



# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[ SATURDAY, Feb. 18, 2023 ]

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## Trumble's third chance was worth One More Round



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Trumble works with ages 5 and up, male and female, the latter of which has seen significant growth in the sport over the years. One More Round has more than 60 members, and of those are five female members, including Shannon Matsinger, pictured in the ring practicing with Trumble.

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Dan Trumble is proof that dreams don't have to die. They can, however, relocate, which is how One More Round Boxing Club got its start almost a decade and a half ago. It came about after two previous attempts by Trumble. "My love of the sport and being able to see other people's accomplishments inspired me to open another gym," Trumble said.

Trumble opened the current location of One More Round at 401B Western Hills Tr. 14 years ago. He previously had a boxing gym in Glen Rose (Paluxy Valley Kickboxing Club) for nine years but sold it when he moved to Granbury. He then ran a gym near Granbury High School (Brazos Valley Kickboxing Club) for a year and a half but then thought he was done teaching.

However, he is a boxer through and through. And like many athletes, once the sport takes hold,

it's with you for the rest of your life.

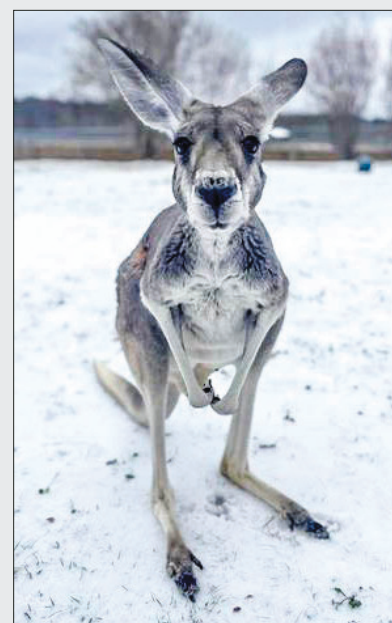
So, he gave it a third go. "I was done. I shut the doors. I started teaching a few students in my house because they wanted to do some boxing, so we set up a few punching bags and held classes," recalled Trumble, who will turn 48 years old in March. "We started to have a lot of people want to join, but we did not have room, so we decided to go One More Round."

PLEASE SEE TRUMBLE | A2



Dan Trumble ended his career as a pro boxer with a record of 21-0 with 18 knockouts. One More Round has also enjoyed quite a bit of success with five team championship trophies in Golden Gloves competition and they have turned out three professional fighters.

## FOUND!



COURTESY OF BRIANA LAFLEUR

Briana Lafleur begged the community to help find her beloved kangaroo. Please see story, A5.

## Pecan Valley Centers rebuts \$1M-plus lawsuit claiming sex abuse

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

A lawsuit filed on Feb. 9 in the 266th District Court in Erath County seeks "far in excess" of \$1 million in damages from Granbury-based Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral & Developmental Healthcare.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of a woman identified only as "Jane Doe," accuses the company's leaders of ignoring years of sexual assault and molestation by a systems administrator based in Stephenville.

Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral & Developmental Healthcare provides services for those dealing with substance abuse and behavioral health issues. The company has 11 locations in Hood, Erath, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell Counties.

A statement provided to the Hood County News on Wednesday, Feb. 15, by Executive Director Coke Beatty said that the purported activity was "completely unrelated" to the facility.

Last October, former Pecan Valley administrator Arran Spoede was arrested by U.S. Marshals at a motel in Conway, Arkansas, on charges related to promotion of child pornography and aggravated sexual assault of a child. Investigators reportedly

PLEASE SEE LAWSUIT | A3

### SEE MORE INSIDE

Granbury High School Artistic Director Melissa Hutson designs extravagant props and sets. Please see story, A5.

All-girl Scout troop receives \$1,000 donation from Granbury VFW. Spurs found in Fort Worth, sold at Tolar auction, benefit graduating class of maker's granddaughter. The February Fabulous Women of Granbury's monthly fundraiser benefits GHS Project Graduation 2023. Please see stories, B1.

## YMCA: We will pay for the erosion fix

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

The confusion as to whether taxpayers will have to foot the estimated \$12,000 bill for repairs needed to the grounds of the Hood County YMCA has been cleared up: they won't.

Turns out, it was a misunderstanding.

Todd Baker, chief property officer for the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth, told the county judge and commissioners at

Tuesday's regular meeting of the Commissioners Court that the Y had merely wanted to get input from county officials about their plans to repair erosion damage.

"I don't think that the intention was ever that the county would be required to make the repairs," Baker stated. "We just wanted to make sure we did it right."

Erosion on the grounds of the county-owned facility was discussed at the previous Commissioners Court meeting

because Maintenance Director Jay Riley and Personnel Director Melissa Welborn sought guidance from the elected officials after becoming aware of the problem.

No representatives of the Y were present and members of the Commissioners Court, as well as Riley, Welborn and County Attorney Matt Mills, were not with the county when the original partnership agreement was struck.

Voters approved construction of the \$10 million facility located

at 1475 James Road but the county leases it to the YMCA for \$1 per year. Although there is a contract between the county and the Y, vague language led to confusion over which party was responsible for the repair bill.

A pledge of support from the county was how the Y was enticed to come here years ago. The Hood County YMCA originally used a county-owned building on Harbor Lakes Drive but outgrew that

PLEASE SEE YMCA | A5



137TH YEAR, NO. 49

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

INSIDE

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*"The bond and the team are strong. The fighters are training harder than ever, the work ethic is there, and I just feel like it's going to be an excellent team this year. They're going to be good all around. You can always go one more round!"*

**DAN TRUMBLE**  
Owner of One More Round



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Dan Trumble opened the current location of One More Round at 401B Western Hills Tr., 14 years ago. Along with teaching for success in the boxing ring, Trumble teaches toward success in life.

**TRUMBLE**  
FROM PAGE A1

Hence, the appropriate name of the club. Trumble started boxing at a young age and began to take it serious when he was 12 years old. As he grew older he transitioned from boxing to kickboxing and turned professional. At one time he held the United States and the Texas title as the kickboxing champion at the same time at age 24. He ended his career as a pro with a record of 21-0 with 18 knockouts. In all, he fought more than 165 matches as an amateur and professional, holding 28 titles, before retiring from competition at age 24 because of complications after knee surgery. One More Round has enjoyed quite a bit of success with five team championship

trophies in Golden Gloves competition. They have turned out three professional fighters, several national champions and more than 25 Golden Gloves champs. Trumble works with ages 5 and up, male and female, the latter of which has seen significant growth in the sport over the years. "I have been coaching females since day one of One More Round and even before that at my other locations. There have been times over the years that I had more female competitors in the gym than males," Trumble said. "We have always had female competitors and they have always proven to be the hardest workers and the fiercest in the ring. Our females make up almost half of the Golden Gloves championship winners." Currently, One More Round has more than 60 members, a number that

has held steady for quite a few years, Trumble said. Of those are five female members, including Shannon Matsinger. "The class has taught self-discipline, mental and physical strength and although you train as a team it is an individual sport," she said. "I started this sport in support of my daughter (Allison Matsinger). I fell in love and have been a competitive fighter since." Along with teaching for success in the boxing ring, Trumble teaches toward success in life. For starters, a big rule is that boxing stays inside the ring. "We teach that boxing is a sport and not something to be used as fighting outside of the gym," he said. "We love helping the kids maintain good grades and seeing them achieve that and be proud of themselves. "We even offer off campus

P.E. for the school district. They do learn discipline and take that home with them and use it in their everyday lives." Also, his students stand up for others who might not be able to do so themselves. "Bullying is unacceptable and they spread the word when they have the opportunity," he said. Not only are the participants enjoying the club, so are parents. "Kids deal with a lot of emotions throughout their childhood, and boxing will give them a release. It allows them to let out their stress in a positive way," said Stephanie Garner, whose 15-year-old son Cayden Zunk has been a club member for five years. "It has been the best thing for him. His confidence, integrity, accountability, and an overall effort to overcome life struggles is only pos-

sible because he trains at One More Round," she said. "He has found a family outside of his family and has a place where he will always belong." Ben Holt said the club has given his son Tyler the courage to face difficult situations and the strength to overcome them. "Boxing has helped build his confidence by teaching him how to trust his abilities and instincts. It is only him in the ring one versus one, each exchange teaching him about winning or losing," Ben said. "With each punch thrown, he has grown to believe that he can do anything he wants. He also has more physical stamina as he learned to push himself beyond what he thought was possible and take on more formidable opponents in the ring. "Finally, boxing has provided a sense of protection

for him both physically and mentally. Physically, it has taught him self-defense skills that will serve as a shield in his life. Mentally, it has enabled him to develop resilience against negative thoughts and feelings that can otherwise overwhelm us in life's most challenging moments." This year's regional Golden Gloves competition is scheduled for March 7-12 at the John Justin Arena in the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth. Trumble said 20 of his fighters will be competing, including six females. "The bond and the team are strong," he said. "The fighters are training harder than ever, the work ethic is there, and I just feel like it's going to be an excellent team this year. They're going to be good all around. You can always go one more round!"

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**CORRECTION**

Dakodah Horton's name was misspelled in the Feb. 15 edition of the Hood County News. We deeply regret the error.

**Dakodah Lee Allen Horton, aka "The Joker", 34, beloved son, father and friend to many, passed away unexpectedly Feb. 4. A devoted Harley Davidson and motorcycle enthusiast, Dakodah was a member of the Chula Chasers of Fort Worth raising money for children of MHMR. Friends, family and motorcycle enthusiasts joined the funeral procession Saturday, Feb. 10. A GoFundMe account has been set up to support any needs of the family and can be found at https://www.gofundme.com/ff/dakodah-joker-horton?utm\_source=facebook.**

## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Sometimes the risk is not worth the reward

It was some years ago, but on this summer day my vehicle was in serious need of a car wash. The temperature had been locked into that mid-summer 95- to 105-degree block so everything in the entire county was dried out and dusty. I had the unfortunate experience of having driven down an unpaved road and the result was a thin layer of gravel road dust on the surface of my car. The dust was everywhere, making it hard to see out the windows and heaven forbid if I accidentally brushed up against the car because the filth would be all over me.

Normally when I washed my car I would utilize the big commercial car wash on the far end of town, but on this occasion I needed some gasoline so I pulled into a convenience store that had an attached "car wash." The full-service car wash I normally patronized did a significantly better job than the place I pulled into, but with the weather the way it had been my car was not going to stay clean



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.

for very long. The location I chose offered a free car wash with a fill-up, and since I was needing fuel, it made sense to get the car rinsed off too. I would save time and money.

I filled the car and then went inside the convenience store where the clerk gave me a slip of paper with a code written upon it. She told me to drive around back, pull up to the car wash entrance, type in the code, and then drive on through. I happily took the code from the clerk, jumped in the car and circled the building to get to where the wash entrance was located. Once I pulled up, I entered the code and drove forward into the car wash, but nothing happened. No lights came on, no water or soap came out of the auto-

mated nozzles; nothing.

I backed out of the car wash and once again typed in the code provided by the clerk. I then drove into the wash and once again and was met with no mechanical activity whatsoever. This car wash was as dead as a can of tuna!

Not one to be deterred from receiving my gratis car wash, I threw my vehicle into park and set out to march back into the convenience store and demand the clerk do something to make the car wash work. I surveyed the situation and started to walk the length of the building, reversing the route I had taken when I drove in. Then I stopped. Why in heaven's name should I walk all the way around the building and then walk all the way back? A smart guy would walk

through the car wash and cut off a good couple 200 feet of travel and be right at the front door of the store. Surely saving a few steps made more sense than walking all the way around the building on a hot summer day.

As I initiated my plan, I took no more than three steps into the car wash when the heavens exploded. It happened suddenly and without warning. It took me a good three or four seconds before I could even comprehend what the heck was happening. The first sensation I recall was jets of water going up the legs of my shorts, and then almost immediately being hit with a blast of soapy white foam. It seemed like water and soap were coming at me from every different direction, soaking my clothes and leaving a white slimy chemical in my hair, eyes, ears and other parts of my body too personal to mention. The suddenness scared me and once I got my wits about me, I went running out the entrance door of the car wash, saying words I would not say in Sunday school,

realizing that my actions had triggered the car wash to begin.

I was soaking wet. There was no towel in my car or any sort of rag to dry off with. When I got back into the car, the soap and water from my body dripped and soaked my carpet and my upholstery. For a few minutes I sat there, trying to absorb what had just happened. The look on my face was one of embarrassment and frustration, and probably some incomprehension of what had just occurred. I drove home to change my clothes, and wipe out the car's interior and seats.

I never did get a car wash that day, and saving a few steps seemed like a poor bargain.

Thought for the day: A bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to navigate the turn.

Until next time I will keep ridin' the storm out.

sam@hcnews.com / 817-573-7066, ext. 260

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Uncle Mort writes again as the king of dreams and dollar signs

Central to my Uncle Mort's colorful life — now stretching over two centuries — are his scatter-brained decisions to "go off fourth-cocked," even when "half-cocked" action might be preferable. Someone said that he'd be ahead of the game if he'd "keep his gun holstered," even if his trigger finger gets itchy.

Forget the holstered part; that's simply not going to happen. My aged kin — long since the king of dreams dominated by dollar marks — feels that there's money to be made in advertising, specifically for all of us who are finding it to be complicated to get from Point A to Point B on a daily basis.

"There's a reason I've put a 'Do Not Disturb' sign on my man cave," he said. "The transportation industry needs my help. And so do most of the others."...

## LEAVE THE FUSS

His thoughts may have merit. Airlines are having a hard time keeping schedules and buses



BY DON NEWBURY

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

seem to be from another age. Looks like most Americans have taken to automobiles, even with higher costs associated therewith that include insurance, repairs and traversing many highways that have "under construction" signs posted permanently.

Mort sprang into action when he read the other day that airline boardings in 2022 ran 10% under the pre-COVID year of 2019.

He mentioned Greyhound's campaign mounted in the mid-1950s, urging folks to garage their cars, leaving driving to them. You probably remember the jingle that urged folks to "skip the fuss and take the bus." The slogan seemed to be center stage in Greyhound's print and electronic ads for more than four decades....

## RICH TALK

Mort figures that automobile dealerships probably will holler "sic'em," confident that most folks may experience "less fuss" as they move about the country, or simply their neighborhood. (One business traveler says he has started driving again because he doesn't have time to fly.)

When we talked the other day, Mort seemed torn between striving to become an ad writer or a "goldy-throat" analyst in a TV sports booth.

"I'm gargling to keep my voice crisp and reading up on sports clichés," he said. "But if Tom Brady can sign a Fox contract of \$375 million for telling viewers about football games for 10 seasons, there may be a future there for me."...

## FIRST TRY

I'm tempted to advise him to "dream on." But I still have respect for my elders, and in his case, my "eldest."

Maybe the ad route might fit Mort best. He showed me his first ad draft, one that still needs some work.

"At airports and bus stations, problems abound. Jump in your car and stay close to the ground." He rolls on that driving now seems to be the "lesser of three evils."....

## SOCKED IN

Mort is also moving forward on a venture into the world of tattoos. "Pretty soon, unique ankle tattoos may be all the rage, particularly for aging men," he said.

He claims that his unlikely interest came with the growing frustration of putting on his socks each morning.

"Wait'll you hear this, nephew," he said. "I'm working on a tattoo kit so old guys can paint their ankles in the solid colors of their choice. That way, others will think

they are wearing socks."...

## NO OFFENSE INTENDED

Clever ads may be Mort's "thing." After all, Warren Buffett made "walking around" money composing rhymes for Burma-Shave signs seen on fence posts around the country.

Mort says one website business pays "green money" for slogans and ad ideas. He saw one recently on a swimming pool supply truck. It claimed to have employees who enjoy "pooling around."

I hope Mort tiptoes into ad writing. Six Flags over Texas got a black eye decades ago with a claim that if Alice visits Six Flags, she'll have no use for Wonderland. How were the "sloganeers" to know that one of their billboards went up near Wonderland Amusement Park in Amarillo? Understandably, management of the regional amusement park took umbrage at the soon-to-be-removed billboard....

newbury@speakerdoc.com

## LAWSUIT

## FROM PAGE A1

recovered a cell phone owned by Pecan Valley that contained videos of Spoede engaging in sex acts with Doe as well as other females.

Spoede, 46 at the time of his arrest, was extradited to Erath County and remains jailed there.

Doe is a former patient at Pecan Valley's Stephenville facility and Spoede's former stepdaughter. She claims the assaults began at home when she was 12 but that

many occurred at Pecan Valley's Stephenville site.

The lawsuit alleges that Doe was just 13 or 14 when she and Spoede were recorded in one of the sexually explicit videos found on the Pecan Valley-owned cell phone. It also claims that other females were recorded and photographed by Pecan Valley-owned equipment having sexual encounters with Spoede.

The statement provided by Beatty to the HCN was dated Feb. 9, the same day the lawsuit was filed.

"Although our attorneys just received this lawsuit and have not had time to thoroughly review it, we must respond to facts that are not in the pleadings," the statement reads. "Most importantly, the plaintiff's attorney failed to inform the court or the media that the criminal assault charges against the former employee, Arran Spoede, resulted from accusations from his former adopted daughter."

The 17-page petition does not cite that relationship, but a press release about the lawsuit emailed

to the HCN on Feb. 13 notes that Spoede is Doe's former stepfather.

The lawsuit claims that Doe and her attorneys, Rogge Dunn of Dallas and James Beam of Stephenville, notified Pecan Valley of the assaults but received no response.

The statement from Pecan Valley states: "Law enforcement has made no allegations against Spoede related to any clients or patients at Pecan Valley. In fact, in September, when we were informed on a Friday of the possibility of criminal charg-

es because of the daughter's complaints, we immediately put Spoede on leave, and he was terminated the following Monday."

It continued, "Our hearts go out to the young woman who reported the father's abuse, but this decade of purported activity is completely unrelated and was absolutely unknown to the administrators at this facility. They are focused on patient care and treatment as well as upholding Pecan Valley's mission."

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# OBITUARIES

## Robert V. (Red) Bagwell

August 9, 1938 - February 13, 2023

Robert V. (Red) Bagwell was born on August 9, 1938, in McFarland, California to Horace V. Bagwell and Gertrude Ogan Bagwell.

Bob passed away on Monday, February 13, 2023, after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's Dementia.

Bob and his wife Linda (Thornton) were introduced at church and were married on August 20, 1960, at the South Riverside Drive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Their wedding was performed by their Pastor, Brother Benie Richardson. Their wedding reception was hosted at the home of their pastor and his wife Dot.

Bob and Linda lived in Fort Worth, Texas until 1993, then moved to Granbury, Texas.

Bob worked with the Boy Scouts, Troop 50 for over 30 years and held many different positions in the troop. He was a select member of the "Order of the Arrow" and made many trips to Philmont along with his son Randall. After moving to Granbury, Bob and Linda played host to the Troop 50 Boy Scouts at their "Brazos View Ranch" several times a year, until moving to Acton in 2010. They also hosted many church functions at their ranch. They also felt blessed to have been a part of South Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas and Mambriño Baptist Church, Granbury, Texas.

Bob worked at Lectric Lites Company for (28) years, retiring with BFI Company. He was a member of the "Salesman With a Purpose Club." He was awarded the "Top Salesman Award" at their first annual meeting. He spoke at many high schools delivering speeches, "How to Soar with the Eagles instead of Flying with the Buzzards."

Bob and Linda square danced in the 1970s and were members of the Beachcombers and The American Heritage Dancers. They, along with their friends, Frank and Shirley Johnson, "Do-Si-Do" throughout Texas including dancing in front of the Alamo. They also square dance with the American Heritage Dancers on the square in Granbury. Pictures of them were on the front page of the Granbury Paper. It was Granbury's first Labor Day Celebration.



tion. They loved volunteering at the Glen Rose Nursing Home and met many dear friends. Bob was an ordained Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and held many other positions in the Mambriño Baptist Church.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his uncle and aunt, Jimmy and Sally Edwards, brothers, James Bagwell and wife Sharon, Gene Massengale and stepfather, Louis Massengale.

Those left to cherish his memories, wife of 62 years, Linda Ruth Bagwell of Granbury, Texas (Acton); daughter, Teresa Loeber and husband, Charles of Little Elm, Texas; son, Randall Bagwell and wife Wendy of Millsap, Texas; sister-in-law Nancy Massengale; grandchildren, Dakota Wyatt and wife Dakota Cheyenne, Oswin Canote and Tommy Richardson and many cherished nieces and nephews and a bouquet of valued relatives and friends.

As a young man, Bob never had the opportunity to attend any Boy Scout Troops and therefore never had the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout through his commitment to the Boy Scouts, his family and friends and his church. He signified the true meaning of an Eagle Scout and his Christian Faith.

"Loved you once, love you still. Always have, always will" Linda.

Visitation will be held at noon, prior to the service at 1 p.m., Sunday, February 19, 2023, at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.

Burial will be at 1 p.m., Monday, February 20, 2023, at Oakwood Cemetery in Honey Grove, Texas.

In lieu of flowers the family ask for donations given to Alzheimer's research.

Arrangements made by Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.

## Walter H. "Buddy" Test

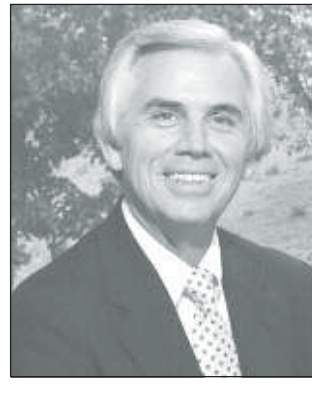
January 20, 1932 - January 14, 2023

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day.

Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Buddy was born January 20, 1932, in McKinney, Texas to Boe and Berry Test, the second of three children. He attended Ennis High School, graduating in 1949. He began working for the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1948 as a dispatch, waking up men and making sure they were at work. He entered the U. S. Navy in 1950, serving on the Randolph Macon as well as other postings with his beloved VC-7 squadron. While stationed in Morocco, he played his first round of golf, the beginning of a 65-year passion. He served from 1950 to 1954, honorable discharged. He went on to attend Texas Tech University, then University of Texas in Austin.

Buddy met the love of his life, Joan Harrison, and married in 1959. They took their vows before God and Father Henry Drozd and remained to-



gether for the next 65 years, until his passing on January 14, 2023, at the age of 90. Just six days shy of his 91st birthday. He retired from Southern Pacific Railroad after 45 years. Buddy and Joan retired to Pecan Plantation Country Club, where they lived on the 10th fairway of the Nutcracker Golf Course in Granbury, Texas.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Joan Marie Test; sons, Christopher Anthony Test and David Glenn Test.

Service: 11 a.m., Thursday, February 23, 2023, St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, by Father Fernando. Inurnment: May 30, 2023, Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery

## Teresa Hopping

August 11, 1961 - February 11, 2023

Teresa Hopping was called home to our Lord and Savior on February 11, 2023, in Lubbock, Tx surrounded by her loving family.

Teresa Ann Hopping was born August 11, 1961, to John Lantz and Carol Gunter Lantz in Amarillo, TX. Teresa grew up in Dimmitt, Tx and graduated in 1979. Teresa enrolled at Texas Tech University and was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Teresa obtained her degree in Management Information Systems. Teresa married the love of her life, Rick Hopping of Littlefield, on March 31, 1988, in Dimmitt, Texas. Teresa was employed by Frenship ISD Information Technology department, where her coworkers referred to her as their "work mom".

Teresa's family was always at the forefront of her heart and thoughts. She enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren. She brought a bright light to anyone who met her, always sharing a caring smile and hug.

Teresa is survived by her husband, Rick; children Kallie (Cole) Tidwell - daughter, Rebecca Hopping; grandchildren, Amelia Tidwell, Grayson Schneider, Margaret Tidwell, Autumn Hopping-Schneider; mother, Carol Lantz; brother, Jeffery



(Janet) Lantz; brother-in-law, Roni (Karyl Arrington) Hopping, Michael (Elena) Hopping; nieces, Hanna Lantz, Victoria Hopping.

She is preceded in death by her father John Lantz and her niece Jessica Lantz.

A service to celebrate the life of Teresa Hopping's 61 years of life is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers, followed by a time of fellowship with family and friends. Please visit www.memorialdesigners.net for a service broadcasting schedule, floral purchasing, and an area to share stories of Teresa with her family.

In lieu of flowers, the family has chosen the UMC Cancer Center for donations in her memory at www.umchealthsystem.com/giving/donate-to-umc .

## Gerald Lynn Privitt

September 15, 1952 - February 13, 2023

Gerald Lynn Privitt, 70, was born in Weatherford, Texas on September 15, 1952 to Lela Ida and Ottis Privitt.

He left this Earth on February 13, 2023.

Gerald was a man of many talents and skills that enabled him to travel to many locations in and out of the US.

An avid outdoorsman, he lived his life to the fullest and stayed active until health issues made him slow down. More recently, he loved sitting out on the deck enjoying nature, watching TV, and cooking on the grill.

He felt his greatest accomplishment was his son, Austin and becoming Grandpa to Bowen, Kloyee and Quaiden.

He loved his family beyond measure, thought of his Mother as his Hero. Gerald was a caring man and always remembered his loved ones on their special days and holidays.



Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, many relatives and friends.

He is survived by his son, Austin Miller Privitt & wife Sharra Hanvey Privitt; three Grandchildren, Bowen, Kloyee and Quaiden; two Sisters, Frances Gaynell (Privitt) Jefferies and Carolyn Kay (Privitt) Moore; many more relatives and friends; Austin's mother, Tracye Allen Privitt; and longtime friend, companion and partner Martha Gilder Derick.

Last Puzzle Solution: ACES, SOLE, MULE, ARID, LIP, ONA, SHANK, LESS, FAT, POLISH, DREAM, OF, ANACRE, STEREO, STEM, KNEW, WIRING, IONLY, MACAW, FBISH, OOTING, SEMITOUGH, ONEAL, ROTARYRIG, ANDERS, RH, AHA, SKID, BAY, ISAY, BLTS, NOD, YRS, ED. S-1625

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Obituaries should come from the funeral home.

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

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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## Can you benefit from new RMD age limit?

TY ANDREW Edward Jones Financial Adviser



When you're working, you may spend decades contributing to retirement accounts such as your 401(k) and IRA. Once you're retired, though, you'll likely need to begin withdrawing from these accounts to help pay for your living expenses. In fact, you'll be required to take money from them at a certain age — but that age requirement is changing, and it could lead to changes in your financial strategy. Let's look at some background behind this develop-

ment. You put in pre-tax dollars to a traditional IRA and 401(k), so your contributions can lower your taxable income and your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. Eventually, though, you must take withdrawals from these accounts or face tax penalties. (A Roth IRA does not have the withdrawal requirement; you can essentially keep the money intact as long as you choose.) As part of the SECURE Act 2.0 of 2022, the age at which you must take these withdrawals — technically called required

minimum distributions, or RMDs — has increased from 72 to 73. So, if you turn 72 in 2023, you now have another year before you're required to take RMDs. The SECURE Act 2.0 also mandates that, in 2033, the RMD age will increase again — to 75 — so, depending on your current age, you may have even more time to plan for the effects of RMDs. Of course, you may need to start taking withdrawals from your retirement accounts before you reach either RMD age — 73 or 75 — so the additional time may not mean much to you. But if you can afford to wait until you must start taking

RMDs, what issues should you consider?

Perhaps the most important one is taxes. Your RMDs, which are based on your life expectancy and account balances, are considered taxable income in the year in which you accept the money. If you have sizable amounts in your traditional IRA and 401(k), these RMDs could be large enough to bump you into a higher tax bracket, leading to greater taxation of Social Security benefits and a Medicare surcharge. So, the ability to delay taking RMDs can be beneficial from a tax standpoint, at least for a time. On the other hand, by delay-

ing RMDs, you might eventually have to take bigger taxable withdrawals from your accounts that may have larger balances because they've had more time to potentially grow. You could address the issue of taxable withdrawals by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA before you're faced with RMDs — and now, you have more time to do so. Roth IRAs have no RMDs, and since a Roth IRA is funded with after-tax dollars, your withdrawals are tax free, provided you don't begin taking them until you're at least

59½ and you've had your account at least five years. Again, though, taxes are the is-

sue — any pre-tax dollars you convert from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA will be taxable in the year of the conversion. To reduce this tax hit, you could space out the conversion over several years.

When thinking about delaying RMDs or doing a Roth IRA conversion to avoid RMDs, you'll need to consult with your tax advisor. But the new RMD age limits do give you more flexibility in these areas, so think carefully about how you might benefit from the added time.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Owner pleads for help from community in finding lost pet kangaroo

*Editor's note: As the HCN was about to go to press Thursday morning, news that Nigel had safely returned home was reported on social media.*

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

**B**riana Lafleur posted desperate pleas on Facebook, begging the community to help find her lost baby. She needed search and rescue teams, she said, and someone with a drone.

"I love him with all my heart," she posted. "We have been searching all night."

Lafleur's baby is a two-year-old kangaroo named Nigel. He went missing Tuesday afternoon after jumping a fence at Lafleur's property on Mitchell Bend Court in southern Hood County. She said he apparently became frightened because of a well being drilled there.

Kangaroos are legal to own in Hood County and in Texas, according to Sgt. Kelly McNab of Hood County Animal Control, which is part of the Sheriff's Office. She said she knows of one other kangaroo living in Hood County.

McNab said Wednesday that Animal Control offi-

cers were helping to scour the area in hopes of locating Nigel.

Lafleur, who owns TLC Horse Training, said that Nigel is not aggressive and interacts all the time with her clients.

"He's normally very friendly," she said. "But I don't know, he's just never been outside the fence and I think he's just really worked up."

She asked that anyone who spots Nigel call her immediately at 817-771-8039.

Lafleur said that Nigel enjoys wheat toast and still likes his bottle. She's had him since he was a baby.

When the HCN spoke with Lafleur Wednesday morning, she was still out searching for her beloved pet. She said that an oil field worker



COURTESY OF BRIANA LAFLEUR

**Nigel, a two-year-old kangaroo, is like a child to owner Briana Lafleur, who searched for him after he jumped a fence Tuesday at her property in southern Hood County.**

*"I love him with all my heart. We have been searching all night."*

**BRIANA LAFLEUR**

claimed to have spotted him.

"We're really trying to see if we can find someone to help set up some panels or some drones," she said. "Panels, so we can maybe create like a trap and some drones so we can get some eyes in the sky."

Sheriff Roger Deeds said that the SO has two drones but the department's main

drone operator had worked patrol Tuesday night.

"We are trying to make that happen," he said of Lafleur's request, "but we have been busy."

McNab said that if Animal Control receives a call from Lafleur stating that Nigel has been located, officers will assist in helping her corral the frightened animal. If of-

ficers spot the rambling roo, they will not risk frightening him more by trying to capture him on their own but will instead immediately call Lafleur, she stated.

"Hopefully, he'll recognize her voice and it's going to be mom," she said. "Like, oh, mom, there you are, versus us just trying to corral him or apprehend him and make

him even more scared."

Like many others in the community, McNab is hoping for a positive outcome.

"I'm praying that Nigel will return or he will be found," she said. "We've got to pray for the best."

[kcruz@hcnews.com](mailto:kcruz@hcnews.com) / 817-579-1886



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**YMCA official Todd Baker told the Commissioners Court Tuesday that the Y will pay to fix erosion issues on the grounds of the county-owned facility it leases.**

## YMCA

FROM PAGE A1

building. Voters approved construction of a new facility to be used by the Y in 2012.

The 20-minute discussion at the January meeting revealed that an oversight committee that was to have been formed when the structure was built and was to include county representatives never materialized.

At Tuesday's meeting, the court unanimously approved a motion by Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson to create a Hood County

YMCA Oversight Committee that will meet quarterly and will include two members of the Commissioners Court, the county's maintenance director, the county's personnel director, and two members from the YMCA selected by the management of the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth.

The court also unanimously agreed for Samuelson and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson to be its representatives on that committee.

[kcruz@hcnews.com](mailto:kcruz@hcnews.com) / 817-579-1886

# Building up shows, students



COURTESY OF JILLIAN TREMBLE

**Granbury High School Artistic Director Melissa Hutson designs extravagant props and sets. Theater fans may recognize her handiwork in creating the Audrey II puppet for Little Shop of Horrors, a giant, wooden rabbit for Monty Python's Spamalot, or, most recently, a magic rose that would have to wilt on its own for Beauty and the Beast.**

**BY JILLIAN TREMBLE**

*Special to the Hood County News*

Audiences all over Granbury were amazed by the production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," which was put on in late January by Granbury High School's Choir and Theatre departments. In addition to the multi-talented students on stage, much of the spectacle was due to extravagant props and sets adorning the stage.

The credit for the beautiful decor can be given largely to GHS Artistic Director Melissa Hutson. Her job is to take care of the more "artsy" elements of the school's productions - like props, costumes, wigs, and set pieces so that the director, Mark Weeks, can focus more on the big picture.

Hutson has been involved in bringing many beloved musicals to life. Theater fans may recognize her handiwork in creating things like the Audrey II puppet for "Little Shop of Horrors," a giant, wooden rabbit for Monty Python's "Spamalot," or, most recently, a magic rose that would have to wilt on its own

for "Beauty and the Beast."

When she found out last year that Granbury's theater department would be putting on "Little Shop of Horrors," her first thought was that "I want to make it. I don't want to rent it, I want to make it."

Hutson remembers that giant plant as both her favorite and hardest build to date. She remembers the challenges of having to climb up inside a puppet that stood 11 feet tall, more than double her height, as a "labor of love," something she was so excited about that she hardly minded the blood, sweat, and tears being poured into it.

That can-do attitude is something Hutson applies not only to the work on productions, but also to the classes she is teaching all day. She is, of course, passionate about the work she does as an artistic director. But she describes the best part of her job as the moment when she gets to see students who don't think they can be involved in the arts find a passion in her class.

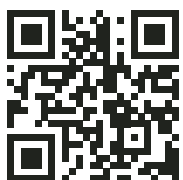
That excitement is partially encour-

aged by allowing students in theater classes to spend their time working on the shows being put on after school. Acting classes will read through scripts and discuss directing styles, while tech theater students will be building props that they can then see on stage during a performance. Hutson believes that helps it feel more "real" to her students.

Encouraging students, to Hutson, is the most important part of her job. There are so many jobs available within theater and the arts, far more than many people would initially guess. In order to successfully pull off a show, it will require the joint efforts of carpenters, makeup artists, actors, and everyone in between. This was exemplified during January's production of "Beauty and the Beast," when the high school's robotics team was needed to make a large invention for Belle's father, proving that there's even room for computer programmers in the arts. Hutson wants people to know that "there is room in the department for many more people than there are now."

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Auxiliary boot drive stages successful fundraiser supporting emergency services

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.

Members of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary conducted a very successful boot drive last weekend. This first fundraiser of 2023 garnered more than \$4,000, every penny of which will support our community's emergency service personnel.

Teams of auxiliary volunteers were stationed at the front and back gates for six hours to greet folks both entering and leaving Pecan. The day proved a fun and productive way to collect donations, and it allowed auxiliary members to introduce themselves and the auxiliary's mission to neighbors passing by. Many thanks go to everyone who participated, especially the generous donors who made the event so worthwhile.

In addition, auxiliary members are preparing for their annual spring bake sale slated for Saturday, March 11 beginning at 10 a.m. at the EMS building meeting room on Monticello Drive. A "Flamingle" theme will make the day big fun. Cowtown Gold and Silver will also be on site to purchase precious metals, donating a part of their proceeds to Pecan's emergency groups.

The next regular meeting

of the auxiliary will happen Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the EMS building. All Pecan residents are invited to attend discussing plans for the annual golf tournament on June 24, as well as additional activities for 2023, will be on the agenda.

**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 is hosting a question/answer session featuring the candidates today, Saturday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the clubhouse ballroom. Seating is limited, and doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start time. The session will be limited to a two-hour maximum.

**RV CLUB**

Pecan's Recreational



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN GOMEZ

Pictured, from left, are Lorraine Faucett, Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS Auxiliary co-president Donna Bullis, and Shirley Jairett were among the volunteers who teamed up on Saturday, Feb. 11 to collect donations in the auxiliary's boot drive, which benefitted Pecan's volunteer firefighters and emergency responders.

Vehicle Club enjoyed a barbecue dinner at its first 2023 meeting when new board members took their offices and attendees discussed plans for their April rally in Oklahoma City. The next meeting of this "on the go" group will happen Tuesday, Feb. 21, and folks desiring more information on the RV Club and its activities may contact David Kroon at dkl341@swbell.net.

**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.

**GOLF TIME**

Pecan's Ladies' Golf Association has odd holes planned for Tuesday, Feb. 21, and the Men's Golf Association will enjoy individual low gross, low net with the pro shop setting foursomes.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet gain 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.

**BOOT SCOOTIN'**

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual boot scootin' dinner and dance is on the calendar for Saturday, March 25, and tickets are on sale now. Folks who would like to reserve a spot may visit www.myppecan.com/bootscootin to order tickets. All proceeds from the event will benefit Hood County charities as well as PPWC scholarship recipients.

"Boots and Bling" is the phrase of the evening that will include a cash saloon, general store, silent auction, and "blingiest cowgirl" contest.

**COMMITTEE FORMING**

Members willing to serve on Pecan's By-laws

Committee are needed, and sign up is happening now. The board of directors will choose neighbors to serve on this group whose function is to review any and all proposed amendments to the by-laws and make recommendations to the board about submitting a proposed amendment to membership for approval.

Prospective volunteers may sign up by stopping at the clubhouse front desk or visiting Pecan's website before the deadline comes Thursday, Feb. 23 following the board meeting. Many thanks go to folks who serve our community in this capacity.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360



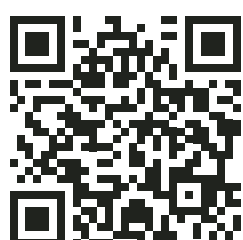
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# BLOCKER HONORED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT



Hood County Health Authority Dr. David Blocker (left) stands with County Judge Ron Massingill after being recognized by the Commissioners Court for his service to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Dr. Blocker is truly a public hero," Massingill said.

COURTESY OF HOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

## ARTS & LETTERS BOOKSTORE

# It's Loveuary! Hallmark says so



**BY ROXANNE LANEY**

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

**V**alentine's Day! February 14 marks a day of romantic love, but Hallmark has extended it to the whole month. What makes love so special?

Years ago, my friend and I went to see a movie called "Marvin's Room." Marvin's daughter Bessie takes care of him when a stroke incapacitates him. Unfortunately, Bessie gets leukemia and calls her estranged sister Lee to help her. At the end of the movie, when Bessie becomes very ill, she and Lee have a conversation about love. Bessie comments that it's not as important to be loved as it is to love. Life's about the people you love more than it is about the people who love you.

That thought stuck with me right up to now. Whom do you love? How many people float in your orbit of affection? While romantic love fulfills people in ways that nothing else can, it's not the only form of love. We have family, friends, mentors, co-workers, club members, bosses and

employees. Don't we love them to some degree?

Perhaps the key to a happy life is the ability to love other people - extend your warmth, help, and care to as many people as possible. Love returns to you four-fold. It keeps you warm in the winter. By all means, hunker down in your home when cold weather, wind, snow and ice attack. Reach out to your neighbors. Call your mother or your kids regularly. Prevent space from opening up between family members, because it's so complicated to close it. Treat your pets like family. They love you back. Well, at least dogs do.

Let's take a page from Hallmark's book and extend the love for the whole month.

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

## LEGACY COMES TO LIFE

## James Carson Duff: husband, father, Texas patriot



BY RON SUTTON

EDITORS NOTE: This is the story of James C. Duff told by Ron Sutton, his great-great-great-grandson. Ron is a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) and serves the David Crockett Chapter as President in Granbury.

My parents are James Duff Jr. and Mary T. Parks. They lived in Hardeman County, Tennessee, when I was born on March 25, 1810. The first things they taught me and all my brothers and sisters were to love God, take care of family and work hard. We all did our best to do exactly what they taught us.

When I was about 15 years old, a family named Bell moved into our area of Tennessee from Kentucky. The Bells had a daughter named Melvina Alvira. She was three years older than me and the prettiest girl I had ever seen. It may have been love at first sight because I started calling her China Bell a short time after we met. I thought that name suited her better than Melvina Alvira.

China Bell and I married on the 18 of August 1829 in Shelby County, Tennessee. I was only 19 years old when we married, but she knew I was a hard worker and would take good care of her and our children. Speaking of children, the first three of our 12 children: Mary, born in 1830; Winnie Jane, 1832; and Marion Jasper, 1833, were born right there in Shelby County. Our fourth child, Maria Catherine Duff, was born in 1836 in Texas. I will tell you more about her a little deeper into my story.

We were doing well in Tennessee, but I was hearing good things about a

place called Tejas in northern Mexico. There was a lot of talk about Stephen F. Austin's Colony and San Felipe de Austin. Seems the 300 families that he settled there had received a lot of land and were prospering. The land was fertile and just about perfect for farming and raising livestock and families. I thought that we could raise a good crop the very first year, and I convinced China Bell the same.

There were rumors of problems that the Mexican government was causing for the Angelo settlers. However, we decided the opportunities outweighed the dangers and we had confidence that Stephen F. Austin's second colony would be just as successful as his first one. Therefore, in January of 1834 China Bell and I loaded the kids, along with all our worldly possessions, and headed to Texas.

We first settled in the general area of Columbus on the lower Colorado River. Texas was everything we had heard it was and even more.

The rumors about prob-

lems with Mexico turned out to be major trouble. When we made it to Texas, Mr. Austin had gone to Mexico City to calm down the tensions between the settlers and the Mexican government. President Santa Anna even held Mr. Austin in prison for eight months on trumped up charges of suspicion of inciting insurrection. By the time he returned to Texas, in August 1835, we were on the brink of rebellion. We knew war was inevitable when the Mexican army tried to take a canon from the folks in Gonzales. Right after the Battle of Gonzales, in October of 1835, a general call to arms went out for anyone who could fight for Texas.

I dreaded leaving China Bell and the kids because there was a chance that I would never see them again. She was almost nine months pregnant, but she said she and the kids would be fine until I got back. China Bell was a strong woman, and she completely supported my decision to fight for our liberty and the liberation of Texas.

March 1, 1836 I joined up with Captain Gibson Kuykendall's Company of Texian volunteers. Captain Kuykendall was an experienced soldier and cavalry officer before coming to Texas. He made sure we trained for battle every day as time would allow and we believed we could beat any Mexican

army. The captain received orders that we should proceed to San Antonio to re-enforce Colonel Travis at the Alamo.

As we approached San Antonio, we met some folks that said the Alamo had fallen and all, but a very few had died. A woman named Susanna Dickinson told us that her husband and every fighting man had been killed. She said Santa Anna had ordered his army to take no prisoners, to kill everyone. Captian Kuykendall decided we best join General Sam Houston as soon as possible.

General Houston had the army camped near the junction of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou. On April 20, 1836, I was part of a scouting party to gain information about the Mexican army activities and location. We were under orders to avoid engaging the enemy if possible. It turned out not to be possible because we encountered Mexican soldiers that fired on us. I was seriously wounded and the soldier riding beside me was killed. When we reported back to General Houston; he was concerned that the Mexicans would attack our position very soon. This was one of his considerations for deciding to attack Santa Anna the next day. Our entire army was itching to fight but my wounds would not permit me to join the battle of San Jacinto on April 21. It was a tremendous victory that

## 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; srttexas.org or email old300.srt@gmail.com.

ensured our independence from Mexico.

As soon as I could travel, I headed home. What I did not know was the news of the Alamo falling and the massacre at Goliad had already spread back home. China Bell decided the best way to save the children was to flee the Mexican army. She packed up the kids and a few belongings into our small wagon and joined our neighbors in what became known as the "Runaway Scrape." They all hoped to cross the Sabine River into Louisiana before being captured or killed.

The weather was terribly cold and wet, but I made it home to find it empty. I learned that my family had been gone for about three weeks. I figured as soon as China Bell heard about San Jacinto, she would be heading home. About the middle of May I had decided it was time to go find her; I heard a wagon coming and kids yelling down the road. I came running out of the cabin and I cannot express how good it was to see my China Bell and three kids. But she had a surprise for me, our fourth

child, Maria Catherine was born during the Runaway Scrape.

Two of our neighbors and their daughters delivered Maria on May 6, 1836. They took care of China Bell and all four children through the night. One of the neighbors drove our wagon the next day while China Bell rested. She said she did fine, but May 7 was the bumpiest wagon ride of her life.

For my service in the Texian Army, I was issued 640 acres of land in Austin County. In 1845 I was granted 4,427.5 acres in the Colorado District of Fayette County. This property's patent date was August 21, 1845. We sold the property in Austin County in 1849 and moved to Fayette County, Texas.

China Bell and I agreed that our whole lives had been blessed by the good Lord. Proof of His blessings are our 12 kids and the Great State of Texas. China Bell passed on October 18, 1853, and I followed her August 18, 1869. We are buried next to each other in the Duff Family Cemetery near Praha, Fayette, Texas.

## GO PLAY

**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.

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## EMPLOYMENT

8510  
**General**

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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8510  
**General**

## NOTICES

9031  
**Public Notices**

The Tolar ISD will hold a Public Hearing at the Tolar ISD Board Room on Monday, February 20, 2023 beginning at 6:30 p.m. to release the 2021-2022 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). Anyone wishing to review these reports may do so at the Tolar ISD Administration Office, 305 S. Oak Lane, Tolar, TX 76476

NOTICE OF CLAIM  
Carolyn Sue Cross Green, a co-tenant heir to the real property known as Lot 17, Block 3, THREE 77 SUNSET STRIP, an addition of Hood County, Texas according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, page 86, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas has filed an Affidavit of Adverse Possession by Co-Tenant Heir in the Deed Records of Hood County, Texas, claiming Adverse Possession of the aforementioned real property.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF STRATTON WORTH BEESLEY, JR., DECEASED:  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of STRATTON WORTH BEESLEY, JR., Deceased, were issued to REECE BEESLEY SMALL, on the 10th day of February 2023, in Cause No. P09922, In the County Court of Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that REECE BEESLEY SMALL now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to REECE BEESLEY SMALL, Independent Executor, at the offices of Catherine H. Goodman, PLLC, 600 W. 6th Street, Suite 470, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOANN A. MONAGHAN NORMAN, Deceased, were issued on January 27, 2023, in Cause No. P09907, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: VICKIE LEE BEZANT.  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Steven G. Kuban Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 9th of February, 2023.  
Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney for Vickie Lee Bezant  
State Bar No.: 24078807  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
E-mail: [skuban@kubanfirm.com](mailto:skuban@kubanfirm.com)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2023-02, Request of Tony Mobly for Variances to Zoning Ordinance, Article 8, Landscape Requirements; Zoning Ordinance, Article 11 Section 11.2.D. Parking Table to reduce parking requirements; and, to Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.14 to reduce the setbacks within a Light Commercial Zoning District; and a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance Section 11.7C.9., Roof Design Standards - Commercial. The property is addressed as 1825 Acton Hwy.

A. § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Zoning Board of Adjustment seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

## PUBLIC SALES

9590  
**Out of Town Sales**

ESTATE SALE -11716 FM 2331, Godley, Texas 76044. Feb. 23, 24, 25. Oak dinette table and hutch, king size bed with headboard, 6-drawer base, dresser and hutch, full size bed frame with mattress, TVs, TV stands, refrigerator, kitchen items including small appliances, glassware, lady's size large and extra large clothes.

Granbury 76048  
**Garage Sales 76048**

**New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique**



817-964-3445  
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(Across from the Movie Theatre)  
#heretohelp  
Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm  
Sat. 10am - 4pm  
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

Granbury 76049  
**Garage Sales 76049**

SALE: GRANBURY 4323 Waples Rd-Sat. 2/18/23. 9-12. Clothing, House goods, Cook ware and dishes, Dolls. And much more!

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 4119 Crescent Dr. Fenton/Westmoreland/Anchor Hocking/Vaseline/Depression glass, crystal, Dorothy Thorpe, Victorian, Am Empire, Eastlake furniture. Photos at [estatesales.net](http://estatesales.net), search Delightful DeCordova, 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

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BOOK REVIEW

# How it is: 'Gray Love: Stories about dating and new relationships after 60'

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

**I**t was supposed to be a nice night out. But you drove around and around looking for the restaurant and once you found it, you learned that you needed reservations. Practically before the evening started, you sensed that your food could be as cold as your date. As in "Gray Love," edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood, looking for love wasn't like this when you were younger.

You thought you'd be happy alone. After the divorce, the funeral, the last break-up, you didn't think a little you-time was a bad idea. And it wasn't - but love, someone to go to the movies with or dine with or snuggle with, seems more and more appealing now. Today, though, as the forty-two essays in this book confirm and as you've learned, that's easier said than done.

You want a partner, someone your age, but you fear becoming a caretaker. You like doing your own thing, but having someone around to do it with would be nice. You have company but you are "without intimacy." Or you don't want a full-time someone but it's scary to think about "falling off a ladder alone."

So you go online because, well, people don't meet like they used to. That's when you learn that dating sites are generally ripe with people who lie about their ages, who seem clingy or who want things you can't give, "the Uncertain, the Angry... the Unattractive," and - let's be honest - jerks. Unlike real life circa 1973 or 1993, there's nobody to vouch for singles online.

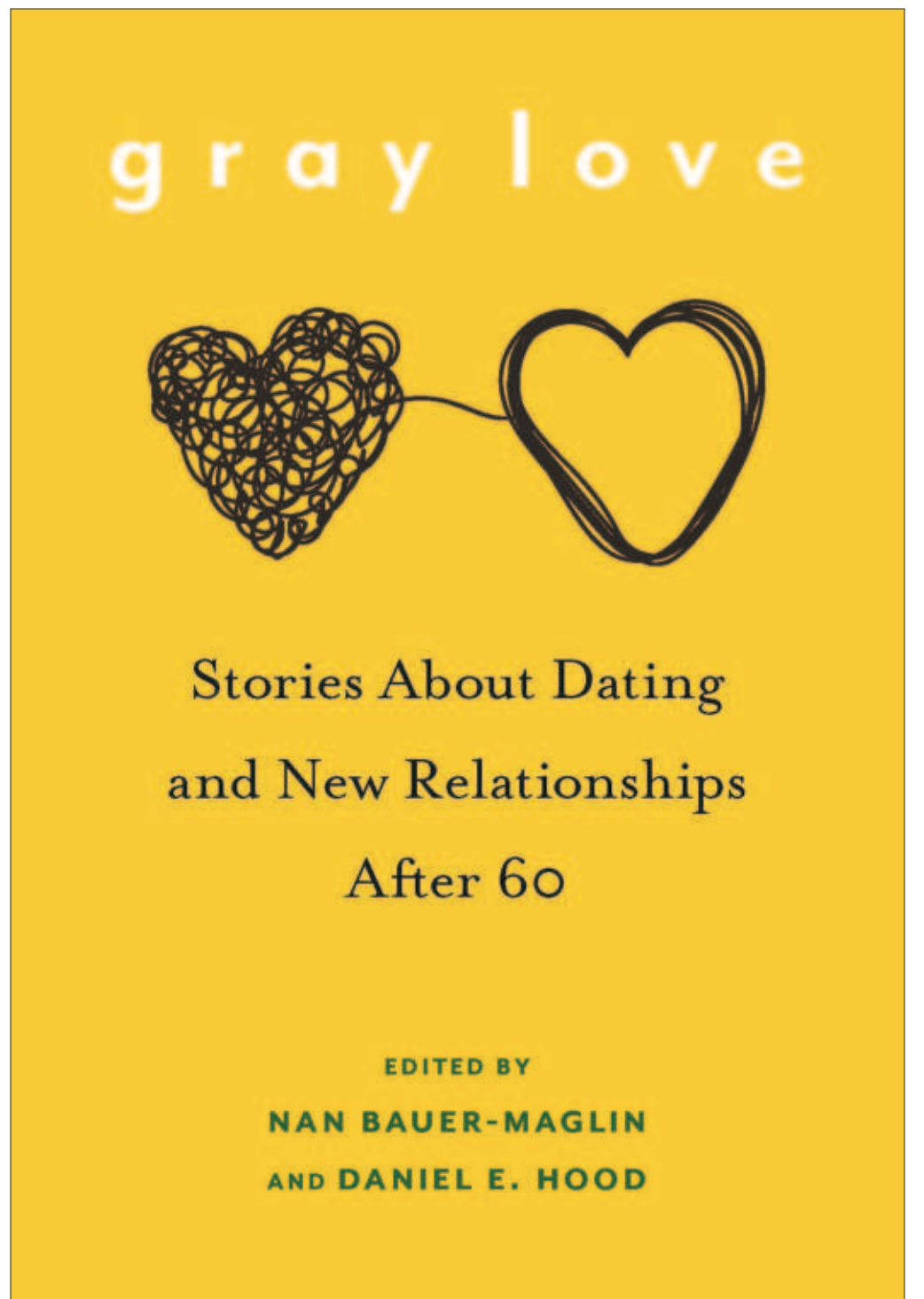
You wonder, "What would I wear?" You learn about scams the hard way, while tales of love at way-up-there-ages are inspirational. Dating someone of the same sex isn't

out of the realm of possibility, but nobody's asked - or you did, and it was wonderful and why didn't you do that before? Love is love. You date the wrong people, you date the right people, you're exhausted and disappointed. And sometimes, even for awhile, you're someone's "sweetie."

According to a study quoted in "Gray Love," about 25% of American adults live alone. If you're one of them and open to a relationship, you need this book.

Just know that this is not a how-to manual. Editors Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood don't offer advice in their introduction, and most of their storytellers didn't Ann-Landers their way into this book. Instead, you'll read tales of dating and mating gone happily right and very, very wrong, told in ways that will make you laugh, sigh, and know that you're not alone in your late-life search for love. The mixture here is diverse and wide: if one tale makes you want to swear off dating forever, the next one offers Happily Ever After.

Be aware that a few of the tales inside "Gray Love" flirt with the explicit and others might ruffle a feather or two. Still, it could be great to share it with a millennial or older GenZ'er. If you see this book on a bookshelf, take it out.



COURTESY PHOTO  
 "Gray Love: Stories About Dating and New Relationships After 60," edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood. ©2023, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS. \$24.95. 303 PAGES.

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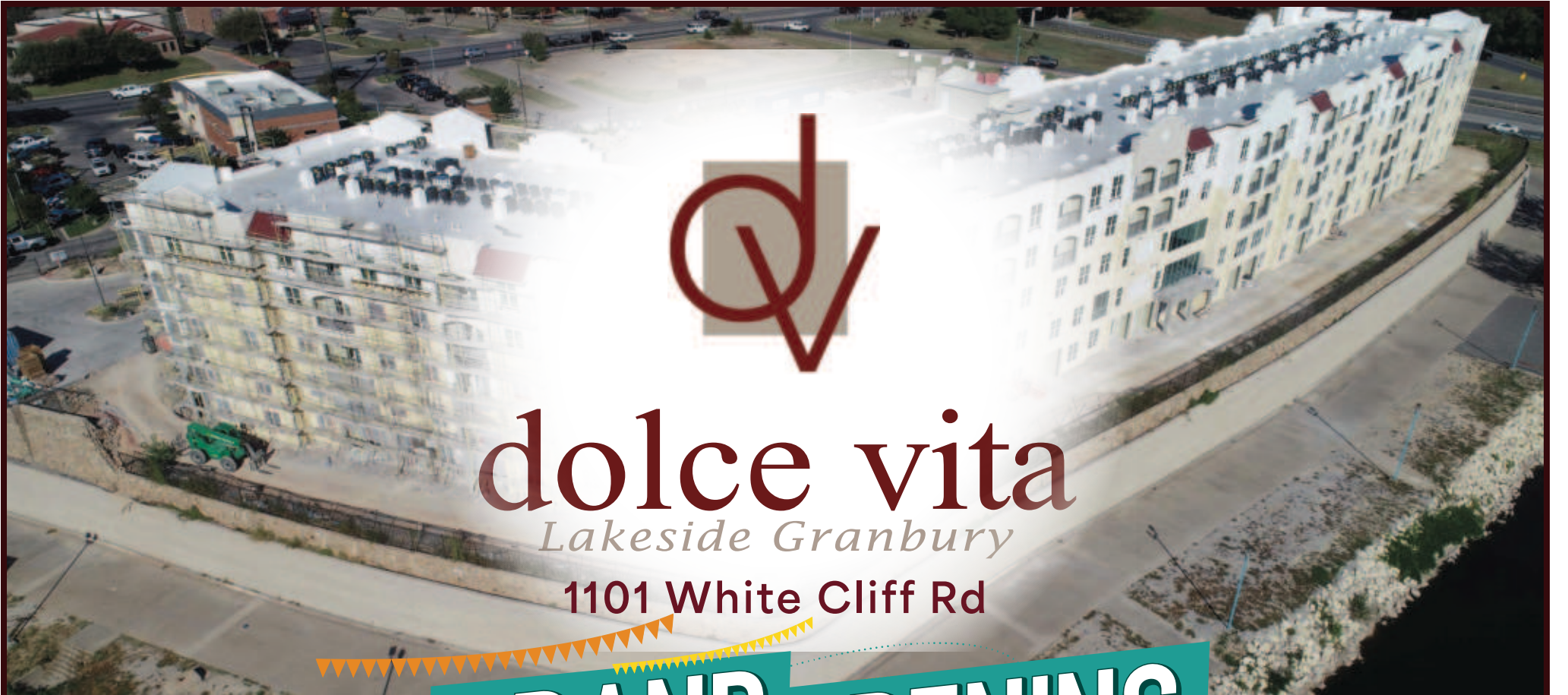
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## FABULOUS FUNDRAISERS



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The February Fabulous Women of Granbury's monthly fundraiser benefits GHS Project Graduation 2023. Please see more photos, B2.

## All-girl Scout troop receives \$1,000 donation from Granbury VFW

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Scouts BSA Troop 7211 now has extra funds to fix its gear trailer, thanks to a generous donation of \$1,000 from the Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 Auxiliary (Veterans of Foreign Wars) on Feb. 6.

"The trailer that was donated to us, it was in really rough shape," said Scoutmaster Britiney Zamora. "But we've basically gutted the whole thing, put new flooring in, and now we need to sand it, paint it, and put a new hitch on. There's a lot of work that needs to be done to the trailer, so that's what most of the donation will go towards, but then some of it will also go toward

a first-aid kit for our girls when they go on camp outs and high-adventure (activities)."

Formed this year, Scouts BSA troop 7211 is a rather untraditional Boy Scouts of America troop, with a total of eight members — all girls.

In 2019, BSA began accepting girls into all of its ranks for the first time in its 109-year history. The name was later changed to the gender-neutral title of Scouts BSA.

"The girls do the exact same stuff that the boys do, which is fun because not all girls like to bake and do (activities) like that, but they're learning all the life skills that they'll need to know," Zamora said. "When we go on campouts, the girls basically plan the whole thing

themselves. They just have to have a little of adult assistance on reserving the camps, and then basically we're there for safety to make sure if they need help, they have some assistance, but they basically get to plan all these fun camp outs and enjoy doing them all on their own. It gives them a little bit of independence and they really like it."

Troop 7211 is open to all girls from sixth grade to 18 years old who reside in Hood County and the surrounding areas.

"Two of the girls were from Weatherford and we actually have one from Acton also, so we take girls from all over this area," Zamora said. "They

PLEASE SEE TROOP | B7



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS ARCHIVE PHOTO

Master spur maker Charlie Cash, gone almost 20 years now, was a beloved figure in Tolar because of his generosity. Cash frequently gave his handmade spurs to local kids and to others who couldn't afford them.

## 'HIS LEGACY LIVES ON'

Spurs found in Fort Worth, sold at Tolar auction, benefit graduating class of maker's granddaughter

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Ashley Meek was tired from a long day at work and had a million things on her mind when she attended a parent meeting about Tolar's Project Graduation.

She listened as Keith Kunkel spoke about an item he was donating for Project Graduation's Friday, Feb. 10 auction: a pair of spurs that he found at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall in Fort Worth. He figured there must be a story behind them because they have the word "Tolar" on them.

Meek suddenly became more alert.

"Did the spurs have a dollar sign on them?" she asked.

Yes, Kunkel replied.

"And did the dollar sign have just one line through it?" she asked.

Yes, he answered.

PLEASE SEE CASH | B5



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cash liked to put the Tolar name on his spurs. Another hallmark was a dollar sign with a single line.

## BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

### From the beginning: A history of First National Bank of Granbury

First National Bank began as Traylor and Cogdell, a private bank, in 1883. In an article from last year, I said that D.C. Cogdell was an early entrepreneur who was into many businesses, such as land, cattle, farming and the cotton oil mill. John Henry Traylor was a farmer, real estate promoter, banker, Hood County sheriff and tax assessor collector, and legislator. He moved to Dallas in 1887 after the busi-



JAKE CARAWAY

Jake Caraway, vice chairman of the board and senior vice president of First National Bank in Granbury is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bridge Street History Center Museum.

ness became First National Bank of Granbury. The next year he was elected mayor of Dallas. Both men were quite colorful.

When the bank was chartered on June 18, 1887, the directors were: D.C. Cogdell, chairman and president; J.H. Baker; J.H. Traylor; G.W.

Eastwood; E.A. Hannaford; V.S. Anglin; and A.M. Thomas.

The bank still operates out of its original building at the corner of Bridge and Houston Streets. The cast iron doorsill still reads Traylor and Cogdell, 1883. Over the years, FNB has expanded down the block. Sometime in the 1950s, we estimate, the second building was joined to the first by chiseling arches through the walls. The third

building was joined in.

In those days, Hood County had a variety of business and agriculture customers whose needs the bank served. Much of the agriculture at that time was cotton.

D.C. Cogdell owned a cottonseed oil mill near the railroad and there were two gins in Granbury.

There were other banks in Hood

PLEASE SEE FNB | B6



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Enjoying fun times with good friends at the Silver Saddle Saloon at the Fabulous Women of Granbury's Wine Night fundraiser for GHS Project Graduation 2023.



Twice was nice! Two-time raffle winner Nakina McDuff had a reason to celebrate



Love was everywhere, and Valentine's celebration began early at last week's festive Project Graduation fundraiser..



Cara Becknell (left) and Jackie Hopper keep everything in order at the Food & Wine sponsor table.



This fabulous threesome (from left) Cynthia Sadler, Lynn Sylvestri, and Janet Bachman enjoy striking a pose.



Fabulous friends Carol Sue (Sister) McRea (left) and Linda Oldham Husong enjoy the party and each other's company.



Another lucky raffle winner! Becky Gibson throws her arms up in celebration as her winning ticket number is announced.

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 1 John 4:12*

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 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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# Hood County ACTIVITIES

## YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

### HOOD OUTDOORS



John Caldwell of Granbury is pictured with his limit of large striped bass he caught recently on Lake Granbury.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL ACOSTA

## We're all ready and waiting, so please bring on spring!



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.

It is getting to that point that most everyone has had enough of winter. At least those are the comments I hear, especially when that wind is howling out of the north. As much as I love winter fishing, the spring does bring more pleasant days on the water. Yes, there will be some cold days still mixed in but most of us will welcome spring as we do each year.

The beginning of March is typically considered as spring fishing in Texas. The days are increasing in length and the time change, when it does occur, will give us more time to fish in the afternoon. Of course the water starts to warm, which is a signal to the cold-blooded species we seek to start moving and spawning. This increase in temperature will improve the fishing.

The increase in light and

the increase in temperature will have the fish feeding more often. The fish will feed for their developing eggs and the energy needed for the spawn.

Some of the spring spawning activity is starting to happen. The white bass or what we call sand bass are staging closer to their spawning grounds. The crappie are staging as well and will be moving into the shallows shortly.

Many of these spawning times peak around a full moon if conditions are right. I have noticed that more fish tend to move with the full moon. You may be able to plan your trip around one of these events.

Many species will move up in schools from deeper water. If you find a flat or point where fish are feeding you may be able to catch a number of fish in one general lo-

cation. These feeding areas are typically close to deep water as swings in weather this time of the year may have the fish moving back and forth.

Weather changes impact fishing without a doubt. Stabilizing weather generally yields more consistent fishing. Two or three days in a row with nice weather will have the fish in a more consistent pattern. With a few warm days in a row the baitfish start moving up and the predators are not far behind.

Spring top water action is a favorite of many. As the water continues to warm more and more, top water action will be available. This is a big draw to springtime fishing for many. Fly anglers who typically fish more in the top of the water column generally look forward to this season.

Spawning fish in shallow water are more easily spooked. Stealth around feeding areas especially on those calm days may be prudent. If you happen to spook some biting fish, leave them and return a



Pictured are Dave Coop, left, and Dave Shelton of DeCordova Bend Estates with their recent catch of big Granbury striped bass. It was Coop's birthday, making it even more special.

little while later. In many cases these spooked fish will start biting again.

Hope to see you all on the water this spring.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

With the latest cold snaps, water temperatures fell back into the upper 40s. The main lake temperature will certainly rebound

back into the 50s shortly. The majority of the fish are still in deeper water, especially on those colder days. Stripers are fair to good to 11 pounds near Sandy Point, Indian Harbor, and in town by the Hilton. Sand bass are in these same areas including the river near the Peninsula. Stripers continue to be good on swimbaits and the sand bass are good on small grubs and slabs.

Black bass to six pounds are good on soft plastics on those warmer afternoons near creek entrances. Catfish are good near Hunter Park on cut bait and hot dogs. Crappies are good on small minnows and jigs near deeper structure and near bridge pilings.

The Squaw Creek black bass fishing craze continues

PLEASE SEE ACOSTA | B5

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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A pair of Charlie Cash's one-of-a-kind spurs draws top dollar during an auction at Tolar High School led by auctioneer Steve Berry.

Glenda Meek displays prized spurs made by her late father Charlie Cash before turning them over to their new owners, Judy and Justin Cherry. The couple paid \$2,500 for the spurs as a way to honor both Cash and their late son.



**CASH**  
FROM PAGE B1

At that point, both of them got chills, Meek related. Kunkel, because he realized there must indeed be a story behind the spurs and Meek because she realized that the spurs had been made by her late grandfather.

Meek's daughter Reagan is a senior at Tolar High School. She and her classmates will benefit from the \$2,500 raised from the sale of the spurs.

Meek's grandfather was Charlie Cash, a master spur and bow maker. A longtime Tolar resident, he was the great-grandson of a saddle maker who was with General Hiram B. Granbury, for whom the city of Granbury is named, when Granbury was killed in the Battle of Franklin during the Civil War.

Cash died years ago after a three-year battle with Multiple Myeloma. He was a beloved figure in Tolar and the subject of articles in the Hood County News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram because he generously donated

spurs to local youth rodeos and agricultural contests at the Hood County Stock Show.

He was "a giving and gifted and amazing man. He was always very active in the community and rallied behind all the kiddos," Meek said of the man she called "Papaw," who also had a talent for making pocketknives with leather sheaths, belt buckles, rocking chairs and other items.

Meek said that the spurs donated by Kunkel to the Project Graduation auction were purchased by Justin and Judy Cherry whose son Cody, a Tolar High School graduate, was killed last year in a motorcycle accident. Cash had once given the young man a pair of hand-made spurs but they were destroyed in a house fire, she said. The couple purchased the Project Graduation spurs as a way to honor both their son and Cash.

Project Graduation coordinator Stacey Stillwell Willmon confirmed that the Cherrys purchased the spurs.

"Totally God orchestrated from beginning to end," she said.

Willmon said that the live and silent auctions netted almost \$7,500. The money will be used to fund a fun, safe night for seniors that will include flood, a DJ, casino games, a mechanical bull, movies, yard games, prizes, a photobooth, and more.

Meek said that her grandfather made more than 700 pairs of his handmade spurs after developing the skill while in his 50s. They are now "all over the world," she said, and the dollar sign with one line identifies every pair.

Cash died on July 29, 2003 — a long time ago — but his granddaughter still misses him greatly. She feels that her Papaw found a way to be generous to kids one more time, including to the great-granddaughter he never met.

"His legacy lives on," Meek said. "We think it's pretty darn amazing that he left this earth almost 20 years ago, yet he is still finding a way to give back to our town and our family. That is just how he was, and that is what makes this story so special."

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**ACOSTA**  
FROM PAGE B4

with numerous anglers taking advantage of the warmer water due to the power plant. The channel catfish anglers are filling up their coolers. Make your reservations early if you want to fish this lake. They only allow a certain amount of

boats on the lake and they are not open every day.

**OTHER RESERVOIRS**

Lake Whitney strippers are good to 12 pounds in the river above the lake and in huge schools of fish on the main lake near McCown valley. Black bass fishing is good to excellent on soft plastics worked near

creek entrances and just off The Bluffs. Crappies are excellent in the river near Kimball Bend. Possum Kingdom Lake strippers and sand bass are in the back of major creeks (Caddo and Cedar) and the upstream area near Costello Island.

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# CALENDAR

## TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration. The Community Calendar is a free listing in the Hood County News to inform readers of programs, special meetings and nonprofit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Email the who, what, when and where. Include the meeting location and a street address for the location. The topic for the meeting, program or guest speaker must be included. Email to calendar@hcnews.com. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

### MONDAY, FEB. 20

**ELIZABETH CROCKETT** Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Program: Dawn Johnston on HONEY BEES. Acton Methodist Church, Education Building, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, TX. Social begins at

9:30 a.m. the meeting called to order 10:00 am.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 25

**TEXAS INDEPENDENCE** Celebration – David Crockett Chapter / Sons of The Republic of Texas presentation of the Revolution leading to Texas Independence in 1836. Location - Historic Granbury Courthouse in the 2nd floor courtroom. Multiple displays starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Celebration begins 11 a.m. to Noon. Free family friendly event. Great way to learn some Texas History.

### MONDAY, FEB. 27

**GRANBURY WINE** Society is hosting Wine Presentation 101 – Festivals & Competitions and presented by Debbie Reynolds, Coordinator of the Master Wine Classic of Granbury from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Spring Creek Barbeque 317 W Hwy 377, Granbury. Attendees are asked to dine (at their own expense) prior to or at the conclusion of the pre-

sentation. Open to members and non-members, RSVP is appreciated to Society President Vickie DiGiovanni @ 407-595-9226. Should you have any questions or need to alter the content for spacing/size purposes please advise. Have a wonderful weekend!

### TUESDAY, FEB. 28

**MID CITIES** Stamp Club - Granbury Branch will be getting together on Tuesday, February 28 at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Bentwater Activities Center located at 1800 Emerald Bend Court. Program by Rick Howell - "Jenkins Express: Dodging the Yanks in Virginia" For more information call 817-910-8174.

**MOVIE NIGHT!** "The Sheriff" by KrisAnne Hall, National Speaker, Author, Radio/TV host. Join us to see how the Sheriff has transformed from a blind enforcer into a defender of peoples rights. The Sheriff and their constitutional responsibility. Brazos Covenant Ministries, 1950 Acton

Hwy. Social 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6:30 p.m.

## MARCH

### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

**LAKE GRANBURY** Newcomers Club will meet on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Tammy Smith, PT, owner of Freedom Physical Therapy will talk about how her center promotes good health thru physical fitness and also offers a variety of tools to educate and carry out skills that prevent further injury and help us age gracefully. Tammy will discuss the attributes of physical therapy and recovery from surgery, illness, or injury. Social hour 9 a.m., meeting begins at 10:15 a.m. at the DeCordova Bend Country Club located at 5301 Country Club Drive, Granbury, Tx. Reservation required by noon on Friday, February 24, 2023. For more information email at lgnc.reservations@gmail.com or call 682-719-3343.

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

## SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 15 (Puzzle 105).

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

### PETS OF THE WEEK

ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

**Sherwood** is a male, domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 7-8 years old. He is friendly and social. Animal Control had him neutered, and vaccinated for rabies. His adoption fee of \$25 covers these procedures and a HomeAgain microchip, first round of vaccines and Pyrantel dewormer.

**Brooklyn** is a female pit bull mix. She is approximately 8-10 months old and weighs about 40 pounds. Brooklyn is friendly, social, and loves toys. Special adoption fee of \$25! Her adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, Pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.




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## FNB

FROM PAGE B1

County. In Granbury, there was FNB, City National Bank and Hood County State Bank. Hood County State opened in 1905 and closed in 1913 for a reason we do not know. An advertisement in The Granbury News on Jan. 30, 1913 announced the closing and consolidation with First National Bank. I am not sure of when City National Bank started business, however, it closed in 1928 and consolidated with FNB.

Tolar had its own First National Bank and later the Continental State Bank. Lipan had First National Bank of Lipan and Lipan State Bank. The two consolidated in 1925 and it still operates as First National Bank of Lipan. The Continental State in Tolar closed in December of 1935. I have not found any records on First National in Tolar.

D.C. Cogdell was chairman and president of First National from its beginning until his health began to decline. In 1935, his son-in-law, C.H. Bencini, husband of his daughter Lena, took over running the bank. Bencini had worked in a number of businesses and was a wealthy man. He did not remain in that position long. In early 1936, Bencini and his son were injured in a car accident. Mr. Bencini never recovered and died when a blood clot caused him to have a fatal heart attack.

When Bencini died, the Board of Directors elected Jake Green as chairman of the board and president. Green had served on the Board of Directors since the 1930s before his election. Green was a well-respected farmer and rancher. He lived in Granbury but had a large amount of land just west of Thorp Spring. Green served in that position until his death in 1948.

After Green's death, Henry Zweifel was elected as chairman of the board and president. Zweifel left his law practice in Fort Worth to become a banker for the next 23 years. Zweifel had served on the Board of Directors since 1929. Zweifel had been the Granbury postmaster, practiced law in Fort Worth, served as U.S. Attorney, and was a cattle rancher. Zweifel was a prominent Republican in Texas for a number of years. There are many great stories about him during his tenure at FNB. In 1969, Zweifel resigned as president and John S. Luton replaced him. He remained as chairman of the board until his death in 1970.

In 1953, Luton, Zweifel's son-in-law, replaced Ted Sears when he resigned from the Board of Directors. John S. Luton had left an oil busi-



## The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER

Granbury, TX

ness in Graham to come to Granbury. Sears began work at First National in 1949 and served as vice president, cashier and member of the board. He resigned as vice president to become president of First National Lipan in 1956. John S. Luton began working at First National in 1957 as assistant vice president. He worked his way up to become president in 1969 and chairman of the board in 1970. He was associated with First National for 47 years. He was very active in our community. He was involved in all sorts of organizations in Granbury. He could be depended on to help out when most anything was needed. Johnny, as we called him, remained with FNB until his death in 2000.

John Henry Luton joined First National in 1974 after graduating from Texas A&M University, and then working for a bank in Bishop, Texas, to gain outside experience. He worked his way up at First National starting as assistant vice president in 1974. John Henry was elected to the board shortly after that. When John S. Luton de-

cidated to step back on his duties, John Henry was elected president and vice chairman of the board in 1984. He is active in A&M Alumni activities along with managing the family ranch. It has been during both Lutons' tenures that FNB established our Golden Rule "Treat everyone as you would want to be treated." Another thing is that we want all our employees to feel as if they are part of a family. When his father, John S. Luton died, he became chairman of the board and president. He is now nearing 50 years in banking.

James Hodges became a part of the First National family in 1971. He was fresh out of Texas Christian University. James came to learn the accounting side of banking from Bennie Swenson, who had been with FNB since 1950 as vice president and cashier. Swenson was considering retiring and we needed to train a replacement. He retired at the end of 1973, and Hodges was elected vice president, and cashier in January 1974. It was still a few years before smaller banks got computers

so we were still using ledgers and hand-posting accounts. Hodges started out as assistant cashier and worked his way up through all levels at FNB. In 2016, John Henry Luton decided to step back on his duties as his father did. At that time, he stayed on as chairman of the board and Hodges was elected president by the board. John S. Luton, John Henry Luton and James Hodges have given great leadership to First National Bank.

In the last 50 years, there have been tremendous changes. In 1976 FNB went from hand accounting in ledgers to using computers for our daily operations. We purchased our first in-house computer in 1986. The year 1982 brought our first venture off the Square. The State allowed banks to have off-premises branches. We started with a modern motor bank between Houston and Crockett Streets downtown. First National started its first true branches by building on Highway 377 in 1989. Following that was the Highway 144 Branch in 1991 and the Acton Branch in 1996. In 2017, the board decided to expand into Johnson County by placing a branch in Cleburne. Following that was a branch in Tolar.

As the reader can see, First National Bank has grown with Hood County through thick and thin. As we approach becoming a bank with assets of a billion dollars, we still strive to remain the small bank on the Square.

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Scouts BSA Troop 7211 received a \$1,000 donation from the Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 Auxiliary (Veterans of Foreign Wars) on Feb. 6. The donation will be used to repair the troop's gear trailer and to supply a first aid kit for high-adventure activities.

**TROOP**  
FROM PAGE B1

don't have to necessarily live here in Granbury to attend our troops." She said it was "amazing"

for the VFW to give a donation to their troop.

"It melts my heart because the girls love to do stuff like this and it's really hard for us to be able to put everything in our vans, so being able to fund the trailer was

a great help for us," Zamora said. "We're very grateful for them for being able to donate that for us."

Scouts BSA Troop 7211 meets at 6 p.m. on Sundays at the Granbury First United Methodist Church.

"The only Sundays we don't meet are the Sundays that we have camp outs, but that's once a month, and the day varies," Zamora said. "We let (the girls) come to a couple of meetings to see if they really like it or don't

like it and then if they decide that they do, then they just register online."

She also added that the troop will be heading to New Mexico in July for a "fun camp out."

To register for Troop

7211, visit [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) online and search for the troop by using the "76048" zip code.

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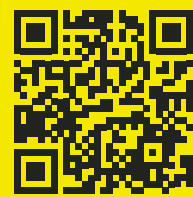
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# TEXAS SHRINERS WINTER CONFERENCE



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hardworking staffers rolled out the welcome mat for the annual Texas Shriners Winter Conference Feb. 9-11 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. The Board of Directors from 13 Shrine Centers gathered to take care of business and recognize the many accomplishments the Texas Shrine Association has recently achieved. Above, Jerry Gantt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shriners Children's, shared the latest news on expanded care by outreach clinics in the Rio Grande Valley and burn care in Mexico and Central America. Shriners Hospitals for Children® were founded in 1922 to provide expert medical care for children with no financial burden to the patients or their families. Granbury Shriner Jeff Barcafar reports that over 100 Shriners and their ladies were elated by the Conference Center facilities and hospitality Granbury had to offer.

## Lake Granbury Medical Center announces free Exercise Classes for March

Lake Granbury Medical Center's Healthy Connections, located at 1321 Water's Edge Drive - Suite 1001, will host several events in March (and every month) for the health and well-being of the community.

**MONDAYS:**  
9 a.m.: Exercise Class  
10 a.m.: Tai Chi  
11:15 a.m.: Chair Yoga  
2 p.m.: Active Mind Class  
**TUESDAYS:**  
2 p.m.: Line Dancing

10 a.m.: Book Club (once a month)  
**THURSDAYS:**  
9 a.m.: Exercise Class  
10 a.m.: Tai Chi  
11:15 a.m.: Chair Yoga

**MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS:**  
**March 8 at noon:** Understanding Women's Cancer Presentation (light lunch provided) \*Registration is required by calling (817) 579-9510

**March 10 at 10 a.m.:** Learn About Pain Management (light meal provided) \*Registration is required by calling (817) 579-9510

**March 24 at 10 a.m.:** Hometown Tourism: Granbury Doll

House Museum (light meal provided) \*Registration is required by calling (817) 579-9510

For more information or to register for a class or seminar, please call 817-579-9510.

**WHAT HAPPENS IN FEBRUARY?**



**February averages 21 freezing days, according to the National Weather Service.**

**Are you ready?**

**Better yet is your system ready?**

**Yes? Then you can relax for the rest of the month. Hopefully, all that ice and snow is behind us!**

**No? A little nervous? Give DAFFAN a call to have the peace of mind your system can stand up to February and keep you warm.**



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