



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, March 11, 2023]

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LADY INDIANS DOMINATE AT STATE



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCI HOLTSFORD

Lipan's Lynsey Little (12, right) looks to take a shot while facing tough defense from a Gruver player in the Lady Indians' Class 2A state basketball championship victory Saturday in San Antonio. See page B2 for more photos of the Lady Indians' achievement.

Despite no-gun rule in protective orders, county has no enforcement policy

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

All protective orders issued in Hood County contain a stipulation that the person who is the subject of the PO must not possess a firearm, yet there is no system in place to ensure compliance.

Although a handful of communities in Texas have a safe surrender program for firearms, the state does not have a uniform method to ensure compliance in such cases and to provide for the safe transfer of guns.

Several legislators have filed bills to create such a system. However, those bills may be thwarted by last month's ruling by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that the Second Amendment allows those under domestic violence protective orders to keep their firearms.

The case heard by the court involved a man under a protective order who, in the span of one month in late 2020, was involved in five shootings around Arlington.

The case might end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. According to the Texas Council on Family Violence, 183 women were killed by their intimate partners in Texas in 2020, the highest number recorded in the past decade. During a 10-year period, the number of women shot

and killed by a partner or former partner nearly doubled.

Although Hood County does not have a formal procedure for the surrender of firearms, Sheriff Roger Deeds said that anyone who wishes to do so, can. It is simply a matter of filling out paperwork and having a judge sign it.

The sheriff indicated that this has happened only once during his tenure, and it involved a person who was suicidal, not someone who had committed family violence.

In an email to the Hood County News, District Attorney Ryan Sinclair stated, "Persons may be ordered not to possess firearms when they are convicted of a felony

or when a protective order is put in place, but there is no process for surrendering their firearms."

County Attorney Matt Mills, whose office processes protective order requests, said that his office has prosecuted a few cases involving a violation of the firearm stipulation in protective orders.

"But there's not a procedure in place to actually go pick up their guns, and I don't know how that would work," he said.

Mills stated that someone could be compliant by simply turning their firearm over to a friend or family member, which most people would

PLEASE SEE GUN | A3

YOU HAD ME AT 'ALOHA'



COURTESY OF SHIRLEE FRIAS' FACEBOOK PAGE

The Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 Auxiliary (Granbury VFW Auxiliary) will be presenting its 49th annual National Home Luau Backyard Benefit from 4-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at 3670 W. Highway 377. Pictured are Auxiliary President Yolanda (Yogi) Jones, front, and VFW National Home Representative Shirlee Frias. Please see story, A7.

Prosecutors: Some family violence cases pose challenges

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

One might think that cases of family violence are usually a slam-dunk in terms of prosecution. Someone ends up visibly bruised, in need of medical treatment, or, sadly, dead.

But those cases aren't always so easy to prosecute, according to District Attorney Ryan Sinclair and County Attorney Matt Mills, whose office handles protective orders.

Both prosecutors provided information to the Hood County News about such cases after the newspaper sought their views on stipulations in protective orders that the person against whom it is issued must not possess a firearm. Several bills have been filed this legislative session to create a statewide unified system to ensure compliance.

Sinclair said that his office handles an average of 32 cases of family violence per year that have "aggravating factors."

He stated, "Although we take all cases of domestic violence very seriously, there are times when some cases are not accept-

PLEASE SEE VIOLENCE | A2

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS



Sunday, March 12



137TH YEAR, NO. 55

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

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The family that wins together...lives in Lipan

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Brent Gaylor would have loved to have been in San Antonio last Saturday hugging and celebrating with his daughter Hanna, whose clutch free throw shooting in the final minute lifted the Lipan Lady Indians to a state basketball championship.

However, he was getting ready to celebrate with the 36-1 Lipan Indians — for whom he is the head coach — as they were stamping their ticket to the Alamodome this week by winning a boys regional championship. Their Class 2A state semifinal matchup, versus New Home (31-7), was set for 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 10. The 2A boys state title game, featuring either Flatonia (34-4) or La Rue La Poyner (32-7) coming out of the other semifinal, will be Saturday, March 11, set for a 1:30 p.m. tipoff.

Ditto for Indians assistant coach Jimmy Lott, whose daughter Chelsea was named the championship game MVP in the Lady Indians' 53-48 victory over Gruver.

"This past weekend was both great and bittersweet, with the boys here (at regionals in McKinney) and the girls at state," coach Gaylor said. "Our hearts were in two

places."

Likewise, Lady Indians head coach Amber Branson was keeping tabs in two places. As she was leading her team to its third state championship since 2016, her daughter Taylor was named to the All-State Tournament Team for her outstanding play, while son Tate was a key factor in the Indians getting back to state for a third straight year and a fifth time in seven years.

"Sometimes it's hard being a coach and a mom," coach Branson said. "In the moment, it's coach. Afterwards, it's emotional because then I can be Mom."

Coach Branson also found time to "face time" Tate even though he was more than 300 miles away.

"All of us were split today," coach Branson said at the news conference following her team's title victory. "It's a great problem to have, but I know it was hard on all



COURTESY PHOTO

FAMILY TIES: Brent Gaylor, center, has credited his father, Lonnie Gaylor, right, for the success he has enjoyed as a coach. Brent's mom, Myra, is pictured at left. Lonnie Gaylor, whose Graham High School boys team featured Brent as a starting guard and reached the 1996 Class 3A state championship game, was voted into the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2016.

of us. Thankfully, through technology they were able to watch a little bit after they got finished and thankfully we'll get to watch them again

when they come down here next weekend."

While the situation is a little more unique for the two head coaches with each

having varsity players on the other's team, families scrambling to be there when both teams make their annual jaunt through the postsea-

son is nothing new. After all, when your teams have been to state a combined 24 times in their history (14 for the boys, 10 for the girls) and have won seven state titles (four for boys, three for girls) — and perhaps eight after this weekend — it's just something you do.

"I think it speaks a lot of the rich tradition we have," coach Gaylor said.

That family feeling goes back decades in Lipan. Coach Branson played as well, leading the Lady Indians to the 1995 state tournament. Her husband, Les, played alongside former Indians coach Cody Chandler in leading the Indians to the 1994 state championship.

Chandler would later coach the Indians to the 2009 state tournament.

Chelsea Lott and Tate Branson are both graduating this season, so their parent coaches won't have part of their heart halfway across the state on the same weekend next season. Coach Gaylor, on the other hand, cannot say that and, in fact, should get used to doing so for another couple years if things go according to Hoyle in Lipan.

Hanna is only a sophomore.

VIOLENCE

FROM PAGE A1

ed for prosecution."

The DA explained that when making an intake decision, his office evaluates the strength of the case.

"We try to determine how quickly the assault was reported, whether there were any third-party witnesses to the assault or to any domestic violence history between the parties, and whether any law enforcement or medical personnel responded to the scene and witnessed any

injury, etc.," he wrote in an email to the HCN.

Additionally, Sinclair said, his office evaluates whether any evidence corroborates or contradicts the alleged injury, such as digital clues, photographs, medical reports, or witness statements, and whether there are any credibility issues.

Sometimes the victim will file an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution (ANP) and the office must determine why and what impact that person's desire not to prosecute will have on the case if the state moves forward

with prosecution. For instance, can that person be trusted to testify truthfully?

Sinclair said his office also evaluates the likelihood that any domestic violence will continue. Factors considered include provocation, family dynamics, and any recent crisis.

Mills said that in 2022, his office saw 58 assault family violence cases. Fourteen cases were misdemeanors and two were sent to the DA and prosecuted as felonies, he said. One case is still pending without a decision having been made yet.

That leaves 41 assault family violence cases that were dismissed.

"Obviously 41 appears to be an alarming number," Mills wrote in an email to the HCN, "but if you haven't dealt with these cases on a daily basis it's hard to grasp how difficult they are to prosecute in most cases."

He noted that at least one of the declined cases involved a deal in which the perpetrator agreed to be placed under a protective order if the criminal case was dropped.

Mills explained that the

number one hurdle to prosecution is when the parties reconcile and the victim doesn't want to cooperate, which typically results in an affidavit of non-prosecution.

"It's just natural that family members don't want to prosecute other family members after the situation calms down," Mills stated. "Beyond just a lack of cooperation, they quite often recant entirely, which pretty much kills the case. Because whatever the victims say to me that helps the defendant, I have a duty

to disclose that to opposing counsel."

If a victim gives differing accounts, "it's almost impossible to prosecute it successfully in trial," the county attorney said.

Complicating things further, Mills indicated, are situations in which the victim cannot be found, does not respond to phone calls and letters, or admits to fabricating the claim of violence.

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Granbury Home Stats

- 339** Active Listings
- 148** Under Contract
- 148** Closed This year
- \$189** Average Price per Sq. Ft.
- 63** Average Days on Market
- 31** Waterfront Sales This Year
- 50** Waterfront Active Listings
- \$286** Waterfront Price Per Sqft.

It's Time to List Yours, Call the Experts.

All Statistical Information was obtained from the North Texas Real Estate Information System (NTREIS) for sales in Hood County between 01/01/2023 - 03/08/2023. Information is deemed to be reliable but not guaranteed.



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Nothing says spring like seeing the first bluebonnets bloom

Perhaps there are people in the world who do not like spring, but I do not know who they are. Maybe someone dislikes seeing the daylight last longer, the temperatures gradually rising, and witnessing the trees starting to bloom.

The only person I can imagine who is not anxious for spring to arrive is the person who operates a ski lift. For most of us, spring is a special time of year. The world wakes up from the darkness of winter, and a rebirth takes place. Spring makes a person feel like the world they are experiencing; they can "reset" and be reborn.

Just last weekend I took my charge, Miss Jayne, on a drive through the countryside. We drove for more than two hours. The sun was out, and the warm air and cloudless sky made us both feel refreshed. Being the resident of an assisted living home and no longer being capable of driving, she enjoys being with me as we take off in no particular direction, and with no specific destination in mind. We drive and take in the world around us as we talk about life, old times and events we have shared.

During this drive, we came upon a huge collection of jonquils that



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.

were in full bloom. There must have been 50 of them, and their brilliant yellow color made the world seem brighter and more meaningful. None of the trees had yet budded out, but there was the start of a glistening of white on the Bradford pear trees. Seeing the jonquils and Bradford pears start their spring ritual caused us both to pause and joyfully accept we had made another revolution around the sun. We were still on Earth to witness the spring rituals we had happily seen so many times before.

In Texas, there is no spring ritual met with more excited anticipation than seeing the bluebonnets bloom. I think every citizen of Texas has a photo of themselves sitting or standing in a field of bluebonnets. There is a degree of reasonable certainty that everyone who moves to Texas must take a bluebonnet snapshot in order to even begin to consider themselves a "true Texan." It was too early in

the season for Jayne and me to see bluebonnets, but all the signs were present to make us think the Texas state flower would soon make its yearly appearance.

I love bluebonnet photos! The photos of babies are precious. But I also adore the photos of animals, couples and families. There is just something about bluebonnets that makes a person feel good and certainly feel Texan.

This got me thinking, and I concluded we need to have our readers join us and celebrate spring by having a bluebonnet photo contest! You will get more details over the next week or so, but basically, we want readers to send in their favorite bluebonnet photos. For five weeks we will have a weekly winner at each newspaper, and on the sixth week, each newspaper will have a grand prize winner. The person who submits the photo that is declared the grand prize winner will have the honor of the photo be-



ing placed on the front page of the newspaper! There will also be cash and other prizes.

I don't know about you, but I am excited to see what sort of photos are submitted. I do not know a soul who does not like bluebonnets, and I think seeing the weekly winners will start quite a bit of conversation in the community. I am hopeful people will dig out old photos, make new ones, and above all, enjoy seeing the amazing entries I am sure we will receive. It is the season of bluebonnets and spring. Let's celebrate both events and have a little fun!

God bless our Texas and our beautiful state flower. As is the case with most everything else, Texas is blessed.

Thought for the day: God created Texas and bluebonnets just so the world could know what Heaven looks like.

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

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



TITUS TIES FOR TENTH Sixth grader sets GISD record in spelling bee

Submitted Copy

Titus Cave, a sixth-grade student at Acton Middle School, competed in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee held March 7 at Texas Christian University.

After battling nine rounds, Cave tied for

10th place.

"Titus's tie for 10th place is the farthest of any other Granbury ISD student in the history of our participation at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee," district spelling bee coordinator René Jackson stated.

COURTESY OF SARAH CAVE

Titus Cave is shown with his tenth-place medal after competing in the he Scripps Regional Spelling Bee held at Texas Christian University.

City to purchase equipment for police through grant funds

BY KATHY CRUZ Senior Staff Writer

The Granbury Police Department may obtain equipment valued at up to \$143,000 without taxpayers having to pay a dime for it, thanks to the Justice Assistance Grant program through the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division.

The Granbury City Council voted unanimously at its regular meeting Tuesday night to approve two agenda items related to the JAG program.

One item was for a purchase of up to \$86,000 for body cameras.

On March 15 of last year, the council passed a resolution for the police department to submit a

JAG application for the purchase of body-worn cameras. The PD was awarded the grant on Nov. 4. The request approved at this week's council meeting was to purchase the body cameras and pay for installation and Cloud storage, with reimbursement coming through the grant funds.

The council also adopted a reso-

lution approving submission of a JAG application to purchase 45 ballistic helmets and 27 forcible entry tools.

If approved, the city will spend up to \$57,000 to provide each police officer with a ballistic helmet and a breaching tool for their department vehicle to ensure they are ready to deploy quickly during

critical incidents.

As with the body worn cameras, the city would be fully reimbursed.

Council member Eddie Rodriguez noted the savings to city taxpayers and Mayor Jim Jarratt commented that the work involved in applying for the grant is "not an easy task."

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Friends of Memorial Lane to honor Vietnam veterans March 29

From Staff Reports

Friends of Memorial Lane will honor all Vietnam War veterans at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29 — otherwise known as National Vietnam War Veterans Day — at Jim Burk

Memorial Park.

On March 28, 2017, President Donald Trump signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, and is a way to thank them and their families for their service and sacrifice.

GUN

FROM PAGE A1

probably rather do than surrender it to the government.

"I saw one newly filed bill online that talks about how a person is supposed to surrender their guns to law enforcement," he wrote. "I don't know how easily this can be enforced. How do we know what they own without a state-run registration system? And if

someone comes here from out of state, they wouldn't be in our system without a national registry. So the government would have to know the whereabouts of every gun in the country to ensure compliance with this new statute, if it's approved."

Mills said that perhaps protective order applicants could testify that they know the respondent has a firearm and that could be part of the record.

"Then I suppose a court could have a hearing to examine whether the respondent still has those guns if they're not turned in," he stated.

Mills noted that the fire-arm restriction does not apply to family violence defendants who receive deferred adjudication probation and complete it successfully.

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Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

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OBITUARIES

Sylvia Doris Weatherby

January 12, 1933 - March 2, 2023

Sylvia Weatherby, our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on March 2, 2023. She was 90 years of age. She lived a beautiful, long, love filled life and will truly be missed.

Born on January 12, 1933, in Fort Worth, Texas to Almer Clive McMurray and Rita Stacy McMurray, Sylvia grew up in Fort Worth, graduating from Polytechnic High School. She then earned her bachelor's degree at Texas Wesleyan University, where she was cheerleader, Junior Class Favorite, and Basketball Sweetheart.

Sylvia had a long and fulfilling career as a teacher at North Richland Junior High School in the Birdville Independent School District, teaching health and physical education, as well as coaching girls' basketball, volleyball and track.

Sylvia was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church, where she had a special love for her Sunday School class. She enjoyed spending time, in her later years, at the Hood County Senior Center where she loved playing cards, traveling and line dancing with her many friends. She enjoyed visiting local nursing homes to provide entertainment for the residents, whether it be line dancing or teaching chair aerobics,



she loved being involved and active in the community. She also was an avid bowler and spent many years league bowling in Granbury.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Weatherby; mother, Rita Stacy McMurray; and father, Almer Clive McMurray. She is survived by her children; David Jefferson (Barbara), Ed Jefferson, and Mary Sillivent (Greg); her grandchildren Kathryn Jefferson, Amanda Jefferson, Evan Jefferson, Jackson Jefferson, Greg Sillivent (Jamie), Skyler Sillivent (Ashleigh), and Cody Sillivent; and her great-grandchildren Gage and Ryker Sillivent; Charlotte, Olivia and Sophia Sillivent.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas, 2 p.m., Sunday, March 19, 2023.

Mary Evelyn Gentry

November 11, 1925 - March 4, 2023

Mary Evelyn Gentry, age 97, of Granbury, Texas, died peacefully on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Lake Granbury Medical Center. Family graveside services will be held at Hillcrest Garden of Memory in Hillsboro.

Mary was born November 11, 1925, in Palestine, Texas, to Dan and Lillie Belle Glenn. She graduated from high school in Palestine and married the love of her life, Emmett Gentry in 1946, with whom she was married for 63 years. They had three children, Peggy, David, and Mark and enjoyed many travels across the United States with the children. They continued traveling together after the children were grown and were especially fond of viewing fall foliage splendor and spring wildflowers in many parts of the country. After Emmett died in 2010, Mary loved her travels to Hawaii and Alaska.

Mary enjoyed reading, quilting, puzzles, collecting elephant figures and she was an avid golfer until she was 88 years old. She helped establish the Hillsboro Country Club Women's Golf Association and served as historian. She moved to Granbury in 2017 and was a resident at Aviva, formerly Quail Park Senior Living Community. There she formed close friendships with other residents and staff and enjoyed many social activi-



ties.

In addition to her husband Emmett, Mary was preceded in death by both parents and one brother, Lafayette Glenn. She is survived by all three children, their families, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mary is also survived by many other extended family members and friends and neighbors over the years.

Her family would like to thank the multi-talented team of kind caregivers, therapists, activity and nursing staff who have helped her maintain her strength and stamina and good humor through her later years.

Mary and Emmett Gentry were active members in the First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro, Texas, and they supported the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services or to a charity of your choice.

James William Bolton

August 6, 1945 - March 5, 2023

James William Bolton has joined our Heavenly Father on March 5, 2023.

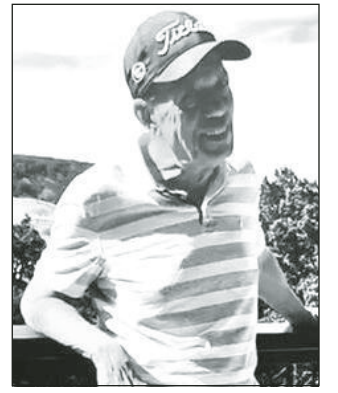
James was born to Chase and Juanita Bolton on August 6, 1945, in Lubbock, Texas. James attended Lubbock High School, and later joined the Army National Guard, where he flew helicopters.

He Married Alexa Ann Burger in Euleess, Texas. James and Alexa had one son Byron Chase Bolton.

After Alexa's death, James moved to Granbury where he lived the remainder of his life. He was preceded in death by his older brother Robert.

James is survived by his son Byron Bolton and wife Allison.

His grandchildren: Chase, Gracie, Chris, Alex, Sarah, Katy, and Jillian.



His great-grandchildren: Braxton, Kierra, Presley, Emelia, Nicholas, and Noah.

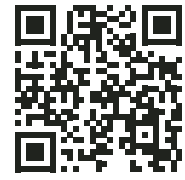
There will be a memorial gathering at the Pecan Plantation Country Club in Granbury, Texas, Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Memorial Service by Jay Sherrill will start at 2:00 p.m.

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.



Scan QR with any smartphone to view obituaries.hcnews.com

STAY CONNECTED AT HCNEWS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Will the real Republicans stand up?

I just read the article on the "new" Republican group starting up. I'm not sure but I think this is the 4th or 5th one started. And let's call it what it is ... the establishment elitist country club, club. The best club money can buy!

When you review the names that are a part of this group you can't come to any other decision.

The Luton family, you know the family that wants the county to give them a tax break for the largest solar farm across from the folks in Pecan. They tried to slip this by the citizens out in the area and got caught. That's sensitive to the citizen neighbors?

Tony Mobly, two-time failed mayoral candidate (double digits both times) that can't accept folks just don't want him around the city administration. Who I might add campaigned for and voted for a Democrat.

Mike Scott, a former

Chamber president that thinks a county commissioner ought to be "Fragged" (blown up). That's really "all get along civility" isn't it?

Nancy Alana, former school board trustee, who voiced opposition to "IN GOD WE TRUST" signs in our county ISD's. There is a pretty good reason she is a FORMER trustee. The citizens saw right through this socialist and sent her packing.

Brett Deason's comment on the "Toxic political scene in the county" yet when you read his social posts against the school board trustee that holds the seat he was running for (came in at a distant 3rd) they are vulgar, vile, and repulsive. But hey, he's a great family man ...?

So let's look at the comparison to the current make up of the Hood County sitting GOP and their actions.

The Republican leadership, Executive Committee, is full of conservative, passionate, hard-working, faithful individuals. Other than a couple RINOs. We are reaching out to ALL of the county, putting

forth the strong principles and values of the party.

Examples, the fall voter turnout was almost record-breaking due to our efforts. One of the largest compared to similar counties.

We fed over 100 volunteer firefighters last summer during training.

The "IN GOD WE TRUST" signs throughout county ISDs.

Helped two local agencies at Christmas fund families that were in need during the holiday season.

Passed a resolution and sent to the Governor demanding a declared invasion on the border. Which Abbott did 2 months later after hearing from many counties and GOP leaders.

Have had, and will continue a presence downtown during high traffic weekends getting folks registered and promoting the local party.

Sponsored the largest swearing-in ceremony in county history, January 1st. Celebrating the elected officials and making history with the first-ever female commissioner.

So again I ask ... will the real Republicans stand up and STEP up ... you decide who is working for the betterment of the county and who are the disruptors out for personal gain.

Steve Biggers
Hood County GOP Chairman

Guidelines for letters to the editor

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

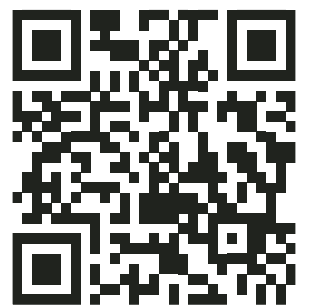
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Can you plan for an unplanned retirement?

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Mobly

Many people plan to take an early retirement, so when that day arrives, they're ready for it. But what if you were to face an unplanned retirement? Would you be prepared to deal with the financial issues?

It's something worth thinking about, because any number of factors — illness, a spouse's illness, downsizing, other issues — could lead to an abrupt departure from the workforce. But taking action while you're still working may help you make the transition easier on yourself.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

Under any circumstances, it's a good idea to build an emergency fund — but it's especially important if you want to prepare for an unforeseen retirement. Generally speaking, your emergency fund should contain three to six

months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. But if you suspect an earlier-than-anticipated retirement may be in your future, and you have some time to prepare for it, you should consider an emergency fund that contains a full year's worth of expenses.

CONSIDER YOUR PORTFOLIO'S ASSET ALLOCATION

If you're concerned about an unexpected retirement, you may want to consider the equities allocation in your portfolio. If you think you may need to tap into your portfolio sooner than you expected, you may not want to be over-

exposed to investments most vulnerable to market volatility. However, these are the same investments that offer you the most growth potential — which you'll need to help stay ahead of inflation. So, look for an investment balance that's appropriate for your needs. As part of this positioning, you may want to shift some assets into income-producing vehicles, while also adding to the "cash" portion of your portfolio to boost your liquidity.

EVALUATE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY OPTIONS

An unplanned retirement may cause you to consider taking Social Security earlier

than you had planned. You can start taking Social Security when you're 62, but your monthly benefits will be up to 30% lower than if you had waited until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. If you have sufficient income through other sources, you may be able to delay taking Social Security until your checks will be bigger — but of course, if you need the money, waiting may not be an option.

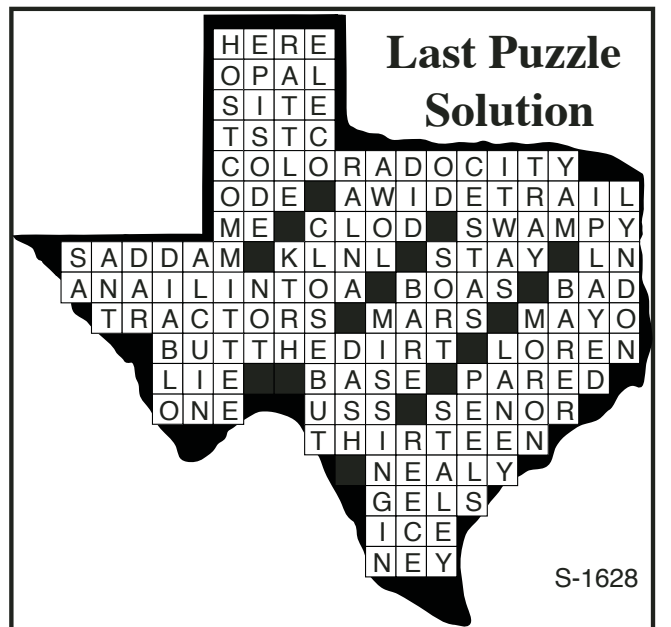
ADDRESS YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS

If you take an unplanned retirement, and you have employer-sponsored health insurance, you'll have to look

for alternatives. You might be able to get extended coverage from your employer, but this could be quite expensive. Of course, if you're already 65, you can get on Medicare, but if you're younger, you might be able to get coverage under your spouse's plan. If that's not an option, you may want to explore one of the health care exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. To learn more about these exchanges, visit healthcare.gov.

Taking an unexpected retirement can certainly be challenging — but the more prepared you are, the better your outcomes are likely to be.

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3-2-2CP ranch style home on lake

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EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

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

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Lake Granbury Harbor is looking for a part time maintenance person to join our team. This person must have general maintenance knowledge. Tractor and mower experience is a plus. Contact us at 817-573-6171 or 817-771-0825. Leave us a message and we will return your call ASAP.

- POOL CLEANER C&C Pools is now hiring. 125.00 per day . 4day work week Monday thru Thursday. Must be 21 years old with clean driving record and have your own pickup. We pay for fuel. Contract labor be your own boss. There will be 6 weeks of training. For interviews call Holly Coy at 432-288-5574 (432) 288-5574

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Bambi a female black and tan Chihuahua with red collar missing from Little Rd. If you have seen her please call Jackie Smith (817) 991-6448.

8510
General

9031
Public Notices

GRANBURY REGIONAL AIRPORT
GRANBURY, TEXAS
ARCHER COURT UTILITY EXTENSION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Archer Court Utility Extension will be received, prior to the deadline, by the City of Granbury, at the office of the Purchasing Department, 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, Texas 76048, until 2:00 pm local time on April 12, 2023, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of constructing Extension of water and sanitary sewer utilities from Archer Court along U.S. 377.

Bids shall be on a lump sum and/or unit price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: KSA Engineers, Inc.: 8866 Synergy Drive, McKinney, TX 75070, (972) 542-2995. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm.

Contract documents including bid proposal forms, plan sheets, and specifications for the Project may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at www.civcastusa.com.

Please submit questions for this Project 72 hours prior to bid opening through www.civcastusa.com in the Q & A portal.

Addenda issued will be posted on www.civcastusa.com. You will be notified of addenda automatically through email if you downloaded your plans and specifications via [civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com).

A pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Granbury Regional Airport Terminal Building, 400 Howard Clemmons Rd., Granbury, TX 76048.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Owner: City of Granbury
By: Pat Stewart
Title: Director of Aviation
Date: 3/11/23

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

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

PECAN PLANTATION, UNIT 9, LOT 1682R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, March 28th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

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

DEER VALLEY ESTATES, TRACTS 3R & 6R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, March 28th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

State of South Carolina County of Horry In the Magistrate's Court Notice and Order of Public Sale of Vehicle Civil Case Number 2023CV261070398

HW Diversified LLC, 135 Bucksport Rd., Conway, S.C. 25927, 843-855-6589 Plaintiffs vs. John Newsom, 1406 Conejos Court, Granbury, TX 76048 Defendants.


By the authority vested in me by Section 29-15-10 of the SC code of Laws, 1976, as amended I will sell at Public Auction the below listed vehicle. Description of Vehicle: 1985, 18'3 Skeeter Vin # STE1P406C595 Accrued Charges: \$7,500.00 Sale will take place at Bucksport Marina 135 Bucksport Rd., Conway, S.C. on April 3, 2023 at 10 a.m. To Plaintiff and any named party with an interest in the herein described vehicle: A hearing is scheduled prior to sale on March 27, 2023 9:00 a.m. at the Court's address: 1201 Third Avenue Conway, S.C. 29526, Phone 843-915-5290. If you wish to contest the repair, towing or storage charges or the right to sell: YOU MUST APPEAR AT THIS HEARING.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSON HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JEAN E. HAIGHT, DECEASED; CAUSE NO. P098899
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Jean E. Haight, Deceased, were issued to Laurie Jean Haight Simpton on the 22nd day of February 2023, in Case No. P098899, Probate Court Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Laurie Jean Haight Simpton now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed/sent to Laurie Jean Haight Simpton, as Independent Executor, at the offices of Cooper & Lyster, PLLC, 6300 Ridglea Place, Suite 610, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 in care of Monika Cooper.

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Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

Sky Harbour - March 11th & 12th Sky Harbour's Annual Garage sale.
YARD SALE: GRANBURY 2709 Solar CT-Covered yard sale. Friday 3/10 & Saturday 3/11 8am-4pm. Off Reed Rd and North Hwy 51
302 Yucca Ct- Toys, lawn mowers, telescope, etc. Sat-Sun, March 11-12, 7am-2pm.

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9031
Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-17

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 38.139 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, WITHIN THE MILAM CO. SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 348, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; APPROVING A SERVICE PLAN FOR SUCH TERRITORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 9. ENGROSS AND ENROLL
The City Secretary of the City of Granbury is directed to engross and enroll this Ordinance by copying the caption, publication clause and effective date clause in the minutes of the City Council and by filing the Ordinance in the Ordinance records of the Town.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE CLAUSE
This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 7th day of March 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-18

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 81.649 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, WITHIN THE MILAM CO. SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 348, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; APPROVING A SERVICE PLAN FOR SUCH TERRITORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 9. ENGROSS AND ENROLL
The City Secretary of the City of Granbury is directed to engross and enroll this Ordinance by copying the caption, publication clause and effective date clause in the minutes of the City Council and by filing the Ordinance in the Ordinance records of the Town.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE CLAUSE
This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 7th day of March 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-19

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 47.395 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, WITHIN THE G.W. MEADE SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 358, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; APPROVING A SERVICE PLAN FOR SUCH TERRITORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 9. ENGROSS AND ENROLL
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'TROPIC' LIKE IT'S HOT

VFW Auxiliary ready to make waves at Luau Backyard Benefit March 25

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

There's no place like home — except maybe the beach.

For some reason, life is always better in flip flops, especially when combined with sandy toes and a sun kissed nose.

But instead of traveling thousands of miles to Hawaii, you can get your own creative dose of Vitamin "sea" right here in Hood County with the VFW Auxiliary's Annual Luau Benefit.

The Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 Auxiliary (Granbury VFW Auxiliary) will be presenting its 49th annual National Home Luau Backyard Benefit from 4-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at 3670 W. Highway 377.

For almost 50 years, the Granbury VFW Auxiliary has been hosting a luau event with proceeds benefitting the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

"What they do is when a serviceman dies in combat, for their immediate family, the National Home provides some assistance for up to three years in housing, school clothes, any expenses they could possibly have for three years," said VFW

Auxiliary President Yolanda (Yogi) Jones. "The National Home has a house for every state on this property, and it's amazing. It gives me chills just thinking about it."

According to the VFW National Home website, a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross made it her mission in 1922 to help find jobs for thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit. The news of Ross's efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross's vision of supporting veterans.

Since its founding, the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a sprawling campus with playgrounds; park areas; and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, childcare facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices, according to the VFW National Home website.

"It's a fully self-sustaining community. Everything they need is right there," said Joel Harney, Granbury VFW junior vice commander.

The Granbury VFW Auxiliary, the host of the luau event, is an organization consisting of military

family members who support and assist the Granbury VFW Post, which is made up of veterans who served overseas.

"What's really neat about it is our officers are obviously combat veterans, and we're here to help them, but they come back and help us do what we got to do," Jones said.

"Yogi says they're here to support us, but we're a family," Harney said. "We're all together. We take care of each other. It's the only way it works. Everybody has a really good working relationship and that helps a lot."

All proceeds from the luau celebration on March 25 will be donated to the VFW National Home. The four-hour event will include a full hog roast dinner, dessert bar, snacks of all kinds, live entertainment, Plinko door prizes, a bucket and live auction, chicken poop bingo, and more.

"(Chicken poop bingo) is a giant bingo card and people buy tickets based on the number and whenever the chicken poops, you win," Harney said. "Believe it or not, it sounds weird, but it gets so many people involved and when you get 20 people standing around a cage yelling at a chicken (to poop, it's hilarious)."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 (Granbury VFW) will be transformed into a tropical paradise on Saturday, March 25 for the 49th annual National Home Luau Backyard Benefit, like last year's luau-themed appetizer and fruit spread and dessert table.

The event will also include a Kiss Your (Butt) booth that was originally going to feature a real donkey.

"So far, we're having trouble finding a donkey that is actually nice enough that will let strangers come up and actually kiss it," said VFW Auxiliary Treasurer and Luau Coordinator Dawn Terry.

"We may have to kind of rework it just a little bit. We'll still have the booth though."

"It just might be a paper donkey," Jones chimed in. "Or it might be an improper donkey," Terry added. "It might have to be a mule, or a pony."

For the first time ever, attendees can entertain the crowd by participating in a seahorse race.

"It will be set up as a cross between horse races and a board game with live people to go back and forth across on a seahorse," Terry explained.

The event will also feature a Honey-Do auction, where local volunteers have agreed to be auctioned off to do various home and outdoor tasks for bidders.

A crowd favorite of the annual luau is the warrant roundups, where attendees can pay a dollar a minute to put their "suspect of choice" into jail.

"We have someone from the sheriff's department come out and it'll interrupt

the whole thing," Jones said. "These officers in uniform will come to arrest somebody, cuff them, and put them in jail."

"The big dignitary kind of people that get arrested, we have a big siren that goes off," Terry added.

Awards will be presented during the luau for Teacher of the Year, Officer of the Year and Nurse of the Year. Several local first responders will also be recognized as well as district level winners for the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarship entries, VFW 7835 volunteer awards, plus two new categories: Patriotic Youth and Patriotic Citizen of the Year.

"We were doing the (Ruck Forward 22K) and we leave here and we're walking down the road," Jones said. "This lady comes by in a car, and she pulls into this house and a little bit later, she's standing outside with her American flag. It was crazy. She said 'I saw y'all and I rushed home, ran upstairs, went to the attic, got my flag, and came back down the driveway.' She was sitting there waiting for us to come by because she wanted to show her support. That right there, it was just very, very touching, so (Christy Peguero) is our recipient for the Patriotic Citizen of the Year."

Jones said the recipient for

the Patriotic Youth award is a seven-year-old boy from Plano who walked the entire ruck — a distance of 13.6 miles.

"Come to find out, he was named after our namesake here, Riley Stevens," Yogi said. "His name is Joshua Riley (McLouth), so we picked him before I even knew who he was, which I thought was pretty neat."

Additionally, Shirlee Frias, a representative from the VFW National Home, will be present at the event to explain the needs and mission of the organization as well as how donations will be spent.

"There will be entertainment," Terry added, with a laugh. "It doesn't get boring."

"The luau brings so much fun to so (many) people and it's all for a good cause; you can actually say that," Jones added. "To hear the stories of these families that went through this and were put back on their feet because of donations is a really cool thing."

Pre-sale tickets for the luau can be purchased for \$18 by calling 817-658-5359.

For more information on VFW National Home, visit vfnationalhome.org online. For more information on the Granbury VFW Post, visit vfw7835.org online.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243



Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan Woman's Club to hear program about gardens and people Thursday, March 16

BY DIANE LONG



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

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will gather on Thursday, March 16 with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. and President Carol Herrick calling the meeting to order at 10. The day will include a business meeting, program, and lunch prepared by the clubhouse staff.

Steven Chamblee will entertain the ladies with "Peace, Love, and Splendorousness!" as he regales the audience with stories of his travel across America and visits both to amazing gardens and with the people who create and maintain them.

In addition, Pecan's Green Thumb Garden Club will provide beautifully decorated plant and flower centerpieces for purchase on each table.

BOOT SCOOTIN'

In other PPWC news, the annual boot scootin' dinner and dance is on the calendar for Saturday, March 25, and tickets are on sale now. Folks who would like to reserve a spot may visit www.myppecan.com/bootscootin to order tickets online.

BAKE SALE

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's annual spring bake sale finally arrives today, Saturday, March

11, beginning at 10 a.m. at the EMS building meeting room on Monticello Drive. A "Flamingo" theme will make the day big fun. Cowtown Gold and Silver will also be on site to purchase precious metals, donating a part of their proceeds to Pecan's emergency groups.

GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club is holding a fundraiser today, Saturday, March 11 at the PAC from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For sale will be hand crafted and painted bird houses, bird baths, and various lawn art. All proceeds support the beautification of the front and back circles in Pecan.

ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will meet again on Tuesday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC when David Tripp will present a demonstration and workshop in watercolors.

RV CLUB

The RV Club meets Tuesday, March 14 at 5 p.m.

at the Shady Campground pavilion.

SPRING BREAK

The spring break edition of dodgeball at the PAC happens Friday, March 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome to this free event.

WELCOME ABOARD

At Pecan Plantation's annual meeting last week, three new board members were selected to serve three-year terms. Congratulations to incoming directors Doug Bacon, Randy Larson, and Bob Taber. May your tenure be very successful. Our community also thanks outgoing board members for their years of service: Gary Guffey, Michael Ross, and Larry Johnson. Enjoy your retirement!

The slate of officers for 2023-2024 include Steve Perry, president; Thomas Mead, vice president; Randy Larson, secretary; and Bill Reilly, treasurer. Pecaners also voted "yes" to two ballot items at the meeting. A video of the members meeting may be viewed from Pecan's website.

CLEAN UP

In agreement with TxDOT, Pecan Plantation has adopted two miles of Fall Creek Highway beginning at our neighborhood's front entrance and will endeavor to keep it litter free and lovely.

The next cleanup day is Saturday, March 18, with volunteers gathering at the PAC at 9 a.m. All safety items, supplies, and water will be provided. When work is complete, participants' names will be drawn for gift certi-



COURTESY OF KATHIE SCHOEPF

Pictured is the PPWC's Scholarship Committee (left to right): Susan Martin, Connie Brashier, Judy Scott, and Annell Teal.

cates from Pecan businesses. Volunteers may sign up by contacting Roger Merrill at 817-243-9694.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP

Committee sign-ups are now happening! Folks desiring to volunteer may sign up online via Pecan's website. In addition, paper sign-up sheets are available at the PAC front desk until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 20. Please provide complete contact information when submitting forms. Pecan holds great appreciation for neighbors volunteering to represent members and pro-

vide input to management and the board.

GOOD COOKING

Cooking classes are on the PAC's schedule for March 20-24 when students will learn to prepare four simple, tasty, and affordable meals. Instructor Li Cross said that ages "16 to 96" are welcome. Contact the PAC to sign up as space is limited: 817-573-7952.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, March 22 when speakers from the Brazos River

Authority will address the crowd. Connie Tucker, Area Project Manager Lake Granbury, and Jonathan Dulus, Upper Basin Regional Business and Project Development Manager, will discuss the mission of the Brazos River Authority and answer questions about both Lake Granbury and the Brazos River. All Pecaners are welcome to the Terrace Room for a 9 a.m. start, and reservations are requested by noon on Tuesday, March 21.

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Cowboys hang tight during the Bull Riding on the Beach event at City Beach.

THE IDLE AMERICAN *Uncle Mort, Minnie Pearl, and gossip*



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Minnie Pearl — queen of country humor for a half-century — “country-talked” her way into our hearts, mostly from the stage of Nashville’s “Grand Ole Opry.”

Nowadays, the \$1.98 price tag dangling from her hat is but a distant memory. A character fabricated by Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon, who made Minnie’s hometown of Grinder’s Switch and stories of “Uncle Nabob” seem real. (Cannon, with two degrees in theater, did well with her act, appearing largely on Nashville’s “Grand Ole Opry,” and on radio and television.)

Anyways, it was she who claimed to hate repeating gossip, but she didn’t know what else to do with it.

THAT SUNNY SIDE

Uncle Mort, my aged kin down in the thicket, spent many a Saturday night listening to the Opry, his radio turned to the highest volume. He feels that Minnie helped him take the high roads in continual searches for the sunny side of life.

“I’m an imagined figure, too,” Mort joked, “figmentary from the ground up.” (I admit unleashing my “uncle” in this column nearly two decades ago.)

Mort figures that if Cannon were still alive, she (Minnie) would have a field day with gossip on social media, where it now has a strong foothold.

MR. BLINKEN

Mort still relishes hearing — and repeating — good stories, hopeful of spreading them to amuse, inspire and make others feel better about the human condition.

He’s watchful about goings-on of political figures, particularly those with “funny names.”

One such person is U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. “Reckon he ever checks with his cousins, Winkin’ and Nod?” muses my uncle, remembering a long-ago children’s poem.

GOOD DEED INDEED

He’s also happy to learn of children’s good deeds. He cites Little Rock’s Kayzen Hunter, 8, who looks forward to his family’s Saturday morning breakfasts at Waffle House.

His favorite waiter, Devonte Gardner, has been on hard times, barely surviving with his family in a rented hovel, and walking several miles to work.

Kayzen mounted a “GoFundMe” drive, raising \$30,000 to buy Gardner a car and secure better housing.

PRICE JUMP

Mort is impressed by the ingenuity of Girl Scouts, who have done well funding projects with cookie sales since 1917. This year, “Raspberry Rally” has been a sales sensation, selling out everywhere.

If you can’t wait to savor this new flavor, worry no more. There is hope.

Raspberry Rally cookies are available on eBay, but the price has increased tenfold. One vendor is selling boxes at \$49.99 each, plus \$12.25 shipping. (The scouts sold them for \$4 box when they were in stock.) Oh, well.

RAVEN REHAB

Finally, Mort has found a “feel good” story in Washington, D.C., where a two-foot-tall raven was found, hobbling around a used car dealership in Chantilly, Virginia. (OK, that’s not DC, but just 30 miles away.)

Euthanasia was recommended for the bird, downed by pellets. However, stubborn Catherine Sevcenko intervened, nursing the bird for several months. She dared

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | B7

BETTER BULL-IEVE IT

Bucking bulls to return for beach bonanza March 18

BY ASHLEY INGE

Staff Writer

Hold onto your ropes because one of Hood County’s most popular events is returning to Granbury City Beach Park on Saturday, March 18.

Bull Riding on the Beach — known locally as Bulls on the Beach — is an event produced by Chute 2 Productions and held annually as part of the Founder’s Day Celebration.

The Granbury City Beach Park is one of the most popular bull riding locations for Chute 2 Productions, according to Visit Granbury. Featuring professional bull riders and mutton bustin’ for kids in an arena full of sand, Bull Riding on the Beach provides spectators with a bull riding event that they have never seen before.

“We’re trying to keep the show fresh and changed up year to year,” said Kelly Clark, event coordinator and owner of Chute 2 Productions. “I mean, the bull riding makes it different every year because it’s gonna be different bull riders, different combination of bull and rider, but then just the filler acts around it (are great). It’s kind of one of those deals of ‘What are they going to do next?’”

Bulls on the Beach — a name that was later changed to Bull Riding on the Beach due to an unintended trademark infringement — has been a Hood County staple since it first began in 2013.

For the past 10 years (excluding 2020 because of the COVID pandemic) Clark and his family — wife, Charlene, and joining later, son Ky — have hosted this event as one of several bull riding festivals that Chute 2 Productions puts on each year.

“It’s a family show that we put on together,” he said. “It consists of bull riding, some comedy act, you know, the rodeo clown, and three shows. This is one of our biggest shows that we do. We’ve had as many as 82 bull riders enter the event.”

Clark, who is also a Hall of Fame bull rider, said this year’s event will feature approximately 70 professional bull riders from all over the United States, including bullfighters Colton Strode and Joey Shoats. “Joey is from Cleburne, and he’s known as The Big Show, and Colton, he’s top five on the planet in bullfighters,” he said.

Ava Goble, a soon-to-be 11-year-old girl who previously auditioned for America’s Got Talent, will be performing an opening song for the event, while Clark, himself, will star as the rodeo clown.

Additionally, as a special guest, gun twirler Garrett Underwood will



This youngster was determined to keep his grip during a wild mutton busting ride at last year’s Bull Riding on the Beach event.

also be performing at Bull Riding on the Beach.

“I was at the International Finals (Rodeo) in January, and I saw (Underwood) there and I was like, ‘That’s pretty cool. You’re coming to Granbury,’” Clark said, chuckling. “He twirls guns. I mean, he ends up catching them on fire and twirling them. It’s worth seeing.”

The first bull riding event will kick off at noon on Saturday,

March 18, and the evening bull riding event is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

A \$25 entry fee is required for the kids’ mutton bustin’ event, set to start at 3 p.m. Signups will take place at the arena from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Kids 55 pounds or less are eligible to sign up and the number of entries will be capped at 50.

PLEASE SEE **BULLS** | B5

Get ready for Master Gardeners annual spring plant sale, April 22

PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Special to the Hood County News

Have wind, hail and erratic temperatures wreaked havoc on your landscape plants? If not, perhaps you simply crave something new. No matter your gardening need, a visit to the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners (LGMG) spring plant sale will have you digging in the dirt.

This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. (or when plants sell out) at the group’s Demonstration Garden at the rear of the parking lot behind Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St. in Granbury. The sale is the culmination of long hours spent propagating plants, negotiating with local growers, and sheltering plants in the group’s new greenhouse.

At the sale, shoppers may choose from dozens of plants that are known to thrive in North Central Texas. Selections include Texas natives, perennials, pollinator and but-

terfly plants, heat and drought tolerant species, shade plants, herbs, and succulents.

According to organizers, most members of LGMG participate in the sale’s preparation, logging many hours that count toward their annual volunteer requirement. It is time well spent; monies raised fund scholarships and community education programs.

This popular sale is known to draw a crowd, and plants sell quickly. The sale will end early if all plants are sold. Serious buyers should arrive early. No purchase is necessary to browse. Visit the Demonstration Garden and talk to Master Gardeners, who will be on site during the sale to answer gardening questions.

For more information, call the Texas AgriLife Extension in Hood County at 817-579-3280.

pwebsterco@gmail.com | 817-680-4849



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS WEBSTER

An iris, which is one of the many types of plants that will be included in the sale.

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | B7

CONGRATULATIONS LADY INDIANS

Class 2A State Basketball Champions



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NANCI HOLTSFORD

The Lipan Lady Indians pose with their Class 2A basketball state championship medals during a trip to the Riverwalk in San Antonio after conquering defending champion Gruver, 53-48, in the final on March 4.



Taylor Branson (1) comes up with the ball on a turnover as Lipan teammates Hanna Gaylor (13, middle), Lynsey Little (12, front left) and Chelsea Lott (back left) stand by ready to help during Saturday's Class 2A girls state basketball championship triumph over Gruver in the Alamodome.



Lipan's Hanna Gaylor (13) drives toward the basket between two defenders during the Lady Indians' Class 2A girls state basketball championship victory over Gruver Saturday in San Antonio.



Lipan's Chelsea Lott (25), who was named Most Valuable Player of the Class 2A girls state basketball championship game, fights for a loose ball against a Gruver player in the title game Saturday in the Alamodome.



Senior Trinity Benitez (44, left) looks on in amazement as her Lipan teammates celebrate Saturday's Class 2A girls basketball state championship triumph over Gruver.

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Romans 8:28

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Isaiah 41:13

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Psalm 94:18-19

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Romans 15:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Isaiah 41:10

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HOOD OUTDOORS

MORNING OR AFTERNOON? *When is the bite better?*

Waiting for the fish to bite.



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

We have been having some up and down weather for sure. But when it is nice, it has been really nice. So with this nice weather, when do the fish bite? At least that was one of the questions recently asked of me. Actually the question was “is the morning or afternoon bite better this time of the year?”

I don't believe anyone can definitively say that the morning is better versus the afternoon, as it will be different on different days. The warming waters in the afternoon on a winter day may be better for a feed and conversely the morning bite in the dead of summer may be better as this may be the coolest part of the day where the fish will be more apt to bite.

These are general rules, but there will be morning bites in the winter and afternoon bites in the summer. Timing is everything, and predicting these times have been attempted by many

over the centuries and still there are days when you are not sure what happened on the water.

I can tell you that whether the morning or afternoon is better may not be a choice when you head out. I typically go when others want to go or when I can go, and of course I try to make the best of the time I'm out there. This is probably true with most anglers. If I get the luxury of choosing when I can go, then I will follow some of the guidelines/rules of thumb that I discuss below.

If I am to choose my fishing times, I like to follow the

predicted feeding times as it relates to the moon. These are good to follow and on many occasions they are not too far off. The new moon and a half moon overhead in the a.m. are some of my favorite times. Full moon night fishing is also known as being productive. Of course, any weather event could potentially change feeding times as predicted by the moon phases.

Fishing right before a front moves in is always a good choice. Also, a slow passing low pressure system with drizzle/overcast conditions can make for a great day on the water. Summertime rains that cool the surface is also a great time to get on the water.

If I am to fish in the morning any time of the year, I try to make sure not to miss sunup. There is always some fish feeding in the a.m. somewhere. Some days, this may be the only time you will get bit. The same thing applies at sundown. If I am fishing the afternoon, I don't like to miss the setting sun unless I have already filled the ice chest.

The full moon was present last weekend, and the

best times were midday or in the middle of the night. By the time this article is published, the moon should be approaching a quarter moon — which is typically a morning or evening bite, so both times may be good!

Morning or afternoon, get out there and give it a shot. You'll never know for sure unless you go.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the upper 50s to low 60s and spring-like fishing is here. Golden algae continues to plague the midlake area where fishing is slow. Spawning white bass continue to be good to excellent in the river near Tin Top (in the river). Striped bass are good on the lower ends on live shad and jigs fished near channel breaks. Catfish continues to be good on cut shad fished near Hunter Park. Crappies are fair to good under deeper docks on small minnows and jigs. Black bass reports are fair to good on crankbaits and soft plastics near main lake creek entrances and in the river above Granbury.

Comanche Creek Reservoir continues to boast of limits of eater-sized channel catfish on prepared and cut baits. Largemouth bass numbers continue to be excellent on drop shot rigs and crankbaits near creek ledges. Some good top water action has been reported.

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney limits of striped

bass continue on live bait and Alabama rigs fished near McCown Valley and near Bear Creek. The sand bass run on the upper ends near Hamm Creek is good to excellent on roadrunners and spinnerbaits.

michael.acosta@att.net / 254-396-4855

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BOOK REVIEW

Cutting edge technology, savvy antagonists make this western a true thriller

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You just can't see it. There's something in the way, bad weather, a road-block, a geographical shape that blocks your view, something physical. You can't see it. Or you can't see because you're unfamiliar, dubious, uninformed, or you just plain don't want to see it. But as in the new novel "Storm Watch" by C.J. Box, you really need to watch out.

For the first time since he'd moved to Saddlestring, Wyoming, Game Warden Joe Pickett hated the winter weather. Snow hadn't bothered him much before, but when he got a call about a wounded elk cow that needed to be put down on the Double Diamond Ranch, he eyed his easy chair and wished he were anywhere else. A snowstorm was coming over the Big Horn Mountains, but it was Joe's responsibility to see to that elk.

He tracked the animal a fair way before he found her and the source of a whooshing sound that echoed loudly through the valley.

Someone had erected a small shed there, crammed with large fans that screamed like airplanes on the tarmac. Hanging from a window was the bottom half

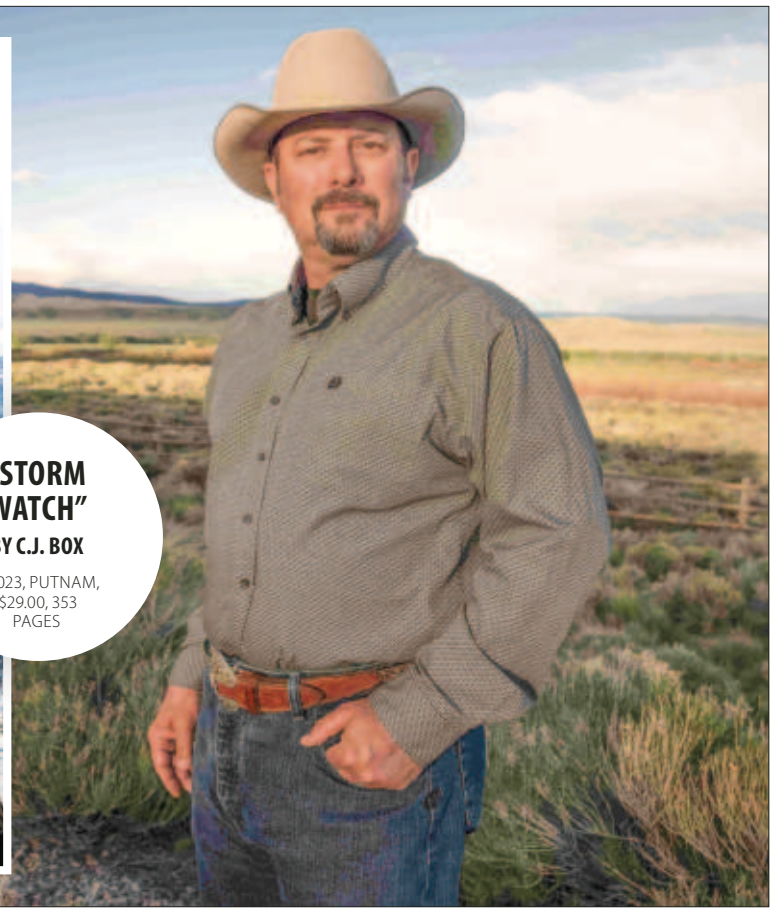
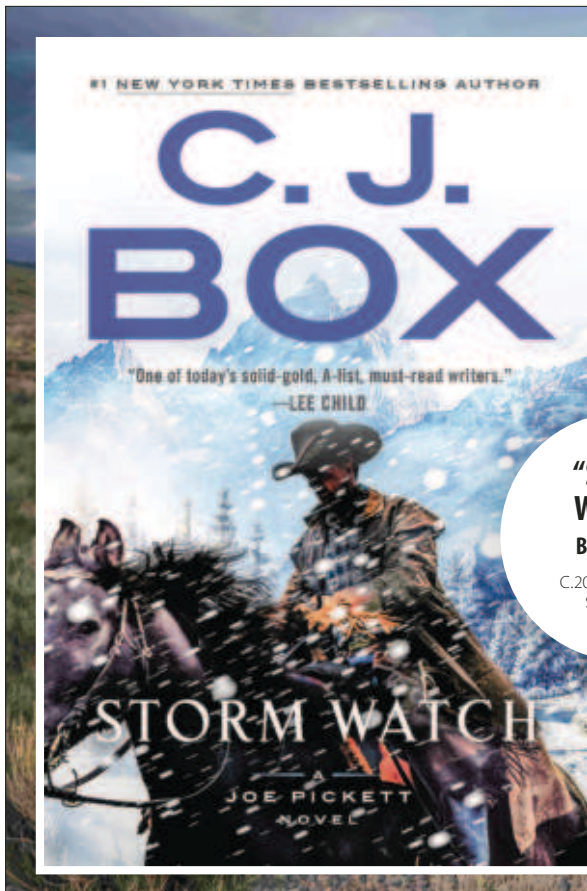
of a man who'd been shoved head-first into those fans. But when deputies went to retrieve what was left of the guy, there was no blood, no body. And Joe was told to keep the whole thing under wraps.

Just north of Joe Pickett's new house, Nate Romanowski plowed his driveway with a modified 1948 Dodge so that fellow falconer and friend, Geronimo Jones, could get to Nate's compound safely. Jones was on his way with a business proposal, but the first person up the driveway was a stranger with a different kind of offer.

Jason Demo invited Nate to a meeting to talk about how "coastal elites" see folks in the West, and how his group The Keystoneers weren't going to "stand down." Yep, things were going to change in this country, starting in Saddlestring, Wyoming.

So, have you followed the news much lately? Maybe brushed up on your current events? You'll need 'em before you tackle "Storm Watch."

Take that as a bit of a warning: Author C.J. Box ripped newspaper headlines pages one through six to craft this very fine thriller, and you'll be happier and



"STORM WATCH"
BY C.J. BOX
C.2023. PUTNAM,
\$29.00, 353
PAGES

Pictured is author C.J. Box

COURTESY OF DAVE NELIGH

have a better understanding of this tale if you're at least a little bit in the know. Like Box's last couple of novels, this one brushes against the edges of the newest technology, and the bad guys get

savvier. It should be noted that they're also more violent, angrier, but more purposeful than you might find in a usual thriller; the outlaws inside "Storm Watch" aren't madmen, which is a

bit unsettling and can remain so for a while, long after the semi-cliff-hanging ending of this book. Still, fans of western thrillers won't want to be without this novel on the table

next to their easy chairs. Just brush up on your current events first, is all, know what's going on in the world, and yeah, "Storm Watch." You could see it.

BULLS

FROM PAGE B1

"Years ago, we noticed we didn't want to put the little bitty kids out there in the calf scramble," Clark said. "Not because of the calves running over the kids, but the other kids run over them, so the last several years we've had the Chick-fil-A cow, which is one of our sponsors. We get the Chick-fil-A cow, tie a ribbon on his tail, and he runs around out there, and little

kids chase him. It's really cute."

Tickets for Bull Riding on the Beach are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. One ticket equals one show and presale tickets will not be offered.

"Normally all three (events) sell out. It's been overwhelming," Clark said. "One thing I really wanted to emphasize is because of it selling out, we would sell standing room only. Well, I'm bringing in a whole other set of bleachers this year to accommodate that because it's grown so

much, so we'll have six sets of stadium bleachers there on the beach."

Each bull riding event is held in a portable arena with 1,500-seat capacity aluminum bleachers and VIP seating.

"Our arena is kind of like Legos, I mean, it can snap together any kind of direction," Clark said. "We literally build a stadium, so everybody is right on top of the action. You're gonna get some atmosphere on you. They're gonna throw dirt on you, and it's all right there, so it's very

exciting."

Even though Clark lives in Springtown, he still calls Granbury his "adopted second town."

"We love Granbury. We've got very good relations with a lot of people here, including Visit Granbury," he said. "Tammy Dooley, (director of Visit Granbury), four years ago, she came on the beach, met me, and the first thing she said to me is, 'What can we do financially to keep you here?' I said, 'I don't know. Nobody's ever asked me that,'

and from that time forward, they have sponsored us wherever we go. The city of Granbury is so accommodating and has been awesome. They've been great for us. They really have."

With his father, John Clark, being a former world champion bull rider and "All-Around Cowboy Hall of Fame Bull Rider," Kelly Clark has successfully continued both his life and career in rodeo.

"We're in high demand," Clark added. "(Bull Riding on the Beach) is a great family

show and you will be entertained. The show is as choreographed as we can make it using live bulls, and we do a lot of crowd-interacting (activities). You're not just sitting back on your seat. You're up on the edge of your seat trying to figure out what we're going to do next."

For more information, visit chute2productions.com online or email Clark at chute2productions@gmail.com.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



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CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

MONDAY, 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.ncentexcwrt.com>.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Mendi Tackett will talk about school libraries, legislation and litigation. 11:00 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

DAV GRANBURY Memorial Chapter 238 will hold their monthly business meeting on Monday, March 13, 7 to 8 p.m. at 3601 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, TX. For more information contact Chris Georgo-

poulos, Adjutant at 682-719-5560.

LGAA MONTHLY Meeting and Free Demo. Join us for Fun, fellowship and refreshments on Monday, March 13, 6 p.m. at Shanley House Art Center Free Demo by acclaimed Oil and Acrylic artist Sheri Jones. Sheri's one day workshop will follow on March 17, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. cost is \$60 for Members, \$75 Non Members. For more info email LGAAWorkshops@gmail.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>

HOOD COUNTY Republican Women March meeting will be held at the New Granbury Police department, located at 2050 NE Loop 567, Granbury,

76048 on March 15, 2023. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. This month Chief Mitch Galvin will speak and give a tour of the new police department. A light lunch will be served. We hope to see you there.

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 20

ELIZABETH CROCKETT Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Program: Steve Kuban, Attorney at Law on Probate Estates Elderly Issues. Acton Methodist Church, Education Building, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, TX. Social begins at

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

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 23

OPERA GUILD of Granbury's Annual D'Vine Wine Sip and Support - March 23, 2023 - 4 p.m. - until close. Appetizers, finger sandwiches and desserts will be provided by Opera Guild Members. Bridge Street will be closed for street dancing, B-Ray and the Humans Band will play from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Drawings for Goodie Baskets and Door Prizes begin at 7:15 p.m. A few tables and chairs will be available but bring your own chairs for you and your family or group. The guild is

an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts. For more information contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

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>

FRIENDS OF Memorial Lane will gather on Wednesday, March 29 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at Military Site Memorial Lane located at Jim Burks Firefighter Park, 550 N. Travis in Granbury. There will be music, special recognition, and gifts for Veterans in attendance.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Mar. 8 (Puzzle 7).



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Valentine is a female Husky mix dog. She is approximately 1-1/2 years old and weighs about 45 pounds. Valentine is good with other dogs and is friendly. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

Weston is a neutered male shepherd mix dog. He is approximately 2 years old and weighs about 62 pounds. Weston loves treats and gets along with other dogs. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes all things listed above.



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Fri: 2:20PM, 4:45PM, 7:10PM, 9:35PM.
Sat, Sun: 12:00PM, 2:25PM, 4:50PM, 7:15PM, 9:40PM.
Mon: 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.
Tues, Wed: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.
Thurs: 11:45AM, 1:20PM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM

Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG13)
Fri: 7:05PM, 9:55PM.
Sat: 1:05PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM, 9:40PM.
Sun, Mon: 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.
Tues, Wed: 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM.
Thurs: 4:25PM, 7:15PM, 10:05PM

Champions (PG13)
Fri: 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM.
Sat: 10:20AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM.
Sun: 10:15AM, 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM, 9:40PM.
Mon: 1:00PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM, 9:40PM.
Tues, Wed: 1:05PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM, 9:45PM.
Thurs: 1:10PM, 4:10PM

Creed III (PG13)
Fri: 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:25PM, 10:10PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM, 10:10PM.
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.
Mon: 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.
Tues, Wed: 1:35PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.
Thurs: 7:05PM, 9:50PM

Jesus Revolution (PG13)
Fri: 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 6:40PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 10:15AM, 12:00PM, 2:50PM, 5:40PM, 8:30PM.
Sun: 10:25AM, 12:00PM, 2:50PM, 5:40PM, 8:30PM.
Mon: 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM, 9:40PM.
Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, 10:00PM.
Thurs: 12:15PM, 1:35PM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM, 9:15PM

Scream VI (R)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:00PM, 6:50PM.
Sat: 10:45AM, 12:40PM, 6:30PM.
Sun: 12:40PM, 6:30PM

Scream VI in 3D (R)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:55PM, 9:45PM.
Sat, Sun: 3:35PM, 9:25PM

Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG13)
Thurs: 3:45PM, 6:45PM, 9:45PM

Space Jam: A New Legacy - Spring Break Series (PG)
Wed: 11:00AM

Scoob! - Spring Break Series (PG)
Tues: 11:00AM

Tom & Jerry - Spring Break Series (PG)
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LEGACY COMES TO LIFE

Benjamin Medford Hancock: frontiersman, farmer, family Man



BY GERRY GIEGER

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of Benjamin Medford Hancock is told by his great-great-nephew Gerry Gieger. Gerry is a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas and serves as President of the E.M. Daggett Chapter in Fort Worth, Texas. Gerry lives in Burleson, Texas.

My name is Benjamin Medford Hancock. My family and friends called me Medford, but I always wished they had all called me Ben. I was born in the year 1822 in Perry County, Missouri. The Territory became part of the United States the year after I was born.

I descend from a long line of Hancocks going back to the American Revolutionary War. My father William Wilson Hancock was born September 22, 1787, in Stanton, Goochland County, Virginia. He fought in the War of 1812 but never told me much about it. But I do know he does not care much for the British or Indian tribes that helped them. My mother was the sweetest woman on earth, and she was smart, too. Her name was Anelia West Hancock, but everybody called her "Neeley". Mother was born in Delaware in 1791. My parents had a total of nine children: Six boys and three girls. Mother died in 1833 when I was just 11 years old.

On June 17, 1835, my father married a lady named Sarah Sally Harrison. She was nice enough to us kids, but it sure didn't feel like home anymore. My young brother Charles and I started talking about striking out on our own. We weren't far from grown — I was 13 and Charles was 12 — about five years later, we headed for Texas.

We migrated to Texas during the Republic, years before Texas decided to join the United States, and settled in Red River County. The county had been an old Mexican Municipality (District) that encompassed the areas of present Red River County plus all the lands of Bowie, Morris, Titus, Franklin, Delta, Cass and parts of Hopkins and Marion Counties. We chose the area south of Clarksville near the South Pecan Bayou, which was inhabited by black bears, wampus cats and red wolves, plus a good many elk and deer.

We had to defend ourselves against renegade Indians because there wasn't any help around. The nearest settlement was Robbinsville, and that was a good half-day ride from our place. They would cross over the Red River, from Oklahoma, or really a better name was Indian Territory. They stole horses, cattle, or whatever else they could rustle or carry off.

I had learned to read, write, spell and work math problems before we left Missouri, so I was literate and read the Holy Bible. I was closely associated with Dr. John Witherspoon Pettigrew McKenzie, an early Methodist missionary to the Choctaw Nation. Dr. McKenzie was the founder of Young Men's Retreat (a school) that became McKenzie College. It was situated 3 miles south of Clarksville adjacent to and partially on our land. During the years of the Republic, the school grew from 16 students educated in a log cabin to over 300 students and 9 faculty members occupying four large buildings in 1854. It was the largest institution of higher education in Texas during the 1850s and 1860s (McKenzie College closed during the Civil War and merged with Marvin College, which became Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.)

When I was 23 years old, I married Elizabeth "Eliza" Coffman, on November 19, 1847, in Red River County, Texas. She was called "Eliza" by her family. I got along well with her father Lovell Coffman, and he accepted

me into his family like a son. Eliza and I had eight surviving children: Jonas born in 1847, Thomas born in 1848, Martha born in 1849 who married James Norville, James born in 1850, William Lovell born in 1851 who married Laura Miller, Melissa Texanna born in 1856 who married Thomas Buford Poulter, Sarah Ellen born in 1858 who married John Taul Hart, Benjamin Medford born in 1861 who was first married to Myra Cox and then to Ann Beatrice (Turpin) Brady.

We farmed prime virgin soil that was excellent for cotton, corn and purple-hull peas. The kids were taught to be hard workers, and they did not have to be told when chores or anything else needed to be done. We raised hogs, chickens and guinea hens that always alerted us when things were not right in the barnyard. The monogamous birds roost on tree branches and always are high enough to see intruders, then sound out a long loud cackle that may go on for hours. Guns were scarce, but I kept my muzzle-loading black powder long gun in the corner behind the front door, loaded and half-cocked.

Spring in Northeast Texas brought wildflowers and the blooming of the bluebonnet, which became the State Flower. Bluebonnets made the prairies look like oceans of blue water, but other things in Texas were not so pleasant. We battled Indians, tornados, droughts, floods and blizzards, but it was all worthwhile to live in the great Republic and the state of Texas.

I died on March 24, 1861, from Congestive Fever (Malaria) in Bogota, Texas. My dear Eliza followed me 53 days later, on May 15, 1861. She died of the same malady, leaving our 9-day-old baby and other children for family to raise. Eliza and I were proud and thankful to be Texians, citizens of The Republic of Texas.



WHO ARE THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS?

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

IDLE

FROM PAGE B1

to pry open its beak to mediate, as well as select favorite foods that seemingly helped him return to joyous living, even if it remained unable to fly.

Ravens are highly intelligent birds, capable of holding grudges, stashing food and using gestures to communicate, and this bird was no exception, Sevckenko said.

A SURVIVAL STORY

Now restored to a muscular three pounds and "running like the wind," the raven walks around the Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, New York at his pleasure. He has been named "Bertrand," a name shortened to "Bert," of course.

Sadly, most seriously injured birds don't make it; this one survives and thrives in his new environment. Trainers and keepers hope he will be open to learning new behaviors — such as perching on command — so they can bring him out of his enclosure when school groups visit. "He's so smart and so present, and we all



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON NEWBURY

Late Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon, better known as Minnie Pearl.

enjoy watching him hop around," one keeper said, describing him to be a "genuine character."

What a treat awaits visitors, who'll be privy to seeing

one of God's creatures surviving on caring love.

newbury@speakerdoc.com

GO PLAY

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING 2 p.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite

1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

MELODY BELLES singers, women's choral group rehearsals. 10:00 a.m. - 12

noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge Street. Details, please call 817-999-1364.

SATURDAYS

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

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

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

FIRST MONDAYS

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

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS
GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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