



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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Granbury Bridge Club owner receives prestigious award

Carmond Fitzgerald, left, director and owner of the Granbury Bridge Club, is presented with the Linda Powers Award during the club's weekly American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sponsored game on March 20. Jordan Craig, middle, manager at The Longest Day North Central Texas Alzheimer's Association, and Courtney Current, right, volunteer for The Longest Day committee, were also present to present Fitzgerald with the award.



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Carmond "Fitz" Fitzgerald, director and founder of the Granbury Bridge Club, was the recipient of a distinguished and honorable award during the club's weekly American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sponsored game on March 20.

The Linda Powers Award — named after a competitive bridge player and teacher in Missouri — was presented to Fitzgerald for his leadership and achievements in significantly advancing the mission of the Alzheimer's Association through participation

in The Longest Day.

The Longest Day, known as the summer solstice, takes place in June. It's the day of the year with the most sunlight, and is dedicated to "fighting the darkness of Alzheimer's through fundraising activities," according to the Alzheimer's Association website.

"This is a huge accomplishment to be awarded the Linda Powers Award," Jordan Craig, manager at The Longest Day North Central Texas Alzheimer's Association, stated in an email. "Only one person from our organization is awarded each year for their demonstrated leader-

ship in promoting and supporting their global team in participation and fundraising while also serving a key role in advancing The Longest Day community and the Alzheimer's Association's mission. Out of the whole Alzheimer's Association, Fitz was awarded because of his passion to move the needle and end Alzheimer's."

Last year the Granbury Bridge Club had its most successful year to date. With Fitzgerald at the helm, the club raised more than \$22,000 for the Alzheimer's Association, ranking eighth in

PLEASE SEE **AWARD** | A3



COURTESY OF FINDAGRAVE.COM

The Colony Cemetery was once part of a Black community founded around 1859 by ex-slaves after the Civil War. The official Texas state historical marker near the cemetery states that residents of The Colony were early Hood County settlers who came to this area as slaves with their white southern owners as early as the 1850s.

Preserving American history

First National Bank of Granbury donates new lawnmower to Colony Cemetery

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The First National Bank of Granbury is working diligently to preserve a piece of Hood County history that deserves to be remembered.

Five miles west of Granbury lies a cemetery that — unbeknownst to some — represents the memory of a community long gone, but never forgotten.

HISTORY

The Colony Cemetery, located off U.S. Highway 377 West between Granbury and Tolar, was once part of a Black community founded around 1859 by ex-slaves after the Civil War.

According to a Hood County News article published in 2010, the official Texas state historical marker near the cemetery states that residents of The Colony were early Hood County settlers who came to this area as slaves with their white southern owners as early as the 1850s.

After emancipation, the all-Black community known as The Colony was formed, complete with its own school and church.

Today, all that remains of The Colony is a cemetery containing approximately 100 graves.

For years, the cemetery has survived through various upkeep and restoration efforts made by long-term supporters, including R.D. (Ruben Daniel) Edwards.

Edwards, who was the great-grandson of The Colony founder

and slave Simon Hightower, cared for the cemetery until his death in 1991.

"He worked for the bank until he died," said Jake Caraway, vice chairman of the board and senior vice president of First National Bank of Granbury. "He was a neat old man. We called him 'The Custodian,' and when he got too old to clean, we let him come in and just empty the trash, just so he'd have some money and just to be good to him because he had been so faithful to us."

Since Edwards' death, longtime Granbury residents Joe and Joseph Perkins have taken over the upkeep and refurbishing efforts of the cemetery.

PRESERVATION CONTINUES

A few weeks ago, John Henry Luton, chairman of the board of First National Bank of Granbury, learned that The Colony Cemetery was in need of a new lawnmower.

Luton suggested to Caraway that they purchase the lawnmower as an honor to the bank's former employee, Edwards, who is also buried at The Colony Cemetery.

"We've always had a spot for that area, because we knew so many of the people," Caraway said. "John Henry and I, our babysitters are



COURTESY OF JAKE CARAWAY

Members of First National Bank of Granbury Jake Caraway, left, and John Henry Luton, far right, present a new lawnmower to Joe Perkins, second from left, and Joseph Perkins, second from right, to help them maintain The Colony Cemetery located off U.S. Highway 377 West between Granbury and Tolar.

buried out there, and people who worked for his grandfather and my grandfather are buried out there. We just want to help keep the cemetery and the history going."

The Hood County Texas Genealogical Society also has an account at the bank for individuals who wish to donate money to the cemetery's maintenance.

"The last time I was out at the cemetery, I remember we went in

our pickups to take R.D.'s body out there to bury and it's very peaceful," Caraway added. "It has a very special meaning to both of us and to a lot of people around here."

To donate to the upkeep of The Colony Cemetery, call First National Bank of Granbury on Bridge Street at 817-573-2655.

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Tolar City Council establishes one-man police department

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

TOLAR — For the first time in years, Tolar has a police chief.

The City Council, at its regular meeting Monday night, voted to hire Assistant Fire Chief Ray Wilson for the position. The vote was unanimous among the council members who were present. Sally Grimes of Place 2 was not in attendance.

"We've been working on this a long time," Mayor Matt Hutsell stated when opening the discussion. He noted that the city has already bought a car to be used for law enforcement purposes and that he felt it was time for the growing community to begin establishing a police department and maybe even a court.

"I feel like the demand is there," he said.

Wilson, who was present at the meeting and responded to questions, previously served as Hood County's fire marshal and emergency management coordinator. He said that he holds a master peace officer license.

Council member Chip Foster said that speed enforcement "is not a priority" for city leadership and that he didn't want the police chief to "just sit on 377 and catch speeders."

Hutsell expressed a desire for the police chief to "see and be seen" in the community. Wilson said he wants to "reach out to the school district."

Council member Brian Gall commented that Wilson's previous stint as the county's emergency management coordinator goes "hand in hand" with the responsibilities of a police chief.

Council members noted that it had been years, almost a decade, since the town had a police chief. "We've had several come and go," Hutsell said. "Most of them didn't work out."

The council agreed to offer the job to Wilson even though no determination had been made on salary and benefits. It was decided

PLEASE SEE **TOLAR** | A3

SEE MORE INSIDE

City Council moves to extend city attorney's contract and appraisal district hopes to move on new \$6M office within two months. Please see stories, A2.

City seeks 'Celebration Capital' label from Legislature for tourism marketing. Please see story, A3.

Lady Pirates head soccer coach David Winkleman found a home in GISD and looked no more. Please see story, B1.



City Council moves to extend city attorney's contract

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The city is poised to extend its contract with the Hyde Law Firm and Jeremy SoRelle for another two years.

SoRelle, who works for the Hyde firm, has been serving as Granbury's city attorney, providing guidance and legal advice. He sits on the dais with council members during the City Council's twice-monthly meetings and

attends the council's executive sessions that are closed to the public.

When SoRelle is unable to be present for those meetings, Paul Hyde, the law firm's owner, attends in his place.

After a lengthy executive session Tuesday night during which several topics including the city attorney were discussed, Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell made a motion to authorize the city manager to execute an

agreement for legal services with the Hyde Law Firm and SoRelle.

The motion passed unanimously.

SoRelle told the Hood County News the following morning that the council is

granting the law firm another two-year contract.

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Appraisal district hopes to move on new \$6M office within two months

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The taxing entities that make up the Hood Central Appraisal District will soon be asked to approve a larger facility to be built in Acton.

Much of the county's growth is in that area, and HCAD representatives feel it is a more centralized location than its offices at 1902 W. Pearl St.

Favorable votes by seven of the 10 taxing entities are needed for approval.

The HCAD hopes to get that approval and move forward within 45-60 days.

Chief Appraiser Eddie Roe and architect Fred Cauble gave an almost hour-long presentation at an interlocal government meeting held Wednesday at Granbury City Hall. HCAD board member Mark Jackson also addressed the elected officials, which included members of the Granbury School Board of Trustees, the Hood County Commissioners Court, and the Granbury City Council.

The HCAD representatives said that acting in the coming weeks will allow the HCAD to take advantage of construction-related costs that are currently, but perhaps temporarily, trending downward. The facility's projected cost of \$6.2 million could be reduced significantly, they indicated.

The concept includes a revenue-generating lease agreement with the Department of Public Safety, provided

the Legislature approves the funding.

Under that plan, about \$1.5 million of the HCAD's construction costs would include a "shell" that would provide space for a full-service, eight-station driver's license office. The state would finish out and furnish that part of the building and pay rent to the HCAD. The HCAD would apply the rent to the annual debt service.

If things go as planned, the facility will have a drive-through service window for appraisal district business; a foyer/public area between the HCAD and DPS offices; public restrooms; and a large meeting room with a movable wall that can be used by the public and as a polling location.

The building is planned for the southwest corner of Acton Highway and Acton School Road (not James Road as previously announced) near Acton Elementary School on land that is currently owned by GISD. The school district and the HCAD will swap properties, with GISD taking over the HCAD's current offices by Granbury High School. The appraised values of the properties are similar.

School traffic is not expect-



COURTESY OF HOOD COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

The proposed \$6M facility for the Hood Central Appraisal District includes a meeting room that can be used for public gatherings and a polling location as well as space for an eight-station, full-service Department of Public Safety driver's license office.

ed to be an issue at the Acton location, according to HCAD.

Roe indicated that there are many problems with the current building, which is about 40 years old, as well as its location. Issues include a lack of adequate space for current employees and no room for additional ones that are needed to handle the growing number of accounts. Also, there are no public restrooms, parking spaces are taken up by parents waiting for high school students, and customers have difficulty getting into and out of the parking lot when traffic is backed up before and after school.

Roe said that the HCAD has "close to \$1 million saved up for a down pay-

ment" and that it will finance the project with Government Capital, with payments built into the HCAD's operating budget. Each taxing unit pays a portion of the HCAD's operating budget proportionate to the amount of tax they levy divided by the total levy of all units. GISD pays the highest amount at 65%.

Cauble encouraged the elected officials to "look ahead" and said that "waiting is going to hurt in the long run."

He stated, "I'll tell you right now, with what's going on in our economy, I'm seeing things slow down. So, if we get this out in the next 45 days to the bidders, you could save as much as a half-million dollars in just costs

to build. Because there are contractors calling us, we get about three calls a week from people looking for work right now, but it's slowing down, and products are going down. Six months ago, we were estimating this at \$6 million plus with the lease space. We might beat that number."

In his remarks to city, county and school officials, Jackson noted that there is a process involved that includes the Texas Facilities Commission and that the approval being sought from the HCAD's taxing entities is only for the building's location.


"Construction documents aren't even ready," he said, but added that "if we can act

in the next 45 to 60 days" the HCAD could "begin to bid this thing out."

Jackson said that the estimated project costs represent "an extremely conservative construction budget" and that 20% of the estimated cost is contingency.

"We don't feel like we're asking for the moon here," he stated. "We would love to have you three governing bodies be on board with this and help us move this community forward and get us a facility everyone can be proud of and (that will) be very serviceable to the public."

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Hood County News

JUNETEENTH ESSAY CONTEST 2023


co-sponsored with the TEXAS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF HOOD COUNTY

This year's prompt:

WHAT JUNETEENTH MEANS TO ALL AMERICANS


HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
1st Place\$100	1st Place\$75
2nd Place\$75	2nd Place\$50
3rd Place\$50	3rd Place\$25
500 max word count	350 max word count

Contestants must be a middle or high school student residing in Hood County & also attach a cover sheet that includes their **Name, School, Grade, Phone Number, Email Address, Mailing Address, and their Parent's Name.**



Deadline to submit MAY 1, 2023

Please forward all submissions to **sam@hcnews.com**



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Miss Opal Lee
Grandmother of Juneteenth



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City seeks 'Celebration Capital' label from Legislature for tourism marketing

BY **KATHY CRUZ**
Senior Staff Writer

As part of the city's promotion of its tourism industry, the City Council voted unanimously at its regular meeting Tuesday night to request that the Texas House of Representatives designate Granbury as the "Celebration Capital of Texas."

The action to adopt a

resolution was taken at the request of Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley.

Government Code 391.003 details guidelines for the Legislature to assign "place designations" that reflect a location's historical or cultural significance. The Legislature may not assign the same designation to more than one location. Eighty-nine Texas cities

currently have "capital" monikers.

The title lasts for 10 years but may be renewed with a new resolution.

According to a supporting document for the agenda item, Ennis is the Bluebonnet Capital of Texas, the Lake Whitney area is the Getaway Capital of Texas, and Breckenridge is the Mural Capital of Texas.

Dooley indicated that the city of Grapevine strongly and successfully markets its designation as the state's Christmas Capital.

According to Dooley, the idea to seek the designation Celebration Capital of Texas was the result of a more than hourlong discussion among tourism stakeholders who are faithful attendees of Visit Granbury's weekly Rise and

Grind events.

Council member Steven Vale said that he attended that meeting. He praised the efforts of those who participated in the brainstorming and the ideas that were presented.

"I really think this provides Tammy and her team with a great marketing tool for the city," Vale stated.

Dooley said that the

resolution adopted by the council will be presented to State Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Stephenville, so that she can begin the legislative process to make the label official.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A chunk of a community's treasured history can suddenly be gone with the wind



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.

Just a few short weeks ago, the square in Granbury had quite a scare. The Granbury square is full of stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, and they jointly serve as an attraction for tens of thousands of visitors. These visitors enhance the tax revenues of the municipality considerably, and their love of the square serves as a focal point and gives the town an identity when outsiders talk about Granbury.

In the middle of the night, and without warning, the historic Nutt Hotel caught fire. The building had been

in the process of being renovated and was near competition when the dangerous blaze began. Fortunately,

local firefighters responded quickly and controlled the damage from spreading to other buildings. It was also a blessing the Nutt Hotel sat on a corner of the square and there was open space between it and neighboring buildings.

Many locals, including myself, felt a sense of relief no further damage was done. If the firefighters had not been able to control the blaze, or if the wind had been stronger, or a thousand other "what if's," the Granbury square could have been destroyed, resulting in tremendous losses for the owners and for all the citizens of Granbury. All week long I heard speculation as to "what could have happened," how long it would take to rebuild the square, and how much damage to

the community would have been created. Thanks to the grace of God, these problems never came to pass.

Just this past weekend, in our neighboring town of Decatur, another fire broke out — at the Wise County Heritage Museum. The building was built in 1893 and originally was the home of the Decatur Baptist College; often referred to as the oldest junior college in the world. The fire started around midnight, and despite the best efforts of firefighters, the walls crumpled inward by 2 a.m. There has been no determination as to the cause of that fire. Fortunately the building was unoccupied, and no one was injured.

The Heritage Museum had been housed in the landmark building for more than 50

years and contained the largest single collection of Wise County history. There were items, writings, and stories that went up in smoke on a March night in Decatur, and they cannot be replaced. I have no words to describe the loss but "pitiful" and "deeply sad." I genuinely feel sorry for the residents of Wise County, and for the people who will become residents in the future. A part of their history is lost and cannot be replaced.

Our history is an important part of our lives. Without knowing our past, evaluating how we have evolved and changed, knowing the challenges others faced to get us to the present, it is difficult to appreciate who we truly are. Granbury dodged a bullet, and Decatur took one right to the chest. When

and where the next fire will erupt, leaving nothing but burnt memories of our past, is unknown.

I hope residents of communities like Gatesville, Azle and Springtown are on guard about what can happen and take measures to secure their sacred past. Our memories are precious to all of us and need to be cherished and safeguarded. Our children and children's children, and all generations to come, deserve that.

Thought for the day: The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.

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

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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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
SPRING FLING at Our Sav-

iour Lutheran Church, 1400 N. Meadows Dr., Granbury. Enjoy food, games, and a

bounce from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Open to everyone.

FEATHER FEST at the Acton Nature Center will take place on Saturday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 6900 Smoky Hill Ct. This is a celebration of birds and spring with hikes, information booths, talks, and children's activities. Free admission.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

MID CITIES Stamp Club Granbury branch. At 7 p.m., Mr. Skip Ely presents collectible varieties of U.S. flag stamps and the city stamp. Visitors welcome. Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Ct., Granbury. For more information, please call Jim Case at 817-910-8174.

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.

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

BULK TRASH Pick up Sat., April 1. Please have items

curbside by 7 a.m. Acceptable items for bulk trash pick-up include mattresses. Also acceptable are refrigerators, freezers, and a/c units — which must have certification of Freon reclamation. Tree limbs will be picked up if they are bundled and less than four feet long. There is a six-item limit per household. Items that will not be picked up include tires, paint, oil, liquids, construction and masonry materials. Bulk trash day does not affect normal residential pick-up. For more information, please contact Waste Connections at 817-579-8855 or customerservice5194@wcnx.org or the City of Granbury Utility Administration Department at ub@granbury.org.

VFW POST 7835 is having a

Crawfish Boil on April 1, 2023 at 3670 W US Hwy 377, Granbury, Tx 76048. Event starts at 2:00 p.m. and runs until all is gone. Crawfish is all you can eat for \$25.00 or \$7.50 per pound. Boiled shrimp is 12.50 per pound.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

KIWANIS CLUB meeting at noon at Farina's 202 N. Houston St. on the square. The speaker is Amanda Shaw with Many Mansions.



PLEASE SEE **CALENDAR** | A7

AWARD

FROM PAGE A1
funds collected by all sanctioned clubs within the ACBL.

"Granbury and Hood County should be proud to have such an asset in our community in the fight against Alzheimer's," Courtney Current, volunteer for The Longest Day com-

mittee, said in an email to the HCN. "What a profound impact that has been made, consistently! This award is to one person in the entire U.S. and this community should be elated at such an honor!"

For the last seven years, Fitzgerald has worked diligently to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of his wife Darlene, who passed away in 2018.

"Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disorder," Fitzgerald said, also in an email to the HCN. "It involves a continual decline in thinking, behavioral, and social skills that disrupts a person's ability to function independently. The League became a global partner of the Alzheimer's Association several years ago. Playing bridge keeps your brain healthy and

exercised; thinking, socialization, and memory are such an integral part of playing bridge."

The Granbury Bridge Club is made up of approximately 60 members and more are always being sought. The club doesn't require members to pay dues, just \$8 every Monday to play.

The club hosts its ACBL sponsored game at noon on

Mondays at the Captain's Texas Cottage, located at 5918 Henslee Ct. Each game lasts about three and a half hours.

"I am honored and humbled by this award," Fitzgerald added, on Monday. "So many bridge players, their families, as well as the Granbury community participated in The Longest Day fundraising campaign last year. I at-

tribute this recognition to them. I also want to thank the North Central Texas Alzheimer's Association for submitting my name for this honor and presenting it here at the (Granbury) Bridge Club today."

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TOLAR

FROM PAGE A1
that City Secretary Michelle Burdette will put together a salary package to be discussed by the parties at a

later date. Wilson agreed to that plan.

Burdette said that cubicle space will be created for Wilson at City Hall.

In an interview with the Hood County News after the vote, Wilson said that

his first order of business will be to contact the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to make sure that all requirements for creating a police department are met.

He said that he also wants

to contact Sheriff Roger Deeds, Granbury Police Chief Mitch Galvan and highway patrol sergeants with the Texas Department of Public Safety. He noted that Tolar's proximity to the nuclear power plant in Glen Rose

is one reason why relationships with other law enforcement agencies will be important.

As for how soon the police department will grow to include more than just him, Wilson made no predictions.

"We're just starting," he said.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS TO GRANBURY FOLKS

In another city, I recently lost my rental apartment. I then came and put my belongings in a storage unit in Granbury where I'm on a short waiting list for a seniors apartment rental. My first night in Granbury three 'angels' — Tammy, Laura, and Charlotte on staff at the hospital — gave me their TLC to keep me from having to spend that night sleeping in my car in freezing temperatures.

Mike Loter, owner of Christian Brothers Automotive, has blessed me with his overwhelming kindness and very proficient staff, who do their work "as unto the Lord," as my 20-year-old car can attest. I later attended Stonewater Church (Pastor Jeremy White) where I met the Kirks, who invited me home with them, saving me from sleeping in my car in that 29-degree temperature.

The Kirks, Stephanie, sons Parker, Carson, Cole and Stephanie's mom JoAnn extended unfathomable kindness to me. It would provide enough fodder for a "best-seller" book to elaborate on their unselfish love, wisdom, skills, talents, and godly goodness. I'm amazed, and my heart is forever bonded to them. I also notice the kindness of Granbury folks to be an oasis in a national desert of apparent 'younger-generation' disdain of the elderly. THANK YOU, GRANBURY FOLKS, young to old, for restoring this 80-year-old's faith in human kindness!

Willa Avery
Granbury

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

I've been breaking down cardboard boxes to use in flower beds all week, but luckily I have one I can still use and it just happens to be a soap box.

Consider yourselves forewarned.

Politics is ugly ... and it's a shame when it interferes with children and their education.

A letter to the editor signed by Karen Lowery that came out in Saturday's paper has me concerned.

I will choose to believe that Mrs. Lowery has the best interests of the students and district at heart and that the reason she would post such a divisive letter is because she simply is too new to the process to be fully informed.

Because she refers to herself as Lowery at least once in the letter, there is a possibility that the ideas expressed were penned by someone other than herself who is even less informed about what is going on.

No question the plane incident at GSD has left a lasting effect ... and as with all things that happen in life, I feel hopeful that the board and administration have corrected the policies and behaviors that led to the incident.

I admire the enthusiasm of the two board members to want to be sure that there is transparency and accountability for everyone concerned when incidents like this happen, however it is imperative that they become more aware of what the responsibilities and limitations of the board are.

Their operating procedure

proposal included taking action against personnel who engage in illegal activity. Well, quite simply, that is not their job. They can only take action against the superintendent. All other personnel issues are outside of their reach.

FOIA requests have revealed that this was explained to them in detail, and they opted to pursue their agenda item anyway.

Additionally, the reporting of illegal activity is covered in no less than three areas of board policy already. They are already bound by policy to report any and all activity they deem illegal. I word that in that way because some activity might seem illegal to some individuals and not to others. The perfect example of that is the case of Ms. Lowery signing her name to a complaint filed against GSD librarians for allegedly promoting pornography in the school. She evidently felt it was a crime, though the other board members, administration and judicial system disagreed.

Some may say I'm biased regarding the school board, but I prefer to believe that I have a special insight into the hearts of both family and friends in the board. I believe, without doubt, that each of those members are there because they believe in education, in kids and in this community.

To suggest anything else is simply false.

I work hard at trying to be kind, show grace and see the best in everyone. It's the lesson I've been taught my whole life, both at home and in my religion. Wouldn't it be great if we all ... everyone ... could try to work together instead of being divisive ...

especially when being divisive means presenting a false narrative.

Be kind.
Show grace.
Do better.

Beverly Cheney
Granbury

GISD SCHOOL BOARD

"Crazy" was a song popularized by the famous Patsy Cline, and written by Willie Nelson in 1961. In 2023, the title of this song fits well into the structure of the GISD school board. I am your Place 5 school board trustee. I serve most importantly the students of our school district. Secondly, I serve the faculty and staff of GISD; and the taxpayers. I am your servant and I am well qualified for this position. I served in the Air Force as a fighter/instructor pilot for more than 10 years. I have served for 30 years as a member of the Optimist Club, which serves our youth. I am the longest-serving current member of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department, for 28 years. Finally, I am active and have been registered with the Boy Scouts of America for approximately 50 years.

A school board position, by definition, is nonpolitical. It is simply a management method to perpetuate our society by effectively educating our youth. The "crazy" part is this job has become highly political both nationally and locally. The downside is our children have become targets of this politicalization. Our school board is split 5-2. All seven members are conservative Republicans. I believe that

five serve to the benefit of our children, educators, and taxpayers. Two serve other masters.

Crazy is taken to a whole new level with this group. You can substitute another simple five-letter word to describe this group and that word is toxic. Don't take my word for it. All you have to do is watch the public comments portion of any of the past year-and-a-half of our school board meetings. If that isn't enough for you, watch or attend meetings of the county commissioners or city council. This small minority of people while claiming to be "true conservatives and Republicans" act more like the far left progressives in Washington, D.C. They lie, cheat, and steal to get your vote and then follow their own agenda to gain power and control. They use the liberal ABC news affiliate in Dallas to perpetuate their message. They could care less about our students and faculty.

If you are a parent and care about the education of your children, I would highly recommend that you get involved first with your students, their school and teachers. If you do not have children, you still pay taxes and the value of your property is enhanced or hurt by decisions of your local school board. Next, realize that seven trustees control the largest industry in Hood County. Decisions they make matter and your children's education and their future are at stake. If you want proof of this, look no farther down the road than the Mansfield ISD. They were taken over by inexperienced, radical school board members and their school district is now in com-

plete disarray. Mansfield is not the only school district in the DFW metro area with these problems. There are more. With a two-member vote swing to these small toxic groups, the GISD could find itself in a similar situation. Please get involved and tell others you know to do the same.

This does not have to be the end of cooperation on the school board. If every trustee makes the students the top priority and focuses on the taxpayers and district employees as well, we can make the board function efficiently and benefit all concerned. Continued liberal tactics offered by these divisive groups will be resisted and brought to light.

Billy Wimberly
Granbury

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

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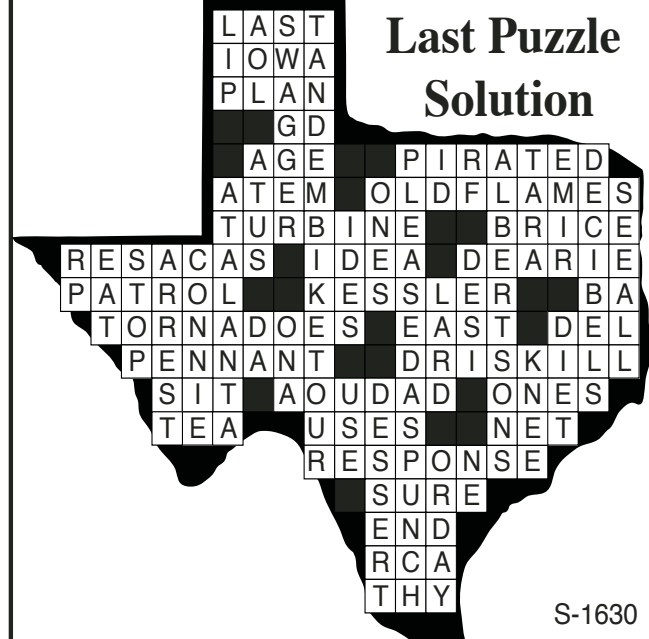
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Should investors 'go it alone'?

TAYLOR MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Mobly

If you're going to enjoy a comfortable retirement, you should know, among other things, how much money you'll need. And you may have a much better chance of knowing this if you get some professional help.

Consider these findings from a 2021 study by Dalbar, a financial services market research firm:

- Investors who worked with a financial advisor were three times more likely to estimate what they would

have saved at retirement than "do-it-yourself" investors.

- More than two-thirds of investors with a financial advisor were satisfied with the amount they would have saved at retirement, compared to about 27% of the do-it-yourselfers.

How do financial professionals help their clients in these ways?

First, consider the issue of determining how much money will be needed for retirement. It's not always easy for individuals to estimate this amount. But financial profes-

sionals can help clients like you arrive at this figure by exploring your hopes and goals. How long do you plan to work? What kind of lifestyle do you anticipate enjoying in retirement? Where would you like to live? How much would you like to travel? Are you open to pursuing earned income opportunities, such as consulting or working part time?

Next comes the other key question: How much money will be available for retirement? This big question leads to many others: How much do you need to save and invest each year until you retire? About what sort of investment return will you

need to reach your retirement income goals? What level of risk are you willing to take to achieve that return? What is the role of other income sources such as Social Security or any pensions you might have?

Having a financial professional help you gain a clear idea of your retirement income picture can certainly be reassuring. But there may be other reasons why "going it alone" as an investor might not be desirable.

For example, when the financial markets are down, as was the case for much of 2022, some investors make decisions based on short-term volatility, such as sell-

ing investments to "cut their losses," even if these same investments still have solid business fundamentals and good prospects for growth. But if you work with a financial professional, you might decide to stick with these investments, especially if they're still appropriate for your long-term strategy.

Other times, of course, the advice may be different — but it will always be advice based on your goals, needs and time horizon.

Furthermore, if you're investing on your own, you may always be measuring your results against the major market indexes, such as the S&P 500 or the Dow Jones

Industrial Average. But in reality, your portfolio should contain a wide range of investments, some of which aren't contained in these indexes, so you might not be assessing your performance appropriately. A financial professional can help you develop your own, more meaningful benchmarks that can show the progress you're actually making toward your goals.

In some areas of life, going it alone can be exciting — but when it comes to investing for your future, you may benefit from some company on the journey.

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SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

No obituaries were submitted for this edition.

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.

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NOTICES

9031 Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-27 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES 1.50.526 AND 1.50.561 OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW FEES AND AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN OTHER FEES ADOPTED BY SAID ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-28 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE TOURISM AND GRANBURY HISTORIC PROPERTIES FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

These ordinances are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. PL-2022-09, Request of Pilgrim Ventures, LLC to Final Plat a 33.56-acre tract of the Robert Alway Survey, Abs.# 4 as Lots 1-9, Block 1; Lots 1X, 2-11, 12X, 13-22, 23X, 24-48, Block 2; Lots 1-34, Block 3; Lots 1-34, Block 4 of the El Dorado Addition. The property is located on Loop 567, west of Summerlin Ct. and east of Summerlin Dr.

2. PL-2022-14, Request of Jacob Stump on behalf of Calvary Church to Minor Plat a 10.381-acre tract of the Wright Williams Survey, Abs. #574 as Lot 1, Block 1 of the Calvary Church of Granbury Addition. The property is located southwest of the intersection of Glen Rose Hwy. and Indian Mountain Ct.

3. PL-2022-16, Request of Joe Faust on behalf of QT South, LLC to Replat Lot 4, Block 2 of the Luton Ranch Addition as Lot 4R, Block 2 of the Luton Ranch Addition. The property is located east of the intersection of Meander Rd. and E. Hwy. 377.

4. PL-2022-17, Request of Tony Calloway, to Final Plat a 6.231-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. # 348 as Lots 1-4, Block 1 of Corridor 51 Business Center Addition. The property is addressed as 1109 and 1211 Weatherford Hwy.

5. PL-2022-20, Request of Foxglove Investments LLC to Replat Lots 16-17, Block 2 of The Shores Addition as Lot 16R, Block 2 of The Shores Addition. The property is addressed as 806 Old Cleburne Rd.

6. PL-2022-02, Request of Jason Britt to Final Plat a 24.929 tract of the Joshua Minett Survey, Abs. # 445 as Lots 22-25 & Common Area E, Blk.10; Lots 1-51 & Common Area F, Blk. 11; Lots 1-6 Blk. 12; Lots 16-32, Blk. 13; and Common Area G, Block 20 of the Saratoga, Phase 2B Addition. The property is located south of the intersection of Saratoga Blvd. and E. Hwy 377.

7. PL-2022-23, Request of Jason Britt to Final Plat, a 59.801 acre tract of the Joshua Minett Survey, Abs. #351, B.W. Perkins Survey, Abs. # 445 as Lots 1-6, Block 15, Lots 1-30, Block 16, Lots 1-32, Block 17, Lots 1-16, Block 18, Lots 1-10, Block 19, Lots 1-7 & Common Area I, Block 20, Lots 1-16, Block 21, Lots 1-3 & Common Area H, Block 22, Lots 1-31, Block 23, Lots 1-12, Block 24 Lots 1-34, Block 25, and Lots 1-32, Block 26 of the Saratoga Phase 3 & 4 Addition. The property is located approximately 3000 feet south of the intersection of Saratoga Blvd. and E. Hwy 377.

8. PL-2022-30, Request of Mary Swingle and Chrisona Margurite Rodriguez to Replat Lot 7 and Lot 8, Block 1 of the Sunchase Village Addition as Lot 7R and Lot 8R, Block 1 of the Sunchase Village Addition. The properties are addressed as 5530 and 5600 Old Granbury Rd.

9. Z-2022-03, Request of Sand Hill Land & Cattle Company. LLC to rezone a 5.911-acre tract of the Marcus Smith Survey, Abs.#504 from Light Commercial [LC] to Planned Development [PD] with a base Multiple Family [PD/MF]. The property is located north of the intersection of Crawford Ave. and Harbor Lakes Dr.

10. TCP-2022-03, Request of Sand Hill Land & Cattle Company for a Tree Conservation Plan to allow for the removal and mitigation of protected trees in conformance with Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance. The property is located north of the intersection of Crawford Ave. and Harbor Lakes Dr. [P&Z only]

11. PL-2022-25, Request of Sand Hill Land & Cattle Company to Preliminary Plat a 5.911-acre tract of the Marcus

9031 Public Notices

Smith Survey, Abs. #504 as Lot 1, Block 1 of the Sundance on Lake Granbury Addition. The property is located north of the intersection of Crawford Ave. and Harbor Lakes Dr.

12. Z-2023-02, Request of Tryon Development Corp. to rezone a 15.147 acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. # 348 from Planned Development [PD] to Residential - 7,000 [R-7]. The property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Nettie Baccus Rd. and Loop 567.

13. PL-2023-04, Request of Tryon Development Corp. to Preliminary Plat a 15.147 acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. # 348 as Lots 1-23, Block 1; Lots 1-27, Block 2 and Lots 1-15, Block 3 of the Bella Vista Addition. The property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Nettie Baccus Rd. and Loop 567.

14. SUP-2023-09, Request of Connie Ross and Carrie Sturdivant for a Specific Use Permit to allow a "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted" in a Residential-7,000 [R-7] zoning district. The property is addressed as 216 S. Travis St.

15. SUP-2023-10, Request of Linda Jordan for a Specific Use Permit to allow a "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted" in a Residential-8,400 [R-8.4] zoning district. The property is addressed as 322 W. Bridge St.

16. SUP-2021-12, Request of Mary Ann Williamson for a Specific Use Permit to allow Single Family, Attached in a Central Business District (CBD) zoning district. The property is addressed as 210 E. Ewell St.

17. PL-2021-10, Request of Mary Ann Williamson to Replat a 0.549 acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. # 903, known as a part of Block 8 of the Barton Addn. as Lots 6R-11R, Block 8 of the Barton Addition. The property is addressed as 210 E. Ewell St.

For more information, contact Community Development at 817-573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

PUBLIC SALES

Garage Sales 76048

New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique MISSION GRANBURY 817-964-3445 1204 Water's Edge Dr., (Across from the Movie Theatre) #heretohelp Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm Sat. 10am - 4pm Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 1206 Third St.-Tons of media & ephemera; MCM furn.; pottery; collectibles; vintage clothes. Pics at estatesales.net, search: Doughboy Delight. 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

Garage Sales 76049

Mission Trip Fundraiser Yard Sale Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Hwy on South side of church. Fri 3/25 8-4, Sat 3/26 8-2. Furniture, household items, clothes, shoes, much more. Sold by donations.

ENCORE SHOP

First Baptist Church of Granbury WOM Class ENCORE SHOP, 1815 Weatherford Hwy. New, gently worn, beautiful ladies clothing size petite to plus. On hangers, name brand, some with tags, fall/winter. Dress and casual women's clothing, jackets. Hand bags, shoes, scarves & jewelry. Most items \$10 & below. All money from sale goes to mission trips and children's scholarships. Fri & Sat Mar 24 & 25. 8am-2pm.



News Sports Culture Lifestyle Entertainment Dining Arts Outdoors Recreation Community Local Government Hood County News WE COVER YOU

CRESSON MAYOR

Spring has sprung — just look at the bluebonnets!



BY TEENA PUTTEET CONWAY

Cresson Mayor Teena Putteet Conway, a native of Cresson, attended school for two years in the historic Cresson school. She is a Granbury High School graduate, and earned a BBA from Baylor University. After marrying, then raising her family in the Metroplex, she returned to Cresson after 40 years.

CRESSON — I always get excited when I spy the first batch of bluebonnets. On our drive to Magnolia, Texas, two weeks ago, I saw the first bunch of flowers. Then, today, while driving to Granbury, I screamed: Bluebonnets!! My sweet husband, Jerry, almost slammed on his brakes thinking something was wrong.

Forever, I have wanted to plant some bluebonnet seeds, but somehow spring

sneaks up on me and I do not get this done. It is about the same with gardens. Our

good friends in Eastland, Granbury's own, Carol Sheffield Jones and her husband, Bob both have green thumbs. They grow gardens every year and Bob specializes in growing peppers. He carries a pepper in his pocket every work day to ensure he has one to eat with his lunch. He never comments on how hot it is burning his lips and tongue. I would be having to drink milk to attempt to kill the burn!

I absolutely love home-grown tomatoes! My cousin, Cindy Thrash Nobles, once made a salad of just white onions, tomatoes, and iceberg lettuce with salt and pepper. She added no salad dressing and it was deli-

cious. I think it was because of the tomatoes! I bet Cindy does not remember this, but I wish I had it right now.

Speaking of Cindy, we were all saddened to hear the loss of her Nutt House in Granbury. She and the family had worked so hard to bring it back to life. The loss to a fire is almost incomprehensible for me. When I got married to my husband, we had our rehearsal dinner at the Nutt House. Then we had the bridesmaid's luncheon at the Coo-Coo's Nest. Needless to say, my husband's family from Alexandria, Louisiana, thought maybe we were all crazy based on those restaurant names!

In Cresson, we have the

twice annual spring clean-up, which will be held this year on Saturday, April 22. This is a free service to all our trash customers where they can bring their bulk trash to the site. This year's site is again at the Cresson Methodist Church. The most popular things that end up in the trash trucks are mattresses, chairs, and yard furniture. It's fun to watch what folks are tired of and are sending to its resting place!

I got the biggest response on my articles from the one about trash. I got several emails, phone calls and a personal visit to City Hall! All the responders had great ideas about how to manage the trash. I like to think of

our trash issue in two parts. The first is on Highway 377 and it is truly litter. Don't litter ... remember the slogan? Then there's the junked nuisances in town and around Cresson. It is an ongoing challenge that still perplexes me. There is no one solution as it takes an army to keep our cities clean! Steven Vale, Granbury City Council member, called to discuss options that they may try soon. I'm anxious to hear all about the results.

We are so blessed to live in the great state of Texas! Enjoy the bluebonnets this season and remember, 'don't litter'!

teenac@cressontx.org

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Lake Granbury recognized as Primary Stroke Certified

Submitted Copy

Lake Granbury Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Primary Stroke Certification.

Lake Granbury Medical Center underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review by a team of Joint Commission reviewers to evaluate compliance with related certification standards.

Joint Commission standards are



LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"Primary Stroke Certification rec-

ognizes health care organizations committed to fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care," said Deborah Ryan, MS, RN, interim executive vice president, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint

Commission. "We commend Lake Granbury Medical Center for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for stroke patients."

"We congratulate Lake Granbury Medical Center for this outstanding achievement," said Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Stroke Association. "This certification reflects its commitment to providing the highest quality of care for stroke patients."

"I am so proud of our team's commitment to the care of stroke patients in our communities," stated Curt M. Junkins, CEO of Lake Granbury Medical Center. "Their continued dedication and love for the communities we serve is something we can all be proud of."

For more information on Lake Granbury Medical Center's Primary Stroke Certification and program, please visit: <https://lakegranburymedical.com/GranburyPrimaryStrokeCenter> online.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A3

LAKE GRANBURY Newcomers Club Meeting. Join Lake Granbury Newcom-

ers Club for our annual Lake Granbury Newcomers Club and Style Show, 'Surf's up!' Come "hang ten" with your friends while enjoying our local merchants' spring/summer collections, modeled by our fantastic members. Reservations should be made by March 31, 2023 at noon. Cost \$22 includes lunch and program. Program only \$5.00.

Social hour 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., program & meeting begins at 10:15 a.m. at De Cordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive, Granbury. For more information email lgnc.reservations@gmail.com or call 682-719-3343.

Director of Tarrant County Democratic Party. 11:00 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

speak on "A Thousand May Fall", the story of an ethnic German regiment from northeastern Ohio in the Union Army. Visitors are welcome, with no charge for the first meeting. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncentexcwr.com>.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Iris Garcia, Execu-

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 10, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. Hwy 377. The program will be presented by Dr. Brian Jordan, PhD., an Associate Professor of History at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Jordan will



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Junior Optimists' Color Run raises funds for senior scholarships

Submitted Copy

The Granbury High School Junior Optimists are hosting a Color Run to raise funds for senior scholarships.

The Color Run will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Granbury High School Soccer Practice Fields. The Color Run is open to all Granbury ISD students and their

friends. It is a fun event where participants walk/run along a short course while being splashed with colorful powder at different points along the way. The Color Run hopes to bring

people together, promote health and wellness, and create a sense of community within our school. The Color Run entry fee is \$25 and includes a T-shirt. Registration for the Color Run is

located at granburyisd.revtrak.net/GHS/Color-Run/#/v/ghs-jr-optimist-color-run. Questions about the Color Run may be sent via email to houcine.chraibi@granburyisd.org.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Winkleman found a home in GISD and looked no more



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID WINKLEMAN

Coach Winkleman pictured with Lady Pirates soccer players.

BY SIERRA WELLS
Staff Writer

When you know, you just know, and David Winkleman knows where home is. For Granbury High School's Lady Pirate soccer fans, thankfully that is right here.

Aside from student teaching in Denton, the only place Winkleman, or "Wink" as he is often called, has taught and coached is in the Granbury School District. His career started as the boys varsity assistant soccer coach in 1992 and he became the girls head coach in 2004.

And now, at age 55, he still has no plans to go anywhere else. "I was never one to shop for great teams and situations to pad my record. My wife and I started teaching here and have raised and are still raising five kids in this community," Winkleman said. "It's been good to us. It is family. GHS provides the best education around here and the people I work with are and will always be family and the

best." It's been pretty good for the players and fans as well. Winkleman has compiled a 224-155-3 record as a head coach and his teams are consistently in the postseason, including this season as they were playing Fort Worth North Side in bi-district at press time. Winkleman was an assistant on the Pirates squad that won the 1999 Class 4A state championship with head coach Larry Mayo. He was also a junior varsity coach and had a couple of undefeated seasons, along with leading the way to expanding the junior varsity programs to a second team for both the boys and girls. "More opportunity was just great for kiddos both boys and girls," he

said. Then, in 2004, he took over leading the Lady Pirates soccer program. You could say it was a family decision. "I had been offered it before but I liked where I was, but then I kept having girls and coached their little teams and saw the writing on the wall," he said with a smile. "The game is different but that decision was a great one. Coaching girls has been awesome."

MEMORIES FROM THE PITCH
Of course, the state championship as an assistant is among his greatest memories, but he has quite a few as Lady Pirates coach. The 2011 team led by sweeper Katie Knapp, one of the greatest Lady Pirate players ever, reached the regional quarterfinals. The next season his team reached the sectional round. "One of my better teams lost to Odessa Permian when we were the smallest 5A team in Texas (no 6A

PLEASE SEE **WINKLEMAN** | B2



Pictured is Lady Pirate soccer head coach David Winkleman.

Visit Granbury seeks community's help for 'Foodie' tourism award

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Visit Granbury is asking the community to help Granbury win the "Best Destination for Foodies" award.

It's a category of the Texas Travel Awards program created by the publishers of Austin Monthly, San Antonio Magazine, and Texas Music.

Granbury is competing for the honor against Austin, Fredericksburg, and San Antonio.

To help win the title for the home team, go online to <http://contests.aus->

tinmonthly.com/Texas-Travel-Awards-Peoples-Choice-Awards/gallery/, scroll down to the "Best Destination for Foodies" category and click the "vote" button for Granbury. Voting is underway and will stop at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. You can cast a vote for Granbury every day from any device. The culinary side of Granbury is part of its appeal to tourists. To help promote that aspect of the tourism industry, Visit Granbury created the Granbury Foodie Trail. For more information on the Foodie Trail, and to see videos featuring

the people behind some of Granbury's most popular eateries, go to visitgranbury.com online.

kcruz@hcnews.com / 817-579-1886



COURTESY OF FELICITY MCNELLEY
Pictured is Felicity McNelley's gnocchi recipe.

THE DOWNHOME CHEF

Roll out this easy, flavorful gnocchi recipe with your family at home



BY FELICITY MCNELLEY

Felicity, a native Montanan, has been cooking and running kitchens for 27 years. She learned her trade from her mother, a master chef in the hotel industry. Felicity has 3 children and lives in Granbury.

Hello foodie friends. I hope all is well with you. This weather has me staying inside and cooking with my family. I'm sure that many of you can't wait for the days to get even warmer. I know I am ready for some sunshine and swimming days.

PLEASE SEE **COOK** | B2

HOOD OUTDOORS

Springtime crappie season is upon us



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.

Water temperatures in North Texas are rising slowly this year and the crappie will be making a late transition to the shallows for their spawning effort. Many crappie are still being caught in deeper water, but that is sure to change. Granbury boasts of a decent population of crappie as well as many other local lakes like Benbrook, Bridgeport and Proctor (just to name a few). Knowing their patterns will help you locate active fish.

In our area waters we have two species of crappie, namely the black and white crappie. Black crappie can get a bit larger than the white counterparts, but all are great eating. I believe the world record black crappie is around 6 pounds and the white crappie is around 5 pounds. If you catch crap-

pie in the 2-pound range, you are on some big crappie. Crappie limits in Texas are 25 per person, per day and they have to be a minimum of 10 inches in length.

Crappies tend to relate to shade and structure and they prefer little or no current. In the spring these fish will move into real shallow water



STOCK PHOTO COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

Many crappie are currently being caught in deep water. With slowly rising water temperatures, crappie may make late transitions to shallow water

to spawn. When I say shallow, they can be in less than a foot of water. Locations

in the backs of creeks with a lot of reeds can be a good choice. In the winter, these

fish are best located near deeper structure. Probably the best-known

bait for spring crappie in the shallows is a small minnow

PLEASE SEE **OUTDOORS** | B6

COOK

FROM PAGE B1

But in the meantime, I've been trying new dishes at home. And I have a good one for you today. My two younger children have been learning how to cook and take part in meal preparation at home. We have also been stepping outside of our normal food routines to try different foods from different ethnicities.

We love Mexican food, we love Asian food, and we eat those foods often. Fortunately they are as interested as I am in trying new flavors. You won't find this new dish at the Square Cafe

as of yet, but I hope you give it a try and let me know what you think.

I am sure many of you have tried gnocchi before. I have, at a certain American-Italian restaurant. I decided to give it a shot at home to see what I can come up with. I have to say, I surprised myself with this particular meal. It has definitely become a family favorite.

- Ingredients**
- 1.5 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts
 - Sea salt
 - Cracked black pepper
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 small green onions, sliced
 - 8 ounces shiitake mushrooms, chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 tablespoons dried oregano
 - 2 C. half-and-half
 - Pinch of red pepper flakes
 - 1 17 ounce package gnocchi
 - ¾- 1 C. shredded Mozzarella
 - ½ C. grated Parmesan
 - 2 C. fresh baby spinach

Step one: Season chicken on both sides with salt and pepper. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add chicken and cook until golden, approximately 4 minutes on each side. (You can add more olive oil if 1 tablespoon is not enough.) Remove from

skillet and set aside.

Step two: Reduce heat to medium and add the remaining tablespoon of oil. Add green onions and mushrooms and cook until golden, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and oregano and cook until aromatic. Reduce temperature on pan to medium-low. Slowly add half-and-half to pan, stirring and scraping up the brown bits on the bottom of the pan. Stir constantly to prevent your half-and-half from burning or bubbling too quickly. Bring to a simmer and season with salt and pepper and a pinch of red pepper flakes. Stir in gnocchi and let bubble for a few minutes. Return chicken to the pan. Let simmer until chick-

en is cooked through, 8-10 minutes. Remove chicken again and set aside.

Step three: Add cheeses and stir until melted. Add spinach and stir until wilted.

Step four: Slice the chicken and return to the skillet. Don't stir the chicken in, just lay it on top.

Serve hot. This recipe is easily tripled, but you need a very large skillet. For my family of five, I just added an additional chicken breast and used a deeper skillet.

This dish served with garlic bread is perfect. I am really big on memories, and I have to say that this time around it was no different. We were pleasantly sur-

prised with the flavors, but dinner that night came with great conversation and a lot of laughter as we worked together making something we had never had before. I will never not recommend a good dinner as a great way to spend time with your families.

I hope you enjoy this recipe as much as I did. And I hope to see some of your smiling faces at the Cafe. Let me know what you think, and share some of your memories with me.

Until next time, Felicity

felmcnel@gmail.com

WINKLEMAN

FROM PAGE B1

at the time," Winkleman recalled. "The only goal was curled into the goal by the only one who could see. Everyone else was looking into the sun (at Abilene's Shotwell Stadium)."

The 2020 season might well have been the best in Lady Pirates history. They were 20-3 and most believe they had a real chance at getting Winkleman his first state tournament berth as a head coach.

There was one opponent even they could not overcome, however - COVID-19. All sports programs were shut down that spring, including the cancellation of the UIL soccer postseason.

"That was an awesome team doing amazing things. They got me my 200th win. They were on fire!" Winkleman said. "Several of them played in college and they were not only some of the hardest playing kids I have had, they had my first varsity 'grandplayer' Alyssa (Gomez). She is the daughter of one of the young men I coached in the 90s with coach Mayo. I have had several grandplayers since. I'm getting old."

"They were primed to go far that year and then COVID robbed us of our playoff run."

But the season that stands out most is his first as a head coach, Winkleman said.

"The first year coaching girls was an eye opener. The game is different, and in a lot of ways has more of the passing that makes soccer the beautiful game," he said. "I learned as well how different it was coaching young women. One of the things about female athletes, though, is that they will run through a brick wall for you."

FAMILY LIFE

Winkleman grew up in Garland on the edge of

"I was never one to shop for great teams and situations to pad my record. My wife and I started teaching here and have raised and are still raising five kids in this community. It's been good to us. It is family. GHS provides the best education around here and the people I work with are and will always be family and the best."

DAVID WINKLEMAN

Lady Pirate soccer head coach

Mesquite and Sunnyvale. He was raised in a neighborhood addition next to the flood plains of Duck Creek.

"We roamed the landscape, and on the weekends and summer came in only at dinner then in at 11. Great childhood," he said.

Ironically, Winkleman did not play soccer himself in high school or college.

"It was just starting at the high school level where I went. I played as a kid up to my teens outside of school," he said. "I was asked to be the men's varsity assistant and head JV coach by coach Mayo. I have a lot of gratitude for that."

"I have enjoyed teaching in the classroom, but also the competition and being outside trying to shape young people's lives."

Winkleman and his wife Kelly ("love of my life" he calls her on his school bio page) have five children, daughters Kaitlin, 27; Hannah, 25; Sarah, 24 (mother to granddaughter Magnolia); and Kenzie, 17; and son Cooper is 15.

"No, we were not trying for a boy, God just blessed us with a large loving family," his bio page also reads.

And Winkleman coached them all, including Kaitlin and Hannah as Lady Pirates and all on recreation and club teams. Cooper is on the Pirates JV this season.

"Who else would I trust to coach them?" he said. "I didn't just coach at the high school. I coached the Tiger Lillies, the Butterfly Warriors, the Tigers, the

Grizzlies, etc."

LOVES TO TEACH

As much as he loves coaching, Winkleman is equally addicted to teaching history. It's the subject in which he began his teaching career and now has a master's degree in.

"I think social studies, and specifically U.S. history/government are the MOST important class that kids take because it shows who we are. Where we come from. How we messed up?" he said. "The subjects we talk about in my class connect to the issues that we face today and will face in the future. The leaders of tomorrow are in our classes today. Our future depends on the citizenship of these kids."

"Plus, history is full of cool stories. I love the stories. I have the best of both worlds. I get to teach great kids the subject I love and get outside and coach young athletes."

And one thing Winkleman works to instill in his players and students to always be thinking, always question.

"Students need to ask, why? Challenge and query, research, how to think, how to work hard to learn," he said. "I always say I want to prepare my kids for 13th grade. Whatever they do after high school I want them to be able to think critically and speak academically, or in a way that they will be taken seriously, in public. I want them to experience the world of books and the world of nature."

As for his players,

Winkleman emphasizes mental toughness and accomplishing goals together. Even if an individual reaches a milestone, for example, it was part of a team success.

It's all about subordinating egos in the interest of something better. "Iron sharpens Iron" is the team slogan.

Winkleman said one of the most important pieces of advice he received in his career came from former Granbury football coach Biff Peterson.

"I've learned many things over the years, and one of the most important is that 'effort creates ability' and that great teams sacrifice for that team," he said. "I have appreciated the effect of athletics on young people. They fight, work, sacrifice, bleed, and sweat for each other. They will always be teammates."

"I have especially enjoyed the effect of athletics on young women. They become

leaders. It's hard to pressure or intimidate young warriors who every day test themselves and each other physically."

Winkleman is also proud to say that he's learned from his players and students as well over the years, including "Humility and love. The value of patience and forgiveness. The importance of connecting."

His favorite of it all? "The myriad of personalities of these young men and women. I love these young women's fire and competitive spirit. And it is always interesting! I get to teach what I love and get outside and teach the sport I love! "I'm still learning and having fun. It is the most exhausting and yet the most rewarding of endeavors. I'm also still wondering what I'll do when I grow up."



APRIL CALENDAR

 <p>"BUDDY AND BEYOND" Buddy Holly, Buddy Holly Orchestra, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ritchie Valens, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash and more</p>	 <p>April 7th, 2023 7:30pm Adam Grant Tribute to Seth Green</p>	 <p>April 8th, 2023 7:30pm Michael He</p>	 <p>April 29th, 2023 7:00pm 1999 The Legacy of Prince Prince Tribute</p>
 <p>April 21st, 2023 7:30pm Tina Turner Tribute to Tina Turner</p>	 <p>April 22nd, 2023 3 & 7pm A Jerry Lee Lewis Tribute & much More! JARED FREIBURG & The Vagabonds</p>	 <p>April 28th, 2023 7:30pm A Tribute to Karen Carpenter Dawn Turlington as Karen Carpenter</p>	 <p>April 29th, 2023 7:00pm Radio Flashback Your Favorite Radio Hits from the 70's & 80's</p>

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Isaiah 41:10

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Romans 8:28

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Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Hood County Library — bringing books to a location near you!



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading.

Sing it with me! "The wheels on the bus go round and round..."

This tune keeps recurring in my head as the library awaits the arrival of the book-mob. There are 3,000 items waiting to be loaded. Routes are planned. Commissioners have blessed our policies and procedures.

Excitement is building! And the celebration has been set!

Mark your calendars for April 29! The library will be hosting a Local Services Fair from 2-4 p.m. that Saturday. This event will not only highlight the new library mobile services vehicle, but also will feature all local services available to Hood County residents. We welcome you to come out and walk through the Library on Wheels, then peruse the stations to play a game while gaining insight

on all that is offered in Hood County.

While you're there, meet Robyn Scanlon, our Mobile Services and Outreach Coordinator. She can answer questions you may have and share some things she has planned. The Library on Wheels will be making stops around the county like in Lipan, Tolar, and Cresson. It will also be bringing lobby stops to retirement communities. This summer, it will take our summer reading program to families that cannot easily make it to the library in town. The Library on Wheels will also be available for special events and programs by request.

The expected delivery of the Library on Wheels is tentatively set for April 10. We are crossing our fingers for no delays. We hope that



Pictured is a rendering of the anticipated book mobile.

COURTESY OF JENNIFER LOGSDON

routes will begin the first week of May. Sing it with me!! "The people on the bus will read, read, read...and the library on wheels will deliver all through the town!!" Upcoming Events

TECH TUESDAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

April 4 and 18.
Children's Events
Mondays 10:30 Music and Motion
Wednesdays 10:30
Storytime & Craft (preschool)
Thursdays 4:30 Code Club (8-11 years of age)

FAMILY EVENTS

April 1 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
STEAM Saturday
LEGO Day every Saturday.

TEEN EVENTS

Mondays and Thursdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. OPEN PLAY (middle school ages and up)
April 20 5:30 TEEN Night: Celebrating Earth Day: Decorating planter and planting

Adult Events

April 11 6 p.m. Craft Night: Spring Wreath with guest crafter Tammie Anderson
April 21 6:30 p.m. Trivia Night: Lord of the Rings
April 25 6 p.m. Book Club: Take my Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

jlogsdon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-573-3569

BOOK REVIEW

Bill Hammack takes readers on deep dive into science in 'The Things We Make'

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You've been tapping your chin for 10 minutes.

Deep in thought, you've barely moved while you've studied the problem in front of you. There's a solution to this conundrum and it's probably an easy one but you'll have to dig for it. It might even be right in front of you - or maybe, as in the new book "The Things We Make" by Bill Hammack, Ph.D., the fix is in your hand.

Centuries ago, medieval builders of cathedrals were "elite workers (and) were well paid." Their supervisor, a head mason, the elite of the elite, "commanded benefits far surpassing" others because of his superior knowledge: he knew how to craft archways and windows that withstood the weight of tons of stone without collapsing. Though the head mason was likely illiterate, he knew this because he had a rule of thumb.

It was, in the end, just a matter of simple engineering. It worked, wrote Hammack, because using rules of thumb can help attain the "best change in a poorly understood situation using available resources" - and we use such rules often,

sometimes without even realizing it. Using rules of thumb, he said, is true every time anyone "has designed a solution to a complex problem ... for millennia of human history."

This rule of thumb method - this "engineering method" - is why landline receivers are as long as they are: female secretaries were the primary users of early business telephones; a series of rule-of-thumb measurements told inventors that the space between a woman's ear and her mouth was just this distance. It's how European automakers should make crash-test dummies. It's why some women's bikes are more comfortable to ride than others. Hammack cited a scientist who had access to rules of thumb and became "obsessed" with moving water in order to understand the dynamics of fluid, and a scientist who figured out how one computer's bits avoid colliding with other computers online. In all cases, the "engineering method" led to a solution.

Without it, said Hammack, humanity would be at a stand-still.

Sometimes, you're too busy to notice.



COURTESY PHOTO

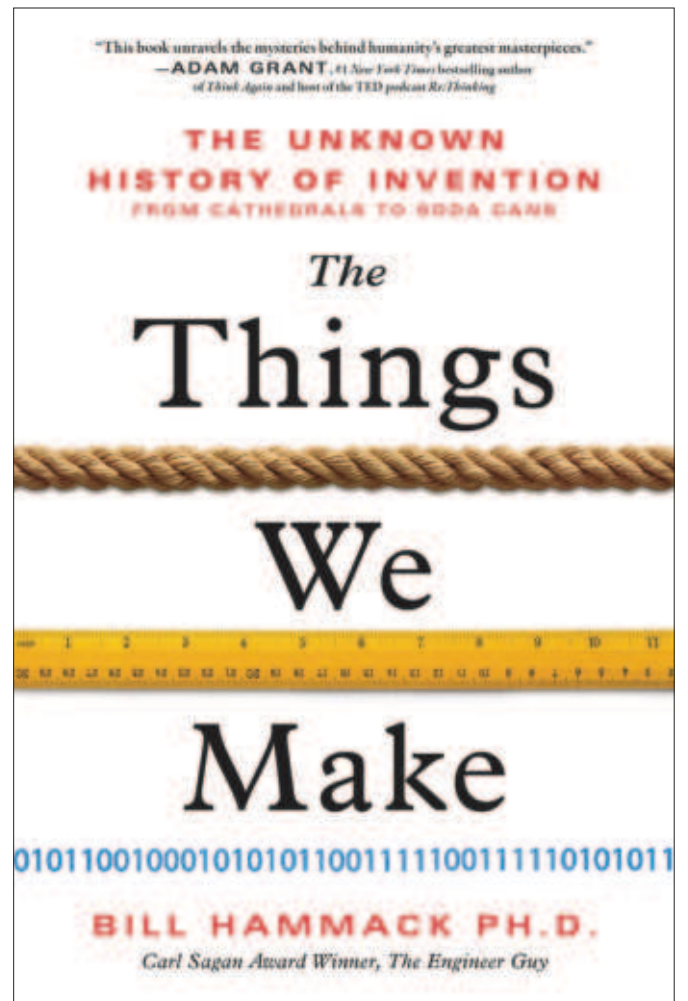
Pictured is author Bill Hammack.

There's splendor in the everyday but so much goes unnoticed: the design of your belongings, the lean of a bicyclist on the sidewalk. These are things that, once seen, can't be unseen and in "The Things We Make," your eyes will be opened.

But first: if you're a tinkerer, you're science-minded, or if you live by workarounds, author Bill Hammack makes you feel even smarter, explaining how you've become a link in history merely because you've used an inter-

esting, ancient crowd-source that you (maybe) didn't know existed. Go ahead, boast, but notice, too, that this book also begs readers to stop and appreciate the mundane and the magnificent. Someone else used an "engineering method," too, and we can't live without the fruits of their labors.

Be aware: this book takes a deep dive into science and it's not for everyone. If you're fascinated by engineering, though, find "The Things We Make" and tap into it.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Things We Make" by Bill Hammack Ph.D., The Engineer Guy

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Higher education attention in Cowtown



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Higher education gets news coverage in both mass and social media, and much, I'm sure, is true. Technology is changing it at warp speed, and the old descriptions we used to toss about no longer fit.

We joked that colleges had buildings where "ivy is creeping around on the outside and teachers are creeping around on the inside." Other bromides come to mind, but none seem to fit well in the ever-changing framework of what higher education is all about.

Greek philosophers considered the topic centuries ago, asking, "Whom, then, shall we call educated?" Then, they proceeded to answer their own questions, claiming that education should enable students to

deal effectively with the circumstances they encounter day by day. It still fits, right?

NO LONGER 'NORMAL'

Truth to tell, institutions must be open to change. After all, many of them have changed their names, and several times at that. What formerly were known as "teachers' colleges" head the list.

When colleges started popping up in Texas — most of them in the early 1900s — a word included in most

names was "normal."

Real old-timers, longest of tooth and grayest of beard, remember or heard tell of such colleges, including Sam Houston State Normal College, with these three last names also applying to such institutions as North Texas, Southwest Texas, Sul Ross, East Texas and West Texas.

They removed "normal" from their names, a decision perhaps worthy of applause. Many changed their three final words to "State Teachers' College," then came "State College," followed by "State University." (During the 1960s-1970s, many colleges decided "university" had a better ring to it. Later, some joined the systems of two other institutions — the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. However, those are whole 'nuther stories.)

RECENT NEWS

This column centers on unusual happenings at two Fort Worth higher educa-

tion institutions — Texas Christian University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Both provided recent front-page stories mere days apart in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

TCU leaders promised placement of the "big pot into the little one" for its 150th anniversary observance this year, and Southwestern announced sale of Carroll Park — a 24-acre tract with one- and two-bedroom housing — to the city of Fort Worth for \$11 million.

HOOD COUNTY NOTE

TCU has been its official name since 1902, but founding brothers Addison and Randolph Clark called it "Add-Ran Male and Female College" in the early years. About the time of TCU's founding 150 years ago, Fort Worth was saddled with bawdiness associated with the joint impact of railroads and Chisholm Trail cattle

drives. Afraid that this setting could corrupt students' minds, the Clark brothers relocated the school to Thorp Spring, some 40 miles away, a few miles from Granbury in Hood County. Enrollment grew there from a few dozen students to more than 400 from 1873-1895. It was known for being "seven miles from any known sin."

Then came another relocation, this time to Waco. In 1910, TCU moved back to Fort Worth, where the sprawling campus of some 300 acres now is home to some 11,000 students. It may be the only higher education institution in the US that has been located in three communities, one of them twice.

THE RETURN

At Southwestern, such a sale is a head-scratcher, particularly since this was the world's largest theological seminary during the 1970s and 1980s.

News accounts indicate

that Fort Worth plans to utilize the housing for homeless families.

When Christ returns, His arrival might be at the very spot where Cowtown homeless abide.

ON A SHORT LEASH

Presidents of higher education institutions these days seem to be on ground as shaky as football coaches whose school alumni promise to "support them always — win or tie."

Average presidential tenure now is about four years, and Dr. Kenneth Ashworth, longtime Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, saw the entanglements coming.

Fact is, presidents are re-reading his delightful 2001 book, "Caught Between the Dog and the Fireplug: How to Survive Public Service."

newbury@speakerdoc.com

VERTERANS VOICE

Department of the Army rescinds its COVID-19 shot requirements



BY LINDA MALLON

Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years.

On Feb. 24 Army Public Affairs announced that the Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth issued a memorandum rescinding all policies associated with the DOD COVID-19 shot mandate.

This allows for soldiers to remain in the military, requests for exemptions are considered resolved, adverse actions associated with denials of exemptions and flags

will be removed or rescinded, and travel restrictions are lifted except for combatant command or theater specific entry requirements.

The memorandum also states former soldiers may file for a correction of military records in cases where they were discharged under less than Honorable conditions. In my June 2022 column I addressed this; that a Naval Board determined

DOD had issued an unlawful order to mandate troops to participate in a clinical trial anticipating there would be a flood of requests for correction of military records and here we are.

Title 10 USC paragraph 1107(a) states the President of the United States must issue a waiver of informed consent "in writing" to mandate Emergency Use Authorized experimental medical treatments to military members in the interest of National Security. I contacted Congressman Williams's office in January for a copy of that Presidential waiver, and they responded they "could not find any evidence of a waiver officially signed by the President." This waiver cannot be delegated to the

Secretary of Defense and may have been the basis for the Naval Board findings that the COVID shot mandate was unlawful justifying Army Veterans to petition for correction of their records which stated as reasons for their discharges "misconduct."

Our office is prepared to assist veterans to correct this injustice no matter what branch of service, Officer or Enlisted or whether those branches followed the Army's recent directive to rescind the COVID shot policy. Texas Veterans Commission recently notified Veteran Service Officers that veterans assigned to Superfund Site Brook Air Force Base may be eligible for disability compensation for exposure to PFAS. These

are a group of fluorinated substances referred to as "forever chemicals" stemming from the frequent use of the fire suppressant AFFF. These chemicals are highly toxic to humans and animals and pose risk to health if inhaled or ingested and have a strong causal relationship to cancer.

Veterans assigned to Superfund sites like Brook should contact me if they suspect their medical condition is related to exposure so we can get a claim filed. The VA is offering a new life insurance called VALIFE providing whole life insurance coverage for veterans age 80 or under with a disability rating of 0%-100%. The coverage comes in \$10,000 increments up to \$40,000 and premiums are competi-

tive or at par with outside insurance. Interested veterans can find information on this website or contact our office for more information: <https://news.va.gov/103790/valife-insurance-program-coming-january-2023-veterans-with-service-connection/>

Our office will be closed for training the afternoon of Tuesday, April 4 through Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7 for Good Friday. Please call and leave a message anyway as we check our messages frequently, or email me for a quicker response.

lmallon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-579-3292

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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.

PLEASE SEE **PLAY** | B8

OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE B2

fished under a cork. A 10-foot or longer pole is used by many to place their bait offering in the shallow structure. The best-known artificial bait for crappie is a multitude of small jigs. There are so many variations. White, green, and bubble gum are a few of the popular colors. You'll just have to try a few different colors to see what they will bite.

Springtime crappie can be spooked in the shallows. I would be careful approaching the area you are going to fish and let your bait

sit for a while especially if you think you may have spooked some fish. Crappie bites can be hard to detect at times depending on the size of the fish. It is recommended that you use a small float, which will sense even the smallest of movement. I have had days fishing for crappie that the only way that I could sense a bite was when the float would stop momentarily moving in the wind. The point here is to be alert for anything that looks different.

As many of our lakes are not full, spawning locations can be different. Look for shallow flats with some structure (weeds, stick ups,

rip-rap, etc.) and you will likely find these tasty devils. Shaded areas under docks may be a great choice as well.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the upper 50s to low 60s due to the recent cool snaps. Temperatures will rebound quickly. Golden alga is still present in some areas, but many areas of the lake have improved. Hopefully this dreaded alga is ending. Crappies are moving up and can be caught in the shallows on jigs and minnows, some are still in deeper water. Largemouth bass are moving

toward their spawning beds and are good on soft plastics and crank baits. Sandies are good on jigs, slabs and minnow fished in the river near Tin Top. Striped bass are being caught on live shad and Bass Assassins near Indian Harbor and near Sandy Point. Catfish action is good in the river above Hunter Park and near DeCordova.

Comanche Creek black bass action continues to be good on soft plastics worked near spawning beds. Power plant channel catfish catches are phenomenal on cut and prepared baits. Comanche Creek reservoir closes March 31 for the summer and will reopen in October.

Lake Whitney striped bass limits are good on live bait

and Alabama Rigs fished from the state park north to Bear Creek. Sand bass catches are good upstream on the Nolan and up above Hamm's creek. Possum Kingdom striped bass to 15 pounds are possible mid-lake on live bait.

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

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Mar. 22 (Puzzle 11).

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

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PETS OF THE WEEK

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.

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm;
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 24 March 2023 - Thursday, 30 March 2023

65 (PG13)
Fri: 11:55AM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 2:35PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:05PM, 7:45PM

Creed III (PG13)
Fri: 8:20PM.
Sat: 7:20PM, 10:10PM.
Sun: 6:30PM.
Mon: 7:45PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 7:40PM

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (PG13)
Thurs: 3:00PM, 6:15PM

Jesus Revolution (PG13)
Fri: 11:50AM, 2:40PM, 5:30PM.
Sat: 10:50AM, 1:40PM, 4:30PM.
Sun: 12:30PM, 3:30PM.
Mon: 2:00PM, 4:55PM.
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM

John Wick: Chapter 4 (R)
Fri: 11:50AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 4:40PM, 7:10PM, 8:20PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 11:40AM, 2:40PM, 3:20PM, 6:20PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM, 10:35PM.
Sun: 11:30AM, 12:00PM, 3:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:50PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 2:10PM, 6:00PM

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

Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG13)
Fri: 12:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 9:00PM.
Sat: 10:50AM, 1:50PM, 4:50PM, 7:50PM, 10:50PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 8:10PM.
Thurs: 2:05PM, 5:10PM, 8:15PM

Shazam! Fury of the Gods - Sensory Friendly (PG13)
Sat: 11:30AM

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Fundraisers successful for Pecan's emergency volunteers

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 Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is pleased to report two successful fundraisers held this month.

The "Flamingle" casserole and bake sale involved many auxiliary members donating time, money, and cooking skills to provide a wide array and quantity of oven-ready frozen casseroles and baked goods. A line of eager Pecan residents formed at the EMS building prior to the sale and continued several hours until the items were sold, garnering an estimated \$2,700 for the emergency response groups.

In addition, a steady stream of Pecan residents had their precious metals evaluated and purchased by representatives of Cowtown Gold & Silver. This event netted approximately \$1,100 for the auxiliary.

The Auxiliary members are elated and grateful to all Pecan residents who supported these important fundraisers. The final, official figures regarding the money raised from the two events will be announced at the next regular business meeting of the auxiliary, set for 7 p.m. on Monday, April 3, at the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS building. All Pecan residents are invited to attend both the meeting as well as a light meal and social beginning at 6.

GOOD GROWING

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens are starting to become quite active with warmer temperatures and spring popping up all around! The group had a spontaneous workday on March 4 when spinach, lettuce, carrots, beets, turnips, and even tomatoes were planted. In addition, both new and sustaining members worked all morning to clean up and label the storage area as well as construct a bamboo trellis for the upcoming green bean crop. Another workday happened March 11 and today, Saturday, March 25, will again find folks working in the soil.

The Community Gardens are located on Plantation Drive to the right of the PAC walking trail. Potential members and interested parties are welcome to join the activities today.

BOOT SCOOTIN'

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual boot scootin' dinner and dance is on the calendar for tonight, Saturday, March 25. Ticket sales are complete, and all funds raised this evening will support the ladies' cho-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary held two very successful fundraisers this month, every penny of which was earned supports the community's emergency service volunteers. Pictured are Shelly O'Toole and Patty Eatmon who co-chaired the "Flamingle" casserole and bake sale. Photo credit goes to Lana Robinson.

sen philanthropies.

BOARD MEETING

The Pecan Plantation Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. The agenda includes the appointment of two directors to fill recent vacancies. A recorded video of the meeting will be posted on the website the following Friday.

GATHERING TIME

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club will gather on Tuesday, March 28 in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse for a reception at 5:30

p.m. A "no-host" dinner will follow at 6 with games included in the evening.

The club focuses on a fun night out, making new friendships, and enjoying good food. It meets the fourth Tuesday of each month and invites Pecaners who have lost their spouses to join. To RSVP, send an email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

TALENT GALORE

Pecan Plantation is very happy to announce a fantastic edition of Pecan's Got Talent slated for Friday evening, March 31 in the clubhouse ballroom. Host Monty

Lewis will bring his humor to the blend of eight talented acts, which include dancing, singing, and instrumental performances. The performers represent a wide age range, with the youngest being 7. Tickets are on sale and will go fast. Contact the clubhouse front desk to reserve a seat: 817-573-2641.

WELCOME HOME

The next new member orientation is scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m. in the Brazos Room of the clubhouse. Any new residents who have not attended an orientation gathering are invited. Secure a spot by con-

tacting Sarah Lord at 817-573-2641, extension 335.

CLEAN UP

The adopt-a-highway clean up date scheduled for earlier this month has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 1. Volunteers are asked to confirm their availability for the new date by contacting Roger Merrill at 817-243-9694.

ART FAIR

A pop-up art fair will happen Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 19th Hole Pavilion. Work from members of the Pecan Plantation Art Guild will be available for purchase.

NEW LOOK

Pecan Plantation is seeking help from its members to design and update the front entrance. The competition is open to all residents, and anyone with an interest in design and an understanding of our community is welcome to enter. In addition to spearheading a project that will leave a legacy in Pecan, the winning designer will receive a prize.

General Manager Rick Lantgen said that submitting an idea for the front entrance "is a chance for members of our community to contribute to the aesthetic of Pecan. We're excited to see the creative proposals and work with the chosen designer."

Details about how and when to submit ideas, along with what awaits the winner, will follow in upcoming weeks.

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Real estate investing — a short cut to retirement?



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

Investing in real estate continues to be one of the most effective ways to earn a steady and dependable return on your investment. If done correctly, it can also be your pathway to an earlier retirement.

Buying investment property can help you grow your personal wealth in a relatively brief period of time. Purchasing property to rent out can generate a steady cash flow for years. Managed properly, this income can be

used to expand your rental portfolio. As long as you appropriately manage this new money and continue to slowly build your rental property portfolio, retirement may not be as far out in the future as it once was.

The next added benefit is that your real estate portfolio will appreciate in value over time without requiring any direct intervention on your part. Real estate values will go up and down, we know this from experience, but in the long term, it will appreciate, and as the value grows, so does your net worth. Ten years ago in Hood County, the average sales price for a three-bedroom, two-bath home between 1,500-2,000 square feet was \$133,600. Today that number is \$300,961. That is a gain of almost 10% per year.

And while your net worth is growing, the tenants in your rental properties are helping you pay down your

loan balances. Managed properly, your debt service should be covered 100% by your rental income, meaning your only out-of-pocket expense will be your down payment and closing costs, which are typically recouped within a few years.

Like anything else, this is not a 100% foolproof guarantee, nor is it as easy as it sounds. Managing a rental portfolio is hard work. From the mundane and expected hassle of collecting rents to the frequent phone calls about water heaters or leaky faucets, it can be time-consuming and sometimes frustrating. You will have terrific tenants who pay on time like clockwork and take

care of the property as if it were their own, and you will have those who vacate the property in the middle of the night leaving unpaid rents due and a horrible mess for you to clean up.

But again, managed properly, the cash flow should offset the maintenance and vacancies, and if you go into this knowing the strength of the investment in the length of its tenure, the odds are strongly in your favor for early retirement.

I have stressed the term "managed properly" multiple times in the article because it is that important, and an experienced Property Manager is something you might want to consider. A good prop-

erty manager can help you screen tenants, manage rent collections, make repairs, and keep a close eye on your property. This is especially helpful if you happen to live any distance from the properties you own. If you have questions about property management or help finding rental properties to add to your portfolio, give us a call at 817-219-0456. We do offer property management services, and we would love to tell you more about how we can help you in your efforts to grow wealth by investing in real estate.

pamK@knieperteam.com / 817-219-0456

PLAY

FROM PAGE B6

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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inside DO I WANT TO DIY? | SMALL RENOVATIONS THAT CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT | BUDGET-FRIENDLY WAYS TO FRESHEN UP THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME | SIX OPTIONS FOR FUNDING YOUR NEXT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT | FOUR TIPS TO PICK THE RIGHT PLANTS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE | THE BASICS OF CONTAINER GARDENING | LEARN THE BASICS OF FERTILIZING A LAWN | THE MANY BENEFITS OF HOUSEPLANTS | CANDLE CRAFTS TAP CREATIVITY | POISONOUS PLANTS TO AVOID AROUND THE HOUSE | HOW TO THROW A LAST-MINUTE DINNER PARTY | TIPS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR CLUTTERED KITCHEN | HOW TO GET YOUR POOL SUMMER READY

Do I want to DIY?

Three questions to determine if it's best to renovate on your own

(MetroCreative Connection)

A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the follow-

ing three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

CAN I AFFORD TO DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes.

Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

DO I HAVE THE TIME?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

CAN I PULL THIS OFF?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience

does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

COURTESY PHOTO
No two homeowners are the same, but there are three questions that can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.



Small renovations that can make a big impact

(MetroCreative Connection)

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra "go big or go home" when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that's not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks as well.

COUNTERTOPS AND HARDWARE

A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners' budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners' ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

PAINT

Painting a space is an inex-

pensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

LIGHTING

Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It's worth

it to invest in new lighting, whether it's a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

WEATHERPROOFING

Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the av-

erage American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

MUDROOM

Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

ACCENT UPDATES

Any space, whether it's inside or outside a home, can

get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

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Budget-friendly ways to freshen up the exterior of your home



COURTESY PHOTO

There are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

(MetroCreative Connection)

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project. Though there might not be an "average cost" of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home

exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

POWER WASHING

Power washing won't break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent power washers, but homeowners who don't want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home's exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without breaking the bank.

FURNISHED FRONT PORCH

A furnished front porch can serve as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won't need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

WINDOW BOX INSTALLATION

Installing window box planters is another cost-effective way to brighten up a home's exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at Better Homes &

Gardens urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.

REPLACE HARDWARE

Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inexpensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.



COURTESY PHOTO

Homeowners may find that the more expensive renovations require them to secure some type of financing. Those who have never before sought such financing may want to consider several options.

Options for funding your next home improvement project

(MetroCreative Connection)

Before starting a home improvement project, either on one's own or with the assistance of a professional contractor, homeowners must first consider the costs involved. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, more than one-third of homeowners do not understand what hiring a professional will cost, and then cannot successfully budget and secure financing once they have set their sights on a renovation project.

HomeAdvisor says that some of the more popular projects, such as remodeling a kitchen or bathroom or building a deck, can cost, on average, \$19,920, \$9,274 and \$6,919, respectively.

Homeowners may find that the more expensive renovations require them to secure some type of financing. Those who have never before sought such financing may want to consider these options.

CASH-OUT REFINANCING

With cash-out refinancing, a person will begin the mortgage process anew with the intention of paying off the current mortgage balance, and then taking out additional funds for other purposes. Cash-out refinancing is a way to tap into a home's existing equity for use on improvements or other expenses, such as college tuition.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

The financial experts at Bankrate indicate that a HELOC works like a credit card, with the house as collateral. There is a credit limit, and borrowers can spend up to that limit. The interest rate may or may not be fixed. However, the interest may be tax-deductible if the financing is used to improve, buy or build a home.

HOME EQUITY LOAN

Individuals also can borrow against equity in their homes with a fixed interest rate through a home equity loan. Most lenders will calculate 80 percent of the home value and subtract a homeowner's mortgage balance to figure out how much can be borrowed, according to the financial advisory website The Simple Dollar.

PERSONAL LOAN

Homeowners can shop around at various financial institutions for competitive personal loans to be used for home improvement purposes. Funds may be approved within one business day, which can be ideal for those who want to begin their improvements soon.

PERSONAL LINE OF CREDIT

A personal line of credit allows borrowers to borrow only the money needed at the time, and offers a variable interest rate that is generally lower than fixed loan rates. Again, like a credit card, PLOC gives a person a maximum borrowing amount and is ideal for ongoing purchases.

CREDIT CARDS

In a pinch, credit cards can be used to finance improvements, but they do come with the cost of very high interest rates if the balance is not paid in full by the time the bill comes due. However, for funding smaller projects and maximizing rewards points through home improvement retailers or specific credit card company promotions, credit cards can be a way to earn various perks in addition to the benefit of improving a home.

Homeowners looking to finance their next improvements should speak to a financial advisor and shop around for the best types of funding for them.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The maintenance required to keep a plant healthy and looking good is a key consideration when designing a landscape.

Four tips to pick the right plants for your landscape

(MetroCreative Connection)

Each year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The fol-

lowing are some tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

CONDUCT A SITE EVALUATION

A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must be evaluated, including light availability; water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures; and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick

plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.

LOOK AT MORE THAN LOOKS

Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property.

Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

CONSIDER MAINTENANCE PRIOR TO PLANTING

Maintenance is another

variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that require such diligence. If not,

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Learn the basics of container gardening

(MetroCreative Connection)

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

WHAT IS CONTAINER GARDENING?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.

PROS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

CONS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the

ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1/2-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.

PLAN FOR PLANTS THAT PLAY WELL

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However,



COURTESY PHOTO

Gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

FEED PLANTS ACCORDINGLY

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them. Oregon State University Extension

Services suggests using a slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.

The basics of fertilizing a lawn

(MetroCreative Connection)

Spring marks the return of lawn and garden season. Lawns often bear the brunt of winter's wrath, so spring is a great time to nurse them back to health, and fertilizing can be an essential component of that process.

Fertilizing a lawn can be intimidating. An array of fertilizers, with each seemingly designed to address a different issue, can make homeowners' heads spin when visiting their local lawn and garden center. However, fertilizing is a very simple task that any homeowner can tackle. In fact, fears about fertilizing are often unfounded and can be overcome with some basic knowledge of the process.

Identify which type of grass is in the yard

The home improvement experts at HGTV note that turfgrass is divided into two categories: cool-season

grass and warm-season grass. A local lawn and garden center can help homeowners identify which type of grass is in the yard, and this often depends on location. Fescue, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are some examples of cool-season grasses, while Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustine, and zoysia are considered warm-season grasses. Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize. Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring, while warm-season lawns can benefit from an application just before especially warm temperatures arrive.

SURVEY THE LAWN TO IDENTIFY WHICH SPREADER TO USE

A small yard or a thriving lawn with only a few bald or unsightly patches may not need a full application of fertilizer. In such instances,

a hand spreader can suffice. For larger lawns and areas, a broadcast spreader is the ideal option. Spreaders have multiple settings, and the fertilizer package will indicate which setting to utilize when using the product.

TEST THE SOIL PRIOR TO PURCHASING FERTILIZER

The lawn experts at Pennington® note that a simple soil test can reveal soil pH and phosphorous and potassium levels. Soil tests can be purchased at most home improvement stores and lawn and garden centers, and they can help homeowners determine which fertilizer will most benefit their lawns.

WATER THE LAWN PRIOR TO FERTILIZING

The experts at Scotts® recommend a good watering a few days

prior to fertilizing a lawn. Such an approach ensures the soil is ready to accept the fertilizer once it's applied.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Detailed instructions are typically provided on fertilizer product packaging. Once homeowners have identified and purchased the product they need, they can simply follow the instructions on the packaging, including how and when to water after application, which can make fertilizing less intimidating.

Fertilizing in spring can help a lawn recover from the previous summer and winter, ensuring it's lush and green when summer entertaining season arrives.

PLANTS

FROM PAGE C4

look for plants that don't require much maintenance while keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

CONSIDER LOCAL WILDLIFE

If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely see deer lounging around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Today's craft stores sell many different types of waxes and products that can produce beautiful scented candles.

Candle crafts tap creativity

(MetroCreative Connection)

Crafting is enjoyed by children and adults. Even the most ardent arts and crafts enthusiasts might be surprised to learn that their favorite hobby can offer a number of benefits related to their health and well-being. Research shows that regularly engaging in crafts can have tangible health benefits. The rhythmic and repetitive movements of certain crafts, as well as the need to focus one's attention, can produce a calm that helps anyone, including those who may experience anxiety, according to health and self-care resource Berkeley Wellness. In an online study published in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy that surveyed more than 3,500 knitters, researchers found knitting was "soothing" and "restful" and had meditative or zen-like qualities. The sense of accomplishment after completing a project is another great reason to engage in arts and crafts, which also may boost cognitive health by protecting certain neurological pathways in the brain.

There are many ways to engage with arts and crafts. Woodcrafting, painting, mosaic work, and metal arts are some popular activities.

One time-honed craft activity that is good for beginners or advanced crafters alike is candlemaking. Today's craft stores sell many different types of waxes and products that can produce beautiful scented candles.

TEACUP CANDLES

Candles can be housed in various vessels, but a clever turn is to use teacups or mugs to mimic the look of popular beverages. There's also the reassurance that such beverage holders can withstand hot wax.

Start by visiting a craft store and choosing a type of wax. Gel waxes are versatile and can boil, pour and set up easily. They'll also be mostly translucent, which is great for replicating the look of various drinks. Follow the instructions on the packages for usage and invest in coordinating wicks, colorants, and appropriate scents.

It's also necessary to choose a style of candle. In a teacup, a tea-colored hued wax paired with a lemon scent can be reminiscent of a hot cup of lemon tea. Use other glasses or mugs to replicate the looks and scents of hot chocolate, mimosas, cappuccino, and much more.

As you become more comfortable, experiment with incorporating molded wax embellishments, such as lemon slices, ice cubes, berries, or even cinnamon sticks. This will help drive home the realism and whimsy.

Treasure these candles for use around the house, or gift them to others on special occasions.

The many benefits of houseplants

(MetroCreative Connection)

The lines between the outdoors and indoors are being blurred. Homeowners build extensive outdoor living spaces so they can relax on weather-resistant furniture and even cook in lavish kitchens in their backyards. In addition, indoor three-season rooms full of bright, open windows that showcase outdoor vistas challenge the boundaries between outside and inside.

For those working with limited budgets, there are some easy, inexpensive ways to enjoy the majesty of natural landscapes indoors. Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

HELP WITH ALLERGIES

According to WebMD, rooms with houseplants tend to have less dust and mold in them than those without any foliage. Leaves and other parts of the plants serve as natural filters, catching airborne particles and allergens. Plants with textured leaves might be especially effective at trapping particles.

PUT MORE OXYGEN INTO THE AIR

The human respiratory system works by bringing in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide. Plants do the opposite during photosynthesis. They absorb carbon dioxide and then release oxygen. Plants can put much more oxygen into the air, improving indoor conditions.

INCREASE INDOOR HUMIDITY AND REDUCE ILLNESS

Studies from the Agricultural University of Norway found that indoor plants can increase humidity in indoor spaces, which decreases the incidences of sore throats, dry coughs, dry skin, and the common cold. Higher absolute humidity can decrease the chances of survival and transmission of the flu virus.

FILTER THE AIR

Researchers who presented their work at the 252nd National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society found certain houseplants can combat the potentially harmful effects of volatile organic compounds. Plants may help filter out VOCs like benzene, acetone and formaldehyde, which can enter indoor air via cleaning supplies, dry-cleaned clothes, furniture, printers, and paints.

IMPROVE INTERIOR ATMOSPHERE

Prevention magazine says plants can be used to screen unattractive areas, moderate room temperature by shading spots from the sun and even reduce noise. Plants also can improve ambiance and create a pleasing atmosphere in a room.

CAN IMPROVE MOOD

Growing and caring for plants can alleviate everyday stress. A nationwide study from UK Magazine Gardeners World found 80 percent of gardeners declared themselves satisfied with life compared to 67 percent among non-gardeners. Gardeners were more positive mentally. Greenery can help people feel more at home and improve mental health. A rehab center in Norway found patients reported a greater increase in well-being four weeks after having greenery added to their surroundings.

Houseplants can improve indoor areas and positively affect personal health.



Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

COURTESY PHOTO

Poisonous plants to avoid around the house

(MetroCreative Connection)

Homeowners must consider various factors when choosing plants to display in and around their homes. That's because, despite their beauty, various plants are toxic to humans and animals.

Avoiding potentially poisonous plants can prevent injuries and even deaths. Here's a list of some plants homeowners may want to avoid.

Foxgloves are popular in landscapes but contain potent cardiac glycosides that can be lethal in high doses.

COURTESY PHOTO



Lily-of-the-valley are poisonous and if large doses of the toxin are consumed, it has the potential to slow the heart and pulse.

RHODODENDRON

Rhododendrons produce flower clusters that bloom in the spring. They also produce thick, glossy leaves that thrive in the fall and winter in many areas. If any part of the plant is swallowed it can cause vomiting and potentially slow the pulse.

LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY

This popular plant grows close to the ground, blooming bell-shaped, sweet-smelling flowers. If large doses of the toxin in this plant are ingested, it can gradually slow the heart down and potentially prove fatal.

DUMB CANE

The houseplant dieffenbachia, commonly known as Dumb cane, adds tropical appeal indoors. The sap of

the plant causes the tongue to burn and swell, enough to block off air to the throat. It can be fatal if ingested by both pets and humans.

ENGLISH IVY

This go-to draping vine looks lovely cascading down from planters or shelving. While its toxins need to be ingested in large amounts to cause problems, English ivy can cause skin irritation, rash and fever, particularly after eating the berries.

BITTERSWEET NIGHTSHADE

Bittersweet nightshade grows as a weed on some properties. It's particularly problematic for those who have pets or young kids because of the brightly colored berries it produces. The highest level of toxicity comes from these berries.

FOXGLOVE

According to The Spruce: Decor, foxgloves are among the most toxic specimens commonly grown on landscapes. They are widely coveted for their pink, purple and white bell-shaped flowers that grow in tall spikes. They're also deer- and rabbit-resistant, making them especially popular. However, foxgloves contain potent cardiac glycosides that can be lethal in high doses.

PHILODENDRON

Philodendron are easy to care for and hearty. While not fatal, a bite of philodendron can irritate the skin and cause nausea and swelling of the mouth, throat and tongue. Similar effects occur with Pothos, another common and hearty houseplant.

YEW SHRUBS

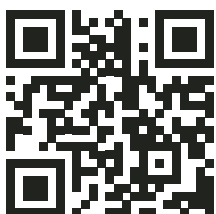
The needlelike leaves of this shrub are toxic to humans and animals, as are the fleshy, bright red berries that grow toxic seeds. Kids may be tempted to pick and consume these bright berries.

PALMS

Several different palm trees are poisonous to people and pets. Palms are an overlooked source of poisoning tragedies in warmer climates. Formosa palm, Sago palm, Queen Sago, and Cardboard palm are some of the varieties that can cause issues if ingested or allergic skin reactions if touched.

When planning a landscape, work with a skilled garden expert to choose plants that will not be hazardous to family and pets.

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How to throw a last-minute dinner party

(MetroCreative Connection)

Do you feel like having a party? A spur-of-the-moment desire to host friends or family is not uncommon. Though it may be ideal to give yourself a few days to plan a dinner party and assemble what's needed to be your best host, sometimes inspiration strikes and compels people to throw last-minute dinner parties.

In such instances, these tips for putting together a feast on the fly can be especially valuable.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Build your menu around your own specialty, ideally one that is easy to prepare. Don't try out that fancy new cookbook recipe right now. Single-pot casseroles or pasta dishes whip up in a flash and can feed a crowd.

STOCK ESSENTIALS AT HOME

It's easier to invite people over at the last minute if you don't have to shop for supplies. Keep a running inventory of foods that can be



COURTESY PHOTO

These tips for putting together a feast on the fly can be especially valuable.

brought out at a moment's notice, such as items that may go on a charcuterie platter. Olives, block cheeses, crackers, salad fixings, cured meats, and fresh vegetables

can be arranged in a heart-beat. With a can of chick peas, some garlic, lemon juice, and parsley at the ready, you can quickly create a homemade hummus, too.

CONSIDER A POTLUCK

Guests may want to help out if they are invited over on short notice. A potluck is a perfect way to fill a table with food with minimal ef-

fort, as everyone contributes a little something.

CLEAN THE VISIBLE ROOMS

There likely won't be time to clean your entire home

before an impromptu party. Therefore, focus on the kitchen, dining area and guest bathroom. Gather errant items from around the house and store in a bedroom behind closed doors. Close doors on other spaces that are off-limits during the party.

GET THE KIDS INVOLVED

If you have children, give them jobs to help out. They can set tables, fill ice cube trays or run the vacuum over high-traffic areas. Removing some tasks from your to-do list can free your time for other needs.

SCOUR YOUR HOME

Create interesting place settings or a festive table with items you already have on hand. Consider using food as functional decor on a table. A bowl of lemons makes an eye-catching centerpiece.

Make last-minute dinner parties happen with a few tricks of the trade.

Tips for organizing your cluttered kitchen

(MetroCreative Connection)

Kitchens serve as the heart of many homes. Thanks to the popularity of open floor plans, kitchens also tend to be highly visible from nearby spaces, such as family rooms and even main entryways. A messy, cluttered kitchen can be an inefficient eyesore that's visible from various locations in a home. That makes getting organized in the kitchen a worthwhile goal.

The following are some tips to help homeowners organize their kitchens.

START WITH THE UTENSILS

Utensils come in all shapes and sizes. Take inventory of your utensils, discarding or donating items you don't use. Next, designate drawers or countertop storage solutions for the utensils you use most often. Place them within easy reach, and take into account your dominant hand for placement.

CATEGORIZE YOUR PANTRY

Empty the pantry, paying attention to staples you regularly use. Then figure out a system for categorization

that works for your household. Perhaps place all baking essentials together, such as flour, oil, baking soda, and cocoa powder. Maybe you need to designate a "kids corner" in the pantry where you keep fruit snacks, granola bars and breakfast cereals. Use uniformly shaped containers to store packaged foods so you're not contending with oddly shaped boxes and bags.

USE EXTRA WALL OR CEILING SPACE

Large pots and pans can eat

up cabinet space or clutter the inside of an oven for those who don't have any other space. While your decorative enamel Dutch oven might fit nicely on a shelf or counter, cast-iron pans and skillets can be hung from durable hooks over an island or near the stove.

ORGANIZE UNDER THE SINK

It can be difficult to keep cleaning products tidy and within reach. Try installing a short tension rod inside the cabinet and use it to hang spray bottles, rubber gloves

and cleaning cloths.

USE KITCHEN CABINET ROLLOUTS

A shortage of storage space in cabinets can be remedied with rollouts. They provide additional capacity to cabinets and make it easier to find items, instead of having to dig at the back of dim cabinet recesses.

TAME YOUR CONTAINER COLLECTION

It's tempting to save all of those take-out containers or

empty margarine tubs for leftovers. But if there's an avalanche every time you open up a cabinet to reach for a container, you probably have too many. Invest in one type of storage container so you can nest the containers and lids for ultimate organization.

An organized kitchen is more attainable than it may seem. Some simple strategies can help homeowners make these home hubs less cluttered and more calming.

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How to get your pool summer ready

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Spring is just around the corner and summer won't be far behind. With the hot sun and longer days approaching, you'll probably want to jump in your pool as soon as possible.

But before you gather your floaties and sunscreen, you need to make sure your pool is summer ready.

Husband-and-wife duo Sara and Randy Chenault, who have been owners of Pool-Tex, Inc. since 2012, both recommend that now is the perfect time for pool owners to get ready for the summer.

"Summer's almost a bigger deal than getting ready for winter because you have so many moving parts on it when you're getting everything ready," Sara said. "Spring is already here.

"We've had no break. We're already getting calls about pools being green. These pools are barely just starting to warm up, but it's happening so fast this year that there wasn't really a lot of time to get ready for it."

Randy said the mechanisms of a pool are similar in how our own bodies function

every day.

"It's kind of a weird analogy, but you can almost put it in like a body type form, like algae's the cancer, so your pool pump is like your heart — that's what pumps everything," he explained. "The pipes are the veins; the filter is like your liver and your kidneys. It cleans everything out and then goes right back into the pool, so there's all these things just like in our bodies that we have to take care of, and it's the same thing in a pool. If the pump doesn't pump, the filter doesn't filter, the pool is just going to turn green."

Sara also recommends that pool owners get their Polaris cleaners tuned up — especially if a wheel is missing.

"People need to make sure those things have wheels because the wheels fall off and they don't work too well without wheels," she said. "If there's holes in the bags, all

the debris gets out into the pool, and then you're back to square one again with the green and yucky pool."

According to the Chenaults, it's never too early for maintenance. In fact, one of the most important tasks that pool owners need to do, Sara said, is to get their filters cleaned and equipment inspected at the beginning of every year.

"Make sure everything's working correctly, make sure your baskets don't have any cracks in them because you don't want leaf debris and all the stuff that's gonna start falling from the trees to fall through, because then you'll end up with clogged lines," she explained. "When you have filter issues, if you haven't cleaned the filter, and you haven't taken care of everything properly, and inspected it to make sure that there's no holes in the grids, that everything's working properly, it will start having some problems. It will put stress on your equipment, and it can cause equipment to have catastrophic failure."

Pool-Tex also recommends that salt cells are cleaned and calibrated, and chemicals are balanced.

"If you have people that want to do their own pool, this is the perfect time if they've been thinking about converting to salt, so they're not having to spend so much money on chlorine," Sara said. "Now is the time to do it, especially with it going from spring to summer, because otherwise you're going to be so busy that it's going to be after summer when you can even get an appointment. We see all the new growth and we see all the new neighborhoods. Everybody wants a pool, but there's not enough of us to go around."

Randy said Pool-Tex services an estimated 132 pools a month in Granbury and can have anywhere from 800-920 customers in need of repairs.

"They can call me at any time for a filter clean or breakdown, you know, catastrophic failure," Randy said. "During the freeze, good grief, we couldn't keep up. I think the last time I checked my phone, I had 1,200 contacts, 100 of them are doubles, but you know, around 50 are family and friends and the rest are all business. We do have to turn down work (sometimes)."

Sara said they take pride in their attention to detail and their relationships with their customers.

"If you're honest with your people, and you take care of them, that's what matters most — that's what will take you so far," she said. "When we started, we didn't have a Facebook business. We had to start from the ground up, working years to build our customers. We made a name for ourselves. This has been something that he and I have put our blood, sweat, and tears into, and worked strictly by word of mouth. We take the time to make (our customers) feel like they're important — not like they're a dollar sign. These people, they're the ones who are helping us take care of our family. They help us pay our bills, so we take care of them in return."

Sara said integrity and honesty are also two values they adhere to — and that they also try to instill in their employees as well.

"We're very strict on our guys," she said. "They have to understand that they represent this company, so we expect them to have the same values as well, so that's another reason it's not always so easy for us to hire other people, because you have to be able to work in the heat and you have to take pride in what you do. It's not



COURTESY OF RANDY CHENAULT

Since 2012, husband-and-wife duo Randy and Sara Chenault have helped transform pools that were once green and unsightly to blue and crystal clear. Operating under the name Pool-Tex, the couple provides services to pool owners all over Granbury ranging from repairs and weekly maintenance to filter cleaning and emergency breakdowns.

a glamorous job. You're hot, you're sweaty, you're cold, you're covered in mud, and sometimes you're covered in algae."

"It's dirty work keeping things clean," Randy chimed in with a chuckle.

Sara added that Pool-Tex has limited openings for pool maintenance so it's important to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

Pool-Tex provides services throughout Granbury. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays are for appointment only.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 817-573-2311, or message the Pool-Tex Facebook page.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



COURTESY OF RANDY CHENAULT
Pictured are Pool-Tex, Inc owners Randy and Sara Chenault.

MAKE SURE to *spring clean* your pool before the summer heat gets into full swing






LIMITED OPENINGS FOR POOL MAINTENANCE

Schedule an appointment today



Pool-Tex, Inc. recommends:

- Having your filter cleaned and inspected, replaced if needed
- Salt cells cleaned and calibrated
- Chemicals Balanced
- Equipment inspected
- Pool cleaners are working properly
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