



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, Feb. 4, 2023]

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Case involving alleged theft of campaign signs rescheduled

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The case involving Van Vernon and his alleged theft of campaign signs belonging to three Granbury School Board candidates was to have taken place on Monday but was canceled due to a death in the family of his defense attorney, R. Shay Isham.

A staffer in the office of Precinct

2 Justice of the Peace Roger "Cotton" Howell told the Hood County News Monday morning that a new court date would likely be determined within a week or 10 days.

Vernon has pleaded not guilty.

Because of the political nature of the case, a visiting judge and a visiting prosecutor have been enlisted.

Erath County District Attorney

Alan Nash agreed to serve as prosecutor in place of County Attorney Matt Mills and Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace for Somervell County Scott May agreed to replace Howell as the judge overseeing the case.

Vernon has been charged with three Class C misdemeanors in the October incident. He is accused of stealing campaign signs belonging to Barbara Townsend, Paula McDonald, and Billy Wimberly.

A witness identified Vernon as the man he saw taking the signs from property near Lakeside Baptist Church.

According to Sheriff Roger Deeds, a deputy recovered the undamaged signs from Vernon's home.

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SEE MORE INSIDE

Board votes to create sculpture garden at Shanley Park. Please see story, B1.

Tractor Supply Company partnered with Second Chance Farm to host a pet treat tasting event Saturday, Jan. 28. The event gave pets the chance to sample a variety of pet treats available at Tractor Supply Company. Please see photos, B1-B2.

Angela Burkey's back in familiar role. Granbury actress once again starring in 'Steel Magnolias.' Please see story, B4-B5.

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ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Charles Baldwin blows out his candles during his 101st birthday party at AVIVA Granbury on Jan. 27.

Sheriff: Ice brings team effort from first responders

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

When icy winter weather hit this week, first responders and road crews did not have the luxury of working from home in their pajamas.

They reported for duty, lessening the danger to the community, according to Sheriff Roger Deeds, who emailed reports to the Hood County News as ice continued to pose threats.

On Tuesday, the first full day of icy roadways, Deeds said that there was little traffic and that by mid-afternoon only two accidents had been reported: one around 6:30 a.m. on Fall Creek Highway and one around 8:30 a.m. on Star Hollow Court in Lipan.

PLEASE SEE ICE | A2

'THERE'S A LITTLE CLOWN IN ALL OF US'

Retired World War II fighter pilot celebrates 101st birthday

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Charles Baldwin might've spent most of his life in the clouds, but not even the sky is the limit for the former Air Force pilot.

Baldwin, a resident of AVIVA Granbury, celebrated his 101st birthday on Jan. 27 — but the quick-witted veteran still has a lot of life left in him.

"I never have taken many things very seriously," he said, adding that his joking nature has most likely led to his longevity, along with his playful advice to "choose your ancestors wisely" and "just keep breathing."

Baldwin, who was born in Artesia, New Mexico on Jan. 27, 1923, spent around 20 years — both active and reserve — in the Army Air Corps (before it was called Air Force).

As a fighter pilot, Baldwin flew B-47s during World War II in Europe, serving in a total of 51

missions during his active duty.

He said he would've preferred to fly a bomber and "get the drop on the Japanese," but — as proven with his best friend — not everything goes according to plan.

Baldwin's best friend also desired to fly in the military, but ended up joining the National Guard instead, along with several of their high school classmates.

"It was kind of a thing to do back then, when you graduated high school," he explained. "A lot of guys would join the National Guard in order to get a little extra income."

Unfortunately, the National Guard unit from his town was sent

PLEASE SEE BALDWIN | A2



Charles Baldwin's 101st birthday party had the theme of "Vintage Dude," and included a red-carpet entrance. "I'm speechless for the first time in my life," he said. "I'm thankful for God for keeping me around this long, and I'm so blessed."

"I never have taken many things very seriously."

CHARLES BALDWIN
Retired Air Force Pilot

Commissioners accept report for new jail, plan talks for upcoming meeting

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The Commissioners Court may be closer than it has ever been to starting the process of building a larger jail.

The county judge and commissioners plan to discuss a 53-page report by AG/CM, a professional project management firm, at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The court accepted the report from two representatives at its regular meeting on Jan. 24.

The report, titled "Hood County Jail and Law Enforcement Center Architectural Programming," was commissioned by the county last October. It followed an assessment of the current Law Enforcement Center that the court voted to conduct last summer at a cost not to

PLEASE SEE JAIL | A2

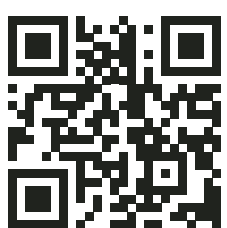


137TH YEAR, NO. 45

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 16 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 16 pages

INSIDE

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WE COVER YOU



A FEBRUARY FREEZE FOR ALL



COURTESY PHOTO

Colder weather left a layer of ice over Hood County last week as calls to first responders and road crews picked up. School and government offices closed for several days as everyone waited for the icy conditions to pass.

BALDWIN

FROM PAGE A1

to the Philippines, where they were captured and forced to participate in the Bataan Death March. The Bataan Death March forced between 60,000 and 80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war to march through the Philippines along a 65-mile route.

"They sent them to the Philippines before the war ever started, so they were there when the shooting started," Baldwin said. "Of course, they were all either killed or captured."

His best friend, Baldwin said, was "one of the lucky ones" who made it through the Japanese prison camp.

"After the war, he fortunately made it back and I was talking to him one day," Baldwin said, reminiscing. "I said, 'Doug, you wanted to fly so bad. Did you ever wish you'd done that instead of joining the National Guard?' After going through the hell of Japanese prison camps and all he had to tolerate over there, he said no. He said, 'I'd do the same thing all over because this way, I made it back,' and I thought, 'What a wonderful philosophy for anything that comes up in our lives.'"

Following his time in active duty, Baldwin joined a clothing business with his father. They remained in business until the shop closed in 1964 and Baldwin moved to Lamesa with his high school sweetheart and wife, Peggy.

"My wife and I dated in high school," Baldwin explained. "She was a freshman, and I was a senior, and after I went off to college, well, that kind of cooled off, but the spark was still there. When I came back from service, we just picked up right where we left off — and the rest is history."

They had three children together: Judy, Rick, and Russ, and were married for almost 60 years until Peggy's death in 2005.

"She was a wife in every sense of the word," Baldwin said. "She was a wonderful woman. I give her credit for raising these kids, really."

He wasn't expecting to find a second chance at happiness, though.



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Charles Baldwin, left, and wife Myrna, have been married for 12 years now, but the cute couple still acted like newlyweds during Charles' 101st birthday celebration as they each took turns feeding each other cake.

"I wasn't looking for a mate or anything," Baldwin said. "We (Peggy and I) always talked about it, that if one of us passed away, we'd hope the other would find another mate. I wasn't looking. I was perfectly happy, but then I met this woman."

He was attending a school reunion at Lamesa and was talking with a group of classmates, when someone mistakenly called a woman, Myrna, by the wrong last name, as her husband had since passed away.

She responded that she would answer to any name, to which Baldwin spontaneously replied, "What about Baldwin?"

"I didn't say it, but it came out of my mouth," he said, chuckling. "God said it. But she said, 'That sounds like a pretty good name.'"

Judy, Baldwin's daughter, said her dad told her about seeing Myrna at the reunion and that he

described her as being a "cute little thing."

"I said, 'Well, dad, maybe you ought to go up to Lubbock and call her,'" Judy said, reminiscing. "And he goes, 'I'm afraid I might get something started if I do that.'"

Baldwin eventually listened to his daughter's words of wisdom and asked Myrna out on a dinner date where they split a rack of baby back ribs.

"We live in Alaska, and it's a three-hour time difference," said Rick, Baldwin's son. "So we're laying in bed at nine o'clock at night and he comes dragging in to Lamesa at midnight and calls me after his date with Myrna."

"It was just so nice and wonderful, and it just fit," Baldwin said. "As much as I love Peggy — which I did love her so dearly — I never dreamed I could ever really be in love with anybody else. But it happened. God had a hand in that."

Baldwin didn't waste any time and asked Myrna to marry him a year later.

Rick said, "He told me, 'You know, I'd hate to live another 10 or so years and look back and say, 'Man, I wasted the last 10 years.'"

"Myrna and I discussed that, and we said, 'Well, we don't know how long we'll have.' There's no way of knowing," Baldwin said. "But we decided that we were gonna go for it and I'm so glad we did."

Judy said when her dad told her he was getting married, she asked how old Myrna was. At the time, Baldwin was 89 and Myrna was 78.

"I told him, 'Well, dad, I don't think you'll be robbing the cradle,'" she said, chuckling. "We love Myrna, though. We all are really grateful for her. She's a sweet lady."

Baldwin added, "I've seen so many people who lose their mate and their life is over, but after

Myrna and I married I said, 'You can choose to dwell on loving memories lived, you can cling to sorrow and live in a broken life, or you can cling to sorrow and learn to dance again.'"

Myrna and Baldwin have now been married for 12 years, and still act like newlyweds. During Baldwin's birthday celebration, they were lost in each other's eyes as they fed each other cake.

"I'm speechless for the first time in my life," he said, upon entering The Great Room, where his birthday party was being held. "I'm thankful for God for keeping me around this long, and I'm so blessed."

Baldwin stays active by walking around AVIVA every day and keeps his mind sharp by reading and playing board games — but only ones that he can win, of course.

"Don't play cards with the man," warned Baldwin's son, Rick.

"I enjoy all kinds of games like, Wordle, Mexican Train, dominoes — any kind of game that you can have a winner because I want to win," Baldwin said, chuckling.

He has also memorized several poems, including "High Flight," by John Gillespie Magee, Jr., which he recited word for word on his birthday.

A passage from that poem that reads, "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings" was also used as the inspiration for the title of Baldwin's book, "On Laughter Silvered Wings" that he wrote detailing his time in service.

Baldwin currently resides at AVIVA with Myrna. He has nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

"God has been good to me," he added. "I've been twice blessed with another woman, and I just keep on getting more blessings every day."

He leaves readers with this particular advice to help them live longer and retain their youth:

"Don't take yourself too seriously — because there's a little clown in all of us."

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ICE

FROM PAGE A1

One call to dispatch involved a fall and there were "two or three" calls to report cattle on roadways, he said.

On Day 2, Wednesday, things stepped up a bit.

Deeds said that his department had experienced "a busy morning" that began with an ambulance and a deputy patrol vehicle stuck

in Comanche Cove in separate incidents.

While this was going on, at about 5 a.m. a justice of the peace vehicle and a funeral home vehicle became stuck in Oak Trail Shores. Deeds said that a death had occurred just before 3 a.m., apparently due to cardiac arrest. He said that the person's passing was not due to a slowed emergency response.

In his late morning email to the HCN, the sheriff reported that there had been two non-ice-re-

lated falls thus far that day, six ambulance calls, and three minor accidents that occurred in Lipan, Canyon Creek, and Comanche Cove.

City and county road operations sanded roads and assisted Lake Granbury Medical Center with clearing ice from the ambulance bay parking area, he said.

"I think we used up most of the sand around," Deeds stated in his email.

He said that the Texas

Department of Transportation sanded U.S. Highway 377 but did not sand state highways.

Deeds credited Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Campbell for working with TxDOT to get whatever help it could provide to Hood County.

The sheriff said that deputies and Granbury police officers conducted building checks and close patrols.

About an hour and a half after Deeds sent his email to the HCN on

Wednesday, the city of Granbury posted a warning that more freezing rain was expected to fall after 1 p.m., with temperatures below freezing, and that freezing rain was expected during the night.

The HCN goes to press with its Saturday issue on Thursday mornings to meet postal deadlines. Any breaking news is posted at hcnews.com.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Choices in life, past and present: Face forward, never turning back

Modern science consistently can surprise and sometimes shock me. In the short period of the last 50 years, inventions like the microwave, cell phones, and the internet have transformed our lives in many astonishing ways. Once breakthrough discoveries or inventions become reality, the world is changed for everyone to one degree or the other. Even if you resist the change, so much of the world adapts to the newness, it makes it impossible to stand on the sidelines and act like the change never happened. One way or the other, slowly but surely, change is going to come to each of our doorsteps and take us in.

It is nice to long for the past. It is a safe place we have already lived through, and we know no matter the troubles or conflicts, we will be OK because we know we

**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.

survived to get to the present. Oh there may have been struggles or pains to endure, but the truth is we made it through. The uncertain future is what makes us fearful. What might change next? What problems might arise? How do we know we will make it through?

It is not only science and technology that changes our lives. The choices we make stamp our lives with permanent ink, and we live with the consequences. Deciding to drop out of school, getting pregnant at an early age, or rushing into marriage are all decisions that impact a life's course. The change

could be for the positive, or perhaps for the negative, but without a doubt, it impacts how the rest of your life plays out.

It doesn't do any good to look back and reconsider each decision we have made. Heck, I have made more than my fair share of decisions that impacted me significantly, but when I made a choice, I knew I would have to live with the consequences. Sometimes those consequences have been a bitter pill to swallow. Other decisions led me to success and happiness. Looking back and trying to reevaluate what might have, or could have hap-

pened, is nothing more than lost time. The past cannot be changed, nor the consequences that stem from it. The only hope one can have is to take the experience of living through the past and make better choices going forward.

Perhaps deliberation is a trait we learn from life. How jumping into a marriage, a business deal, a relocation, or a job change, all are cause for reflection, analyzation, and calm deliberation. It is best to make decisions about the future based on the knowledge and wisdom gained over years of living, then to haphazardly "jump" without knowing how deep the water might be. "Cause once you jump; you will be in the "water" dealing with the consequences.

Most of the big decisions in my life have been made. I decided on where to live, who to be married to, what work I would do, and how

I would conduct myself in relation with others. Now, the remaining life decisions to be made are much more finite: when will I retire, where and how will I spend my final days, and how I spend my remaining time. There is no reason to be afraid of the uncertainty. My remaining life decisions will be based on what I have learned in the past and optimism about the future. There will not be uncertainty or fear, for I know life is to be lived looking forward, not looking back, and wanting to repair the roadway I have made. Look forward, that is where we are all headed.

Thought for the day: The past is your lesson. The present is your gift. The future is your motivation. Until next time I will keep ridin' the storm out.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Struck down by what? Abbreviations are getting more complicated

A weathered rancher of my acquaintance stubbornly refused to join a group of church friends who "enjoy" bad health. A woman of few words, she explained her absence from services the previous Sunday.

"I was struck down by the flu," she stated, leaving it at that.

Would that our health conditions be so succinctly categorized these days. Now, there are strains, distresses, aches, pains and assorted illnesses that not only have names, but typically are reduced to abbreviations and sometimes even numbers. It's a mistake to try to keep up; much blame is attributed to COVID....

THAT NEW STUFF

I surrender all, having been "stove up" since Christmas with respiratory issues that may seem minor to you and little more than that to me.

All I know is that coughing, wheezing and congestion stretched over three weeks, and my wife's similar symptoms hung around longer.

**BY DON NEWBURY**

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

We've generally much stayed indoors. A neighbor thinks we've been "struck down" by a new set of abbreviations. "Probably the RSV stuff that's going around," she said....

RSV

Until lately, "RSV" was totally foreign to me. (Without the "S," of course, "RV" seems far removed from illness, with the allure of being "on the road again.")

I could have left it right there, but later in the day, I spoke on the phone with my friend Paul Butler. He and his wife Virginia had endured similar symptoms, and Paul joked (I think) that they were victims of that "RSVP" disease.

Maybe he wasn't kidding. He may have known that "RSV" stands for "respiratory syncytial virus," adding the "P" for Paul intention-

ally to personally identify with the disease....

EXPRESSIONS

This set me to thinking about former terms concerning illnesses. We had "bad colds," croup, crud, upset tummies, sprains, strains, headaches and other names that rarely exceeded two syllables, and often were just one. Abbreviations weren't needed.

An age-old condition remains colorful. The guy was "rode hard and put up wet," an expression better understood by non-urban folks.

There were other expressions in a general category, "running off at the mouth." These were usually attributed to political figures who didn't know when to shut up....

KICKING WOES

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott probably

would like to retract his "tweet" bragging that he could kick better than Dallas Cowboy Brett Maher, who muffed five straight point-after kicks during his team's two final games.

The gov's attempt at humor not only fell flat, but also offended others confined to wheelchairs.

Maybe someone stole our leader's identity. That could be the story he'll stick to. Whatever, Dallas has joined Houston in having a problem....

PACING

Now, I return to the original premise that medical ID's are galloping ahead of us.

In a recent Dallas Morning News edition, facing pages caught my eye. One led with a major headline, asking readers if they've had heart failure; the other pointed to "pacing" as the key for "long COVID."

I read the one about heart failure first, since I've had four bypasses and a mitral valve repair — and later implantation of a stent, defibrillator and pacemaker — in 1998 and 2021, respectively....

NEVER HAD IT

The ad cited familiar symptoms, suggesting that I could be saddled with a condition called "ATTR-CM." I'll ask my cardiologist about it, since transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy — the abbreviation spelled out — sounds like something I already have.

When I inquire, he may wax rhetorical, asking why I'm blinking incessantly. If he does, I'll urge him to relax and take a few deep breaths, informing him that my blinking serves only to signify my disbelief about "long COVID." I didn't even know the disease can be measured.

Returning home, I'll mull over prescribed medications and whether my exercise regimen is "set" on the lowest possible bar. Maybe I'll reconstruct the old joke about a guy undergoing sedation prior to surgery. "This makes you feel like you do when you're drunk," he said. "I wouldn't know," the anesthesiologist replied. "I've never had anesthesia."...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Founders Day

When I first moved to the Granbury area in 2005, I watched my first birthday celebration of General Granbury. It was breathtaking to see the person, acting as General Granbury, in full uniform, riding a beautiful white horse with a large Confederate battle flag blowing in the breeze.

I see that the day is now named the Founders Day, and General Granbury is hidden in the back of a pickup truck.

I called the sponsor of the event, Granbury Merchants Association (GMA), to ask why these changes had been made. The answer was that some people objected to honoring the General. I asked how many people objected. Answer — a few. I then asked if any survey of Hood County had been done. Answer — No!

The GMA said it was more appropriate to expand the day to include early founders. Doesn't the GMA realize that the founders chose to name the new town in honor of General Granbury because of his bravery and mutual love with his troops? And this love has lasted for a long time. In the 1890s, General Granbury's remains were moved

from the area in Tennessee where he was killed, to the Granbury cemetery. An estimated crowd of 8,000 people attended this event.

I think we all know what the next moves will be. The statue of Gen Granbury will be torn down and the city will be renamed 'HAPPY VALLEY'.

I think we should put pressure on the GMA to revert to the old way of celebrating 'Founders Day' by calling them on the phone and restricting patronage of GMA members businesses.

Jay Beavers
Granbury

Petition

A petition with 1,432 signatures was presented to Hood County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. The petition asks the County Judge and four Commissioners to vote no to a tax increment reinvestment zone and a tax abatement for the Yellow Viking II Solar Facility across the Brazos River from the Pecan Plantation neighborhood.

The petition was presented by Save the Brazos ... Say No to Solar Facility, a group of Pecan Plantation and Hood County residents. The proposed Yellow Viking II mega fa-

cility would consist of 2,400 acres (3.75 square miles) of solar panels. Residents have been speaking at Commissioners Court since Oct. 11, 2022, when Yellow Viking II requested a tax increment reinvestment zone and tax abatement from Commissioners Court. At that time, the Court requested a workshop with Yellow Viking II. As of this date, yellow Viking II has not proposed a time for a workshop.

Residents' concerns include flooding due to groundwater runoff into the Brazos River; soil erosion due to removal of vegetation; destruction of wildlife habitat, including three bald eagle nests; decreases in property values; heightened fire potential; and noise pollution due to mechanical movement of panels throughout every day.

John Highsmith
Granbury

Concern

At the last Commissioners Court meeting, I spoke up about how the County Clerk had asked for a specialist to be hired for her office to work on the Tyler Software Conversion. They did approve this, but she didn't hire a new employee, she promoted someone in her of-

ice for an additional cost to the taxpayers of \$15,000. My question to the court was, if she had a person qualified as a specialist to do this conversion, why didn't she just have that employee do the job? I knew I wouldn't get an answer because this was not an agenda item, I just wanted them to think about it and realize what has happened under their watch. I then suggested that every other county office personnel who did this conversion without a pay increase was due a bonus and asked someone on the Court to put this on the next agenda to discuss and take action. We will see if that happens, I don't expect it. If you are tired of the elected officials in this county wasting our tax dollars, please speak up. I believe this action by the County Clerk and one JP has cost the county over \$400,000 now, and what I mean, "by the county" is us, the taxpayers! Please pay attention!

Tina Brown
Granbury

Taxes and Christmas lights

After paying my 5-digit property tax bill last month, I have one request of the City of Granbury: Please earmark some of those funds to replace the dozens of burned out Christmas light bulbs that hang over the courthouse unkept year after year. . . .

Tom Minton
Granbury

Appalled

I have worked in the court system for almost 19 years and I am APPALLED that you chose to put in the newspaper The children's drawing from the Pautenis trial. Those

PLEASE SEE LETTERS | A4

CORRECTION

An article in the Saturday, Jan. 28 issue incorrectly named the artist who will paint a portrait of former District Judge Ralph Walton to hang at the justice center. Local artist James Spurlock will paint the portrait.



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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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10 a.m. Monday

Saturday issue:

10 a.m. Wednesday

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JAIL

FROM PAGE A1

exceed \$23,000.

Replacing the aging, cheaply built LEC with a new, larger building appears to be the path the court will most likely take. The assessment estimated that making upgrades and repairs to the LEC would cost \$25.5 million just to address the most serious of many issues.

The upgrades would not address overcrowding that for years has been forcing the county to pay to house inmates in other jails. Transporting inmates means fewer deputies patrolling Hood County and more money spent for fuel and vehicle maintenance.

Ryan Rosborough, vice president of AG/CM's Central Texas Region, told the court at its meeting on Jan. 24 that if the county started the process immediately, the price tag for the new facility would be about \$96 million. The figure includes furniture and project management fees, with "inflation and escalation" factored in.

"That's tax, title, and license," he said.

Rosborough said the sum covers a timeline that would allow eight to 12 months for the design process with the project going out for bid in early 2024.

If the court opts to delay the start date to 2025, the estimated project cost would be \$101 million, he stated. By 2026, it would be \$107.5 million.

"Right now the market is telling us that the more we push things out, the more it's going to cost and the less square footage you're going to get for the money," Rosborough said.

He stated that the cost per square foot for construction had been projected to fall between \$800 and \$900 but instead came in at \$740.

"We felt good when we saw this estimate," he said.

Rosborough cautioned that the report is a "living, breathing document" and that "everything will change, week to week, month to month, year to year" and that if the court chooses to wait the estimates will have to be updated.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE A3

children will never recover from witnessing such a heinous crime! How dare you publish such a sensitive document based on the cold blooded murder of their mother! Those two innocent children witnessed something so deplorable and you decided to publish such a document?! How dare you! You should be ashamed! I have never written a letter to the editor, but my colleagues in the court system would be ashamed if I didn't. Do better Hood County News!!!

Valerie Hess
Granbury

Guidelines for letters to the editor

Email letters to sam@hcnews.com. Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

Letters should be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions to the Hood County News will become the property of the Hood County News. Letters to the Editor will appear in the Saturday edition of the Hood County News.

Questions: Call 817-573-7066 or contact Publisher Sam Houston.

OBITUARIES

Willie Mae Massey

November 15, 1930 - January 31, 2023



Willie Mae Wiggins Massey was born on November 15, 1930 and passed from this life on January 31, 2023. She was raised in the Mambrino community where she attended school at Neri, Mambrino, and ultimately graduated from Granbury High School in 1948. She was the last survivor of eight children.

She met the love of her life at the Hood County Fair and she and Julian Massey were married in June 1950. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2015 just months before Julian passed away. After a long battle with the aftermath of a major stroke, Willie Mae passed into his waiting arms that she missed so much.

Willie Mae's life led her down many paths, all of which she traveled with passion, determination and love. She was a wife and partner to Julian; mother to two sons; boss to 40 employees in data entry at General Dynamics, where she worked for 35 years; cook to dozens of her sons' friends and those who worked for the family; chief sack sewer during years of peanut harvests; friend to many neighbors; and shining example of devotion and love to her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, granddaughters-in-law, great-grandchildren, her nieces and nephews and every person who's life she touched.

Willie Mae was a country girl through and through. She enjoyed everything that happened on a farm. She viewed no job as

drudgery, just an opportunity to work with her family. She insisted on being in the working pens when it came time to work cattle until her 80s, when her oldest son had to force her to supervise from the outside of the pen. In her recent years, she dearly loved it when the cattle were moved into the pasture that joined her yard fence so that she could watch them from her favorite spot on the back porch.

Willie Mae was preceded in death by husband Julian Massey and grandson Riley Massey. She is survived by sons Mike and wife Christy, and Robert and wife Joanne; grandsons Jason and wife Laurie, Paul and wife Michelle, Scott and wife Clarissa, granddaughter-in-law Jordan, granddaughter Blair, great-grandsons Justin, Julian, Miles and Alex; great-granddaughters Michaela and Alicia, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation: Sunday, February 5, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home. Service: Monday, February, 6, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home. Interment: Fall Creek Cemetery.

Sheila Margaret Higgins

January 4, 1935 - January 26, 2023



Sheila Margaret Higgins, 88, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023 in Fort Worth. She was born January 4, 1935 in Gretna, Louisiana where she met her future husband, Mark A. Higgins at a morning service at the Gretna Presbyterian Church. They moved to Granbury in 1994. He preceded her in death in 2021. Sheila was a member and a Deacon at the First Presbyterian Church in Granbury. She attended TCU and was an Assistant to the Librarian at a Middle School in Guilford, CT.

She is survived by her daughters, Betty Jane H. Milewski of Granbury, Meg Montesino (David Montesino) of Granbury, and Ellen Bebee (Larry Bebee) of Florida; granddaughter,

Adrienne Ione; grandson, Christopher Bebee.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at Holly Hills Memorial Park in Granbury with Pastor Drew Travis officiating under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home of Granbury.

Shari Dawn Lackey

July 23, 1956 - January 26, 2023



Shari Dawn Lackey, 66, beloved daughter, sister, and aunt, passed away on January 26, 2023 surrounded by her family. Shari was born in Perryton, Texas to parents Major Wesley Lackey Jr. and Mary Jane (Keim) Lackey on July 23, 1956. Shari attended Lubbock Public Schools where she graduated from adult education classes. When she lived in Lubbock, Shari worked at Lighthouse for the Blind and The Blackeyed Pea restaurants. Shari moved to Granbury in 2017 to be closer to her family.

Shari was a very loving and caring Christian woman. She was an avid Texas Tech fan. She loved music, movies, holidays and birthdays celebrated with her family and friends.

Shari was preceded in death by her mother Janie Lackey. She is survived by her father Wesley Lackey Jr, brother Major Wesley Lackey III (Mike) and part-

ner Les Lujan, sister Pamela Joyce and husband Patrick, nephew Nicholas Joyce, niece Alyssa Joyce and her "best buddy" Sarah Parker Spurrier.

She loved all and was loved by all and will truly be missed.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday February 5th at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Lighthouse for the Blind.

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Can you reduce the Medicare surcharge?

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



(MAGI) of two years ago. So, the IRMAA for 2023 would be based on one's MAGI from 2021.

Before you turn 65, you'll want to become familiar with Medicare's rules and features. And if you're a high earner, you'll want to be especially aware of the Medicare premium surcharge — because, over time, it can add up to some significant dollars.

The premium surcharge — known as the income related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA — is assessed on premiums for Medicare Parts B and D, and generally is based on an individual's modified adjusted gross income

For someone who's married and files taxes jointly, and whose MAGI for 2021 was \$194,000 or less, the Part B premium for 2023 will be \$164.90 per month, and the Part D premium will be whatever amount is charged by their Medicare plan. But if their 2021 MAGI was between \$194,000 and \$246,000, they'll pay \$230.80 a month plus a \$65.90 surcharge for Part B and an additional \$12.20 for Part D. And the IRMAA rises at

different income levels, reaching a maximum of \$560.50 (a surcharge of \$395.60) for Part B and an additional \$76.40 for Part D for a MAGI of \$750,000 or more.

If you're unprepared for the IRMAA, it can be an unpleasant surprise. So, if you've still got a few years until you enroll in Medicare, you may want to look for ways to control your MAGI and possibly limit the surcharge.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA). If you have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA), your contributions will reduce your taxable income, helping you on the IRMAA issue.

Furthermore, any investment growth within your HSA is tax free, as are withdrawals for qualified medical expenses, which can include Medicare premiums, deductibles and copays.

- Contribute to a Roth IRA. Roth IRA withdrawals are tax free, provided you don't start taking them until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. These tax-free withdrawals can enable you to avoid taking taxable withdrawals from other accounts, which may help you avoid an increase in your IRMAA.

- Consider a Roth IRA conversion. You could convert some, or perhaps all, the as-

sets of a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. But you'll need to consider the impact of taxes — any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA and the earnings generated by these contributions will be fully taxable the year of the conversion, so you'll want to have funds outside your IRA available to pay these taxes. Also, timing is important — to be on the safe side, you might want to complete the Roth conversion three or more years before you enroll in Medicare, so the conversion and the likely increase in your MAGI won't increase the IRMAA.

- Manage your withdrawal rate — Taking large withdrawals from your retire-

ment accounts can bump up your MAGI bracket and your IRMAA. So, as you near retirement, you'll want to establish a sustainable withdrawal rate — one that provides you the income you need but without going overboard.

While these moves could potentially help you control the Medicare surcharge, they still must make sense for your overall financial strategy. It's obviously desirable to keep the surcharge as low as you can — but it's even more important to take the steps necessary to reach your financial goals.

Classifieds

Deadlines: Wednesday issue, 10 a.m. Monday • Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

(817) 573-7066

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday • 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday

CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

Real Estate for Sale
 1010 Acreage for Sale
 1020 Cemetery Lots
 1030 Commercial for Sale
 1040 Duplexes for Sale
 1050 Homes for Sale
 1060 Waterfront Homes
 1070 Lots for Sale
 1080 Mobiles for Sale
 1090 Waterfront Mobiles
 1100 Real Estate Notes
 1110 Townhomes & Condos
 1120 Property For Trade
 1130 Want To Buy

Real Estate for Rent
 1510 Apartments for Rent
 1520 Commercial for Rent
 1530 Duplexes for Rent
 1540 Homes for Rent
 1550 Mobiles for Rent
 1560 Rooms for Rent
 1570 Roommates Wanted
 1580 Spaces & Lots
 1590 Townhomes & Condos
 1600 Want to Rent

Vehicles
 2010 Automobiles
 2020 Parts & Accessories
 2030 Big Trucks & Trailers
 2040 Classic Automobiles

2050 Four-Wheel Drive
 2060 Motorcycles
 2070 Pickups & SUVs
 2080 Vans & Campers
 2090 Trailers
 2095 Heavy Equipment

Farm & Ranch
 3010 Corrals & Fencing
 3020 Farm Equipment
 3030 Feed & Pasture
 3040 Stock Trailers
 3050 Related Items

Finance
 4010 Business Opportunities
 4020 Insurance
 4030 Investments
 4040 Mortgages & Notes

Home & Business Services
 5010 Adult/Elderly Care
 5020 A/C Heating Repair
 5030 Appliance Repair
 5040 Automotive Services
 5050 Bulldozer Services
 5060 Business Services
 5065 Carpports
 5070 Cement/Concrete
 5075 Chimney Sweeping
 5080 Child Care
 5090 Cleaning Services
 5100 Computer Services

5110 Construction
 5120 Clock Repair
 5130 Dock repair/Rebuild
 5140 Electrical
 5150 Electronics Repair
 5160 Exterminating
 5170 Fencing
 5180 Floor Coverings
 5190 Health Care
 5200 Home Improvement
 5210 Home Services
 5220 Landscaping/Tree Service
 5230 Interior Design
 5240 Masonry
 5250 Mobile Home Service
 5260 Moving/Hauling
 5265 Plumbing
 5270 Sand/Gravel/Soil
 5280 Roofing
 5290 Painting
 5295 Pressure Washing
 5300 Septic/Sewer
 5310 Small Engine Repair
 5320 Secretarial/Office
 5330 Storage
 5340 Tractor Service
 5350 Welding

Merchandise
 6510 Antiques
 6520 Appliances
 6530 Arts & Crafts
 6540 Building Materials
 6550 Computers
 6560 Electronics
 6570 Firewood
 6580 Furniture
 6590 Health
 6600 Air Conditioners
 6610 Lawn Equipment
 6620 Miscellaneous
 6630 Musical Instruments
 6635 Pocket Stuffers
 6640 Portable Buildings
 6650 Tools
 6660 Trees
 6670 Wanted

Education
 7010 Tutor/Instruction
 7020 Music
 7030 Computer
 7040 Art Instruction

Livestock & Pets
 8010 Livestock
 8020 Livestock Lost & Found
 8030 Pets
 8040 Pets Lost & Found

6070 RV's/Travel Trailers
 6080 Sporting Goods

Employment
 8510 General
 8520 Construction
 8530 Food Services
 8540 Medical/Dental
 8550 Office Employment
 8560 Professional
 8570 Sales
 8580 Salon Personnel
 8590 Employment Wanted
 8600 Employment Information
 8610 Carpool Information

Notices
 9010 Happy Notes
 9020 Free
 9030 Public Notices
 9040 Notices
 9050 Personal Lost & Found
 9070 Card of Thanks

Public Sales
 9570 Auctions
 9580 Flea Markets
 9590 Out of Town Sales
 9600 Garage Sales 76035
 9610 Garage Sales 76048
 9620 Garage Sales 76049
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NOTICES

Public Notices

LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

PECAN BAPTIST CHURCH ADDITION, LOTS 1R, BLOCK 1

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

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Edition: \$1.00

Town halls scheduled ahead of GISD bond election
The Hood County Board of Supervisors will hold two public hearings on the proposed bond issue for the Granbury Independent School District (GISD) on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Granbury Public Library, 1000 W. Pearl St., Granbury, Texas. The first hearing will be for the \$10 million bond issue, and the second hearing will be for the \$20 million bond issue. The board will also hold a meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the same location to discuss the bond issues. For more information, visit www.hcnews.com.

TEXAS CLASS 2A BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Clarendon shatters Lipan's promise of perfection
Clarendon High School's boys basketball team defeated Lipan High School 44-21 in the Class 2A state championship game on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at the AT&T Center in Dallas, Texas. Clarendon's lead scorer, Jaden Smith, had 20 points and 10 rebounds. Lipan's lead scorer, Jaden Smith, had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Clarendon's coach, Mike Smith, said his team was "very focused and executed well." Lipan's coach, Mike Smith, said his team was "disappointed but proud of their effort." For more information, visit www.hcnews.com.

GRANBURY ISD
Book review completed, three more titles removed
The Granbury Independent School District (GISD) Board of Trustees has approved the removal of three more titles from the district's library. The titles are "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas, "The Hate U Buy" by Angie Thomas, and "The Hate U Buy" by Angie Thomas. The board also approved the removal of "The Hate U Buy" by Angie Thomas. For more information, visit www.hcnews.com.

Competition sizzles at Brock's steak cook-off
The Brock Steak Cook-off was held on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at the Brock Steak House in Granbury, Texas. The event was a huge success, with over 100 people attending. The winners of the cook-off were: 1st place - Jaden Smith, 2nd place - Jaden Smith, and 3rd place - Jaden Smith. For more information, visit www.hcnews.com.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Tennis association members enjoy fellowship time at Australian Open mixer

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 28 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother and English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 15 years cumulatively. She spends her time gathering neighborhood news and teaching students how to avoid passive voice.

The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association enjoyed a brisk Friday evening filled with food from the barbecue grill, tennis play, and of course, fun and fellowship. The crowd appeared enthusiastic at this first official social of 2023 and looks forward to more events on the court calendar.

"Pecan tennis is the place to be in 2023," said Pecan tennis professional John Ingram III, and he proves correct with winter junior tennis being in full swing on Wednesday afternoons, aluminum can recycling going strong, and new hats and shirts available to order in the tennis shop.

AUXILIARY MEETING

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary will meet again on Monday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the EMS meeting room. Making plans for the June 24 golf tournament as well as discussing additional activities for 2023 are on the agenda.

GOOD SHOT

The Archery/Air Gun Association will gather again Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the range located on Ravenswood Road. Everyone is welcome as volunteers are always needed for range events.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club is taking a field trip on Wednesday, Feb. 8 when attendees will visit North Central Texas Academy for a tour and lunch at 11:30 a.m. The event is limited on headcount, and reservations are necessary and due tomorrow, Sunday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. Call the clubhouse front desk to secure a spot: 817-573-2641. There is no cost for the meal, but donations are gratefully accepted.

TWINKLE TOES

After a most popular debut last year, the "Daddy Daughter Dance" of 2023 is coming to the PAC on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. Music, ballroom dancing instruction, refreshments, and a photo booth will comprise the day. Space is limited and sign up is a must: 817-573-7952.

ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will meet again on



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN INGRAM III

The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association held its first mixer of 2023 in honor of the Australian Open. Folks enjoyed food, tennis, and good fellowship on a clear winter evening. Pictured, from left, are: Dee Wilcox, Eva Margle, and Pat Newberry.

Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC. Members, potential members, and guests are welcome. Artists will hear from painter and artist Kerian Massey who will be demonstrating her scratch board art. In addition, Kerian will also be teaching a workshop at 1 p.m. at the EMS Auxiliary building.

For complete information on the guild's upcoming meeting (as well as the art scene in Pecan), visit www.pecanplantationartguild.com.

DONATION DAY

Stemming from the success of past blood donation days facilitated by the American Red Cross, another blood drive date is on the calendar. Members may mark Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the PAC gymnasium as the day when the Red Cross will be on site. Folks may visit RedCrossBlood.org online and enter Pecanplantation to schedule an appointment, and walk-ins are welcome as well. Furthermore, donors will receive a voucher for a free round of Nutcracker golf with the purchase of a round.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

With the election of three new board of director members happening on Saturday, March 4, several opportunities are on the calendar for residents to meet the seven candidates listed on the ballot.

Pecan will host four question/answer sessions. Seating is limited at these events, and doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start time. Dates are Wednesday,

Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at the PAC; Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the clubhouse ballroom, and Saturday, Feb. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the clubhouse ballroom. Each session will be limited to a two-hour maximum.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Pecan's Valentine's Day dinner and entertainment is on the calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 14 with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. The clubhouse staff promises to make the day one that attendees will never forget. Music from harpist Sydney Howell, a three-course dinner, and special valentines are on the menu. Seating is limited, and reservations are necessary: 817-573-2641.

GENEALOGY GROUP

The next meeting of the

Genealogy Group comes Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. at Pecan's EMS training room. Everyone is welcome, and participants are not required to be Pecan residents. Karen Nace will address attendees concerning local property studies.

LOVE SIGN

Thank you to the Green Thumb Garden Club for the "signs of love" making our front and back circles festive during these winter days.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Venisa McLaughlin, who passed away Jan. 1.

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GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Realtors® continuing programs to give back to people in the community

The Granbury Association of REALTORS® is dedicated to serving this community. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the initiatives/projects we have been/are involved in. We have many committees here at GAR, but the two I'd like to focus on are our Public Relations and Special Events committees.

These two groups of Realtors® and affiliates coordinate many community service projects throughout the year. Last year the PR initiatives were, Shoes of Kids in which our association purchased 127 pairs of shoes for the Ranchos Brazos Community Center kids; Senior Blessing Bags, which included personal hygiene goods, socks, blankets, etc. for 81 seniors living at Quail Ridge and our Annual Food Drive where the association donated 10,000 pounds of food to six (6)



BY WHITNEY KNIEPER

Whitney Knieper grew up in and around the real estate industry and has had her license for 12-plus years. She recently earned her broker's license and is a broker at Knieper Realty. Whitney is the 2023 President of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University. Go Frogs!

local food banks.

For nearly 40 years, the Granbury Association of Realtors® Special Events committee has planned and hosted a fundraising event for the Hood County Children's Charity Fund. This charity holds a special place in the heart of Granbury Realtors®, as the fund was created and built by our members to help those in need. Giving back to the community matters, and HCCCF helps hundreds of kids in Hood County every year. The charity has built closets in most of the schools

in the area, providing clothes, shoes and toiletries to those less fortunate. All the programs the charity hosts cost money, and we're here to help them raise funds to help our local children. All donations stay in Hood County and the board is 100% volunteer.

For many years, the annual fundraiser was a golf tournament. A few years ago, we decided to change things up a bit and breathe new life back into the event and we hosted our first Casino Night benefiting the HCCCF.

Our first year, 2021 Casino Night, had some "learning opportunities" but was an all-around success. This event was well attended and featured food, live and silent auctions, gaming tables, and more. We learned some things and forged ahead with 2022's Speakeasy Casino Night, featuring a Roaring 20's vibe with heavy hors d'oeuvres, specialty drinks, gaming tables, and big winners! These two nights were very successful, raising \$26,253 and \$18,803 respectively.

That brings us to 2023! GAR is hosting its 3rd Annual Casino Night on March 3, 2023, at Pecan Plantation's Clubhouse. This year's theme is VIVA LAS VEGAS! The event will include live music, silent auction, buffet dinner, gaming tables and slot machines, and more. Whether you come as a Las Vegas tourist, an Elvis Impersonator, or just as you are, this is going to be

a blast!

Individual tickets are \$75. As a thank-you to teachers and first responders, we are offering discounted tickets at \$50! Sponsorships are available for dining tables, casino games, and slot machines. If you and your family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, or whoever are looking for a fun night on the town for a good cause, we'd love to have you attend! For details and tickets visit www.GARSpecialEvent.com online. For questions, you can reach out to the GAR office at 817-326-2530.

Join the Granbury Association of REALTORS® in giving to the Hood County Children's Charity Fund. It's for the kids! And it will be a lot of fun!

whitney@knieperteam.com | 817-579-7900

This year the Granbury Association REALTOR® of the Year award went to Whitney Knieper (right).

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Lynn Sylvestre (left) had the honor to present the GAR Realtors Award Affiliate of the Year to Kara Watson. This award highlights an affiliate member of the association who goes beyond serving not only the association but its members as well.



Keith Watson handed the GAR Award Outstanding Citizen honor to Erienne Higgins. This award is presented to the individual who went above and beyond, not only for the association but in our community by volunteering their time and efforts to serve others.



Jacque Gordan (left) presented Keith Watson with the Award for Most Dedicated REALTOR®. This award is presented to an individual who is wholly committed and dedicated not only to the REALTOR® profession but to other realtor members, clients, and the association.



GAR Award Most Spirited award went to Terry Marsh, (left.) This award recognizes a REALTOR® who is enthusiastic to serve, encourages and challenges fellow members and is passionate about assisting.

What's a Mardi Gras party without the Gator? Pictured is just one of two whole alligators gracing the buffet table.



Newly named Realtor of the year Whitney Knieper was excited to present the GAR Award Volunteer of the Year award to Bret Deason. This award recognizes a member who is willing and available to serve the association and assist the GAR staff when called upon and where needed.



Board votes to create sculpture garden at Shanley Park



WADE BLAKE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Raising the necessary funds will take some doing, but the Shanley Park Association board plans to make the scenic green space in the historic downtown area a sculpture garden.

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Granbury city officials were not involved in the decision to create a sculpture garden at scenic Shanley Park, but the idea seems to fit hand-in-glove with the city's goal of being designated a cultural arts district by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The label could increase the city's tourism appeal and open grant opportunities.

Although the city's Parks and Recreation Department decorates Shanley Park every Christmas season with lighted displays that draw locals and tourists alike, the city does not own it. It belongs to the nonprofit Shanley Park Association and is overseen by a board composed largely of prominent long-time residents, including descendants of original board members.

The board recently voted unanimously to create a sculpture garden in the bucolic green space in the downtown historic area, where there are fountains, pathways and bridges. The first bronze will honor

a man who made significant contributions to the community and other works may depict prominent local figures as well. Those plans align with the city's commitment to local history.

Area artists will have an opportunity to showcase their work through the sculpture garden, and fundraisers will be held to bring the concept to fruition, board members said.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Shanley Park had its beginnings almost 50 years ago.

In 1974, with the country's 200th birthday approaching, County Judge Milton Meyer and Granbury

Mayor Ken Hill formed the Hood County Bicentennial Commission. They appointed local citizens to plan a Fourth of July celebration to coincide with the big national celebration in 1976.

Once that task was complete, the group wanted to continue working together for the betterment of Granbury and Hood County.

In 1977, group members contributed to a down payment to purchase 4.77 acres of land that included the historic two-story rock house known as the Shanley House. The plan was to keep the land a greenspace in perpetuity.

With money from donations and fundraisers, the note was paid off in 1994. Around that time, the Hood County Bicentennial Commission became the Shanley Park Association.

A PLACE FOR ART

The first piece planned for the sculpture garden is a life-size bronze of Dan Coates, an artist who

was instrumental in the original effort to purchase the land and to preserve its natural beauty.

The sculpture will be placed somewhere near Shanley House. Currently leased by the Lake Granbury Art Association, the building served as the community's first senior center and its first Meals on Wheels headquarters, according to board member Jean Cate.

Coates was instrumental in that effort, said Cate, whose late husband Charlie was on the original bicentennial board and whose daughter Eileen serves on it with her today. Cate said that Coates was "committed" to the senior center project and scrubbed the building clean so that meals could be cooked and served there.

"He was physically, mentally, and financially involved," she said.

The idea to create a sculpture garden came to board member Courtney Coates Blackman, Coates'

PLEASE SEE SHANLEY | B2

The board recently voted unanimously to create a sculpture garden in the bucolic green space in the downtown historic area, where there are fountains, pathways and bridges. The first bronze will honor a man who made significant contributions to the community and other works may depict prominent local figures as well. Those plans align with the city's commitment to local history.

PET TREAT TASTING EVENT HELD JAN. 28 AT TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Five-year-old Brayleigh Braun absolutely loved bonding with Otis and Ollie from the Second Chance Farm during the recent pet treat tasting event Saturday, Jan. 28, at Tractor Supply. The event gave pets a chance to sample a variety of treats available at Tractor Supply Company. Please see more photos, B2.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Looking back to 1900 in Granbury — a foundation for things to come



BY DAN VANDERBURG

The town of Granbury by 1900 had grown and progressed tremendously since it was founded almost 30 years earlier. By then, the architecture on the square had changed from its rough wood and log buildings to look much like it does now.

Let's see if you can imagine what things were like here more than 120 years ago. Stepping onto the

PLEASE SEE HISTORY | B2



Tractor Supply Company partnered with Second Chance Farm to host a pet treat tasting event Saturday, Jan. 28. The event gave pets the chance to sample a variety of pet treats available at Tractor Supply Company. In addition to the tasting, attendees had the opportunity to enjoy pet adoption care 101.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cindy Cook is happy to be the lucky recipient of a wonderful Whiskey kiss at the recent pet treat-tasting event. Whiskey was on hand with a few fellow Second Chance Farm pack members available for adoption.



Diane Beaver and her companion Addison dropped in to say hi and drop off items to donate to Second Chance Farm. Addison first entered Deaver's life in foster care. Deaver now describes her little furry companion as her foster fail.



Whiskey snuck a kiss in on Tractor Supply employee Eric Savarese. In addition to the tasting, attendees had the opportunity to enjoy pet adoption and pet care 101.

HISTORY

FROM PAGE B1

Granbury square today is like opening a door to the past. Its limestone and brick buildings and classic architecture with iron store fronts, fancy roof cornices and tall, narrow windows and doors can easily take you back in time if you let your imagination wander.

So, let's go back and look at Granbury in 1900. It's a Saturday afternoon in late fall. The air has cooled from the scorching heat of the summer. It's harvest time.

The farmers and their large families have been working hard, picking cotton. Most of the farmers have already harvested their grain and brought it to the grist mill for

processing.

The ranchers have taken advantage of the new railroad and sent their stock to market in the cattle cars. The added cost of shipping the steers by rail is covered by the weight they kept on the stock by not walking it off on a long trail drive.

Saturday afternoon on the square at harvest time is a hive of activity. Dozens of teams of horses and wagons loaded with loose, raw cotton on their way to the gin are parked around the square. Others are loaded with processed bales, ready to go to market.

Saddle horses and buggies are tied to hitching rails next to the courthouse. Women shop and visit in the stores while the men swap stories outside. Children skip along

the boardwalks, darting in and out of the stores to look at the new items for fall and winter.

Along with new buildings on the square replacing the original wooden ones, many fine homes were built off the square in classic styles of the times. Of course, the most notable construction project was the magnificent courthouse in the middle of the town square. Built in the French Second Empire style of the finest materials, including imported woods and local limestone from our own quarry, it was completed in 1891 at the cost of \$40,000.

This area was populated with hard-working people with strong religious and family values. Having good schools was high on their priority list. By the mid-1880s there

were several schools with about 50 teachers in the county.

Public water and city electrical power was still several years away, so citizens got along fine with private water wells. They heated their homes with wood fireplaces and lit them at night with oil lamps. With no running water, residences and businesses all made use of out-houses behind the main buildings and baths took place with wash basins or a tub on the kitchen floor.

By 1900 Granbury boasted a population of around 2,000. Most came from the southern states after the Civil War, looking for a place to start over. Some grew to become very successful and gave back to their community by raising funds for churches, schools, bridges, the railroad, and served in

public office. Through everyone's effort, their little town made it and thrived.

So, as you stroll these days along downtown Granbury's sidewalks enjoying the architecture of the historically preserved buildings, the great merchandise in the shops, the food and beverages in the restaurants, wineries and saloons and the music and entertainment the night life has to offer, think about its past. Read the many historic markers and monuments scattered about the square and think of those people who made Granbury the "Best Historic Small Town in America" that will always be "Where Texas History Lives."

Dan Vanderburg, 2022

SHANLEY

FROM PAGE B1

daughter, several years ago when she visited the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland, Colorado. It is 10 acres and features 178 art pieces.

"As I started walking through that garden I was just so inspired and in awe of what I was seeing and I thought, that's it! We can have

that," she said. "We have a lot of talented artists in our community."

Blackman said that at the Benson Sculpture Garden, master gardeners "adopt" sculptures so that the beauty of the artworks is enhanced by landscaping.

That sculpture garden is much larger than Shanley Park, and Cate said that the Shanley project will feature only a few pieces. She said that the board remains committed to keeping the park largely a green

space.

Future bronzes have not yet been determined, but Cate and Blackman said that at least some of them may depict others who, like Coates, were important figures in local history.

Cate said that renowned artist and Shanley Park board member Mike Tabor will create the life-size sculpture of Coates. It will be a replica of the western-themed maquette he created of Coates called

"Ranch Repose," but she noted that the sculpture garden itself will not be western themed.

Blackman and Cate said the board is working on fundraising ideas and will announce those plans once they are solidified. Blackman said that the Coates sculpture will cost about \$90,000 to create and install.

Donations can be made online at shanleysculpturegarden.org or mailed to: Shanley Sculpture

Garden, 3106 White Horse Court, Granbury, Texas, 76049.

"It is a precious, precious piece of property here," Cate said of Shanley Park's importance to Granbury. "The thing that I like best about the Shanley Park board is our feeling that it belongs to the people of Granbury."

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DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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 1 John 4:12

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 Lipan Church Of Christ
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 254-646-2297
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 Christ
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 5718 E. Hwy. 377,
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Proverbs 3:5-6 

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Isaiah 41:10 

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"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"

Isaiah 41:13 

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Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, is where all the action is at in Granbury Theatre Company's presentation of Steel Magnolias. In the center of all this action is wise-cracking Truvy, played by Angie Burkey.

BURKEY'S BACK IN FAMILIAR ROLE

Granbury actress once again starring in 'Steel Magnolias'

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Angela Burkey understands if you accidentally call her Truvy. After all, she's played that character so many times it's almost interchangeable.

She's currently reprising the role of the sassy beauty shop owner in the Granbury Theatre Company's production of "Steel Magnolias." The show runs through Feb. 12 at the Opera House.

Burkey first got into acting as a freshman at West High School in a production of "Greater Tuna." Though she was just starting her career, she quickly learned the power of theatre and entertaining.

"I was super excited to play various roles and use my different voices and comedic skills, which I had already amused my family with for

many years prior. The situation took a turn when we lost two wonderful classmates to a car wreck the evening before our show was to be presented at our school," she recalled. "We agreed and stepped out onto the stage, knowing we may not even get one single laugh.

"Once it was all over we had so many friends and fellow students hug us and tell us how much watching the show meant to them and how laughing again made them feel better. I was hooked, laughter really is the best medicine for the soul.

"So every time I do a show

I know someone out there is on their first date, someone is with their mom or dad, it's a Ladies Night, it's someone's anniversary, someone has recently gone through a tough loss, someone is starting over again."

Burkey is now one of the most popular actresses to set foot on the stage in Granbury — and other places. Just ask the folks in Cleburne, who have also seen her play Truvy more than once.

"Angie Burkey is an amazing actress with an incredible range," Granbury Theatre Company President Micky Shearon said. "She can literally portray any type of character. Angela owns the role of Truvy. She's played it multiple times at multiple

PLEASE SEE BURKEY | B5



Filled with hilarious repartee and not a few acerbic but humorously revealing verbal collisions, Steel Magnolias moves toward tragedy when, in the second act, the spunky Shelby (who is a diabetic) risks pregnancy.

"Each time I have the honor of being Truvy I feel I find something new to love about her and something new which connects each of the characters to her. Roles engulf the senses each time, and with different casts the chemistry and the art is different every show. Allowing your heart, mind, soul, and even down to the smallest things like your breathing to be affected in the process can take you out of your world and into the characters."

ANGELA BURKEY
Actress, Steel Magnolias

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"As women, daughters and mothers we go through so much. Truvy has a way throughout this show of portraying just how much support matters. I've said in the past 'Theatre saves lives, it saved mine!' Because it did. Going through a heartbreaking divorce I found myself longing to be somewhere. Somewhere I felt supported and loved like a family without judgment or expectations. Somewhere I could bring my daughter and we could laugh and enjoy life again together. Somewhere to plant new seeds. Theatre was mine and in this show it's Truvy's Shop."

ANGELA BURKEY
Actress, Steele Magnolias



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The sudden realization of their mortality draws on the underlying strength — and love — which give the play, and its characters, the special quality to make them truly touching, funny, and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad.

BURKEY

FROM PAGE B4

theaters and always turns in a stellar performance."

Burkey took a minute to visit with HCN about her current show, career and what might lie ahead:

HCN: How many times does this make playing Truvy?

AB: This will be my second time in the role of Truvy for the Opera House because the very first time I did this show for Granbury I was cast as Annelle. So I've been in "Steel Magnolias" three times for GTC and I've also had the honor twice to be Truvy for The Plaza Theatre in Cleburne and once in a pinch for Southwest Reprise Theatre. So, in all this will be my seventh time doing "Steel," sixth time being Truvy.

HCN: When you play a role this often, can you describe how it becomes a part of you?

AB: Each time I have the honor of being Truvy I feel I find something new to love about her and something new which connects each of the characters to her. Roles engulf the senses each time, and with different casts the chemistry and the art is different every show. Allowing your heart, mind, soul, and even down to the smallest things like your breathing to be affected in the process can take you out of your world and into the characters. I could never explain it as well as Maya Angelo did when she said "Homo sum, humani nil a me alienum puto. I am a human being, nothing human can be alien to me."

HCN: Do you see yourself in Truvy?

AB: Oh most definitely!! It's as if I was back in Louisiana in the 80s with my friends and this was my actual shop. This is a true story and I hope the real Truvy of this spectacularly written play is proud of the portrayal I give of her. Truvy is a heartwarming true friend that always puts the bright side first. I don't think Truvy intended her hair salon to be what it became to this ladies group when she first opened, but in a way how could it not?

HCN: What do you think Truvy has to tell the world?

AB: As women, daughters and mothers we go through so much. Truvy has a way throughout this show of por-

traying just how much support matters. I've said in the past "Theatre saves lives, it saved mine!" Because it did. Going through a heartbreaking divorce I found myself longing to be somewhere. Somewhere I felt supported and loved like a family without judgment or expectations. Somewhere I could bring my daughter and we could laugh and enjoy life again together. Somewhere to plant new seeds. Theatre was mine and in this show it's Truvy's Shop.

HCN: Is this your favorite role?

AB: I don't have an absolute favorite role due to how different roles mean various things for me, so I have what I call my top bracket. Truvy is absolutely in this bracket. I adore Truvy's spunk and pizzazz. I watched "Steel" growing up and shared this love with my own oldest girl. She was always helping me learn my lines for this show and it's on my bucket list that one day I will do this show with her. I've also loved playing Betty Meeks in "The Foreigner." She reminds me of my grandmother and the first time I did the show my wonderful friend Donna Jones was cast as Betty and I was Catherine Simms, so this show is close to my heart as well. After Donna passed five years ago I was honored to do this show once again and have the role of Betty. Although it was difficult at first I could feel her with me throughout the show.

HCN: What do you look for in a role?

AB: Right now I look for "can I fit it into my schedule?!" I have seven children, six of which are still at home. They range from 2-26 years old. My oldest girl still at home is a senior this year and the captain of the Granbury High School Stowaways. She's also apart of the GHS Choir and sings and works as an actress as well. I have another girl that's a GRHS (Glen Rose High School) cheerleader, plays trombone and does modeling, and rounding out our "elderberries" as we lovingly call them is our boy, who just started middle school athletics and also plays the trombone. We then have a 7-year-old girl starting her first year of competitive cheer and swim with two more girls following close behind her in tumbling and dance. I'm also a proud wife to Dr. Justus Peters. We have



Truvy's Beauty Salon, where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Here is where Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon.

a full busy, happy, crazy life that we wouldn't trade for the world.

So I do whatever keeps

me doing what I love. I'll take small roles, ensemble roles, I do background work for films and TV, too

like "Yellowstone" recently and soon "Bass Reeves." I would be floored and living my dream to be a part of a

sitcom, miniseries, or a network comedy, and it's still a goal of mine, even if I have to write it myself.

CALENDAR

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.

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. Res-

ervations 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.

MONDAY, FEB. 13

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Speakers: Charin Daugherty, Ruth's Place Community Center. Outreach Coordinator & Gabriela Gomez, Ruth's Place Executive Assistant Director. 11:00 a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

NORTH CENTRAL Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 13, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. Hwy 377. The program will be presented by Dr. Anne J. Bailey, the author and/or editor of numerous books and articles on the Civil War. Dr. Bailey has taught at Texas Tech University, the University of Arkansas, and in the University of Georgia system. She will speak on the com-

mand problems within the Confederate Army of Tennessee. For more information, visit our website at http://www.ncentexcwrt.com.

LAKE GRANBURY, Art Association monthly meeting Feb. 13, 6 p.m. at Shanley house art center 224 N. Travis, Granbury, Texas. Demo artist guest will be Bill Dale renowned, watercolor artist. Fun, fellowship, and refreshments. All are welcome.

DAV GRANBURY memorial chapter 238 monthly chapter business meeting. Meeting agenda: discussion on our 2023 goals for reaching veterans and their families to help them secure the benefits they have earned. Meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at 3601 fall creek hwy., Granbury, TX 76049. For more information contact Chris Georgopoulos, Adjutant 682-719-5560

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

THE GREATER Granbury Chapter-MOAA will host Linda Mallon, Hood County Veterans Service officer for their monthly membership luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Febru-

ary 14, 2023 at Harbor Lakes Golf Club. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

THE SALVATION Army Women's Auxiliary of Hood County will be meeting Feb. 14 at De Cordova Bend Country Club located at 5301 Country Club Dr. Meet and Greet starts at 10:00 a.m. Meeting & Presentation 10:30 a.m. Program speaker: Todd Gibson, Career & Technical Education Director at Granbury High School will present the range of education topics, certifications and career paths students need to succeed in life. Lunch will be at 11:30 p.m. and will consist of London Broil with sides and dessert. Please bring \$20.00 cash for lunch. RSVP by to saauxiliaryofhoodcounty@gmail.com To attend meeting only or meeting and luncheon.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

HOOD COUNTY Republican Women monthly meeting will be held at the Women's

Wednesday Clubhouse located at 306 North Travis Street, Granbury 76048 on Feb. 15, 2023. Social/check in is at 10:30 a.m. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. This month's guest speaker is Dr. Jeremy Glen. Dr. Glen will be speaking on information before legislation regarding our schools. Lunch will be served. We hope to see you there.

MONDAY, FEB. 20

ELIZABETH CROCKETT Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Program: Dawn Johnston on HONEY BEES. Acton Methodist Church, Education Building, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, TX. Social begins at 9:30 a.m. the meeting called to order 10:00 am.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE Celebration - David Crockett Chapter / Sons of The Republic of Texas presentation of the Revolution leading to Texas Independence in 1836. Location - Historic Granbury Courthouse in the 2nd floor courtroom. Multiple displays starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Celebration begins 11

a.m. to Noon. Free family friendly event. Great way to learn some Texas History.

MARCH

MONDAY, MARCH 13

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 13, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. Hwy. 377. The program will be presented by Dr. Jonathan Steplyk, a Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Steplyk will speak on the Union attack on the Confederate Ft. Donelson, on the Cumberland River in Tennessee. For more information, visit our website at http://www.ncentexcwrt.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

OPERA GUILD of Granbury Next Fundraiser will be held on March 23 at D'Vine Wine on the Granbury Historic Square. B-Ray and the Humans Band will set the night to rocking, dancing in the street.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 1 (Puzzle 101).

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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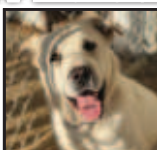
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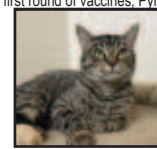
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Peach is a female tabby domestic short hair cat. She is social and loves snuggles. \$25.00 adoption special includes sterilization, rabies vaccines, the first round of vaccines, Pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.



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Friday, 03 February 2023 - Thursday, 09 February 2023

80 for Brady (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM.
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM

A Man Called Otto (PG13)
Fri: 11:30AM, 11:45AM, 2:45PM, 5:45PM, 8:45PM.
Sat: 11:45AM, 2:45PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM, 8:45PM.
Sun: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM.
Mon: 2:45PM, 5:45PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 2:45PM, 5:45PM

Knock at the Cabin (R)
Fri, Sat: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 12:45PM, 3:15PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM.
Mon: 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, 7:30PM

Missing (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 12:00PM, 2:45PM, 5:35PM, 8:20PM.
Sun: 1:10PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:35PM

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG)
Fri: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:50PM.
Sat: 12:00PM, 2:35PM, 5:10PM.
Sun: 1:00PM, 3:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM

The Chosen Season 3 Finale (NR)
Fri: 3:00PM, 7:00PM.
Sat: 12:15PM, 4:25PM, 8:00PM.
Sun: 12:40PM, 4:50PM, 7:00PM.
Mon: 2:00PM, 6:10PM

Titanic 25 Year Anniversary in 3D (PG13)
Thurs: 5:00PM

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OUR MISSION: The Hood County News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

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For Immediate Release

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

(GRANBURY) — New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Hood Central Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws," said Eddie Roe, Chief Appraiser of the Hood Central Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.
- **Property Tax Exemptions** - Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** - Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Property Taxpayer Remedies** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.
- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** - Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** - In appraisal districts located in counties with a population of more than 200,000 or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically instead of mailing.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB.
- **Informal Meetings** - Property can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information about these programs, contact the Hood Central Appraisal District at hoodapp@hoodcad.net or visit our website www.hood-cad.org. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

BOOK REVIEW

'Waco Rising' provides chilling look back at Koresh, Branch Davidians

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Or else. That doesn't leave a lot of wiggle room, does it? The options are few; the choices, not good: you follow instructions - like it or not - or what happens won't be pleasant. But, as in the new book, "Waco Rising" by Kevin Cook, the results of a slow reaction changes society.

Born late in the summer of 1959 to a 14-year-old mother, Vernon Howell didn't have the best kind of growing up. His mother flitted from man to man and most of them didn't think much of her son, who suffered from hyperactivity and dyslexia and didn't do well in school. Still, young Vernon had a keen mechanical ability and he knew the Bible better than almost anybody. Because of this, the religious commune where he landed as a young man was a good place for him to be.

Founded in 1935 by a splinter of Seventh-day Adventists, by 1988, the group was struggling to find a true prophet who would control the community. The issue had gotten litigious, Vernon got involved, then he briefly left the main group before returning to the compound and wresting control by paying a few thousand dollars in back taxes. He changed his name to David Koresh, and he settled in to grow the Branch Davidian community.

Believers came from all over the world, bringing their spouses and families, and Koresh set up rules by which his followers had to abide. Children were homeschooled. Most marriages were erased except his own. And it became an honor for fathers to "give" Koresh their 8-to-14-year-old daughters so the girls could be his "wives."

This, among other things, bothered one of Koresh's followers, and he left the group on less-than-good terms. As soon as Marc Breault returned to his native Australia, he began petitioning local authorities to investigate the Branch Davidians for various crimes and allegations.

And so, armed with accusations, fire-



COURTESY OF PAMELA MARIN

Pictured is author Kevin Cook.

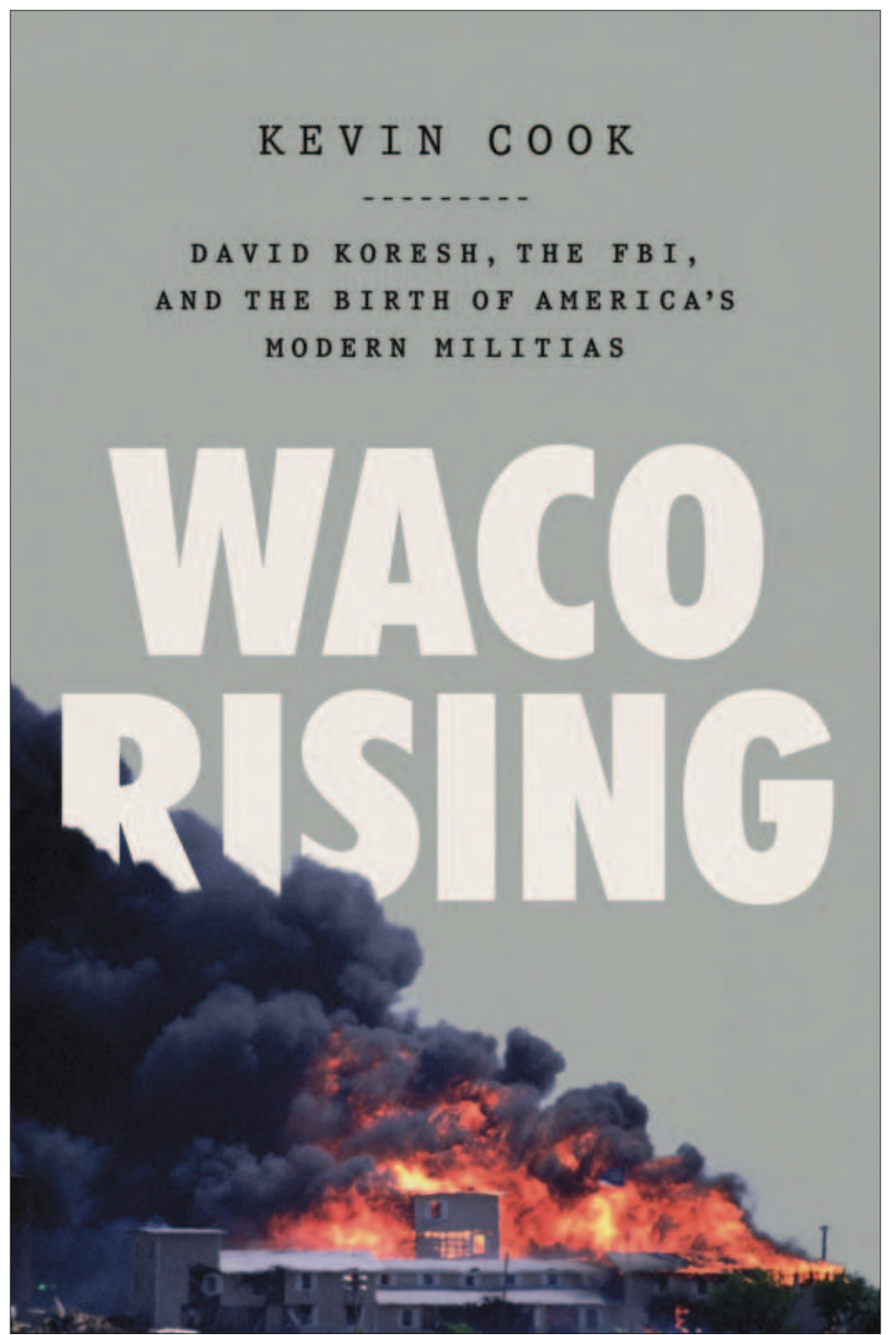
power, and surveillance equipment, the authorities - the FBI, ATF, and others - moved in across the road from the Branch Davidian compound in late February of 1993. And they waited...

As sure as you can trace a road with your finger on a map, there's

a path to follow through history inside "Waco Rising." And, fair warning: it's a chilling one.

Taking readers back nearly a century ago to set the stage, author Kevin Cook tells the story of the Branch Davidians, and David Koresh's methodical, charismatic takeover of the compound and the lives of his followers. While the narrative is twice marred by dark "jokes" that have no place in this story, Cook offers readers a wealth of tiny details that they may have forgotten in the past three decades, or misunderstood, and the story moves quickly, edge-of-the-chair-like, as though you're watching it unfold on TV all over again.

And if that's not chilling enough, Cook brings readers up-to-date on survivors' lives as he explains how the siege in Texas echoes in today's news. "Waco Rising" will then make your jaw drop. You won't want to read anything else.



C. 2023, HENRY HOLT; \$29.99; 288 PAGES

"Waco Rising: David Koresh, The FBI, and the Birth of America's Modern Militias" by Kevin Cook

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LOOKING BACK IN SPORTS

Pirates' 1938 Tolar game considered one of their 'most important'

Looking Back in Sports is a column that highlights articles retrieved from local newspaper archives.

**85 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 1938**

In the Thursday, Dec. 1, 1938 edition of the Hood County Tablet, an article reported that the Granbury High School Pirates had "closed a successful football season by defeating the Tolar Rattlers 18-7," on a Wednesday afternoon in Tolar.

"The game was considered one of the most important on their schedule although it was not a conference game," the article continued. "Several of the Pirates hung up their suits for the last time."

The article also noted that the GHS players "had to play hard football to stem off Tolar's late rally, but the boys had been properly keyed to this by one of the best coaches Granbury has had the privilege of having in recent years."

Despite that high praise for the GHS coach, the article failed to mention him by name.

The article also was not particularly keen on giving names of the first names of key players, either, as in this concluding sentence: "All of Tolar's squad played a fine game with Blanton and Allen outstanding."

**79 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 1944**

The Hood County Tablet — at least in the mid-

1940s — carried sports columns written by one of the nation's most legendary syndicated sports writers, Grantland Rice. In Rice's "Sportlight" column, published in the Thursday, Dec. 21, 1944 edition of the Tablet, Rice wrote: "The Cotton Bowl at Dallas gets a championship contender in Oklahoma A&M with one of the star backs of the year in triple-threat Bob Fenimore. T.C.U. has been spotty, but good on occasions."

Rice had also noted in the column that "The top bowl game, as it should be, is the Rose Bowl affair between Southern California and Tennessee — both tied but unbeaten — with prospects of a 93,000 or more crowd."

**76 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 1947**

In a brief, but comical, note from a column titled "This and That" by Norma Crawford in the Thursday, Dec. 4, 1947 edition of the Hood County News-Tablet, someone named C.O. Jarrard was quoted as saying that "the next time he goes to a game like the TCU-SMU battle, he is going to wear a helmet. It seems enthusiastic fans beat him over the head."

Seems that some college football fans may not have changed a whole lot in the last 75 years.

GO PLAY

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. tai chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club, ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game, noon at Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$8, earn Masterpoints. Details: 817-480-4472.

SONS OF the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5 - 7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com.

MODERN SQUARE Dancing lessons every Monday at the Granbury YMCA at 1 p.m. For more information contact Ted at 435-720-6920 or Faye at 682-309-8504.

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING 2 p.m. Healthy Connections, 1321

Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot game day. 10 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County volunteers needed. Go to 3710 S. Sagecrest Court, Rancho Brazos. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch and tools provided. Details: visit habitatofhoodcounty.org or call 817-573-2812.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club offers a "fun duplicate" bridge game at noon at the Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$4. Details: 817-480-4472.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. tai chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

SATURDAYS

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County volunteers needed. Go to 3710 S. Sagecrest Court, Rancho Brazos. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch and tools provided. Details: visit habitatofhoodcounty.org or call 817-573-2812.

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

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Saturday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

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

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1 - 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E. Bridge St. All doll appreciators are welcome!

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn

and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the 4th Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8aol.com.

SECOND SATURDAYS

2ND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

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

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1 - 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

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