



# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[ SATURDAY, May 27, 2023 ]

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ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of the Granbury Doll Club and the Granbury Doll House Museum are partnering to host a World Doll Day event from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Doll House Museum at 421 E. Bridge St. on Saturday, June 10. Pictured from left to right are Vicki Connors, Jane Sharp, Barbara Williams, Lynn Parsley, Karen Allen, and Ann Allen.



## All Gave Some... Some Gave All.

Saluting those who served and sacrificed on

# MEMORIAL DAY

Please see Fallen Veterans Memorial dedication, page A2.

## Chief appraiser resigns

Board: Budget deadlines will still be met

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Chief Appraiser Eddie Roe has resigned from the Hood Central Appraisal District. His resignation comes as local taxing entities are preparing to enter into their annual budget process. The HCAD plays an important role in those processes by providing information about anticipated property tax revenues.

HCAD board chairman Eddie Rodriguez said that Roe did not state a reason when he notified the board of his resignation Tuesday evening. However, Roe provided a written statement to the Hood County News on Wednesday afternoon after the newspaper reached out for comment.

"I really just feel like it takes a special breed and personality to take on the responsibility of chief appraiser in any county," Roe stated in an email. "I've come to the realization that this just isn't me. I've sort of been battling internal conflict with who I am versus who I need to be for the last two years of my three year tenure as chief appraiser. The taxing entities and taxpayers of Hood County deserve a chief appraiser that is happy and willing to devote their full attention to the position."

He went on to thank the HCAD board, staff, and others who were instrumental to his appraisal career.

Roe was named interim chief appraiser for the HCAD in March 2020 and was given the permanent position in May of that year. He replaced longtime Chief Appraiser Greg Stewart, who retired after having worked for that office since February 1992.

Rodriguez, who serves on the Granbury City Council, said that Roe's resignation was not effective immediately. He said that Roe proposed a departure date of June 15.

Rodriguez indicated that the board expects Roe's departure to have no negative impacts on taxing entities.

"The board is currently looking at different options for an interim chief appraiser," he said. "And the HCAD will continue to move

PLEASE SEE **DOLL** | A2

PLEASE SEE **RESIGNS** | A7

## A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

### Adopt a new friend on World Doll Day June 10

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Hood County children — and adults too — can adopt a new friend from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Doll House Museum at 421 E. Bridge St. on Saturday, June 10, in celebration of World Doll Day.

#### WORLD DOLL DAY

World Doll Day was created on June 14, 1986, by Mildred Seeley, who wanted to mark a special day devoted to dolls with a mission to spread love and happiness to others, according to the United Federation of Doll Clubs.

"Mildred Seeley was a great doll collector and she made molds, so that people could make restorations," said Karen Allen, member of the Granbury Doll Club. "She decided that we needed a little more love and friendship in the world, so she urged all the doll clubs to have an event where individual people just give a doll to an adult, a child, anybody on World Doll Day."

World Doll Day is held every

year on the second Saturday in June and is a way for others to celebrate the universal message of friendship and love by adopting a doll or bear.

#### GRANBURY DOLL CLUB

The first World Doll Day in Granbury will be sponsored by the Granbury Doll House Museum and the Granbury Doll Club — a club that was formed last fall to support the museum.

"The United Federation of Doll Clubs is an international organization that wants to preserve, protect, conserve, and educate doll collectors throughout the doll collecting community," Allen said. "I'm a member and the museum is a member, but we didn't have a doll club here in town. We decided to start one



COURTESY OF VISIT GRANBURY

Hood County children — and adults too — can go home with a new friend on Saturday, June 10, in celebration of World Doll Day.

to help support the museum and expand our hobby."

To participate in World Doll Day, the two organizations decided to partner and host a free Porch Party event for the museum.

"Since we got the club started, we decided that we would have a Porch Party and let children come that aren't familiar with

the museum and don't know that we're a club to adopt a doll for World Doll Day," Allen said.

Once a child adopts a doll, they will be presented with a Friendship Certificate, where they will promise to "always care for their doll/bear with kindness and love."

"We're excited to have these

## Bill to rename part of SH 144 for Happy Hill founder sent to governor's desk

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

The bill to rename part of State Highway 144 after Ed Shipman, who with his wife Gloria founded Happy Hill Farm and positively impacted the lives of many children, was on its way to the governor's desk Tuesday morning after having passed the Texas House and Senate, according to a staffer in the office of State Sen. Brian

Birdwell, R-Granbury.

By now, the governor may have made it official. The Hood County News had early deadlines this week due to Memorial Day weekend.

The stretch of State Highway 144 between U.S. Highway 67 and Mitchell Bend Highway in Hood County will be renamed the Ed Shipman Memorial Highway effective Sept. 1.

Happy Hill Farm, now called North Central Texas Academy, is located at 3846 State Highway 144 on a 500-acre working farm.

The Shipmans launched their effort to provide children with quality education in a loving family environment out of a mobile home in Granbury in 1975, one year after the couple took in two teenage girls who had fled a bad home situation.

Today, NCTA is a fully accredited, comprehensive, academic program and boarding school serving more than 175 students in grades K-12. Supported by scholarships, boys and girls live on the campus year-round in small group homes overseen by house parents.

Shipman died in August 2016. House Bill 2835 was authored by State Rep. DeWayne Burns, R-Cleburne, and State Rep. Shelby

Slawson, R-Stephenville. Slawson represents District 59, which now encompasses Hood County. Birdwell sponsored the bill.

The Hood County Commissioners Court in March adopted a resolution in support of the initiative to rename a portion of SH 144 for Shipman.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 77

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 20 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 20 pages

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# Fallen Veterans Memorial dedication set for Monday

Submitted Item

The Hood County Fallen Veterans Memorial that was completed on the southwest corner of the Hood County Courthouse lawn this month will hold its official dedication on Memorial Day, May 29 starting at 12:30 pm. It will take place in conjunction with HGMA's program at the city stage on Bridge Street in Granbury.

Many families of the fallen named will be in attendance. Please plan to attend this historical, honorable tribute.

Those named on this memorial — built on donations by the community and all who no longer wanted to see them forgotten — will be war heroes of Hood County. They will be those who have been born or raised in Hood County, Killed in Action (KIA) or Missing in Action (MIA) with war periods dating all the way back to the Spanish-American War of 1898. In addition to the memorial, a QR code will be available that allows each hero's biography to be immediately obtained on the Hood County

Fallen Veterans website ([www.HoodCountyFallenVeterans.org](http://www.HoodCountyFallenVeterans.org)).

These are the names of our Hood County Fallen Veterans:

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

PVT Benjamin M. Kerr 07-04-1900

## WORLD WAR I

PVT Walter A. Baker 07-31-1918  
PVT Ollie P. Kelley 10-01-1918  
PFC Lee Roy Edwards 10-08-1918  
PVT Larkin C Clifton 10-12-1918  
PVT Elven Helms 11-03-1918  
PVT Arthur E. Joiner 12-11-1918

## WORLD WAR II

PVT Herbert E. Roberts 08-19-1941

LTCDR John P. Hillyard 04-08-1942  
1LT James K. Bone 11-20-1942  
2LT Oliver L. Kincanon 03-12-1943  
2LT Windell D. Neely 06-11-1943  
FLT O Clovis C. Newman

07-03-1943

1LT Dale P. Cleveland 09-09-1943  
S1C Roy E. Thomason 09-11-1943  
S2C Marion F. Atwood 02-20-1944  
CPL James E. Bills 03-18-1944

PFC Allen B.H. Davis 06-08-1944  
PFC Ira E. Hatcher 06-12-1944  
1LT William L. Jameson 06-24-1944  
1SG Herchel L. Elliott 07-20-1944

2LT Jerome H. Kendall 09-26-1944  
2LT Harry P. Curl 10-01-1944

FN1C Virgil W. Charles 10-25-1944  
TEC5 William E. Williams  
11-15-1944

PFC Bill A. Porter 11-30-1944  
SSG Rex A. Davis 12-12-1944

2LT Orman L. Fitzhugh 12-15-1944  
PVT Lowell H. Massey 12-20-1944

SSG Willie F. Pope 01-06-1945  
PFC William L. Clifton 02-09-1945

SGT Curtis L. Spoon 02-13-1945  
PVT Billie Joe Compton

03-02-1945

1LT R.G. Gillen 03-30-1945  
PVT Delano W. Cooper 04-05-1945  
PVT Elbert R. Marsden 05-19-1945  
PVT Morris G. McCauley

06-11-1945

ARM3C Royce E. Milburn

08-09-1945

PFC Perry M. Petty 08-27-1945  
COL Harney Estes Jr 07-25-1946

## KOREAN WAR

SFC Acy Huffman 04-12-1952  
FN Lowell D. Wells 04-27-1953

Vietnam War

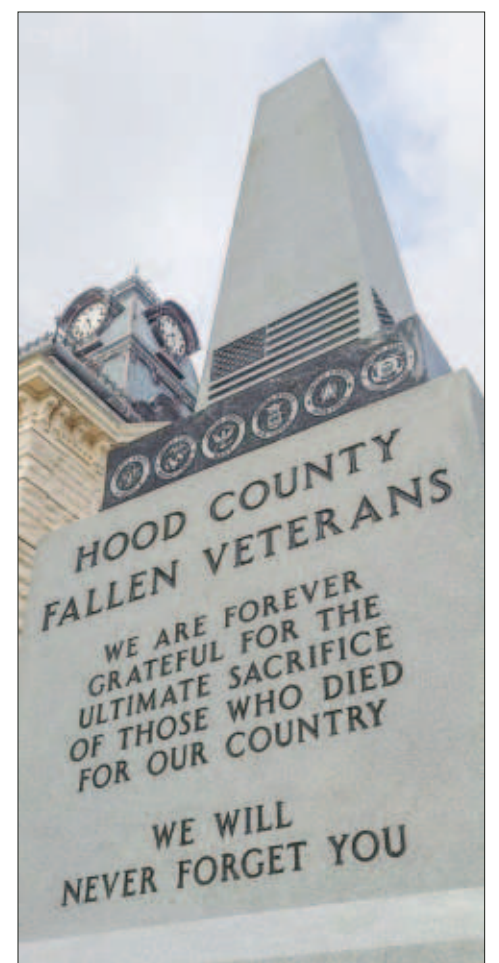
SGT John E. Miller 06-11-1966  
CAPT Jack Camp 12-01-1969

COL William L. Brooks 04-22-1970  
SP4 Larry W. Rothel 05-07-1971

War on Terrorism

SFC Riley G. Stephens 09-28-2012

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY CASTRO  
**The Hood County Fallen Veterans Memorial on the southwest corner of the Hood County Courthouse lawn will have its official dedication on Memorial Day, May 29 starting at 12:30 p.m.**



# City adopts tax abatement policy to skirt any legislative barriers

BY KATHY CRUZ

Senior Staff Writer

The Granbury City Council has adopted a general tax abatement policy to better equip the city to compete for economic development projects and because of possible upcoming legislative changes to Local Government Code Chapter 380.

Many cities and counties rely on what is often referred

to as “380 agreements” to draw economic development projects.

Under a 380 agreement, a developer and taxing entity can negotiate a contract to offset costs associated with construction and infrastructure provided the business meets performance benchmarks.

According to Granbury Economic Development Director Lance LaCour, the

Legislature is currently considering two bills related to Chapter 380 that could restrict property tax abatements. The bills are SB 1419, which LaCour said has passed the Texas Senate, and HB 4940.

LaCour was tasked by City Manager Chris Coffman with researching other cities' economic development policies and proposing a set of guidelines for the city council to

consider.

The guidelines presented to the city council were in accordance with Local Government Code Chapter 312, which allows for property tax abatements but does not involve other taxes. Under a 312 agreement, all or part of the increase in the value of the real property and/or tangible personal property are exempt from taxation for up to 10 years.

LaCour said the city must have a tax abatement policy in place in order to negotiate development deals. He said that the guidelines “are important to have in our economic development toolbox.”

The council unanimously approved the policy. It went into effect immediately and will remain in place for two years. It can be renewed, amended, or altered with a three-fourths vote by the city

council.

To be eligible for a tax abatement, a company will have to create 20 jobs, a minimum of \$2 million in capital investment, and create 20 jobs with average salaries that are more than the current city average salary of about \$44,000 per year.

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## LOOKING BACK

# Vintage local news articles suggest traffic headaches aren't a new concern

From Staff Reports

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

Just in case any local residents think traffic congestion and delays are problems that didn't really exist decades ago — when the population of Granbury and surrounding communities was smaller — this article from the Nov. 3, 1955 edition of the Hood County News-

Tablet indicates otherwise.

With the headline, “Traffic blocked on bridge Sunday for three hours by trailer truck,” at the top upper left on Page A1, here is the story: “A trailer truck jack-knifed on the Brazos River bridge east of Granbury Sunday about 12:30 blocking traffic for three hours.

“The truck, driven by Harry Fred Sims of Lubbock, was en route to Ft. Worth. The driver pulled over just as he approached the west end of the bridge to give a car driven by Leroy Mills of Boerne plenty of clearance.

The truck hit the banister, knocking the wheels of the trailer free and hitting the rear fender of the Mills car. An eyewitness said the driver of the truck tried valiantly to control it, but it came to rest about one-third the distance of (the) bridge, partially overturning and blocking traffic. Officers rerouted traffic at Cresson and Granbury until the bridge was cleared.

“Riding with Mr. Mills was his daughter, Mrs. George K. Woods of Ft. Worth and her month-old baby. Both were treated at the Granbury

General Hospital where their injuries were not found to be serious. Mr. Mills is with the Humble Company, producing “Texas in Review” for TV. A friend, hunting near Granbury, who had come in his private plane, flew Mr. Mills, Mrs. Woods and baby home later in the afternoon, spending the night there. He returned Monday for his hunting companions and told Dr. R.L. Brock that they were doing fine with the exception of being sore and bruised. He had spent the night in the Mills home.

“A good Samaritan led a

caravan of cars across country to the Fairview bridge, so that they could continue their travel.”

CLOSE CALL

And if you think that truck crash was spectacular news for this county, the June 22, 1939 edition of The Hood County Tablet ran a front-page article about a re-sourceful — and, no doubt, desperate — driver escaping from an explosive, life-threatening situation.

That headline stated: “Fort Worth man had close call early Monday morning.”

The article was brief, but

fascinating, as seen here:

“Earl Cassidy Sr. of Ft. Worth narrowly escaped serious injuries early Monday morning when his gasoline truck overturned three miles west of Cresson on Highway No. 10.

“A tire blew out and the truck loaded with 1,000 gallons of gasoline caught fire and exploded. Mr. Cassidy kicked a window out and had only gotten about fifty feet away when the truck and contents went up in flames.”

## DOLL

FROM PAGE A1

dolls loved,” said Jane Sharp, owner of the Granbury Doll House Museum. “We want somebody to come adopt them that will love them and give them a good home.”

Dwayne Stobaugh, “The Popcorn Man” from Southern

Reflections Kettle Corn, will also be donating popcorn during the event.

“This is the first (World Doll Day) that we're celebrating as a club) and we're very excited about it and hoping to get lots of folks,” Allen said.

The Granbury Doll Club currently has 12 members

and one junior member — but the club is always seeking new members who are interested in dolls, history, or sewing.

“This event is the end of the year for our club meetings, but we'll begin meeting again in September at the Hood County Library. We meet the first Tuesday of the

month at two o'clock,” Allen said. “If you are interested in sewing, quilting, or research of any kind — many of the dolls are historical — then this is the club for you because that's what we do.”

She said when the club meets, they have a short business meeting, and then members take turns giving a

program on a specific doll.

“Mostly, we have fun,” Allen said.

She said the club also has an online option, like Zoom, available for members who are homebound or live far and can't travel.

If anyone is interested in joining the Granbury Doll Club, email Allen at kb51al-

len@gmail.com, or message the Granbury Doll Club Facebook page.

“We're really excited about (World Doll Day),” Allen added. “There's lots of fun things to celebrate with dolls.”

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## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# What to expect in the weekly Hood County News

**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.

Last week was a particularly busy one for me, highlighted by a couple of community activities.

On Thursday I attended a reception for the Bridge Street History Center hosted at the residence of my lovely friend Dominique Inge. Bridge Street History is an organization I am proud to belong to as they work very hard to preserve the history of Granbury while at the same time presenting opportunities for citizens to learn about the history of the place they have chosen to live. It was a beautiful evening for a gathering though I must note being

at the Inge homestead suggested memories of Dominique's departed husband, Charles.

Charles Inge passed away some time ago, and I will always regret I did not know him longer or better. He was such a talented and worldly man, yet he had the ability to engage with another and make them feel like their talents and skills were superior to his own. His humility and graciousness were his trademarks. He had the rare gift of being able to make everyone with whom he connected feel good about themselves. He was a remarkable man who did many wonderful things for

Granbury and is missed by those who knew him. I would like to think I am a better man because I knew Charles.

As I visited with friends at the event, the topic of the newspaper going to a once-a-week publication was on many people's minds. It was comforting to know that most people were excited about the change and understood the benefits of being a bigger newspaper with broader coverage. They recognize and accept how a local newspaper has a huge role in a community and they were excited when I spoke of our extended coverage being "hyper local." Folks seemed genuinely excited to imagine the issue of the HCN being as large or larger than the Star-Telegram. They kept commenting to me on how much the paper had improved and grown over the past few years, and they seemed

genuinely excited to see what the future newspaper would bring. I thank all those folks for their kind words of support. I speak for all our staff in saying we are committed to being the best community newspaper around, and we will not let you down.

**STROLL THROUGH TEXAS HISTORY A SUCCESS**

On Friday I got to participate in the Texas Heroes Foundation's "Stroll through Texas History". Students from both Lipan and Acton Middle School attended and were able to get up close and personal to individuals dressed in period costumes, while they presented important Texas history lessons. "Jim Bowie", "Sam Houston", and "David Crockett" all spoke, and those young people could see and experience firsthand

a chuck wagon, a Native American tepee, and other items of historical significance. If you were out Saturday and did not stop by you missed a truly wonderful opportunity to see Texas history come to life. Thanks so much to the Texas Heroes Foundation for making the event possible. Your efforts give our young people a richer, fuller life and instill in them a sense of pride in their history and their Texas. In my book, that will always be a good thing.

Thought for the day: Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift, which is why they call it the present.

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

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

## LGNC DONATES \$1,000 TO LOCAL CHARITIES



COURTESY SUSAN HARRISON

The Lake Granbury Newcomers Association donated \$1,000 to local charities during its May meeting. Pictured are from left to right: Charities Committee Chair Kathi Long, Friends of the Animals Adoption Animal Shelter Nancy McClure, Marketing Director of Brazos Pregnancy Center Christie Alexander, President of LGNC Kelley Class, Mission Granbury Program Director Justin Rossner, Mission Granbury Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jean Bondy, Executive Director of Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center Margaret Cohenour, and Treasurer of Ruth's Place Carmine Esposito.

## Tolar Town Hall meeting to discuss shared pathways grant

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

With hopes that grant funds could connect the growing town through sidewalks and a shared pathways project, Tolar city officials have scheduled a Town Hall meeting to provide information to the public and to seek citizen input.

The Town Hall meeting will take place from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, at the J.D. Neely Community Center, 120 Tolar Cemetery Road.

Refreshments will be provided.

The city has applied for a grant through the Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program, which provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects.

The money is available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

If Tolar is approved through the program, sidewalks could be constructed along the U.S. Highway 377 corridor and shared pathways could connect schools to the downtown area.

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## VETERANS VOICE

## Filing PACT Act claims may yield earlier effective date

The VA is encouraging veterans and surviving family members to file their PACT Act claims before Aug. 10, 2023, to take advantage of a potential earlier effective date if your claim is granted. The PACT Act was signed into law on Aug. 8, 2022, but claims were not processed until January 2023. New claims filed before Aug. 10, 2023, may see an effective date of Aug. 8, 2022. If you already filed a claim for a condition in the past now listed as presumptive but were denied service connection, we can reopen that claim under the PACT Act, however the effective date will only go as far back as the date the law was signed.

Make sure you have a current diagnosis for the condition and expect the VA to contact you for a compensation/pension exam to determine your level of disability. Frequently I get calls from veterans saying the VA denied their

claim, but after further investigation I find the claim was actually approved with a 0% non-compensated rating. This means the VA has acknowledged and approved a service-connected condition, but the medical evidence shows it is not severe enough to warrant compensation.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. We can always challenge the rating with new evidence but if the rating is appropriate, because the condition is considered service connected any secondary medical conditions caused by that primary condition are considered

service connected and with medical evidence and a medical opinion that it's secondary, we can file a claim for those conditions as well. Additionally, if that non-compensated condition gets worse, we can file an increase or if it is a contributory condition upon a veteran's death, we will file for Dependent Indemnity Compensation for the survivors. Visit va.gov/PACT for more information or call if you have questions.

Make sure when you get your rating decision from the VA you read over the Rating Decision Narrative carefully in order to understand

the VA's rationale for determining your rating percentage and what medical evidence is required for the next higher rating. Talk to your doctor about that rating and ask in his/her medical opinion on if the VA's rationale is appropriate based on his/her diagnosis of your condition.

We would like to welcome Retired 1SG Calen Bullard to the team as the new Veterans Peer Service Coordinator for Pecan Valley Centers, to replace Zack Crawford who has taken on a new career adventure. Calen served for 21 years active duty deploying in multiple combat theaters in Civil Affairs specializing in counter terrorism measures by targeting and identification of vulnerable populations within a region for special programs and funding that would mitigate the underlying causes of instability within those areas and communities resulting in creating

an environment less susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups. Most of these programs and funding were used for humanitarian aid in the form of building roads, schools, wells, hospitals/clinics, etc.

His experience makes him uniquely qualified for outreach in our veteran community. You can reach him at 817-579-4489 Ext 3 or email him at cbullard@pecanvalley.org. We also want to thank Zack for his work with Pecan Valley and wish him the best of luck.

Our office will be closed the week of May 29, 2023, and will reopen on Monday June 5, 2023. Feel free to email me for an immediate answer if you need assistance or to set an appointment.

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

**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.

**Hood County News**

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10 a.m. Monday

**Saturday issue:**

10 a.m. Wednesday

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# OBITUARIES

## The Honorable Charles Walter Stenholm (D-TX)

October 26, 1938 - May 17, 2023

The Honorable Charles Walter Stenholm (D-TX) ("Charlie") passed away on May 17, 2023. He was 84 years old.

Charlie was born on October 26, 1938, in Stamford, TX. His parents, Irene and Lambert, raised Charlie (their only child) in a Swedish farming community called Ericksdahl, just east of Stamford. Charlie graduated from Stamford High School where he was active in sports and FFA, participating on two state-championship football teams and earning the Lone Star Degree (the highest FFA honor).

Afterward, Charlie enrolled at Tarleton State University. He played football and basketball for the Tarleton State "Plowboys," was a member of ROTC and FFA, and graduated with an A.S. degree. He then attended Texas Tech University from which he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in agriculture education.

Charlie met his future wife, Cynthia Ann Watson ("Cindy"), in 1960. She first spotted Charlie while he was playing intramural softball. The couple soon held weekly dates: on Fridays, Charlie took Cindy to the local bowling alley and bought her a hamburger; on Sundays, he took her to Church. As Cindy recalls, "I knew he would take care of me." Indeed, they would faithfully take care of each other for 61 years upon their marriage in 1961 until death did them part.

In 1962, the Stenholms settled down in Stamford, started their family, and were active in Ericksdahl Bethel Lutheran Church. Charlie taught vocational agriculture at nearby Avoca High School and helped run the family farm. In 1965, he became Executive VP of the Rolling Plains Cotton Growers. Four years later, he became the Stamford Electric Cooperative's GM before re-focusing on farming in 1977.

In 1978, Texas's 17th congressional district elected Charlie to the U.S. House of Representatives, which district he served proudly for 13 terms in Washington, D.C. until 2005. Congressman Stenholm helped lead the



House Agriculture Committee, including as the Ranking Democrat Member his last eight years in office. Overall, Charlie earned a reputation for building bipartisan alliances on policy issues including agriculture, energy, budget, rural health-care, and Social Security. As he would say, "Compromise" is not a four-letter word.

After public office, Charlie was a Senior Policy Advisor for OFW Law and board member of The Concord Coalition and The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. In 2010, the Stenholms moved to Granbury, Texas, where Charlie gradually retired. During that time, Charlie enjoyed golfing and playing bridge with friends, teaching a weekly class on agriculture and energy policy at Tarleton State, attending Bible study, writing news articles, tracking the weather, and spending time with Cindy and their family. Charlie is survived by Cindy, their three children—Chris, Cary (and wife, Cryst), and Courtney (and husband, Daniel)—as well as their four grandchildren: Cole, Chase, Cameron, and Chandler.

Ericksdahl Bethel Lutheran Church (10625 N FM 600, Avoca, TX 79503) will celebrate Charlie's life on June 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, Charlie would very likely appreciate a donation to the just-mentioned Church or to the Charles W. Stenholm endowment at Tarleton State University. If mailing a donation to the Church, please use the following address: Bethel Lutheran Church, c/o Tena Tankersley, PO Box 828, Stamford, TX 79553. Thank you.

## Shirley Ann Andersen

November 22, 1937 - May 9, 2023

Shirley Ann Andersen (Simons) passed away Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at home with loved ones by her side in Deadwood, SD.

Shirley was born November 22, 1937, to Walter and Alletta (Tofte) Hassebrook in Garden City, SD and grew up in Erwin, SD where her parents ran the local grocery store. She graduated high school in Erwin and then continued her education at Northwestern School of Medical Technology in Minnesota. She was proud to take her first job at the Belle Fourche, SD Hospital. Shirley married John "L" Simons in 1962 and they raised four children. In 1964 the family moved to Rapid City and Shirley worked for Dr. Heidepriem and Dr. Yackley when the children were young. Shirley and John "L" also owned the Brass Rail Bar in downtown Rapid City and then Sturgis Road Liquors before moving to Gillette, WY in 1977.

In the early 1980s Shirley met Joseph Andersen in Gillette; and in 1997 the two were married. Joe and Shirley operated a successful business and eventually moved to California. In San Jose, CA they operated the large tight-knit community of Plaza Del Rey.

In retirement, Shirley and Joe moved to Granbury, TX near Shirley's sister, Donna. The couple had two beautiful homes there; one of which was featured in the Granbury Now Magazine. Shirley's homes were showpieces and were always a gathering place for family and friends. She



was the "hostess with the mostest".

At home in Granbury, Shirley was involved with her local Bridge Club, The Salvation Army Auxiliary, the DeCordova Bend Estates Women's Club, and the Triple Cross Cowboy Church. Shirley loved a good rummage sale and her family's Hassebrook Cousin Reunions. She was a wonderful vocalist and loved singing with her three siblings; growing up they were not allowed to have a radio in their car and had to sing instead.

Shirley was preceded in death by her mother, father, husbands and infant son, Jay "L"; sister-in-law, Marquita Hassebrook, and brother-in-law, Roland Noyes. She is survived by her siblings: LaVonne (Lowell) Stelter, Donna Noyes, DeWayne Hassebrook; by her children: Robert (Bob) Simons, Randall (Bear) Simons, Tina R. Startz (Simons)(Jim) and Heidi A. Wasick (Simons) (Dan), and stepdaughter, Tiffani (Terry) Archibald, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Memorial and burial will be held at the Telemarken Church outside Wallace, SD on August 19, 2023.

### SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY ADVANCED DEADLINES

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

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

The memorial day deadline schedule is as follows:

Edition	Deadline
5-24	10 a.m. 5-19
5-27	10 a.m. 5-23
5-31	10 a.m. 5-26

## City to host tire recycle event

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Tired of old tires? Make them hit the road. The city of Granbury will help.

The city will hold a free tire recycling event on Saturday, June 10. It will be from 8-11 a.m. at Granbury Service Center, 401 N. Park St.

It is for city residents only. You must live within the city limits to participate, not merely have a Granbury postal address.

Here's what you need to know:

- Only passenger, light and large truck tires will be accepted. No rims.
- There is a limit of five tires per resident.
- Commercial dealers will not be allowed to participate.
- Also not allowed: heavy equipment or agricultural tires larger than 54 inches in height or 16 inches in width.
- No split or chopped tires.
- No tires with excess accumulation of dirt or mud.

Those with questions can contact City Hall at 817-573-1114.

kcruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886

## Picket and grinning: City reaches goal through Park Board's 'creative' idea

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

The Granbury Parks Board's Lambert Branch Park fundraiser has reached its goal, according to city Communications Manager Jeff Newpher.

Personalized, engraved fence pickets were sold by the Parks Department for placement between the playground and parking lot at the waterfront park at Rucker Street and North Brazos Street near the Granbury Square.

The park has a fishing pier and picnic tables and its flat ground is conducive to outdoor games. It is home to the Neely House, a venue that can be rented for family reunions, birthday parties, or other events.

The sale of the pickets was to defray the cost of 50 feet of fencing, an idea that City Manager Chris Coffman praised as "creative."

The pickets are made from recycled plastic and were sold for an affordable \$50 each. They create a barrier between the play area and the parking lot.

Want to help keep Granbury's parks beautiful? City water customers are able to donate to the parks fund through their water bills.

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## Are your goals 'must have' or 'nice to have'?

**CHAD CARROLL**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser



Carroll — you need to be certain of achieving it, or at least as certain as possible. But if you want to someday own a vacation home by the beach, and you can't ever quite afford it, you might find an acceptable substitute, such as renting. So, it seems fair to say that achieving this goal would be "nice to have."

Like everyone, you may have a lot of financial goals. But are they all of equal importance? Probably not. And do they share a similar timeline? Again, it's unlikely. So, your first step may be to prioritize your goals — and then follow a process that can help you achieve them. This process should include the following steps:

**IDENTIFY YOUR GOALS**  
Making sure you can retire comfortably and won't outlive your resources is a "must have" goal. For this goal, you can't compromise

**PRIORITIZE YOUR INVESTMENT DOLLARS**  
Unless you have unlimited sums to invest — and very few of us have that luxury — you'll probably need to prioritize where your investment

dollars are going. For your main "must have" goal — retirement — you'll be helped by the ability to automatically invest through your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you're on track toward this goal, and you budget carefully and potentially receive salary increases over the years, you may also find space to keep contributing toward the "nice to have" goals.

**PUT "PRICE TAGS" ON YOUR GOALS**  
You need to know what your goals will cost. Of course, you may need to estimate the costs for some goals based on different factors. For example, when you think

about your goal of retiring comfortably without outliving your money, you'll need to consider some key questions, including these: When do you want to retire? What sort of retirement lifestyle do you envision? Do you see yourself downsizing your living arrangements? For other goals, though, such as purchasing a vacation home, you could get more specific on how much money you'll need.

**FOLLOW AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY**  
The nature of your goals, and their estimated cost, along with your appetite for risk, should drive your investment strategy — but another key factor is time. So, for a

long-term goal like retirement, you'll likely need a reasonable amount of quality growth-oriented investments in your portfolio. While these investments — such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds — will fluctuate in value over shorter periods of time, your hope is that, over several decades, they will ultimately provide the growth you need to meet your retirement goal. However, to achieve a goal you want to meet in a year or so — perhaps you're paying for a wedding or planning a long vacation — you may want to consider more stable investments, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), short-term bonds or even

cash or cash equivalents. They may not provide much in the way of growth, but you can essentially count on them to provide the amount you need when you need it. You'll need to regularly review the performance of your investment strategy for each goal to assess your progress. Achieving any goals — whether they're "must have" or "nice to have" — can be challenging. But by identifying and prioritizing these goals, following an appropriate strategy to meet them, and consistently reviewing your approach, you can help yourself get to where you want to go.

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# RESIDENTS OF HARBOR LAKES REHAB CENTER RECEIVED GIFT BAGS FROM THE GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Granbury Association of REALTORS® Public Relations Committee distributed 60+ Blessings Bags to the residents of Harbor Lakes Rehab Center. The 60+ residents were a mixture of men and women – who were very excited to receive and inspect their gift bags. The bags were filled with puzzle books, lotion, games, adult coloring books, sketch pads, colored pencils, spiral notebooks, socks, chap stick, a blanket, and a coffee mug.

# Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2023 Winners

Submitted item

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) announced the Texas division winners of Wildlife Forever's Fish Art Contest for 2023.

The Fish Art Contest is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries, and fishing. The program encourages K-12 students to submit original artwork of any fish and an essay or poem (grades 4-12) about the participant's fish entry, its habitat or efforts to conserve it.

"The Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art," Tom Lang, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center director said. "We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans."

This year, judges at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center chose the top 12 out of 352 total entries. The top 12 works of art will be featured at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and in the 2024 Texas Fish Art Calendar.

In the K-3 category, the winners were: First place, Claire Liu of Coppell; Second place, Jackson White of Hawkins; Third place, Aarya Doddapaneni of Dallas.

In the grades 4-6 category, the winners were: First place, Lydia Ireland of San Antonio; Second place, Audrey Cunningham of Houston; Third place, Claire Lee of Prosper.

In the grades 7-9 category,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TPWD FLICKR

This piece by Grace Cao of Sugar Land won first place in the 7th-9th grade division.

the winners were: First place, Grace Cao of Sugar Land; Second place, Sophia Liu of Coppell; Third place, Kamilla Pashayeva of Plano.

In the grades 10-12 category, the winners were: First place, Arim Jun of Carrollton; Second place, Mia Macias of Pasadena; Third place, Sofiya Berzhanskaya of Highland Village.

First place winners in each of the four age groups advance to the national level and compete against winners from other states.

Scholarships for the first, second and third place Texas winners are awarded as follows: Scholarships in the grades 10-12 division are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. Awards in the 4-6 and 7-9 grade levels

are \$200 for first, \$150 for second, \$100 for third. In the K-3 division awards are \$100 for first, \$75 for second, \$50 for third.

Scholarships for Texas winners are supplemented by the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

"We have a unique opportunity to celebrate the talents of our Texas students, our beautifully diverse fish species and the hard work of our biologists who protect these resources," Kate Barkalow, TFFC education and interpretation coordinator said.

At the conclusion of the contest, the TFFC hosts a celebration for the 12 state finalists, their teachers and families on Free Fishing Day. "They get to see their work

on display, learn more about our aquatic resources, what it takes to conserve them and go fishing, some for the first time," Barkalow said. "None of this would be possible without the help of our sponsors and teachers. We believe that through the Texas Fish Art Contest, a new generation of stewards is created."

Honorable mentions in grades K-3 were awarded to: Alice Bond of Lucas; Sejun Cho of Houston; Weston Ireland of San Antonio; Alice Kochubey of Prosper; Yueran Lang of Austin; Yena Lee of Denton; Isabella Naiser of Boerne and Masaki Yamaguchi of Houston.

Honorable mentions in grades 4-6 were awarded to: Anshuk Gotur of Coppell; Anya Hegde of Irving; April Hyun of Irving; Chloe Lee of



This piece by Claire Liu of Coppell won first place in the K-3rd grade division.

Lewisville; Shaurya Parmar of McKinney; Dheesha Reddy of Irving; Laina Sidlik of Coppell; Erin Sung of Flower Mound; Nina Vargas of Farmers Branch and Mau Yamaguchi of Houston.

Honorable mentions in grades 7-9 were awarded to: Yena Chae of Lewisville; Ararush Gotur of Coppell; Azel Han of Carrollton; Naila Jamshid of Waco; Marc Kader of The Colony; Justin Luo of Coppell; Elizabeth Naiser of Boerne; Eliana Ortega of San Antonio; Jiaqi Rong of Coppell and Rebecca Thomas of Southlake.

Honorable mentions for grades 10-12 were awarded to: Divij Adhikarala of Frisco; Elise Akin of Irving; Brett Baker of Hallettsville; Caroline Cabral of Boerne; Khadija Conteh of Houston; Natalia De Leon of Plano; Emily Heng of Garland; Jennifer Miranda of Houston and Bridget Rivers of Fort Worth.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2024 contest can find entry forms, rules, guidelines and

more online. A lesson plan offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets. Learn more at [www.wildlife-forever.org](http://www.wildlife-forever.org).

The Fish Art Contest is a project of Wildlife Forever. Located in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a nonprofit multispecies conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

To view or download high resolution images of the winning artwork, visit the 2023 Fish Art Contest Album on the TPWD Flickr page.

## 🔥 MONDAY - THURSDAY DAILY SPECIALS!

<p><b>Mon.</b></p> <p><b>BONELESS &amp; BONE-IN WINGS</b></p> <p><b>.79</b> <small>Plus Tax</small></p>	<p><b>Tue.</b></p> <p><b>CHICKEN TENDERS</b></p> <p><b>.89</b> <small>Plus Tax</small></p>	<p><b>Wed.</b></p> <p><b>JUMBO SHRIMP</b></p> <p><b>.79</b> <small>Plus Tax</small></p>	<p><b>Thur.</b></p> <p><b>BONELESS WINGS</b></p> <p><b>.69</b> <small>Plus Tax</small></p>
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# LETTERS

## THANK YOU TO GISD

As a retired educator and community member/parent, I would like to thank the decision-makers of GISD for taking two giant leaps in assuring the betterment of our future's greatest resource — our school children.

I am encouraged that the strategic planning group in which I participated this week consisted of school board members, district staff at all levels, students, and a cross-section of community members who worked together for the betterment of our students and staff. With so much division in Granbury, and across the country, I was especially impressed that the group came to a consensus, and I was heartened by the staff members who are so dedicated to our kids and their future.

Secondly, I am grateful to the school board for their decision to partner with TCCC to make our Dual Credit courses far more accessible to all of our high school students. Because our district provides affordable opportunities like AP classes, dual enrollment, and dual credit, the district demonstrates its commitment to assuring that our college-going students will finish their degrees while concurrently saving their families thousands of dollars in college tuition.

Thank you again, GISD.

**Patty Sisco  
Granbury**

## BOOK DONATIONS

One day recently, I went to one of my favorite shops on the square — Arts & Letters Bookstore. I was looking for books for the Kiwanis Book Bins for Children. We had used books that were donated by several school libraries in Fort Worth, and we were so happy to have them! However, there came a time that we had no more donated books.

So, I was on a mission to buy new books. I asked Brandy Herr who is the inventory manager if she could help me find some good books for children to purchase. She said, "would you like some for free?" I about fainted! So that is how they gave us new books! I still bought a few books, too. I want to thank Brandy Herr and Roxanne Laney, the owner of Arts & Letters Bookstore, for their generosity.

And guess where we got our book bins? They were donated to the Kiwanis Club of Lake Granbury by Hood County News!

**Carol Pirkle  
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.

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Parents in the dark



**BY DON NEWBURY**

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

**P**rayers of university presidents and school superintendents for commencement exercises to be executed as planned often are short-circuited.

Some leaders are extremists—the kind who decree that neither blaring air horns nor unseemly yells will be tolerated. Their wish is for "pomp" to be exceeded only by "circumstance." Often, they experience countless "slips 'twixt cup and lip."

On occasion, though, commencement "foul-ups" are trumped by what may well be "Acts of God" that ascend to the peak of memories' mountains.

One recently occurred in Nacogdoches, home of Stephen F. Austin State University. Hours after Mother Nature lashed out, a series of graduation exercises were scheduled for various university schools.

Around 1 a.m., a strong thunderstorm struck. Several trees crashed earthward, severing powerlines. At least one darkened what is arguably East Texas' most beautiful hotel. (The Fredonia Hotel, built in 1955 by Nacogdoches residents, was returned to opulence in 2017. That's when Richard and Barbara DeWitt gave it a multi-million dollar make-over.)

Loss of electricity meant more than darkness. It meant no elevators, no room service, no restaurant, no gift shop. Essentially, "no nothing."

The Fredonia was packed with graduates' parents and other relatives, all filled with thanksgiving when their slumber began, wondering soon what "God hath wrought."

Earlier, lobby chatter between a few fathers of graduates agreed that "Acts of God" might be needed for their hard-to-motivate offspring to get diplomas.

Some may have just begun dreams of thanksgiving—thinking of sacrifices made, financial burdens borne, and frustrations endured—now seemed worth the price. At least they'd have one memorable night at a top-tier hotel to remember.

It seems unlikely that my wife and I would not only be witnesses, but also participants, on this peculiar night at the Fredonia. We were in town to spin stories at a banquet of the Primetimers (senior adult group) at First Baptist Church.

We had yesteryear thoughts about things that went wrong during my "handing out" a few thousand diplomas at dozens of commencement exercises across two decades.

Gallows humor or not, we laughed while getting things together at 6 a.m., still engulfed in darkness.



COURTESY PHOTO

Occasionally, commencement "foul-ups" are trumped by what can be described as "Acts of God."

Only cellphone flashlights lit our way. I couldn't find my mouth to brush my teeth without jaw movement, so I told myself a joke. Luggage in hand and assisted by a friend, we made our way down five flights of stairs. Thankfully, safe descent was made possible in near total darkness by beams of cellphones—the very devices we've railed against so many times.

Only later did we learn that critical technology had gone afoul during one ceremony. Graduates' names—recorded earlier to ensure correct pronunciation—could not be summoned from their technological hideout.

Time was of the essence, so a real live person was enlisted to recite several hundred names, few of which he'd ever seen before. Dr. Tom Webster, FBC worship leader, accepted the challenge.

Long-time Nacogdoches folks may have remembered a statement often made by one of their favorite sons, nationally renowned after dinner

speaker Bob Murphey. He claimed to speak "fair English and perfect East Texas." Some graduates from countries—whose languages have no vowels but lots of syllables—may disagree.

Before leaving town, we saw the statue honoring Murphey. He was my hero, this man who declared that Nacogdoches—the oldest town in Texas—was the "birthplace of the zip code." He added, "None of us could spell it, so we decided to number it instead."

Upon unpacking back home, we discovered a small sign from the hotel room that wound up in our luggage. It informed guests that the Keurig coffee maker was intentionally unplugged, so it could easily be moved to a more convenient electrical outlet. We would have settled for an outlet that worked.

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it. Others caught up in this "Act of God" storm also have stories to tell. They can stick to theirs, too.

[newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)

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**Friday, May 26, 5:00pm Opening Ceremony**  
Featuring Flyover by Pecan Pilots; Taya Kyle, wife of the late Chris Kyle, The American Sniper, author, speaker; Special Music by Adam Richards

**Monday, May 29, 2:00pm Closing Ceremony**  
Featuring Flyover & Missing Man| Formation by Pecan Pilots; Speaker Mike Kurth, former Ranger, BlackHawk Down; Gold Star Families; Hotrod, the Riderless Horse Fantastic aerial jump by Dana Bowman, Holding a 28' flag, double amputee, former Golden Knights member

**A DAY TO REMEMBER & HONOR! THEIR LEGACY & SACRIFICE— LEAST WE FORGET! Memorial Field 3602 E Hwy 377 (Near HEB)**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [habitatofhood-county.org](http://habitatofhood-county.org) or call 817-573-2812.

PLEASE SEE **PLAY** | A11

## PECAN BITS

# Pecan woman's club concludes year with meeting and musical program



COURTESY OF PPWC PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club recently gathered for its final meeting of the 2022-2023 club year. Pictured are (from left) PPWC members Debbie Eubanks and Diane Brown purchasing door prize tickets from Carol Berzina and Teri Gorrell.

### BY DIANE LONG



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

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club completed its 2022-2023 club year in grand style on May 18 when ladies gathered at the clubhouse for a business meeting, musical program, and lunch. In addition, past club presidents were honored and officers for the 2023-2024 year were installed. Another highlight of the day included the presentation of scholarships to two young ladies graduating from high school.

The PPWC recesses formal meetings in the summer, but three daytime Chit Chat gatherings are coming up on the calendar as well as the next evening Chit Chat on Tuesday, July 11.

### AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is holding a fundraiser today, Saturday, May 27, when pancakes and all the trimmings will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Planeview Park Pavilion. Tickets 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 feature 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 by cash, credit, or member charge. Outside food and beverages are not welcome.

The day will also include bounce houses, a waterslide, a pool party, midway games, and according to executive chef Jordan Ray, "We hope to make this a festival." Events begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 10 p.m.

### GOLF TIME

Pecan's golf course 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.

### PLANNING GROUP

Pecan's Long Range Planning Committee exists again and is working "to develop strategies to improve current facilities and research new amenities for the residents of the neighborhood." Pecan board member Nathan Carriker chairs the committee, and the group held a productive kick-off meeting earlier this month as resuming this committee has been a top priority for our board of directors. Thank you to fellow Pecaners for serving our community in this way.

### YOUNG GOLFERS

Pecan is organizing a junior golf league for players in two age groups: 4 to 13 years and 14 to 17 years. The leagues aspire to give a fun approach to learning golf in a team environment. Contact Pecan's golf professional Duff Cunningham in the Golf Pro Shop with questions: 817-573-2645. Sign up ends June 1.

### STRING INSTRUCTION

Guitar lessons for adults in Pecan will begin Thursday, June 1, at 5 p.m. and continue weekly through the summer. The class can accommodate eight pupils for a cost of \$25 per week.

Carolyn Troland, who has been playing the guitar for 60 years and is a well experienced teacher, will instruct the class. Students should bring a guitar with newer strings. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

### SWIM TIME

Swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor begin in Pecan Plantation on Monday, June 5, at the PAC pool with three age-divided classes for participants ranging from 6 months to 9 years. Sign up at the PAC.

### TAKE AIM

A two-day archery camp will happen on Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6, at Pecan's archery/air gun range for youth ages 8 to 13. A hot dog lunch will be provided on Tuesday. Campers should register at the PAC as space is limited.

### GOOD KICKS

Soccer camp comes Monday, June 5, through Friday, June 9, at the PAC soccer field with divisions for players ages 4 to 6 and 7 to 10. Sign up is also at the PAC.

### FRIDAY FUN

The marina grill continues to be a popular place, and each Friday evening, the menu features a fried-fish basket with all the trimmings.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday wishes go to former Pecan resident Ann Lockard who recently celebrated her eightieth birthday. The occasion was filled with family and friends and even included a trip to North Carolina where Ann visited with her four siblings and extended family.

### SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Yvonne Rosenquist, who passed away May 8.

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## RESIGNS

FROM PAGE A1

forward with the personnel that is currently in place. It's self-sufficient."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said he was notified by two board members of the resignation as a courtesy and that the board members offered reassurances that the office will run smoothly.

"I was assured that the acting chief appraiser would be well qualified, that all the deadlines were expected to be met," Massingill told the Hood County News. He indicated that the board has "someone in mind" who "could immediately step in and meet all the expected deadlines."

The county judge added that in his view the HCAD board is "doing an excellent job."

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

# The best time to sell your house is when others aren't selling



**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.

If you're thinking about selling a house, you should know the number of homes for sale right now is still low. That's because, this season, there are fewer sellers listing their houses for sale than the norm.

Looking back at every April since 2017, the only year when fewer sellers listed their homes was in April 2020, when the pandemic hit

and stalled the housing market. In more typical years, roughly 500,000 sellers add their homes to the market in April. This year, we saw few-

er than 400,000 sellers entering the market in April.

While there are a number of factors contributing to this trend, one thing keeping inventory low right now is that some homeowners are reluctant to move when the mortgage rate they have on their current house is lower than the one they could get today on their next house. It's called rate lock.

As a recent survey from Realtor.com explains, 56% of people who are planning to sell in the next 12 months say they're waiting for rates to come down.

While this wait-and-see approach is right for some sell-

ers, it also creates an opening for more eager sellers to jump in now.

This is an especially good time for owners of second homes, weekend properties and rental properties, or anyone that is thinking of selling property they don't have to replace immediately. Even though it is true that inventories are up, it is also true that we are still a long way from the 6-month inventory that is considered necessary for a stable market and the buyers are still out there. That is why sellers still hold an advantage in today's market.

If your current house truly

doesn't fit your needs anymore and you're ready to move, don't miss this chance to stand out. When fewer sellers are putting their homes up for sale, buyers will have fewer options, so you set yourself up to get the most eyes possible on your house.

Bottom line: If you're ready to sell now, beat the competition before it comes onto the market. If you do, your house should stand out and command a higher price. When interest rates come down and we see a flood of sellers coming onto the market, the old "supply vs demand" balance will be tipped

in the buyer's favor, not the seller's.

Let's connect to get you market ready. As always if you have questions or comments, we would love to hear from you. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com)

Portions of this article were sourced, with permission, from [www.KeepingCurrentMatters.com](http://www.KeepingCurrentMatters.com)

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CRESSON MAYOR

# To all those who have served—thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!



**BY TEENA PUTTEET CONWAY**

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

I was recently invited by Vicki Nivens to be her guest at a fundraising event in honor of the Wake for Warriors. I had attended before, so I knew it was going to be more than just a fundraising event. Well, this year did not disappoint. The teams that were sporting their red, white, and blue attire, such as good friends, Laura and Fuzzy Manning, had been scattered across the lovely facility to assist with the event. Lots of smiles were on their faces as well as their teams. Many veterans were in attendance as well, most of whom were wounded while protecting us.

This cause is truly special to Granbury because it focuses on getting these veterans, both men and women, on Lake Granbury by using modified wake boards. There were pictures of last year's event used as centerpieces that captured some big smiles on the faces of not only the veterans, but also the sponsors.

Live music, both live and silent auctions, the infamous heads, or tails playoff, as well as delicious food provided by Hard 8 BBQ (thank you Vicki) made the event delightful.

But the very best part of my evening was to have the opportunity to listen to U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Kyle

Carpenter, the featured speaker for the evening. Kyle's story is incredible. He shared his background of loving sports, being a good kid, then wanting to do more after the attack on the twin towers in New York City.

He finally mentioned his book, "You Are Worth It!" was for sale in the back of the room. I am so thankful that I stopped and not only bought a copy but was honored to have the book signed by Kyle. Such a humble servant that at a very young age of 20, went to battle for all of us, and encountered a grenade that resulted in significant injuries to this Marine. His story is too long for this article,

but I will attempt to share the highlights of his story.

In 2014, Kyle was awarded the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his singular act of courage on that rooftop in Afghanistan. He became the youngest living recipient of the award. Throughout his book, we are reminded that 'Life is worth everything we've got'. He had countless surgeries over the next three years of his young life, loss of his right eye, as well as most of his jaw, many painful skin grafts to save his right arm, but Kyle has risen to be an even stronger advocate for other wounded warriors.

Reading his words humbles me to remember that

all the tiny things that we concern ourselves with are not very important when you have been hit with a grenade and you use your body to protect another Marine on a rooftop in Afghanistan.

Maybe some of you could join us at this remarkable event next spring. I can tell you to be ready to be inspired, as these soldiers are impressive. I salute them for keeping us safe as I fall into bed at night without a worry about being attacked.

Thank you, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter, for your service and inspiration.

[teenac@cressontx.org](mailto:teenac@cressontx.org)



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## 'MOVIN' UP! MOVIN' ON!'



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Kindergarteners at STEAM Academy at Mambrino sang farewell during their graduation ceremony on May 22.

### Mambrino kindergarteners sing farewell during graduation ceremony

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

“It’s been a good year” for the STEAM Academy at Mambrino kindergarten class. Mambrino held its annual kindergarten graduation on Monday evening— but this year’s ceremony came with a special twist.

“In years past, we’ve had to do (kindergarten graduation) a little differently because of COVID,” Mambrino Assistant Principal Molly Whisenhunt said. “This year, we combined the kindergarten music program with graduation, so we were able to invite more than just parents; they could bring extended family as well.”

A total of 137 kindergarten students from eight classes graduated

from Mambrino on May 22, with each class alternating in reciting poems and singing songs for the audience.

“Last year, we had several different (graduations), and so it’s really cool to be able to see it as like a whole program and watching the kindergarteners graduate together,” Whisenhunt said. “It brings the

PLEASE SEE **SING** | B2



Kindergarten graduate Jaxson Crider, second from left, proudly shows off his graduation certificate to mom and dad during the STEAM Academy at Mambrino ceremony on May 22.

### Two Democrat groups award scholarships to graduating seniors

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Two Democratic organizations in Hood County have awarded scholarships to 10 Granbury High School graduating seniors.

Texas Democratic Women of Hood County recently awarded scholarships to seven young ladies, a significant increase in the number of scholarships that

the organization is typically able to fund.

In addition, the Hood County Democrats awarded three scholarships to graduating seniors in memory of former party chair Joyce Carver.

Representatives of the two organizations awarded the scholarships during the annual GHS awards ceremony held Thursday, May 18.

After reviewing applications

and reading applicants’ essays on the topic “Why I Believe in Democratic Values,” the TDWHC Scholarship Committee chose the following students to receive scholarships: Isabella Vazquez, Julissa Hernandez, Brandi (Lou) Whiting, Tessa Fox, Ava Williamson, Jillian R. Tremble, and Kaitlyn Smith.

All have been accepted as

PLEASE SEE **AWARD** | B2



Graduating Granbury High School senior and Texas Democratic Women of Hood County scholarship recipient Isabella Vazquez is shown here with Rose Simpson and TDWHC president Sherry Johnson.

COURTESY OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR ADRIENNE MARTIN

### Cresson Wrench grand opening celebration set for May 27

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

After a month of serving Hood County with its unique atmosphere and laid-back setting, the Cresson Wrench is ready to kick off its grand opening celebration from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday, May 27.

Located at 9501 Lancaster St., the restaurant’s first ever “vend” event, called Outdoor Marketplace @ 9501 will feature food trucks, several local vendors, live music, and drinks galore.

During the celebration, each vendor will have a booth set up at The Cresson

Wrench from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Vendors will include: Bob-B-Que from Crowley; Cowgirl Kustoms; Steel Hope; Ol’ Fashion Lemon Shakers; Victoria Jo’s Oddities; CowTown Krafts; The Unknown Philosopher Exhibit; Gypsy Stardust Creations; Blueline Freshies; McKinley’s Creations; Whiskey River Jewelry Box; Bobbi’s Wood Creations and More; Fort Worth Lone Star Cigars; Chicken Lady Couture; and Artist Sleazy of “His Royal Sleaziness,” — one of the artists who helped design the restaurant.

Live music will kick off at noon with Colby Townley,

followed by Matthew Joel Esquivel at 4 p.m., and ZZ Tejas at 7 p.m.

Beer will be served during the event for \$3, while wine and wine-a-ritas will be \$5. Drinks will include blue Moscato, strawberry Moscato, coconut Chardonnay, wine-based pina colodas, peach bellinis, strawberry daiquiris, and spiked sweet tea.

“We’re so excited to be able to have our first big shindig at the Wrench,” said JoJo Bridges, daughter of owners Ronnie and Bambi Bridges.

JoJo said the “vend” events

PLEASE SEE **CRESSON** | B2



COURTESY OF

The Cresson Wrench’s first ever “vend” event set for Saturday, May 27, will feature food trucks, several local vendors, live music, and drinks galore.

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THE DOWNHOMER CHEF

# A side dish perfect for upcoming get togethers

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, It's that time of year again when barbecues are happening every weekend. People are getting together, enjoying themselves and the beautiful weather, swimming, and eating. Often, we find ourselves needing to bring a side to the neighbor's party. There is potato salad, fruit and veggie trays, pies, fruit salad, veggie salads, even paper plates. But sometimes, we want something a little different, and tasty. Something to wow the hosts of the party. I have one for you. I have been working on this recipe for a very long

time. Macaroni and Cheese, my own personal recipe. It is absolutely mouth-watering and far from your boxed mac-n-cheese. So here it is, my show off Mac and Cheese recipe. Takes approximately 30 minutes to make

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 quart heavy cream
- 1 quart half-and-half
- 1 stick of butter, salted or unsalted
- 1/2 cup milk, preferably whole
- 1/4 cup flour
- 8 ounces cream cheese, sliced into smaller slices
- 12 ounces gruyere, shredded

- 8 to 10 ounces chevre, which is a very soft goat cheese
- 2 pounds of macaroni noodles, boiled and drained

**STEPS**

1. In a large sauce pan on medium heat, melt butter. When butter is almost completely melted, add the cream cheese and stir continuously to melt.
2. Once butter and cream cheese are melted, slowly add heavy cream while whisking to prevent curdling.
3. Slowly add half-and-half while whisking until fully incorporated.
4. Add the gruyere and chevre, stirring constantly to thoroughly melt the cheese
5. Allow to simmer
6. Add the 1/4 flour to the 1/2 cup milk and stir together until fully combined
7. When the cheese mixture begins to bubble, slowly



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Felicity McNelley's Macaroni and Cheese.

add the flour mixture and whisk constantly. 8. Allow to bubble a little longer until desired thickness is reached. 9. Mix in macaroni noodles, salt and pepper to taste, and serve. This dish is absolutely delicious and takes very little

time to make. Occasionally this is also my lazy go-to dinner for my kids. Weekdays can be hectic, but we still want to eat something good. I add some wilted spinach to the mac and cheese when I know we need some greens in our lives. You could probably add almost anything to this dish. Bacon, green on-

ions, garlic. Anything at all. Sometimes I make it ahead and then reheat it before a gathering. Also, it pairs very well with a good brisket. I look forward to making more memories and having lots of fun this summer and I hope you do, too. Until next time, Felicity



GHS senior Tessa Fox with Rose Simpson.



GHS senior Averie Coffman with Democratic Party Chair Adrienne Martin, left, and Susan Wood.



Graduating Granbury seniors, from left, Abiah Wark, Cooper Sanderson, and Ava Williamson are among those who received scholarships from two local Democratic organizations. Susan Wood is pictured with Wark and Sanderson, and former Texas Democratic Women of Hood County president Wendy Davis is shown with Williamson.

COURTESY OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR ADRIENNE MARTIN

**AWARD**

FROM PAGE B1

students to a college or university. Scholarships range from \$750-\$1,500 and were named for former TDWHC

presidents Glenda Vernon and Glenda Pirkle, who encouraged young women in Hood County to pursue higher education. TDWHC President Sherry Johnson said the organization usually awards two or

three scholarships but this year was able to raise enough money for seven. The Joyce Carver scholarships given by Hood County Democrats are for \$1,000. The competition is open to both male and female gradu-

ating seniors who hold at least a 3.0 GPA and who plan to attend a college/university or vocational/technical school. Winners were Cooper Sanderson, Abiah Wark, and Averie Coffman.

A written statement by Hood County Democrats said, "Our winners demonstrated that they embody Joyce's humanitarian values and ideals through their community involvement as well as (through) a written

essay on the theme of 'Better Together: Our families, schools, and communities are better when everyone is included.'

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**SING**

FROM PAGE B1

whole family together." Kindergarten teachers Hannah Danley, Sharon Daugherty, Karisa Glenn, Candice Jenkins, Shanti

Micheau, Tami Miller, Natalie Overstreet, and Tracie Reed took turns announcing the graduates of their class, along with their age, what they want to be when they grow up, and where they want to live as an adult. Several boys said they

wanted to become police officers, cowboys, YouTubers, and Batman in the future, while the girls revealed their dreams of becoming ballerinas, gymnasts, fashion designers, and even a unicorn— because why not? Many graduates are happy

right where they live now in Granbury, while others had higher aspirations of living in Disneyland, Hawaii, a hotel, or in a mansion. "There is never a dull moment with our kindergarten class this year," Mambrino Assistant Principal Jessica

Johnson said. "They are so full of excitement and energy." "They are a really energetic and happy group, and they get along really, really well," Whisenhunt added. "They kind of feel like a family, so I'm just really excited to

see them grow the next five years at Mambrino and see what they accomplish."

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**CRESSON**

FROM PAGE B1

will be held monthly to help raise the necessary funds for The Cresson Wrench building. "The goal is for the profit from these big events and any private party bookings to kind of just get set aside for a fund to get the building open," she said. Instead of operating the restaurant inside the building like originally planned, an unexpected and costly issue led to a complete change of plans for the Bridges family. For the time being, The

Cresson Wrench is serving customers using a food truck that is currently parked outside the building. "We already have two large private party rentals booked for June and one for July," she said. "If anyone is interested, they can contact me or stop by for details to book the venue." The Cresson Wrench is also operating under new hours: Tuesday from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The restaurant will be closed every Monday.

The next "vend" event will be held on Saturday, June 17. "We are really looking forward to having everyone out to shop and eat with us," JoJo added. For more information or to rent a booth for next month's event, contact JoJo at 682-557-5312.

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COURTESY OF

The Cresson Wrench is kicking off its grand opening celebration from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday, May 27.





# Hood County ACTIVITIES

YOUR TICKET TO THINGS TO DO

HOOD OUTDOORS

## Making sure you're ready for those Granbury big fish



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.

**G**ranbury has been producing some large striped bass this year. Making sure your equipment and reels are ready for this action is recommended. The bigger fish will definitely challenge your tackle, so you may want to prepare your equipment to avoid losing the battle with a large fish.

The first course of action is probably replacing your old line with fresh line whether you use braid or mono. If you use fluorocarbon leader, you should change the leader out each trip. Re-tie knots as needed and wet the line before you cinch it up especially on fluorocarbon line. Knots can be the weak link on your setup.

Inspect your rod guides for any damage, as a damaged rod guide can fray your line and cause the line to fail.

Adjust your drag setting before you head out. The drag system is a setting on a reel that will allow line to go out with a certain amount of force pulling on the line. This force is usually adjusted to prevent line breakage and/or equipment damage in most cases.

The drag systems on my reels are extremely important in catching fish. A smooth drag system to take the surges from fighting fish is what I am counting on. Most of my fishing is open water fishing so it is not necessary to "horse" the fish to the boat. A relatively loose drag is sufficient for open water fish. You don't want it so loose that you overplay the fish, but loose enough to not put excessive stress on the line size you are using. You can check the drag by pulling on the line to verify sufficient resistance.

There are cases where you do want to "horse" in the fish. Typically, this is when you are fishing where there are trees, or other underwater snags where the fish will break you off if he runs too far. In this case, you may want to upsize your line test or go to the braided version as well and tighten the drag.

Inexperienced anglers typically continually reel even though the fish is taking line. This is OK for most bait cast reels, but you can save some of your own energy by allowing the fish to run when it is running and reel when the fish gives you a chance. I typically get the comment that the reel is not working when the opposite is true. The reel is performing its job and the drag is set to allow the fish to run to not cause line breakage. If you are using a spinning reel and you reel while the fish is taking line, you are only twisting your line. With a spinning outfit it is necessary that you do not reel when the fish is taking line otherwise you will eventually have a twisted mess.

When a fish is on it is best to maintain tension on the line at all times. Keeping tension on the line is the best chance you have to make sure that the hook stays in place for any size fish. Many folks like to lower the rod tip (pumping action) so that they can gain some line back similar to what you see off-shore anglers do to bring in a big fish. This is a good method, but if you are to reel down on a fish make sure you keep the line tight. If you give the fish some slack on the line, the fish has an opportunity to get free by shaking the hook loose.

Fish can and will jump and create their own slack in the line. You can possibly keep from losing a jumping fish by lowering your rod tip possibly even into the water to keep them from jumping. One more important note is to use a net when landing a big fish. Do not try to pick up a big fish by lifting your pole. The weight of a big fish and



COURTESY OF MIKE ACOSTA

Pictured is Brandy and Chris Butler with their catch of big striped bass caught on Lake Granbury this past weekend.

its movement could snap the line. Take the time and get the net.

You will lose some fish no matter what. The hook may not be set right, or there may be a flaw on the line caused by the last fish caught, etc. Some fish have sharp gill plates that can cut the line (another reason to keep the line taught). You can minimize the losses by keeping your equipment, line and hooks in good order.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Water temperatures are in the upper 70s to low 80s. Lake Granbury continues to be about 1.5 feet low. Memorial Day (May 29) weekend is upon us, and many boaters will be on the water this weekend. Be careful on the water and keep a safe distance from other boaters. Lake Granbury striped bass to 13 pounds are possible on live bait and Alabama rigs fished on the lower ends. Best sand bass action is reported in town by the shores and Indian Harbor.

Largemouth bass numbers are good on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near main lake points and creek entrances. Crappie catches continue to be good as well on small jigs and minnows fished on structure in 10 to 20 feet of water. Blue and yellow catfish to 30 pounds are possible on cut bait/perch fished mid lake to the upper ends.

On other local reservoirs, Lake Whitney continues to produce limits of striped bass on live bait and trolled umbrella rigs on many areas of the lake. Lake Proctor continues to produce some large hybrid striped bass, sand bass and big blue catfish. Possum Kingdom Lake largemouth bass are excellent to 10 pounds fished in the backs of creeks on crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics. Possum Kingdom striped bass to 20 pounds are possible mid-lake on live bait.

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COURTESY OF DERANN NEUWIRTH

Callan Cox (6) caught a bass on Saturday, May 20 on Lake Granbury with stink bait.

BOOK REVIEW

## Feel a sense of wonder as pleasant stories in 'The Book of Wonder' unfold

Pictured is author David Von Drehle.

COURTESY PHOTO



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

In your lifetime, you've seen a lot of new inventions.

The internet, cell phones, and PCs. Driverless cars, electric cars, texting and emails, medical advances, and space exploration. It's inevitable: change is gonna happen and so - as in the new memoir, "The Book of Charlie" by David von Drehle - you might as well roll with it

for the rest of your life.

Fifteen years ago, when the "hassles of urban parenting" in Washington, D.C. got to be too much, David von Drehle and his wife uprooted their family and set down new roots in Kansas City, Missouri, where "skies are bigger than the egos."

The family wasn't yet unpacked when von Drehle met his neighbor, Charlie White,

who was shirtless and muscular, "garden hose in one hand... soapy sponge in the other." That day, 102-year-old Charlie was washing his girlfriend's car.

And so it began: Every chance he got, von Drehle wandered across the street to hang out with Charlie because von Drehle is a journalist and Charlie was a storyteller.

He was born in the summer

of 1905, back when America had a frontier and Missouri was its gateway. As a youngster, Charlie enjoyed the "new game" of basketball. He saw the emergence of radio and automobiles. Like most kids a century ago, he played outdoors unsupervised, which made him self-reliant, an attitude that was underscored

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | B5

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HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

# Hood County Library summer reading for all



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

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

**H**ave you seen us? We have seen a lot of you! The bookmobile is completing its second week of delivering services to different communities.

It is extremely fulfilling to watch the eyes of all ages light up when they get their new library card and check out a book from the bookmobile. Handing someone their book is like building a bridge that will connect them to the characters in the book they chose, and it builds bridges in this community. We get to make connections with others and we become a more evident presence among the citizens, not just in Granbury, but in all of Hood County.

Just this morning, I had the privilege of meeting residents at one of our local assisted living facilities. When we rolled in, we had a huge group anxiously waiting for us with a list of authors they wanted to read. One resident seemed a bit overwhelmed by all the hullabaloo, but wanted to be a part of the mix. I got to sit with her and got to know a little about her. Being so overwhelmed, she didn't get a book today, but she got a library card, and I got a new friend. She hesitated to connect, but at the end of our visit, she gave me a smile and let me know she appreciated our kindness. And isn't that what it is all about?

Summer reading activities

Parents, if you are looking for free educational entertainment for your child this summer, check out all the activities we have scheduled. Each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in June and July, the library will host story times.

Preschool through first grade will meet in the Jeanell Morris Room with Ms. Cookie for stories and a take home craft. Kiddos in second grade through fifth grade will meet in the Children's Room with Ms. Jennifer for stories and activities. There are also several special guests throughout the summer. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for more information. All special events are free, but will require that you register for a ticket due to limited space. All tickets will become available one week prior to the event.

Last, but not least, register for the Summer Reading Challenge. This is for all ages! Yes, you heard that right! Parents and grandparents, this is for you too! What better way to encourage children to read than seeing you read!

In order to participate, you need to register with Readsquared at <http://hood-countylibrary.readsquared.com/> select your age group,

and then log your reading daily. Earn prizes and a chance to win the grand prize at the end of the summer. For more information, go to our website at [www.hoodcountylibrary.com](http://www.hoodcountylibrary.com) At the top of the page you will find a Summer Reading tab that will lead you to how to register, how to log reading, and all of our summer events.

We can't wait to see you!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Children Events**

Wednesdays, June and July: Storytime 10:30 a.m. for Pre-K-5th grade.

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. Code Club (8-12 yrs.)

Special Summer Events June 3, Brain Stem (Registration required, limited seating.)

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Ages 3-5 Breaking Bubbles

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ages 6-8 Lava Lamps

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. My DNA Discovery

June 24, Wildlife on the Move 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(Registration required, limited seating.)

June 24, Wildlife on the Move 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(Registration required, limited seating.)

June 24, Wildlife on the Move 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(Registration required, limited seating.)

**Summer teen events**

June 15, 5:30 p.m. Collaborative Donut Pop Art Adult Events

June 16, 6:30 p.m. Trivia Night at OZ — Schitt's Creek TV Show

June 20, 6 p.m. Book Club: The Librarian of Crooked Lane by C.J. Archer

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Children are given colorful pens to write on the Hood County Bookmobile white board.



Children peruse the wide variety of books available inside the Hood County Bookmobile.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

“It's rare to make a purchase of this size and not have any regrets. Keeping that in mind know this; given the chance, we would not change a thing. Thank you Will, Cory, and Justin for doing such a phenomenal job”

Richard

“Daffan is always professional. I have been a customer for over 20 years and have no intention of changing. They are GREAT.”

Karen F

“Got out here in record time same day we called. They're awesome! They should teach classes on customer service!”

Mark F

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Gary G

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Cindy P

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## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 31**

**SEALS SWIM** Team starts May 31, 2023, Monday through Thursday. Please see our webpage, [www.sealsswimteam.org](http://www.sealsswimteam.org), for sign up information or opportunities to help a youth. We love our Hood County community.

**JUNE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1**

**KIWANIS CLUB** will hold its meeting on June 1 at noon at Farina's located at 202 N. Houston St. on the square. The speaker will be Margaret Cohenour, Executive Director of Paluxy River Child Advocacy Center.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

**FREE YOGA** Saturday, June 3 at Open Hearts Sanctuary located at 616 Fall Creek Hwy. Try as many unique classes as you want! 9 a.m. Energizing Yoga. 10:30 a.m. Yin Yoga. 12 p.m. Belly Dancing. 1:30 p.m. Buti Tribal Dance Yoga. 3 p.m. Kundalini Yoga. 4:30 p.m. Sound Bath. For more information call 817-559-3333.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | B6

THE BOOK OF CHARLIE

WISDOM FROM THE REMARKABLE AMERICAN LIFE OF A 109-YEAR-OLD MAN

DAVID VON DREHLE

COURTESY PHOTO

**“The Book of Charlie: 109 Years in the Pursuit of Happiness” by David von Drehle** C.2023, SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$26.00, 208 PAGES.

with a guide who was care-free and open to whatever adventure came his way. Pulling those stories together with perspective and story glue, von Drehle then lends a sense of wonder at the advances of the last century, and a chance for some introspection of your own.

This is a pleasant book, and it's a perfect multi-generational book club pick. For anyone who loves biographies and history together, “The Book of Charlie” is a book to see.

Imagine if you could lock Forrest Gump, Tom Sawyer, and McGuyver in a room for awhile. That's what you get with “The Book of Charlie.” In the beginning, your first inclination may be to dismiss Charlie's stories as a bunch of tall tales, but don't be too hasty. Author David von Drehle promises repeatedly that he fact-checked so, knowing that your leg isn't being pulled, you can relax and enjoy.

That's easy to do: reading about Charlie's life is like taking a personal trip through American history

LIPAN HIGH SCHOOL

# Lipan ISD students had great achievements this past school year



BY GRACE HEAVYSIDE

Grace is a senior student at Lipan High School whose interests include journalism, participating in Student Council, National Honor Society and various FFA events.

As the 2022-2023 school year ends, Lipan Independent School District would like to highlight some of the successes we have had over the past 10 months. From sports to academics, Lipan ISD students and coaches have worked hard and have achieved many awards this school year.

One of the greatest accomplishments was the Basketball State Championships. Lipan was able to make history by winning both the girls and boys 2A Basketball State Championships. The girls' assistant coach Aaron Callway stated, "I am very proud that our seniors get to end on a good note and I am excited for the years to come!" Both the girls and boys have worked hard this year and Lipan is excited for the future.

As the school year ad-

vanced, Lipan saw many successes in more than just sports. Senior Camey Powers is a state champion in not one, but two FFA events. Camey was crowned the State Champion Creed Speaker in December and, along with her team, was named the Horse Evaluation State Champions in April.

"As I start my next chapter, I am so happy that I get to look back on my accomplishments and I am extremely proud of my team." Camey said.

Camey and her team will

go on to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in November.

More recently, Lipan has made an appearance at the State BBQ Championship, the State Golf Tournament, and the State Fishing Championship. Racking up even more success for Lipan, Hanna Gaylor received a third place medal in the Individual Girls Golf State Championship. The Lipan Fishing Team also finished strong at the state competition and are looking forward

to next season.

Lipan High School has been decorated with gold medals and trophies as a result of hard work on the part of students and coaches. There are many seniors graduating this year in Lipan's biggest graduating class in history; however, do not be quick to count Lipan out. The underclassmen are ready to fill the big shoes left by this year's seniors, and Lipan expects even more successes to come.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

**KIWANIS CLUB** will hold its meeting on June 8 at noon at Farina's located at 202 N. Houston St. on the square. The speaker will be Crystal Moore, Executive Director of United Way of Hood County.

### 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://forwardtrainingcenter.org/5th-annual-shoot-for-a-cause-clay-shoot/>

### MONDAY, JUNE 12

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Meet our High School Senior Scholarship Winners. 11:00 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

**THE GRANBURY** Bridge Club will hold a special game of Fun Duplicate with lunch and dessert provided at 11 a.m. to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Donation is \$30; trophies will be awarded to the winners. Location: The Captain's Texas Cottage at 5918 Henslee Court, Granbury. Call to reserve your spot at 817-480-4472. Space is limited.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 15

**KIWANIS CLUB** will hold its

meeting on June 15 at noon at Farina's located at 202 N. Houston St. on the square. The speaker is Sam Houston, Publisher of the Hood County News.

### MONDAY, JUNE 19

**THE GRANBURY** Bridge Club will hold a special game of Fun Duplicate with lunch and dessert provided at 11 a.m. to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Donation is \$30; trophies will be awarded to the winners. Location: The Captain's Texas Cottage at 5918 Henslee Court, Granbury. Call to reserve your spot at 817-480-4472. Space is limited.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 22

**KIWANIS CLUB** will hold its meeting on June 22 at noon at Farina's located at 202 N. Houston St. on the square. The speaker is Shelly Curts-

inger, Director GISD Special Education Program.

### 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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com). Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

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**CINERGY**

ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 26 May 2023 - Thursday, 01 June 2023

**About My Father (PG13)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 9:50AM, 11:45AM, 2:05PM, 4:25PM, 6:45PM, 9:05PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:40AM, 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM.  
Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM

**Fast X (PG13)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:10AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM, 10:10PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.  
Thurs: 11:50AM, 2:50PM, 5:50PM, 8:50PM

**Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG13)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:10PM, 3:25PM, 6:45PM, 10:00PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 4:15PM, 7:35PM.  
Thurs: 10:40AM, 2:00PM, 5:20PM, 8:35PM

**Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse (PG)**  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 8:10PM

**The Boogeyman (PG13)**  
Thurs: 7:00PM, 9:25PM

**The Little Mermaid (PG)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 9:30AM, 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM, 10:00PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:25AM, 11:25AM, 2:25PM, 4:25PM, 5:25PM, 7:25PM, 8:25PM.  
Thurs: 10:35AM, 11:00AM, 4:35PM, 7:35PM

**The Little Mermaid in 3D (PG)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:30PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:25PM.  
Thurs: 1:35PM

**The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG)**  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 9:45AM, 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM.  
Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:35AM, 12:50PM, 3:10PM, 5:30PM, 7:50PM.  
Thurs: 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice  
(882) 260-5920 | [cinergy.com/locations/granbury/](http://cinergy.com/locations/granbury/)

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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### SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on  
May 24 (Puzzle 30).

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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!

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

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# GHS Marine Corps JROTC rifle team hosts “3-Position Pirate Cup Rifle Match”

BY EDEN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

Granbury High School’s Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) hosted the “3-Position Granbury High School - Pirate Cup Rifle Match” May 17-20. The match included approximately 120 participants and attracted more than 100 spectators.

Granbury’s MCJROTC National Record holder Caroline Martin placed first in the Individual Precision bracket. Fellow MCJROTC rifle team members Ashton Arlington took seventh place, and Kameron Wells finished in eighth place. Martin, Arlington, and Wells are three of 11 on an all-female team. Arlington is the only cadet in Granbury High School history to be on the National first place winning team all four years of high school.

Granbury’s MCJROTC Gold Precision Team placed first and the Purple Precision Team placed third in the Team Precision Division.

The “3-Position Pirate Cup Rifle Match” is a sanctioned match. Granbury hosts six or seven such matches a year. In Granbury the Rifle Team participants are members of the high school’s Marine Corps JROTC but not all their competitors are JROTC, and many teams travel from some distance to participate.

A Houston team, known as the “Houston Hotshots,” originally featured four homeschooled girls. The team is now made up of five girls and three boys. In Granbury’s “Pirate Cup” the “Hotshots” garnered a second place award in Team

Precision.

“Not that many kids are involved in shooting sports at this level,” Olivia Schammel’s father, Steve Schammel said. “My daughter began in fifth grade. She started with BB guns, and this was the progression.”

Olivia Schammel claimed second in the “Pirate Cup” in Individual Precision.

“My oldest daughter studied microbiology at Ohio State on a (rifle sport) scholarship,” said Keith Pruden, Houston “Hotshots” coach and parent of three.

Pruden’s youngest, MacKenzie, is following suit. She placed third in Individual Precision in the “Pirate Cup.”

The “Hot Shots” spend about 15 hours a week practicing, and when travel is added in the “Hotshots” parents felt homeschooling made this commitment more workable.

“Our MCJROTC Rifle Team spends at least 15 hours a week and sometimes even 20,” civilian rifle coach John Becker said. “It is a program that takes a high level of commitment and discipline.”

“The Granbury program is blessed to have both the Precision and Sporter Division,” Pruden said. “Only a few schools have



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Pirate Cup Rifle Match contestants (from left) Olivia Schammel (Houston Hot Shots), Ashton Arlington (Granbury MCJROTC), Elisa Boozer (Oklahoma Sharpshooters), Brooklyn Reames (Joshua NJROTC), and Caroline Martin (Granbury MCJROTC) in the final minutes of Saturday’s Precision Finals.

the sort of program that Granbury does. Our range, our equipment. Very few have the level of facility that we do here,” said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Scott Casey, director of the MCJROTC program at GHS.

Becker was so impressed with the program at GHS that he moved his family to Granbury from Houston.

Becker’s son Philip Becker graduated in 2020 from Granbury High School and the MCJROTC program. He now studies aerospace at Ohio State University on a rifle team scholarship.

“I am the parent who never left,” Becker joked.

First Sergeant (Ret.) Johnny Rositas III rounds out the MCJROTC instructor team at GHS.



Ashton Arlington, Kennedy Wells, Caroline Martin, and Viola Allen brought home 1st Place Team Precision Class honors in the 2023 Pirate Cup Rifle Match.

*Thank You!*

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