Callahan assisted.

Then, in the L.D. Bell Tournament, they opened with a 2-0 win over Irving Nimitz as Emery Kirby had a goal and assist, Elise Kikulskis scored a goal and Callahan had an assist. They followed with losses of 4-0 to L.D. Bell and 2-0 to Eules Trinity.

The Lady Pirates are set to host Fort Worth Brewer Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m.

The Lady Pirates JV Purple team finished second in the Joshua Shootout, dropping the championship match to Midlothian Heritage 2-0. They advanced to the final with back-to-back penalty kick shootout victories over Irving Nimitz and Joshua.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

The Pirates (0-5-3) started the week with a scoreless tie at Terrell. Then, in the Brewer Tournament they fell 1-0 to Seagoville, tied Boswell 0-0 and fell 5-1 to Diamond Hill-Jarvis as Brack Peacock scored the goal. Also, Christian Padron had a standout week in goal.

The Pirates will compete in the Mustang Cup Tournament Thursday through Saturday

GRANBURY GIRLS POWERLIFTING

The Lady Pirates won their own powerlifting meet on Jan. 11. Jordis Harwell

was named the best overall lifter in the 165 to 259-plus classes.

Also posting wins (weight classes and weights lifted not available) were Angelica Perez, Krizln Van Patten, Estrella Diaz, Anne Barnes, Jessica Aguado, Jazmynn Torres, Kaitlyn Cortez, Deisy Villegas and Sharai Rosas.

The Lady Pirates are back in competition Jan. 25 at Saginaw. The Pirates are competing again Jan. 26 at Brock.

GRANBURY BOYS POWERLIFTING

The Pirates bested Brewer and Glen Rose at home on Jan. 12. Top results by weight class were:

123 pounds:

1. Nhat Hoang, 835 pounds lifted;
3. Gavin Osko, 600.

132 pounds:

1. Miles Cable, 860;
2. Kanon Lightfoot, 830;
3. Casen Moore, 780.

148 pounds:

2. Noe Puente, 870;
3. Sawyer Barks, 865.

165 pounds:

1. Tyler Rodgers, 1,180.

181 pounds:

2. Davin Jones, 1,120.

198 pounds:

2. Chase Cantrell, 1,225.

220 pounds:

1. Braydon Olthoff, 1,520.

242 pounds:

1. Alan Oracio, 1,135.

GRANBURY SWIMMING

The Lady Pirates posted a victory against visiting Tyler and Tyler Legacy on Jan. 7, while the Pirates finished second in their competition.

Top performers for the Lady Pirates were:

INDIVIDUAL

200-yard Free:

2. Brenna Haynes,
3. Tessa Fox.

200 Individual Medley:

2. Grace Larsen,
3. Avery Young.

50 Free:

2. Remi Chastain,
 3. Rebecca Dixon.
- 100 Free: 2. Haynes.
500 Free: 3. Fox.

100 Back:

1. Kensington Loving,
2. Chastain.

100 Breaststroke:

2. Larsen.

200 Medley:

2. Loving, Larsen, Young, Haynes.

200 Free:

1. Haynes, Young, Larsen, Madison Ezezo.

400 Free:

2. Madison Ezezo, Loving, Chastain, Fox.

PIRATE TOP PERFORMERS WERE:

INDIVIDUAL

200 IM:

2. Leander Stuart,

3. Preston Beauchamp.

50 Free:

1. Braxton Heffernan,
2. Tyler Guidry.

100 Fly:

5. Heffernan

100 Free:

1. Guidry,
2. Ryan Solisz.

500 Free:

2. Michael Kracy.

100 Back:

3. Solisz.

100 Breaststroke:

1. Tyler McDermott,
2. Beauchamp,
3. Stuart.

RELAYS

200 Medley:

3. Luke Basil, Bodie Chastain, Jack Barefoot, Noah Brown.

200 Free:

2. Guidry, Hunter Jones, Basil, Heffernan.

400 Free:

2. Solisz, Guidry, Beauchamp, Jones.

Granbury's teams are back in action Jan. 20 in the District 5-5A Meet at the Northwest ISD Natatorium.

GRANBURY CHEERLEADING

The Granbury cheer squad competed in the UIL Spirit Championships this past weekend. They finished ninth out of 73 Class 5A Division I schools.

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WEDNESDAY, Jan. 18, 2023

Hood County News



COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Comanche's defense had a tough time bringing down Tolar's standout sophomore running back Peyton Brown.

PEYTON BROWN

Brown, coach reflect on Tolar's all-time great football season

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

In a single season Tolar's Peyton Brown accomplished more than most running backs do in their entire high school career.

And the best could be yet to come as he is only a sophomore.

It's not often a player for a Class 2A school finds himself among the nation's elite. But Brown isn't just any player.

He ranked ninth in the nation in touchdowns with 49 and was 10th in points scored with 296. He was 21st in rushing yards with 2,777.

These were among all players in all classifications across America.

In Texas, he led the state in touchdowns and points and was third in rushing yards.

Oh, and as much as he's filled with talent, he's equally filled with humility.

"I think it was a great season. I'm very thankful for the group of seniors we had who did a lot in helping to show us what it looks like to work toward that kind of

success," Brown said. "I feel like I have room for improvement and I am looking forward to getting better as we prepare for next year."

The Rattlers are coming off their best football season in history. They finished with a 13-1 record, advancing to the Class 2A Division I state quarterfinals.

Through his two high school seasons the Rattlers are 23-4, including 5-2 in the postseason. His freshman season Brown rushed for 1,394 yards and 28 touchdowns.

That's 77 TD and 4,171 yards - so far.

"I have been lucky to coach and be around some great athletes. Peyton will certainly be in that conversation," Rattlers head

PLEASE SEE BROWN | B2



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Brown ranked ninth in the nation in touchdowns with 49 and was 10th in points scored with 296. He was 21st in rushing yards with 2,777.

"I have been lucky to coach and be around some great athletes. Peyton will certainly be in that conversation. My favorite thing about Peyton, though, is the kind of person he is. You will be hard-pressed to find a more humble and caring individual. He is a great example of the kind of guy this program has been built around: hard working, unselfish with a team-first mindset."

JEREMY MULLINS

Rattlers head football coach

FORWARD TRAINING CENTER

Discover how becoming a volunteer can lead to a Forward Training Center career



BY KATY OFFUTT

Katy Offutt is executive director of Forward Training Center of Hood County. Her community leadership roles include: Help Ministry coordinator, Stonewater Church; alumnus and past president, Leadership Granbury; vice president, Granbury Housing Authority; president, Public Facility Corporation; Nominating Committee chair, LGMA; and volunteer with Ada Carey Center.

Granbury is well known as a desirable destination community for retirees.

Once here and after settling in, many may want to remain active through volunteerism and offer the benefit of their career experiences to nonprofits, churches, and civic or service organizations by giving back to the community.

Here is a story of one such volunteer, in her own words, who has been a key contributor at Forward Training Center — our own Laurie Lilly, program director:

"When my husband and I moved from Southlake to Granbury, I was undecided about how to spend my newly found spare time. Should I return to work or volunteer for a faith-based organization?

My husband happened to pick up a copy of the Hood County News that had a front-page article about the Forward Training Center of Hood County. After reading the article I followed up with a call to Executive Director Katy Offutt, inquiring about available volunteer opportunities. I first volunteered as a mentor for the Jobs for Life Class and later joined the Forward Training Center staff as program director. In that capacity I followed in the footsteps of a very gifted gentleman, Ron Buckallew.

"My education and career were business related but I soon found the link between mentoring an effective business team and the design of programming that teaches life skills to adults and youth.

These same skills are also essential in meeting prospective volunteers and finding an appropriate placement that will be the most fulfilling for both the volunteer and our organization. The initial step is to develop a relationship by listening to a person's interests and recognizing what gives them joy and a sense of purpose."

Just as Laurie found Forward Training Center to be a place to use her talents and skills to give back to Hood County, we are blessed with volunteers who serve daily at the very core of every program, class, or event we present. Their dedication allows us to administer outstanding programming with minimal costs. Our volunteers are

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEER | B3

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

Don't let another winter storm take you and your pipes by surprise



BY JUDI PIERCE

Judi Pierce has been the public information officer for the Brazos River Authority for 20 years. Her office is in Waco.

All of Texas saw in 2021, winter storms can hit quickly and do great damage, especially to water pipes. But if you plan ahead, your home and possessions can be safe from the result of broken water pipes while conserving water that is wasted during broken main events.

We Texans joke year-round about how quickly our weather can change. The week before Christmas, a strong Canadian cold front swept through, plunging temperatures below freezing. Thankfully, that last cold snap was a dry event. But the next one could bring rain, sleet or snow with the lower temps, potentially wreaking havoc on water pipes and leading to home catastrophes.

Fortunately, there are a few simple things you can do that could save you money in repair bills while keeping water where it is supposed to be.

The goal is to keep pipes from freezing. The American Red Cross notes that since water expands when it freezes, "This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the strength of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break."

Burst pipes can cost a homeowner \$5,000 or more to repair, according to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. Because we usually don't have long-term freezing temps, it's easy to forget that you may have pipes that are vulnerable to colder weather, such as unprotected areas outside of insulation.

"Pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls are all vulnerable to freezing, especially if there are cracks or openings that allow cold, outside air to flow across the pipes," according to the IIBHS. "The size of pipes and their composition (copper or PVC) have some bearing on how fast ice forms, but they are relatively minor factors in pipe bursting compared with the absence of heat, pipe insulation and exposure to a flow of sub-freezing air."

Pipes most at risk are spigots located outdoors, such as swimming pool supply lines and water sprinkler systems or water pumps located at the lake's edge. Other pipes susceptible to freezing are located in places such as garages or kitchen and bathroom cabinets located against walls that are not well insulated.

Consider the following steps to protect your property:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines according to manufacturer's instructions, or have a professional do the job for you.
- Remove, drain and store outdoor hoses. Close inside valves linked to outdoor spigots, but keep the outside valve open to allow water to drain.
- Purchase Styrofoam coverings to place over the spigots as added protection from the cold.
- Consider adding insulation to attics and crawl spaces.
- Insulate pipes located in unheated areas of your home.
- Keep garage doors closed as much as possible during cold weather if there are water lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors so that warmer air can circulate in those areas.
- If the weather outside is very cold, let water drip from faucets. This helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep your thermostat set at a steady temperature. If you plan to leave your home for an extended time, do not set the temperature below 55 degrees.
- When the weather has been warm, it's easy to be caught off guard by a sudden cold snap. Taking precautions in advance can keep you from having to pay an expensive repair bill and also helps to conserve water that could otherwise damage your home.

judi.pierce@brazos.org

"I think it was a great season. I'm very thankful for the group of seniors we had who did a lot in helping to show us what it looks like to work toward that kind of success. I feel like I have room for improvement and I am looking forward to getting better as we prepare for next year."

PEYTON BROWN
Tolar Sophomore running back



COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Tolar running back Peyton Brown works through the Coleman defense to pick up more rushing yardage.

BROWN
FROM PAGE B1

coach Jeremy Mullins said. "My favorite thing about Peyton, though, is the kind of person he is. You will be hard-pressed to find a more humble and caring individual. He is a great example of the kind of guy this program has been built around: hard working, unselfish with a team-first mindset."

TEAM PLAYER

While a lot of players will say they aren't aware of their statistics even as they are piling up, when Brown says it, there's no trouble believing him.

"My focus during the year was just on the team and how good we could be," he said.

Well, he and everyone else got their answer. The Rattlers were good enough to contend for a state championship, and with him returning to the backfield they should enter 2023 season among the state's most prominent squads.

Mullins said just knowing Brown is in the game gives him and everyone else associated with the team a boost of confidence even before the opening kickoff.

"I don't think there's any question that you feel good about moving the football going into a game with No.

40 at running back. I know our guys up front knew that if they just gave him a little room he had a chance to make something happen," Mullins said.

Speaking of those guys up front, Brown and Mullins are quick to give credit to the Tolar offensive line, which opened some sizeable holes for their star.

"Peyton would be the first to tell you this, he doesn't have the year he did without the guys down in the trenches," Mullins said.

GETTING EVEN BETTER

And if you think he's scary fast now, Brown said about the offseason he's going to

work to improve his speed and agility even more.

"I want to continue to work on getting faster. I am also currently playing basketball and will run track in the spring," he said.

That should be a terrifying thought to opposing defenses.

After his first two seasons he already ranks among the top 50 players in the U.S. in career touchdowns. At his current pace he could be in the top 15 of all time when he's finished.

"We talk to all of our guys about the process of getting just a little better each day. I don't think there's any doubt that Peyton will continue to put the work in

to improve himself and this team," Mullins said. "I think Peyton's answer would be that our first focus is to go to work toward raising the bar that was set from this 2022 team; the individual accolades will take care of themselves when that gets done."

And that's exactly where Brown's focus is.

"I think we have a chance to be the best team Tolar has had. We have a lot of good players returning and coming up," he said of the season ahead.

And while it's a while away still, Brown does want to play in college. Mullins said wherever he plays, that team will be fortunate to have

him.

"Peyton's work ethic, size, speed, and overall football ability is going to provide him the opportunity to go play at the next level," Mullins said. "I have had conversations with a few schools about Peyton. I believe he will begin to get on most guys' radars as they begin to get on the road this spring."

"Peyton is a special athlete and an awesome person, truly a great role model and example for our younger kids. I'm sure glad he's a Tolar Rattler and that we have him for two more years."

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ARTS & LETTERS BOOKSTORE

Is Retirement "All That and a Bag of Chips?"



BY ROXANNE LANEY

A reader since kindergarten, Roxanne Laney spent most of her career as a technical writer and editor, and a serial entrepreneur. Arts and Letters bookstore is her seventh business.

People ask me all the time why I still work. The traditional retirement age passed me by 7 years ago, but I've done some of my best work and had the most fun working during these 7 years. What do retired people do all day? I can't imagine getting up in the morning and not heading out to a busy day of problems to solve, sales to make, and people to help.

My brother and sister, who are about decade younger than I, hound me about this all the time. My sister drags herself to work, day after day. She likes the work and the income, but she hates the commute and the bureaucracy of her firm. She has painful problems with her knees. She says something about looking forward to retirement every time I talk to her. She can't understand why I don't retire when she is counting the days until she can. My worry? What is she going to do when she retires? How will she keep her mind busy and engaged? Will her knees freeze up until she can't walk?

My brother retired at 60 and refuses, absolutely refuses, to try any other type of work because he never wants to be on someone else's schedule or at their beck and call. Surely, he can find a position where he can make a meaningful difference to someone or something. He spends his day doing things around the house. He couldn't travel last year because the stock market fell. But he rags on me all the time about how stupid I

am to put up with the stress and expense of running several businesses. Solving the problems, coming up with the money, overcoming the stress - these things are exciting and fulfilling.

What do you think about retirement? Many Granbury folks are retired. How's that going? What engages you? What's a typical day look like? I have hobbies, and I like to travel, but I have traveled all my life and my hobbies would no doubt turn me into a fatter person sitting more hours in a chair. What is so great about retirement? How do you maintain your standard of living on a fixed income, or worse yet, an income affected by the whims of the stock market?

I have met a few community icons - women who have not retired - who are going strong and who inspire me. Folks like Becky Brumley, running a charitable foundation; Kay Collerain, who sold me the Nutshell Eatery - she kept that business going up into her eighties. Jean Cate, a lady still engaged at Mission Granbury, and she's in her nineties.

You know what I think? I think I want to be like them. I want to contribute to the community, engage in problem solving and idea generation with my stellar employees, and continue earning a living. Or, maybe I have retired, and these businesses are my current hobbies. In any case, life is good and I'm not complaining.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FORWARD TRAINING CENTER

Class leaders and instructors for Forward Training Center, pictured during the organization's ceremony for presentation of graduation certificates to a Jobs for Life graduating class are, from left, Stan Moore, instructor; Shelley Wood, site leader; Lori Vale, instructor; and Monica Hays, instructor.

VOLUNTEER

FROM PAGE B1

truly heaven sent and are essential to our growth and success.

Here are a few of the foundational volunteers who help Forward Training Center further our mission to "Educate, Support and Inspire life changing growth in men and women." They are supported by dozens of others who give generously of their time, talent, and find valuable our work to make Hood County a place for all to experience a "Wonderful Life!" Some volunteer positions led by volunteers include our core programs, Jobs for Life and Powered for Life trainings and instructing directed by Linnae Lockwood and Stan Moore; fundraising events coordinated under the direction of Lori Vale and her team; Julia Pannell, originator of our "Community in Unity Campaign" and our Bridge Builders fundraiser chairperson; professionally designed graphics by Monica Hays; technology under the supervision of Sheila Bartley; and ESL/GED programs facilitated by Luly Blankenship.

A big thank-you for these and the support volunteer staff that make our programs a success.

katy@forwardtrainingcenter.org | 817-219-5655



Pictured, seated at the Forward Training Center table at a Salvation Army event, are, from left, Glenda Ramsey, supporter; Christie Clark, fundraising volunteer; Katy Offutt, executive director; Mirta Wallace-Wood, fundraising volunteer; Shelley Wood, program/fundraising volunteer; Monica Hays, program/fundraising volunteer; Hannah Ford, supporter; and Julia Pannell, Bridge Builder chairperson.

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Dragon Doubles

Only two of these dragons are exactly alike. Can you find them?

Kid Scoop Together

Cause and Effect Matchup

Work with a family member to draw lines to connect each CAUSE with its EFFECT.

- My cousin told me a funny joke.
- I was late for school.
- I left my popsicle in the sun.
- Birds splashed and chirped happily.
- I had a bad dream.
- I missed the bus.
- I got an A!
- I read a spooky story last night.
- I laughed and told it to my friends.
- I filled the bird bath with fresh water.
- I studied each night before the big test.
- It melted.

What Happened and Why: Cause and Effect

One event makes something else happen. That's cause and effect!

News articles tell about the cause and the effect of things that happen. News articles report on something that happened and explain why. The headline tells what happened - or the effect. The article gives more details and tells why it happened - or the cause. A good headline sparks your curiosity and makes you want to read the article to learn more.

Caution! This article is not real news! It is just for fun!

Discovering Cause and Effect

Read this silly article to answer these questions.

WHAT happened? This is the EFFECT.

WHY did it happen? This is the CAUSE.

Think about something that happened at your school this week. What was the CAUSE and EFFECT?

CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: _____

Dragon Burp Burns Ball

BLAZETON - Karly Kindling sparked surprise in the people watching last night's basketball game between the Southside Scorchers and the Eastside Embers at Flaming Torch High School.

"I ate a burrito just before the game," said Karly. "I overdid it with the hot sauce I added. The burrito caused my stomach to be a bit upset when I started the game."

The burrito caused stomach gas to form in the belly of the star forward for the Eastside Embers. Just as she caught the ball from a teammate, she burped.

The burp caused a burst of flame to shoot out of her mouth, burning the basketball to a crisp.

"Karly took it well. She took a big breath and got right back in the game, shooting a three-pointer with a new ball moments later," said coach Coalsworth.

"But from now on," said Coalsworth, "our players will be sticking with orange slices and ice water before a game!"

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

News Cause and Effect

Select an article in the newspaper. After reading the article carefully, write a summary of the effect or what happened. Then write the cause or why it happened.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Summarize main ideas in writing.

Write On!

What's your scoop?

Write a sentence or short paragraph that tells the who, what, when and where of some news happening in your school.

Scrambled Story

Look at the pictures below. They tell a silly story of cause and effect. But they are out of order. Number the pictures to show the correct order.

Extra! Extra! Before and After

The cause of something happens before the effect. Look at a photograph in the newspaper. Try to imagine what happened before the picture was taken. Why do you think that?

Standards Link: Identify cause and effect using visual cues.

Hood County SCENE

YOUR GUIDE TO DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Restaurant Anise to add lunch service Jan. 24



SAVE THE DATE
 WHAT: New menu
 WHEN: Jan. 24
 WHERE: Anise, 605 Calinco Dr.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Megan Babineau, owner of Restaurant Anise, recently expanded the eatery's dinner options and will soon be adding a four-day lunch service beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 24, in order to attract more customers.

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Since 2020, Restaurant Anise has been offering customers a fine dining experience that they can't get anywhere else in Granbury.

But after almost three years of only serving unique dinner entrées, owner Megan Babineau is ready for a change.

"I just want more people to experience Anise because even though we've been here two and a half years, many people still don't know that we're here because we're tucked away off the beaten path," she said. "So, I'm excited for more people to enjoy that experience."

The hidden gem, located off U.S. Highway 377 near Best Western Granbury Inn & Suites, is often overlooked.

So, as a way of growing her customer base, Babineau has decided to open Restaurant Anise for lunch as well as dinner, beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The lunch service will be available on Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., offering customers the choice of four appetizers, three salads, three sandwiches, two entrée plates, and two desserts.

Appetizers will include miso winter squash soup, golden greens, crabcake, and whipped goat cheese.

For salads, an oriental chicken salad will be offered as well as an Italian market salad, complete with pepperoncini, cherry peppers, artichokes, olives, mozzarella balls, salami, pepperoni, and red wine vinaigrette. The shrimp remoulade salad, Babineau said, was inspired by the one formerly



COURTESY OF MEGAN BABINEAU

Restaurant Anise will have its lunch service from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and will be open for dinner from 5-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

PLEASE SEE ANISE | B5



"I just want more people to experience Anise because even though we've been here two and a half years, many people still don't know that we're here because we're tucked away off the beaten path. So, I'm excited for more people to enjoy that experience."

MEGAN BABINEAU
Owner of Anise

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Restaurant Anise owner Megan Babineau lived in Paris, France and Barcelona, Spain when she was a young girl and always dreamed of becoming a chef. She opened Restaurant Anise in 2020 with a goal of creating another world in her establishment, where customers would feel like they were stepping out of Granbury.

ANISE

FROM PAGE B4

offered at Christina's American Table on the square.

"That was the one good salad that was in this town, and Gary (Folger) took it off the menu at Christina's a couple of years ago, and it was like, the only salad in this town that I thought was worth eating, so I was like, 'You know what, Gary? Your loss,'" she said, chuckling.

Sandwiches will include the braised short rib sandwich, the chicken salad sandwich, and the fried bologna sandwich that features confit garlic aioli, cheddar, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, kettle chips, and toasted sourdough.

"It's going to be the best sandwich ever," Babineau said, of the fried bologna sandwich. "I'm so excited."

Lemon sole and bison sirloin will be the two entrée choices.

As for the dessert, customers can choose between an orange blossom crème brûlée or a chocolate date cake, with a choice of vanilla or coffee ice cream.

"I make all my ice cream in house, but everyone's always asking me for like, a different flavor that's on the current menu, so I'm going to do a chocolate date cake, which is gonna be super moist, almost fudgy. If you don't like one of those, you just don't like sweets if you can't find one of those two that you enjoy," she said, chuckling.

Babineau also recently made the decision to remove the Thursday dinner service because it was typically the slowest night and didn't bring in as much revenue.

"The second and fourth Thursdays of the month were good, but they still didn't carry the weight for the first and third



COURTESY OF MEGAN BABINEAU

The new menu will include this Braised Short Rib Sandwich

Thursdays, so that's why with adding the lunch, we got rid of the Thursday dinner," she said. "But I think it'll be nice to know that when we're open, we're more profitable."

The dinner service will still be held from 5-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, but as of Jan. 13, Restaurant Anise will be offering a new dinner menu for customers.

"Initially, we were doing a monthly changing menu, but we're going to be changing the menu quarterly now," she said. "We don't see enough people every month, so this way, it gives

people a longer window to enjoy the (dishes). We will also have verbal off-menu specials, so even though the printed menu doesn't change, there's always gonna be something new every week that the server will be able to inform guests about."

The dinner menu has also expanded and will now offer five appetizers, four entrées, and two desserts.

The appetizers offered will be the same as the lunch, but with the additions of the confit duck leg and the meat and cheese plate.

Dinner entrées will feature the red snapper, cornish hen, braised pork and scallops, and bison striploin.

"We're kind of tweaking the menu a little to appeal a little bit more to the mainstream population," Babineau explained. "I think my long term — and my long term being 12-to-15-months — vision for this place, is going back to maybe three or four dinners (a week) as our regular (schedule)."

She also hired a new staff member — who formerly served as the sous-chef and executive chef at Pecan Plantation — to help with the lunch service.

"We'll add Monday if lunch is a success, so then we'll be open five days," Babineau said. "We're just trying to tap into like, a broader market, but for now, we're gonna go back to the two nights, four days (schedule). I'll probably reassess after three months and see if we want to go ahead and add another dinner or two, because I have a feeling Monday is gonna happen. But I



COURTESY OF MEGAN BABINEAU

Coming soon to the Anise menu is the Italian Market Salad.

want to make sure that we do it right and take the time to develop it as needed. If it calls for more dinners or more lunches, we will remodel and adjust to those things."

Reservations for the lunch service are recommended but are only required for parties of five or more.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Restaurant Anise at 682-205-3376, or visit the website at restaurantanise.com.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



COURTESY OF MEGAN BABINEAU

The new menu will also include this Chicken Salad Sandwich.

Considerations for retirees thinking of working part-time

(MetroCreative Connection)

Retirement is an opportunity to wave goodbye to the daily grind. Retirees may focus on rest and relaxation, and many make travel a major component of their lifestyle.

According to a 2022 Gallup poll, Americans expect to retire at an average age of 66, up from 62 in 2022. However, most do not hold out that long; the average actual retirement age is 61. Canada used to have a mandatory retirement age of 65, but that mandate was overturned in 2009. Today, the average retirement age for Canadians is 64.4 for men and 63.8 for women, according to Statistics Canada.

Upon retiring, many retirees discover that they sorely miss getting out of the house and being productive through some sort of employment. Others may find it necessary to supplement their retirement incomes. There are a few things to know about working during retirement, particularly if a person is collecting government benefits.

According to the Social Security Administration, those falling under full retirement age for the entire year (which was raised to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later) will be subjected to an SSA deduction of \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2022, that limit is \$19,560. In the year you reach



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

There are a few things to know about working during retirement, particularly if a person is collecting government benefits.

full retirement age, SSA deducts \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, but they

only count earnings before the month you reach your full retirement age. For full retirement age

reached in 2022 your limit on earnings for the months before full retirement age is \$51,960. After full

retirement age, there is no limit on earnings.

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada reports that individuals between the ages of 60 and 65 who continue to work while receiving a Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) retirement benefit must still contribute to the CPP. Your CPP contributions will go toward post-retirement benefits. These benefits increase your retirement income when you stop working. However, if you continue to work while getting a CPP retirement pension and are between the ages of 65 and 70 years old, you can choose not to make any more CPP contributions.

Keep in mind that if you are on Medicare, extra income could potentially trigger surcharges for parts B and D. It's beneficial to speak with a financial consultant to weigh the pros and cons of part-time work during retirement.

Part-time work does not need to be daily work. Many retirees work according to how they feel. Some options include seasonal jobs, such as driving shuttles in national parks or working during the holidays in retail stores. Or you may use your expertise to consult or start a business.

A number of people work part-time during retirement simply to get out of the house. Jobs that help you interact with a number of people can be beneficial, as socialization has been shown to benefit the mental health of seniors.

Working during retirement can supplement savings and provide structure that some retirees may be missing.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Jan. 14 (Puzzle 96).

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

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Donations received November 15, 2022 - January 31, 2023 will be matched up to the amount of the fund.

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A Man Called Otto - 126 min (PG13)
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Sun: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.
Mon: 12:10PM, 2:35PM, 5:35PM, 8:35PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:35PM, 5:35PM, 8:35PM

Avatar: The Way of Water - 192 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:15PM, 4:20PM, 8:25PM.
Mon: 12:45PM, 4:50PM, 7:45PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 6:45PM

Avatar: The Way of Water in 3D - 192 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:00PM, 5:05PM, 9:10PM.
Mon: 12:00PM, 4:00PM, 8:00PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:15PM

M3GAN - 102 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:45PM, 10:20PM.
Mon: 12:45PM, 3:20PM, 5:55PM, 8:30PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:45PM, 5:20PM, 7:55PM

Plane - 107 min (R)
Fri, Sat: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 12:25PM, 3:05PM, 5:45PM, 8:25PM.
Mon: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 8:55PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish - 103 min (PG)
Fri, Sat: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:45PM, 10:25PM.
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:45PM, 10:20PM.
Mon: 12:00PM, 3:10PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM.
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GARDEN PATCH



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS WEBSTER

LET'S TALK SOIL

Before installing a new landscape, learn more about your site's soil, water, weather and more.

Soil properties can vary greatly, so using testing kits may be beneficial

Small towns in North Central Texas are experiencing a surge in population as evidenced by increased crowds and traffic. Newcomers bring fresh ideas and talent to our communities, but they also bring opinions about how things are done. However, when it comes to plants, landscapes and gardening, what worked in another town may not apply in a new



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.

locale.

For best results, get to know the place where you garden. Don't expect to find

the same plant selection, products or practices that you found elsewhere. Learn about area weather, soils

and hardness zone. Most of all, keep an open mind. If you are new to an area, or gardening in an unfamiliar place, consider these tips:

Soils — You must know your soil to garden successfully. What is the soil pH? What is the soil texture? Do you have clay or loam? Most properties in Hood and surrounding counties have alkaline soils. Plants that require acidic soils will not fare well in alkaline conditions. Although soil can be amended, it takes an ongoing, sometimes expensive, effort to reverse pH enough for plant roots to easily take in nutrients.

If your soil is compacted or if it's heavy clay, amend it with organic products such as compost. The goal is to improve the soil structure while providing nutrients. Soils that are compacted do not have enough air space between soil particles; plant roots need oxygen to sur-

vive. Nicely aerated soil allows water to penetrate and drain. It's a good idea to have the soil tested before fertilizing. Contact the AgriLife Extension for a soil test kit.

Water — Drought is a regular occurrence in Texas. Always opt for drought-tolerant landscape plants. Keep annuals and other water-thirsty plants in containers or in small, isolated bedding areas where they can be tended separately. Install drip irrigation and use mulch to reduce evaporation. If you use water from Lake Granbury to irrigate, know that it can have a high saline content. Since many plants do not tolerate salinity, select salt-tolerant landscape plants. Remember that water is a finite resource; do not waste it.

Builder packages — Never trust that the plants installed by a new home builder are hardy to the area or that they are spaced appropriately.

Builders aim to beautify homes for fast sales. Your goal is to create an enduring, attractive and healthy landscape that adds to your home's value.

Wildlife — Learn to co-exist with native wildlife. Keep an open mind to the presence of deer, raccoons, armadillos, opossums and yes, even snakes. Reduce chemical use to protect visiting birds, bees, butterflies, etc.

Weather — Never assume anything about Texas weather. It can change 40 degrees in an hour! While winter here can be pleasantly warm, a "blue norther" can bring ice and snow. Blazing hot is the summer norm. Wind can be brutal. Flooding happens. Drought is common. One thing is certain; the weather is not boring. Welcome!

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RITA LENIG
Cresson volunteer firefighter

Hi! My name is Rita Lenig. I joined the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department seven years ago when I moved to Cresson. I have been through the Hood County fire school, pumping class, Class B drivers

class, I am an ECA, and I am honored to be a lieutenant in the department. I do not consider myself a hero. I love helping people, and I love the fire family I am a part of. I am the mom and grandma of the department, and the official chef! I'm retired and still responding to calls, which keeps me in shape to babysit my twelve grandchildren.



HOOD COUNTY HEROES

Every Wednesday of every month we will publish one of four tributes to our local heroes.

- **WE BACK THE BLUE** — for police officers
- **TO PROTECT AND SERVE** — for sheriff deputies
- **VOLUNTEER SERVICE W/PRIDE** — for firefighters
- **WE SLAUTE YOUR SERVICE** — for veterans

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