



# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[ SATURDAY, Feb. 11, 2023 ]

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## City Council approves 22 license plate cameras for Granbury police

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

After five cameras that photograph license plates were placed at three locations in late August as part of a 60-day “demo,” the cameras aided the Granbury Police Department in recovering stolen vehicles and lost property, locating

a missing man (who, as it turned out, merely wanted a break from his family), and led to arrests in an aggravated robbery and the vandalization of an ATM.

If all that was accomplished with just five test cameras, imagine what having 22 permanent cameras may do. Probably a lot.

The City Council formally approved the placement of additional License Plate Reader, or LPR, cameras during its regular meeting Tuesday night. The vote was merely a formality, though. The cost of the cameras was part of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget that the council approved last September.

The Falcon Flex cameras from Flock Group Inc. will cost \$61,725 for the first year with a recurring annual fee of \$55,000.

The equipment captures license plate numbers in low light, nighttime conditions, and in sunlight so bright that license plates might be unreadable by other types of

cameras. Images are taken from the rear, according to City Manager Chris Coffman. They do not include windshields and passengers.

The cameras scan the license plates of vehicles passing through intersections and run them through a database that alerts the

PLEASE SEE CAMERAS | A3



COURTESY PEYTON BYFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Baillie and Payton Tranum fell in love at 14, and have been together ever since. They got married on April 22, 2022 and are expecting boy/girl twins on April 1.

## La Bella Luna wedding venue lies at the ‘heart’ of romance

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Valentine’s Day is the one holiday a year that’s centered around romance and the celebration of love — but at La Bella Luna, love is always in the air.

For two and a half years, owners Cleo and Mark Brown have hosted more than 200 events at La Bella Luna, and about 175 have been weddings.

“It’s been utterly amazing,” Cleo said.

To add just a touch more of romanticism to their venue, the husband-and-wife duo decided to open La Bella Luna at 7700 Glen Rose Highway on June 19, 2020 — their 11th wedding anniversary.

“We had pushed it three times,”

Cleo said. “It was December 2019, then it was April 1, ‘we’re a fool for love,’ and then when that didn’t happen, we pushed it to June and I was like, ‘We’re gonna open June 19th. Come hell or high water, we’re doing this.’”

Since then, Cleo and Mark have witnessed the joining of several families, and have both felt the love firsthand between several different couples, as they learned about each unique love story.

### LIA AND DOUG

Lia and Doug Queen have known each other since they were five years old when they both attended the same elementary school in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1959.

As the years went by, Lia and Doug continued to attend the same schools, and always lived in the same neighborhood less than a mile away from each other.

The couple eventually married other people, but tragically lost both of their spouses.

But one chance encounter at a high school reunion changed this couple’s life forever.

“When I walked up to him at the reunion and said ‘Hi’ to him, my heart just skipped a beat and I thought, ‘What was that?’ and it

scared me,” Lia said. “I said, ‘OK, nice to see you, bye’ and I turned and ran off and sat down at a table. He came and sat down next to me. He swears I said to him ‘I’d like to see you again some time.’ I remember thinking that, but I don’t remember saying it.”

For the next six months, Doug started emailing Lia and eventually asked her if he could start calling her on Fridays.

“I have no clue why it was Fridays,” she said, with a chuckle. “But we started talking and it just really went on from there. There was never any question for me at all. It was wonderful. I thought I would never feel like that again.”

A few years later, Doug and Lia got married on Nov. 6, 2022. They

were both 68 at the time.

“I think what our friends really like is the fact that when you’re in a time of life where you experience a lot of loss, it’s the greatest thing to find people who can find each other,” Lia said. “It just kind of gives hope for everybody that good things and love are possible at this time of life.”

During their wedding, Doug was fortunate to have every single one of his original seven groomsmen from his first wedding in 1975 be his groomsmen for his wedding to Lia.

“That was very special for me,” he said. “When I got married in 1975, I had seven groomsmen and 47 years later, they were all there

PLEASE SEE LOVE | A2

## Tolar Education Foundation plans fish fry, country music fundraiser

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Brownies and carrot cake are fine for a run-of-the mill fundraiser, but the Tolar Education Foundation didn’t raise more than \$200,000 by thinking inside the Betty Crocker box.

Since becoming an LLC in 2013, the organization has

PLEASE SEE TOLAR | A2

After starting out with traditional bake sales, the Tolar Education Foundation began doing annual fundraisers with food, auctions, and live entertainment. So far, the TEF has raised more than \$200,000 for grants and scholarships.

COURTESY OF TOLAR EDUCATION FOUNDATION



### SEE MORE INSIDE

Vernon case set for court later this month. Please see story, A3.

Hood County 4-H Food and Fashion Club creates blankets to donate. Please see story, B1.

City offers ways to honor loved one or pet through fence pickets, plaques. Please see story, B1.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 47

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## LOVE

FROM PAGE A1

for me at this wedding; it was pretty special.”

Lia described La Bella Luna as a “magical kingdom.”

“You walk into that door, and the thing that everybody said was that it was like being in an Italian villa,” she said. “It just transports everybody into another place, and it was magnificent.”

Lia and Doug are now starting their life together as newlyweds. Together, they have six children and five grandchildren.

“It was wonderful,” Lia added. “And I always wanted to be a Queen.”

### JASMINE AND NICO

Cleo also spoke about another couple, Jasmine and Nico Salcedo, who had been together since junior high.

“She’s from India and he’s Mexican-American,” she said. “They got married last summer, and she did a Hindi wedding. It was the most beautiful thing when the groom came out with his entire beautiful Hindi attire, even the sword in his side, and then he had metal chains that hung down in front of his face. We kind of named the moon mural in our bridal quarters after her because she was the first bride to take a picture in front of it, so it’s Jasmine’s moon. Mark loved Jasmine because he said he never saw a bride so happy to be at our venue, like everything was joy with her.”

“She was always smiling and happy, and she never got down about anything,” Mark said.

Cleo added, “She’s just as beautiful on the inside as the outside.”

### MONICA AND STEPHEN

Some brides and couples have also moved away from the old traditions and have started making their own — like Stephen and Monica Coughlin.

Cleo said Monica chose to wear an emerald green dress instead of white during her wedding and also came up with her own “Pride and Prejudice” wedding theme.

“She had gifted all her bridesmaids with these really neat moon earrings, and it was just the greatest vibe,” Cleo said. “She didn’t want anything white in here. She had the black candles and hunter green. Right now, black is a huge trend with brides, and it’s very elegant. Her bridesmaids had



Cleo, left and Mark Brown are the owners of La Bella Luna, located at 7700 Glen Rose Highway. Since the venue opened on June 19, 2020, La Bella Luna has been home to approximately 175 weddings.

black dresses, but then the groomsmen had the same moon-type celestial pin, so it was really cool. On her table numbers, she did pages from the book ‘Pride and Prejudice.’ It was just so cool to see somebody being able to get married using their own style and making their wedding a reflection of them and their love.”

“A lot of the old traditions are going away and younger generations are starting their own,” Mark added. “They’re just basically doing their own thing.”

### BAILIE AND PAYTON

Bailie and Payton Tranum are another La Bella Luna couple who also fell in love at a young age.

“We met at church camp. It was the summer of our eighth-grade year going into ninth grade, so we were only 14,” Bailie said. “It was love at first sight as you’d call it. We hung out the week that we were there and kind of grew a friendship and became best friends and then a month later he asked me to be his girlfriend. The rest is history.”

The two got married on April 23, 2022, at La Bella Luna.

“It started out raining that day and right when the ceremony started, the wind stopped, the sunshine was out and it was beautiful,” she said. “We’ve been planning this day since we were 14, and to have it be everything

we’ve been dreaming of, it was amazing, beautiful, and just a miracle in itself.”

“When they walked down the aisle, she came out from upstairs and one of the most priceless photos is him looking at her and just holding back his emotion, and when I posted it on social media, it got a lot of attention,” Cleo said.

Bailie and Peyton are expecting boy/girl twins on April 1.

“I love that he loves me hard, along with his family and his friends and the way he puts others first,” Bailie said, on Peyton. “We’re complete opposite people so the whole ‘opposites attract’ thing is really true. We’ll have been together 10 years (dating) in July, so I love our fight to keep going because relationships aren’t easy.”

“They’re gonna come back after their twins are born on their anniversary with the babies to do pictures,” Cleo added.

### THE DESTINIE TRADITION

Cleo said if they have the date available, they will allow couples to come back on their anniversaries to have maternity pictures and family photos taken. She said several couples have started leaving their cake topper in the freezer at La Bella Luna with the intention of coming back to eat it on their first anniversary as husband and wife.

“There have been really amazing precious couples,

and it’s cool to see them come back with their babies and do pictures or we’ve had two brides come and do their maternity photos,” she said. “Any time any bride wants to return to do photos or celebrate their first anniversary, and they ask me how much we charge for that, I’m like, ‘Are you kidding? It’s like our kids are coming home.’ We don’t charge.”

She said the tradition of leaving the cake topper started with former bride Destinie Kindle-Palmer. “Destinie started that; she’s the one who left her cake (topper) here,” Cleo said. “For the first six months she kept saying, ‘I’m gonna get it,’ but then eventually she goes, ‘Can we maybe just eat it there on our one-year anniversary?’ So, Destinie’s the one who started that tradition, and maybe we should name it after her — The Destinie Tradition.”

### WHERE LOVE LIVES

It’s not always sunshine and roses working with their spouse, but Cleo and Mark always make sure to dance together at the end of every wedding.

“She’s amazing in every way and very loving,” Mark said. “I always say she’s the yin to my yang. It’s a labor of love here and we do invest in our guests. We want everything to be as perfect as it can be, because it’s your



COURTESY WHITE ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY/DEBBIE CONN

Doug and Lia Queen had known each other since they were five years old. With more than 50 years of taking different paths in life, Doug and Lia eventually found each other once again at a high school reunion. They got married at La Bella Luna on Nov. 6, 2022.

perfect day, and it’s the rest of your life, so we go all out, just to make sure everything is perfect as it can be. We work hard and we love each other. We just try our best.”

“We’ve been really blessed on this journey, because we’ve met people that I think will be lifelong friends,” Cleo said. “Our big holiday is going to be St. Valentine’s Day — the day of lovers — be-

cause we’re in the business of love and we know where love lives.”

Mark added, “When we pull the rope together, we are unbeatable.”

For more information about La Bella Luna, visit [labellalunatx.com](http://labellalunatx.com) online, or call 817-964-4073.

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## TOLAR

FROM PAGE A1

pped its game, funding scholarships and grants to benefit students in the Tolar Independent School District.

This year’s spring fundraiser is officially on the calendar, and it’s probably guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser, especially for fans of The Texas Music Scene.

Deryl Dodd, who has opened for Garth Brooks, is set to perform,

and so are Clayton Landua and Phil Hamilton.

Forty bucks will get you some quality live entertainment, a plate of fried fish, hush puppies, and sides prepared by a hometown team of volunteer cooks, and feeling that you did something good for kids.

The “Taste of Tolar” fundraiser (it’s still called that, even though it’s not a bake sale anymore) will take place from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 22.

The adults-only event will be held

at LC Ranch wedding and events venue located at 4610 Shaw Road.

Beer and wine will be sold to those over 21. Free iced tea and water will be available.

There will be a live auction and a silent auction.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [tolareducationfoundation.com](http://tolareducationfoundation.com).

VIP sponsorships are also available. The \$1,000 cost covers meals and two drink tickets each for a table of eight.

Payments made by check to the

Tolar Education Foundation can be mailed to P.O. Box 432, Tolar, Texas 76476.

Since the event is a fundraiser, no refunds will be issued if it is canceled due to weather.

The Tolar Education Foundation, or TEF, partners with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize innovative learning opportunities for students in Tolar ISD.

Generous community partners include Meyer’s Kwik Stop and Hill

City Chop House as well as businesses and individuals who donate items for gift baskets and auctions.

Wendy Bonnell, a member of the TEF board and the Tolar School Board, said that a TEF grant recently funded a Quest subscription for Tolar Junior High School. She said the subscription combines online and traditional game pieces and that students have to work together to problem solve.

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# Vernon case set for court later this month

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

The case involving Van Vernon and his alleged theft last October of campaign signs belonging to three Granbury School Board candidates is now set for Friday, Feb. 24.

It was rescheduled from Jan. 30 due to a death in the family of his defense attorney, R. Shay Isham. A visiting judge and a visiting prosecutor have been enlisted due to the political nature of the case. Vernon has pleaded not guilty. The proceedings will get under-

way at 10 a.m. in the JP courtroom at the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center at 1200 W. Pearl Street, according to a staffer in the office of Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Roger "Cotton" Howell. Scott May, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace for Somervell County,

will preside over the proceedings and Erath County District Attorney Alan Nash will serve as prosecutor, the staffer said. Vernon has been charged with three Class C misdemeanors for his alleged theft of campaign signs belonging to Barbara Townsend,

Paula McDonald, and Billy Wimberly.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

## Would-a, could-a, should-a: Oh, the choices we make in our lives!

Many people have heard the expression, "would-a, could-a, should-a ...". It refers to decisions where a person might have taken a different path than the one they actually chose. In a recent conversation a friend used the expression, and it got me to thinking about some decisions in my life and some of the things I "could-a, would-a, should-a".

If I could go back:

I "would-a" taken music courses in high school and college and learned to play an instrument if only I had realized how important music was to me. It would have allowed me to have the fun of playing along with some of my talented music friends and would have been a big help during the times when I produced musical shows. I know I can't sing, but I sure could-a been part of the band. I guess I was too preoccupied with sports and girls.

Some years ago, while visiting Las Vegas, I "could-a" seen Frank Sinatra live at the Sands Hotel and



**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.

Casino. I chose not to go because the friends I was with wanted to do something else. I tried to convince my travel companions but finally gave in to their wishes. I have made it a point to see as many great performers as possible. I have attended the shows of George Strait, Elvis, George Jones, the Eagles, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Willie, and many others. I will always regret I did not go and see the Chairman of the Board. It is an opportunity lost that will never come again and yes, I regret it.

I "should-a" taken someone up the many invites I have received to go snow skiing, especially since there have been times when I could have gone with friends and stayed at their vacation home at no cost. I am not really a cold weather per-

son but at the time I was young, in shape, and athletic. It probably would have been fun and enjoyable but I was always too busy to take the time and go. Now I am too old and out of shape to give skiing a try. Opportunity missed.

I "would-a" paid more attention to my accounting and math classes in college if I had any awareness of how important numbers were in business as well as in your personal life. Keeping good books, knowing where you stand financially, understanding where your money comes from and where it goes, is essential to having financial security. When I was going through those classes I never had any idea of how often I would use the information that was being taught. Paying closer attention would have saved me a lot of

time and aggravation.

I "could-a" learned to play golf at a young age rather than waiting until my 20s. I "could-a" received professional instruction and learned the proper way to swing and hold a club instead of trying to teach myself and then having to unlearn all my bad habits. Golf is such a wonderful game and one that can still be enjoyed late in life. The game is frustrating enough without trying to unlearn all the "swing flaws" I made by teaching myself. Sometimes it is just best to learn the right way from the beginning.

I "should-a" listened to all those folks who told me the things I was doing were going to make my body really hurt when I got old. Those folks were absolutely right and knew 100% what they were talking about. Riding rough stock, working in the oilfield, playing ball and breaking and tearing various bones and muscles have all come back to haunt the older version of me. Then again, without all those escapades life would have been pretty dull.

Still, there are mornings when I roll out of bed and wish I had listened, at least a little bit.

Life is full of "I would-a, could-a, should-a's" but in this world we make the best decision we can at the time, and live with the consequences. Life is like a great big merry go round, but it only makes one revolution. There is no going back once decisions have been made. It is fun to imagine what might have happened if in the poker game of life different cards had been drawn. My experience tells me most folks imagine they would have drawn aces. Wonder if they consider they might have drawn deuces? We will never know.

Thought for the day: Don't waste time thinking about what could have been when you could be thinking about what could be.

Until next time I'll be ridin' the storm out.

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## Officers investigate child abduction call reported by two children

From Staff Reports

Granbury Police Department officers investigated a report from two children on Tuesday night of a child abduction on Carter Court that was called in on 9-1-1, GPD Lt. Russell Grizzard stated in a news release. After the responding

authorities viewed "clear surveillance video from two sources" that showed the "entire area," Grizzard noted, "nothing was observed on either video."

Hood County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the initial report and GPD officers also arrived to assist, the lieutenant noted.

"Two children were reporting that they witnessed an unknown child being pulled into a car against his/her will," Grizzard noted in the GPD news release. "They subsequently said the child wasn't actually pulled into the car, but an adult got out of the car, grabbed the child, and walked away with him/

her. It was later determined that the reported incident happened at the 4300 block of Highway 377E, so GPD took over the investigation. The witnesses were able to point out the exact location of the reported incident."

Grizzard added, "Additionally, there have been no reports received

of any missing children or adults."

He concluded by stating, "Based on the surveillance video and the lack of any supporting reports, there is no active investigation at this time."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Deserving recognition

You highlighted Officer Brayden Gregory in today's HCN We Back the Blue. I've recently worked with Officer Gregory and can vouch that he deserves the recognition!

My truck was stolen last week, and Officer Gregory took my report. Soon after, when I found I could track the truck, Officer Gregory coordinated with other counties, until the truck was actually recovered by Granbury Police Department, less than 8 hours after I discovered it missing. Officer Gregory was easy to

work with, gave great advice, and took ownership of the search and recovery. I've always enjoyed working with our local law enforcement teams. They are professional, friendly, and effective. We are lucky to have such great departments in our county.

Thank you, Officer Gregory!

**David Orcutt**  
Granbury

### Guidelines for letters to the editor

Email letters to [sam@hcnews.com](mailto:sam@hcnews.com).

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.

## GPD: Masked man commits armed robbery

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Police Department is investigating an aggravated robbery of the Subway sandwich shop that is at 1317 N. Plaza in Granbury, according to Deputy Chief Cliff Andrews.

A GPD news release from Andrews states that on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 9:57 p.m. "A masked

man with a gun entered the store and demanded money. No injuries were reported, and the case is under investigation.

When asked how much money was taken in the robbery, Andrews responded in another email, "Money was taken but we will not disclose how much at this time."

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## CAMERAS

FROM PAGE A1

police department if a vehicle has been reported stolen, involved in a crime, or is the subject of a search. Officers can then begin scouring the area for that vehicle.

The five test cameras were placed at three intersections by the Texas

Department of Transportation. Since the cameras are spread apart, officers had to guess what directions the vehicles traveled once they passed through those intersections, Police Chief Mitch Galvan said. The additional cameras, which will bring the total to 22, will help solve that problem.

"Once we get the remainder of the cameras put up in the locations

that we're wanting them, we'll be able to really zero in on a location of a vehicle that comes through," he stated.

As to where the cameras will be placed, Galvan isn't saying.

"We're not going to share locations," he said. "That just makes it easy for somebody to come destroy them, do something to vandalize them, or whatever."

Galvan called the cameras "a huge investigative tool" and said that agencies that use the camera system are able to assist each other in searches. That's how the "missing" Granbury man was located in Dallas and found to not actually be missing at all.

The chief said that his department "can't wait" for the additional cameras to be placed.

Galvan noted that the police department will create an online "transparency portal" to provide data pertaining to the department's usage of the cameras as well as information about what officers legally can and cannot do with the surveillance tool.

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# OBITUARIES

## Brenda Durant

October 26, 1959 - February 5, 2023

Brenda Kayl Durant, 63, of Granbury, TX, passed away on February 5, 2023 with her family by her side. She was born to the late Bill and Jean Kayl on October 26, 1959. She graduated high school from Fort Worth, TX and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Tarleton State University with a degree in computer science. She married Windell Durant on April 5, 1986 in Granbury, TX where they lived and raised their daughter Samm for many years before retiring to their own paradise near the beach in Port Lavaca, TX.



In Brenda's honor, memorials may be given to the Hospice of South Texas Dornburg Center of Compassion or MD Anderson Cancer Center. Brenda was a kind, compassionate, thoughtful person and will be dearly missed by all that knew her.

Words of comfort, condolences and fond memories may be shared with the family at [www.rosewoodfuneralchapel.com](http://www.rosewoodfuneralchapel.com).

Brenda is survived by her loving husband Windell, daughter Samm, son-in-law Zac, sisters Debora, Leslie and their families.

A Celebration of Brenda's Life will be held at a later date and time in Granbury, TX.

## Claud W. Croy

January 31, 1930 - February 3, 2023

Claud W. Croy, 93, died at his residence in Bedford, TX on February 3, 2023. Claud was born on January 31, 1930 at Harris Hospital in FT Worth, TX to his parents, Claud M. Croy and Willie Croy.



He graduated at Tolar High School in 1948. Claud was retired from the Corps of Engineers. He was a loving and caring husband, father, and grandfather. Claud was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers, and wife Wanda Croy.

Survivors: Daughter Peggy Patterson and Husband Harvey of Granbury; son Mark Croy of Lipan; Step daughters, Brenda Carlton and Husband Larry of Bedford, Kim Norton and Hus-

band Charlie of Bedford; 4 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 7 great grandchildren' 3 great great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held February 18th at 2pm at Kingdom Hall, 490 Westpark Way, Euless TX.



# Preparing for tax time

*"It's always the small pieces that make the big picture."*

(MetroCreative Connection and irs.gov)

The official deadline for taxpayers to file a return, or face penalties, is rapidly approaching. April 15 is weeks away, but now is a great time to start chasing down all the puzzle pieces to ensure tax returns are accurate and filed on time.

### THE PAPER CHASE

Gather and organize your records. You will need W-2s and 1099s from employers—anything related to income, mortgage interest statements, the forms received from banks, investments, and retirement accounts. If you are investing in cryptocurrency, you will need records of those virtual transactions.

Although the increased standard deductions often eliminate the need for some taxpayers to itemize, if you plan to itemize, collect all of the documents that show expenses and related financial information. Anything in support of a tax return should be dated and clearly show what the expense was.

Don't forget those charitable contributions, either in cash or in donations such as household items and clothing. Receipts from the thrift store might be the most elusive puzzle

pieces.

If you do have to search for an invoice, a receipt or a document, most banks and financial institutions store your documents online. Also if you use Gmail, the Google search engine can look through your inbox to locate important documents and help you pinpoint dates and vendors if you need to do further investigation.

The best practice is to designate one folder or place on your desktop, virtual or actual, to gather everything you will need to do the task quickly and efficiently.

### GO PRO OR NO?

The next step is to determine whether to use a tax professional or a program like TurboTax or TaxAct, or one those from "big box" tax preparers like Jackson Hewitt and H&R Block. This software has been around for years and is the way to go if your re-

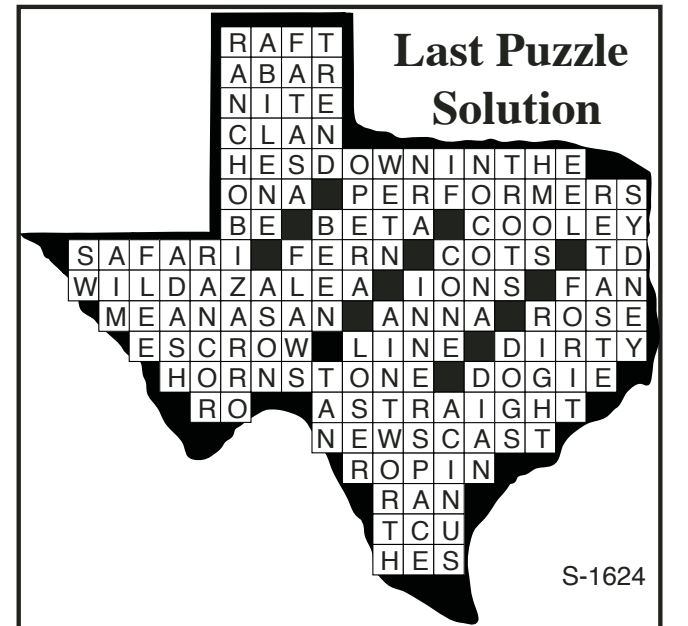
turn is relatively straightforward and you feel comfortable using a website. Most tax software packages have back-up support teams that can answer questions via live chat or email (as long as they don't involve tax advice). Some even have a service that will support you if there is an audit.

These tax services store your tax information from previous years which will save time year after year, if you use the same program. There are guides and tutorials in each package, but they can only go so far before they refer you to the IRS website.

### KEEP THAT APPOINTMENT

If you decide to use a professional tax service, contact them early. Not only do appointments fill up quickly, but an appointment in February or March allows you time to resolve any issues or chase down missing information.

When all the pieces fit together and your return is filed, you might be tempted to sit back. But why not get a jump on next year by starting a new folder and gather both your tax return and any documents already received? It doesn't hurt to start early for 2023!



## SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at [obituaries.hcnews.com](http://obituaries.hcnews.com). Advance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary.

Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will

be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary.

The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper, and 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.



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## Could you cope with long-term care costs?

### TONY MOBLY Edward Jones Financial Adviser



Mobly

have one thing in common — they're expensive. Genworth, an insurance company, reports these median annual costs:

- Over \$100,000 for a private room in a nursing home
- Over \$60,000 for the services of a home health aide

Furthermore, Medicare typically pays very few of these expenses, which means the burden of payment will likely fall on you — or, even worse, on your adult children if you can't afford the care you need. Of course, you could hope

that you will avoid these costs simply by not requiring any type of assistance — but the odds aren't necessarily in your favor. In fact, someone turning 65 today has an almost 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

So, how can you protect yourself from the potentially enormous costs of long-term care? You could decide that you'll pay out of pocket — if so, you'll need to incorporate into your retirement budget a reasonable estimate of potential long-term care costs, and

you may need to make some significant changes to your saving and investment plans. And the earlier you begin, the better.

Your other option is to purchase some form of long-term care insurance. Essentially, three types of coverage are available:

- Traditional long-term care insurance - A traditional long-term care policy covers long-term care expenses in your home or at a nursing facility. But policies will differ in terms of what services are covered and how benefits are paid. And you may also be able to choose whether you want inflation protection. Also, with

some policies, you can deduct the premiums from your state and federal taxes. (Your tax advisor can evaluate a policy you're considering for potential tax benefits.)

• Hybrid long-term care insurance - In addition to providing coverage for home health care or a nursing home stay, a hybrid long-term care policy also offers a death benefit, so if you never need long-term care, your family could benefit from the policy's proceeds.

• Life insurance with a long-term care rider - You can find a life insurance policy that lets you add long-term care coverage through a "rider," or op-

tional add-on. With this type of policy, you can use some of the death benefit to pay for your long-term care needs.

Which policy is best for you? There's no one right answer for everyone. A financial professional can help you evaluate all your options within the context of your overall investment and protection strategies. But keep in mind that all long-term care policies tend to get more expensive as you get older, so if you're considering this type of coverage, you may want to get started sooner rather than later.

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 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

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

**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

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 5010 Adult/Elderly Care  
 5020 A/C Heating Repair  
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 5070 Cement/Concrete  
 5075 Chimney Sweeping  
 5080 Child Care  
 5090 Cleaning Services  
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 2010 Automobiles  
 2020 Parts & Accessories  
 2030 Big Trucks & Trailers  
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5110 Construction  
 5120 Clock Repair  
 5130 Dock repair/Rebuild  
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 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  
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 6520 Appliances  
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 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

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 7010 Tutor/Instruction  
 7020 Music  
 7030 Computer  
 7040 Art Instruction

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

**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  
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Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after it appears in the paper and report at once any error found. Claims for adjustment should be made at that time. The Hood County News is responsible for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs, so check your ads carefully



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Hood County News

the class of 2015 raised their hooked hands w long Thursday evening at the Fort Worth Con Hood County News

it must have been difficult Monday students to wait for the final bell. Mary

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- SEEKING RIDE SHARE Transportation to & from Forest Hill, Ft Worth, Monday thru Thursday between 7:30/8:30am & 3pm. Pays \$19.50 each way. Also local transportation. (817) 243-6988

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

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

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**Public Notices**

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GARY WAYNE TARVER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of GARY WAYNE TARVER, Deceased, were issued on January 27, 2023, in Cause No. P09871, pending in the County Court at Law of Hood County, Texas, to MELODY TARVER NUNNALLEE.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: MELODY TARVER NUNNALLEE, Independent Administrator of the Estate of GARY WAYNE TARVER c/o Rebekah Steely Brooker Scheef & Stone, LLP 500 N. Akard, Suite 2700 Dallas, Texas 75201 Rebekah.Brooker@solidcounsel.com

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 6th day of February, 2023. Respectfully submitted, SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P. By: Rebekah Steely Brooker Texas State Bar No. 24045559 500 N. Akard, Suite 2700 Dallas, Texas 75201 (214) 706-4200 Telephone (214) 706-4242 Facsimile rebekah.brooker@solidcounsel.com ATTORNEY FOR THE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR

9031  
**Public Notices**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Tolar will hold a public hearing on February 21, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. to receive Comments for a request for a zoning change of property known as 208 Pine Lane, .686 acres from Single Family Residential (8000 sf) (R8) to Single Family Residential (6000 sf) (R6), subdivision, and re-plat. Variance request from Section 18 of the City's Zoning Ordinances regarding setbacks within the Single-Family Residential District 6000 sf (R6) will be heard as well.

All owners of property within 200 feet of the above-described property are being notified of the meeting by mail. The public will have the opportunity to address any questions or concerns regarding the proposed changes at the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may address any questions, concerns, or objections by mail.

If you need further clarification about this notification, please contact Michelle Burdette, City Secretary at 254-835-4390.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, Required Food and Beverage Certificate by Bangrica Inc d.b.a. Fuzzy's Taco Shop Granbury to be located at 115 West Pearl St, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said Corporation are: Mumun Mehdi President Iqbal Rahman Secretary

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9031  
**Public Notices**

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE OF MARSHA LOUISE TOMPKINS

Administration of the estate of Marsha Louise Tompkins has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to the undersigned on January 27, 2023, by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, acting in Cause No. P09898, styled In Re: Estate of Marsha Louise Tompkins, Deceased, in which court the matter is pending.

All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 7th day of February, 2023. /s/ CHARLES A. TOMPKINS, SR. CHARLES A. TOMPKINS, SR. c/o Parks Huffman McVay Shepard & Wells 503 East Border Street Arlington, Texas 76010 INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARSHA LOUISE TOMPKINS, DECEASED

ORDINANCE NO. 23-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property addressed as 4601 E. Hwy 377 as described in Exhibit 'A' and depicted in Exhibit 'B', in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and more fully described as:

An approximate 8.08 acre portion of land platted as Lot 1, Block 2 of the Saratoga, Phase 1 Addition, located in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located in the 'HC' Heavy Commercial district to allow for "Small Tractor and Small Implement Sales and Service and Repair, New"; "Small Tractor and Small Implement Sales and Service and Repair, Used"; "ATV Sales, New"; and "Trailer Sales or Rental" utility trailer sales only; with the following terms and conditions under the issuance of a Specific Use Permit:

1. This SUP is subject to periodic inspections and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the SUP may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.
2. The Phase 1 Site Plan (Exhibit A) will be the governing site plan until all 'auto sales, new', 'auto sales, used', and all other related auto uses are removed from the entire site. After said removal of auto uses, then the Phase 2 Site Plan (Exhibit B) will be the governing site plan.
3. All parking, maneuvering, display and storage must be on an improved hard surface.
4. All fire lanes shall remain clear of all obstructions at all times.
5. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
6. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and any inspection fees as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property addressed as 701 Lipan Hwy. as described in Exhibit 'A' and depicted in Exhibits 'B' and 'C', in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and more fully described as:

An approximate 0.43 acre portion of land described as a part of the 87th block of the Barton Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and addressed as 701 Lipan Hwy., and located in the Residential-7,000 [R-7] district to allow for "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted"; with the following terms and conditions under the issuance of a Specific Use Permit:

1. The Specific Use Permit shall automatically expire 1 year from City Council approval (February 7, 2024).
2. The site shall conform to the site plan (Exhibit A) and the floor plan (Exhibit B).
3. The short term rental shall be limited to not more than 3 bedrooms.
4. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.
7. Improved hard surface (concrete or asphalt) to be installed prior to issuance of Certificate of Occupancy to comply with the 3 off-street parking requirement of 1 parking space per bedroom.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property addressed as 405 S. Hamaford St. as described in Exhibit 'A' and depicted in Exhibits 'B' and 'C', in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and more fully described as:

An approximate 0.4443 acre portion of land platted as a Lot 3B, Block 135 and part of Lot 1, Block 135 of the Thrash Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located in the Residential-7,000 [R-7] district to allow for "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted"; with the following terms and conditions under the issuance of a Specific Use Permit:

1. The Specific Use Permit shall automatically expire 1 year from City Council approval (February 7, 2024).
2. The site shall conform to the site plan (Exhibit B) and the floor plan (Exhibit C).
3. The short term rental shall be limited to not more than 3 bedrooms.
4. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property addressed as 411 Mill as described in Exhibit 'A' and depicted in Exhibits 'B' and 'C', in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and more fully described as:

An approximate 0.14 acre portion of land platted as a part of Lots 1 and 2, Block 30 of the Thrash Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located in the Residential-8,400 [R-8.4] district to allow for "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted"; with the following terms and conditions under the issuance of a Specific Use Permit:

1. The Specific Use Permit shall automatically expire 1 year from City Council approval (February 7, 2024).
2. The site shall conform to the site plan (Exhibit B) and the floor plan (Exhibit C).
3. The short term rental shall be limited to not more than 2 bedrooms.
4. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.



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COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

A few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine's Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

## Turns out, accounts vary

(MetroCreative Connection)

Valentine's Day is a bright light in the middle of the winter. Come February 14, sweethearts celebrate their love and affection for one another on this day devoted to happy couples.

The origin of Valentine's Day has generated much speculation over the years. Most early accounts do not point to heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Rather, a few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine's Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

### ROMAN FESTIVAL

One of the earliest records of the term Valentine's Day is traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. This annual event held on February 15 included animal sacrifices and priests called the Luperci who would take pieces of animal hide and touch it to the foreheads of women in the hopes it would make them more fertile. Fortunately for the squeamish (and the sacrificial animals), Pope Gelasius I ended Lupercalia and replaced it with St. Valentine's Day by the end of the fifth century.

### TWO OR THREE ST. VALENTINES?

Most people attribute the origins of Valentine's Day to the holiday's namesake,

St. Valentine. But it seems that Valentine was the surname of a few different individuals. According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that single men made better soldiers than those with families or wives. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine disagreed with the decree and would perform marriages in secret. Others believe it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop beheaded by Claudius II outside of Rome, who was the true namesake.

Yet another Valentine may have been jailed and fell in love with a jailer's daughter while in prison. He purportedly wrote to her, beginning the first Valentine card or letter tradition. Other stories say the imprisoned Valentine actually was writing to a blind woman he purportedly healed, and signed the note "from your Valentine."

It is hard to know who is who in regard to the name Valentine, as the stories and the people behind them are used interchangeably. Some historians believe they actually are the same person rather than several Valentines, while others insist there were multiple martyred individuals.

However you slice it, the defiant actions of one or more people named "Valentine" set the course for centuries of romance to follow.

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## Plan a special Valentine's Day

(MetroCreative Connection)

Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it's not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

Valentine's Day is a busy holiday for many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic venues. So it's best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine's experience to remember.

### TIP 1: RESERVE EARLY

The closer to Valentine's Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot — or anywhere but the most obscure establishment — be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine's Day dinner in December so you won't have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine's Day and book the moment you can.

### TIP 2: SECURE TRANSPORTATION

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require

advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

### TIP 3: EMULATE A SCENE FROM A FAVORITE FILM

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it's a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in "Sleepless in Seattle." Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine's Day experience.

### TIP 4: ATTEND A LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine's Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

### TIP 5: THINK OUTSIDE TRADITION

While dinner and a movie are Valentine's Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple's cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?

Romantic nights on Valentine's Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.



KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

# Spotlight on Whitney Knieper, REALTOR® of the Year

I realize that bragging is considered unbecoming, especially when done to excess, however I simply cannot stop talking about how proud I am of my daughter, Whitney Knieper. She is an amazing young woman that makes me proud every day. But to see her recognized by our peers in this highly competitive business, well that just makes a mother proud on a whole different level.

In 2018 Whitney was honored as the MOST SPIRITED REALTOR® for the Granbury Association of REALTORS®, in 2019 she was elected to serve as a DIRECTOR for that same association and was later honored as the VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2021. In 2022, she



**BY PAM KNIEPER**

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

was elected to be the VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT for the Association, and on January 27th Whitney was recognized as REALTOR OF THE YEAR for 2022, and she was installed as the PRESIDENT OF THE GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® FOR 2023.

The association hosted a Mardi Gras party at Pecan Plantation for the installation of new officers, where I had the honor and privilege of inducting her as the new GAR President! Brandon

Knieper, my son, in full Mardi Gras attire including a purple vampire cape ... LOL ... was the MC for the evening, and he did a wonderful job keeping us in line, on time, and at times doubled over in laughter. Another very proud moment for this momma!

If you visit the GAR website, you will find the following mission statement. "The Granbury Association of REALTORS® (GAR) is dedicated to the following tenets: Promote professional devel-

opment; Enhance personal growth and community service; Encourage members to conduct business with integrity, competency, and security; Through these, we promote and preserve property rights and uphold the REALTOR® Code of Ethics and "The Golden Rule" as outlined by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR). Every member of our association bears the responsibility of upholding these tenets, and it is the leadership of our association that is here to keep us engaged and on task.

Also inducted to serve on the GAR Board for 2023 were Jacque Gordon - Vice President/President Elect, Eliza Knapp - Secretary Treasurer, Lisa Marie Mercer

- Past President, Kyle Rose, Gavin Trussell, Wendy Rape, Erienne Higgins, and Erin Drummer - Directors, and Paula McDonald - TR Director.

Congratulations also to: Bret Deason - Volunteer of the Year, Erienne Higgins - Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Kara Watson - Affiliate of the Year, Terri Marsh - Most Spirited REALTOR®, and Kevin Watson - Most Dedicated REALTOR®.

All of these folks are remarkable people who generously give back to our REALTOR® association and our community, and they all deserve a huge thank you for their contributions.

Special recognition to Chef Jordan, Brenda Palmer, and the entire Pecan Plantation

staff for a fabulous evening. The décor was perfect, the food was exceptional, and the evening was a huge success.

Last but not least, a shout out to our Association Executive, Denise Huber, without whom none of that evening would have been possible. The Granbury Association of REALTORS® is so blessed to have her running the show.

For my next article I promise to get back on track and talk more about real estate. For today, thanks for letting me brag about my daughter and the incredible association we are so proud to be a part of.

[pamk@knieperteam.com](mailto:pamk@knieperteam.com) / 817-219-0456

## 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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com). Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

**MONDAY, FEB. 13**

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Speakers: Charin Daugherty, Ruth's Place Community Center. Outreach Coordinator & Gabriela Gamez, 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 command 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 Center for the Arts 224 N. Travis, Granbury. 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 veter-

ans 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., February 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](mailto: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 Glenn. Dr. Glenn 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.

*Congratulations Whitney!*

2023 GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PRESIDENT

2022 REALTOR® OF THE YEAR

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## FOOD, FASHION, FLEECE AND FUN *Hood County 4-H Food and Fashion Club creates blankets to donate*



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

After monthly business was tended to at the February meeting of the Hood County 4-H Food and Fashion Club, Raven Davis along with other fashion club members jumped into action with the mission of transforming piles of colorful fleece into warm and cozy tie blankets to donate to worthy causes. Not only did 4-H members provide their own fleece and supplies in this team effort, but with the help of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program Specialist Laura A. Huebinger, the club received a grant that covered the cost of a whole host of materials and supplies. Please see more photos, B2.

### THE IDLE AMERICAN

*Who knows what misplaced classified documents we may have?*



BY DON NEWBURY

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

The 21st Century may soon be most known for world-wide paranoia. When topics worthy of fright are recorded, the list will spill over to a second page, and maybe a third.

My aged Uncle Mort down in the thicket is a solid example. He claims that there's been so much "buzz" about misplaced classified documents in Washington, he fears that such issues could drip down to rural areas.

What if they search the modest home where he and wife Maude have lived since the 1940s? Might something "important" — albeit papers that most would consider frivolous — be discovered? He decided to conduct a personal search, starting with upheaval of sofa cushions. He didn't find any documents, but did come up with a remote control, perhaps — but probably not — for his old Muntz TV that was invented by a sales wizard named Earl (Madman) Muntz, who is a whole 'nuther story....

### INSPIRATIONAL

What the hey, I'll provide a bit more "bait" that could cause you to Google the guy, a self-made engineer and sales guru who also wore the "kook cape," a garment he seemed to enjoy. Credited with shortening the word "television" simply to "TV," he reduced the number of components in TV receivers, snipping away at tubes and stuff until the screen blackened and speakers failed. (When this happened, he "put the parts back in.")

Perhaps his best-known commercial included his wife's challenge of the bargain-basement price tags on his TVs. "I wanna give 'em away, but Mrs. Muntz won't let me," he'd often brag, "She's crazy!"

Muntz (1914-1987) may have inspired my off-the-wall uncle....

### TIRE STRATEGY

Let's get back on track: A newspaper ad for Michelin Tires caused me to ponder why fine restaurants strive for Michelin ratings? Can it be that Michelin may have feared, uh, losing traction?

Okay, maybe I'm close, but no cigar. Turns out that Michelin folks

PLEASE SEE IDLE | B8

## City offers ways to honor loved one or pet through fence pickets, plaques

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Granbury city officials want to remind the public of the city's "In Honor Of..." program and, specifically, the effort that is underway to erect a fence at Lambert Branch Park.

Engraved pickets for that fence are being sold for \$50 each. Of the 84 slats originally available

for sale, 35 remain, according to Communications Manager Jeff Newpher.

The city also offers the opportunity to honor a loved one or a pet through its tree and bench initiatives that involve bronze plaques supplied by the donor.

Through the tree program, a buyer can have a tree planted in a city park of their choice, although the Parks and Recreation Department

picks the exact location. Buyers can choose a Live Oak, Red Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Chinese Pistache, Crape Myrtle, or Desert Willow. A 30-gallon tree costs \$250 and a 15-gallon tree is \$150.

Donors supply a 4-inch by 8-inch bronze plaque with engraving that conforms to a prescribed format. The cost for the city to install the plaque and surround it with concrete is \$75.

Plaques for beloved pets can also be installed at the Granbury Dog Park. The guidelines are the same, but a display board with name plates will be positioned in a central location.

For public benches, bronze plaques must be 3 inches by 6 inches, and conform to the prescribed format.

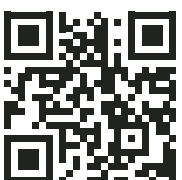
Once plaques are installed, the city mails a memorial certificate

and a map showing the plaque's approximate location to the address on the application.

For more information about the "In Honor Of..." program, visit the Parks and Recreation Department page at granbury.org.

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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Ava Lambert (left) and Lucy Bowden spent time trimming and cutting fabric to make a warm winter blanket for someone in need.



Evie Taylor systematically ties the loose ends of her extremely fuzzy fleecy creation.



A&M AgriLife Extension Program Specialist Laura A. Huebinger guides young participants with basic instructions through the no-sew tie-blanket-making process.

# NEWLY ENGAGED?



La Bella Luna is designed as an Old World village inspired feel. A breath taking 6,400 square foot ballroom accompanying an outdoor terraza surrounded by the beauty and feel of a European village. A 1200 square foot outdoor covered pavilion equipped with a wood burning cozy fireplace for chilly evenings and a nearby flowing fountain. A perfectly designed altar with decorative cast stone, tiled old-world roof top that is just in front of the pond, built especially for couples vows that turn two into one.

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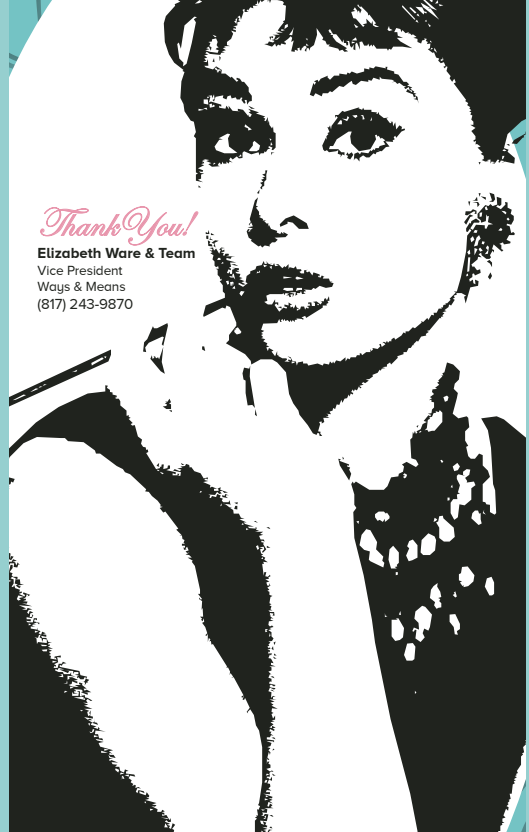
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[labellalunatx.com](http://labellalunatx.com)

## Breakfast at TIFFANY'S



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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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"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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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up.  
 When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.  
 Psalm 94:18-19

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 Romans 15:13

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.  
 Proverbs 3:5-6

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So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
 Isaiah 41:10

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# Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

HOOD OUTDOORS

*It's getting to be the time of year anglers can expect to snag larger fish*



A potentially new Granbury Lake record Blue Catfish (56.56 pounds) caught by Laura Katelyn Shepherd (right) while fishing with Mike Watkins (left) of Personal Best Guide Service.

COURTESY PHOTO



**BY MICHAEL ACOSTA**

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. A Granbury resident of more than 35 years, he has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

**T**is the season for catching big bass all across the south. Between now and through the spawning season is the best-known time where your chances are better to catch a really big largemouth bass. In fact, most ShareLunker fish (13-plus pounds) are caught during the late winter and early spring, but bass anglers are not the only anglers looking for big fish this time of the year (Texas Parks and Wildlife ShareLunker program typically runs from October to April.

Why is this season typically better for big fish? Well most agree that the bigger fish (large females) tend to feed more actively prior to the spawn. We know this to be true. This goes for all species and not just bass. Winter fish continue to feed

easily due to the baitfish being lethargic and are already busting at the seams as spring spawning season approaches. With the warming waters the fish continue to get more active due to water temperatures increasing as well as feeding up for the

spawn.

Fish will weigh heavier in the late winter and spring as I alluded to above. Both males and females are full of eggs/silt as well as having unbelievable amounts of fat stored during their fall and winter season gorging.

For those of you fishing for stripers, hybrids and sand bass, this is a great time to keep some of these fish for the table. These fish are extremely healthy this time of the year and they will really filet up nice.

This is also a great time for catch and release for all species. With water temperatures below 60 degrees, the survival rate for released fish is extremely good as long as the fish is not deeply hooked. In the summer when mortality rates are high, you should keep your limit and then refrain from catching any more of that species.

Catching and releasing stripers and hybrids in the

dead of summer can be lethal. Many will say that to protect the fishery it is best to keep your limit and don't catch and release. One option if you still want to fish after keeping a limit of hybrids and stripers in the summer is to go look for another species such as sand bass or crappie.

Currently I have been catching bigger fish off of deep structure (around 30 to 40 feet down) on many reservoirs. Water temperatures are in the upper 40s, but are sure to rise in the near future. The smaller fish have been tending to be grouped in bigger schools near baitfish concentrations in deep open water.

Each day on the water is a new adventure, so be prepared to change. I would recommend a little scouting on the water if you had not been out in a while. Even one day may change patterns. Right now I would use my graph to determine the depth that

the majority of baitfish are located.

One this depth is known, go to dropoffs, ledges and such that you know about and work those same depths. The bigger fish are typically right off these humps and ridges and will move up near to or on the humps and ridges to feed. As the water warms in the next few weeks, the depths where the baitfish are holding may change and working shallower humps may be in order. Just keep your options open and trust your graph. If the birds are working, I like to work under the active fish coming up hoping to up with the bigger fish that are typically below.

As anglers we are always looking forward to when that big fish bites. That is what it is all about. Get on the water this late winter and spring and put that trophy in the boat. Your chances will be better.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Granbury water temperatures are rebounding to the upper 40s to low 50s. Largemouth bass numbers are good near deeper docks and near dropoffs on soft plastics worked slow. Crappies are good on small jigs fished on deeper structure from DeCordova to the Peninsula. Striped bass continue to be good to 12 pounds on jigs and shad fished from Indian Harbor to The Shores. Blue catfish to 56 pounds are possible on cut bait. A potential new lake record blue catfish weighing 56.56 pounds was caught by Personal Best Guide Service this last weekend. Sand bass action is good in deeper water by the Peninsula where the fish are staging for their spawning effort and some good reports of sand bass being caught near Tin Top.

PLEASE SEE OUTDOORS | B5

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BOOK REVIEW

# 'Gently Down This Dream': Thoughts for navigating through bad times

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

These days, it seems, we're all in the same boat.

We have little patience, too many irritations, no time but an overabundance of tasks that need doing. We must be in four places at one time – before lunch some days. Add an illness, a loss, any kind of big upheaval and you start to wonder how you'll get through the minute after next. So let "Gently Down This Dream" by Hugh and Gayle Prather help you find a way to float a little easier through the bad times.

Collaborators in life and in writing, Hugh and Gayle Prather created books together: He wrote first, she went next and fixed what was wrong.

She had finished the manuscript on this book, "we laughed about the changes ... and assumed that we would continue doing this for years to come. Hugh died the next day."

How do you recover from something like that? Hugh Prather knew the secret.

Just because you are steering "your boat gently down the stream," he says, "doesn't mean you... control the scenery." What helps is to have peace, which "gives us a gentler attitude with which to deal with" problems. You can't positive think the "harsher aspects of life" away, but "if we seek the Divine," it eventually helps feel like "a river of peace."

Remember that you can do "almost anything" in a loving way and that blessing strangers silently, rather than getting annoyed at them, is an act of kindness. Don't force cheerfulness; it only causes inner conflict. Forget about controlling anyone; it will destroy "whatever peace you had." Learn to enjoy the years and wisdom you've accumulated. Leave behind the things that do not give you peace. Remember that a church is a building that "should merely point the way." Protect your peace and add it to as many situations as needed.

And finally, "walk in grandeur. Decide to be as large and whole and happy as you were created." And remember that you are loved.

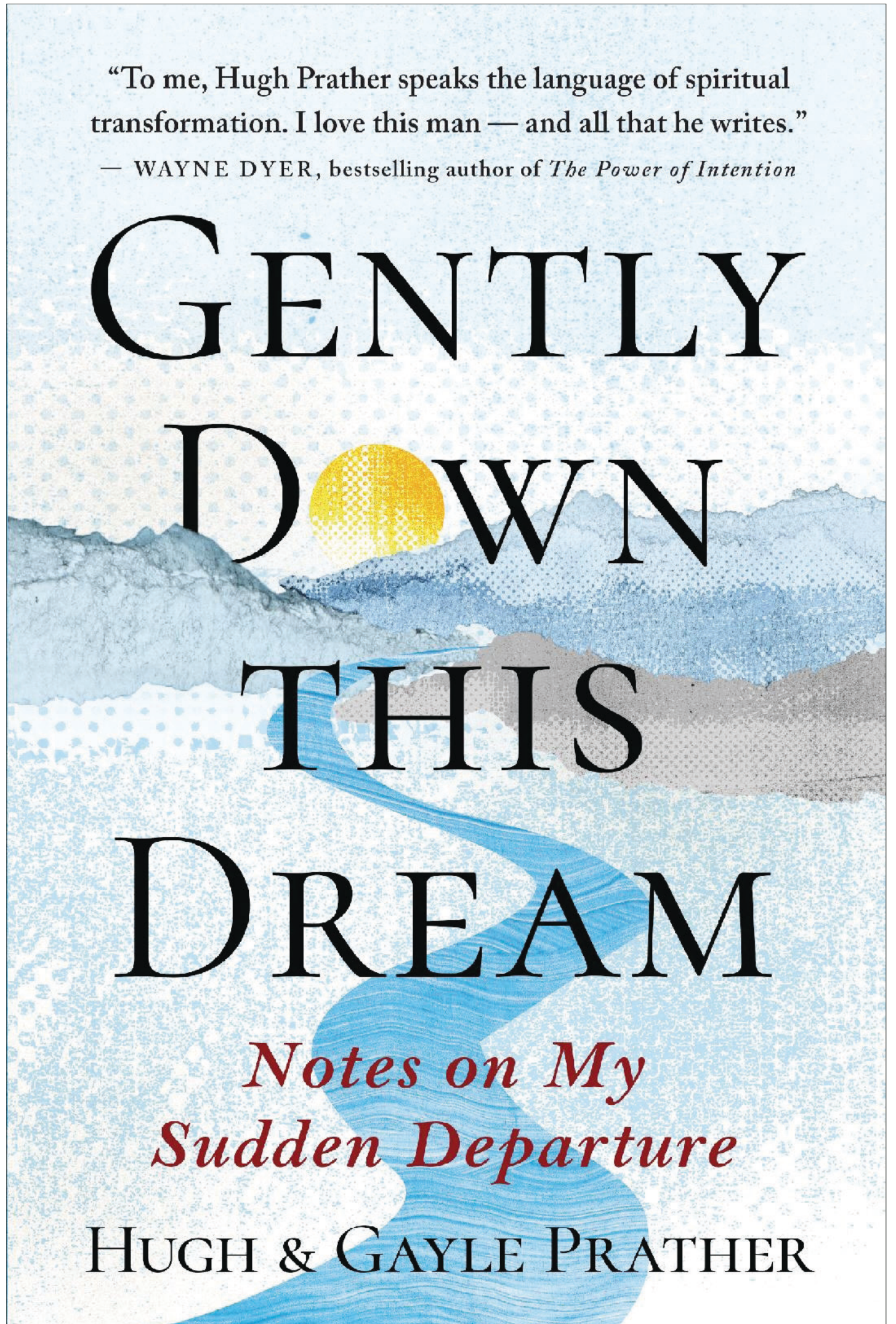
Sounds a little new-agey? It is, but your degree of that perception will depend on the spiritual journey you seek or the situation you're trying to deal with. You may find it new-agey, but you might also feel that "Gently Down This Dream" is a Desiderada for today's reader.

The difference is in the attitude: this book is meant not for quick lessons, but for a total and ongoing lifelong metamorphosis from troubled you to tranquil you.

Indeed, authors Gayle Prather and the late Hugh Prather write with sympathy about living in society today, with weird strangers, traffic snarls, rude coworkers, and pets gone wild. There's humor in their words sometimes and constant, gentle reminders that backsliding is totally OK, that this is a process, not an instant demand.

That alone is instantly, powerfully comforting.

"Gently Down This Dream" may not change your 21st-Century life immediately, but it's worth keeping around to help get you through one day at a time. Tuck it in your briefcase, your car, or your desk and give yourself some smoother sailing.



"To me, Hugh Prather speaks the language of spiritual transformation. I love this man — and all that he writes."

— WAYNE DYER, bestselling author of *The Power of Intention*

**GENTLY  
DOWN  
THIS  
DREAM**

*Notes on My  
Sudden Departure*

**HUGH & GAYLE PRATHER**

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"Gently Down This Dream: Notes on My Sudden Departure" by Hugh & Gayle Prather

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**OUTDOORS**  
FROM PAGE B4

**OTHER AREAS**

Comanche Creek reservoir continues to boast on limits of largemouth bass and channel catfish. Anglers line up to get on this reservoir when it is open (Thursday - Sunday).  
On other reservoirs,

Lake Whitney and Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass action continues to be excellent on jigs and live bait. Whitney action is best from McCown Valley north. Possum Kingdom striped bass are good from the Peanut Patch to the Island.

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**GO PLAY** calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. 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.

**MELODY BELLES** singers, women's choral group rehearsals. 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge Street. Details, please call 817-999-1364.

## 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.

**PETS OF THE WEEK**

Dugan is a male Lab/Shar Pei mix. He is approx 2 years old and weighs approx 55 lbs. He is friendly and social. \$25.00 adoption special includes sterilization, rabies vaccines, the first round of vaccines, Pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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.

**Hood County Animal Control**  
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277  
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

**8th ART in the VINES**  
SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 12-4 PM  
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Live Music from B-Ray & the Humans  
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**CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT**

Friday, 10 February 2023 - Thursday, 16 February 2023

**80 for Brady (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.  
Sat: 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, 9:45PM.  
Sun: 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM.  
Thurs: 2:25PM, 5:00PM

**A Man Called Otto (PG13)**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.  
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:30PM, 5:30PM, 8:30PM.  
Sun: 12:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM

**Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG13)**  
Thurs: 3:00PM, 7:35PM

**Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania in 3D (PG13)**  
Thurs: 6:00PM

**Knock at the Cabin (R)**  
Fri: 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM, 10:30PM.  
Sat: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 12:20PM, 2:50PM, 5:20PM, 7:50PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:20PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM.  
Thurs: 8:55PM

**Missing (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:05PM, 4:50PM, 10:05PM.  
Sat: 12:15PM, 3:00PM, 5:45PM, 10:10PM.  
Sun: 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:10PM, 4:55PM, 7:40PM

**Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG)**  
Fri: 2:20PM, 4:55PM, 7:30PM.  
Sat: 11:50AM, 2:25PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM.  
Sun: 12:15PM, 2:50PM, 5:25PM, 8:00PM.  
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)**  
Fri: 2:50PM, 7:00PM, 7:40PM.  
Sat: 11:50AM, 4:00PM, 8:10PM, 8:30PM.  
Sun: 12:40PM, 4:50PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:10PM

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

**SUDOKU**  
Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 8 (Puzzle 103).

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LEGACY COMES TO LIFE

## Jacob Warren Coffman: Son, brother, soldier

BY GERRY GIEGER



EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of Elizabeth Hancock is told by her great-great-nephew Gerry Gieger. Gerry is a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas and serves as president of the E.M. Daggett Chapter in Fort Worth.

**M**y name is Jacob Warren Coffman. I was born 1 December 1842 near Robbinsville (now, Bagwell) in Red River County, in The Republic of Texas. The youngest child of Lovell and Caty (Howard) Coffman, I was given the name Jacob to honor my paternal grandfather, Jacob Maryon Coffman, a Primitive Baptist preacher back in Alabama. My family and friends called me "Warren." I had 10 brothers and sisters. Being the youngest, they all thought I was favored and spoiled.

My parents had migrated from near Decatur, Alabama, while Texas was still a part of Mexico. It was a 550-mile trip from Alabama to Texas, but we had a good wagon and a good team of oxen. Harnesses are not used on oxen, so my brother Seabern rode on the left ox and guided them all the way to Texas. My family crossed the Red River at old Jonesboro and traveled south to Robbinsville.

One of the first men my father met was an early Texas pioneer named John Robbins. Mr. Robbins had a lot of land, a labor and a league (4605.5 acres) but he did not have a good wagon. My father was a wagonmaker by trade and a teamster beside. He found the White Oak timber in Red River County made excellent axles and spokes. He set up a shop and traded the first wagon to John Robbins for 300 acres of land.

My brothers and I were all trained in the craft of woodworking and we all became good at handling livestock. From my early childhood, I was taught how to take care of them. One of my first chores was to help my sisters gather eggs. We always 'robbed' the nest every day, so that hens would keep laying.

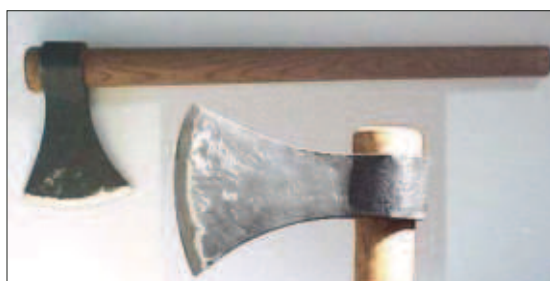
We had goats, which had to be milked in the morning and evening, so I learned how to milk into the bucket. Never squeeze the teat from the bottom upward. We also had to keep the paling around our garden, else the goats would get inside and eat all our vegetables. We were diligent to keep bitterweed out of the yard or near the house and barn.

Another chore was to pluck the chickens, ducks and other fowl that we ate. After boiling whatever bird we were going to eat, we plucked them clean of feathers. We laid the feathers out to dry so they could be used in making our featherbeds and pillows. You had to watch so the wind didn't blow them all away.

My older brothers made a hawk for me so I would be armed when I went into the pasture. Our dogs always came along to ward off any wampus cat or red wolf who wanted to try his luck. I did not have a gun because they were difficult to load with black powder and lead balls. (Cartridges and rifling came later.)

My parents were insistent that I learn to read and write, so I went to school in Robbinsville (now, Bagwell). My sister's husband, H.D. DeBerry, was the teacher at first, but other teachers were added as the community grew. Our principal textbook was the Holy Bible. We studied Creation, the Ten Commandments, poetry of the Psalms and Proverbs, The Gospels and Epistles of Paul and the other apostles.

We usually attended the Baptist Church, which was about 6-7 miles from our home. One Sunday my oldest brother Jimmie, who was a deaf-mute, did not feel well enough to go to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GERRY GIEGER

**Top, The Battle Flag of the 9th Texas Calvary used between 1861 and 1865.**

**Middle, is Jacob Warren Coffman's 24-inch tomahawk.**

**Bottom, pictured is the grave marker of Jacob Warren Coffman.**

church. The rest of the family loaded up in the wagon and headed out. Awhile later Jimmie began feeling better so he went into the barnyard and caught our old muley Bull. He climbed on and rode him to the Church house. It caused quite a commotion.

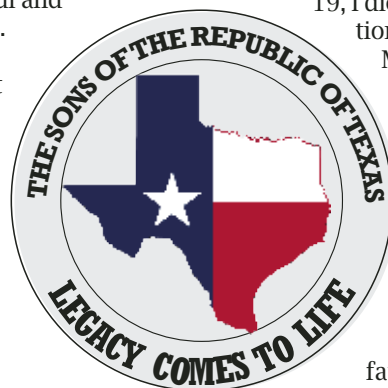
As soon as I was old enough, I joined the Rosalie Guard, which was the Militia of Red River County. We needed it to discourage renegade Indians from crossing over the Red River out of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and taking cattle or whatever else they wanted. I rose to the rank of corporal and was a very competent horseman.

On 14 October 1861 at Camp Reeves in Grayson County, I was inducted into the 9th Texas Calvary of the Confederate Army. I rode my own horse to battle. I was assigned to Co. E, and we first went into Indian Territory to face the Indians who were loyal to the Yankee side. We met Chief Opothleyahola's Creek and Seminole forces at the Battles of Round Mountain. Not much came from these battles because the Indians were able to slip away into Kansas Territory. We had traveled 60 miles in two days so our horses were no match for the well-rested Indian ponies.

Next, we went to Arkansas, for the Battle of Pea Ridge on March 7-8, 1862. That battle ended in a draw, so we headed to Tennessee. Many of our men were sick from measles, pneumonia, influenza, typhoid, and congestive fever (malaria). I wrote several letters to my kin back home, but never got replies, maybe because the mail service was bad, or we were moving about so much they never caught up.

On May 2, 1862, at the age of 19, I died from consumption (tuberculosis).

My grave is in historic Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis, Tennessee. I regret that I was never married. As late as 1940, no evidence suggests that my family ever knew my fate or burial site.



### WHO ARE THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS?

The Sons of the Republic of Texas consists of members who are direct lineal descendants of those who settled the Republic of Texas from 1836 to Feb. 19, 1846. The purpose of the SRT is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who won Texas' independence. They set the course for Texas to become a nation and eventually the 28th state. Legacy Comes To Life personifies our ancestors with true stories about real people who changed the course of history. For membership information, please visit our website; srtexas.org or email old300.srt@gmail.com.



PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Little painters French-themed art highlights tea party



COURTESY OF PAC STAFF

Pecan artist Heidi Easley led a "Bonjour Paris" themed day that included painting and a tea party. Eleven participants (and some parents and grandparents) enjoyed the day.

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.

**A**ccomplished artist and Pecan resident Heidi Easley led 11 little painters in an afternoon of art and tea party snacks last weekend at the PAC.

After a week of being iced indoors, the children (and several parents and grandparents) were delighted to find the PAC decorated with murals of the Eiffel Tower and French phrases placed around the room. Attendees donned aprons and berets in the spirit of the event.

Participants enjoyed tea and cookies before taking their pieces of art home.

ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will meet again on 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, she 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](http://www.pecanplantationartguild.com) online.

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. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the PAC gymnasium is the day when the Red Cross will be on site, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Folks may visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) 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.

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 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.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will meet collectively on Thursday, Feb. 16 with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. and President Carol Herrick calling the meeting to order at 10. The ladies will enjoy the music of Carol Horton, Jane Clark, and Karen Merrill as they present "All You Need Is Love."

Table art by local artists and presented by the Pecan Plantation Art Guild will compose a festive part of the day.

The PPWC welcomes all Pecan ladies to its group that centers on friendship, fellowship, philanthropy, and a love of the arts.

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 question/answer sessions featuring the candidates. Seating is limited at these events, and doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start time. Dates are Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the clubhouse

ballroom and Saturday, Feb. 18 at 10:30 a.m., also in the clubhouse ballroom. Each session will be limited to a two-hour maximum.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 22 when retired Granbury attorney Maurice Walton will address the group. Anecdotes for the day will consist of local stories including the Mitchell-Truitt feud. Reservations for the day are requested by noon on Tuesday Feb. 21: 817-573-2641.

DROP BOX

A new addition to Pecan Plantation is a curbside payment drop box located on the inside of the circle directly in front of the clubhouse. Members may now deliver payments from the convenience of their vehicles.

SMOOTH STRINGS

Guitar instructor and Pecan resident Carolyn Troland continues to give guitar lessons at the PAC with a new session starting soon. Call the PAC for more information or to sign up: 817-573-7952.

GOOD SHOT

Members of the Archery/Air Gun Association thank Bill Ricci for the new BB gun targets.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Royce Harber, who passed away on Jan. 19.

[dianedlong@yahoo.com](mailto:dianedlong@yahoo.com) / 817-579-9360

rect. I was in college before I knew that "kaffays" served anything other than hamburgers and chili (bowls of "red"). It was even later before realizing the importance of watching for "final notice warnings" posted by health departments in some eating establishments....

HIS WATCHFUL EYE

I now repeat my favorite Super Bowl joke, which is generic, hearkening back to the days when the Dallas Cowboys were in the big game. A church youth minister was scurrying around fellowship hall, worrying that there might not be enough food for an onslaught of youngsters planning to watch the game and chow down at church. He hastily prepared a food table sign: "Please take JUST TWO sandwiches. Remember, God is watching you." A youngster, noticing the

limitation on sandwiches, quickly scrawled another sign for the cookie tray: "Take all the cookies you want. God is watching the sandwiches."...

MY 21ST YEAR

Finally, this: Fears and worries aside, I begin my 21st consecutive year of writing weekly columns. The Idle American began in 2003, running in six newspapers. Since then, it has appeared in some 200 publications, largely on a weekly basis. The intent has been to provide gentle humor and occasional inspiration in a strife-torn world. I am blessed, looking forward to finding home keys and maintaining at least some mental acuity, while keeping fears and worries at bay. Immense thanks to folks who have taken time to read....

[newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com).

IDLE

FROM PAGE B1

in France started making tires in 1892, perhaps fearing that safeguards might be needed to assure consistent traction. A decade later, they started rating restaurants, striving to keep top-rated restaurants several miles apart. They theorized that motorists would drive many miles to dine at THE BEST restaurants, thus wearing out their tires faster. (Having spoken at several thousand luncheons and dinners where the food usually had little in common with what my grandmother used to serve, I thought maybe Michelin has something to do with describing "rubber chicken" entrees on the speaking circuit.)

Readers may wonder why a guy who was raised on Spam might dine at many of Michelin's top-rated restaurants. That would be cor-



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WINTER GUEST  
JAN-FEB • GRANBURY, TEXAS



February 10th, 2023 | 7:30pm

February 17th, 2023 | 7:30pm

February 11th, 2023 | 7:00pm

February 18th, 2023 | 7:00pm

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February 24th, 2023 | 7:30pm

February 25th, 2023 | 3:00 pm, 7:00pm

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