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## City Council grants variance for alcohol sales near school

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

At the end of a half-hour discussion and a brief closed session, the Granbury City Council recently approved a variance allowing alcohol

sales near Oak Woods School. State law requires a 300-foot separation between public schools and alcoholic beverage sales, with the distance measured from front door to front door. However, a city of Granbury ordinance measures

from property line to property line. Since the business, located at 2441 E. U.S. Highway 377, is contiguous to the property owned by Granbury ISD, that means a distance of zero.

State law allows for local governments to grant variances in such matters. The variance request was for Let It Brie, owned by Rik Tarnoff and his wife Heather. The mom-and-pop operation sells charcuterie

fixings and custom-made charcuterie boards. Rik Tarnoff, who addressed the council at its regular meeting on June 20, said that he wants to sell “seven or eight” different

PLEASE SEE SALES | A7

## City awards bid on main lift station project

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Granbury city officials continue to move forward with improvements to the city’s wastewater disposal and treatment infrastructure.

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, the City Council unanimously agreed to award a bid for the main lift station construction and improvements project to B&L Construction Co.

The bid was for \$2,814,912.53. Of that amount, approximately \$2,315,000 will come from American Rescue Plan Act funds and about \$500,000 will be covered through impact fees.

“We’re excited about this opportunity — taking the grant funds and impact fees together to do a huge project that the city really needs,” City Manager Chris Coffman said.

The city received three bids for the project. According to staff, the bid from Hico-based B&L Construction was the lowest.

The company’s base bid was \$2,714,912.53 but the council approved it with an “Additive Alternate Bid” for additional scope items. That resulted in the \$2.8 million figure.

B&L’s proposal was also lower than a bid it submitted during a first round of bidding. During that round, B&L’s offer was \$3,381,427.84. The difference between the company’s first submission and its second-round base bid was \$666,515.31.

City staff recommended that B&L Construction be awarded the bid based upon references, evaluation findings, and the company’s past working history with the city.

A motion to accept B&L’s bid was made by council member Bruce Wadley and seconded by council member Stephen Vale.

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A group of students pose with projects during Constitution Camp.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Constitution Camp comes to Granbury

BY EDEN GILBREATH  
Special to the Hood County News

This past week local students enjoyed a perennial favorite called Constitution Camp. The camp is a free, non-political day camp sponsored by the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

“There are a lot of things I didn’t know about the Constitution. I thought the Declaration (of Independence) was a big deal. Turns out the Constitution is a bigger deal than the Declaration! I learned a lot this week,” shared Edon Hoke, a Heritage Christian

Academy middle school student. Edon’s mother Natalie Hoke said, “Edon is very interested in history as a whole, I knew he would enjoy this camp.” Children ages seven through 13 attended the week-long camp to learn about the nation’s founding fathers, the American

Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and more.

It takes a large team of people to put on such an event. For the past eight years DAR members have been faithful co-laborers for the camp, along with the Sons of the American Revolution and local parents. The entire event requires approximately 20-25 adult volunteers along with about 15 teen workers.

Many of the teen volunteers attended Constitution Camp when they were younger.

Teen volunteer Tanis Hutchinson, who has volunteered for two years, said,

“The best part of camp is being around the kids. This year I was one of the leaders in charge of water games. Last year I worked with my Nana (Tammy) with the fifth graders.”

C.J., age 10 and his sister Kahra, age 11, and their father Fletcher Matandika, all participated in Constitution Camp. C.J.’s favorite part was the history.

“Especially King George and George Washington and about who wrote the Constitution,” he said, going on to describe in great detail the ship he assembled during the ship-building

PLEASE SEE CAMP | A4



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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Granbury's patriotic 4th of July celebration and parade: a legacy of community pride

BY HOLLY MARTIN

Granbury Chamber of Commerce General Manager

The history of Granbury's Patriotic 4th of July Celebration and Parade can be traced back 49 years ago, to a humble beginning over a glass of lemonade one Sunday afternoon.

It started with a simple idea to commemorate the nation's birthday in a way that would bring the community together. The inaugural parade, held that first year, boasted an impressive 51 entries. However, what surprised everyone was the overwhelming turnout of spectators who lined the streets to witness the festivities. The celebration, initially intended for Hood County residents, soon caught the attention of out-of-towners, including individuals from as far as West Texas.

The following year, with the assistance of dedicated grassroots promoters, Granbury's 4th of July Celebration gained momentum and underwent a transformation. It rebranded itself as the Old Fashion 4th of July Celebration, embracing the spirit of nostalgia and small-town charm. Local bakeries joined the festivities, distributing freshly baked sourdough biscuits to attendees. The town's gazebo became a stage for live music, providing a delightful soundtrack to the day's events.

From that point onward, Granbury's 4th of July Celebration became a cherished tradition, with each year surpassing the previous one in terms of participation and enthusiasm. Jean Cate, one of the 4th of July Celebration co-founders, noted on a recent Visit Granbury podcast, "There's a feeling in the air. People are wearing patriotic shirts, colors ... they're obviously having a wonderful time. There's just an electric feeling in the air. People are passing one another as they're walking around the square, and they're nodding and smiling at one another and laughing or waving. You leave here with, I think, a feeling of great pride in this incredible country."

Thousands of people now line the streets of Granbury each year, eagerly awaiting the highly an-



2024 Hometown 4th of July parade route.

icipated patriotic parade. The parade itself has grown in scale and spectacle, featuring awe-inspiring floats, marching bands, colorful costumes, and enthusiastic participants representing various community organizations. The streets are adorned with red, white, and blue, as the town comes alive with the vibrant spirit of American pride.

Granbury's Patriotic 4th of July Celebration and Parade has become a significant date on the town's calendar. It serves as a reminder of the nation's history, unity, and the sacrifices made by those who came before. This annual event showcases the best of small-town America, where neighbors come together to celebrate their shared values and love for their country.

As Granbury continues to host this remarkable celebration, it remains a testament to the power of community and the enduring spirit of patriotism. The 4th of July in Granbury is not just a day to mark on the calendar. It's an experience that leaves a lasting impression on all who participate. Whether you're a local or a visitor from afar, this celebration is an invitation to

join in the festivities, bask in the sense of togetherness, and revel in the joyous atmosphere that is Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Celebration and Parade. Be sure to tune into K-HITS 95.5 at 9:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4th for our 4th of July Fireworks Show simulcast where K-Hits will be playing music that matches the blasts to the fireworks.

## COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The Jeweler's Workshop located at 224 S. Morgan. Ribbon Cutting for the relocation of The Jeweler's Workshop held on March 24. Owners: Jim & Deborah Patterson.



Top right: Wings Etc. Grill & Pub located at 1507 N. Plaza Dr. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening held on March 6, 2023. Owners: Jack and Jeff Martin.



Right: N on the Square located at 120 North Crockett Street. Ribbon Cutting for the 1 Year Anniversary of their Grand Opening held on March 23. Owners: Mark and Paula McDonald.



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Friendship comes in all shapes, sizes, and ages



**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.

Since I began writing this column, I have occasionally written about my friend Miss Jayne. There has been enough written about her that I occasionally get comments from people on the street, or emails from readers wanting an update and asking how she is doing. For those of you who do not know Miss Jayne, she is a 93-year-old widow originally from Durant, Oklahoma, but has lived in Gainesville, Texas for over 70 years. She is a retired public school music teacher, a good Christian, and my close friend. Just a little over a week ago, I moved her from Gainesville to an assisted care facility located near me so I could do a better job of keeping an eye on her. It was tough for a 93-year-old to leave their adopted hometown and start a new life, but she is settling into her new location and doing fine.

Staff and residents in her assisted living facility have asked how Miss Jayne and I are related, and she responds by saying, "we are not

related by blood, we are related by love". I am not sure there is a better description of our relationship. When my mother was alive but

lived 400 miles away, she would call my neighbor Miss Jayne to find out what I was up to and how I was doing. Even though I called almost daily and traveled to see mom regularly, she wanted an independent source of information about how my life was going. The two senior citizens would contact each other and "conspire" to keep up on all my comings and goings. They never failed to offer me their advice, whether it was solicited or not. Maybe because I was single for so many years, the two women felt a duty and were compelled to attempt to "mother me".

Once mom died, and Miss Jayne's son passed from stroke shortly thereafter, she and I fell into a unique situation. We both had empty spaces in our hearts which needed to be filled and whether it be described as fate, an act of God, or blind luck, our hearts joined. We are close and care very deeply for each other.

For over twenty years we have listened to the problems of each

other, offered advice and counsel, but most importantly, always offered support. It is a deep sort of friendship I fear many people never experience. Its very nature makes one feel warm and loved because the obligations between us are completely made by free choice, and not by the obligations of blood. To us, it makes what we share that much more special.

Miss Jayne is pleased with her new surroundings. The food is terrific, the staff is kind and considerate, and she gets to see me almost every day. While the 93 years of living have left their mark on her, she enjoys dining with her new friends, playing bingo, and watching westerns on TV. We acknowledge the time we have left to share our friendship is dwindling; it may be hours or years, but we know it is short. Our intention is to "use up" every second and relish that we were blessed to have each other in our lives. We are blessed my wife understands our friendship and she so willingly and graciously

shares me with Jayne.

Friendship cannot be bought. It cannot be traded for or otherwise acquired. It is one of the greatest assets in our "treasury" of life. Stop and think about your friends for a second. Write that letter or email you have been putting off. Pick up that phone and reconnect with someone who has slipped to the back corner of your life. Sit down with that special person who understands and knows you and tell them how much you love and appreciate them. You will never regret it.

Thought for the day: A true friend is someone who walks in, when the rest of the world is walking out.

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

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

## Folks around town

**Molly James**  
Say hello to our neighbor, Molly James!

Meet Molly James. Molly moved to this area 40 years ago when she married Pete James, a sixth-generation "Hood-countian." They raised two sons here, one of which is a seventh-generation "Hood-countian." Molly absolutely loves her position as Lifestyles Director for Lakestone Terrace Senior Living. She loves the people and feels her job is an opportunity to give back to the community. "Who wouldn't love my job? It's 15 minutes from the house. I get to play games, sit around (and) play cards, and still get paid for it!" Molly said. The Hood County News is Molly's hometown newspaper, connecting her to great things happening in our community and sharing tales and lore from Hood County's fascinating historical archives.

## Commissioners question need, cost of proposed appraisal building

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

An almost 40-minute discussion about a proposal to build a new building for the Hood Central Appraisal District took place at a recent regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court.

No action was taken. The proposal, for now, is just that: a proposal. It was announced last year and detailed by then-Chief Appraiser Eddie Roe during an interlocal government meeting held in council chambers at Granbury City Hall.

Plans for the facility near Acton Elementary School include sharing the building with the Texas Department of Public Safety, which would operate a full-service, eight-bay driver's license office provided the Legislature approves funding. That side of the building

would be a shell, Roe said, and DPS would pay the cost of finishing it out.

He said that lease payments from DPS would cover most of the annual payment for the 20-year note with no anticipated impact to taxpayers.

Plans include public restrooms and a meeting room that can be used by the public and as a polling location.

Approval by three-fourths of the HCAD's 10 taxing entities will have to approve the plan for it to move forward.

The discussion at the June 13 Commissioners Court meeting was placed on the agenda by Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle.

HCAD board members Rick Frye and Mark Jackson were present. Frye addressed the court and explained why the board believes a new building is needed. Reasons include a lack of public restrooms and staff restrooms that are not ADA compliant.

He indicated that a search for commercial property in Hood County that might fill the HCAD's needs had not been fruitful and that although the board had considered the city-owned Decker Gym property, there are a number of concerning issues with that site.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews noted that asbestos abatement would be needed at the Decker property but said, "That looks like a great option."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson commented that many homeowners pay their property taxes through their mortgage companies and that a new generation of homeowners is handling responsibilities online rather than through in-person office visits. She also wondered if appraisers might be able to work remotely without having to all be together in one office. Eagle said that he "echoed"

Samuelson's point about remote work and commented that COVID-19 "taught us" that work can be done remotely.

Interim Chief Appraiser Richard Petree, who is filling in after the recent resignation of Roe, also spoke. He said that there will be "plenty of opportunity" for the public to weigh in before taxing entities vote on the proposal.

He also addressed the \$6.5 million price tag that has raised concern among some.

Construction-related costs increased significantly after the pandemic.

Petree said he believes that the estimate is "excessive," but indicated that the real cost will likely be lower.

"I believe that when we see the bids come in on this, you will be pleasantly surprised," he said.

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## County tables Acton Cemetery roadwork request

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners recently shied away from a request by the Acton Cemetery Board of Directors for the county to place base material in the cemetery's driving lanes to repair areas of erosion.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson said that he had been approached with the request by former County Judge Andy Rash, who he

said serves on that board. Wilson said the county has provided the service in the past.

Road Operations Director Donald Linney told the court at its June 13 regular meeting that the cost for materials would be \$187.50. He also stated that he had conferred with County Attorney Matt Mills and that Mills had reviewed the request and approved it.

However, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette

Samuelson raised several concerns.

She stated that while the materials might cost \$187.50, the cost to the county would be higher than that. She said that, based on a discussion she had with Linney, the work would take five employees working eight hours at a cost of \$1,000-\$1,100, plus the use of county equipment.

Acton Cemetery, she pointed out, is a state park. It is not county property.

She said that according to Linney, his staff is "totally booked" with county projects; therefore, the work would be done at the expense of those projects.

Samuelson detailed other concerns as well: wear and tear on county equipment, and liability in terms of county employees possibly getting injured, county equipment being damaged, or county equipment

PLEASE SEE **ACTON** | A4

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**CORRECTION**

Johnny Henard's last name was spelled incorrectly in the headline of the "Folks Around Town" photo on Page A3 of the Saturday, June 24 edition of the Hood County News.

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## CALENDAR

### JULY

**SATURDAY, JULY 8**

**LGAA MONTHLY** meeting and free demo will be held on July 8, 2023, at 6 p.m. Meeting will be held at 224 N. Travis, just off the Square. The guest artist will be Gayle Bunch. For more information call 817-573-7656.

**MONDAY, JULY 10**

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Meet the June-teenth Essay Contest winners. 11:00 a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377. For information, call 254-716-5195.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

**LGAA WILL** host a two-day workshop on Friday and Saturday July 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Member fee is \$100 and non-member fee plus supply fee will be \$130. For more information send an email at lgaaworkshops@gmail.com

### TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



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## ACTON

FROM PAGE A3

damaging something at the cemetery.

"I don't like the precedence it's setting," the commissioner stated, adding, "Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should do something."

She then made a motion to table the matter due to it not being "in the best interest of county taxpayers."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle joined Samuelson and Andrews in opposition to the request, and Wilson and County Judge Ron Massingill voted against tabling it.

The Hood County News reached out later to Samuelson and Andrews to ask why the request was tabled rather than rejected outright. Usually when something is tabled, it is brought back for consideration.

The HCN was able to reach Andrews by phone. He indicated that the same question had occurred to him later.

"That probably would have been more appropriate," he said of denying the request outright. "We should have just voted that down."

Andrews indicated that his vote was not a commentary on the work done by the board of the Acton Cemetery.

"You hate to do this," he said, "but this is a terrible precedent." Samuelson later responded to the HCN's phone message via email.

Her message stated, "The motion to table would allow an item to be placed on the agenda at some point in the future. If a court member has additional information or circumstances have changed and wishes to bring it back to court, the option is available."

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# Century 21 shows appreciation to first responders



COURTESY PHOTO

Century 21 Property Advisors held its fourth annual Feed the First Responders thank-you event on June 14. With assistance from preferred partners, 105 individual first responders received a thank-you for their service and a boxed meal.

### From Staff Reports

Back in 2020 all first responders — including police, firefighters, sheriff deputies, EMTs, and state troopers — put their lives at risk while COVID-19 ran rapidly through local communities. Those public servants put the community ahead of their own families to protect us. It has been almost four years, and COVID is under control,

yet our first responders are still out there protecting communities every day.

Century 21 Property Advisors held its fourth annual Feed the First Responders thank-you event on June 14. With assistance from preferred partners, 105 individual first responders received a thank-you for their service and a boxed meal.

"We are so proud to be a part

of this community and we want the first responders to always feel we have their backs — just like they have ours," Digital Marketing Manager Kat Vargas said. "It's important to us (to recognize and help them) because we feel that they don't get the recognition they deserve."

Century 21 would like to thank its "Preferred Partners" — Purefoy Electric, Brew Drinkery,

ServiceFirst Mortgage, and Wings Etc. — for their continued support and for taking time out of their schedule to thank the first responders alongside them.

They would also like to invite everyone to think about what the community would be like without these individuals day in and day out. Thank a first responder today and say hello the next time you see someone serving you.

# Commissioners vote to replace failed boiler at jail

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

With the question of whether to build a new jail still unresolved by the Hood County Commissioners Court, the current jail is continuing to cost money because of needed repairs.

At a recent regular meeting, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of a new "standby

boiler" at the Hood County Jail at 400 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. due to the failure of the old one.

County Maintenance Director Jay Riley told the county judge and commissioners at their June 13 meeting that there are two hot water boilers at the jail and the "spare boiler" had failed due to a cracked heat exchanger.

"A heat exchanger's about \$30,000 to replace," he said, add-

ing that he felt it was "better to go with a new one."

Riley stated that a year ago that particular unit cost \$78,000 but now the price is \$81,000.

"I feel like I need to act," he said. "I need to bring it to your attention. If the one I've got fails, we won't have any hot water."

County Judge Ron Massingill responded, "That means we would fail the jail standards, of course."

He was referring to inspections by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

"Yes, sir, we would fail, and I think that this is a good item to consider," Riley replied.

The court voted unanimously to replace the boiler using money from Fund 55, the county's general fund.

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# City extends certificate of occupancy for Lake Villas complex

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

The Granbury City Council has agreed to extend a Certificate of Occupancy that last year allowed some units at Lake Villas Apartments to be occupied despite ongoing challenges related to wastewater disposal.

The waterfront complex on Northeast Loop 567, built by Gold Creek Homes, remained vacant for more than two years after construction because of those difficulties.

The developer built a lift station on the complex property at 1000 Quiet Cove, which according to the city works fine, but the city also required the developer to fund upgrades to its Lift Station #2.

Lift Station #2 is adjacent to East Pearl Street/Business 377, near the Waterview senior living complex.

The reason the city imposed that requirement was because of the added burden that will be imposed on the city's infrastructure once Lake Villas' 250 one- and two-bedroom units are occupied and have tied onto Granbury's wastewater disposal and treatment system.

The upgrades were slowed by two problems over which Gold Creek Homes had no control: damage done during lift station construction work to East Pearl Street/Business 377 and to an AT&T trunk line.

East Pearl Street/Business 377

is under the purview of the Texas Department of Transportation. That means that the state must spearhead the repairs.

As for AT&T, company officials did not want anyone other than their own people handling the trunk line, Assistant City Manager Rick Crownover said.

According to the city, repairs to the roadway will happen once the AT&T issue has been resolved. Crownover, speaking at the council's regular meeting on June 20, said that the AT&T work was expected to be finished by the end of that week.

Although Gold Creek Homes was not involved in the road or trunk line repairs, Crownover and City Manager Chris Coffman

said there is a punch list of items that the company still needs to complete.

Crownover said he feels confident the company "will abide by the terms of the agreement" to finish the work.

The council voted unanimously to approve extending the limited temporary Certificate of Occupancy for Gold Creek Homes. The vote occurred just over a year after the council authorized Coffman to execute a CO agreement under parameters that had been discussed in closed session.

After the CO was granted, some of the units at the eight-building gated complex were leased.

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## CAMP

FROM PAGE A1

portion of camp.

Fletcher Matandika played the role of Crispus Attucks in one of the "history comes alive" portions of the camp.

Attucks was an American whaler, sailor, and stevedore of African and Native American descent. He

is traditionally regarded as the first person killed in the Boston Massacre, and as a result the first American killed in the American Revolution.

Matandika, a Canadian citizen born in Malawi, mentioned the "blessing" of Constitution Camp.

"It's wonderful to be with like-minded people who love freedom and are patriotic. People who want to raise freedom fighters and pa-

trials," he added.

Local mother Cintheya Evans said this is her daughters' favorite camp.

"We have been attending for five or six years," she said. "We love it. My girls look forward to it every year. We love history. We home-school. It's a free program, which is very impressive to me."

Evans invited friend Julie Barthelemy and her two daugh-

ters, who came from Weatherford to participate.

"My girls really enjoyed it. One was a helper, and one took part. It seemed really well organized," Barthelemy said.

Evans said they usually schedule vacations around the camp.

"That's how important this camp is to my girls," she said. "They won't let us miss this one."

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# 'I couldn't go anywhere else'

First-term Tolar mayor Matt Hutsell is right where he wants to be

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Small towns on the cusp of big growth can be like an awkward pre-teen: no longer a small child but still in need of parental protection.

Matt Hutsell, in his first term as mayor of Tolar, is, in a sense, the growing town's protective dad. If you're a developer with less than honorable intentions, you'd best be on your way.

Hutsell and his colleagues on the City Council — Craig Davis, Place 1; Sally Grimes, Place 2; Chip Foster, Place 3 (and mayor pro tem); Brian Gall, Place 4; and Kevin Fron, Place 5 — are working to accommodate growth that is already occurring, plan for what's coming, and make sure that new housing developments meet strict standards so that those who choose to live in Tolar don't regret it.

"(City Administrator) Michelle (Burdette) and all the city workers, they truly run the city," Hutsell said, "but I can kind of set the course for the ship and try to control our growth and have good growth."

Hutsell was elected mayor last November, taking the reins from longtime mayor Terry Johnson, who decided not to seek another term. In addition to retiring from public service, Johnson also recently retired from his job with the city of Granbury.

Although new to the mayor role, Hutsell is not new to city service. He served for years as a member of the City Council and as a volunteer firefighter. He still leads the Tolar Volunteer Fire Department as its chief.

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Kevin Andrews, himself a volunteer firefighter who served eight years as fire chief in Lipan, said that Hutsell is "a great guy."

"He's always willing to serve and help his community," Andrews said, adding that Hutsell has a "laser focus" on getting things done.

Hutsell first ran for City Council in 2007 but was unsuccessful.

"I just didn't like how the council was reacting to the growth," he said of his reasons for running. "Instead of harnessing the growth and trying to make it what they wanted because it was coming, no matter what, they were just trying to stop it. So, it kind of made me aggravated, which made me run for council."

Although he didn't win that first time, Hutsell kept attending City Council meetings and "being involved in things." When he ran again the following year, he won.

## FIREFIGHTER, FAMILY MAN

Hutsell's parents moved his family to Granbury from Irving in 1990.

His father worked for the city of Dallas employee credit union and commuted to work every day.

"He had a little Mazda pickup that he gave me later on," Hutsell reminisced. "It had, like, 450,000 miles on it. And it was still running, it just smoked a lot."

Hutsell graduated from Granbury High School and married his high school sweetheart, Heather. In 1998, they moved to Tolar.

"We moved out here because, at the time, I was a store manager for Chief Auto Parts in Stephenville," he said. "I had been assistant manager for Chief Auto Parts in Granbury, and I got my own store in Stephenville. Tolar was a nice town in the middle."

In 1999, Hutsell joined the Tolar VFD. He found that he liked firefighting and responding to emergency calls.

"I started making calls and (doing) training and stuff and was like, man, I like this. This is pretty cool," he said.

The discovery led to a career switch. Hutsell was hired by the Irving Fire Department in November 2000. The department sent him to training in McKinney. For seven months, he drove from Tolar to McKinney and back home again. The trip

*"It's just a great, great town. Everybody comes together, like (when we had) the wildfires last year. This time last year, we were burning the world down. The day the Big L Ranch burned, we burned 10,000 acres. We had 100 people at the fire station working. We didn't ask them. They just showed up and started working, making bags of (eye) drops and stuff for the firefighters, and soon they had built stations out everywhere where we could just stop and grab water."*

**MATT HUTSELL**  
Mayor of Tolar

each direction was "a solid two hours," he said.

As a captain with the Irving Fire Department, Hutsell is still commuting, but not every day. He is on duty for a 24-hour shift, then is off for 48 hours. On the days he's home, he is available to handle issues related to city business.

"Right now, we're trying to buy some heavy equipment, a skid steer and an excavator," he said. "So, I'm trying to wrangle all the bids and figure out what's best to buy, and I'll present that to the council."

He and Heather have a daughter, Morgan, 22, and a son, Trevor, who will turn 18 on July 26. Both are follow-



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Matt Hutsell has long served the Tolar community as a volunteer firefighter and as its fire chief. Now, as mayor, he and the Tolar City Council are working to guide the town southwest of Granbury through significant growth.

ing in their dad's firefighting footsteps.

Morgan started Tolar VFD's Junior Firefighter program that allows young firefighters in training to go on calls on a limited basis, her dad said. She, too, now works for the Irving Fire Department.

Trevor is part of the Junior Firefighters program and also wants to be a fulltime firefighter, Hutsell said.

Fighting fires in scorch-

seven or eight years ago and involved a high-water rescue of a teenage girl, a student at Tolar High School.

"The Paluxy (River) was flooding," Hutsell recalled. "She got washed off the road."

The girl had extracted herself from the vehicle and both she and the vehicle were "hanging on a fence," he said.

"We didn't have a boat because we're hardly ever

Engineering is being completed on a new wastewater treatment plant that will double the current capacity. Construction is expected to begin in the next couple of months, Hutsell said. The city's current WWTP was built almost 50 years ago.

When planning the new sewer plant, Hutsell and the council included funding for an additional groundwater well and a 50,000-gallon ground storage tank.

Another issue, in Hutsell's view, are the city's streets.

"All of our roads are terrible," he said.

He stated that he disagreed several years ago when the City Council voted to chip seal "every street in town" at a cost of about \$700,000. In his opinion, the council opted to "kick the can down the road" when a more permanent solution was needed.

"Just because I don't agree with it doesn't make it wrong," he acknowledged of the decision the majority of the council felt was best at the time.

The first-term mayor would love to see more retail come to Tolar, especially a grocery store, but he knows that more people will probably have to move there for that to happen. Right now, the town's population is around 1,000.

Hutsell feels that Tolar is a great place to live and he wants it to stay that way.

"It's just a great, great town," he said. "Everybody comes together, like (when we had) the wildfires last year. This time last year, we were burning the world down. The day the Big L Ranch burned, we burned 10,000 acres. We had 100 people at the fire station working. We didn't ask them. They just showed up and started working, making bags of (eye) drops and stuff for the firefighters, and soon they had built stations out everywhere where we could just stop and grab water."

He continued, "Everybody's just close, and they want to help and do the right thing. I couldn't go anywhere else."

kacruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886

ing Texas heat is not for the faint of heart.

"The older I've gotten, the more I've learned to pace myself," Hutsell said, adding that the key, at least when lives are not imperiled, is to be "slow and steady."

He stated, "Over the course of an entire incident, you've learned to pace yourself and share the load. That's why, when you see firemen loading a hose, there's 10 guys loading one hose. A bunch of hands make light work. That's where teamwork comes in."

During the years he has lived in Tolar, Hutsell has responded to countless calls. He said that one particularly memorable call happened

going to have water here," Hutsell said. "But we were able to drive the ladder truck on the road down even with her and use ropes to get down to her, attach them to her, and then bring her back up to the ladder truck."

He continued, "We just told her to hold on to the fence and the car actually got washed away while we were in the middle of rescuing her."

Thanks to the Tolar VFD team, the girl returned home safely to her parents.

## CITY ON THE CUSP

Tolar city officials are now officially dealing with big-city types of issues, namely, infrastructure.

## COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# Texas named best business climate in the nation

By Staff Reports

Texas has been named the state with the Best Business Climate by Business Facilities magazine in their 19th Annual Rankings Report, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said.

In 2022, Texas attracted more than 1,000 projects, more than double the second-highest state, representing an expected \$44.75 billion in capital investment and the creation of more than 35,000 jobs. Foreign direct investment accounts

for \$16.3 billion and about half of new jobs recorded for that year. Advanced manufacturing in the state has seen robust growth, with significant investment from semiconductor, electric vehicle, and aerospace/aviation firms. Major companies are choosing the Lone Star State for corporate headquarters with 55 Fortune 500 firms calling the state home.

"The Texas legend is fueled by leaders, innovators, and trailblazers inspired by the unique freedom and

opportunity that only exists in our great state," Abbott said. "With no state income tax, a reasonable regulatory environment, a growing, diverse, and highly skilled workforce, and economic development tools that help support investments, Texas continues to offer something for everyone to thrive. When businesses succeed, so do Texans—and our business climate ensures that Texas continues to offer world-class educational opportunities, good-paying careers to support

families, and endless possibilities to prosper. I look forward to continue to work alongside businesses, economic development teams, and leaders across our state as we keep Texas the best place for business."

Focused on over 60 factors pertinent to site selection teams during a corporate relocation or expansion project, Business Facilities' Annual Rankings Report has been a resource for corporate site selectors and site selection consultants for nearly two decades.

"The strength and sustained momentum of the Texas economy made the state a clear choice for Best Business Climate in this year's rankings," said Business Facilities Editorial Director Anne Cosgrove. "Taking the top spot this year is based, not only on the impressive capital investment and job creation numbers, but also for diversity of industries, robust infrastructure, and a business-friendly regulatory and tax climate."

Following Texas in the

top five for Best Business Climate are: North Carolina, Virginia, Utah, and Tennessee, respectively, followed by Colorado, Washington, Nevada, Georgia, and Florida.

Business Facilities has revealed the top states chosen for a select number of categories from its 19th Annual Rankings Report. The full report — including annual State Rankings and Metro and Global Rankings — will be published in the July/August 2023 issue of Business Facilities.

**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.



# LETTER

## IT IS NOW A NEWSPAPER

My wife and I have subscribed to the Hood County News since, I believe, 2006. I know we began our subscription before we made a final decision to retire to Granbury. We bought our home here in DeCordova in 2006 and moved here the following year.

I suspect I will always miss not receiving a paper on Wednesday. That said, however, the last two issues of the Hood County News — those of June 17 and June 24 — are far and away the best two issues of the paper since we have been subscribing. It is now a newspaper, with full coverage of local events and happenings. We salute you on the changes and look forward to many more years of faithful subscription.

Thank you for a paper of which we Hood County residents can be proud.

Bill Dyess  
Granbury

## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

## COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Cornerstone Christian Academy located at 5150 North Gate Rd. Ribbon Cutting for the Expansion of their School held on March 9, 2023. Cornerstone Christian Academy Team.



Wiley Center located at 420 E. Hwy 377. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of the Wiley Center held on March 2, 2023. Wiley Center Team.

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# New law could provide funding for prosecutor pay

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

Hood County District Attorney Ryan Sinclair said he will apply for funding through a new grant program to boost the salaries of his assistants. There has been turnover in his office due, he said, to low pay. The new grant program was established through Senate Bill 22, which was authored by State Senator Drew Springer, R-Muenster, and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott on June 6. The grant program provides financial assistance

to qualified county sheriffs' offices, prosecutors' offices, and constables' offices in counties with a population of 300,000 or less. The 2020 census listed Hood County's population at 61,598. Prosecutors' offices that qualify are required to use the money to increase the salary of an assistant attorney, investigator, or victim assistance coordinator employed at the office or to hire additional staff. Depending on the county's population, prosecutors' offices can receive between \$100,000 and \$275,000 to raise pay and hire additional staff.

According to Sinclair, pay that is considered low in comparison to other counties has become a significant issue in his office. During a specially called meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court held May 31, Sinclair stated that other counties were offering his ADAs more money to come work there. Sinclair said that two ADAs had quit and a third was considering leaving after having been offered an additional \$25,000 to work for the Johnson County DA's office. Discussion included concerns about going against

the adopted budget, the fact that budget discussions were about to get underway for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and factors that make Hood County an attractive place to live and work, arguably offsetting salary discrepancies. At the end of the discussion, which lasted more than an hour, the court approved pay increases for the ADAs, but not at the level Sinclair requested for the top two positions. Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson voted against the raises. In response to an inquiry from the Hood County News,

Sinclair stated in an email that he does intend to seek some of the grant funding. He noted that he was unsure as to how long the application and approval process will take and how soon funds would be disbursed after approval. Based on criteria, it appears that the Hood County Sheriff's Office will not be eligible for the funds due to raises approved by the Commissioners Court for the sheriff, deputies who make motor vehicle stops, and jailers. In a written statement after Abbott signed the grant

program into law, Springer said, in part: "In rural Texas, our law enforcement and prosecutor offices struggle to recruit and retain staff simply because rural counties don't have the tax base to hire and offer competitive wages. In fact, we have counties in Texas where a Sheriff and only a few deputies, if any, cover thousands of square miles, which heavily impacts response time during emergencies and creates a public safety threat." [kcruz@hcnews.com](mailto:kcruz@hcnews.com) | 817-579-1886

## GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

# Local realtors are proud to support, give back to our local community

**BY WHITNEY KNIEPER**



Whitney Knieper grew up in and around the real estate industry and has had her license for 12-plus years. She recently earned her broker's license and is a broker at Knieper Realty. Whitney is the 2023 President of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University. Go Frogs!

Realtors® across the U.S. are proud to support their communities and give back to charities and organizations that are near and dear to their hearts. Realtors® support local, state, and national programs and I want to spotlight a few of the things we do for our community.

The National Association of Realtors® has a grant program to help communities after a disaster on a much

larger scale than a local association. When disasters strike, REALTORS® Relief Foundation stands ready to

provide housing-related support to communities impacted. Whether it be hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, or other disasters, the most important thing is getting help to where it is needed most. "By working alongside our state and local association partners in the impacted areas, RRF can pool the support of the entire REALTOR® family to help meet the housing needs of victims and their families," according to the National Association of REALTORS®. The program has helped in the face of major disasters many of us cannot image living through and it does not get the spotlight often enough. While this is on a national

scale, our local associations support their communities more directly with fundraising events, donations, volunteering, and more. Members of the Granbury Association of REALTORS® love our local community and are always so generous with donations, time, and help. I'm proud to announce our Public Relations Committee raised money for "Blessing Bags" for the residents of the Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in May. The bags included blankets, socks, personal care items, puzzle books such as sudoku and crosswords, and more. Members of the committee gathered to meet the residents and deliver their goodie bags.

Last summer the association donated more than 127 pairs of shoes to the Ranchos Brazos Community Center for back to school for the kids who visit the center. Currently, GAR members are pulling together to donate backpacks and hoodies for back to school for kids in Hood County. This initiative will be in conjunction with another Hood County charity to insure we can provide the best possible outcomes for our local student community. GAR will be collecting donations throughout July. And while we're still a few months away, we host an Annual Food Drive every October when we donate 10,000-17,000 pounds of food to Hood County's seven major food banks. Don't

worry, I'll tell you all about this one when we get closer! Our members are so generous that I can't help but brag about them! I'm proud to be a member of the Granbury Association of Realtors® and our community outreach. If you'd like to participate in a donation for Back-to-School Backpacks and Hoodies, please contact Denise Huber at the GAR office at 817-326-2530. You can find a complete list of the REALTORS® for both Hood and Somervell Counties on the Granbury Association of REALTORS® website - under Directory: [granburyrealtors.com](http://granburyrealtors.com). [whitney@knieperteam.com](mailto:whitney@knieperteam.com) | 817-579-7900

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Taking a fond look back at former theological seminary president's life of service

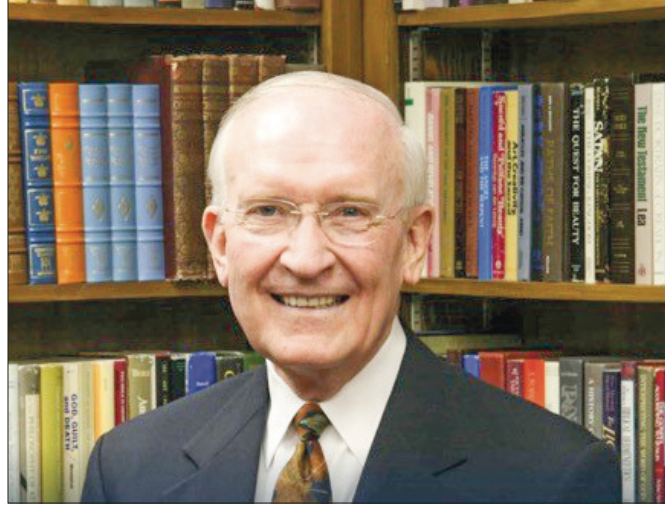


**BY DON NEWBURY**

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

Dr. Russell H. Dilday, Jr. — for 16 years president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth — died recently in Dallas, leaving a legacy that deserves more superlatives than space allows. He left marks of excellence as a minister, author, scholar and Christian statesman, known for his courage, conviction and commitment. The walls and shelves of a ballroom couldn't contain the many plaques and trophies — as well as countless other honors — that came his way. Always articulate and usually jovial, he brightened lives in his congregations and seminaries, and delighted audiences of all stripes with his ready smile, quick wit and engaging stories for all occasions. At Southwestern, he

led the institution to new heights, including an enrollment that exceeded 5,000 students. Programs expanded, new buildings added, and endowment doubled. During his presidency, it was the world's largest seminary. Shockwaves rippled across the land when he was removed from the presidency, victim of denominational strife that has raged among most brands of Baptists for some 40 years. He was fired on the spot, unable to access his own office when he learned his keys no longer fit. That evening, I drove from Brownwood, where I was president of Howard Payne University, to speak at a formal event that called for a tuxedo, attire I rarely wore. Upon reaching Cowtown, I realized there was plenty of time to pay respects. Russell



Pictured is Dr. Russell H. Dilday.

appeared when I rang the doorbell at the president's home. "Oh, Don," he exclaimed, "You didn't need to come formal!" Even then, he took the high road, choosing to chuckle instead of growl. "Look at the grass," he said. It was matted by the feet of several hundred students who, hours earlier, gathered on the lawn to

express their love for him and Betty, Russell's wife of 66 years who died five years ago. Some of his stories I have repeated on numerous occasions, sometimes crediting him. "Tell any of my stories," he always said. "If you don't mind using third-hand stories. (Again, it was an example of Russell being Russell.) He told of their visit to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, where he and his wife joined several others in the tram car that moves slowly to the top of the arch. There, visitors are rewarded with grand views of St. Louis and the Mississippi River. On the rambling ride upward, there was friendly banter, including some "what if's" concerning possible tram malfunction. When it reached the top, the tram jolted to a stop. The riders figured it would operate again soon, but one said, "Dr. Dilday, you're a preacher. Why don't you say a prayer?" He answered, "I'm afraid it wouldn't help; I'm not an arch bishop." On a vacation, the Dildays visited a shop where artisans were carving ducks. They were shocked in the front room, where wooden ducks — carved to perfection — had hefty price tags, some upwards of \$25,000. They decided to go into the second room, where prices were more to their liking, some 90% less than the front room ducks. Birds in the second room were called "seconds," well, since they

had slight imperfections, like flaws in the paint or nicks made by carving knives. The couple selected a modestly priced "second," noticing yet a third room, where artisans were carving more ducks.... "What are they carving today?" Russell asked. "Perhaps drakes or mallards?" "Wrong on both guesses," the woodcarver responded. "Like yesterday and probably tomorrow — we're carving 'seconds.' They're the only kind selling." Finally, this: Russell granted an appointment to a seminary student whose jalopy leaked a cup or two of oil each time the young man parked "head in." He said he couldn't afford to keep paying parking tickets issued for his "backing in," which caused no oil leakage. "Let this student back in," Russell wrote on a note. "Place this on your dashboard," he instructed. "I think the enforcement guy will extend grace." [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)

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## SALES

FROM PAGE A1

wines and beer from a local brewery. The business faces 377, and its back door fronts onto a service drive abutting the Oak Woods parking lot. Tarnoff said that during the long process of becoming licensed through the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, he hand-delivered a letter detailing his plans to Oak Woods, where he handed it to an employee in the front office and asked that it be given to the principal. He said that he never heard back.

City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle said that he spoke with School Superintendent Jeremy Glenn about the matter so that the Granbury School Board could weigh in if it chose, but "for whatever reason" it had not been placed on a School Board agenda. SoRelle said Glenn indicated that "he didn't think there was a huge issue with this." During the discussion, Tarnoff told the council that although he had applied for a liquor license that would allow for on-site consumption, he would happily accommodate the council's wishes if it preferred off-

site consumption. He noted that the "usable space" at Let It Brie is only about 600 feet and that, while there is a bistro table and chairs out front, there is no public seating inside the establishment. "I'm not a bar, or anything like that," he said. After conferring in closed session, presumably to formalize the intricate wording of a motion to approve the variance, the council granted Tarnoff's request, but with a stipulation that alcohol sales be for off-site consumption. [kcruz@hcnews.com](mailto:kcruz@hcnews.com) | 817-579-1886

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## CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

<p><b>Real Estate for Sale</b></p> <p>1010 Acreage for Sale 1020 Cemetery Lots 1030 Commercial for Sale 1040 Duplexes for Sale 1050 Homes for Sale 1060 Waterfront Homes 1070 Lots for Sale 1080 Mobiles for Sale 1090 Waterfront Mobiles 1100 Real Estate Notes 1110 Townhomes &amp; Condos 1120 Property For Trade 1130 Want To Buy</p> <p><b>Real Estate for Rent</b></p> <p>1510 Apartments for Rent 1520 Commercial for Rent 1530 Duplexes for Rent 1540 Homes for Rent 1550 Mobiles for Rent 1560 Rooms for Rent 1570 Roommates Wanted 1580 Spaces &amp; Lots 1590 Townhomes &amp; Condos 1600 Want to Rent</p> <p><b>Vehicles</b></p> <p>2010 Automobiles 2020 Parts &amp; Accessories 2030 Big Trucks &amp; Trailers 2040 Classic Automobiles</p>	<p>2050 Four-Wheel Drive 2060 Motorcycles 2070 Pickups &amp; SUVs 2080 Vans &amp; Campers 2090 Trailers 2095 Heavy Equipment</p> <p><b>Farm &amp; Ranch</b></p> <p>3010 Corrals &amp; Fencing 3020 Farm Equipment 3030 Feed &amp; Pasture 3040 Stock Trailers 3050 Related Items</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>4010 Business Opportunities 4020 Insurance 4030 Investments 4040 Mortgages &amp; Notes</p> <p><b>Home &amp; Business Services</b></p> <p>5010 Adult/Elderly Care 5020 A/C Heating Repair 5030 Appliance Repair 5040 Automotive Services 5050 Bulldozer Services 5060 Business Services 5065 Carports 5070 Cement/Concrete 5075 Chimney Sweeping 5080 Child Care 5090 Cleaning Services 5100 Computer Services</p>	<p>5110 Construction 5120 Clock Repair 5130 Dock repair/Rebuild 5140 Electrical 5150 Electronics Repair 5160 Exterminating 5170 Fencing 5180 Floor Coverings 5190 Health Care 5200 Home Improvement 5210 Home Services 5220 Landscaping/Tree Service 5230 Interior Design 5240 Masonry 5250 Mobile Home Service 5260 Moving/Hauling 5265 Plumbing 5270 Sand/Gravel/Soil 5280 Roofing 5290 Painting 5295 Pressure Washing 5300 Septic/Sewer 5310 Small Engine Repair 5320 Secretarial/Office 5330 Storage 5340 Tractor Service 5350 Welding</p> <p><b>Sports &amp; Recreation</b></p> <p>6010 Boats &amp; Water Sports 6020 Recreation 6030 Golf 6040 Guns 6050 Hunting/Fishing 6060 Pools &amp; Spas</p>	<p>6070 RV's/Travel Trailers 6080 Sporting Goods</p> <p><b>Merchandise</b></p> <p>6510 Antiques 6520 Appliances 6530 Arts &amp; Crafts 6540 Building Materials 6550 Computers 6560 Electronics 6570 Firewood 6580 Furniture 6590 Health 6600 Air Conditioners 6610 Lawn Equipment 6620 Miscellaneous 6630 Musical Instruments 6635 Pocket Stuffers 6640 Portable Buildings 6650 Tools 6660 Trees 6670 Wanted</p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>7010 Tutor/Instruction 7020 Music 7030 Computer 7040 Art Instruction</p> <p><b>Livestock &amp; Pets</b></p> <p>8010 Livestock 8020 Livestock Lost &amp; Found 8030 Pets 8040 Pets Lost &amp; Found</p>	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>8510 General 8520 Construction 8530 Food Services 8540 Medical/Dental 8550 Office Employment 8560 Professional 8570 Sales 8580 Salon Personnel 8590 Employment Wanted 8600 Employment Information 8610 Carpool Information</p> <p><b>Notices</b></p> <p>9010 Happy Notes 9020 Free 9030 Public Notices 9040 Notices 9050 Personal Lost &amp; Found 9070 Card of Thanks</p> <p><b>Public Sales</b></p> <p>9570 Auctions 9580 Flea Markets 9590 Out of Town Sales Cresson Garage Sales 76035 Granbury Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76049 Lipan Garage Sales 76462 Tolar Garage Sales 76476</p>
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**Deadlines**  
Saturday issue, 10am Wednesday

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**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

1020  
**Cemetery Lots**

GRANBURY Two lots at Holly Hills Memorial Park, in Sunset Garden, Section 237, Block A. Price is for both lots, cannot split up. (405) 812-9503  
debbie.williams6@icloud.com


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2040  
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1050  
**Homes for Sale**

1050  
**Homes for Sale**

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*Very nice one-owner, brick home in a convenient location on the Fort Worth side of town. Open and airy floor plan with large kitchen island, walk-in pantry, 4 bedrooms with split arrangement, 2 baths and oversized garage. Covered patio, sprinkler system, wood privacy fencing. Shows well. Winston Properties, LLC.*

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Broker & Company Born in Granbury!  
Over 275 5-Star Reviews at WillisReviews.com

1050 Greg Willis, Broker. Call: (817) 894-1013.

1070  
**Lots for Sale**

4019 West Virginia Dr. 2 Lots for sale. Call or Text. (817) 312-7878

1540  
**Homes for Rent**

1/1 CABIN in Glen Rose. W/D hook-ups. Vaulted ceilings in den. 600 Sq ft \$875/mo \$500 dep. Water/sewer incl. 2 pet limit with \$200 non-refundable dep each (254) 386-7387

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

1510  
**Apartments for Rent**

2BR APARTMENT - GRANBURY-ACTON 2 BR/1 BA, Quite park-like setting Fenced backyard, Carport, W/D hook-up. Wood flrs. small dog possible. Walk to banks, mini-mart, pizza. Leave phone message. No Texting. \$1,200/mo (682) 205-3079 BestHappyAbode@gmail.com

1550  
**Mobiles for Rent**


2 bd 2 bath 2-car carport, water view, \$925/\$925 deposit. 817-812-6077

1590  
**Townhomes & Condos**

DCBE Condo, 1/1 upstairs unit on golf course with water view. No pets. Available 8/1. \$1500/mo includes both HOAs & renter's fee. (817)291-8370

*Leaving Town*  
and need to suspend your subscription?

Please call our office before:  
Noon Monday to suspend the Wednesday edition  
Noon Thursday to suspend the Saturday edition  
Call sooner around the holidays, as our deadlines will be adjusted.




**817-573-7066**

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10x10, \$75  
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1530  
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2060  
**Motorcycles**



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2070  
**Pickups & SUVs**

2004 Silver Chevy Trailblazer with less than 127,000 miles \$5,000 call Roy Cooper AKA Pops (817) 578-4744

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3030  
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5070  
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5080  
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5120  
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5140  
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5170  
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5200  
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5210  
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5220  
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5240  
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crushed rock • washed rock  
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Richard Brock 817-573-2521

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FREE Roof Inspections  
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## SPORTS & RECREATION

6010

### Boats & Water Sports



2017 Pelican Bass Boat, mini Kota, TM, Garmin, 2 marine batteries. Lake ready. \$900. (972)965-6266



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6040

### Guns

#### BRAZOS VALLEY GUN SHOW EXPO CENTER, GLEN ROSE

July 15: 9am-6pm  
July 16: 11am-6pm  
Admission over 18: \$7  
Seniors: \$5  
Military and Police: Free  
Tables: \$70

Call Ed, 817-326-4933  
eshearne@charter.net  
FREE PARKING

6070

### RV's/Travel Trailers

2019 KZ Sportsman Classic Camper 130RB. (817)573-8985 Ask for Ben.

1998, 29' Citation (needs new roof), 12' slide out with metal cover over RV, shed, water and electric. \$22000 OBO 817-776-0005.

2015 Road Warrior 5th wheel toy hauler. On board gen & gas station, full size frig, wash & dryer, 1 1/2 BA, 2 decks, 4 TV's, king bed, sleeps 8, new tires. \$65,000. (817) 821-8996

## MERCHANDISE

6620

### Miscellaneous

WAGON YARD.COM: We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery Clocks, Elec Lamps. 817-573-5321

WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS. Call 817-559-3131

## LIVESTOCK & PETS

8030

### Pets



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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

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

## NOTICES

9031

### Public Notices

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.

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held for Honeycrisp Self Storage - Tolar at 205 Tolar Cemetery Rd., Tolar, TX 76476 on storageauctions.com starting on June 24, 2023 at 9:00am CST and ending on, July 3, 2023 at 9am CST. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture.

Jennifer McDonald

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ray Edward Menefee, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2023, in Cause No. P10031, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Michelle Rice.

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: Michelle Rice  
117 Bluebonnet Drive  
Highland Village, Texas 75077  
DATED the 21st day of June, 2023.

Clayton Bryant  
Attorney for Michelle Rice  
State Bar No.: 24059508  
220 West Pearl Street  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-6433  
Facsimile: (817) 573-6542  
E-mail: cbryant@gbfamilylaw.com

## Public Notices

LEGAL AD

Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10:00 a.m., August 3, 2023. Proposals will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

Request for Proposal  
Fire Truck Maintenance  
RFP2023-04

Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at <http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing website <http://www.co.hood.tx.us/purchasing.htm>.

Hood County reserves the right to award by best value and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.

For additional information, contact Hood County Purchasing Agent at 817 408-3440.

#### NOTICE TO ALL PERSON HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF VLADISLAV WALTER VANATKO, DECEASED; CAUSE NO. P10070

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of VLADISLAV WALTER VANATKO Deceased, were issued to Andrea Marie Lapp on the 14th day of June 2023, in Case No. P10070 Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Andrea Marie Lapp now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed/ sent to Andrea Marie Lapp, as Independent Executor, at the offices of Cooper & Lyster, PLLC, 6300 Ridglea Place, Suite 610, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 in care of Monika Cooper.

9031

## Public Notices

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that CAPL Retail, LLC has applied for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off-Premise Permit to be issued to: Joe's Kwik Marts TX 0301 located at 1901 E US Highway 377, Granbury, Hood County, TX 76049.

Charles M. Nifong, Jr. - CEO/Manager  
Maura E. Topper - CFO  
Jonathan E. Benfield - Secretary  
Jade Y. Hu - Tax Director

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for Creek Mart, Limited Liability Company dba Tommy's #1 At 3400 Mambrino Hwy, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: Frances Fayazi - Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for Creek Mart, Limited Liability Company dba Tommy's #5 At 3600 Contrary Creek Rd, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: Frances Fayazi - Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for Creek Mart, Limited Liability Company dba Tommy's #10 At 321 S Morgan St, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: Frances Fayazi - Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for Creek Mart, Limited Liability Company dba Tommy's #16 At 7424 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: Frances Fayazi - Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for Creek Mart, Limited Liability Company dba Tommy's #16 At 7424 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: Frances Fayazi - Managing Member

LEGAL AD  
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:  
VISTA OAKS, PHASE 2, LOT 18R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of DAVID LEE FREEMAN, Cause No. P10104, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

DORIS ELAINE CARTER - FREEMAN 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 DAVID LEE FREEMAN, 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 23rd 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 NANCY SMITH LACHOWICZ, Cause No. P10105, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

ALLEN ROBERT LACHOWICZ 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 NANCY SMITH LACHOWICZ, 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 23rd day of June, 2023.  
KATIE LANG  
Hood County Clerk  
P.O. Box 339  
Hood County, Texas 76048  
By /s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

9031

## Public Notices

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of CECIL H. GOINS, Deceased, were issued on June 14, 2023, in Cause No. P09994, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: KEVIN L. GOINS.

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: Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 19th day of June, 2023.

Attorney for Kevin L. Goins  
State Bar No.: 24078807  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LEONARD AUSTIN LAMB, JR., Deceased, were issued on June 14, 2023, in Cause No. P10020, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: TRACIE MICHELLE QUAN.

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: Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney at Law  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
DATED the 16th day of June, 2023.

Steven G. Kuban  
Attorney for Tracie Michelle Quan  
State Bar No.: 24078807  
107 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

Tolar ISD is accepting bids for diesel fuel for the 2023-2024 school year. To obtain bid documents, interested parties should contact: Tolar Administration Office Tolar ISD

P.O. Box 368  
Tolar, Texas 76476  
254-835-4718

Bids will be accepted at the office of the Superintendent until 3:30 pm on July 17, 2023. Bid will be awarded at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on July 24, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Tolar Board Meeting Room. Tolar is an equal opportunity employer.

Tolar ISD is accepting bids for LP Gas for the 2023-2024 school year. To obtain bid documents, interested parties should contact: Tolar Administration Office Tolar ISD  
P.O. Box 368  
Tolar, Texas 76476  
254-835-4718

Bids will be accepted at the office of the Superintendent until 3:30 pm on July 17, 2023. Bid will be awarded at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on July 24, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Tolar Board Meeting Room. Tolar is an equal opportunity employer.

#### LEGAL AD

Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a site development plan for:

Twin Canyons Ranch  
Located at 7631 Hayworth Highway.

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the site development plan on Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals 2023-14 for line item bid for Kitchen Serving Lines. Bid proposals are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. The bids are open immediately and will close July 12th, 2023 at 1:00pm. Please contact purchasing manager Houcine Chraibi or Bradee Watson with any questions at (817) 408-4029.



## TexSCAN Week of June 25-July 1, 2023

### ACREAGE

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### AUCTION

Bankruptcy Sale – Bid Deadline July 18. Entitled 49± AC Multifamily Development Site, potential for 595 units with retail, 1001 FM 969, Bastrop, TX. Potential for either 426 duplex units or 214 duplex units & 380-unit apt complex. Entitlements completed & partial infrastructure in place. Hilco Real Estate Sales, 855-755-2300.

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### EVENTS

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](http://WWW.NARO-US.ORG/EVENT-5151387). Call to register: (918) 794-1660.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0013590001

APPLICATION. City of Lipan, P.O. Box 129, Lipan, Texas 76462, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0013590001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0111333) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 99,000 gallons per day.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public;

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Lipan at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Mike Stowe, Mayor, at 817-408-7732.

Issuance Date: June 27, 2023

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.

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

3-family garage sale: Furniture, tools, household. 1509 Saddle Creek Ct, Southtown. Thur-Sat, June 29-July 1, 8am-7

BROWSE ONLINE! classifieds.hcnews.com

Granbury 76049 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

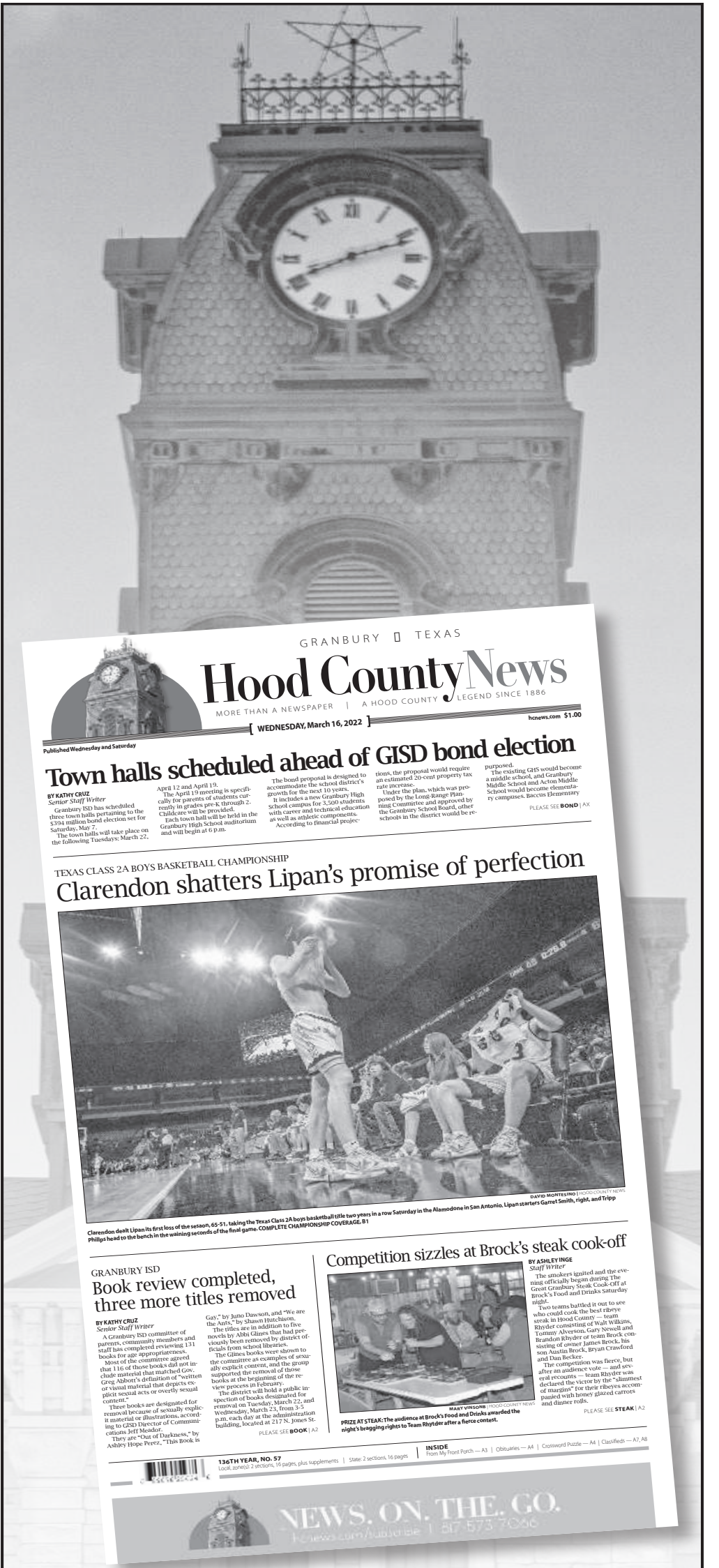
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Town halls scheduled ahead of GSD bond election

Clarendon shatters Lipan's promise of perfection



Competition sizzles at Brock's steak cook-off

Book review completed, three more titles removed

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



# around town



COURTESY PHOTO BY STEVE GREEN

Field of Yellow Cone Flowers on James Road in Granbury.

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# JUNIOR LEADERSHIP GRANBURY



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior Leadership Granbury Graduation Fun Party at Altitude in Fort Worth.



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior Leadership Granbury Graduation Fun Party at Altitude in Fort Worth.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured are: Commander, Rick Dailey, GOP Media Dir. Rhonda Williams, Quartermaster, Greg Goss, Precinct Chair 408 Deborah Sagan, Conductress, Charleen Cayruth, Precinct Chair 112 Orville Johnson.



Commander, Britt Hollingshead, GOP Chairman Steve Biggers, Vice Commander, Bill Pooler, Precinct Chair 408 Deborah Sagan, Adjutant, Bill Lobo, Precinct Chair 112 Orville Johnson, Finance, David Johnson.

## Hood County Republican Party (HCRP) local efforts to honor veterans

### Submitted item

The HCRP Executive Committee purchased two flags in the recent Memorial Day celebration. Each flag was dedicated to the local Granbury Veterans organi-

zations and later donated to each group for display.

The two local posts, American Legion 491, and Riley Stephens VFW 7835 were presented the flags by members of the GOP Executive committee along

with post staff.

"To be part of an amazing county wide celebration in the most historic small town in America is truly an inspiring experience," HCR Chairman Steve Biggers said.

## County road crews beat the heat with earlier start time

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Summer might be fun if you can spend it around a cool, azure swimming pool, but it's no picnic for those who have to labor in the searing Texas heat.

The county's Road Operations Department has protocols in place to help protect crews as they do maintenance on county roads even on the hottest days of the year.

Road Ops Director Donald Linney said that after Memorial Day, the 35-member department

moved to a 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule. The department will move back to its normal schedule of 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. after Labor Day in September, he said.

"Paving and large pavement repairs usually wrap up around noon to 1 p.m. during extreme hot days," Linney wrote in an email to the Hood County News.

He said that "regular pothole repairs" are done throughout the day since those repairs do not require crew members to be on location for extended periods.

"Pavement temperatures

in the afternoon during this time of year hover around 145+ degrees," Linney noted.

The Road Ops director said that water is always on hand at any work site, with a majority of employees also carrying personal water containers.

"Lastly," Linney wrote, "the guys keep a watch on each other during these times because of how quickly heat exhaustion can happen."

kacruz@hcnews.com / 817-579-1886

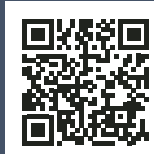


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# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

**EVERY DAY**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** Do you or someone you know have a problem with alcohol? Meetings daily at 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. at 1205 Lipan Hwy, Granbury.

**ACTON 12-STEP** Group. Meeting daily at 7 p.m. 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
**WOMEN'S WAY** Out AA-Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed discussion for women only. Meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. at 301 W. Bridge St. For more information call 317-772-8124

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**STARTING A** New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, or close friend. For the past 26 years this group has helped people work through their grief

process. If you, or someone you know, is suffering from the loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19, 2023. We are Christian based, nondenominational, and welcome all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the Parish Hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at: 575.706.5703 or Sherry Bingham 817.657.0822

**EVERY MONDAY**  
**PROMISES AL-ANON** group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S** in Granbury. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

**GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK** seminar Sept 13 - Dec. 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175.

**AMATEUR RADIO** Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed Amateur Radio Operators welcome. 7:00 pm, on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**TAKE OFF** Pounds Sensibly (TOPS). 8:45 - 10:45 a.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, room 133C, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. Maximum weight scale: 400 pounds.

**GRIEFSHARE RECOVERY** seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Grief-

share workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

**RE/ENGAGE MARRIAGE** Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S** in Granbury. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

**FIRST MONDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT** Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

**FIRST TUESDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIV-**

**ERS** support group, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

**SECOND SATURDAY**  
**GRIEF SUPPORT** breakfast for anyone grieving the loss of someone they love at 10 a.m., The Big O Restaurant, 1302 S. Morgan St. Details: 817-894-2449 or 817-219-9833.

**THIRD MONDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT** Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

**WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society)** radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W US Hwy 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters,

etc. Details: 817-475-2194

**THIRD TUESDAY**  
**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS** support group, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

**FOURTH TUESDAY**  
**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT** Group, 1 p.m. at Lakestone Terrace, 916 E. U.S. Highway 377. Open for those with Parkinson's and their families wanting to understand more about this disease. Details: 817-999-1470.

**FOURTH SATURDAY**  
**GRIEF SUPPORT** breakfast for anyone grieving the loss of someone they love at 10 a.m., Fuzzy's off the Square. Details: Amy or Danny Dwight. 817-894-2449 or 817-219-9833

**SUPPORT SYSTEM** calendar will feature recurring activities that provide group support and are open to the public. These items will run each Saturday. Submit Support System listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

## OBIT

FROM PAGE A13

### Margaret Mae Harber

April 7, 1936 - June 5, 2023

Margaret Mae Finley Harber, 87, of Granbury, Tx passed peacefully on June 5, 2023 and was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Her memorial service will be held at Acton United Methodist Church on July 8 at 2 p.m.

Margaret was born April 7, 1936 in Ennis, Texas. Her family moved to Dallas shortly after and she attended grade school through high school in Oak Cliff. She graduated in 1953 from Sunset High School. She attended Arlington State College, now the University of Texas in Arlington, taking business classes. Margaret worked as a bookkeeper many years in Dallas and later in her husband's plastic business. Her greatest career was that of a wonderful housewife and mother, in which she excelled at both. Margaret married the love of her life, Royce, on September 15, 1956. They began their life together in Dallas and later moved to Granbury in 1976.

Margaret was a woman of faith and was always very active in church and Sunday school. She also enjoyed the Pecan Plantation Ladies Golf Assoc. and played golf well into her 80s. Margaret was also a skilled seamstress, loved



to crochet, garden and bake. She excelled at all, but if asked what her favorite past time was she would say "spending time with my family and friends". She will be remembered for her sweet smile, kindness to others and her loving spirit.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel B. and Helen Finley and her husband, Royce. She is survived by her sisters, Betty and Diana; daughter, Cindy; son, Kelly; grandchildren, Zachary, Daniel, and Sarah; and three great-grandsons, Leo, Clayton, and Owen.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to: Pecan Plantation VFD & EMS, 9518 Monticello Dr., Granbury, Tx 76049 or Acton United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.



## Carter BloodCare to hold three Granbury blood drives

From staff reports

Three blood drives are scheduled in Granbury in the coming days to help Carter BloodCare fill a critical need for O negative and O positive blood. All blood types are needed, but the shortage of those blood types has reached critical levels, according to the Texas-based nonprofit.

The blood drives are as follows:  
 • Monday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hood County YMCA, 1475 James Road. Contact: Sindra McLean, 254-751-7644. Sign-up link: [https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/136689](https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/136689)  
 • Thursday, July 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AmCap Home Loans, 301 W. Pearl St. Contact: Jessica Morris, 817-372-7106. Sign-up link: [https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/141973](https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/141973)

• Saturday, July 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Midas, 1441 N. Plaza Dr. Contact: Alinas Suris, 817-715-0625. Sign-up link: [https://ww2.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/141808](https://ww2.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/141808)

According to Carter BloodCare, blood donors are lifesavers for those who need transfusions, such as children fighting cancer, mothers going through difficult childbirths and those requiring surgery.

Under critical-level conditions, surgeries and medical procedures may be delayed for an extended time until the necessary blood becomes available. O negative is the universal blood

type, which means it can be used to treat any patient regardless of their own blood type. O negative is also the only type of blood used to treat premature and unborn babies.

O negative can be used in emergency situations, such as severe trauma or massive bleeding injuries sustained in vehicle accidents.

"It's literally within each of us to save lives by donating blood," James Black, Senior Public Relations Specialist with Carter BloodCare, stated in a news release. "There are patients and families in our area right now who are urgently waiting for transfusions to help them get better. It takes less than an hour to donate blood and make a powerful, positive difference for a neighbor in need."

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# FLAG DAY



Flag Day was held on June 14, 2023, in Granbury on the south side of the courthouse. Award-winning filmmaker and historian Gary L. Foreman (a new resident of our community) brought the largest version of the Hopkinson flag known in the United States to Granbury, Texas. A display of the flag was set up for viewing. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Lane. Foreman's replica has been flown for Major League Baseball events, at National Parks, and has served as a backdrop for several History Channel and A&E documentary premieres.

PHOTOS BY  
MARY VINSON  
HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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## Remembering the blistering summer of 1980 heatwave

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

As the temperatures in Hood County have recently soared above the 100-degree mark for consecutive days, many locals are reminiscing about the legendary heatwave that gripped Hood County, the state of Texas, and much of the South and Midwest parts of the U.S. during the summer of 1980.

As the summer sun blazed relentlessly over the North Central Texas region in 1980, residents of Granbury found themselves battling a relentless heatwave that saw the mercury soar above the 100-degree mark for 42 consecutive days. There were more than 60 days that were over 100 degrees that summer. Statewide, the hottest day of the summer was July 17, when more than 80 percent of the state reached 100 degrees, and nearly one-quarter of the state reached 105.

Local weather watcher legend, Bill Quinn of DeCordova Bend Estates, reported in the Aug. 3, 1980, edition of the Hood County News that locally, the 115-degree reading on Friday, June 27, 1980, shattered the previous high-temperature mark of 110 degrees. That record was tied or broken on 10 days during July of 1980 here in Hood County. On one occasion, the low temperature that summer was a broiling 103 degrees.

Local farmers and ranchers recall that brutal summer as one of the worst on record regarding crop damage and lost livestock. According to Hood County News reports from August of 1980, local volunteer firefighters responded to nearly 50 brush and grass fires in July 1980, caused mainly by the heat and arid conditions.

Lifelong Hood County residents Steve Berry, Jake Carraway, and Gary Best remember that summer very well.

"The summer of 1980 was between my junior and senior year at Granbury High School," Berry said. "My brother David, best friend Matt Tuuk, and I decided to haul hay for a summer job that summer. Little did we know we would have the hottest summer on record, with little rain and a string of 100-degree days. We hauled what we could for .25 a bale back then. We hauled hay for Edwin and Murlin Tomlinson, Clyde and Alba Raines, R.S. and Ethyl Boyd, and other farmers. But we were definitely in shape for two-a-day football practices in August!" Berry added.

"I had my mother and grandmother, who were both invalid, living with me during the summer of 1980," Carraway said. "I remember our A/C went out during the heatwave, and replacing it would take a couple of weeks. David Ballew and Airco were kind and installed a window unit so my mom and grandmother could stay cool in one room."

"The thing I remember most is that our oldest daughter was born in March of that year, and the family got upset with us because we wouldn't bring her to the Fourth of July parade," recalled Best. "I also remember taking the FFA officers to the State FFA convention in July. I felt sorry for all the students wearing those blue corduroy FFA jackets with black slacks in the sweltering heat."

With the likelihood of continued 100-plus degree weather, local health and safety officials emphasize that during periods of extreme heat, it's crucial to take appropriate precautions to ensure your safety and well-being. According to Granbury physician Tony Hedges, here are the top five recommendations for staying safe during periods of extreme heat:

**Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcoholic and caffeinated beverages, as they can dehydrate you further. If you have a medical condition or take medication, consult your doctor regarding specific water intake guidelines.

**Seek cool environments:** Stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces as much as possible. If you don't have access to air conditioning at home, consider visiting public places with air conditioning, such as shopping malls, libraries, or community centers. If you must be outside, try to do so during cooler hours, such as early morning or evening.

**Dress appropriately:** Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing that allows your skin to breathe and helps in the evaporation of sweat. Opt for a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses to protect yourself from the sun's direct rays. Apply sunscreen with a high SPF to exposed skin.

**Take cool showers or baths:** Taking cool showers or baths can help lower your body temperature and provide temporary relief from the heat. You can also use wet towels or use a spray bottle to mist your skin with cool water. Avoid using extremely cold water, as it can constrict blood vessels and impede heat dissipation.

**Check on vulnerable individuals:** Keep an eye on family members, friends, or neighbors who may be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses, such as the elderly, young children, and individuals with chronic conditions or mobility issues. Ensure they have access to a cool environment and are staying adequately hydrated.

"Remember, extreme heat can be dangerous," Hedges said, "so it's essential to stay informed about heat advisories or warnings issued by local authorities."



From left, Justin, Brianna, and Faith Hurt pose at Brianna's graduation ceremony.

COURTESY PHOTOS

## GCCA celebrates academy's first graduate

BY EDEN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

**G**race Classical Christian Academy celebrated a milestone with the commencement of its first graduate, Granbury resident Brianna Hurt.

"Brianna's graduation is a wonderful achievement to celebrate; both because it represents the culmination of all her work for this stage of her education, and because it shows that our school has successfully mapped out a program for high school up through 12th grade," GCCA upper schoolteacher Dr. Andrew Helms said.

Grace Classical Christian Academy began 10 years ago with the vision of several Granbury families. The idea is that classical education

employs a mode of education that aims to create eager, life-long learners. History is learned alongside the literature of the time. An appreciation for beauty and wisdom is encouraged.

Grace's Mission Statement is: "To provide an excellent classical education founded upon a biblical worldview which instills a love of learning, the ability for children to know how to think, not what to think, and in all things to honor and glorify Jesus Christ."



Brianna Hurt says a few words during the commencement ceremony.

Brianna's father Justin Hurt said, "Brianna and our family would never have been able to receive the blessings of this education had it not been for the long-term vision and

sacrifice of numerous people along the way. Especially Ike and Trisha Thomas, who knew that they were building

PLEASE SEE **GCCA** | B2

## Tolar High School places 10th in 2023 UIL Lone Star Cup

BY ASHLEY INGE

Staff Writer

Tolar High School recently placed 10th out of 213 Class 2A school districts in the 2023 UIL Lone Star Cup award competition.

According to uiltexas.org, the UIL Lone Star Cup is awarded annually to six high schools, one in each of the six UIL public school classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A), based on the school's team performance in district and state championships.

"We are beyond excited about the accomplishments of our students and staff from this past year," said Tolar High School Principal Clint

Gardner. "I haven't checked the history books of the Lone Star Cup to see how our 10th place finish ranks among our past efforts, but I doubt that we have had a better one."

Gardner said this year, several of Tolar ISD's UIL academic teams made it to the state level and placed, while on the athletic side, several teams had a "banner year."

According to the Tolar Athletic Facebook page, the Tolar Rattlers had 40 regional qualifiers, 28 area qualifiers, six state qualifiers, seven all-state recipients, six playoff appearances, six district team championships, and 13 playoff wins.

Twelve students received

the recognition of academic all-state, plus had the honor of gaining two record-setting athletic achievements in track and field: in the boys 110-meter hurdles and the boys sprint relay.

Tolar football had its first-ever 13-win season, boys basketball had its first-ever regional finalist team plus 30 victories, and Rattlers baseball had its first-ever regional finalist.

"This year's success in the extracurricular arena was due to us having the perfect blend of dedicated students, coaches, and a supportive community," Gardner said. "We are proud of our achievements and look forward to raising

the bar this upcoming year."

The UIL Lone Star Cup is open to all UIL participating high schools and honors the most successful overall athletic and academic programs in Texas.

"I am so very proud of our students, coaches, and sponsors for their efforts," said Travis Stilwell, Tolar ISD superintendent. "They continue to excel both inside and outside of the classroom. Their efforts have been historic for our district and we are proud of them all."

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# Passion restored

Tiffany Biggs named as assistant principal at Baccus Elementary

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Many educators across the nation are leaving their profession as teacher shortages and higher workloads lead to more and more cases of teacher burnout.

But for Tiffany Biggs, her passion for teaching has been restored — and it's all because of Granbury ISD. Biggs was recently named as the new assistant principal at Nettie Baccus Elementary School, which is her second position in the district following her instructional specialist role at Acton Middle School.

"AMS was an amazing experience," she said. "I got to do a lot of the administrator things that I've been trying to do anyway. Jen Pennington, the principal there, she did a great job of helping guide me on growing and leadership aspects."

A native and current resident of Joshua, Biggs first felt the calling to become a teacher when she was inspired by her first-grade teacher, known to the students as Mrs. Wilson.

"My first-grade class was in

this little white house, which was the original schoolhouse for Joshua, and her whole room was just covered in dinosaurs," she said, reminiscing. "It was just like a fantasy land for me as a little kid, and was just a safe place. From that moment on, literally in first grade, I went, 'I'm supposed to be a teacher.' I knew that's what my job was my whole life, and I stuck with it."

She said Mrs. Wilson impacted her life in such a way, that she still remembers her at age 37. "I think that's such a beautiful thing to impact people's lives for the better, and then they look back and remember you fondly 30 years later," Biggs said. "That means you've done something — impacting and bettering the world, just a couple of kids at a time."

Biggs met her husband,

Bobby, during her junior year of high school and they have been together ever since. The couple just recently celebrated 20 years of being together by visiting Greece for a special anniversary trip.

In 2010, Biggs started her teaching career in Joshua, where she coincidentally first met Baccus Principal Julie Rohleder.

"Julie was my principal in Joshua when I was a teacher in fifth grade," Biggs said. "Our daughters are very good friends. We've known each other a really long time."

Biggs said she looks up to Rohleder, both as a principal and a leader.

"I was at the school (Rohleder) was at in Joshua first, and then she took it over three years after I'd been there, and it was kind of a sinking ship," she said. "But she built that thing up and just really turned that whole school around, so it's a similar story to Baccus. My job, I feel like, is to learn from her, so I can be the kind of leader she is and impact change on a greater level." Even though she has only



COURTESY OF NETTIE BACCUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Principal of Nettie Baccus Elementary School Julie Rohleder, left, welcomes Tiffany Biggs, right, as the new assistant principal of Baccus.

spent a year in Granbury ISD, Biggs said she has had an incredible experience in the district.

"I really do love how (Granbury ISD) fosters growth in their own and how they do a great job of taking care of their people here, which is integral — especially at this time for teachers when they are leaving the profession in boatloads," she said. "But this place has restored my passion, so I just want to say 'thank you' for

that."

Biggs and her husband Bobby have two daughters: Katelynn and Addison, and they enjoy traveling together as a family — especially to Disney World.

"I just like to experience new things, new places, and new cultures," she said.

Biggs added that she is looking forward to her new role at Baccus, and "getting back to the little kids."

"I've been in secondary for a while, so I'm pretty excited

to see the littles and get some experience on that end in a leadership capacity," she added. "As an instructional specialist in middle school, I supported teachers and I helped kids a little bit, but now to go back and do it on an elementary level and watch it carry all the way through, I think that's really incredible, too."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

## GCCA

FROM PAGE B1

Grace Classical Christian Academy, not for their children but for their children's children for a thousand generations."

The Hurt family homeschooled their children initially but were drawn to the mission of GCCA. As the four children of the Hurt family have been educated at GCCA their mother, Faith, took a position as grammar school educator for the academy.

"The education of our children is a weighty task that God has commanded us to do and do well," Justin Hurt said. "It is not a twelve-year program but a lifelong task to learn more about our creator and His story as all creation and mankind belongs to Him."

Though the Hurts had been successfully homeschooling their children before they attended GCCA, they lacked the resources to offer subjects such as Plato, physics, calculus, among others.

"We chose to homeschool our four children in the early years, but we were introduced to Classical Christian education, more specifically GCCA, the summer before Brianna entered fifth grade," Hurt said. "We were truly impressed by the school and the ideology of them coming alongside us as the parents. We didn't have the ability for our children to discuss ideas using the Socratic method."

While more graduates are foreseen in the near future at GCCA, there had to be a beginning.

"Schools similar to ours typically start with a few families joining together on a journey to see their children educated and prepared for a life of service to God and to others," GCCA

upper schoolteacher Glenn Hoshauer said. "The real capstone in the life of a school such as ours is when we can begin to say, 'We did it!' What started out as a shared vision has come to fruition, and the school can celebrate and begin to realize that with our first graduate the vision has matured and borne fruit — which is both humbling and exciting at the same time."

Graduate Brianna Hurt shared her experience at GCCA by saying, "I am so honored to have the privilege of graduating from GCCA. The community and fellowship of being surrounded by like-minded families edifying one another is such a blessing. The education I have received from Grace is such a blessing in so many ways because of this school I can think about current events through the lens of a biblical worldview, by coming alongside families and churches."

"I have been instructed by some of Christendom's greatest teachers. The goals of Grace are to graduate students who love learning, know how to think, and do all things to the glory of God. And those things are invaluable. I will forever be grateful for my education at GCCA."

Ashley Keith, director of Admissions and Communications for GCCA, said Hurt is a great role model.

"Brianna was the perfect student to claim the role of first GCCA graduate, as she has been an outstanding example of biblical womanhood to all who have had the privilege of watching her grow through the years here at GCCA," Keith said. "We are so proud of her, and so thankful for all God is doing in and through her."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Screenshot of new GISD website.

# GISD launches new website

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

The Granbury ISD website has a new makeover.

As of June 27, anyone who visits granburysid.org will now be met with a redesigned website that features several changes.

"It's all the same content," said GISD Director of Communications Lissa Oliver. "Nothing changed, none of the information is new; it's just a new look."

One of the major changes to the website is the looping video from May's graduation that features Pirate Stadium and fireworks that is now displayed on the home page.

Another change, Oliver noted, is that each campus now has its own URL link online.

"How you get to the campus is very different because each campus has its own



Some may find the new website more mobile friendly.

site, but it should be better for everybody," she said.

The district calendar is also on the home page now, and will feature every campus event, making it easier for parents and families to keep track of what's happening at GISD.

"You can download the calendar into your email and into your phone," Oliver added. "Everything you need

to know about what is going on in the district is on that calendar. My mission here was to make everything plain and simple."

The logo on the website has also been redesigned, complete with a purple outline sketch of the clock tower from the Historic Hood County Courthouse over a yellow background with a purple wavy border on the

bottom.

Oliver said the reasoning behind the new website is due to Blackboard (educational software) not offering school websites anymore.

"We had some options in companies, but all the districts that used Blackboard, everybody had to launch a new site," Oliver explained. "We just took it as an opportunity to refresh and organize everything."

According to the Granbury ISD website, throughout the summer, the district and campus websites will continue to be a work in progress as final revisions and updates are being made.

If anyone has any questions during the redesign process, they are urged to contact webmaster@granburysid.org.

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LOOKING BACK

# 84 years ago: Granbury High School class of 1939 featured 34 graduates

From Staff Reports

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

Page 1 of the Thursday, May 25, 1939 edition of the Hood County Tablet had a few notable items, leading off at top-center with a photo of Granbury High School's graduating class. There were 34 students and one teacher (or possibly a school official) pictured.

A related article on the same page noted that Sara Evalyn Andrews was scheduled to deliver the valedictory address, and Flora Virginia Johnson was to give the speech as the salutatorian that year. The class president was J.C. Mangold.

**THE SQUARE**

Under the headline, "A Reality," the same day's edition (May 25, 1939) of the Tablet noted, "Completion of the square paving became

a reality on Wednesday afternoon when barriers were removed on the north side," according to Mayor T.H. Dabney and former Mayor Ab Keith — "both of whom have been vitally interested in the project, and were the first to make the tour around the courthouse. Every citizen in the town and county is proud of the result, and those in the Chamber of Commerce, the Commissioners and the city feel that their efforts

have been well spent. There was also a wide smile on Superintendent Kyle's face, as he presented the finished project to the citizens."

**MORE WWII-ERA PROGRESS**

One more article in that May 25, 1939 Tablet noted major changes that were being made for residents who were residing in the Fall Creek and Acton communities at that time. The headline said: "Rural electrification for County Possible."

The surprisingly brief article stated: "D. Kirkham, extension man for the Johnson County Rural Electrification Co-operative, is spending several days this week in Hood County. He is working with residents of Fall Creek and Acton communities, investigating the possibilities of extending the line, now strung to a point west of Godley,

into that section of our county. Having been advised by officials in Washington that Hood County would not have enough interested customers to insure a separate project it seems that there will be no difficulty in securing enough users to make extension of the Johnson line a reality."

**COWTOWN CONNECTION**

Still another article in that May 25, 1939 edition of the Hood County Tablet reported on a Granbury Chamber of Commerce barbecue event that was held at the home of Mayor T.H. Dabney and was attended by 300 people "from all parts of Hood County, as well as neighboring counties."

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce had only been in existence for 15 years at that time, according to the story. Several speakers at that event emphasized "the

kindly feeling that Tarrant County had for its neighbor, Hood, and pledged its cooperation in all highway and other work. Judge (Dave) Miller brought out the fact that the folks in Fort Worth might not have meat to eat if the stockmen in Hood and other counties did not bring it to them. On the other hand, he said, the stockmen might not have a market if it were not for the Fort Worth livestock markets. That each helps the other."

The article continued, noting that a Texas state highway engineer spoke about "the work on Highway 144, Granbury to Glen Rose, and said that if the graveling was not completed in time for the asphalt topper to be laid this summer, it would be

done in the fall." A manager of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce was quoted on the importance of Highway 10 as an artery for livestock and transportation at that point in time.

"Fort Worth is still a livestock center," the Fort Worth Chamber official said. "This highway now carries more than 500 truckloads of cattle daily to market. We are with you folks in seeing that the highway is improved, not only between Fort Worth and Granbury and on to the Erath County line, but that eventually there will be a new and modern highway stretching from West Texas clear on to Big Bend."

## GHS MJROTC NAMED GRAND MARSHAL OF JULY 4TH PARADE

The Granbury High School MJROTC Rifle Team has been named as the Grand Marshal of the upcoming 4th of July parade. The team has been six-time National Champions.

COURTESY PHOTO



**HCNEWS.COM**

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

**SUDOKU**  
Solution for the puzzle on June 24 (Puzzle 36).  
Puzzle by websudoku.com

							6	8
9	4	8			7			
			3	2				4
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8	2							

Puzzle by websudoku.com

**NATIONAL Camera DAY**  
June 29

**National Camera Day**

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

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

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Film  
Flash

Image  
Photo  
Shutter  
Print

Digital  
Exposure

**Great FACTS**

- ⦿ The first camera was invented in 1826 by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, and it was called a "camera obscura."
- ⦿ The first photograph was taken in 1827 by Niépce. It took about 8 hours to expose and create the image.
- ⦿ The first handheld camera was invented in 1888 by George Eastman, and it was called the "Kodak."
- ⦿ A camera works by capturing light through a lens and recording it onto a light-sensitive surface, such as film or a digital sensor.
- ⦿ The quality of a photograph depends on several factors, including the camera's resolution, the lighting, and the skill of the photographer.
- ⦿ Megapixels are a common measurement of a camera's resolution. The more megapixels a camera has, the higher the quality of the image.
- ⦿ Some cameras have interchangeable lenses, which allow the photographer to choose the best lens for the shot they want to take.
- ⦿ There are many types of cameras, including point-and-shoot cameras, DSLR cameras, mirrorless cameras, and action cameras.
- ⦿ Many smartphones have built-in cameras, and they have become a popular way to take photos and videos.
- ⦿ Photography is a popular hobby and profession, and it can be used for a wide variety of purposes, such as capturing memories, creating art, and documenting history.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Some individuals experience difficulty with standard CPAP equipment. There is now a new treatment available — the Inspire implanted device is similar in operating principle to a pacemaker. The FDA approved Inspire in 2014, and it has been tested in multiple clinical studies. While this approval may lend a sense of security in using Inspire, only you as the patient and your doctor can decide what is best for your current situation.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Inspire — A new alternative to using CPAP machines

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.

Last week's column dealt with the issue of sleep apnea and the use of CPAP machines for treating that condition. That has been the standard treatment for those individuals suffering from sleep apnea.

While some individuals have found the CPAP machines to be effective and convenient, others have experienced some difficulty with the standard equipment. Those individuals include the following: those who require nighttime trips to the bathroom, thus necessitating removal and replacement of the mask and tubing; those who have especially sensitive skin that breaks down after long wear; and those who suffer from claustrophobia and feel smothered or panicky while covered with the mask — regardless of the mask's size.

Another matter of concern with CPAP machines for some users is the scheduled cleaning or replacement of all the CPAP equipment. Failure to do so can result in respiratory problems resulting from inhaling contaminated air from filters, tubing, and masks.

However, there is now a new treatment available — the Inspire implanted device (whose battery is designed to last approximately 11 years) is similar in operating principle to a pacemaker. Inspire's full technical name is Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator Implant. When the user stops breathing, the device applies gentle stimulation to key airway muscles during sleep, thereby allowing breathing and sleeping to resume.

Sleep apnea is a condition to be taken seriously, as it can result in major health issues — in addition to the resulting daily drowsiness caused by nightly sleep interruptions — and even death. Due to this implant requiring a surgical procedure, one must qualify for Inspire. However, the qualification process is well worth the time and effort it takes. Much of this column's information has been taken from the brochure I was given, along with additional information from Texas Health Care before my procedure.

You may qualify for Inspire if: you are over the age of 18 according to one source and over the age of 22 according to another source; you have moderate to severe sleep apnea; you are unable to have consistent benefit from CPAP; you are not significantly obese. Most U.S. insurance covers this device once qualifications are met. The device is placed under the skin of the chest during a short, outpatient procedure.

After healing from the procedure takes place — usually four to six weeks — the device is activated, and you are ready to begin sleeping normally without the use of typical CPAP equipment. Before going to sleep at night, the user activates the device via a remote, and then turns it off again in the morning.

Once the device is turned on, some patients may experience discomfort from stimulation, tongue discomfort, mouth dryness, or discomfort from the device's presence. The majority of these events and/or discomfort are resolved either on their own, with medication, or by adjusting the therapy settings.

Users will need a new sleep study two to three months after activation to ensure the implant is working properly.

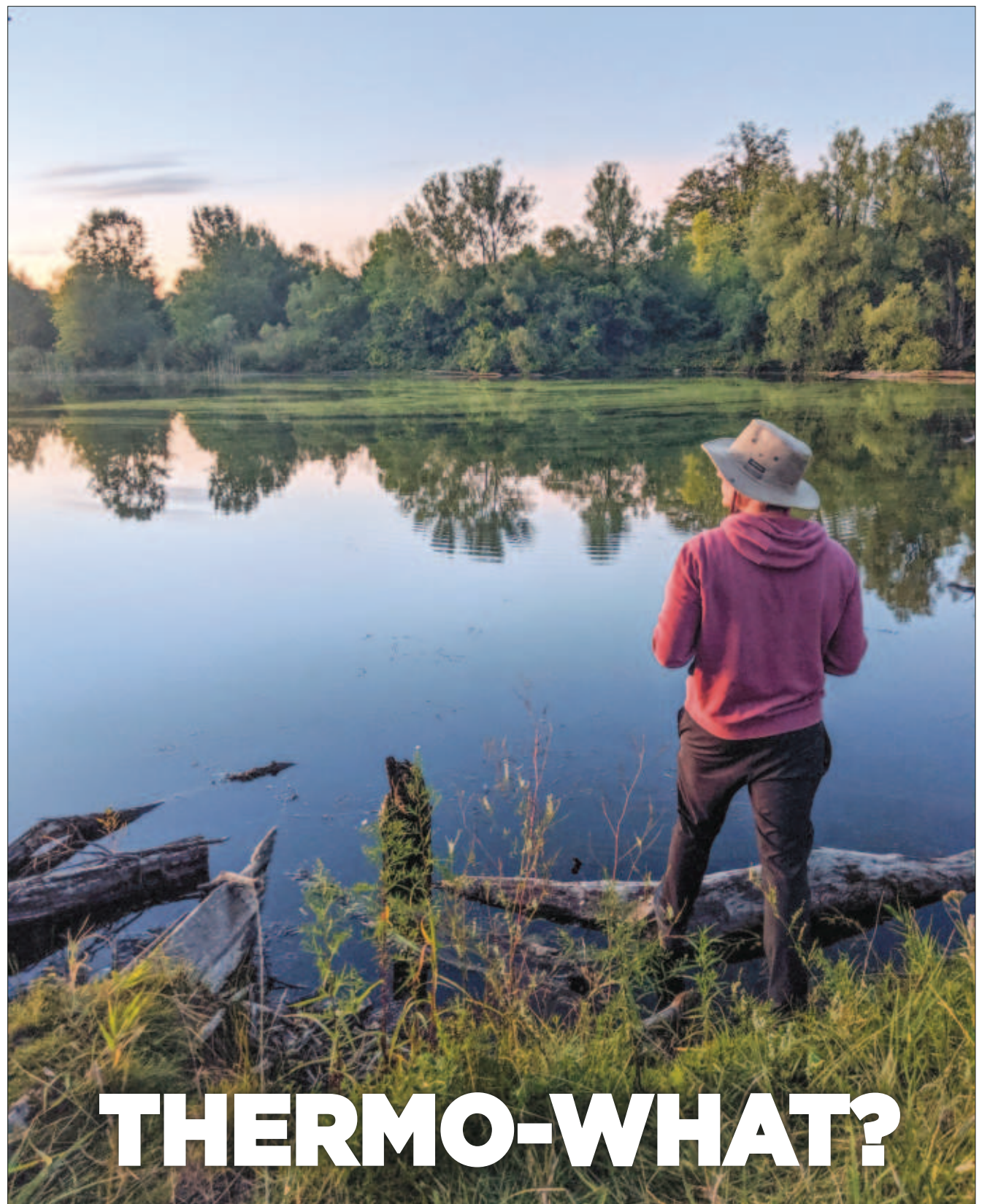
As with any surgical procedure, pre-operative and post-operative instructions are given and should be heeded to the fullest extent to allow for the best possible outcome. There are two additional instructions you may receive to ensure the device does not move after surgery — do not raise your arm higher than your shoulder, and no heavy lifting for two weeks. However, many consider that a miniscule inconvenience — especially considering the benefits.

The FDA approved Inspire in 2014, and it has been tested in multiple clinical studies. While this approval may lend a sense of security in using Inspire, only you as the patient and your doctor can decide what is best for your current situation.

NOTE: As with any medical situation, always consult your physician for any information and/or procedural qualifications. Many pulmonologists are aware of Inspire, while some primary care physicians may not be familiar with it.

cgheizer@gmail.com

## HOOD OUTDOORS



COURTESY PHOTO

# THERMO-WHAT?

The thermocline is a layer of water somewhere within the water column where the warmer upper waters are prevented from mixing with those at a deeper depth.

## What is the lake's thermocline layer, and how should anglers deal with it?



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.

For the past couple of weeks due to the heat, many Texas lakes are stratifying, which sets up three distinct layers of water on our shallow Texas waters. Currently here on Lake Granbury, the thermocline is between 15 and 20 feet and hopefully this discussion will help.

The thermocline is a layer of water somewhere within the water column where the warmer upper waters are prevented from mixing with those at a deeper depth. This barrier prevents the interchange of nutrients between the two areas, which creates essentially two separate environments in the same body of water.

In a water column that is stratified, the thermocline is an area between the warmer water up to the surface called the epilimnion and the cooler water below called the hypolimnion.

The epilimnion is the upper layer that stays relatively mixed and the temperature is relatively constant throughout its region. The thermocline is generally a relatively shallow region between the epilimnion and the hypolimnion, where the temperature change is relatively large.

The hypolimnion is the

lower layer of water whose temperature is relatively constant. Life is scarce in this hypolimnion region, as sufficient food and oxygen may be in short supply.

The thermocline is important to angling because it represents the deepest, coolest, oxygenated water for the fish to survive in. It is where most species migrate to and stay in during hot water conditions except for transient feeding activities.

Different lakes will have different levels where the thermocline exists. Different areas on the same lake may have different levels where the thermocline exists. Generally, most sonar graphs will show the thermocline. You may have to increase the intensity to see it, but it will show it as a dark area resembling constant debris/clutter. Consult your instruction manual as they usually have pictures of what a

thermocline should look like on your graph. Many of us striper fishermen using live bait will find the thermocline real quick when you realize that your live bait dies quickly at a certain depths. Deeper lakes like Lake Whitney will develop a deeper thermocline typically 20 to 30 feet or so. When fishing live bait, your bait will suffocate if you lower into or below the thermocline. On shallow lakes like Lake Proctor, the thermocline can be as shallow as 10 to 12 feet down.

The thermocline can change with the influx of fresh water or heavy wind, which can mix up the water. As long as the water stays warm and continues to heat, thermocline will most likely be present. Some shallower lakes or ponds apparently may never develop a thermocline.

Use your electronics to locate fish. The thermocline will congregate fish in the top level of the water body, making it easier to locate them. Now, getting them to bite is another story. Try several different patterns and different sized baits. Stressed-out fish may be more apt to hit small bait. If you troll, set your depth right at the thermocline. You may be able to find active fish by running your baits all along the thermocline level until you can find an active fish. Don't be afraid to chum the water with diced shad as this may

bring on the striped bass bite where nothing else will.

Concentrate your efforts around this thermocline in the summer, and your chances for catching fish will most likely improve.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the upper 80s on the main lake and in the 90s in the shallow sloughs. Striped bass are being caught real early on live shad in Striper Alley on the lower end. Sand bass are good trolling spoons or rattle traps. Some sand bass schooling is occurring near DeCordova on the flats. Black bass reports are fair to good early on top-water and crankbaits and later near deeper docks and main lake points and in the river near laydowns. Blue cats continue to be good in the evening on cut shad. Crappies are good to excellent near bridge pilings and submerged structure about 10 to 15 feet down.

### OTHER AREAS

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass limits are coming early on live bait. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass to 18 pounds are possible and large-mouth bass to 8 pounds are possible mid-lake to the lower ends. Look for topwater action early.

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

Different lakes will have different levels where the thermocline exists. Different areas on the same lake may have different levels where the thermocline exists. Generally, most sonar graphs will show the thermocline.

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# SPORTS Roundup

## Tolar linemen fourth in challenge

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the  
Hood County News

A big reason the Tolar High School Rattlers were one of the best Class 2A football teams in Texas last season was the linemen.

Those players got a chance to show their talents this past weekend at the State Lineman Challenge at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Tolar finished fourth in the Class 2A Division.

The Tolar team consisted of Oakley Saffer, Reid Baugh, M.J. Johnson, Drew Cooper, Cash Clark, Sam Stewart, Peyton Brown, Cutter Cain, Hunter Michels, Zane Graham, Toby Combs and Ethan Tidwell.

Of course, not everyone

participating in the competition, which includes speed events, is an actual lineman. For example, Brown was one of the nation's top running backs in 2022 as the Rattlers had their best season ever, finishing 13-1 and reaching the 2A Division I state quarterfinals.

And, of course, Brown and most other great running backs give credit to their linemen for playing a large part in their success. In Brown's case it included 2,777 yards and 49 touchdowns.

The competition featured a number of strongman events, such as bench press, tire throws, med ball throw, sled push, power drive and a massive tractor tire flip. There are also speed events like an obstacle course,

farmers walk, and dumbbell stack.

"For a few years we have had 7-on-7, and now the Lineman Challenge gives our linemen something to do in the spring and summer," Rattlers line coach Lance LeFevre said. "It is an opportunity for them to compete in a number of unique events. I believe that competition makes you better. In Tolar we believe 'Iron sharpens iron.'

"This is a great opportunity for the guys to bond and spend some time together. I believe this event requires teamwork and strategy. One guy can't just do every event, because some events are very exhausting. This gives everyone a chance to compete as well as a chance for everyone to cheer each other



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY MULLINS

The Tolar competitors in the State Lineman Challenge in Abilene last weekend were (standing, from left) Cash Clark, Sam Stewart, Ethan Tidwell, Zane Graham, Cutter Cain, Drew Cooper, Toby Combs, Peyton Brown. (On a knee, from left) Reid Baugh, Michael Johnson and Oakley Saffer.



Tolar linemen competed in the State Lineman Challenge this past weekend in Abilene. The Rattlers finished fourth among Class 2A teams.

on."

The Tolar linemen qualified by finishing second in their regional competition on May 27, finishing second by two points.

"That group of guys is going to show up and compete in anything they do," Rattlers head coach Jeremy Mullins said. "Saturday was no exception. The competitions require those guys to communicate well and work together, all things that are really important for the group on Friday nights. They've had a really good start to the summer."

### ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Several area athletes were named academic all-state by the Texas High School Coaches Association. To qualify for academic all-state a student must be in good standing, of good moral character, a senior and have a grade-point average of 92 or above for all classes in grades 9 through current. Weighted GPAs are accepted.

Honored from spring sports from Granbury High School are:

Baseball — Garrett Jones, second team; Tyler Guidry, honorable mention.

Girls golf — Hailey Golen, second team.

Girls track — Averie Coffman, first team.

Boys track — Jayton Glenn, Avin Alexander, Austin Taylor.

Tolar High School honorees are:

Baseball - Jackson LeCluyse, Luke Willmon.

Boys track — Mason Berry, Dakota Webb.

Boys golf — LeCluyse.

Golen was also named academic all-state by the TGCA, as was Coffman. Lipan had three TGCA academic honorees — Trinity Benitez, Lynsey Little and Jolie Russell.

Also, a host of area players were honored as academic all-state by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. To be selected a player must be a senior, have a GPA of 92 or above (weighted GPA accepted), be a var-

sity letterman, of good moral character and their coach must be a TABC member.

Area honorees are:

Granbury boys basketball — True Hughes, Makai Scott.

Granbury girls basketball — Coffman, Madison Black, Ella Hamlin, Alexa Mueller, Haley Pennock, Maybee Slotton, Katie Wood.

Lipan High School boys basketball — Tate Branson, Beau Bromleyu, Reese Cook, Korey Massie, Tripp Phillips, Garrett Smith, Cole Taylor.

Lipan girls basketball — T. Benitez, Little, Russell, Madison Harrison, Chelsea Lott, Ellie Peacock.

### TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION

Dylan Sinclair of Lipan finished fifth in Girls Cutting competition at the recent Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene. She narrowly missed qualifying for nationals as the top four advanced to Gillette, Wyoming.

## Granbury man reflects on Baylor's historic 1974 football season

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

Baylor University has had numerous great football seasons in recent years. But there was a time when the Bears were the laughingstock of college football in Texas — and much of the nation.

That changed in 1974 when a group of players rose up to take down the mighty Texas Longhorns and capture the Southwest Conference championship — Baylor's first conference championship in football in five decades.

Granbury's Doug Lee was on that Baylor team as a defensive back. Many of his teammates from that team joined him for a reunion in Granbury this past weekend, reflecting on one of the most historic football seasons ever in the state, also known as the "Miracle On the Brazos."

While Lee doesn't recall anyone from Granbury or Hood County being on that team, he lives here now after going to the Bears following a standout career for the legendary Odessa Permian football program. He played for the Bears from 1972-75.

"The 1974 SWC Championship season was truly a 'The Miracle On The Brazos' as some journalists called it. It was one of those years where everything clicked for us," remembered Lee. "We had no major injuries that year and all the hard work, determination, and grit of the 1974 team, players, coaches, and staff, propelled us to the championship."

"Waco was behind us all the way and everywhere we went we were the toast of the town."

### STARTING THE TURNAROUND

For years before, however, the Bears had given the town little to brag about. Prior to the 1974 turnaround that saw them finish 8-4, they had not had a winning season since 1963, going 8-3 under coach John Bridgers.

Over the next decade they posted an overall record of 29-73-1, including an 0-10 campaign in 1969 under coach Bill Beall.

Coach Grant Teaff was hired in 1972 about a month before national signing day. He had to scramble to sign 20 to 25 young men in his first recruiting class.

"This was my freshmen class and we weren't the best players on paper but we started something new at Baylor and good things were coming," Lee recalled.

The 1972 team finished 5-6, quite an improvement for a university that was rumored to be thinking about dropping football the year before Teaff was hired. In 1973, Baylor's record was 2-9, a huge and frustrating step back, Lee noted.

"The boo birds were out again and most people thought, 'Here we go again!'" he said.

To the surprise of few, the preseason predictions for the 1974 Bears weren't good. Most had them picked at or near the bottom of the eight-team league.

Still, Lee said there was something different, some-



COURTESY PHOTO

Back row from left: Danny Seale, Chris Cariker, Billy Clements, Derrell Luce, Butch Fears, Tim Reid, Gary Gregory, David Elliott. Front row from left: Jeff Turner, Doug Lee, Ken Quessenberry, David Hicks, Ralph Funk. Not Pictured: Brookes Worthington, Mark Grayless.

thing special in the air when the players reported for two-a-day workouts in August.

"We reported in good shape and we were determined to prove the whole country wrong," he said.

However, the season didn't start out that way. They dropped their first two games, at No. 1 Oklahoma (28-11) and at Missouri (28-21).

The third game was a turning point. They were home for the first time to face No. 12 Oklahoma State. Remembering something Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer said to them when he came to their locker room after that loss, the Bears upset the Cowboys 31-14 and the turnaround was on.

"He told us we were going to win a lot of games. He was

right! We won three in a row and confidence was building," Lee said.

The Bears followed with two more wins at Florida State and at No. 14 Arkansas, both by 21-17 scores. Then came what Lee and his teammates remember as their worst game of that season as they lost their homecoming 20-0 to Texas A&M.

"After Baylor's previous history, people thought we were going to throw in the towel. Boy, were they wrong!" he said.

Indeed, The Bears would not lose for the rest of the regular season, finishing 8-3 and winning the SWC with a 6-1 record. A&M and Texas would tie for second, both at 5-2, and the Bears' final national ranking of No. 14 was ahead of both the Aggies (16)

and Longhorns (17).

### THE DEFINING VICTORY

Part of becoming champion involves dethroning the champion. Texas had held that mantle for a long time, with seven consecutive SWC championships from 1967-73. The Longhorns came to Waco on Nov. 9 ranked No. 12 in the country and at half-time appeared to be on their way to another league title.

"They were loaded and Coach (Darrell) Royal was leading them to another SWC championship. They had us down 24-7 at the half and things weren't going well," Lee said, adding, "At halftime there wasn't a lot of yelling or heads down attitudes. We knew we were going to come back and win the game."

"The coaches told us Texas would have the ball first in the second half and we needed to hold them in the first series and force a punt."

Not only did the Bears force a punt. They blocked it and with that captured a momentum they would not surrender for the rest of the game, scoring 27 unanswered points for a 34-24 win. It was the biggest victory the program had seen in decades, some say ever.

"The stadium, the crowd, the city, the entire campus went nuts!" Lee said. "Coach Royal came into our locker room after the game and said something like, 'If Texas doesn't win the SWC Championship, then I am pulling for the Baylor Bears.'"

The Bears held up their

PLEASE SEE 1974 | B7



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## SADDLE UP

Tarleton's Gaillard places sixth in CNFR saddle bronc riding competition

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University saddle bronc rider Gus Gaillard saved the best for last in his first College National Finals Rodeo, earning an 81 in the championship finals of saddle bronc riding on June 17 in Casper, Wyoming.

Gaillard, leading three Tarleton rodeo athletes in the short go, finished sixth in the event. He earned his finals spot with a 78.5-second score on his opening ride and 74.5s in rounds two and three.

The sophomore agribusiness major from Morse, Texas, qualified for the CNFR as the 2023 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region reserve champion saddle bronc rider.

Team roper Wyatt Bray and barrel racer Jordan Driver also represented Tarleton in Casper.

Bray and partner Cutter Thomison from Western

Texas College in Snyder, regular-season regional event champs, missed their steer Saturday for no score. However, they posted a 6.2, 6.6 and 5.6 during the week, good enough for seventh in the average.

Jordan Driver, representing Tarleton in the College National Finals Rodeo, finished ninth in barrel racing.

Driver, an integral part of the Southwest champion women's team, finished ninth among barrel racers with a 14.34 run Saturday. Her best time in Casper came in the first round when she flashed a 14.25 in the cloverleaf. She followed that with a second-round 14.56



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Gus Gaillard of Tarleton State University placed sixth in the College National Finals Rodeo's saddle bronc riding competition in Casper, Wyoming.

and a 14.37 to qualify for the finals.

Driver was the 2023 reserve champion in the re-

gional all-around competi-

tion, as well as the regional title holder as a breakaway roper.

## Kalyn Hill to join sister Kelci playing for Tarleton softball team

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE - After the recent additions of a pair of pitchers from the transfer portal, Tarleton State University's head softball coach Mark Cumpian announced the signing of class of 2025 Seattle University catcher, Kalyn Hill.

Kalyn joins her sister Kelci in Stephenville, reuniting the pair for the first time since playing together at Murrieta Mesa High School in California when Kelci was a senior and Kalyn was a junior in 2020.

Kalyn Hill spent her first two seasons of her collegiate career behind the dish for Seattle U. In two seasons, she batted .297 with eight home runs and 57 RBI. She posted

a slugging percentage of .430 and reached base 35.8 percent of the time. She is 11 hits short of reaching 100 at the collegiate level.

Last year as a sophomore, Kalyn Hill batted .319, which was more than 40 points higher than her mark as a freshman. She also increased her slugging percentage to .435 in 2023. In seven less games played, Hill had one less hit and drove in 24 runs while hitting three home runs.

In 2022, she started 55 games, primarily behind the plate. She ranked third on the team with nine doubles. She drew 19 walks, the second most by a Redhawk on the season. Her 33 RBI tied for second on Seattle U.

Kalyn Hill graduated from Murrieta Mesa High School in 2021. She spent four years on the varsity squad and was named captain her last two seasons of her prep career. She was tabbed first team All-League her senior season. She was the recipient of the Team PRIDE Award awarded to a student-athlete who exhibits school pride the most on and off the field.

The Murrieta native isn't moving closer to home with her transfer, but she is given the opportunity to play with her sister, the third pair of sisters to play together with the Texan softball program, and the first since 2020.

Hill indicated that she intends to major in Kinesiology at Tarleton.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

Tarleton State University has announced the signing of Seattle University catcher Kalyn Hill, who will be joining her sister Kelci in playing softball for the Texans.

## Veteran football assistant Pepe Pearson to coach Tarleton's running backs

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — The depth of experience on the Tarleton State University football coaching staff keeps growing. This time it's on the offensive side as the Texans announced Friday they have hired Pepe Pearson as an assistant coach to lead the running backs.

Pearson arrives in Stephenville with 21 years of collegiate coaching experience, with stops at Tennessee State (2021-22), Marshall (2016-20), Youngstown State (2015) and Ohio Dominican (2001-14). Pearson starred as a running back himself in the 1990s, playing for several NFL teams after rushing for more than 3,000 yards and 30 touchdowns as a college player at Ohio State University.

"We're very blessed to be able to hire Pepe, a highly, highly decorated player

back in the mid-90s," head coach Todd Whitten said. "He's been highly recommended by every head coach he's ever worked for, so I feel very fortunate to get him at this late day. I think he's going to be really good for our backs. It's always good when a guy has played the position at the highest level to continue coaching that. He's just a really good hire for us and he's an equally good person. I'm excited and looking forward to working with him."

Pearson coached under his former Buckeye teammate Eddie George the last two seasons at Tennessee State. Last year his main two running backs totaled 1,153 yards on 245 carries (4.7 yards per game). In 2021, he helped his lead back to Second Team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors. "I would like to thank Coach Whitten for giving me this amazing opportunity to coach in the great state of



COURTESY PHOTO

Pepe Pearson, a former college and NFL player, has been signed as an assistant football coach to lead the running backs at Tarleton State University working with head coach Todd Whitten.

Texas and work with an outstanding group of coaches," Pearson said. "I am also excited to work with a talented group of players. I have had amazing support

in my short time here and the people at Tarleton State University have certainly extended a warm welcome to me and my family. I am ready to get to work and

help this team achieve a high standard of success on the gridiron. Go Texans!"

Pearson spent five years as the running backs coach at Marshall, where he helped lead the Conference USA's Most Valuable Player to the tune of 1,387 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns in his award-winning season. The Herd made a bowl game in each of his last four seasons there.

Before a season spent at Youngstown State, Pearson served 14 seasons at Ohio Dominican, where the Panthers won four conference championships. He was the running backs coach and special teams coordinator there. In 2013, Pearson had two 1,000-yard rushers, the first time in school history a pair reached the 1,000-yard mark in the same season.

As a running back in the NFL, Pearson spent time with the Detroit Lions, San Francisco 49ers, Chicago

Bears, Pittsburgh Steelers and Cleveland Browns. George and Pearson shared the backfield at Ohio State for two seasons (1994-95), and in 1996, Pearson became a preseason Heisman candidate. That year he exploded for 1,484 yards on 299 carries (5.0 yards per game) and 17 touchdowns in 12 games. He led the Buckeyes to a Rose Bowl win in 1997. Across his four-year career at Ohio State, Pearson was twice All-Big 10, twice the team's MVP, and the Buckeyes were 41-10.

The Euclid, Ohio, native was the runner-up Mr. Ohio at the prep level. He rushed for almost 4,500 yards and 49 touchdowns in high school, earning a USA Today All-America award and Northeast Ohio Player of the Year honors.

Pearson and his wife, Semoine, have three children.

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Picture of Floyd Casey Stadium Scoreboard, Waco, Texas on November 9, 1974.

**1974**

FROM PAGE B5

end of the bargain, clinching the championship for the first time in 50 years with a 24-3 home win over Rice on Nov. 30.

"Miracle On The Brazos?" Maybe. I think it was 120-plus players, coaches, trainers, equipment managers, and remaining staff who never accepted 'No, you can't do it' to 'We can do it and we did it!'"

Though the Bears would lose the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1 to No. 7 Penn State, 41-20, the mindset of Baylor football had been changed. In fact, the Bears were in prime position to win that game, trailing only 17-14 entering the fourth quarter.

"The head coach at Penn State, Joe Paterno, thought so much of Coach Teaff and our historic 1974 team, he agreed to come speak at our football banquet in the early months of 1975," Lee said.

Teaff remained at the helm until 1992. During his time the Bears were consistently competitive, capped by a 10-2 record and No. 6 national ranking in 1980.

"Coach Teaff's most used saying was 'I Believe,'" Lee said. "He wasn't the loud, vocal type, but when he spoke, he looked you in the eye and it was sincere and made you proud to be a Bear."

**STAYING IN TOUCH**

Along with events such as

the one this past weekend, Lee said those "miracle workers" have continued to stay in touch over the years.

"I believe there are only five coaches still alive, including Coach Teaff. We see them periodically at Baylor home games and other functions," Lee said. "Our 1972 freshmen class, along with several of the upperclassmen have remained very close over the last 50 years."

"At Baylor, very few of us pledged fraternities. However, we wanted our own group so, we came up with the name Stud Duck Fishing Team, which later became The Stud Ducks."

Lee said the Stud Ducks, along with wives, have met every summer since 1977 for a reunion (they missed one year due to COVID). In fact, it was that group that met this past weekend at the Hotel Lucy in Granbury.

"At the reunion we have a lot of fun, laughing, eating, music, dancing, singing, listening to the same old embellished stories we have heard for 50 years," he said. "We love each other. We have been through heartache and many tough times, but we know we have each other's back through anything this world throws our way."

"Yes, we were SWC Champions in 1974, but more than that, we are champions in life due to our love for each other and our dedication to being teammates for life."

**BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER**

*The round house of Granbury*

BY TOM HAMILTON



Dr. Tom Hamilton has been a Granbury resident since 1975, retiring from his dental practice in downtown Granbury after 40 years. He is a member of the Bridge Street History Center's Board of Directors and an avid golfer and gardener. Tom and Martha live in Water's Edge and enjoy the lake and their grandkids.

**G**ranbury is famous for its fantastic record in preserving old homes and buildings in Hood County. Unfortunately, the ravages of time, weather, and funding issues have resulted in the loss of many notable and historic structures. A prime example is the fabled "Round House" of Granbury.

In 1905, local merchant John E. Brown decided to erect a fine house — one of unique and singular style. Ten years earlier, Brown had built the Hood County State Bank on Granbury Square, a fine red brick structure that still stands today and houses Red on the Square, an upscale boutique. He now decided to go for a home run in building his new residence. For this new project, he hired Sid Parks, a Dallas contractor of some renown, and gave him an unlimited budget.

The round house was an imposing two-story affair, with 14 rooms that were all pie-shaped and surrounding a vast central hall that was a 32-foot diameter hexagon. The great room doubled as a living room

and a ballroom, where parties and dances took place. Mr. Brown spent much effort to make the great room a special place, with mirrored pilasters supporting the high ceiling and gleaming light oak floors. As a further touch of extravagance, each room in the house had a different type of imported wood for flooring.

The exterior had its own bragging rights, with rounded porches

all around, supported by columns. Atop the second story was a round widow's walk highlighting many rooftop parties. The house sat on a hill just northwest of the juncture of Paluxy Road and Highway 51 South, west of Granbury near what is now Walters Street. It was the pinnacle of an 80-acre farm and commanded a fantastic view of downtown Granbury and the Brazos River.

For all its grandeur, the round house had several negative aspects. The original construction took 18 months, and Brown ran short of money while furnishing the rooms. In fact, he only finished one upstairs room, apparently the maid's quarters. The house had no indoor bathroom until the 1920s, nor full electrical wiring until the early 1930s. These and other flaws rendered the structure impractical as a residence, and it remained uninhabited for more than 25 years.

In the early 1960s, local lumber yard owner and former Mayor A.L. Norman



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER  
Granbury, TX

bought the house and the 20 acres that previous owners had not sold off. By this time, the once-magnificent building was in ruins, and Mr. Norman had no choice but to demolish it. Proper restoration was prohibitively expensive, and local teenagers rode motorcycles through the rooms and had illicit parties. Mr. Norman's insurance carrier was concerned about safety issues and recommended razing the entire structure.

So although John Brown's grand vision is gone, the Round House of Granbury will live on in our Hood County lore.

(Note: Dr. Hamilton used a 1987 Hood County News article by Candace Manroe as a reference.)

**The round house was built in 1905 by John E. Brown and contractor Sid Parks. It contained 14 rooms, two entrance halls and numerous porches, and interior imported woods.**



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## Celebrate 4th of July with a special rodeo

**BY EDEN GILBREATH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

The Granbury 4th of July Rodeo will take place at the Hood County Livestock Raisers Reunion Grounds Arena Sunday, July 2 through Tuesday, July 4.

The event is produced by Diamond Cross Rodeo Company and benefits local high school seniors through scholarships. The Rodeo will begin both July 3 and July 4 at 7 p.m. with the very popular mutton bustin' event for ages eight and under.

Signup for the mutton bustin' is at 6 p.m. There will be a \$20 cash entry, and the first 20 contestants will be accepted. Other events are bareback, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, ladies break-away roping, barrel racing and team roping.

With well over 500 entries, the response to the event has been overwhelming, therefore the Slack Performance will begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 2. The Slack Performance features the runner-up contestants after the roster

has been filled for the two nights of rodeo. This rodeo is sanctioned by the United Professional Rodeo Association and was chosen as one of the seven locations contestants must compete in to qualify for

PLEASE SEE **RODEO** | C2

## 'COME WHO YOU ARE'

### First Presbyterian Church works to rebrand amid search for new pastor

**BY ASHLEY INGE**  
*Staff Writer*

For more than a century, the First Presbyterian Church of Granbury has been providing a place of worship for Hood County residents, while also serving as a source of kindness and hospitality to the community.

But with the church celebrating its 125th anniversary last year, many members of the congregation are wanting a change — more specifically, a rebrand — to try to encourage younger individuals to join.

Additionally, with associate pastor Brenda Church departing last August and pastor Drew Travis retiring back in February, FBC is currently without a permanent pastor — making now an opportune time for the church to make some necessary changes.

But how does that work without a permanent pastor?

For now, that's where the Mission Study Report comes in, where Mission Study team members gather to discuss the church's mission, values, history, and goals.

FBC's 2023 Mission Study Report was recently approved, containing demographics, opinions of members, and the hopeful future of the church.

### REBRAND

During the "Reflection" portion of the study, church members stated that they would like to move their branding from that of an old, historic church to a vibrant, engaged, open-minded congregation.

"The thing that's important is behind a very old building is a group of people who are not old in the sense of their activity, their engagement, their participation, or their contributions — it's a very lively church in that regard," said Jim Wallis, church member and chair of the Mission Study Report. "But if you walk by us, it's like, 'Oh, there's a cute little church, and 125 years old? It must be old,' and it is."

The report states that one hurdle in getting more people to come could be the buildings, stating that the historic building does not necessarily reflect the congregation and worship that is held within.

"People don't really know what it is to drive by and see a little old church," said Emily Graham, church member and bell choir director. "Our building looks so old, but when you come inside, you're not hit with old feelings or old beliefs, but it's unfortunate that we don't portray that necessarily from the outside."

Members suggested that the buildings could have better signage, a map, and a striped crosswalk between them to make it easier for visitors to discern where they need to go for a Sunday service versus yoga or the nursery.

"It can be a little intimidating because we have four different buildings and if you're new or visiting, you might not know where to park or where to come in," Graham said.

Additional improvements in the Mission Study included continued maintenance of the church's streaming service technology — a feature that was installed before the introduction of COVID-19.

"We started in October of 2019 with live streaming our services to YouTube and Facebook, so that's something that if people are out of town or they're in the hospital, they can always access that," Graham said. "That was something that we were able to utilize during COVID when the buildings were shut down everywhere and we weren't worshipping in person. I think that that



COURTESY EMILY GRAHAM

For more than a century, the First Presbyterian Church of Granbury has been providing a place of worship for Hood County residents, while also serving as a source of kindness and hospitality to the community.

just kind of speaks to the resiliency of our church because we wanted to be mindful and careful of everyone, but we also wanted to still feel connected."

Connie Darne, in charge of FPC outreach and mission, said that with the church's 125th anniversary, they are now in an agreement with the city to build a prayer labyrinth somewhere in Granbury.

"I can't tell you where it's going to be or when it's going to be, but we are

working on that," she said. "That's one way of outreach and to give something back to the city that has been so good to us and supported us throughout the years."

Improved children's facilities and an added feature of a playground are also being discussed as a potential change in the future to show that church members of all ages are valued.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the Mission

Study Report, the membership of FPC Granbury is predominantly 65 years of age and older, with approximately 350 members in total.

Graham, 37, joined the church with her mom about seven years ago. She said being younger than the majority of the church members does have its challenges, but members are extremely appreciative of her skillset — especially with technology.

"I do a lot of the heavier lifting when it comes to technology at the church,"

she said. "It's not something that many of the members are comfortable being in charge of, but it's something that has benefited everybody. There's definitely a challenge there that I'm looked to for the one who can help with that, but it's also wonderful because they're so appreciative because it really does make such a difference for them, and it's something that they can't do or don't feel comfortable doing. But it makes

PLEASE SEE **CHURCH** | C7

## The more you grow; ANC to host Texas flora lecture July 9



COURTESY OF MATT TURNER

**Matt Turner, market researcher at the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business, will be giving a lecture on "Texas Flora: Remarkable Natives & Invasives" on Sunday, July 9 at 2 p.m. at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center at 6430 Smoky Hill Court.**

**BY ASHLEY INGE**  
*Staff Writer*

Hood County residents can let their knowledge about flowers blossom during Acton Nature Center's community lecture on Sunday, July 9.

The lecture "Texas Flora: Remarkable Natives & Invasives" is set for 2 p.m. at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center at 6430 Smoky Hill Court, and will be led by Matt Turner.

Turner, market researcher at the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business, will be focusing his lecture on the interesting and obscure stories behind native plants.

"I hope to impress (attendees) with what's remarkable about

a lot of the native flora that is around them," he said. "Floral guides always tell you (a plant's) name, what they look like, what their Latin name is, and maybe where they grow; that's it, but I wanted to know more. Like, OK, it's a mesquite, it's a prickly pear, it's a bluebonnet, but can you please tell me something about it that would impress me, that would linger in my memory, that would make me sit up in my chair and pay attention to it? There's amazingly rich, interesting stories around a lot of our native flora, and most floral guides don't have the time or space to tell you about them."

Turner said he believes that little-known facts about native

plants — whether it be archaeological, historical, material, medicinal, culinary, or cultural facts — enrich our lives and our appreciation of the landscape we inhabit.

Feeling inspired by the lack of "cool" and "interesting" facts regarding native plants out in the world, Turner took matters into his own hands by publishing his first book in 2009, "Remarkable Plants of Texas: Uncommon Accounts of Our Common Natives."

"I wanted to write about something with nature, but not just purely as a scientist would," he explained. "I felt that I want to know more about the natural world as a Master Naturalist would want to know — 'Impress

me' 'Tell me what's cool about this,' 'What am I looking at?' I found it really frustrating that that (particular) knowledge wasn't readily available. When I walk outside and see the local flora, whether it's a pecan tree or a bluebonnet, I'd like to know something more about them. 'Is it resistant to fire?' 'Has it been used by man longer than any other thing?' I think of it as the plants telling a story, and I'll let it lead me wherever it needs to take me."

Drawing on his first book, Turner will focus his talk primarily on native trees, shrubs, and herbs common to Hood County.

PLEASE SEE **ANC** | C3



# Fourth of July festivities

Submitted by Visit Granbury

Visit Granbury will have all information available (printed and online) at the Visitor Center front desk, and it will be posted on the 4th of July event listing on the Visit Granbury website.

There is a QR code on the schedule offering visitors information on good viewing locations for fireworks. The Reunion Grounds rodeo is an excellent option to view and park. (Must purchase rodeo ticket/parking).

The Visit Granbury Team will be in the parade on the big boat. Make sure to say hello.

The Visitor Center will be open all weekend, to visitors for information, coupons, schedules, and more.

Make sure to view the Granbury trolley and schedule information during the holiday weekend — along with the new tracking app info for visitors to follow the trolley in real time.

This is a great time to invite visitors to listen to the new Uniquely Granbury Podcast and select the “History of the 4th of July Parade” and celebration in Granbury! See more information online at <https://www.spreaker.com/user/16759844/granbury-fourth-of-july>.



COURTESY OF VISIT GRANBURY

The Open-Air Tram and Big Trolley will be providing free shuttle services to hotels, historic B&Bs, and around the Square.

## FOURTH OF JULY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### July 1

8 a.m. Kiwanis Firecracker 5k Run/Walk at Tidwell Field  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Vendors open on the Square

### July 2

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors open on the Square

### July 3

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors open on the Square  
7:30 p.m. Granbury 4th of July Rodeo at Reunion Grounds

### July 4

9 a.m. 4th of July Parade leaves Granbury High School  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors open on

### the Square

7:30 p.m. Granbury 4th of July Rodeo at Reunion Grounds  
9:45 p.m. Fireworks over the lake

Text “Trolley” to 77222 for trolley and shuttle information for the whole weekend. Go to [www.visit-granbury.com/events](http://www.visit-granbury.com/events) for a full list of events.

# Fireworks are fun but they can be dangerous

Submitted item

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but they are not safe.

In 2017, eight people died and more than 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of those, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. More than two-thirds (67%) of those injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of the incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks

start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS: IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE LEGAL FIREWORKS

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses, and

flammable material

- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

## SPARKLERS ARE DANGEROUS

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries.

hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children

have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For

children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

## RODEO

FROM PAGE C1

the \$20,000 bonus.

“We feel very fortunate to have PRCA announcer of the year Bob Tallman with us for the event,” Jeff

Slaton of Diamond Cross public relations said. “Tallman is very well known.”

The Diamond Cross Rodeo Company produces the entire event. The rodeo circuit starts its season in Glen Rose, then DeLeon,

Granbury, Hico and Dublin. This is the first year that Diamond Cross was able to add Granbury to the circuit.

Last year, Diamond Cross gave back to local communities to the tune of

\$10,000.

“We notify the local school and stipulate that there will be one scholarship for a college-bound student and one for a trade school bound student. College isn't for every student,

and we need more people in the trades, especially in rural communities,” Slaton explained.

A special perk for rodeo attendees on the night of July 4, is the prime view of the Granbury fireworks

show. Parking will be \$5. Tickets to the rodeo are \$20 each at the gate, free for 8 and under. Reserved box seats are 4 for \$100. Text 817-559-4028 for advanced booking and availability at the gate.

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**Sammy** is a neutered male domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 8 years old. Sammy is friendly and thrives on attention. His adoption fee is \$25. The adoption fee includes his rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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Friday, 30 June 2023 - Thursday, 06 July 2023

**Elemental (PG)**  
Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM.  
Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM

**Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 11:50AM, 2:20PM, 3:10PM, 5:40PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM, 9:50PM.  
Sun: 11:00AM, 11:50AM, 2:20PM, 3:10PM, 5:40PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Mon, Wed: 11:00AM, 2:20PM, 5:40PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM.  
Tues, Thurs: 12:50PM, 4:10PM, 6:50PM, 7:30PM

**Jumanji: The Next Level -Kids' Summer Series (PG13)**  
Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM

**No Hard Feelings (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 2:05PM, 7:40PM, 10:10PM.  
Sun, Mon, Wed: 2:05PM, 7:40PM.  
Tues, Thurs: 1:30PM, 7:05PM

**Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (PG)**  
Daily except Tues, Thurs: 11:00AM, 2:05PM, 4:25PM, 6:45PM, 9:05PM.  
Tues, Thurs: 10:20AM, 12:40PM, 3:00PM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM

**Sound of Freedom (PG13)**  
Mon, Wed: 11:35AM, 2:45PM.  
Tues, Thurs: 12:50PM, 3:50PM

**Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse (PG)**  
Daily except Tues, Thurs: 11:00AM, 4:35PM.  
Tues, Thurs: 10:25AM, 4:00PM

**Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (PG13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 4:15PM, 7:10PM, 10:05PM.  
Sun, Mon, Wed: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 4:15PM, 7:10PM.  
Tues: 1:20PM, 4:15PM, 7:10PM.  
Thurs: 10:25AM, 1:20PM, 4:15PM, 7:10PM

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# 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.

## FIRST MONDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

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

## FIRST TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY DOLL** Club meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E Bridge St. All doll appreciators are welcome!

## SECOND TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY KNITTING** Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

## FOURTH TUESDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** Historical Society meets the 4th Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

## FIRST THURSDAYS

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

## SECOND SATURDAYS

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

**GRIEF SUPPORT** breakfast for anyone grieving the loss of someone they love at 10 a.m., Fuzzy's off the Square. Details: Amy or Danny Dwight. 817-894-2449 or 817-219-9833

## 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.

**GO PLAY** calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

## ANC

### FROM PAGE C1

At the end of his lecture, he'll turn to his most recent book, "Unnatural Texas?: The Invasive Species Dilemma" to show how culture, shifting attitudes, and unforeseen benefits influence their spread and management.

"I think they will leave knowing a lot of interesting tidbits about the flora that

they didn't know before, and it will make them really think differently about the natural world," Turner said. "I think they will find the natural world much more enriching than they thought."

Turner has published both scientific and popular articles on botanical topics, and has given more than 75 presentations statewide on natural history and native plants in the landscape. He has also led nature walks at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, the city where he currently resides.

He said he is excited to visit Granbury for the first time and to see the "Best Historic Small Town in America."

Turner added, "These people are already going to appreciate the natural world already or they wouldn't be coming to this



COURTESY PHOTO COURTESY MATT TURNER

**Matt Turner will be focusing his Acton Nature Center lecture on the interesting and obscure stories behind native plants, like this Datura (jimsonweed) pictured.**

talk, but I hope that they leave more impressed with the natural world than they were before they came."

During the lecture, Turner's two books will also be available for purchase and signing.

Individuals who cannot attend the lecture in person can register for the Zoom link by sending an email to actonnaturecenter@gmail.com.

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# Together 'we serve'

## Lions Club donates \$4,000 to Ruth's Place

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

**K**ristin Billington received a warm welcome and a symbol of kindness during the Granbury Lions Club meeting on June 20.

The new executive director of Ruth's Place was presented with a \$4,000 check from Lions Club President Stephen (Steve) Fortenberry. "As lions, we help," he said. "And that's what it's all about." The Granbury Lions Club (GLC) is affiliated with Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in 206 countries and geographical areas, according to the GLC website.

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Since 1961, the GLC has been helping the community with everything from scholarships to eyeglass donations. "People donate eyeglasses and they drop them off at Walmart or the doctor's office or TSO (Texas State Optical) and we pick up the eyeglasses, we sort them, and we take them up to a recycling center in the Metroplex," Fortenberry said. "Eyeglasses go there from us and all other Lions

Clubs in the state of Texas, and they do the same thing around the world." Lions' principal charities have benefited the blind or visually impaired ever since Helen Keller spoke at an international convention in 1925, according to the website. In fact, the organization's generosity concerning eyeglasses doesn't stop there. The Lions Club also pays for eye examinations and glasses for qualified grade school students as well. "We do a lot of things in the community to help people," Fortenberry said. "We have a big flag program in Granbury, where we put out over 600 flags four times a year for Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4, and Veterans Day — that's our biggest fundraiser so that we can have the money to help people in the area."

He explained that the GLC handles six different flag routes, with each route containing anywhere from 100 to 115 flags that are placed in the ground. "We get people sometimes from the hospital, we've had the mayor, we've had city managers, just somebody to come and talk to us to tell us what's going on because there may be something we might not know about, so we try to (invite) people that have knowledge of the area," Fortenberry said. The GLC guest speaker for June was Hood County Commissioner for Precinct 2 Nannette Samuelson. Samuelson — who is also Hood County's first female commissioner — took time

Fortenberry said each year, GLC gives out several scholarships for high school graduates of Granbury, Tolar, and Lipan. GLC members also cook and serve pancakes for various county-wide events like the Relay for Life, and the Junior Livestock Show — or even as a way to give back to community members, like first responders. "That's what we concentrate on here is helping the local community," Fortenberry said.

### SPEAKERS

Every month, the GLC invites guest speakers to its meetings to give an informative speech on what's going on in the city or county. "We get people sometimes from the hospital, we've had the mayor, we've had city managers, just somebody to come and talk to us to tell us what's going on because there may be something we might not know about, so we try to (invite) people that have knowledge of the area," Fortenberry said. The GLC guest speaker for June was Hood County Commissioner for Precinct 2 Nannette Samuelson. Samuelson — who is also Hood County's first female commissioner — took time



Lions Club President Stephen (Steve) Fortenberry, left, congratulates new Ruth's Place Executive Director Kristin Billington, right, after donating \$4,000 to the nonprofit organization.

ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

to explain to members what a commissioner's job entails: infrastructure planning, property taxes, appointing boards and committees, and elections. She also explained the community-focused changes she's made to board meetings over the past few months. "On the vein of more transparency and communicating more with the public and allowing the public more access to what's going on in court, I made a motion to have public comments at every meeting instead of just once a month," she said. "I also made a motion to change the order of the agenda, because a

lot of the things that are more interesting to the public, or that people want to come and talk about, were not happening until the very end of the meeting. Having (those agenda items) earlier in the meeting makes it more available for people who work to come and spend 30 minutes at the meeting instead of four hours, so that they can get up and talk about what's (important to them)." She said that the commissioner role also brings with it several challenges, like how to solve the county jail's overcrowding problem, and the congestion issue that will arise once the Highway 377 expansion

project begins. Samuelson added if any individual wishes to contact her, they can go to co.hood.tx.us/ online. "I definitely want to hear from you," she added.

### MEETINGS

The Granbury Lions Club holds its meetings at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Fortenberry said there are currently 27 members, but he hopes that more young people will join the organization in the future. "We need more young people in the Lions Club and I think most service organizations are like that," he said. "If we can get young people, we're better off because it'll keep the service clubs going." Although Fortenberry has only been a Lion for four years, he's served as president of the club for the past two years — a term that will be ending in July. "I enjoy meeting people and I enjoy helping people if I can," he said. "The motto of the Lions Club is 'We serve,' and if we can serve in the community and help people, that's what I like to do." For more information about the Granbury Lions Club, visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/granbury/index.php online.

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# Zev Martial Arts students win gold in world championship

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Zev Martial Arts in Acton "swept" the competition during the AGF (American Grappling Federation) 2023 Kids Jiu Jitsu World Championships at the Fort Worth Convention Center on June 17.

Students Taylor Neal, 12, Jadon Crowder, 11, Lukah Esteban, 12, and Raylan Van Holland, 10, took home a total of three gold medals, along with two silver, and one bronze. "We're all super excited about it, obviously," said Zev Instructor Alex Wolf. "It's kind of a big deal for us."

Located at 3236 Fall Creek Highway in Acton, Zev Martial Arts provides instruction and training for people of all ages in Brazilian jiu jitsu. Individuals who enroll in the school train for self-defense and physical fitness, along with building their self-esteem, and to compete in tournaments.

Although similar to wrestling, Brazilian jiu jitsu also includes joint locks, strangles, and takedowns. "The way our tourna-



COURTESY OF ALEX WOLF

Zev Martial Arts students in Acton took home a total of three gold medals, along with two silver, and one bronze during the AGF (American Grappling Federation) 2023 Kids Jiu Jitsu World Championships at the Fort Worth Convention Center on June 17. Pictured are left to right competitors Taylor Neal, Raylan Van Holland, Jadon Crowder, Lukah Esteban, and teammate Tyler Holt.

ments are set up is you go against people that are your age, your weight, and then sometimes your rank," Wolf explained. "We also have things called challenger matches, where you fight people your age and your weight, but they can be any rank, so you might go against someone who

has been doing it twice as long as you. We like to do those a lot because it makes you better and you get a lot more experience for it." During world championships, students wearing white belts (first rank) are not allowed, meaning only gray belts (second rank) and higher can compete.

"It takes you about 10 years to get a black belt, so the rank structure goes a lot slower than something like karate or taekwondo," Wolf explained. "Boxing is great, but reality is, you have six punches in boxing. My kids know systems that have 60 moves inside each of these systems and

for our competition team, we've got about seven to eight systems for them to be learning." The world championships featured competitors from all over the U.S., and as far away as Brazil, Canada, Australia, and the UK — but Zev Martial Arts still came out on top in both Gi (competing while wearing a jiu jitsu uniform) and No-Gi (competing while wearing shorts and a T-shirt). Crowder earned silver in Gi, Esteban won double gold in No-Gi and Gi, and Neal won gold in Gi, silver in No-Gi, and bronze in No-Gi challenger. "(Neal) was fighting up to 10 pounds (heavier) in the boys division because they didn't have anyone as small as her in the No-Gi bracket, so we were pretty pleased with that silver," Wolf said. "You just don't know how good your jiu jitsu is until you get to compete at that level. It feels great, and I think everyone's excited. Our school as a whole is very excited because this isn't just Lukah, Taylor, or Jadon's win — this is kind of a team project. The team put these kids together, and the team was training

as a whole, so everyone's ecstatic." Wolf said the past few months have been spent getting his students ready for the world championship, with the team training for eight hours a week on lifting, and 23 hours a week in jiu jitsu alone during an intensive grappling camp. "All we've been doing is getting ready for (the world championship) and now that that's done, we've got a little bit of time before our next jiu jitsu match, so we're going to be building our team back up," he said. "We're going to see if we can add new members to our competition team, and we're going to be learning some brand new (moves). We're going to add to the things they can do in competition and we're going to switch gears a little bit and get one of our kids ready for a first striking match, as well." Zev Martial Art's next jiu jitsu competition will be held at the 2023 Texas State BJJ Championships, Oct. 21-22 in Duncanville. ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

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# GRANBURY BRIDGE CLUB HOSTS LUNCHEON FOR ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISER



Members of the Granbury Bridge Club pose for a photo following a luncheon and bridge game that supported "The Longest Day," — an Alzheimer's fundraiser. Winners Cheryl Glenn and Rita Scott (E/W) and Hal Schulz and T.R. Sartor (N/S) are pictured holding trophies.

COURTESY PHOTO

## GARDEN PATCH

# Plants lure pollinators using wide variety of provocative presentations

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.

When it comes to reproduction, some plants are devious. They dress provocatively, make promises and offer rewards! The survival of their species depends on luring pollinators, which is why they produce colorful flowers and provide pollen and nectar as attractants. Pollination is the act of transferring pollen grains from the male to the female flower parts. When bees and other insects visit plants, they spread pollen, helping plants to reproduce.

Flowering plants use color, scent, ultraviolet light patterns and nectar guides to draw pollinators such as bees and butterflies. What's more, various flower shapes attract specific pollinators. For example, hummingbirds have longer mouthparts, which makes them well suited to obtain sweet nec-

tar from tubular flowers. And daisies, which have shallow-shaped flowers, attract creatures with shorter mouthparts, such as bees and flies.

Many plants have flowers that "dress for success" using various visual cues to invite pollinators. These cues include flower size, color and showy sepals or petals with obvious coloration and patterns. Red or yellow flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Bees are particularly fond of petal textures and markings. Some flowers have nectar guides (patterns) that direct specific pollinators to their rewards — sweet nectar and pollen.

In many bee-pollinated flowers, there is a region of low ultraviolet reflectance near the center of each petal. The UV patterns are invisible to humans, but

bees can detect them. The contrasting UV pattern helps bees to locate the flower center. Bees also like blue flowers because they see them in the ultraviolet range.

Flower shape and size also provides structure, which allows specific pollinators to contact flower anthers and stigmas. For example, beetle pollinated flowers have larger, more open flowers that provide an easy landing pad since beetles are not as agile in flight as other flying insects. Also, any non-hovering pollinator requires a landing pad on the flower so it can rest or feed and contact the flower's pollen.

Other plant tricksters include Turk's cap and night bloomers. Turk's cap sports uniquely shaped pendant flowers designed to be accessed and pollinated by butterflies. White and pale-colored flowers are more easily seen by bats and moths that are active at night. Nocturnal flowers are often fragrant and produce copious nectar to attract pollinators.

Several plants have evolved to use humming-

birds as their primary pollinators. Their flowers share many characteristics. Warm reds, yellows and oranges make the plants easier for the birds to see. Flowers also tend to be scentless or mildly scented. (Scented plants draw more insects.) The most distinctive characteristic of a hummingbird pollinated flower is its shape — long, narrow tubes that allow a hummer to force its long beak inside and brush its head or body against the flower's reproductive organs.

Gardeners help pollinators by growing flowering plants that bloom at different times of the year. To attract a large variety of pollinators, vary the plant types. Know that many hybrids such as "double flowering" plants have little to no pollen or nectar.

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 lakegranburymaster-gardeners.org.

[pwebsterco@gmail.com](mailto:pwebsterco@gmail.com) | 817-680-4849



COURTESY PHOTO BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

The shape of the red yucca flower is particularly attractive to hummingbirds.

## BOOK REVIEW

# 'I'm an American' perfect book for young kids who love the country

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Big loud booms. Crackles from the skies and pretty colors falling from the stars. That's what makes an Independence Day celebration, but what makes you an American? Is it the way you honor the flag, or the clothes you wear, or is it the get-togethers you have with family? In the new

book, "I Am an American by Darshana Khiani, illustrated by Laura Freeman, kids from many cultures tell you what they think.

You love parades and firecrackers and having fun in the park. You love Independence Day and cookouts and red, white and blue. Does that make you an American?

A belief in democracy and

the right to vote is one thing that many people think makes them an American. Irish immigrants once believed that being an American meant "access to food, water, and shelter" for everyone. For others, it meant the opportunity to dream and reach for happiness. It still means knowing that you're safe.

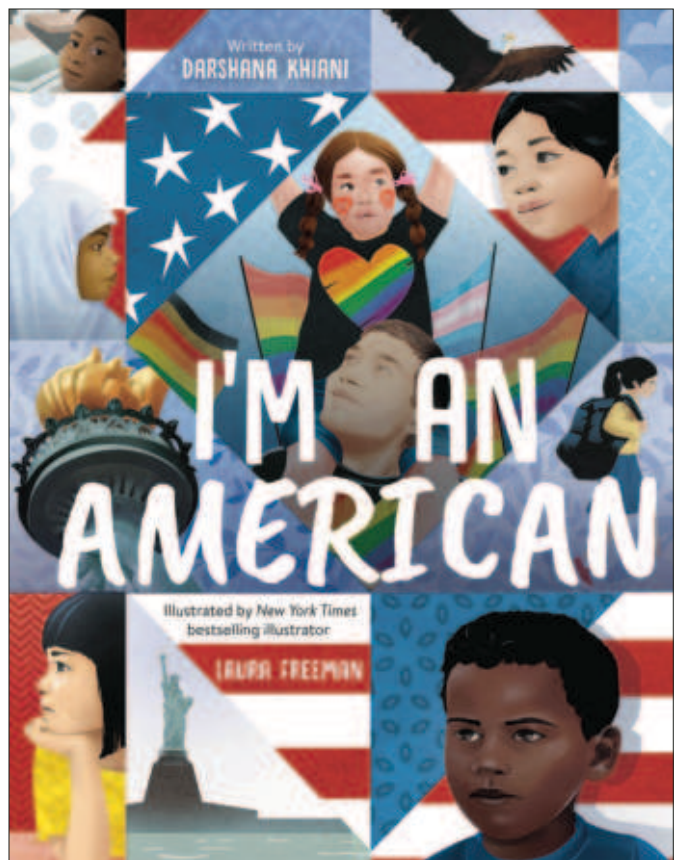
In America, everyone has the freedom to worship the God they believe in. Anyone can hold "tight to your tribal-nation identity," even when the government makes it hard to do so. Black Americans know that being an American means wanting everyone to be equal under the law, with the expectation of being treated as such.

Once, more than 160 years ago, German citizens left their country and came to the U.S. to build new lives, and their descendants are now Americans. Mexican and Filipino immigrants hope to teach others about their cultures to "improve our community for everyone." Japanese Americans held hope for justice following World War II. LGBTQ people want an America where they can "be themselves" and make their own families.

America has always been "made of indigenous people and immigrants" and our differences "make us stronger." Native people made sure the European newcomers survived, centuries ago. Chinese Americans built railroads, German immigrants created farms. Jewish Americans and Indian immigrants started businesses. It was a group effort then and even today, "we make our country great" together.

Ask any group of kids what makes us a part of this country, and you'll get a group of different replies. Come to think about it, some grown-ups may struggle with that question but "I'm an American" offers a nice wide answer.

Page after page of this important book shows kids another rock on which America was built, along with a small story of a specific group of people and how those essential tenets affected them as they settled into their new homes. Author Darshana Khiani doesn't just tell the happy stories; however, some of the wrongs that have happened throughout American history are shown here, along with a character-driven aftermath of each event. Illustrations by Laura



COURTESY PHOTO

"I'm an American" by Darshana Khiani, illustrated by Laura Freeman C.2023, VIKING, \$29.99. 48 PAGES.

Freeman tie all these tales together nicely.

This book is perfect for kids ages 4 and 5 as a read-aloud, and older kids will appreciate the author's ex-

tra information in the back of the book. For a child who loves their country, "I'm an American" helps make a big loud noise.

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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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*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*  
 Romans 8:28



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*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*  
 Jeremiah 29:11



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## GAME ON



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF REDBEET INTERACTIVE

My raft at one of the story destinations in Raft, called Tangarao.

## Raft: The most fun you'll have while being attacked by a shark



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.

If floating on a raft in the middle of the ocean, catching fish, staying hydrated, and avoiding shark attacks is your cup of distilled water, then "Raft" is the game for you.

"Raft" is an open-world sandbox survival game. It was developed by three Swedish students from Uppsala University as the studio Redbeet Interactive. First released as a free download on the indie platform Itch.io in 2016, it became very popular, and was released as an early access game on Steam on 23 May 2018 by Axolotl Games. The game is playable as single player or cooperative.

Instead of land, you're on the ocean on a tiny little raft. Your only tool is a plastic hook with a rope attached. You can use this hook to gather resources from the water, like planks, palm leaves, plastic, and the occasional barrel or crate.

Thirst and hunger are big obstacles in the game. You start out with your thirst and hunger levels at full, but you'll need to solve your thirst and hunger problems before doing anything else. If you don't drink or eat, you will eventually die.

As if that's not tough enough, at timed intervals a shark will attack the boat. He'll come by and nom on one of your raft squares, and you can choose to try and defend your raft with a sharp stick, or just wait and rebuild it after he goes away. The shark will also attack you if you get in the water.

The game is mostly on the open ocean, but sometimes you'll find an island to explore. After you make yourself an anchor (because your raft will drift off if you don't) you can get off the raft and explore the island and the shallow water around it for more resources.

I eventually had to turn the sharks off because I kept having anxiety attacks every time I fell in the water, and gaming is supposed to be fun.

Raft has four gameplay modes. In Hard Mode, if you die, you have to start over. Regular Mode allows you to resurrect on the raft if you die. If you build a bed, you'll be resurrected with more health. Peaceful Mode is the regular game, but without being attacked by animals like sharks and bears. Creative Mode allows you to build with unlimited resources, but you won't be able to go anywhere.

### RAFT GAMEPLAY

Eventually you'll have enough resources to create a way to distill your own drinking water. You learn how to build tools and weapons. You need a fishing pole to catch fish, and you'll need to build a little grill to cook your fish. Expand the raft with planks and plastic and armor the edges so the shark can't chew up your raft.

Build a larger grill to make a bunch of food (and cook the larger fish,) build a cooking table and have fun assembling recipes from the ingredients you find, even build a smoothie machine to use up all that

fruit you'll be gathering. Some recipes give you health bonuses that give you a boost when exploring or fighting.

You'll become a farmer because you'll need a sustainable source of food. Collect seeds from the foods you gather to plant them. You can capture animals for milk, wool, and eggs, or hunt them using a bow and arrow. You can even grow trees so that you have a source of wood.

One of the most fun, yet less things in this game is that it's also a raft design game. After a while you stop needing to grind for more planks, palm leaves and plastic. You can expand the raft, put more floors on, put engines and a fuel system on it, and decorate it with various objects from the destinations in the game.

### RAFT STORYLINE AND PUZZLES

As you progress through the game, you'll learn how to build various items. One of the most important components is the receiver. It tells you where large islands are located. It also starts the 'story' of the game. Soon after building the receiver, you'll find an island with coordinates for a radio tower. You'll pick up clues that will go into your journal to lead you to the next destination. As you solve the puzzles and find more clues, you'll learn about the fate of the planet, hear stories of other travelers trying to survive on the open ocean, and encounter other characters that are playable in the game.

The puzzles in this game are pretty decent but aren't all that difficult. Most of them fall into the move this box, move that box. But there are a couple of puzzles that require agility and accuracy, and I find that kind of gameplay incredibly annoying. If I had agility and accuracy, I would be outside playing basketball. It's the Lara Croft Tomb Raider problem - to solve some puzzles the character has to jump up a series of platforms, and with one wrong step they'll fall and have to start over, or worse yet, die, requiring you to reload the game from that position and try again.

So, I look for loopholes within the game. With an open-world system, there are multiple solutions to some of the puzzles. For example, instead of navigating a path by jumping, I'll find the rock wall behind the path, and figure out a way for my character to jump to the top of the wall, and then jump into the next environment and skip it entirely.

I finished Raft a couple of months ago. I first got Raft as part of their Early Access in 2018. They finished creating assets and environments for the game in 2022. I loved the discovery of the new environments, sailing or motoring up to the location and cruising around it to see what it looked like. Now I have seen all of it, there is nothing left to discover, and I'm kinda bummed. I still play it just so I can go fishing or work on the raft. It's now a three-story monstrosity with plants, trees, a llama, a goat, and two chickens. And a piano.

## DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

# Adventures in Alaska: Wondrous last frontier can be experienced by land or sea



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. [www.DaydreamVacations.com](http://www.DaydreamVacations.com)

Alaska is The Last Frontier, and a travel destination on many bucket lists. As the largest U.S. state, Alaska has a lot to offer visitors. You can experience the Northern Lights, fishing, hiking, nature, culture, museums, art and history, wildlife viewing, winter activities, sightseeing, floatplane tours, local cuisine, national parks and more!

The question I hear often is "should I visit Alaska by cruise ship or just fly up there and stay in a lodge?". The answer depends on what you want to see and do.

Alaska by cruise is a great way to explore more of Alaska in a short amount of time. Alaska is a huge state covering 665,400 square miles. It's not possible to see and do it all, especially in one visit.

A cruise ship will take you to popular tourist attractions, cities, and activities. But not all cruise itineraries are the same. The best destination is Glacier Bay National Park. In my opinion, if you don't cruise through Glacier Bay then you didn't really go on an Alaskan

cruise. Only a few ships per day are allowed in the national park, so make sure your itinerary includes this experience.

You can also experience cities like Skagway, which are only accessible by ship or floatplane. Skagway is a trip back in time to an old gold rush mining town. My son and I enjoyed visiting the Iditarod training camp for the husky sled dogs in Skagway.

Cruises will also take you to places like Juneau, Anchorage, Ketchikan, Sitka, Icy Strait Point, and more. Popular activities include seeing the glaciers, whale watching, dogsledding, crab fishing, salmon bakes, floatplane tours, and experiencing history, culture, and cuisine.

Alaska by land offers unique experiences. There are many wilderness lodges in Denali National Park. This is a great place for immersing yourself in the wilderness. See Mount Denali, hike the trails, see the Big 5 (moose, bear, dall sheep, caribou, and wolves) as well as bald eagles, red fox, musk oxen, and

more, go on a fishing trip, sightseeing by rail through the mountainous wilderness ... the possibilities seem endless.

The best reason to visit by land is in Fairbanks, for a chance to witness the aurora borealis — the northern lights. This is a natural phenomenon that is not guaranteed, so most travelers will stay several nights to increase their chances.

My favorite trip is a 14-day land and sea experience. Fly to Fairbanks and stay two or three nights to see the northern lights, then transfer to Denali National Park at the Wilderness Lodges for three nights, then take the rail tour to the cruise port, board the ship in Whittier for a seven-day cruise itinerary that includes Glacier Bay National Park and typically Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, and ends in Vancouver, Canada. This is not a cheap vacation, but it's worth the investment.

My two biggest tips for an Alaska vacation are book your trip nine months to a year in advance for best availability, and take binoculars or a camera with the largest zoom you can manage. My binoculars had a 16x zoom and I still felt like it was lacking.

[zac@daydreamvacations.com](mailto:zac@daydreamvacations.com) | 817-559-7150



COURTESY EMILY GRAHAM

One of the suggested slogans for First Presbyterian Church of Granbury is "come who you are," as members describe the church as being "welcoming, accepting, and a mix of all political views."

## CHURCH

FROM PAGE C1

such a quality of worship improvement for them — and they make sure to tell you that."

Although the church membership is predominantly older, many members would prefer a younger pastor to take the reins.

According to the Mission Study Report, many members expressed their desire to have a "young pastor, far from retirement, who is involved in the community, recruits members to the congregations, and is accepting of and encouraging when it comes to the differing views of the members."

"We're a very energetic church," said Beverly McKusick, church member. "Even though we're without a pastor, we're still a family as a church. We're all connected and really interested in the movement of the church and its activities."

The report states that the congregation may skew older, but "we are a vibrant and involved group of people who work and volunteer not just within our congregation, but within our community."

### COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

FPC's mission is to "share the good news of the gospel through generous outreach and hospitality" and "compassionate care and fellowship," — and that's exactly why church members are heavily focused on the community.

By operating on a community-first strategy, many organizations can use FPC's buildings for meetings or practices, like knitting clubs and alcoholics anonymous.

"There's a number of groups that are not members of the church or not associated with the church, but we do open up the church and let them use the building," Darne said. "We also open up the church every year during the Candlelight Tour of Homes. We might not be one of the stops on the tour, but the church is open."

### MISSION OUTREACH/GENEROSITY

FPC's mission and outreach program is a huge priority to the congregation, with members constantly volunteering their time to help with several nonprofit organizations.

"About 16% of the church's budget goes to mission and outreach," Darne said. "We do a lot with the Presbyterian Church worldwide, like Presbyterian disaster relief, world hunger, and then we also do a lot with the local charity organizations here."

Members donate to nonprofits like Mission Granbury, Habitat for Humanity of Hood County, People Helping People, The Salvation Army of Hood County, Meals on Wheels of Hood County, Rainbow Room of Hood County, Granbury Housing Authority, and the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center.

"We have a Presbyterian women's group that meets once a month, and we do a lot of mission work with them," McKusick said. "We also have a group that's called our FUN circle, and every year, we make toiletry bags, and they're called First Night Bags for CPS. When a child is taken out of a home, they usually leave with just clothes on their backs, so it's a pair of pajamas, underwear, socks, a flashlight, toothbrush, and a cuddly toy. We do that once a year and we generally do anywhere from 50 to 75 bags."

McKusick said what's really blown her away is how generous members of the church are when it comes to needs within the community.

"This church is just unbelievable," she said. "You say we have a need for this, and all of a sudden, it's just there for you. I mean, I send out a list of what we need and I'm thinking, 'Oh, you know, well maybe we'll get 20 bags,' and then all of a sudden, we have 75 bags. I also collected \$400 from people that said, 'I don't want to go shopping, but here's some money.'"

During the month of June, members were also asked to either contribute \$25, or go to Rack Room Shoes and buy a \$25 gift card, where donations would be dropped off at

the Rainbow Room for foster kids.

The church also hosts a rummage sale twice a year in April and October, where clothes are sold for \$1 per item.

"You can't go to Goodwill and find nice clothes for \$1. You just can't," McKusick said. "It helps in many ways. It helps our missions but it also helps the community too. We have anywhere from children's clothing to men's clothing, and a lot of it goes back out into the community."

### 'COME WHO YOU ARE'

One of the suggested slogans for FPC is "come who you are," as members describe the church as being "welcoming, accepting, and a mix of all political views."

"We welcome everyone," Wallis said. "We are what is referred to as a 'purple congregation.' Basically, we believe we are a family of God with members who hold traditional views and those who hold progressive views on matters theological, political, social, but are all able to be with one another in this church and honor each other and their various perspectives, and actually be able to talk about things — that makes this (church) a welcoming environment for all people."

"I've heard over and over from people that the first time they came into the service, they immediately felt like it was home," Graham added. "They felt welcomed, and people come back."

"We do try to be friendly," Darne added. "We try to let them know that they're welcome and we enjoy them being there with us and it shows."

### FUTURE IN HIS HANDS

Although it may take a while to complete the necessary changes at the church to draw in more members — and younger ones at that — members are leaving it all up to God and trusting in him to lead them to their next pastor.

PLEASE SEE **CHURCH** | C8



PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Pecan Plantatin Art Guild spring show award winners announced



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild (PPAG) held its spring show on Memorial Day weekend. Receiving specific awards were Gloria Lee Hood, June Phillips, Ed Phillips, Deanna Thibault, Kathy Yoders, Beth Eschbach, Barbara Brown, Van Johnson, Bonnie Chilcutt, Yvonne Sailers, Barbara Doberenz and Kathy Yoders. Congratulations to all the winners!

At its last meeting, the PPAG heard from renowned oil painter LaJaun Schlegel, also known as "the blue bonnet lady," from Ennis, Texas, when she demonstrated techniques for creating landscapes. At its next meeting on July 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pecan Activities Center (PAC), three portrait artists, Kathy Yoders with charcoal, Gwen Hutson with oil and Cheryl Moore with water color, will demonstrate their different approaches to portraiture on one shared model in a "face-off" program. Following the

meeting, members will paint a Nine Square Painting that will be sold as a fundraiser. For more information on the day, contact Susie Strong at susanstrong@sbcglobal.net.

The PPAG selected Pamala Vannoy as first-place winner for artist of the month, followed by Bob Hart, Wanda Hayre, Deanna Thibault and Connie Gilmore. Those artists, along with Ginger Castranova, have art displayed at the clubhouse, the Pecan Family Medical Center, the PAC and at the guild's online gallery.

Guests and new members are welcome at the guild's July meeting. Joining the PPAG only requires being a Pecan resident over the age of 18 and paying annual dues of \$25.

For more information on the guild or details about the art scene in Pecan, contact Cheryl Moore at 682-225-6089 or visit [www.pecanplantationartguild.com](http://www.pecanplantationartguild.com).

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

Pecaners will celebrate Independence Day tomorrow evening with the annual parade and street dance.

PARADE INFORMATION

Parade participants (golf carts, floats, bicycles, unique cars, motorcycles, and horses) are invited to decorate and arrive at the Nutcracker Clubhouse for judging at 5:30 p.m. Judges will announce entry winners at 6, and the parade will begin its route at 6:30, arriving at the clubhouse at 7. No preregistration is required; for more parade info, contact the PAC: 817-573-7952.

STREET DANCE

Food service will run from 6 to 9 p.m. in the clubhouse, and all purchases must be made with tickets, which will be for sale the evening of the party, as well as today and tomorrow afternoon. Bounce houses will be inflated for the youngest party goers.

AIR GUN EVENT

The archery/air gun range will be busy July 8 beginning at 9:30 a.m. with an air rifle field target match. Partici-



COURTESY PHOTO BY LANA ROBINSON

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary volunteers turned out in strength to serve the Pecan community by planning and executing a successful golf tournament fundraiser last weekend. Pictured are some of the folks on hand facilitating the day.

pants and spectators are invited. Sign up at the PAC.

GOLF CLASS

Starting New At Golf (SNAG) has its next date set for July 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at the PAC. The event is free, and all ages are welcome to the program, which introduces golf play, rules, and etiquette.

TENNIS EVENT

A "Wimbledon Whites" mixer is on the tennis calendar for July 14 at 6 p.m.

on the Pecan courts. Players should don white attire for play, followed by dinner at the clubhouse. For full details, contact the tennis pro shop: 817-579-9412.

BIG FUN

Ceramics camp runs next week, and participants will make a relief plate wall hanging with teacher Jenifer Osborne.

Another "kids' painting party" for artists ages seven and up will happen Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. with artist Heidi Easley.

Art camp runs July 10, 11, 13 and 14 with two classes available under instructor Linda Christiansen.

The final session of swim lessons begins July 10 with three class levels available.

Tryouts for the Missoula Children's Theater production of "Alice in Wonderland" are scheduled for July 24 with two performances on July 29.

Sign up for all these offerings at the PAC.

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

CHURCH

FROM PAGE C7

"We'll be getting a personnel nominating committee together, which is made up of members of the congregation, and then they will be charged with the

responsibility to help reveal, if you will, God's choice about who's going to be our next pastor," Willis said. "The process could take six months to a year."

Until the pastor position is filled, Interim Pastor Sherrolyn Weed will be leading the sermons every Sunday.

"We are very much still active," Darne said. "We're not out here floating adrift. We're still doing all the things that we've done before and we still follow our plans that we have. Reverend Weed came to us the first of May this year, so she's leading us in wor-

ship and doing an excellent job. She's also leading us through the process of hiring a new minister. The Presbyterian Church, it's a little bit different from some other denominations. We do have a say in who our pastor will be. We interview the pastors, we decide, and

the church congregation approves who we'd like to hire. We are all involved in that process through different stages of it."

The First Presbyterian Church of Granbury is located at 303 W. Bridge St., with Sunday school starting at 9 a.m. and Sunday wor-

ship services beginning at 10 a.m.

To watch the livestream on YouTube, visit [fpcgranbury.org/live/](http://fpcgranbury.org/live/) online.

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">ATTENTION, ALL WHO HAVE MEDICARE PARTS A AND B</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">FOR \$0 MONTHLY PREMIUM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Now you can get \$125.00 added back to your social security check!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">Also, \$20,000 in Dental Benefits!!! AND MUCH MORE!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">FIND OUT HOW!! Carl Craig Bloomquist, LUTCF 682-551-4121</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">RUMNEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">817-559-9802</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Ron Rumney Lake Granbury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All home improvements</li> <li>• Lake rental property maintenance &amp; repair</li> <li>• Handyman services</li> <li>• Visit my website</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">rumneyhomeimprovements.com Ronrumney@hotmail.com</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>MAVERICK DRIVING ACADEMY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">Register for Classes 403 Temple Hall Hwy   Granbury <b>682-600-5734</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">This Space Available</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">Call 817-573-7066</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>MAMA'S PIZZA</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Join Mama's mobile COUPON CLUB Text mamas to 21333 for specials and information</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">817-964-3333</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">This Space Available</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">Call 817-573-7066</p>

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DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES

3 Months: \$40/week | 6 Months: \$35/week  
12 Months: \$30/week