



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, July 22, 2023]

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Dylynn Pennington, age 8 and Rowan Pinksa, age 7 assisted by mom Chelsey Pinksa serve Lemonade for Youth Entrepreneur Day at Hood County Farmers Market.

COURTESY PHOTO BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Boyfriend charged in 2020 Stinson murder case

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Bond was set at \$1 million for Richard Anthony Metten, who was arrested for the murder of 31-year-old Andrea Stinson. Stinson's body was found in a shed on Metten's property in November 2020. She had been shot to death.



Richard Anthony Metten

According to Sheriff Roger Deeds, Metten was her boyfriend and the two were living together at the time of her murder. Deeds issued a statement on Friday, July 14, announcing that his office, along with the Texas Department of Public Safety-Ranger Division, had arrested Metten in the almost three-year-old case. Metten was already incarcerated for seven felonies that include trafficking and sex assault of a child. Stinson was the mother of three children who are now in their teens. In an email to the Hood County News, Deeds stated that investigators "worked tirelessly to bring a successful resolution to this case."

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Burn Ban announced for Hood County

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

On July 18, the Hood County Fire Marshal's Office issued a burn ban for all of Hood County. "With the current weather conditions, which include temperature, humidity, winds and the amount of moisture in soil and vegetation, the decision was made to place Hood County under an emergency seven day burn ban," Jeff Young Fire Marshal said. "Any fires that start now have the potential to spread extremely fast and are difficult to extinguish."

The burn ban includes any outdoor burning. It also now requires any outdoor welding to be done with a water source on hand as well as a designated person on fire watch.

"Barbecue grills and chimeneas on the pool deck would be okay, but we ask that they take extra precautions to make sure it is completely out, or cold and dark, before they leave it," Young said.

Young listed some things to be aware of while traveling.

"Keep an eye on trailer tires. Pulling a trailer with a flat can cause sparks that can ignite grass fires along the roadway," he said. "Also ensure that trailer chains are not dragging as this can cause sparking. If you are a smoker, do not discard smoking materials out the window of your vehicle. Any heat source has the ability to cause grass fires that put people and property in danger."

According to Texas A&M Parks and Wildlife, 97 counties are currently under a burn ban out of the 254 counties.

On July 25 in Commissioners Court, there will be a discussion of whether or not to put forth a 90 day burn ban.

"The only thing that would prevent the burn ban extension would be a long, soaking rain, which is not predicted in the forecast," Young said.

A fine for breaking this ban is \$500. If you see someone outside burning, please call the fire marshal's office at 817-579-3335 or visit the office at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. Granbury, TX 76048.

PLEASE SEE **YOUTH** | A15

PLEASE SEE **GRANT** | A3

Youth Entrepreneur Day at the Hood County Farmers Market

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

There is no shortage of fresh produce and homemade goods to be found at several local Farmers Markets in Hood County. Saturday, July 15 was "Youth Entrepreneur Day" at the Hood County Farmers Market. Fifteen youth booths joined 15 regular season vendors to share their wares.

Eager young businesspeople shared the sentiment that sales had been good. Some expressed surprise and delight that though

the heat was oppressive the community had still turned out in good numbers. "Family" was the word of the

day. At youth booths, parents helped their young entrepreneurs and at regular vendors, children worked alongside parents to assist them.

Youth products ranged from edible items to wearable art to free hand-painted rocks. Of course, the cold lemonade booth was well visited.

Gracia Schoonover, age 8, was excited to share her brand-new product "Joy-Dough." Home-made "Joy-Dough" is a "non-toxic dough made for playtime" using natural ingredients and plant dyes. "Joy-Dough" is a

product for all ages.

"It's okay if your children eat it, it's organic. They may not want to eat it, it's salty!" Gracia said, commenting on the safety of her product.

Gracia was assisted by her mom Esther who says they are working on a website and online ordering options.

Scarlett Marciniak, age 8, is the proprietor of "Double M" jewelry which offers hand-made earrings. Remarkably lightweight, they are made in a large

Granbury hopeful for grant to improve transportation, recreation

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

In December of 2022, the City of Granbury adopted the Active Transportation and Recreation Plan.

The plan would serve as the city's first plan that addresses both mobility and recreational needs through active transportation infrastructure. The plan would help as a guide for the future when it comes to implanting multi-use trails, on-street bike-ways and sidewalks.

The city has applied for a grant from TxDOT for funding of the plan, and if awarded the

commission date would be Oct. 2023. The project estimate is \$4,189,111, with the city being responsible for paying 20 percent of that, making the award total \$3,351,289 dollars.

When TxDOT is determining who to grant the award to, they base it off a scoring system. They assess the needs of funding, see if the city has done their research and studies, as well as look at how the plan would impact the community.

"We're in competition with lots of other cities for these funds, and at this time we just wait and see what TxDOT decides and if we are awarded these funds,"

Aaron McLain Internal Services Director of the City of Granbury said.

The city has partnered with an outside consultant, Half Associates for their expertise on the grant application as well as the future of the engineering, construction and architecture of further transportation and recreation plans.

"You are highly more likely of getting these projects funded for your residence and completed residence if you hire people that have that expertise," Jeff Newpher Communications Manager of the City of Granbury said.

The benefits of the plan outlined economic drivers, safety and health. The economic drivers provide economic opportunities for the city, homeowners and business owners. Safety improvements such as widening trails and sidewalks, increased signage and wayfinding tools are outlined. There is also a betterment of health by having access to healthy lifestyle choices and exercise areas with the trails and bike paths.

The plan has five phases outlined. Phase one focuses on collecting data and inventory, phase two focuses on community



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COMMUNITY BUSINESS



CHAMBER NEWS

Granbury Chamber of Commerce spotlights Ambassadors

Chamber Message

In a city that thrives on collaboration and community spirit, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight the invaluable contributions of its Ambassadors, an exceptional group of professionals dedicated to strengthening the local business community. These remarkable volunteers form the backbone of the chamber and play a vital role in promoting economic growth, fostering meaningful connections, and championing the interests of businesses in our region. We appreciate their unwavering commitment and passion to move the mission of the Granbury Chamber forward.

Our Ambassadors act as the public relations arm of the chamber, serving as advocates and connectors for both new and existing businesses. They extend a warm welcome to new members, guiding them through the chamber's resources and helping them navigate the local business landscape. This welcoming approach creates a strong foundation for new enterprises, facilitating their integration into the community and enhancing their chances of success. Our Ambassadors also actively engage with our chamber members, providing support, and promoting collaboration. By attending networking events, ribbon cutting ceremonies, and other business functions/events, they foster relationships among entrepreneurs, encouraging partnerships, and facilitating opportunities for growth. Their presence helps create an atmosphere of unity and camaraderie, where business owners can exchange ideas, share experiences, and form valuable alliances.

Moreover, the Ambassadors of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce go above and beyond to support local businesses by actively participating in ribbon cutting, anniversary and groundbreaking ceremonies. These dedicated individuals understand the significance of celebrating milestones and achievements within the business community. Whether it's a new store opening, an expansion, a relocation, a rebranding effort or an anniversary, Ambassadors show up with enthusiasm and encouragement, providing a strong show of solidarity and support. Their presence not only boosts the morale of business owners but also generates awareness and interest among the broader community.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is grateful for our Ambassadors' tireless efforts and recognizes their indispensable contribution to the economic vitality of Granbury and our surrounding business community.

To learn more about how you can serve as an Ambassador, please visit our website at www.granburychamber.com or feel free to call our office at 817-573-1622.



CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Ambassador Duo, Jon and Shelly Black with AmCap Home Loans - Granbury have been Granbury Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors for the past nine months. Their love of community is what they like about being ambassadors. "We enjoy meeting new people, supporting local businesses, and helping with the cham-

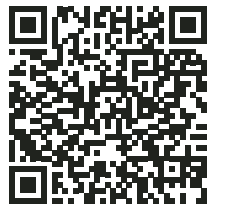
ber events," they replied. A fun fact about Jon and Shelly is, "We were best friends in high school and went our separate ways after graduation, then married 29 years later and are still best friends." Thank you, Jon and Shelly, for being Ambassadors of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

This week's New Member Spotlight is The Grove Wood Fired Pizza. Check them out and have some delicious wood fired pizza this weekend on Friday and Saturday from 5-9 p.m. They are located at 6106 Rollins Rd in Acton. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Scan QR code to visit The Grove Wood Fired Pizza on Facebook.



PLEASE SEE MORE **COMMUNITY BUSINESS** | A12

RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO BY CFX PHOTO

July 13 Ribbon Cutting for Stella Rose Homes, "You Have a Dream, We Have a Plan". Picture of Family, Ambassadors, & Local Community partners & friends

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

You're kidding me...a horse stuck in a tree?



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.

There is something unique about the relationship between a human being and a horse. Like all emotionally satisfying connections, the relationship between man and horse is based on trust, communication, and acceptance. Over time the horse learns to speak "human" and the man learns to speak "horse".

Almost 30 years ago, I was in the horse business and owned a significant number of equines. There were several stallions as well as broodmares and performance show horses. I loved it when the mares would foal out and I could witness the innocence of their babies. Watching them stand for the first time or learning to walk and run was so interesting and amusing.

Once foals were placed out in the pasture to graze and exercise, I was reminded of watching human children going to kindergarten. The foals would run, play, annoy and aggravate the other foals and

their mothers. They would learn from the other animals as they experienced their new surroundings. It was always interesting to watch a foal ease over and try to nurse off a mare other than their mother and see the mare turn and gently bite or "cow kick" the intruder to teach it to stay with its own mom. A lesson learned.

It was spring, the grass had just turned green, and I had let three, two-year-old fillies out into a small pasture of about 10 acres. The field had a board fence around the perimeter so there was no fear of the young horses getting caught up in a wire fence or

barbed wire. There was a pond for the horses to drink from, and the grass had to be tantalizing to the youngsters who had been eating nothing but hay or grain all winter. The pasture even had a little stand of tightly bunched trees which would provide some shade if the spring sun became too warm.

I led the horses from the barn, through the pasture gate, removed their halters and turned them loose. Immediately they took off running as a group, kicking up their heels, bucking, nickering, and in general, celebrating life. It was spring and it was obvious they felt good about being out in the sunshine with plenty of grass to eat. It only took a short time before all three horses had their heads down, content with their surroundings and the fresh grass they were consuming.

I went about my chores, only occasionally glancing at the three. After completing a few additional tasks, I went to the house to grab a morning cup of coffee, only to be interrupted by one of the farmhands. All he could say was,

"You are not going to believe this!"

As I quickly followed the farmhand towards the pasture, my mind raced. Had one of the horses stepped in a hole and broken a leg? Did a dog or a coyote run them through the fence? My heart was pounding!

As I got closer, I could see two of the horses facing and staring at the third. She was also standing in the middle of the little clump of trees. From a distance the situation looked innocent enough. What was the farm hand talking about?

As I got to the trees, it was clear what had happened. Years ago, two of the trees had sprouted only a few feet apart. Over time they had grown to nearly 20 feet high, but their trunks at the base were only 30- or so inches apart. The young animal had been grazing and thus had its head down as it walked along and ate. It grazed between the two trees and kept grazing and moving forward. The problem was that once the horse moved forward, the trunk of the two trees touched the horse's sides. A horse's natural reaction when

startled is to run. When this mare felt something touch its sides, it became startled and ran forward. Unfortunately, the space between the two trees was so small the horse could not pass. This made matters worse, because when the horse felt like it was stuck, instinct told it to run forward to get free, and it became even more stuck. Now the horse was wedged so tightly between the two trees that it could not move at all!

I will never be able to replicate the glance my young horse gave me when I arrived. Her look was a mixture of embarrassment, fear, and being ashamed for having gotten themselves in such a position. While I was concerned for my mare's health and welfare, it was also hard not to laugh at the predicament. A horse stuck in a tree?

After assessing the situation, I tried to push the horse back through the opening to no avail. The mare was simply wedged too tightly. I tried dishwashing soap, but even its slippery nature was not enough to free the imprisoned equine. It finally came down to either cutting down one of the trees or getting the

tractor and placing a rope around the horse to pull the horse backwards towards freedom.

Turns out the tractor did a pretty good job of freeing the animal. The horse had a few scrapes on its side but was otherwise uninjured. For me, I learned that horses can somehow find a way to get themselves in trouble seemingly no matter what precautions you take. They are just as curious as us humans and just as apt to get in trouble.

From that time on the young mare and I had a bond. It is like she understood I had rescued her and perhaps she was hoping I would not tell the other horses of her embarrassing situation. I never told this story to an outsider until the horse had passed. Friends don't tell on their friends...do they?

Thought for the day: Do something good and no one sees it. Do something embarrassing and it feels like it is going to be on the national news.

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

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Folks around town

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Carol Grigston

Say hello to our neighbor, Carol Grigston!

Carol and her husband Al moved to Granbury last year. They love living here because there are so many fun and meaningful things to do in Granbury. After visiting Carol's sisters who live here, the couple fell in love with Granbury and settled here permanently following Al's long Army career. Hood County's rich history, lake activities, arts, entertainment, theater, and shopping were all part of the draw for the Grigston's. Carol feels it's very important she gives back to the community, she started at Stonewater Church on Sundays, then she heard about the need for volunteers at the Salvation Army. Then came co-chair for the Daughters of the American Revolution silent auction. Carol will be serving with others on the Wreaths Across America local committee. Carol's newest opportunity and passion is working as an administrative assistant to the amazing Mary Flores in the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary GAP program. She also volunteers with the Paluxy River CAC when there is a need. Carol says she loves the Hood County News and its talented staff. "I'm not one to say I'm retired, let someone else do it," Carol said. "Hood County News keeps us so well informed about what's happening and the groups that make up our county."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COMING TOGETHER REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES

The 4th of July parade in Granbury is a wonderful event. I participated in the Democratic float for the second year in a row. Our theme was "Liberty and Justice for All". Unfortunately, being a Democrat in Granbury can be uncomfortable, and even dangerous.

As we marched down the streets and around the historic square of our town on the 4th of July most people cheered and waved as we sang songs and threw candy to the children. There were even a few small groups

who happily yelled to us, "We didn't know there were Democrats in Granbury!" Of course, there were small rude groups of people who would boo us, but as we rounded the square by Granbury Live the negative reactions from the crowd became very loud. It started at one end of the street and spread all the way down the block. Some of the loudest protesters were church groups. "BOO! You're ruining our country!" This was vicious and mean.

How can people behave this way about their own neighbors and fellow Americans? We braved the heat just like

everyone else. One of my young friends who was walking with our float said that she got a sinking feeling in the pit of her stomach and was visualizing the worst that could happen.

Our country was founded on freedom for all people, regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identification.

We're still here. Let's come together in Love, not Hate.

Sherry Johnson
Granbury

GUIDELINES

Email letters to sam@hc-

news.com. Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

TxDOT seeks public input for projects in Texas

Staff Reports

As the Texas population continues to boom, TxDOT is drafting a record-breaking 10-year transportation plan and now the public is invited to weigh in on the projects proposed in their communities.

To help guide transportation projects over the next decade, TxDOT is seeking public input on the draft 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), the state's 10-year transportation plan. The draft 2024 UTP totals \$100 billion, which is \$15 billion more than the 2023 plan. The increase primarily comes from growth in revenues from Proposition 1 (passed in the 2015 legislative session) generated by oil and gas severance fees dedicated to highway improvements.

"The UTP is TxDOT's road map to developing projects

across the state," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "It's important to work with our transportation partners and hear from the public to guide transportation improvements that address congestion and enhance safety."

Projects included in the UTP will improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and preserve roadways for Texas drivers. The UTP also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

The virtual public meeting was held on July 6 at 2 p.m. (CST) and a virtual public hearing will be held on July 25 at 2 p.m. The public may join the meeting and hearing by phone or online via <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp/utp-public-involvement.html>

The draft 2024 UTP public comment period began Friday, July 7, 2023, and will end Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, at 4 p.m. (CDT). There are multiple ways to comment throughout the process, and they can all be found on the Public Involvement section of TxDOT.gov, along with recordings and presentations from each meeting and hearing. Comment forms are also available in English, Arabic, Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The UTP is updated annually, and TxDOT works with its transportation partners to identify projects to be included. Public comments and feedback are a very important part of developing

the plan. Available in English and Spanish, a UTP Fact Sheet provides an overview of the program.

The Texas Transportation Commission approves the UTP annually in accordance with Texas state law at its August commission meeting and publishes the approved UTP on TxDOT.gov.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail, and public transportation across the state. Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.

GRANT FROM PAGE A1

engagement, phase three focuses on assessing the needs, phase four will look at the development of recommendations, and phase five will be implementation of action.

In 2020 the City of

Granbury updated the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master plan to improve projects, funding opportunities and recommendations for expansions and improvements to serve the community.

"We saw that we needed more information on trail systems, we needed updating on existing systems, enhanc-

ing of existing systems, and looking at new routes for the future," McInain said.

Since that adoption, the city has created a new park loop trail as well as trail amenities including educational signage, nature themed play elements and benches located in Lambert Branch Park.

"Many requirements have

to be fulfilled, so it can be 12 months after it's awarded before you ever start any shovel in the dirt work," McInain said. Looking to the future, residents of Granbury can expect to see changes if awarded the grant within the next couple of years.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

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

CALENDAR

JULY

TUESDAY, JULY 25

MID CITIES Stamp Club-Granbury Branch will meet on Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at the Bentwater Activities Center located at 1800 Emerald Bend Court in Granbury. Activities: Pitcairn Islands from the Bounty to British Overseas Territory by Gary McNamee. For more information call 817-910-8174.

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

FRIDAY, JULY 28

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District Board of Directors regularly scheduled meeting will be held at noon in the Annex I meeting room, 202 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. For more information, please call 817-579-3200.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

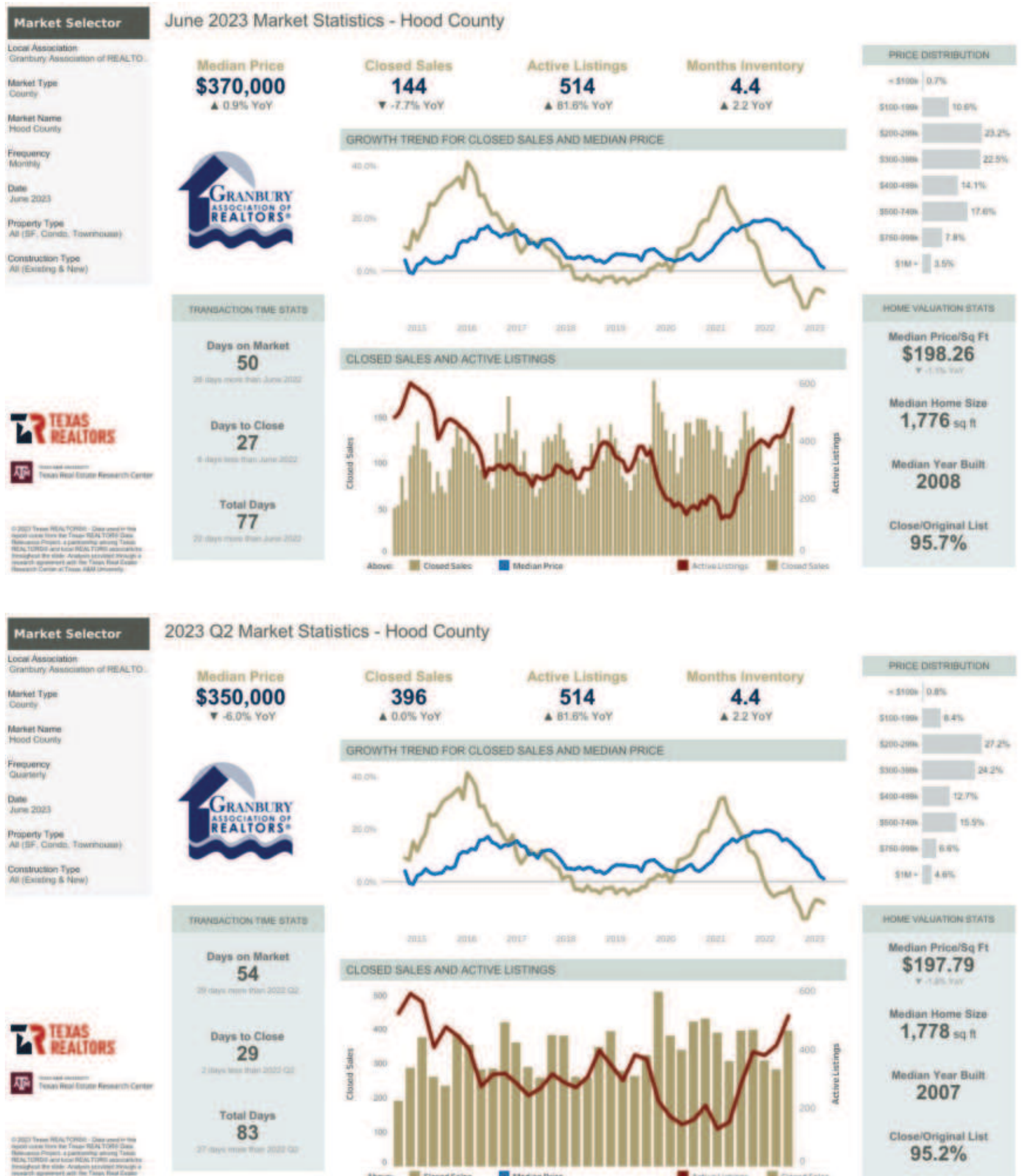
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST Church will be having a Craft Fair & Garage Sale on Saturday, July 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in their air-conditioned gym at the Southside Baptist Church located at 910 Paluxy Rd. in Granbury. For more information call 817-573-1462.

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.

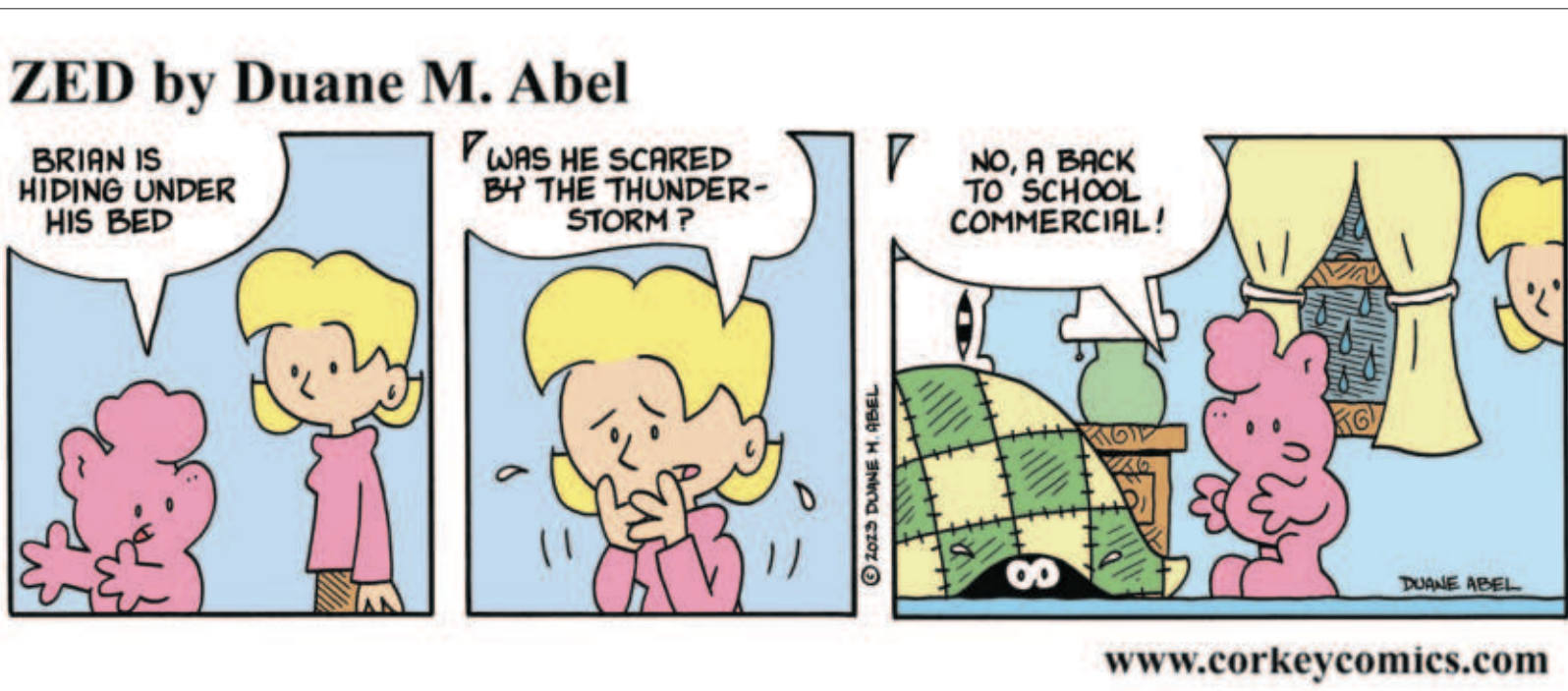
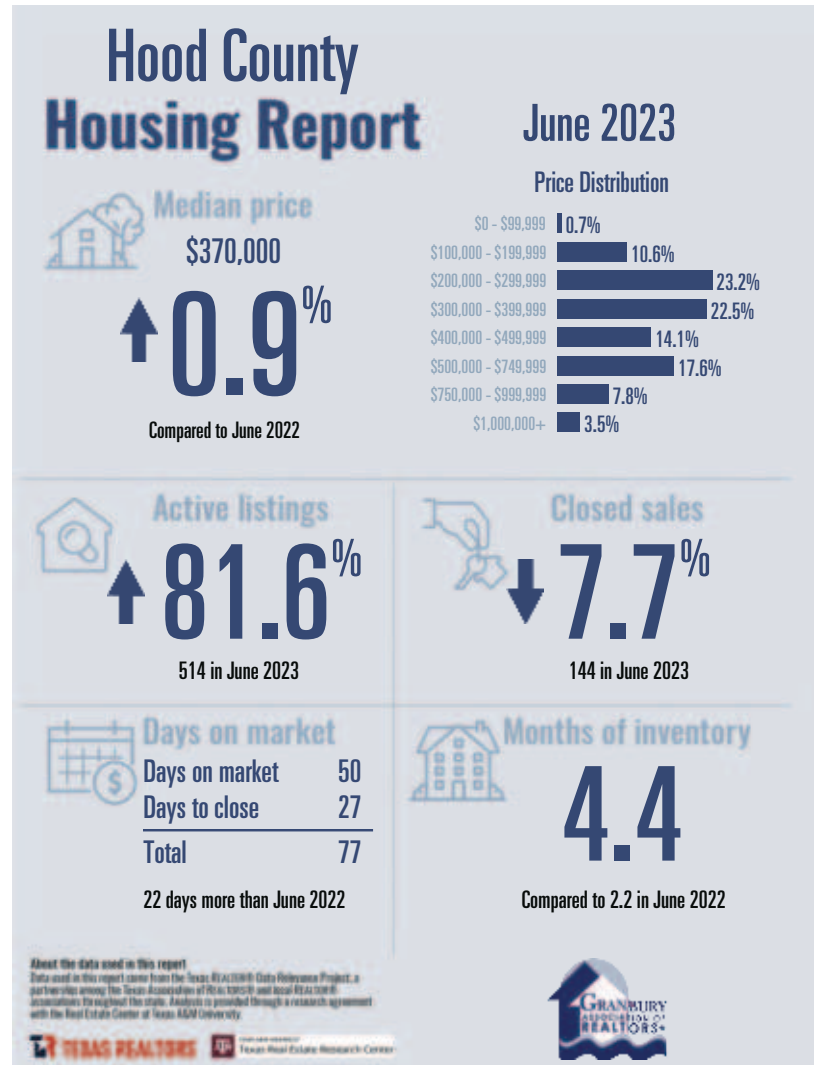
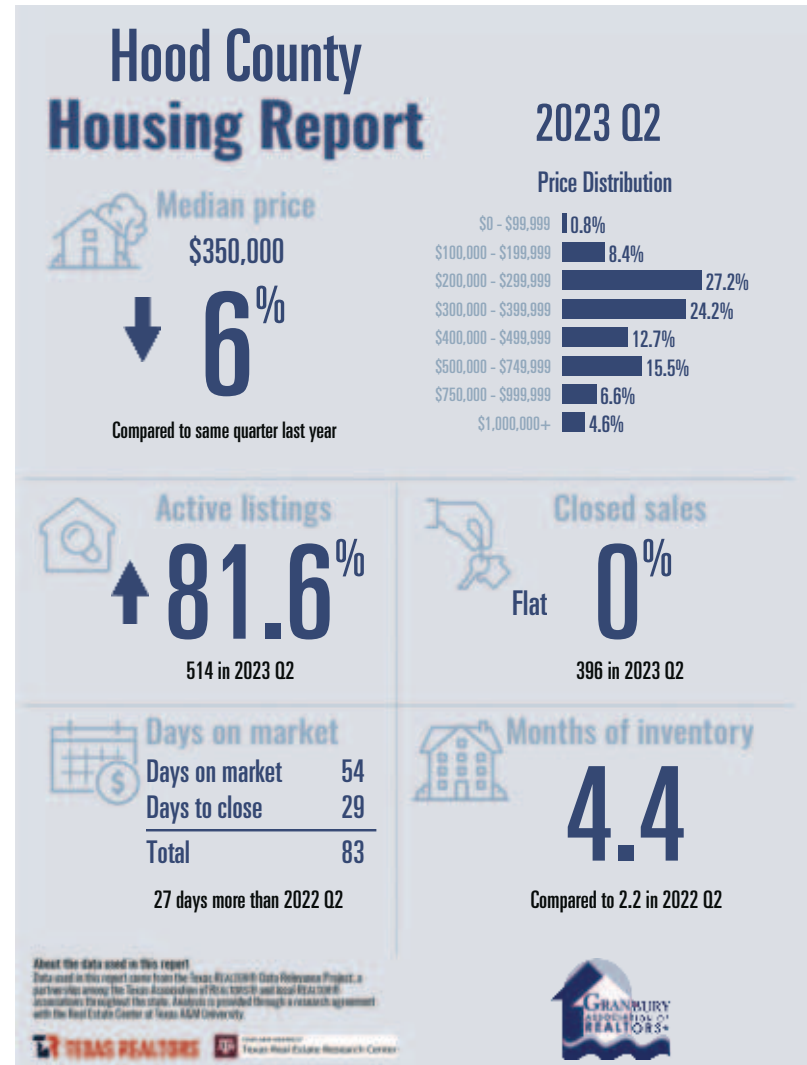


GRANBURY BOARD OF REALTORS



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF GRANBURY BOARD OF REALTORS

The top graphic shows the housing market statistics for June 2023 in Hood County. Above graphic shows the 2nd quarter housing report for Hood County. Bottom left shows the housing report for the 2nd quarter of 2023 in Hood County. The bottom right shows the June 2023 housing report for Hood County.



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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Cotton Howell, whose parents did not finish grade school, has worn a judge's robe in his years-long service to Hood County.

After three terms in office, Justice of the Peace Cotton Howell to hang up his robe

BY KATHY CRUZ
Senior Staff Writer

Oscar "Hap" Howell — the "Hap" was short for "Happy" — was an uneducated man where formal schooling was concerned, but he was the wisest man his youngest son has ever known.

It was from Hap that Roger "Cotton" Howell, Hood County's justice of the peace for Precinct 1, learned that integrity "is who you are when nobody's looking."

"My dad was an amazing man," said the three-term elected official.

During his years on the bench, Cotton, who asked that he be referred to throughout this article by his first name, has possibly been watched more, and by more people, than his father ever was. It's probably safe to say that with every case presented in his court, one party, maybe even both, left unhappy with his decision or with the way he ran his court. But in a county where politics is a rough-and-tumble game, Cotton has developed a reputation for refusing to play. He has not been soiled by mudslinging, perhaps because he has refused to engage in it.

In more ways than one, his departure at the end of his term will be the end of an era.

By his own admission unsavvy in the ways of social media, the former longtime rodeo judge chose a recent Commissioners Court meeting rather than a Facebook post to announce that he will not seek re-election. He stated that he was making the announcement as a courtesy so that anyone wanting to seek that office would have time to prepare and mount a campaign.

The filing period for the 2024 spring primary election will open on Saturday, Nov. 11 and run through Monday, Dec. 11.

Although the filing period is still months away, some have already announced their intention to run for public office. County offices that will be on the ballot in 2024 are district attorney; county commissioner, precincts 1 and 3; sheriff; tax assessor-collector; county attorney; peace justices for precincts 1 and 4; and constables for all four precincts.

As he prepares to head home to his woodshop and his wife Carolyn, Cotton is

also preparing to leave the staff on whom he relies: office manager Sissy Freeman, clerk Cameron Cozart and part-time clerk Courtney Robbins.

"Whatever gold sold for this morning, they're more valuable to me, and to the county, than that," he said of the women.

Probably few people, including Cotton, would have thought that the youngest child of Hap and Beulah Howell would one day wear a judge's robe. Hap had only a third-grade education because he was forced to work the family farm after his father died. Beulah had only a sixth-grade education.

Cotton, 71, was more fortunate. He completed all 12 grades in public school. He also had a couple years of college under his belt when he took office in January 2013. He speaks candidly about things in his background that made him an unlikely candidate for a robe and a gavel.

Before taking the bench in the JP courtroom at the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, Cotton appeared at the counter of the justice of the peace office more than once to pay traffic fines related to rushing his kids and niece from one rodeo to another. He remembers paying a \$186 traffic ticket at former longtime JP Martin Castillo's office, who later became his friend and colleague.

Roads, both literally and figuratively, have played an important part in Cotton's life.

Years ago, while driving to Groesbeck in his pickup truck, Cotton, whose first marriage had ended in divorce, suddenly pulled over to the side of the road and prayed for God to take control of his life.

It was truly a "Jesus, Take the Wheel" moment, but for Cotton, it wasn't a joke or a corny country song. He meant it.

When Cotton pulled back onto the road, he knew his life was going in a different direction.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Cotton was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was the youngest of four children. His now-deceased sister Ann was the oldest of the siblings. Oldest brother Dean is also deceased, but Wayne, an equine veterinarian known as "Doc," is alive and well and, on one occasion, rang up his little brother as Cotton was delivering a guest sermon at Triple Cross Cowboy Church.

As for Cotton's childhood, it was happy, and he knew he was loved. His nickname came from his white hair and the fact that a family friend always affectionally referred to him "Little Cotton Picker."

"I had the best parents in the world," Cotton said of his upbringing. "You know, they were just common farmer-country people. But my mom and dad both had integrity. We didn't go to church, or anything like that, but they instilled the idea that there was a God and that his son was Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior. And I grew up with that, not that I paid much attention to it most of my life, but it was always there."

Cotton left Albuquerque immediately after graduating from high school.

"I graduated on a Friday night. Saturday morning, I got on an airplane to Ocala, Florida to exercise racehorses," he said. "Somebody in our family always had racehorses."

In 1970, Hap and Beulah's boy joined the U.S. Marines, serving until 1974. He was stationed in Japan, Vietnam, and the New River Air Station in North Carolina where he participated in rodeos through a regional rodeo association.

Cotton bought a "car act" from a rodeo clown who was getting out of the business and worked as a rodeo clown for the next three or four years.

"I really enjoyed that," he said. "You get a chance to just be goofy and get paid for it."

After a while, though, Cotton missed competing. He started riding saddle broncs in rodeos.

Upon leaving the Marine Corps and the rodeo association, Cotton moved to Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma state for a couple of years but left college to shoe horses. He

PLEASE SEE **COTTON** | A6

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Roger "Cotton" Howell was all smiles the night he won the Republican primary in the Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace race. He has held that seat for a decade.

COTTON
FROM PAGE A5

eventually went back into the racehorse business, living near the Texas-Louisiana border not far from Delta Downs.

When the 69th Texas Legislature enacted the Texas Racing Act in 1986, establishing the Texas Racing Commission, Cotton moved to Granbury to be near Trinity Meadows Race Track in Willow Park.

Eventually, he left the shoeing and racehorse business and took a different road, doing something completely different. He went to work for Hood County in the maintenance department.

WINDING ROAD

As a member of the county's maintenance team, Cotton had a chance to visit every county office. By doing so, he met county employees. He saw them working and learned about their departments.

In 2012, the JP office that served Precincts 1 and 2 split, creating the need for an additional peace justice to serve the growing county. Cotton's friends from the county encouraged him to run for the seat, he said. After some thought and prayer, he decided to do it. He beat a Republican challenger in the primary and went on to win the November election in a county where there is rarely a Democratic candidate on the ballot.

It was an odd turn of events, but in Cotton's view, it was just another result of that spontaneous pullover

on the road to Groesbeck.

He can't tell you the day or the year that it happened, but he still remembers which tree he stopped under. Although he was attempting to live as a Christian, he had never prayed for God to come into his life.

A few missteps along the way almost cost Cotton his driver's license but he still has his marriage license. He and his beloved Carolyn have been married for more than 30 years.

Cotton helped raise his stepson, David Sanford, from the time the boy was 11. Sanford is now a game warden in Louisiana raising a son, Marcus, with his wife, Kizzy.

Cotton's son Shawn owns a tap room in Fort Worth. He and his wife Margaret have two sons, Kingston and Ivan.

With less than a year and a half to go until he heads home for good, the peace justice knows that life always goes on. Work in the JP-1 office will continue with a newly elected official at the helm.

"I'll miss these folks," he said of his staff and others who work for the county. "This has been a great job. This has probably been the best job I've had my whole life. There's been a couple of people that have put things on Facebook about, you know, they wish they'd find me in a bar ditch somewhere. But that's okay. That's their prerogative. But I've enjoyed working here. I'm blessed."

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Rancho Brazos Community Center: Offering a future with hope



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The center is located at 3701 Sundown Trail, Acton, TX 76049.

"Our goal is to leave the world better than we found it"

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Rancho Brazos Community Center is a nonprofit center for at-risk families in the Ranch Brazos, Sandy Beach, and Park 377/Carter Court communities.

The center focuses on providing resources for at-risk youth and families in need of support. The center provides support through many programs and educational activities that benefit not only students but also parents, all at no cost.

"Ranchos' primary platform is preventive education and in any way that we can prevent

abuse and neglect and children, household family violence, substance abuse and any preventive education safety we can provide," Sharla Caro Executive Director said.

With over 20 years of operation the center has grown tremendously. The start of the center was a small tent that was just a vacation bible school, which evolved into a



Thanks to Kubota, the center now has their own garden where they grow fruits and vegetables.

small building then into a habitat home. After a tornado wiped through the center in 2013, the building was destroyed. When rebuilt, the building was made three times

its original size. "That was identified after the tornado that the community definitely needed more larger space

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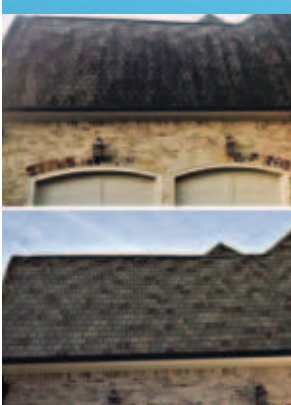







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Excessive heat warning: Knowing the effects and how to stay safe

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning July 12 for multiple counties in Texas including Hood.

The temperatures that fall under an excessive heat warning are a range from 95 degrees to 109 with a heat

index of 105 degrees to 114.

The average high temperature for Hood County in July is about 97 degrees and a low of 74 degrees.

"This extreme heat we have been feeling is due to the Gulf of Mexico has been extremely warm which causes the air to be more humid. The fact that we've had good soil moisture and

rain for some made the heat index brutal," Evan Andrews FOX4 Meteorologist said. "We've had a heat index over 115 many times. I can never remember a summer like that... even the hot ones," Andrews said.

With such dangerous temperatures, it is important to know the signs of heat related illnesses such as

heat stress, heat rash, heat exhaustion or in more severe cases, heat stroke, and who can be affected.

Heat stress is a milder related heat illness that occurs when the body's temperature regulating system is overwhelmed or overworked. This can be a result of working in extreme heat mixed with improper hydra-

tion. Outdoor workers, those who are 65 years or older, pregnant women, those overweight, people with heart disease, or who have high blood pressure are more at risk.

Warning signs of heat stress include fatigue, excessive sweating, thirst,

PLEASE SEE **HEAT** | A11

Governor Abbott announces statewide film friendly Texas workshop

Staff reports

Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced a statewide Film Friendly Texas Workshop to be held virtually on Thursday, August 10. The workshop, hosted by the Texas Film Commission, is open to community representatives from across the state interested in learning about the media production industries of Texas and how to become Film Friendly Texas certified to attract new jobs and investments.

"In promoting Texas as a premier moving image production destination, the Texas Film Commission has attracted \$1.95 billion in local spending and created more than 183,000 production jobs across the state from 2007 to 2022," Abbott said. "By completing the Film Friendly Texas training

and certification process, certified communities are prepared to help match local businesses with production-related needs, stimulating the local economy by creating jobs for Texas-based crew members and local residents, as well as creating on-site spending at local businesses."

The statewide Film Friendly Texas Workshop is being held virtually and in partnership with the city of Marfa, a Film Friendly Texas certified community, along with Visit Big Bend.

Marfa and the Big Bend Region have long been featured in films, including *Giant* in 1956, *No Country for Old Men* in 2007, and *Abilene* in 2022. As noted in a recent *Variety* feature about the burgeoning film industry in Texas, cooperation between Texas com-

munities is one secret to the success and growth of the Film Friendly Texas program: "A production bolstering the local economy by filming in a particular town disseminates those spending dollars into the next, paying for lumber, food, and lodging in the surrounding areas. The economic boost links the communities together."

The target audience for this workshop is community representatives who will serve as the community's point-of-contact for facilitating media production requests. Most communities choose a member of their city or county government, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, or Economic Development Corporation.

This workshop includes presentations from Texas

Film Commission staff and discussions with media industry professionals in the region addressing topics such as:

- Media production as an economic development opportunity for your community
- What to expect when working with different types of media productions
- How to create filming guidelines and permit systems for your community
- How to facilitate and expedite production requests
- How filming locations are chosen
- How to take and submit photos of potential filming locations in your community
- Understanding location agreements, production insurance, and other documents
- Film tourism opportuni-

ties for your community

The Statewide Film Friendly Texas Workshop Virtual, co-hosted by the city of Marfa and Visit Big Bend will take place on Thursday, August 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For registration and admission information, please visit: gov.texas.gov/film/page/fftx_workshops

For more than 50 years, the Texas Film Commission has helped communities across Texas grow local jobs and economies by promoting the Lone Star State as the premier destination for film, television, commercial, animation, visual effects, video game, and extended reality (XR) production. For more information about the Film Friendly Texas program, visit: gov.texas.gov/film/page/fftx_overview

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expands statewide disaster response network

Agency expands, realigns Disaster Assessment and Recovery unit to enhance programming, response capabilities

Submitted item

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Disaster Assessment and Recovery, DAR, unit is expanding its statewide disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts following the appropriations to support the "Keeping Texas Prepared" initiative in the 88th legislative session.

"The expansion of AgriLife Extension Service's Disaster Assessment and Recovery unit will benefit the entire state," said John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. "We learned valuable lessons from Hurricane Harvey and the Commission to Rebuild Texas, and we know we can accomplish more for our state when agencies work together for emergency response and recovery."

"As we further unify the geographic and program-

matic abilities of our DAR unit, AgriLife Extension will continue to serve as an integral part of our state's capacity to prepare and respond to disaster and to assist local recovery," said Rick Avery, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service director. "Through the strength of our statewide agent network, we continue to operate as a force multiplier, under the direction of Texas Department of Emergency Management, TDEM, to serve the growing needs of Texans in all 254 counties. We are grateful to our state leaders for providing resources to strengthen our agency's work in support of local jurisdictions, our sister agencies and FEMA emergency support functions."

An expanding effort to reflect the growing Texas population

To fulfill the increased

responsibilities granted by the Texas Legislature, the DAR unit will restructure to bolster its disaster preparedness, response and recovery capabilities statewide to more closely align its efforts with the state's disaster districts and other Texas A&M University System Disaster Response and Recovery Agencies including the Texas Division of Emergency Management, TDEM, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service.

The DAR unit responded to 12 in-state and one out-of-state deployments for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. In June alone, the DAR unit was deployed in multiple counties affected by severe weather and tornados in the Panhandle, Rolling Plains and East Texas.

In total, DAR plans to add 13 positions. This will increase the total amount of field agents embedded across the state to 28. Additionally, DAR will add three area chiefs who will be assigned to oversee the 28 agents along with a logistics coordinator and recovery coordinator.

The first phase of hiring new positions began July 10. The new organizational infrastructure is effective Sept. 1.

'Unique' agent statewide network

With a presence in all 254 Texas counties, AgriLife Extension has embedded local teams built from the communities they serve. This layered, comprehensive AgriLife Extension network positions DAR to offer one of the most unique and effective disaster response infrastructures nationwide.

"Across AgriLife Extension, our county strike teams and unit leadership collaborate with DAR field positions to significantly augment manpower, coordinate supplies and assist in distribution of these supplies to the hard-hit areas," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., DAR unit coordinator, Bryan College Station.

Dozier commended the work of all agents over the past several years. He said from hurricanes and tornados to extreme drought and winter storms, AgriLife Extension has always answered when Texans call.

"We are grateful for our agents, staff in county offices and centers statewide," Dozier said. "It's a true blessing to work alongside the AgriLife Extension agent network, always ready to lend a hand wherever needed."

OAG conducts operations to tackle illegal spam calls

Submitted item

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has announced that Texas, along with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and a coalition of law enforcement partners nationwide, is conducting Operation Stop Scam Calls to combat the nationwide problem of illegal telemarketing and robocalls by which companies and scammers target and harass U.S. consumers.

The joint state and federal law enforcement sweep aims to deter and punish

illegal telemarketers and anyone else who enables their unlawful conduct, including the companies who hire them, lead generators who provide them with consumers' contact information, and the Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") service providers who transmit their calls to U.S. consumers.

By joining this coalition, the OAG aims to protect the people of Texas from deceitful telemarketing companies and the nuisance of spam calls. As part of Operation Stop Scam Calls,

the OAG previously filed a multistate lawsuit against Michael D. Lansky, LLC, which does business under the name Avid Telecom, its owner Michael Lansky, and its vice president Stacey S. Reeves for the alleged initiation and facilitation of billions of robocalls, including hundreds of millions of unlawful calls made to numbers in Texas.

The OAG also shut down a massive Texas-based robocall operation in March 2023, securing judgments totaling over \$244 million against two individuals op-

erating an illegal robocall scheme that affected millions of Americans.

Alongside Texas and the FTC, other contributing law enforcement agencies include the attorneys general from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Federal Communications Commission.

Guidance from the FTC can be found here.



The OAG provides more information on preventing phone scams here.



RBCC

FROM PAGE A6

es to serve out of. Through COVID we identified a need for more space to be able to serve at a higher volume. When I started here, we maybe served 400 people a year, and now we serve considerably more than that," Carrol said.

The center has many resourceful programs such as their after-school program for kindergarten through 12th grade students. The program focuses on academic enrichment where they focus on all sorts of topics. Another program offered is Parents Café. The program allows conversations to be had with other parents and establish a community within a community as well as to build friendships. There is also a big focus on mental health awareness. The center recently started a program called seeking safety, which is a teen support group. They learn coping skills, how to deal with grief, PTSD, anger and much more. They also partner with Cook Children's as well as Community Health Collaborative. There is also a rehoming program where families are looking for items for their home.

"One thing that we pride ourselves on here at Rancho is coming alongside a family and meeting the needs building them up so that they become self-sufficient and that opens a space for a new family to come in and be served. With these families we've established a relationship with and build that trust with, we've heard some families speaking about re-engaging their children in school after having been withdrawn," Carrol said.

Rancho has a big project in the works that they are beyond excited for. Thanks to the help from Commissioner Jack Wilson, the center was able to agree to a 99-year lease for \$1 per year, which Commissioner Wilson paid for.

"Once that happened there was a chain of events. We had the opportunity to apply for \$100,000 grant through Kubota and we won," Jan Neal Board President said.

After the grant was awarded, the vision was created, and plans were drawn up. Five phases were planned for the future of the center. The first phase focuses on a community garden, phase two models the launch for the new Douglas Long Outreach Center, and phase three focuses on an indoor recreation center.

"In the last month, we've finally been able to break ground and start moving dirt. The vision is coming to reality, which is really cool to see play out the way we had all hoped and dreamed. It's with the love from the community that's what's making this vision really come true," Neal said.

The soon-to-be 5-acre space has been prepared for a pad to be laid. The center also created a small building committee to stay updated on the progress of the new space.

Ranchos also has a big fundraising event "Wild, Wild West" coming up on Aug 3. The event will feature live music, cornhole and horseshoe tournaments, bingo, raffles, catering by Natty Flats Barbecue and much more. Tickets are \$65 per person. The event will take place at Oasis Tranquillo located at 950 Williamson Road in Granbury. All proceeds will go towards the programs at Rancho.

The center always welcomes donations, monetary as well as pantry donations, furniture, clothes and household goods.

"If there is any church or neighborhood that would like to do a pantry drive, we're always welcome to that," Carrol said.

To volunteer at the center or for more information, visit their website at ranchobrazoscommunity-center.org, call 817-910-8144 or email rbccs2019@gmail.com.

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6670 **LOCAL BUYER-Buying used or in need of repair: 5th wheel or bumper pull campers, pontoon, fishing or larger boats, pickups and cars, trailers, cargo trailers, compressors, propane tanks, forklifts, tractors and farm equipment, misc. Call local resident Dan at 817-629-7531.**

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1510 **Apartments for Rent**

STORAGE
10x10, \$75
10x20, \$125
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Apartment, Cabin 1 bedroom , bath and kitchen. \$700, utilities included. Available Aug.21st. (817) 776-2319

1540 **Homes for Rent**

SINGLE FAMILY HOME - GRANBURY Brick 3/2/2, Close to town, small pet okay with deposit. 1750 a month, 1000 deposit. 603 Ranch Rd. (817) 219-8718

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2080 
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crushed rock * washed rock
6, 8, or 12 yd. loads * blade work
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Hood County News

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LIVESTOCK & PETS

8030 Livestock

Eggs, chickens, roosters and lots of pullets for sale. (817)964-9065, 3800 Paluxy Hwy, Granbury.

8030

Pets




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

ATTENTION!



ANIMAL PLANET'S JACKIE BIBBY OF RATTLESNAKE REPUBLIC WILL BE HOSTING THE 23rd Annual Snake-Proofing Seminar Hunters, working dog/pets. Snake-proof your dog August 26, 2023.
Click on Snake-Proofing Seminar at www.carringtonkennels.com or e-mail to: carringtonkennels@gmail.com (254)835-4010 or (817)776-1117

8040

Pets Lost & Found

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

EMPLOYMENT

8510 General

EDUCATION - CREATIONS CHILD CARE Now hiring fun, loving, reliable teachers. Must have High School diploma or equivalent. (817) 573-2808 GRANBURY.CREATIONS@GMAIL.COM

GUTTER INSTALLERS Must have current DL. Experience preferred. Immediate openings available. Call: (817) 243-6560

WE'RE HIRING!

MINERAL WELLS AND SURROUNDING AREA POSITION

Santo Propane is looking for a full-time propane delivery route driver for our Mineral Wells and surrounding service area.

Basic duties include delivering propane to residential and commercial customers in a safe and efficient manner; while also maintaining records with regulations and company procedures.

Candidate should possess a Class A CDL License, Tanker Endorsement, Hazmat Materials Endorsement and be able to pass a drug screen. (Railroad Commission License would be a plus!)

Please contact 254-646-2237 for more information regarding this position. You may also come by our Lipan or Granbury location to fill out an application.

You can email completed application and resume to the following email: monty@santopropane.com

The City of Granbury has Full Time open positions for Senior Planner, First Class Lineman, Parks Laborer, Utility Equipment Operator, Utility Line Locator, Light Equipment Operator, Water Plant Operator. The city offers a competitive starting salary, depending on qualifications and experience, and a full range of leave and insurance benefits. The city participates in the Texas Municipal Retirement System at a 7% employee deposit rate with a city matching ratio of 2:1. A detailed job description and employment application can be found at www.granbury.org or 116 W Bridge St, Granbury, TX. EOE

8510 General

HELP WANTED



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WE'RE HIRING!

GRANBURY AND SURROUNDING AREA POSITION

Santo Propane is looking for a full-time propane delivery route driver for our Granbury and surrounding service area.

Basic duties include delivering propane to residential and commercial customers in a safe and efficient manner; while also maintaining records with regulations and company procedures.

Candidate should possess a Class A CDL License, Tanker Endorsement, Hazmat Materials Endorsement and be able to pass a drug screen. (Railroad Commission License would be a plus!)

Please contact 254-646-2237 for more information regarding this position. You may also come by our Lipan or Granbury location to fill out an application.

You can email completed application and resume to the following email: monty@santopropane.com

Needing gutter installer or helper for local seamless gutter company. 817-994-8778.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for full-time and substitute CAFETERIA employees to join our outstanding team for the 2023-2024 school year. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Starting pay is \$15 per hour for full time and \$14/hour for subs, with excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at www.granburyisd.org. Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

- EXPERIENCED POOL CLEANING TECH C & C Pool Service is currently looking for an experienced pool cleaning tech. Will consider training the right person but prefer experienced. 4 day work week, 12 pools per day. Top pay for right individual. Must have own transportation. If interested please call Hollif at 432-288-5574 (432) 288-5574

8540

Medical/Dental

NOW HIRING

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Granbury, Texas

8560

Professional

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Large Hood County Ranch searching for Wildlife Consultant. Includes deer, fish, dove, ducks, different types of birds, and interesting grass and flowers. Qualified and interested applicants, please send resume and references to rورانchemail@yahoo.com

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8510 General

Mission Granbury is seeking a motivated, organized, dependable applicant to fill a full-time Direct Services Case Manager position at the Ada Carey Shelter. This position could include evening, weekend or holiday hours. Duties include assisting with crisis intervention, answering the 24-hour crisis line, safety planning, advocacy and other supportive services to clients of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Must have reliable transportation, the ability to pass a background check and be able to lift 25 lbs. The position starts at \$34,500.00 annually, medical and dental available. No phone calls please. Bilingual applicants encouraged to apply. Please send your resume to Angela Whiting at awhiting@missiongranbury.org

APARTMENT MANAGER
Seeking self-motivated, experienced property manager for 50+ units. Must be well versed in all aspects of management, leasing and maintenance personnel. Minimum 7 years required. Salary based on experience. Send qualifications to gconn1@aol.com

HOA-CONDOMINIUM MANAGER
60 Unit, luxury, upscale condominium project is seeking an experienced manager for our home owner's association. Manager will be responsible for a/r, ap, financial reports, work orders, delegating maintenance personnel, budgeting, communications with all owners and a full understanding of the Texas property code. Salary determined based on experience and scope. Send resume' to gconn1@aol.com

8560 Professional

North Central Texas Academy is seeking chemistry/math teacher, assistant volleyball coach and assistant basketball coach. Full and part time positions available.
Apply at <https://www.northcentraltxacademy.org/about-hhfa/employment/teacher-application/>

8590

Employment Wanted

GRANBURY MEDICATION DELIVERY DRIVER NEEDED

We are looking for a dependable, reliable, individual to deliver pharmacy medication to local residences.

Part time work Monday-Friday (No Weekends) Pickup twice a day at 10am and 3:30pm.

This position is great for someone who is a retiree, a stay-at-home mom, or currently does other delivery services. Please Text RYAN at 210-249-8040 with your NAME, NUMBER, AND LOCATION.

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Hood County News

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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. Call to register: (918) 794-1660.

OIL & GAS RIGHTS

We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Need help with your retirement plan? If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the South Central Pension Rights Project at 800-443-2528 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, SPCRP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan. Call us today 800-443-2528.

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

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NOTICES

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Public Notices

Application has been made for a Private Club Registration Permit for Starr Hollow Private Club, Inc., a domestic non-profit corporation doing business as Starr Hollow Club, located at 5717 Starr Hollow Court, east side, 8 miles north Int. Hwy. 377 and Hwy. 201, Tolar, Hood County, Texas, Martha V. Leonard, President, Madelon L. Bradshaw, Vice President, and John H. Maddux, Secretary. Said application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
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. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on August 1, 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: Stephanie Liming- golf clubs, chairs, boxes

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury
817-573-2416

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT by RICHARD TARNOFF dba LET IT BRIE, to be located at 2441 E HWY 377, SUITE 107, GRANBURY, HOOD, Texas. OWNER is RICHARD TARNOFF.

The FEMA Region 6, Regional Administrator announces a Public Meeting for the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CPNPP) biennial evaluated exercise. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom on August 1 at 10:00 with the following agencies participating: the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Radiation Control Program; the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM); The Texas Department of Public Safety; and both Hood and Somervell County Emergency Responders. The FEMA Regional Assistance Committee (RAC) Chair will invite representatives of participating Offsite Response Organizations (OROs), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and other Federal agencies. Members of the public and the media are invited to attend this Zoom meeting.

Meeting URL:
https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1605701241
Meeting ID: 160 570 1241
Password: 328170

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals 2023-16 for Library Books, eBooks, and Online Subscriptions as well as 2023-17 for CTE Instructional Supplies.

Bid proposals are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. The bids are open immediately and will close July 27th, 2023.

Please contact purchasing manager Houcine Chraïbi or purchasing assistant Bradee Watson with any questions at (817) 408-4087.

Request for Qualifications
The City of Granbury is requesting Statements of Qualification (SOQ) from professional firms for the purpose of providing Sewer Collection System Smoke Testing Services. Submission is due by 2:00pm Central Standard Time on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at the following address: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center

Attn: Purchasing Department/ Christy Russell
"RFP NO. 22-23-18 sewer Collection System Smoke Testing Services"
401 N. Park Street
Granbury, TX 76048
Inquiries regarding this RFQ should be directed to 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 17, 2023, at 1:00pm.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frank Bade

Thieme, Jr., Deceased, were issued on July 7, 2023, under Docket No. P10055, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Terri Lee Thieme.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:
Representative,
Estate of Frank Bade Thieme, Jr.
c/o Robin C. Crow
CROW-HENLEY LAW PLLC
9203 Plantation Dr., Ste. 3
Granbury TX 76049

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 July 17, 2023
By Robin C. Crow
Attorney For Applicant

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of CHRISTOPHER ADAM MONINGER, Cause No. P10121, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

CANDACE MONINGER in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of CHRISTOPHER ADAM MONINGER, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 13th day of July 2023.
KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By/s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

LEGAL AD
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, at 9 a.m. during the Hood County Commissioners' Court in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. The Commissioners' Court will meet to discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the concept plan for PALUXY VALLEY ESTATES, located at 11819 Baker's Crossing Rd, Bluff Dale, TX

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of DAKODAH HORTON, Cause No. P10038, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

CYNTHIA JAN HORTON in the above numbered and entitled estate filed a Second Amended Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of DAKODAH HORTON, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 14th day of July 2023.

KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of SHARON ANN STEELE, Cause No. P09793, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

SANDY GATES BUGBEE in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Declare Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of SHARON ANN STEELE, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 14th day of July 2023.
KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive bids for the purchase of RO Membranes and Brine Seals for the Water Treatment Plant until August 8, 2023, at 3:00 pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed or hand-delivered to the City of Granbury Municipal Service Center at 401 N. Park Street, Granbury, TX 76048.

City of Granbury Municipal Service Center
Attn: Purchasing Department
"Granbury Water Treatment Plant RO Membranes and Brine Seals RFP No. 22-23-19"
401 N. Park Street
Granbury, TX 76048

The bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website https://www.granbury.org/72/Pur chasing starting July 24, 2023, at 2:00 pm CST. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested by, Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

Public Notices


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. PL-2022-05, Request of Vaquero Acton Highway Partners, LP to Final Plat a 1.403-acre tract of the Joshua Minnett Survey, Abs. #353 as Lot 1, Block 1 Vaquero Acton Pl. This property is located at 5642 Acton Hwy.
2. PL-2022-16, Request of Joe Faust on behalf of QT South, LLC to Replat Lot 4, Block 2 of the Luton Ranch Addition as Lot 4R, Block 2 of the Luton Ranch Addition. The property is located east of the intersection of Meander Rd. and E. Hwy. 377.
3. PL-2022-17, Request of Tony Caloway, to Final Plat a 6.231-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. #348 as Lots 1-4, Block 1 of Corridor 51 Business Center Addition. The property is addressed as 1109 and 1211 Weatherford Hwy.
4. PL-2022-23, Request of Jason Britt to Final Plat, a 59.801 acre tract of the Joshua Minnett Survey, Abs. #351, B.W. Perkins Survey, Abs. #445 as Lots 1-6, Block 15, Lots 1-30, Block 16, Lots 1-32, Block 17, Lots 1-16, Block 18, Lots 1-10, Block 19, Lots 1-7 & Common Area I, Block 20, Lots 1-16, Block 21, Lots 1-3 & Common Area H, Block 22, Lots 1-31, Block 23, Lots 1-12, Block 24 Lots 1-34, Block 25, and Lots 1-32, Block 26 of the Saratoga Phase 3 & 4 Addition. The property is located approximately 3000 feet south of the intersection of Saratoga Blvd. and E. Hwy 377.
5. PL-2022-29, Request of CRB Asset Management to Replat Lot 1 Block 1 of Enterprise Addition as Lot 1R, Block 1 Enterprise Addition. The property is located south of Old Granbury Road, approximately 135 feet east of Opal Ct.
6. Z-2023-02, Request of Tryon Development Corp. to rezone a 15.147-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. #348 from Planned Development [PD] to Residential - 7,000 [R-7]. The property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Nettie Baccus Rd. and Loop 567.
7. PL-2023-04, Request of Tryon Development Corp. to Preliminary Plat a 15.147-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. #348 as Lots 1-23, Block 1; Lots 1-27, Block 2 and Lots 1-15, Block 3 of the Bella Vista Addition. The property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Nettie Baccus Rd. and Loop 567.
8. SUP-2021-12, Request of Mary Ann Williamson for a Specific Use Permit to allow Single Family, Attached in a Central Business District (CBD) zoning district. The property is addressed as 210 E. Ewell St.
9. PL-2021-10, Request of Mary Ann Williamson to Replat a 0.549-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abs. #903, known as a part of Block 8 of the Barton Addn. as Lots 6R-11R, Block 8 of the Barton Addition. The property is addressed as 210 E. Ewell St.
10. PL-2023-15, Request of Jim Tate to Replat Lot 37 of the Woodcreek Subdivision, Section 4 as Lots 37-R1 and 37-R2 of the Woodcreek Subdivision, Section 4. The property is addressed as 612 W. Woodcreek Ct.
11. Z-2023-08, Request of Manish Rimal to Rezone a portion of Lot 1, Block 1 of the 40RTH Enterprise Addition from Residential - 8,400 [R-8.4] to Light Commercial [LC]. The property is addressed as 1100 W. Pearl St.
12. SUP-2023-19, Request of Manish Rimal for a Specific Use Permit to allow the operation of a "Convenience Store with Gas Pumps" in a Light Commercial zoning district. The property is addressed as 1100 W. Pearl St.
13. CP-2023-04, Request of Stacey Watkins Martin to amend the Future Land Use Map contained within the 2016 Comprehensive Plan on part of Lot 2 and part of Lot 4, Block 167 of the Thrash Addition from Low Density Residential to Retail/Office. The property is addressed as 1001 W. Pearl St.
14. Z-2023-09, Request of Stacey Watkins Martin to rezone part of Lot 2 and part of Lot 4, Block 167 of the Thrash Addition from Residential - 10,000 [R-10] to Light Commercial [LC]. The property is addressed as 1001 W. Pearl St.
15. CP-2023-05, Request of Jerry Moore to amend the Future Land Use Map contained within the 2016 Comprehensive Plan on a 2.17-acre tract of the W.G. Terrell Survey, Abstract # 562 from Retail/Office to Commercial. The property is addressed as 4426 E. Hwy 377.
16. Z-2023-10, Request of Jerry Moore to rezone a 2.17-acre tract of the W.G. Terrell Survey, Abstract # 562 from Light Commercial [LC] to Heavy Commercial [HC]. The property is addressed as 4426 E. Hwy 377.
17. Z-2022-03, Request of Sand Hill Land & Cattle Company. LLC to rezone a 6.128-acre tract of the Marcus Smith Survey, Abs.#504 from Light Commercial [LC] to Planned Development [PD] with a base Multiple Family [PD/MF]. The property is located north of the intersection of Crawford Ave. and Harbor Lakes Dr.
18. PL-2022-25, Request of Sand Hill Land & Cattle Company to Preliminary Plat a 6.128-acre tract of the Marcus Smith Survey, Abs. #504 as Lot 1, Block 1 of the Sundance on Lake Granbury Addition. The property is located north of the intersection of Crawford Ave. and Harbor Lakes Dr.

For more information, contact Community Development at 817-573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN AIR QUALITY STANDARD PERMIT FOR PERMANENT ROCK AND CONCRETE CRUSHERS

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 173326

APPLICATION. Bng Services, LLC, 10260 Westheimer Road Suite 211, Houston, TX 77042-3109 has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration Number 173326, which would authorize construction of a permanent rock and concrete crusher. The facility is proposed to be located at the following driving directions: From the intersection of Texas Highway 4 and South Caddo Street, travel East for approximately 1.7 miles. Turn right on Gas Plant Court. Travel South for approximately 0.65 miles to find the site entrance on the right. Cross over the cattle guard to enter property. Crusher is approximately 1 mile South on Oilfield Road, in Lipan, Hood County, Texas 76462. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-98.010717,32.490161&level=13>. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 11, 2023. The executive director has determined the application was technically complete on July 14, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT. Written public comments about this application may be submitted at any time during the public comment period. You may submit public comments either in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. The deadline to submit public comments is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS. A written response to all relevant comments will be prepared by the executive director after the comment period closes. The response, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and requested to be added to the mailing list. The response to comments will be posted in the permit file for viewing.

The executive director shall approve or deny the application not later than 30 days after the end of the public comment period, considering all comments received within the comment period, and base this decision on whether the application meets the requirements of the standard permit.

CENTRAL/REGIONAL OFFICE. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office and the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office, located at 2309 Gravel Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76118-6951, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning the first day of publication of this notice.

INFORMATION. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Bng Services LLC, 10260 Westheimer Road Suite 211, Houston, TX 77042-3109, or by calling Mr. Aaron Hertz, Environmental Consultant at (512) 709-4251.

Notice Issuance Date: July 17, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of H. T. Martin, Deceased, were issued on June 28, 2023 in Cause No. P10064, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Tammy Dawn Payne.

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: Pamela A. Walker
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Ancillary Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JANICE W. SOUDBASH, Deceased, were issued on July 6, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0021, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: STEVE F. SOUDBASH.

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:

Estate of Janice W. Soudbash
c/o: Steven G. Kuban
Attorney at Law
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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Notice Issuance Date: July 17, 2023



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HCSAC to launch Pennies for Prevention substance abuse campaign

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Harley Walts was just a teenager when her life changed forever — and it's all because of the Hood County Substance Abuse Council (HCSAC).

Walts was in the Rancho Brazos Community Centers Crossroads for Youth program (a private, nonprofit treatment agency that serves at-risk children and youth) when the HCSAC impacted her life in a way that she had never felt before.

"The Hood County Substance Abuse Council is how I learned most about prevention, substance use and misuse, and some of the symptoms and dangers," she explained.

Now, at 22, Walts is the new program coordinator at HCSAC for the Pennies for Prevention campaign — an idea she came up with to provide education on substance use and prevention services to youth in Hood County.

"For me, it's all about going back to my teenage roots," she explained. "When I was a teenager and TMAD (Teens Making a Difference) was

going on, they were talking to us about these teenagers who want nothing more than to live beyond what their generational cycles have taught them, and honestly for me, that was the biggest thing.

"I come from a family predisposed to poverty, substance use, and domestic violence so for me, personally hearing that there are people who come from the same walks of life and can overcome those generational cycles made an impact on me. And if it made an impact on me, I want to make that same impact for that 14-year-old who is looking at their life saying 'There's no way I'm gonna get out of this. What do I do?' I want to be able to throw that lifeline and say, 'There is a way. Let me help you. Come talk to me. I will figure it out with you.'"

Additionally, with the increase in fentanyl use in

Hood County, Walts is motivated to start her youth education as soon as possible.

"Personally, it's hitting close to home, and I want to make sure that Hood County remains and stays a healthy community where children can go outside and play and not have to worry about if they pick something up off the ground and it has something laced in it," she said. "For me, it's really just trying to connect the Hood County Substance Abuse Council more into the teenagers and into the residents of Hood County."

Starting Tuesday, Aug. 15 through Friday, Oct. 6 — the week before Red Ribbon Week — Walts will be collecting money for the Pennies for Prevention campaign.

"We're (launching the campaign in) August because August is Overdose Awareness Month, and August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day," she said. "We're actually trying to get the square lit up purple as purple is actually the color (for Overdose Awareness Month), so even by someone wearing purple and spreading the word, that's even helping towards

that campaign as well."

Walts said proceeds from the Pennies for Prevention Campaign will go toward family engagement activities for Red Ribbon Week, plus future substance abuse education seminars.

She said she also plans to collaborate with local schools and businesses to display change jars around the buildings.

"At Hood County Substance Abuse Council, we are all about collaborating with local law enforcement, community organizations, youth programs, partner agencies, individuals, and groups to take actions that reduce substance use and misuse in Hood County," Walts explained. "We want to provide education and prevention services to our youth of Hood County to confront substance use for overall, a healthier community."

She added that although Pennies for Prevention is the name of the campaign, individuals are not limited to only pennies for their donation.

"It's not just pennies; it's just one of those catchy little things that makes you think of money," Walts said, with



COURTESY OF HARLEY WALTS
Misty Sklark, left, Hood County Substance Abuse Council program director, poses with HCSAC Program Coordinator Harley Walts, right, as they promote the launch of the Pennies for Prevention campaign next month.

a chuckle. "But it can be dollars, it can be online, a check can be mailed, like, whatever. If someone wants to give to it, all they have to do is contact me and we will find a way."

Anyone wishing to donate to the campaign can email Walts at Harley.

WaltsHCSAC@gmail.com.

She added, "(HCSAC) helped me stay on the straight and narrow, so if it helped me, it's got to help another teenager."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

HEAT

FROM PAGE A7

headache, dizziness, muscle cramps, and nausea. Progression can lead to confusion, fainting, rapid heartbeat and loss of consciousness. Heat stress can also turn into heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rashes, as well as heat stroke.

Heat rash is when the skin becomes irritated due to excessive sweating due to high temperatures and humidity. Symptoms include red clusters of pimples or small blisters that usually appear on

the neck, upper chest, groin, under breasts, and in elbow creases.

Heat exhaustion is a higher level of heat related illness that can occur after several days in high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. According to the CDC those who are more at risk of having heat exhaustion include elderly people, those with high blood pressure, and anyone who works outside in a hot environment.

The signs of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps,

tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, and fainting.

If left untreated, it can progress to heat stroke. If symptoms worsen or last longer than an hour it is important to seek medical attention.

Heat stroke is a form of a serious heat-related illness. It occurs when the body is no longer able to control its temperature. Your body temperature will rise quickly, and your body will fail to produce sweat making you unable to cool down. It can cause body temperatures to

rise to 106 degrees or higher within 10 to 15 minutes.

Heat stroke can result in permanent disability or death if not treated.

Heat stroke warning signs can vary from person to person but can include a body temperature above 103, red hot and dry skin with no sweating, rapid pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion and unconsciousness.

Other conditions that can impact your body's ability to regulate its temperature include dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor

circulation, prescription drug use and alcohol use.

To prevent heat related illnesses, it is important to do a few things. Stay cool, hydrated and informed.

According to the CDC, it is important to wear appropriate clothing such as something lightweight and loose-fitting. Carefully schedule outdoor activities by going outside when it's coolest such as the morning and evening hours. Pace yourself and take breaks often in the shade. Wear sunscreen that is SPF 15 or higher and apply 30 minutes before going and

continue to reapply.

Stay hydrated by drinking more fluids even if you aren't more active than usual. Do not wait until you feel thirsty to drink. It also helps to stay away from sugary and alcoholic drinks because such can cause you to lose more body fluid.

Stay informed by checking the temperature for the week and be on the lookout for any warnings posted. Knowing the signs of a heat related illness can prevent you or a loved one from falling to the dangers of the heat.

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

How to prevent heat exhaustion

Lake Granbury Medical Center

Temperatures across the United States are rising, and so are incidents of heat exhaustion. In fact, between 2016 and 2021, the number of patients diagnosed with heat exhaustion between the months of May and September rose by 53%.

Heat exhaustion is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt. Symptoms include dizziness, headache, nausea, and muscle cramps and

the condition is more likely to affect the elderly, those with high blood pressure, and people who work in a hot environment, according to the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC).

If heat exhaustion is left untreated, it can cause heat stroke, which can lead to permanent disability or death.

"We spend more time outside in the summer, whether that's working, playing or lounging around, which increases the risk of

excessive heat exposure and exhaustion," Nicole Cuellar, Nurse Practitioner at Lakeside Physicians Internal Medicine said. "By understanding the symptoms of heat exhaustion and how to prevent it, you can stay safe and healthy all summer long."

To help prevent heat exhaustion, Cuellar recommends the following tips:

Cover up: When outside, wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing, hats, sunglasses, and broad-spectrum sunscreen of at

least 15 (but 30 to 50 SPF is better) to protect against sunburn, which affects the body's ability to cool down.

Keep cool: When the temperature is up, take cool showers, go swimming, or apply wet towels on the neck or forehead to help lower body temperature.

Hydrate: Drink fluids, especially water, throughout the day to stay hydrated. Avoid excessive consumption of alcohol and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.

Stay in the shade: Stay in

shaded areas or indoors during the hottest parts of the day, which are usually between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Rest often: If working outside or participating in outdoor activities, make it a point to take regular breaks to cool down in a shaded area where you can rest and rehydrate.

Spending time outside, enjoying the sunshine and warm weather is why so many people love the summer, but it can be dangerous without the proper precautions.

"If you or a loved one experience symptoms of heat exhaustion, and you can't cool down, it's time to seek medical care," Cuellar said.

For more information on heat safety and preventive measures, please visit <https://www.lakegranburymedicalcenter.com/health-library>. To learn more about Nicole Cuellar or to schedule an appointment, please call (817) 573-8805 or visit: <https://lakegranburymedical.com/NicoleCuellar>

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Realtor Felicia Peters talks 'resource building' in Leadership Granbury

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Leadership Granbury is a program that creates an awareness of community resources and needs, enhances leadership skills, and helps identify future leaders. Every week, the HCN will feature one of the 24 graduates of the program from the 2022-2023 class.

An unexpected illness almost caused local realtor Felicia Peters to be dropped from the Leadership Granbury program.

But with a determined attitude and perseverance, Peters was able to graduate from a program that she describes as being "resource building."

"It gives you a different view of different things in Granbury," she explained. "I've lived in Granbury 30 years this year, but I didn't know everybody, so it was interesting to get to meet new people."

Leadership Granbury is a program that creates an awareness of community resources and needs, enhances leadership skills,

and helps identify future leaders, according to the website.

By investing in the community, the program allows Hood County business owners, government officials, civic leaders, healthcare providers, educators and more to participate in team building exercises and learn more about the community that they call "home."



COURTESY PHOTO

Felicia Peters.

"You have to fill out the application, and once they accept you, you go one morning and have all these team building exercises. It rained a lot that day, so there were a couple of exercises you didn't have to do, which I went 'Yay,'" Peters said, chuckling.

Leadership Granbury begins with a mandatory full-day retreat that acquaints participants with each other and the program. The retreat is the first step in cre-

ating bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime, according to the website.

The course then consists of one full-day sessions each month — from September through May — that offer learning opportunities and challenge participants to become actively involved in building a better tomorrow for Granbury.

Peters said that her favorite activity was building three mobile chicken coops for Rancho Brazos Community Centers in March.

"I really enjoyed building the chicken houses. I got a huge kick out of that," she said. "It was rainy and overcast that day, but everyone worked together well."

As she had previously completed a realtor leadership program several years ago, Peters was already acclimated to the type of projects and tours that she would have to complete in

Leadership Granbury.

"One day we went to the police station, and jail, and that was so funny," she said, chuckling. "I was like intimidated going to the jail."

She explained how she hid behind Cheshe Langford of Southern Star Market on the square — although the plan didn't have quite the effect she was looking for, as both ladies are five foot two.

"It was very interesting," she said, chuckling.

The group also got to visit the schools and meet Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds and Chief of Police Mitch Galvan.

"I loved the variety of people in the class," Peters added. "We had a number of people who were involved in the YMCA, and it was interesting to hear the input from the number of people who worked for nonprofits. When they start talking, there's verbiage and a lingo that they all get into."

Peters is currently the broker/owner of Peerless Realty Group — a business that she founded in 2017. She has been a licensed realtor since 1999.

She added that she was also surprised at the variety of ages from other members in the class.

"I'm 68, and there were other people in their 60s, 30s, 40s, and 50s," she added. "It was just a very interesting experience all the way around."

Although anyone is eligible to apply or make a nomination to Leadership Granbury, the board selects a maximum of 25 qualified individuals every year.

To learn more about how to become a part of Leadership Granbury, email leadershipgranbury@gmail.com.

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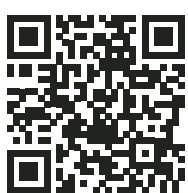
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OBITUARIES

Louella Poston Van Zandt

March 2, 1928 - July 18, 2023

Louella Poston Van Zandt was born in Bonham, Texas on March 2, 1928 to Gerald Bennet Poston and Hallie Jo McMahon. Louella Van Zandt attended University of North Texas and studied Education and Music Theory. In 1946, Louella married Frank Van Zandt in Dallas, Texas, the love of her life and father of her future children. During the following decade from 1950 to 1960, Louella and Frank gave birth to five loving children, Allen, Ann, Paul, David, and Carol. While raising her children, Louella, known to most as Lou, shared her love for music as the children's choir director of East Dallas Christian Church and as a kindergarten music teacher. She later became the director of a childhood preschool. After Frank passed away in 1976, Lou took charge of his newly established vending company, Van Vending. Louella's entrepreneurial spirit flourished, and she successfully ran Van Vending for 40 years with territories in the DFW metroplex, Houston, San Antonio, Waco, and Austin.

With her business established, Lou moved to De Cordova Bend Estates in Granbury, Texas in 1984. She began joining different groups within DCBE and the Granbury community. Lou established herself as a leader in the community by serving on various DCBE committees, and then as a member of the DCBE board of directors. Lou continued her service to DCBE as caretaker for the community library for many years.

Over the years, Lou developed passions in her life. She took up gardening, continually finding happiness in nurturing the growth of her plants and flowers. This passion eventually led to a Master Gardeners' Certification when she was in her 80s, which became one of the proudest accomplishments of her life. Lou also grew her passion for music and the arts leading her to service in the Granbury Brigade and participating in the Melody Belles singing group and dancing with the De Cordova Rockettes



well into her 70s and 80s. Both groups were service-oriented and performed locally as well for nursing homes and care units in Fort Worth. Louella was also very passionate for her religious beliefs. She was a longtime active member of Acton Methodist Church. She cherished her Sunday School class of which she was President for several years.

Lou's greatest and proudest passion however was for her family. To Lou however, family meant so much more than blood or a last name. She treated every person who stepped through her doorway as a "Van Zandt," as someone who deserved her love, friendship, and compassion. Louella never met a stranger, and she passed that trait on to her family. She embodied the role as the matriarch to her loving family of five children, two daughter-in-laws, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. By example, she taught them to be a blessing every day and love the people who crossed their paths. "Grandma" did not waste a minute of life, serving as a constant role model instilling values such as kindness, compassion, joy, and family. She will continue to leave a legacy with her family and plethora of friends.

Lou will be honored in a Celebration of Life at Acton Methodist Church on Saturday, July 29, at 10:00 a.m. Although Lou very much loved flowers, remembrances in her honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, her favorite organization, help continue her legacy of helping and serving others.

Linda Gail Harvey

July 26, 1948 - July 13, 2023

Linda Gail Harvey, 74, of Granbury, Texas beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away early on Thursday, July 13, in Glen Rose.

Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., on Saturday, July 22, at the Wiley Center, 410 Highway 377 East, in Granbury. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 11 a.m., Saturday, at the Wiley Center.

Committal will take place Monday, July 24, at 2 p.m., at the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Linda was born on July 26, 1948, in Lewisburg, West Virginia to the late Charles and Gladys McMillion. She married Scotty Harvey. Linda was a person who loved her Lord Jesus which was evident by the way she lived her life. She enjoyed Bible study and was a Prayer Warrior. Always desiring to help others in need, Linda volunteered at the Woman's Shelter and the Food Pantry. Additionally, she was a Red Cross chaplain and minister. Linda owned and operated her own beauty salon. She loved everyone unconditionally and will affectionately be remembered for her infectious smile and her unforgettable laugh!

Linda is survived by her husband, Scotty; her children, Timothy and wife Denise Jefferson, Kimberly and husband Jarrod Latintville, Matthew and wife Heather Harvey, and Jennifer Harvey and fiancée, Ethan K. Hudson; her grandchildren, Eric, Megan, Stephanie, and Jaylen; 4 great-grandchildren; and by her sister-in-law, Francine McMillion.



In addition to her parents, Linda was preceded in death by her siblings.

Michael Buhlin

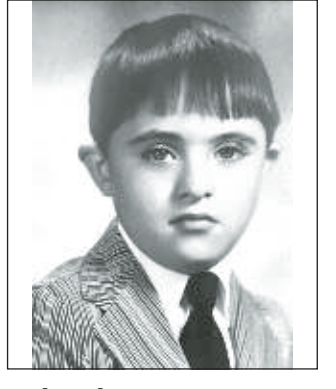
February 5, 1961 - July 13, 2023

Michael Buhlin passed away Thursday, July 13, 2023. Service: was held 2:00 p.m., Friday, July 21, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, Granbury with burial to follow at Acton Cemetery. Family received friends from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Friday, July 21, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, Granbury.

Michael's hobbies and loves were wrestling, playing video games, fishing, hunting, motorcycles, scary movies, grilling and helping others. He was preceded in death by his mother Monika Molder and nephew, Corey Buhlin.

Michael is survived by his stepfather, Joe Molder, siblings, Donna & John Sweatt, Ralph & Cheryl Buhlin and Mark & Emily Williams, and nieces and nephews, Sharla & Payton Hogan, Kena Shellenberger, and Eli Williams.

Psalm 23:
The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads



me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jerry Dent Biles

December 21, 1949 - June 10, 2023

Jerry Dent Biles Jr. 73 Born December 21, 1949 Died June 10, 2023

He and his wife of 51 years, Debbie, lived in Granbury for the past 30 years.

Jerry was an electrician by trade for 50 plus years, working at Menasco and Granbury ISD.

He was an avid outdoorsman, and constant "Mr. Fix-it" for all. He enjoyed family and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents Jerry Sr. and Betty Biles and sister Sandy Hamilton.

Jerry is survived by his wife Debbie, daughter Kimberly Ray, son Joshua Biles, sister Karen Angle and husband George,



brothers Charlie Biles, and Rusty Biles.

He was also blessed with five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held July 29 at St. Luke's in Haltom City at 10 a.m.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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

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

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TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros. P-1647

ACROSS
1 riding ___ back (without a saddle)
5 TX Janis Joplin was a drug ___
6 "Texas Central" is proposing a high-speed ___ line
7 TXism: "not a lick"
8 TXism: "I'm at the ___ of my rope"
9 highly recommended film (2 wds.)
16 early band of TX Roy Orbison: "___ Kings"
18 Texans, because of their country
21 "___ Sieck State Forest"
22 "___ Bell Creameries in Brenham
23 cowboy's bolo
24 feudal serf
30 a horse with no one aboard
34 Gov. James "___" Ferguson
35 TX King Vidor directed 1937 film: "___ Dallas"
36 retail blowout
37 Houston Rockets had this Daniel for 2021 season
39 TXism: "long as ___"
43 TXism: "I ___" (intend)
44 TXism: "he can't carry a ___ bucket" (bad singer)
45 19th governor: "___ Sul" Ross
46 blood vessel
47 it was needed in World War I (2 wds.)
49 honky tonk, e.g. (2 wds.)
52 a four-bagger as a stat
53 Marlin High class
54 seat of Rains County
55 before he was a Ranger, Jorge Cantu played for the Miami
58 TXism: "playing with ___ deck" (unlucky)
59 TX Jim Reeves hit: "___ Losing You" (1957)
60 air mover
61 dir. to Clyde from Greenwood
12 accurate
13 TXism for "nap"
14 8th governor, Clark (init.)
15 "chow down"
17 TXism: "___ calf crying for mama"
19 TXism: "___ the bud" (stop early)
20 TX Gene Tierney 1951 film: "The Mating ___"
24 TX Tobolowsky was in Texas-based 1989 film "Roe ___ Wade"
25 TX Tanya sang "One Love ___ Time"
26 Waco's Branch Davidians, e.g.
27 swamp
28 dark moon: ___ eclipse
29 bowling alleys
31 Buchanan ____, TX
32 UT grad, Wallach ___ griddle"
33 33rd governor, Allan
38 late country music TV host, Ralph
40 Daly of television show "Wings" with TX Crystal Bernard
41 single strand nucleic acid
42 speed trap town in Hall County on U.S. 287
48 Deer Park FM, or El Paso AM
50 in the middle of
51 ___ Army, Texas
56 TXism: "hot as ___ western," Dallas," with Gary Cooper

Help get your teen started with a Roth IRA

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Carroll provided withdrawals aren't taken until the investor is at least 59½ and has had the account five or more years. But because a Roth IRA is funded with after-tax dollars, contributions can be withdrawn at any time, penalty-free, to pay for any expenses — including college. Both IRA earnings can also be used to help pay for college, although these withdrawals will be taxable. However, if a child is the account owner, a lower tax bracket will likely apply. In 2023, up to \$6,500 per

year can go into your teenager's Roth IRA, as long as the amount contributed doesn't exceed the amount of their taxable compensation for the year. And your child doesn't have to put all the money in — you and the child's grandparents can also contribute. In fact, you might want to "match" your child's contributions up to the limit to provide an incentive for them to continue investing in the Roth IRA. Not only will your matching contribution help build the Roth IRA's assets but it can also instill in your child's mind the benefit of earning a match — which can prove valuable later on, when

your child is in the workforce full time and has a chance to receive an employer's matching contributions in a 401(k) or similar plan. Your child may well find a job at a local restaurant or shop, as these businesses have experienced a shortage of workers the past couple of years. But if you have a family business, you can employ your teen to provide income that can go into a Roth IRA. Furthermore, if the business is one parent's sole proprietorship, or it's a partnership in which each partner is the parent, the payments for a child younger than 18 are not subject to Social Security and

Medicare taxes. As an employee, your child must perform reasonable tasks necessary for the business and be paid reasonable wages — that is, wages comparable to what you'd pay a regular employee for the same work. But wherever your child's wages come from, using some of them to help fund a Roth IRA can be a good move. For one thing, it gives you a chance to explain the value of putting time on your side when you invest — simply put, the more years you invest, the greater your chances of accumulating the resources you need to meet your goals. And by helping your

teen open a Roth IRA, which holds stocks, mutual funds or virtually any other type of security, you can discuss the different risk/reward characteristics of various types of investments — the kind of basic knowledge that all investors should have. Once your teen's first paychecks start coming in, consider bringing up the idea of opening a Roth IRA — you may well be opening the door to a lifetime of consistent and informed investing. PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy

Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

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

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

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

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

OBITS

FROM PAGE A13

Linda Jon Watkins

December 22, 1941 - June 21, 2023

Our sweet Aunt Linda left this world peacefully to be reunited with her sidekicks, sister Ruth and their doggies Jaison, Sherman and Biskit. We know that she is also happy to be with the loved ones that preceded her. Mother Norma Watkins, Father Barney Watkins and Siblings Fran, Joann, Kenneth and Freddy. She was known for her generous heart and sometime ornery spirit. She was always quick to help and she was full of love and life. She is survived by her brother Billy Watkins and wife Laly Watkins. Sister-in-laws Sharon and Shirley as well as a niece and three nephews. She had great-nieces, great-nephews and a great-great niece who she loved dearly. Please keep her in your



heart every day and share the generosity that she carried with others the same way that she did. We love you Aunt Linda and may you always be happy and at peace.

A memorial service will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Aug. 5, 2023 at Neeley House, located 304 E. Rucker St.

Carolyn Lee Thomas

January 22, 1946 - July 11, 2023

Carolyn Lee Thomas, 77, beloved wife and mother and longtime resident of Granbury, passed away late on Tuesday, July 11, at her Granbury home.

Cremation has taken place and all services will be private at a later date.

Carolyn was born on January 22, 1946, in Fort Worth, to O.D. and Edna McCauley. She married Danny K. Thomas and together had her son, Kyle. Carolyn was involved in children's education for many years. She taught elementary school for many years in Granbury. Carolyn later owned and operated her child's day care center. She enjoyed cooking and entertaining. She also enjoyed traveling. Most of all,



Carolyn will be remembered for her loving dedication to all children.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Danny K. Thomas and by her son, Kyle Gallagher.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents and older sister.

Brazos River Authority to Check Lake Granbury's Dam Stability

BY EMILY NAVA
 Staff Writer

The Brazos River Authority is focusing on Lake Granbury for a "Hearth Stability Analysis" project.

According to an annual maintenance inspection report in 2019, the DeCordova Bend Dam Hearth Sill is recommended to be cleaned. Most of the drains within the spillway section below the gates appear to be clogged.

The Dam hearth has hundreds of four-inch drain holes spaced throughout the concrete slabs of the Hearth Sill. The drain holes help relieve the uplift pressure, but due to their location the holes are difficult to clean and collect debris.

Project Manager, Lacey Darr said, "The drains have been getting clogged since the construction of the dam in 1969. We try to clean them, and then debris flows down and clogs another drain... this is all just regular



COURTESY PHOTO

According to an annual maintenance inspection report in 2019, the DeCordova Bend Dam Hearth Sill is recommended to be cleaned.

maintenance for the dam."

An engineering stability analysis is recommended to evaluate the criticality of these drains and to determine the adverse effects on the stability of the hearth due to the clogging of these drains. The analysis will determine the degree of redun-

dancy at the dam.

We've never noticed any kind of public issue. The dam has several features to prevent and reduce uplift pressures. This is just one piece of those. We think that there's redundancy to prevent any dam safety issues," Wesly Williams, Project

Engineer said.

The project is currently in scope and fee negotiations. A notice to proceed will be issued in October, which will be followed by preliminary engineering reports that will be completed roughly six months after.

Governor's Small Business Summit — Stephenville

From Staff Reports

The Governor's Small Business Summit - Stephenville aims to help Texas small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs reach new heights by connecting them with the resources and information needed to start, strengthen, and grow a business.

This event offers a variety

of sessions bringing together local, state and federal resource partners to provide key insights on critical business topics. It's also an opportunity to network with other business owners and meet experts who will share timely, relevant, and actionable advice on a multitude of small business subjects.

Panel Topics:
 Access to Finance and

Funding
 Cybersecurity: Protecting Your Company in a Digital Economy
 Employee Recruitment and Retention
 Marketing & E-Commerce Essentials

The summit is scheduled for July 27, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Tarleton State University - Barry B.

Thompson Student Center Ballroom located at 1333 W. Washington, Stephenville, TX 76402. Registration is \$20 and includes access to all sessions, lunch and complimentary headshots.

To register, go to https://web.cvent.com/event/bc74f4cc-99a6-4e00-b258-753c8c659f7c/summary

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HOME IN ON MORE BUYERS

Kiwanis members from Texas and Oklahoma converge on Lake Granbury for the 105th Annual District Convention.

The focus will be training for leadership positions, making friends, and establishing new partnerships plus exploring new service programs.

Staff Reports

The 105th Texas Oklahoma Kiwanis District Convention kicks into gear on August 3 through August 6 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. For the first time, Granbury will host as many as 300 Kiwanis members from all over the district as popular guest speakers talk about great service projects, classes are held for future leaders, and members learn new service projects to offer in their communities.

Local businesses will be visited by organized tours, which will be held over three days of the convention. This year, the convention has a patriotic theme, and the convention T-shirts have large American flags on the back. Granbury residents will be treated to "Flag Row" on Pearl St. along the front of the convention center during the convention.

"We are thrilled to be hosting the Texas-Oklahoma Kiwanis District Convention in Granbury at the Lake Granbury Conference Center," Tammy Dooley, Director Visit Granbury said. "This convention will generate over 300 room nights

into the Granbury market. It is the largest convention we have hosted at the conference center. It has us at maximum capacity and is sold out with registrations. It involves catering, meetings, events, music and more. The Trolley will also be shutting conventioners between hotels."

Many businesses in town have donated funds or auction items to help the convention be as strong as possible, such as The Hilton Garden Inn Granbury, Patience Creek Mini Aussie, First National Bank, Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Forge Laser Creations and



Kiwanis[®] CLUB OF LAKE GRANBURY

Design, Farina's, D Vine Wine of Granbury, and Visit Granbury.

"This is the first time that the annual convention has been held in Granbury," Dooley said. "Last year, the Visit Granbury Team traveled to the host city, Georgetown, to present to the convention to bring them to Granbury and Granbury was selected. It has been a team effort to coordinate their event and we are excited to see so many District Kiwanians in Granbury staying overnight, shopping in our stores and eating in our restaurants."

The Kiwanis big service projects during the convention will go to support Joseph's Locker and Rancho Brazos.

"Kids need Kiwanis, in our community and in communities around the world,"

Marshall Kregel, Marketing Director for the district said. "Our organization supports projects that would not otherwise happen without our support. We're here to make sure all the children in our communities have what they need to thrive, prosper, and grow."

For Joseph's Locker, they are collecting non-perishable food items, hygiene items, school supplies and children's books. Items in bags or boxes may be dropped off at the Lake Granbury Conference Center for the entire week prior to the Convention.

For Rancho Brazos, there will be a three-day silent auction during the convention with all proceeds from the auction going to the organization. If you or your business would like to donate an item or gift basket to the

silent auction, send a note to GranburyKiwanis@gmail.com or call to 817-219-2513 and a drop off location or pick up will be scheduled.

"Even more heartfelt is the desire of David Southern, former Granbury Mayor and Kiwanian, for Granbury to host this convention," Dooley added. "As you know David was the Granbury Mayor during the time the LGCC and Hilton projects were begun and opened. He was a lifelong Kiwanian. There will be a special memorial tribute to him during the convention. Let's honor his legacy and give these convention-goers a great Granbury welcome!"

ABOUT KIWANIS

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and

members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students ages 14-18, Builders Club for students ages 11-14, K-Kids for students ages 6-12 and Action Club for adults living with disabilities, annually dedicate more than 18.5 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

The Kiwanis International family comprises more than 702,000 adult and youth members in more than 79 countries and geographic areas. Visit www.kiwanis.org for more information.

The Kiwanis Club of Granbury meets at Farina's Café on the square every Thursday at Noon. The street address is 202 N. Houston St., Granbury, 76048. Community members with an interest in helping families and children are encouraged to visit with us and see what we do. For more information contact us at granburykiwanis@gmail.com or call us at 817-219-2513. Our website is www.GranburyKiwanis.org

YOUTH

FROM PAGE A1

variety of shapes and colors including double decker type designs. Marciniak uses her earnings to buy food and supplies for her Tolar Junior Future Farmers of America project. The purchase of "Will" the lamb was

fully funded by Scarlett's business.

She felt sales had been good.

"I have had a great time and I am thankful for all the buyers and people who donated. I can't wait for everyone to see Will and to show him in January," Marciniak said.

She was joined by her

mom Maren and sisters Moriah, age 6 and Jordyn, age 3. "Double M Jewelry" is also sold at boutique "Willow Lane" and at other local booths.

Regular vendor Campbell Decker was assisted by his son Campbell Decker Jr., age 7. The two were there representing their family ranch "Native Beef TX" (nativebeef.

com) out of Mineral Wells. One of the main reasons the Decker family began their grass-fed beef business was so they could spend more time together.

Hood County senior Brewer Newton says he and his new bride Vicki come to the Hood County Farmers Market every week. They are regular customers at Tay's

Treats booth.

"Oh yes, isn't this wonderful? We come out here every week. We have to get reloaded with peanut butter treats for the dog," Newton said.

The Hood County Farmers Market is located at the YMCA every weekend at 9 a.m. during the. The Acton Farmers Market is held on the second and fourth

Saturdays and the Square Farmers Market is held once a month on the fourth Sunday. "The Feed Lot" in Tolar also holds a market the third weekend of every month. More information can be found on their Facebook pages.

AUDITION NIGHT
THE VOICE OF GRANBURY
AUGUST 4, 2023
Kiwanis

Come support the charitable work of the Granbury Kiwanis Club at our fifth annual Voice of Granbury Audition Night, where audience votes determine our winning singer. Contestants are Michael James, Cara Hernandez, Tee Etheridge, Rebecca Faiola, Alex Southern, Jen Maroney, Daniel Hernandez, Frank Faiola, Jenn Kelly, C.J. Sexton, Hayden Phillips, and Nick Pannell.

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From left, Christina Giusti 3rd and Sierra Smith 1st place district champion girls 8 and under xtreme forms.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Changing lives and changing tires

Michael Beauchamp, Granbury ISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Beauchamp

Michael Beauchamp, an Auto Mechanics/Shop teacher at Granbury High School, has been selected as the Granbury Independent School District Secondary Teacher of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year. His dedication to his students and inspiring journey from military service to the classroom has earned him this well-deserved recognition.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Beauchamp's upbringing was shaped by a strong work ethic instilled in him by his father, who was an electrician, and his mother, who worked in sales. He has three brothers, one of whom is his older brother, Dan Beauchamp, a retired military helicopter pilot living in nearby Granbury. Michael's other brother, Brad Beauchamp, serves as the elected County Attorney for Gila County, Arizona, and plans to join Michael as a neighbor in the near future. His youngest brother, James, resides in Phoenix and works in management.

Reflecting on his childhood, Beauchamp shared, "Growing up in Phoenix left me with many great experiences, one of which was a paper route I shared with my brother Brad. We learned from a very young age the value of a strong work ethic, which was reinforced by our father." Michael is happily married to his wife, Katie, who serves as the Children's Pastor at Generations Church of Granbury. They have three children, Preston, Sarah, and Jonah.

Michael attended Apollo High School in Glendale, Arizona, where he graduated in 1987. Despite being offered a scholarship to the University of Arizona, Michael decided to forego higher education at that time and instead embarked on a career to become a hard worker, just like his father.

His journey took an unexpected turn when he found himself unemployed and without a place to live after a company bankruptcy. In a twist of fate, Beauchamp enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the start of the Gulf War. His military career lasted an impressive 30 years, during which he held various positions and achieved the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. He served

as a helicopter mechanic, earned flight status, and became a Huey Crew Chief. Beauchamp's leadership skills were evident as he led 200-300 Marines in an Attack Helicopter Squadron.

Beauchamp pursued higher education while in the Marine Corps and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University. The teaching field appealed to him, given his affinity for sharing knowledge and experience with others.

"When I retired from the Marine Corps, I enjoyed the time off spent with my family, whom I was away from for so long. But it didn't take long for me to realize that the servant's heart simply can't be turned off," Beauchamp said.

He seized the opportunity to become a teacher at Granbury High School and hasn't looked back since.

Beauchamp's teaching philosophy is deeply rooted in his experiences with two influential math teachers, Mr. Law, and Mr. Bailey, during his own education.

"Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care," he stated.

Building relationships and trust with each student is paramount to him, transcending the curriculum and focusing on shaping better citizens and human beings.

His dedication to teaching and his students led to Beauchamp being chosen as the Granbury ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Reflecting on this honor, he expressed his overwhelming gratitude, acknowledging the incredible educators and individuals within the district.

"There are so many gifted educators and amazing human beings working in the district that this award

PLEASE SEE GISD | B2

Texas Elite celebrates champions

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

The Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Cleburne/Glen Rose/Granbury school celebrated the success of garnering eight championship titles among seven of their athletes at the South District Championship Competition held in June.

The district is composed of schools from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Three Texas Elite ATA athletes competed in the World Championships in Phoenix, Arizona the week of July 9 to July 15. Texas Elite marked their new season opening Saturday, July 15 with a couple of wins as well.

The Champions of the South District Competition were as follows:

Aubrey Ward, age 17 from Glen Rose, Champion of

both "Combat Sparring" and "Traditional Sparring"

Ezra Barget, age 16 from Cleburne, Champion "X-treme Forms"

Sierra Smith, age 9 from Granbury, Champion "X-treme Forms"

Natalie Ward, age 13 from Glen Rose, Champion "X-treme Weapons"

Caitlin Schmidt, age 17 from Glen Rose, Champion "Traditional Weapons"

PLEASE SEE CHAMPIONS | B3



Miranda Smith Hankis — a 1st degree black belt — won District Title in Sparring. She is pictured with son Aodhan.



Seven Granbury FFA students received their Lone Star Degree at the Texas State FFA Convention.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury FFA students receive Lone Star Degree

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Seven Granbury FFA students received a Lone Star Degree and walked the stage during the 95th Texas State FFA Convention.

A Lone Star Degree is the highest degree that can be earned at the state level. To earn this degree, students must have yearly or ongoing Supervised Agricultural Experience. SAEs are outside of class projects that can include anything from raising livestock for shows, re-

search projects, and can include service projects.

Students are required to compile records and maintain their finances for at least two years. They also are required to maintain their grades, participate in FFA chapter planning, demonstrate leadership skills, be active in multiple areas of the program, and participate in community service activities.

"They learn vital leadership, communication, project management and problem-solving skills that will carry with them

throughout their future careers and life. We know that when a student earns their Lone Star degree, that we have helped set them up for a success in their future endeavors... We hope to encourage more students to pursue their Lone Star Degree," Erin Wilson said.

The Lone Star Degree was awarded to the following students: Sarah Boyd, Molly Grossman, Cadence Morissette, Andrew Nickell, Blythe Ogburn, Kelley Sanders and Savanna Seeton.



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GISD school board names new principal of GHS

Staff Reports

The Granbury Independent School District Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Jamie Robinson as the new principal of Granbury High School during the school board meeting on July 17.

Robinson will be joining GHS after his last two successful years as principal of Boerne Middle School South in Boerne ISD.

"We are very excited to welcome Jamie Robinson to Granbury High School to lead our faculty and students towards their greatest potential," GISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn said. "He is a dedicated and proven leader, and he will be a tremendous asset to Granbury High School and the district."

Robinson is taking over for Jeremy Ross who has served as principal for GHS since 2010 and recently announced he is stepping down to be the assistant principal for academics at Cleburne High School.

"I would also like to thank Jeremy Ross for his 13 years of leadership and commitment to Granbury ISD, serv-

ing as principal of GHS," Glenn added. "We wish him all the best in his next professional chapter."

Prior to Boerne Middle School South, Robinson was tasked with opening Van Raub Elementary as the school's first principal.

An educator for over 20 years, Robinson began in Boerne ISD as an assistant principal, and then was principal at Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary School from 2015-17. Before moving to Boerne ISD, Robinson served as an assistant principal at Walzem Elementary (Northeast ISD) and Bradford Elementary (San Angelo).

Robinson started his public education career in the classroom in 2001, where he was a teacher for 10 years having taught second, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in San Angelo ISD before moving to campus



Welcome.
JAMIE ROBINSON
Granbury High School
Principal



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

Jamie Robinson, the previous principal of Boerne Middle School South in Boerne ISD, was appointed as the new Granbury High School principal by the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees on July 17.

administration.

Other accomplishments of Robinson's include:

- Team presenter at the 2022 National Model Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida for Boerne ISD (one of eight districts selected nationwide)

- Successful academic and extracurricular progress at multiple campuses

- Member of the Fair Oaks Ranch Rotary Club - Paul Harris Fellow recipient

- Thompson Executive Leadership Institution 2022-23 Principal Cohort

- Created the process manual for opening three new Boerne ISD campuses

- National recognition for unique campus initiatives
- Developed multiple staff for their next roles and opportunities for career advancement

- Nominated three times for the HEB Excellence in Education Principal Award
- 2012 Finalist and Recipient of the Angelo State Distinguished Graduate Student Award
- Nominated for the DisneyHand Award for

GISD

FROM PAGE B1

was the last thing I ever thought I would receive," he said.

When asked about his favorite aspect of teaching, Beauchamp revealed, "The one thing I missed the most after retiring from the Marine Corps was not being able to spend my day with young Marines anymore. My favorite part of teaching is spending time with the kids!"

He sees his students as an opportunity to change lives and impart valuable skills, even if it's something as simple as teaching them how to change a tire.

If there's one thing Beauchamp wishes for students to grasp and hold onto, it's the understanding that someone in their life genuinely cares about them. Encouraging them to influence others in a positive way, he believes in the power of each individual to make a difference.

"Never underestimate your ability to influence another person," Beauchamp advises.

"Spend the rest of your lives looking to influence all those around you in a positive way so that someday you will become the Mr. Law and Mr. Bailey of another person's life. I believe, as people, this is what we are all called to do."

Michael Beauchamp's story serves as an inspiration to his students, colleagues, and the Granbury community. From his early days in Phoenix to his distinguished military career and impactful role as a teacher, Michael's commitment to service and education is a testament to his character and dedication. As he continues to shape the lives of his students, he leaves an indelible mark on the community he calls home.

Sonny Galindo named GHS interim head football coach

Staff Reports

The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees officially announced a new role for Granbury High School Defensive Coordinator Sonny Galindo on July 17, during the monthly school board meeting.

Galindo — who had previously served in his last role since 2016 — is now the new interim head football coach and boy's athletic coordinator at GHS for the 2023-24 academic year.

The role was previously

vacated by Chad Zschiesche, who stepped down from his position to pursue other career opportunities on June 29.

Galindo has 25 years of experience as a coach, with stops at Hamilton, Saginaw and Weatherford High School before coming to Granbury — heading to the postseason a total of 11 times.

"I'd like to thank Dr. Jeremy Glenn and Dwight Butler for this opportunity. I am so thankful and excited to continue leading these great

young men next season," Galindo said. "I look forward to working with a tremendous staff and school district and being involved in this outstanding community."

During his 25-year career, Galindo has been a coordinator on both offense and defense, mostly as a defensive coordinator at the 4-6A levels for much of the last 14 years.

He got his career started at Hamilton in 1998 and was quickly elevated to defensive coordinator from 2002-09. During his time at Hamilton, Galindo and the Bulldogs made the playoffs for six seasons.

From 2009-15, Galindo coached at Saginaw where he was an offensive coordinator for his first season and defensive coordinator for the last four seasons, helping guide the Rough Riders to four postseason berths. He then spent one season at Weatherford before arriving in Granbury.

"Coach Galindo is a tremendous leader and coach," GISD Athletic Director Dwight Butler said. "Coach Galindo has made a career of coaching winning programs and building relationships with his players, staff, parents, and community members. We are excited about the future of the Granbury football program under Coach Galindo's direction."

In addition to football, Galindo spent 14 years as the head track coach while

at Hamilton and Saginaw. He has also served as a softball and volleyball coach in his career. Galindo has excelled as a teacher as well, having been named Hamilton's High School Teacher of the Year in 2003 and Granbury High School Teacher of the Year in 2019.

Galindo earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Tarleton State University and a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin.



COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

Sonny Galindo, left, was recently named as the new interim head football coach and boy's athletic coordinator at Granbury High School. Galindo had previously served as the GHS defensive coordinator since 2016.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

“How many hours do most teachers work?”

CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER



Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky in 2019. She has had short stories published in eight editions of “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks. She was a public school teacher for 17 years, earlier in her professional career.

Many individuals mistakenly believe that teachers work approximately nine months a year and get paid for 12 months. To clarify this misconception, teachers receiving a summer check had extra money withheld from their checks during the school year to cover the summer months. During those summer months, teachers are often reviewing new or adjusted curriculum, becoming familiar with newly adopted academic standards, and becoming familiar with researched-based learning strategies, attending summer professional development sessions, and – if time permits – catching up on needed rest in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Another misconception held by the public is that the average school day lasts seven hours and that teachers are paid for a shorter-than-average workday. To clarify this mistaken belief and to put all figures into proper perspective, several basic figures must be taken into account.

The average teacher yearly salary in Texas is \$57,091 before taxes. Since salary is based on 180 days per school year and the average school day is seven hours, that brings the yearly total of hours of classroom teaching to 1260. When the yearly income is divided by the teaching hours, the average teacher earns slightly more than 45 dollars per hour. Seems quite reasonable. Right?

However, the full picture is not seen at this point. According to a recent article in “Business Inside,” teachers commonly work extra hours each day to meet all academic and social needs

of their students. Additional responsibilities include communicating with parents, planning lessons, grading papers, attending required after-school meetings and professional development sessions, along with after-hours school social functions.

According to a recent study quoted in the above source, a typical teacher works an average of 54 essential hours per week. That brings the total working hours per year to 1,944. That brings a teacher’s hourly pay to \$29. All states require a minimum certification of a bachelor’s degree, while many states require a master’s degree.

When one considers that hourly 29 dollar rate as, perhaps, being fair and equitable, one must also consider that minimum wage of \$15 for drive-through restaurant workers that often – but not always – require either a high school diploma or GED.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Many people have misconceptions about the amount of work teachers do.

There such a significant nation-wide shortage of teachers? What is the reason for such a level of dissatisfaction? It is true that teachers believe they should be paid for essential work performed, as it is with other professions. However, there are other reasons for the number of teachers leaving the profession.

Various studies indicate that teachers are experiencing heavier workloads caused by either outside situations or increased local

and state paperwork; lack of classroom discipline brought on teachers’ and/or administrators’ inability to effectively discipline, thereby causing classroom distractions and interruptions; increased student mental health issues; lack of support for meeting teachers’ increased needs.

When teachers must take time off for health reasons or family needs, they often feel guilty because they realize an added burden is placed on one or more of their colleagues. The absent

teacher’s students are often split up among other teachers, thus adding stress to those teachers who must now care for their own class – plus an added number of students. This scenario is played out more often than the public realizes, due to the low number of substitute teachers in many districts.

Add to this already-stressful situation, the pandemic that complicated teachers’ lives even more. With virtual learning during that time, teachers had to oversee the

learning process in never-before-thought-of methods of instruction. Many students did not participate in their lessons due to parents not being at home or lack of interest during that time.

Educators estimate that the crucial learning time (nearly two years) lost during the pandemic will require up to four years to catch students up on their expected learning objectives. Yet not all the blame can be placed upon the pandemic. Many warning signs were evident before that time. An increased number of society members cannot do basic math in their heads or write a proper sentence or paragraph. Some cannot read cursive writing.

cgheizer@gmail.com

During summer months, teachers are often reviewing new or adjusted curriculum, becoming familiar with newly adopted academic standards, and becoming familiar with researched-based learning strategies, attending summer professional development sessions, and – if time permits – catching up on needed rest in preparation for the upcoming school year.



CHAMPIONS

FROM PAGE B1

Samuel Barget, age 18 from Cleburne, Champion “Traditional Sparring”

Miranda Smith, age 31 from Granbury, Champion “Traditional Sparring”

A total of 28 students from Texas Elite ATA were invited to compete for district titles and the school took home 32 medals at the event.

“We are incredibly proud of all of our students at Texas Elite ATA. The victories of these champions

serve as an inspiration to aspiring martial artists and a testament to the power of discipline and perseverance. As they bask in their well-deserved triumphs, these champions continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in the world of martial arts,” shared Janet Giusti, Marketing and Tournament Coordinator for Texas Elite ATA.

Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Champions who achieved World rankings traveled to Phoenix, Arizona for the World Championship. Out of 25,000 Black Bets in the

ATA only 1,500 make it to compete for the World Champion. Athletes Elisha Rosenkranz, Caitlin Schmidt and Miranda Smith Hankis traveled to compete in the Tournament of Champions.

Placing 3rd in the world in both “Xtreme Forms” and “Xtreme Weapons” was Martial Arts Owner, Chief Instructor and 5th Degree Black Belt, Rosenkranz.

Rosenkranz had achieved top ten in the world standing. Going into the world Tournament of Champions Rosenkranz ranked fifth in the world for “Creative Forms,” fifth in the world

for “Creative Weapons,” sixth in the world for “X-treme Weapons,” and 10th in the world for “X-treme Forms”. Rosenkranz competes in the 4th and 5th degree black belt women age 30-39 division.

Placing 7th in the world in “Traditional Weapons” and 8th in the world in “Traditional Forms”, was co-owner of ATA Martial Arts Glen Rose and Lead Instructor, Schmidt. Schmidt had achieved top 10 in the world standing. Schmidt is South District Champion in “Traditional

Weapons” and was ranked fifth in the world for this event. She is ranked ninth in the world for “Traditional Forms.” Schmidt is a 1st degree black belt who competes in the 1st degree black belt girls ages 15-17 division.

Miranda Smith Hankis received District Champion in “Traditional Sparring” in order to have competed at the World Championship. Hankis is a 1st degree black belt who competes in the 1st degree black belt women age 30-39 division. Hankis placed in the top 15 in the world in her division.

The Saturday Super 20 Tournament on the 15th was the first tournament of the new season. Canyon Smith placed 2nd in the 1st degree black belt ring ages 10-12 division. New to tournament competition Branch Ward placed 3rd in “Sparring” in the color division of the 9-10-year-old division. Samula Barget, 1st degree black belt men in the ages 18-29 division, received 3rd in “Creative Forms.” This puts all three of these athletes in first in their division in points after this season opener.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on July 15 (Puzzle 39).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Texas Prepaid Tuition Plan newborn enrollment deadline approaches

Staff Reports

Texas families have through July 31 to enroll their newborns at 2022-23 prices in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition plan. Newborns are children younger than 1 year of age at the time of enrollment.

"I know what it's like to be the parent of newborns, and paying for college was not always at the top of my mind," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "That's why we're reminding new parents to take advantage of the opportunity to lock in this year's rates and lay the foundation for their children's future educational opportunities."

With the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in the costs of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental institutions, based on today's prices.

For additional flexibility, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions, Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship programs, where tuition is not locked in, and

the benefits and payouts would be based on the Transfer Value.

Enrollment at 2022-23 prices closed on Feb. 28 for children 1 year of age and older. The next annual enrollment period begins on Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college tuition and schoolwide required fees costs for the 2023-24 school year.

Complete plan information, including the plan description and agreement, current sales prices, enrollment forms and more, is available at TuitionPromise.org or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

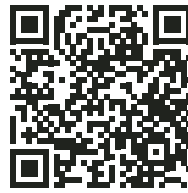
The plan's outreach team also offers free webinars that provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about Texas Match the Promise FoundationSM matching scholarship opportunities. Go to the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website at



COURTESY PHOTO

With the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in the costs of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental institutions, based on today's prices.

<https://www.texas-tuition-promise-fund.com/events/> for information about how to register to attend upcoming webinars.



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Apply for 2023 Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program Education Assistance



COURTESY PHOTO

The RVIP provides educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees to eligible veterinarians and veterinary medicine students.

Staff reports

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is now accepting Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program (RVIP) applications for the 2023 cycle. Applications may be submitted through September 5, 2023.

The RVIP provides educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees to eligible veterinarians and veterinary medicine students. In return for commitment to work in designated rural areas in Texas, up to a total of \$180,000 may assist qualifying recipients.

"The RVIP offers a great opportunity to receive up to \$45,000 for each year of full-time veterinary service in rural communities in need of a veterinarian," Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian said. "We are pleased that this program

seeks to provide assistance to veterinarians and veterinary medical students and the designated rural communities that will benefit from veterinary services in their areas."

To qualify for this program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- be a currently enrolled student or graduate of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Texas Tech University's School of Veterinary Medicine or Texas A&M University's School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences; o Graduates must have graduated within four years of the application date and be a licensed veterinarian. o Students currently enrolled in an out-of-state accredited college of veterinary medicine may apply if they graduated from a Texas high school or undergraduate institution.
- be a U.S. citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident;

- not be currently fulfilling another obligation to provide veterinary medical services as part of a scholarship agreement, an educational loan agreement, or another educational loan repayment agreement;
- have received an eligible education loan for at least 50 percent of the funds for tuition and fees for one or more academic years while enrolled in an accredited school of veterinary medicine;
- agree to practice veterinary medicine full-time in an eligible rural county in Texas for at least one calendar year; and
- be otherwise eligible to receive payment from the funding source.

Applications are submitted to the RVIP Committee through a process facilitated by the TAHC. Applicants should submit the completed RVIP Application Form and all required attachments by email to rvip@tahc.texas.gov or by mail to Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program; Texas Animal Health Commission; P.O. Box 12966; Austin, Texas 78711.

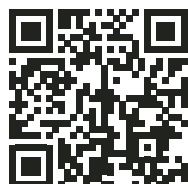
For the 2023 application cycle, participants are only eligible to receive assistance for qualified educational loan debt incurred after March 3, 2021, and can only receive assistance for service obligation periods that will be completed before December 31, 2024, due to the source of funding under Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Subtitle M of the Title IX of Pub. L. 117-2).

Learn more about the RVIP, who qualifies, and how to apply: <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/rvip.html>.

Learn more about the RVIP, who qualifies, and how to apply: <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/rvip.html>.

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SPORTS Roundup

Dolan returning to nationals, bringing brother with him

SEALS qualify many for Junior Olympics

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Last year Gannon Dolan of Granbury ran faster than any boy ever had before in 3000-meter race in the Boys 13-14 division at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics. He set a national record in winning with a time of 8 minutes, 59 seconds.

Now, he's going for another national title and record as he will be competing in the 15-16 age group at this year's AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa July 26-Aug. 5. Joining him will be his younger brother, Malachi, who competes in the Boys 8-Under division.

The duo also qualified for the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, going on Eugene, Oregon next week, but they opted to go Des Moines instead.

The pair compete for Mach I Track Club in Weatherford.

"I have seen Gannon giving advice to his little brother at practice at times. As a coach, it's nice to see that the older brother is taking the time and giving guidance to Malachi," Mach I Coach Lupe Torres said. "Both are really hard workers and really competitive."

The two also recently competed at the USATF Region 12 Meet at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth, turning in solid performances that earned them the JO qualifications in that organization.

Gannon won the 1500 with a time of 4:15.7 and the 3000 in 9:22.93. Malachi topped the field in the 1500, clocking a 6:03.58.

Also competing from Granbury in the girls category were sisters Josefina and Karolina Berry in the 17-18 division, along with Aiden Lemens in 15-16 Boys. Natalia Fabian also qualified among Girls 17-18 but did not compete.

Josefina and Karolina narrowly missed qualifying for the USATF Junior Olympics, finishing ninth and 10th in the 3000 with time of 5:55.17 and 6:14.14, respectively. The top eight qualified to move on.

Josefina was also 15th in the 800, posting a time of 2:50.17.

Lemens was, likewise, close to qualifying for nationals. He was 10th in the 3000 with a clocking of 10:06.02.

Here are the SEALS results from the All-Star Invitational Distances in yards

Girls

8-Under

50 free: 1. Madeline Baysinger, 56.94; 3. Eliana Sanchez, 1:11.18.
50 back: 2. Sanchez, 1:11.07; 3. Baysinger, 1:13.41.

9-10

100 breast: 1. Leah Citzler, 2:09.99.
100 back: 3. Citzler, 2:06.24.
200 IM: 1. Citzler, 4:22.01.
50 free: 3. Citzler, 48.49.
50 back: 2. Citzler, 58.65.

11-12

400 free: 1. Annabel Ross, 7:15.99.
50 fly: 1. Ross, 42.61.
100 back: 1. Lilly McKelvy, 1:41.54
200 IM: 2. Ross, 3:47.40.
50 free: 1. McKelvy, 39.04; 3. Kaia Boulware, 39.74.
50 back: 1. McKelvy, 46.40; 2. Boulware, 47.65.
12-Under
200 free relay: 1. Boulware, McKelvy, Citzler, Ross, 2:48.75.

13-14

50 free: 1. Bailey Stone, 35.09.
100 back: 2. Stone, 1:42.72.
200 free: 1. Carmen Citzler, 2:46.57; 3. Stone, 3:07.59.
100 fly: 2. Citzler, 1:37.46.
100 free: 1. Citzler, 1:19.17; 2. Stone, 1:20.77.
200 IM: 1. Citzler, 3:22.06.
200 back: 1. Citzler, 3:00.87.
200 fly: 1. Citzler, 3:44.16.

SEALS SWIMMING

The Granbury SEALS swim team competed at the Amateur Athletic Union All-Star Invitational in Texarkana this past weekend, a prelude and qualifying event for the AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa. The swimming portion of the AAU JO is July 27-30.

Qualifiers for the SEALS this year include Bethany Crowe (Girls 15-18), Heath Crowe (Boys 15-18), Logan Crowe (Boys 13-14), Leah Citzler (Girls 9-10), Carmen Citzler (Girls 13-14), Madeline Baysinger (Girls 8-Under), Davis Moore (Boys 8-Under), Bailey McDermont (Girls 15-18), Tyler McDermont (Boys 15-18), Bailey Stone (Girls 13-14), John Stone (Boys 9-10) and Mason Prince (Boys 9-10).

Junior Olympics is a qualifying meet by times. The times can be swum any time during the season.

"I think it makes meets a little more exciting," SEALS Coach Janet Steenberge said.

The Crowe siblings competed last year at the AAU JO. Bethany earned three bronze medals.

"They came back with so many stories, more are interested!" Steenberge added. And now, more are going.



Bethany Crowe (left) and Jaxon McKelvy (right) compete at the Amateur Athletic Union All-Star Invitational in Texarkana. Bethany will be returning to the AAU Junior Olympics swim meet July 27-30 in Des Moines, Iowa. She earned three bronze medals there in 2022.



Malachi (left) and Gannon Dolan will be competing in the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics track meet in Des Moines, Iowa July 26-Aug. 5. Malachi will be in the Boys 8-Under division and Gannon in the Boys 15-16. Last summer, Gannon set a national record in the Boys 13-14 division by winning the 3000-meter race in a time of 8 minutes, 59 seconds.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACH I TRACK CLUB

15-18

200 free: 1. Bethany Crowe, 2:35.72.
200 breast: 1. Crowe, 3:10.78.
100 fly: 2. Crowe, 1:25.79.
100 breast: 1. Crowe, 1:28.57.
200 IM: 1. Crowe, 2:52.70.

Boys

8-Under

50 free: 5. Davis Moore, 1:02.48.
50 back: 4. Moore, 1:13.32.

9-10

200 free: 1. Mason Prince, 3:15.18.
50 fly: 1. Prince, 41.03; 3. John Stone, 54.39.
200 back: 1. Prince,

1:41.78; 2. Stone, 1:49.14.
200 IM: 1. Prince, 3:43.56.
50 free: 1. Prince, 38.39;
2. Stone, 40.13; 5. Jaxon McKelvy, 56.01.
50 back: 1. Prince, 46.37;
2. Stone, 49.37; 6. McKelvy, 1:12.76.

11-12

400 free: 3. Cameron Brinkman, 7:28.32.
200 free: 3. Brinkman, 3:35.91.
100 breast: 4. Brinkman, 2:08.94.
50 free: 4. Brinkman, 46.50.

12-Under

200 free relay: 1. Brinkman, Prince, Stone, McKelvy, 3:12.63.

13-14

50 free: 1. Logan Crowe, 31.84.
100 back: 1. Crowe, 1:20.21.
200 free: 1. Crowe, 2:28.60.
200 breast: 1. Crowe, 3:25.92.
100 fly: 2. Crowe, 1:36.33
100 breast: 1. Crowe, 1:33.51.
200 IM: 1. Crowe, 3:07.42.

15-18

200 breast: 1. Heath Crowe, 3:10.65.
100 fly: 2. Crowe, 1:18.90.
100 breast: 1. Crowe, 1:26.50.

WOMEN'S RODEO

Tolar's Jordan Briggs is atop the Women's Professional Rodeo Association barrel racing standings with \$99,303.33 won as of last week. She is one of three area competitors in the top 50.

Granbury's Stevi Hillman is 21st with \$41,189.73 and Tolar's Keyla Costa is 38th with \$25,524.73.

In breakaway roping, Sarah Angelone of Lipan is in fifth place, having won \$61,106.31, while McKenna Hickson, also from Lipan, is 25th with winnings of \$26,906.87.

MEN'S RODEO

Patrick Smith of Lipan is in fifth place among team roping-heelers on the Professional Cowboys Association circuit. As of last week, he had money winnings of \$68,026.79.

Among bareback riders, Bodee Lammers of Tolar is also in the top 50. He sat in 47th place with winnings so far this season of \$21,901.38.

The perfect summer getaway book...if you like sharks

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The waves have already destroyed your sandcastle.

They've brought fresh grit for the kids to bury you under, and that'll make a good base for your beach umbrella, too. Now you're kicking your feet, slapping your hands on the ocean's surface, getting everybody wet and it's okay. Everyone's having fun but in the new book, "Chasing Shadows" by Greg Skomal, you're not the only one enjoying the water.

Even though he was just a kid, Greg Skomal knew from the first moments of a 1968 Jacques Cousteau TV special that he wanted to work with sharks. It wasn't just an interest; it was a passion. With an eye toward the ocean, he attended college, then looked for a job.

He was lucky, he says, to have landed work with a series of mentors who were giants in the field. The "sharkophile" learned a lot from them.

In the early 1900s, science knew very little about



COURTESY PHOTO BY KIMBERLY SKOMAL

Author Greg Skomal.

sharks; sharks were just another tournament fish but by the 1950s, Florida's "Shark Lady," Eugenie Clark, had begun positing that sharks "had gotten a bad rap." Encouraged by this, other scientists, often spurred by shark attacks, began studying the creatures with fresh eyes - while at the same time, weary locals sometimes called for total annihilation of all sharks, period.

A certain 1975 movie about a shark didn't help the

creatures' reputation.

Still, marine biologists and researchers - who still have holes in their knowledge of sharks - strove to change how people perceived a creature that's built for chomping. Tournaments urged tagging, not killing. Laws sprang up to protect the sharks. Knowing more about sharks often meant seeing them in their own turf, which Skomal thought was "so cool." Saving sharks was about wanting "to figure out how to conserve them. It wasn't about shark attacks."

And yet, it is Skomal said, "My perspective has changed, as I've seen what white sharks can do to people. It's very rare, but it happens. I'm no longer the scientist that says it doesn't happen."

There's a towel in your beach bag, and some sunscreen. You brought snacks and sunglasses. Now toss "Chasing Shadows" in there, and you're all set.

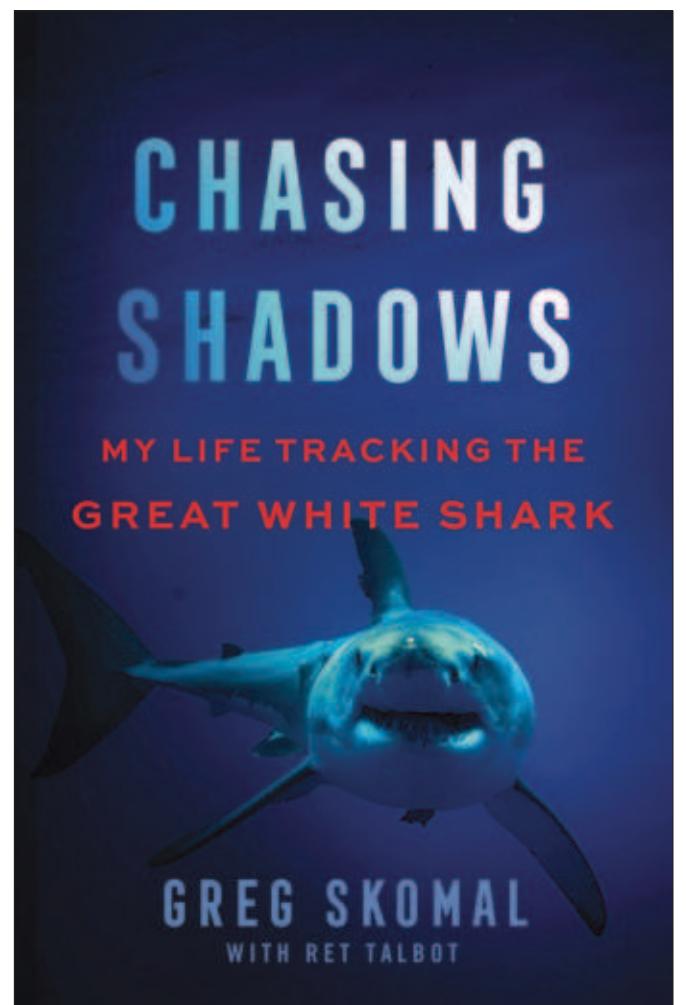
This book is really the perfect summer getaway book: it'll thrill you, teach you,

scare you, and charm you - possibly all on the same page. Author Greg Skomal (with Ret Talbot) brings the most appealing, wide-eyed Gee-Whiz to his story and his factualness makes you want to spend time with him, mostly because he doesn't talk down to readers. He obviously wants you to be as excited and respectful of sharks as he is; it helps that between Skomal's personal story are tales of shark encounters and some of them didn't turn out well. How can you resist?

This is a great book for anyone who wishes they'd become a marine biologist, or for someone who might anyhow someday. It's absolutely for beach-reading, and for abundant watchfulness in this summer of shark bites. If you think you might skip "Chasing Shadows," you're all wet.

"Chasing Shadows: My Life Tracking the Great White Shark" by Greg Skomal with Ret Talbot

C.2023, WILLIAM MORROW, \$29.99, 354 PAGES



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton tennis team named ITA All-Academic Team for 5th straight season



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Intercollegiate Tennis Association announced that Tarleton is an ITA All-Academic Team for the ninth time since 2012

STEPHENVILLE – For the fifth consecutive season, Tarleton Tennis has claimed one of the top academic honors as a team in their sport.

This week, the Intercollegiate Tennis

Association announced that Tarleton is an ITA

All-Academic Team for the ninth time since 2012, including all three years at the NCAA Division I level. The ITA All-Academic Team award is open to any ITA program that has a cumulative team grade point aver-

age of 3.20 or above (on a 4.00 scale). All varsity letterwinners are factored into the cumulative team GPA for the current academic year.

Five student-athletes were also named Women's Tennis

ITA Scholar-Athletes; Elsa Boisson, Martha Makantasi, Emma Persson, Audrey Pacheco, and Celia Vaudiau. This marks the third such awards for each of Boisson, Makantasi and Vaudiau, with Persson and Pacheco

earning their first. The Texans' success on the court was no different, with the team posting a .778 winning percentage,

FW Inc. names Tarleton President Hurley to Top 400 Most Influential

STEPHENVILLE — by Fort Worth Inc. magazine. He is cited among the movers and shakers in the education category of the Summer 2023 issue.

"It is an honor to receive this prestigious mention along with others who are doing so much in the name of education in Fort Worth and North Texas," said Dr. Hurley. "I am humbled to join such an elite group of visionaries."

Tarleton State has become one of the country's fastest growing comprehensive public universities since Dr. Hurley's arrival in 2019.

Under his leadership, the university created and implemented Tarleton Forward 2030: Our Future-Focused Strategic Plan, a blueprint for becoming the premier comprehensive public university in the nation. During this time, Tarleton has elevated its academics, research, enrollment, retention rates, graduation rates, diversity, fundraising, athletics, and regional engagement.

Dr. Hurley's signature initiatives include the distinguished high school and community college partnership programs, the President's Excellence in Research Scholars (PERS), and membership into the prestigious Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU).

He launched the largest-ever comprehensive capital campaign in Tarleton history. The university shattered the \$100 million goal in 2022, raising and eclipsing a new target of \$125 million two years ahead of schedule.

The 400 has been a Fort Worth



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Tarleton State University President James Hurley has been honored as one of the 400 most influential North Texans.

Inc. staple since 2018, recognizing Tarrant County residents who wield significant influence in education, arts and leisure, banking and finance, economic development, government, healthcare and life sciences, industry, nonprofits and foundations, philanthropy, professional services, real estate, religion, sports and transportation.

The honorees were guests at a June 18 reception at the Fort Worth Club.

A founding member of The Texas A&M University System, Tarleton is breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of more than 16,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Midlothian, Texas A&M-RELLIS and online. True to Tarleton's values of excellence, integrity, and respect, academic programs emphasize real world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

Cleburne ISD signs Tarleton State Dual Enrollment Pact

STEPHENVILLE — Beginning fall 2023, Cleburne High School students can earn university credit before they graduate, thanks to Tarleton State University's dual enrollment program, Tarleton Today.

Tarleton and Cleburne Independent School District leaders signed the agreement in April.

"This partnership strengthens our commitment to educational attainment for all Texans," said Tarleton President James Hurley. "Earning university credit while learning the expectations of higher education helps high school students bridge the transition to college while also saving them money."

Tarleton already works with more than 350 school districts statewide, including Cleburne, through its nationally acclaimed Distinguished High School Partners outreach. Launched in 2020, the program guarantees admission and provides annual scholarships to qualifying seniors.

Students participating in Tarleton Today take university courses over a traditional school year, receiving the high school portion of their instruction from their high



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Cleburne High School students enrolling in Advanced Animal Science starting in 2023 will achieve both high school and college credit through a partnership with the Tarleton State University Tarleton Today program. The dual-enrollment class will result in four hours of college credit.

school teacher and the university portion from a Tarleton professor. In addition to course content, Tarleton faculty empower students with university-ready skills and provide professional development for collaborating teachers.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, especially those considering the study of veterinary medicine in college," said Dr. Mark McClure, Cleburne ISD Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. "They will be receiving high school credit and four hours of college credit with successful

completion of the course. Students will challenge themselves academically, as the class will reflect the rigor of the college classroom, while also achieving college credit at a reasonable price. It's a real win-win for our students."

Agriculture science teacher Wacey Newman will attend three days of training at Tarleton as the high school's instructor of the dual-credit class. "We are excited to add this to the list of dual-credit courses available at the high school and our career and technical education program," Dr. McClure said. "This is

one more example of the partnership we have with Tarleton, and we are very appreciative of this college-level learning experience for our students."

Tarleton is developing dual enrollment opportunities in agricultural and STEM areas with school districts throughout Texas. Districts will choose the courses they offer.

Dual enrollment classes use the same lesson materials and learning objectives as courses taught at a Tarleton campus. Students who continue their education at Tarleton automatically qualify for additional scholarships.

A founding member of The Texas A&M University System, Tarleton is breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of more than 16,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Midlothian, Texas A&M-RELLIS and online. True to Tarleton's values of excellence, integrity, and respect, academic programs emphasize real world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

Clean, drain and dry your boat



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.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is stressing to Clean, Drain and Dry your boat to prevent the spread of invasive species on all our Texas waters.

Summertime has many folks using the lakes and waterways and many will visit other bodies of water. The TPWD states that "The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment every time."

Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation for the first offense. It's also the law that boaters must drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching

a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

Zebra mussels and giant salvinia continue to spread to new areas in Texas. While they remain as some of the biggest threats to Texas lakes, other highly invasive species that boaters can transport include water hyacinth, crested floating heart and quagga mussels.

Zebra mussels can be attached to boats or microscopic zebra mussel larvae can be transported in residual water in the boat. Taking just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry boats can make a huge difference. Zebra mussels are now found in 36 Texas lakes



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the TPWD, best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment every time.

across seven river basins. Once they've been introduced and become established in a lake, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

Giant salvinia, a free-floating aquatic fern that can double its coverage area in a week, is one of the major threats to our lakes. This highly invasive plant can produce thick surface mats that make fishing, boating, swimming, and other water recreation nearly impossible.

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake.

Remove plants, mud, and debris.

Drain all water from the boat and gear.

Once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

If a boat has been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, it is likely infested and poses an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake. Before moving the boat, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury is full thanks to the water releases from Possum Kingdom. Water temperatures are in the upper 80s to low 90s (Hot). A thermocline is present around 15 - 20ft depth in most areas. Despite the hot water, fishing has been

Fair to good for many species. Best reports are to fish early and late most days and pray for some cooling rain. Striped bass to 10lbs are possible on the lower ends on live bait and downrigging jigs. Crappies numbers are good on small jigs and minnows fished on submerged structure about 10 to 15 feet down. Largemouth bass are good to 7lbs near flats adjacent to creek channels and near shaded docks. Some morning schooling action has been reported near Decordova. Sandbass are on structure in 10 to 15 feet of water and can be had on spinner baits and slabs. Best sandbass catches are from Indian Harbor to Decordova subdivision. Catfish are best at night on cut-bait.

On other reservoirs. Crappie limits are common on Benbrook on jigs and small minnows. Whitney striped bass limits continue to be common on live/cut bait on channel ledges from Mccown to Bear Creek in 30 feet of water.



COURTESY OF MIKE ACOSTA

Pictured left to right are Sam Conghiundi, Don O'Brien and Ben VanDyke. Don took his two visiting sons-in-law striped bass fishing on Granbury. Don is a Granbury resident.

NATIONAL
Amelia
EARHART
DAY
JULY 24

Amelia Earhart

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

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

Word Bank

1. plane	2. spirit	3. fly	4. navigate
5. adventure	6. woman	7. explore	8. pilot
9. ocean	10. atlantic		

Amelia Earhart was an amazing and courageous woman who became a famous pilot. She lived a long time ago, in the early 1900s, but her story still inspires people today. Amelia loved to explore and try new things. When she was a little girl, she built a homemade roller coaster in her backyard and even flew a homemade kite. But her real passion was airplanes. She dreamed of flying high in the sky like a bird. When she grew up, Amelia became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. That means she flew all by herself in a tiny plane from one side of the ocean to the other. She was very brave to take on such a big adventure! Amelia didn't stop there. She wanted to be the first woman to fly around the whole world. Sadly, during her attempt, her plane disappeared and she was never found. Even though she didn't finish her journey, Amelia's spirit and determination continue to inspire people around the world. Amelia Earhart showed us that with hard work and determination, we can achieve our dreams. She proved that girls can do anything they set their minds to, even if it seems impossible. So whenever you see an airplane flying in the sky, remember Amelia Earhart and let her story remind you to never give up on your dreams!

Scientists found pieces of plane wreckage on the coral island of Nikumaroro in 1991. They have used radiation to observe writing on the rusted metal and believe that the pieces belonged to Earhart's plane.

CIRCUMNAVIGATE

To travel all the way around

When Earhart and her plane went missing, she was attempting to circumnavigate the Earth

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BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Another look at the Mitchell-Truitt Feud

BY TOM HAMILTON



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

Over the years I have written a number of columns on the various aspects of the Mitchell-Truitt Feud. It's a fascinating story, with many twists and turns as it unfolds. At the same time, it is a very sad and tragic tale that reveals how two families turned from friends and neighbors into bitter and ultimately deadly enemies.

It's a story that has its beginning right here in Hood County. I have discovered that the closer you look into the facts about the feud, the more the story pulls you in and the more you see aspects of the story you may have overlooked in previous examinations. When I have an opportunity to tell people about the feud, I normally tell them about the principal players and the main facts of the tragedy.

How far I go into the facts from there is determined by their perceived interest in the story. Although the principal players and the facts surrounding the feud are not the primary focus of my column today, I do need to review a few details for you very quickly.

The dispute between the Mitchells and the Truitts came to a head on the Mambrino road on Saturday, March 28, 1874. The Truitt and Mitchell families were returning to their homes in Tankersly's Bend (now known as Mitchell Bend) after the completion of a trial on a civil dispute over money. Nelson "Cooney" Mitchell had sued P. M. Truitt for money Mitchell said Truitt owed him and Truitt said he did not owe. The jury agreed with Truitt.

Emotions were running very high after the trial and an argument broke out between the families as they rode home.

The dispute escalated and brothers Sam and Isaac Truitt were killed in a shoot-out with the Mitchell "boys." Sam received a shotgun blast in the back. Isaac, who was only 16 years old, was killed by two gunshot wounds to the head, so closely fired that one witness who saw Isaac after the shooting said there were powder burns on his face. The oldest Truitt boy, James, was critically wounded by a shot gun blast to his shoulder. Cooney's son, Bill Mitchell, and his friend, Mit Graves, fled the county after the shooting. Cooney, W. J. Owens, and D. A. Shaw were all arrested the next day for the murders of Sam and Isaac and the wounding of James.

The defendants were all quickly tried and convicted for their alleged roles in the shoot-out. Owens and Shaw were sent to prison. Cooney was sentenced to death by hanging. This is where it gets problematic for me and for the residents of Hood County, in 1874. Long story short, it appears to me from the available information that the people of Hood County tried,



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Wilson Hopkins Barker.

convicted, and hung an innocent man. Everyone knew, including the prosecutor, the judge and James Truitt (the primary witness for state), that Cooney did not participate in the actual shoot-out. He was never accused of direct involvement in the shooting of the Truitts. The records show that Cooney's only "crime" was his encouraging Bill and the other assailants to "give 'em hell boys" as they rode past him headed for what turned out to be the bloody shoot-out. Those words were enough for the 12 good men on the jury to convict Cooney of murder. He was hanged on October 9, 1875. The shooting and Cooney's hanging were just the opening salvo of the Mitchell-Truitt Feud, but that portion of the story will have to suffice for today.

What I want to do today, and next week, is tell you about two men who both had ancillary roles in the Feud. They weren't Mitchell's or Truitt's, and neither was actually involved in the controversy surrounding the feud; however, they both have interesting ties to the feud. I want to tell you about Wilson Hopkins Barker and J. G. Swofford. I think Mr. Barker and Sheriff Swofford may have known each other, but I can't say that with certainty since they each entered the story at different points in the history of the feud. In other words, their tie is that they both had a link to the feud.

I've written about Mr. Barker before, so let's just start with him. We will talk about Sheriff Swofford next week. Mr. Barker came to Texas from Illinois in 1846,

settling in what is now Hopkins County in east Texas. In search of more land, he moved with his wife, Eliza, and their children to this part of the state, in 1859. After a long journey by oxcart, the Barker's originally settled near the entrance to what is today Fossil Rim, in Somervell County. However, by 1866, the year Hood County was formed, the Barkers were living in Hood County. Mr. Barker was elected by his fellow citizens to serve as one of the County's original commissioners. Because I don't have time to tell you much more about Mr. Barker, I do want to tell you what I personally find most interesting about Mr. Barker.

In 1901, he composed a series of what he referred to as "sketches." Mr. Barker's sketches were based on his personal recollections of what life was like in the early years following his arrival in the area in 1859. We have the fully restored original manuscript of his sketches on display at the history center. Mr. Barker's sketches provide invaluable insight into what life was like during the frontier years in this area of the state; however, the truly remarkable fact about Mr. Barker's sketches is that when he wrote them, he was blind and had been blind for 19 years. How do we know that you ask? Mr. Barker's statement in the introduction to his sketches gives us insight into how he was able to accomplish this feat: "My paper and guide before me lies, with pencil in hand and two blind eyes. I have determined to write what comes to mind, although for 19 years being totally blind." Suffice it to say that there is much more that could be said about Mr. Barker and about his account of life on the frontier in the early years, but the question for us today is: "How does Mr. Barker fit into the Mitchell-Truitt Feud?" Well, it goes like

this.

In 1874, when the shoot-out occurred on the Mambrino road, Mr. Barker was living with his family in the Tankersly Bend area of Hood County. In other words, he was a neighbor of the Mitchell's and the Truitt's. He knew both families. The way the story came down in the Barker family, as told to me by Mr. Barker's great, great-granddaughter, Vircy Macatee, Cooney was sitting in a wagon in front of Mr. Barker when Bill Mitchell and his crew rode by on their way to what became the deadly shoot-out. Consequently, Mr. Barker knew firsthand that Cooney was not involved in the shoot-out. He did hear Cooney utter those fateful words, "give 'em hell boys." It was thereafter the opinion of the Barker family that Hood County had hanged an innocent man. I believe the record supports their opinion. Another interesting twist to the Barker family's tie to the feud is that, Mr. Barker's son, B.F. "Doc" Barker, was one of the first men to come up on the scene after the shoot-out.

He and two other men discovered the bodies of Sam and Isaac Truitt and helped remove them from the scene. So, as I mentioned at the outset, when you start looking into the feud, you find that there are a lot of interesting "side" stories related to the main event. Next week we will talk about the story of Sheriff J. G. Swofford and how his tragic life was touched by the feud.

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Gone but not forgotten



COURTESY PHOTOS

Master Sergeant Roger L. Metcalfe received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service on October 14, 1983. He served in the Special Forces of the Air Force.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

A Granbury woman found military items and memorabilia in her attic and eventually found the family of the items and returned them.

Granbury resident Emily Hood was cleaning out her attic in preparation of turning it into an apartment. When she started to trash items, she noticed a box that stood out. It wasn't until the next day she opened the box and found numerous military-related items.

She found annuals from school, pictures, military plaques, awards, and all sorts of things.

"I was very touched when I looked through his things. It was like he was saying I'm free if that makes sense... It was a great feeling," Hood said. "What was strange was it was July 3rd and I just felt the need to try and find his family because he should be respected. He shouldn't be sitting in a loft somewhere in a box."

Hood then took the information she had and put it out on Facebook to try to find anyone connected to Metcalfe, which is exactly what she did.

She found Metcalfe's daughter on Facebook and connected through there.

"I was shocked and very happy. It brought back memories to find out Emily had found my dad's military memories," Michelle Metcalfe said.

Roger Lee Metcalfe was born in 1942 and passed away in 2010. He began serving in the Air Force right after his 18th birthday in 1960 and served until 1983. He was in the Special Investigations Unit as a Master Sergeant and was also a Purple Heart recipient and received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service.

Michelle received two large booklets with certificates in them and a wooden plaque from the Office of Special Investigations. She also received two yearbooks from 1957 and 1959 from Brady Texas.

When Michelle received these items, she thought it was just her fathers' things, but after looking through the items she found items that belonged to her grandfather, Woodrow Wilson Metcalfe.

Woodrow Wilson Metcalfe served in the Army for 15 years and was a Staff Sergeant. He received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of the Army in 1981, as well as a Certificate of Retirement in recognition of his 15 years of service.

Both Roger and Woodrow were Master Masons at their Masonic Lodges.

"I remember all the times they talked about their lives, family and jobs and were very proud to be Metcalfe's. They also always bet one dollar on who was going to win the football game. I still have one of the bills where my granddaddy signed it to my dad. They were both loving, caring and dedicated men that I am very proud to call my dad and granddaddy," Michelle said.

So next time you are cleaning out your attic, be sure to look at all the items before throwing them away because you never know what you are going to find.



The United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations presented Sergeant Roger L. Metcalfe a plaque for sincere appreciation for outstanding contribution to AFOSI District 7.



PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Allen share a kiss after their wedding ceremony at the Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on July 15.

Love knows no age limit Nursing home residents find love

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Two Harbor Lakes Nursing facility residents met, fell in love, and got married.

Jerre Dowty married James (JC) Carlos Allen on Sat. July 15 during an intimate ceremony with their close friends and family members. They are the first residents that have been married in the facility.

Jerre, who is 70 has been a permanent resident at Harbor Lakes since October of 2022 and James who is 80 has been a permanent resident since Feb. 2022.

Charity Gabbert is a CNA at the Harbor Lakes facility and works directly with the Allen's every day. "They're really like a bunch of teenagers. They joke it up, they laugh it up. They're probably the most loving couple I've ever seen. I want me and my husband to have the same relationship they do in 50 years. It feels like they've been married their whole life, that's how connected they are," Gabbert said.

The two had known of each other but neither was interested in finding love. They were later introduced to each other in the dining room in November of 2022 where their connection of spicy foods started it all.

After some conversation,

Jerre wanted to give JC some Hot Cheetos, so he walked her to her room, and it was then that he gave her a kiss on the cheek.

The next week, Jerre's daughter, Sherri Seymore came to visit during bingo.

"He was sitting at her table. He had never played with them before, so I was curious. I noticed that as Pam Gladson the activities director was calling the numbers, my mom and JC were making googly eyes at each other. I told my husband I thought mother may have a little crush," Seymore said.

During a visit the next week from Seymore, Jerre came up to her and told her she had a secret to which Seymore had caught on that she had a boyfriend to which Jerre responded, "How did you know?"

The couple dated until May of this year and then Jerre told



Jerry Carlos Allen places a wedding ring on Kathleen Dowty during their ceremony at Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on July 15.

Seymore that they were "pretty serious" and were considering moving in together at the facility, to which Seymore was thrilled to hear.

Allen took the next step and asked Jerre in front of the residents at the facility to marry her while at bingo.

"She was so shocked, and it was a beautiful proposal," Seymore said.

Jerre lost her best friend and

sister soul mate in July of 2022.

"I was worried she would never fully adjust to the loss of her best friend Debbie Cypress, but I believe her best friend sent JC to her," Seymore said.

The families of Jerre and JC are overjoyed that the two found each other.

"I never planned on finding love, but love comes when you least expect it," Jerre Allen said.

Calling all muggles Arts & Letters Bookstore to celebrate Harry Potter's birthday July 29

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Muggles and wizards alike are invited to the most magic-filled celebration in all of The Wizarding World — and in Hood County.

The Arts & Letters Bookstore, 113 E. Bridge St., will be celebrating Harry Potter's birthday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 29.

Harry Potter, the main protagonist from the best-selling book series by author J. K. Rowling, will be celebrating his 43rd birthday on July 31 this year.

Brandy Herr, inventory manager and "Harry Potter expert" at Arts & Letters Bookstore, came up with the

idea in 2019 to hold a birthday party for "The Boy Who Lived."

"I'm just the resident Harry Potter girl," she explained. "Anytime someone comes in looking for Harry Potter, I'm like, 'What house are you?!' I'm the nerd about that."

Herr — who identifies as a Ravenclaw — sets up the free event each year, complete with wizard-themed treats and a costume contest.

PLEASE SEE **POTTER** | C2

COURTESY PHOTO

The Arts & Letters Bookstore will be celebrating Harry Potter's birthday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 29.



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From setbacks to success

Sarah Toth's Resilience Pays Off

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

Sarah Toth, a lifelong resident of Granbury and owner of the beloved Cool Junk store, recently faced a daunting challenge when she was forced to relocate her business due to the sale of the building where it was housed. Despite the unexpected turn of events, Toth's determination and the support of the community have helped her find a new home for Cool Junk and continue serving the area with her unique collection of treasures.

Having graduated from Granbury High School in 2005, where she was voted "most spirited" by her class, Toth's ties to the community run deep. Her entrepreneurial journey started early in life when she helped her mother pay for nursing school by selling items on eBay during her grade school years. Now things are coming full circle for Toth.

"My mother recently retired from Nursing and has joined me working at the store again. We are both back to reselling full-time, like when I was a kid and she was in college!" Toth said.

After college, Toth worked for the Boys and Girls Club of Hood County and played a vital role in opening and managing their resale shop. This experience fueled her passion for "junkin'," and in 2016, she opened her first store called Gypsy Junktion. The store quickly outgrew its space, prompting Toth to move into a larger location inside Cool Junk in 2017. She had every intention of purchasing the store as soon as possible. In 2019, Sarah's dream became a reality when she bought Cool Junk just five months before the pandemic hit.

"We would not have survived the pandemic if it weren't for our store being a wish local package center as well as forming partnerships with local farmers to provide fresh produce in-store," Toth said.

Cool Junk, a beloved fixture located at 113 N. Cleburne, had been a part of the community for years. However, a few months ago, Toth received the unwelcome news that the building had been sold, and she would need to relocate her business.

"Unfortunately, our 7-year lease expired, and the building owner used that opportunity to cold call the neighboring business and sell the property privately for well over the appraised price," Toth recalled. "We weren't allowed to match or beat the price. We were never contacted by the previous property owner at all. We were contacted by the new owner on the night of the sale closing (April 26) via Facebook and were asked to vacate by June 1."

Determined to find a suitable location for Cool Junk, Toth embarked on a challenging search process. She initially tried searching on



COURTESY PHOTO

Building owner, Brad Manning, presents the keys to Cool Junk owner, Sarah Toth to their new location at 1600 W Pearl Street in Granbury.

her own but soon sought the assistance of her friend Alex Peters from Peerless Realty. Together, they gathered listings that might meet their relocation needs. However, finding a space with the necessary amenities proved more difficult than expected.

"After touring, researching, and visiting 30 locations, we had lost all hope," Toth admitted. The closest option they found was significantly more expensive in terms of rent, and none of the properties allowed for outdoor sales, which had been a unique feature of Cool Junk. Realizing that their entire business model would have to change to survive at any location, Sarah and her team considered alternatives.

Undeterred by the chal-

lenges, Toth and her team explored listings for sale, hoping to find a suitable option. To their delight, they stumbled upon a location that had been unoccupied for several years. They scheduled a tour and fell in love with the space. Although buying the property was not an option, they decided to inquire about a lease offer, and fortunately, the owners agreed.

However, the new location presented additional hurdles.

"The property was not zoned correctly for retail, so we had to begin the process of asking the Granbury City Council to change their zoning," Toth said. "That process was going to take over a month, so the new owner of our property graciously

agreed to let us stay until July.

Throughout this challenging journey, the Granbury community rallied around Toth. Recognizing the financial burden of relocation, which required a minimum of \$8,500 in fees and moving costs, Sarah's customers suggested creating a GoFundMe account. Reluctantly, she agreed, and the response was overwhelming. The community contributed approximately \$7,500 in donations, demonstrating their unwavering support for Toth and Cool Junk.

Reflecting on the community's generosity, Toth expressed her gratitude, saying, "We are home to over 30 unique artisans, vendors, and collectors. We all depend on the income of Cool Junk

to support our families. We are so grateful for the continued support of our town. We still have a long way to go, but we're still alive and kicking and plan to be around for many more years to come."

Toth's journey with Cool Junk has been a testament to resilience and the strength of community bonds. Despite the unexpected relocation challenges, Toth remains upbeat and determined to continue offering the unique and eclectic mix of treasures that have made Cool Junk a beloved staple in the Granbury/Hood County area. The new Cool Junk location doors at 1600 West Pearl Street are set to open this weekend (July 21), promising a fresh chapter in the store's storied history.

POTTER

FROM PAGE C1

"We're going to have a whole bunch of like themed snacks and treats," she explained. "Square Cafe is making cupcakes and butterbeer cookies, and we're going to have a little activities giveaway and a Fantastic Beast scavenger hunt throughout the store."

The costume contest will allow attendees — both kids and adults — to dress up as their favorite "Harry Potter" character.

"We'll have a separate costume contest, so you don't have to worry about competing with adorable little kids," Herr said, with a chuckle. "You'll sign a release, we'll take your picture, and then we'll post it on our Facebook page in the adult's or children's category. Whoever gets the most

likes on their photo will win the prize."

As the costume contest will take place via Facebook, participants can arrive at any time during the event.

Herr said her favorite part about the party every year is being able to see the creativity and effort that people put into their costumes.

"You get lots of Hermiones and Harrys, but I love the adult costumes because they really go all out," Herr said. "One year, we had a woman come in and she had this really nice cloak and had a stethoscope around her neck. She was a physician at St. Mungo's. Then there was another one where she was a professor, and she just had a really cool prop book, so I like seeing the unique takes on the different characters."

During the party, guests will also be able to pre-order

the new Minalima edition of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Askaban," out in October.

"It's gorgeous," Herr said. "The Minalima edition is basically like an interactive pop-up edition. There's beautiful illustrations, but then some of the pages have pop-up elements where you can lift the flaps."

Attendees can also take a picture under the staircase at Arts & Letters, similar to Harry Potter's residence of the "cupboard under the stairs."

"We actually have a storage closet under the stairs and it's just a big white blank space, so I came up with the idea of a Harry Potter painting on the door," Herr said. "Owner Roxanne Laney came up with the idea to do a sorting hat underneath, so we have that as a permanent fixture

and people love taking pictures with that."

For more information on the bookstore and its events, follow the Facebook page at Arts & Letters Bookstore or call 682-936-2824.

"I'm excited to see the costumes and the enthusiasm that people have in getting to share a common interest," Herr added. "I love seeing the smiles on everyone's faces and seeing the depths that people go to for the costumes and being involved. I love seeing that coming together of at all."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

COURTESY PHOTO

Harry Potter, the main protagonist from the best-selling book series by author J.K. Rowling, will be celebrating his 43rd birthday on July 31 this year.



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

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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 21 July 2023 - Thursday, 27 July 2023

Barbie - 114 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 3:35PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 2:50PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM.
Mon: 11:15AM, 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 5:40PM, 7:30PM, 8:20PM.
Tues: 10:50AM, 12:55PM, 1:30PM, 3:40PM, 6:25PM.
Wed: 11:00AM, 11:15AM, 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM.
Thurs: 12:55PM, 3:35PM, 6:15PM, 8:55PM

Haunted Mansion - 122 min (PG13)
Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:50PM, 8:40PM

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny - 154 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 11:20AM, 2:45PM, 6:10PM, 9:35PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 2:20PM, 3:45PM, 9:00PM.
Mon, Wed: 11:35AM, 3:05PM, 6:40PM.
Tues: 12:55PM, 4:15PM, 7:35PM.
Thurs: 10:25AM, 1:45PM, 5:05PM, 8:25PM

Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1 - 163 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 11:50AM, 3:20PM, 6:50PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 11:25AM, 3:05PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Wed: 12:00PM, 3:45PM, 7:30PM.
Tues: 11:35AM, 3:05PM, 6:35PM.
Thurs: 10:00AM, 1:30PM, 5:00PM, 8:30PM

Oppenheimer - 180 min (R)
Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 2:45PM, 6:30PM, 9:15PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 3:50PM, 7:40PM.
Mon: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 3:10PM, 7:00PM.
Tues: 10:00AM, 2:00PM, 4:10PM, 6:00PM.
Wed: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:00PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 10:00AM, 2:00PM, 6:00PM

Sonic the Hedgehog 2 - Kids' Summer Series - 122 min (PG)
Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM

Sound of Freedom - 131 min (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 10:45AM, 12:35PM, 1:45PM, 4:45PM, 6:15PM, 7:45PM, 10:45PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 2:15PM, 5:15PM, 5:30PM, 8:15PM.
Mon: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.
Tues: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM.
Wed: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM.
Thurs: 11:00AM, 12:55PM, 3:55PM, 6:55PM

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THE IDLE AMERICAN



COURTESY PHOTO

Newbury recalls a times when he enjoyed humor found on TV and radio.



BY DON NEWBURY

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

When one enjoys a musical comedy as much as we did recently on a trip to our hometown of Brownwood, mass laughter was a tonic. There'd been an almost sold-out crowd of some 300 at the Lyric Theatre, and the experience made the 140-mile drive commencing at 11 p.m. seem less daunting.

My wife and I enjoyed "The Addams Family Musical" to the max. We've never been more entertained. Opening

in Chicago in 2009, the play is chock full of lines (I've never known how much a "chok" measures) grammar butchers like the late Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra would have loved.

This pair of baseballers was famous for garbling interviews and would have been right at home in the zany play where one character admitted being compulsive, but not until she'd thought about it for a while.

Anyways, fresh memories from the play and old ones from yesteryear helped us stay mentally alert for the drive home that ended at

12:59 a.m.

Recalled were times when we enjoyed thigh-slapping humor far more often than now. I really miss such laughter and am afraid we've tossed aside the Biblical admonition that a merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

Coming to mind were goofs made on radio, and TV situation comedies where vignettes played out repeatedly that still elicited laughs, no matter how many times we heard them on radio or saw them on TV. Who can forget Lily Tomlin, the persimmon-

PLEASE SEE **RADIO** | C7

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

FORWARD TRAINING CENTER

You deserve a magical Granbury Christmas Getaway

BY KATY OFFUTT



Katy Offutt is executive director of Forward Training Center of Hood County. Her community leadership roles include: Help Ministry coordinator, Stonewater Church; alumnus and past president, Leadership Granbury; vice president, Granbury Housing Authority; president, Public Facility Corporation; Nominating Committee chair, LGMA; and volunteer with Ada Carey Center.

Macy's is doing it. Amazon Prime is doing it. Kirkland's is doing it. Christmas in July! As such it feels like the right time for Forward Training Center to jump on board with a Christmas in July announcement!

We have a new and exciting approach to fundraising this December: The Forward Training Center Christmas Market!

This one-night outdoor event is going to give you the most magical Christmas feel. We are bringing you the Christmas markets of Europe, with all the tastes and feels that you experience while shopping through festive lit tents, complete with authentic cuisine and brightly colored lights and holiday decor. There will be beautiful gifts to purchase, including some that we can personalize on the spot, so you can show your loved one the extra care you put into their gift. Forward Training Center wants to bring you an evening where you can escape the hustle and bustle of every day and simply enjoy the wonder of Christmas.

While this will be an evening of shopping and dining on culinary treats, we also will be raising funds for classes at Forward Training Center. In addition to raffle items, including a custom made "nautical" item (stay tuned for the reveal), we also will have a new approach to fundraising that is sure to interest the traveler in everyone: We are excited to announce we are partnering

with AMFUND to bring you exciting trips of a lifetime, both domestic and abroad, to be bid on through silent auction. No live auction this year! This is the perfect way to use your untapped travel funds and help a worthy cause at the same time!

The funds raised will benefit existing classes at Forward Training Center, as well as new classes coming this fall. Some examples of classes offered are Powered for Life, classes for 15-18-year-olds, preparing our younger population to embark on the career of their choice. This class helps develop conflict resolution skills, identifying how to accept feedback in a professional aspect, and adds new personal and professional skills to their resume. We are in our third year of facilitating this class and are seeing transformed lives. One of our new classes being introduced this fall is our Business Builders Workshop.

This 14-session workshop is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive and dynamic approach to business ownership. This workshop provides participants with personalized attention to their specific needs and business goals, utilizing hands-on activi-



COURTESY PHOTO

La Bella Luna, located at 7700 Glen Rose Hwy will be transformed into the First unique Christmas Market shopping experience that is usually only possible internationally. Personalized gift items to take with you for your loved ones. Don't miss Dec. 7, 2023, for Forward Training Center's entirely new winter fundraiser to support where "Transformation through Education Elevates Employability."

ties, case studies, and group discussions. All the classes at Forward Training Center are offered at no cost to the community.

So, get ready and don't

miss the first, one of a kind, event to ever be held in Granbury and purchase those super special gift items found only at our unique Christmas Market.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, Dec. 7, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m., at La Bella Luna. Experience a European like Christmas Market right here at home. You won't want to

miss this!

katy@forwardtrainingcenter.org / 817-219-5655

Pedaling for Parkinson's returns to Hood County YMCA

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A program that could potentially change the life of someone with Parkinson's disease is now back in Hood County.

Pedaling for Parkinson's — a free program that was previously named Pedaling with a Purpose — will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Hood County YMCA located at 1475 James Road.

The 12-week program will allow those with Parkinson's disease to participate in 45-minute spin/cycling sessions to help reduce their symptoms.

"The last time that we (held the program), we had people who said their sleep improved drastically, which is one of the big things that they struggle with," said Tracy Waddell, fitness instructor. "Constipation was also better, which is another thing they really struggle with. We did have some that had tremor reduction, but not as significant as what the statistics have been."

According to the Pedaling for Parkinson's flyer, research has shown that the program has caused a 35% reduction in Parkinson's symptoms from the simple



COURTESY OF TRACY WADDELL

Pedaling for Parkinson's — a free program that was previously named Pedaling with a Purpose — is now back in Hood County. The spin/cycling program will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Hood County YMCA, 1475 James Road. Pictured are participants from the last Pedaling with a Purpose program.

act of pedaling a bicycle at a rapid pace — optimally, 80-90 revolutions per minute. However, Waddell explained that many participants are in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease, and they are not able to pedal as fast as what's recommended in order to alleviate

symptoms.

"Most of the people who were in the program last time were very limited on what they could do, so without being able to get all the way up to the recommended speed, you're just not going to see the tremor reduction," she explained.

The program had previously allowed stroke victims and those with other mobility issues like multiple sclerosis to participate, but the data-based program has since made some changes to its rules.

"They could use the recumbent bikes, but now

we can't because they want every single person to have the exact same experience, so they'll know whether the data is true or not. We're having to use the spin bikes now," Waddell said. "Before, they could also bring their husband or caregiver with them, and now they can't do

that — but it's still a great program."

The class is led by a certified group fitness instructor and will also include a pre- and post-fitness evaluation to gauge how much the participants are improving in the program.

"For people in the beginning stages of Parkinson's, it would just be phenomenal to get started because the more you exercise, the better the symptoms are," Waddell added. "They have found complete proof of exercise being about the only thing that alleviates the Parkinson's symptoms — besides medicine."

The program is ongoing and free of charge. Participants do not have to be members of the Hood County YMCA to use the equipment.

Participants will also need to present a doctor's release form before they will be able to join the class.

For more information or to submit required documentation, email communityhealth@ymcaw.org or call 817-624-9791.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

MONDAY - THURSDAY DAILY SPECIALS!

Mon. BONELESS & BONE-IN WINGS .79 <small>Plus Tax</small>	Tue. CHICKEN TENDERS .89 <small>Plus Tax</small>	Wed. JUMBO SHRIMP .79 <small>Plus Tax</small>	Thur. BONELESS WINGS .69 <small>Plus Tax</small>
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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Community gardens hosts master gardener, shares harvest with pecan emergency volunteers



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

At a recent event hosted by the Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club and Pecan Ace Hardware, Tom Scott, a Master Gardener since 2007, spoke about the “the fall vegetable garden.” Tom, who has specialties in vegetable gardening and greenhouse management, noted that “we are lucky here in North Texas to have two full gardening seasons.” He advised about planting cold crops, and the Gardens Club plans to follow Tom’s advice when planting this autumn.

Furthermore, this summer, the Community Gardens Club has supported Pecan’s Emergency Medical Service by donating garden produce. Gardens Club member and EMS volunteer Donna Bullis prepared fresh green beans, and Susan Harris contributed a cucumber salad to a meal enjoyed by our emergency responders.

Recent garden harvest includes okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, onions, garlic, and peppers. Gardens Club members meet for workdays the second Saturday of each month, along with pop-up workdays as needed. During a July gathering, members cleaned up the garden and harvested ripe produce.

In addition, several members facilitated a most successful fundraiser at the recent Independence Day street dance by operating carnival game booths.

Folks at all levels of gardening are welcome to join

the group. Applications are available at the PAC, and Susan Harris is the contact person for more information: 214-926-1800. Annual membership dues are \$25.

MARINA MUSIC

The Pecan Pit Patio at our marina will enjoy “live music by Eric and Jim” this evening, Saturday, July 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. Neighbors and friends are invited to join.

BLOOD DRIVE

Carter Blood Care will be at the Pecan clubhouse parking lot on Monday, July 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a blood drive. Joi Keahy at the PAC is the contact person for the event: joi@ppoaweb.com.

SUMMER GATHERING

The Widows and Widowers Club of Pecan has its next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 25 with a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. The

program for the evening is bunco play. The group gathers on the fourth Tuesday of each month and welcomes all widows and widowers who live in Pecan. The summer events are relaxed with an emphasis on meeting and conversing with new friends, all the while enjoying good food and games. For more information on the group and its activities, contact Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, July 26 and hear from Gordon Bond, owner and president of Bond Arms, the largest manufacturer of derringers. Breakfast service begins at 8 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m. Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, July 25: 817-573-2641.

SPECIAL EVENT

Pecan’s executive chef Jordan Ray will be hosting a specially themed Chef’s Table on Wednesday, July 26 at 6 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Fare will consist of four monochromatic courses, each paired with a matching tequila cocktail. For more information on the event, contact Scott Wilson, Brazos Room lead server. The reservations line is now open: 817-573-2641.

MUSIC TIME

A free, community-wide concert featuring “the world’s greatest disco band,” Le Freak, will happen on Saturday, July 29 at 9 p.m. at the clubhouse. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase. The event



COURTESY PHOTO BY STEPH PHALEN

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club has been a busy bunch this summer, and recent harvests were shared at a meal for Pecan emergency volunteers. Pictured left to right is Gardens Club member Susan Harris along with emergency personnel Juliana Eckley, Justin Slater, and Dawson Perry.

is part of the Men’s Golf Association’s Member/Guest Tournament.

TWINKLE TOES

Enchanted Summer Dance Camp will be a magical time for ladies ages 3 to 7 when princess dance classes happen at the PAC on Aug. 3 through 5. Participants should bring princess attire and tap shoes as they will be focusing on ballet and tap technique while experiencing the fun of portraying different princesses. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

SING ALONG

A weekly karaoke class is coming to the PAC beginning Tuesday, August 15 and running through Tuesday, Sept. 12. The six-week class will feature Rebecca Faiole

(professional singer and Pecan resident) instructing students about their vocal range style as well as how to choose songs that fit a voice. Mastering proper vocal warmups and techniques will also be part of the program, and students will showcase their talent at a “graduation” event at the clubhouse on Saturday, Sept. 23. Class size is limited, sign up at the PAC (817-573-7952), and email Rebecca for more information: rebeccaashowbiz@gmail.com.

GOOD EATS

“Pizza and Wine Wednesdays” from 4 to 9 p.m. are happening each week this summer in the Brazos Room of the clubhouse.

WIMBLEDON WHITES

In honor of recent Wimbledon tennis play, the Pecan Plantation Tennis Association held “Breakfast at Wimbledon” complete with strawberries and cream as well as breakfast snacks. Participants wore their tennis whites and enjoyed tennis on the lawn.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Lola Ehrlich, who passed away July 8, to the family of Don Davidson, who passed away July 13, and also to the family of Linda Harvey, who passed away July 13.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

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19	Hood County Youth Rodeo
SEPTEMBER	
1-4	Labor Day Weekend Celebrations
4	Labor Day Lighted Boat Parade on the Lake
21-Oct.30	Edgar Allan Poe Experience - B C Experience
23	Spooky Spectacle
24	Art in the Vines at Pemberton Cellars
30	HANK FM Lake Fest
OCTOBER	
Sep.21-30	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

Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

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DEVOTIONAL

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

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 1 John 4:12

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 817-326-2035

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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 1900 W. Hwy. 377
 214-930-7339

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
 3630 Hill City Hwy., Tolar
 254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
 300 Granbury Court
 817-326-2270

First Assembly Of God
 1900 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-1581

BAPTIST

Acton Baptist
 3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
 9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
 254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
 4804 E. Hwy. 377
 817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
 2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
 817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
 1840 Acton Hwy.
 817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
 5041 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
 Hwy. 56
 254-965-3840

First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-613-2322

First Baptist
 214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
 254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
 2815 Lipan Hwy.
 817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
 Glen Rose
 254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
 1851 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.
 817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
 4501 Peppertree Rd.
 817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
 1844 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
 4791 Fm 2803, Lipan
 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
 7178 Fall Creek Hwy.
 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
 910 Paluxy Rd.
 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
 400 Tolar Hwy.
 254-835-4375

VINEYARD BAPTIST

320 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-5318

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1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
 817-579-0509

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Grace Bible
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 682-498-3014

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St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
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Dayspring Christian
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 817-573-0107

First Christian
 2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
 5904 Walnut Creek Circle
 817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-326-3041

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Downtown Church Of Christ
 310 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
 1905 W. Pearl
 817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

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Church Of God
 1106 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal
 4530 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-6074

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Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
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 817-573-4259

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 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
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 817-573-5011

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Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
 110 South Crook St., Cresson
 469-730-6496

Granbury First United
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 301 Loop 567,
 817-573-5573

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 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
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 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
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 817-573-9076

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Calvary Church of Granbury
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 817-326-3573

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Calvary Family
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 314-606-1211

Center Point
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 817-554-3432

Christian Science Society
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 817-573-0457

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 917-326-5501

Crossroads
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 County
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 817-326-5378

Hope Community
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Lipan Cowboy
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For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'
 Isaiah 41:13

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 Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.
 Psalm 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
 Isaiah 41:10

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

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Check out these casual puzzle games



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.

Not every game has to be an epic 100-hour smash and bash shoot em up. Here's some casual puzzle games that are easy to get into and won't take too much of your time to complete.

THE LAST CAMPFIRE

Created by Hello Games, who also made No Man's Sky. The Last Campfire is a story about a little Ember who became separated from the others during their journey and found themselves in a strange place full of fellow Embers who have lost their spark. Your goal is to solve the puzzles and eventually light the Last Campfire.

This game works well as a casual puzzler. The visuals are absolutely beautiful. Little Ember is the narrator, and she has the sweet voice of a British schoolgirl.

However, the puzzles are not that challenging, and recycle some puzzles I've seen in other games. There's some from real life too, like the sliding number puzzle and Laser Maze.

The Last Campfire is \$14.99 on Steam. 6.5 hours of game play. Is it worth the money? Yes, I would say so, especially if you like low-stress visually appealing puzzle games. Age-appropriate for 7 and up.

BULB BOY

Bulb Boy is a horror game,



Screenshot from The Last Campfire.

COURTESY PHOTO

but not a scary horror game. It's the tale of a little boy who finds his home has been taken over by an evil presence. Grandpa has disappeared and there are monsters everywhere.

It's surreal, funny, and gross. There's drool, snot, farts, blobs (or snakes) of poop, rotting disembodied arms, hair and mismatched teeth, demon turkeys that you have to entice into the oven, all in a monochromatic palette of mostly green or red. The animation is perfect for the subject matter, because after all, this is a horror game about a little boy

with a light bulb for a head. It doesn't take itself seriously.

Your first puzzle is to yank Grandpa's teeth out of his mouth and put them in water, then turn off the TV, which conveniently teaches you the game mechanics - wave the mouse around until a hand or grabby hand appears, then click. Puzzles can be solved by picking up objects and applying them to the problem. Building your game with an interactive background with active clickable fields can make the puzzles too easy, but in this case they're still pretty difficult. The perfect game

if you're 8 years old, or an 8-year-old in an adult's body. Bulbware, 2015, 5.8 hours of game play.

MINI MOTORWAYS

Dinosaur Polo Club, 2021. Mini Motorways is a transportation game - specifically, a traffic flow game. Your goal is to make sure that everybody can get to their destination in a certain amount of time.

It starts out slow at first, and then as the population increases, more people and businesses move in. You'll get roads, traffic lights,

roundabouts, highways and bridges. A variety of maps are available. The more people get to their destination, the higher of a score you will achieve.

Daily and weekly challenges are also available. The game's look is very clean and minimalist, and the music is meditative.

Another game that's good to buy when it's on sale. Available on Steam for \$9.99.

TINY BUBBLES

Deceptively simple looking puzzle game consisting of colored bubbles. Match three of the same color together to pop the bubbles. This is a game of strategy and timing. If your bubble mass gets too big, the crabs come in to pop the bubbles. Some puzzles have a fish that comes in to introduce more bubbles. The game is all about planning out the combinations of colors you've been given to maximize the bubbles popped. Your goal is to pop all the bubbles within a certain number of moves. This puzzle game is not as relaxed - some of the bubbles require careful timing to combine colors so that they pop together. \$9.99 on Steam from Pine Street Codeworks LLC.

RADIO

FROM PAGE C3

lipped telephone operator on the weekly "Laugh In" TV show, and her question posed each time: "Is this the person to whom I am speaking?"

Drive underway, I tuned in to satellite radio sports talk show. The interviewee was a professional baseball player who faces the decision of signing a multi-year baseball contract which will pay him hundreds of millions of

dollars.

"I know I don't need that much money, but maybe many of my ancestors will enjoy it," he said.

Wow, I guess his answer qualifies for "paying it backwards."

I laughed for at least a dozen miles, withdrawing other funny moments for my memory bank, most of them sports related.

Forty-seven years have gone by since Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson rendered his clever description of Terry Bradshaw's intelli-

gence. "He couldn't spell 'cat' if you spotted him the 'c' and the 't'," he claimed prior to Super Bowl XIII.

And what about the baseballer who was an excellent switch-hitting batter? "Thank God, I'm amphibious," he bragged.

We must not leave out basketballers, of course.

When Jason Kidd, current Dallas Mavericks coach, was a Mavericks' player, he vowed to work hard to improve on the previous dismal season.

"We're going to turn things

around here 360 degrees," he said.

Scanning the radio dial, I wondered if Radio Station KERF in Del Rio, TX, is still on the airwaves. With its broadcast tower across the Rio Grande River in Mexico, it had souped up power to cover much of the US.

Years ago, it featured 30-minute blocks of preachers, and each sermon was precisely timed. It was, uh, chopped off when 30 minutes had elapsed.

One night, a sermon ended with "All the medicine you'll

ever need is Jesus." The next sermon began with a commercial stating, "Follow the label; avoid excessive use." Just before arriving home at 12:59 a.m., the names of Jimmy and Eddy Farren came to mind.

They were well-known regionally in the 1950s and wound up owning our community's second radio station, KEAN. Farm boys, they attended Hardin-Simmons University for one day, but joined up with the Harley Sadler tent show when it came to town. They were

far better entertainers than grammarians. One day during a newscast, Eddy announced that it had been raining "intermittently off and on in Brownwood."

Okay, so I had a few "goofs" myself broadcasting sports during college years. One New Year's Eve, I wished everyone a "Happy Newbury!"

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BY ZAC WILSON

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How far in advance should I book my trip? Are there any last-minute deals? Why is everything sold out? These are questions travelers ask me daily. The short answers are book as far in advance as possible, last-minute deals for popular destinations at peak travel times are a thing of the past, and limited availability combined with a high demand has created a lot of sold-out flights, resorts, and cruise ships.

In 2022 Royal Caribbean opened their new cruise terminal at the Port of Galveston. For the first time, Galveston can now receive the large mega cruise ships that travel five to six thousand passengers. These ships are destinations unto themselves! The Spring Break sailing of Allure of the Seas ship sold out over seven months in advance! Even more surprising is every summer sailing for June, July and August were also

sold out several months in advance. This is the new normal for popular cruise ships, itineraries, and travel seasons.

Alaska CruiseTours with a seven-day sailing that includes Glacier Bay National Park and a three-day pre or post cruise stay at Denali National Park in the wilderness lodges can sell out as far as a year in advance. You may find a last-minute deal on an Alaskan Cruise, but it likely won't include Glacier



COURTESY PHOTO

It is recommended to book trips as far in advance as possible. Last-minute deals for popular destinations at peak travel times are a thing of the past, and limited availability combined with a high demand has created a lot of sold-out flights, resorts, and cruise ships.

Bay or Denali. So, is it really a deal? In my opinion, without those two destinations you haven't experienced Alaska.

Many European River Cruises will also sell out a year in advance. In fact, Viking River Cruises final payment due date is a year prior to sailing. The more luxurious AmaWaterways and Avalon Waterways often sell out a year in advance.

What about pricing models? Disney Cruise Line releases their sailing itineraries 18 months in advance.

They price on a supply and demand model. When the ship first opens for booking it is the cheapest it will ever be. As the rooms sell, the remaining rooms increase in price! Every time the capacity hits a set threshold the price goes up. Last-minute bookings will pay the highest price, not the lowest.

How about flights? Since the pandemic devastated the travel industry, airlines have experienced great staffing shortages. This has resulted in fewer flights. Every flight my clients and I have taken in the past

couple years has been completely sold out. If you want an aisle seat on a nonstop flight, you better book far in advance! And be prepared for schedule changes, delays, and cancellations.

All Inclusive Resorts during the Holidays, Summer, and Spring Break are also full. One news station called it "revenge travel". Many travelers who lost their vacations in 2020 and 2021 are now taking multiple trips and longer trips to make up for lost vacations. This increase in travelers has a big effect on everyone.

Over the water bungalows at Sandals resorts in the Caribbean often sell out 12-18 months in advance.

Americans who are afraid to travel internationally post pandemic are flooding Hawaii. You may find a hotel last minute, but you'll be hard pressed to find a rental car or a nonstop flight. Definitely, book at least six months in advance.

Don't panic. Call your Travel Agent.

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