



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

GROWING PAINS PLEASE SEE PAGE | A5

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, June 17, 2023]

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Feds, defense say SoRelle not competent to stand trial

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

WUSA9, a television station in Washington, D.C. reported on Thursday, June 8, that evaluators hired by the government and defense have determined that former Granbury attorney and former general counsel for the Oath Keepers

militia Kellye SoRelle, charged in connection to the January 6 attack on the Capitol, is not currently competent to stand trial.

According to the media outlet, SoRelle's public defender, Horatio Aldredge, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexandra Hughes told U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta

they had been told by separate evaluators that SoRelle is not currently competent to stand trial.

Her trial with co-defendants Donovan Crowl and James Beeks was set for July 10.

SoRelle has been free on a personal recognizance bond since her arrest last September.

According to WUSA9, Hughes was not able to provide a timeframe for when SoRelle might be restored to competency.

Mehta did not issue an official ruling as to SoRelle's competence. He asked the DOJ and Aldredge to come back the following week for another hearing to finalize the issue.

According to the D.C. television station, SoRelle waived her appearance at the June 8 hearing and was not present.

The Hood County News reached out to Aldredge but he did not respond by press time.

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SoRelle

The radicalization of Kellye SoRelle



COURTESY OF SHELBY TAUBER | REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Concerns for the mental health of then-Granbury attorney Kellye SoRelle grew around the time she is believed to have become associated with the Oath Keepers and the militia's founder, Elmer Stewart Rhodes III. Attorneys for SoRelle and the federal government say that independent evaluators have deemed her not competent to stand trial for her alleged role in the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

Those who knew the Oath Keepers' general counsel say they saw storm clouds of mental illness gathering

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

"The storm! The storm arrived!" The voice, seemingly that of Granbury attorney Kellye SoRelle, narrates a video posted on her Facebook page of supporters of then-President Donald J. Trump at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"The storm" is a term frequently used by believers of QAnon, a political conspiracy theory and movement whose origins date back to October 2017. Embraced by the far right, believers maintain that cannibalistic pedophiles that include prominent Democrats and Hollywood figures operate a global child sex trafficking ring that conspired against Trump.

The hours-long attack on the Capitol, during which police officers were assaulted and some were seriously injured, was aimed at impeding the ratification of electoral votes.

Supporters hoped to prevent Democrat Joe Biden from being sworn in as president. They believed Trump's allegations of widespread voter fraud even though judges in more

than 60 cases determined that the allegations were without merit.

The storm's arrival at the Capitol that day reportedly was intended to herald a cataclysmic event in which Trump would vanquish his foes and Democrats would be arrested and publicly executed. Even Trump's loyal vice president Mike Pence was targeted after he refused to bow to pressure to reject electoral votes for Biden. A noose hanging from a gallows appeared on the Capitol grounds amid chants of "Hang Mike Pence!"

Despite the chaos and violence of that day, the storm did not arrive, at least not in the way that QAnon adherents had hoped. The certification of electoral votes was delayed but did occur, and Biden was sworn in as



COURTESY PHOTO

Kellye SoRelle, top, second from left, clowns around with high school friends in Lubbock. A longtime family friend painted a picture of a young woman with promise who was popular among her peers.

president two weeks later.

Approximately 1,000 people have been charged with crimes in connection to Jan. 6. Some struck plea deals, agreeing to cooperate with investigators looking to net bigger fish.

For more than a year, while others were arrested and charged, SoRelle remained free and defiantly vocal despite having been there that day. Videos posted on her Facebook page indicated that she was right

there in the thick of things.

"She's all but bragging about being an organizer and doing what she can to assist in stopping the peaceful transfer of power," said Nick Poehl, an attorney in South Texas.

The tempest that seemingly everyone but SoRelle saw barreling toward her arrived on Sept. 1 of last year when the then-43-year-old mother of four was arrested in Junction, a town in Kimble

PLEASE SEE SORELLE | A4

City of Granbury may offer five internships for college students

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Five college students may get an opportunity during the upcoming academic year to gain practical experience interning for the city of Granbury.

The paid practicums are included in the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year that was prepared by city staff, but the City Council has not yet approved it. The council will vote to adopt a budget in September, and could make changes before then.

Neither the mayor nor any members of the council expressed opposition to the internship program during the budget workshop held Monday, June 5 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

Internships are an element of the strategic goals adopted by the City Council last year. They are viewed as a way to increase the city's employee candidate pool.

If the council agrees, there will be one planning intern, one engineering intern, one in the Economic Development department, and two in the Communications department.

In Communications, one student will focus on graph-

PLEASE SEE INTERNS | A2

County hears jail presentation from Medina County judge

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

As the Hood County Commissioners Court continues to examine how best to handle the problem of an aging, inadequate county jail, its members held a workshop last week to hear how Medina County navigated a similar challenge.

Keith Lutz, the county judge for Medina County in South Texas, traveled to Granbury to give a presentation to the Commissioners Court and to respond to questions during the workshop held Thursday, June 8 at the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center.

The workshop lasted about an hour and 15 minutes. No action was taken.

Those present were County Judge Ron Massingill, Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, and Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle.

Lutz, Medina County's former fire marshal and emergency manager, is in his first term as county judge. He said that Medina County has undertaken construction of both a new county jail and a sizable courthouse annex addition.

The jail is about 90 days from being completed, he said. Lutz provided court members with a written timeline of his county's jail project and also offered some advice.

"If you're serious about the project, you've got to be serious about the planning," he stated, adding that "the goal needs to be zero change orders."

He advised the court to enlist a "passionate" county employee "who's allowed whatever time it takes" to oversee "every aspect" of the project.

Lutz also advised doing the project right the first time. "We must provide the latest and greatest to the team that's going to run the facility," he said.

The Commissioners Court has not yet made any formal decisions about whether to build a new jail.

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137TH YEAR, NO. 81

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 32 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 32 pages

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CHAMBER NEWS

Granbury Young Professionals Group Ignites Excitement and Growth

By Holly Martin, Granbury Chamber of Commerce General Manager

In a rapidly evolving business environment, young professionals are seeking avenues to connect, learn, and make a meaningful impact. Look no further than the Granbury Young Professionals (GYP) group, a dynamic force within the Granbury Chamber of Commerce that is redefining what it means to be a young professional in this thriving community.

With an unwavering commitment to professional growth, networking, and community engagement, the GYP group has become a hotbed of innovation and collaboration. Attracting professionals from diverse industries, the GYP group provides a supportive platform for young talents to forge invaluable connections and unlock their full potential.

What sets GYP apart is its unique approach to fostering growth through a wide range of captivating programs. GYPs offer a Lunch-n-Learn series, "Bites & Business Insights", which brings together industry leaders and local icons for engaging talks and interactive sessions. The recent event featuring Leta Andrews, the legendary basketball coach, proved to be a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired and hungry for more. Plus, our GYP's spring networking after-hours social at Warren's Backyard brought vibrant energy and a wave of fresh connections and opportunities.

But GYP doesn't stop at inspiring lunches and networking socials. What truly makes GYP special is its unwavering dedication to community engagement. Recognizing that successful professionals have a responsibility to give back, GYP organizes impactful volunteer initiatives that benefit local charities and organizations. Through these endeavors, GYP members not only make a difference in the community but also forge lifelong friendships and partnerships.

As the GYP's reputation continues to grow, so does its membership. The group's ambitious goal is to double its membership within the next year, attracting a wider range of professionals who are passionate about making an impact. With a renewed focus on offering tailored resources, mentorship opportunities, and business support, GYP is poised to become the go-to organization for aspiring young professionals in Granbury and Hood County.

So, if you're a young professional seeking an empowering community that will propel your career forward, Granbury Young Professionals at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is the place for you! Join the ranks of forward-thinking individuals who are driving change, shaping the future, and leaving an indelible mark on the Granbury business community.

For more information on the Granbury Young Professionals program and how to get involved, please visit the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's official website at www.granburychamber.com or contact Maegan Derryberry, the Director of Events & Membership, at maegan@granburychamber.com.

County Brush Yard closed until further notice

From staff reports

The county's Brush Yard at 1510 Weatherford Highway will remain closed until further notice due to unforeseen repairs,

according to Road Operations Director Donald Linney.

He said that updates will be posted on the county's website, www.co.hood.tx.us, and on the Hood County Facebook page,

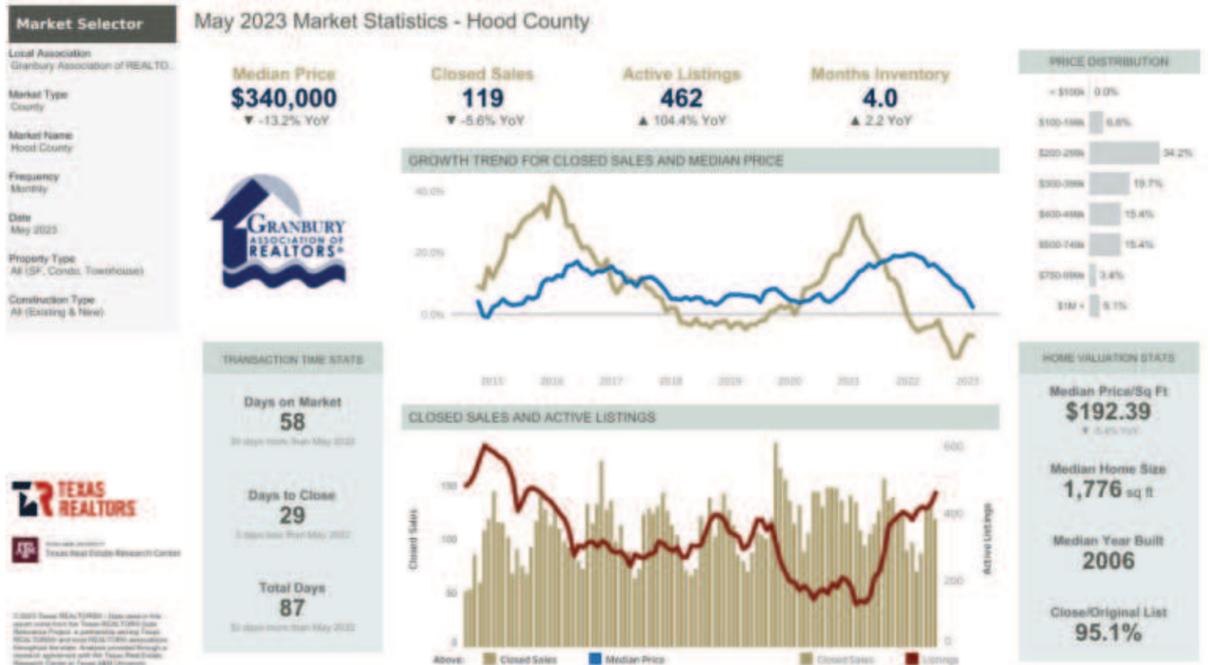
and also provided to the Hood County News.

Linney announced last month that the Brush Yard would be closed on May 24 and 31 so that "much needed" repairs

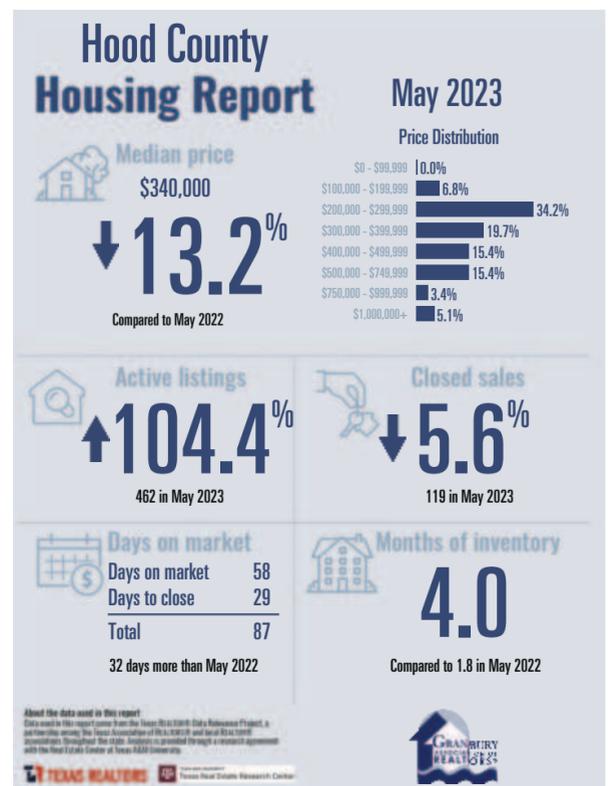
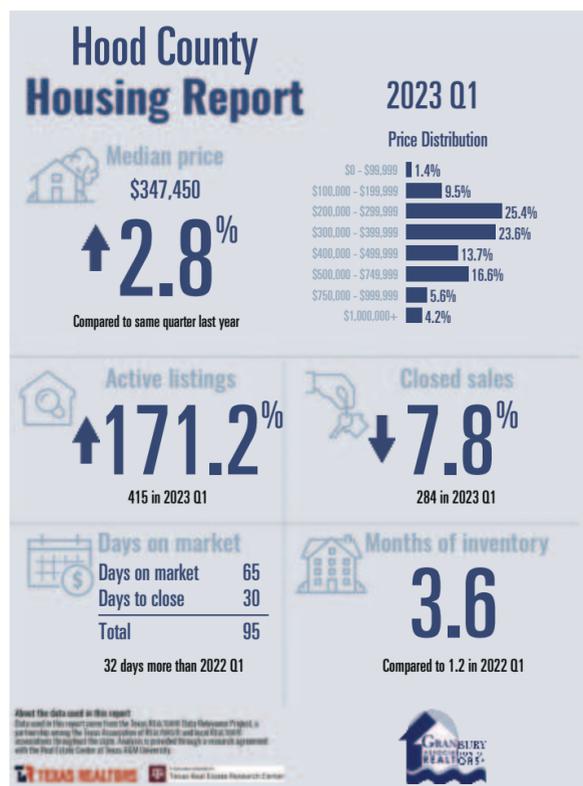
could be done to the grinder.

During normal operations, the Brush Yard is open to the public for a fee every Wednesday.

GRANBURY BOARD OF REALTORS



The top graphic shows the housing market statistics for May 2023 in Hood County. Bottom left shows the 1st quarter housing report for Hood County. Bottom right shows the housing report for May 2023 in Hood County.



RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

B & S Southern Sign & Crane Services, located at 6530 W US Hwy 377, Suite 112 Tolar, Tx 76476. Anchor Storage, located at 6600 W US Hwy 377 Tolar, Tx 76476. Ribbon Cutting for the Relocation of B & S Southern Sign & Crane Services and the Grand Opening of Anchor Storage. Owners for both businesses: Brian and Summer Cox.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bluebonnet Meat Company, located at 2620 W. Highland Dr. Granbury, 76049. Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening. Owners: Brad and Debra Parish, Brian and April Blakey, and Bobby and Beth Johnson.

PLEASE SEE **RIBBON CUTTINGS** | A12

INTERNS

FROM PAGE A1

ics, working with multiple city departments under the supervision of Communications Manager

Jeff Newpher, and the other will gain experience with TV production.

According to Human Resources Manager Tracie Sorrells, the interns will be posted, along with regular job openings and will likely

be posted a few weeks prior to the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

In an email to the Hood County News, Sorrells stated that pay will probably be \$15 per hour for approximately 20 hours per week but could

vary.

Newpher said he spoke about the city's planned internship program to university leadership at Tarleton State University and to 15 senior students in the Advanced Studio Production

class taught by Knut Hybinette, associate professor of game design, when he visited TSU's Stephenville campus in March and April.

The interns, however, that the interns will be open to any college student, not

just those attending TSU.

Newpher said the city has offered internships before, but never this many.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Doing what is right should have no party affiliation



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.

The Chinese have an expression of hope, "May you live in interesting times!" I would think with the impeachment of the Texas Attorney General and a criminal indictment being filed against the former President of the United States this past few weeks, we may have accomplished the goal of existing in interesting times. Importantly, interesting does not necessarily mean good.

I long for the days when most voters had a moral compass and did what was "right" irrespective of candidate or party. If a politician lied, they were ostracized. If they cheated on their taxes, or their wife, they were immediately discarded from consideration as a candidate. If they broke the law, they were voted out, removed from office, prosecuted, and they

suffered the shame of being held up to public ridicule. I am old enough to remember when Spiro Agnew was vice president. When it came to light, he had acted illegally, there was little if any discussion of party politics. The public called for his removal and the plea came from across the political landscape. What he did was wrong, and the American people

were not going to tolerate a law breaker to be in the nation's second highest office.

It seems like nowadays there are two standards for political conduct, the one a person holds their party to, and alternatively, the standard they have for everybody else. If a politician does something which is clearly wrong, illegal, or immoral, it is still OK if the politician belongs to the party a person supports. On the other hand, no matter what the infraction is, if a politician in the opposing party makes the slightest transgression, they should be hauled before the bench and immediately guillotined. I see this type of conduct from both sides of the aisle and if we do not stop such behavior, I fear for the future of our nation. Without the rule of law, we have nothing more than a banana republic.

Maybe I am old fashioned. Maybe I was raised with some good old Texas horse sense, but "wrong" is not determined by par-

ty affiliation, it is determined by the actions and the rule of law. Do not prejudice those charged with wrongdoing until the evidence is presented. Alternatively, those whose defense is centered on unsubstantiated allegations of unfairness uttered without a scintilla of evidence, should be discounted as nothing more than political hacks trying to hide from the facts and confuse the issue.

It should not matter if the wrong doer is a democrat or a republican. It should not matter if they are a man or a woman, black or white, young or old. Politicians who commit crimes should be prosecuted and if found guilty, eliminated from being in office. The American people deserve integrity in our leaders. We deserve statesmen to hold our public offices. We deserve honor in our leaders and our institutions.

The statue of Lady Justice has her eyes covered, because justice is intended to be blind to the identity of the defendant. It should

not matter if they are an office holder or whether they are disenfranchised. Our country is best when the rule of law applies to all: Equally and fairly, and without prejudice or passion.

For me, I will wait for the evidence to be presented. I will not make up my mind until I see and hear the evidence. To do otherwise is to not follow the constitution and runs contrary to the values which Americans have fought and died for. We must be fair, but we must not be blind to facts just because we might not like the political consequences of those findings. We must also hold everyone to the same standard of behavior.

Thought for the day: Justice is the handmaiden of truth and when truth dies, justice is buried with it.

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

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Vicki Hamrick

Say hello to our neighbor, Vicki Hamrick!

Meet Miss Vicki! For the entirety of Vicki Hamrick's 42 years of residing in Granbury, she has shared her childhood passions for dance and swimming with the children of Hood County. As owner and operator of Miss Vicki's School of Dance, Hamrick's winter months (from Labor Day to Memorial Day) are spent teaching the joy of dance. Her summer months are at the poolside as a long-time SEALS Swim Team coach. Vicki raised three "wonderful" children here, who have blessed her with seven grandchildren. Vicki says reading the Hood County News gives her a familiar hometown feeling. Hamrick loves reading the Hood County News to catch up on school news. "All the schools are important. Recognizing them helps make a great community," she said.

D.A.: Bond set \$1 million for man accused in child sex case

From Staff Reports

Bond has been set at \$1 million for a 34-year-old man after he was booked into the Hood County Jail on bond violation charges involving child sex crimes, according to Hood County District Attorney Ryan Sinclair.

Joshua Lee Lawrence, whose residence is listed in the Hays County town of Dripping Springs, had been booked into the Travis County Jail in Austin after being arrested on May 25. The Hood County Jail roster listing shows Lawrence was in violation of bond of one first-degree felony count and one second-degree felony charge.

Sinclair noted that the case was "worked by the Child Exploitation Unit in the District Attorney's office, and that both of those felony incidents oc-

curred in Hood County. The charges were "Trafficking of a Child," (first-degree felony) and "Sexual Assault of a Child," (second-degree felony) according to Sinclair's email.

"He bonded on both of those charges, and then was subsequently charged in Travis County with Online Solicitation of a Minor," Sinclair stated in an email to the Hood County News. "My office then filed a motion to revoke the defendant's bonds based on the new Travis County arrest. The defendant was then re-arrested, and subsequently transported to Hood County. He was in court this week (June 8) to get another bond set for his Hood County cases."

Sinclair noted in the email that, at the June 8 hearing, he "asked that the

court reset the bond sufficiently high so as to guarantee the safety of the victim and the community and asked the court to take into consideration the fact that the defendant had been arrested in Travis County for another charge involving a child sex offense.

The D.A. added that 355th District Court Judge Bryan Bufkin "reset the bond at \$1,000,000.00. Bufkin also ordered that, if the defendant makes the \$1,000,000 bond, then he shall have no contact with any children under the age of 18, no contact with the victim or the victim's family members, and that he must wear an ankle monitor if he ever makes the \$1,000,000 bond. Judge Bufkin also prohibited the defendant from going to any place frequented by children."

For now, city may throw cold water on new pool, aquatic center

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

In March of last year, the city of Granbury sought public input on swimming pool amenities through a community meeting and online survey. What did the public desire most? Cool water slides? Climbing walls? A lazy river?

The city may indeed someday place a new pool facility on the ballot for voters to decide, but it may not be anytime soon.

The proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget prepared by City Manager Chris Coffman and city staff includes spending \$60,000 from the General Fund to refinish the existing public pool at the Dana Vollmer Swim Center, located near the City Park at 301 N. Park St.

The facility, which features a 4,280-square-foot, 196,000-gallon pool with six 75-foot swimming lanes, is aging and needs multiple repairs and upgrades.

The city's outreach last year regarding pool amenities was in line with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that the City Council had adopted two years earlier.

During those discussions, the city contracted with Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects and Councilman-Hunsaker to conduct an aquatic study for the Dana Vollmer facility, which is named after the former Granbury resident and competitive swimmer who is a five-time Olympic gold medalist and former world record-holder.

While the replastering fix proposed in the upcoming fiscal year budget

may be disappointing to some who would love a bigger, better public pool, the city's hardline budget preparations were done with an eye toward keeping Granbury's property tax rates among the lowest in the region.

Those efforts did result in a proposed tax rate that is the same as this year's, .38 cents per \$100 valuation. However, since appraisals are up 15%, according to the city, homeowners will nevertheless pay more.

The Hood Central Appraisal District, not the city or other taxing entities, determines property valuations.

It is possible that the budget will be amended prior to its adoption by the City Council in September.

The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

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CORRECTION

In the June 10 edition of the HCN, the date of the Second Chance Farm's Summer of Love Party was incorrect. The party is set from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, at Warren's Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Highway.



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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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10 a.m. Wednesday

OUR MISSION: The Hood County News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

CALENDAR

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 Curtsinger, Director GISD Special Education Program.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District Board of Directors will hold a meeting on Friday, June 23, at noon. For more information call 817-579-3200.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 Meeting monthly the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall 3409 Davis Rd. Granbury, Tx. 76049. Chow is at 18:00 meeting at 19:00. Marines, FMF Navy Corpsman/ Navy Chaplains Memberships available. Associate memberships also available. All hands welcome. Next meeting is June 29th. Semper Fidelis. 682-498-3250

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



SORELLE

FROM PAGE A1

County, for her alleged role in the attack on the Capitol.

The four-count indictment of SoRelle by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia included charges of tampering with evidence, obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, and being inside the Capitol during the insurrection.

Some close to SoRelle told the Hood County News they became concerned as she grew increasingly radical and appeared to embrace QAnon. Her social media accounts featured images and buzz words connected to the conspiracy movement.

At some point during her transformation, SoRelle connected with Oath Keepers, an organization whose members include current and former military, law enforcement, and emergency personnel.

The FBI describes Oath Keepers as an anti-government militia movement. The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies Oath Keepers as an organization that engages in vigilante justice and is "based on a set of baseless conspiracy theories about the federal government working to destroy American liberties."

SoRelle became the Oath Keepers' general counsel and a close associate of the group's founder, Elmer Stewart Rhodes III.

Her law degree elevated her importance among the far right. She shared platforms with Rhodes at political rallies, a microphone magnifying her voice to those eager to hear what she had to say.

The former prosecutor made national news for her work in support of Trump and was featured in podcasts. Her Twitter followers grew to more than 16,000.

SoRelle appeared to have found her calling but seemed oblivious to the dangers it carried.

In September 2021, four months after federal agents seized Rhodes' cell phone as part of their investigation, SoRelle's own iPhone was con-

fiscated following a meeting with two FBI agents at Kroger Marketplace near her rented residence in Granbury.

Seizing a lawyer's cell phone is a serious matter and involves special protocols within the justice department, but SoRelle seemed more annoyed than frightened by that foreboding development.

"There's so much stuff in there," she wrote in a message to HuffPost, seemingly missing the irony.

On Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, the walls closed in tighter.

Rhodes was arrested by the

Rhodes was convicted last November of seditious conspiracy. Last month, he was sentenced to serve 18 years in federal prison.

The militia leader's arrest and his denial of bail marked a significant escalation in the probe of Jan. 6, yet if SoRelle was concerned that she might get swept up in the federal government's dragnet she did not show it publicly.

The day after Rhodes was locked up in the Fannin County Jail, she announced that she would serve as acting president of the Oath Keepers until he was

Like others, they feel anger over her alleged actions to overturn an election and believe that accountability is in order. But prison? They're not so sure.

"I think," said Poehl, "she needs to be in a hospital."

STORM CLOUDS GATHERING

Kellye Crump grew up in the Texas Panhandle where her grandmother, Jennie Pair, who taught in the Lubbock school district, was instrumental in raising her. This is according to "Elaine," a woman who has known SoRelle and her family for years. She asked that her real name not be used.

Crump attended Lubbock High School and may have played in the band. Elaine thinks she remembers her jokingly referring to herself as a "band nerd," or something to that effect.

The 1997 LHS graduate went on to attend Oklahoma City University School of Law. She met fellow student Jeremy SoRelle, who is from Cleburne.

Crump had always been "engaging and charming," Elaine said, and was "the darling of their law school cohort."

Kellye and Jeremy married, and Kellye, who took the SoRelle name, gave birth to their twin daughters while still a law student.

According to Elaine, staff in the dean's office babysat the infants so that their mother could finish law school.

Kellye SoRelle graduated in 2005 and became certified to practice law in Texas in 2006. Elaine said that she passed the bar on her first try.

In 2011, SoRelle landed a job as an assistant district attorney in Cameron County, the southernmost county in Texas. It includes South Padre Island.

According to Elaine, she did well there.

"If you were to speak to anyone who knew Kellye from her high school days, her college days, her early legal career days, I feel like you could talk to anybody that she knew when she worked down on the border and anybody would say they would define Kellye as someone who had a lifetime of professional success and a lifetime of

PLEASE SEE **SORELLE** | A7

"If you were to speak to anyone who knew Kellye from her high school days, her college days, her early legal career days, I feel like you could talk to anybody that she knew when she worked down on the border and anybody would say they would define Kellye as someone who had a lifetime of professional success and a lifetime of achievement."

"ELAINE"

Longtime family friend

FBI at a friend's house in Little Elm in Denton County. He and 10 other Oath Keepers were charged with seditious conspiracy and other charges. Seditious conspiracy is a rarely charged crime that carries the possibility of 20 years in prison.

A news helicopter captured the scene at the site of Rhodes' surrender, where there were multiple federal agents. Their vehicles blocked the driveway and both directions of the street.

Rhodes, a former paratrooper, had previously lived in Montana and Nevada, but the 32-page indictment listed a different place of residence for him: Granbury, Texas.

When United States Magistrate Judge Kimberly C. Priest Johnson issued an order on Wednesday, Jan. 26, for Rhodes to remain jailed pending trial, her order noted that the defendant "reports that he is currently in a relationship with Kellye SoRelle" and that he had been living with SoRelle in Granbury.

released.

She attended his first hearing in federal court in Plano where he appeared in shackles, and then spoke with a gaggle of reporters outside the building afterward.

The Twitter account of Capitol Terrorists Exposers sent out a mocking tweet that included photos of SoRelle in the center of the media scrum.

"Look at you looking like a boss @kellyesorelle! Nails on fleek, killer bangs and shady shades. I can brag I know you now you're a celeb."

Someone posted on Facebook a link to an article in Rolling Stone magazine about SoRelle taking charge of the Oath Keepers and quoted a line from Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show's song "Cover of the Rolling Stone."

"Wanna see my picture on the cover, wanna buy five copies for my mother."

Some who know SoRelle agree that she seemed to be craving attention and seeking the lime-light against her best interest.

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GROWING PAINS — INTERLUDE

Lack of planning led to Uri's crippling of state's electrical grid, imperiling Hood County

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Five days in February 2021 thrust Texas into the national spotlight and left millions of Texans struggling against life-threatening hardship.

Sub-zero temperatures brought by Winter Storm Uri and failure of the state's power grid highlighted the importance of reliable infrastructure and competent leadership.

For many Hood County residents, rolling blackouts intended to relieve the state's over-burdened power grid didn't seem to roll much at all. They landed and stayed put for hours and, in many cases, days. Some Texas residents experienced outages that stretched more than 48 hours.

Lives were endangered as homes were left without heat in freezing temperatures. Lack of electrical power posed a risk to those who relied on home oxygen machines, and dying cell phones threatened to leave many, including the elderly, without a lifeline.

Lack of heat translated to frozen water pipes, some of which burst.

Busted pipes resulted in leaks, and the leaks lowered pressure in water storage tanks. The lower pressure and blackouts that affected water treatment processes resulted in water providers having



DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

State leaders in Texas were warned that the state's electricity infrastructure needed to be winterized. In 2021, their failure to heed those warnings led to disaster.

to issue boil water notices throughout the county.

Customers of the city of Granbury's electric and water services fared best during the days-long ordeal. They were spared from the rolling blackouts, which meant that their heat stayed on and their water pipes were better protected.

"There were a few overloaded circuits in isolated areas of Granbury which led to temporary outages, but none of the widespread or prolonged issues felt by other area residents," said Kenneth Causey, the city's director of electrical dis-

tribution. "There are at least two reasons why: our electrical system is in good shape and our electrical load isn't as high as other nearby systems."

Many Hood County residents live outside the Granbury city limits, though, and, for them, those days in February seemed endless.

Uri's impact on the state's electricity generators was across the board. Natural gas, coal and nuclear plants were knocked offline, and wind turbines froze. According to ERCOT, the state's main sources of generating capacity are natural gas,

wind, coal, nuclear, solar, and hydroelectric or biomass-fired units.

Texas needed help but was unable to ask for it. Since the 1990s, state lawmakers have prided themselves in the fact that the state has an independent electrical grid free from federal regulation. Deregulation came with a price, though. Electric rates rose 64% between 1999 and 2007, and since the network is not part of the nation's east or west electrical grids, there was no cavalry to come to the Lone Star State's rescue when Uri hit with force.

Collapse of the Texas power grid brought embarrassing national news coverage and set off a chain reaction of finger pointing.

Six of ERCOT's 15 board members resigned. DeAnn Walker, chair of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, also quit, blaming the Texas Railroad Commission, among others. ERCOT's board fired CEO Bill Magness. Gov. Greg Abbott, ignoring his own culpability, demanded legislative reform and an investigation of ERCOT. Lawsuits were filed against ERCOT blaming the non-profit agency for deaths and devastation caused by the winter storm.

Making matters worse was that much of the suffering had likely been avoidable.

After a major winter storm caused blackouts in Texas in 2011, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) warned that the state's electricity infrastructure should be winterized. The warning went unheeded.

ERCOT and its regulator, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, did not mandate winterization. The state's governors, Rick Perry and his successor, Abbott, also did not act.

Ten years later, the failure of state leaders to protect the electrical grid led to catastrophic consequences.

GROWING PAINS — PART FOUR

With the SWATS plant unprotected against Uri, Stefan Dollins and his crew leaned on friends, neighbors

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Stefan Dollins' cell phone erupted at 3 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 jolting him awake in his waterfront home in DeCordova. Historic Winter Storm Uri had slammed the entire state of Texas that weekend, bringing frigid temperatures, snow, and ice. Virtually every Texan was about to find out, if they hadn't already, that the storm also brought widespread hardship. For some, it carried outright peril.

On the other end of the phone line was an operator at the Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency (BRPUA), a Surface Water and Treatment System (SWATS) plant off Fall Creek Highway. The plant provides clean water to about 40,000 customers of the Acton Municipal Utility District (AMUD) and the Johnson County Special Utility District (JCSUD).

The 40-acre complex is typically referred to as the SWATS plant.

As general manager, Stefan is responsible for solving problems and the employee was calling to alert him to a big one: the plant was in danger of freezing.

For the first time since the facility went online in 1989, a power outage caused by the state's overwhelmed electrical grid was threatening to cripple the plant's ability to operate.

It had never occurred to anyone involved in the SWATS' operation that the plant might not be protected from rolling electrical blackouts during extreme weather. Entities that are considered vital, such as hospitals, receive such protection.

The employee on the phone told Stefan that the outage oddly was affecting only one side of the plant. There was electricity on the other side, but juice was needed throughout the entire complex if the system was going to be able to continue treating and distributing clean drinking water.

Stefan hurriedly dressed, grabbed his keys, and climbed into

the cab of his 2015 four-wheel drive Chevrolet truck. The whiteness of the truck blended with Uri's snow and ice as he drove down narrow, winding Fall Creek Highway toward the SWATS facility on Matlock Road.

For the next three days, Stefan and others - plant employees, as well as workers with AMUD and JCSUD - worked around the clock to thaw and then re-thaw pipes. They borrowed as many diesel heaters and tarps as they could find.

Even Stefan's fellow church members at Stonewater's Tolar campus did what they could to help. Stefan and his wife Heather, a teacher at STARS Accelerated High School, were part of a launch team at Stonewater's Granbury campus that helped start the Tolar church. They forged such strong friendships that they continued attending services there even after their two-year commitment ended.

At the SWATS plant, those frigid days in February were "a nightmare," Stefan said. After every electrical outage, the crew would feverishly work to get the plant up and running again, only for another rolling blackout to hit.

"We had a 36-inch header line that was completely frozen solid," Stefan said. "My pumps couldn't pump against that."

The SWATS crew was further hampered by the fact that AMUD and JCSUD customers began filling their bathtubs so they would have a



DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

During the awful days of Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, the elbow grease of SWATS General Manager Stefan Dollins and his crew kept clean water flowing to 40,000 customers.

"We had a 36-inch header line that was completely frozen solid. My pumps couldn't pump against that."

STEFAN DOLLINS

supply of water, and they kept their faucets running in hopes of keeping their pipes from freezing and possibly bursting.

Water levels in the storage tanks started dropping due to the water usage as crew members frantically worked to repair pipes and plug leaks. Computer servers that helped run the complex were also damaged by the winter storm.

"Every pipe we had was busted — tons of fittings and pipes," Stefan said. "We worked long-hour shifts 'round-the-clock fixing pipes."

The team's elbow grease and tireless tenacity paid off. The SWATS crew was able to get the plant back to producing water, and there were no water quality violations from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). (Boil water notices were issued, but that happens when low tank levels affect water pressure. It had nothing to do with water quality, Stefan noted.)

After those awful days, Stefan worked with United Co-op to place the SWATS plant onto the protected status list for the power grid. He made sure to get written proof of the designation, and he presented it to the BRPUA board.

God willing, what happened in February 2021 at the SWATS plant

will never happen there again.

For as long as he can remember, Stefan has been drawn to water. He doesn't know why, exactly. Maybe it has something to do with memories of fishing with his dad and grandparents, or the fun-filled summers he spent on Possum Kingdom Lake water skiing and boating.

"It's always been part of my life and my kids' life," said Stefan, who shares a son and a daughter with his wife, whom he has known since 5th grade. Taylor and Teresa are now grown.

Stefan grew up in Cloudcroft, New Mexico but has family members who live in the Possum Kingdom area. That's where he headed after graduating from high school and marrying Heather. At 19, he started his own fishing tour guide service at Possum Kingdom Lake. Located mostly in Palo Pinto County, the lake has been voted one of the most picturesque in Texas.

Operating a fishing tour guide business wasn't all beer and sunshine. It was a lot of work, a lot of long days in boiling temperatures, and off-season months when hardly any money was coming in. Luckily, Heather had a teaching job.

"It's a tough way to make a living," he said.

Stefan never really had to decide whether to continue that career path because golden algae made the decision for him. In January

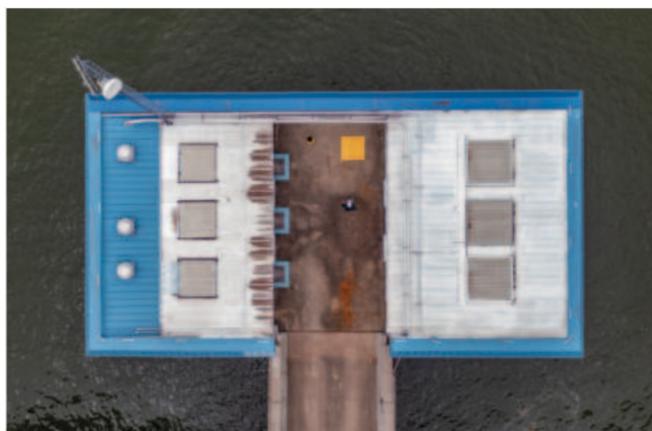
2001, golden algae caused a major fish kill at Possum Kingdom Lake as well as at Lake Granbury, Lake Whitney and areas of the river between the reservoirs.

Stefan began looking at other career options. The path he chose circled back to water.

The same year that golden algae killed his business and 95% of the fish at Possum Kingdom, Stefan began taking courses in environmental science technology at Texas State Technical College in Breckenridge. He was elected president of the Student Government there. During the spring semester in 2003 he interned with the West Central Texas Municipal Water District in Breckenridge.

From there, Stefan went to TALEM, Inc. laborites in Fort Worth, working there from May 2003 to November 2006 as client service coordinator, then senior environmental field coordinator.

Stefan's next move on the career ladder was to the city of Granbury's public works department. His first title was water/wastewater treatment operator 1, followed by water



Raw water is pumped to the SWATS plant through an intake structure in the river channel that is about 40 feet deep.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

City Council progresses LGMC's freestanding ER

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Lake Granbury Medical Center's plans for a free-standing emergency facility at U.S. Highway 377 and Fall Creek Highway are progressing with help from the Granbury City Council.

At the council's regular meeting on Tuesday, June 6, the elected officials approved a variance and a preliminary plat for Granbury Hospital Corporation's almost 64-acre tract addressed as 5601 E. U.S. Highway 377.

"This has been a long time coming," City Manager Chris Coffman said in kicking off the discussion. He said that LGMC "has been through four hospital administrators" and that the city was "excited to get to this point."

Following Coffman's brief comments, details about the variance and preliminary plat were provided by Community Development Director Kira Wauwie. No questions were posed by council members following Wauwie's presentation, and no one signed up to speak during the public hearing.

Both requests by the Granbury Hospital Corporation were unanimously approved.

The hospital announced plans for a 13-acre emergency care site on the Fort Worth side of

the county earlier this year. Construction is expected to be completed next summer.

The \$15 million, 10,000-square-foot building will have a major treatment room, a decontamination room, triage, an onsite laboratory, diagnostic imaging services, areas where patients can await test results, and seven exam rooms, including a negative airflow room to contain the spread of airborne infections. There will be a parking lot large enough for a medical helicopter to land.

LGMC's additional, freestanding ER on the northeast side of town will serve patients with emergency and potentially life-threatening conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, head injuries, fractures, abdominal pain, respiratory issues, and more.

The facility will accept the same insurance plans as LGMC's main campus, including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid.

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GROWING PAINS — PART FOUR

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treatment foreman.

He quit the city job in 2017 to become senior operator for the BRPUA, or the SWATS plant.

The plant was built by the Brazos River Authority and owned by the BRA for years until it was purchased by AMUD and JCSUD in June 2012. The bonds will be paid this year, Stefan said. AMUD and JCSUD are not only the plant's owners; the entities are also its only customers.

The plant can produce up to 13 million gallons of treated water per day. There is a staff of 15 who work staggered shifts, including weekends and holidays. Two of the current employees were part of the original crew when the plant went online 34 years ago.

The SWATS facility consists of a traditional filtered water operation and an Ultra Filtration and Reverse Osmosis operation. Raw water is pumped through an intake structure that is about 40 feet deep and is in the river channel. The pump location, behind a locked gate a short drive from the SWATS plant, offers a sweeping

view of Lake Granbury.

The BRPUA has five board members to whom Stefan reports. Currently there are three board members from the AMUD board and two from the JCSUD board. Board members for AMUD and JCSUD are elected by voters in their service areas, and they appoint members to the BRPUA board. Every two years, the BRPUA board flips so that the two entities take turns having majority control.

The SWATS plant is different from some other water treatment plants.

"The Brazos River chain is notoriously known for being salty," Stefan explained. "There is lots of high salinity, which is more of a brackish water. It's a much more expensive and complicated process to treat than the conventional treatment plants that you see in the Metroplex, South Texas or East Texas where you are basically getting your organic material out of the water. You're cleaning it, you're disinfecting it and you're putting it out as drinking water. Here, we also have to remove the higher levels of chlorides, or salts, which is a more complex process."

The BRPUA has begun engineering a plant restoration project. The project will not expand the plant's capacity — it will still top out at 13 million gallons per day, at least for a while — but parts that have worn out will be replaced and technology will be upgraded.

In 2019, less than two years after his arrival at the SWATS plant, Stefan was named the plant's membrane supervisor.

The following year, 2020, was a big one for Stefan. He was promoted to general manager and was awarded the South Central Membrane Association's Outstanding Operator Award - Large Plant for the South Central United States. He received the honor again in 2021.

At that time, Stefan was in his late 40s and a grandfather. He's 51 now.

In 2022, he completed the Texas Certified Public Manager program at Texas State University.

"I've always worked hard to put both my kids through college, and (for) my wife's master's degree," he said. "I kind of came late."

Stefan has also achieved more than a half dozen certifications

from the TCEQ, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). His certifications from TCEQ include an A water and A wastewater, which he said is the highest level of operator license issued in Texas.

In 2015 and 2016, the BRPUA received the Texas Water Utility Association's Best Tasting Surface Water Award.

In both the spiritual and physical realms, water signifies life. Stefan is grateful for the time his dad and grandparents spent with him as a child fishing at Possum Kingdom and Lake Graham. He has continued that tradition with his own family.

"God has blessed my life by providing me with the same opportunity to fish with my children on Possum Kingdom Lake and now to fish with my granddaughter Norah from our dock on Lake Granbury," he said. "It is a really special time for Heather and me."

The couple also enjoys taking the four-year-old for rides on their bass boat on Lake Granbury, which she called the "fishy pool" when she was a toddler.

The life-giving "fishy pool," in

Stefan's view, is the key to Hood County's future, regardless of what may or may not happen with the aquifer's ability to supply groundwater wells.

He feels that the BRPUA and the county in general are well positioned, even with the rapid growth that is creeping up behind the SWATS plant. The new Rolling Creek Ranch subdivision abuts the complex, and it seems to Stefan as if a new house pops up there every week.

"We're fortunate that we do live on the lake," he said of Hood County's future water prospects. "We have wells and surface water. We've got a lot of options compared to other communities that are growing but don't have the resources we do. We are truly blessed."

GROWING PAINS

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SORELLE

FROM PAGE A4

achievement," she stated. From Elaine's perspective, SoRelle held a position of power in both her marriage and her professional life, but things began to change in 2017 when she moved with her husband and their four children to Granbury. Jeremy had been offered a position at the Hyde Law Firm.

Elaine said she believes that SoRelle was not enthusiastic about the move but likely convinced herself that it was the best thing for her family since she and Jeremy both had family members living in the area. SoRelle has a brother who lives in Granbury and her mother lived in Hood County at that time.

"I think most of us wish she had not given up her community, her position — what she had in the valley," Elaine said. "It really, really was a good fit for her in so many ways."

Granbury, on the other hand, may not have been. One local attorney, who asked not to be named, said that SoRelle didn't seem to have many close relationships.

Paul Hyde said that SoRelle at first practiced law solo in Granbury, but when he offered her a job at his Hyde Law Firm, she accepted. Her hire date was July 23, 2018.

In 2019, SoRelle announced a run for the Texas House of Representatives. At that time, Mike Lang, a fellow Republican who also lived in Granbury, held the District 60 seat and there was a presumption that he would seek a third term. SoRelle told the HCN that she was concerned about Lang's wealthy backers and said that the voice representing District 60 "should not be for purchase by the highest bidder."

But SoRelle's actions involving those wealthy backers — the staunchly conservative billionaire Wilks family of Cisco — befuddled Hyde and the man who agreed to manage her campaign, Hyde Law Firm paralegal manager Wayne Baker.

Hyde said that at a campaign event featuring all four Republican primary candidates in that race, SoRelle migrated from her own designated spot to that of Jon Francis, son-in-law of Farris and JoAnn Wilks, and handed out his campaign literature as if she was his campaign manager. Francis had entered the race after Lang decided not to seek another term.

Baker said that when he agreed to help SoRelle with her campaign he knew her to be someone who was "patriotic," with a strong love for her country. She held conservative beliefs and stood for "strong American values," he said.

In a text to the HCN a few days after Rhodes' arrest when there were whispers that SoRelle's arrest might be imminent, Baker stated: "During her campaign, I watched her become more and more radical in her beliefs, and she went down a



Colleagues grew concerned about Kellye SoRelle's mental state when she worked for the Hyde Law Firm. She is shown here, fifth from right. COURTESY PHOTO

path that no one could pull her back from. This ultimately led to her divorce and the loss of many friendships. I have not spoken to Kellye in over a year and a half."

He continued, "I knew Kellye well and watching the rapid decline in her behavior seemed to me like a mental illness. I do not know this for sure, but I do know that the Kellye SoRelle that exists today is not the same Kellye SoRelle I agreed to support in her campaign for Texas House District 60."

Baker noticed changes in SoRelle in intimate social gatherings, too, not just on the campaign trail. He and his wife were part of a small group of friends that included the SoRelles and they would sometimes get together on weekends to have

dinner or to play games.

He said that the changes in her personality seemed to start during the campaign but accelerated after the primary election.

SoRelle came in third in that race, netting just 6.6% of the vote. Glenn Rogers of Palo Pinto ultimately won the seat after beating Francis in a runoff.

With the social gatherings and even with her own husband and children, SoRelle became more withdrawn and distant, Baker said. She seemed preoccupied with her phone and communicated with mysterious people.

"She just kind of became more and more secretive and locked down in herself and distant from everyone," he said.

Jeremy SoRelle declined to comment for this article, citing concern for his children.

According to Hyde, SoRelle's odd behavior

spilled over into the workplace.

He related that in March 2020 when many businesses closed due to COVID-19, he gave everyone at his office the option of working from home.

He said that SoRelle chose that option, citing as her reason concern for one of her children, who has asthma. As far as he could tell, she believed the danger to be real and wanted to protect herself and her family.

But then on a weekend when a "Reopen Texas" rally was held at the Capitol in Austin, Hyde spotted SoRelle among pictures of protestors that were posted on Facebook.

He texted her, calling her out for supposedly being concerned enough about the

needed to talk over the weekend to figure things out and that she could talk with Hyde the following week.

Hyde texted back that he expected her in his office at 7:30 a.m. the following Monday.

Around 10 p.m. Sunday night — May 10, 2020 — SoRelle resigned in what Hyde described as a "rambling" email.

According to court documents, she and Rhodes began living together that month.

A PERFECT STORM

After the Nov. 3, 2020, presidential election, as the nation awaited results that were delayed largely because of votes cast by mail during the pandemic, news broke that there was possible proof

had both participated in closed Facebook groups where lawyers discussed politics and particulars of law. In those discussions, which he believes occurred over a period of 3-5 years, she seemed rational and cogent — far different from the person who could be heard mumbling to herself in the red wagon footage.

"It was really kind of nutty stuff," Poehl said.

Poehl had seen a Lawyers for Trump poster with pictures of SoRelle and a handful of other Texas lawyers, but he said that the other lawyers working to ensure election integrity didn't seem to be coming at it "at quite the same feverish, crazy angle" as SoRelle.

The incident in Michigan caused some buzz among

"At one point, she was literally telling people, like, you need to hide out in your garage or a basement if you have it, have a shortwave radio, they're going to shut down the communications grid. Like, it's imminent. It's coming. I'll be tomorrow or in the next 48 hours.

I mean, it was just Looney Tunes stuff."

NICK POEHL

of voter fraud. An observer at the TCF Center in Detroit, where ballots were being processed, captured cell phone video at around 4 a.m. that possibly showed phony ballots being wheeled into the center on a red wagon.

The video went viral on social media and other platforms and was tweeted by Eric Trump, one of the then-president's sons.

WXYZ Channel 7 in Detroit soon took to the airwaves in hopes of herding the runaway horse back into the barn. A reporter told viewers that the video of a man near a white van with a black box in a red wagon was one of the station's photographers. He was using the wagon to carry equipment into the building for a 12-hour shift.

Poehl, who has a law firm in Kemah on Galveston Bay, was stunned when media outlets revealed the name of the person who took the video that caused the commotion: Kellye SoRelle. She was at the TCF Center to monitor vote counting as a member of a Lawyers for Trump team.

Poehl had never met SoRelle, but he knew her through social media. They

the lawyer groups, Poehl said. Someone alerted him to SoRelle's personal Facebook page, which they said contained "some crazy stuff."

Poehl went to SoRelle's page and began reading the posts there. It seemed clear that she was into QAnon.

"I'm kind of looking at her page and interacting with her some on that page and kind of starting from a place of trying to debate rationally with her about certain things, but you can't have a rational conversation with somebody that's not arguing rationally," he said. "It just became clear how unhinged she had become."

"At one point, she was literally telling people, like, you need to hide out in your garage or a basement if you have it, have a shortwave radio, they're going to shut down the communications grid. Like, it's imminent. It's coming. It'll be tomorrow or in the next 48 hours. I mean, it was just Looney Tunes stuff."

Referring to the lawyers' groups, Poehl said there seemed to be an unstated hope that reality would eventually settle in with SoRelle.

"It never did," he said. "It

only escalated. Next thing you know, she's the lawyer for the Oath Keepers and she's filing bat--- insane lawsuits."

A lawsuit filed by SoRelle and another attorney was mentioned in Texas Monthly's January 2022 issue which contains the magazine's Bum Steer Awards. The mention states: "After showing up at the Washington, D.C., protest, Texas attorneys Paul M. Davis and Kellye SoRelle filed a lawsuit asking a U.S. district court to (a) declare the United States Congress illegitimate, (b) invalidate the confirmation of Joe Biden, and (c) stop law enforcement officials from arresting Davis and SoRelle for their actions at the Capitol. The Trump-nominated judge who heard the suit — which cited The Lord of the Rings as evidence — dismissed it as 'without merit.'"

Poehl said that SoRelle's behavior "is a horrible look. We just hate it for our profession. We hate it for her, too. She had a reputation as a competent, coherent person, decent to work with."

The divorce and the descent into QAnon, Poehl said he believes, led SoRelle "down a rabbit hole and she has not appeared able to escape it."

Like Baker and Poehl, Elaine and Hyde also fear that SoRelle might have fallen victim to mental illness.

Hyde told the HCN in 2022 that he sometimes received angry messages from people who thought that SoRelle still worked at his law firm and that he shared her beliefs. When they provided valid phone numbers or email addresses, he responded.

In one message, Hyde said, a man asked if the law firm is made up of "treasonous terrorists" and "white supremacists." In another, a woman asked if everyone at Hyde's law firm is an Oath Keeper.

In his response to the woman, Hyde stated that SoRelle had not worked at the law firm for more than a year and a half and that her ex-husband, who was still with the firm, divorced her "due to her activities and possible mental illness." He referred to Jeremy SoRelle as "an excellent attorney" and wrote, "More importantly, he's an excellent father to their four children, and those kids definitely need a strong and stable parent in their lives right now."

He stated that Kellye SoRelle "started down this path" around the time the pandemic hit and "unfortunately, as much as we all tried to help her, it became very obvious that she was beyond any help we could give her."

Poehl and Elaine told the HCN in 2022 that it was their understanding that people had contacted the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) about Kellye SoRelle. The organization provides confidential help to lawyers struggling with substance abuse or mental health issues, but it "requires the cooperation of the person to really go anywhere," Poehl said.

As for the State Bar of Texas, Poehl said it has "a reputation for toothlessness."

Elaine said she feels that SoRelle's unhappiness in her marriage and the move from Cameron County may have left her with a need to feel important to someone, which left her vulnerable to dangerous influences. Elaine does not want the woman she has known for many years to be "demonized" by those who never knew the person she used to be.

Poehl said he feels that SoRelle's mental health issues are likely "severe," but he also sees the need for accountability.

"Something's got to be done," he said, "because when you're that crazy and out there, somebody's got to take away the microphone because it feeds the masses of the untreated mental health problems that are out there. It's throwing fuel on a fire."

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ESTATE SALE

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6010

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6040

Guns

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6070

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6620

Miscellaneous

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6670

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LIVESTOCK & PETS

8030

Pets



LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT! Call or visit Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048 817-573-4277



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8040

Pets Lost & Found

IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact Hood County Animal Control, 1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048. 817-573-4277

EMPLOYMENT

8510

General

PECAN PLANTATION
**Facilities, Grounds & Roads Maintenance Workers needed Rate \$14 to \$17 depending on experience, 4 Full-time Contact daniel@ppoaweb.com or Ext 342
**Security Gate Staff and Patrol Officers \$12 to \$15 (PT and FT). Contact harold@ppoaweb.com or brendarhine@ppoaweb.com or Ext 351
**Golf Course Maintenance Workers \$12 to \$15 (PT and FT) Contact jd@ppoaweb.com or Ext 357
**Food & Beverage Servers and Cooks PT / FT needed Contact Shelby sfoster@ppoaweb.com; Jordan jray@ppoaweb.com or Ext 319
**Accounting office clerk, data entry and filing, part time, \$13-\$14/hr. Contact Nancy Smith Ext 332 or nancy@ppoaweb.com
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8520

Construction

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8540

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8560

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NOTICES

9020

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9031

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. C2023042

WILLIAM DEWITT MCCLARAN AND MELDA C MCCLARAN V 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS TO: THE UNKNOWN OR MISSING PARTNERS, HEIRS, OFFICERS, AND ASSIGNS OF STROUD'S CREEK LAND COMPANY, L.P. Greeting DEFENDANT: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you." You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being MONDAY the 3RD day of JULY 2023, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 27TH day of JANUARY, A.O. 2023, in the above-entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: THE ORIGINAL PETITION IS A SUIT FOR CIVIL, CIVIL CASE - OTHER, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit, the nature of which suit is PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON BEING a 1,238 acre tract of land situated in the S. Watkins Survey, Abstract Number 575, Hood County, Texas and being a portion of Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Slide A-38B, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows; BEGINNING at a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 39, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas, said iron rod also being the southeast corner of Lot 6 of said Block I; THENCE South 21 degrees 59 minutes 51 seconds East, 198.49 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "MAN HARD" set in the north line of Block 6, of said Stroud Creek Estates; THENCE South 51 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds West, 290.80 feet along the north line of said Block 6 to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southeast corner of that called 2.2315 acre tract of land described by deed to Beau Gonzales, recorded in County Clerk's File Number 2019-0008005, Deed Records, Hood County, Texas; THENCE North 32 degrees 51 minutes 58 seconds West, 160.77 feet, departing said north line of Block 6 and along the east line of said called 2.2315 acre tract to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of said Lot 6, said iron rod also being the northeast corner of said called 2.2315 acre tract; THENCE North 46 degrees 14 minutes 17 seconds East, 332.80 feet along the south line of said Lot 6 to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 53,936 square feet or 1.238 acres of land, more or less. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 16th day of May 2023. WITNESS: TONNA TRUMBLE HITT, CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS. By Cami Roybal, Deputy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Cherie Marlene Smith, Deceased, were granted on May 24, 2023, in Cause No. P10036, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Randi O'Brien.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Samuel I. Reid
Attorney at Law
1840 Acton Highway
Granbury, TX 76049
DATED the 7th day of June 2023.
The Reid Firm, P.C.
Attorneys for Randi O'Brien
By: /s/ Samuel I. Reid
Steven J. Reid
State Bar No.: 16747900
Samuel I. Reid
State Bar No.: 24105702
1840 Acton Highway
Granbury, TX 76049
Telephone: (817) 573-3718
Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
E-mail: steve@reidfirm.com
samuel@reidfirm.com

9031

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114 STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. C2023049
LEWIS DEAN WILLIAMS, vs. STROUD'S CREEK, LAND COMPANY, L.P., ET AL IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS TO: UNKNOWN OR MISSING PARTNERS, HEIRS, OFFICERS, AND ASSIGNS OF STROUD'S CREEK LAND COMPANY, L.P., a Texas limited liability partnership, if living, and if any or all of the above-named Defendants be deceased, the unknown heir of each or all of the said above named or described deceased persons; and, the unknown owner or owners of the property described herein. Defendant, Greeting; NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you." You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being MONDAY the 10TH day of JULY 2023, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 14TH day of FEBRUARY, A.D. 2023, in the above-entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: THE ORIGINAL PETITION IS A SUIT FOR CIVIL, REAL PROPERTY, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit, the nature of which suit is PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION BEING a 1.102 acre tract of land situated in the S. Watkins Survey, Abstract Number 575, Hood County, Texas and being a portion of Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Slide A38B, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows; BEGINNING at a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "RPLS 5696" found at the southwest corner of that called 0.620 acre tract described by deed to Lewis Dean Williams, recorded in Volume 2303, Page 19, Deed Records, Hood County, Texas, said iron rod also being the southeast corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 39, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas; THENCE South 31 degrees 26 minutes 54 seconds East, 158.72 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "MAN-HARD" set in the north line of Block 6, of said Stroud Creek Estates; THENCE South 51 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds West, 290.82 feet along the north line of said Block 6 to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "MAN-HARD" set; THENCE North 21 degrees 59 minutes 51 seconds West, 198.49 feet, departing said north line of Block 6 to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of said Lot 7; THENCE North 58 degrees 48 minutes 43 seconds East, 256.00 feet along the south line of said Lot 7 to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 47,984 square feet or 1.102 acres of land, more or less, and alternatively for declaratory relief concerning such property. BEING a 0.724 acre tract of land situated in the S. Watkins Survey, Abstract Number 575, Hood County, Texas and being a portion of Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Slide A38B, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows; BEGINNING at a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "RPLS 5696" found at the southwest corner of that called 0.620 acre tract described by deed to Lewis Dean Williams, recorded in Volume 2303, Page 19, Deed Records, Hood County, Texas, said iron rod also being the southeast corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Stroud Creek Estates, a subdivision in Hood County according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 39, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas; THENCE along the south line of said called 0.620 acre tract the following calls: North 65 degrees 34 minutes 54 seconds East, 61.13 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "REALSEARCH" found; North 54 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East, 103.41 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "REALSEARCH" found; North 68 degrees 39 minutes 18 seconds East, 80.99 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "REALSEARCH" found at the southeast corner of said called 0.620 acre tract; THENCE South 13 degrees 44 minutes 02 seconds East, 124.03 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northeast corner of Block 6, of said Stroud Creek Estates; THENCE South 51 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds West, 207.45 feet along the north line of said Block 6 to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "MAN-HARD" set; THENCE North 31 degrees 26 minutes 54 seconds West, 158.72 feet, departing said north line of Block 6 to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 31,554 square feet or 0.724 acres of land, more or less. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 11 day of MAY, 2023. Attorney for Plaintiff(s): MARK B DEWITT, P.O. BOX 1274 GRANBURY, TX 76049. WITNESS: TONNA L. NEWMAN, CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD BY Susan Ashmore, Deputy

9031

Public Notices

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) for HAMI TRADE, INC. dba J MALT at 4505 E US HWY 377, GRANBURY, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, 76049. HARIBOL BHANDARI (President) AMRIT BABU KATTEL (Secretary & Treasurer)

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of CHRISTOPHER E. CARLILE, Cause No. P09543, County Court of Hood County, Texas. ANGELA FUNICELLO LAUTH, in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Amended Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of AMY WATTS PHILLIPS, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 8th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JAMES LINDSAY MORRIS, Cause No. P10088, County Court of Hood County, Texas. MARYLIN AILEEN MORRIS in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JAMES LINDSAY MORRIS, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 9th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 9th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 12th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 12th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, Cause No. P10026, County Court of Hood County, Texas. CECILY MCLAUGHLIN in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JEFFREY MCLAUGHLIN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

9031

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of AMY WATTS PHILLIPS, Cause No. P10078, County Court of Hood County, Texas. EDGAR ALLEN PHILLIPS in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of AMY WATTS PHILLIPS, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 12th day of June 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

Due to unforeseen repairs, the Hood County Brush Yard will be closed beginning June 15, 2023, until further notice. Updates to this closure and repairs will be provided on the Hood County Website, Hood County Facebook page, and the Hood County News as received by the repair facility.

Invitation to Bid The City of Granbury is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified vendors for an Exterior Siding and trim Repair Work for various city buildings. Sealed proposals must be received no later than 2:00pm Central Standard Time on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, at the following address: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center Attn: Purchasing Department/ Christy Russell "RFP NO. 22-23-07 Exterior Siding and Trim Repair Work" 401 N. Park Street Granbury, TX 76048

Any proposals received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. Specific information regarding this Bid shall be requested from Christy Russell, Purchasing Manager, at 817-570-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. The documents may be obtained from the City of Granbury website or by emailing the purchasing department at purchasing@granbury.org starting on Tuesday June 20, 2022 at 1:00pm.

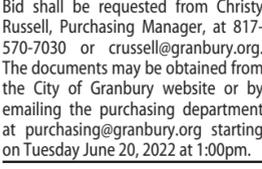
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2023-06, Request of Stacey Whidden on behalf of Londyn Miner for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.6.E - Parking Regulations and, Section 11.2.A.4 "Off-Street Parking General Provisions". The applicant requests to enclose an existing two-car garage and not provide additional enclosed parking as required in a single-family residential zoning district. The property is addressed as 1202 Elizabeth Blvd.

A. § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Zoning Board of Adjustment seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

The Hood County News



9031 Public Notices

9031 Public Notices

9031 Public Notices

Construction

Invitation for Bids

The Hood County Commissioner's Court will receive bids for TxCDBG Port Ridglea Grinder Pump Conversion REBID until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 26, 2023 at Acton Municipal Utility District Office, located at 6420 Lusk Branch Ct., Granbury, Texas 79049, at which time the Bids received will be publically opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

- 1. Base bid shall be for installation of thirty one (31) new grinder pump systems, service lines, electrical service improvements, and connection to existing plumbing and low pressure sewer system to replace existing septic tanks. Existing septic tanks shall be abandoned in accordance with 30 TAC 285.36 and local requirements. Refer to bid documents for location.
2. Additive Alternate Bid A shall be for installation of seven (7) new grinder pump systems, service lines, electrical service improvements, and connection to existing plumbing and low pressure sewer system to replace existing septic tanks. Existing septic tanks shall be abandoned in accordance with 30 TAC 285.36 and local requirements. Refer to bid documents for location. Four (4) of these locations are under existing improvements, such as decks, porches, or awnings. Existing improvements must be repaired to existing or better condition upon completion of the project.
3. Additive Alternate Bid B shall be for installation of two (2) new grinder pump systems, service lines, electrical service improvements, and connection to existing plumbing and low pressure sewer system to replace existing septic tanks. Existing septic tanks shall be abandoned in accordance with 30 TAC 285.36 and local requirements. Refer to bid documents for location. These locations are under existing structures and require access through crawl space to reach existing service lines. Existing improvements must be repaired to existing or better condition upon completion of the project.

The Bidding Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications may be obtained from Civcast at www.civcastusa.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents, Drawings and Technical Specifications at the Engineer's Office on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., and the Acton Municipal Utility District Office, on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the Hood County or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

The Hood County Commissioner's Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

Our lakes are filling, so what does that mean for you?

BY CONNIE TUCKER
Lake Granbury Reservoir Manager

Did you know that often, periods of drought end with flooding? The weather has been changing, and Lake Granbury is filling up. That's the good news.

The not-so-good news is that when water supply reservoirs fill, the need for gate releases from these reservoirs increases, which means that those living on the Brazos River, its tributaries and reservoirs could see high water flows.

Water supply reservoirs such as Lakes Granbury and Possum Kingdom Lake are built differently than flood control reservoirs like Lake Whitney to the south of Hood County. The physical structure of a water supply dam is smaller, allowing water to rise to the top of the dam's gates. A flood control reservoir has a substantially taller dam structure, which allows for the temporary storage of floodwaters during heavy rainfall and high river flow events. Flood control structures alleviate downstream flooding by storing water until natural high flows slow, and it is safe to release more water downstream.

Part of maintaining each dam structure, and prolonging the life of the dam, is ensuring water doesn't flow over the top of dam gates. Therefore, during times of heavy rain, water

must be released when the reservoir becomes full to prevent damage to these vital and massive structures.

What does this mean for those living in Hood County?

For those living near the Brazos River or a reservoir, knowing when the BRA plans to open gates for water releases downstream can help ensure their safety while providing an opportunity to move equipment or possessions out of areas that may flood. Farmers and ranchers might need to move cattle or equipment away from flood-prone areas. Homeowners might want to move patio tables and chairs settled near the river. Or recreationists might reschedule fishing trips or canoe travel to a later date when flows subside.

With this in mind, for decades the BRA has offered a way for members of the public to receive notifications of gate changes.

Through an automated system, the BRA can send text, email, and/or phone calls to anyone signed up to receive an alert. Those living north of the DeCordova Bend

Dam may choose to receive notice when gates are being opened at Possum Kingdom Lake, while those living south of the dam may choose to receive notice when gates are opened at Lake Granbury.

Individuals interested in receiving notifications can customize when and how often they receive a downstream notification from the call system. For instance, a person can sign up to receive alerts only when 15,000 cubic feet per second or higher is released from Lake Granbury's DeCordova Bend Dam.

The Brazos River Authority will continue keeping its website homepage, www.brazos.org, updated with real-time information regarding the current release rate as well as posting release-change information on its Facebook page and Twitter pages.

Those interested in signing up for the downstream notification call list can complete a form at www.Brazos.org/DownstreamSignup. For additional information, call 888-922-6272.



PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE
Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am-1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.

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Huge Garage Sale: 6005 S Lakeside Hills Ct. Fri-Sat, June 16-17, 8am-5pm. Clothes, jewelry, tools, recliner, CDs, books, misc. Other sales on street.

YARD SALE: GRANBURY Fri-Sat, June 16-17. A little bit of everything! 2915 Sycamore, OTS

Huge Sale-618 Carruth Rd, June 15-25, 9am-4pm CASH ONLY. Furniture, antiques, vintage decor, appliances, tools, clothing, holiday decor, jewelry.

2040 Brandi Ln, Granbury, Texas 76048. Friday, June 23 and June 24. Something for everybody. Furniture, Bar-B-Cue smoker, and much more.

Garage Sales 76049

MOVING SALE
2 Qu comforter sets, new Qu bed linens still in pkg, ladies handbags and sz 6.5 shoes & boots, Bissell rug cleaner, clothes steamer, dorm room ice-box, portable TV, incline treadmill, 1 book shelf and armoire. Too many things to list. All prices negotiable! Daily, noon-7pm. Text/call (512)466-4206 or come look or email mikegov.1969@gmail.com. 617 Aqua Vista Dr

MOVING SALE-617 AQUA VISTA DR THUR-SAT JUNE 15, 16 & 17
2 Qu comforter sets still in original pkg, ladies handbags and sz 6.5 shoes & boots, Bissell rug cleaner, clothes steamer, portable TV, incline treadmill, 1 book shelf, antique book case, 12 gauge ammo, 22 long rifle ammo, college dorm mini fridge, some power tools, iron skillets, . Too many things to list. Text/call (512)466-4206 or come look.

619 Lunar Cir, Sky Harbour. Thursday-Saturday June 22-24. 7am till ? Huge sale with tons of stuff for everyone.

HUGE Storage Building Sale! 3640 Mambrino Hwy, Thu/Fri 6/22 & 23. 7a-6p. Furniture, tools, dishes, kitchen items, file cabinets, lots of misc.

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AUCTION

Farm/Retirement Auction, Thurs., June 22, 2023. Auction starts 9:31 a.m. Online bidding on Lots 1-60 starts 11:01 a.m. 34470 S. 4400 Rd., Big Cabin, OK 74322. Running 2 rings all day: guns, vehicles, jeeps, tractors, hay equip., trailers, boat, side by side, lawnmowers, loaders, horse tack, overhead feed bin, cattle feeders, cattle panels, fencing supplies, welders, welding supplies, air compressors, tires & rims, tire machine, hunting/fishing gear, tool boxes & more. www.chuppysauction.com.

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EVENTS

Bluegrass on Ballad, Wylie, TX, Sat., June 24, Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballad Ave. Free event. Car Show 4-9 p.m., Arts & Crafts 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Music 1-9 p.m. Pre-register for car show at DiscoverWylie.com. More info for arts and crafts vendors at WylieTexas.gov.

NARO - National Association of Royalty Owners Convention, July 26-29, San Antonio, Learn How To Better Manage Your Minerals. Over 19 sessions: "Mineral Law 101", "How To Read Surveys & Plats", "Property Transfers & Estate Planning", "Operators: Friends or Enemies?" Register online: WWW.NARO-US.ORG/EVENT-5151387. Call to register: (918) 794-1660.

Discover Secrets of Ancient Egypt, An Evening with Dr. Zahi Hawass. The time to reveal the secrets of ancient Egypt has finally come! Exciting announcements & new groundbreaking discoveries will be revealed for the very first time! Houston: June 22; Dallas: June 24; San Antonio: June 27. Register now at ZahiLectures.com.

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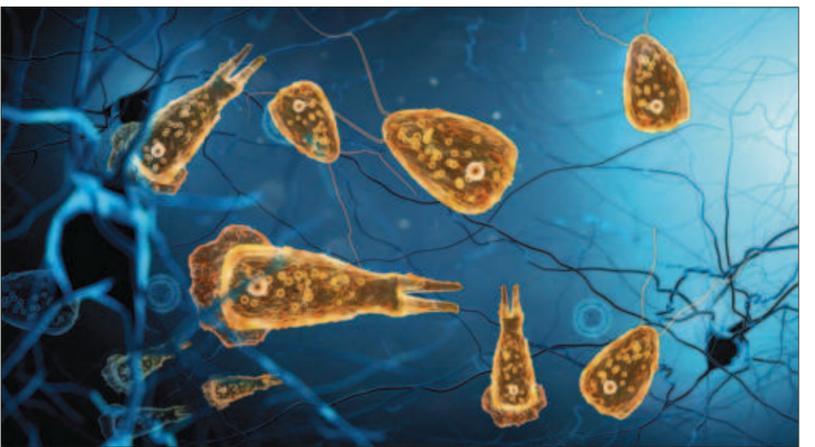
Estate Sale Log Homes - Log Home kits selling for balance owed, free delivery. Model #101 Carolina, bd. \$17,000; Model #203 Georgia, bd. \$19,950; Model #305 Dixie, bd. \$14,500; Model #403 Augusta, bd. \$16,500. View plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com. 704-368-4528.

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A few simple safety precautions can ensure the rare disease primary amebic meningoencephalitis, or PAM—a brain infection caused by Naegleria fowleri—stays another statistic and not a personal experience.

Know the risks: Prevention of the rare brain-eating amoeba

Submitted item
As the temperature rises, many people are eager to hit the water and cool off. But before you dive in, remember to take safety precautions against a deadly but uncommon water amoeba.

No amount of swimming experience can protect the ones you love from the amoeba Naegleria fowleri, also known as the "brain-eating amoeba." Instead, a few simple safety precautions can ensure this rare disease stays another statistic and not a personal experience.

Primary amebic meningoencephalitis, or PAM, is a rare brain infection caused by Naegleria fowleri when water containing the amoeba is forced into a person's nasal passages through activities such as swimming, jumping into the water or water skiing.

So why the summer warning? Well, Naegleria fowleri thrives in freshwater warmer than 80 degrees, and Texas' summers

are sure to heat up the water we love to cool down in.

Assume the amoeba, which is too small to be seen without a microscope, is in the water as it's very common in freshwater environment, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The infection can't spread from person to person or by drinking contaminated water. The only way to completely prevent contracting PAM is to not participate in water-related activities that could force water up the nasal passage, including swimming in a lake, the Brazos River, or a stream.

But if you do decide to participate, use nose clips or hold your nose shut while jumping into the water or always keep your head above water.

The amoeba also is found in soil, so avoid stirring up underwater sediment.

Seek immediate medical attention with the development of a headache, fever, nausea, or vomiting after swimming in freshwater,

according to the CDC. PAM symptoms begin showing one-to-12 days after infection. Later symptoms can include a stiff neck, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, and coma. Two-to-three infections are reported each year in the U.S., and there have only been four U.S. survivors, according to the CDC.

Enjoy the Brazos River basin and keep making great memories with your loved ones as you make safety precautions a part of the adventure.

For more information about PAM, contact your local county health department or the Texas Department of State Health Services at 512-776-7111 or 1-888-963-7111.

ABOUT THE BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY
The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the

PLEASE SEE PAM | A14



A CELL TOWER'S GOING UP NEXT DOOR OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?



If it is not in the newspaper, how will you know?

Governments are required to publish their decisions in the newspaper - including their intent to build a structure nearby that you might not want. But some officials want to bury public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.



GRANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ACADEMY GRADUATION



Above, Training Lieutenant Diego Guerrero, front row center, in gray shirt, smiles proudly while standing among the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Fire Academy's newest graduates. Seventeen new volunteer firefighters graduated from the Academy on June 3.

Left, The Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Fire Academy's recent graduation ceremony provided graduates an opportunity to demonstrate their newly-learned skills for friends and family members.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GVFD

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GROWING PAINS —PART FIVE

With second transmission line under lake, AMUD's Richard English looks to 'stay head of the curve'

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Having put in decades as a working man, Richard English could retire and spend more time cycling, a sport he has long enjoyed.

But Richard isn't interested in spinning his wheels. He's focused on helping the Acton Municipal Utility District (AMUD) prepare for a future that will include a much larger customer base.

As AMUD's longtime general manager, Richard is working with elected board members to implement short-term and long-term goals for the utility district.

His career with AMUD will be a memory by the time the utility district achieves its most ambitious, long-term goal: building a second Surface Water and Treatment System (SWATS), to be located on the other side of the lake, serving Indian Harbor and the Mambrino area. The current SWATS plant is off Fall Creek Highway on Matlock Road, a short distance from the AMUD offices.

"That's many years down the road - maybe 2040," Richard said of the second SWATS facility. "We're just trying to lay the groundwork to where we'll be able to do these things, or successors will be able to do these things, down the road."

When Richard became AMUD's general manager in 2000, the utility district served 4,900 water connections. Today it serves 8,900, which represents a population of about 21,500, he said. Of those 8,900 customers, 4,750 are also on AMUD's sewer system.

One of AMUD's short-term goals, to be achieved within the next five years, is a second water transmission line under Lake Granbury. Right now, there is a line under the lake that serves Indian Harbor.

When the additional SWATS plant is built, having two plants and two transmission lines under the lake will help prevent any disruption in water service.

"If there's a problem with either plant, with that lake crossing we could ship water in either direction," Richard said. "It's kind of like spreading out your eggs a little bit. Don't put them all in one basket."

AMUD also has two wastewater treatment plants. One is in Pecan Plantation, where an expansion project is underway and scheduled for completion by the end of the year. According to Richard, about 1,000

lots will become available for development in Pecan Plantation over the next three or four years.

The other wastewater treatment plant is in DeCordova and it serves as a regional plant. That one, too, has undergone expansion and is now fully functional, Richard said, with only minor site work remaining.

Expansion of the wastewater treatment plant in DeCordova will allow AMUD to service a planned development called Legacy Ranch, which Richard said is "the next big development in the Acton area." The subdivision will about Saratoga, a 175-acre residential development with commercial lots that front U.S. Highway 377.

Legacy Ranch is in the planning stages, but AMUD has reached an agreement with the developer to provide water and sewer service there. According to Richard, the development will have about 600 lots.

The WWTP is an SBR system, which stands for Sequencing Batch Reactors. Air is bubbled through the mixture of wastewater and activated sludge to allow the "bugs" to break down the organic matter. The high-quality treated effluent will be clean enough for discharge to surface waters or for use on land.

Rather than being intimidated by growth, Richard welcomes it. More customers mean more revenue and "that helps the bottom line."

New customers, for both water and sewer, pay an impact fee when they hook up to AMUD. Those funds go toward capital improvements, such as the WWTP and SWATS plant expansions.

By 2030, about 7.5 million gallons per day for AMUD will come from the SWATS plant's 13 MGD capacity, with AMUD's two dozen or so wells meeting the remaining demand, Richard said. The Johnson County Special Utility District also draws from the SWATS plant.

When wells in area subdivisions fall short in meeting demand, AMUD



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Richard English has been general manager of the Acton Municipal Utility District since 2000.

sometimes sells water to them at wholesale prices.

With the cost of service "escalating rapidly," adding more customers means being able to add more employees and maintain ongoing repair and replacement initiatives, Richard said.

Richard graduated with honors from Stephen F. Austin University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry management. He worked as a field engineer at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant near Glen Rose but knew that he and many others were going to be out of a job once the first unit went online.

Granbury's then-city manager, Bob Brockman, whom Richard knew well, asked him if he might be interested in a job in the city's utilities department. Richard accepted the position.

"I loved the utility side," he said. "Of course, with the city and public works you also had drainage, streets, the electric department; there were a number of different departments. The water and sewer part of it just came near and dear to me so whenever this opportunity (with AMUD) came, I jumped for it."

Richard's time with the city spanned 11 years. The positions he held included water and wastewater superintendent, assistant public works director, and, from 1996-

2000, public works director.

During his time with the city, he obtained a Grade B Surface Water License and a Class C Wastewater Operator License. He became a 1998 graduate of Leadership Granbury.

Richard and his wife Lynn have been married 32 years. They have two daughters.

Throughout his tenure with AMUD, Richard has served as chair of the Water/Wastewater/Environment Committee of the Granbury/Hood County Intergovernmental Coalition. Since 2005, he has been a member of the AMUD Impact Fee Advisory Committee. In 2013, he became one of two Hood County representatives appointed by the Commissioners Court to serve on the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (UTGCD) board of directors. He resigned that seat late last year.

"Groundwater is questionable at best," Richard said. "So, really, surface water is where we need to go and plan for as far as accommodating growth. Over time, the percentage of our water supply provided by wells is going to decrease, even if the volume doesn't to an appreciable extent. So, in our Water Master Plan, we're really focusing on what we need to do to stay ahead of the curve in terms of surface water treatment."

Richard said he feels that the

permanent rules for groundwater wells adopted by the UTGCD board in 2019 represent "a good compromise between all interests involved." He also expressed confidence in the UTGCD board, which is composed of knowledgeable people with "diverse backgrounds," and noted that the UTGCD has expanded its well monitoring program to keep close tabs on the aquifer.

The road to adopting the permanent rules was at times rocky and politically fraught, but Richard feels that things have calmed down and that everything is fine, at least for now.

"If there's something that really looks like a startling development or a problem, then I think we would have to roll up our sleeves and take another look at the rules," he said. "The bottom line is, we want water to be there for future generations."

kcruz@hcnews.com |
817-579-1886



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Dolce Vita Lakeside Granbury, located at 1101 White Cliff Rd. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening. Project Developer: Bernado Pana.

COURTESY PHOTOS



The Class Act Boutique & Beyond Cuffs, located at 201 East Pearl Street, Suite C-107. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening. Owner of The Class Act: Carol Behringer. Owner of Beyond Cuffs: Cynthia Sadler.

OBITUARIES

Ronald Joe Cox

August 31, 1945 - June 3, 2023

The family of Ronald Joe Cox will celebrate his life of 77 years at 2 p.m. on June 24, 2023, at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel in Granbury, Texas with a reception following from 3-5 p.m. at the Wiley Center.

He passed on Saturday, June 3, 2023, in Granbury surrounded by family and many friends.

We invite you to visit the Wiley Funeral Home website the day of his service to view the live streaming of his service.

Ronnie was born on August 31, 1945, in San Angelo, Texas, the third child of Joseph Gerald and Lillian Reams Cox. He married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Alice Lee Duncan on April 1, 1967, at the First Methodist Church in Sonora, Texas.

Ronnie Cox began working for Cecil Westerman at Westerman Drugstore in Sonora when he was in seventh grade and decided to devote his life to taking care of others. Ronnie graduated from Sonora High School in 1963 and graduated from the University of Texas School of Pharmacy at Austin in 1968. After graduation, he began practicing pharmacy with Cecil Westerman at Westerman Drug in San Angelo and in 1975, returned to Sonora to practice pharmacy at Westerman Drug in Sonora. Ronnie loved Sonora and definitely "wanted to be your pharmacist." Ronnie truly valued his customers and would call out "Come in this house!" and offer a cold Dr. Pepper to his customers, a bag of M&Ms to their children, and his infectious laugh could be heard throughout the store. Ronnie Cox loved and had great compassion for his community. He wanted all who entered his store to feel as though they were valued.

Ronnie owned stores and drugstores in both Sonora and Ozona for a number of years, worked as a relief pharmacist, and in most recent years, enjoyed his time working for Best Value Pharmacies primarily at the Granbury, Hico, and Glen Rose locations.

From 1989-2021, it was Ronnie's honor to serve on the board of directors of First National Bank, later



Sonora Bank.

Ronnie lived his life in such a way that those who didn't know God would know God because they knew Ronnie. He generously practiced servitude in his own life. Ronnie was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a treasured brother and uncle. Ronnie had a unique gift for making deep, valued relationships. When someone spoke with Ronnie Cox, he was connected and, in the moment, to create a special bond with that individual.

Survivors include his wife Alice Cox, their daughter Carrie Cox Dunn and her husband David Dunn; their daughter-in-law Sara Reston Cox; and grandchildren Gerod Dunn, Lillian Dunn, Colton Dunn, Mason Cox and Miles Cox; sister Juanice Isbell and her husband Oran Isbell; nephews Brent and Mark Isbell and their families; as well as many, many lifelong friends. Those who have preceded him to eternity are his parents, his brother Reams Cox, and in September of 2021, his son Joel Cox.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Sutton County Health Foundation PO Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950; or the Sutton County Resource Center PO Box 497, Sonora, Texas 76950, Anchor Fellowship Church, PO Box 5971, Granbury, TX 76049, or a charity of your choice in his memory.

A reception and interment will be in Sonora in the near future.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on June 24, 2023 at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, 400 Hwy. 377-E, Granbury, Texas 76048.

A reception will be held from 3-5 p.m. on June 24, 2023 at Wiley Center, 420 Hwy. 377 E., Granbury, Texas 76048.

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Vladislav Vanatko

June 9, 1939 - April 23, 2023

Vladislav "Walter" Vanatko passed away on April 23, 2023, in his home surrounded by his loved ones. Walter was born June 9, 1939 in Czechoslovakia. He lived in Granbury, Texas, for the past nine years. He was a computer engineer in Czechoslovakia before escaping over the border on his honeymoon to Austria one day before the Soviet government permanently closed the Czech border for decades in 1968.

He and his wife Jindra (who passed in 1999), lived in Austria for a year prior to obtaining refugee status to immigrate to the United States. Initially living in New York, Walter took odd jobs while he learned English. He launched his career when he solved a computer engineering problem the other engineers at his firm had been wrestling with without success.

Once in Texas, Walter fell in love with the culture and was very proud to be a Texan. Walter will be lovingly remembered for his



inquisitive mind, tremendous zest for life, his love for travel, his passion for learning, and for being a man of his word. He enjoyed off-roading, shooting, swimming in his pool, fast cars, and anything Texan. Walter had a smile that would light up the room.

Walter is survived by his daughter Andrea Lapp, husband Philip, and granddaughters Camille and Bridget; daughter Sandra Vanatko; daughter Wendy Parker, husband Josh, and grandson Reese; and his beloved gal, Luanne Williams.

Mary Ann Hughitt-Schreiner

November 11, 1933 - May 28, 2023

Mary Ann Hughitt-Schreiner, 89, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023 in Tolar, Texas. The funeral was noon, Monday, June 5, in Mount Olivet Chapel at 2301 Sylvania Ave. in Fort Worth, Texas. Pastor Dan Jones presiding. Mary was born November 11, 1933, to Laura Belle Kirby-Hughitt and Robert Henry Hughitt. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ernest Schreiner; stepchild, Ernest John Schreiner; four sisters; and four brothers. Those left to mourn her loss include her four stepchildren; godchild,



Dan Wesley Hughitt III; multiple nieces and nephews; and her dear friends, Duane Devriendt and Evelyn Martin.

Rowena Bernice Collins

September 2, 1937 - May 30, 2023

Rowena Bernice Collins, 85, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 with her family lovingly by her side.

She was born September 2, 1937 in Apache, Oklahoma to Ralph and Martha Kopepassah Oliver.

Rowena married the love of her life, Doyle E. Collins, in Lawton, Oklahoma on April 25, 1955. Together they raised six children here in Granbury. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, she loved unconditionally and would go out of her way to help anyone in need. She was a wonderful living example to everyone she knew through her actions and patient words. She was a wonderful cook, always preparing more than enough and everyone's favorite dish. She never stood on ceremony but rather, she would insist that family and friends come to her table at their leisure, where she always lovingly greeted them as if they were the only ones who mattered. She loved holiday gatherings, grandkids birthday parties, sewing, the game show channel and all night "Yahtzee-athons". Rowena studied her bible every day. Her greatest accomplishment was that she taught her family to love the Lord with all their hearts.

Rowena was also very



proud member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. She was one of the few elders within the tribe. She knew the language and the traditions and of course how to prepare delicious Indian fry bread.

Rowena was preceded in death by her husband, Doyle E. Collins, and was survived by her six children, Doyle G. Collins, Shonda R. Collins, Rowena E. West (Tom), Edwin B. Collins, Ralph V. Collins (Amber), and Olivia D. Barden (Richard), 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren whom she loved sooo much.

Her favorite scripture was: "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel in Granbury.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or

the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary.

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

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS
1 UH is TX Dennis Quaid's _____ mater
5 TX Jordan Spieth is on the PGA _____
6 out on the Gulf _____
7 mailed a letter _____
8 network of old soap opera "Dallas" _____
9 gun rights grp. _____
12 TXism: "drawing _____ on it"
17 "Texas" is an _____ drama in Palo Duro Canyon
19 whooping _____ migrate to Texas in November
21 church tower, spire _____
22 TXism: "gone _____" (deteriorated)
23 1952 "Viva _____" was filmed in Texas
28 rod and _____
29 NPR FM station in Commerce
30 wheeler-dealer _____
31 TX Charley's "All _____ to Offer You"
35 late Texas "Lemon Tree" singer, Lopez _____
36 TXism: "nervous as _____ cat in a room full of rocking chairs"
42 TX Roy Orbison group: "_____ Wilburys"
44 apple drink, e.g. _____
46 old AstroWorld ride: "Batman _____"
48 airplane garage _____
49 state to the NE _____

DOWN
1 tributary of the Frio, a tributary of the Nueces (2 wds.)
2 "it's not whether you win or _____ how you play the game"
3 in Cooke County on U.S. 82 _____
4 "I smell _____"
9 TXism for "no" _____
10 Coleman was founded on one (2 wds.) _____
11 late TX Kenny Rogers sang "You _____ So Beautiful"
12 "_____ your age"
13 TXism: "I'm so _____ pay attention"
14 "_____ up a little" (relax)
15 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.) _____
16 _____ Park, Texas
18 this TX Winters was drafted by the 49ers in 2023 _____
20 TX actress, Duncan (init.) _____
23 hero general in Texas, Zachary (init.) _____
24 Garfunkel of "Catch-22" with TX Paula Prentiss _____
25 Texas actors want to land a _____
26 _____ road (unpaved) _____

50 Midland news/talk AM
51 TXism: "a day late _____ dollar short"
52 horse morsel _____
53 Lone _____ State
54 Sam Houston's 2nd wife, Rogers _____
56 stat for a Ranger or Astro hitter _____
57 this Desmond represented the Rangers at the 2016 All-Star Game _____

37 TXism: "couldn't _____ his upper lip" (weak)
38 how Bowie crossed Alamo line (3 wds.) _____
39 actress, TX Darnell Buchanan of 1941 film "Texas" _____
41 drug trafficking agcy. _____
43 a boot width _____
45 TX-born Dale Evans cowboy hubby (init.) _____
47 "were" in Spanish _____
48 TXism: "_____ grip like a snappin' turtle" the _____-banded armadillo is the state mammal of Texas _____

What are the biggest threats to a comfortable retirement?

TAYLOR MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Mobly

If you save and invest for decades, you'd like to know you can retire without financial worries. Nonetheless, you still have to be aware of some threats to a comfortable retirement — and how to respond to them.

These threats include:

INFLATION
Inflation has been high recently, but even a mild inflation rate can seriously erode your purchasing power. In fact, with just a 3% inflation rate, your expenses could double in about 25 years — and your retirement could

easily last that long. So, if you're going to rely on your investment portfolio for a sizable part of your retirement

income, you will need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or stock-based funds, whose potential returns can equal or exceed the inflation rate.

EXCESSIVE WITHDRAWALS

Once you retire, you should establish a withdrawal rate for your portfolio — an amount you can take out each year and still feel secure that you won't run out of mon-

ey. Some people make the mistake of withdrawing too much, too soon, once they're retired. Your withdrawal rate should be based on several factors, including your age at retirement, the size of your portfolio and the amount of income you receive from other sources, such as Social Security. A financial professional can help you determine a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your needs.

MARKET VOLATILITY

The financial markets will always fluctuate. When you're still working, this volatility may not be such a problem, as you have years or decades to recover from short-term downturns. But when you

retire, you don't want to have to sell investments when their price is down. To help prevent this, you can tap into the cash in your portfolio, assuming you have enough to cover several months' worth of living expenses. You could also draw on a CD "ladder" — a group of CDs that mature at different times — to provide you with resources for the next few years and allow your equity investments time to recover their value.

UNEXPECTED COSTS

You had them when you were working, and you'll probably have them when you're retired: the furnace that breaks down, the car that needs a major repair, and so

on. But if you've established an emergency fund containing a year's worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account, you may be able to "ride out" these costs without jeopardizing your investment portfolio. Be sure to keep these reserves separate from your typical day-to-day accounts to avoid the temptation of spending your emergency money.

HEALTH

Retirees may face more health concerns than younger people, and those concerns often come with larger medical bills. That's why it's important to maximize the benefits from Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan.

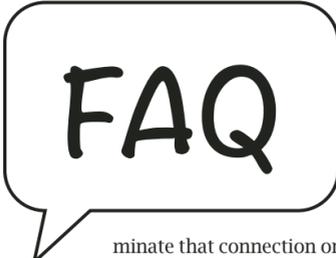
Also, if you contributed to a Health Savings Account (HSA) while you were working, and you haven't depleted it, you can use the money in retirement. As long as the HSA funds are used for qualified medical expenses, withdrawals are tax- and penalty-free, and won't be included in your income. This could help keep your income below certain levels, lower your Medicare premiums or avoid the 3.8% surtax on net investment income that can be assessed on high-net-worth taxpayers.

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Retirement can be a pleasant time in your life — and you'll enjoy it more if you're prepared for the challenges that face all retirees.

KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Frequently asked real estate questions



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 THE BUYERS MARKED 'AS IS' ON THE CONTRACT, HOW CAN THEY ASK FOR REPAIRS?

There is a section in the TREC contracts titled "Property Condition" where a buyer can choose to accept the property 'AS IS'. Sounds great, HOWEVER, that is a somewhat ambiguous clause, which is often misunderstood. If the buyers have selected and paid for an Option Period, they have the unrestricted right to terminate during that Option

Period. That is when they will have inspections and do their due diligence. Should items appear on the inspection they want repaired they have the right to ask for repairs, compensation in lieu of repairs or to terminate the contract and have their earnest money refunded. So, in a very large percentage of contracts that statement basically means the buyers didn't see anything obvious they wanted to ask for up front.

WHY CAN'T I DO MY OWN REPAIRS?

The TREC contract states that Repairs and or Treatments must be performed by persons who are licensed to perform such repairs or treatments, or if no license is required by law, are commercially engaged in the trade of providing such repairs or treatments. Sellers take note, when negotiating repairs, if you plan to do some of the work yourself, be very sure you document that in a written and signed Amendment to the contract. Otherwise, you could have a nasty surprise the day of closing when the buyers ask for repair receipts that you can't provide because you did the work yourself.

WHY MUST I DISCLOSE THAT I HAVE VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO SECURITY IN MY HOME?

When looking at houses, would you want the sellers listening in on your conversation without your knowledge? But it's not just about invading buyers' privacy, it can also give a seller an unfair advantage in future negotiations. In this age of technology and smart homes, security is fabulous, but it is important to disclose if you have the ability to observe and listen to potential buyers. Since I am clearly not a lawyer (lol) I can't speak to the legal ramifications should you fail to disclose but failure to disclose seldom ends well in any situation.

AND SPEAKING OF SMART HOME DEVICES...

Unless otherwise agreed to in the contract, be prepared to leave them with the house you are selling along with access codes, usernames, passwords, and applications buyer will need to access, operate, manage and control the Smart Device, and to terminate access and connections to accessories from any of your personal devices such as cell phones and computers. I had a client a few years back who spent three long, hot days moving into her new home with no air conditioning. THE REASON was, the seller controlled the thermostat remotely and had failed to terminate that connection or to transfer it to the new owner.

Buying or selling a home is for most people the largest SINGLE financial transaction they will ever make. How often do you buy or sell a single item for half a million dollars? So please ask questions and keep asking questions until you are satisfied you understand what you are signing. And since we at Knieper Realty love talking about Real Estate, we would love to answer those questions. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

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SUMMER IS COMING



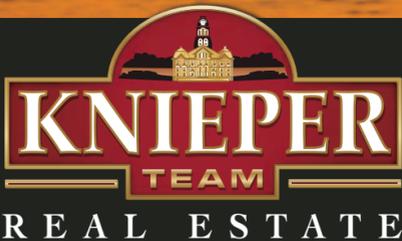
With the first day of summer just around the corner, many are already having fun in the sun at Granbury City Beach.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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‘WHERE LEARNERS BECOME LEADERS’

New private school to open in Acton this fall

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A new private school will soon be opening its doors in Acton this fall. Sage Academy Granbury, located at 2400 Fall Creek Highway, is an independent learner-driven private school for ages six to nine that celebrates personal responsibility, creative freedom, and leadership, according to its website.

While there is no affiliation with the town of Acton itself, Sage Academy is part of the global Acton Academy network of over 300 affiliates worldwide, where every school is classified as being a “one-room schoolhouse for the 21st century.”

“We (at Sage Academy) provide a unique and personalized approach to education that empowers students to become leaders in their own right,” said Sage Academy Granbury co-founder Jamie Alexander.

By placing students of varying ages in one classroom, the hope is that children will benefit academically and socially by working with older and younger peers.

“We’re taking very much that same historic approach of the one-room schoolhouse, where kids can really kind of learn from their peers and capture unique experiences from (them as well),” said Sage Academy Founder Tasha Skeen-Richard.

Sage Academy also leverages online learning tools,

where students spend up to two hours every day using self-paced adaptive technology to advance in reading, grammar, and mathematics.

“Most students advance more quickly than what they would in a regular school, because a first grader isn’t limited to first-grade curriculum,” Alexander explained. “If they meet all the first-grade benchmarks, they can keep going.”

According to the Sage Academy news release, students who attend Acton Academy affiliate schools are advancing on average of two to two-and-a-half grade levels per year.

Skeen-Richard said that as students work at their own pace and try out different ways of learning, they can figure out what works best for them — allowing them to reach their full potential quicker than most students.

“We offer the kids multiple learning tools, and then let them choose what really speaks to them, how they learn, and what is best for them,” she said. “With taking that approach, it ignites passion, and there’s not



Excitement is brewing for the opening of Hood County’s new private school. Sage Academy Granbury, located at 2400 Fall Creek Highway in Acton, is an independent learner-driven private school for ages six to nine. The first day of school is set for Sept. 5.

anyone telling them what to do. There’s expectations, but there’s not a teacher in front of the classroom telling them ‘Now do this’ and ‘Now do that.’ We set goals and they try to meet those goals.”

With a unique approach to education, Sage Academy stands out from other private schools.

Instead of writing essays, students will learn how to write business pitches, emails, and “thank-you” cards.

“By connecting it to real-world applications, they have a desire to do it,” Skeen-Richard said. “They’ve written emails on how to get a job, or how to follow up on an email, and

then they put it into a real-world application — that’s the ultimate goal is to prepare them for that.”

Sage Academy bases its learning model on the Hero’s Journey, a story pattern common in ancient myths and modern-day adventures. In each journey, an everyday person goes on an adventure, faces chal-

lenges, wins a victory, and then comes home transformed — a hero.

“We really embrace the Hero’s Journey, but what we really do is kind of transform that in the studio of real-world heroes,” Skeen-Richard said. “We take these real-world heroes and we

PLEASE SEE SAGE | B2

Granbury Middle School hires new band director

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A new faculty member will soon be climbing aboard the pirate ship at Granbury ISD.

Caitlin Koch will be starting her position as Granbury Middle School’s new head band director beginning this fall.

Koch, 32, previously served as the head band director at Summer Creek Middle School in Crowley ISD, where she taught for 10 years.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Koch moved to Texas in 2009, where she graduated summa cum laude in 2013 with a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

While at TCU, she studied

saxophone with Joe Eckert — TCU’s first full-time professor of saxophone — and performed with the Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, Horned Frog Marching Band, and various saxophone chamber ensembles.

Koch said she first fell in love with band when she saw her older sister, Jen, playing the saxophone.

“I always looked up to her, so when it was my turn to start band at fifth grade in Pennsylvania, I wanted to be a saxophone player and be awesome just like she was,” she explained. “As a kid, I was a pretty good saxophone player. I enjoyed that music was something you could just keep working on and improving on without ever reaching a ceiling. I also love the support that I felt from my band direc-



COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

Caitlin Koch, 32, will be starting her position as the new Granbury Middle School head band director beginning this fall.

tors throughout school, so I wanted to be a band director to also provide support

and inspiration for students now.”

Although saxophone is

her favorite instrument to play, Koch said clarinet is her favorite instrument to teach.

“Band is cool because I really like seeing the students develop their own motivation and confidence to grow,” she said. “They start band with no knowledge of how to play an instrument, so it’s really fun watching them develop into the young musicians that they can be. I also really like watching the culture of the band hall evolve. You start to see the kids’ personalities, strengths, and different leadership skills emerge throughout their time.”

Koch said that her goal as GMS’s new band director is to eventually start a jazz band club.

Outside of teaching and performing, Koch enjoys

gardening, practicing yoga, and running. She currently lives in Willow Park with her husband, Troy, and her dog, Lacy.

She is also affiliated with Pi Kappa Lambda and the Texas Music Educators Association.

Koch said she is excited about joining GMS because she’s only heard good things about the students there.

“Everyone I have talked to so far has really fantastic things to say about the kids,” she added. “I hear they’re fun to work with and are really receptive to learning, so I just want to jump in and see how great we can be.”

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Lady Pirates recognized with individual, district softball awards

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The Granbury Lady Pirates softball team might have had a rough end to the season, but the team’s recent honors proved that the girls have no plans to throw in the towel anytime soon.

With four district awards, five individual awards, and 11 Academic All-District awards, the girls gave it their all this season, and assistant coach Devon Grieser couldn’t be prouder of his team.

“The season may not have ended the way anyone wanted, but to say these girls left everything they had out on the field would be an understatement,” he said. “This group of girls bat-

tled in every game until the final out was recorded. Head coach Katie Lefler and myself are super proud of the way these girls handled themselves on the field.”

Kristen Hicks-Williams, the GHS softball booster club president, also expressed how proud she was of the girls’ perseverance.

“This year we gained another very competitive team for district, so it was definitely a harder time during district this year than we have had in the past,” she explained. “I (was really proud) to see that the girls still stepped up and got these honors.”

Grieser added, “The Lady Pirates are determined to build

on the successes of this season and look forward to getting back on the field for the 2024 season.”

Below is the full list of district awards, individual awards, and those who were recognized for being the top student-athletes in Academic All District:

DISTRICT AWARDS

Freshman of the year - Hannah Dafoe

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL | B4

COURTESY OF KRISTEN HICKS-WILLIAMS

GHS freshman Carli Carlton received second team all-district, academic all-district, and was voted defensive MVP by her Lady Pirate softball teammates.



Juneteenth: A celebration of freedom

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The oldest known holiday commemorating the end of the slavery in the U.S. will take place on Monday.

Known to some as the “country’s second Independence Day,” Juneteenth — short for June 19 — is a celebration of a major historical event that took place more than a century-and-a-half ago, when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas received the news that they were finally free.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee had sur-

rendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia

only two months earlier, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas — until Union general Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865, and read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free,” according to history.com,

General Granger’s announcement put into effect the Emancipation

Proclamation, which had been issued nearly two-and-a-half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

After the Civil War ended, Granger’s arrival in Galveston signaled freedom for a total of 250,000 slaves in Texas, according to history.com. Slavery was formally abolished in December of 1865, with the adoption of the 13th Amendment.

Although African Americans have celebrated Juneteenth since the late

1800s, the national holiday has only recently begun making headway within the past few years.

The increase in Juneteenth celebrations is largely due to the media attention surrounding President Joe Biden when he signed the resolution from Congress establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021.

According to the New York Times, momentum to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday picked up

steam during the summer of 2020 when nationwide protests surfaced all over the U.S. following the police killings of Black Americans George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

Today, people across the nation celebrate Juneteenth — also known as “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day” — with parades and cookouts.

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Congratulations to the Juneteenth essay contest winners

The Texas Democratic Women of Hood County and the Hood County News co-sponsored a Juneteenth Essay Contest. The topic was “What Juneteenth means to all Americans.” High School and Middle School winners were selected. High school winners were First Place Eli Sisco, and Second Place Quinn Beekly (not pictured). First Place middle school winner was Jack Martin. High school winners received \$100 (first) and \$75 (second) prize, and middle school winner received a \$75 prize. Below are the winning essays.



Pictured from left is Rose Simpson, winner Eli Sisco, and Hannah Bohm.



Pictured from left is Rose Simpson, winner Jack Martin, and Hannah Bohm.

Juneteenth Essay

BY ELI SISCO

In 1492, a man named Christopher Columbus set foot in the place we know today as North America. Columbus initially told Spain of his findings. A hundred-ish years later, while other areas were conquered by other countries, the British settled 13 colonies on the east side of this land. These colonies would later be called the United States. Britain decided that to develop these colonies, labor would be needed, and the cheaper the labor, the better. Deals were made with African countries that would transport random Africans to colonies in exchange for money and power. These Africans would end up as slaves.

Slaves helped develop America. During the Revolutionary War, around 5,000 unfree Africans

fought for America. One notable slave who participated in the war was William Lee, a slave owned by George Washington who fought alongside him. As the USA expanded, the whole southern economy relied on slave labor. Because cotton needed to be picked in order to work a cotton gin, nearly 4 million Africans would work doing so. However, slaves were still treated like an afterthought.

During the 1860s, northern America abandoned slavery; however, the south single-handedly relied on it. Tensions would grow between the two, with 11 southern states eventually abandoning America and joining what they called the Confederacy. This would lead to what we know as the “Civil War”. For four straight years, gruesome battles were fought to de-

termine whether slaves should be kept or not. Families were slaughtered, and many were drafted to fight; it wasn’t pretty. Eventually, though, on April 19th, 1865, the confederates would surrender, and slaves would finally be free...kind of.

Although slaves were supposed to be freed during 1863, many Confederate soldiers did not obey that rule. It took years, but finally, on June 19th, 1865, the last slaves located in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom. Black Americans could finally somewhat feel how white Americans did every day. It’s not like racism ended the day slavery did, but to many, it’s a day that represents the words America built and founded itself upon. Hope and freedom.

What Juneteenth means to all Americans

BY JACK MARTIN

Juneteenth is the day which marks a very important event in American history dating back to 1865. Although the Emancipation Proclamation established freedom for all slaves on January 1, 1863, the last group of enslaved African Americans were declared free by Union troops in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th, 1865, after the end of the Civil War. The day has been celebrated for years in Texas but was declared as the 11th federal holiday in the United States when President Joe Biden signed Senate Bill 475 in 2021, thanks to the efforts from “the grandmother of Juneteenth,” Opal Lee.

Opal Lee, a 97-year-old former teacher from Fort Worth, Texas was a substantial part of Juneteenth becoming a federal holiday. She campaigned for decades and did many things for the movement. For example, she organized multiple symbol-

ic walks across the country to spread her message that eventually succeeded. Another achievement from Lee is that she was the second African American who had her portrait hung in the Texas Capitol. All of this proves how influential she was to the Juneteenth movement and also to black history in America.

Juneteenth is so important to every American because we can celebrate, but also educate, others with this holiday. We honor the strength and toughness of Black Americans in history on Juneteenth. Everyone should recognize the past and ongoing struggles our country has had with racial justice. For all Americans, Juneteenth is a reminder of the work that needs to be done for equality and freedom, but also how much our country has improved from what it once was. Also, it reflects the contributions from African Americans who helped build our unified

country today. We can look at the holiday as a reminder of the dark past of our country, and it may be uncomfortable to discuss some of the horrible treatment Black Americans used to endure, but history is beneficial for all Americans to learn about. The date serves as an opportunity to understand how the past still impacts our society today. Of course, our country has grown a lot in the past couple of centuries, but Juneteenth will continue allowing Americans to learn, so our country will go forward instead of repeating these tragedies in history.

Opal Lee understood that America is a country that celebrates freedom and equality for ALL our citizens. Just as July 4th celebrates American’s freedom and independence from oppression, Juneteenth reminds us that June 19, 1865, was the day that, by law, EVERY American could claim to be free, independent, and equal.

SAGE

FROM PAGE B1

have these interviews with them. The learner gets to hear their difficulties, (see how they’ve succeeded) and learn how to apply that in their daily life.”

The school follows an 11-month calendar, meaning summer breaks only last six weeks. However, weekly breaks throughout the year allow families dedicated time to travel and attend to personal matters such

as doctor’s appointments, according to the Sage Academy website.

Additionally, a policy of no homework provides students with more family time, while hands-on project-based learning allows students to dive deep into big ideas — preparing them for real-world challenges.

Hands-on projects called Quests span four- to six-week periods that challenge students to “learn by doing” in the fields of science, social studies, the arts, and

entrepreneurship. Students develop perseverance and learn to work as a team as they explore these high-level academic concepts.

“Over six weeks, they’ll do a series of projects that all culminate in one big final exhibition that they put on for their parents, and then the parents can kind of see what they’ve been learning and a variation of what they can do in the real world,” Alexander said.

She explained that a common Quest that other Acton

Academy schools have done is a medical biology Quest, where students pretend that they’re doctors.

“They have to learn how to read X-rays and in doing that, they’re learning about anatomy and structure,” Alexander said. “They have to learn how and why people get sick, and they’re learning about immune systems, germs, and bacteria. The end goal, after six weeks, their parents come in and they’re all going to have a card that has a dis-

ease or a malady and they have to diagnose and treat it, so they use what they’ve learned in that way.”

Socratic discussions about heroes, history, and self-governance also hone critical thinking skills and the ability to listen, think, write, and speak clearly.

The school’s nature-based learning and exploration program includes spending at least 90 minutes outdoors in the tree-covered half-acre Adventure Grove, where students can learn,

play, and explore the wonders of the natural world.

LAUNCHING SAGE ACADEMY

In fact, the lack of outdoor learning in one Granbury campus is what led Alexander to join Skeen-Richard in starting Sage Academy.

“The administration is great, but some things weren’t what I wanted, like (my child’s) recess was 15 minutes; it’s depressing,”

PLEASE SEE SAGE | B3

BOOK REVIEW

'How to Survive History' an extraordinarily fun look at the past

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You are one tough cookie. You've gone through fire and come out like steel; you bend and don't break. Nobody messes with you, they know you're resilient, gutsy, creative, and resourceful. You can get through almost anything and live but not, perhaps, without the new book "How to Survive History" by Cody Cassidy.

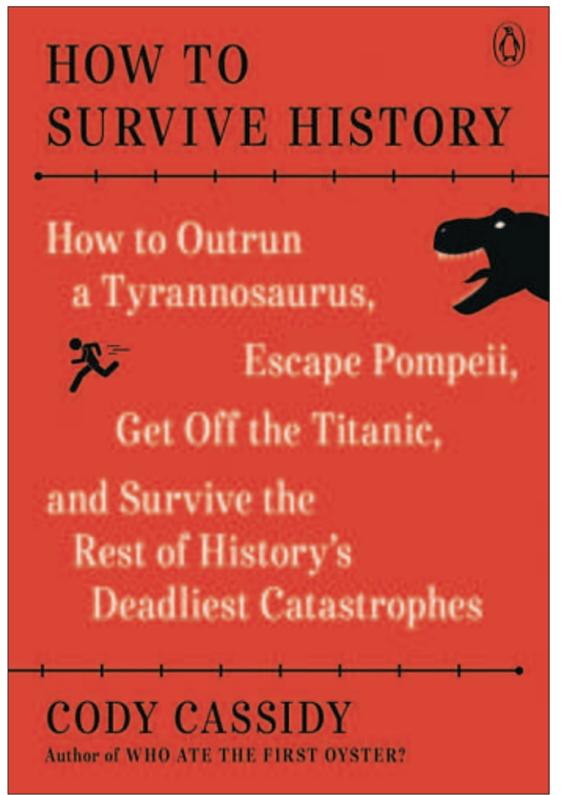
Some time ago, Cody Cassidy read a report claiming that it would've been possible for a healthy adult to have outrun a tyrannosaurus. Huh. If this didn't call for more research, then nothing does - and sure enough, the article was right. If you were suddenly transported back in time a few million years and dropped in front of an apex predator like T-rex, you had a pretty good chance of survival. You wouldn't have been so lucky with every dinosaur, but well, there ya go. OK, so let's say your time machine went a little wonky

and you ended up in your snowsuit on the frozen tundra. Would you be able to hunt a mammoth, and what would it take? Hint: better bring your BFF with you. Bring your friend along if you end up on the side of a pyramid in ancient Egypt, too. You can never have enough help dragging bus-size stones up a quarter-mile ascent. In a big way, you can do a lot to help yourself if you time-travel badly. You wouldn't go up in a puff of smoke in Pompeii, if you had map-making skills. If you knew where a cave was, you might've outlived

the dinosaurs in the case of a cataclysmic asteroid. Assuming you were able to take your modern know-how along and you had a good pair of shoes, it wouldn't be impossible to survive "The Darkest Year of the Dark Ages." And if you wondered what would happen if you pull a wagon through a Rocky Mountain passage in the winter, here's some advice: stick with the women in the group - especially if your group happens to be named after the Donners... All winter long, you've been dreaming of taking a different kind of vacation, so why not travel big this year? Pack your bags carefully, choose your destination wisely, and go back in time with "How to Survive History." If you've ever read anything about an old-time disaster and idly wondered how you'd have fared, you're in luck: author Cody Cassidy explains just how truly awful things were

back then and why today's bravado and the scientific knowledge you've collected in your lifetime here may or may not have saved your hide there. If that feels like an argument-starter (or ender), it absolutely is. Cassidy presents the facts of history and science, but he also leaves room for plenty of OK-but-what-ifs and the kind of debates you'd have with your friends over a kitchen table and a cold glass. You'll learn a thing or two - and you'll love every second of it. That makes "How to Survive History" extraordinary fun for smarty-pantses, history buffs, fun-fact lovers and science geeks who'll surely want s'more. COURTESY PHOTO

"How to Survive History: How to Outrun a Tyrannosaurus, Escape Pompeii, Get Off the Titanic, and Survive the Rest of History's Deadliest Catastrophes" by Cody Cassidy C.2023, PENGUIN BOOKS. \$17.99. 224 PAGES.



SAGE

FROM PAGE B2

she explained. "And the school buildings out here are older, so his classroom didn't have windows. The only sunlight he saw every day was his 15 minutes outside; it's like a prison. It's not anyone's fault, it's just how the structures are around here, and he was just not really happy." Previously, Alexander and Skeen-Richard had met because their children attended Lake Granbury

Montessori Academy together - next door to where Sage Academy's studio will be located. "I came across Acton Academy six years ago, and I started to learn about them and thought, 'Wow, this is really what I want for my son,'" Skeen-Richard said. "I just started watching it on social media and digging up podcasts and really just kind of seeing how the school was working globally. I kind of knew in the back of my mind that starting it was going to be

the answer, so I started to be more verbal about trying to find parents who kind of shared the same values and were looking for the same things in education for their children. While Jamie has a different story, what we want for our kids are in alignment. Through a conversation we had at a birthday party, we decided that we should talk a little bit more seriously about it, so we did and now we're here."

reading, writer's workshop, typing, spelling, independent study initiatives, and "Brain Breaks" as needed) 10:45 - lunch/outdoor time 12 p.m. - DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) 12:30 - Quest Launch (Socratic discussion) 12:45 - Quest/project time (individual and group project work, quests, civilization study, report on goals) 2:15 - specials (music, dance, cooking, P.E. skills and group games, yoga, etc.) 2:45 - studio maintenance 3 p.m. - daily close and reflection 3:15 p.m. - pick up "Our tagline is 'where learners become leaders,' so we'll house up to 23 kids

in our first studio," Skeen-Richard said. "We do plan on over the next several years growing into a full campus, where we launch a Threshold (middle school) and Launchpad Studio (high school) in the years to come." EVENTS Sage Academy Granbury has many exciting things happening over the next couple of months, such as a STEAM Nature Camp on July 21, and a Children's Business Fair set for the fall, while the studio goes through renovations. "Right now, we're prepping for the STEAM Nature Camp, and our idea behind that is to give kids and parents an experience of what it's like to attend Sage Academy," Skeen-Richard said. "We're doing eight different stations and putting the kids through Quests. It really offers us that nature

piece that we both feel is a very important part of the program as well." ENROLLMENT/OPENING Enrollment for Sage Academy is now open, and the Adventure Studio - as Skeen-Richard and Alexander call it - is scheduled to open its doors on Sept. 5. "Parents are invited to contact the school to start their child's application today or download the free info packet to learn more about the innovative and learner-driven approach to education," Skeen-Richard said. For more information about Sage Academy Granbury, email info@sageacademygranbury.com, visit sageacademygranbury.com online, or call 682-229-0426. ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

FARM/RETIREMENT AUCTION Thursday, June 22, 2023 • STARTS @ 9:31 AM 34470 S. 4400 Rd. • Big Cabin, OK 74322 DIRECTIONS: From Adair, OK @ Jct of Hwy 28 & Hwy 69, Take Hwy 28 E 6 mi to Road 4400, Turn Left (N), Go 4 1/2 mi to Auction site on Right, OR From Vinita, OK @ Jct of Hwy 66 & 4400 Rd South 6 1/2 mi to Auction site on Left. >>>>>>>> RUNNING 2 RINGS ALL DAY <<<<<<<<<< GUNS, VEHICLES, JEEPS, TRACTORS, HAY EQUIPMENT, TRAILERS, BOAT, SIDE BY SIDE, LAWNMOWERS, LOADERS, HORSE TACK, OVERHEAD FEED BIN, CATTLE FEEDERS, CATTLE PANELS, FENCING SUPPLIES, WELDERS, WELDING SUPPLIES, AIR COMPRESSORS, TIRES & RIMS, TIRE MACHINE, HUNTING / FISHING GEAR, TOOL BOXES & TOOLS AUCTION STARTS @ 9:31 am ONLINE BIDDING on LOTS 1-60 STARTS @ 11:01 am OWNER: Brent & Melanie McSpadden/McSpadden Farms Auctioneer's Note: Brent is retiring and getting out of the farming business. Some Hay Equipment included from the Kelo Kennedy Estate. Equipment is in Great Condition! Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for pictures at www.chuppsauction.com TERMS: Cash - Credit Cards - Check with Proper ID - OK Sales Tax Applies unless exemption is shown. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS. ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS ADVERTISING. CHUPPS AUCTION & REAL ESTATE Stan Chupp (918) 638-1157 Dale Chupp, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Neokia Select (918) 630-0495 Jonathan Miller (918) 237-7582

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PETS OF THE WEEK Ocher (left) and Rusty are domestic shorthair male kittens. They are approximately 10 weeks old. Both kittens are very friendly and would love to find their forever homes. The special adoption fee is \$25. The fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip. Ember is a female Husky mix. She is approximately four months old, and is playful and inquisitive. The special adoption fee is \$25. The 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 (adoption only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury! ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

No mmttaer how mnay tmies you raed tihs setncnae, you can sitll mkae snese of it. train your brain... Read Your Newspaper! Hood County News 1501 S. Morgan St. • Granbury 817-573-7066

HCNEWS.COM SUDOKU Solution for the puzzle on June 10 (Puzzle 33). Puzzle by websudoku.com

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Hot summer fishing is here, and the patterns starting to settle in



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

Water temperatures are moving toward the middle 80s and the summer patterns are settling in. The heat has arrived after a fairly mild spring, but we knew it was sure to get here. Enjoy the summertime and be safe out there.

Water temperatures are getting hot and the lake is stratifying, which causes thermoclines to start setting up. A thermocline on Lake Granbury is typically around 15 to 20 feet down and can be much deeper on larger lakes. The top layer of water has sufficient oxygen for life. The thermocline region is the transition from the top layer of water to the bottom layer of water. Sufficient oxygen exists for most fish in the thermocline and the lower layer does not have sufficient oxygen to sustain life. The good news here is that you can find most of the fish in the top layer, which can assist you in locating them.

The last couple of days on Lake Granbury, I can only

keep my live bait alive down to maybe 15 feet due to the thermocline. If you notice your live bait dying, you are probably fishing too deep.

The typical summertime patterns for feeding fish are best early and late. There are exceptions, but I certainly prefer to get on the water early. Some days the fish will only bite early, and you don't want to miss that opportunity.

Summertime fish are usually willing to chase when they do feed. Down rigging or trolling with artificial baits that have rattles in them is extremely effective. DD-22, Fat Free shad deep divers trolled near drop-offs can put fish in the boat. Down rigging hair jigs with white or chartreuse curly

tails are effective as well. Slabs or spoons are effective on humps and ridges where fish are holding especially for sand bass right now. Trolling rattle traps and pet spoons/hellbender rigs are effective alternatives for summertime sand bass.

Live bait is a good choice in the summer as when nothing else will work live bait is hard to beat for all species.

The last piece of advice for striped bass and sand bass is to call them in as I mentioned in a previous article. Thrashing the water to simulate feeding fish will bring in curious predators.

Enjoy our Texas lakes this summer. There is a lot more boating activity on the lake now, which may be another reason to fish early and late. Drink plenty of fluids and keep the sunscreen handy. See you on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the middle 80s and warming. Thermocline was around 15-20 feet down this past week. Striped bass and sand bass are on humps and ridges from DeCordova subdivision to the dam. Striped



COURTESY OF MIKE ACOSTA

Robbie and Jamie Bankston are pictured with their granddaughter Eleigh Bankston and their catch of Granbury striped bass to 9 pounds caught last weekend.

bass to 12 pounds are best on live bait. Sand bass are fair to good on slabs and trolling. Largemouth numbers are good on top water and crankbaits early and soft plastics later near shaded areas. Catfish are good on cut bait, preferably at night. Crappies are good to excellent on small minnows

or jigs fished near bridge pilings and standing timber on many areas of the lake.

OTHER RESERVOIRS

Striped bass to 15 pounds are good on Possum Kingdom Lake on live bait fished on the lower ends. Lake Whitney striped bass

limits continue on live bait and down rigging jigs mid-lake to the dam. Possum Kingdom Lake largemouth bass to 9 pounds are possible mid-lake near Broadway.

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

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

First team all-district - Karmyn Williams and Lilli Williams

Second team all-district - Carli Carlton and Allison Dafoe

Honorable mention - Brenna Haynes and Kaitlyn Cervantes

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

MVP: Senior Lilli Williams
Offensive MVP: Sophomore Karmyn Williams
Offensive MVP: Freshman Hannah Dafoe
Defensive MVP: Freshman Carli Carlton
Pirate Heart Award: Senior Bailey Stone

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Carli Carlton
Kaitlyn Cervantes
Allison Dafoe
Hannah Dafoe
Brenna Haynes
Meredith Jones
Lauren Petty
Abby Stone
Bailey Stone
Karmyn Williams
Lilli Williams

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Left, Granbury High School senior Bailey Stone received the Pirate Heart award and academic all-district following the end of the Lady Pirate softball season.

Right, GHS sophomore Karmyn Williams received first team all-district, academic all-district, and was voted offensive MVP by her Lady Pirate softball teammates.

COURTESY OF KRISTEN HICKS-WILLIAMS



Wellington State Bank Welcomes Shane Deshoutel to the Granbury Family!

Shane Deshoutel
Assistant Vice President of Operations

"As a longtime member of Granbury, I've been able to experience the community in several ways including President of Hood County Christmas for Children, Class Leader for Junior Leadership Granbury, and an Alumni for Leadership Granbury. Knowing my daughters will be raised in a community that I've been able to see so many good things from is what motivates me to continue to help cultivate it in any way that I can! I am very proud to be with the bank who focuses on giving back and getting involved in the community."

~ Shane Deshoutel



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5 meaty, Southern-style tenders with 1 side and dipping sauce 12.49 / 760-1450 CAL.

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SPORTS Roundup

Tolar teams highlight strong Hood County sports year

Granbury, Lipan also had share of spotlight

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

From Granbury to Lipan, there was lots of sports success in the 2022-23 school year. And situated in between those is where the majority of success occurred. While all three area schools had plenty to be proud of, Tolar teams had a sports year fans will long remember from the first snap of the best Rattlers football season ever in the fall to the final out of the best Rattlers season ever in baseball come spring.

Also, all three programs had numerous athletes receive all-state and academic all-state honors during their respective seasons.

"It has been an awesome year to be a Tolar Rattler, there's no doubt!" said Tolar head football coach and athletic director Jeremy Mullins. "It has certainly been one of the most fun years I've had as a coach and getting to go watch and support all of our student-athletes and coaches."

Mullins and fellow Tolar faithful saw:

Football — district champions, finished with a 13-1 record and a state quarterfinals berth. Featured one of the nation's top players in sophomore running back Peyton Brown (2,777 yards, 21st in nation; 49 touchdowns, 10th; 296 points, 11th).

Volleyball — advanced to second round of playoffs.

Boys basketball — program record for wins (30-8) and regional finals, deepest playoff run ever.

Girls basketball — qualified for playoffs.



COURTESY PHOTO BY KELLY MOORE

Tolar Running back Peyton Brown rushed for 2,777 yards as a sophomore in 2022.

Baseball — district champions, 25-10-2 record and regional finals, deepest playoff run ever.

Softball — district champions, ranked among the best in the state all season, finished 20-3-1, had a 21-game unbeaten streak, advanced to second round of playoffs.

Track and field — boys won district, junior Dillon Soileau qualified for state in the 110-meter hurdles and joined junior Garrison Nation, sophomore Caden Pate and junior Wyatt Jones on the 400-meter relay that finished fourth at state with a school-record time of 42.72 seconds. Soileau also

set a record in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.72 earlier in the season.

Girls golf — district champions as a team, freshman Callan Nix qualified for state, placing fourth.

Boys golf — district champions.

Swimming — junior Zane Herndon qualified for state,

placing eighth in the boys 100-yard breaststroke.

"There is always a tremendous amount of time and energy put into having a group ready to go and compete at a high level, and it was sure fun to get to see that effort pay off," Mullins said. "We have awesome kids, coaches, parents, and school and community support. The crowds just seemed to grow throughout the year."

Mullins was also happy to see athletes enjoy success in multiple sports.

"It seems like there is always more and more push to have kids 'specialize' in one area these days. I'm very proud of how our coaches work together and how our kids and their families have bought in to being as multi-sport as we can be," he said.

"We have a good amount of kids who are competing in something throughout the school year, and I believe that mindset has truly helped us in all of our sports. We want to be in the conversation of winning it all in everything we do each year."

PLEASE SEE **SPORTS** | B8

Rattlers dominate all-district honors

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

To the surprise of, well, pretty much no one, the Tolar Rattlers dominated the All-District 13-2A baseball honors handed out by the league's coaches.

After all, they did enjoy the best season in program history, advancing to their first regional finals ever and compiling a 25-10-2 record. This included winning the district championship.

Seniors Keaton Morrison and Brock Owens shared the league MVP honors. Morrison led the Rattlers in several categories, including batting average (.363), hits (37), runs (32) and stolen bases (17), while Owens led the team in RBI (27) along with batting .324 with 34 hits that included five doubles.

Meanwhile, juniors Talan Brown and Jesse Owen were named Pitcher of the Year and Co-Offensive Player of the Year (with Santo senior Caden Ramsey), respectively. Brown compiled a 10-2 record that included 10 straight wins with a save and a perfect game, along with an ERA of 1.25, 75 strikeouts and 21 walks. Owen led the Rattlers in doubles (8) and home runs (3), while batting .333 with 20 RBI and 22

walks (tied for team lead).

The Newcomer of the Year is sophomore Drake Owens (14 RBI, 22 walks, team-leading 10 hit by pitch) and senior Jackson LeCluyse (six doubles, 16 RBI, eight hit by pitch, 5-3 pitching with a save and a 1.69 ERA) shared Utility Player of the Year accolades with Santo senior Luke Tucker.

First-team selections from Tolar are seniors Reis Brown and Cade Moody, junior Merritt Imel and sophomore Talan Culberson. Junior Mitchell Alford is an honorable mention.

For Lipan, junior Tyson Tarpley was chosen for the first team, with freshman Dakota Mast on the second team and sophomore Cash Bollenbarker an honorable mention.

The Indians advanced to the first round of the playoffs.

Academic all-district for Tolar were LeCluyse, Moody and fellow senior Luke Willmon. Lipan academic all-district honors were not available.

SEALS SWIMMING

Ridglea Swim Team Meet Saturday, Jan. 10
SEALS top results (distances in yards)

Male

8-Under

50 free: 1. Davis Moore, 1:02.06.
25 back: 2. Moore, 31.90; 3. Elijah O'Brien, 33.27.
25 free: 2. Moore, 25.89.
100 free relay: 2. Moore, Jeremiah Sorrells, O'Brien, Cutter Plash, 2:16.75.

9-10

50 free: 1. John Stone, 42.27; Asher Beatty, 46.44.
100 medley relay: 1. Stone, Beatty, Mason Prince, Lincoln Bleasdel, 1:33.51.
25 back: 1. Prince, 20.59; 2. Beatty, 26.18; 3. Jameson Plash, 26.24.
25 breast: 2. Stone, 25.14; 3. Beatty, 27.11.
25 fly: 1. Prince, 17.59.
25 free: 2. Plash, 21.47; 3. Bleasdel, 24.20.
100 IM: 1. Prince, 1:39.54; 2. Stone, 1:50.23.
100 freelay: 1. Jaxon McKelvy, Zane Frasier, Dipson Thapaliya, Ben Dixon, 1:49.86.

11-12

200 medley relay: 1. Connor Spence, Jude Ward, Aiden Gifford, Adler Snow, 2:48.81.
100 free: 1. Kyle Brawner, 1:13.08; 2. Ward, 1:14.43; Gifford, 1:18.64.
50 back: 1. Gifford, 40.03; 3. Ward, 41.64.
50 breast: 1. Brawner, 44.74; 2. Ward, 46.06.
50 fly: 1. Snow, 42.05; 2. Spence, 44.84.
50 free: 1. Brawner, 33.22; 2. Gifford, 33.95.

13-14

200 medley relay: 1. Logan Crowe, K. Brawner, J. Plash, Landon Bleasdel, 3:07.44.
100 free: 1. Crowe, 1:13.25.
50 back: 1. Crowe, 37.78.
50 breast: 1. Crowe, 41.43.

15-17

200 medley relay: 1. Heath

Lipan Lady Indian Chelsea Lott (second from left) was a participant in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Small School Girls All-Star Game. Lott was on the Lime Green Team, which lost 90-89 in overtime to the Orange/Blue Team. Pictured with her is coach Tyler Helms from Idalou, and her parents Vanessa and Jimmy Lott.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA LOTT



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENT GAYLOR

Lipan Indians coach Brent Gaylor and Garrett Smith were participants in the recent Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star Games. Smith scored 17 points to help the Small School Boys Burnt Orange Team to a 116-112 victory against the Charcoal Team, while Gaylor was an assistant coach.

Crowe, Zane Herndon, Cameron Ward, Colby Parker, 2:12.06.
100 free: 1. Ward, 1:02.27; 2. Crowe, 1:06.44; 3. Parker, 1:10.11.
50 back: 1. Crowe, 38.41.
50 breast: 1. Lee Stuart, 35.62.
50 fly: 1. Ward, 30.65; 3. Crowe, 32.50.
50 free: 2. Parker, 31.03.
100 IM: 1. Stuart, 1:10.93; 2. Ward, 1:11.81.
200 free: 1. Stuart, 2:48.06.

40-Over

50 breast: 1. Kevin Fox, 39.46.
50 fly: 1. Fox, 36.31.
100 IM: 1. Fox, 1:10.54.

Female

6-Under
25 free: 1. Eliana Sanchez, 28.00
25 back: 1. Sanchez, 33.42.

8-Under

25 back: 3. Madeline Baysinger, 28.20.
25 fly: 1. Baysinger, 36.75.
25 free: 2. Baysinger, 24.80.
100 free relay: 2. Aubrey Snow, E. Sanchez, Vivi Floyd, Sailor Winters, 2:21.70.

9-10

25 back: 1. Logan Bleasdel, 28.96; 2. Dylan Bleasdel, 29.12.
25 free: 3. D. Bleasdel, 25.76.

11-12

200 medley relay: 2.

Lilli McKelvy, Harper Fox, Charlotte Sorrells, Fynlee Gomas, 3:00.95.

100 free: 1. Sorrells, 1:20.20; Fox, 1:22.51.
50 back: 1. McKelvy, 44.99.
50 breast: 3. Fox, 49.01.
50 fly: 3. Sorrells, 42.00.

13-14

200 medley relay: 1. Abigail Beatty, Miley Maxwell, Hannah Ward, Bailey Stone, 2:42.68.
100 free: 1. Ward, 1:15.28; 3. Stone, 1:19.39.
50 back: 1. Ward, 39.61; 3. Valentina Uzcatequi, 46.52.
50 breast: 1. Maxwell, 48.36; 2. Uzcatequi, 48.69; 3. Beatty, 51.48.
50 free: 1. Stone, 35.11; 2. Uzcatequi, 37.14; 3. Maxwell, 37.38.
200 free: 1. Ward, 2:31.21; 2. Stone, 2:59.25.

15-17

100 free: 1. Bethany Crowe, 1:06.34; Elise Ward, 1:13.89.
50 breast: 1. Crowe, 37.90.
50 fly: 1. Raya Gifford, 32.93; 3. Ward, 36.04.
50 free: 1. Gifford, 29.34; 2. Crowe, 29.64.
100 IM: 1. Gifford, 1:19.56.
200 free: 1. Ward, 2:41.97.
200 free relay: 1. Crowe, Ward, Gifford, Maxwell, 2:13.17.

40-Over

50 back: 1. Tristy Stuart, 41.81.
50 fly: 1. Stuart, 42.03.
50 free: 1. Stuart, 36.36.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA LOTT

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Former Sam Houston State assistant named as Tarleton's head baseball coach

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — A veteran assistant coach who just helped his team power through the SWAC Baseball Tournament has been picked to lead the Texans. Tarleton announced on June 8 that they have hired Sam Houston State University assistant Fuller Smith as the ninth head coach in Tarleton's modern era of baseball.

"I believe Fuller Smith is the perfect choice to lead Tarleton baseball, and I couldn't be more excited to bring him to Stephenville," Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics Lonn Reisman said. "His resume speaks for itself, he knows what it takes to win, and he really impressed us during this process. I can't wait to see the new heights Fuller can take this program."

"My family and I are honored to have the opportunity to lead the Texan baseball program," Smith said. "I'd like to extend my most sincere thanks to Dr. James Hurley and Lonn Reisman for this incredible opportunity. The tight-knit family atmosphere and culture they've created at Tarleton is something my family and I were immediately drawn to and we cannot wait to be part of."

Smith has spent the last 10 years as an assistant coach for current WAC programs, the last four with Sam Houston, which just made a trip to the NCAA regionals where it was the No. 3 seed in the Baton Rouge regional. The Bearkats earned a trip to

the postseason after winning the 2023 WAC Tournament.

"Fuller is the epitome of a college baseball coach," Sam Houston baseball head coach Jay Sirianni said. "He has an elite work ethic, cares deeply for his players, and drives them to be their best. He's been an integral part of our success and he has contributed to success everywhere he has been. Simply put, he is a winner who does it the right way. Fuller is a star in our profession and will unquestionably build a program that any university would be proud of."

Fuller has spent time as an assistant coach at Sam Houston (2020-23), UT-Arlington (2014-19), and Ole Miss (2013), as well as playing three seasons at Ole Miss where he earned his degree (2008). He also was Sam Houston's recruiting coordinator the last four seasons and the director of baseball operations at Ole Miss in 2011-12.

Across 12 years of coaching, he's helped develop 11 All-America players, 40 All-Conference selections and 68 Major League Baseball draft picks. During his coaching and playing



Fuller Smith, right, a veteran college baseball assistant coach, has been named as the new head coach to lead the Tarleton State University Texans. Smith, pictured congratulating one of the Sam Houston University Bearkats during a game earlier this season, became the ninth head coach in Tarleton's modern era of baseball.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM HOUSTON ATHLETICS

career, he's had five regional and three super regional appearances.

Smith was a big part of the success Sam Houston had this past season. The Bearkats posted a 39-25 overall record with the 39 wins being the most the program has had dating back to 2018. Five different Bearkats earned All-WAC honors.

Smith helped lead the Bearkats to the 2022 WAC Southwest Division championship as well as assisting in the development of outfielder Carlos Contreras, the 2022 WAC Player of the Year.

In 2021, Smith's second season on staff, the Bearkats

reached the Southland Conference championship game. That season he helped develop outfielders Colton Cowser and Jack Rogers, one of the top outfield duos in the nation. Cowser was the SLC Player of the Year and a first-team All-America pick who was later chosen as the No. 5 overall pick by the Baltimore Orioles in the 2021 MLB draft. Rogers was a second-team All-SLC honoree and was drafted in the ninth round of the 2021 MLB draft by the Cincinnati Reds.

Prior to his tenure in Huntsville, Smith served as the recruiting coordinator and hitting/outfield

coach at UT-Arlington from 2014-2019.

While in Arlington, Smith helped the Mavericks produce 15 All-Sun Belt Conference student-athletes. Also, 18 total student-athletes make their way to the major leagues. UTA posted 30-win seasons in four of six seasons that Smith was on staff.

In 2019, Smith helped lead the Mavericks' offense to 41 home runs. They were ranked as high as No. 20 in the Collegiate Baseball poll.

The 2017 season saw UTA post 20 conference wins, claiming the Western Division championship in

the Sun Belt Conference. The Mavericks were ranked No. 23 in the Collegiate Baseball poll at one point, the first time in 15 years they had been ranked. Smith assisted in the development of Brady Cox who was selected by the Royals in the 2017 MLB draft.

From 2011 to 2012 he was the director of baseball operations for the Rebels, overseeing day-to-day operations and all Nike and Easton contracts. Smith transitioned to a volunteer assistant coach role in 2013 where he assisted with hitting duties. There he helped oversee the development of MLB draftee Austin Busfield and Houston Astros' free agent signee Tanner Mathis.

Smith originally joined the UT-Arlington baseball coaching staff in 2010 as a volunteer assistant after completing his collegiate playing career as an outfielder at Ole Miss.

During his senior season with the Rebels (2008), he batted .332 (69-for-208) with 39 runs scored, 14 doubles, seven home runs and 32 RBI. He was second on the Rebels in batting and ranked among team leaders with a .500 slugging percentage and .414 on-base percentage. Smith played at Hill Junior College in 2005, starting every game in the outfield and hitting .311 with 42 RBI.

Smith graduated from Vestavia Hills High School in Vestavia, Alabama. He and his wife, Whitney, have three children, Harper (9), Cal (6), and Haven (2).

Tarleton's men's golf squad signs two additional players

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton's initial revival campaign is in the books, and now the Texans will aim to build the program into a consistent contender.

The Texans may be closer to that goal, announcing on June 1 the addition of two golfers for 2023-24. Tarleton announced the signing of UTSA transfer Carson Gallaher and Lake Travis High School's Ian Bosco.

Gallaher is originally from New Braunfels, where he attended New Braunfels High School. He played four varsity years there, earning First-Team All-District honors three times. At New Braunfels, he set new program records in single-round score and tournament score, plus he was the District Freshman of the Year with a 72.3 scoring average. He



Tarleton State University has announced the signing of two men's golfers, who will join the Texans this fall. They are Carson Gallaher, a transfer from UTSA, and Ian Bosco out of Lake Travis High School.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

helped lead the Unicorns to back-to-back district runner-up finishes. During his ju-

nior season, he posted more than a dozen top-10 finishes on the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf circuit. He also

carded a 208 (70-70-68) to share runner-up accolades at the 2019 Texas Masters/IMG World Qualifier in San

Antonio.

Gallaher played in eight tournaments overall for the Roadrunners the past two seasons. This past year in five tournaments, he posted two top-20 results, including a bronze medal finish at the San Antonio Shootout. Academically, Gallaher was Academic First Team three times and a member of the National Honor Society. He will pursue a business management degree at Tarleton.

"I'm excited for Carson to join the program, he will help keep the momentum going into next season," head coach Chance Cain said. "He's on the back end of a pretty big swing change and looks to be coming into form again after firing a 69 (-3) to qualify for the Texas Am. He had a great Texas junior career and I'm looking forward to seeing his future

ahead as a Texan."

Bosco joins the Texans after graduating from Lake Travis High School in Austin. He shot a season-best 72 to open this past year at the Bart Granger Memorial in Fort Worth. His brother, Trey, just finished his third year playing for the Baylor men's golf program, and their father, Trey, played wide receiver for Texas.

"Ian is a very athletic kid who has a strong golf family background, and just this past year he decided to hang up the cleats to focus on golf full-time," Cain said. "He's got a lot of upside and has proven he has the skills to play at the next level with some of his scores and results he posted in the spring. He's got a great demeanor and work ethic that fits perfectly into the culture we are building here at Tarleton."

TSU signs softball pitcher Hannah Blincoe, a transfer from Houston's Cougars

TSU Sports Information

The Tarleton State University Texans signed a Houston softball transfer with 30 career appearances in the circle, the team announced recently.

The Texans added pitcher Hannah Blincoe for 2024, who played the last two seasons for the Cougars. In 30 appearances and five starts, Blincoe had a 5.84 ERA in 68.1 innings, with 35 strikeouts.

Blincoe's best performance put her at 1-0 this past season, a complete-game outing in which she allowed just three hits and one

earned run in seven innings in Houston's 5-2 win over Morgan State. In her career-high 19 appearances in 2023, she faced the Texans in Stephenville in Tarleton's 9-1 win on March 11.

Her freshman season was highlighted by her quality start against Sam Houston University in a Cougars' 3-2 win. Blincoe allowed two runs on five hits with two strikeouts in 5.2 innings, which marked the first start of her collegiate career.

The Georgetown native starred at Georgetown High School, where she ended her prep career with a school-record 290 career strikeouts.

Across 219.1 innings in three seasons, she posted a 1.91 earned-run average, with a 15-4 record. With the Lady Eagles, she was the District Pitcher of the Year and the team's Most Valuable Player. Her senior year, she helped Georgetown to its best season in program history, at 27-6-1, which included a run to the Class 5A state semifinals.

Academically, Blincoe was on the honor roll at Houston and twice was named to the All-District Academic Team at Georgetown. She plans to study general business at Tarleton.



Hannah Blincoe, a transfer from the University of Houston, has signed to play softball starting next season with Tarleton State University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

TxDOT urges Texans to give driving their full attention

Distracted driving deaths increased 10% in 2022

Submitted item

Distracted driving is on the rise in Texas, and TxDOT is urging all Texans to pay attention on the road.

Karin Zaltsman lost her teenage daughter when a driver made the decision to take his eyes off the road to text while driving. TxDOT is sharing the Zaltsman's story of losing 13-year-old Emily to remind Texans to keep their eyes up and phones down while driving. Described as kind, funny, smart, and driven, Emily had her whole life ahead of her, but one driver's decision to text and drive cut her life short.

"Emily didn't die in an accident," Karin Zaltsman said. "Emily died in a crash that could have been prevented."

Emily is one of more than 2,000 people killed on Texas roadways due to distracted drivers since 2017. Distracted driving deaths increased by 10% in the Lone Star State in 2022. Approximately one of every six crashes on Texas roadways last year was attributed to distracted driving.

"Distracted driving is a choice, and it has devastating consequences for communities," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Texting, adjusting audio or navigation systems, or scrolling on a social media site can wait until you're safely parked. We're urging Texans to make the right choice and put the phone away."

Texting while driving is not only incredibly dangerous, but also a crime. Since Sept. 1, 2017, it has been illegal to read, write or send a

text while driving in Texas, and violators can face a fine of up to \$200.

Distracted driving crashes are 100% preventable. TxDOT offers these tips to help drivers steer clear of a potentially deadly situation: Always give driving your full attention. Any distraction is dangerous.

Put your phone away, turn it off or use an app or phone settings to block texts and calls while driving.

Pull off the road entirely and come to a complete stop before you use your phone.

Tell friends, family, and coworkers you won't respond to texts or calls while driving.

Avoid eating or drinking until you are parked.

TxDOT's "Talk. Text. Crash." distracted driving awareness campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer



Zaltsman family photo. Emily is pictured second from left.

COURTESY PHOTOS

choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

The information presented represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). It was received and processed by the department as of Jan. 31, 2023.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state.



Pictured is the family car after the accident.

LOOKING BACK

This summer, maybe you should be dancing — along with other hot topics

From Staff Reports

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

As if we needed one more reminder other than the local traffic congestion, the number of students in Granbury has skyrocketed over the last several decades.

The Thursday, June 5, 1958 edition of the Hood County News-Tablet reported that Granbury High School had 40 graduating seniors that year.

The GHS Class of 2023 — 65 years later — featured

approximately 450 seniors who graduated, according to GHS Principal Jeremy Ross.

The 1958 article stated, "Forty seniors of Granbury High School received diplomas Monday evening in Commencement exercises in Pirate Stadium. They were presented by E.G. Williams, president of the school board."

"The Granbury School Band, under the direction of Harold Parnell, played the Processional by Elgar as the forty graduates in white caps and gowns took their places. The invocation was given by Johnny B. Price, the salutary by C. Don Stinnett. Bruce Price, vice presi-

dent of the Rotary Club, presented the Rotary Award to Johnny Price and Rozelle Philley. W.C. Cleveland, high school principal, presented scholarships to Jackie Davis, Don Stinnett and Patricia Gray. Linda Ray was presented the DAR award. The Balfour award was presented to Jackie Davis in addition to scholarships.

"Jackie Davis gave the valedictory address. "R. Sidney Powell, on behalf of the class, presented a check for the sign, which marks the high school and junior high. This was received by Supt. A.H. Pritchard, who expressed appreciation of the faculty, school board, and students

for the lovely gift. After the singing of the school song, Delmar Dar gave the benediction."

ONE EDUCATED WOMAN

This item was not a local news event, with a San Jose, Calif. dateline, published in the Friday, April 7 edition of The Granbury News.

A woman, named as "Mrs. Lura Bacon Bailey" and identified as being 79 years old, received her "A.B. degree after four years of study at the San Jose State College."

But that's not all, as someone used to say on TV.

"It was her fourth diploma from the institution, having received her sheepskin from the general elementary divi-

sion in 1896; her kindergarten primary credentials in 1902, and a home-making secondary degree in 1914," the brief article stated.

BELLY UP

On a lighter note, entering the summer season we are just wondering if anyone who missed out on the belly dancing lessons offered here in the summer of 1976, was still regretting it. An article in the Sunday, 13 edition of the Hood County News listed the community education summer classes that were scheduled.

Buried in the story, below mentions of the more traditional summer programs such as a basketball clinic,

gymnastics classes, tennis lessons, and weightlifting instruction was "Belly Dancing III and IV" directed by Gayle Beaird. The tuition for the six-week course was set at \$12.

In case you were wondering about Belly Dancing I and II, the article noted, "students must have completed the first two classes of Belly Dancing before enrolling."

The Bee Gees' huge hit song "You Should be Dancing" was released in that same month and year those classes were held — although not for the purpose of promoting Hood County's Belly Dancing I, II, III, or IV classes.

Thank You

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Freshman Bryan Hailey, left, pictured with GHS cross country coach Amber Ward, had the best season of any cross country runner in school history, finishing 20th at the Class 5A State Meet.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE B5

THROUGHOUT THE AREA

Granbury and Lipan were certainly no stranger to sports success this past school year as well.

Granbury:

Cross country — freshman Bryan Hailey had the best season of any cross country runner in school history, finishing 20th at the Class 5A State Meet. He was also the first runner from Granbury to qualify for state since 2019.

Boys basketball — qualified for playoffs for first time since 2016.

Girls basketball — reached the second round of the playoffs for a third straight season as senior Ella Hamlin capped her career with 1,500 points.

Girls soccer — advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Girls golf — team qualified for the regional tournament.

Track and field — senior Cassidy Kirkpatrick had the best performance for Granbury track, placing second in the girls high jump at the state meet, clearing 5 feet, 6 inches to match her career-best. For the boys, freshman Miller Schenewark matched his career best as well, clearing 6-6 for seventh at state.

Swimming — seniors Jordan Buchanan, Tyler Guidry and Ryan Solisz, along with junior Braxton Heffernan, qualified for state in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Also, sophomore Mylie Erez qualified in the girls 100 free.

Boys powerlifting — Braydon Olthoff in the 242 division and Enrique Sanchez in the 275 class each qualified for state.

Lipan

Girls basketball — won the program's third state championship (also in 2016 and 2021), finishing 35-3.

Boys basketball — won the program's fifth state championship (also in 1994, 2005, 2017 and 2018), finishing 38-1.

Girls golf — Junior Hanna Gaylor qualified for state for a second straight season, finishing third.

GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Introducing a local artist you may already know

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

Stacey Watkins-Martin and Cora Werley are local artists and members with several others of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Both work diligently with many other people and organizations to promote Granbury as the exciting arts destination it has become.

Anyone who has spent a few minutes in our Convention Center has seen the dramatic Western paintings — and the artist you've become familiar with there is none other than Granbury High School's long-time art teacher Mike Tabor.

First of all, he would want you to know about the accolades of his students — who won at the Fort Worth Stock Show Art Contest eight of the last nine years of his teaching career.

That's an artist who has the talent and ability to pass along what he's learned, who was generous with his time and his encouragement, which literally changes young people's lives. Being nurtured in artistic expression is a gift he gave his fortunate students.

Now that he's retired from teaching, we're sure to see more of the artist he's always been: the guy that's won awards from Texas A&M University, the Texas Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, Tarleton State University, the city of Granbury, Bosque Conservatory, and as a George Phippen Invitational Recipient in Prescott, Arizona. He's been profiled at least 30 times in various publications. His work hangs in collections as wide-ranging as Grady Spears (the famous cowboy chef), banks and financial institutions, law firms, restaurants, hotels and private

companies.

But even though he loves to paint, has been honored for painting, is still being commissioned (two for the 6666 ranches, for example, four for Globe Life Field in Arlington, a triptych for the Waco Regional Airport) and will continue to paint ... a large part of his commission work is now in sculpture. John Hancock Insurance Company commissioned a fabulous statue of the father-and-disabled-son Hoyt team famous for running marathons together.

He's been commissioned recently by a generous anonymous donor to do a larger-than-life bronze cowboy named "Texan Rider" for Tarleton State University. Right now he's working on a life-size bronze sculpture of Dan Coates, who was one of the original founders of Shanley Park, which has been enjoyed by this city for years. It is anticipated that sculpture will reside permanently in the newly developing Shanley Park Sculpture Garden for us all to enjoy for years to come. Tabor still lives and loves



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is local artist and GHS art teacher, Mike Tabor.

to work in Granbury where he and his family have put down roots and are leaving a legacy. We are certainly beyond blessed with Mike and his wife Suzy Tabor as our neighbors here. In fact, if any of you were driving by the Langdon Center that Friday night, you saw evidence of that.

The "Dinner in White" put on by Granbury Arts Alliance (GAA) was a remarkable success in so many ways. People enjoyed each other's company, supported and became members in the GAA and helped

GAA raise the money needed to carry Mike's sculpture of Dan Coates into fruition. Casting a life-size or larger bronze statue is not an inexpensive venture, and art-loving Granburians came out in droves to support Mike Tabor's first Granbury outdoor public art sculpture.

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cwerley@werlelaw.com | 817-946-3865

HCN Junior

FLAG DAY

June 14

Flag Day

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X | J | N | A | A | Y | X | I | Z | M |
| U | Q | O | D | M | I | E | S | J | B |
| V | S | A | F | R | E | N | N | A | B |
| Y | S | T | E | B | A | R | S | W | T |
| R | O | V | T | Z | Y | T | I | E | Q |
| T | R | S | T | A | R | S | T | C | I |
| N | P | E | G | I | D | I | E | R | A |
| U | U | C | P | Z | H | U | K | C | P |
| O | G | E | T | W | L | Q | D | E | R |
| C | S | U | G | B | K | S | E | P | F |

America Banner Country
America Stripes Stars Red
White Blue

The design of the United States flag is credited to a few people, but the most popularly recognized designer is Betsy Ross. Betsy Ross was a seamstress who lived in Philadelphia during the American Revolutionary War. According to tradition, she was commissioned by George Washington, a leader of the Continental Army, to create a flag for the newly formed nation.

The flag that Betsy Ross designed had 13 alternating red and white stripes representing the 13 original colonies, and a blue field with 13 white stars arranged in a circle, representing the unity of the states. This design was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, which is now celebrated as Flag Day in the United States.

Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross was a woman who lived a long time ago in the United States. She is famous for making the first American flag!

Betsy was born in 1752 in Philadelphia. When she was a young woman, she learned how to sew from her family. She even had her own sewing business, where she made clothes and other things for people.

During the Revolutionary War, Betsy made uniforms and other supplies for the soldiers fighting for the United States. One day, George Washington himself came to Betsy's shop and asked her to make a special flag for the country. Betsy was happy to help, and she designed a flag with stars and stripes on it.

Nowadays, we still use the American flag that Betsy Ross designed. Betsy is remembered as a patriotic and talented woman who helped create an important symbol of the United States!

Did You Know?

- Flag Day is a special day we celebrate on June 14th to remember when the US flag was created way back in 1777.
- People started celebrating Flag Day officially in 1877, and in 1949, it became a national holiday.
- We don't get the day off from school or work, but we can still celebrate by doing fun things like having a flag-raising ceremony or going to a parade.
- It's important to remember to fly the US flag on Flag Day and other special holidays like Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.
- The US flag has changed over time, but the current design has 50 stars and 13 stripes. So on Flag Day, we remember the history and meaning of our flag, and we take pride in being Americans!

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

817-573-7066

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE ON THE HOOD COUNTY JUNIOR PAGE



A Father's Day tribute HCN staff honors incredible dads with fond memories



From left, Nancy Pricer, son Terry Pricer, and father Terry Meany.

From left, Johnny Inge and Ashley Inge.

Pictured is Keith Wilson.

From left, Madison Lazaro and Gerard Lazaro.

From left, Joe Villarreal and Britney Villarreal.

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Superheroes may not be real, but when you have a dad who will do anything for you at a moment's notice, you start to believe in the possibility.

As a child, our dads worked tirelessly every day to provide for us, with their strength never wavering.

They taught us right from wrong, and will always be our biggest role model — even now, as adults.

Their love is unconditional and we can never repay them for everything they have done for us over the years.

But we will definitely try.

In honor of Father's Day on Sunday, June 18, we at the Hood County News are paying tribute to our dads, thanking them for their sacrifices and never-ending support.

TERENCE "TERRY" MEANY
HCN Classified Manager Nancy Pricer described her-

self as being "daddy's little girl," when it came to her relationship with her late father, Terence "Terry" Meany.

"He loved music, and so Sunday nights, I'd dance on his feet around the living room," she explained. "He liked jazz and Marty Robbins; he listened to a lot of that."

Meany served in the Army from 1953-1955 in the Judge Advocate General's Office. He was also a well-respected civil litigation trial lawyer.

According to his obituary, he was elected as a "Super Lawyer" in the field of personal injury law by the American Research Corporation which published, "The Leading Minnesota Attorneys," guide. His most significant trial was against

General Motors in the claiming of a power steering defect, which was tried for four weeks in Austin. The trial resulted in one of only two such verdicts in history against General Motors, which was found negligent for failure to warn users of the defect.

Meany was an avid golfer, serving on the board of directors of the Minnesota Golf Association from 1980-1992. He also served as president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce in 1969.

"Our thing was we golfed together," Pricer explained. "In high school, I was on the golf team, and he'd caddy for me when we would go to state tournaments."

She described her father as being "the king of puns," but admitted he had a "different kind of sense of humor."

"I remember he'd always tell me bedtime stories. Pencil man was this man who fell into this pencil-making vat at the factory, and so, one day when this

pencil was at school, this little boy was sharpening it and you could hear 'help me,'" she said, with a chuckle.

With an ironic last name as Meany, Pricer said her father was anything but — describing him as being "kind and gentle."

"He was well-respected in town and the whole state of Minnesota," she said. "I don't remember my dad ever getting mad or yelling at me."

In fact, an important lesson that she learned from her father — and her mother — is to always be kind to everyone.

"He was always helping the underdog," Pricer said. "He would treat everybody equally. I'd say that would be the big takeaway (from my dad) — to be kind to others."

JOE VILLARREAL
Britney Villarreal, subscription manager at the HCN, said she is the female version of her father, Joe Villarreal.

PLEASE SEE **DADS** | C3

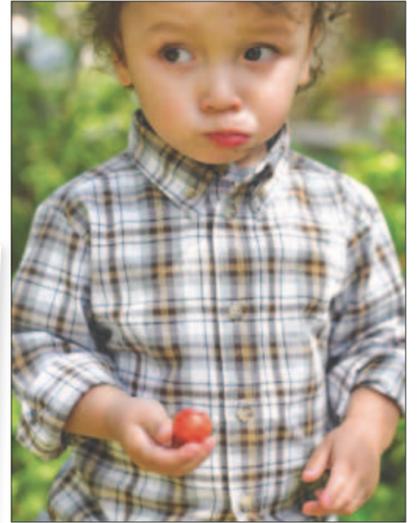


PHOTO EXCERPTED FROM CAMP GRANNY BY SHARON LOVEJOY, COPYRIGHT 2015. USED WITH PERMISSION OF WORKMAN, A DIVISION OF WORKMAN PUBLISHING CO., INC., A SUBSIDIARY OF HACHETTE BOOK GROUP, INC.

Grandparents camp can include lots of nature-inspired activities, such as sampling edible flowers or fresh strawberries.

S'More Love

With some planning, grandparents can host the best summer camp ever

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Tiny surprises tucked into fairy mailboxes, garden tea parties, indoor campouts, and watching Perseids meteor showers from a blanket in the backyard. Such enchanting activities during a summertime visit to a grandparent's home can create memories to last a lifetime.

Those activities and more, which cost little or nothing, are detailed in author and illustrator Sharon Lovejoy's 205-page book, Camp Granny, published by Workman Publishing in New York.

Lovejoy was a contributing editor for Country Living Gardener magazine for 13 years, writing a regular column called "Heart's Ease." Her column was distributed by The New York Times Syndicate to member newspapers through the United States and Canada. She has been a guest on Today on NBC, The Victory Garden on PBS, and numerous shows on HGTV and The Discovery Channel.

For Nannas and Paw-Paws looking for creative ways to entertain and engage youngsters during a prolonged visit, Camp Granny is a go-to guide. Featuring photos of Lovejoy's own grandchildren, the book even includes activities for rainy days.

Hosting a grandparents camp is doable, even for those who don't consider themselves particularly creative. It just takes a bit of planning and energy. Those with multiple grandchildren, especially very young ones, might want to consider lining up some help.

Want to take the kids exploring rather than spending the whole week at home? Consider yourself lucky to live where you do. Granbury and the surrounding area offer plenty of fun things to do, including squeal-inducing day trips.

Between the ideas in Camp Granny and all the fun things to see and do in and around the lake community that was thrice voted Best Historic Small Town in America, a fantastic, jam-packed grandparents camp can be created to fit virtually any budget.

Need some entertainment that's free? Hitch a ride on the city's iconic green trolley used by Visit Granbury to ferry visitors to and from their hotel and the historic square.

PLEASE SEE **LOVE** | C2

A hobby turned business is for the dogs

BY EDEN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

Inspired by her love of animals and especially dogs, 12-year-old entrepreneur Taytum Pinksa has used her interest to start a local business. "Tay's Treats" are healthy dog treats for canines of every shape, size, and age.

Tay's Treats can be found in the Hood County Farmers Market in the field behind the Granbury YMCA, at 1475 James Road, which is open on Saturdays throughout the summer season, 9 a.m. to noon. It's one of several local

farmers markets. For now, you can find her dog treats at her booth at the Hood County Farmers Market, Saturdays in the back field of the YMCA in Granbury throughout the season from 9 a.m. to noon.

Pinksa's family adopted their dog, Chloe, five years ago from Hood County Friends for Animals.

"Chloe is mixed breed but mostly Border Collie," Pinksa

PLEASE SEE **DOGS** | C2

Taytum stands behind her booth during a farmers-market in Granbury.

COURTESY PHOTO



Oh, the places you'll go!

Here is just a sampling of fun excursions grandparents can take with their grandkids during a summertime grandparents camp.

DISCOVER GLEN ROSE

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

2299 County Road 2008
254-897-2960

A variety of tours are available. Visit fossilrim.org for ticket pricing and booking.

Dinosaur Valley State Park

1629 Park Road 59
254-897-4588

Adults \$8, kids 12 and under are free

Dinosaur World

Lifesize "dinosaurs," a dino-themed playground, and fun learning opportunities

1058 Park Road 59
254-898-1526

Ticket prices vary, with discounts available. Visit dinosaurworld.com/Texas.

Big Rocks Park

1014 NE Barnard St.
254-897-3081 (Glen Rose CVB)

Bring a picnic, swimwear, and your cell phone for picture-taking to this scenic spot with shallow water on the Paluxy River. It's free fun in the summer sun.

GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE

The Granbury Theatre Academy will present "Mary Poppins Jr." in July. Tickets are \$20 each.

Teen cast: July 21-23 and 28-30
Kids cast: July 24-27

Make the theater trip extra special with a stop at Merry Jayne's candy and ice cream store or the ice cream counter at Silver Saddle Saloon, both on the square, or visit nearby restaurants for a sit-down meal.

CITY BEACH PARK

505 E. Pearl St.
No admission charge

Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., or sunset.

Beachside Toys and Takeout, operated out of the tiki hut, sells snacks and rents kayaks, paddle boards, tubes, bicycles, and surreys.

The boardwalk serves as a barrier against boats, and buoys mark a swimming area. Beach monitors are on patrol, but there are no lifeguards. There is a lifejacket loaner station.

GHOSTS, HISTORIC HAUNTS

What kid doesn't love a ghost story, even when it's not Halloween?

Walking cemetery tour

Pick up a copy of the brochure "Granbury Cemetery — Where Texas History Lives Forever" from the Visit Granbury offices at 201 E. Pearl St. just off the square, then take your campers on a walking tour of the graveyard. They can view the final resting places of some of Granbury's key early settlers as well as, according to local lore, the grave of the infamous outlaw Jesse James. The weather may be hot, but your grandkids will feel a chill paying their respects to seven-year-old Audrey Gordon, who died at the Langdon Center in 1908 and, legend has it, continues to make her presence known there.

Granbury Ghosts and Legends Tour

119 E. Bridge St. by the Nutt House Hotel

Tours are at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Reservations are recommended. Call 817-559-0849 or visit granburytours.com.

Cost: \$10

Visit the Arts & Letters Bookstore on the south side of the square and meet Granbury Ghosts & Legends tour guide and author Brandy Herr. She works there. The store sells her book "Haunted Granbury" and the children's adaptation, "The Ghostly Tales of Granbury," geared for ages nine-12.

Baker Hotel Ghost Walk

205 E. Hubbard St. by the historic, and reportedly haunted, Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells

Walking tour is 11 p.m. to about midnight on

LOVE

FROM PAGE C1

Or visit Granbury's popular City Beach Park for an afternoon of sandcastle-building and swimming.

Also free: Visit Granbury's do-it-yourself walking cemetery tour featuring the final resting places of local historic figures.

Don't have access to a swimming pool? Yes, you do. The city-owned and operated Dana Vollmer Municipal Swim Center is a public pool open to everyone for a modest admission fee.

There is so much to see and do that some grandparents might feel overwhelmed at the thought of planning their own grandparents camp.

Lovejoy's advice? Keep it simple.

She quotes the words of poet Richard Henry Dana: "In heart be a child."

"Just remember how everything is intriguing to kids," she said. "Get them away from the screens."

In other words, turn off the TV and put away the phones.

CONNECTING

At Lovejoy's home in San Luis Obispo, California, she and her husband Jeff Prostovich have a basket where their five grandchildren have deposited their cell phones upon arrival. The relinquishing of phones is not a punishment, Lovejoy stressed. It's simply a commitment to focus on what's important: each other.

Instead of reading social media posts, the couple's five grandchildren have perused a basket full of old



PHOTO EXCERPTED FROM CAMP GRANNY BY SHARON LOVEJOY, COPYRIGHT 2015. USED WITH PERMISSION OF WORKMAN, A DIVISION OF WORKMAN PUBLISHING CO., INC., A SUBSIDIARY OF HACHETTE BOOK GROUP, INC.

A memorable grandparents camp can mean less screen time with televisions and iPhones and more sunscreen time.

"My grandchildren surge through our kitchen door like a tumbling stream, laughing and calling excitedly, as though visiting Amma's house is the best thing in the world. That's exactly how I want them to feel and how I felt whenever I ran the pathway of hollyhocks to my Grandmother Lovejoy's cottage or threaded up the ribbon of walkway to my Nonie's bungalow. My heart would pound with anticipation."

SHARON LOVEJOY

Author of Camp Granny

family photos. They have learned favorite family recipes passed down through the years, and heard stories of how Lovejoy's grandfather, John Clarke, was the last living ranger in Arizona, chasing bandits through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. He died in 1982.

Some might find it hard to believe, but Lovejoy said her grandkids loved playing the old-school games of Old Maid, Go Fish, Pick-Up Sticks, Tick Tac Toe, and Hang Ten during their summer visits.

Grandparents camp at Lovejoy and Prostovich's

California bungalow has included dress-up play, arts and crafts, nature-inspired activities, and fun in the kitchen creating eggplant penguins, bell pepper baskets, and caterpillars assembled from sliced cucumbers and carrots. The children have made their own English muffin "moon pizzas" baked in a makeshift cardboard solar "oven" and have sampled edible flowers.

If dining out with the grandkids is too expensive, try Lovejoy's idea: Teach them how to prepare a meal and then let them cook it for you. Give each of them an apron and let them serve you the meal as if they are running a restaurant.

"I say, don't spend a lot of money," Lovejoy advised. "Our values are such that we don't want kids to equate grandparents with easy gifts. We want values and traditions and memories and joy. You know, things you cannot buy."

Camp Granny was published in 2009, 14 years ago. Lovejoy's youngest grandchild, Moses, is no longer the adorable toddler pictured in his grandmother's book sampling a luscious strawberry and peeking through the door of a playhouse constructed by granddad from a large appliance box.

Lovejoy knows that her summertime camps impacted the lives of her grandchildren.

"I think the best indication is that they like to be with us," she said. "Even though they've grown up, they still talk about, oh, remember when we did this?"

kacruz@hcnews.com / 817-579-1886

DOGS

FROM PAGE C1

said.

Chloe became an instantly beloved family member. And just last year Pinksa adopted her very own dog, Everett, a one-year-old miniature poodle who is also from a rescue.

Though loved by all, Pinksa is especially close to the dogs.

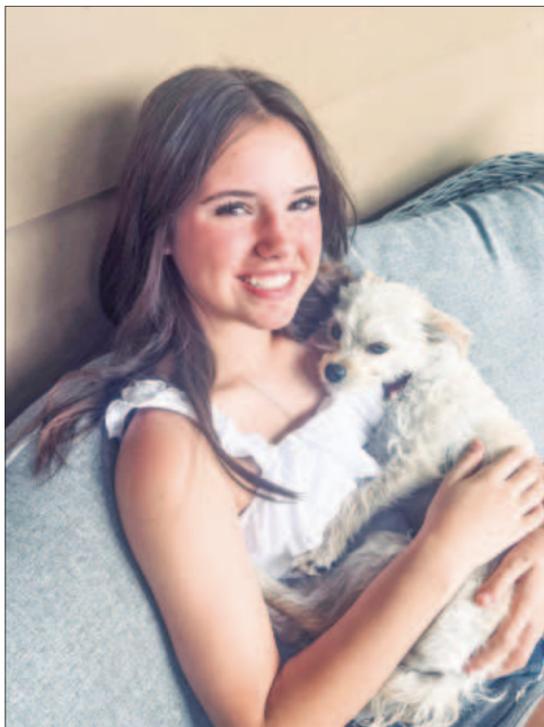
"I taught them both to sit, shake and lay down," Pinksa said.

Part of the culture of the Pinksa family is healthy eating. This naturally translated into how they care for their dogs. The Pinksa family pooches approved of the homemade concoctions that Pinksa began to create in the family kitchen.

"I make them all by myself. My dog treats are healthier (than mass produced) dog treats," she said. "I have far less ingredients in mine."

The stamp of approval from Chloe and Everett, and the dogs of family and friends meant Pinksa's hobby had potential to turn into a business.

"I was hoping to get a bearded dragon," Pinksa



COURTESY PHOTO

Taytum pictured with Everett.

explained.

Selling dog treats could provide a way to fund the purchase of such a pet. On one occasion when her fam-

ily went to the Hood County Farmers Market last summer, Pinksa's mom, Chelsey, inquired if there was a vendor space available.

Pinksa now sits at her booth nearly every Saturday during Farmers Market season which is spring until fall.

"I have sometimes sold out," she said.

Pinksa said there are many things about selling Tay's Treats that she enjoys.

"My repeat customers, and meeting new friends and new dogs," she said. "Dogs from the other vendors sniff out my treats and want to come to my booth. Tay's Treats smell like peanut butter, they smell amazing."

Pinksa is grateful for her support team. Her mom provides transportation, and her parents provide a kitchen and raw materials. Mom also helps with marketing.

"I have business cards too, so customers can reach me in between Farmers Markets or in the off season," Pinksa said.

"I am so proud of Taytum!," Chelsey said, "She works hard for anything she wants and has done such a great job creating her business."

Pinksa hasn't thought too much about expanding her business.

"I have thought about the Feed Store maybe," she said.

PLEASE SEE GO | C3

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GO**FROM PAGE C2**

Saturdays.

Cost: \$20 adults, \$10 kids (no specific age for kids was cited on the tour's Facebook page).

Check The Baker Hotel Ghost Walk & Believe Boutique Facebook page for up-to-date scheduling information. Contact is 817-629-8127 or ghostwalk76067@gmail.com.

WATER PARKS**Splash Kingdom Wild West**

1001 Cinema Dr., Weatherford
817-598-0777

Admission: \$24.95 plus tax if ticket purchased online; \$27.95 plus tax if ticket purchased at window.

Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Splashville

850 S. Graham Ave., Stephenville
254-918-1219

Admission: \$5

Hours: Wednesday-Friday, 1-7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Closed Monday and Tuesday).

SEGWAY TOURS

Got older grandchildren? They might love to wheel around the Granbury Square area with Kevin and Stacie McCoy through their Granbury Segway Tours. The minimum age is 14 and the minimum weight is 100 pounds.

401 N. Park Dr.

Contact is 817-991-0990 or realmccoy1016@gmail.com.

For pricing and booking, visit 2wheeltoursandfun.com.

TIKI CRUISES

Captain Kirk's Tiki Cruises offers family cruises on Lake Granbury from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

919 E. Pearl St. (by Mesquite Pit restaurant)

Cost: \$55 for ages 13 and older, \$50 for ages 12 and under.

Passengers can pre-order food for their cruise from Mesquite Pit or bring their own snacks.

Contact is 1-833-TIKI-CRU or kirk@captkirkstiki-cruises.com.

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FREE

ARTS & CRAFTS
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4 - 9 pm
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SATURDAY, JUNE 24
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WYLIE ON BALLARD AVENUE
(100 South Ballard Ave., Wylie, TX)

DISCOVERWYLIE.COM

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 16 June 2023 - Thursday, 22 June 2023

Elemental (PG)
Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:40PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 6:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM

Elemental in 3D (PG)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 11:00AM

No Hard Feelings (R)
Thurs: 4:30PM, 7:00PM

Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse (PG)
Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 3:55PM, 7:00PM, 10:05PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 3:55PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:10PM, 4:15PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 10:15AM, 1:10PM, 4:15PM, 7:20PM

The Angry Birds Movie 2 -Kids' Summer Series (PG)
Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM

The Flash (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 11:15AM, 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 3:45PM, 5:45PM, 7:00PM, 9:00PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 11:15AM, 1:10PM, 2:30PM, 4:25PM, 5:45PM, 7:40PM.
Mon, Wed: 10:40AM, 12:15PM, 1:50PM, 3:25PM, 5:00PM, 6:35PM, 8:10PM.
Tues: 10:00AM, 10:30AM, 12:35PM, 1:35PM, 3:45PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM, 7:45PM.
Thurs: 10:00AM, 12:35PM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:55PM

The Little Mermaid (PG)
Fri, Sat: 1:05PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Wed: 11:00AM, 2:05PM, 5:10PM, 8:15PM.
Tues: 1:00PM, 4:05PM, 7:10PM.
Thurs: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:05PM, 7:10PM

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 10:00AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM.
Mon, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:55PM, 4:50PM, 7:45PM.
Tues, Thurs: 12:30PM, 3:25PM, 6:20PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

DADS**FROM PAGE C1**

"When you first get to meet my dad, he comes off like super shy, and he's not that outgoing, but once you get to know him, then his personality starts to shine," she said.

Britney's mother passed away when she was 17, so her dad had to step up and assume the role of both her father and her mother.

"He's always been there for me, no matter what," she said. "He's my rock."

The pair has an extremely close relationship, with Britney commenting that they spend a lot of time together when they can.

"We talk on the phone all the time," she said. "He comes down to the house every other weekend or so and stays the night."

A story that stands out to her involving her dad is also one that serves as an inside joke between her and one of her cousins.

"I don't know why the story sticks out to me, but this was when my mom was still alive," she said, reminiscing. "We were taking a trip. I think we were coming back from Michigan, and it was me, my mom, my dad, and my cousin. We stopped at a gas station or something, and my dad saw a Dairy Queen across the street. He got super excited, and he was like, 'Ooo ooo, Dairy Queen.' This is back when we didn't have Dairy Queens here anymore, so to see a Dairy Queen was like gold, so that's our little inside joke. Every time we see a Dairy Queen, we're like, 'Ooo ooo, Dairy Queen.'"

She also remembers working on vehicles with her dad — a life skill that is now ingrained in her to this day.

"He taught me how to change the oil in the car," she said. "We would just always do stuff together. He's a great guy. I don't know what I would do without him. He's definitely my best friend."

KEITH WILSON

HCN Copy Editor Mark Wilson said he learned what

hard work meant from watching his late dad, Keith Wilson, operate a full-service gas station.

"I was about 14, and I was a lazy kid at the time," he said. "But, at some point it finally soaked into my brain that the sweat and sometimes tough physical labor he put into the business — with no complaints — was done for his family."

Mark explained that both of his parents were always hard workers. They grew up poor, and they helped their families pick cotton when they were younger.

"I watched in awe as (my dad) would pause in the middle of working on a flat tire from a large work truck just long enough to wipe the sweat from his forehead,"

him what he thought about one of my favorite 'modern' songs, like 'Listen to the Music' by the Doobie Brothers, and he would reply, 'It's OK,'" Mark said. "I'm pretty sure he was thinking 'But that singer is no Jim Reeves!'"

He added that a special memory was when his dad took him to see his first music concert — John Denver.

But Keith's strong Christian faith was what impacted Mark the most.

"He served as a deacon in our church for many years," he said. "(And) that spiritual example he set was far more impressive and impactful to me than any title — deacon or otherwise."

Living on earth or up above, our dads will always remain a part of us — and we will never forget them.

GERARD LAZARO

HCN sales representative Madison Lazaro said her father, Gerard Lazaro, is the "most patient" person she has ever met.

"He's a first responder, so he handles all the elevated calls that come in, and he's very good at talking people down," she said. "He's so patient, and he's so nice. He's always in a great mood, which is crazy, because I don't think I could ever do that."

She explained that her dad is a hard worker, and that the most memorable lesson that he taught her is that to get what you want, you have to be willing to put in the effort.

"One of the things I remember most about my dad was how hard he worked for his family," she said. "It was not always easy to support a wife and three children, so he would often juggle multiple jobs at a time to give us the things we needed."

Madison said that her dad is definitely the prankster of the family — but he hates when other people try to

scare him.

"He's got a big personality; he's hilarious," she said. "He was the youth pastor for a long time, and he would just do the funniest stuff. One time he dressed up as Jonah, and he got an actual fish to show the kids. Well, he left it under the preacher's podium as a joke, so like a week later, the whole entire congregation was so smelly, and nobody could figure out where the smell was coming from. It was the funniest thing ever."

She said her most recent favorite memory of her dad is when they went deep sea fishing, and she was finally able to see him relax.

"I will forever be grateful for my dad's example and for the way he loves Jesus," Madison added. "I can still picture him worshiping with all his heart and singing at the top of his lungs."

JOHNNY INGE

Of course, I can't forget to give a shout out to my superhero: Johnny Inge.

You have always worked hard to provide for my mom and I, but I'm so excited that you can finally enjoy your retirement and enjoy some much-needed relaxation.

I always used to joke and say that my Father's Day gift to you is another year of not having to pay for my wedding, but I can't exactly say that this year — sorry, dad.

I'm so thankful for your unconditional support in my passion for singing, and I love it when we sing karaoke together.

I am also forever grateful for your goofy personality and endless supply of dad jokes.

I hope you have an amazing Father's Day.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Living on earth or up above, our dads will always remain a part of us — and we will never forget them.

From all of us at HCN, happy Father's Day to our biggest heroes. We will always be your biggest fans.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Hood Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on July 19, 2023 at 5:00 P. M. at the Hood Central Appraisal District Office, 1902 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$3,289,236

The total amount of increase for the current year's budget is \$333,473

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 22 full time.

The number of employees compensated under the current budget is 21 full time.

2024 Budget \$3,289,236

2023 Budget \$2,955,763

Increase \$ 333,473

The appraisal district is supported primarily by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
1902 WEST PEARL STREET
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048
PHONE #817-573-2471



COURTESY PHOTO

“balanced-brain” thinker individuals shows an almost-equal dominance of both hemispheres.

I’VE BEEN THINKING

Is it right to be left?

BY CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER



Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky in 2019. She has had short stories and articles published in six editions of “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks. She was a public school teacher for 17 years, earlier in her professional career.

We dealt with the complexity of the human brain and its two hemispheres in an earlier column. Now we consider a third option! It was originally referred to as “split-brain dominance.” However, the name currently used is “whole-brain” or “balanced-brain” thinker. So, perhaps, we can say the matter is neither black nor white — but rather a “gray area.” That seems fitting —since the brain is often referred to as “gray matter.”

Although right-brain and left-brain individuals can sometimes show characteristics of the other, the third type of individual shows an almost-equal dominance of both hemispheres. Hungarian-American author, educator, and psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (try to pronounce that name) recognized this phenomenon as “flow,” a highly focused mental state conducive to productivity. He refers to the “mental state of operation in which a person in an activity is fully immersed in a feeling of energized focus, full involvement, and success in the process of the activity.” The greatest representatives of this are Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Samuel Morse. They are high achievers in scientific and logical thinking, along with the arts and music.

Csikszentmihalyi describes eight characteristics of flow: Complete concentration on the task; clarity of goals and reward in mind and immediate feedback; transformation of time (speeding up/slowing down); intrinsically rewarding experience; effortlessness and ease; a balance between challenge and skills; merged actions and awareness, loss of self-conscious reflection; a feeling of control over the task.

This columnist was diagnosed with the condition years ago when it was referred to as “split-brain” dominance, learning the pros and cons of the situation. A positive aspect is that such a person is twice as likely to recover from a stroke. A negative aspect is that, when being confronted with a large amount of information or making a decision, they can experience increased stress or anxiety.

For example, if being part of a class where the presenter explains an expected result, such a person is simultaneously trying to grasp the nature of the task while thinking up topics for the project. Or if trying to decide between two clothing outfits for the upcoming season (two completely different in style and color), the individual cannot decide because both brain hemispheres are attempting to decide — each from its own perspective. Can you see the dilemma?

When this columnist was required to take the then-standard Myers-Briggs Personality Test, she nearly drove herself insane. The instrument attempts to define the introverted/extroverted, sensing/intuitive, thinking/feeling, and judging/perceiving individual. As one readily sees, the test deals with complete opposites. The participant had to choose only one answer for each question.

Such questions could include the following: I prefer

quiet or I prefer background noise; I would rather quietly read a book or I would rather be in a group of people; I focus on the present or I focus on the future; I prefer doing one task at a time or I prefer multi-tasking; I gain motivation from interacting with people or I gain motivation from solitude; I am a down-to-earth thinker or I like to dream about possibilities; I like sharing ideas with others or I like to keep things to myself; I focus toward the outer world or I focus toward my inner self.

For the “balance-brain” person, both answers would always be correct, depending on the moment at hand. Thus, such a test created stress.

Now back to the headline for this column. Some cultures and some religions have a strict, unfavorable bias against left-handers (regardless of the dominant hand). The required protocol is to use the right hand for eating, handling food, and social interactions. However, the left hand is used for personal hygiene and other unsanitary purposes.

Handwriting is one of the biggest sources of disadvantage for left-handed people because primary teachers usually instruct students to hold the paper in a position that requires the person to hold a pencil in an awkward position so they can see what they are writing. At times, left-handed students were forced to use their right hand so they would not be “frowned upon.”

In the past when telephone operators sat at the customary switchboard, there were no left-handed operators because all systems were designed for right-handers. Fortunately, there has been a rise in accepting left-handedness.

And, of course, there are unfavorable names for left-handers; southpaw (the most common), wrong-way drivers, portsiders, buck fisted, spuddy-handed, and sinister-handed.

So, whichever-handed you are, thank your brain and be satisfied.

cgheizer@gmail.com

Men encouraged to prioritize health in June

From Staff Reports

Men’s Health Month reminds men to prioritize their health and it also raises awareness of preventable health conditions. Men’s Health Week is June 12-18.

In the United States, men are more likely to die from chronic diseases, while also visiting their physicians at lower rates than women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health experts encourage annual checkups with a physician to help men better understand their family health histories and medical conditions they are dealing with or might encounter.

“Group benefits data shows that men are less

likely to receive annual preventive visits,” said Lesley Jimenez, Department of State Health Services statewide wellness coordinator. “Men’s Health Month is not only about physical health but also mental health and emotional well-being. I encourage you, or the men in your lives, to get regular checkups, be aware of preventable risks and take steps to improve your health.”

Encourage the men in your life to do the following:

GET A HEALTH SCREENING

You may feel fine, and you may be healthy. Or you could have a silent health problem, like high blood pressure, and not even know it. Your primary care provider can use screen-

ing tests to detect some diseases before they cause symptoms, when they’re often easier to control and treat.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH VACCINES

Are you due for a routine vaccination, such as tetanus? A shingles shot? Do you get the flu vaccine every year? Are you up to date with the COVID-19 vaccine? Getting recommended vaccines can help you avoid painful or serious diseases and spend more time doing the things you love.

SEEK ADVICE FOR A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Your primary care provider can discuss everything from eating right and exercising, to feelings of

depression and anxiety.

CHECK YOUR CHOLESTEROL

Depending upon age and risk factors, some men may need their cholesterol checked. This test can detect signs of heart disease.

GET A CANCER SCREENING

Adult men should plan to get screened for prostate and colon cancer. Your provider will be able to help determine when these should start and at what frequency. These screening tests can help detect cancer early.

STAY ACTIVE

It is recommended that men incorporate 30 minutes of physical activity five times a week into their daily schedule.

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

GRANBURY BRIDGE

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN

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

GRANBURY CIVIC

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

MODERN SQUARE

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

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING

2 p.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM

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

BEGINNERS’ CHAIR

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

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND FOOT

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

GRANBURY BRIDGE

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

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

CHESS CLUB,

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

GENERAL TRIVIA,

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

THE GRANBURY

Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

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

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY

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

November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER

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

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS

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

LOVE KNOTS

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

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

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

LOVE KNOTS

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

Historical Society meets the 4th Tuesday each month (except

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EDEN GILBREATH | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Deidre Parnell Dennison contemplates a painting while visiting the Shanley House Art Gallery.

Expanding local art through art shows in the LGAA's goal

BY EDEN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

The Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA) hosts their open show at the Shanley Gallery every fall. The LGAA is currently taking submissions with a deadline of July 31.

The LGAA has two major competitions a year. "The Spring Show and the Fall Show. The Spring Show is a membership show. You have to be a member to participate. That show gives all our members an opportunity for their work to be seen and recognized," Fall Show Chairman Audrey Caylor said. "The Fall Show is a national open show. Anyone from across the nation can submit entries."

Work for the Fall Show must be juried in, meaning selected by the judge to participate, then the work is judged once hung to award cash prizes.

"We also have multiple group shows a year or solo exhibits. If you are a member, you have the opportu-

nity to show your work in our gallery," Caylor said. "We have a children's art show. We have seasonal shows as well, for example our Red Show is in February, it's sponsored by Red Boutique, we like to get the local businesses involved and they are a wonderful support."

This year, the LGAA has expanded their categories. "We are excited to now include leather work, woodwork and jewelry," Caylor explains.

Last year, the LGAA celebrated 50 years. LGAA membership has increased in recent years, as Granbury has grown so has an emphasis in art in our community. This growth has not only more members, but more professional artists who bring with them valued skills to teach other artists.

"A national show benefits us in so many ways," Caylor elaborates, "First, it brings a wide variety of art to our community. Various media and cultural influences from accomplished artists across the nation show in our Shanley Gallery. So, the show is culturally beneficial."

The benefits extend beyond culture. "Additionally, a national show has an economic impact," Caylor said. "Artists and art patrons come to stay in our Bed and Breakfasts and hotels and eat in our restaurants."

The Fall Show will be juried and judged by Fort Worth artist Teal Blake. Blake holds the distinction of being a "Cowboy Artist of America".

Though Blake's subject is western, judges choose work and award prizes not swayed by subject but through the standards of design and technical prowess whatever the submitting artist's subject matter.

Caylor jokes, "Besides our artists who are also designers and architects and are more organized, we painters tend to procrastinate. We expect to see many entries coming in as we approach the deadline."

Artists submit entries through CaFEÉ, callforentry.org. For help submitting or questions contact Audrey Caylor; audreycaylorart@yahoo.com

GARDEN PATCH

Learn when traveling during your summer vacation time



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Wild roses are among the many plants seen growing in natural areas worldwide.

With schools out, summer vacation season is well underway. While many enjoy "at home" holidays, countless others elect to travel, perhaps flying to exotic destinations, driving to see family, camping at parks or taking arranged tours. No matter the locale, opportunities to learn more about gardening abound. Plants grow almost everywhere!

Within a few hours of home, soils, temperatures and moisture levels change dramatically. Tyler in East Texas, for instance, enjoys far more rainfall than Granbury. The town's soils are more acidic (lower pH), which is why plants like azaleas and dogwoods thrive. And East Texas is lush with forested land, rather than prairie grasses. Travel helps us to learn what plants thrive in specific conditions.

Lessons learned afar can help you to plan a home landscape. If, for instance, your yard is shaded, study the plants that thrive in woodlands or heavily treed landscapes. Similarly, consider desert plants for xeriscapes or bog plants for wetlands. Always check the cold hardiness rating to ensure

purchased plants will survive winter where you garden.

Roadsides and natural areas teach us a lot about native plants, such as their durability and their benefit to wildlife. Prairie flowers, wild roses and native trees are classic examples of plants that thrive with no irrigation and scant care. They provide nectar for pollinators, shelter and nesting sites for birds and habitat for countless creatures. Studying wild areas will help you to understand the intricate relationships that exist in the natural world and how our actions can benefit or disrupt these interactions.

When traveling, it's easy to "collect" interesting plants. Simply reach for your smartphone and take photos! When you take a photo of a plant that you don't know, try to make an identification. Use a smartphone application created for this purpose. Download 'apps' for free or for a small fee to either Apple IOS or Android. Popular apps include PlantSnap, iNaturalist, Leafsnap, Plantix and PictureThis. The camera on your phone can help you identify thousands of plants

with a few simple clicks.

It's also fun to explore design ideas, which include garden layout, unique structures and interesting containers. If you enjoy a do-it-yourself project, you can often re-create something you've seen, such as arbors, planters, gazebos and more. Both public and private gardens are a wealth of inspiration.

Of course, you will always learn by engaging in conversations with local gardeners. Ask questions. Swap stories. Share knowledge. Volunteers often work in public gardens and they are almost always glad to chat. Conversation starters include inquiring about prevalent pests or diseases, hardy cultivars, weather conditions, etc. If you are sincerely interested, you will always find a like-minded new friend!

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

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DEVOTIONAL

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

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1 John 4:12

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 Romans 8:28



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 Romans 15:13



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 Isaiah 41:13



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 Proverbs 3:5-6



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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.
 Psalm 94:18-19



So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
 Isaiah 41:10



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

About the promise of those recipes —a pledge not kept ...



BY DON NEWBURY

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

When I began writing weekly more than two decades ago, I informed readers that they could expect occasional recipes worthy of clipping, putting under magnets on refrigerator doors or placing toward the front of recipe boxes.

I have failed. Maybe it was because the recipe — offered more than 20 years ago — failed to generate any responses from readers. Further, maybe there's nothing particularly appealing about ingredients like Graham crackers, peanut butter and marshmallows.

I might just as well have provided a recipe for Jell-O, even though age-old instructions are printed on the side of every box.

Whatever, I'm entering the kitchen once more, if only to repeat a timely tip as well as to clarify why we "call pickles pickles." After all, they all start out as cucumbers. (Uncle Mort explained last week that pickles would be "cuter" if seeds were turned inside out prior to planting. That way, they'd have dimples instead of warts.)

Okay, so you didn't read last week's column. If that's the case, at least smile upon perusing this one.

My friend Ray brought me up short on the pickle story. "A few decades ago, I was in the Navy with a man who became a lifelong friend and was a career physician in Michigan," he said.

Ray said his friend bragged that his home state traditionally ranked number one in the production of pickles.

Perhaps wanting to enlighten his Yankee friend, Ray quizzed, "Don't you really mean cucumbers?"

The Michigander seemed poised to answer quickly. "I guess we 'cut to the chase,' in effect. Cucumbers are marketed as pickles, a word easier to read, spell and pronounce. Think about it — you don't hear diners placing orders in fast-food joints to 'hold the cucumbers.'" Point made.

A second thought this week may be helpful, even if a "retread" for some who know their way around the kitchen.

It is a suggestion from Heloise, who has provided kitchen "hints" since Hector was a wee pup.

The "hint" may rank far below second-hand. It may be third — or even fourth — hand. I'd expected to be further along in the kitchen by this time, but alas, I often use a map, and still don't quite get it when recipes call for ingredients "divided."

Anyways, I am grateful to Heloise, even though we rarely have homemade pizza. She offers help for home pizza bakers whose slicing tools become dull. Me? I struggle to remember if we have a pizza slicer and/or which drawer it's in.

That said, Heloise recently recommended using boiler plate, garden variety scissors. She said something about ease in slicing the pieces, particularly if tools designed to cut pizzas have gone bad.

Actually, I don't really need this piece of advice. About a year ago, during a visit home to Brownwood, Dr. Jack Stanford presented me with a "can't miss" homemade pizza slicer. It is sharp, a true heavy-duty tool. It is kept in plain sight in the kitchen, not so much because we often slice pizzas, but mostly to serve as a reminder that it was a gift hand-made by Dr. Stanford, one of Howard Payne University's all-time great teachers who died earlier this year.

University presidents can usually "count on their thumbs" the number of times gifted by faculties. When I retired from the presidency in 1997, the faculty presented Brenda and me with a painting from the easel of the late Dr. Robert Smith, an accomplished artist and longtime theology professor.

Perhaps a decade after retirement, I chanced to see a longtime HPU professor during a visit home. I mentioned to her how much we appreciated the wonderful Smith painting.

"We'd have given you two paintings if you had retired a year earlier," she said, smiling. Key word is "smiling." Maybe "smirking" would be a better choice of words. Oh, well. Win some, lose some....

newbury@speakerdoc.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Screenshot of Robot Band from Machinarium.

GAME ON

A little indie game called Machinarium



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

I was first introduced to this game by a friend back in 2009, and immediately loved it.

It features an adorable little robot named Josef who's trying to save his girlfriend Berta from the Black Cap Brotherhood gang, a bunch of bad robots who seem to have taken over his city.

The game starts with Josef being dropped into the scrapyard from a passing ship, missing some parts. Through thought bubbles and helpful visual cues, the game shows you how the robot can retrieve his leg, and even tie a magnet to a string to fish out his arm from the river below.

You get the impression from flashbacks (conveyed by little animations in thought bubbles) that the robot once had a happier life with his friend. Now your goal is to help the robot defeat the bad robots, find his friend, and help his little robot city get back to normal.

It features hand-drawn elements and backgrounds. The artist said that his usual artistic style was too clean and looked like computer renderings, and the designers of the game really wanted hand-drawn illustrations. So, he drew them all with his left hand! It gives the game a grungy 'handmade' feel, unlike many of the slicker-looking games of today.

The music is composed by Floex and contributes to

the game's wistful, almost sad atmosphere. It combines traditional orchestral instruments with industrial sounds.

Visually it's a masterpiece. It's completely different from any other game, and still stands out as one of the more unique puzzle games, even today.

Typical point and click puzzle games (what I think of as Myst-style games) are a series of static backgrounds with clickable areas, so if the player is feeling particularly lazy, they just wave the mouse arrow around until it turns into a hand. Not so with this game. The puzzles force you to use your logic skills and do a little thinking outside of the box. Collecting and combining objects is important to solving some of the puzzles in the game. There's a wide variety of puzzles, some of which I've encountered in other games, and some that are completely new ideas. It's difficult to think of new puzzles, but Amanita Designs manages to come up with some challeng-

ing ones.

I think one of the best things about it is that it's a casual game. No time pressure. No violence. Great soundtrack. Perfect for a Saturday morning with a cup of coffee.

Check out Machinarium on the Steam platform, developed and published by Amanita Design. Machinarium has won the Aesthetics award at IndieCade, the Excellence in Visual Art award at the 12th Annual Independent Games Festival, and the Best Soundtrack award from PC Gamer in 2009. It was nominated for an Outstanding Achievement in Art Direction award by the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences and a Milthon award in the 'Best Indie Game' category at the Paris Game Festival.

Amanita Design is a Czech independent studio best known for puzzle adventure games. Other games they have produced include Samorost, Botanicula, CHUCHEL, Pilgrims, Creaks and most recently Happy Game. I've played almost all of them, (except Happy Game) and enjoyed them immensely. They're also kid-friendly. My son has played Botanicula and CHUCHEL and loved them both.

There's a free playable demo on the Steam gaming platform, and you can view a preview trailer on Machinarium.com. It's an oldie but a goodie. If you've never played Machinarium and you like puzzle games, you're in for a treat.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan's community gardens both sowing and reaping this season



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother and English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens is gleaming a bountiful harvest from all its planting and hard work earlier this growing season. On its recent workday, 20 members picked green beans, potatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, okra, onions, and garlic, and very soon, tomatoes and okra will be appearing daily.

Neighbors interested in joining this gardening group are invited either to stop by the garden when members are out working or visit the PAC for a membership application. The gardens are located on Plantation Drive near the walking track.

In addition, Community Gardens members donated extra green beans to a recent dinner honoring our neighborhood's emergency responders. Garden club member Donna Bullis prepared the harvest, and the bounty received comments of praise and inquiries on its origin. Folks partaking were totally impressed and deemed the produce "absolutely delicious!"

DAD'S DAY

Father's Day comes tomorrow, Sunday, June 18, and reservations for a holiday brunch close soon. Three seating times are avail-

able (10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m.). The menu will boast "lots of meats" for dad to enjoy. Call the clubhouse front desk to reserve a table: 817-573-2641.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Multiple road work projects will begin Monday, June 19, says Sam Watts, chair of Pecan's Infrastructure Committee. Folks will see crews first on Prospect Hill before moving to Brierfield, Bellechase, and Monticello. Completion of the work will provide smoother, improved streets in our community. Work will take several weeks to complete, and residents are asked to be patient and understanding during the construction schedule.

GOOD READS

The Hood County Bookmobile will be at the PAC on Wednesday, June 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45



COURTESY OF STEPH PHALEN

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club held a workday recently, and members enjoyed a fruitful harvest thanks to their sowing, planting, and work earlier this spring. Pictured (left to right) are club members Judy Taubinger, Vance Nappier, Susan Harris, and Sue Thompson.

a.m. Patrons should bring library cards for checking out materials.

SHARP DESIGN

Pecan is seeking to update its front entrance, and residents with a talent for design are needed. Our community is holding a competition open to all members who would like to have a lasting impact on Pecan in addition to winning a four-course meal for four created by Chef Jordan Ray, a plaque at the newly redesigned front entrance, and of course, bragging rights. Send both inquiries and submissions to Jay Arrington at jay.arrington@ppoaweb.com. Entry deadline is Friday, June 23.

THEATER TIME

Missoula Children's Theater is coming to Pecan for its annual summer appearance, and this year's play of choice is Cinderella. Auditions will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 26 at the PAC gym and are open to students entering grades one through twelve. Actors must be available for rehearsals for the entire week, both morning and afternoon, as well as for both performances on Saturday, July 1.

Participation in this event is free, and attendees may sign up for audition times at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

PICNIC OUTING

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club enjoyed hearing Broadway hits performed by Ray Scott and Lois Akers at its May meeting, and although the pace slows down in the summer months, the group, which has grown to approximately 40 members, continues to invite and will welcome new Pecan widows and widowers to join its next gathering on Tuesday, June 27.

The evening will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a picnic dinner at 6 p.m. at Pecan's RV pavilion. Sloppy Joe sandwiches will be provided by Chef Jordan Ray, and attendees will contribute sides and desserts. Guitarist Carolyn Troland will provide music and "campfire sing-along" tunes, and corn hole, golf disc toss, and Chutes and Ladders will complete the evening. Cool and casual dress is welcome.

Folks planning to attend should respond to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net before noon on Tuesday, June 20. The club is open to all widows and widowers living in Pecan.

POOL LIFE

With summer having arrived and the clubhouse pool in full operation, food service in the new and improved Poolside Lounge (the former Teen Room) has commenced. Pecan's youth are welcome to come inside the area to enjoy cool air, games, activities,

and food in addition to staff now being able to take orders and serve food and drinks poolside. Cuisine service runs daily (except Mondays) from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ART EVENT

It is not too early for Pecaners to mark their calendars for the Pecan Plantation Art Guild's Fine Art Show 2023 coming up on Friday, July 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Pecan clubhouse ballroom. The PPAG boasts a wealth of talent, and the show will provide neighbors an opportunity to admire the work of guild members.

AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Mike Barrett on receiving the Firefighter of the Year for Pecan Plantation Station 80.

SUMMER FUN

Activities of the season for the youngest residents of Pecan ("Let's Sing and Act" and Art Rocks Camp among others) continue each week at the PAC. Visit the front desk for a full schedule of offerings.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of David Freeman, who passed away June 5.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

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