



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Guest speaker Chet Garner, host of *The Daytripper* travel series that airs on PBS, added even more energy to the already upbeat "Sweet on Tourism" awards ceremony.

Granbury seeks tourism-boosting Texas Cultural District label

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

After a years-long effort led largely by volunteers, the city of Granbury may finally be on the cusp of being designated as a Texas Cultural District, also referred to as a cultural arts district.

A draft application to the Texas Commission on the Arts is set to be filed Monday.

If approved, which appears likely, the designation is expected to bring Granbury's tourism industry to a new level, resulting in an even greater impact to the local economy. Last year, for the first time, Granbury exceeded \$1 million in Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), an indication that tourism has regained its footing after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The work to get to this point in the Texas Cultural District application process was done by the seven-member, City Council-appointed Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Members give of their time to serve.

The Texas Cultural Districts program was created by The Texas Commission on the Arts for certain cities that have significant walkable arts districts.

Beginning in 2011, the Granbury Art Association began applying for the designation but had no success.

According to the city, the group was eventually told that in order for Granbury to be considered as a Texas Cultural District, city government had to have a stated commitment to public art.

In June 2018, the city formed the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission and approved an annual budget funded through HOT revenues. The city also established a Public Arts Policy at that time to guide GCAC members in creating a Master Plan.

The Granbury Public Art Master Plan was approved by the council in April of last year.

In late January, the city submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for cultural district designation and received approval from the Texas Commission on the Arts to move forward.

In February, several GCAC members along with Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley attended the Texans for the Arts' 2023 Texas Arts Advocacy Summit in support of arts advocacy during the 88th Texas legislative session, meeting with TCA representatives and leadership. Meetings were held with District 22 State Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, and District 59 State Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Stephenville.

On March 2, city representatives participated in an online Zoom meeting with Ernest Luna, the Texas Commission on the Arts' program administrator, to go over the application.

At its regular meeting Tuesday night, May 16, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving and supporting the submission of the application to the state.

"We're finally getting there," City Manager Chris Coffman said of the long process. He indicated that the creation of a Master Plan and budgetary commitments "shows the state that we're not just trying to get a plaque to hang on the wall."

Prior to the vote, the council heard a presentation from GCAC chair Cora Werley. She stated that the GCAC had been given a letter of support signed by County Judge Ron Massingill.

In addition to Werley, the Commission consists of Janice Horak, Cheshe Langford, Barbara Loyd, Stacey Martin, Mickey Parson, and Mary Ella Riley. City staff liaisons are Dooley and Visit Granbury Assistant Director/Sales Manager Kristen Gibson.

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Ah, Sugar: Visit Granbury honors helpers with Sweet on Tourism event

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Tourism is Granbury's No. 1 industry, but its success is not solely due to the efforts of Visit Granbury, and no one knows that better than Visit Granbury's staff.

The organization, which serves as the city's Convention & Visitors Bureau, honored its partners and volunteers recently with a morning awards ceremony at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

The event was held just days before National Travel and Tourism Week, May 7-13.

The theme was "Sweet on Tourism" and there was no shortage of sugar, both in terms of the food and the appreciation that was shown.

Attendees who posed for a photo in front of Visit Granbury's "donut wall" earned the right to pick a treat of their choice off one

of the wall's pegs. There were also pastries and assorted colorful candies as well as balloons. Female staffers of Visit Granbury added another special touch to the festive occasion:

matching boots with silver sparkles.

Guest speaker was Chet Garner, host of *The Daytripper* travel series that airs on PBS.

Mayor Pro Tem Trish Burwell also took the stage to read an official proclamation and to recognize the impact of travel tourism on Granbury and Hood County.

According to Travel Texas, travel direct spending in Texas was \$91.7 billion in

2022, up more than 21% from 2021 when travel began to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

In Granbury, \$58.1 million was attributed to travel direct spending, according to Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley, along with \$4.6 million in direct tax receipts.

Dooley noted that in 2022, Granbury exceeded \$1 million in Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue for the first time.

PLEASE SEE SWEET | A2



Lori Marshall, second from left, was honored as Visit Granbury's V.I.P. (Volunteer Information Professional) of the Year.

Federal funds could expand Granbury's Hike and Bike Trail

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

The Granbury City Council has adopted a resolution approving a grant application that could lead to expansion of the popular Moments in Time Hike and Bike Trail, including to Granbury High School.

The funds are through the Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program. The money is available because of the

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

The city has been preparing to seek some of that money.

In January, the city engaged Half Associates for assistance in preparing both a preliminary and detailed grant application.

After TxDOT completed a review of preliminary applications, the state agency informed the city that it can move forward with the detailed application process.

The detailed application packet is due June 5.

In addition to approving the submission of the detailed application, the resolution that was unanimously approved by the City Council at its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 16, acknowledges funding requirements that would be the city's responsibility.

The TA grant application is for funding of a 10-foot-wide shared use path along the west side of Howard Clemmons Road from

Crossland Drive to Pearl Street and along the north side of Pearl Street from Howard Clemmons Road to Park Drive.

The project would include crosswalks, at-grade crossings, a pedestrian bridge over a drainage channel, and associated signage.

The trail would connect to the existing Moments in Time trail and provide access to Granbury Middle School, Granbury High School, several county buildings, and the City Park.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$4.2 million. If approved for the grant, the city would be reimbursed \$3.35 million and would pay a match of about \$838,000.

The Tolar City Council approved a similar resolution seeking TA grant funds at its regular meeting Monday night.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 75

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

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MAMBRINO NEWSPAPER STUDENTS VISIT HOOD COUNTY NEWS



The Mambrino Elementary School newspaper students and teachers stopped by the Hood County News to learn about the newspaper industry and take a tour of the pressroom. Pictured, from left, are Rebecca Ballew, Ashlyn Adams, Mrs. Karisa Glenn, Ms. Randi McPhate, Harper Fox and Annabel Ross.

COURTESY PHOTO

SWEET FROM PAGE A1

According to Travel Texas, travel direct spending in Texas was \$91.7 billion in 2022, up more than 21% from 2021 when travel began to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

HONORS/AWARDS

Listed below are those who were in attendance and were recognized for their help in promoting tourism. Visit Granbury VIPs (Visitor Information Professionals): Betty Moss, Arlis Holland, Carolyn Reeves, Dana Norma, Debra Mayer, Dee Wilcox, Dan Vanderburg, Dicey Smith, Eva Margel, Gloria Enriquez, Holly Martin, Jan

Caldwell, Kent McKern, Lois Vicars, Lori Marshall, Lori Sipowicz, Lori Vale, Mary McDonough, Mirta Wallace, Neva Sundvahl, Patricia Boyles, Sharon Bridges, Sue Ooten, Suzanne Walsch, Tammy Quisenberry, Terry Evans, and Tristand Stewart. Marshall was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Sponsors of the Goosebump Jump winter

guest event: LKCM Media KHITS 95.5, Jr Spas, Hilton Garden Inn, Hood County News, Granbury Lodging Association, Texas EMS, and the city of Granbury. Sponsors of Spartan & Tough Mudder: LKCM Media Group-Hank FM/The Ranch Radio, Hood County News, Historic Granbury Merchants Association, Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Visit Cleburne,

the city of Cresson, Hilton Garden Inn, Hotel Lucy, La Quinta, Best Western, Oakdale Park & Off the Vine RV, Waste Connections, Revolver Brewery, Comfort Inn & Suites, Martha's Ranch & True Grit Ranch, and the city of Granbury. Media Partner of the Year: WFAA Channel 8, Good Morning Texas, Hannah Davis and Paige McCoy Smith. Distinguished

Friends of Tourism Awards: Hue Drone-Sven Lars, Mammoth Ice Age Run — Michael Powers; Blazin' Saddles Bike Run 75 — Mike Keel and Dieter Scholtyssek; Gary Marks — Nature Photography, BCE Brian Clowdus Experiences — Brian Clowdus; Texas Music Office of the Governor — Chip Adams; Granbury Jazz Fest-Jazz Society of Hood County — Matt and Reagan

Demming; HGMA Chili on the Beach — Ken Hackett and Debby Gorden; LKCM Media Group KHITS/Hank FM/The Ranch — Norma Savage and Gerri Schlegel; LGCC Award K12 A Stride Company — Mallory Litchfield and Sara Hooker. Dooley said that tourism is "truly a team effort." She stated, "It makes me so proud of what we do here in Granbury."

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

We have every reason to feel good about the future



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.

In the last edition of the HCN, we announced we would be transitioning from a twice-a-week newspaper to a once a week. I am “over the moon” with this decision because it will allow us to continue to evolve to what we believe will be the epitome of a 21st Century community newspaper. The new version of the Hood County News, which will be unveiled on June 10, is bigger, more complete, and full of information about our community, our people, and our activities. With our dedication to being ‘hyper local,’ I believe there will be something for everyone, in every edition.

To accomplish our goal, we need to make changes in our staffing and coverage patterns. In the past few weeks and in anticipation of

the change, we have added several full-time staffers and multiple freelance writers. These additions will allow us to cover community news that has previously fallen through the cracks. There are a lot of activities going on in Hood County and it is quite a task to keep up with all of them, yet this is our commitment.

I am tremendously excited to add Micky Shearon to our staff. He will be managing our social media and video needs, as well as writing an occasional feature story on one of our neighbors or on one of the many wonderful activities in our town. Many of you know Micky as the Director of the Opera House or from his time serving on the GISD school board. He and I have been hatching up plans on how the HCN can bring you more information, faster, and in an entertaining way. It is going to be a lot of fun, and I am overjoyed to be working with

my friend as he starts this new chapter in his life.

I hope your readers are getting excited about what the future holds. I promise you are going to love the weekly paper and the ease and efficiency of our website to view breaking news.

Visitors to the HCN

This week it was my great pleasure to have teachers Karisa Glenn and Randi McPhate bring their students Rebecca Ballew, Ashlyn Adams, Harper Fox, and Annabel Ross to the Hood County News for a tour. These four students are a part of the Mambrino Elementary School newspaper. They are infatuated with newspapering and their teachers wanted to take them to the newspaper so they could experience a first-hand look. It was our pleasure to host the students and demonstrate how the newsroom works, discuss the obliga-

tion of journalists to be factual and objective, and let them watch the press print a paper. The girls were very attentive and asked wonderful questions, and there was no doubt in my mind the students were soaking up as much information as they could. Congratulations to Ms. Glenn and Ms. McPhate for going the extra mile. We are already making plans for next fall to include portions of the Mambrino Elementary School newspaper in the HCN. I am looking forward to it and bet you are too.

Thought for the day: The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and enjoy the dance.

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

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

City preparing to start spraying for mosquitoes

From staff reports

They say everything is bigger in Texas, and when it comes to mosquitoes that may be true.

It is officially mosquito season but then again, due to Texas' warmer temperatures, mosquitoes can be a problem for much of the year, with spring and early summer being particularly problematic. Warmer nighttime temperatures create a perfect breeding ground for the nuisance insects.

The city of Granbury is on it, though.

Starting in early June, trained crews will be doing chemical fogging to help control the mosquito population. Spraying will continue through September.

Spraying will not be done in rain or mist and will only be done when the temperature is above 65 degrees and winds are no higher than 10 miles per hour, according to

information released by the city.

Crews try to schedule the spraying between 8:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. when fewer people and pets are outdoors.

No one needs to do anything, but for those who want to take extra precautions, here is what the city recommends:

- Remain indoors with children and pets and cover any ornamental fish ponds, beehives or organic gardens. Stay indoors at least an hour after spraying has concluded.

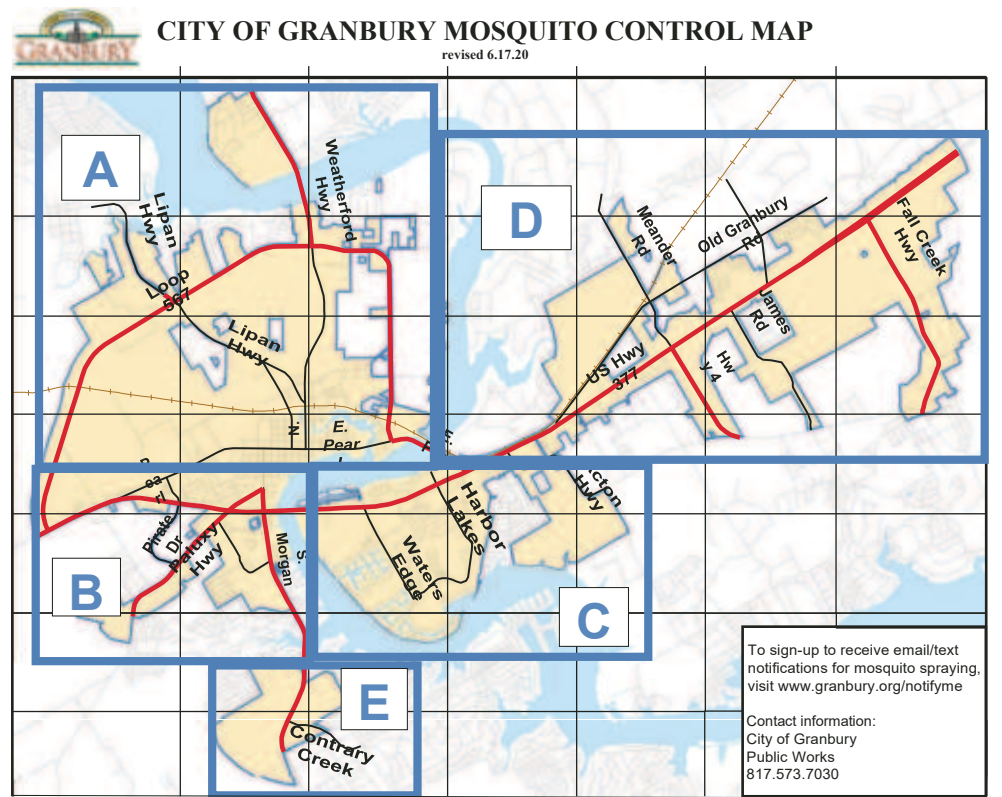
- Close windows and doors and turn off window-unit air conditioners or set to recirculate indoor air only.

- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when spraying is taking place.

- Drive cautiously around the spray vehicle and pass it with care.

- Avoid eye or skin contact with the spray if you are outside and wash any exposed skin with soap and water if you come in contact with the spray.

Mosquito spraying will not eliminate mosquitoes completely. The city asks that residents take action to help prevent mosquito infestation as well. Residents should empty and replace outside water sources for pets daily to prevent ingestion of sprayed chemicals. Other areas of outdoor standing water should be eliminated, when possible, to remove favorable mosquito breeding conditions. These include planters, buckets, tires, children's swimming pools, and gutters. Chemical “donuts” are available at hardware and home improvement stores for residents to purchase to place in detention basins and abandoned pools.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY

The city of Granbury is preparing to begin the process of chemical fogging in early June to help control the mosquito population. Fogging will last through September. Residents can sign up to receive email/text notifications for mosquito spraying in their area at www.granbury.org/notifyme online.

Mosquitos are most active at dusk and dawn. Residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites by applying

an insect repellent containing DEET and by wearing protective clothing. Anyone with questions or

concerns regarding mosquito spraying can call the Public Works office at 817-573-7030.

Tolar City Council approves grant appeal for path project

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

TOLAR — The City Council, at its regular meeting Monday night, May 15, adopted a resolution supporting the city's application for a TxDOT grant that could be a big deal for the growing

town. The money could mean sidewalks and shared-use paths along the U.S. Highway 377 corridor in Tolar, as well as sidewalks that link schools to the downtown area.

The council voted unanimously to apply for the

funds, which are available because of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The federal statute was enacted by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on Nov. 15, 2021.

The Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program provides money for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects.

TxDOT officials will recommend projects from around the state to the Texas Transportation Commission

for disbursement of funds through the Transportation Alternatives program.

Last week, Tolar city officials sought input from residents in case the city is selected to receive some of the grant funds.

City Administrator Michelle Burdette said that

a Town Hall meeting about the project will be scheduled soon.

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After 45 years with city of Granbury, Johnson heads home to Tolar

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Terry Johnson has officially left the building.

Last election cycle, the longtime Tolar mayor retired from public life. Last week, he retired from the city of Granbury, where he had worked for 45 years.

City staff and family members packed the council chambers at Granbury City Hall for Johnson's retire-

ment party. The room was so full of well-wishers that City Manager Chris Coffman regretted not having booked the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

Johnson officially began working for the city in the electric department at age 19, but actually did work prior to that, starting at around 14. He helped his dad, E.W. “Tony” Johnson, read meters. The elder Johnson led Granbury's street depart-

ment for 30 years. As a young teen, the hard hats worn by work crews were large on him, Johnson indicated. He laughed as he recalled how the men would place a hand on top of his head and spin the hard hat.

During his time with the city of Granbury, Johnson also worked in the “mechanic shop” and in building maintenance. At the time of his retirement, he was assistant public works director.

Now that he is retired, Johnson could sleep in but his internal clock still has him rising before dawn, just as he did when he would stop at his mother's house to prepare breakfast for her before heading to work to have coffee made before other employees reported for duty.

Johnson's mother recently passed away. He has been spending his first days of retirement settling her estate.

Over the years, Johnson

also lost co-workers through death or retirement. He said that he viewed his colleagues at the city as a second family.

“You spend more waking hours with these people than you do your own family,” he said.

Johnson and his wife Kathy have four grown children: Daughters Terri Sue Robertson and Jessica Johnson and sons James Daniel Hunter and Tony Johnson. They also have sev-

en grandchildren. Kathy and several other family members attended the retirement party, where there were snacks and cake along with a lot of laughs, hugs, and handshakes.

“I've had a good time,” Johnson stated of his many years with the city.

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Tolar Oaks holds opening weekend events after final plats approved by City

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

TOLAR - The Tolar City Council unanimously approved final plats for two new developments at its regular meeting Monday night. The final plats were for Tolar Oaks and The Parks of Tolar. The Parks of Tolar, a 90-

home subdivision near FM 56 and Parkview Circle, will provide the town its first public park. The developers have donated nearly seven acres to the city. This weekend — Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21 — is opening weekend for Tolar Oaks, where there are 98 lots for sale. Realtor Anita Ice said that

those who wish to attend are welcome to bring a builder but that representatives of Flippin Construction and Custom Homes and Loving Homes and Construction will be on site, as will lenders and insurance representatives. There will also be vendors and food trucks, she said. Lot shopping will kick off at 9 a.m. Saturday and 10

a.m. Sunday with no set ending time. Ice said she will remain on site as long as necessary to accommodate those interested in building a home in the development. "I'm super excited," she told the Hood County News on Tuesday. Tolar Oaks will have public utilities and trash pick-up as well as fiber-optic cable

and highspeed internet, Ice stated. Lot sizes vary. One lot in the development is an acre in size, and one is a half-acre, she said. Interior lots are .2 acre and corner lots are .3 acre. Minimum build size is 1,600 square feet, Ice stated. If driving to Tolar from Granbury, Ice said to turn

right on Oak Street by Tolar Church of Christ to find Tolar Oaks. Oak Street dead-ends into the subdivision, she said. "It is centrally located in downtown Tolar," the realtor said of the development. kcruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN AGREEMENT WITH COLUMN

Thumbs up to Sam Houston for his column in the April 19th edition, which views today's political landscape. Steve Biggers, Hood County Republican Chair, and his followers should read Mr. Houston's words and examine their actions. Their actions do not align with most of the conservative Republicans in Hood County. Mr. Biggers is an embarrass-

ment to the party that he was elected to represent. Perhaps he would be better suited to Travis County politics.

Darlene Scott
Granbury

WOW, I DO BELIEVE THE COLEMANS DON'T LIKE ME!

To invoke a quote about evil from a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident, and compar-

ing it to current issues with homeowners' right to control and maintain their own property here in Hood County, well ... seems a little extreme. Let's address the subject and clear the air. First, it is no secret where I stand on this topic. I have challenged this "rule" for four years (since 2019). For three of those four years, I maintained my aerobic system on my own with NO contract. Only when I became "Mr. GOP" (thanks, Colemans), did

the county have an issue with my independence. Obvious effort to discredit and embarrass in public eyes.

If the state LAWS say a homeowner can maintain with no contract, then what is the motive for local politicians to go beyond those laws? How about ... "Follow the money." A couple of years back (public record) Mr. Colman stated he has 2,500-plus contracts at an average of \$175, that is close to 1/2 million bucks a year. For showing up three times a year! That's 60 bucks for 15 minutes of work! The county rule makes some, again some, homeowners buy this "maintenance contract." If not ... fear and intimidation tactics. Fines, court litigation, "don't pollute the lake," etc. THAT IS EXTORTION!

There is also the issue of a commissioner sitting on the court and being in the septic business. Never recusing when the matter came up! So, it is pure speculation on my part, but I bet some of the "contract" money made it to some of those local elected folks' campaigns.

So, my stance... The new changes just shift the responsibility from the providers (who I believe are opportunists) to a fully trained homeowner, as I am. I took the Texas A&M course in 2019 and have been taking care of my system 24/7 since.

The Commissioners Court saw the wisdom and the fundamental right of a citizen to have "sovereignty of property" (Texas GOP Platform reflects that in #3, #5, #23, and #221), and changed the rule so that interested homeowners that become trained in one of four approved courses can self-maintain. How in the world can someone not support this?

It's better for the community, the system is watched 24/7, and with the property tax assessor out of control, a financial break to homeowners. A trained citizen is a better citizen.

Mr. Coleman stated ... "witnessing neglected dangerous situations" ... in his "Chosen" profession, well there are rules on the books now and people are breaking them. This happens with every rule.

So, in closing, Mr. Coleman, I will leave you with one of my favorite quotes, (outside of the Bible), "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke.

I strive to be a good, righteous man through the mercy and grace of Jesus. Don't always succeed but strive. And not about to do nothing while holding my current elected position!

Steve Biggers
Granbury

GHS EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION

Legacy is a word that seems to be less and less important in today's world but it's still alive and well in the hearts of a multitude of GHS ex-students.

The first Saturday of June each year 200-plus ex-students gather for a great reunion. Last year a student from Class of 1943 attended!

Classes of 1956 and beyond show up in large percentages. Classes of '66, '67, '68, '69 is always a rowdy crowd recalling the glory days on Pirate Field. Somehow the classes of 1970, 71, 72 have melded into a super-class and are hard to separate. This year we'll be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1973. Just to call out a few.

We gather because we have a great shared experience at Granbury ISD despite any controversies - we've always had them. This is still true today because many of the students that graduated in the last 10-15 years up until 2023 recall their school experience fondly. We cherish relationships with classmates; friendships with mentors, teachers, coaches, and administrators; and memories of incredible events, both highs and lows. Characters were formed in large part in those hallways, courts, fields, band halls, kitchens, shops, labs, chorus, and drama venues and maybe even in a few classrooms. We remember where we were when certain world events happened, and we remember those we lost along the way. We were together either literally or figuratively and that's where we wanted to be.

If you're yearning to relive some of those stories and see some of those friends - the first Saturday in June is always your opportunity. It's like that permanent address that should always work - a super-networking event.

I urge every student who attended (not necessarily graduated from) Granbury schools that would love to see what the old gang looks like now, hear "the rest of the story," and catch up on everything in between, to consider attending the All Class Reunion on Saturday, June 3, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Granbury Middle School located at 2000 Crossland Street.

We give scholarships each year, and to support those efforts we charge a registration fee of \$20 per person with catered lunch paid in advance by May 20, or \$10/person at the door without lunch to come and visit. For more information or to secure a registration form contact Joyce Dorsey, 281-782-8880. We sincerely hope to see you there. Yay Purple, Yay Gold!! Pirates forever.

Joyce Dorsey
Granbury

RESPONSE TO A BUS ACCIDENT

I am a retired school bus driver from GUSD. Nine years retired, last year. In my nine years of driving Bus No. 14, I averaged at least seven cars and trucks running my reds every week when I was loading and unloading students. We give plenty of warning, yellow flashers as we slow, then red flashers and RED FLASHING STOP SIGNS when we open the doors. They don't seem to care.

How could this woman not have seen this was happening as she slammed full speed into the back of that bus on Wednesday afternoon? Was she texting? Distracted on her cell phone? Drinking? Asleep? Who knows, but the bottom line is nothing will change because of it. Many of the

people who have moved here just don't care. When I first came to Hood County in 1996 it was a quiet place. Granbury was a small town with a beautiful lake and pristine countryside. The politicians and developers have destroyed all that and now we are left with a quagmire of traffic and a severe shortage of infrastructure and law enforcement. Many more things like this will happen and the students and employees of GUSD will pay the price.

Michael Dugan
Granbury

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU

On Saturday, May 6, the Joyce Carver Memorial Scholarship Committee, in partnership with the Texas Democratic Women of Hood County, hosted a fundraiser BBQ picnic at Hewlett Park. Besides the BBQ, we had a wine pull, dessert table, and silent auction. We want to thank everyone who helped organize, cook, serve, and in general donated their time to make it a success.

Space limitations preclude us giving individual "shout-outs" to everyone, but some contributors must be mentioned. First, we want to recognize the city of Granbury, Parks & Recreation Department, for making their beautiful park available to us. We also want to thank those organizations and individuals that donated items for the BBQ and the other activities, including Hoffbrau Steak and Grill House, Pam and Rickey Carver, Brooks Note Winery (among others), the Woods, the McPhersons, the anonymous donor who single-handedly underwrote one of the scholarships, and the many others who contributed food-stuffs, auction items, desserts, and most importantly, their time. Thank you.

Turnout was wonderful, and the Joyce Carver Memorial Scholarship Committee raised enough money to fund three scholarships this year. Without the dedication and generosity of these sponsors and numerous volunteers it would not have been possible. Thanks to all, Joyce Carver Memorial Scholarship Committee Susan Wood, Patricia McPherson, Ralph Gomez, Charlie Stonick, and the rest of the committee members.

Charles Stonick
Granbury

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Homeowners have incredible equity to leverage right now



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.

Even though home prices have moderated over the last year, many homeowners still have an incredible amount of equity. But what is equity? In the simplest terms, equity is the difference between the market value of your home and the amount you owe on your mortgage. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) explains how your equity grows over time:

“Housing wealth (home equity or net worth) gains are built up through price appreciation and by paying off the mortgage.”

The equity you build up over the years can be used to your advantage when you sell your current house and buy your next home. If you

no longer have the space you need, it might be time to move into a larger home. Or it's possible you have too much space and need something smaller. No matter the situation, your equity can be a powerful tool you can use to help you make a move in today's market. That's because it may be some (if not all) of what you need for your down payment on your next home.

And how much equity you have may surprise you. A recent survey from Realtor.com finds many homeowners today estimate they've built up a significant amount of equity: 74% of homeowners today estimate that they have more than \$100,000 in home equity, 20% estimate they have over \$300,000 in

home equity.

The latest data from CoreLogic helps solidify why homeowners are feeling so good about the equity they've likely gained over time. As Selma Hepp, Chief Economist for CoreLogic, said: “While equity gains contracted in late 2022 due to home price declines in some regions, U.S. homeowners on average still have about \$270,000 in equity, nearly \$90,000 more than they had at the onset of the pandemic.”

If you're looking to leverage your equity to boost your buying power in today's market, having a trusted agent by your side makes a difference. A real estate professional can help you better understand the value of your

home, so you'll get a clearer picture of how much equity you are likely to have. As a recent article from Bankrate says: “Hiring a skilled real estate agent can give you a realistic estimate of home prices in your area and how to price your current home. Using that figure, you can calculate how much equity you have and what your net proceeds will look like, so you can apply that money toward the down payment and closing costs of your new home.”

Having a solid understanding of your equity is key when it comes to making decisions about buying or selling your home. A skilled agent can help you navigate the often-complicated process of selling your house

and ensure the transaction goes smoothly.

Today, many homeowners are sitting on a substantial amount of equity, and you may be one of them. Let's connect so we can estimate how much equity you have and plan how you can use it toward the purchase of your next home. As always should you have questions or comments, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

Portions of this article were sourced, with permission, from KeepingCurrentMatters.com.

pamK@knieperteam.com / 817-219-0456

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.

MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 20

STROLL ACROSS TEXAS. Please join us for the annual Stroll Across Texas at the Acton Cemetery located at 3600 Fall Creek Highway on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This family-friendly event

will bring early Texas history to life with demonstrations and displays, interpreters and re-enactors, live music and live cannon fire. Stroll back in time to learn about various Texas historical events. Come and go as you please. Free to all. www.texasheroesfoundation.org

BRAZOS RIVER Assembly Mother/Daughter High Tea on Saturday, May 20 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Daughters ages 11 to 21. The event will take place at 1700 Weatherford Highway in Granbury. RSVP to 817-219-1628

TUESDAY, MAY 23

MID CITIES Stamp Club-Granbury Branch will present “My Collection”. This is where members present their personal collections on Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Bentwater Activities Center located at 1800 Emerald Bend Court. For more information call 817-910-8174.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting on

Friday May 26 at noon. The meeting will be held in the Annex 1 Meeting Room located at 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. For more information call 817-579-3200

WATERVIEW MEET and Greet Car Show at Waterview Senior Living will take place on Friday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The car show will be held at 100 & 101 Watermark Blvd. For more information call 817-573-9505 or email kmurillo@waterview-life.com

JUNE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

5TH ANNUAL ‘Shoot for a Cause’ Clay Shoot benefiting Forward Training Center of Hood County will take place on June 9 at 8:30 a.m. at the Clay Sports Ranch in Fort Worth. To purchase tickets go to <https://forwardtraining-center.org/5th-annual-shoot-for-a-cause-clay-shoot/>

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A 'LIFER' IN EDUCATION



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Melissa Shipp has been the assistant principal at Nettie Baccus Elementary School for the past three years. She said being able to get the campus back on track from an F to a B accountability rating is all because of the staff who came together and decided they were going to do "what's best for kids."

GISD board names Baccus's Melissa Shipp as new Mambrino principal

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A familiar face will be joining the STEAM Academy at Mambrino campus starting this summer. The Granbury Independent School District school board named Melissa Shipp as the next Mambrino principal during its monthly meeting on May 15.

Shipp is no stranger to GISD — previously serving as teacher and instructional specialist at Oak Woods School before spending the

last three years as assistant principal at Nettie Baccus Elementary School. While working alongside Baccus

Principal Julie Rohleder and other staff, Shipp was also instrumental in improving the campus's accountability rating last year. In 2022, Baccus received a B (88) accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency — an impressive jump from its F (57) rating in 2019. "When you come into a school that is in need for an accountability change, it's hard because you have to evaluate all your programs at the beginning, so we took it back

to just the bare basics of what we needed, and then we pushed forward from there," Shipp explained. "I think the coolest part has been able to see not only the staff, but the kids reach goals that they never thought they could reach. We're big here on student data, and kids being in charge of their own data and their own learning. Nobody wants to present bad data, so everybody works really hard to improve here." Shipp said her favorite part about being assistant principal at Baccus

the last three years has been being part of a family that leans on each other. "We work hard together, and we play hard together," she said. "Just seeing the growth that we've been able to make over the last several years together as a campus is not because of the leadership necessarily — it's because of all of us, because we all came together and said, 'We're going to do what's best

PLEASE SEE SHIPP | B2

GISD program to provide free meals for all students beginning in fall

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A new district program will soon provide every student at Granbury Independent School District with free breakfast and lunch — a program comparable to the COVID-era free lunch waiver that expired in June 2022.

The GISD board of trustees approved the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 2023-24 academic year during Monday's school board meeting.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications, according to the United States Department of Agriculture website.

"CEP, it is a special program that



SCREENSHOT OF MAY GRANBURY ISD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GISD Director of Child Nutrition Amy Whiteley speaks during the May 15 Granbury ISD school board meeting regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

school districts can do if they're already operating under the National School and School Breakfast Program," said GISD's Director of

Child Nutrition Amy Whiteley during the board meeting. "There's a formula that goes with it that allows us to be able to feed our stu-

dents breakfast and lunch for free for the entire year. It's one of those programs that was created several years ago, and districts that qualify for it, they have to be within a certain percentage of economically disadvantaged to be able to operate under that program — and we do qualify for that."

GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn explained that every year, the district's economically disadvantaged population increases.

"During COVID, from a federal level, lunches became free. They were taken care of for all students, so this would allow us to opt into essentially a similar type of program," he said. "However, I do caution that it does come with a small amount of risk. If our economically disadvantaged population begins to fall, there is the possibility we would be on the hook for those who do not qualify for the program."

The program operates on a four-year qualification cycle, meaning once a district qualifies, it will

qualify for the program for the next four years.

Whiteley added though that GISD can still opt out of the program at the end of any year if desired.

Although parents wouldn't have to fill out the free and reduced-price lunch form this year, every household will still have to complete the socioeconomic information form.

"It has pretty much the exact same information and questions on it as it does for the free and reduced application," Whiteley said.

Barabara Herrington, GISD school board president, commented that increased student participation in the CEP program is a "pro."

"Especially on the secondary level, there's a lot of lunch shaming for the kids that qualify," she said. "They should qualify, but they don't because they don't want anybody to know that they're economically disadvantaged."

Granbury resident Jennifer Kochis spoke about the CEP pro-

PLEASE SEE MEALS | B2

GISD board approves dual credit partnership with Tarrant County College

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Granbury Independent School District will soon have a new college partner for dual credit classes that will potentially offer students more courses and will also be a less expensive option overall for Hood County parents.

A unanimous decision was made during Monday night's school board meeting to dissolve the current dual credit agreement with

Weatherford College and to approve a dual credit partnership with Tarrant County College.

"Six weeks ago, we were notified by Weatherford College that the price for a three-hour course was going up to \$456," Assistant Superintendent Jimmy Dawson said during the meeting. "So, Mr. (Todd) Gibson, Mr. (Jeremy) Ross and myself did an informal evaluation and investigation just to see what other school districts were doing and who they were using."

The three met via Zoom with administrators from McMurry Dual Credit Academy, Hill College, Tarrant County College, and Cisco Community College.

"McMurry Dual Credit Academy was \$200 for a three-hour course, Tarrant County was \$192, Hill College was \$363, and Cisco Community College was \$210," Dawson said. "That really spurred us to say 'Wow, the same services for a much less price,' and we want to be fiscally responsible for our

families."

A review panel consisting of a parent and three dual credit teachers — Jana Reid, Jacqui Bradshaw, and Cindy Leatherman — was formed to discuss the various dual credit options.

"We learned a lot through the process," Dawson said. "We deliberated several times, both through face-to-face and then through an email system and we came up with pros and cons."

The pros with Tarrant County

College, he said, included a once-a-month department chair meeting and an assigned liaison to assist with questions.

"They (TCC) offer the highest compensation for the teachers, and they have the lowest price per course for our students and families," Dawson explained. "They do provide an online tutorial opportunity for our students, they provide a TSI exam online, and they have

PLEASE SEE CREDIT | B2

AUXILIARY OF LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Auxiliary of Lake Granbury Medical Center celebrated its 50th anniversary during the May meeting. Lynn Price was installed as the first president on May 7, 1973. The early volunteers earned money by hosting bake sales, etc. We now have our Gift Shop located in the main hospital. There are currently 50 volunteers, who bring a multitude of talents to the organization. Our volunteers are retired teachers, engineers, bankers, nurses, and military, to name a few. They staff 12 different stations within the hospital complex and work an average of 1,100 hours a month. The auxiliary, aside from helping at the hospital, has donated to various community organizations. They gift \$12,000 a year in scholarships from the proceeds of the Gift Shop. These volunteers are the best of the best.

SHIPP

FROM PAGE B1

for kids.' The most exciting thing is seeing the growth on this campus, and then seeing the change in our culture on campus with our teachers, students, and staff; it's a big family."

Originally from the Dallas area, Shipp grew up in Garland, where she attended Naaman Forrest High School.

She attended Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth and obtained her education degree in 2002.

The first year that she taught at Fort Worth ISD, Shipp met her now-husband, Scott.

"He has been there from day one," she said. "I met him in the middle of my first year. After my award ceremony my first year, he went and bought a ring and proposed and said, 'If she can love these kids, and stand there and talk about those kids, then she can talk about my kids.' We've been together ever since."

Shipp spent four years teaching fifth grade at Carroll Peak Elementary and two years at Leonard 6th Grade Center in Fort Worth before starting at Granbury ISD in 2008.

"I taught fourth grade for one year and third grade for seven years at Oak Woods, and I was self-contained," she explained. "Then, I came to Baccus actually, as the instructional specialist, and I was here for two years. I worked under Mr. (Robert) Herrera, who was the principal at the time. I went back to Oak Woods to go back to the classroom to teach fourth grade writing. It was something I had never done, so it was a new adventure for me. I was also a part time instructional specialist, so I did a dual role for a year, and then I became the full-time instructional specialist there."

Shipp came back to Baccus in



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Melissa Shipp, assistant principal at Nettie Baccus Elementary School, was named the next principal of STEAM Academy at Mambrino during Granbury ISD's school board meeting on May 15.

2020, where she assumed the role of assistant principal alongside Rohleder — a position that fueled her desire to eventually become principal.

"I knew whenever I started interviewing for assistant principal jobs that ultimately I wanted to go to a principalship," she explained. "But you have to learn and I learned a long time ago from a mentor, 'Don't skip any steps — really sit in each job role all the way up, so that you learn it really well,' and that way you can do a really good job when you are at the top because you've done everything below. I haven't been in a hurry. I've loved all three years at Baccus and grow-

ing with Julie. She has spent a lot of time mentoring me one-on-one and pouring into me to prepare me for this, as well as district admin. They have done a really good job of guiding me towards that decision and helping me to see that I am ready to take that next step."

She said the biggest change in transitioning from a teacher to a principal position is the number of children that you impact daily.

"When you're a teacher, you're influencing one or maybe two classes depending on what grade you teach, so maybe 20 to 60 kids depending on your age range," Shipp explained. "Taking a step out of the classroom was hard for me because

I love the classroom. I love building relationships with kids but getting to build a relationship with 400-plus kids instead of just 20 kids (is amazing). The biggest difference is just being able to impact more kids — and that's one thing I'm super excited about with Mambrino. It is one of the largest elementary in our district, and I'm excited to be able to influence even more kids."

She said her husband, Scott, has been her biggest supporter — helping to shuttle their twin 16-year-olds — Addison and Cooper — while she pursues her dream job of becoming principal.

"He will tell you he's the proudest husband ever," she said. "He

likes to be in support of all this and he knows that this is definitely a calling and a mission for me. I love kids and I love spending time with them every day. I'm a lifer in education."

Shipp said her goal as principal for Mambrino is to keep the school's accountability rating at an A — but more than anything, she wants Mambrino to become her family.

"It's going to be my home away from home, so we're going to do what's best for kids every single day," she said. "I'm excited to jump in, get to know them, and take them to that next level — to really get them to the top where they want to be."

Granbury ISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn also expressed his support for Shipp during Monday's school board meeting.

"Baccus has had a huge turnaround over the last few years and just a lot of support," Glenn said. "We're looking forward to great things from you, Mrs. Shipp. You've been in the district a long time. You've earned this opportunity, and we're looking forward to great things for our students and teachers on that campus."

Shipp will officially become the new principal at Mambrino on July 10.

"I'm sad to leave Baccus because this is my family and I love it here," she added. "I love the teachers and the students here. I'm going to miss them dearly, but I am excited about the new challenge and getting to step out on my own and lead a campus. I will always and forever be their biggest cheerleader from across the lake, and I hope that they will do the same for me. I'm excited to see where we go."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

MEALS

FROM PAGE B1

gram at the meeting during the citizens comments portion of the agenda.

"Back in October of this year, I was kind of noticing something was going on," she said. "I have always packed extra lunches with all of my kids from day one, and this year was a little different because there wasn't ever enough food."

Kochis said when she was a child, she always depended on meals at

school, and that's why she always packed extra meals for her kids because "you never know who's in a situation where their parents may not have enough money in that week."

She said by working with Granbury High School Principal Jeremy Ross, they were able to learn and obtain helpful information regarding the best way to help students.

"We realized that we were in the midst of a perfect storm," Kochis said. "We had inflation going on. We had a lot of parents that have

not recovered from COVID from their jobs. We had just lost our funding for free breakfast and lunches from COVID, and we realized that our kids were hungry. We put in place what we could, but there were so many kids that just didn't qualify, or they were ashamed and embarrassed to say anything. I'm looking forward to the CEP child nutrition program to get passed, so that way I know that my work this year is done, and that next year our kids can go to school and have a meal waiting for them." Barabara Townsend, GISD school

board vice president, said she was able to obtain information regarding meals served in the district from academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23 — and the results, she said, were "telling."

"At the high school, when (lunch) was free, we had 135,821 meals that were served, and when that went away, it went down to 63,561," she said. "Fifty-three percent of our kids were no longer getting lunch, and that is the reason why I think this program is so needed just from the situation we're in. When I looked at the

elementary schools, it wasn't that different, but it was up at the high school where it really made a difference, so I think that meal sharing — if you want to call it that — is real and I'm excited about this program being put in."

The GISD school board voted unanimously to approve the CEP program and it will start at the beginning of next semester.

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CREDIT

FROM PAGE B1

online support to become Core Complete. There's just more opportunities for students through Tarrant County College."

He said one specific question had already been asked regarding whether Tarrant County College would offer GISD the same dual credit courses as Weatherford College does currently.

The short answer to that question, he said, is yes.

"We'll get the same courses, but the other option on that is pos-

sibly a lot more offerings," he said. "Note, this is just the academic side. We'll continue with the technical side with Weatherford College at this time but knowing that there's a lot to offer through Tarrant County College through the technical side as well."

Dawson said it is his recommendation that the district provides a 30-day notice to Weatherford College notifying them of their intent to terminate the current memorandum of understanding (MOU).

He also recommended that the school board provide GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn with

the authority to execute an agreement with Tarrant County College for dual credit academic courses through Granbury High School.

"It's a passion of mine," Glenn said of dual credit during the board meeting. "AP is great. We have a lot of great course offerings through CTE, but when we talk about dual credit, we're talking about kids. They're going to leave us and they're going to go pursue that four-year degree, and research shows that if a student takes 23 hours of dual credit coursework, they're 50% more likely to get their four-year degree."

Glenn added that he's talked with students who attended Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University, and Baylor University, and they all said they were overly prepared for college, thanks to the dual credit courses they took in high school.

"In addition to that, when we talked about kids that are Core Complete, you're talking about the opportunity to knock off a full year of college for students," Glenn said. "At Texas A&M, that's \$25,000 to \$30,000, and so being able to take 10 classes — which is 30 hours at \$192 a class — you're talking

about less than a \$2,000 investment in something that is essentially a \$25,000 return or more. I feel like this is a good opportunity to switch.

"Weatherford College has been a tremendous partner, but now it's just about value for our students. At the price point we were originally given, which was over \$450 for a class, it was just turning kids away; parents couldn't afford that, so this brings it back to something that's more affordable."

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DEVOTIONAL

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

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 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.
 Psalm 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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 Romans 8:28

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Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

HOOD OUTDOORS

Be prepared: Don't risk disappointment stemming from battery woes



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.

If you have batteries and chargers, sooner or later they will either get old or fail. The time to find out is not on the water, but many times the trolling motor battery or the charger has an issue and you do find out when you are on the water. On the cranking battery you can turn the key before you head out to make sure that battery is OK, but the trolling motor batteries or the charger not functioning may not be as easy to catch before you head out.

Checking the trolling motor batteries/charger before you head out is possible if your charger indicates OK, but even then you may not know for sure. Pulling out the voltmeter may be an option, but a battery that is not fully charged or an old battery may look good before you head out but may die prematurely. Best policy is to check them periodically, so you know the general condition.

A small load bank tester and a voltmeter can be your friend. The load bank puts the battery on a load that will tell you its ability to perform under load. Make sure you fully charge the battery before you use the load bank tester so that you get a valid test.

Checking the output of the charger with a voltmeter will let you know if the charger is working. If you have 13 to 15 volts on charge, the charger is working. If you have a multi-bank charger all banks should be putting out relatively equal voltages during charging. If you have one that is lower, you may have a

battery issue on that bank.

The on-board charger will and can fail on occasion. Usually one bank will fail, but I have lost all three banks on one occasion. Sometimes a fuse replacement will solve the issue and sometimes not. A spare charger can come in handy when this occurs until you can get it repaired or replaced. I actually have a spare three-bank charger just in case. Having a spare battery may also be a consideration as sometimes you need that battery immediately. I have two boats with nine batteries, not to mention vehicles and other equipment, so having a spare may be prudent.

The newer marine chargers are made for different styles of batteries like lead-acid/deep cycle and Lithium so if you do have to buy a new charger that should be a consideration. If you decide to go the newer style Lithium battery make sure you have one that can do either. The lithium batteries have different voltage requirements for proper charging.

There are a variety of bat-



COURTESY PHOTO

Don't let battery woes ruin your fishing trip.

tery chargers on the market and most will charge your batteries. Most chargers come with some kind of instrumentation that gives you some indication of the battery or the charger. There are also remote battery charger status panels that can be mounted on your dashboard for easy viewing.

One thing to check periodically on batteries includes water levels, and poor/loose or dirty connections on the battery. For those batteries that require water, remember to only add water to the upper level after you fully charge your batteries. During charging, water levels will rise in the battery and you don't want an acid spill. The only time you should add water before charging is

if the water level had fallen below the top of the internal plates. In this case, add enough water to cover the plates but do not fill to the upper level until after the recharge is complete.

Many of the newer battery chargers are safe to leave connected as they will go to a safe trickle charge. Some of the older chargers can over charge and potentially boil the water and life out of a lead acid battery.

One more thing, if you are plugged in to an outdoor receptacle that is GFI protected, the breaker may trip during a storm or rain. You don't want to find out that your batteries did not charge when you wake up to go fishing.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury water levels continue to be about 2 feet low. We did not get sufficient run-off from the recent rains. Despite the lake level, fishing is excellent. Water temperatures are in the 70s and rising. Striped bass to 15 pounds is possible on live bait on the lower ends. Sand bass action is fair to good on slabs from Indian Harbor to the DeCordova subdivision. Largemouth bass are good on variety of baits worked near main lake points and creek entrances. Crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics will all put black bass in the boat. Large yellow and blue catfish continue to be caught on cut bait from the

377 bridge north to Hunter Park. Crappie action is good on submerged timber and deeper docks on small jigs/minnows.

Other reservoirs in the vicinity are reporting great fishing. Lake Whitney striped bass limits continue to be the norm and are best on live shiners and shad. Lake Proctor catfish, hybrids and crappies are reported as excellent. Possum Kingdom striped bass continue to be good on live bait fished on the lower ends. Benbrook crappie fishing is reported as excellent as well.

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

BOOK REVIEW

'Turnaround Time' weaves warm tale of a man, his life, and his job

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

S eat backs up, tray tables in locked position. You know the drill: wrestle your roll-on, carry-on, a jacket, phone and a book, fast-walk like an Olympian down a hallway, and pass through a hobbit-sized door. Heave one bag up and one down before plopping yourself into a minuscule seat, ready to go. In "Turnaround Time" by Oscar Munoz (with Brian DeSplinter), you'll see behind the departure gate for that flight you're taking.

If you didn't know the whole story, you'd think that 37 was Oscar Munoz's cosmic number. Thirty-seven days after becoming CEO of United

PLEASE SEE BOOK | B5



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is "Turnaround Time: Uniting an Airline and its Employees in the Friendly Skies" author Oscar Munoz

"Turnaround Time: Uniting an Airline and its Employees in the Friendly Skies" by Oscar Munoz with Brian DeSplinter C. 2023, HARPER BUSINESS, \$32.00, 220 PAGES



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Kirkpatrick won a medal and left a legacy

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Four years ago, Kassidy Kirkpatrick took a leap of faith. Or perhaps it might be better termed a jump of faith.

At the encouragement of Granbury High School jumps coach Desiree Shahan, Kirkpatrick, a freshman, decided to focus on the high jump as her specialty. That decision was capped at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet in Austin on May 12.

Kirkpatrick matched her career-best high jump, clearing 5 feet, 6 inches. It earned her a silver medal and spot in the GHS history books.

It is believed to be the best performance ever by any Granbury athlete at the state meet. Not since Madison Northcutt won a bronze medal in the pole vault in 2010 have Lady Pirate fans been this excited about a track and field athlete.

And Kirkpatrick did not disappoint. She did not finish lower than second in any competition this season.

In fact, she was second at the Azle Relays on Feb. 23 with a jump of 5-2. She then won six consecutive meets before her runner-up finish at state.

"The legacy that Kassidy is leaving is a huge one," Shahan said. "She has gone out there and shown that you can do amazing things

while being a multi-sport athlete. She has also shown our track kids that you can compete in multiple events and that is what we love to see as coaches."

Kirkpatrick is also a talented long jumper and sprinter. She qualified for the regional meet in the long jump with a career-best leap of 18-6.25 at the area meet and ran a leg of the area-qualifying 400-meter relay.

Oh, and she's a pretty danged good volleyball player. She was named First Team All-District 5-5A.

After her performance at state, Kirkpatrick gave praise and credit to Shahan, saying, "Coach Shahan believed I could be a high jumper freshman year and has not only formed me into the person I've always wanted to be, but has stood by my side through all the losses and wins."

Kirkpatrick now turns her attention to college. She will compete for Tarleton State University and major in psychology.

And yes, along with being multi-talented, she is also very smart.

"She has done a great job of leading her volleyball and track team for four years, all while maintaining a 4.3 GPA," Shahan said.

FRESHMAN'S PERFORMANCE BRINGS OPTIMISM

While Kirkpatrick is leaving a mighty legacy at GHS, another athlete is hoping he is just starting. Without question, the first phase went well as freshman Miller Schenewark reached the state meet in the high jump, finishing seventh.

Schenewark's final performance resulted in him matching his career-best jump, clearing 6-6.

Schenewark's first season at the high school level resulted in him winning both district and area championships. He then finished third at regionals and earned a state berth as a wild card.

"It was a big stage and he competed well, great experience for him that will help him moving forward," Pirates track coach Jody Brown said. "Very proud of his efforts — and remember, he's just a freshman."

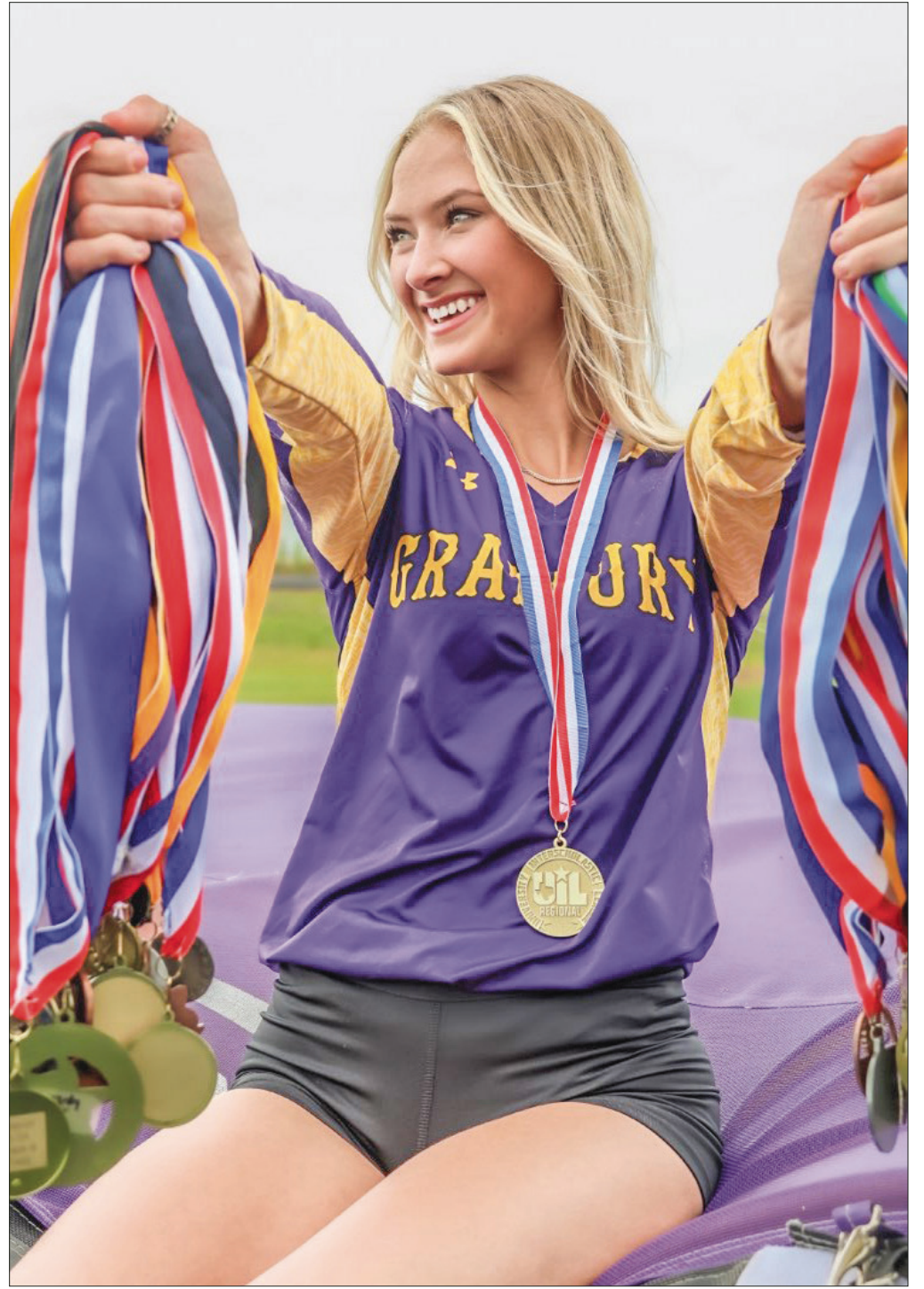


PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIREE SHAHAN

Kassidy Kirkpatrick, who will be competing for Tarleton State University next season, finished second in the high jump at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet, leaving a legacy as one of the best athletes ever to come through Granbury High School.

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BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

The mysterious Phoebe Walters

BY ROGER ENLOW

There wasn't much for snot-nose kids to do in the form of paid entertainment in Granbury, Texas in the mid-1960s. In the wintertime there was the Palace Theatre on the south side of the square where we huddled and watched John Wayne, James Bond and Dracula while slurping icy Dr Peppers and devouring Milk Duds. In the summertime the movies would shift a few blocks west to the Brazos Drive-In where we sat quietly under the stars unless we were being jerks and jumping around and giving the manager Old Man Poor fits.

Another form of entertainment existed in pre-Lake Granbury days: Phoebe, the fortune teller.

Phoebe Walters was an old, tiny Black lady who lived in a small clapboard house on Travis Street, just north of the present-day library. To tell the truth, we were about half-scared of her. We had no reason to be, other than the fact she was Black, which made her a



Pictured is Phoebe Walters.

little mysterious in the eyes of a naive 11-year-old.

But there we were, getting up the nerve to approach

her house one night and stand shaking on her door-

PLEASE SEE **HISTORY** | B7

BOOK

FROM PAGE B4

Airlines, he'd finished up a run near his Chicago home when he began to feel ill. He called 911 when he realized he was having a heart attack. Thirty-seven minutes later, he was connected to life support.

In America, he says, someone dies of cardiac arrest every 37 seconds.

Prior to his health scare, Munoz had been on a whirlwind trip back and forth across the country on a fact-finding journey for his new position. At that time, United Airlines had a lot to fix; it was nobody's preferred airline and complaints were sky-high. Fortunately, before he fell ill, Munoz had hired many talented people who took over while he was recuperating, and until he was ready to work again.

The way to turn a company

around, he said, is to "Listen, learn, and only then lead" your employees. Listen - not just to their phone calls and emails, but visit them in their own spaces. Strive to pull everyone together as a team and always follow through, which shows that you're paying attention. Ask for employee feedback in all corners of your business.

If there are problems, let customers vent, and heed their concerns. Know your own "knowledge of contribution." And remember that "Trust is a commodity that resists an easy valuation. But when you need it, it's priceless."

There are two rather distinct ways to see "Turnaround Time." It's either a personal biography with a business flair, or it's the biography of a business with a personal touch. Either way, it's an enjoyable read.

From the dusty roads of rural Mexico to the pinnacle of

an international airline, authors Munoz and DeSplinter offer readers a true bootstraps kind of tale that pays homage to Munoz' family and the opportunities they gave him. Munoz' stories of his grandmother are particularly sweet, and readers will wish there were more; passages about his recovery are likewise harrowing, and feel like a medical thriller. These tales, and those of the airline and its revival, flow back and forth so smoothly you might forget, at its basis, that this is a business book. If you doubt that, look for the advice that's embedded and randomly scattered.

Readers wanting juicy tell-all flight stories will be disappointed, just so you know. This isn't that kind of book; instead, it's a warm tale of a man, his life, and his job. If that sounds like the perfect airport read, then find "Turnaround Time" and lock it up.

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.

BEGINNERS' CHAIR Yoga 45-minute Class. Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. - Donations for Local Charities are accepted. Class will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy, 76049. For more information call 817-326-2201

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.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 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.

SATURDAYS

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

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

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday 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.



PLEASE SEE PLAY | B8

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Granburyquiltguild.com

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Friday, 19 May 2023 - Thursday, 25 May 2023

Book Club: The Next Chapter (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:05PM, 6:40PM, 9:15PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 2:45PM, 5:20PM, 7:55PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:35PM, 3:10PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:35PM, 6:10PM, 8:45PM.
Thurs: 1:15PM, 3:50PM, 6:25PM, 9:00PM

Fast X (PG13)
Fri: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 4:05PM, 5:05PM, 7:10PM, 8:15PM, 10:10PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:00PM, 3:05PM, 4:05PM, 6:10PM, 7:10PM, 9:20PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 10:50AM, 1:00PM, 1:55PM, 4:05PM, 5:00PM, 7:10PM, 8:15PM.
Mon: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 4:05PM, 5:10PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM.
Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 4:05PM, 5:05PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM.
Thurs: 1:20PM, 4:15PM, 7:10PM, 10:05PM

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG13)
Fri: 1:00PM, 2:45PM, 4:15PM, 6:00PM, 7:30PM, 9:15PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 2:15PM, 3:45PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:45PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 12:25PM, 1:45PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, 8:35PM.
Thurs: 1:15PM, 4:30PM, 7:45PM

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 Sensory Friendly (PG13)
Sat: 11:30AM
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 in 3D (PG13)
Fri: 10:45PM.
Sat: 12:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 3:40PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:15PM

The Little Mermaid (PG)
Thurs: 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 9:00PM
The Little Mermaid in 3D (PG)
Thurs: 3:00PM, 10:00PM

The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG)
Fri: 2:10PM, 4:30PM, 6:50PM, 9:10PM.
Sat: 12:35PM, 2:55PM, 5:15PM, 7:35PM, 9:55PM.
Sun: 10:05AM, 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on May 17 (Puzzle 28).

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PETS OF THE WEEK

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.

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

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Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

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HISTORY

FROM PAGE B5

step. We knocked, she answered the door and invited us in. When she talked she accidentally blew an impressive saliva bubble or two.

She took my hand. Her bony finger traced the lines of my palm. If I remember, she predicted I would become a lawyer or doctor. Must have been bad light in the house because I became neither ... far from it.

I don't know if she possessed extrasensory skills, but many old-timers claimed she could help people find a missing ring or other valuable possessions. One story tells of the time she helped authorities locate the body of a drowning victim on the Brazos River.

Phoebe, daughter of former slaves, provided domestic help for white families in Granbury. She was also a frequent babysitter. She was loved and respected by both white and Black Granbury. For years Phoebe lived without electricity in her home, but Sam Knight, the late city manager, made sure that Phoebe got power in her latter years. Phoebe would always send grocer Milt Meyer a grocery list and Milt would run the groceries out to her. When he sold the grocery and became county judge, Phoebe continued to send him a list and Meyer would still run the groceries to her.

Phoebe didn't trust banks but trusted banker Henry Zweifel who kept her money in his desk drawer. She died in 1973 and was laid to rest in the Granbury Cemetery.

The Black church where she was a member could not be used for her funeral because it was in such disrepair. Historian Mary Kate Durham, at the family's request, arranged for the service to be held at the white Methodist church.

"Testimonials are given at Black funerals," said Durham. "She was so loved by all of us that, afterwards, we all said we had wanted to stand up and give a testimonial about Phoebe. The things we could've said."



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER
Granbury, TX

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

One busy group: Pecan Art Guild fills community with talent, beauty



BY DIANE LONG

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

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild is a talented (and busy!) bunch in our community often holding art shows, pop up art sales, and workshops. The guild meets collectively the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC. Guests and potential members (Pecan residents ages 18 and over) are welcome. Annual guild dues are \$35.

Members' work may be viewed at the Pecan clubhouse, the PAC, and on the guild's website: www.pecanplantationartguild.com online.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

The outdoor pickleball courts will be busy today, Saturday, May 20, as the Pecan Plantation Pickleball Association is hosting an outdoor pickleball tournament beginning at 8 a.m.

HIGH FLYING

Pecan's EAA Chapter 983 will hold a free information meeting for folks who have dreamed about learning to fly and would like help in getting started. The session is scheduled for today, Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Planeview Park. Everyone is welcome. For more information on Pecan's EAA chapter and its activities in our community, contact Tom Woodward at 817-279-3080 or send email to buhwana@charter.net.

MUSIC TIME

Tonight, Saturday, May 20, brings karaoke time to the Pecan ballroom. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for a lasagna buffet with karaoke following at 7:45 p.m. Music will last until 10 p.m. Call the clubhouse front desk to make a reservation: 817-573-2641.

DINNER GROUP

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club will gather on Tuesday, May 23 in the Terrace Room for a 5:30 p.m. reception followed by dinner at 6. Attendees will enjoy a Broadway themed musical program presented by Ray Scott and Lois Akers. This group (which had 42 attendees at its April meeting) invites widows and widowers living in our community for an evening out filled with meeting new friends and enjoying good food and entertainment. Need more information on this group and its next meeting? Send



COURTESY OF PPAG PUBLICITY

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild holds art pop up sales, art shows, and meets monthly at the PAC. Pictured is Artist of the Month for the guild, Linda Parks.

email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will gather again on Wednesday, May 24 when attendees will hear from Pecan's own Rene Garrett about CPR instruction. This gathering is the second installment in a "Save a Life" series. Reservations are requested by noon on Tuesday, May 23.

BOOKS GALORE

Hood County's "Library on Wheels" made its first stop in Pecan Plantation last week, and it will arrive again on Wednesday, May

24 at the PAC parking lot. Neighbors are invited to bring their library cards (or come apply for a card) and check out books.

AUXILIARY FUNDRAIDER

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's next fundraiser will include pancakes and all the trimmings being served from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Planeview Park Pavilion (4500 Wedgefield Road) on Saturday, May 27. Tickets, which will be sold in advance and at the door, are \$10 each for adults and \$5 for children (ages 5-10). Folks are invited to the airport park to eat as well

as to enjoy a musical performance by Frank and Rebecca Faiola (JetBlacq) beginning at 9 a.m.

In addition, the auxiliary's annual golf tournament is set for Saturday, June 24 on the Pecan course, and auxiliary members are selling tickets in advance of the tournament for prizes to be raffled.

For folks wishing to donate items or participate by assembling items or services in a themed basket for the raffle, please contact Julie Logan at 727-252-3702 or Susan Lee at 972-743-1292. No contribution is too small.

Finally, golfers may register for the golf tournament at the Pecan Pro Shop (817-573-2645). The four-person scramble will offer golfers three hole-in-one opportunities, which all boast fabulous prizes.

MEMORIAL DAY

Pecan's annual Memorial Day celebration will take place on Monday, May 29 with day-long events at the clubhouse concluding with a street dance in the evening. A variety of food and beverage items will be available for purchase (with pre-purchased tickets) in addition to a pool party. Bounce houses and face painting will be on hand for the youngest attendees, and according to executive chef Jordan Ray, "We hope to make this a festival." More information with specific times and activities is forthcoming.

GOLF TIME

Pecan's golf course

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | B8

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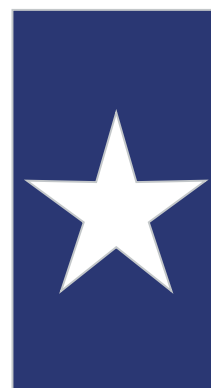
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PLAY

FROM PAGE B6

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

THIRD MONDAYS

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

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

PECAN

FROM PAGE B7

will be in full operation on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, and it will be closed on Tuesday, May 30. In addition, the course will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6, for aerification.

MARINA DAYS

The newly updated marina menu has been a hit with Pecaners, and recent spring weather has brought folks to enjoy good food and lake views. Food service hours run seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BIG SUCCESS

Thank you to all Pecaners who supported the recent American Red Cross blood drive at the PAC. Sixty-six units of blood were collected during the day.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Leave it to the fraternities



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Stephen F. Austin State University, newest member of the University of Texas system, has a storied basketball history, but in football — for a few seasons, at least — not so much.

Such was true for the 1959-1960-1961 football teams, when late Coach William (Red) Conkright — a collegiate grid star at the University of Oklahoma and later a professional player and coach — didn't fare well at SFA.

His three-year record was 6-25-1, with his SFA tenure fading to black after the third season. Numerous pickets and banners at the November homecoming parade in 1961 suggested that he, uh, leave. One banner on the parade route — unfurled in front of what was then the Stone Fort Ban — pulled no punches. It read: "Win, Heck. Just Score." And those frat guys didn't even know how to spell "heck."

LOWER EXPECTATIONS

Across the years, sports have loosened "message spigots" of cascading creative juices, particularly for collegians across the land.

For example, during a quarter-century ending in the 1990s, Tom Osborne's University of Nebraska teams marched roughshod over most opponents. One usual vic-

tim was the University of Missouri. A Cornhusker faithful hoisted a two-word banner: "Maul Missouri."

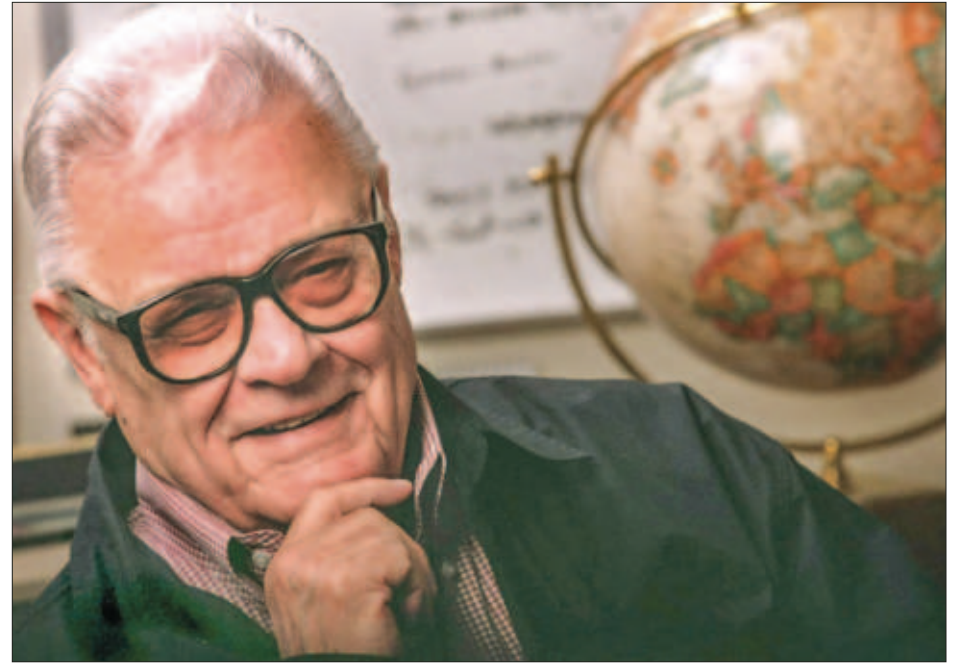
The Tigers — as if flying a white flag long before kickoff — seemed content with building character instead of seeking football lore. Their banner read: "Maintain Dignity Against Nebraska."

GAME OF THE CENTURY

Arkansans and Texans whose memories stretch back a half-century remember the intense rivalries between the Universities of Texas and Arkansas. For several years, Longhorn Coach Darrell Royal pitted his wizardry against that of the Razorbacks' Frank Broyles.

Before the storied 1969 game in Little Rock, a clever message appeared on the marquee of a church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It provided a memory still found to be humorous decades later. It read: "Football is Only a Game. Spiritual Things are Eternal. Nevertheless, Beat Texas!"

It was called "the game of the century" in college football's 100th anniversary season,



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is sportswriting icon Dr. Blackie Sherrod.

when the Longhorns and Razorbacks ranked one and two nationally. President Richard Nixon attended the game, arriving by helicopter in the end zone. Texas scored late, winning 15-14.

SOMEONE WHO CARES

It is worth the re-telling of Blackie Sherrod's first day of retirement. Having written for the Temple Telegram, Fort Worth Press, Dallas Times-Herald and The Dallas Morning News for more than 60 years, he had won all the major trophies, plaques and citations signifying his greatness among sports journalists.

Many fans think he was "the best there ever was." They may be right.

Anyways (and that's the way he introduced sentences regularly, just as predictably as his calling baseball's annual

highlight, the "World Serious"), somewhere along the way, he spotted a T-shirt he wanted to wear on his first day of retirement. He bought it, eager to wear it when his work was done.

No doubt he had dozens of T-shirts, but none was adorned with such clever words reflecting his view on things. A further guess is that the message accurately summed up his reflection on a colorful life that was to span 96 years. It read: "You Have Mistaken Me for Someone Who Cares."

A 'LEARNT' MAN

Sherrod was a graduate of Howard Payne University, picking up his diploma there a decade before I crossed the same stage in 1961. During my HPU presidency, 1985-1997, a highlight was conferring the university's

highest recognition — an honorary doctorate — to Sherrod.

During his response, this sports writing genius — who never had a journalism course — credited the late Dr. Cleo McChristy, then a middle-aged college English professor, with teaching him most about writing. She was a veteran professor when I sat in her classes. Admittedly, she was genius, but she "learnt" Blackie more than she "learnt" me.

Sherrod's fans at the commencement exercises shed tears — just as he did — when he accepted the award. One fan, appreciative of Blackie's rapier wit, observed, "I'm so glad I came today, if only to see Blackie weep. I didn't think he had tear ducts."

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