



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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After case against Vernon dropped, three who claim theft confront county attorney Sheriff's Office report cites belief that crime occurred

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Despite the triple misdemeanor case against Van Vernon having been dismissed, the three former Granbury School Board candidates who say he stole their campaign signs showed up Friday morning at the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center anyway.

Rather than going into the jus-

tice of the peace courtroom, where a pre-trial hearing for Vernon was to have taken place, Barbara Townsend, Billy Wimberly, and Paula McDonald instead marched into the county attorney's office across the hall, where they demanded answers from County Attorney Matt Mills.

Mills agreed to meet with the group, which included two other

people and a Hood County News reporter who had been asked to be present. Mills spent almost an hour explaining his reasons for enlisting Erath County District Attorney Alan Nash to serve as a visiting prosecutor and why he viewed the case as problematic, an opinion that Nash apparently shared.

"There are major problems prov-

ing (the case) beyond a reasonable doubt before a judge or jury," Mills told the group.

Vernon pleaded not guilty to the three Class C misdemeanor theft charges and retained an attorney to represent him.

No judge or jury will be able to determine for themselves whether a crime occurred since Nash

PLEASE SEE VERNON | A2

SEE MORE INSIDE

U.S. Attorney's Office: Granbury man convicted of child sexual exploitation. Please see story, A3.

GISD board approves purchase of new GHS band uniforms and implements new program to track, improve student attendance. Please see stories, B1.

Jazzfest very short teaser blurb will go here. Please see photos, B1-B2.

Lipan, Martin's Mill to meet in 2A semifinal at the Alamodome in San Antonio Friday, March 3. Please see story, B3.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

PRIORITIES IN ORDER

Quillen stays busy serving others

Brett Quillen is a military veteran who wants to honor those who were killed in action.

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

There's an old saying, "The Lord won't give us more than we can handle."

There are those, however, who gladly take on the absolute most they can and even go back for more. Folks like Brett Quillen.

From preaching to delivering mail to honoring fallen veterans, Quillen is one of the busiest folks in Hood County — or most likely anywhere. And he does it all with a fervor.

"I always feel like there is not enough time in the day," Quillen said with a smile. "But, I have to prioritize. God first, family second, church third, post office fourth, and everything else after that."

Topping the list of "everything else" is the creation of a memorial in downtown

Granbury to honor those in the armed forces who were killed in action. It's something he's worked hard to make a reality and the plan is to unveil it very soon.

"The memorial has been ordered. We are waiting," Quillen said.

Quillen is a veteran himself, having served in the Army in field artillery during the cold war era. His father served in the Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War, his stepfather was in the Army during the Korean War, and his oldest son, Chase, served in the Army National Guard for seven years.

"I never had a loved one killed in action, but have had a lot of veteran friends who have had friends, and loved ones die in combat," Quillen said. "I have seen families, who have had to go through the pain of their loved ones never coming home."

Quillen, 54, was born in Fort Worth and moved to Granbury with his parents when he

was only 2 years old. In 1990 after he got out of the Army, he moved back to Granbury and has been here ever since.

A year later his life changed drastically when he began attending the Granbury Church of God. He met the woman of his dreams, his wife Shelena, and they've been married for three decades.

He was also called to the ministry and received his ordination in 2012. In 2015 he was voted lead pastor at the church.

His career working in the post office began in 1994 in Fort Worth, where he commuted for a few years before getting transferred to Granbury in 1997 as a letter carrier.

"Two years away from retirement!" he exclaimed.

"Brett has always been a person who is easy to talk to. He was our mailman in our

PLEASE SEE QUILLEN | A2

GISD, city agree to consider classes, space for nonprofits at Decker property

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Courses for professional certifications and office space for three local nonprofits might be in the future for the land parcel known as "the Decker Gym property," which was transferred from Granbury ISD to the city of Granbury in March 2019.

In addition to Decker Gym at

600 W. Bridge St., the parcel includes 716 W. Bridge St., and 210 N. Jones St., which is the Weatherford College Education Center at Granbury.

Last week, both the Granbury City Council and the Granbury School Board unanimously agreed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow those plans to move forward.

Superintendent Jeremy Glenn explained at the School Board meeting that the reason for the MOU is because the property transfer agreement contains a clause that allows GISD to retake the property if it is not used for a public purpose.

"We're just saying that we won't get in the way," he said of the MOU.

The three nonprofits mentioned as possible occupants of the buildings are United Way of Hood County, the Hood County Committee on Aging, and the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center.

In his brief comments, Glenn stated that the buildings might also be used for the district's Career and Technical Education

program, with night classes and certification opportunities possibly offered.

He noted that Weatherford College is being encouraged to offer certification courses for careers such as surgeon technician, which could lead to well-paying jobs at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

PLEASE SEE DECKER | A3



137TH YEAR, NO. 52

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

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"I always feel like there is not enough time in the day. But, I have to prioritize. God first, family second, church third, post office fourth, and everything else after that."

BRETT QUILLEN

QUILLEN

FROM PAGE A1

neighborhood. Our sons have grown up together," said longtime friend and fellow church member Bryan Shellenberger. "I had a friend who was in his 90s I would pick up and take to our church. Brett would always visit with him. His name was Bill Matlock, he was a veteran of WW II. Brett is a person who loves God and helps so many people in our community. I have seen personally the impact he has made on my life and others. Brett helped me in my faith when my dad passed away, he was there to comfort me and my family.

"There are so many more that he helps that you would never know."

HIS GREATEST PASSION

Retirement will only give Quillen even more time to work on his greatest passion, honoring fallen veterans.

"Such sacrifices should always be remembered — not just by the families, but by the community, so that we realize our freedom comes with a tremendous cost," he said. "So that we don't take our freedoms for granted."

Quillen said the idea for a memorial came to him years ago when he and a dear friend, a World War II veteran who passed away on Quillen's birthday in 2009, would often discuss the need for one in Granbury.

"After he passed, I thought of it often. But, time, the ministry, family, (both of his sons graduated from Granbury High School, in 2012 and 2015), the church — had a lot going on," he recalled.

Then, in 2019 he went to the "Hood County News" with a story about William E. Williams, from Hood County, who was killed in action in 1944. He began to wonder how many from Hood County have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

"I couldn't find a clear answer. Nobody knew really. In fact very few knew more than one or two. So I went to researching," he said. "We have 45 right now that have solid Hood County roots who went to war for this great nation and never made it home alive.

"I felt they deserved to be honored. And I felt they definitely deserved to be remembered."

So he formed an organization named Hood County Fallen Veterans, HCFV for short. In November of 2021 they obtained permission to place a memorial on the courthouse square, and in 2022 received their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

"He was a soldier himself, and his passion is hearing soldiers' stories and remembering them. He cares about ev-

eryone, but has such a special place in his heart for veterans," Chase said. "And this memorial means so much to him. I'm sure he doesn't want any recognition for it but I can tell you, it would not be possible without all the hours and hours of work he has poured in.

"We spent a few days driving all over Hood County finding all the graves of the men whose names will be on that memorial. We would both stand at attention, salute the fallen soldier and have a moment of silence. It made the memorial even more real to me.

"Almost every time we hang out he tells me another story he found about a Hood County fallen soldier. I plan on sharing those same stories with my two boys."

Once fundraising began, the HCFV raised just over \$60,000 from May to November of 2022.

"Pastor Brett, as most I know call him, lives a life of service to others," said friend Rick Mercer, who helped with the memorial. "He approached me and said he wanted my help with something and I immediately agreed. I had no idea what it was, but I knew it was going to be for something good.

"He has taken it upon himself to research and not only find out about each one of these men that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, he wanted to honor them by being memorialized.

The monument is almost as tall as General Granbury's statue, which anyone who has ever been downtown is familiar with."

The memorial will have a unique feature. A QR code on it will direct viewers to the website designed to tell the stories of the heroes.

"It's a great way to honor and remember them," Quillen said.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

As for himself, the ever-humble Quillen said he plans to continue to serve in whatever capacity he is needed.

"I am called to serve. I serve my Lord and savior, and in my community," he said.

"My father has never wanted recognition for anything he has done. He has interviewed veterans for the Library of Congress, worked tirelessly as a full-time letter carrier and pastor, and wants to honor the fallen veterans of Hood County with a memorial on the courthouse lawn," said his youngest son, Trey.

"Not to mention the countless other events, charities, donations and organizations he has helped start, run, give to and volunteer in. As cliché as it sounds, my dad is my hero. A man who always puts others before himself."

Case in point, Mercer noted, "It was



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Among Brett Quillen's many projects is the creation of a memorial in downtown Granbury to honor those in the armed forces who were killed in action, which he plans to unveil soon.

going to be below freezing and I met a homeless man here in town and I did not know where to take him. I called Brother Brett and without hesitation he immediately called and got that man a room in a local hotel. We prayed with the man and got him settled in and linked in with a men's shelter for more long-term shelter."

While it would be wonderful if the stories of all of the fallen veterans from Hood County were found, the likelihood of that being so is miniscule. Still, Quillen and his cohorts in the HCFV will continue to work tirelessly to find all they can.

"Nobody knows all their names," Quillen said. "It's time we did."

VERNON

FROM PAGE A1

filed a motion to dismiss the case on Thursday, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Roger "Cotton" Howell signed it, and Mills said he will not reconsider it for prosecution.

A Sheriff's Office report of the incident states an investigator's belief that a crime did occur.

McDonald indicated that she might contact the Texas Rangers and pursue justice civilly through a lawsuit.

All three alleged victims said they were not contacted when Mills made the decision to enlist an outside prosecutor, nor were they notified of the initial court date, the cancellation of that court date, the rescheduled court date, or the motion to dismiss. McDonald said

they only learned of those developments through the Hood County News.

Mills expressed regret that Nash did not contact the three after taking responsibility for the case.

In his explanation of why the case was problematic, Mills noted that there is a "very high bar" for criminal cases and said that "the number one responding deputy" found that no criminal charges could be pursued because Vernon had permission from the caretaker of the property to remove the signs. He also stated that a deputy's retrieval of the signs from Vernon's home the following day made it difficult to prove theft because Vernon had not had adequate time to return the signs if his intention had not been to steal them.

However, those claims seem to

be refuted by the Sheriff's Office report. The report also backs up McDonald's claim that the property owner had given permission for the signs to be placed on his property.

At the start of the meeting, Mills indicated that he had not wanted to touch the case because it was "inherently political," occurring during an election season. However, he noted that he has prosecuted cases in the past that involved current or former elected officials.

One of those cases involved Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers, who was court ordered to comply with the county's septic regulations. That case, Mills said, brought threats of an opponent to run against him, Mills, in the next election.

"The judge recused himself, so I'm left holding the bag," he said, referring to 355th District

Judge Bryan Bufkin. Retired 355th District Judge Ralph Walton presided over that matter.

Mills also prosecuted former Granbury City Council member Gary Couch on a Boating While Intoxicated charge. When Couch was found not guilty, Mills said he had "never disagreed more strenuously with a verdict" and that he was "sorry if I let the Granbury PD down."

At Friday's meeting, Mills told the group, "Everything is toxic here. Everything is nasty."

He stated that he views Nash as a fair, ethical, and tough prosecutor and that enlisting his help with the case was "as unbiased as I can be."

None of that was consolation to Townsend, Wimberly, and McDonald, who view themselves as having been victimized twice, once by Vernon, and then by the justice

system.

EYEWITNESSES

On the night of Oct. 5 last year, Brenton Montgomery had just picked up his 11-year-old son from Wednesday night church activities at Lakeside Baptist Church and was driving down Contrary Road when he and his son observed a white male at the corner of Contrary Creek Road and Glen Rose Highway removing political signs from T-posts. Montgomery yelled at the man asking why he was taking the signs. The man did not respond.

This is according to the report by the Sheriff's Office, which backs up statements made by McDonald to the HCN shortly after the incident occurred.

Montgomery notified McDonald, who at that time was a School

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U.S. Attorney's Office: Granbury man convicted of child sexual exploitation

From Staff Reports

David Earl Boyd, a 64-year-old Granbury man, has been convicted at trial of child sexual exploitation, according to a Friday, Feb. 24 news release from the office of Leigha Simonton, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas.

The news release states that Boyd's son reported him to law enforcement and officers then arrested Boyd and seized his smartphone. Boyd's three-day trial ended after "just 45 minutes of deliberation," the release says. The federal

jury found Boyd — who was already a registered sex offender — "guilty of two counts of producing child pornography, one count of possession of child pornography, and one count of penalties for registered sex offenders."

"According to evidence presented at trial, in the spring of 2022, Mr. Boyd, already a registered sex offender, took sexually explicit images of two young children, aged 6 and 3," the news release states. "Mr. Boyd's son discovered nude images of the children in his father's trash folder. He took a screenshot of the

trash gallery and submitted a report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which forwarded the tip to law enforcement."

Boyd will face a minimum of 45 years in federal prison, according to the news release. His sentencing is scheduled for June 27.

The news release explained that "During an extraction of the phone, forensic examiners discovered thousands of child pornography images in a directory associated with the application 'Hide it Pro,' an application designed to conceal images and videos. (Although Mr. Boyd had pre-

viously deleted the app, the directory retained the images and videos.)"

Simonton stated, "We are grateful to the defendant's son for reaching out to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It cannot have been easy to report his father's crimes, but in so doing, he likely saved two children from further victimization. We are proud to hold this predator to account."

Boyd had been convicted of possession of child pornography in Taylor County in a previous case. In 2003, the state sentenced him to three years behind bars and he

was required to register as a sex offender.

The investigation was conducted by the Homeland Security Investigations' Dallas Field Office, the Hood County District Attorney's Office, and the Dallas Police Department. "Assistant U.S. Attorney Aisha Saleem prosecuted the case with the help of Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Lewis. U.S. District Judge Terry Means oversaw the trial," the release added.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Why can't businesses tell you the bottom line for what items cost?

There are many times and many ways retailers attempt to "hide" the actual price of an item.

When I go to purchase something I want to know the cost so I can make a reasonable determination if the product is worth the price asked. I do not want to be surprised by "add on" costs to the final bill.

Some time ago I went to purchase a truck. This was long before the internet and it was a true mystery to most consumers what a fair price was for an automobile. Back then it was a lot more difficult to compare prices and some dealers seemed to delight in setting a price and then making numerous additional charges that the consumer may not have wanted or needed.

On this occasion I went to a dealer, found a truck I liked and sat down with the salesman. He began his sales pitch, and I politely interrupted and said, "I have one check in my pocket. I would like to purchase the truck, however, what I want to know from you is the number I write the check? Please listen carefully — I don't care what you call additional charges. You may list it as "dealer prep" or some other special fee or service. I want you to give me a price that includes everything. I want



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.

a single number and I will write a check in that amount or I will leave. I will not bid back and forth."

The salesman was a little taken aback by my comments but said he was going to talk to his general manager and would come back with a number. As he walked away, I called at him and said, "Remember I only have one check, so make it your best offer."

In a about 15 minutes the salesman came back with a price written on a piece of paper and slid it to me across the table. I looked at the note and read a number, which was very close to what I thought was the best price I could get. I pondered for a second and true to my word, I told the salesman I would take the vehicle. He smiled and said, "Let me get the paperwork drawn up and we will get you out of here." I reached into my wallet and wrote out the check that would pay for the truck.

In a few minutes, the salesman came back with the paperwork, and lo and behold the "final price" was

about \$1,500 more than the number on the piece of paper. When I saw what was written on the sales contract, I looked at the rep and said, "This is not the number you gave me." The salesman gave me his best bewildered look and said, "well the number I gave you did not include the sales tax and dealer prep. Everybody knows that is not part of the sale price."

I took the check, which was already made out and signed, held it up for the salesman to see and then ripped it in half. The salesman stammered and stuttered, as I repeated my previous disclosure. "I told you I had one check and to give me the number that I would write the check for. I told you I didn't care what you called the extra fees, like dealer prep, or clear coating, etc. I want to know what I would pay!" and then I walked out the door.

This week I was on VRBO, a vacation home rental website looking for places I might take a trip. I saw a nice cabin my wife would love, and

it said the price was \$165 a night. That is certainly not cheap but it is reasonable. I pulled up the reservation page and completed the form saying I wanted two nights. My math may not be the best but \$165 x 2 is \$330, and of course in this instance I would expect to pay sales tax.

When I clicked the summary page, I found my \$165 a night room was now going to be more like \$295 a night because there were cleaning fees, service fees, agents fees and so on — and they were all added to the cost of the room. Doesn't a room always get cleaned at any overnight stay facility, or are we to expect when we rent a room we only get clean amenities if we pay extra for it?

That is similar to going to a sit-down restaurant, ordering a steak for \$23 dollars, and then being told the plate is an extra \$5, and the silverware is \$4, and if you want a napkin, the meal becomes even pricier. Are you kidding me? Why don't they simply say what a place costs and let the consumer decide if he wants to pay the price or not? Why make him go through a process to only disclose the true price at the very end when it is time to pay? Where does this stop?

I got the cable bill for my friend, Miss Jayne this week. She is immo-

bile, so she has signed on to receive about every channel she can get. The total for the services was \$185. However, there were seven additional charges that made the bill jump to \$221. The difference was a 911 fee, a franchise fee, state tax, FCC fee, city sales tax and then an electronic payment fee. Yes, they even charged a fee for paying your bill in such a way they get their money immediately! Where does this stop?

I never bought the truck from the place where I destroyed the check. About a week later, at a different dealership, I got a check out of my wallet and wrote it for a little less than the one I wrote the week before. The salesman understood I only wanted to know the "actual price." He got a sale, and I got a truck. Shouldn't it always be that way?

Misleading pricing is out of control and we all need to stand up against such practices by shopping elsewhere.

Thought for the day: The speed of light is faster than the speed of sound. That is why some people seem bright until they speak.

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

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

LOOKING BACK

City hall, medical clinic burglaries noted in report from 44 years ago

From Staff Reports

Looking Back is a column that highlights articles retrieved from local newspaper archives published in years past.

44 YEARS AGO
APRIL 1979

The April 1, 1979 edition of the Hood County News evidently was not playing an April Fool's Day trick on the readers when it was reported that the Granbury City Hall and a local medical clinic had been burglarized.

The front-page article noted that "Burglaries have been increasing in the city of Granbury as well as the county," then stated that a "break-in at city hall occurred sometime Monday night when someone gained entry by prying the front

door open." It added that a "small amount of cash was taken."

The acting police chief at the time, Larry Goin, noted that the burglary at the clinic happened "sometime Saturday night," and "an undetermined amount of cash was taken," and "no visible signs of entry were found."

The same edition of the paper also reported that in early May the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce airport committee was going to sponsor the first area fly-in "to introduce the aviation community in surrounding areas, as well as local residents," to the Granbury airport.

The article quoted then-Chamber of Commerce President Grant Mabry as saying, "Now that we have a complete airport facility in Granbury, we want to promote it and let the local

as well as area people know that Granbury does have a municipal airport."

The article also mentioned that the Chamber's airport committee was formed "to assist the city and airport management in promoting the facility for industrial, business and recreational purposes. Chairman of the group is John Cundiff. Other members are Bob Verduzco, Don Bullington, Andy Rash, Ron Chaney, Joe Harrison, Larry Dyer, Burl McClellan, Ray and Mark Watson and Grant Mabry." Mabry was the publisher of the Hood County News at that time.

34 YEARS AGO
MARCH 1989

The news of a Hood County female jailer being hospitalized after she was "severely bitten in a scuffle

with a female prisoner" was reported in the March 25 edition of the Hood County News.

The article states that the jailer was allegedly attacked by the prisoner during the booking process, biting her on the forearm. "Four male officers had to help" in subduing the prisoner, according to a lieutenant who was quoted. The suspect was later charged with aggravated assault.

The article stated that the infection from the bite showed signs of spreading when her arm was inspected again, and she was then admitted to Hood General Hospital.

The injured jailer was quoted as saying, "No telling what I may have caught," and the article added that she "echoed her nurses' statements that the human bite is the most infectious bite of all."

49 YEARS AGO
MARCH 1974

In a front-page Hood County News column written by Larry L. Crabtree, published on March 7, 1974, notice was given to the opening of Pecan Plantation's clubhouse.

The column item stated, "Pecan Plantation, one of the finest residential developments in the area, conducted (its) Formal Opening this past weekend of its Clubhouse. Most impressive is the Country Clubhouse and Inn. Bob and Paul Leonard, developers, were on hand to greet those who toured the facilities."

The column brief also noted that it was the third development built by Leonard Properties in Hood County.

DECKER

FROM PAGE A1

In an email to the Hood County News, LGMC Chief Executive Officer Curt M. Junkins stated: "Creating pathways for students with an interest in pursu-

ing a career in the healthcare field is something Lake Granbury Medical Center has been supporting through a shadowing program with Granbury ISD Health Science and then awarding scholarships by the hospital's auxiliary. Pursuing conversations on the expansion of workforce de-

velopment opportunities in our community is important, and we look forward to continuing them through ISD Health Science and local community colleges."

It is unclear how soon anything will happen with the property. Sheriff Roger Deeds, who is board president of both the Children's

Advocacy Center and the Committee on Aging, said there are known asbestos and maintenance issues at Decker Gym that will have to be addressed.

He stated that the CAC board is "willing to research this further" but as for the COA, its first priority is expanding the kitchen at the

Senior Center so that more Meals on Wheels clients can be served.

Deeds indicated that a second kitchen for the MOW program might be a possibility for the Decker property in the future.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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OBITUARIES

CALENDAR

Thomas Henry Major

July 21, 1941 - February 7, 2023

Thomas Henry Major, 81, passed away February 7, 2023, in Ft. Worth, TX.

Visitation will be held at Mariposa Reception Hall on Saturday, March 4 from 2-5 p.m. Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 5 at First Baptist Church in Milford, TX. His final resting place will be in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Tommy, or Tom, was born July 21, 1941 in Waxahachie, TX to Byron Thomas (B.T.) Major and Helen Beatty Major. He graduated from Milford High School in 1959.

In 1961, Tom began working as a ride operator for Six Flags Over Texas, which was the beginning of a lifetime career in the amusement park/entertainment industry.

Tom entered the U.S. Army in 1966, commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in May of 1967. He was awarded the bronze star for his actions during the battle of Kham Duc in Vietnam. He proudly served from 1966 to 1970 and was honorably discharged as a Captain in May of 1970.

Tom retired to Lake Granbury where he enjoyed fishing and golfing. He loved hunting, skiing, traveling, and watching the Dallas Cowboys. He was



incredibly proud of his daughters. His grandchildren were the light of his life.

He was preceded in death by his father Byron Thomas (B.T.) Major and mother Helen Beatty Major. He is survived by his daughters, Melissa Dempsey, and husband Pete, Jessica Branham, and husband Matt, his sisters Carol Jean Major and DiAnne Major, his brother David Major, his grandchildren, Emerson and Robbie Branham, his nephews, Jason Marbut and wife Toni, and Adam Marbut, as well as extended family members and many friends.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Tom's name to the Gary Sinise Foundation for veterans and first responders at garysinisefoundation.org/donate

Nancy Ora White

July 22, 1934 - February 4, 2023

Nancy Ora White, 88, passed away Saturday, February 4, 2023, in Granbury, Texas. She was born in El Paso, Texas, on July 22, 1934 to Ellis X. L. and Irma Beatrice Driskill Price.

Nancy was a devoted wife to her husband, Troy Lee White, for 55 years before his passing in 2007. They loved dancing, fishing, and happy times together with family and friends. They spent their retirement years in DeCordova Bend Estates enjoying golf, water, and friendships.

Nancy was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, sister Pauline Stacy, brother J. D. Price, and son-in-law Ty Stout.

Nancy leaves behind to



cherish her memory, daughters; Pamela Meador and husband Ron, and Lisa Stout, grandchildren; Jessica Atkinson and husband Paul, Kara Boyd, and husband Kirby, and LaChelle Jansen and husband Jeff; great-grandchildren Marley Cook, Taylor and Callum Stone, and A. J. and Conner Jansen.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at obituaries.hcnews.com. Advance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary.

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

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

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

VERNON

FROM PAGE A2

Board member seeking reelection. McDonald told fellow trustee Courtney Gore about the situation. Gore said that she knew someone who drove a maroon truck like the one described by Montgomery. She sent McDonald a photo of Van Vernon. McDonald then showed the photo to Montgomery, who identified Vernon as the man he saw removing the signs.

McDonald, Townsend, and Wimberly filed complaints with the Sheriff's Office, which kicked off the investigation.

A deputy went to Vernon's home, where he recovered the signs. The SO sent the case to Mills for prosecution.

Instead of filing a single Class B misdemeanor charge, which carries the possibility of 180 days in county jail, Mills opted for three smaller Class C misdemeanor charges. That level of crime is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 but does not carry the possibility of jail time.

REQUEST TO DISMISS

Immediately after the incident, McDonald told the HCN that the property owner, Steve Bumpass, did not desire to be involved in the matter or to have his name in the newspaper.

The HCN has not named him up to this point, but his identity is revealed in the SO report. Also, to the apparent surprise of the three former candidates, Mills stated during Friday's meeting that "Bumpass called me and said, hey, I want you to dismiss the case." Later that day, Mills forwarded to the HCN an email he had sent to Nash on Jan. 13 thanking him for taking the case and forwarding him the SO reports. The email to Nash contained this paragraph: "Finally, I'm not sure if this is Brady or not, but the owner of the land called me not long after this blew

up, and he said he wanted the case to go away (be declined). But since he's really not the victim, I'm not sure if his opinion matters that much. If I can help you with anything else, please let me know."

In his motion to dismiss, filed 24 hours before the scheduled pre-trial hearing, Nash stated: "Having reviewed and considered the reliable and pertinent evidence compiled in these matters, the undersigned District Attorney is of the opinion that probable cause justified and supports the citations issued by law enforcement in these matters. Nonetheless, there are conflicts as to apparent and actual authority for permission granted to both the victim sign owners and the defendant for placement of political signs on the relevant properties. As such the State is not in a position to prove the charged offenses beyond a reasonable doubt."

For Townsend, Wimberly, and McDonald, the case is clear-cut. On Thursday, after the HCN notified McDonald that Nash had filed a motion to dismiss, McDonald said of Vernon, "He was caught red-handed."

Howell, Precinct 1 JP, told the HCN late Thursday afternoon that he had signed the motion. He indicated that there was no reason not to do so since the prosecutor did not want to proceed with the case.

'MURKY' AND 'GRAY'

The two prosecutors, Nash and Mills, seem to view the case differently than the Sheriff's Office.

"Once they started making phone calls to Mr. Gilbert, that's when things got murky," said Mills, referring to property "caretaker" James Richard Gilbert who gave Vernon permission to remove the signs.

Gilbert never had the authority to do so.

The SO report states that Gilbert acknowledged that

he had not discussed the matter with the landowner, Bumpass, and also acknowledged that he did not know whether Bumpass had previously given permission for the placement of the signs.

The report also states that Vernon denied having been confronted about his removal of the signs and says he expressed that he "did not intend to call the owners."

The report concluded the following:

"After reviewing the original case and seeing what information the deputies had/were provided/were able to obtain, it was determined there was no offense, because deputies believed James had authority to grant Van the consent to remove the signs. However, after conducting the follow up investigation and being able to speak with the property owner, Stephen, which deputies had not been able to, it was determined that James did not have the authority to grant consent for the signs to be removed. Upon further follow up investigation, it is believed that Van was depriving the owners of their property for the following reasons:

- Not returning the signs to the owners, which he stated he had no plan to call them.

- He planned to place them by the dumpster at the U-Haul business for the owners to obtain them, which was a location over 2000 feet away from where they had been taken from and a place the owners of the signs would not have gone to look for them since the owners never spoke with James and Van knew this.

- He had plenty of time to take the signs to the U-Haul business, after taking them, but never did.

The report continues, "Based on the above information, it is believed that Paula, Barbara and William did have permission to post their signs by the property owner, James did not have the authority to provide per-

mission for the signs to be removed from the property resulting in Van not having the authority/right to remove the signs.

"Based on this, it is believed that Van did commit the offense of theft by unlawfully obtaining property with intent to deprive the owner."

SERIOUS PRECEDENT?

The conversation around Mills' conference table included the need to stand up to political bullies and the fact that Townsend, Wimberly, and McDonald feel that Mills, an elected official paid by taxpayers to uphold justice, did not do so in their case.

Townsend, herself an elected public servant as a member of the Granbury School Board, told Mills that elected officials must not "let their bullying keep us from doing what's right."

Wimberly said, "How many other signs has that group taken that nobody even knows about?"

McDonald said she fears that the case's dismissal "is setting a serious precedent."

Mills stood by his assertion that he had been well intentioned and that there were problems with the case.

"I agree that Van could have done things a lot better than he did," he said. "That's a bad look."

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

will be holding Lenten Services on Wednesday at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Emmanuel is located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy. For more information go to <http://www.elcgranbury.com>

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 through 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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

GRANBURY LIONS

Club will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 12 noon at Spring Creek Barbeque located at 217 E. US Hwy 377. Guest speaker will be Gabriela Gamez. Manager at Ruth's Place. Everyone is welcome. The Granbury Lions Club supply free eyeglasses, flu shots, medicine, help single mothers with clothes for job interviews, and much more. For more information contact Glenn Jennings, membership chairperson at 214-679-4540 or visit <https://e-club-house.org/sites/Granbury>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

will be holding Lenten Services on Wednesday at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Emmanuel is located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy. For more information go to <http://www.elcgranbury.com>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

will be holding Lenten Services on Wednesday at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Emmanuel is located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy. For more information go to <http://www.elcgranbury.com>

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

HOOD COUNTY

Democratic Club meets every 3rd Thursday of every month. Snacks and refreshments at 6:30 p.m., meeting time is 7 to 9 p.m. at Annex 1 located at 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury, Tx. For more information text to 817-233-5453.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

THE NORTH

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

THE GRANBURY

Women's Club, 306 North Travis Street will meet March 9 at 5:30 p.m. for a light meal. Errol Flannery, member of the Texas Heroes Foundation will present "David Crockett Comes To Texas". All women who are interested may contact Club President, Donna Engel at 817-219-3246 for additional information or to register for the meeting.

LAKE GRANBURY Medical Center-Healthy Connections



TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "winder" (exciting)

5 in 1910, TX Johnson knocked out the "great white"

6 Greek given name

7 TXism: "bunched up like ___ at a trough"

8 birth month for TX "Dandy Don" Meredith (abbr.)

9 with 36-across, cartoon animals named by Bill "Tex" Henson

16 actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud"

18 American Airlines Center to the Dallas Mavericks (2 wds.)

21 sch. exercise (abbr.)

22 drug addict

23 TX "alligator" or "spotted" fish

24 ground-huggin' cloud? (2 wds.)

30 boot repairs (2 wds.)

34 private San Antonio univer. (abbr.)

35 gas at \$2.50 per gallon these days? (2 wds.)

36 last name in 9-across cartoon

37 Texas among other states?

39 TXism for "vulnerable" (3 wds.)

43 Sur _____ TX

45 TX "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)

46 TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder ___"

47 TXism: "___ bunkhouse chili"

49 restaurant reminder: "___ server"

52 Texas peak: "___ Capitan"

53 Love or Hobby guess

54 ethanol scopolamine, e.g. "truth ___"

55 most slippery

DOWN

1 this "Happy" made "Alamo Village"

2 TXism: "takes a big loop ___ him"

3 Springtown newspaper

4 "Don't ___ With Texas"

9 this Hilton started his hotel chain in Texas (init.)

10 TXism: "fat as a boarding ___"

11 TX B.J. sang "___ Lonesome I Could Cry"

12 orange's skin

13 TXism: "up ___ without a paddle"

14 TXism: "leave stone unturned"

15 TXism: "he his own grave"

17 woolly critters at the front? (2 wds.)

19 snake in Texas

20 most factual

24 ___ Porte, TX

25 female eggs

26 TXism: "if he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)

27 "Alibates Quarries National Monument" in Texas

28 TX Willie: "Turn ___ lights, the party's over"

29 what you'd better do when the dipstick is dry (2 wds.)

31 young British man viral infection, e.g.

33 "my feet ___ from under me"

38 big pelvis bone

40 corporation abbr.

41 "Swoosh" sneaker

42 German Christmas market in Texas, if spelled with a "K": "___markt"

48 TXism: "some way" (save)

50 sneak a look

51 TX Willie has lived 89 of these (abbr.)

56 "___ to love her but it's all over now"

57 it cost \$1,000 to famed Texas longhorn "Starlight"

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CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

Real Estate for Sale	1010 Acreage for Sale	1020 Cemetery Lots	1030 Commercial for Sale	1040 Duplexes for Sale	1050 Homes for Sale	1060 Waterfront Homes	1070 Lots for Sale	1080 Mobiles for Sale	1090 Waterfront Mobiles	1100 Real Estate Notes	1110 Townhomes & Condos	1120 Property For Trade	1130 Want To Buy
Real Estate for Rent	1510 Apartments for Rent	1520 Commercial for Rent	1530 Duplexes for Rent	1540 Homes for Rent	1550 Mobiles for Rent	1560 Rooms for Rent	1570 Roommates Wanted	1580 Spaces & Lots	1590 Townhomes & Condos	1600 Want to Rent			
Vehicles	2010 Automobiles	2020 Parts & Accessories	2030 Big Trucks & Trailers	2040 Classic Automobiles									

2050 Four-Wheel Drive	2060 Motorcycles	2070 Pickups & SUVs	2080 Vans & Campers	2090 Trailers	2095 Heavy Equipment								
Farm & Ranch	3010 Corrals & Fencing	3020 Farm Equipment	3030 Feed & Pasture	3040 Stock Trailers	3050 Related Items								
Finance	4010 Business Opportunities	4020 Insurance	4030 Investments	4040 Mortgages & Notes									
Home & Business Services	5010 Adult/Elderly Care	5020 A/C Heating Repair	5030 Appliance Repair	5040 Automotive Services	5050 Bulldozer Services	5060 Business Services	5065 Carpents	5070 Cement/Concrete	5075 Chimney Sweeping	5080 Child Care	5090 Cleaning Services	5100 Computer Services	

5110 Construction	5120 Clock Repair	5130 Dock repair/Rebuild	5140 Electrical	5150 Electronics Repair	5160 Exterminating	5170 Fencing	5180 Floor Coverings	5190 Health Care	5200 Home Improvement	5210 Landscaping/Tree Service	5220 Landscaping/Tree Service	5230 Interior Design	5240 Masonry	5250 Mobile Home Service	5260 Moving/Hauling	5265 Plumbing	5270 Sand/Gravel/Soil	5280 Roofing	5290 Painting	5295 Pressure Washing	5300 Septic/Sewer	5310 Small Engine Repair	5320 Secretarial/Office	5330 Storage	5340 Tractor Service	5350 Welding		
6070 RV's/Travel Trailers	6080 Sporting Goods																											
Merchandise	6510 Antiques	6520 Appliances	6530 Arts & Crafts	6540 Building Materials	6550 Computers	6560 Electronics	6570 Firewood	6580 Furniture	6590 Health	6600 Air Conditioners	6610 Lawn Equipment	6620 Miscellaneous	6630 Musical Instruments	6635 Pocket Stuffers	6640 Portable Buildings	6650 Tools	6660 Trees	6670 Wanted										
Employment	8510 General	8520 Construction	8530 Food Services	8540 Medical/Dental	8550 Office Employment	8560 Professional	8570 Sales	8580 Salon Personnel	8590 Employment Wanted	8600 Employment Information	8610 Carpool Information																	
Notices	9010 Happy Notes	9020 Free	9030 Public Notices	9040 Notices	9050 Personal Lost & Found	9070 Card of Thanks																						
Public Sales	9570 Auctions	9580 Flea Markets	9590 Out of Town Sales	9600 Garage Sales 76035	9610 Garage Sales 76048	9620 Garage Sales 76049	9630 Garage Sales 76462	9640 Garage Sales 76476																				

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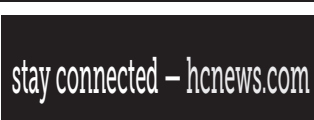
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of MARGARET NELL GILLILAND LEHMAN, Cause No. P09239, County Court of Hood County, Texas...

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LEGAL AD Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048...

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Garcia delivers perfect game, earns Coach Cumpian's 200th win

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — The road to 200 wins has had its twists, turns, and bumps. But No. 200 was perfect.

Tarleton right-handed pitcher Grace Garcia on Feb. 19 fired the second perfect game in Tarleton State University's softball history and the first since Caryn Holbrook on March 29, 1997 against Eastern New Mexico. Garcia pitched all six innings, going 18 up and 18 down with five strikeouts. Brittany Coe caught all six innings of it. Tarleton defeated Texas A&M-Commerce 8-0 in six innings to cap off an undefeated home tournament.

"That was incredible. I'm usually not one to be at a loss for words, but I am," TSU Head Coach Mark Cumpian said. "Grace is such a talented young lady and I'm so happy for her. Our defense played incredible, the offense was on fire, and I don't think there was a single player in that dugout that wasn't going

to give everything they had for their teammate today. It sounds cliché, but it was perfect."

After a plethora of delays to get through the first five batters of the game, Austin Germain began a run of three consecutive doubles hit by the Texans. Germain ripped a line drive into right that skipped away from the defender and allowed her to reach second. Then Kelci Hill followed with a sinking line drive double into left field before Katy Schaefer plated them both with a two-run double into the left field corner for a 2-0 Texan lead early.

While Garcia was cruising through the Lion batting order, the Texans tacked on another in the bottom of the second - again with Germain serving as a catalyst. The sophomore from San Antonio



Garcia

dropped an RBI double down the right field line to bring home MacKenzie Peterson from second for a 3-0 Tarleton lead.

The offense continued to scorch the Commerce pitching staff in the third as Schaefer and Rowland ripped back-to-back doubles to lead off. Kayla Wallace singled to and then stole second to get the offense set up again. Brittany Coe plated one run with a single before a double steal from Wallace and Hayden Fox capped off the three-run third for a 6-0 lead.

After Garcia sat the Lions down in order for the fourth consecutive inning, the doubles parade continued when Germain and Kelci Hill led off the fourth with back-to-back two-baggers to bring home another run. Hill's double was the seventh of the game, breaking a long-standing school record (6). The previous mark was set against St.

Edward's on March 22, 1999 and has been matched five times since, most recently in 2017.

Tarleton couldn't push the final run in the fifth, forcing Garcia out to pitch the sixth.

Things got dicey as she fell behind 3-0 to the leadoff hitter, but Garcia rebounded with back-to-back strikes before getting a flyout to Hill in center before sitting down the next two Lions. Hill, Schaefer, and Rowland loaded the bases in the sixth before Jordan Dickerson drew a walk-off walk to clinch the perfect game for Garcia and the milestone win for Cumpian.

After spending six years as the team's top assistant, Cumpian wasted no time in securing win No. 1 in his debut on Feb. 3, 2017. Haley Freyman twirled a one-hit, complete game shutout to beat Washburn 5-0 in Magnolia, Arkansas.

That win proved to be the cornerstone for the beginning of Tarleton's best runs of success since its 1996 inception.

With Cumpian at the helm, he became the first head coach in TSU athletics history to reach an NCAA national postseason in his rookie coaching season. The Texans qualified for the South Central Region with 35 wins in his debut season.

The next two years, Cumpian's Texans were a dominant force in the Lone Star Conference. Tarleton won 50 games for the first time in program history in 2018 and stretched it out to 109 wins from 2018-20, the most for any Lone Star Conference team over that span.

Under Cumpian, Tarleton reached Division II national powerhouse status.

Then the road to national dominance took a detour, but the vision for the program never did. The goal was always about competing and finding ways to win.

With the Texans on top of the LSC standings at 19-4 in the spring of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the season and put

all recruiting on hold for the next year. Meanwhile, Tarleton was moving to NCAA Division I and the Western Athletic Conference.

The Texans won 17 games in their first Division I season under Cumpian, but the following season Cumpian was back to his winning ways. Tarleton turned it around for year No. 2 in Division I and won 30 games for the fourth time in Cumpian's first six seasons. The improvement from 2021 to 2022 was the 17th best turnaround in all of NCAA Division I.

"That first season in Division I taught me a lot as a coach. It taught me that winning any game in Division I is hard, and I should never take a single one for granted," said Cumpian. "These accomplishments aren't mine alone. We have had an incredible group of players and coaches along the way."

"200 is great, but we're nowhere close to done," he added.

Texans struggle from the foul line in loss to Sam Houston State University

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — The Tarleton State University Texans took the Sam Houston State University Bearkats down to the wire on Feb. 18, but a low free throw percentage resulted in a 64-59 loss.

Tarleton (14-14, 8-8 WAC) jumped on the scoreboard early, courtesy of a catch-and-shoot three-pointer from Lue Williams.

Sam Houston (20-6, 10-4

WAC) responded with an 8-2 run to take a seven-point lead over the first five minutes of the half. Williams had an answer though, hitting consecutive three-pointers to tie the game up at 12.

The Bearkats worked their lead back up to seven points before an 8-0 run from the Texans gave them a one-point advantage.

The teams traded three-pointers to stay neck-and-neck, but a strong finish from Sam Houston reestab-

lished their seven-point lead over the Texans at the half.

Both teams came out swinging to start the second half, sinking multiple shots from range and putting on a show for the Wisdom Gym crowd.

With 10 minutes left in the game, a second-chance layup from Freddy Hicks tied the game at 46 all.

The Bearkats grew their lead to a game-high 11 points with just under three minutes left in regulation.

Tarleton struck back, cutting the Sam Houston lead to just three points with under a minute to play.

The Texans enacted a full-court press on the Bearkats, but earlier free throw struggles came to haunt them as Sam Houston narrowly edged out a 64-59 win over the Texans.

Tarleton was led in scoring by Hicks, who picked up 15 of his 18 total points in the second half. He also had a team-high seven rebounds.

Shamir Bogues and Williams both earned 12 points for the game, with Williams hitting all four of his three-pointers in the first half of play.

Jakorie Smith picked up 10 points, five rebounds and two assists. Coreyoun Rushin scored four points with two rebounds and assists a piece. Shakur Daniel dished out a team-high four assists and earned three points.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Shakur Daniel (13), a 6-6 guard for Tarleton State University, takes a shot during the Texans' 64-59 loss to Sam Houston State University on Feb. 18 in Stephenville. Daniel scored three points and had a team-high four assists.

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Anderson runner-up in Utah golf tourney for TSU's best D1 individual finish

Tarleton Sports Information

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Tarleton State University's men's golf team has had an incredible start to its first NCAA Division I campaign, and it got even more special on Feb. 12.

Jack Anderson shot -8 for the tournament to take second place overall, Tarleton's best individual finish in the program's D1 history. The Round Rock native led the field of 68 through the first two rounds Feb. 10-11, and finished one stroke behind the winner the next day for the silver medal.

Anderson shot 65-74-69 for his -8 at the Pat Hicks Invitational at Sunbrook Golf Course in St. George, Utah. He finished only behind Utah Valley's Brady McKinlay, who turned in a 65 in the final round to win by a stroke.

Tarleton's other four participants finished within five strokes of each other. Freshman Cristobal Sepulveda shot +9 (76-77-72) to finish tied-38th. Bladen Samaniego went +11 (78-77-72) to place tied-43rd. Masen Ward shot +12 (74, 74, 80) to finish 45th. Max Bengtsson went +13 (72-79-78), tied 46th.

Samaniego's third round of even-par 72 was his best score to par of the season and his tied-best gross score. As a team, Tarleton finished seventh at +16 (880). In all five tournaments this season, the Texans have finished in the top seven.

"It was awesome to see Jack in contention this week and almost pull off a wire-to-wire win," TSU head coach Chance Cain said. "He stumbled out of the gate this morning but did a great job

keeping his composure and played really well the rest of the round. He actually had three really good looks coming in, especially on the last where he lipped out about a nine-foot eagle putt. We have a couple of weeks at home to clean up some things until we head out to Wyoming's Event in Palm Desert, California."

Anderson was the leader after the first 18 holes on Friday with the lowest score to par (-5) and gross score (65) shot by a Texan this season. He made two eagles in the first round, the first Texan with multiple eagles in a round, including on his first hole, the Par 4, 281-yard 14th. He also eagled the 502-yard Par 5 seventh hole, and had two birdies over his final three holes of the day to complete his record round.

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ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY

Mayor Jim Jarratt third from left, stands with members of the Granbury Athletic Association at last week's Granbury City Council meeting after recognizing the group for replacing three aging scoreboards at the Moore Street complex at a cost of \$16,875.

GHS Pirates' basketball season-ender was OT thriller

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

In their first basketball playoff appearance since 2016, the Granbury Pirates came close to advancing to the second round before dropping a 47-45 overtime Class 5A bi-district contest to Fort Worth Arlington Heights on Feb. 21 in Crowley.

GHS junior Kensington Colston's three-point basket at the end of regulation forced the extra period. The defensive struggle was tied at 18 at the half.

Juniors Dylan Coueto and Isaiah Trejo led the Pirates in scoring with 19 and 14 points, respectively.

The Pirates finished their season with a 20-13 record, and were second in District 5-5A. The Yellowjackets advanced with a 22-12 mark.

"Turnovers and missed free throws are the take. But we guarded their brains out," Granbury head coach David Breazeale said. "I hate the 'proud of my team' clichés, but, man. That was an effort. You can look at a lot of things and should-haves all day.

"So glad I had the privilege of coaching the long-time seniors — True (Hughes) for three varsity years. Makai Scott. So thankful. Solomon Hanchell is ... just my guy. "So we go to off-season. Tons of good ones returning and a 20-4 JV."

The Pirates' varsity roster featured largely juniors.

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (28-7) pulled away from Hawley (13-5) in the second half for a 54-39 victory in their Class 2A area round playoff game on Feb. 24 at Eastland High School. Tolar, ranked No. 21 in the state in Class 2A, outscored the Bearcats 32-19 over the final two periods.

This season's Rattlers join the 1990, 1996 and 2007 teams in advancing this far in the playoffs. Only the 1990 squad moved on to the regional semifinals, where they were eliminated, something this season's team is trying to surpass. Doing so would also give Tolar its first 30-win season in school history, eclipsing last season's record of 29 victories.

Tolar was led by Merritt Imel with 17 points against Hawley, while Matthew Behrens scored 15 and Reis Brown added eight.

"Pretty cool for our guys," Tolar coach Scott Richardson said. "They played great, beat a really good district champion."

Tolar was playing Nocona (23-11) at press time in Springtown. The winner will face 24th-ranked Sam Rayburn (28-6) or Muenster (23-8) Friday in McKinney. The championship game is Saturday, also in McKinney, with the starting time of both games yet to be announced.

The Rattlers had dropped Italy (11-15) 55-47 in their Class 2A boys bi-district basketball matchup on Feb. 21 at Joshua to move on to the second round. Reis Brown led Tolar offensively with 22 points, while Merritt Imel grabbed 10 rebounds and paced the defense with five blocked shots.

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (32-1) won for the 71st time in their past 73 games, defeating Cisco 60-43 in their Class 2A area round game Thursday, Feb. 23, in Glen Rose. Lipan jumped out to a 35-14 halftime lead.

The Indians shot a sizzling 67% from the field, hitting 22 of 33 shots, including 20-of-27 from two-point range. They were also 14-of-18 at the free throw line.

The Indians also had a commanding 38-22 advantage in the paint.

Lipan was led by Garrett Smith with 24 points and four steals. Tate Branson scored 11 with three assists, Tripp Phillips had nine points with two blocked shots, and Reese Cooks scored nine and grabbed four rebounds.

The Indians were playing Itasca (19-13) at press time in Aledo. The winner moves to the 2A Region II semifinal against Lindsey (17-15) or Wolfe City (18-14) Friday in McKinney.

The Indians had little trouble with Valley Mills (9-16) in their Class 2A boys bi-district playoff contest on Feb. 20 in Glen Rose, winning 83-38. The Indians put away the contest with

a 45-14 run over the second half.

Lipan was led by Tripp Phillips with 22 points, while Garrett Smith scored 21 with seven assists. Tate Branson scored a dozen points and Tyson Tarpley added 11, with Reese Cook narrowly missing double digits with nine points.

Cole Reynolds and Darius Steed each pulled down five rebounds and Corey Massie paced the defense with three steals.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates (4-6-2) won two, lost two and tied two in the Mansfield Tournament this past weekend. They tied Weatherford 0-0 and lost 6-2 to Richland, defeated Eules Trinity 5-4 and Mansfield Timberview 13-0, tied Arlington Bowie 6-6 and lost 10-1 to Ennis.

Leaders for Granbury were:

Vs. Weatherford - Faith Evans, two hits; Allison DaFoe, five innings pitched, two hits, no runs, nine strikeouts, one walk, one hit batter.

Vs. Richland - Lillian Williams, two-run home run.

Vs. Trinity - Brenna Haynes, two hits, RBI; Kamryn Williams, hit, walk, RBI; Carli Carlton, hit, walk; A. Dafoe three innings pitched, four hits, one earned run, five strikeouts, two walks.

Vs. Timberview - L. Williams, three hits, double, home run, four RBI; Hannah Dafoe, triple, home run, two RBI, hit by pitch, 3.1 innings pitched, three hits, no runs, five strikeouts, no walks; K. Williams, double, two walks, RBI; Meredith Jones, double; Amanda Perriman, hit walk, walk, RBI.

Vs. Bowie - L. Williams, double, walk, RBI; A. Dafoe, home run, walk, RBI.

Vs. Ennis - L. Williams, hit, hit by pitch; Lauren Petty, RBI.

Before the tournament, the Lady Pirates defeated Blooming Grove 6-1 as DaFoe pitched a two-hitter with eight strikeouts and four walks. L. Williams had three hits, including a home run, with a walk and two RBI; Kaitlyn Cervantes had a double and triple with two RBI and Evans had two hits.

Granbury will host its own tournament Thursday through Saturday.



TOLAR SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers (3-1-1) fought to a 10-10 tie at Fort Worth Country Day on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Allyson Dobbs led Tolar with two hits, a walk and RBI. Senne Imel had a double and two walks and Ava LeCluyse doubled with two RBI.

Also for Tolar, Reese Tryon had a hit, walk and RBI and Kamryn Deaver doubled with an RBI.

The Lady Rattlers will compete in the Venus Tournament this weekend.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates went 1-5 in their own Fowl Ball Tournament over the weekend. The weekend did, however, feature a combined no-hitter by Michael Holbrook and James Byrd against Amarillo Caprock.

The Pirates fell 4-2 to Birdville and defeated Caprock 10-1, dropped games of 11-4 to Nolan Catholic and 6-5 to Richland, and they fell 4-3 to Lubbock Coronado and 6-2 to Fort Worth Country Day despite outpitching the Falcons 6-3.

Leaders for Granbury were:

Vs. Birdville - Blake Bramlett, two hits, two walks; Tyler Guidry, two hits, double; Levi Martinez, hit, walk, RBI.

Vs. Caprock - Guidry, two hits, double, five RBI; Gavin Current, two hits, walk; Braxton Heffernan, double, two walks, RBI; Hunter Jones, two hits, walk, RBI; Hollbrook, three innings pitched, no hits, no runs, five strikeouts, five walks; Byrd, two innings pitched, no hits, one earned run, no strikeouts, two walks.

Vs. Nolan Catholic - Kyler Crites, two hits; Cooper Thomas, double, walk, two RBI.

Vs. Richland - Bramlett, double, two RBI; Thomas, triple, RBI.

Vs. Coronado - Current, two hits.

Vs. FWCD - Heffernan, hit, two RBI; Thomas, two hits.

The Pirates will compete in the Mike Thompson

Southwest Tournament this weekend.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

The Pirates (4-12-4 overall) improved to 3-5 in District 5-5A with a 2-1 victory at home over Azle on Feb. 21. Brack Peacock scored and also assisted on one by Weston Cantrell.

The Pirates host Justin Northwest on March 3 at 5 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates (7-8 overall) evened their record at 4-4 in District 5-5A with a 1-0 home loss to Azle on Feb. 21. The Lady Pirates host Justin Northwest on Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

GRANBURY BOYS TRACK

The Pirates placed fourth at the Hornet Relays in Azle on Feb. 23. Top Granbury varsity finishers were:

3,200-meter relay - 3. Aiden Lemens, Avin Alexander, Alec Wilkinson, Bryan Hailey, 8:47.00.

Distance medley relay - 3. Lemens, Alexander, Wilkinson, Hailey, 11:44.05.

Weight man relay 1. Ethan Hernandez, Moses Meis, Braydon Olthoff, time NA.

Shot put - 2. Austin Taylor, 43-03.

High jump - 2. Jadon Rogers, 5-06; 2. (tie) Hunter Burns, 5-06.

Pole Vault - 3. Landon Cook, 9-06; 3. (tie) Braden Hunt, 9-06.

The JV was third with 116.60 points. Leaders were:

110 hurdles - 2. Hunter White, 18.14.

400 relay - 2. Sammy Estrada, Blake Skahan, Amelio Rodriguez, Caden Davis, 46.80.

1,600 relay - 3. Derek McGuire, Casen Moore, Bryce Young, Matthew Pitts, 3:54.64.

3,200 relay - 3. Young, James Barber, Judah Turner, Maxwell Keller, 9:20.39.

Sprint medley relay - Aaron Alexander, Rodriguez, Pitts, Keller, 4:14.27.

Discus - 3. Christian Santiago, 102-01.

Pole vault - 2. (tie) Gage Archer, 9-0.

Long jump - 2. Halston Main, 18-03.50.

Next is the Marshall Young Invitational in Cleburne on March 2.

GRANBURY GIRLS TRACK

The Lady Pirates placed fifth at the Azle Hornet Relays. Leaders were:

High jump - 2. Cassidy Kirkpatrick, 5-02.

Long jump - 2. Kirkpatrick, 16-11.

Pole vault - 3. Jazlynn Torres, 7-06.

3,200 relay - Josafina Berry, Emery Kirby, Karolina Berry, Portia Dodd, 11:23.

Discus - 3. Sterling Dunagen, 83-09.

The JV was also fifth with 72 points. Leaders were:

High jump - 1. Aubrey Ward 4-10.

Distance medley relay - 2. Kirby, Anna Snow, Kensington Loving, Berry, 15:31.

3,200 relay - 3. Alexie Patrick, Adalyn Hollis, Kimberly Martinez, Loving, 11:48.

800 relay - 3. Peyton Johnson, Celestial Leanos, Kate Crum, Jazmynn Torres, 2:03.

Up next, at the Marshall Young Invitational in Cleburne on March 2.

Up next, at the Marshall Young Invitational in Cleburne on March 2.

TOLAR TRACK

The Rattlers and Lady Rattlers competed in the Brock Relays on Feb. 23. Tolar leaders were:

Boys varsity - 1,600 relay of Caden Pate, Talen Brown, Garrison Nation and Wyatt Jones, second, 3:41.68.

JV girls - Debra McCarroll, second (tie) in discus, 62-02.

JV boys - Peyton Brown, second in discus, 103-09.



GISD board approves purchase of new GHS band uniforms

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Members of the Granbury High School Pirate Band will soon be marching across the field in new uniforms thanks to a unanimous decision made by the GISD board of trustees on Feb. 20.

Mario Morales, the director of bands at GHS, said the current band uniforms were purchased in 2014.

“At our last contest we had on October 28, we had a lot of zippers that busted off, and the buttons on the bottom were just completely gone,” he said during the monthly school board meet-

ing. “Our wonderful band booster parents were holding them together with safety pins, and it was very embarrassing for the kids. We tried to get them repaired but it was just not worth the repair. They’ve done their job.”

GISD Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield confirmed during the monthly meeting that the district’s current procedure is to replace band uniforms every 10 years, noting that the purchase will be coming out of next year’s budget.

“We knew it was coming; we started talking about it about a year and a half ago, so that’s in the planning process,” Whitefield

said. “We will encumber it this year, but it won’t be expended until next year.”

Morales said the memo outlining the purchase will provide 250 band uniforms for GHS beginning in the fall.

“As of right now we have about 130 kids in band,” Morales said. “We have about 73 that’s coming up at Acton, and we have about 70 eighth graders at GMS. Of course, not all of them will stay in band; we’ll lose about 20% of them, but still, that will double our numbers for next year.”

The total proposal for the new uniforms is an estimated \$178,113.54 through a company

that Morales said he has worked with several times in the past when he was employed with other districts.

“They have a lifetime warranty with any sort of manufacturer defects, and they are constructed at a very high quality, and you know, to have high quality, it’s gonna cost money,” he explained. “But I think at the end of the day, it’s going to be a great thing for us, and it’s going to be modernizing the band program. If we’re paying high dollar, it’s going to be worth every penny.”

He also said that with these new uniforms, the parents will be able to take them home and wash

them, which will save the band boosters an estimated \$3,000 a season.

“I think it’s a great investment for sure,” he said.

As for what will happen with the old uniforms, Morales said that it all depends on the district policy. He mentioned other districts auctioned off their old uniforms, while others turned theirs into a pillow to sell for fundraisers.

The new band uniforms will be purchased for GHS sometime after Sept. 1.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

GRANBURY HAS ALL THAT JAZZ

Three stages, 16 bands, one very music friendly Texas community



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Yes, the weather could have been better on Saturday, but cold couldn’t deter music enthusiasts from attending the annual Granbury Jazz Fest to enjoy a full day of immersive musical experiences. Fort Worth-based Chris Watson and Retrophonics were in great form Saturday afternoon at the Langdon Center, delivering their signature and powerful Southern Soul set of Blues, Motown, Funk, and Southern Rock. Please see more photos, B2

GISD implements new program to track, improve student attendance

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Granbury ISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said during the Feb. 20 school board meeting that as of mid-February, the school district currently has a 5% breach in student attendance — which has cost the district \$1.6 million in funding.

As a district, GISD has historically struggled with student attendance — and the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated the issue.

But now, with the implementation of a new attendance program, GISD is slowly headed back on track.

Instead of state funding based on enrollment, GISD receives state funding according to the average daily attendance (ADA) numbers — meaning that the district will not receive those funds for students on days they are absent.

“When we talk about that, that funding based on enrollment instead of ADA, that’s huge, because for teachers just in August to February, that would be an additional 3% raise for all staff, so it’s really big numbers that we’re talking about,” Glenn said.

And with the end of COVID-19 in sight, increasing attendance numbers have now become the No. 1 priority for GISD.

“When we talk about that, that funding based on enrollment instead of ADA, that’s huge, because for teachers just in August to February, that would be an additional 3% raise for all staff, so it’s really big numbers that we’re talking about.”

JEREMY GLENN
GISD Superintendent

“When we were told in August that attendance was a huge goal, we started calling other districts who are having better attendance than ours,” said GISD Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark during the school board meeting. “A lot of school districts around us are sitting at like 97%, and we were at 93% last year.”

Through talking with other districts, the program RaaWee came up in discussion, which is a comprehensive collaboration platform that implements student attendance and participation improvement strategies.

“One of the things we weren’t doing was monitoring (attendance) through this online system, so that we could (improve) our communication with parents, and be a little bit more proactive in that,” Clark said.

Since the program was installed in October, Clark said it has been easier than ever to communicate with parents about their child’s

attendance. She noted that the program will send an alert when a child hits a specific number of absences.

“We started sending some warning letters home,” she explained. “If you hit three absences, five absences, eight absences, and then 10, those are the cut-offs for different communications for each student. Warning letter one goes out after three absences in a six-month period that are unexcused and so you can send (the letter) automatically through an email or text message to the parent.”

She said since RaaWee was implemented, the district administration has sent out 3,581 letters, made 367 logged phone calls, sent out 2,457 emails, and sent more than 1,600 text messages to parents. Additionally, 44 truancy court notices were sent out, which happens after 10 unexcused absences are logged over a six-month period.

“We can track this very, very

closely,” Clark said. “It makes things a little more automatic for our administrators so if Susie missed yesterday and it was her fifth miss, it will automatically generate her name that we need to make a parent contact here for an intervention plan and make sure that we’re communicating the importance of attendance, and that they’re getting closer to truancy. The administrators think that it’s a pretty user-friendly platform and makes it easier for them to know who to contact on the daily and make that a regular routine, so that’s going to help us out.”

Pre-COVID, the attendance percentage for GISD in 2019 was 94.83%. In 2020, it dropped slightly to 94.62%, to 93.42% in 2021, and around 93% in 2022.

Now, for 2023, GISD’s attendance percentage is 94.7%.

“We’re getting back to that pre-COVID time, but that’s not good for our students to be absent so much,” Clark said. “Our teachers

can do a lot of good things with them, but they’ve got to be in their seats.”

Although the RaaWee program will help keep parents informed about their child’s attendance, several GISD campuses are using incentives to get children motivated to come to school on their own.

“They have competitions in the grade level and a couple of elementaries are going to do some March Madness on attendance, which is going to be pretty fun,” Clark said. “(They will also give) prizes for individuals who have perfect attendance at like the three- or six-week marks. Every campus is a little bit different, but they’re really trying to incentivize regular attendance in small increments, so that we can get those kids excited about being there and get them in those classrooms learning; that’s the goal.”

Glenn also gave a compliment to every individual involved in GISD as they have been “very intentional about attendance this year.”

He added, “(I want to give a) shout out to all of our principals who really tried to get creative in making sure kids come to school and our campuses because they’re leading the charge on this.”

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The horn section shines as Chris Watson and the Retrophonics perform a fantastic show enjoyed by music lovers of all ages Saturday afternoon at the Langdon Center.



Saxophonist, jazz band leader, and music teacher Justin Pierce hit the stage with his band.



Tarleton Jazz Ensemble II takes the stage at Hewlett Park Saturday.



Plenty of vendors and food trucks were on hand for JazzFest.



Vendor Kathy Ferguson brought her Chez Kat Designs from neighboring Benbrook for a day at the JazzFest.



Carson Becker with Hood County's own Whiskey Morning Coffee was set up to sell. They have been making a buzz as one of the fastest-growing companies in Texas.



Texas Music Office Community Relations and Outreach Specialist Chip Adams was in attendance to present the Music Friendly Texas Community Certification at Saturday's ceremony at Hewlett Park.

PERENNIAL POWERS SET TO SQUARE OFF

Lipan, Martin's Mill to meet in 2A state basketball semifinal

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The last time either Lipan or Martin's Mill was not in the girls state basketball tournament, many of the players on the current teams weren't even born yet.

Since 2006 one or the other has been among the final four at state — and this is the sixth time in that span that they have both advanced to state in the same season, all since the 2011 season.

It is, however, only the second time the two will meet in the final four. The first time was in 2021, when Lipan won 44-39 in the state championship game.

Lipan (33-3, ranked No. 3 in the state by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches and Texas Girls Coaches Association) and Martin's Mill (31-6, No. 6 in TABC and No. 8 in TGCA) will face off Friday morning at 8:30 in the Alamodome in San Antonio. The winner will meet the survivor between defending state champion Gruver (29-5) and state tournament newcomer Hearne (33-8) in the championship game Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the same venue.

"They are a basketball powerhouse and we have very high respect for them," said Lipan head coach Amber Branson, who will be coaching in her eighth state tournament since taking over the helm of the Lady Indians in 2008. She also played in a state tournament for Lipan in 1995.

"We have a really good relationship with them, it's been in place long before this year because of coach Cross," Branson added.

The Lady Mustangs were formerly coached by Tommy Cross, who was the head coach at Tolar several years ago. He led Martin's Mill to state championships in 2018 and 2019. Though Cross left Martin's Mill before the start

of this season, the teams have continued to face each other regularly, with the Lady Mustangs defeating visiting Lipan 49-45 on Nov. 19.

"We know how good they are and this should be another great game," Branson said. "Both teams are playing great basketball."

The Lady Indians punched their ticket to state by knocking off No. 1 Nocona, which was 37-0 entering the game, 50-36 for the regional title this past Saturday in McKinney. Lipan overcame an early deficit to lead 22-11 after the first quarter on the strength of five three-point baskets from Hanna Gaylor. The Lipan girls stretched their lead to 34-21 at the half and maintained their distance in the final two quarters.

The Lipan defense limited Nocona to 34% shooting (14-of-41). Taylor Branson, Madison Cornelius, Ashlyn Clark and Lynsey Little shut down Nocona's top two shooters. Lipan held Nocona's leading scorer, who was averaging 23 points a game, to just 11.

Before facing Nocona, the Lady Indians rolled past Cooper 70-25 in the regional semifinals Friday. They held Cooper to 16% shooting (6-of-37).

Lipan is returning to state after seeing its season end in the Region 2 final last season. It came on the heels of back-to-back state finals appearances.

"Last year was a heart-breaker for the kids as well," Branson said. "They have worked hard and stayed focused every day since to get back here. People may not realize how hard it is to get



Lipan's Lady Indians celebrate their win.

COURTESY PHOTO BY NANCY HOLTSFORD

to state each year. Last year proved that."

While many are focusing on the Lipan-Martin's Mill showdown, Branson is quick to emphasize that it is NOT the state championship game. On the other side of the bracket, Gruver has won two of the past three state titles. While it is Hearne's first appearance, Branson noted that this is the state tournament and you don't get there unless you're good.

"Gruver is a West Texas girls powerhouse and Hearne doesn't have the resume" of the rest of us, but at one time none of us did either," Branson said. "Whoever wins our semifinal game has a big

match on Saturday before winning state.

"For now, we're focusing on Martin's Mill and I'm sure they're focusing on us."

CLASS 2A REGION II TOURNAMENT

McKinney North High School
Friday-Saturday, Feb. 24-25
Lipan 70, Cooper 25
Cooper 48 3 10 — 25
Lipan 19 11 24 16 — 70

Lipan leaders: Lynsey Little, 14 points; Madison Harrison, 12 points; Hanna Gaylor, 11 points, 6 rebounds; Taylor Branson, 9 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists; Ashlyn Clark, 8 points; Trinity Benitez, 5 steals.

Lipan 50, Nocona 36
Nocona 11 10 7 8 — 36
Lipan 22 12 7 9 — 50

Lipan leaders: Gaylor, 18 points, 5 rebounds; T. Benitez, 8 points; Chelsea Lott, 6 points, 7 rebounds; Clark, 6 points; Branson, 5 assists.

CLASS 2A GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Alamodome, San Antonio
Friday-Saturday, March 3-4
Semifinals, Friday
Lipan (33-3) vs. Martin's Mill (31-6), 8:30 a.m.
Gruver (29-5) vs. Hearne (33-8), 10 a.m.
Championship, Saturday
Semifinal winners, 1:30 p.m.

LIPAN LADY INDIANS

Region 2 champions

State ranking: No. 3 Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC), No. 3 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA).

How they got here: Defeated Italy 82-21 in bi-district, defeated Cisco 50-43 in area, defeated Windthorst 47-30 in regional quarterfinals, defeated Cooper 70-25 in regional semifinals, defeated Nocona 50-36 in regional final.

Win streak: 14.
State tournament appearances: 1995, 2003, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2023.

State championships: 2016, 2021.

PLEASE SEE LIPAN | B6

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY

History of Women in Sports

Today, we know that exercise is good for everyone's health — boys and girls, men and women.

Today, girls and women can play sports for fun. They also can compete and become professional athletes. But that was not always the case.

Imagine being told that you can't do something you love to do. Or that you are forced to wear clothing that

makes it difficult to do what you love to do. Or that you can't find anyone to play a sport with you. Or that you aren't allowed on a golf course, a tennis court or other sporting fields.

How would all of that make you feel? Frustrated? Lonely?

That is how girls and women who enjoyed sports felt before the year 1972, a year of important change.

Standards Link: Read informational text in history.

1800s

Today

How many differences can you find between these two baseball players from different years?

Women's Sports Moments

Use the code to discover when each of these important moments happened.

● = 0	◐ = 2	◑ = 4	◒ = 7
◓ = 1	★ = 3	◔ = 5	◕ = 9

Two women, Mrs. Edwards and Miss Kussin, boxed each other and showed women can throw punches.

Billie Jean King beats the No. 1-ranked men's tennis player, Bobby Riggs, showing women can compete with men.

Title IX Changes Girls' Lives

Today, girls have equal access to playing sports at public schools because in 1972, the United States Congress signed into law that everyone in the United States, regardless of their gender, has equal rights to play sports. This law is called **Title IX**. (*Title IX is the same as Title 9. The number 9 is written in Roman numerals.*)

Before and After Title IX

Before 1972, less than 300,000 girls participated in school sports in the United States. Write down the numbers on the correct path through the maze to discover how many girls participate in school sports.

More than 5 girls participate in school sports today!

Roman Numerals

Title IX uses the Roman numerals IX to show the word nine. Look through the newspaper for five numbers and rewrite each one as a Roman numeral.

Standards Link: Math: Understand the use and system of Roman numerals.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Picture Puzzles

A rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures to reveal a word or phrase. Can you solve this rebus puzzle?

SHE

A

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Women in Sports Collage

For one week, look through the newspaper for pictures and articles about women in sports. Cut these out and make a collage with everything you find.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify parts of speech.

Write On!

The Woman I Most Admire

Write about a woman you know that inspires you.

Kid Scoop Together

The Amazing Babe Didrikson Zaharias

Babe Didrikson Zaharias is considered one of the greatest athletes of the last century. Few, if any, have matched her achievements in sports.

Babe was born on June 26, 1911. When she was young, most girls did not participate in sports. Babe loved sports. In her lifetime, she was an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, an All-American basketball player, a champion golfer and an extraordinary baseball player, swimmer, bowler, diver and tennis player.

A Running Start

When the news of the 1928 Olympic Games filled the newspapers, Babe decided to begin her own training. She practiced hurdles by soaring over seven hedges in her neighborhood. When one of the hedges was a bit too high, she asked the people who lived there to cut it down to the right size, and they did!

Golfing Great

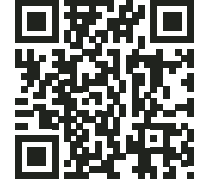
Babe was an excellent golfer. From 1946-47, Babe won 13 tournaments in a row. Babe would go on to win 113 golf tournaments.

Standards Link: Read biographical text.

Hood County SCENE

YOUR GUIDE TO DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER



PART OF OUR WORLD

COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

Universal Parks & Resorts announces a new theme park in Frisco. Until now theme parks for both Universal and Disney have been on the west coast in California and the east coast in Florida. This will be the first theme park expansion from one of these two giants to come to Texas.

Theme parks continue to expand, including one coming to Frisco

BY ZAC WILSON

When Disneyland opened in 1955 it's likely no one, other than maybe Walt himself, dreamed that theme parks would become the new destination travel experience for families around the world. Now there are Disney Parks & Resorts around the world in Japan, China, France, and more. Universal Studios opened its first theme park in California in 1964. Then Walt Disney World opened in Florida 1971, followed by Universal Orlando in 1990.

Universal Parks & Resorts announces a new theme park in Frisco. The park will include a lush green landscape with immersive themed lands designed for young children and families — with additional space for future expansion. Until now theme parks for both Universal and Disney have been on the west coast in

California and the east coast in Florida. This will be the first theme park expansion from one of these two giants to come to Texas. This new destination will be 97 acres located about 30 miles north of Dallas. How does 97 acres compare to other theme park destinations? The original Disneyland theme park is only 85 acres. Although an

opening date has not been announced for this new park, Universal has a new experience that just opened: Super Nintendo World!

Universal Parks & Resorts Super Nintendo World is now open in Universal Studios Hollywood California. Get ready to experience Mario Kart like never before! Unlock interactive play with your power up band. Meet Mario and friends face to face, and step right into familiar locations and environments from the mushroom kingdom. Dine at Toadstool Café, and shop at the 1-Up Factory.

Walt Disney World has new attractions as well including the Guardians of the Galaxy roller coaster at EPCOT, Tron Light-cycle roller coaster at Magic Kingdom, and a new restaurant in Toy Story Land 'Round Up Rodeo BBQ' at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

The classic Splash Mountain ride themed around the controversial animated movie "Song of the South" is being reimaged into Tiana's Bayou Adventure. This update is happening at both Walt Disney World and Disneyland.

Disneyland adds new Quantumania 'Antman and the Wasp' experiences to California Adventure Park at Avengers Campus.

Disneyland is celebrating Disney100. The Walt Disney Company marks its 100th anniversary this year and Disneyland will commemorate this milestone with new experiences and entertainment throughout the year.

These destinations continue to grow and expand. It's no wonder that many families and travelers continue to visit year after year. There's always something new!

DAYDREAM VACATIONS



Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury.

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SURVIVING THROUGH STORYTELLING

Holocaust survivor Paula Weissman speaks at GMS

From Staff Reports

Granbury Middle School students had the opportunity to hear an inspirational presentation from Holocaust survivor Paula Weissman in early February.

The 96-year-old Weissman, accompanied by her friend Kelvin Dilks, shared her journey through storytelling, photographs, and meaningful life applications.

Weissman lived a simple and peaceful childhood in Velkyi Bereznyi and was mostly unaware of the unrest around the world until April 1944. Two soldiers suddenly appeared at her home and changed her life forever. Her story includes her being at Hamburg Work Camp, witnessing Operation Gomorrah, and surviving Bergen-Belson before boarding the Marlen Cargo Ship in 1948 with just a few clothes and \$2 to begin her new life in America. Her inspirational life story ended with a resounding message of hope.

Granbury Middle School instruc-

tional specialist Crysten Caviness was instrumental in bringing the guest speaker to the campus. Kevin Dilks, a former colleague of Caviness at Birdville ISD, randomly met Paula Weissman during a trip to New York City, New York. Their chance meeting changed both of their lives, and the pair now travel to share her inspirational story with others.

An unedited recording of the presentation may be found on you tube: <https://youtu.be/gO5KqutZb6U>



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GISD WEBSITE

Nova Dea, a guidance counselor at Granbury Middle School, shared a moment with holocaust survivor Paula Weissman during a February presentation at AMS.

GARDEN PATCH

Keep trees healthy with these helpful tips as springtime heads our way

Over the past two years, Texas weather has dealt a one-two punch to area trees. In 2021, a record-breaking winter storm brought snow, ice and single-digit weather to most of the state. Conversely, summer 2022 was the second-hottest on record and Texas lingered in deep drought.

Is there any wonder that trees suffered? Newly planted trees did not have root systems to sustain these conditions. Even well-established trees had little moisture to keep them healthy



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.

as they struggled from one weather extreme to another.

As spring approaches, it will become more evident exactly how much trees are struggling. Now is the time to take steps to save trees. For instance, pests and diseases prey on severely

stressed trees. Watch for signs of infestation or infection and treat trees appropriately with recommended controls. Fast action prevents spread.

As soon as possible, prune away any damaged or dead branches. If the tree is an

oak, paint (seal) the wounds to protect against oak wilt disease. Remove dead trees that are likely to fall and damage property.

Also, inspect sprinkler systems and hoses to ensure they are in working order. Invest in soaker hoses to irrigate trees, particularly trees of great value. Place the hoses on top of the ground or under mulch along each tree's drip line, which is the area under the outer circumference of a tree's canopy. This area is the tree's critical root zone where it takes in moisture and nutrients.

Contrary to the myth that tree roots grow downward for several feet, most roots are found in the first foot of soil. "Feeder" roots grow in the spaces at the edge of the drip line. This is why soaker hoses do an efficient job of uniformly watering a tree's

root system. The larger the tree canopy, the larger the drip line, which requires a longer hose.

Generally, the longer a tree has lived in a particular site, the more adapted it is to the site's normal conditions. This usually means that no supplemental watering is needed. However, recent weather patterns are not normal! One good deep watering (2-3 hours on slow drip) may help a struggling tree to enter spring healthier and more resilient.

This year, after watering, it's a good idea to fertilize stressed trees to promote spring growth. It's also wise to test your soil before fertilizing. Tests often indicate the need for only high-nitrogen or all-nitrogen fertilizers. Check a product's label to ensure its contents. Never apply a weed-and-feed prod-

uct in a tree's critical root zone.

In general, apply one pound of granular fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter. Do not use fertilizer spikes, which put too much product in one place. For best results, broadcast fertilizer atop the outer drip line where it reaches feeder roots. Fertilizing is generally done in advance of new growth. Suggested times for tree fertilization are late March, late May and early September.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

pwebsterco@gmail.com / 817-680-4849



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PHOTO BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

A young live oak tree.



WE COVER YOU

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

SUPPORT SYSTEM calendar will feature recurring activities that provide group support and are open to the public. These items will run each Wednesday. Submit Support System listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

EVERY DAY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Do you or someone you know have a problem with alcohol? Meetings daily at 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. at 1205 Lipan Hwy, Granbury.

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

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life enters its 25th year with sessions on Sundays, Oct. 2 - Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. This grief support group will meet in the education building at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 2301 Acton Highway. Details: 512-560-4885 or 817-657-0822.

EVERY MONDAY

PROMISES AL-ANON group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept. 13 - Dec. 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

TAKE OFF Pounds Sensibly (TOPS). 8:45 - 10:45 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133C, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. Maximum weight scale: 400 pounds.

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Grief-

share workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

FIRST MONDAY

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

FIRST TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

THIRD TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

FOURTH TUESDAY

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT Group, 1 p.m. at Lakestone Terrace, 916 E. U.S. Highway 377. Open for those with Parkinson's and their families wanting to understand more about this disease. Details: 817-999-1470.

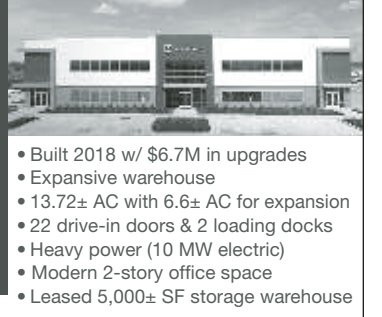
FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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Petition #: 22-42618-ELM11. Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division | In re: MKS Real Estate, LLC

Friday, 24 February 2023 - Thursday, 02 March 2023

80 for Brady (PG13)
Fri: 12:15PM, 2:50PM, 5:25PM, 8:00PM.
Sat: 12:15PM, 2:55PM, 5:35PM, 8:20PM.
Sun: 12:25PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:15PM, 5:05PM, 7:50PM

Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG13)
Fri: 12:00PM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 9:00PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:45AM, 12:45PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 5:45PM, 8:50PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 12:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:40PM, 3:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:40PM.
Thurs: 1:40PM, 4:40PM, 7:40PM

Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania in 3D (PG13)
Fri: 4:00PM.
Sat: 6:45PM.
Sun: 1:40PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:40PM.
Thurs: 3:30PM

Cocaine Bear (R)
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:25PM, 4:50PM, 7:15PM, 9:40PM, 10:35PM.
Sat: 12:05PM, 2:30PM, 4:55PM, 7:20PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:25PM, 4:50PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 4:55PM, 7:20PM

Jesus Revolution (PG13)
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:50PM, 5:40PM, 8:30PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:20PM, 5:10PM, 8:00PM.
Sun: 12:30PM, 3:20PM, 6:10PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM

Creed III (PG13)
Thurs: 7:00PM

Magic Mike's Last Dance (R)
Fri: 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.
Sat: 4:45PM, 7:40PM.
Sun: 3:00PM, 6:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 4:30PM, 7:30PM

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG)
Fri: 1:25PM.
Sat: 2:00PM.
Sun: 12:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 1:50PM

The Amazing Maurice - Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 11:30AM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

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LIPAN

FROM PAGE B3

MARTIN'S MILL LADY MUSTANGS

Region 3 champions

State ranking: No. 6 TABC, No. 8 TGCA.

How they got here: Defeated Centerville 58-9 in bi-district, defeated Moody 76-22 in area, defeated Lovelady 60-25 in regional quarterfinals, defeated Tenaha 41-32 in regional semifinals, defeated LaRue

LaPoyner 58-25 in regional final.

Win streak: 14.

State tournament appearances: 1987, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.

State championships: 2006, 2008, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019.

GRUVER LADY HOUNDS

Region 1 champions

State rank: No. 9 TABC, No. 6 TGCA.

How they got here: Defeated Wheeler 77-22 in bi-district, defeated

Floydada 60-40 in area, defeated Farwell 51-39 in regional quarterfinals, defeated New Home 63-50 in regional semifinals, defeated Panhandle 38-36 in regional final.

Win streak: 16.

State tournament appearances: 2003, 2015, 2020, 2022, 2023.

State championships: 2020, 2022.

HEARNE LADY EAGLES

Region 4 champions

State ranking: Not ranked. How they got here: Defeated

Weimar 57-33 in bi-district, defeated Normangee 48-44 in area, defeated Evadale 55-44 in regional quarterfinals, defeated Goldthwaite 61-46 in regional semifinals, defeated Dallardsville Big Sandy 49-45 in regional final.

Win streak: 15.

State tournament appearances: 2023.

State championships: None.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 22 (Puzzle 107).

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The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision

Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023 by 3 p.m. CST
Specifications: Purchasing@ktttribe.org or 830-773-2105

All proposals and scope or work will need to include materials, equipment, and labor for 10 new wood frame homes. Proposals must be received in a sealed envelope labeled: CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NEW HOMES IN THE VEGA LAND SUBDIVISION. A performance and payment bond will be required for this project. All proposals should be sent/delivered to: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Government Building, 2212 Rosita Valley Rd., Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

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JUSTIN PUGH
Patrol Officer

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Experiences: Officer Pugh has been with the Granbury Police Department and assigned to the Patrol Division for five years.
Awards: Advanced Peace Officer Certificate, Granbury Police Department Life Saving Award.

HOOD COUNTY HEROES

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

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

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GVFD SUPPORT BRIGADE RAISED OVER \$3,000 WITH MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE



COURTESY OF GVFD

More than 200 people attended the recent spaghetti lunch fundraiser sponsored by the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Support Brigade. The event raised more than \$3,000. Members of the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Support Brigade, shown here in front of the fire engine known as "Old No. 4," works to support the city's volunteer firefighters.

GOOD FOR HOOD Hood County News

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