



# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[ SATURDAY, April 29, 2023 ]

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## Hood County GOP chair sues county judge *Free speech, decorum at public meetings at issue*

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Hood County Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers has filed a federal lawsuit accusing County Judge Ron Massingill of violating his First Amendment rights to share his viewpoint and petition his government during open public meetings of the Hood County

Commissioners Court. The lawsuit was filed April 14 in the United States District Court Northern District of Texas-Fort Worth Division. The action followed a demand letter dated Feb. 13, to which Massingill reportedly did not respond. The letter cited several occasions when Massingill allegedly displayed "open hostility" toward

Biggers and treated him differently from others. Clashes between Biggers and Massingill have led to raised voices and the two speaking over each other. Incidents cited in the petition include the Commissioners Court meeting on April 26, 2022, when Massingill asked Sheriff Roger Deeds to escort Biggers from the

meeting while Biggers was speaking at the podium and the meeting on Jan. 10 when Massingill threatened to do so again. At the Jan. 10 meeting, Biggers attempted to play a recording of a private conversation made by County Clerk Katie Lang prior to the start of the regular

PLEASE SEE **GOP** | A2

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*Tolar moves closer to forming police department. Please see story, A3.*

*GHS graduate runs Boston Marathon after only two years of training. 'Daytripper' host Chet Garner to celebrate tourism week in Granbury May 2. GSD's Capturing Kids' Hearts program to strengthen student/teacher connections. Please see stories, B1.*

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DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## 'I JUST THRIVE ON IT' *At 74, Danny Smith finds fulfillment with The Transit System*

Many of the passengers transported by The Transit System are around the same age as Danny Smith, TTS' contract coordinator and fill-in driver. Smith, who retired from the mortgage industry, isn't one to sit around. He views his full-time job at TTS as a ministry.

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Hood County is known as a mecca for retirees, but not all who moved here spend their days on the lake or the golf course.

That kind of stuff doesn't particularly interest Pecan Plantation resident Danny Smith, who qualified for a gold watch a while ago. He's a worker and a people per-

son, and retirement from the mortgage industry didn't change that. Clients of The Transit System are reaping the benefits of his worker-bee attitude and the fact that he views his position with the company as not just a job, but a ministry.

Smith has no plans to call it quits, especially since the county's

growth and the coming expansion of U.S. Highway 377 will likely cause more people to turn to The Transit System for help in getting where they need to go.

The Glen Rose-based public transport service, largely funded by federal and state dollars, is available at low cost to people of all ages. Its drivers even drive

people to DFW Airport, Love Field Airport, and to destinations around the Metroplex, with discounted rates for groups up to four that are picked up and dropped off at the same location.

Recognizing the increased importance of public transporta-

PLEASE SEE **TRANSIT** | A2

*"It's been good for me in a lot of ways. It's kept me busy and gives me a purpose."*

**DANNY SMITH**  
The Transit System contract coordinator

## County approves sheriff's request for driver emergency alert system

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court has given unanimous approval to Sheriff Roger Deeds' request to implement an emergency alert system that will notify drivers when deputies are working a road emergency or "running code" and fast approaching their vehicle.

Approval by the Commissioners Court was needed because the special pricing involves a five-year contract to be signed by the county judge.

Although patrol vehicles are equipped with sirens and flashing lights, their high speed can pose dangers to other motorists who may not immediately see the lights in their rearview mirror or hear the siren until the patrol car is a short

distance from them.

Through HAAS Alert technology, once lights and sirens have been activated, motorists of many vehicles manufactured in 2018 or later will receive alerts on their dashboard or the music they are playing will be interrupted.

"When you turn on your lights and sirens, you're trying to make sure everybody knows you're coming and alert people ahead of you

with the sound of the sirens, with the flashing lights," Deeds told the Hood County News. "That in itself helps alert people so (that) you're safe. But this sends out a signal even farther out ahead of you."

The sheriff noted that drivers whose vehicles are not equipped with the technology that will allow them to receive the alerts will presumably still benefit because they will see other vehicles pulling over

and will hopefully do the same.

HAAS Alert's digital alerting platform, Safety Cloud, was launched in 2016 as the nation's first-ever digital alerting service, according to the company's website. The alerts are received by drivers through navigation platforms and through the infotainment screens of connected vehicles. In addition, emer-

PLEASE SEE **ALERT** | A3



137TH YEAR, NO. 69

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

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# Texas Association of Appraisal Districts issues guidance

## Submitted Item

AUSTIN – The Texas Association of Appraisal Districts has announced another year of sustained growth in Texas real estate values.

According to a recent news release from the association, regions around the state have seen increases in values between 10-35 percent since last year.

Roland Altinger, president of the association and chief appraiser of Harris County said, “The Texas

real estate market continues its steady and sustained growth and, while it is good news that a person’s investment is increasing in value, it can come with added exposure to property taxes depending on a variety of factors. But keep in mind, we are not responsible for setting the tax rate. We follow the law, state regulations, and the reality of real estate market sales when making our value determinations.”

In a state without a personal

income tax, cities, counties, hospitals, school districts and community colleges all rely heavily on property taxes. These same political subdivisions set the tax rates that determine the amount of taxes paid by homeowners and businesses. An increase in property taxes is sometimes needed to keep the police and fire departments adequately funded, along with our schools, hospitals, and other vital services for our communities.

A few notable areas of the state

— along with Hood County — and their RESIDENTIAL property value changes are as follows:

- Hood County – 20.1% increase
- Bexar County / San Antonio – 14.8% increase
- Dallas County – 12.7% increase
- El Paso County – 14% increase
- Harris County / Houston area – 16% increase
- Tarrant County / Ft. Worth area – 20% increase
- Travis County / Austin area – 0.4% increase

● Williamson County / Round Rock area – 11% DECREASE

The right to protest to the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) is one of the most important rights you have as a taxpayer. A protest must be filed by May 15, or no later than 30 days after the Appraisal District delivers a Notice of Appraised Value to you, whichever is later. If the protest deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, then the protest deadline is the first business day after that date.

## TRANSIT

### FROM PAGE A1

tion, the city of Granbury recently partnered with the company to pave a large parking lot at TTS’ Granbury office so that it can serve as a park-and-ride. The building at 1416 S. Morgan St. across from Brookshire’s was once used by the Texas Department of Transportation. Phase two of the parking lot project was recently completed, Smith said, resulting in a total of 180 parking spaces.

It may take time before that location truly becomes a park and ride, but it has been handy for driving people to and from the square during special events, such as commemorating Memorial Day and celebrating the Fourth of July.

With more people moving to Hood County, the community’s newest residents include seniors who enjoy using The Transit System.

“Our ridership just recently has picked up so much,” Smith said. “I’m not really supposed to be a driver, per se, but I’m helping out right now because they are slammed.”

How can he possibly retire at the young age of 74 when so many people need him?

“And do what?” Smith posed when asked about taking it easy. “Sit around and watch Gunsmoke all day? No thanks.”

Who needs Gunsmoke when dealing with traffic in one of the fastest-growing counties in the country can get pretty western?

### ROAD TO FULFILLMENT

Smith did retire once. That’s when he and his wife Patricia moved to Hood County from Bedford. It was in October 2015. They moved here because Pat loves Granbury.

But Smith soon grew bored and began thinking about taking a job to keep him busy.

One day he saw a sign that said drivers were needed for The Transit System. He didn’t know



**Danny Smith is devoted to The Transit System, a public transportation system largely funded by state and federal dollars. Available to everyone, TTS offers low-cost rides, even to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Love Field Airport. To book a ride, call 254-897-2964.**

DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

*“Hopefully, when I take my last breath, I’ll be doing what I’m doing right now. Some of my best days are when you make things happen and you’re productive and then you go home and feel so good you’re as high as a kite.”*

### DANNY SMITH

The Transit System contract coordinator

what The Transit System was but assumed it might have something to do with 18-wheelers, in which case he wasn’t interested. But when Smith noticed the sign again, he decided to call.

After hearing about how seniors and others rely on the transport service for help with errands and medical appointments, Smith accepted a job as a driver. Today, he is the transit company’s contract coordinator, working out of the Granbury office. He also oversees the company’s advertising program and partnerships and helps with administrative tasks such as fuel reports and vehicle maintenance.

He has particularly enjoyed developing friendships with seniors and joking with them when he fills in as a driver.

Every morning, TTS drivers drive seniors to the Hood County Senior Center and back home again. Smith said that they enjoy eating lunch with friends and staying at the center longer on days when there are Bingo games.

“They get so excited,” he said about the fun they have and the prizes they win playing Bingo, adding, “The Senior Center is really a neat deal.”

Smith’s office is located near the intersection of South Morgan

Street/SH 144 and U.S. Highway 377, considered to be one of the busiest intersections in the county. Because of the traffic congestion there, Smith never turns left when leaving the transit office. Instead, whether he is driving his own car or a transit system vehicle, he turns right, then takes another right by RaceTrac. He follows Meadows Drive to Paluxy Highway by Lake Granbury Medical Center.

Smith feels that traffic has definitely gotten worse since he moved to Granbury.

“Something’s got to be done with 377,” he said. “It’s like living

in South Fort Worth, especially at 4 or 5 o’clock in the afternoon. We do everything we can to find all kinds of alternate routes.”

There have been times when Smith has called 911 because of traffic accidents in front of the TTS office. One week, there were three wrecks, he said.

TxDOT has plans to expand U.S. Highway 377 from four lanes to six over a nine-mile stretch through the most congested part of town. The first phase will include reconfiguring the 144/377 intersection. Such projects take years to complete.

Meanwhile, TTS dispatch is sometimes having to send a back-up driver when a driver in Granbury is stuck in traffic.

“It can be quite stressful, especially when you’re under time constraints,” such as trying to get a rider to a medical appointment, Smith said.

When Granbury’s main artery is finally wide enough to ease traffic congestion, Smith might still be on the job.

“Hopefully, when I take my last breath, I’ll be doing what I’m doing right now,” he said. “Some of my best days are when you make things happen and you’re productive and then you go home and feel so good you’re as high as a kite.”

Although Pat isn’t working a paying job, she, too, is involved in helping the community. She helps with the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry at Lakeside Baptist Church, Smith said, and started a ministry for missionaries. She is a member of the Granbury Newcomers Club and the Opera Guild, serving as an usher during performances.

“She doesn’t have a lazy bone in her body,” Smith said.

As for his job with The Transit System, Smith said, “It’s been good for me in a lot of ways. It’s kept me busy and gives me a purpose. I just thrive on it.”

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## GOP

### FROM PAGE A1

Commissioners Court meeting on Nov. 8. In that private conversation, which involved Massingill, a local pastor, and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson, Massingill criticized Biggers and spoke of starting a new Republican organization.

The lawsuit was addressed at Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Commissioners Court. Precinct 4

Commissioner Dave Eagle placed an item on the agenda to discuss and take appropriate action to determine whether Hood County government had a duty to defend Massingill or pay any expenses, including any deductible to the Texas Association of Counties related to the judge’s defense in the lawsuit.

The judge, who presides over Commissioners Court meetings, opened the discussion by disputing Biggers’ claims and saying that he had distributed to the four

commissioners a copy of the law requiring that legal representation be provided to any county official acting in their official capacity.

“Every allegation that he does make in that complaint stems from my interactions with Mr. Biggers in this court,” Massingill said.

He also noted that Biggers’ motion for an ex parte injunction had been denied by the federal court. An ex parte injunction is when a case is heard without the other party being present or having an

opportunity to respond.

Eagle said that in his view Massingill had “exceeded his scope” in his dealings with Biggers and that the lawsuit could have been avoided if the judge had apologized.

Eagle also said that “time and time again” people who oppose him politically are allowed to speak at Commissioners Court.

“They impugn my integrity every time they come up here, and he does nothing,” he stated of the judge.

Following Eagle’s remarks, Massingill asked whether there would be a motion.

“No, sir. Not from me,” Eagle replied.

No motion to take action was offered by Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, or Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson.

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# Tolar moves closer to forming police department

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Tolar city officials are moving forward with administrative tasks involved in re-establishing a licensed police department.

The town has had a few police chiefs over the years but has had no one in that role for almost a decade.

At its April monthly meeting, one month after the Tolar City Council voted unanimously to hire Ray Wilson to serve as police chief, the

council passed an ordinance to create a police department.

Wilson explained that the ordinance is part of the process for becoming licensed again through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

"Everything has been canceled out" since the Tolar Police Department ceased to exist in January 2014, Wilson said, and a lot has changed in the years since.

"We had to do a new ordinance to create a police department," he

explained. "We are still working through the application process because there are several other items that have to be done before we can have a full-blown police department that is licensed."

Wilson said he does not yet consider himself Tolar's police chief "because we don't have a department to be chief of, because until TCOLC licenses us, I can't act as a police officer because I don't have an agency to represent."

Wilson stated that he will send

a copy of the meeting minutes to TCOLC along with various policies outlining how the department will handle such things as use of force, pursuit, and domestic violence cases.

"I've got to go through this administrative side of it in order to get the department up and running," Wilson said.

There are other paperwork related tasks as well, Wilson noted, such as crime victims assistance pamphlets. In addition, there is a need

to stock up on items such as flares and traffic cones in the event of a traffic accident or some other event that necessitates a road closure.

Wilson, who is also Tolar's volunteer assistant fire chief, works out of a cubicle at City Hall and will likely be a one-man department for a while. But Tolar is growing, and that's why the City Council decided it was time to re-establish a police presence.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

## Focusing on the highs during the ups, downs of life



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

A very wise man told me to try and swallow life in small bites, because there will be mouthfuls that will be particularly bitter and others especially sweet. By taking small bites, one minimizes the extremes.

Recently I watched a TV newscast where they gave an update about an adoption. There are tens of thousands of people who seek to adopt a child, but unfortunately, most of them have their heart set on adopting a baby, or at the very least, a very young child. Some speculate the older children already have special needs or emotional baggage that they simply do not want to undertake. Once a child reaches the age of 8, the adoption likelihood drops significantly. Imagine how forlorn those children must feel, sitting and waiting for a family that never appears.

There are approximately 450,000 U.S. children who are in foster care,

and around 28,753 are in Texas. Of that number 5,925 are seeking to be adopted. The story I watched was about a 14-year-old boy who was adopted by a 50-ish single male. The man had never married but always wanted a son. He was only too happy to adopt the young man and the story and accompanying video were more than heartwarming.

The adopting parent did everything he could to make the child feel comfortable and loved. The two rode motorcycles together, went fishing, and embraced all sorts of activities where they could participate together. When I watched the video of the two, it

was obvious the new family was "over the moon happy" with being in each other's lives. How cool is it that a young person with no family finally has someone to love him, nurture him, and make him feel like part of a family? How cool is it that the adult is finally able to fulfill his dream of being a father? Looks to me like life dealt both the man, and the teenager, a great hand of cards. This is one of the "sweet" bites in life.

On the other hand, I went to see my 93-year-old friend on Saturday. She had recently been in the hospital for a week as she recovered from some internal issues. Instead of returning to assisted living, she was sent to a facility so she could rehab and strengthen herself.

The rehab facility is pleasant enough. It is clean and she appears to be well taken care of, but my friend was upset because she was not able to return to her assisted living facility, which she considers home.

I spent the day taking every step I could to make her comfortable. I brought her favorite food to her, moved a special chair from her residence to her new location, and did

anything else I could to make her happy. Nothing seemed to work.

At one point during the day, my friend let me know she thought she might never be able to leave where she was and return to her assisted living facility. She pointed out a very elderly and infirm woman who was sitting in a wheelchair in the hallway. The woman was asleep, and her head hung down precipitously as she snored. My friend said, "You see her, she is much better off than I am because she doesn't know what is happening to her; She is past that. I know what is happening to me and know I am deteriorating."

There wasn't much I could say to my friend. She was right, the old woman in the wheelchair was not cognizant of her surroundings and seemed to be oblivious to where she was. My friend knows she is failing, and the end is not as far away as it once was.

I tried to encourage Miss Jayne, saying the exercise she was doing would improve her and she would be better before she knew it. My friend was not convinced. I pushed for a moment and then explained to her, "The end comes for every-

one Jayne and we never know if it will be today or next week or next year. The secret is to face the reality of the end with dignity and holding on to the love of those around you who care." It was a bitter bite to take, but one which had to be swallowed.

When Miss Jayne heard those words, she paused and then smiled and told me she loved me. I blinked repeatedly to keep my eyes dry and nodded a smile to her. There wasn't much else to say.

The two incidents might not seem connected, but they are. Life has so many ups and downs. It is important to appreciate the good, and attempt to cope with the bad. It is all part of the journey we all must travel. One story may bring sadness in its inevitability, and the other brings joy knowing "good" may come from a bad situation. It is all part of the journey of life.

Thought for the day: Life is a journey. It is not where you end up but how you got there.

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

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## LETTER

### A SMALL GROUP IN HOOD COUNTY

Hood County is an incredible Texas success story. Seemingly every year, it is nominated or selected as one of the state and nation's best communities to live in. It is hard to visit any community in the county and not get a sense of pride from everyone you meet.

Well, almost everyone.

A small group that has taken over the county Republican Party would have you believe that Hood County is a third-world country run by warlords and leftist dictators. They show up at every open meeting, make sure a camera is on, and then begin to rant and rave about something they are dissatisfied with, only stopping once the camera is turned off. They offer zero solutions - only complaints.

County Republican Chair Steve Biggers leads this chorus of misinformation and half-truths. Last week, he decided to attend the first regular meeting of the United Republicans of Hood County - a group working to curb the toxic culture Biggers has worked to spread in Hood County. Though this was a private event (yes, even though it was announced in this newspaper), Biggers refused to leave when asked.

Once the meeting was over, Biggers immediately went to Facebook to share his misinformation and outright lies with his tens of followers. He mischaracterized every single speaker at

the event, including myself (Sorry Steve - I never said I haven't read the Republican platform. On the contrary, I've read it numerous times.). He even criticized the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Of course, this isn't the first time Biggers has assailed this group - he did so in this section just last month, criticizing people who, at the time, weren't even associated with the group. But that's what Biggers does: he shouts down what he fears. But his screams and tantrums won't work this time. The United Republicans of Hood County will continue to meet and grow, and unlike Biggers, the group will bring positive benefits to the county and its communities.

Judson Meeks  
Mineral Wells

### 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.

### VETERANS VOICE

## Acute suicide care now offered to veterans

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.

This is a difficult subject to talk about, but important if we are going to care for veterans in crisis. Suicidal thoughts, threats or attempts are a serious medical emergency and fortunately we have an important resource to assist with that. Eligible veterans, even some with other than honorable discharges may now go to any VA or non-VA hospital for emergency care and services will be paid by the VA if the first responder or emergency provider diagnoses "acute suicidal crisis."

The VA will cover ambulance services, 30 days of inpatient residential treatment, 90 days of outpatient treatment and related prescription medication. Those eligible must be veterans who served prior to Sept. 7, 1980 and discharge

with other than dishonorable, enlisted or commissioned after Sept. 7 1980 or entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981 and served 24 months or full period of their active duty period and discharged with other than dishonorable unless they were discharged for medical conditions caused by or aggravated by their service.

If discharged with an "Other than Honorable," they must have served at least 100 cumulative days in support of contingency operations directly or at another location as drone operators, or were a victim of sexual assault or harassment. Active-duty service members who suffer military sexual trauma or PTSD may sometimes self-medicate with illegal drugs or suffer silently unable to endure military life, are derelict in their duties and end up getting discharged with less than

Honorable.

We will NEVER judge veterans by their discharge because we are aware these things happen and are happy to assist with a review of their records once they are appropriately diagnosed with PTSD or MST and awarded disability compensation for those injuries. To access information about the Acute Suicide Care Program, caregivers, family and friends are encouraged to visit the Community Care page here at: [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency\\_Care.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency_Care.asp)

Pecan Valley Centers, through a grant from Texas Veterans Commission, offer free counseling services to veterans and their families, so please take advantage of that through the Veterans Service Coordinator Josh Morrison 817-736-6089. Please also keep handy the Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then press 1 or text 838255 and a crisis counselor will be there to assist you. Let's look after each other, keep lines of communication open and know where to get help.

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

### ALERT FROM PAGE A1

Director Ricky Reeves. Reeves told the HCN that his company is in the process of implementing the system in its four Tahoes and eight ambulances.

Deeds told the Commissioners Court that he will use funds from his forfeiture account to pay the \$500 set-up fee as well as the \$150 annual fee to equip 20 vehicles

with the technology for the first year.

The sheriff told the HCN, "We're going to want to give it a try and get it hooked up on those 20 vehicles and see if we can keep the roads as safe as we can."

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# OBITUARIES

## Evelyn Smith Owen

November 30, 1923 - April 21, 2023

Evelyn Smith Owen, age 99, of Sandston, Virginia born in Weatherford, Texas, passed away Friday, April 21, 2023 surrounded by loved ones. She was preceded in death by her parents Mode Burke Smith and Clara Card Smith, her husband Wood Darwin Owen, brother Mode Smith, brothers-in-law Mather Owen and Dennard Owen. Sisters Velma Bac-cus, Anita Baccus, sister-in-law Helena Endsley, son Rodney Burke, grandson David Seward, Jr., and niece Martha Jo Baccus Hyman.

She is survived by her children, Jerry Darwin Owen (Diane) and Melody Owen Foster (Matthew); along with grandchildren, Michael Darwin Owen (Nong), Michelle Owen Weikert, and step grandchildren Amy Shinn and Brian Turner. Great-grandchildren Sean Owen, Lucas Weikert and Owen Weikert, and step great grandchildren Benjamin, William and Shinn.

Her surviving family in Texas include sisters-in-law Jane Owen (Mather) and Joan Smith (MB). Nephews Eugene Baccus (Shirley), John Baccus Jr. (Darla), Gary Baccus (Phyllis), Rick Owen (Dallas), Rick Baccus (Cindy), Randall Baccus (Robin), and Daniel Smith. Nieces Karen Owen Finkler (Todd), Brenda Owen Morris (Phillip) and Glenda Owen Michelin (Greg).

Evelyn was born and raised in Weatherford, Texas. She graduated from Granbury High School in 1942, where she met her husband.



She loved her family. Cooking was her specialty, and her famous meringue pies were quickly snatched up at church bake sales. After moving to Sandston, Virginia in 1953, she and her husband joined Corinth United Methodist Church where they established the first couples Sunday school class. This class became very benevolent over the years, earning money by preparing an annual turkey dinner enjoyed by the community, and organizing a yearly yard sale and baked goods sale. Her Sunday school class was instrumental in coordinating the building of the present day sanctuary. Evelyn remained a member there until her death.

The visitation and service will take place at Corinth United Methodist Church, Sandston, Va., Saturday, April 29, 2023. The family will receive friends from noon to 1 p.m. in the social hall and the service will be held at 1:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers and food, the family respectfully requests memorials be made to: Regional Animal Shelter, 20201 King William Road, PO Box 215, King William, VA, 23086.

## Harold Lee Russell

December 25, 1941 - April 20, 2023

Harold Lee Russell was born on Dec. 25, 1941 to Howard and Marion Brotherton Russell in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Harold was proud to be born on the day celebrated as Jesus's birthday. When Harold was two years old, the family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended the neighborhood Baptist church. When the church group went to a Billy Graham Crusade, Harold accepted Jesus as his savior. He was later baptized by Pastor Brother Jack. Harold attended Little Rock schools. After high school, Harold worked for his father's company, Sheridan Furniture Manufacturing Company. He traveled in the middle and north central states for several years. In 1962, Harold was introduced to Patsy Merritt for a blind date. They dated for a year then married at Gardner Methodist Church on June 22, 1963, in North Little Rock, Arkansas. They moved to Texas for Harold to work at the Furniture Mart and to travel in the Texas area. Patsy was hired by Arlington ISD as a teacher, so they moved to Arlington. Several months later, Harold started working at the Arlington General Motors plant where he worked for forty years. He retired in 2004. Harold joined the National Guard in 1966 and served for six years. They began their family and were blessed with Brad, Chad, and Paige Ann who was called to Jesus in 2018 and has welcomed Harold to heaven. God blessed them again with the birth of their grandson, Justin Russell in 1998. They belonged to the Pantego Bible Church where Patsy accepted Jesus. Harold served as Chief Ranger of the Christian Service Boys Brigade for several years. In 2001, Harold and Patsy built a home in Granbury on a high bluff overlooking the



Bravos River. He loved fishing, boating, and feeding the deer. Harold was gifted with mechanical, and wood working skills and made many beautiful items. Harold enjoyed studying God's word. He and Patsy enjoyed playing poker with friends at the Granbury VFW and American Legion. They also enjoyed trips to WinStar for fun and good food. They are members of the Fellowship at Weatherford Church where they were blessed with the fellowship and friendship of many believers. Harold went home to Jesus on April 20, 2023, after a battle with heart failure. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and his precious Paige in 2018. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Patsy; sons Brad Russell and his wonderful wife Diana of Weatherford, Texas; Chad Russell of Saginaw, Texas and grandson Justin Russell of Mansfield, Texas. Other survivors include brothers Jack Russell of Arlington; Jerry Russell of Benton, Arkansas; Frank Russell of Sherwood, Arkansas; sister Shirley Bridges of Little Rock, Arkansas and many nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life service will be on May 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at The Fellowship at Weatherford Church 2721 S. Main St. in Weatherford, Texas. Memorials may be made to the church in honor of Harold.

## Michaeleen Meyer Toler

September 29, 1942 - April 20, 2023

Michaeleen Ferstl Meyer Toler passed away peacefully on April 20, 2023 surrounded by family in her home in Granbury, Texas.

Michaeleen was born in September, 1942 in Fort Worth to John Michael Ferstl and Frances Cope Ferstl. She was an honor graduate of Poly High School where she was Drum Major of the Poly Band. She went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Texas Christian University, and was the head twirler of the TCU Horned Frog Band.

Michaeleen and Jerry Lewis Meyer were married in 1969 in Fort Worth. They joined Michaeleen's parents who owned Ferstl Inc. making and designing furniture, and eventually became lead designer for Vecta Furniture, a division of Steelcase. She and Jerry owned several convenience stores throughout the Fort Worth and Burleson area. She lost Jerry to cancer in 2002.

Michaeleen and Ray Toler were married in 2004 at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. They moved to Granbury two years later and have loved living on the lake. Michaeleen designed their home which became a center of activity for family and friends including four weddings. Michaeleen is survived by



her husband Ray, two daughters: Holly Gonzalez and her husband Ron, and Mikey Rollins and her husband Charlie; stepsons Ray Toler, Jr. and his wife Mary, Eric Toler and his wife Fawne, and Julie Toler, whose husband Bryan Toler preceded Michaeleen in death. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters: Diana Stockdale and Cheryl Merchant, and nieces and nephews Michelle, Georgia, Anita, Leanna, Whitney and John Michael.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the Eagles Nest Children's Home in Guatemala.

A memorial service will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on May 13, 2023 at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury TX, 76049.

## SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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

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

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## Managed Lands Deer Program enrollment is open for the 2023-24 hunting season

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN — Enrollment in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) opened for the 2023-24 hunting season. Open enrollment for the MLDP Conservation Option runs April 2 through June 15; the Harvest Option opens May 1 and ends Sept. 1.

MLDP is a program in-

tended to foster and support sound management and stewardship of native wildlife and habitats on private lands in Texas. Deer harvest is an important aspect of habitat management and conservation. Landowners enrolled in either the MLDP Harvest Option or Conservation Option can take advantage of extended seasons and property-specific customized harvest opportunities.

Fees are charged for each enrollment option. Enrollments and fee payments can all be made through the Land Management Assistance online system at <https://lma.tpwd.state.tx.us/>. Payments can be made by credit card only. The online system will require landowners hoping to enroll to create an account and draw a property boundary. An email address is required for the landowner

and any designated agents the landowner may assign to the account.

Enrollment fees for each MLDP option are as follows:

PLEASE SEE TPWD | A8

### Holly Hills Memorial Park

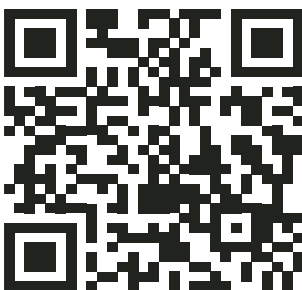
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## Financial tips for blended families

CHAD CARROLL  
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Carroll

Becoming part of a blended family can certainly be rewarding. Of course, as is the case in all families, there will be challenges, one of which is financial. A blended family must deal with some specific financial issues, so it's a good idea to become familiar with them.

In particular, consider these areas:

### SEPARATE OR JOINT ACCOUNTS?

Should your two family

units combine all your finances or maintain separate accounts? There's no one correct answer for everyone, because this issue has emotional and psychological components to it, as well as financial considerations. But the nature of your new, blended family might guide you to a choice that makes sense for your situation.

So, for example, if you are remarrying at a later stage in life, and you and your new spouse have adult children, you might think the best move is to keep separate ac-

counts. But if you are joining households with a spouse or partner with younger children, you may want to merge accounts to pay for household expenses and work toward your new, shared financial objectives. And it doesn't have to be an "either-or" approach—you might decide to blend some accounts and keep others separate.

### DEBTS AND CREDIT RATINGS

It's likely that you and your new spouse or partner, and perhaps even some children, will bring debts into your blended family. As these debts can affect your family's finances in several ways, including your ability to borrow

and your credit ratings, you will want to know what everyone owes, and the amount of monthly payments needed to meet these obligations. After that, you may be able to find ways to consolidate debts or find other ways to reduce or eliminate them.

### LEGAL ISSUES

When you establish a blended family, you may want to review, and possibly update, the beneficiary designations on your life insurance policy and retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). These designations can supersede instructions you may have left in your estate planning documents —

including your last will and testament—so it's important to ensure they reflect your current wishes. And speaking of your estate plans, you may well need to revise them, too, in consultation with your attorney.

### ATTITUDES TOWARD MONEY

Attitudes toward money—yours and those of your new spouse or partner—should be addressed when starting a blended family. Is one of you more of a saver while the other spends more freely? As investors, does one of you favor taking more risk while the other is more conservative? It's important to reconcile these differences as best you

can, especially if you plan on merging your finances. This means that you both may need to compromise somewhat, but you should strive to avoid having either of you feeling uncomfortable in your choices. In any case, open and honest communication is the first step in achieving a harmonious financial strategy. These aren't the only financial considerations involved with blended families, but they should give you some things to think about—and the earlier you start thinking about them, the better.

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**General**

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**SEASONAL PART TIME POOL ATTENDANTS NEEDED** for May - September. Call Comanche Cove OA 817-573-7822.

**HOUSEKEEPING needed at North Central Texas Academy. Please pick up an application at our front gate located at 3846 N. Hwy 144, Granbury, TX, or download from our website, northcentraltexasacademy.org.**



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

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**Public Notices**

Notice to Creditors Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Judy Annette Mayfield, Deceased, were issued on March 29, 2023, in Cause No. P09973, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Amy Thalia Jeffreys. c/o: Mauerhan & Associates P.C. 1501 Southeast Parkway Azle, Texas 76020

9031

**Public Notices**

**ADVERTISEMENT TO BID CITY OF GRANBURY**

The City of Granbury (Owner) will receive sealed Bids for the **Knox 1 Ground Storage Tank Improvements, until 2:00 p.m.** local time on **Tuesday, June 6, 2023**, at the Granbury Service Center, located at 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, Texas 76048. At that time the Bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bids shall be addressed to the City of Granbury, 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, Texas 76048, attn: Chester Nolen, Public Works Director. Bidding Documents and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, may be examined at:

**ENPROTEC / HIBBS & TODD, INC. 1310 WEATHERFORD HIGHWAY, STE. 116 GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048**

**ENPROTEC / HIBBS & TODD, INC. 402 CEDAR STREET ABILENE, TEXAS 79601**

Bidding Documents and Contract Documents including Drawings and Technical Specifications are available from the engineer via CivCast.

Please visit [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com)

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders within ten days after the opening of Bids. Remaining bid sureties will be returned in accordance with Item No. 102.13 of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction North Central Texas.

The surety company providing the Bid Bond must conform to the same requirements for surety companies providing Performance and Maintenance Bonds, and Payment Bonds described below.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds on the forms furnished with the Contract Documents in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety. The surety company must have a minimum Best's Key Rating of "B" or better. The surety company, the agency and agent issuing the Performance and Maintenance Bond and Payment Bond must be authorized to issue such bonds in Texas in an amount equal to or greater than the total contract price.

Date Issued: April 29, 2023

By: Mr. Chester Nolen, Public Works Director City of Granbury

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates Of PATSY LEE MACLEOD, Cause No. P09743, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

SARAH FLORES (MACLEOD) in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application To Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of PATSY LEE MACLEOD, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 25th day of April, 2023.

KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barna Allen Richards, Deceased, were issued on April 12, 2023, under Docket No. P09975, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Zotyne Almond Richards.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative, Estate of Barna Allen Richards c/o Robin C. Crow CROW-HENLEY LAW PLLC 9203 Plantation Dr., Ste. 3 Granbury TX 76049

All persons having claims against the estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated April 25, 2023 By Robin C. Crow Attorney for Applicant

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

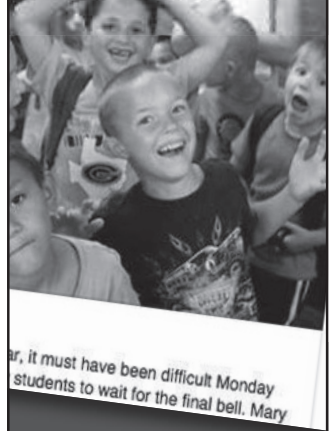
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sharon Ann Steele, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2022, under Docket No. P09793, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Sandy Gates Bugbee and Becky Hurlbut.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative, Estate of Sharon Ann Steele c/o Robin C. Crow CROW-HENLEY LAW PLLC 9203 Plantation Dr., Ste. 3 Granbury TX 76049 (682) 205-1243 rcrow@crowhenleylaw.com

All persons having claims against the estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated April 25, 2023 By Robin C. Crow Attorney for Applicant

On April 25, 2023, the Cresson City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-001, amending the Cresson Zoning Ordinance by changing the zoning of 1.440 acres described as Lot 1, Block 1 of the B.B.B.&C. R.R. Co. addition to the City of Cresson, Parker County, Texas, from Rural Residential "RR," to Planned Development "PD," and providing that any person, firm or corporation who violates the ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense; each day that a violation is permitted to exist is a separate offense.



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**Public Notices**

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Date Issued: April 29, 2023

By: Mr. Chester Nolen, Public Works Director City of Granbury



**PUBLIC SALES**

Granbury 76049 **Garage Sales 76049**

**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

**GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY** Clothing, craft items & household items Fri Apr 28th and Sat Apr 29th 8am to 2pm 805 W Bluff St, Granbury TX 76048

**MOVING SALE** One day only! Sat, April 29, 8am-8pm. Tools, household, clothing, furniture, etc. Everything must go! 744 N Crockett.

**GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY** 2300 Club Dr- Canyon Creek POA Spring garage sale. April 28th-30th. 8am-5pm

**YARD SALE: GRANBURY** 806 Tahiti Dr-Furniture, kitchen stuff, household items/decor, clothes, kayak...Fri & Sat, April 28-29, 8am-4pm

**MOVING SALE: GRANBURY** 1105 Penrod Dr Saturday April 29 - 9 am until everything's gone. Trundle bed, swivel rockers, large wood frame mirror, small storage cabinets, retail supplies & displays, old projectors & radios. In the garage, rain or shine.

**YARD SALE: GRANBURY** Three Multi-family Community Yard Sale: 401 E Pearl St Upper & Lower Parking Lots, 1520 Crawford St & 905 Paluxy Rd. Rain or Shine. Saturday April 29th, 8:30 am-1:30 pm.

Granbury 76049 **Garage Sales 76049**

1210 North Fork Rd- Household decor, clothes, yard decorations, something for everyone. Fri 4/28 - Sun 4/30, 8-6.

2200 Cobblestone Ct.- Fri. 4/28 8am-4pm & Sat. 4/29 8am-12pm. Refrigerator, patio furniture, furniture, dishes, RV supplies, tools, electronics, books.

**MOVING SALE: GRANBURY** 8816 Cleburne Hwy, Granbury 76049- Items for Sale are Washer/Dryer, Round Kitchen Table w/6 chairs, Dining Room Table w/6 chairs, 1 Couch/Loveseat & Ottoman, Large TV, various Side Tables. Please call Richard 817.894.5057 to schedule a viewing of items. Rain or Shine.

**GARAGE SALE** 4620 Stoney Creek Ct- April 28-29, 9am-3pm. Furniture, tools, decor, clothes, wedding decor and dresses.

Tolar 76476 **Garage Sales 76476**

2 Family Sale. 5204 Shaw Rd. Off 377 W between Granbury & Tolar. Clothes, household, decor, misc. Fri & Sat 4/28 & 4/29, 7-6.

# 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, APRIL 29

**HOOD COUNTY** Library will hold a ribbon cutting and local resources fair on Saturday, April 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library located at 222 North Travis in Granbury. There will be popcorn, a bounce house, yard games and more.

## MAY

### TUESDAY, MAY 2

**OPERA GUILD** of Granbury

monthly meeting/luncheon will take place on May 2 at DeCordova Country Club located at 5301 Country Club Dr. Social/Check-in 10:30 a.m. Entertainment/Meeting 11:00 a.m. Matt Beutner, Granbury Theatre Academy Director and some of the Academy Students, Student Actors will be performing a few theater showtunes and some jazz. Noon Buffet Lunch optional (\$18), no lunch, \$5 includes water, coffee, or tea. Reservations required no later than April 28, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898. General Membership, single \$25.00 joint \$35.00 Business Membership \$35.00. The guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

**LAKE GRANBURY** Art Association's Hood County student art exhibit will take place on May 3-20, 2023 Art teachers, please bring your students' artwork to the Shanley house located at 224 N. Travis Street (across from the Hood County Library) on Saturday, April 29 1:00-4:00 p.m. or Sunday, April 30 1:00-4:00 p.m. The work will be hung up for exhibit on June 2, 2023. The reception will be held on May 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m. for the students, their families, friends, and the public. All are invited to attend. Questions? Contact loyd.barbara@gmail.com

### THURSDAY, MAY 4

**LAKE GRANBURY** Newcomers Club will have a meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the De Cordova Bend Country Club located at 5301 Country Club Drive in Granbury. Social hour will begin at 9 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. Reservations are required by noon on Friday, April 28, 2023. We will be announcing the recipients of the three female seniors from Hood County for the LGNC Scholarships and announce the recipients of the five nonprofit organizations that will receive a donation from LGNC. There will also be a presentation from the owner of B Blumen Flower Farm.

### FRIDAY, MAY 5

**FRIENDS OF** the Library is having a \$1.00 Book Sale on May 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day at the Friends of the Library bookstore located at 222 N Travis St. All proceeds from the sale go directly to the Hood County Library. For more information contact is Ann Jalbert, fol-hoodcounty@gmail.com.

**MELODY BELLES** singers present a Spring Concert, "Down Memory Lane". The concert will take place on Friday May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the Langdon Center Concert Hall located at 308 E. Bridge St. Event is free to the public. Donations welcome. Call (817) 326-2687, for information.

### SATURDAY, MAY 6

**SPRING PICNIC** and Scholarship Fundraisers benefiting GISD Seniors will take place on Saturday May 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Park Pavilion located at Pearl Street in Granbury. This event is sponsored by the Hood County Democratic Club and the Texas Democratic Women. The public is invited to a Family Picnic and BBQ Lunch. Adults \$15 and children \$5. Entertainment Pirates vs Hollywood. All proceeds will benefit GISD Scholarships. For more information call 817-776-3724.

**ACTON CEMETERY** Annual Meeting will take place on May 6, 2023 at First National Bank of Granbury located at 3000 Fall Creek Highway 76049. Any lot owners are welcome to come. Bring a covered dish. We will start at 11:00 a.m. with lunch then the meeting will follow.

**HONORING OUR** Firefighters is a ceremony taking place on Saturday, May 6 and is organized by Friends of Memorial Lane to come and say "thank you" to these heroes. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and will be held at the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Part located at 561 N. Travis in Granbury. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. and shuttle or walk over to the park. There will be refreshments furnished by VFDSupport Brigade, and there will be helmets for kids. Members of the nine Hood County Stations will be honored and recognized and "Firefighters of the Year". A special firefighter flag will be presented to Judge Massingill to be displayed at the courthouse in honor of all firefighters that fought some big fires this past couple of years. Everyone is invited. For more information call 817-308-7427.

### MONDAY, MAY 8

**THE NORTH** Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 8, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que located at 317 E. Hwy 377. The program will be presented by Dr. Curt Fields, who will be dressed as Union General Ulysses S. Grant, and,

as General Grant, will discuss some of his experiences during the war. Dr. Fields has spoken to the group before and presents a program that you will not want to miss. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit our website at http://www.ncentexcwrt.com.

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting will take place on May 8 at 11:00 a.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque located at 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. The guest speaker will be local author and historian Melinda Ray. She will talk about the founding families of Hood County and their democratic values. For more information call 254-716-5195.

**LGAA WILL** hold its monthly meeting on Monday, May 8 at 6 p.m. There will also be a two-day workshop May 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost to attend is \$160 for members and \$180 for non-members. There is no supply fee. Register at lgaaworkshop@gmail.com

### TUESDAY, MAY 9

**THE SALVATION** Army Women's Auxiliary of Hood County May 9 at De Cordova Bend Country Club located at 5301 Country Club Dr. Meet and Greet starts at 10 a.m. and meeting & presentation will begin at 10:30 a.m. The program will be Founder's Party & Installation of 2023-2024 Officers. Chloe Steinhagen, Founder of Women's Service League/SAWA will share personal stories of the history and inspirations behind SA and SAWA. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. The menu will be Chicken breast stuffed with wild rice & mushrooms, sides, and dessert. Please bring \$20.00 cash for lunch. RSVP by to saauxiliaryofhoodcounty@gmail.com to attend meeting only or luncheon.



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE

## May 8, 2023







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**KNIEPER REAL ESTATE**

*So how is the real estate market ... really?*



**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.

**F**or the first quarter of 2023 in Hood County, there were 296 closed "Residential Sales" compared to 355 for the same period in 2022. With inventories up more than 168% over last year, this could be perceived as a sign of gloom and doom looming on the horizon. Fewer sales, more houses on the market, sounds foreboding at best, but the truth is the market is still very good. In fact, the median price range for Hood County is up approximately 9% over last year's first quarter.

If you dig a little deeper, you will find that the increases are primarily happening in homes priced between \$200-\$400K. Obviously, the greatest demand for housing is within those affordable prices so it makes sense that some modest price inflation would continue to occur.

Bidding wars, while still happening, are fewer and farther between than last year, and while that may disappoint some sellers, keep in mind the opportunities it presents. You can now sell your existing home at an ex-

ceptionally good price and then purchase a new home without having to offer to throw in your first-born child and an extra \$100K.

Waterfront sales have almost doubled this year over the last, primarily because there are three times as many lake homes for sale. But again, the good news is prices are holding steady and in some instances are slightly higher.

So why are so many people concerned about the future of Real Estate? One obvious answer is interest rates. With each rate increase, REALTORS® get a little grayer and gain a few more worry lines. But the fact is, today's rates really are not that bad. We had a great run of rates as low as 2%, averaging well below 5%, but consider this ... In 1970 the average household income was \$9,870 and the average interest rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage was 7.31%. In 2023 the Household Income is being estimated at \$79,405, an almost 700% increase over the 70s, and an average 6.34% mortgage rate, which is 15% LESS than it was 53 years ago. All things con-

sidered; 6-7% mortgage rates really aren't that bad.

So, what are the negatives? More houses coming onto the market means more competition, which in turn means prices will continue to level off and it will take a little longer to sell. Buyers are enjoying the luxury of multiple choice for the first time in a long time and sellers are going to need to be prepared to do a little more negotiating than in years past.

None of these things would have been considered devastating before the wild ride we were on in recent years. I believe that once we have all had time to process everything, we will see that we are simply "getting back to normal," and normal is not a bad place to be.

It is my opinion that we can expect to see continued sales and great strides toward a more stable real estate market, and The Knieper Team will be right here to help guide buyers and sellers through this latest shift in the market.

As always please feel free to contact us with questions or comments. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or contact us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com). We would love to hear from you.

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

**TPWD**

FROM PAGE A4

**CONSERVATION OPTION**

- Standalone Property: \$300 for the first management unit, \$30 for each additional management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$300
- Wildlife Management Cooperative member: \$30 per management unit

**HARVEST OPTION**

- Standalone Property: \$30 per management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$30

The Harvest Option is an automated, "do-it-yourself" option for MLDP participation that provides landowners with a deer harvest recommendation, tag issuance, and general guidance about wildlife and wildlife habitat management. Participation in the Harvest Option does not require habitat management practices, deer population data or the participant to work directly with a TPWD wildlife biologist.

The Conservation Option offers program participants the opportunity to work with a

TPWD biologist to receive customized, ranch-specific habitat and deer harvest recommendations and MLDP tag issuance for white-tailed deer and/or mule deer. This option requires the reporting of certain types of deer data as well as completion of specific habitat management practices each year to remain in the program.

MLDP participation is completely voluntary. Once enrolled, program participants must meet MLDP requirements for the full year of enrollment.

**Granbury Home Stats**

- 407** Active Listings
- 183** Under Contract
- 395** Closed This year
- \$205** Average Price per Sq. Ft.
- 71** Average Days on Market
- 59** Waterfront Sales This Year
- 49** Waterfront Active Listings
- \$308** Waterfront Price Per Sqft.

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

All Statistical Information was obtained from the North Texas Real Estate Information System (NTREIS) for sales in Hood County between 01/01/2023 - 04/26/2023. Information is deemed to be reliable but not guaranteed.



**KNIEPER TEAM**

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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 included 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**



"NONE OF US ARE FREE, UNTIL ALL OF US ARE FREE."

**Miss Opal Lee**  
Grandmother of Juneteenth





## FULL SPEED AHEAD



COURTESY OF JIM WREN

Valerie Lemmons, a 2006 graduate of Granbury High School, ran in the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 17, with a finishing time of three hours, 44 minutes.

### GHS graduate runs Boston Marathon after only two years of training

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Many athletes who strive to run in the Boston Marathon train for years to qualify — and sometimes never do. But for 35-year-old Valerie Lemmons, all it took was a couple years of training.

However, if you had told her back when she was attending Granbury High School in the mid-2000s that she would be running in the 2023 Boston Marathon, she would've laughed.

"I disliked (running) so much as a younger person," she said. "And I wasn't very good at it."

In fact, Leta Andrews' daughter Lisa was Lemmons' basketball coach when she was younger. Lemmons said that Lisa

couldn't believe that Lemmons enjoys running now.

"Leta was my coach in high school, but her daughter actually coached me from when I was young all the way through when I got into high school, and she has actually just been flabbergasted that I run because it was just something that I'd never get into," Lemmons explained. "She's told me as much that she's just shocked that I'm running now."

Lemmons, who graduated from GHS in 2006 as the class valedictorian, said she first became interested in running during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"I was with the kids at home all day, not being able to get out much because everything was closed," she said, thinking back. "I needed an outlet, I guess, to just have some time to myself, so I was like, 'Well running is something I can do even with the kids,' because I had a double stroller at the time, and I could push them in it. My husband was kind enough to agree to let me get a treadmill for that Christmas in December of 2020, and so that's what really kicked off running for me."

Lemmons joined a local running club in her current town of residence, Conway, Arkansas

— and that's when her spark for running was ignited.

"I'm a really competitive person, so I think I needed a competitive outlet," she said. "The great thing about running is you can kind of just compete with yourself; you don't have to win. While that's fun, of course, it's not really the main goal. It's just kind of interesting to see yourself get better and better."

She began training for her first marathon in the fall of 2021 after she realized she wasn't "half bad at running."

"I was like, 'Well, I'll just do one of these marathons everybody talks about, and if I'm gonna do this, I'm going to try and qualify for the Boston Marathon, because why not?'" she said.

After putting in several hours of work and effort —

PLEASE SEE **MARATHON** | B2

## Capturing Kids' Hearts GISD's new program to strengthen student/teacher connections

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Maintaining a positive student/teacher relationship is not always easy — especially with the student tragedies that recently befell our beloved district.

But the implementation of one program at Granbury ISD could help strengthen those connections while also creating a safe and welcoming environment for students.

The GISD school board unanimously approved the purchase of Capturing Kids' Hearts professional development program during Monday night's school board meeting.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is a program that equips professionals in K-12 education to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven campus culture, and student connectedness, according to the website.

"Staggering statistics from the CDC, the APA — American Psychological Association — and the Office of the Surgeon General show that recent National Youth Surveys have shown an alarming increase in the prevalence specifically of certain mental health challenges that our young people are facing," said Stacie Brown, director of curriculum and instruction at the meeting. "All of the research points to the power of connectedness and fighting against those things."

In reading the memo affiliated with the program, Brown added that Capturing Kids' Hearts "trains teachers, staff, and administrators overarching skills to use in helping to develop self-management with our students, high performance classrooms, using team building skills and social contracts, techniques for dealing with conflict, negative behavior, and issues with disrespect."

When the program's training is combined with a systemic approach, Brown explained, the researched-based process improves five big indicators of school performance — "fewer discipline referrals, improved attendance, higher student achievement, lower dropout rates, and higher teacher satisfaction."

The total cost of the program was not revealed during the meeting, but it was disclosed that the district will be using carryover funds from federal funding — specifically Title II-A and Title IV-A — for the purchase.

"These carryover funds are past funds that were not spent that went back to the federal government," Brown explained. "If we do not spend the funds specifically on what we said we were going to spend the funds on — which is only professional development specific to Safe and Healthy Students, which is Title IV — then all of the money goes back to the federal government."

Granbury ISD used the Capturing Kids' Hearts program in the past, Brown said, but only purchased certain products — "a la carte" as she called them.

"This specific purchase is not only overarching, but it allows for implementation support, so it allows for Capturing Kids' Hearts to join with us and have a monthly call," she said. "And we have a strategist that comes and plans with our teachers and continues to push success in the program. Those were things that we did not

PLEASE SEE **KIDS** | B2

## 'Daytripper' host Chet Garner to celebrate tourism week in Granbury May 2

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Visit Granbury will soon be celebrating National Travel and Tourism Week and who better to celebrate with than with famous Texplorer Chet Garner?

### ABOUT CHET GARNER

Garner is the host of the six-time Emmy Award-winning travel series "The Daytripper" on PBS — a show centered on

one-day adventures exploring the food, culture, and history of Texas towns throughout the Lone Star state.

"We show everybody what they can see and do if they were in Granbury for instance," Garner told the HCN by phone. "A couple of years ago, we actually made a Granbury episode. It's been one of our more popular episodes that's for sure, because Granbury is

PLEASE SEE **GARNER** | B2



COURTESY OF THE DAYTRIPPER/CHET GARNER

"The Daytripper" star Chet Garner will be visiting Granbury again on Tuesday, May 2, at the Lake Granbury Conference Center in celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week.

*"We show everybody what they can see and do if they were in Granbury for instance, a couple of years ago, we actually made a Granbury episode. It's been one of our more popular episodes that's for sure, because Granbury is so well loved. We told the story of John Wilkes Booth. We ate tacos at Stumpy's. We went to the top of the courthouse and saw the old clock. We went to Jesse James' grave, and we went swimming at City Beach."*

**CHET GARNER**  
Host of "The Day Tripper"



COURTESY OF THE DAYTRIPPER/CHET GARNER

Chet Garner, host of the PBS television show, "The Day Tripper," visited Granbury for an episode back in 2015. He said he ate tacos at Stumpy's, visited Jesse James' grave, went to the top of the courthouse to see the old clock, and went swimming at Granbury City Beach Park.

## GARNER

FROM PAGE B1

so well loved. We told the story of John Wilkes Booth. We ate tacos at Stumpy's. We went to the top of the courthouse and saw the old clock. We went to Jesse James' grave, and we went swimming at City Beach."

The first episode of "The Day Tripper" premiered on Oct. 9, 2009, and the show hasn't slowed down since. Garner has traveled throughout Texas, showcasing famous landmarks, hideaways, and obscure dives.

"It's a 30-minute show, and my goal is to inspire people to hit the road more than just like, 'Hey, a cool Travel Channel show.' I want to make people say 'What? I didn't know that was there,' and they get

off their couch and jump in the car," he explained.

Garner, who grew up in southeast Texas, spent a lot of his time traveling abroad before realizing that some of the greatest sights were right here in his home state.

"I just realized that some of the best things on Earth don't require a plane ticket and a wallet full of cash; they're a lot closer than we think," he said. "Sometimes you have to step away from your home to realize how special it was, so I left Texas, and then would come back and explore and be like, 'This is better than that thing I paid 2,000 bucks to go see on a plane,' and so I just kind of got this inspiration that people needed to celebrate their state more. Texans are proud, but I wanted to give people lots of reasons to be proud of their state — real, true things

they've experienced rather than just something that we're mimicking back."

### TOURISM CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Visit Granbury has invited Garner to help celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week with the second annual Friends of Tourism celebration from 9-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 2, at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

Garner, a resident of Georgetown, will be discussing his lifetime endeavor to explore Texas to hopefully inspire local residents to head out on their own Texas-sized adventures.

"It's a celebration breakfast inviting in people from the city, people who are involved in tourism, and kicking off National Tourism week," Garner explained.

"Tourism is one of the biggest drivers of economies in small towns — especially in a town like Granbury. Tourism's a great industry; it drives billions of dollars in the state of Texas, so it's super important, and it's cool to be able to kick it off in Granbury because there's no place like it in Texas."

The event is free but requires an RSVP as seating will be limited to 200 people. Tourism stakeholders and community members who support travel and tourism are invited to attend.

"Travel is at the heart of Granbury — powering a strong Granbury tourism economy, creating jobs, and strengthening our community's culture and identity," Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury stated in a news release. "This National Travel and Tourism Week, we are proud to

celebrate all that travel does for our community now, and all that it will contribute in the future."

Dooley said during the celebration brunch, Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell will read the official proclamation recognizing National Travel and Tourism Week, as well as its impact of travel tourism to Granbury and Hood County.

"The proclamation will celebrate and create awareness of the special occasion," she added in the news release. "The Friends of Tourism Celebration will also recognize volunteers and some very special Friends of Tourism."

To RSVP for the celebration brunch, call Visit Granbury at 817-573-5548 or email Rhiannon Crump at rcrump@granbury.org.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

## MARATHON

FROM PAGE B1

plus running several miles — she ran a marathon in Arkansas in November of 2021, which was exactly what she needed to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

"My time had to be a sub-3:35 for my age and I think I raced that in 3:26 or something so that qualified me. I was pretty shocked," she said.

Lemmons ran in the 127th Boston Marathon on April 17 of this year, and there were nearly 30,000 runners competing.

"The Boston Marathon was last Monday and I'm just now walking normally again," she said, with a chuckle.

One major aspect of the marathon that shocked Lemmons, she said, was how big of a spectacle the event is for Boston.

"I didn't know how big of a deal it was, but once I got into the running community, I realized 'Oh, this is like, the goal for people to qualify for this race,'" she explained. "And then I still didn't realize how big it was until I got to the race and saw how many came out for this thing. I think there were a million spectators that came out, not just from the families that came with the runners, but like, all of Boston came out. There was not a stretch of the course that didn't have somebody cheering for you. It was a really cool experience."

*"I was with the kids at home all day, not being able to get out much because everything was closed. I needed an outlet, I guess, to just have some time to myself, so I was like, 'Well running is something I can do even with the kids,' because I had a double stroller at the time, and I could push them in it. My husband was kind enough to agree to let me get a treadmill for that Christmas in December of 2020, and so that's what really kicked off running for me."*

### VALERIE LEMMONS

Participant in the 127th Boston Marathon

Lemmons finished the 26.2-mile race in three hours and 44 minutes, which did not qualify her for another Boston Marathon — but her results did not deter her in the slightest.

"It wasn't a qualifying time for another marathon, but I had already run one this past December that qualified me, so I was kind of just training to get across the finish line, not necessarily to get a great time," she said. "I was just kind of there for the experience, so it was a pretty good time for my training considering I hadn't put in too much effort."

Since she started running, Lemmons said the constant activity has helped not only her physical health, but her mental health as well.

"I guess I needed an outlet from the pandemic and the stress from that," she explained. "It's been really good to have the friendships

I've made and the benefits to my mental health from just making connections. Also being outside and getting the sunshine helps a lot too."

With a marathon she ran in December, Lemmons had already qualified for another Boston Marathon — but she's still unsure if she's going to return there for a future race.

"I'm actually the president now of the Conway running club and in Arkansas, we have this thing called the Arkansas Grand Prix, which is a series of road races ranging from a mile to marathon distance over the course of a year that you get points for, and at the end of the year, whoever races and gets the highest points at these races gets an award," she said. "Last year, I actually was the top female of the Arkansas Grand Prix — which was wild, and I don't know how I managed that — so my goal is just to run in a few more Grand Prix races

this year and doing local races, that type of thing."

Lemmons said that she is thankful for her husband, James (Jim) Wren, for taking care of their two kids: Dashiell, 5, and Merritt, 3, whenever she goes for a run.

She added that she encourages other aspiring runners to join a local running club for peer encouragement and motivation, to run outside for some fresh air, and to run at a slower pace when first starting out to build up endurance.

"I mostly want people to know that you really can do this," she added. "I know you think 'Oh, I hate running' or 'I'm not good at running,' but running is a sport that you can really improve at no matter who you are, and you can actually get pretty good. All it takes is consistency."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

## KIDS

FROM PAGE B1

have access to before, and it was something that has made this specific contract much more appealing from an implementation perspective."

Barbara Herrington, school board president, commented that the program is rather costly, but agrees that it's in the best interest for the district's staff and students.

"Secondary (schools) needs it most of all because my experience has been that secondary teachers teach subjects; elementary teach kids, and this helps secondary teach kids and develop that relationship," she said.

Herrington added that with the latest tragedies, there wasn't a better time for this board to look at a program that might strengthen the connections between the staff and the students — and potentially save a life.

"This is a lot of money, but the life of one kid is worth more than this," she said. "And I can't help but believe that this is something that could stand in the gap for some of those youngsters who feel disconnected and feel there's no other way out, so I think this district has no better time than today to look at this and consider it."

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A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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 1 John 4:12

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*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28

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Romans 15:13

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*For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."*

Isaiah 41:13

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*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not learn on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

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*When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.*

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

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# Hood County ACTIVITIES

## YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

### HOOD OUTDOORS



COURTESY OF MIKE ACOSTA

Pictured, from left, are Patrick Grages, Jan Grages and Andre Missfeldt. Andre Missfeldt lives in DeCordova subdivision and Patrick and Jan were visiting Andre from Germany. They enjoyed catching some nice Granbury striped bass this last weekend.

## Spring is my favorite time for enjoying camping, fishing in nearby locations



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.

Spring is my favorite time to go camping. The weather is usually agreeable, and the children have a great time in the outdoors, hopefully giving their electronics a break. If you're like me, I will generally try to make sure there is water and fishing close by. Enjoy the relaxation and leave your work at work.

You don't have to go far, as you can camp on our own Lake Granbury, Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Whitney, Lake Proctor, the coast or many other lakes/parks across the state or other states. Wherever you go, this is the season for it. If you are interested in what's available in Texas,

visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife web site at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) for more information.

Planning your camping trip with the typical spawning times for white bass, crappie, catfish and/or black bass is always an option. For example, the Colorado River above Lake

Buchanan near Bend, Texas is one of the many popular spots across the state for sand bass fishing in the spring. Camping on a river/creek or the lake and running trotlines for catfish is another option that is also enjoyable this time of the year. The kids love the anticipation of seeing what will be on the end of the trotline.

Eating outdoors is some extra work, but I enjoy the good eating and fun preparing it. A good fish fry, if the fishing is good, is a lot of fun. If the fish don't cooperate, no one I know will complain about hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixins.

This may also be a good time to try one of those lakes that you've been telling yourself you're going to visit one day for those lunker bass or monster striped bass. Most every body of

water will have campsites available. This type of small vacation is relatively inexpensive and is enjoyed by many. The Texas State Parks generally require a reservation. The most popular spots are booked solid in the spring. Call ahead and make a reservation if necessary to ensure you have a campsite before you head out. Other private parks may not require a reservation, but I would call ahead and make sure before you go there.

Be prepared and be safe. Springtime brings out the biting insects and other critters. Keep the sunblock bottle handy even during this time of the year and don't forget the first-aid kit.

[michael.acosta@att.net](mailto:michael.acosta@att.net) / 254-396-4855

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury levels are falling some, making it difficult in some areas to launch and navigate. We need some heavy run-off to fill the lake. Water temperatures are near the 70-degree mark on the main lake and even higher in the backs of sloughs and creeks. Striped bass are good to 11 pounds on live bait fished near DeCordova and near Blue Water Shores. Large blue and yellow catfish continue to be caught on cut bait on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Sand bass are being caught on slabs and spinners in town and near DeCordova subdivision near channel breaks in about 20 feet of water. Crappie catches are reported best under docks mid-lake. Largemouth bass numbers are good on soft plastics and on crankbaits later in the day. Some good topwater action has been reported early near main lake points.

### OTHER AREAS

Other reservoirs with great fishing reports include Lake Whitney for striped bass limits with an occasional fish to 13 pounds on minnows or live shad. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass are also good to 15 pounds from Hogs Bend south on live bait and top water plugs early.

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BOOK REVIEW

# 'House of Cotton' unfolds as a weird, heartbreakingly beautiful novel

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

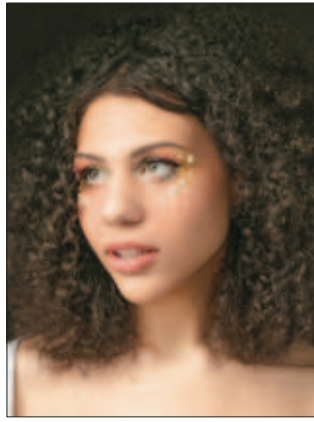
The role is yours, if you want it. You can play the part on a stage or in a film, but there are a few requirements: You have to be able to sing and dance and speak with an accent. Can you convince an audience that you're someone you're not? As in the new book, "House of Cotton" by Monica Brashears, can you play dead?

Mama Brown wouldn't have liked all the praying and singing, not at all. Nineteen-year-old Magnolia knew that for sure. Also for sure, Mama's funeral was the last time Magnolia would go to church. Wasn't anything there for her anymore.

No, she'd just go to her overnight job at People's Gas Station, and try to avoid her landlord, Sugar Foot, who offered to trade sex for rent. She'd try to keep homeless "Cigarette" Sammy from eating out of trash barrels. She'd swipe on Tinder and, using a pseudonym, she'd sleep with random men.

She'd try to forget that she was pregnant and alone.

And then one night, a well-dressed man came to the gas station and told Magnolia that she could be a model. Was it a come-on, a cliché that every almost-pretty girl hears? She couldn't afford to ignore his offer and so she walked



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Pictured is author Monica Brashears

across Knoxville, walked across town, to a funeral home where her new job was ready for her.

Cotton was the man's name; he said he was a seer and he'd inherited the business from his uncle. Under his ownership, the funeral home was offering a new feature: for a fee, mourners who didn't have closure over a loss could talk to Magnolia, who was made to look like their dearly de-



"House of Cotton" by Monica Brashears  
C.2023, FLATIRON BOOKS. \$27.99. 304 PAGES.

parted, thanks to professional make-up and lighting. For an hour of her time, Magnolia would earn more money than she would in a

month at the gas station. It was an easy job. Cotton didn't charge her rent for living in the home. For once in her life, Magnolia had

money. She also had ghosts from the past, nudging her for her sins...  
Sitting somewhere be-

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | B8

THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Roll call, 60 years later



BY DON NEWBURY

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

It would be daunting for researchers half his age, but it didn't stop Dr. Ray Van Cleef from reconnecting with his baseball players from six decades ago.

The longtime Texas community college administrator couldn't resist trying. Late in 2022, the search began.

At age 94, he employed the usual communications efforts—some of them dead ends — to reach Sul Ross State University baseball players he coached in Alpine, Texas, from 1958-1964.

POSITIVE INFLUENCES

Relying on email, letters, phones and word of mouth, he wanted to reconnect with the 75 athletes he coached. For many, he could find no contact information. A few are deceased, and some simply failed to answer his appeals.

Fifteen responded, however, providing information about their lives, careers and offspring.

"I'm extremely proud of these men, all of whom have contributed positively to society, most of them in

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | B7

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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.

## SATURDAYS

**HABITAT FOR** Human-

ity 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: bskaggs@aol.com.

## SECOND SATURDAYS

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

## THIRD MONDAYS

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

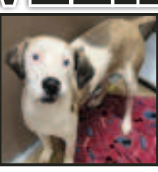
**LOVE KNOTS** Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1 - 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

### PETS OF THE WEEK

ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

**Pluto** is a female Catahoula mix dog. She is approximately 10-12 months old and weighs about 55 pounds. Pluto is our long-time resident and deserves a family to call her own. Special adoption fee of \$25.00! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, Pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

**Diego** is a male domestic short-hair cat. He is approximately 2 years old. Diego is super friendly and loves attention. Special adoption fee of \$25.00! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, Pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.



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**Friday, 28 April 2023 - Thursday, 04 May 2023**

**Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret (PG13)**  
Fri, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.  
Sat: 10:45AM, 1:20PM, 3:55PM, 6:30PM, 9:05PM.  
Sun: 10:45AM, 1:20PM, 3:55PM, 6:30PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM, 3:55PM, 6:30PM

**Big George Foreman (PG13)**  
Fri: 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM.  
Sat: 10:20AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun: 10:20AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM.  
Thurs: 4:40PM, 7:35PM

**Evil Dead Rise (R)**  
Fri: 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, 10:00PM.  
Sat: 10:35AM, 1:00PM, 3:25PM, 5:50PM, 8:15PM, 10:40PM.  
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:00PM, 3:25PM, 5:50PM, 8:15PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:25PM, 5:50PM, 8:15PM.  
Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 10:30PM

**Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG13)**  
Thurs: 3:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:00PM, 10:30PM

**Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 in 3D (PG13)**  
Thurs: 3:30PM, 10:00PM

**Guy Ritchie's The Covenant (R)**  
Fri: 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM, 9:35PM.  
Sat: 10:15AM, 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun: 10:15AM, 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:05PM, 3:55PM, 6:45PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 7:15PM, 10:10PM

**The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG)**  
Fri: 1:20PM, 2:20PM, 3:40PM, 4:40PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM, 9:20PM, 10:40PM.  
Sat: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:20PM, 2:20PM, 3:40PM, 4:40PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM, 9:20PM, 10:40PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:20PM, 2:20PM, 3:40PM, 4:40PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM, 2:20PM, 3:40PM, 4:40PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

## SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on April 29 (Puzzle 22).

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## THE DOWNHOME CHEF

## Springtime brings on warm thoughts — such as cheesecake adventures



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.

**H**ello, my foodie friends: I hope today finds you well. The weather has definitely been spring weather with all the rain. I'm seeing flowers bloom in my garden and bees coming out.

This time of year is always fresh. The air smells like rain and life is growing all around us. I have been thinking on what to share with you this month and my mind keeps going to cheesecake. Probably because it is so versatile and rich and creamy. Decadent really.

This weather kind of has me in a mood for something rich, yet delicate in nature. Therefore, I am going to share a fairly simple recipe with you for six-inch cheesecakes. It's just big enough to share with your friend, your spouse, your partner or even your kids. (Who are we kidding though? Our kids already get everything, so be a little selfish!). Also, it makes two. So sharing really isn't a problem.

I like cheesecake with a topping like strawberry glaze, or even a chocolate drizzle, but for today, I will share with you the strawberry topping recipe I like to

use. These recipes are much simpler than you may think.

Generally you want a springform pan for cheesecake so you can pop it out of the pan and make it look good on a plate, but if you can't find a six-inch one, it is OK to use a regular six-inch pan — just don't try to take it out.

First, here is the recipe for strawberry topping. You will want to let it set while you make your cheesecake.

**STRAWBERRY TOPPING INGREDIENTS**

1 pound fresh strawberries, hulled and diced  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
1 tbsp cornstarch  
2 tbsp water

**INSTRUCTIONS**

In a saucepan over medium heat, add strawberries, sugar, lemon juice, cornstarch, and water. Stir to

combine.

Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook until mixture has thickened and looks glossy (this could take up to 6-8 minutes). Remove from heat and cool. Transfer to another bowl and refrigerate until ready to use.

Now for the main dish, cheesecake:

**CHEESECAKE INGREDIENTS**

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs  
6 tablespoons butter, melted  
16 ounces full-fat cream cheese, room temperature (do not sub fat-free)  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
2 eggs, room temperature

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Preheat oven to 325F.

1. Wrap the outside of a 6x2 or 6x3 springform pan with foil. I generally do two layers tightly wrapped

2. In a large bowl, mix together the graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Pat into the bottom and up the sides of the springform pans.

3. In a large mixing bowl, beat together the cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy, about 2-3 minutes. Scrape down the bowl as needed. If you have one, use the paddle attachment of a stand mixer, because the whisk attachment tends to put too much air into your cheesecake mixture and it is also more difficult to get a

full creamy texture.

4. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, until smooth (do not overbeat).

5. Transfer the batter split between both crusts.

6. Place the springform pans inside an 8x8 or larger pan.

7. Pour hot tap water into the outside pan until the springform pans are halfway submerged in the water. Be careful to not get water inside the foil.

8. Bake 65-75 minutes or until the edges are set and brown, the center is mostly set with some wiggling.

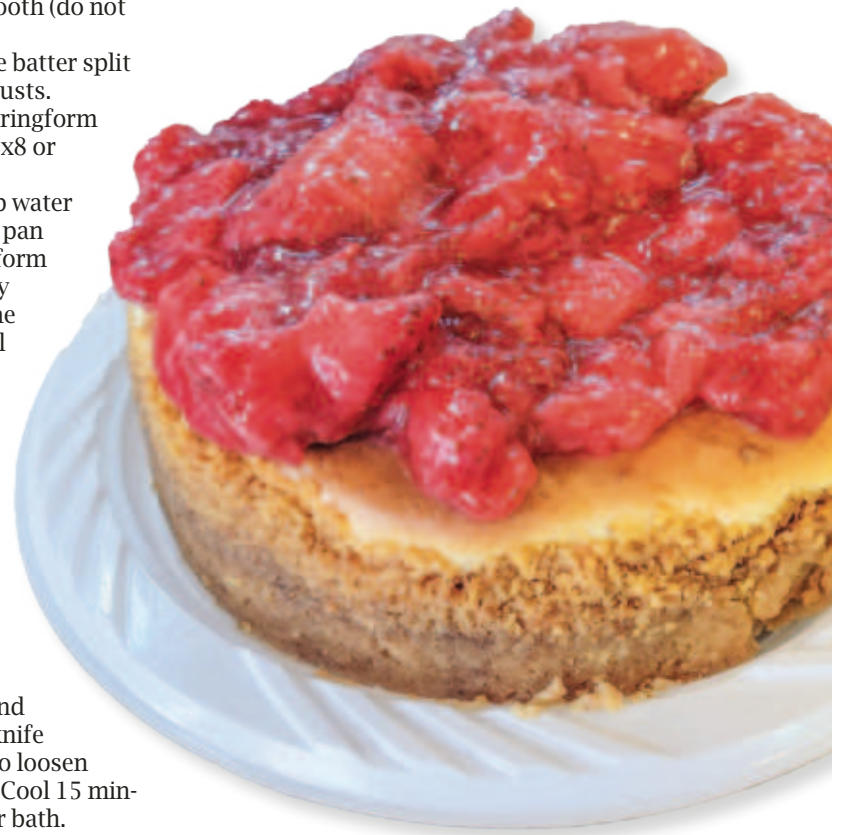
9. Remove from the oven and carefully run a knife along the edge to loosen the cheesecake. Cool 15 minutes in the water bath.

10. Remove the pan from the water bath and let cool at room temperature for 1 hour.

11. Cover loosely with saran wrap and refrigerate at least four hours or overnight before garnishing and serving. Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to seven days.

And there you have it, you can now make my favorite dessert at home. I do make

Pictured is Chef Felicity McNelley's cheesecake with strawberry topping.



COURTESY OF FELICITY MCNELLEY

this from time to time at The Square Café (at 137 E. Pearl St., in Granbury). I also want to mention that we have some lovely preserves, jams and peaches that I will occasionally use for toppings.

It might seem like cheating, but there is nothing wrong with putting these things on the tops of your cheesecakes. After all, you probably broke a sweat mak-

ing these lovely desserts, so make it easy on yourself. Everything tastes good with cheesecake.

I hope you all are enjoying spring as much as I am. I hope your gardens are plentiful and your flowers bloom well. And I hope to see your faces at The Cafe. Happy spring!

[felmcnel@gmail.com](mailto:felmcnel@gmail.com)

**IDLE**

FROM PAGE B5

leadership positions," Dr. Van Cleef said. "Though they played sports at a small college, they've given much to make a better world."

**AN ENCOURAGER**

One reason for his determination to identify and showcase his athletes is that he was discouraged by some educators during his junior high years, called "too short," and even worse.

One even tried to talk him out of taking college preparatory classes.

A coach, however, was an encourager. Perhaps he was most responsible for Van Cleef's attending Rutgers University, where he played on the baseball team that

participated in the College World Series and was named the most valuable player.

**ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT**

He wants this column to spotlight the athletes, however, not him. It was he, though, who spent countless weeks, even months, collecting data. (I was honored to help get his booklet into final form, and it should be noted that the respondents are joyous that they now have ways to contact their old coach and each other.)

Nutshell wrap-up: Mike Compton, Billy Carthel, Jerry Tyson, Gregg Slape, Wilbur Huckle and Jerry Tyson played professional baseball. Buddy Antwine, brothers Robert and Frank Bice, Leldon Hensley, Ronnie Stephens and Marshall Bise were educators/coaches.

Tom Cunningham was in pharmacy; Fred Davis, a State District Judge, and Daryle Gibbens, state insurance executive.

Four are members of the Sul Ross Hall of Honor, including Compton, Slape, Davis and Hudson. Hudson, that school's first three-sport letterman, was the Lobos' football quarterback, baseball second-baseman and one season was national basketball free throw leader, hitting 90.1%.

**ONE OR THE OTHER**

Judge Davis might well have considered comedy, what with his experiences on the bench. Among his memories are excuses prospective jurors have used to avoid serving. One stands out. The prospect said he wouldn't be able to serve, since his wife

would be "conceiving a baby that day."

"Don't you mean delivering?" Davis countered.

The plea continued. "Either way, I need to be present." Not sure if this worked.

**BIG-GAME MOMENT**

Space prohibits the deserved attention to all respondents, but some details must be included.

Frank Bice, accomplished life insurance executive and speaker, first coached. His boys basketball teams averaged 27 wins annually for a decade. Compton — who spent his baseball career with the Philadelphia Phillies — developed an "English as a Second Language Program" that was eventually expanded for all Latin American players. Carthel provided the greatest individual sports

moment for me when I was sports information director at Sul Ross.

I was thrilled when the Lobos had jumped to a big lead over the University of Arizona Wildcats in Tucson. Not surprisingly, the Cats whittled away at the deficit, and in the bottom of the ninth were trailing 11-10, with bases loaded and nobody out.

Frustrated that all pitchers had been used, Van Cleef asked if any of the other players had ever pitched. Third-baseman Carthel — responding that he had pitched in Little League — took over, striking out two and getting an infield pop-up to end the game and preserve the win. Days prior to the publication of Van Cleef's booklet, Carthel was claimed by COPD. He was 79.

**ADDENDUM**

Here is where the retired athletes live now:

Buddy Antwine and Daryle Gibbens, Bandera.

Frank Bice, Cleburne.

Robert Bice, Mabank.

Marshall Bise, Conroe.

Mike Compton, Tampa, Florida.

Tom Cunningham, Temple.

Fred Davis and Ronnie Stephens, Fort Worth.

Leldon Hensley, Odessa.

Wilbur Huckle, Cross Plains.

Herman Hudson, Horizon City, Texas.

Gregg Slape, The Woodlands.

Jerry Tyson, San Antonio.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Green Thumb Garden Club holding fundraiser today for beautification projects

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 Green Thumb Garden Club is hosting a sale of plants and garden art today, Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC gym. All proceeds from the day will support Pecan beautification projects.

**AUXILIARY GATHERING**

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary will meet again Monday evening, May 1, at 7 p.m. in the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS building on Monticello Drive. Members are busy planning upcoming events, namely the annual golf tournament set for Saturday, June 24. Ladies and gentlemen interested in supporting a group that fundraises for our community's emergency personnel are welcome.

**DONATION DAY**

Following the success of past events, Pecaners will once again participate in a Red Cross blood drive happening Wednesday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC gym. Folks may visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter "Pecanplantation" to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome on donation day. Furthermore, donors will be entered into raffle drawings to win items from businesses in Pecan Village.

**MOTHER'S DAY**

Saturday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

will bring a free Mother's Day craft class at the PAC where little ones will make terra cotta garden bells for their moms. Space is limited, and sign up is necessary: 817-573-7952.

**ART EVENT**

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild is hosting a stained-glass workshop on Tuesday, May 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the EMS Auxiliary meeting room. Instructor Kerian Massey will lead participants in making a colorful hanging stained glass feather. All supplies are provided with the \$75 registration fee, which is payable upon arrival at the event.

**GOLF PLAY**

Pecan's golf course will be busy on May 5-7 when the Guys and Dolls Tournament arrives. Registration is happening now at the golf pro shop.

**START ENGINES**

A "Unique Car Show" is coming to the PAC parking lot on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pecan's ex-

ecutive chef Jordan Ray will be present and serving barbecue and beverages.

**BEVERAGE CART**

Pecan is pleased to announce the addition of full beverage cart service for golfers has begun and will be operational six days a week. The cart will provide golfers with a convenient way to stay refreshed by offering an assortment of drinks and various edibles, including breakfast burritos from the 19th Hole, for purchase. Cash, credit/debit cards, and member charges are all acceptable forms of payment.

General Manager Rick Lantgen credits the beverage cart as one way to "enhance our members' and guests' experience on the course."

**GOOD READS**

The Hood County Library District's bookmobile is traveling to Pecan beginning in May. Plans include the bookmobile stopping at the PAC on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. A full-service library for checking out books, DVDs, and

audiobooks will be available. Patrons should bring their library cards when visiting the bookmobile.

**PARTY TIME**

Pecaners will enjoy a Kentucky Derby Party on Saturday, May 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the clubhouse when attendees may show off "hats, ties, and skill for picking ponies during the first jewel of the Triple Crown."

The Brazos Room staff will provide heavy hors d'oeuvres, and the bar will be open. Ladies are encouraged to decorate and wear hats, and men should don their best bow ties. There will be prizes for the best fashion accessories chosen by "special guest judges."

The Entertainment Committee will be selling door prize tickets that attendees may use to choose winning horses. Prizes for all winners will be Pecan Bucks.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call the clubhouse front desk to secure a spot: 817-573-2641.

**GENEALOGY GROUP**

Pecan's Genealogy Group

is taking a field trip on Tuesday, May 16 to the Somervell County Library beginning at 10 a.m. Folks will meet at the library in Glen Rose, and everyone is welcome. While on site, attendees will enjoy a tour of the genealogical resources which include not only Texas but all of the United States. After the May meeting, the Genealogy Group will recess until September.

For more information on the Genealogy Group and to be added to its email list, call or text Kay Holly at 682-459-5718.

**PICKLEBALL NEWS**

Pecan Plantation's Pickleball Association continues to thrive under its leadership team. Serving this year are David Stilwell, past president and advisor; Sam Butler, president; Charlotte Bishop, vice president; Amy Diaz, secretary; Tracy Davis, treasurer; and Mo Romanowski, membership.

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

**BOOK**

FROM PAGE B5

tween fairy tales and a suspense novel, hovering around both an erotic tale and a humor story, it's pretty safe to say that "House of Cotton" is unlike any other novel you've ever read. It's weird, and it's heartbreakingly beautiful.

Author Monica Brashears' main character, Magnolia, is someone you want to reach into the pages and hug – if you weren't sure she'd push you away for it. She's just learning how to be an adult, and not liking it; she's smart, but innocent yet and that's a bad combination in this great story. Once she finds a job with Cotton and his Aunt Eden, then, the

book takes a dark, ominous turn, like a modern-day old-fashioned Gothic novel.

Readers shouldn't be one bit surprised if they become nervous by then. It's for good reason.

"House of Cotton" will surprise you. It's not what you think it might be, and more; it's a vacation read here for the packing, if you want it.

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