



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS



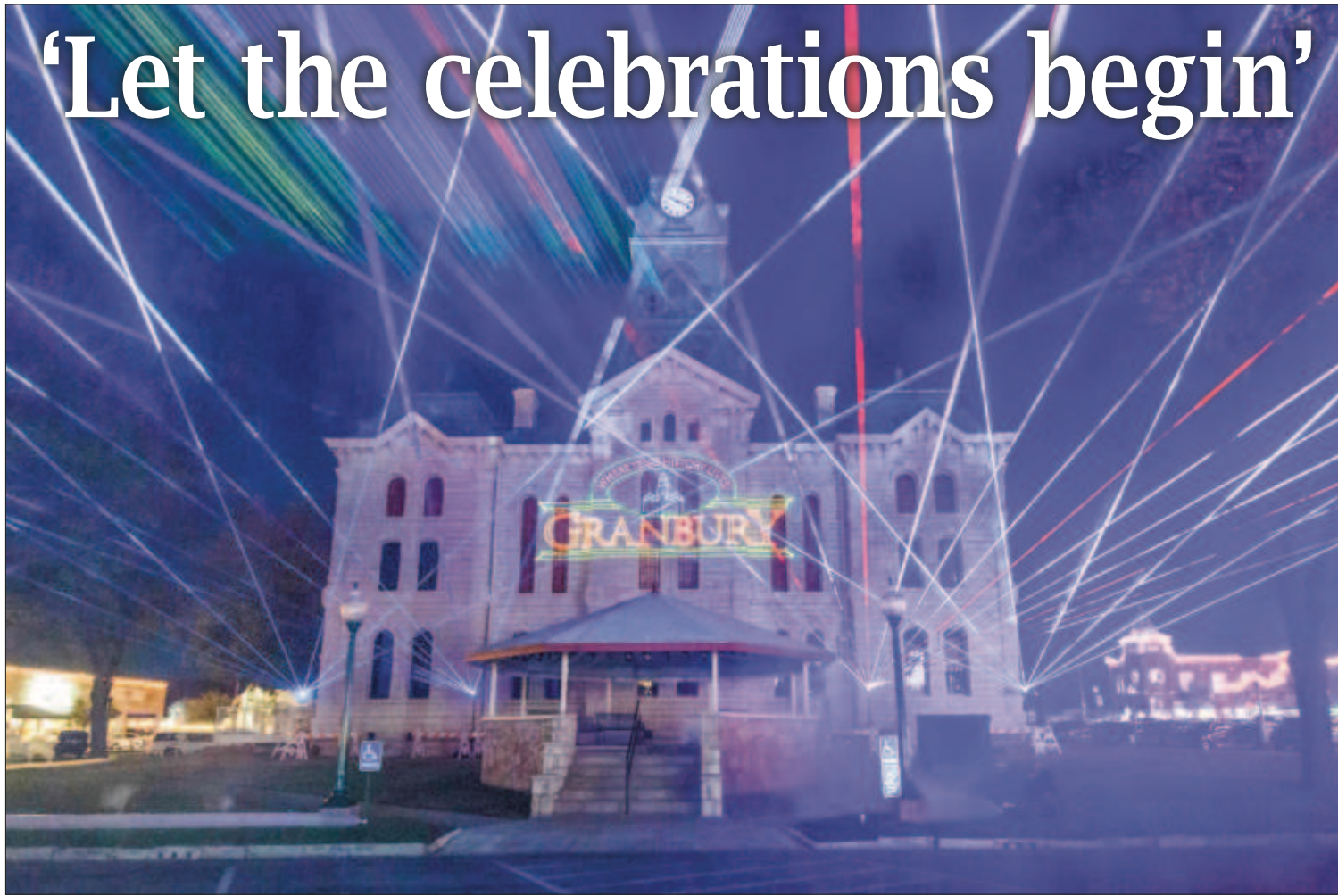
# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Made official by Gov. Greg Abbott on June 11, Granbury is now designated as the "Celebration Capital of Texas."

## Granbury named official Celebration Capital of Texas

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

From the "Best Historic Small Town in America," to a "Music Friendly Community," to a "Scenic City," Granbury has received several honors and designations — but this may be the biggest one yet.

Made official by Gov. Greg Abbott on June 11, Granbury is now designated as the "Celebration Capital of Texas."

"I think this is the biggest thing that Granbury's ever been recognized for," Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley told the HCN. "And I'm just ecstatic."

According to the Legislative Reference Library of Texas website, the Texas Legislature can assign "place designations" for any city or area in Texas if it reflects some sort of historical or cultural significance. The legislature may not assign the same designation to more than one event or location. A place

designation lasts for 10 years but can be renewed with a new resolution.

"In tourism, we're always looking for new opportunities to promote ourselves and propel tourism forward and I realized that Granbury has never had a capital place designation," Dooley said. "I frankly was really surprised because we have so many things that we could be the capital city of, so I started researching it and looking into what Granbury was going to be. It could have been historical, it could have been nature-related, it could have been art-related — there's so many things that it could be."

Dooley asked for recommendations from the Visit Granbury team and the Rise & Grind community about the perfect place designation for Granbury — and the results were astounding.

"We literally had hundreds of suggestions, and many of them were already taken, so we had to say, 'OK, who are we and who are we going to be over the next 10 years?'" she said. "We took the top 25 and we spent probably over an hour going over it and narrowing it down to three."

The top three choices were history, monarch butterflies, or festivals and events.

"All of a sudden 'celebration' started coming into the mix, and everyone just looked at each other and were like, 'That's it,'" Dooley said. "After all these months of trying to figure this out, it was like 'That's who we are.'"

"If you think about our city, there's history and all the events that take place and I think the idea around it was trying to make it very inclusive," said Steven Vale, city council member. "Celebrate" just seemed to encompass all the things that people were seeing, thinking, and feeling in the room. We just thought that it just kind of captured the essence of what we were trying to communicate about our city, and it really captured the overarching feel of "When you come to Granbury, what do you feel?"

Following the unanimous vote of "celebrate," the Granbury City Council adopted a resolution to request that the Texas House of Representatives designate Granbury as the "Celebration Capital of Texas."

The resolution was forward- PLEASE SEE **GRANBURY** | A6

## Donation funds body armor for county law enforcement

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

More than \$20,000 that was to be designated to pay for body armor for county law enforcement will come from a single donor rather than from the county.

Local philanthropist Dominique Inge has donated \$20,549.46 to fund 19 body armor vests and bulletproof plate carriers. Carriers are lighter bulletproof vests that are more comfortable than the full-body armor vests.

The donation was announced during a discussion of the protective vests and carriers at the June 27 regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court.

At that meeting, the court unanimously granted Sheriff Roger Deeds' request to complete a grant application for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant. Through the grant, the purchase of the protective gear is eligible for a 50% reimbursement.

Deeds said he first applied for the grant in 2021. He said that the vests last for five years and are used by his department as well as by constables and investigators with the district attorney's office.

In a related agenda item, the county judge and commissioners were to consider allocating money for 19 vests and 19 carriers using a worker's compensation reimbursement to partially fund the purchase with the rest coming from Fund 55, the general fund.

However, there was no need for that vote thanks to the donation from Inge, which covered the entire cost.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson made a motion to accept the donation and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

Before moving on with the agenda, County Judge Ron Massingill stated that there will be a special recognition of Inge at the next regular meeting of the Commissioners Court.

"She's a great person and a great citizen of Hood County," he stated.

Deeds later told the Hood County News that reimbursement from the grant will be "rolled over" and used for emergencies or additional staff.

kcruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886

## Charter jet venture shows sky's the limit for airport as 'economic driver'

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

If anyone doubts Granbury's growing level of sophistication or whether expansion of Granbury Regional Airport will truly boost the local economy like city officials have claimed, Chasing Ace Charters may be proof that both questions can be answered in the affirmative.

The new company, founded by five business partners who all live in the area, is on the ground and operational at the Granbury airport, with big plans for the near future and beyond.

The reason the partners chose Granbury as their base of operation is because of the airport's new 5,200-foot-long, 75-foot-wide runway that opened last November. The new runway makes it safe for business jets to take off and land.

The old runway, at just over 3,600 feet, was

the shortest among similar airports in the region and was unsafe for use by business jets. It is now being used as a taxiway.

As part of the expansion project, a new Fixed Base Operator, or airport terminal, is being built. It is expected to be completed later this year.

An FBO provides services that include fueling, tie-downs, parking, maintenance and flight instruction.

Chasing Ace Charters is currently leasing two, 6,000-square-foot hangars where

PLEASE SEE **CHARTER** | A5

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hayden Harbold, left, one of the founding partners of Chasing Ace Charters, is joined by Chasing Ace pilot Dana Lyon at the company's headquarters at Granbury Regional Airport.



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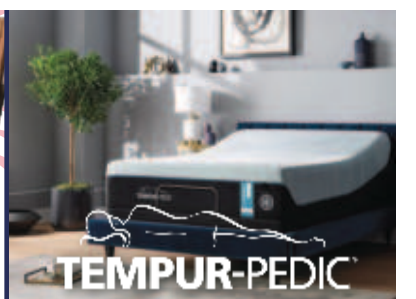
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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS



CHAMBER NEWS

## The membership event takes the country by a storm

BY HOLLY MARTIN  
Granbury Chamber of Commerce General Manager

When I moved back to Texas in 2001 to take over the helm of the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce near Corpus Christi, I had the opportunity to meet a chamber membership professional who also happened to do board retreats. Bringing him to our community opened many eyes about the role of the board and the value that membership brings to a chamber of commerce and community aka, the larger the chamber, the bigger the clout.

His name is Jimmy Cusano, and with an unmatched amount of personality, energy and swag, he pioneered with Lorraine and Macy Deitchman, the concept of a three-day membership event. It's all volunteer-driven, organized chaos to be exact, but what it brought was a 'can-do' attitude for the chambers and communities that signed on. Way more than a membership drive (old school and difficult to achieve success), Jimmy's membership events generated memberships, money, and momentum. When I took over a chamber in late 2003, Jimmy said that a great way to be the new kid on the block with building the chamber was through a membership event!

When the board agreed to give it a try, we were off and running. We found eight high profile membership event chairs, who in turn, recruited five high profile team captains...and the captains recruited five team members and each team agreed to work one, three-hour shift on either a Tuesday or Wednesday morning or afternoon. Imagine a room with 40-50 volunteers, all there for one purpose, to learn more about the chamber and to call people in their own network who aren't members of the organization and asking them to join...imagine this happening four times over two days with completely different people! What we learned was that people largely do not understand the value of chambers of commerce; so, Jimmy spends 45 minutes to an hour of the three-hour shift just educating the volunteers about the value of chamber membership.

The results of these membership events have become staggering all over the United States. The Tyler Chamber of Commerce has hosted eight membership events over the past 25 years, and in 2015, their volunteers recruited a staggering 914 new members in two and a half days. Two years later, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce recruited 273 new members and revenues in excess of \$500,000 in two and a half days...both events were one 100% volunteer driven!

So, when I joined the Granbury Chamber in 2021, I knew that bringing Jimmy in for a membership event would be a great way to educate our members and grow the organization. In April 2022, our first membership event was held at Revolver Brewing with almost 120 volunteers participating over two and a half days, and learning about the value of chamber membership, calling businesses and organizations and asking them to join, with a final tally of 269 new and upgraded memberships. Like Jimmy always says, "Never underestimate the power of Your Chamber of Commerce!"

## State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$3.9 Billion in June

From Staff Reports

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.92 billion in June, 6.8% more than in June 2022. The majority of June sales tax revenue is based on sales made in May and remitted to the agency in June.

Hood County saw an increase in sales tax revenue of 11.73% in June with net sales totaling \$576,636.53 compared with the same period last year when net total sales were \$516,097.66. Year to date net total sales tax revenue stands at \$3,532,815.87, a 17.69% increase from the same period last year, when the net total was \$3,001,580.35.

Granbury saw a slight decrease of -2.71% in net sales tax revenue in June with a total of \$998,718.14 as compared to the same period last year with a total of \$1,026,600.13. Year to date net total sales tax revenue so far stands at \$5,904,121.57, a slight increase of 0.83% from the same period last year when the net total was \$5,855,013.28.

Cresson also saw a decrease of -17.23% in net sales tax revenue in June. Net totals for June were \$83,590.38, down

from \$101,002.20 for the same period last year. Year to date totals showed a slight increase of 5.21% or \$579,946.43 from the previous year's totals of \$551,205.89.

Tolar saw a slight increase of 1.15% in net sales tax revenue in June. Net totals were \$17,549.62 compared with the same period last June when totals were \$17,349.97. Year to date totals so far stand at \$103,849.32, up 9.08% from the same period last year of \$95,199.19.

The city of Lipan saw the greatest increase of 114.97% or \$15,390.02 in June than from the same period last year when the total was \$7,159.02. Year to date totals so far stand at \$60,075.66, up 22.82% from the same period last year total of \$48,910.97.

"The overall rate of sales tax revenue growth was in line with the rate of growth over the last three months," Hegar said. "Growth in receipts from sectors principally driven by business spending continued to outpace that from consumer-oriented retail trade."

Hegar said receipts from the oil and gas mining sector showed the largest year-over-

year gain once again.

"Nonetheless, this increase represents a slowing of the rate of increase from that sector in recent months," Hegar said.

Manufacturing and construction sectors were also up from a year ago. Wholesale trade sector receipts were down only slightly from last year as a result of building materials prices coming down, Hegar said.

Higher consumer spending resulted in an increase in the services sector. More people spent money at concerts and other live performances, sporting events and theme parks.

"Restaurant receipts also increased, but at a rate about 1% less than the May inflation rate for food away from home," Hegar added. "Remittances from the retail trade sector just barely surpassed year-ago levels after dipping below the prior year last month, with large gains from online general merchandisers countered by declines from major store-based general merchandisers and department stores."

Not all numbers increased. "Remittances from furniture and home furnishings stores were down compared with year-ago levels for the fourth

consecutive month," Hegar said. "Receipts from the home improvement, clothing and accessory stores, electronics and appliance stores, and sporting goods and hobby stores sectors were also negative compared with June 2022."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in June 2023 was up 5.9% compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56% of all tax collections.

Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$597 million, up 2% from June 2022;
- motor fuel taxes — \$324 million, up less than 1% from June 2022;
- oil production tax — \$456 million, down 33% from June 2022;
- natural gas production tax — \$184 million, down 58% from June 2022;
- hotel occupancy tax — \$71 million, up 6% from June 2022; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$156 million, up 4% from June 2022.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



January 26: AmCap Home Loans of Granbury located at 301 W. Pearl Street. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of AmCap Home Loans of Granbury. AmCap Team



January 26: The Workplace is located at 301 W. Pearl Street. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of The Workplace. Workplace Team

COURTESY PHOTOS

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Big news! Granbury is officially the Celebration Capital of Texas!



**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.

**M**arketing impacts our everyday life more than we realize. Major companies spend literally tens of millions of dollars on ad and marketing campaigns to come up with phrases which capture the imagination of consumers. If they are successful, marketing slogans get caught in our brain and become an intrinsic part of our very fabric. It would be hard to find someone in America who upon hearing the phrase, "I'm lovin' it!" would not think of McDonald's. Does anyone see the swoosh symbol and the words "Just do it!" and not think of Nike? Getting the consumer to identify with a phrase is the "golden chalice" of marketing.

The big news is that Visit Granbury received notice this week, the Texas State legislature passed a bill making Granbury the official "Celebration Capital of

Texas"! When a town or city seeks a special designation from the legislature it is not uncommon for the process to take at least several years. Once Executive Director

Tammy Dooley of Visit Granbury set her cap to create such a moniker for Granbury, she pulled out all the stops and managed to accomplish her goal in less than six months!

Tammy gathered stakeholders and they worked together to come up with a slogan which would truly identify Granbury to the world. Many names were suggested but finally, by unanimous vote, the "Celebration Capital of Texas" was approved. Next came efforts by a group of local officials like City Manager Chris Coffman, Mayor Jim Jarrett, and Councilman Steven Vale. State Representative Shelby Slawson and Senator Bryan Birdwell navigated the bill through the House and the Senate, seeing it land on the Governors desk to be signed. This was an example of leadership and our representatives coming together to accomplish a very meaningful goal. Congrats to all involved and a well-deserved thank you!

Some might say, so what is the

big deal? It is simple, having such a designation provides Granbury with a brand which will be identifiable to the world at large. People not only in Texas, but throughout the land, will identify Granbury as a place to go to have fun and celebrate their lives. It provides the fuel which will cause our destination travelers to come to Granbury. There is no telling the amount of sales dollars this designation will generate, nor the long-lasting effect it will have on the Granbury economy.

Great job Tammy Dooley and Visit Granbury. Glad I am in Granbury because I feel like celebrating!

Mark Wilson Retirement  
It takes a lot of people to put out a quality community newspaper. I am blessed to work with some of the best people in the business at the Hood County News. As of this week, our Copy Editor Mark Wilson has decided to retire and move into the next chapter of his life.

Mark began his newspaper career at the Vernon Daily Record. In his distinguished career he also worked at the Abilene Reporter News, the Wichita Falls Times-Record News, the Stephenville Empire-Tribune, the Glen Rose Reporter, in addition to the Hood County News. In a 40-year career he has been a reporter, sportswriter, sports editor, senior copy editor, occasional photographer, and an all-around good journalist. He is "old school" and will be missed for his strong commitment to journalistic integrity and quality reporting. They do not make them like Mark anymore. Best of luck amigo and may your retirement be filled with joy!

Thought for the day: Retirement is wonderful. It is doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it!

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

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

## Folks around town



SAM HOUSTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Willie Lopez

### Say hello to our neighbor, Willie Lopez!

Willie Lopez was born and raised in Granbury and has worked at the Firehouse Cafe for nearly 15 years. He loves Hood County because of its warm and friendly people and is proud to call Granbury his hometown! If you are out and about stop by and see Willie. He is one of the good guys!

## Move to protect lake from failed septic systems hits barrier

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

A grant to connect as many as 40 homes in Port Ridglea East to the AMUD sewer system, a move that would help protect Lake Granbury, has hit a roadblock in the form of a construction bid.

The bid, from the only company that submitted a proposal, is well over the grant amount.

According to Acton Municipal Utility District General Manager Richard English, the Lake Granbury Watershed Protection Plan that was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2011 identified

the coves in Port Ridglea East as having elevated levels of e-coli likely caused by failing septic systems.

The grant-funded sewer hookups would have fixed that problem, but AMUD can't afford to fund the difference between the grant award and the construction bid.

English broke the news to the Hood County Commissioners Court at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 27.

The meeting agenda contained an item to discuss and take appropriate action to approve Enprotec, Hibbs & Todd's recommendation of a construction contract for the

project, pending bid results.

English told the court that the AMUD board had held a special meeting the day before "to try to put together a recommendation." He said that grant administrator Wesley Traylor of Traylor & Associates recommended that the court table the matter in hopes that he could work something out with the Texas Department of Agriculture, which funded the grant.

English stated that even by paring the number down to 31, which, according to AMUD's understanding was as low as they would be allowed to go, the cost was more than \$200,000 above

budget. Each individual connection would cost more than \$20,000 each, he said.

The AMUD representative further detailed that construction costs for 31 connections would be \$626,800, more than \$200,000 over the grant amount, and that connecting 40 homes would be "well in excess of \$800,000."

"The bottom line is, we simply can't afford the project at this particular level of cost," English said.

The court honored Traylor's recommendation and voted unanimously to table the vote.

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## County grants vouchers to defray cost of HOA clean-up efforts

**BY KATHY CRUZ**  
Senior Staff Writer

Hate trash and junk creating eyesores and maybe even health hazards in your neighborhood?

So does the Hood County Commissioners Court.

In an effort to help homeowner associations clean up and beautify their neighborhoods, the court of-

ten approves vouchers for the Hood County Citizens Collection Station.

The vouchers save HOAs money. The Citizens Collection Station, located at 244 Bray St., charges fees based on load size.

At the court's regular meeting on Tuesday, June 27, the court unanimously agreed to allow the Lake Granbury Harbor HOA to use

expired vouchers from last year, extending the expiration date to Sept. 30.

Environmental Health Director Jeannie Stacks stated that the HOA did not use all the vouchers they were given last year. Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews explained that Lake Granbury Harbor had two vouchers remaining from last year's clean-up efforts.

HOAs desiring vouchers to dispose of bulk waste can inquire with their county commissioner.

Information about the Hood County Citizens Collection Station can be found on the Environmental Health page of the county's website, www.co.hood.tx.us.

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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 Juneteenth Essay Contest winners. 11:00 a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377. For information, call 254-716-5195.

### TUESDAY/THURSDAY, JULY 11/13

**PEDALING FOR** Parkinson's hosted by the Hood County YMCA will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45 minute spin/cycling session. Program will last 12 weeks For more information call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

### 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

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

**SIGNATURE BEAUTY** Bar & Fashions 6th Anniversary Sparkle & Shine Soiree will be held at Diamond A Ranch, 9855 Lipan Hwy, Lipan, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To register, please call 817-219-9899.

### THURSDAY, JULY 27

**MARINE CORPS** League Detachment 1297 will hold its monthly meeting at the American Legion Hall located at 3409 Davis Rd. in Granbury. Chow is at 18:00, meeting at 19:00. Marines, FMF Navy Corpsman/Navy Chaplains Memberships available. Associate memberships also available. all hands welcome. Semper Fidelis. 682-498-3250

#### TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



# Rep. Slawson to visit Granbury

From staff reports

State Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Stephenville, is scheduled to be in

Granbury on Saturday to give a legislative update.

The public is invited to attend. According to Slawson's chief of staff,

Theresa Hotze, the event will take place from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. in council chambers on the second floor of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St.

#### How Do I...

## File a case in small claims court

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Your neighbor crossed your property line on his riding lawn mower, broke a sprinkler head, and refuses to pay to have it fixed.

Can you take him to court without having to spend money on an attorney?

Yes. A former friend is talking smack about you on social media. Can you sue her in small claims court to make her stop?

No. Small claims court does not handle cases involving defamation, libel or slander, nor does it settle matters involving real property (land). Also, judgments do not involve money awarded for pain and suffering.

Although small claims court has limitations, it is a way to settle many lower-level disputes, like the sprinkler head situation, a disagreement with a landlord, or problems with a car repair. Cases involve amounts of \$20,000 or less.

Parties are free to hire an attorney if they want, but rules and procedures are simple and straightforward enough for people to be able to represent themselves.

The court makes the Rules of Civil Procedure available at no cost. The ones that apply to small claims cases are Rules 500-507.

Justices of the peace preside over small claims courts. In Hood County, there are four JPs. They represent precincts just like commissioners on the commissioners court but small claims cases, with the exception of evictions, can

be filed with any JP office. Hood County JPs are Roger "Cotton" Howell of Precinct 1; Jeff Kelley of Precinct 2; Stephen Barnett of Precinct 3; and Dub Gillum of Precinct 4.

A justice of the peace won't issue an order to make someone do something or stop doing something. That means that they can't force a mechanic to redo work on your vehicle or make your neighbor stop riding their lawnmower by your property line.

Here is information to know about filing a small claims case:

#### Is there a statute of limitations with small claims?

Yes. In most cases, the time period is two years. In a breach of contract case, it is four years unless the contract states a different time period.

#### Is there a filing fee:

Yes, \$54.

#### What if I can't afford to pay?

The court must provide a Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs. You must swear to the information you provide on that form. Not being truthful can bring legal consequences.

#### How does the defendant know they have been sued?

Once a claim, also called a petition, is filed, the court issues a citation notifying the defendant that they have been sued. Serving notice to the defendant can be

done in person or by certified mail or registered mail. If done by mail, there must be a return receipt requested, with restricted delivery.

The plaintiff — the person who files the lawsuit — can hire a private process server to serve the paperwork or pay for a constable to deliver it. In Hood County, that fee is \$90.

Plaintiffs are not allowed to serve notice to the defendant themselves.

If the plaintiff wins the case, they are awarded the fees they had to pay in addition to whatever money they are entitled to recover.

#### What happens after I file and the defendant is notified?

Once the sued party has been notified, they have 14 days to file an answer, or a response. They are required to send you a copy. Once a response has been received, the court sets the case either for a trial or for a pre-trial hearing within 30-45 days. A pre-trial hearing is a way to address certain issues, such as the need for an interpreter or for the court to subpoena a witness. The filing fee for a subpoena is \$10 and the service fee is \$90 for each person subpoenaed.

#### What if the person I sue never responds?

If that happens, you can ask for a default judgment hearing.

#### How does discovery work with small claims cases?

Questions between the parties can be submitted to the court through a motion for discovery. The judge determines what questions are

reasonable and necessary. If either party disagrees, they can object and a hearing will be held.

#### Will a judge decide my case, or will a jury?

The judge will decide unless a jury is requested by either party. There is a jury fee of \$22. With JP courts, there are six jury members. A case that is decided by a judge is called a bench trial.

#### What happens at the trial?

Both parties are allowed to give opening and closing statements, present evidence, call witnesses, and question the other party's witnesses.

#### What if I lose?

You can appeal or file a motion for a new trial within 14 days of the judgement. You will need to show that justice wasn't done in the original case. There are fees involved in either process.

#### What if I win but the defendant doesn't pay?

It is your responsibility, not the court's, to pursue enforcement of the civil judgment. There are four tools that plaintiffs can use: post-judgment discovery, abstract of judgment, writ of execution, and writ of garnishment. The judge's office can explain the details and challenges involved in these pursuits.

If you decide to file a small claims case, relevant forms can be obtained in person at JP offices or downloaded from the JP pages at www.co.hood.tx.us.

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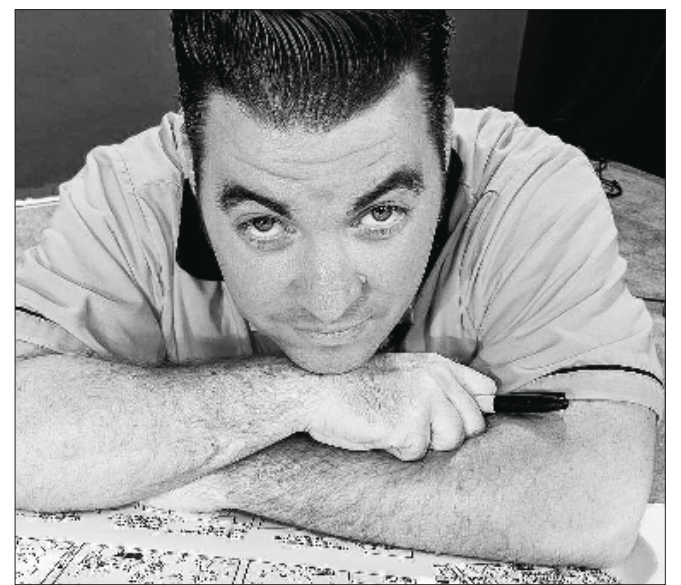
# Introducing ZED, by Duane M. Abel

This week we are pleased to introduce our readers to the family friendly comic strip series ZED, written and drawn by cartoonist Duane Abel (who resides in a small Ohio community).

ZED is a lovable piece of fabric softener and dryer lint that found his way into the hearts of a loving family. ZED (who is about to celebrate his 28th year of publication) appears in over 50 weekly newspapers nationwide and has been collected into several books by Corkey Comics Publishing. GARFIELD creator Jim Davis has called ZED "a comic strip with a ton of heart".

Cartoonist Duane Abel is a proud member of the National Cartoonists Society

and even prouder dad to two boys. His first children's book "BOWLERS: The Cereal Mascot" was just released last year and he is on the list of noted Ohio cartoonists from OSU's Billy Ireland Art Museum and Cartoon Library. Duane's first feature film as a screenwriter is the romantic comedy feature film "THE GREEN OAK GUARDIAN" which is now available on Amazon and Tubi and where he also appears as Hollywood super agent Cy Glasbery. Duane plans to draw the comic strip ZED for at least 85 years, making him 100 year old when that feat is achieved! Duane calls this his "Thrive to 85!"



Duane M. Abel

COURTESY PHOTO

### ZED by Duane M. Abel



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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Chasing Ace Charters currently offers a Beechcraft King Air 200, which can transport seven passengers, and a Cessna Citation V, which can accommodate eight passengers.

## CHARTER

FROM PAGE A1

two company aircraft are housed. The planes are being maintained by three mechanics who will soon start providing jet and turboprop maintenance services for other pilots and companies, according to Hayden Harbold, one of the business partners.

A Tarleton graduate and owner of Harbour Aviation flight school at Bourland Field Airport in Cresson, Harbold said that the partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the city to lease 15 acres on the airport property just north of the new FBO. The ownership team is working with engineers in preparation for building a 30,000-square-foot hangar. The charter company's headquarters will be based there along with the maintenance side of the business.

Harbold said it is likely



The Chasing Ace partners intend to expand their fleet and to offer maintenance services to other pilots and companies.

the company will have four planes by the end of the year.

Chasing Ace's charter certificate, issued through the Federal Aviation Administration, allows the company to carry as many as nine passengers at a time. The company currently owns a Beechcraft King Air 200, which accommodates seven passengers, and a Cessna Citation V, which can transport eight

passengers.

The business partners believe there is a growing number of people in Hood County and the surrounding area who can afford to charter flights and might prefer to do so rather than deal with the headaches and uncertainties of commercial airlines.

Harbold noted that since the new runway was commissioned, there have been a lot of charter companies

flying in and out of the Granbury airport.

"There are people with the resources who have been chartering and they've been driving to Fort Worth or the Metroplex," he said. "And we're right here on this side of the Metroplex, able to launch right outside of Granbury Airport and take them to wherever they want."

Harbold indicated that Chasing Ace Charters

takes things up a notch for Granbury.

"The timing was perfect for us with this new runway extension they did because the new runway opened in November of last year about the time we started trying to decide where we were going to base our operation," he stated. "Granbury was a no-brainer."

Brian Bondy, president and CEO of the Granbury

Chamber of Commerce, said that the chamber is "beyond excited" about Chasing Ace.

"The jobs are a huge plus, but so are the local sales taxes that will be derived from fuel sales and other services," he stated. "When you combine this operation at the airport with the newly opened In The Pattern Flight School and numerous hangar leases, the airport becomes a significant economic driver for the city. And it makes us attractive for other aviation businesses as well."

The company's website, chasingacecharters.com, features a calculator that provides instant custom quotes depending on the destination, the number of passengers, and the number of passengers.

To contact Chasing Ace Charters, call 1-833-824-2746.

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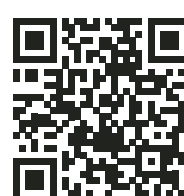
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# GRANBURY

FROM PAGE A1

ed to Rep. Shelby Slawson who authored the bill, then to Brian Birdwell who sponsored the bill, and finally, to Gov. Abbott.

Recognizing the wide array of special events and celebrations — both time-honored and new — that add greatly to the city's distinctive character and strong sense of community, Abbott signed the joint House/Senate resolution on June 11 during the 88th Texas Legislature designating Granbury as the official Celebration Capital of Texas.

"We've been the 'Celebration' capital for years, and we're going to be the 'Celebration' capital forever," Dooley said. "But to have it move that fast and have everybody so excited about it is amazing."

Soon, Visit Granbury will be rolling out new marketing campaigns and materials specifically announcing and promoting the designation.

"We will be celebrating all year," Dooley said. "The 'Celebration Capital of Texas' designation is not



Granbury's St. Paddy's Day Parade is a great opportunity for Hood County residents to wear green and celebrate Irish culture.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTOS

only an honor for the city, but an invaluable marketing tool to promote and tell our story. Celebrations are our brand. Visitors come to Granbury to celebrate every-

thing — festivals, history, patriotism, arts and culture, music, culinary, nature and recreations, lake activities, girlfriend weekends, family reunions, weddings, con-

ventions, car shows, and even monarch butterflies. We have become known as a place to head to for a celebration."

According to the Visit Granbury news release, Granbury hosts over 40 events annually with well over 75,000 attendees. Some of Granbury's showcase events include the

Fourth of July celebrations, Wine Walk, Harvest Moon Festival, Lone Star Street Rod Association, Hood County Stampede Rodeo, Spartan & Tough Mudder, Spooky Spectacle, LakeFest, Founder's Day, Bull Riding on the Beach, JazzFest, Goosebump Jump, and many others.

"I think (this designation)

encompasses all the things to do and all the activities and events that people coming into the city can partake in," Vale said. "If a couple or a family come in, and the kids want to go to the beach, the husband wants to go play golf, and the wife wants to go shop downtown or take in a show at the Opera House or Granbury Live, they can do that, but then the family can also do things together. We've got a drive-in theater, we have the city beach, there's lots of restaurants, and there's just a lot of activities to do around the city, so I think it becomes a great tool for Visit Granbury to use in marketing the city of Granbury for tourism."

Dooley added that Visit Granbury will also be working on the "Celebration Capital of Texas" logo.

"This is just something that we all get to celebrate in, so it's just fascinating," she added. "It's fabulous."

Approximately 90 cities and counties in Texas have the capital place designation, including Brownsville, the Chess Capital; Glen Rose, the Dinosaur Capital; and Parker County, the Peach Capital of Texas.

"Welcome to the Celebration Capital of Texas," Dooley stated in the news release. "Let the celebrations begin."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

Far left, Granbury hosts over 40 events annually with well over 75,000 attendees, including the winter showcase event, the Goosebump Jump.

Left, Earlier this year, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that the city of Granbury was designated as the 40th Music Friendly Texas Certified Community by the Texas Music Office (TMO).





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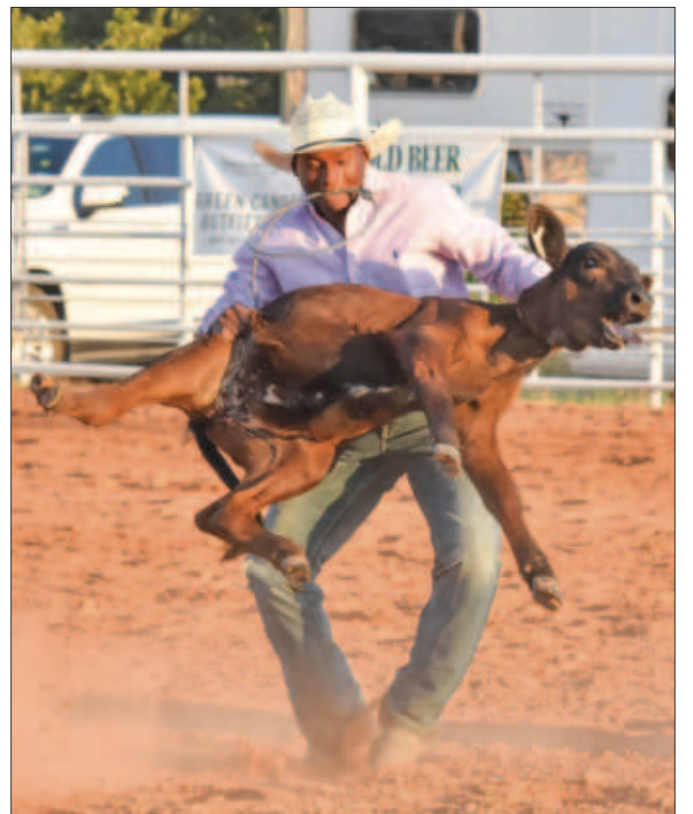
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# DIAMOND CROSS RODEO AT GRANBURY REUNION GROUNDS

Hall of Fame Rodeo Announcer Bob Tallman with Tolar's award Winning Rodeo Clown Chase Nolen teamed up for the 4th of July Rodeo festivities at the Reunion Grounds on July 3rd and 4th at Hood County Livestock Raisers Association Arena. Diamond Cross Rodeo Company events kicked off with everybody's favorite - Mutton Bustin'! Folks holding tickets for July 4th stayed and enjoyed the fireworks from what many consider to be one of the best vantage points in

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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8510  
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9031  
**Public Notices**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
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 Mambriano 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 Contry Creek Rd, Granbury, Hood County, Officer of said LLC is: **Frances Fayazi - Managing Member**

9031  
**Public Notices**

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**

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.

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.

9031  
**Public Notices**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://www.StorageTreasures.com). The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on July 25, 2023. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Jonathan Davis- totes, luggage

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of THOMAS RAY SCHNAUTZ, Deceased, were issued on June 16, 2023 in Docket No. PI0022, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Sondra Kay Schnautz

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Granbury, Hood County, Texas, but the post office address for notice is as follows:  
c/o AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.  
500 Round Rock Ave., Suite 2  
P.O. Box 249  
Round Rock, Texas 78680-0249

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 28th day of June, 2023. AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P. 500 Round Rock Ave., Suite 2 P.O. Box 249 Round Rock, Texas 78680 (512) 244-0001 FAX: (512) 244-9733 By: Wesley Prewitt State Bar No. 24007872 ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

Application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by Fuego Mexican Restaurant LLC dba Fuego Mexican Restaurant located at 1030 E US Hwy 377 #100, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Managing Member of said LLC is Alexis Montoya.

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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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**Public Notices**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that on December 21, 2022, letters of permanent administration were issued to DONNA TAYLOR WASSON BOONE by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled In the Estate of Donald Ray Taylor, under Cause No. P09845, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: January 10, 2023  
 c/o Donna Taylor Wasson Boone  
 Representative, Estate of Donald Ray Taylor  
 722 Duchess Drive  
 Allen, TX 75013  
 /S/ MarJoe D. Bamhart  
 State Bar No. 24045498  
 Email:  
 marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com  
 922 W. Pearl St.  
 Granbury, TX 76048  
 Attorney for Donna Taylor Wasson Boone

**Invitation to Bid**

The City of Granbury is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified vendors for a Service Contract on Chlorine Dioxide System & Purchase of Sodium Chlorite for the Granbury Water Treatment Plant. Sealed proposals must be received no later than 2:00pm Central Standard Time on Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, at the following address:

City of Granbury Municipal Service Center  
 Attn: Purchasing Department/Christy Russell  
 "RFP NO. 22-23-17 Service Contract on Chlorine Dioxide System & Purchase of Sodium Chlorite"  
 401 N. Park Street  
 Granbury, TX 76048

Any proposals received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

Specific information regarding this Bid shall be requested from Christy Russell, Purchasing Manager, at 817-570-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. The documents may be obtained from the City of Granbury website or by emailing the purchasing department at purchasing@granbury.org starting on Monday July 10, 2023 at 1:00pm.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Janice Avlene Pack, Deceased, were issued on 06-28-23, in Cause No. P10059, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Gaye Lynn Thomas. The residence of the Independent Executor is Granbury, Texas; the post office address is: c/o Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated on the 30th day of June 2023. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SHIRLEY NELLE NIX, Deceased, were issued on May 10, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0019, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: JEFFREY EUGENE NIX.

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 23rd day of June, 2023.  
 Steven G. Kuban  
 Attorney for Jeffrey Eugene Nix  
 State Bar No. : 24078807  
 107 E. Pearl St.  
 Granbury, Texas 76048  
 Telephone: (817) 573-8872  
 Facsimile: (817) 579-1651  
 E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

**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.

**PUBLIC SALES**

Granbury 76048

**Garage Sales 76048**

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 Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

TWO ESTATE SALES BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 4002 Pueblo Ct.- Appliances, tools, auto parts, furniture, collectibles. 6106 Fairway Ct.- Golf gear, modern furniture/decor, books, LPs, exercise equip, dolls, games, tools. Photos and hours at estatesales.net, search 'Perfect Pecan' and 'Interesting Indian Harbor'. 7/6-7/8.

Granbury 76049

**Garage Sales 76049**

HUGE SALE!!! Sat, July 8. 4507 Rhea Rd. 7:30am-4pm. Tools, dog kennels, MANY Christmas items, pre lit tree, treadmill, like new walkers, computer desk. Come see!

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 1649 Omaha Dr., Granbury, TX 76049- Selling Tempur-pedic bed, bedroom furniture, Ducati Motorcycle, freezer, kitchen gadgets, and more! Rain or Shine. Saturday July 08

Fri/Sat 7/7 & 7/8, 8am till ? 2925 Meandering Way. Huge 3 family sale! Boys 20in bike, Exercise bike & Treadmill, Christmas decorataions, Clothes-infant to adult.

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 long Thursday evening at the Fort Worth Con  
 Hood County News

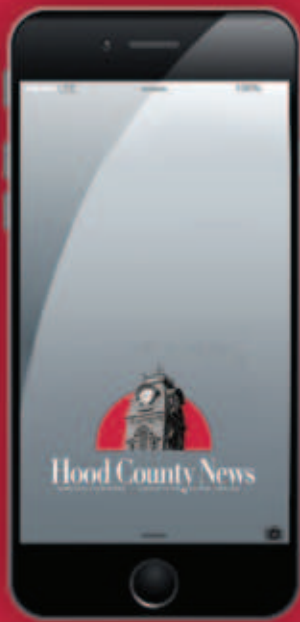


ar, it must have been difficult Monday  
 students to wait for the final ball. Mary

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

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February 28: Concho Hearts Hospice-Granbury/Pecan Plantation/Glen Rose located at 309 W Pearl Street. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of Concho Hearts Hospice in Granbury/Pecan Plantation/Glen Rose. Concho Hearts Hospice Team



January 7: Stonewater Church located at 911 E Hwy 377. Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of the New Building & Renovation for Stonewater Church. Stonewater Church Team

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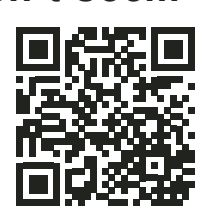
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# “Hometown Celebration” is a booming success



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury held its 49<sup>th</sup> annual Fourth of July celebration this past weekend on the Historic Granbury Square, with the parade being one of the major highlights of the festivities. Colorful floats, marching bands, and community organizations all came together on July 4 to showcase some patriotic spirit and love for the country.

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosted the 49th Annual Fourth of July “Hometown Celebration” July 1 through July 4 at the Historic Granbury Square.

The four-day event was filled with multiple activities including an hour and fifteen-minute parade, numerous vendors and a firework display over Lake Granbury.

“Visitors are surprised at how a small town can put on a big population. For our size, to be able to quadruple our population in four days, and everyone have a great time,

it’s just the place to be on the Fourth of July,” Director, Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau Tammy Dooley said.

There was a total of 106 entries into the parade and an estimate of over 50,000 people in attendance over the four days. With such a high turnout vendors expressed their success in sales, and many have indicated on making a return for next year. “Our parade crowds were

significantly larger this year and equal to or better than pre-Covid attendances,” President & CEO of Granbury Chamber Brian Bondy said.

With such a big event, Dooley says patrons don’t realize the amount of planning that goes into this event to make it a success.

“The Chamber works on this event year-round. We start working with the Chamber on the plans as far as getting ready for visitors

at least six months out... We have over hundreds of people come into the visitor center and stay in hotels. It’s definitely the largest event we do all year.”

Dooley urged everyone to listen to episode six of the Uniquely Granbury podcast hosted by Drew Meyers. The podcast focuses on the rich history of Granbury and the people that live here. Episode six captures firsthand stories behind the many years of this

event. Meyers described the event as legendary.

With next year being the 50th anniversary of the “Hometown Celebration” attendees can expect an even bigger and better celebration.



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# OBITUARIES

## Lindon Morris Stewart

October 30, 1932 - June 27, 2023

It is with profound sadness that his family announces the passing of Lindon Morris Stewart who ended this life's journey on June 27, 2023, in his beloved Hood County, TX. He was born October 30, 1932, to Robert Gayle and Ruby Mae Stewart in Acton, TX. His great-grandparents owned one of the earliest ranches in Hood County, having settled in Acton in 1854. He attended high school in Godley, TX and is a 1961 graduate of Texas Christian University, a degree he obtained while working at General Dynamics as an inspector in the military aircraft division in Fort Worth. After graduating, Lindon worked for a few years at the Internal Revenue Service in Fort Worth. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War and was based in Alaska. He was a member of American Legion Post 491.

Lindon married the love of his life, Monna Lou and together they operated the Stewart Ranch. They also went on to form Fort Worth Real Estate and bought and sold properties throughout north Texas. Lindon and Monna loved traveling but the real joy in their lives was their family.

Lindon's passing was preceded by his wife, Monna, his parents and his brother, Robert Sidney Stewart. He is survived by his sister, Betty (Jerry) Leake, of Granbury, TX,



son Mack Stewart of Granbury, daughters Kathryn (Jerry) Michalak of Granbury, Debra (Rich Wessler) Stewart of Granbury, granddaughters Misty (Tim) Bradley of Frisco, TX, Courtney (Jason) Lythjohan of Fairview, TX, grandson Cameron Michalak of Granbury, granddaughter Kailey (Lee) Williams of Wichita, KS, grandson Lt. Jake (Cassandra) Bullock of Fort Campbell, KY, four great-granddaughters, three great-grandsons, many nieces and nephews, extended family members and a host of wonderful friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 8 at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury with burial at Acton Cemetery followed by a Celebration of Lindon's Life at Fall Creek Ranch (the Langdon's Ranch).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Friends for Animals in Acton or the Acton Nature Center.

## Charles Douglas Ward

September 22, 1941 - June 29, 2023

Charles Douglas Ward, 81, of Granbury passed away on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Doug was born on September 22, 1941, in Rosebud, Texas to John and Lavena Ward.

Doug graduated from Marlin High School in 1960 and later from the University of Texas at Austin from the McCombs Business School as a member of the first honors program. He and Pam Hackel were married on June 23, 1962, and spent 61 years raising a family and spending time together.

Doug had a strong work ethic and began working at a very early age. After college, Doug's career began as a CPA at Southwestern Life Insurance Company. He worked there for over 27 years and rose to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. As a second career, Doug was a financial consultant and had the privilege of working with several companies in many cities in the United States. He and Pam greatly enjoyed living in London and traveling Europe while he was working for Lloyd's of London.

After retiring, Doug and Pam enjoyed community activities in Pecan Plantation located near Granbury, Texas. Doug later was elected to the Board of Directors of the community and served as president from 2016-2017. During his retirement,



Doug and Pam enjoyed traveling in their RV throughout the United States for many years.

Doug is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Norman Ward and his wife Dorothy.

Doug is survived by his wife Pam, his daughter Laura Clifton and her husband Michael, his daughter Angela Ingarfield and her husband Todd. Doug enjoyed spending time with his granddaughter Lauren Davis and her husband Will, his grandsons Garrett Clifton, Will Ingarfield and Kyle Ingarfield, and great-grandson J.R. Davis. He is also survived by his brother Orval Ward and wife Carolyn, brother Dean Ward and wife Vincy, numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Doug was a kind and loving husband, brother, father and Poppy and will be forever in our hearts.

A graveside service was held at Hillcrest Cemetery in Marlin, Texas on July 1, 2023.

## Kennie Ray Clark

November 19, 1955 - June 22, 2023

Kennie Ray Clark, Jr., 67, passed away June 22, 2023, at his home near Weatherford, Texas after a lengthy illness. His memorial will be held July 8, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, 913 North Elm St., Weatherford, Texas.

Kennie was born on November 19, 1955, to Kennie Ray Clark, Sr., and Ruthie May Ledbetter Clark. He attended Weatherford public schools and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1974. He attended Sul Ross University and was a member of the rodeo team as a bull rider. He trained for and received his private pilot's license so that he could fly an antique 1947 Bellanca taildragger airplane, which he also owned. Kennie was a registered Professional Land Surveyor and owned his own company, Clark Land Surveying in Acton, just outside of Granbury, Texas. After selling his surveying company, Kennie attended Tarleton State University where he graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems. After graduating from Tarleton, Kennie's excellent academic record and professional expertise landed him a consulting position with an oil and gas firm, where he worked until retirement. Then, on December 10, 2010, he married



Shirley Anita Hall and they lived and worked together on their small ranch just outside Weatherford until his death.

Kennie was a disciplined thinker and writer of poetry, who loved music, photography, gardening, tending pecan trees, and raising cattle and dogs with his wife, Shirley. He will be sorely missed.

Kennie was preceded in death by his parents, Kennie Ray Clark, Sr., and Ruthie May Ledbetter Clark. He is survived by his wife Shirley Anita Clark, his sister Leddie Kay Martin and husband Monty, an uncle and aunt, Sandy and Pam Ledbetter, nieces and nephews: Lisa Kay Scott and husband Shane, Michelle Deanne Scott and husband Philip, Lisa Karol Forsyth, and husband Stephen, and several great nieces and nephews along with a host of close friends and acquaintances.

PLEASE SEE OBIT | A14

### SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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

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

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### ACROSS

- 1 TX golfer Nelson book: "\_\_\_ Played the Game"
- 5 longtime U.S. representative Teague
- 6 TX-born Robin Wright's husband actor, Sean
- 7 TXism: "too lazy \_\_\_ sweat flies"
- 8 Congress voted to admit Texas as a state in this mo.
- 9 TXism: "give me some \_\_\_ room"
- 14 TXism: "a sight for \_\_\_ eyes"
- 15 he coached for the Longhorns, Oilers, & Cowboys (2 wds.)
- 19 what TX "Spanky" wrote on the flying red horse atop Dallas' Magnolia Bldg. (2 wds.)
- 21 a legal right
- 22 Brady hosted the "\_\_\_ the Cactus Shoot"
- 27 TXism: "mobile mouse \_\_\_" (cat)
- 28 country ballad: "\_\_\_ on My Mind"
- 29 a dazed state
- 30 takes gas with a hose
- 32 \_\_\_con (now free)
- 33 TXism: "about as clear as Red \_\_\_" (confusing)
- 36 TXism: "fast as \_\_\_ up a rafter"
- 37 this Lupino was in 1972 film "Junior Bonner" with TX Joe Don Baker
- 38 polite TX refusal to a woman (2 wds.)
- 39 popular attractions at Six Flags? (2 wds.)
- 41 "Friendship" (2 wds.)
- 44 TXism: "scared the dickens out \_\_\_"
- 45 TX Perot's starting naval rank (abbr.)

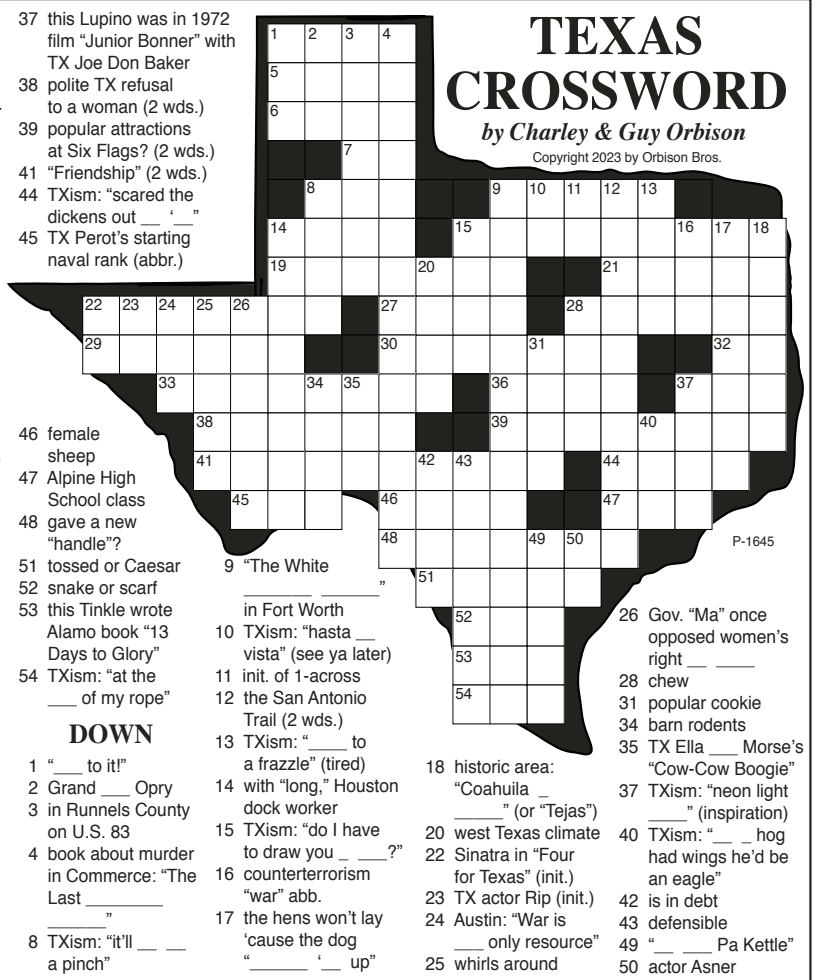
### DOWN

- 1 "\_\_\_ to it!"
- 2 Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- 3 in Runnels County on U.S. 83
- 4 book about murder in Commerce: "The Last \_\_\_"
- 8 TXism: "it'll \_\_\_ a pinch"
- 9 "The White \_\_\_" in Fort Worth
- 10 TXism: "hasta \_\_\_ vista" (see ya later)
- 11 init. of 1-across
- 12 the San Antonio Trail (2 wds.)
- 13 TXism: "\_\_\_ to a frazzle" (tired)
- 14 with "long," Houston dock worker
- 15 TXism: "do I have to draw you \_\_\_?"
- 16 counterterrorism "war" abb.
- 17 the hens won't lay 'cause the dog "\_\_\_ up"
- 18 historic area: "Coahuila \_\_\_" (or "Tejas")
- 20 west Texas climate
- 22 Sinatra in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- 23 TX actor Rip (init.)
- 24 Austin: "War is \_\_\_ only resource"
- 25 whirls around
- 26 Gov. "Ma" once opposed women's right \_\_\_
- 28 chew
- 31 popular cookie
- 34 barn rodents
- 35 TX Ella \_\_\_ Morse's "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- 37 TXism: "neon light \_\_\_" (inspiration)
- 40 TXism: "\_\_\_ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
- 42 is in debt
- 43 defensible
- 49 "\_\_\_ Pa Kettle"
- 50 actor Asner

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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## Retirees: Talk finances with your grown children

**TY ANDREW**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser

When you're retired, you'll likely have some financial concerns — just like all retirees. However, if you've invested regularly and followed a long-term financial strategy, you should be able to address most issues that come your way. But there's one important action that's sometimes overlooked by retirees: sharing their financial situation with their grown children. And this knowledge can benefit everyone in your family.

You might be surprised by the concern your children have for your financial well-being. Consider these



findings from a 2023 study by Age Wave and Edward Jones:  
● 66% of millennials (generally defined as ranging from 27 to 42) worry that their parents or in-laws may not have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.

● 83% of millennials would rather know their parents are financially secure in their retirement, even if it means their parents pass on less money to them.

If you have children in this age range or older, or who soon will be, how can you address their concerns and po-

tentially improve your financial outlook? Communication is the key. By openly communicating with your family about your financial status, you can reduce anxieties and misperceptions. In fact, 72% of today's retirees have downsized or are willing to downsize to reduce their housing costs, according to the Age Wave/Edward Jones survey. Downsizing isn't for everyone, but if it's a possibility for you, it may be worth considering because the savings could be significant.

You may also be able to reduce or consolidate your debts. Start by understanding how much and what kinds of debt you have. Then, consider

ways to lower your payments, such as refinancing. For example, if you're carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, you might be able to transfer the amounts you owe onto a single card with a more favorable interest rate.

Here's another move to consider: Adjust your investment mix to possibly provide you with more income in retirement. During your working years, you may have invested primarily for growth — after all, you could be retired for two or more decades, so you'll need to draw on as many financial assets as possible. But once you're retired, your investment focus may need to shift

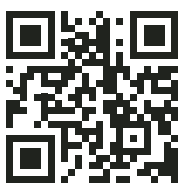
somewhat toward income-producing opportunities. Keep in mind, though, that you'll still need some growth potential to help keep ahead of inflation.

One final suggestion: Let your children know if you already have a strategy in place to meet the potentially high costs of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. This burden is certainly something you won't want your children to take on.

By informing your children about your financial picture, and how you're trying to improve it, you can ease everyone's minds — so keep the lines of communication open.

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## KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

# Facts about closing costs for sellers

**BY PAM KNIEPER**

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

**W**hether you are buying or selling real estate, closing costs are unavoidable and need to be considered up front, otherwise you could have a nasty surprise at the closing table.

Title Companies charge an Escrow Fee, in today's market that fee can be anywhere from \$500.00 to more than \$1,000, and it is typically split 50/50 between the

Buyer and the Seller. Title Insurance is always advised. In our area it is typically paid for by the Seller, but that is not mandatory. It is in an insurance policy

that guarantees buyers are getting clear, fee simple title to the property without fear of an old tax lien, pool company, or roofing contractor showing up after the purchase. The cost of a title insurance policy is based on the Sales Price and in Texas that rate is set by the Texas Department of Insurance. So it's not a fee that can be shopped or negotiated. What can be negotiated is who pays for it.

Survey Costs are another important item to be considered. Surveys for a single lot with a home start around \$650.00, but be aware that as the lot size increases so will

the cost, so if you are selling your home on 5 acres or more with a home and barns and crossfencing, etc., the price will be substantially higher. Who pays for the survey is also a negotiable item, but if you have a Survey from when you purchased the property and nothing has changed, it is not unusual for the buyers to be willing to accept that survey and save the cost of a new one.

Pro-Rated Taxes, while not an actual closing cost, will be collected at closing, like it or not. This is because taxes are paid in arrears, so if you sell your home in July of this year, you will owe property

taxes from January 1 of 2023 thru the date of closing. That amount will be deducted from the sellers proceeds and credited to the buyer so that at the end of the year, when the tax bill comes due, it will be the new owners' responsibility to pay in full.

Lesser fees such as legal fees for the preparation of the Warranty Deed \$200 - \$300, Recording Fees \$25-\$50, Tax Certificates \$30-\$50 etc., will inch the total costs up, and of course, don't forget REALTOR® Fees if you have hired an agent to help you.

As a rule of thumb, approximately 1 to 1.5 % of the

sales prices is usually a safe estimate for what are considered typical seller closing costs in our area. However, this does not include the Pro-Rated Taxes I mentioned earlier, because that can vary drastically depending on your closing date, nor does it include REALTOR® Fees.

In my next article I will address Buyer's Closing Costs, so stay tuned. As always your questions and comments are welcome. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com).

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

## Git along, little doggies

*RBCC to hold wild west-themed benefit Thursday, Aug. 3*

*From Staff Reports*

Yee-haw! Put on your best pair of boots and grab your 10-gallon hat; Rancho Brazos Community Centers welcomes guests to its Wild, Wild, West Shindig on Thursday, August 3. Festivities will be held from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Oasis Tranquilo, 950 Williamson Rd, in Granbury. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite western attire.

The event will feature live music, raffles, Chicken Poop Bingo, Cornhole and Horseshoe tournaments, a bale toss, as well as a whiskey/moonshine pull sponsored by Sledge Distillery. A catered meal from Natty Flat Smokehouse Bar-B-Que will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Single tickets are available for \$65 and tables for eight are \$650. For those interested in sponsorship opportunities, there are multiple tiers to choose from. To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorships, please email Jamie Franco at [wildwestrancho1@gmail.com](mailto:wildwestrancho1@gmail.com) or call at 817-219-8058.

## Important steps in renewing Medicaid for older adults, people with disabilities

*Submitted item*

Older adults and people with disabilities who are on Medicaid (and their authorized representatives) should be on the lookout for important notices from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) about their Medicaid renewal.

Renewal packets are being sent out in phases. Renewal notices are being mailed in a yellow envelope with "Action Required" printed in red. People who opted to go paperless will receive a notice through their Your Texas Benefits account at [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://yourtexasbenefits.com).

If you received a renewal packet, it's important that you fill out and return the

packet to HHSC so you don't lose coverage or have a gap in coverage. Contact HHSC as soon as possible to report any changes, such as contact information or household changes, and make sure your address is updated to continue receiving all official HHSC notices.

If you need support completing or submitting your renewal notice, call 2-1-1 or visit a local HHSC office or community partner. To find one, visit [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://yourtexasbenefits.com) and click on Find an Office, or call 2-1-1 and choose option 2 after picking a language.

If you didn't receive a renewal packet, you can still check your renewal status by logging into [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://yourtexasbenefits.com) or calling 2-1-1

and choosing option 2.

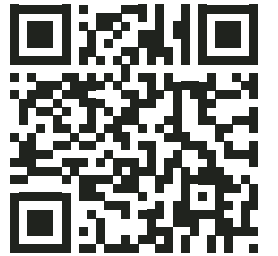
Once you turn in your renewal packet, HHSC will review your application and may ask for missing information. People who remain eligible will receive a notice from HHSC stating your Medicaid benefits are renewed. If you're no longer eligible, HHSC will determine if there are other HHSC health care programs available to you.

Watch out for potential scams. HHSC will never charge you or ask for money to help you apply for Medicaid. Confirm you're talking to an HHSC representative before discussing financial information.

The best way to stay updated on benefits, including Medicaid, is to create an

account on [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://yourtexasbenefits.com). You can view your account information, update your contact information, submit a renewal and respond to requests from HHSC through the portal. You can also sign up for text and email alerts and reminders to stay informed about your renewal.

Learn more on the HHSC End of Continuous Medicaid Coverage webpage at [ti.yuril.com/3y9364uc](http://ti.yuril.com/3y9364uc).



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## QPR: ASK A QUESTION, SAVE A LIFE



COURTESY PHOTO

### Rancho Brazos hosts suicide prevention seminar

Known as a silent epidemic, suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals ages 10 to 34 in the U.S. Statistics show that one in 10 children who take their lives in North Texas is under the age of 13 and children as young as six years old in Texas have committed suicide.

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

The Hood County community was rocked to the core earlier this year when news spread about three Hood County students who suddenly took their own lives — an immense tragedy that left residents heartbroken with nowhere to turn.

To serve as an anchor for the community during this heartbreaking time, Rancho Brazos Community Centers hosted its first ever free suicide prevention seminar on June 27.

“We lost three youth very tragically and very suddenly

recently, and we are here to talk about ways to prevent it, and ways to roll that out into our community for prevention education,” said Sharla Caro, executive director of RBCC during the event.

David Umanzor, program manager at the Jordan

Elizabeth Harris Foundation in Fort Worth, served as speaker for the seminar.

“There’s this proverb that says it takes an entire village to raise a child — but we really believe it takes an entire community to save one,” Umanzor said, as he began the seminar.

He explained that the Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation is named after Jordan Harris, a 22-year-old scholarship recipient and valedictorian of her high school class, who suffered heavily from depression.

“She really was the last person anybody thought would be struggling with

mental health,” Umanzor explained. “But in her senior year of college, she was diagnosed with severe depression, and only four months after that she took her life. Her parents Tom and Ellen Harris started the foundation in her name with the mission to prevent suicide, eliminate stigma, and provide hope to those struggling with depression — and we truly envision a world without suicide or depression.”

#### STATISTICS

Known as a silent epidemic, suicide is the second leading cause of death for

individuals ages 10 to 34 in the U.S.

Umanzor said that statistics show that one in 10 children who take their lives in North Texas is under the age of 13 and that children as young as six years old in Texas have committed suicide.

“We’re seeing the need (for this type of education) and we’ve got to do something about it,” he said.

Umanzor explained that statistically, while women attempt suicide nearly twice as often as men, men successfully commit suicide four times more than women — and that’s because

men typically choose more violent and lethal methods to try to end their life.

“Fifty-three percent of all suicides are by firearm in the United States,” Umanzor said. “In Texas, it’s 58%. Here in our area, it’s 66%.

We’re not saying that people who own a firearm are more likely to think about suicide, but what we are saying is that somebody who is considering suicide who also has easy access to a firearm is more likely to use that firearm.”

He suggested that if a gun owner is exhibiting signs of suicidal behavior to remove

PLEASE SEE RBCC | B2

## Premier’s top student cutting a special path in life

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the  
Hood County News

Overcoming challenges is something Lucas Sad-do-Valle excels in, whether it’s learning a new language or finding a way to compete in barrel racing.

Eight years ago, Lucas came to this country from Brazil not knowing a word of English.

“My dad taught me how to say ‘bathroom’ and ‘no speak English,’” Lucas said with a chuckle.

It wasn’t long, however, before the youngster picked up the language, in about three months he said. Now, he speaks it fluently and, as proven by his recent graduation as valedictorian of Premier High School, he’s flourishing.

“I honestly don’t know how I learned it so fast,” he

said. “Understanding was easier. Speaking was harder.

“Now I only speak English. I can speak Portugese, but it’s hard.”

Barrel racing, on the other hand, has been more of a challenge. First, in America it is considered primarily a women’s sport, whereas in Brazil it’s a sport for males and females. Therefore, rodeo rules in the U.S. prevent him from competing in that setting.

So, he competes in events that are exclusive to barrel racing and include men and women, such as the National Barrel Horse Association.

“I loved being in rodeos in Brazil, but there’s nothing I can do about that here, so I compete where I can,” he said.

And he competes well, including traveling to other states. In Mississippi recently he placed 11th out of a

field of competitors across the U.S. He was also fifth recently in a field of around 500 in Amarillo. In addition, he has some victories to his credit.

“Glen Rose has some really big races, and so do The Stockyards,” he said.

Through his determination and success, Lucas has impressed pretty much everyone he’s come in contact with, including Premier Superintendent Marsha Grissom.

“Lucas is destined for a meaningful life. His loyalty to his family, personality, intellect, and work ethic will continue to serve as his cornerstones for success,” Grissom said. “He has been a pleasure to work with at Premier. We anticipate he will continue to rise to every challenge and excel.”

Lucas was not only valedictorian

PLEASE SEE STUDENT | B3



COURTESY PHOTO BY TRACI DAVENPORT

Pictured is Lucas Sad-do-Valle.

## Operation School Supplies requests donations as community need increases

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Since 2001, Operation School Supplies (OSS) has been providing Hood County families in need with free school supplies.

But with the recent inflation, more families are struggling to make ends meet this year — presenting a huge challenge for the nonprofit organization.

“We received a record number of applications for school supplies this year,”

said Micky Shearon, president of OSS. “We had 1,800 applications last year and we were over 2,200 this year, so for a one-year jump, that’s significant for us.”

#### OPERATION SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Every year, Hood County families apply for OSS, and in order to qualify, families are typically already enrolled in some type of state or federal aid like the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), or Medicaid.

The application process for OSS opened at the beginning of May and closed on June 25, leaving families with almost two months to sign up.

“Once the applications have closed, we take all of those applications, download it into our database, and we filter it out by grade

level to figure out how many school supplies we need,” Shearon said.

#### DONATIONS

With 400 more families needing assistance this year, donations for Operation School Supplies are needed now than ever before.

“We need to really ramp up contributions this year,” Shearon said. “Where we stand right now — based on past years’ experience, and what it historically costs — we probably don’t even have

half of what we’re going to need this year.”

Shearon said out of Operation School Supplies’ 22-year existence, the organization has never held any type of fundraising event.

“We know there is only so much money in the community to go around and there are so many other different organizations in town that need that support,” he explained. “We try to keep our overhead low, so every penny we get goes into school supplies, but this year has

just been really slow, and I think part of that might be an indication of the economy. But bringing it to people’s attention and raising awareness will help.”

Distribution day for the school supplies this year is set from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Granbury High School, 2000 W. Pearl St.

#### RESOURCE FAIR

During distribution, a

PLEASE SEE SUPPLIES | B2

# RBCC

FROM PAGE B1

the firearm from the house or by separating pieces of the firearm and locking them in different areas of the house.

“What we find is that about 50% of people, for the time they start considering suicide seriously, to the time they attempt, it’s 10 minutes or less,” he said. “For the 60% to 70% it’s 15 minutes or less, so if we can put that time and distance between that person and those lethal means we could save lives.”

Umanzor also pointed out that almost three times as many people have died by suicide than in drunk driving accidents within the last few years.

“Out of all 50 states, Texas is number 36 in suicide rates,” he said, adding that states in rural areas — like Alaska, Montana, and Wyoming — rank higher on the list due to a lack of available mental health resources.

But can you even stop someone from committing suicide? Isn’t it inevitable once a person makes up their mind?

## MYTHS

“What we see is that actually suicide is one of the most preventable forms of death and almost any positive action can help save a life from suicide,” Umanzor said.

He then brought up the story of Kevin Hines, a 19-year-old who was living in the San Francisco area in California.

Hines had been diagnosed with bipolar disease, was estranged from his father, and had just broken up with his girlfriend.

Determined to end his life, Hines told himself he was going to jump off the Golden Gate Bridge.

However, the entire drive over, Hines was crying and visibly upset. He told himself, “If someone will stop and talk to me, I won’t do it.”

But no one did.

Once Hines got off the bus, he walked to the bridge and started pacing back and forth, and again, he tells himself, “If someone will stop and smile at me, I won’t do it.”

But again, no one did — and Hines eventually jumped.

“Kevin did not want to die,” Umanzor said. “Really, Kevin was looking for any opportunity to live. In fact, something that we learn from people who have attempted suicide, but survived a suicide attempt, is



David Umanzor, program manager at the Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation in Fort Worth, served as speaker during the Rancho Brazos Community Center’s first ever suicide prevention seminar on June 27.

ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

oftentimes they have this feeling of ambivalence that they equally want to die and live at the same time. Sometimes something as simple as a smile or taking the time to listen to somebody can tip that in the balance of life.”

Umanzor said as soon as Hines jumped, he immediately regretted his decision. Luckily, Hines survived the suicide attempt and is one of 27 survivors who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge.

Other common suicide misconceptions like “asking someone about suicide will put the idea into someone’s head” or that “people considering suicide will keep their plans to themselves” are both myths, Umanzor said.

“What we find is that most people considering suicide communicate within about a week,” he explained. “We know that seven out of 10 kids will tell friends they’re thinking about suicide, but that friend will rarely, if ever, tell an adult. The thing we need to know is that sometimes it’s hard to tell, but people do communicate in some way or other.”

## WARNING SIGNS

According to Umanzor, people who are contemplating suicide will indirectly give off warning signs — signs that we hear, see, and know.

“The more clues and signs you observe, the greater the risk, so we want to make sure we take these very seriously,” he said.

Many people will give off direct verbal cues, like saying “I wish I were dead,” or “I’m going to end it all.” Umanzor said that some

*“What we find is that most people considering suicide communicate within about a week. We know that seven out of 10 kids will tell friends they’re thinking about suicide, but that friend will rarely, if ever, tell an adult. The thing we need to know is that sometimes it’s hard to tell, but people do communicate in some way or other.”*

## DAVID UMANZOR

Program manager at the Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation

may say these things in a joking manner, but it’s important that we bring light to the concern.

“What I want us to do is really take it seriously enough to at least ask,” he said. “We’re not accusing them of anything. We’re literally trying to find out, and if it turns out they’re just laughing about it, that gives us an opportunity to say, ‘Okay, well, I want you to know that anytime I hear you say this, I’m going to take this seriously because I care about you.’”

Umanzor said sometimes people are less direct, and will make statements like, “I’m tired of life. I just can’t go on,” or “My family will be better off without me.”

“The second one’s really important to remember because what we’ve learned from people who have attempted suicide, but survived their attempt, is that oftentimes they feel this heavy sense of burden, and they feel like it would be a relief to others if they weren’t here,” he explained. “I’ve heard people say, ‘Oh, suicide is so selfish. Why

would anybody do that?’ But in reality, they think they’re doing a service to their loved ones.”

Other behavioral clues like isolation, irritability, reckless behavior, or giving away prized possessions are also suicidal warning signs.

Situational clues are major events that have happened to a person that could eventually lead to a person thinking about suicide. Common situational events include the loss of a job, the loss of any major relationship, or a death of a loved one — especially if they have lost someone to suicide.

## QPR - QUESTION

If you see a loved one or a coworker exhibiting any suicidal warning signs, it’s important that you take action immediately.

Umanzor recommends the method of QPR: Question, Persuade, and Refer.

Like CPR, QPR is an emergency intervention tool that can help save a life from suicide.

“QPR is not intended to be a form of counseling or treatment, but what we are offering is hope through positive action,” Umanzor said.

The first step in QPR is Question, asking someone directly if they are thinking about suicide. According to Umanzor, you can choose to take a direct or indirect approach.

## DIRECT APPROACH EXAMPLES

“Some people who are as upset as you think about suicide. I’m wondering if you’ve been feeling that way too?”

“I wonder if you’ve been thinking about suicide?”

“Are you thinking about killing yourself?”

Umanzor said that the direct approach is the most recommended, as it’s been the most effective in getting a response.

“The whole idea is we want to become comfortable asking this question, because this question could literally save someone’s life,” he said.

## INDIRECT APPROACH EXAMPLES

“Have you been unhappy lately? ... Why have you been so unhappy? ... Have you been thinking about ending your life?”

Umanzor explained that this approach layers the question and asks the person about suicide directly.

“Oftentimes, I get the question that ‘Is it okay if I were to ask, are you thinking about hurting yourself?’ I think that would be an excellent first question, but it wouldn’t be a great second

question,” he said. “We want to ask specifically about suicide, because here’s the thing for someone considering suicide: suicide to them is not hurting themselves; it’s bettering themselves. They don’t think the same way like we’re thinking. They’re getting rid of their pain, so what we want to do is ask specifically about suicide.”

## QPR - PERSUADE

The next step in QPR is to Persuade, as in “persuading someone to stay alive by persuading them to get help,” according to Umanzor.

He recommends that we allow the person to talk freely and listen without judgement, making sure to give them our full attention.

“The idea is, we don’t want to just listen to them; we want them to feel heard,” Umanzor said. “And as we’re doing that, we’re also saying things like, ‘I want you to live. This is serious. I’m worried about you. That makes me concerned,’ and then offering hope by saying things like ‘I’m on your side. We’ll get through this together. I’ve got your back.’”

## QPR - REFER

Step number three in QPR stands for Refer, where you go with your loved one to make sure that they can get the help that they need.

## RESOURCES

Help is available at several different organizations and resources, like the Loss Team of Tarrant County, Fort Behavioral Health, and many others.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline numbers are 1-800-273-8255 and 988.

Individuals can also use the Crisis Text Line by texting “HELLO” to 741741.

A local resource to contact is the Pecan Valley Centers, the mental health authority for all of Hood County, that can be reached at 800-772-5987.

Rancho Brazos is also hosting a Teen Support group every Wednesday from 3-5:30 p.m. due to the increase of local teen suicides.

“The last thing to remember is that almost all efforts to persuade someone to live instead of attempting suicide will be met with agreement and relief, so don’t hesitate to get involved,” Umanzor added.

For more information about suicide prevention or resources, visit [jordanharrisfoundation.org](http://jordanharrisfoundation.org) online.

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# SUPPLIES

FROM PAGE B1

resource fair will also be set up for families to learn about other nonprofit organizations like Mission Granbury, Hood County Children’s Charity, and Christmas for Children.

“We take up the entire

cafeteria area of Granbury High School, and we have all of the different service organizations that offer any kind of program, and any kind of service visit with kids and their families,” Shearon said. “It’s kind of like a one-stop shop for resources. They’ve got all of these different groups and organizations to help and

serve them.”

Ruth’s Place will have a booth set up for parents to make a sports physical appointment for their children, while other services like immunizations and haircuts may also be provided — depending on volunteers.

“Sometimes we have a hard time finding hairstyl-

ists,” Shearon said. “We weren’t able to do haircuts last year because we didn’t have any hairstylists that were available, but I really want to be able to offer that this year. So, if you’re a hairstylist, we’re open from nine to five if you want to come and donate a few hours of your time.”

Shearon added that bi-

lingual volunteers who can help with interpretation are also a huge need during distribution day.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Operation School Supplies, visit the PayPal link at [osssdonate.org](http://osssdonate.org) online or send a check payable to: Operation School Supplies, P.O. Box 2403, Granbury, TX 76048.

“We could really use your help to be able to provide school supplies to all of our kids,” Shearon added. “Thank you in advance for your support.”

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## MONDAY - THURSDAY DAILY SPECIALS!

<b>Mon.</b>  <b>BONELESS &amp; BONE-IN WINGS</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">.79</span> <small>Plus Tax.</small>	<b>Tue.</b>  <b>CHICKEN TENDERS</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">.89</span> <small>Plus Tax.</small>	<b>Wed.</b>  <b>JUMBO SHRIMP</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">.79</span> <small>Plus Tax.</small>	<b>Thur.</b>  <b>BONELESS WINGS</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">.69</span> <small>Plus Tax.</small>
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HOOD OUTDOORS

# Catch and Release or Catch and Grease?



**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.

**A**s an active angler, I am concerned about preserving our fisheries. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have set up limits to maintain the fishery and allow for anglers to keep their share. Catch and release can cause excessive fish loss especially in the really hot summer.

Catch and Release is generally effective for Striped or Hybrid Striped bass when the water temperatures are 70 degrees F or lower. You still must take precautions as I will discuss herein to ensure the fish has the best chance of survival. This goes for all species that are caught and released.

You do not want to knowingly release a fish that is obviously going to die due to deep hooking or a gill/bleeding injury where death appears imminent. You should keep this fish to eat if that is possible.

You may actually preserve the striper/hybrid fishery better in the summer if you stop fishing for that species after you catch your limit. A large percentage of the released striped bass/hybrids even if they swim away may still die. Stress-related mortality increases greatly

for striped or hybrid striped bass when water temperatures are at 80 degrees F or higher. Those folks that catch and release numerous stripers or hybrids on a summer outing may be killing more fish than the angler that stops fishing once his limit is reached. The Striped or Hybrid Striped bass limit in Texas waters is five fish per person with an 18 inch limit except at Lake Texoma where you can keep 10 per person but with only two over 20 inches.

If you catch an undersized fish, you are required by law to release it. There are times when you don't have a choice but to release the fish. If you do have to practice catch and release in the summer or for that matter any time of the year, you can improve the fish's odds of survival with some simple rules.

First of all, do not play out



COURTESY PHOTO

Catch and release can cause excessive fish loss especially in the really hot summer.

the fish until it is completely exhausted. Bring the fish in quick to minimize stress. You may have to use heavier tackle to accomplish this. The use of circle hooks or barbless hooks can help as they have been proven to gut-hook less than standard J hooks. Do not use stainless steel hooks that will not deteriorate in the fish's body. The use of artificial baits

may kill less fish as these baits are less likely to gut-hook a fish. Replacing treble hooks with single hooks may also help to reduce injury to the fish.

If you can keep the fish in the water while you remove the hook, this is preferred. Netting or handling the fish may remove some of its protective slime coat making it susceptible to infection. If

you do land the fish, return it to the water as soon as possible.

The water temperatures on most area lakes are well into the upper 80s now and won't be decreasing for quite a while. A little conscious effort by all when on the water will help all our fisheries. We look forward to seeing you on the water.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Granbury water temperatures are in the middle to upper 80s. A thermocline is present on many areas of the lake around 15 to 20 feet down. Striped bass fishing continues to be good to excellent on live/cut bait early and late on the lower ends. Crappie fishing is also good on minnows and jigs fished suspended on structure around the thermocline. Largemouth bass numbers are good with an occasional bigger fish to 7lbs. Top water and spinner baits early and Texas rigged soft plastics later by shaded docks. Blue catfish continue to be good on cut bait fished near channel breaks. Sandbass are fair to good on slabs/spinners near Decordova in 10 to 15 feet of water (looks for fish schooling).

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney continues to produce limits of striped bass on live bait from Cedron Creek to Cedar Creek in 25 to 30 feet of water. Crappie anglers at Benbrook are catching limits on minnows and jigs on submerged structure. Possum Kingdom striped bass continues to be excellent on live bait and downrigging jigs with curly tail trailers.

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**STUDENT**

FROM PAGE B1

ditorian, he graduated at the top of Premier's largest graduating class ever, 95 students.

**RETURNING TO AMERICA**

Though he was born in Philadelphia after his parents met in Chicago and got married, Lucas was only a year old when they moved back to Brazil, where he was raised. They returned to the U.S. in 2015, landing in Burleson.

"We were the only ones in the entire school who were from somewhere else outside of America," he said. "We communicated through Google Translate, which is not always that correct."

Lucas' parents, himself and his siblings, brother Rafael, 23; sister MJ, 17; and sister Gilui, 14 and born in Brazil, came back to America following an economic crash. In returning, they sold most of their belongings, including eight horses Lucas and MJ loved.

"My mom had always wanted to move back (to America)," Lucas said. "We decided to move to Texas because it is a rodeo state."

Their first home on return-

ing to America was in a barn that included a small apartment - emphasis on the word small, Lucas said.

"We each had one piece of luggage with all of our clothes in it when we left Brazil," he said. "The apartment was one room with one bed with a kitchen and bathroom across the barn."

"Right next to us was a horse stall. If there was a huge sound it was probably the horse - at least we hoped it was."

His father worked as a waiter while he looked for work as an engineer - which he is now - and his mom babysat.

They moved to Katy for three and a half years and then back to Burleson when the COVID-19 Pandemic hit. It was also then that Lucas decided he wanted to return to barrel racing.

In fact, it was the return to barrel racing that led the family to move to Granbury two years ago prior to his junior year of high school. The family has four horses now, including his favorite, Fate, on which he regularly competes.

When Fate was injured in the summer of 2021, Lucas would drive over three or

PLEASE SEE **STUDENT** | B5



COURTESY PHOTO BY TRACI DAVENPORT

Pictured is Lucas Sad-do-Valle.

**No matter how many times you read this sentence, you can still make sense of it.**

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**SUDOKU**

Solution for the puzzle on July 1 (Puzzle 37).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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# Passing down knowledge through art

BY EDEN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

**L**ake Granbury Art Association (LGAA) held its annual Art Camp at the Shanley House Gallery and Studio where children busily worked on painting or drawing projects while mostly senior volunteers carefully instructed them.

LGAA members expressed gratitude that parents bring their children to camp. This allows the artists to share knowledge gained over many decades. Most of the teachers were not able to have the level of art instruction when young that is provided at the Shanley. Some of the teachers, such as Linda Christiansen, had very little exposure to art until college.

Christiansen did not recognize many of the materials used when she began college. Now Christiansen is an accomplished artist and a teacher with decades of experience, she has been directing Art Camp for the past six years.

"The thing I have noticed is that art seems to be taking second place in the schools as well as in importance in our culture. If we don't keep the arts

alive, they will be lost," Christiansen said. "Some would say that children can learn drawing skills online. And while that is true, there is much that they miss out on with online instruction. When they are here (at the Shanley) we offer them feedback which is invaluable."

The artists of LGAA have put on Art Camp for decades. But through the years, the free time of children has changed substantially. When Art Camp began years ago children spent more time riding bikes, reading and drawing. There wasn't a handheld computer in almost every child's hand and social media vying for their attention decades ago. Some schools even stopped offering art during these same years making it harder for some students to have exposure to art instruction.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY EDEN GILBREATH

Art teacher Kathy Zoders demonstrates a technique to children at the recently held Art Camp.

Producing art and even viewing art offers stronger brain connections that

are helpful in all subjects. According to the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, "There is increasing evidence in rehabilitation medicine and the field of neuroscience that art enhances brain function by impacting brain wave patterns, emotions, and the nervous system. Art can also raise serotonin levels."

Their findings also point to increased decision-making skills and better concentration.

Art Camp provides these brain "connection" benefits as well as the opportunity to connect generations over a shared interest. Human connections boost brain connections as well, a benefit for every-age person. The artists agree that teaching keeps their skills sharp.

For some, the relationships at Art Camp build from year to year. Teachers recall teaching some students for multiple years and students recall certain skills they learned in previous years and from whom they learned them.

It takes a team of experienced artists who all volunteer their time to make this camp a reality. The artist volunteers personally work in all different media and styles, but they share a passion for passing on what they know and keep-

Lincoln Tibljas is shown practicing his drawing skills.



ing art central to the lives of children.

Kathy Yoders taught drawing again this year where students were instructed on how to draw the animal or human in simple shapes first to understand the structure.

"I visited Granbury many times before I moved here. I knew about LGAA and was

excited to be involved with an art community. I was the young one then and the artists embraced me, instructed me and led me on my art journey," Yoders said. "Now, I am one of the old ones, and we're still helping young artists find their way. Sharing our art passion is extremely fulfilling."




DR. JEFF BUSKE | DR. KELBY OKADA | DR. ROBERT GRAMMER



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Students gain real-world experience with hands-on Tarleton sports internships

BY PHIL RIDDLE

TSU Marketing and Communications

Tarleton State University's jump into the NCAA Division I athletic arena made a splash. Suddenly games in most of the Texans' sports were available on ESPN. And that created the need for skilled technicians for the broadcasts — a need being filled by Tarleton students in a multitiered internship.

Nate Bural, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Communications, and Dr. Christopher Gearhart, Department of Communication Studies head, developed the internship — which in turn birthed a new area of study in the communication department.

The program blossomed in the summer of 2020, when college games were canceled due to COVID-19. The three envisioned significant benefits.

"We had had these conversations before, but when everything slowed down it really gave us an opportunity to think it through and talk about the logistics," Bural said.

From those conversations came the Tarleton Sports Internship Program, which gives students hands-on production experience broadcasting Division I sports.

"Because there were no sports that fall, there were a lot of classroom sessions," Bural said. "We basically did biweekly workshops focusing on camera basics, equipment basics and going through the production process."

"That was pivotal for us. It was slow enough for us to get one group started, but that group was able to teach

new kids, and so on."

The interns learn to produce events, run cameras, create graphics and perform numerous other aspects of broadcast production. All four tracks — production, creative, sports information and athletics marketing areas of focus — have three levels.

"What makes this unique is that interns have the opportunity to learn so much every semester, since every semester brings new sports," Bural said. "That's why we divided the internship into levels and why we want the kids involved as early as possible. The idea was to come in as a freshman and sophomore, get comfortable with the sports in level one, then allow them to take ownership of the program as they grow and learn."

"By the time they're seniors, we want them to essentially run everything. When they graduate and start looking for a job, they're already adept at what they're doing."

The department is using some of the interns' experiences to create curriculum for the new sports communication degree. "They're going to start game-day production classes to take what we're learning from ESPN



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Students like senior marketing major Haleigh Solano enhance the game-day experience with "fan cams."

and turn it into an area of study so the kids know this is what's expected."

Part of Dr. Gearhart's role on the academic side is attracting students to the internship. The sports communication major is an extension of the existing journalism program but with more emphasis on broadcast.

"I am really proud of this program," he said, "and happy for the students, the experiences they're getting and the job opportunities that are coming once they graduate."

Dr. Thomas Tallach, head of Tarleton's Department of Sport Science, is another faculty supporter of the program.

"What Nate has been able to do is really special," he

said. "Not only do students get an immersive experience, but it's also cleverly structured to facilitate student-to-student collaboration and a progressive increase in the scope of responsibilities for everyone."

The internship, only three years old, has already seen its share of success stories.

Adam Goodman, one of the first two interns, found his niche as a camera operator. He taught successive interns the ins and outs of camera work and never, in four years, missed a game.

He graduated last year and immediately signed on as a studio technician with the Fort Worth-based Cowboy Channel.

"It was a great experience," he said of the internship.

"It taught me to do a lot of things you don't ordinarily learn in the classroom. It gives you real world experience in how to problem solve on the move."

Brian Martin, Class of 2021, learned to run graphics, direct, and operate a camera. He works now as a camera operator for Tourbeau Sports — a job he traces to his participation in the internship program.

"I've worked a lot of soccer, softball, baseball. Any sport you can think of, I've worked on it," he said. "It's fun. Lots of travel. I've gone to a baseball tournament in Oklahoma, then to Kansas, Florida and California for soccer tournaments."

Brian's career goal is to be a film director and producer.

He sees work in live sports production as a great way to quickly learn camera techniques. "Sports is happening now, where working on films gives you the opportunity to take your time. It's kind of like running before you walk."

As the internship evolves, more students likely will be drawn to it. Bural tries to keep between 20 and 30 interns on the four tracks.

"We don't want to overburden them," he said. "We also want them to get as much experience as possible. I have 40 applications on my desk. The internship has exploded, and we're looking to expand it."

"It's not just an experience. They're getting an education."

## Tarleton track and field to host five summer camps

### TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State University Track and Field is set to host five camps in Stephenville this summer.

The Texans will host all five camps at Oscar H. Frazier Memorial Track, beginning with a high jump

clinic on July 12.

The camps are for ages 12 and up, with a high jump clinic, long/triple jump clinic, distance camp, pole vault clinic and a speed camp. The speed camp is the last of the five and will run from July 20-21.

Details for the five camps can be found below:

### HIGH JUMP CLINIC

Date: July 12  
Ages: 12 and up  
Time: 5 p.m. through 8 p.m.  
Cost: \$75

### LONG/TRIPLE JUMP CLINIC

Date: July 13  
Ages: 12 and up

Time: 5 p.m. through 8 p.m.  
Cost: \$75

### DISTANCE CAMP

Dates: July 13-14  
Ages: 12 and up  
Time: 8 a.m. through 12 p.m. daily  
Cost: \$50

### POLE VAULT CLINIC

Date: July 14  
Ages: 12 and up  
Time: 5 p.m. through 8 p.m.  
Cost: \$75

### SPEED CAMP

Dates: July 20-21  
Ages: 12 and up

Time: 8 a.m. through 12 p.m.  
Cost: \$50

For full information regarding any of the five camps, and to register, visit [www.tarletontrackcamps.com](http://www.tarletontrackcamps.com).

## South Dakota transfer Kynlee Marquez to join Tarleton softball squad

### TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — For the second straight offseason, Tarleton signed a transfer from the University of South Dakota, as the Texans announced the addition of Kynlee Marquez on June 24.

Marquez will be a utility player/pitcher for the Texans. She spent a pair of seasons and 79 innings in the circle for South Dakota from 2022-23.

In her two-year career as a Coyote, she notched six wins and one shutout in nine starts. As a freshman she held a 0.99 earned-run average through her first 28 innings. The two-

way threat hit .333 in her freshman season for South Dakota.

The Oxford, Nebraska, native, follows in the footsteps of Grace Garcia, who also transferred to the Texans from South Dakota. Garcia burst on the scene in Stephenville with a perfect game and led Tarleton pitchers in wins this past season, at 13-9.

In Marquez's prep career, she was a two-time all-state honoree, hitting just under .600 with 47 home runs. The two-way phenom also accumulated 49 victories in the circle and a 2.37 ERA. A three-sport athlete (golf, basketball), Marquez



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Kynlee Marquez will be a utility player/pitcher for the Texans.

was also a member of the National Honor Society and was tabbed to the Academic All-State team.

Marquez intends to major in biology at Tarleton.

## Interim dean of College of Science and Mathematics named, pending approval

### Tarleton State University

Dr. Phil Sudman has been named Interim Dean of Tarleton State University's College of Science and Mathematics, effective Aug. 1, pending approval by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

A national search begins this summer.

Currently Associate Dean of the college, Dr. Sudman joined the Tarleton faculty in 1996, advancing to head of the Department of Biological Sciences 19 years later and serving as Executive Director of Tarleton's Fort Worth campus in 2016-2020. He is outgoing Director of the university's Timberlake Biological Field Station in Goldthwaite.

"Dr. Sudman's exceptional record of scholarship, teaching and research makes him the ideal choice to lead our science and mathematics



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

**Pending approval, Dr. Phil Sudman has been named Interim Dean of Tarleton State University's College of Science and Mathematics, effective Aug. 1.**

programs," said Dr. Diane Stearns, Tarleton Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. "I am pleased that we have someone of his caliber to serve in

this capacity and appreciate his willingness to do so."

Dr. Sudman earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Central College and Fort Hays State University, respectively, and his PhD in zoology from Texas A&M University. He did post-doctoral work at Louisiana State University and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"I'm extremely grateful to be given the opportunity to serve in this new role and to work alongside so many talented and student-focused faculty each day," he said. "Together we will continue to promote quality teaching, grow research and scholarship activities, and establish strong partnerships within and outside Tarleton."

For more information on Tarleton's College of Science and Mathematics, visit [www.tarleton.edu/COSM](http://www.tarleton.edu/COSM) online.

# SPORTS Roundup

## Pirates head football coach Zschesche stepping down Five area athletes honored by Texas High School Coaches Association as Super Elite

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Chad Zschesche is resigning as the head football coach of the Granbury Pirates, citing a pursuit of other career opportunities, Granbury Athletic Dwight Butler announced via a Facebook post.

In the post, Butler commented that “Zschesche has shown great commitment to the Granbury Pirates as head football coach and men’s athletic coordinator since 2016.” Zschesche compiled a record of 26-44, including 4-6 in 2022, a season that saw the team begin 4-0 for one of the best starts in the history of the program.

Zschesche’s best season was 2019. The Pirates went 6-5 and advanced to the postseason for the first time since 2013.

His 2021 team featured perhaps the most explosive offense in the history of Pirate football. They averaged 47.3 points and scored more than 70 points three times en route to a 5-5 record.

“We thank Coach Zschesche for all he has done for Pirate Football and the countless lives he has impacted in his time in our community. We wish him and his family all the best,” Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn was quoted as stating.

In a statement sent to the Hood County News by Zschesche he wrote:

“Pirate Nation, thank you for a great seven years at Granbury High School. I was blessed to be entrusted with awesome young men who made a lasting impact on me and my family. Thank you to the GISD adminis-

tration, coaches, players, parents, and community for making Pirate Nation such a special place. You have treated me and my family in such a positive manner and we are grateful for that.

“I look forward to seeing the future successes of Pirate Athletics. However, I have made the decision to pursue other opportunities. I am very appreciative of how GISD handled my decision and I look forward to watching Pirate Athletics have continued success. We serve an awesome God and I’m excited to see what he has in store for me. Best of luck to all of Pirate Nation moving forward.”

Pending board approval, Sonny Galindo will serve as interim head football coach and men’s athletic coordinator for the 2023-24 school year. Galindo, who brings over 25 years of coaching experience, has served as assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator for the Pirates since 2016.

### SUPER ELITE ACCOLADES

Five area athletes have been added to the Texas High School Coaches Association list of Super Elite honors in their respective sports.

Granbury high jumper Kassy Kirkpatrick was honored on the Girls 5A Track Super Elite Team. She wrapped up her high

school career by winning a silver medal at state with a runner-up jump of 5 feet, 6.5 inches, matching her career best.

Her performance is believed to be the best ever at state by a Granbury athlete. She will compete for Tarleton State University next season.

Four members of the Class 2A state champion Lipan Indians and Lady Indians have been named to the THSCA Class 2A Super Elite Basketball Teams.

Honored from the Lady Indians were juniors Taylor Branson and Hanna Gaylor. Named from the Indians were seniors Tate Branson and Garrett Smith.

The Lady Indians won the third state championship in team history (also in 2016 and 2021), finishing with a record of 35-3. The Indians claimed their fifth state title (also in 1994, 2005, 2017, 2018) and had a 38-1 mark.

Smith was named the boys state championship game MVP and Tate Branson joined him on the all-tournament. Lott was named the MVP of the girls championship game, while she and Taylor Branson were named all-tournament.

To be named to the Super Elite list, an athlete must be a varsity member in good moral character, be in good standing with the team at the time of the nomination and have excelled as an athlete in their respective sport.

### SEALS

The Granbury SEALS hosted Ridglea Pool Association in a dual meet at the Hood County YMCA.

Firecracker Shootout at Hood County YMCA, June

29 SEALS gold, silver and bronze medal winners Distances in yards

### Females

#### 8-Under

25 free: 1. Aubrey Snow, 24.69; 2. Eliana Sanchez, 25.00; 3. Rory Stephan, 25.36.  
25 breast: 1. Stephan, 34.22; 2. Sanchez, 36.92.  
25 fly: 1. Sanchez, 34.58.  
25 back: 1. Stephan, 27.39; 2. Snow, 29.47; 3. Sanchez, 29.56.

#### 9-10

50 free: 1. Leah Citzler, 41.22; 3. Madeline Baysinger, 52.00.  
50 breast: 1. Citzler, 47.70; 2. Lizzy Stevens, 58.50.  
50 fly: 1. Citzler, 54.33; 2. Baysinger, 1:17.71; 3. Ellie Uribe, 1:45.23.  
50 back: 1. Baysinger, 49.73; 3. Citzler, 1:18.87.

#### 11-12

50 free: 3. Kaia Boulware, 32.91.  
50 fly: 3. Boulware, 41.05.  
50 back: 3. Anabel Ross, 43.69.

#### 13-14

50 free: 1. Hannah Ward, 29.98; 2. Carmen Citzler, 30.23; Bailey Stone, 31.82.  
50 breast: 1. Ward, 40.38; 2. Citzler, 41.21; 3. Abigail Beatty, 43.62.  
50 fly: 1. Ward, 31.69; 2. Citzler, 34.81; 3. Beatty, 34.96.  
50 back: 1. Citzler, 35.99; 2. Beatty, 40.77; 3. Miley Maxwell, 41.43.

#### 15-Over

50 free: 1. Mylie Erez, 28.57; 2. Bethany Crowe, 28.75; 3. Avery Young, 29.63.

50 breast: 1. Crowe, 36.72; 2. Bailey McDermott, 41.45.

50 fly: 1. Crowe, 32.38; 2. Young, 33.00; 3. Erez, 35.99.  
50 back: 1. Crowe, 31.72; 2. Erez, 32.33.

### Males

#### 8-Under

25 free: 3. Elijah O’Brien, 21.83.  
25 fly: 2. O’Brien, 28.42; 3. Tripp Lanzara, 43.62.  
25 back: 1. O’Brien, 28.10.

#### 9-10

50 free: 1. Mason Prince, 39.95; 2. John Stone, 41.25.  
50 breast: 1. Prince, 52.19; 2. Stone, 53.11.  
50 fly: 1. Prince, 40.15; 2. Stone, 49.00.  
50 back: 1. Prince, 45.74; 2. Stone, 46.60; 3. Zane Frasier, 53.13.

#### 11-12

50 free: 1. Kyle Brawner, 30.02; 2. Aiden Gifford, 31.59; 3. Jake Jones, 31.96.  
50 breast: 1. Jude Ward, 40.94; 2. Brawner, 41.04; 3. Jones, 43.50.  
50 fly: 1. Brawner, 34.74; 2. Ward, 36.33; 3. Jones, 38.54.  
50 back: 1. Brawner, 36.69; 2. Gifford, 37.86; 3. Ward, 37.87.

#### 13-14

50 free: 1. Logan Crowe, 28.45; 3. Reese Wood, 55.84.  
50 breast: 1. Crowe, 37.11; 3. Wood, 1:12.29.  
50 fly: 1. Crowe, 34.05; 3. Wood, 1:22.07.  
50 back: 1. Crowe, 33.47.

#### 15-Over

50 free: 1. Heath Crowe, 26.65; 2. Cameron Ward, 26.79; 3. Ryan McFarland, 26.88.

50 breast: 1. Tyler McDermott, 33.72; 2. Crowe, 36.37; 3. McFarland, 38.75.

50 fly: 1. Crowe, 30.00; 2. Ward, 30.06; 3. Colby Parker, 33.08.  
50 back: 1. McFarland, 30.80; 2. Ward, 36.05; 3. Crowe, 36.08.

### SUMMER GOLF

Several young golfers are enjoying success this summer competing in tournaments.

At a North Texas PGA Junior Tournament at Squaw Creek in Willow Park, Court Gaylor of Lipan shot a 71 to finish in first place in the Boys 13-14 division, two shots ahead of Jett Westmoreland, also of Lipan. Granbury’s Landon Womack was fifth with an 84 and Jack Smith, another from Lipan, was sixth with an 86.

In the Girls 15-18 division in that same tournament, Hanna Gaylor of Lipan tied for second, shooting an 80, one stroke out of first.

In a NTPGA Junior Tournament in Grapevine, Lipan’s Dash Tryon tied for third in Boys 9-10 division, shooting a 46 for nine holes.

In Burleson, Granbury’s Austin White shot a 99 to place eighth in the Boys 11-12 division of that NTPGA event. Also in that tourney, Womack tied for seventh in the Boys 15-18 division, shooting 81 and Granbury’s Jacob Reagan shot 92 for 16th.

In the American Junior Golf Association, Tanner Larsen of Granbury fired a 77 to finish 11th in the 13-14 Boys division.

## LOOKING BACK

### Granbury’s Brazos Drive-In offered 1967 movie that included a future ‘Batman’ TV villain

From Staff Reports

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

A glimpse of early rock and roll culture showed up on Page 3 of the July 11, 1957 edition of the Hood County News-Tablet in a description of a movie that was showing at Granbury’s Brazos Drive-In.

Below a photo of what appeared to be an old open-hood street-racing car with several people gathered around it, a caption stated: “Hot rods and teenagers, featured in the new ‘Dragstrip Girl’ show-

ing at the Brazos Drive-In Saturday, Sunday and Monday, together with the new Rock ‘n’ Roll flim, ‘Rock All Night.’”

The movie information website imdb.com shows that the teaser line for that movie was, “Girl loves hot cars and a rich dragstrip racer. Her parents don’t like either one.”

The imdb.com listing showed that “Dragstrip Girl” was indeed released in 1957, and listed the lead actors as Fay Spain, Steven Terrell, and John Ashley. But among the others listed playing parts in the movie was an actor who went on to be well known, but as a drastically different character. Frank Gorshin was in the dragstrip movie but went on to far greater

fame as “The Riddler” in 10 episodes of the hopelessly campy “Batman” television series. That TV show first aired in 1966, and the first “Batman” movie was released that same year.

### POLITICS, 1952

An article on Page 7 of the July 31, 1952 edition of the Hood County News-Tablet published an interesting take on the definitions between “politicians” and “statesmen” at that time in history — something still being analyzed in some circles even today.

The article does not have a byline indicating who wrote it, although at the end it states, “Farm and Ranch.” The body of the piece states:

“The term ‘politician’ is applied generally to anyone who becomes a candidate for office or participates actively in the affairs of government. To call a man a politician is not always considered complimentary, although in the common acceptance of the term, politicians are necessary in our form of government. Webster gives three definitions of the word:

“‘One versed or experienced in the science of government.’”

“‘One addicted to or actively engaged in politics as managed by parties.’”

“‘One primarily interested in political offices or the profits from them as a source of private gain.’”

The article continues, stating, “The difference

between a politician and a statesman, with particular reference to the last definition above, is indicated by this from Webster:

“‘A statesman is a man versed in the principles and art of government; one who shows wisdom in treating and directing public matters and is influenced in shaping government policies.’”

“David Lawrence, a nationally known editor, recently gave his version of the difference. He said, in part, ‘A politician is a man whose ego has convinced him it would be a public calamity for him to be defeated for office, and that it is far better for the country that he compromises with his conscience occasionally and do the bidding of a pressure group lest the

Congress be deprived of his services.

“A statesman is a man occupying public office who thinks there are many worse things in the world than being defeated for office and who, therefore, is ready to stand up for the principle of what he knows in his heart is best for the people.

“Carefully look over the candidates and call the politicians from the statesmen when you next go to the polls and vote.”

Now — 71 years later, as the nation is starting to head toward another election cycle — some of those observations about politicians and statesmen may have a renewed relevance.

## STUDENT

FROM PAGE B3

four times each day to see to her in the facility where she was being kept. So, the family decided to find a place in Granbury to keep all of their horses and moved in August of 2021.

### FINDING WAYS TO COMPETE

Lucas brought with him

from Brazil his love of barrel racing. Though he did not compete for five years after coming back to America, his passion for the sport never waned, he said.

He and MJ were both Brazilian national champions in their age groups. Unlike Lucas, however, MJ’s desire to continue the sport was no more, he said.

“My sister’s heart was broken. She lost the love for the

sport. She’s tried a couple times, but it’s just not the same,” he said.

As for himself, he’s just as much in love with the sport as ever.

“I’ll travel wherever I have to in order to compete,” he said.

Lucas first fell in love with horses when he was around 2 or 3 years old. It stemmed from watching cattle auctions and the animated

movie “Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron.”

“I’d watch that movie over and over,” he said. “I just loved horses.”

At age 4 his parents entered him in English riding lessons. Then, at age 6 he learned that one of his neighbors barrel raced and he persuaded his parents to let him try it.

“I was hooked from the start,” he said. “I was not

then and never have been scared. Anything a horse can do, I love it.

“I’ve fallen off once in my entire life. I’m very lucky.”

### NEXT STOP, COLLEGE

Lucas plans to attend LSU in the fall and study to be an equine veterinarian.

“They have one of the best vet schools in the country,” he said. “I’ve always wanted

to be a vet since I was watching ‘Spirit.’”

Rafael graduated from TCU and has plans to be a doctor, Lucas said. MJ is going to Spain to study abroad and Guili is a freshman at Premier.

As for Fate, Lucas said, “I have a friend who lives about 20 minutes from LSU. I think I’m going to try to take her there for the second semester.”

HOOD COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE

# Independence Day

I love Independence Day. I grew up in a house within walking distance of the Historic Granbury Square. Each 4th of July began with our family walking to the parade and ended with us watching the fireworks fall over Lake Granbury. This year, for the third time since being named District Judge, my family and I got to ride in the parade. I cannot fully describe how inspiring it is to sit in the back of a truck and see the seemingly endless crowds in attendance proudly celebrating America. I love how our community comes together to celebrate that we are proud to be Americans.

As a child, I remember learning about our Founding Fathers and the courage it took to create and sign the Declaration of Independence. I stud-

ied those legendary words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable



**BY JUDGE BRYAN BUFKIN**

Bryan Bufkin is the 355th Judicial District Court Judge in Hood County. Bufkin grew up in Granbury and went to Granbury schools through high school graduation. He received a bachelor of arts degree from the UT-Arlington and a juris doctor degree from Baylor Law. He and his wife, Rachael, are raising their four sons here in Hood County.

rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." And because of that independence, we later got the Bill of Rights. In school, I am sure I even memorized the list of those rights for a test or two. While I remember being inspired by our history as a child, our rights take on different meaning now as an adult and a judge.

Our criminal justice system is shaped by what is

enumerated in the Bill of Rights. Those rights include due process, speedy and public trial, jury trial, confrontation of witnesses, and the right to counsel. In addition, the Bill of Rights ensures that we are protected against unreasonable searches and seizures, double jeopardy, cruel and unusual punishment, and being compelled to testify against ourselves.

If you ever want to see how

these rights practically work, come watch a criminal jury trial. There may be compelling evidence you won't see during the trial because it was obtained in violation of the 4th Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. In a jury trial, you will never see a prosecutor call a criminal defendant to testify. That would violate the 5th Amendment protection against self-incrimination. Every criminal defendant will have the option to cross-examine, or confront, each witness the State calls because of the Confrontation Clause.

Our Founding Fathers had a vision for what America could be. By the grace of God, America gained independence. Now, America has

the greatest justice system ever created on this earth. It's not lost on me that in my role as District Judge, I am responsible for protecting our Constitutional Rights on the cases that come before me. It is a great honor to play a role in this great justice system.

This year, a few days before July 4th, somebody very close to me who was not born in this country officially became a United States citizen. I received a picture of him waving his American flag as a United States citizen for the first time. His face was beaming with pride. It made this Independence Day even more special. May we never take America for granted. God bless America! Until next time, this column

## Hood Somervell A & M Club Awards over \$11,000



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left: Averie Coffman, Gaden McKensie, Emma Miller, Gavin Logsdon, Grace Heavyside, Guadalupe Ibarra, and Isabella Carpenter.

**Submitted Item**

The Hood Somervell A & M Club recently awarded seven scholarships totaling over \$11,000 to Hood and Somervell County seniors attending Texas A

& M University - College Station and Tarleton State University.

Granbury High School seniors receiving \$2,250 scholarships to Texas A & M University are Averie Coffman and Gavin Logsdon.

Caden McKenzie will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and Emma Miller a \$2,250 scholarship to Texas A & M. Both graduated from Glen Rose High School. Isabella Carpenter will receive \$2,250 to attend Tarleton.

Isabella attended Tolar High School. Additionally, two scholarships to Tarleton of \$750 each went to Grace Heavyside of Lipan and Guadalupe Ibarra of Glen Rose. Their scholarships were sponsored by Morris

Williamson in memory of his parents, Jack and Mary Williamson, of Granbury.

The Hood Somervell A & M Club raises scholarship money through their annual Sporting Clay Shoot in October and the Dutch

Wilkinson Memorial Golf Tournament each spring, as well as through generous donations and would like to congratulate these deserving students.



Forgiveness is a powerful and beautiful gift that we can give to ourselves and others. It means letting go of anger, hurt, and resentment, and choosing to move forward with a loving and open heart. When we forgive, we free ourselves from the heavy burden of holding onto negative feelings.

Imagine carrying a heavy backpack filled with rocks everywhere you go. It would be exhausting, right? Holding onto anger and not forgiving is like carrying those rocks. It weighs us down and makes us unhappy. But when we choose to forgive, it's like taking off that heavy backpack. We feel lighter, happier, and at peace.

Forgiving someone doesn't mean forgetting what happened or pretending it didn't hurt. It's about acknowledging our feelings and finding the strength to let go. It's about choosing kindness and compassion instead of revenge or holding grudges.

Forgiveness also allows us to heal and grow. It gives us the chance to build stronger relationships and create a better world. When we forgive, we create space for love and understanding to flourish.

Remember, forgiveness is a journey, and it takes time. Sometimes, it might be hard to forgive, but it's worth it. So, let's choose forgiveness, let go of the rocks, and embrace a lighter and happier life.



# FORGIVE

### Friendship

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

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

- FORGIVE
- TRUST
- LOVE
- UNDERSTAND
- LISTEN
- SORRY
- TALK
- APOLOGIZE
- FEELING
- FRIEND

### Definition: Forgiveness

when you decide to let go of anger and not stay mad at someone who has done something wrong. It's about giving them a second chance and choosing to be kind instead. Forgiveness helps you feel happier and makes your heart feel lighter



Forgiveness not only has emotional and psychological benefits but also has a positive impact on our physical health and friendships.



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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

# Why should you watch your wake? Science!

BY CHARLIE SHUGART

Assistant Public Information Officer

So, Newton's Third Law: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. When moving, all watercrafts create a wake. So, why should you be concerned?

Whether you're paddling your kayak or sporting the newest Super Air Nautique G23, your watercraft will make some type of line in the water. Yep, that's your wake.

And whatever type of wake your boat produces, you are responsible for that equal and opposite reaction.

Wakes are not a problem if you're in a kayak, canoe or on a paddleboard. But any watercraft, from a bass boat to a major cabin cruiser, will create a wake that could harm swimmers, other boaters, and even your Granny as she's taking in the sun on your dock.

And woe be to those that cause Granny to lose her seat!

The Texas Water Safety Act states that a boat operator is always responsible for the wake caused by a boat until it flattens out. Since many crafts, from jet skis to wake surfing boats, are specifically designed to generate large waves, the driver must be mindful of where

they are before powering up to wake speed. Each lake in Texas has areas where boats and personal watercraft are not permitted to create a wake.

At Lake Granbury, "No Wake" buoys are strategically placed in areas where docks, marinas and people could be harmed.

No Wake Zones are areas where boats and personal watercraft must operate at a slow headway speed that does not create a wake or swell. On BRA lakes, this zone includes areas within 100 feet of the shoreline or any boathouse, dock or other shoreline facility, including an occupied watercraft or area where people swim or dive.

No Wake Zones are used to lessen hazards to boating safety, such as narrow, shallow waters; areas of obstructed vision; structures in the area such as dams, trestles, power lines, bridges, and fueling docks; designated recreational or swimming areas; congested



COURTESY PHOTO

Whatever type of wake your boat produces, you are responsible for that equal and opposite reaction.

areas with high traffic (like marinas); or perhaps areas with a history of accidents.

These buoys are tall, slender white markers with black capital letters, Slow No Wake, and the word "No" in an orange circle with orange lines on the top and the bottom.

Lake Rangers and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Wardens patrol BRA reservoirs.

Violators of No Wake Zones are issued Class C tickets that can cost a boater up to \$500.

If you see someone abusing the wake zones, there are some actions you can take.

First, record the location and time, and note the boat license. If you can, take a photo of the boat or watercraft, preferably with the TX license number on the side.

Instead of sending an email or posting something on social media, call the Lake Office to report the event (817-573-3212). If a Lake Ranger is available, they will be sent to patrol the area to look for violators. If the violation occurs after hours or on the weekend, you can leave a message, and a Lake Ranger will contact you for the details.

If the situation involves an

accident or injury, call 9-1-1.

If you're the watercraft driver, you should know that slowing down is much easier on your wallet than being confronted with costly repairs to another person's property - or with granny's hospital bills.

Here are a few tips:

Slow down to idle speed whenever passing within 100 feet of a small boat, the shoreline or a marina, even if there are no posted no-wake zones. If possible, increase your distance, as distances beyond 500 feet allow the wake's waves to spread out and get rounder, disrupting other boats less and causing less erosion.

Slow down in advance. Chopping the throttle while arriving doesn't alleviate the wake's effect.

When at a no-wake speed, remember that neutral trim allows your boat to proceed with the smallest wake.

However, if you're enjoying the reservoir on a boat, just remember to Watch your Wake.



## Thank you

## HOOD COUNTY, FOR YOUR LONG TERM SUPPORT.

The last several years have been something, haven't they?! We have all had to overcome many hurdles -- Covid, the impacts of a war, construction challenges with supply chain issues, economic challenges affecting everyone's cost of living and our own challenges with providing water to the new developments and companies that want to locate in our area. Although the growth is exciting, it is continued change for Hood County residents and business owners.

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your exceptional support of Century 21 Property Advisors over the last many years. We attempt to give back to each of you daily with extra-ordinary service and local market expertise.

However, our true love is to give back to the community partnerships we have to ensure that those that help us are supported. We had a great turn out this year at our 4th annual "Back Our 1st Responders" event in Hood County and we still are scheduled for Johnson and Somervell this fall. This event is for all front-line organizations that work so hard to make our counties safe. We participate in Hood County Children Charity events to ensure we do what we can do to help children -- the future of this county.

We are determined to give back to those that have shown their commitment to us. We want to do whatever we can do to support Hood, Somervell, and the counties surrounding us in any way we can. In fact, this year we launched our "You Matter" outreach program to meet day-to-day needs of families that are feeling the financial pinch and emotional strain of the world around us. #youmatter

The market has shifted again and just like that buyers are buying, and sellers are selling. In all markets, prices have held firm.

You, as the residents of Hood and surrounding counties, have always supported us. We will continue to be there to assist you as changes and adaptations keep coming. We are working hard to identify creative ways to help buyers lessen the impact of rising interest rates. We will continue to ensure that we bring innovative marketing programs to our sellers to help them achieve their return-on-investment goals. Times are changing again, but we will be right there by your side, and I know you will be right by our side through it all. Together, we can thrive, not just survive! We and our preferred partners thank you!



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## Much fun in the sun during the Fourth of July celebration



COURTESY PHOTO BY SYDNEY KNOWLES

Logan Knowles, age 3. Hand over heart for the flag.

BY EDEN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

Independence Day festivities this week were Patriotic, fun, and hot, hot, hot with a heat index of near 100 degrees. Of all the events that take place in Hood County none quite reach the fervor of Granbury's "Hometown Fourth of July Celebration." The event draws people from all over the region. This is the 49th year of the event.

With the 4th falling on a Tuesday this year, Independence Day celebra-

tion was a four-day festival of vendors, food and fun beginning Saturday, July 1

and going through Tuesday, July 4.

The anticipation waiting for the parade was palpable. Children frolicked and played, meeting new friends of like mind, all intent on scoring candy when it would soon be thrown. Residents waved at friends across the street with several meeting in the middle of the street with a hug.

True to this year's event theme, "United We Stand" residents happily shared

their town with visitors and folks stood side by side for the flag regardless of political party.

Jeff and Diana Westhoff of Aledo brought their daughter Ralynn and dog Lulu early Tuesday to enjoy the day.

"This is our first time to come to Granbury for the fourth. We want to see the parade, walk around the square, and get some lunch. Check it all out," shared Westhoff.

Ralynn Westhoff said she

looked forward to seeing the floats most of all.

Mary Schmidt, a Hood County resident for 12 years, said she attends the parade most years.

"My favorite part is watching the parade, the people and the kiddos." Schmidt was especially proud of her T-shirt," Schmidt said.

Nicole and Corey Muller from Mansfield brought their sons Theodore and Wesley to enjoy the holiday in Granbury and spend time

with downtown Granbury residents and Nicole's mom Sarah Shveda. Shveda lives in a historic home built by the Nutt family. This was the Muller family's first time at the parade. Corey Muller said his spiffy attire was inspired by the love for America.

Vendors around the square seemed to think the traffic and sales had been good. Jessica Brown of TX Phoenix Boutique located on Highway 51 said, "It's been a PLEASE SEE **FOURTH** | C2



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Church of Christ expansion is underway.

## The Granbury Church of Christ is in the process of a large construction and remodel project

From Staff Reports

A major expansion is taking place for the Granbury Church of Christ that is set to become the biggest sanctuary seating capacity in Hood County.

The Church of Christ moved from their downtown location, where they had been for nearly 60 years, to its current location at 1905 W. Pearl St., in 1973. The colonial-style building's auditorium is large enough to accommodate 750.

Major expansions began in 1978 and occurred each decade thereafter to accommodate further growth of the church. By 2010, the church building was approximately twice the size of the original 1973 building.

According to Administrative Minister Mark Hackney, few building codes were in effect in Granbury during that time and since there were no handicap guidelines, the building was not user-friendly for people with disabili-

ties. Over time, the building became aged, dated and in constant need of repairs and the church decided to create this new expansion. The rebuild will result in the biggest sanctuary seating capacity in Hood County as well as other new amenities.

"It is our goal to have a facility which is used 7 days a week and not just on Sunday," Hackney said.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in time for this year's Christmas Eve Service.

## History comes alive through story-telling at Bridge Street History Center

BY EDEN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

A new installment of "Local Tales by Local Folks" will be presented by the Bridge Street History Center on Saturday, July 15.

This will be the second in the series called "Before the Lake". Old Settlers Reunion will be the topic this time around. The event will take place at the Dora Lee Langdon Cultural and Educational Center at 10 a.m.

The Bridge Street History Center hosts history lectures on the third Saturday of the month at different locations around Granbury. Longtime residents David Cleveland and Mildred Molder will be the speakers this month, but often other community members join along in the story telling.

"The Old Settlers Reunion' which met at the fairgrounds was originally

the 'Soldiers and Settlers Reunion', the Civil War Soldiers used to meet there every year, it eventually became just the 'Settlers Reunion'," Cody Martin of the Bridge Street History Center and Granbury native said.

Some members of the community still remember attending these reunions with their parents and grandparents.

"What we try to do (Bridge Street History Center) is have events that appeal to people who haven't necessarily been here a long time. Other residents like David and Mildred like to share things like about the Old Settlers Reunion and it allows newer folks to the area to learn about local history," Maurice Walton of the Bridge Street History Center and Hood County resident since 1978, said. "I have been here a long time, or I just got here yesterday, it depends who you talk

to." Georgia Nutt Ramay (1934-2016) is given credit with coming up with the idea of the history center. She had a vision of a story telling museum. A place where yes, articles remained to enjoy, but the objects were there to support the story telling. The history group began about seventeen years ago, and the Bridge Street building was acquired around 10 years ago.

Walton says it was Martin who came up with the idea of lectures, but Martin shrugs off the honor.

"Oh, I get more credit than I deserve. We take turns working as docents at the Bridge Street Museum. Several years ago, in September or October, it was cold and rainy, and I was just sitting there for two or three hours, and I got bored," Martin said. "I thought to myself, if

PLEASE SEE **HISTORY** | C2

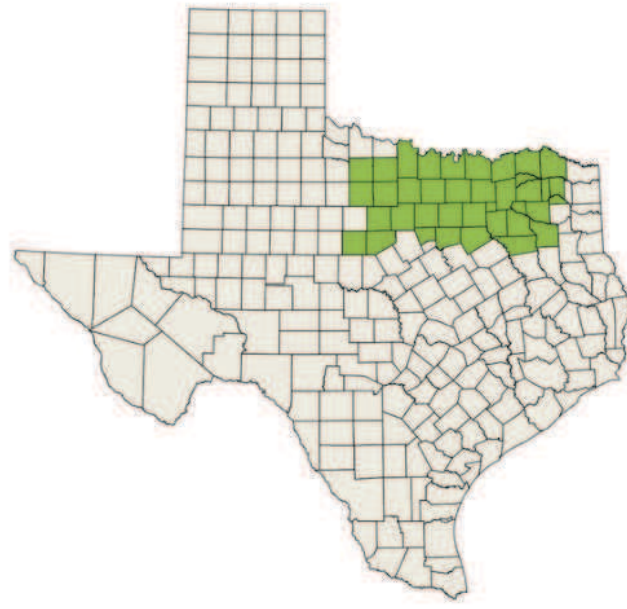
# Personalized assistance with veterans services event to be held in July

## From Staff Reports

Are you looking to get a status on your claim or sign up for VA health care? Whatever it is, VA and partners are here to help. Veterans Experience Action Centers (VEAC) bring together VA, state, local, and non-profit resources for Veterans and their families to offer virtual 1-on-1 personalized assistance with benefits and services. This video explains how the VEAC works and what participants can expect during the event. On Tuesday, July 18 through Thursday, 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The VA, state, and community part-

ners will host a virtual event for North Texas Veterans, caregivers, service members, survivors, and family members to help you get the services and benefits you've earned. Simply schedule an appointment to speak directly with VA and get dedicated one-on-one service. At the time of your appointment, a Veterans Service Officer will call you—via telephone—to kick off your appointment. This appointment will occur over the telephone only. Veterans who don't have access to a telephone to receive their VEAC appointment call can visit VA sites where phones will be provided. Visit the registration

page for more information. Registration runs through Sunday, July 16. Appointment availability is limited and please note this event will serve residents of North Texas counties only. Important note: This event is only for Veterans, service members, family members, caregivers and survivors residing in one of the following Texas counties. If you register for this event and you do not reside in one of the below counties, your appointment will be cancelled. Additional VEACs will be held in other states across the country. Please visit [www.va.gov/VEAC](http://www.va.gov/VEAC) for additional information.



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- Palo pinto
- Parker
- Rains
- Red river
- Rockwall
- Smith
- Stephens
- Tarrant
- Throckmorton
- Titus
- Van zandt
- Wise
- Wood
- Young



Jeff, Diana, Ralynn and Lulu (the dog) Westhoff of Aledo.



Sarah Shveda of Granbury with daughter Nicole Muller and husband Corey and sons Theodore and Wesley from all from Mansfield.

COURTESY PHOTOS BY EDEN GILBREATH

## FOURTH FROM PAGE C1

good show." The vendors of "Upton's Cowboy Kitchen", who gave free jelly and jam samples, felt the sales were good but not as strong as Memorial Day. They attributed lower sales to higher outdoor temperatures. The fireworks show over Lake Granbury is, of course, the most anxiously awaited event. Both residents and visitors gather in every imaginable spot to garner a good view. From parking lots to neighborhood parks to

the Reunion Grounds many thousands gathered. Private parties at lakeside homes provided a prelude to the main event. A soft breeze kept the mosquitoes away in most areas as gasps of delight among the viewers abounded. Shawna Knowles, Granbury native and her family, celebrated from the fairgrounds and watched the fireworks from there. "We went to the rodeo, they really put on a great show. They even had PRCA Hall of Fame announcer Bob Tallman. I have been in Granbury all my life and

watched it grow. It's really hard watching Granbury get so big, but the rodeo made it feel like old times," Knowles said. Granbury native Carolyn Serrano agreed it was a wonderful Independence Day celebration. "This year's celebration really lived up to expectations for a Granbury 4th of July. Many of the vendors on the square were local, much of the merchandise was handmade, and the fireworks - WOW! And the weather was great too, double digits!" Serrano added.

## HISTORY FROM PAGE C1

we could have someone come speak on local history maybe people would come.

But then Covid came so we dropped the idea for some time." It was Dominique Inge of the Friends of the Bridge Street History Center who suggested the group take

their story telling to the people. "She said that not everyone is going to come to you. Don't just wait for them to come see you (at the museum), take the history to the

people," explained Walton. And thus "Local Tales by Local Folks" was born, a casual lecture series that is more conversation than lecture. The Bridge Street History

Center and Friends of the Bridge Street History Center exist to keep Hood County history living and vibrant. They are 501.3 organizations. More information on the Bridge Street History

Center can be found on their Facebook page. The Bridge Street History Center at 319 E. Bridge Street, Granbury is open Friday and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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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.

**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: bskaggs8@aol.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.

**BOOK REVIEW**

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

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

**B**ig 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

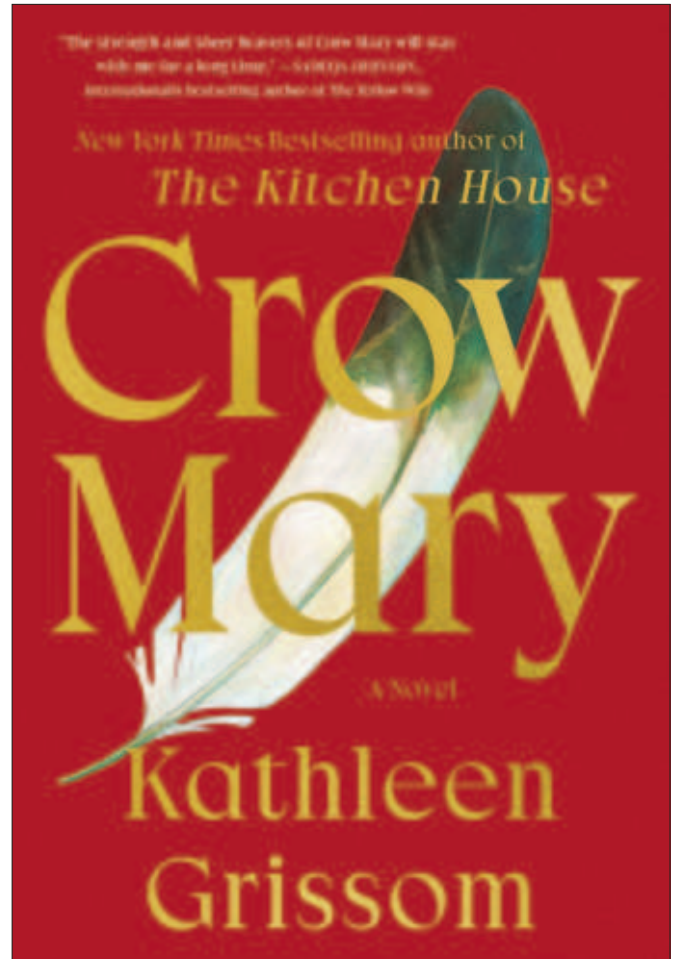


COURTESY PHOTO BY ERIN PLEWES  
Pictured is author Kathleen Grissom.

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 Freeman tie all these tales together nicely.

This book is perfect for



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

kids ages 4 and 5 as a read-aloud, and older kids will appreciate the author's extra information in the back of

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

**Fish Day!**  
It's time to restock your pond!  
**TUESDAY, JULY 25**  
Mineral Wells: 11:45am-12:30pm at MINERAL WELLS FEED & FARM SUPPLY  
Stephenville: 1:30-2:15pm at HAY & FEED RANCH  
Granbury: 3:00-3:45pm at RUSSELL FEED  
Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26**  
Cleburne: 7:30-8:15am at ROWLETTE HARDWARE  
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**PETS OF THE WEEK**  
ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED  
Buddy is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.  
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.  
Hood County Animal Control  
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Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm;  
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Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!  
Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

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# around town



Hood County Courthouse located on Granbury's historic downtown square.

CLAUDIA PEREZ RIVAS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## Saturday is Girls Night Out on Granbury Square

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Sure, we just had a great holiday weekend that included vendors on the square, but that was so Fourth of July.

This Saturday — July 8 — brings another great excuse to shop.

It is the date for the monthly Girls Night Out Around the Square, a chance to shop, compete for door prizes and a big shopping spree and enjoy an after party at D'Vine Wine.

The event is from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the after party and prize drawings at D'Vine Wine on the south side of the square on Bridge Street immediately afterward.

A \$100 shopping spree is given away monthly, with \$500 shopping sprees given away in July and December. That means Saturday is the July giveaway.

Here's how it works: Participating shops — there are 16 of them — give out stamp cards. Holders of stamp cards get them stamped at every shop they visit for the chance to win the additional, twice-yearly shopping spree.

Card holders earn a monthly drawing ticket at a store when they spend \$10. Those who spend more earn additional tickets that increase their chances.

Participating shops will have balloons outside, but the complete list of stores can be found at granburysquare.com.

Girls Night Out Around the Square takes place on the second Saturday of each month.

kacruz@hcnews.com | 817-579-1886

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## Film noir with cyberpunk on top *Boxy isn't always good*



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

I just finished playing the game Cloudpunk. I had high hopes for it. It's a great-looking game.

Released in 2020, Cloudpunk is "A neon-noir story in a rain-drenched cyberpunk metropolis. It's your first night on the job working for the Cloudpunk delivery service. Two rules: Don't miss a delivery and don't ask what's in the package."

The premise of the game is simple. You're a delivery driver, flying a HOVA to various destinations within the game. Your goal is to get to the location and deliver the package to your customer. Most missions are easy. There are a few missions that are timed, but the outcome of the mission isn't

essential to complete the game.

The location is a city called Nivalis, and from in-game exposition and dialogue, you're told that it's one of the last cities on this planet. Many of the individuals you meet in the game are androids or artificial persons, instead of human beings. Your companion is CAMUS, a talking augmented artificial intelligence who identifies as a dog.

What I noticed right away is how fun it is to drive a flying car through the city. Controls are simple, the usual W-A-S-D plus shift and space to move up and



SCREENSHOT COURTESY ION LANDS

Driving through Nivalis in a flying car is one of the most fun things you can do in Cloudpunk.

down. Everything in the game is rendered as cubes, which probably saves a bit on processing speed. It's a huge open-world environment, so there's a lot of data for the computer to juggle. The buildings look great and straight out of Blade Runner. You're given a sense of distance and space with strategic use of light-

ing and transparencies.

The characters, however, are a different story. The game relies on 'voxels' for the objects you interact with in the game. This works fabulously for the buildings and structures, but not the NPC characters. When you compare them with how the rest of the game looks, it's jarring how ugly they are.

It's dialogue-heavy for no good reason. Every character you talk to will have a conversation with you that you can't skip through, and some of them aren't really relevant to finishing the story.

You also have to gas up the HOVA and repair it every once in a while, depending upon how bad of a

driver you are.

The base game is an oddly short story for such a huge world. It feels like developers spent a lot of time on building Cloudpunk's environment and not enough time to work on the story inside this environment. Considering all the flying

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | C5

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19 Hood County Youth Rodeo

**SEPTEMBER**  
1-4 Labor Day Weekend Celebrations  
23 Spooky Spectacle  
24 Art in the Vines at Pemberton Cellars  
28-Oct.30 Edgar Allan Poe Experience - B C Experience  
30 HANK FM Lake Fest

**OCTOBER**  
Sep.28-30 Edgar Allan Poe Experience - B C Experience  
6-8 Oktoberfest  
7 Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival  
7 Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run  
13-15 Here's to Clue - Spooky Edition  
14 Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show  
14 Granbury Rock N Vette Bash

Information subject to change | Go to [visitgranbury.com](http://visitgranbury.com) for more!

**GAME**  
FROM PAGE C4

around that's essential to complete the game, there are many areas in the game that have nothing in them.  
The total game play for me was 35.5 hours, and I spent a lot of time looking around for punch cards and other items.

**CLOUDPUNK: CITY OF GHOSTS**

The DLC (downloadable content) for this game was released in 2021: Cloudpunk: City of Ghosts. It promises to be as long of a story as the base game and has more meaningful plot direction based upon your choices in the game.  
One thing I noticed right away was that they've worked to make the characters more realistic. The cubes used for the faces are smaller and there's an attempt to control shading so that they look more like rendered faces instead of Minecraft monsters. The character movement slideshow is still very short, so they'll do the same thing about five times in a long conversation.  
There's a better interface for your HOVA. The base game only has a fuel indicator, no damage indicator. The DLC has a fuel indicator to tell you when to gas up, and a damage indicator to tell you when it's time to repair the vehicle.  
Gameplay is quite a bit darker than the original base game. Our original main character gets into trouble and has to resolve it with help from some new characters.  
Just like with the base game, there's way too much talking. The interactions with the NPCs are tedious. More than once I had to wait impatiently for a conversation to end so I could get on with playing the game.  
The story and its resolution in the game left me feeling decidedly meh. I just didn't care about the characters or what happened to them, aside from CAMUS, the Automata dog.  
This game might have been better if there were more missions that were just deliveries, without some kind of story attached to them. Driving a flying car through a city, avoiding obstacles, getting to locations on time - that was fun. Slogging through the story was less so. The final insult was the five-minute long credit sequence that also can't be skipped through.  
Don't waste your money buying this at retail - wait until it's on sale.

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.

**T**he late Will Rogers claimed that all he knew, he read in the newspapers. My aged Uncle Mort—whose routine includes pattering down the lane to the general store most days--still is an avid reader. However, he is not one claiming to read from "kivver to kivver," like his parents before him.

Most of his reading material is, well, "cold off the presses" by the time newspapers and magazines are left behind at the general store, where he gathers them up for later perusal. "Heck," he said. "Lots of times, the covers have been torn off, so I couldn't read 'kivver to kivver' if I wanted to!"  
Mort tires of the "gloom and doom" accounts that dominate many publications today. In fact, he has taken to clipping snippets of articles that provide helpful information and/or cause him to smile.  
His filing system is way short of precise. Truth to tell, he tosses the clippings into a cigar box, and if he runs short on current ones, he turns the stack "downside up" for "rereading purposes."

Sometimes he forgets he's already read them; they often seem fresh to him. He wishes he had known Eleanor Conrad, who died recently in Dallas at age 99. She and her late husband led in breaking down racial barriers.  
The couple led courageous lives, waxing philosophical across the years.  
One of her suggestions rings particularly true today: "Never tattoo anything that will eventually sag."  
One clipping quoted Stephen Spielberg, a famous American film maker.  
He often said, "When you tell your instincts to shut up, they will, and then they won't talk to you anymore."  
His quote brings to mind a similar one that is coated in mold: "Better to remain silent

and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."  
Another clipping suggests that President George W. Bush "radiated enough self-confidence to melt down a Geiger counter."  
Some of the best writers to be found are featured in Texas Monthly, perhaps the best "state" magazine in the nation.  
Readers "chow down" on the issue that features assessments of each legislative session's heroes and villains.  
Mort found the account of the 2023 legislature in a tattered Texas Monthly left hanging from the general store's windshield-cleaning bucket. Maybe it was "hung out to dry." Whatever, Mort loved one sentence particularly: "The archives remind us that though the Capitol has long been a playground for scoundrels, there are always faithful servants there, too."  
While some legislators were "quartered and drawn," many received high praise, including Representative John Bryant of Dallas.  
The magazine calls him a "folk hero." Said one Austin insider: "He's reintroduced the spirit of the Democrats in the seventies."  
Another claims: "John Bryant is a really good John Wesleyan Methodist who believes you do all you can, for as long as you can, for as many people as you can. And that is the only thing

that is really motivating him."  
Finally, Texas Monthly swung at Governor Greg Abbott, calling him "The Elephant (Not) in the Room."  
Claiming that he cut short a May 8 press conference to be interviewed by Fox & Friends, the article concluded with, "The House is a bore, the Senate a snore, but the bright lights of right-wing TV give him unconditional love."  
At least this is a chance to reference "unconditional love." These words aren't linked that often anymore.  
Meanwhile, my friend Beverly Germany recently celebrated her 79th birthday. Family gathered for the party.  
Beverly's daughter Monica mentioned that next year, "Gigi will be 80."  
This elicited a comment from Luke, Beverly's four-year-old great-grandson. It gives a glimmer of hope for folks worrying about student's mastery of mathematics going south in a handbasket.  
"And then, she'll be only 20 years from 100," chimed in Luke. Watch out, kindergarteners. When he enrolls this fall, he's likely to ruin the curve for lesser minds.  
*newbury@speakerdoc.com*

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Jeremiah 29:11

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Isaiah 41:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

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# Fabulous fireworks on the Fourth

Fireworks dazzled the night sky in Hood County on Tuesday, during the 49th annual Fourth of July Hometown Celebration.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

# July in the Civil War



BY WILLIAM DYESS

William Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

While the Round Table does not hold formal meetings during the summer, we have scheduled a last tour of the Civil War Museum in Ft. Worth, which is closing in December. The tour will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 27th. Anyone, member or non-member, who desires to attend should meet at the Kroger parking lot by 1 p.m. that afternoon and we will "car-pool" to Ft. Worth. Please contact David Wells, at 817-579-5769, or Bill Clark, by e-mail at clarkb99@aol.com, for further information

**JULY IN THE CIVIL WAR**

Soon after Virginia seceded, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard amassed approximately 20,000 troops about thirty miles southwest of Washington, D.C., along a sluggish stream named Bull Run. Their purpose was to defend Manassas Junction, where two railroads met to provide vital commerce between the Shenandoah Valley and the rest of Virginia. These troops also posed a threat to Washington itself.

Union General Irvin McDowell, commanding a Union army of approximately 36,000 men in the Washington D.C. area, was aware that his force was not sufficiently trained or experienced to undertake action against the Confederates at Manassas Junction. However, after constant urging of Union President Abraham Lincoln to act, on July 16 he put his army in motion toward Manassas Junction, and on July 21 attacked the Confederate position.

Using part of his army to hold the Confederates in their position in front of the railroad junction, he sent the other part west, along the north bank of Bull Run. Crossing the stream at an undefended ford, the Union army turned back east, driving the Confederate forces before them, and appearing to be on the verge of winning the battle. Early in the afternoon, however, they met a brigade of Virginia soldiers commanded by General Thomas J. Jackson. The Virginians first held the advancing Union forces, in a defensive stand that earned General Jackson the nickname "Stonewall", and then, with the aid of Confederate forces freshly arrived from the Shenandoah Valley, forced the Northern forces to retreat across Bull Run. Although the retreat was at first orderly, it soon turned into a rout, with the Union forces becoming a disorganized rabble streaming back to Washington. The South had won the first major battle of the American Civil War.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets on the second Monday of each month, (except for the months of June, July, and August) at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que located at 317 Hwy 377 E in Granbury, and guests are always welcome. For more information, please refer to our website: WWW.ncentexcwrt.com, or call either David Wells, at 817-579-5769, or Bill Dyess, at 817-326-8216.

**DID YOU KNOW**

The Confederate armies normally named their battles after a nearby town or village, while the Union forces commonly referenced a geographical point—often a river or stream—in giving names to their battles. Thus, the battle described above was called the Battle of Manassas by the South, and the Battle of Bull Run by the North. In August 1862, the two armies fought another battle at the same location. Thereafter, the South referred to the battles as First Manassas and Second Manassas, while the North spoke of First and Second Bull Run.



Sgt. Woodrow F. (Woody) Birkhead, U.S. Marine Corps 7th Regiment/1st Division, poses with his family and his new Quilt of Valor quilt that he received from the Granbury Quilters Guild on June 30.

COURTESY GAIL OLNEY

## Granbury Quilters Guild presents quilt to Chosin veteran

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Woodrow F. (Woody) Birkhead was all smiles when the Granbury Quilters Guild presented him with a Quilt of Valor on Friday, June 30.

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war, according to govf.org.

Sgt. Birkhead, U.S. Marine Corps 7th Regiment/1st Division, was a soldier in The Chosin Few — one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War.

The short-lived battle took place at The Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in 1950, where Cleveland and Akron reservists fought through Chinese forces while also enduring the savage cold — plus frostbite — in one of the coldest Korean winters on record, according to cleveland.com.

"The temperatures were like 35 degrees below zero," said Gail Olney, member of the Granbury Quilters Guild. "The food that was dropped from the airplanes froze before it hit the ground."

Birkhead, who was 19 at the time, didn't even finish high

school or attend boot camp before he was thrust immediately into battle.

"They made him a sergeant after the fact because he survived basically," Olney said. "He hadn't even finished high school and they made him a trainer right away."

He was also only supposed to be in Korea for nine months — but certain events transpired that made his stay a little longer than intended.

"He actually stayed for 12 months because I think he had some kind of fight with another soldier, but once all that was resolved, he could come back to the states," Olney said. "He came back to finish high school, which is an interesting thing."

Olney said when the Granbury Quilters Guild came to present Birkhead with the quilt, he didn't want to talk about himself. She described him as being a "very cool guy."

"He was just happy that all his

family was there, and kind of going with the flow," she said.

Olney said a small group of members from the guild work together to sew the Quilts of Valor, with each quilt featuring a different design. This was the eighth quilt that was presented to a local veteran.

"We had to expand our area because we have so many quilts that are finished and we only have a few names of local people — there's like 2,000 veterans that are backlogged of people in the state, so we're going to present one in Fort Worth, one in Stephenville, and one in Alvarado."

The Granbury Quilters Guild meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month at the United Co-Op Community Room in Granbury. Workshop days are held the third Thursday of every month from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the same location. Visitors are welcome.

For more information, visit the Granbury Quilters Guild Facebook page. To make a Quilts of Valor nomination, visit govf.org/nominations-awards/.

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**DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES**

3 Months: \$40/week | 6 Months: \$35/week  
12 Months: \$30/week