



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

**GROWING PAINS**  
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# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The SEALS PUPS program is held at the Comanche Cove Association Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for children ages two and older.

## GISD board approves five-year strategic plan

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Following months of planning and discussing with district staff, families, students, and community members, the Granbury ISD five-year strategic plan is officially in the works.

The GISD Board of Trustees approved the plan in a 5:2 vote on Monday, July 17, during its monthly meeting.

Strategic planning is a process that empowers stakeholders, such as parents, students, district employees, city officials, business partners, and clergy, to collaboratively shape the future of their school district, according to the plan overview.

Through this process, the district and community become partners in creating a five-year plan. This shared sense of ownership enables districts to overcome obstacles and discover new possibilities for students. All school districts reach a point where they must reinvigorate their practices and create new systems or face decline. The strategic planning process galvanizes the community around a common purpose, bringing new life to the district.

The process was approved by the school board in February and began in March.

"The strategic planning process was meant to engage stakeholders, to figure out a way to really work collaboratively to shape the future, and to really discover new possibilities for all of our kids," said GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn during the meeting. "Our community came together, and we came up with a foundation of beliefs that we want to build upon, and we created a draft vision and mission statements for the district."

He explained that two statements of beliefs that the committee voted on were: "Positive partnerships with family and community are important for student success," and "All students should be future ready."

"The vision statement, we wanted something that was easy to understand that expressed hope for the future that people could know and be able to easily repeat, and that clarified the direction we wanted to go," Glenn explained.

He said that the vision statement — "Granbury ISD inspires excellence and empowers all students to be future ready and positive contributors in their community," — served as a checklist to create the strategic plan mission statement, which states: "In partnership with our students, staff and families, and community, Granbury ISD is committed to empowering all learners to achieve academic excellence. We provide a safe and supportive learning environment based upon positive relationships, respect and integrity, and a sense of belonging. Our innovative relevant instruction promotes critical thinking so students can become lifelong learners who are future ready."

Glenn explained that the five-year plan envelops district data and contains four key pieces: academics, human capital, facilities, and culture.

During the meeting, representatives from each of the four key pieces came up to the podium to discuss goals, along with strategies and a timeline for the expected objectives.

### ACADEMICS

"We all know that student achievement is a cornerstone of the public education system, and because of that, the committee was very purposeful in the goal and strategies that they created," said Nuvia Velasquez, instructional specialist at STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

She explained that the goal for academics is that by 2028, 100% of Granbury ISD students will "demonstrate or exceed grade level proficiency and will be equipped with individualized future reading skills."

"Our first strategy says that we're going to strengthen the district wide system in which all students engage daily with TEKS aligned high quality instructional material and assessments, which support learning at appropriate levels of rigor," Velasquez explained. "Later this summer, we will look to create a committee to clarify and reinforce the components and connection between highly effective instruction, high quality materials,

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## JUST KEEP SWIMMING

### SEAL PUPS training early for competitive swim team

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

Swimming is a necessary survival skill that everyone should learn at some point, with many parents enrolling their children in swimming lessons as early as six months old.

But for the Granbury SEALS PUPS, children are learning how to do more than just swim.

The Granbury SEALS Swim Team is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a wholesome environment in which swimmers of all ages may learn and improve the basic fundamentals of competitive swimming, according to the website.

Although the program has been around for more than 30 years, the SEALS PUPS program was introduced only 18 years ago — geared more for younger children as they learn how to swim while also training to become a member of the swim

team.

"My oldest granddaughter who just graduated college was in one of the first groups of the very first PUPS we had," Vicki Hamrick, assistant coach said. "Our Head Coach Janet Steenberge really wanted to develop a lesson program for a lot of reasons — for health and safety of our kids and because we had so many swimming families that had toddlers and preschoolers that really wanted their kids to learn and be prepared for moving up into the swim team level. We really weren't sure how it would go, but we absolutely have loved doing it. The program has been



Children in the Granbury SEALS PUPS program learn how to swim and train for the Granbury SEALS Swim Team at the same time.

such a great success."

The SEALS PUPS program is held at the Comanche Cove Association Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for children ages two and older.

"Originally we started at three, four, and five-year-olds as a pre-K, but we now start

at two-year-olds because so many of our swim families have two-year-olds in their family and they've done really well," Hamrick explained. "Sometimes we even have older kids coming into the PUPS program because they didn't really know how

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## City council overturns Historic Preservation Commission denial

BY CLAUDIA PEREZ RIVAS  
Managing Editor

A public hearing was held during a regular Granbury City Council meeting on July 18 to consider a request to appeal a denial decision made by the Historic Preservation Commission on a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish an aged accessory structure of a property located on East Bridge Street.

Applicant Katherine Hubnik requested a Certificate of Appropriateness for a demolition permit on May 25, to tear down a detached garage, which is in

disrepair, located on the northeast corner of her property. The main house was constructed in 1905 but it is unclear when the garage was added.

Kira Wauwie, director of community development told the council historic Sanborn maps from 1893, 1905, and 1910 do not show the added garage so it is unclear when it was constructed. The Sanborn maps are insurance maps that were provided during the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s.

Based on a 2001 historic survey, the Aston House, as the property is known, shows a 1978 marker year and is a

Queen Anne Architectural style home. Outbuildings at the time of survey included a two-car garage, two woodsheds, picket fence in front, and a rock fence in back.

"The Historic Preservation Commission denied the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition and the applicant has appealed," Wauwie told the council.

The presentation included photographs of the rotting structure. In addition, The Office of the Chief Building Official of the City of Granbury conducted a check on the structure and reported his findings

in correspondence dated May 31, 2023.

Wauwie told the council the building official's findings included the following:

- The garage is located on a monolithic foundation.
- The sills that support the structure are rotten because of the entrance of rainwater and, or termite damage.
- The studs that support the roof are damaged because of wood rot, or termite damage.
- A large portion of the roof has caved in because of water damage.

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS



## CHAMBER NEWS

### Be a part of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

#### Chamber Message

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce has served the businesses of Hood County since 1952, living out our mission to enhance and promote the business environment and economic well-being of our community. The chamber exists as a driving force in partnership with the county, city, school districts, community organizations and, of course, the local businesses that make the rich economy and thriving regional commerce. Through advocacy, resources, and networking, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce helps to connect all the dots and put businesses on the map.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to serving our members. We act as the voice and advocate for our members, representing their interests and concerns at a local, regional, and even national levels of governance. We offer an extensive range of resources, including networking events, workshops, and educational programs, designed to empower businesses and enhance their professional skills.

The chamber actively promote its members, providing exposure and marketing opportunities through various channels. We foster a sense of camaraderie and collaboration, encouraging businesses to work together, exchange ideas, and create mutually beneficial partnerships. By continuously striving to understand the evolving needs of our members, we play a pivotal role in driving economic growth and prosperity.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is eager to connect with you and become a valuable resource for your business or organization. Whether you are an established entrepreneur, a small business owner, or a community member with passion for local development, the chamber welcomes you with open arms. By joining forces with the chamber, you gain access to a supportive network of like-minded individuals, industry experts, and potential clients.

The chamber strives to understand our members' unique needs and aspirations, tailoring our programs and events to suit your interests. Our dedicated team is committed to fostering meaningful connections, providing expert guidance, and offering wide range of resources to help you achieve your goals. Together, we can drive innovation, advocate for change, and create a thriving community that benefits us all. Come, be a part of the chamber family, and let's build a vibrant future together!

#### MORE INFO

For more information, visit our website at [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com), email us at [info@granburychamber.com](mailto:info@granburychamber.com), call us at 817-573-1622 or stop by for a visit at 3408 E. Hwy 377.



## COMMUNITY BUSINESS

### Record jobs, employment, and labor force spotlight Texas momentum

Texas broke three records again with number of jobs, number employed, and the size of the state's civilian labor force.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott celebrated the dominance of the state's jobs economy following the release of June employment data showing that Texas again leads the nation for jobs added over the last 12 months. Texas also smashed all previous records for total jobs, now for 21 months in a row, and again set new records for total Texans employed and total Texas labor force.

"It's no surprise that Texas continues to lead the nation with more jobs added over the last 12 months and the fastest jobs growth rate in the country," Abbott said. "The undeniable dominance of Texas' jobs economy is proof that businesses and jobs grow where given the freedom to succeed. It is a testament to the might of our state economy that more Texans are working than ever before as Texas smashes all previous records for total jobs, now 21 months in a row. More paychecks mean more opportunities for the people of this great state to thrive. Together with the nation's most innovative businesses and the best workforce in America, we are building an even bigger, bolder Texas of tomorrow."

June employment data released by the Texas Workforce Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Texas has now added over 2.1 million jobs under Abbott's leadership and has again set new record highs:

Texas reaches a new high for total jobs at 13,944,600 as employers added 31,100 nonfarm jobs over the month.

Texas reaches a new high for Texans working, including employed and self-employed, at 14,429,900.

Texas reaches a new high with the largest labor force ever in the state's history at 15,039,800.

Texas again leads the nation for job creation over the last 12 months, adding 542,500 jobs and growing at a 4.0% annual rate, the fastest of all states and well above the annual growth rate for the nation as a whole of 2.5%.

"More than 350,000 people have joined the Texas workforce since June 2022, making the Lone Star State a national leader as the best place to work and to live," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel, said. "As a resource for this growing job market, TWC is committed to provide a range of services for employers and job seekers alike."

Private Education and Health Services added the most jobs

of all the major industries at 11,900—closely followed by Construction with 11,000 positions. Manufacturing gained 6,100 jobs over the month. Texas' annual employment growth through June 2023 was stronger than the national rate in all but one of the 11 industries, Leisure, and Hospitality.

"Texas employers are helping Texas stay robust and growing as the state approaches the 14 million mark for nonfarm jobs," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "From initiatives like the Texas Conference for Employers and programs like the Skills Development Fund, TWC will continue to encourage that forward drive by providing resources for our Texas employers that include the best employment law education information and the best customized training for current and future workers."

The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA had the second largest over-the-year increase in number of jobs in the nation, not seasonally adjusted. The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) reached the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.6% in June, followed by Amarillo 3.3%, then Odessa at 3.4%. Meanwhile, Midland had the largest percentage increase,

followed by Odessa with the second highest increase in the nation among all MSAs.

"Texas continues to expand the labor force with skilled workers, at more than 15 million strong, as we boost careers through opportunities with our apprenticeship, internship, and vocational rehabilitation programs," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "TWC and our 28 Workforce Solution Boards help Texans navigate employment services that include career exploration, support services, job fairs, and job training programs."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit [TexasLMI.com](http://TexasLMI.com).

Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers, and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and its services in coordination with its local workforce development boards network, call 800-628-5115 or visit <https://twc.texas.gov/>. Subscribe to email updates to receive notifications about TWC programs and services

## Leadership Granbury: Debra Temple

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

Debra Temple is a member of Leadership Granbury. She is currently an Administrator at Baylor Scott and White in Granbury and has been there for 11 years.

As an administrator, Temple is over the whole facility. Temple oversees finances, scheduling, and much more.

Temple has been in the medical field for 41 years and started her career right out of high school. She has been in Granbury for 29 years.

Leadership is a quality that Temple has possessed for a long time and started leading in Granbury after becoming a part of the chamber. She wanted to get the name of Baylor Scott and White out to the community of Granbury.

Temple recently became a board member of the chamber and most recently a member of Leadership Granbury. Friends of Temple told her how great Leadership Granbury was, and so she decided to check it out.

After taking the nine-month long classes, she realized she could make the class even better. This last year she was selected as one of the heads of the class after being voted in



COURTESY PHOTO

Debra Temple is currently an Administrator at Baylor Scott and White in Granbury.

by the board.

Temple thinks that having empathy and being a good communicator are some of the most important qualities of being a leader.

She highly recommends for those interested in leadership to apply for Leadership Granbury.

"Leadership Granbury has opened up doors that I would not even come across. It's the relationships, the networking, and the friends that you make that make it amazing," Temple said. "You learn so much about this community."

To become a member of Leadership Granbury, you

must write an essay, and attend monthly classes for nine months. The leadership only takes 25 applicants a year. Temple says it is a big commitment to be a part of but extremely rewarding.

For more information on Leadership Granbury visit [leadershipgranbury.com](http://leadershipgranbury.com)

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## GISD

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and assessment."

Velasquez explained that this fall, the district will begin implementing the benchmark phonic program, start the annual process of updating and evaluating the effectiveness of scope and instructional materials for all content core areas, and will update the curriculum page.

Velasquez said that academic strategy No. 2 focuses on professional development, where starting this fall, the district will utilize the Branching Minds software to "drive intervention plans for students with academic gaps."

"To expand a little bit what branching minds is, it is a platform that houses all the data of students so any

notes that the teacher or someone like myself makes can be housed in that platform, so if I was at Acton, and I moved to Mambrino, that platform and data will follow me," Velasquez explained. "We could have it all in one location, and then that way we're able to track what was successful and not successful with that student."

This fall, the district will also utilize the observation feedback protocol to provide job embedded professional development for teachers, and in the spring, the observation feedback protocol will be extended to all instructional leaders.

In the summer of 2024, the district will start its annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the observation feedback on instruction.

## ACADEMICS - HIGH SCHOOL

Jana Reid, Granbury High School English teacher, said she would be explaining the academic goals from a high school perspective to ensure students were CCMR (College, Career, and Military Ready).

Reid recommended that the TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment be moved to the fall, rather than in the spring following the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) test.

She also recommended establishing a committee to consider changes to the district's GPA system.

"Our GPA system, as we have it right now, is pretty involved and pretty difficult, and we want to encourage our students and be more transparent and easy with our GPA system," Reid

explained. "That would not take effect, obviously, for a number of years, because you have to bring that in with a freshman class, but we wanted to start that process this fall."

## HUMAN CAPITAL

Maggie Walton, principal at Acton Elementary School, began her presentation by stating that the overwhelming factor of student success is the quality of the teacher in the classroom.

Walton said the goal is to find a way to attract more teachers to come to GISD, while also ensuring that they stay in the district.

"Together, our committee came up with the following goal: by 2028, 100% of GISD staff will be highly effective, well supported, and valued both personally and professionally," she said.

The first strategy, she said, involves the implementation of VATRE (Voter Approval Tax Rate Election), which would give additional funding to the district.

Beginning this fall, the district would launch a Granbury ISD campaign to highlight the "incredible things happening" at GISD.

"We envision videos, we envision brochures at the Chamber of Commerce that are sprinkled throughout the community that are really highlighting all the incredible things that make GISD what it is and make Granbury the incredible town that it is," Walton explained.

In spring 2024, the district will strengthen the partnerships with local universities and colleges, and in summer 2024, a benefits and compensation review will be

conducted.

Walton said in spring 2025, GISD will host its own job fair, while in fall of 2025, a teacher incentive allotment will be implemented to "incentivize our really high-quality teachers who are going the extra mile."

The second strategy involves establishing district wide systems for professional growth and retention, which will begin this summer with a GISD staff mentoring program.

"We know that part of retention is making sure that our new employees feel well supported, and a lot of our campuses have great mentoring programs, but we're looking at making this a little bit more uniform across the district," Walton said.

She also suggested ad-

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A3



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Big pharma; drug prices can make anyone sick



**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.

I have suffered with asthma since I was a child. Attacks were usually a major incident in the spring, and a second attack in the fall. For the balance of the year, I was pretty much asthma-free. As I have aged, the attacks are not nearly as severe, but they are considerably more regular and necessitate I take a medication called Symbicort. Since my doctor prescribed this medicine, I rarely have any sort of flare ups and the quality of my life is much improved.

This past week my prescription needed to be refilled so I went to my local pharmacy and reordered. Symbicort is not inexpensive, and the last time I went to the pharmacy it cost \$240

for a two-month supply. This time when I reordered, I was advised by the pharmacy tech the cost would be \$360. My mouth dropped and I said, "no, that cannot be right, I paid \$240 two

months ago". She assured me there had been a price change and the drug now cost \$360.

I grabbed my phone, used an app which compares pricing at local pharmacies and provides coupons for some medications. I found I could get my prescription filled at another pharmacy for \$210 for the exact same drug. This meant I would pay \$30 less than the last time I had bought the drug and avoid the \$120 increase I was going to be charged this time. I told the clerk to cancel the order, and then went to the second pharmacy and completed the transaction.

Strangely, the app provided a price comparison of the costs of the same drug at 10 different pharmacies. The prices ranged from \$210 to \$379! How could that be? A person can understand

there being a little price fluctuation between different entities, but this was a 44.5% difference between the high and the low.

I then did a little research. Did you realize since 1998 big Pharma has spent 4.8 billion on lobbying members of Congress so pharmaceutical costs do not go down for the consumer? In the year 2020 there were 1502 registered pharmaceutical lobbyists in Washington DC. This equates to nearly three lobbyists for every elected member of Congress! Polls show 80% of the American public want Medicare to negotiate drug charges with the big drug companies, but Congress will not pass legislation allowing them to do so. Pharmacy prices go up at an alarming rate, and the American consumer is left holding the bag. How can that be? If 80%

of the public wants lower drug prices, why are our elected officials failing to get pricing that exists in Mexico, Canada and in Europe? Why do Americans pay more for the exact same drug? The answer is simple, Big Pharma writes checks to politicians and legislation stops dead in its tracks. At the same time it is reported that 3 in 10 Americans are not taking at least one of the medications they have been prescribed, because they cannot afford them.

If there is anything the right, the left, the center, and everyone else in America should grasp, Big Pharma is making billions on the back of the American public when they charge considerably more than what they charge the rest of the world. It needs to stop, and it needs to stop now. I would hope that members

of both parties would jump on this bandwagon and move to protect the people they represent. Enough is enough. It makes me want to take an aspirin or two... while I can afford it.

**FAREWELL TO KATHY CRUZ**

After a long and award-winning career at the Hood County News, Kathy Cruz has decided to accept another opportunity. We at the Hood County News thank her for her service and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Thought for the day: When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses. Shirley Chisholm.

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out. sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

## Folks around town

**Dalton Cole Kennington**

*Say hello to our neighbor, Dalton Cole Kennington!*

Dalton Kennington, 24, moved to Granbury at the age of 4. What he treasures most about life in Granbury is the community as a whole and unity among local churches. Kennington looks forward to a future of continuing his participation in community church activities and often looks to the Hood County News to stay on top of current events and causes. Bible verse Ephesians 6:11 NIV "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." these are words Kennington lives by "Staying in the word gives me peace. All things negative can never trump what the word provides," said Kennington.

**GISD**

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ministering GISD climate surveys, where employees will be asked to provide feedback on the district.

In spring of 2024, the employee onboarding process will be tweaked to make the program more uniform across the board.

Walton said that in spring of 2025, the district will implement a common exit-and-stay interview process and a grow-your-own system, where paraprofessionals will be given opportunities to become teachers and grow in their careers.

Walton explained that in the spring of 2026, the leadership program LEAP (Leadership Experiences for Aspiring Professionals) will be strengthened, while in the summer of 2026, the district will develop a staff recognition plan.

"I would consider this one of the most important parts of our entire strategy," she said, on the staff recognition plan. "A recent Gallup (News) poll showed that a lack of employee recognition is the most common reason why people leave their jobs. People leave their jobs because they don't feel like they've been recognized, and so thinking about 'How can we be strategic about the ways that we celebrate what our teachers are doing?' We do a great job celebrating what our students do, but how can we really be intentional about celebrating all of the incredible things that our staff does?"

Lastly, the summer of 2027, Walton said, involves establishing a GISD staff wellness program to ensure that all staff are happy and healthy.

**FACILITIES**

In discussing facilities, CTE Director Todd Gibson explained that the goal is that by 2028, 100% of GISD facilities will be "well maintained, secure, and prepared for future growth."

The first strategy involves developing a district wide system to meet current and future facility-related needs.

"Clearly in our district, we have existing facility needs at each campus,

whether that be a need for renovations or for a need for expansion," Gibson said. "We also have a need for additional facilities to alleviate some of the overcrowding that's happening at different campuses, and hopefully to improve some of the logistics of our transportation department."

He added that the committee will remain transparent and communicate clearly with the public

*"We are so grateful that we have people that are interested enough to give those days and hours. I'm sure my fellow board members will agree that those folks gave a lot of time and came with diverse ideas, diverse opinions, and they were able to come together in so many ways — and for that, I'm thankful."*

**BARBARA HERRINGTON**

GISD Board President

when it comes to needs and ongoing projects, and that the committee will also prioritize the current needs and plan for the immediate future when it comes to the upcoming bond.

"As much as I'd like to plan for 10 years out, our community showed us very clearly that they were not ready to do that at the last bond election, so we want to keep that in mind," Gibson said.

The first action step, he said, is to develop a bond oversight committee to ensure "transparency, communication, and guidance" throughout the next several years.

Future projects, Gibson said, will include a new elementary school on the northeast side of town, and renovations at every campus like:

Additional space at Acton Middle School

A gymnasium at Nettie Baccus Elementary School

Roadways to help traffic flow at Oak Woods School and Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy

Upgrades and renovations to Acton Elementary School

Facility renovation at

Granbury Middle School

The facility renovations would also include an additional focus on Granbury High School, where rifle range classrooms would be added for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (MCJROTC), along with dressing facilities storage, CTE classrooms and shop space, an update to the baseball and softball facilities, and renovating lower grand hall to acquire five

other elementary addition or a middle school — we're going to be into that 10-year plan, and we'll be behind the eight ball," he said.

He added that the purpose of the initial bond is to try to take care of GISD in the immediate future — not over the next 10 years.

"We feel confident that all of this can happen for less than a penny on the tax rate," Gibson said. "The price tag is 165 million but understand that with our bond capacity and the room we have, that would only be about a penny or less."

Gibson explained that the second part of the five-year facilities plan is to expand district wide systems to ensure well-maintained and secure facilities.

He said that a facilities committee will be formed to assess current and future needs through walkthroughs, establish replacement schedules for equipment, and to explore grant opportunities.

"The last thing I have here is the security piece, which we all know is a big focus of the district, and it's a big focus of TEA (Texas Education Agency) as well," he added. "We just want to make sure we're evaluating our existing facilities and analyzing what we're currently doing to ensure that our campuses are secure and that our students are safe."

**CULTURE**

Shanna McPherson, library media specialist at Acton Elementary School, presented on Granbury culture — the last piece of the strategic plan.

"Culture is the heart of our district, and it is, in my opinion, the best part of this whole piece," she said. "We set a goal because we want us to be one pirate nation."

The district's goal by 2028, McPherson said, is that 100% of Granbury ISD students, staff, families, and community will be "connected, supported, respected, and value the educational experience."

She explained that the first step this summer is to develop a communications committee, where one person per campus would be

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Saturday issue:  
10 a.m. Wednesday



# CALENDAR

## JULY

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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST**  
Church will be having a Free Family Fun Day on Aug. 5, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited. There will be bounce houses, waterslides, movies, snow cones, and more. The event will take place 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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com). Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.



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Hood County News

# New statues coming to Granbury courthouse

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Two new statues are coming to the courthouse in Granbury very soon. "The Silent Pray" is a 12 by 12 by 17-foot-high bronze statue that will be put on a circular concrete pad that

is on the southwest corner of the courthouse. The other statue is named the "Black Star" which features a Shaman woman that will be placed next to the gazebo against the courtyard on the west side of the gazebo.

Faye Landham, a long-

time Granbury resident was friends with the donor of the statues through preserve Granbury. The statues were donated by Ken Hill, a Granbury resident who passed away in Nov. of 2020.

"In his will he left a trust fund where he donated

both the statues to the city," Landham said.

Hill collected all sorts of Indian pieces, Landham added.

According to County Judge Ronald Massingill the statues are set for arrival and set up on Fri, Sept. 8. "We're going to

have a big public unveiling of the statues," Massingill said.

Be on the lookout for the arrival of the pieces at the courthouse and get ready for the big unveiling to be announced later with more details to come.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## MISINFORMATION

I want to address the MISINFORMATION about my absence from the special called Budget Workshop. Commissioner Samuelson, who called the workshop, understood the Judge and I were not available, before she scheduled the workshop, as we were already scheduled to attend a training conference. As you have been informed, the conference I attended was scheduled last February 2023.

I knew the topics of this conference would be beneficial in whatever stage our budget process was at the time at the time. As it would happen the Conference topics were:

1. Budgeting, Property Tax and Grievance's
2. Calculating Tax Rates and what it means
3. Procedures to adopt

## Budget and Tax Rate

4. Subdivision Regulations
5. Road and Bridge Maintenance and Repair
6. Tax Abatement and Economics & Development Arguments

7. Regulations and Legal Issues for Solid Waste Ordinances
8. Interlocal Agreements
9. Overview agency and County Assistance Programs
10. Physical and Mental Health Practices

I gained a lot of beneficial information, and I will be more than willing to share with members of the court and the citizens of Hood County. We are required by the state statute to attend 16 hours of training each year. With this conference I have fulfilled my required hours for this year.

I also know that there is

talk that some of the conferences can be held online. It is no secret that you will gain way more information in a class where other commissioners and elected officials can share problems and solutions. The discussions are invaluable. You can also gain information on where you stand in comparison to other counties. Sharing information can help improve your knowledge and commitment to serve the citizens of your own community.

I learned in these conversations that all counties have their challenges with disagreements and division. They are all striving to make their communities a better place, a united place. That will always be my mission to educate myself, research the facts, and be transparent. My door is always open, and I will always

answer your questions with a fact-filled response.

Just a side note regarding taxes. I have never said "we need to raise taxes". Everyone that knows me and what I stand for knows that was not my statement.

When we receive the totals from the Hood County Appraisal District on July 25, 2023, and I attend the special-called meeting on July 31, 2023, we can and will address the many questions. We will put the numbers together and rest assured I will study those and distribute the funds needed by all services that are expanding with our growth. We will support all those who serve our community.

I thank you for your continued support. I will always work for the benefit of all citizens of Hood County. We truly have a great Hood

County community. Let's all be proud AMERICANS.

Jack Wilson,  
Hood County commissioner

## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

## SEAL

FROM PAGE A1

to swim or didn't have the strength to swim."

The main requirement to be on the Granbury SEALS Swim Team is that the individual must be able to swim the length of a 25-yard pool without stopping and without assistance.

"Once you do that, then you're strong enough to become a member of the

team," Hamrick said. "We also have what we call in-betweens so the swimmers that aren't quite as strong but can still swim. Our goal by the end of the session is to get them strong enough to swim the length of the pool so they can move up into the bigger group by the end of the summer."

Hamrick said they have already had six kids move from PUPS to the swim team this summer alone, which resulted in a huge

celebration for the children.

"It's always so exciting, and such a big deal. All the coaches line the pool, and we cheer them on as they swim, and once they finish the complete lap of the pool, they get lots of cheers," she said. "All the younger kids are seeing that and understanding that that's the goal. It's been very successful, and we are super happy with the turnout and how many swimmers actually ended

up moving up into our team program within a month of lessons."

Every summer, the PUPS program holds two four-week practice swimming sessions two times a week.

"We felt like just going and doing a lesson for three days or four days, and then not going back, they didn't retain as much so that was the whole thought process behind doing it as a month-long program," Hamrick explained. "We wanted the

kids to repetitively get their lessons, instruction, and then put it into practice, so it became a lot more natural to them and repeating those motions became better for them to be stronger swimmers."

She said the main goal in the program is to get the children comfortable in the water without being afraid, so an activity like blowing bubbles or a swimming polo program," Hamrick explained. "We wanted the

PLEASE SEE SEAL | A5

## GISD

FROM PAGE A3

on the committee to keep the community informed about what's going on at each campus.

In spring 2024, the district would design a culture survey, while in summer 2024, a family communication liaison will be appointed.

"We also want to develop a district wide communication and newsletter template, so this committee would create that for the principals and (assistant principals) to push information out to our families and communities to where it's unified across all the campuses," McPherson said.

In spring of 2025, McPherson said the district will "paint Granbury purple and gold," by painting the railroad bridge to read, "Pirate Nation," similar to how Tolar displays its town mural.

A Granbury ISD billboard to promote students, staff, academics, and athletics is

also in the works, as well as a service project committee.

In summer 2026, a campaign will be developed to build awareness of community partnerships, and an academic marketing team will also be formed.

The second strategy will focus more on universal support for students and staff, McPherson said, starting with a Granbury culture committee that will be created this summer.

"They'll develop systems to address bullying, set procedures for schools, and create a visual aid that would be put everywhere — in the bathrooms, cafeteria, and in the classrooms — that will include steps for if you notice bullying or cyberbullying, here's what you do," she said.

In spring 2024, the district will establish a GMS/AMS pirate committee to "squash the divide" between the two schools by hosting a pirate camp for both campuses — essentially ending the perception that one school is better than the other.

An updated dress code policy will also be implemented in spring 2024 that will be "changed with the times" and will remain "consistent."

Lastly, in fall 2025, a district processes and procedures team will be created.

"We want standard operating procedures for teachers and staff to improve our culture because consistency is key," McPherson added. "We are one pirate nation."

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Following the presentation, GISD Board President Barbara Herrington thanked those that served on the planning and bond committees.

"We are so grateful that we have people that are interested enough to give those days and hours," she said. "I'm sure my fellow board members will agree that those folks gave a lot of time and came with diverse ideas, diverse opinions, and they were able to come together in so many ways — and for that, I'm

thankful."

GISD Board Secretary Courtney Gore also individually thanked the students who participated in the planning process.

"It was awesome to hear from them, and for them to be a part of this process," she said. "It was great to see this and witness everyone coming together to develop this plan, and especially hearing from our own students, so thank you."

Before voting began, GISD Trustees Karen Lowery and Melanie Graft expressed hesitation in voting for the five-year strategic plan that day, as they wished to spend more time and attention on what was presented before deciding.

"I'd like to take the time to spend — all the people who worked so hard on this — to give it more consideration," Graft said. "I feel like reading the board book and then having to read this, I haven't been able to give it the attention that it fully deserves."

Herrington asked Glenn what would happen in

regard to the strategic plan timeline if the board didn't vote on the plan that night.

Glenn responded that the district had already started moving forward with some parts of the plan, with the intent that the board would approve it because the plan "came as a grassroots effort from students, parents, and teachers."

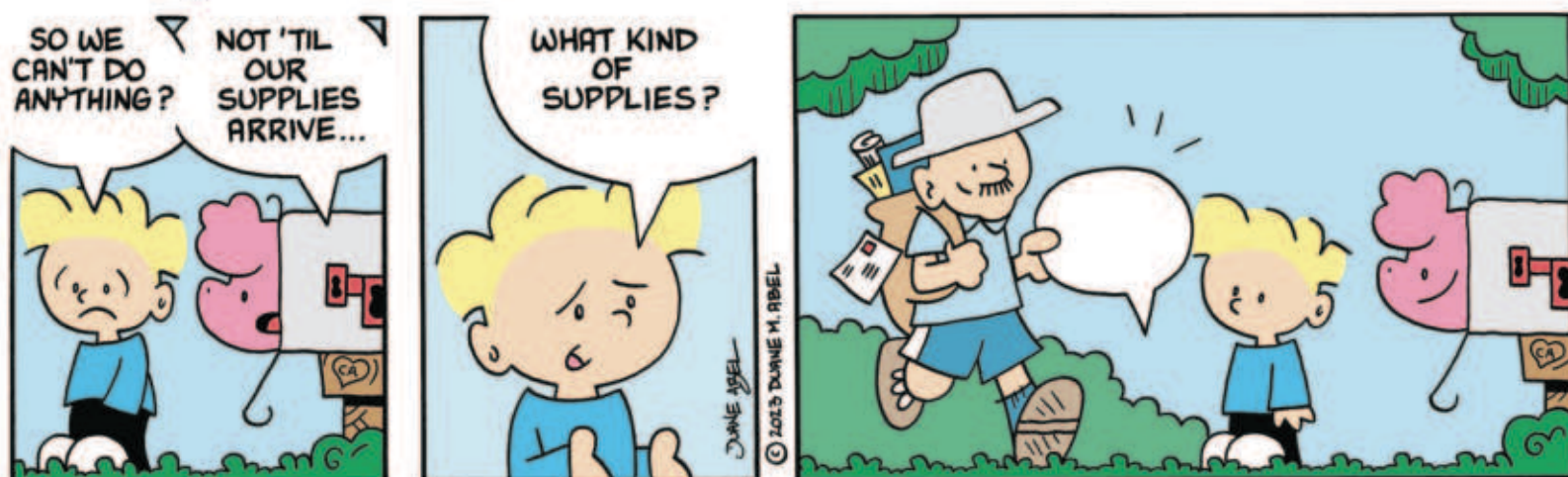
Herrington also expressed concern that after asking committee members to come in and give their best effort, if the board didn't approve the plan, that it would be like saying "their best efforts may or may not be good enough."

Trustee Billy Wimberly added that most of the board members had time to spend with administrators and teachers to discuss the plan and it was his recommendation to approve the proposal as presented.

The five-year strategic plan resulted in a 5:2 vote, with Graft and Lowery voting "No."

[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) | 817-573-1243

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



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## CORRECTION

In the 7-22 edition of HCN, the Bridge Street History column was mistakenly attributed to Dr. Tom Hamilton instead of Maurice Walton. We regret the error.

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**GROWING PAINS — PART SEVEN**

# After working for city, GISD, Jerry Allen finds post-retirement riches in real estate



PHOTOS BY DAVID MONTESINO | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

For Jerry Allen, starting a new career as a realtor after reaching retirement age led to him earning the most he has ever learned in his life. He is also more relaxed, with far less stress in his life.

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Jerry Allen was at work one day at the Lake Granbury Conference Center (LGCC) when part of his face went numb.

Well, that can't be good, he thought.

Jerry had worked for the city for eight years and had been employed by the Granbury school district in the technology department before that. He started out with the city handling audio and visual tasks, Jerry, as assistant manager, found himself juggling bookings and client demands at the conference center, which was understaffed and sometimes a political target at election time.

In addition to handling audio and visual tasks, Jerry, as assistant manager, found himself juggling bookings and client demands at the conference center, which was understaffed and sometimes a political target at election time. Like many city-owned conference centers, the LGCC has at times operated in the red. Such facilities are built to bring business to local restaurants, hotels, and shops, benefiting the local economy but not necessarily infusing city coffers. Not everyone understands or approves of that, and that's why things can get dicey during election season.

When Jerry felt his face go numb, he rose from his desk and walked around to see if that might help. It seemed to, at least at the time.

But then, a week later, "it started happening again," he said. "But this time it didn't go away."

Jerry phoned his wife

Mickey and drove himself to Lake Granbury Medical Center, which, he realized later, might not have been the smartest thing to do since he feared he was having a stroke.

At the hospital, medical professionals agreed that he might be having a stroke. They sent Jerry to Fort Worth for tests and evaluations. Two days later, Jerry and Mickey sat down with a doctor to hear the results.

The good news was that Jerry had not had a stroke or even a mini stroke. But there was some not-so-good news.

"Your job is killing you," the doctor told Jerry.

Two seeming coincidences occurred around this time, though Jerry classifies them more as serendipity. One occurred before the stroke scare, the other shortly after.

Before the incident, Jerry wondered whether he might enjoy selling real estate. He had held a variety of jobs over the years, including as an insurance salesman, a pawnbroker, and a musician.

Someone suggested that he read a book by Gary Keller called "The Millionaire Real Estate Agent." Jerry did and felt that the advice seemed reasonable and easy enough to follow.

When he came back to work following the health scare, Jerry received an email from Human Resources on his 60th birthday. Congratulations,



Allen still enjoys his guitar-playing gigs. He frequently performs at local events.

*"They see the glamour part. They don't see the part where you're at home and staying up at 3 o'clock in the morning trying to figure out how to make a contract work that's about to fall apart the next day."*

## JERRY ALLEN

the message said. Because of his years with the school district and his years with the city, Jerry was eligible to retire.

After crunching the numbers, Jerry realized that retiring from the city and collecting pay for sick time he had never taken would give him the amount of money recommended by Keller to launch a career in real estate.

Jerry retired from the city on Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. The following Monday he began online classes to become a realtor, committing 12 hours a day to that goal.

Today Jerry is a Keller Williams Brazos West associate and is past president

of the Granbury Association of Realtors. He's not a millionaire, but is blessed, nonetheless. During his first year in real estate, he earned the equivalent of his city pay. The second year, his earnings were 50% above that and the year after that, Jerry doubled what his city salary had been. In May of last year, he and his wife bought a bigger house. "I've never made this much money my whole life," he said. "I prayed the prayer of Jabez."

Jerry was referring to 1 Chronicles 4:10, which states: "Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border,

and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!' And God granted what he asked."

The way Jerry tells it, God didn't show up with a thimbleful of blessings, He brought a bucketful.

"Let's put it this way," Jerry said. "I've never had to go to an accountant before (for tax filing), but we have to go to an accountant now."

Jerry's wife and son have used some of his real estate earnings to purchase property in Comanche Cove and build a home on it. Naturally, the realtor who sold it was Jerry.

Jerry has watched as realtors have come streaming into Hood County, but he doesn't feel threatened by their presence. He's been selling real estate long enough to know that the herd gets thinned out. Some people assume that selling real estate is their ticket to earning big bucks. They envision themselves driving a Mercedes and having dinner at fancy restaurants.

"They see the glamour part. They don't see the part where you're at home and staying up at 3 o'clock in the morning trying to figure out how to make a contract work that's about to fall apart the next day," he said.

Despite increased earnings, Jerry hasn't let go of his guitar-playing gigs. He frequently can be seen performing at events in Granbury. He uses the money to pay his annual dues to professional realtor organizations.

As for the county's growth, it's "not imaginary," Jerry said. It will happen at an even faster pace if infrastructure and the number of houses built catch up with demand.

"If we could do all of that, we'll continue to grow," he stated. "If we don't, we're going to have a stagnant period where we don't grow until we finish those things, and then we'll start growing again."

In general, a stagnant period isn't necessarily a bad thing, he said, but "if you're a realtor, it's not good because people aren't selling, people aren't buying. So, then you have to go play guitar."

## SEAL

FROM PAGE A4

sition like the back float are major lessons that the PUPS learn during their sessions.

"It's a lot of similar (lessons) behind survival swimming, but we (focus more on) learning the strokes," Hamrick explained. "We do want to work with them on the importance of learning to float on their back and we go over safety rules every lesson."

Children are taught the four major strokes: freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke, along with dives, flip turns, and dryland workouts.

Conditioning is another major component of the PUPS lessons, where the children do jumping jacks, stretches, and balance work before they get into the pool.

"We work from day one with all kids whether they want to compete or not and there are always some that don't want to compete; they just want to swim," Hamrick said.

Many of the PUPS helpers and instructors have also gone through the program themselves when they were younger, which creates a unique connection and experience for both students and instructors.

"If any of the younger

kids want to help, they're on deck helpers where they just stand around on the side and help give us our equipment when we need it or if a child needs to be escorted to the bathroom. They want to help and be a part of it, and that's their job," Hamrick said. "Then our older kids that have had a little more experience, we kind of walk them through a little training, and they love it. It's such a great bonding experience, and since so many of them themselves were PUPS at one time, they love being there. It's kind of a full circle moment, you know?"

Interestingly, Olympic gold medalist Dana Vollmer was also in the PUPS pro-

gram and was on the Granbury SEALS Swim Team.

"Vollmer's mom was actually a coach alongside of us for several years," Hamrick said. "Dana and her brother Nick both were excellent swimmers. Nick went on to college and swam, but he got a degree in teaching and actually ended up coming back teaching and coaching our high school team at one time. The Vollmers are a great swim family. They were strong in the SEALS program and are wonderful people."

Hamrick said Vollmer always recognized Steenberge and the Granbury SEALS for allowing her the chance to jump off the diving board

into the swimming career that she has now.

"When she was in the Olympics, we were having several celebrations, and when she got to come home, it was just such a great feeling to see where she'd come from and what she had accomplished," she said.

Hamrick said one unique component of the SEALS program is that it's solely built around family and support for the community.

"We have kids swimming, adults swimming, volunteer program, the parents group — it's such a family, and I think that's the main thing that just makes it feel so unique and so special is that it's not just a swim

team that goes to meets; it's a family that spends the summer together with practices and with celebrations," she said.

For more information about the Granbury SEALS Swim Team or the SEALS PUPS, visit sealsswimteam.org online or visit the Facebook page at Seals Swim Team.

Hamrick added, "We genuinely do (this) for the love of the sport and a love of our community, that's for sure."

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# COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

- There are holes in many areas on the wood shingle roof.
- The structure is heavily infested with rats, some birds were observed inside the structure.
- There are many areas that have mold on them.
- There is a significant amount of water damage to the entire structure. It can no longer support the wind loads because of water damage, termite damage and wood rot.

The correspondence ends with this summary: "The structure represents a significant health hazard to humans and pets. It is classified by the Code as an 'Unsafe Structure' and should be demolished as soon as possible."

Eddie Rodriquez, Council Member Place 2, commented.

"I'm just kind of curious as to why the Historic Commission would deny this if they had gotten supporting evidence from the building official that states it should be condemned," Rodriquez said.

Wauwie told the council the Historic Commission was made aware of the state of the building.

"We did report to them the state of the building, however they stated in their findings they felt the building could be brought back to a state of good repair," she said.

Bruce Wadley, Council Member Place 3 commented.

"For the Historic Commission to say they have to keep it, preserve it or repair it, I'm sure they're not going to contribute money for that so I don't know if that's a burden we're sup-

posed to put on a homeowner," he said.

Trish Burwell, Mayor Pro Tem Place 4 commented.

"I'm having a hard time understanding the continuity because in March, on Bridge Street, the committee approved the demolition of an outbuilding.

And now in May, we're not approving the demolition of an outbuilding," she added.

Steven Vale, Council Member Place 5 commented.

"I drove by there today as well and I mean the building is literally falling down in itself, and obviously from what you presented tonight and from looking at the structure itself, the construction of it, what it's made out of that building was built sometime way later so, you know, I don't know the historic value of the building, quite frankly, and I'm not in the construction business but it certainly doesn't look like something that you would take on as a remodel. I would take the structure down unless it's got some historical significance," he said.

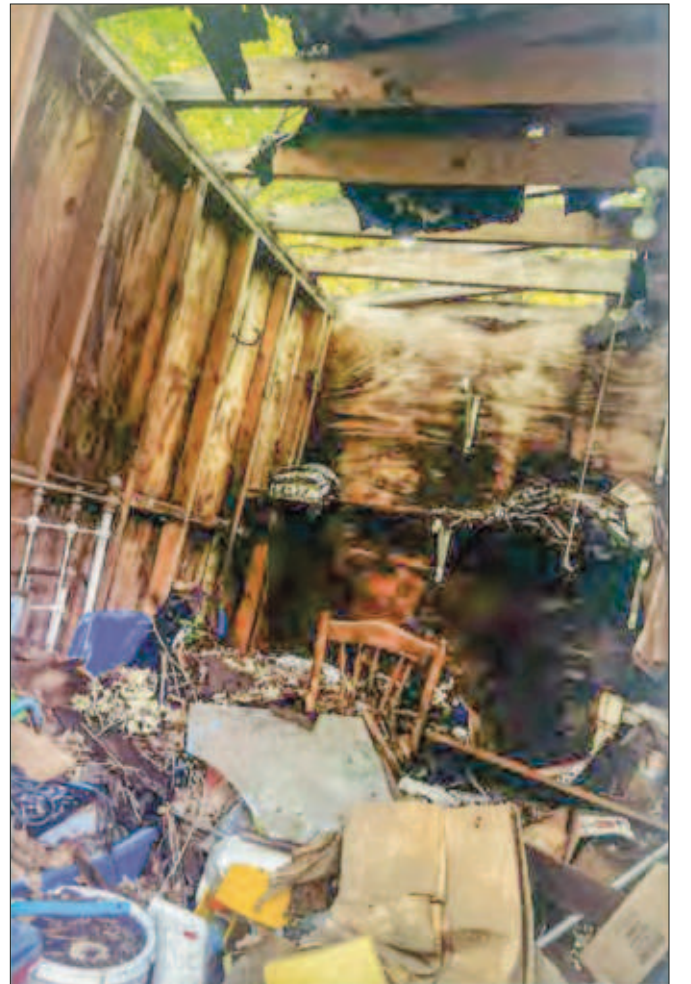
Homeowner Hubnik told the council the reason she requested a permit to demolish the garage was because of limitations. She has moved out of the home and plans to sell it.

Burwell asked Hubnik if there was any guidance given from the commission.

"I understand from the minutes (of the historical commission meeting) that they, one of the members asked you to refurb the building. Did they give you any direction on how to do that?" she asked.

Hubnik said she was dumbfounded by the commission's statement.

"I've had a couple of bids on it (garage repair) and



COURTESY PHOTOS

Applicant Katherine Hubnik requested a Certificate of Appropriateness for a demolition permit on May 25, to tear down a detached garage, which is in disrepair, located on the northeast corner of her property.

the general consensus is it's less expensive to level it and start over than it would be to try to repair what is currently there," she told the commission.

Burwell agreed with Hubnik.

"I tend to agree. I'm not in construction either but it seems logical to me. So, the (historical) designation is only on the house and we don't see it (garage) on the Sanborn maps, and we have no idea when it was built," Burwell said. "Right now, it's a health and safety hazard. And I don't believe it probably should still be standing. I mean to our standards, if it were

anything else that were not under historic preservation, we would have to go demolish it. That's in our code, so it's dangerous."

Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman told the council now that the chief building official has seen the site and the terrible condition it is under, as well as the safety issues related to that, an action must be made.

"If she's not given permission to demo it this will be before you as a condemnation probably in about 120 days. So that should help you understand the importance of what's going on here," Coffman said.

"Sometimes the bureaucracy of city government gets in the way of common sense. That's just simply put. I cannot see a path forward to save that building. So, I would rather let the owner voluntarily tear it down than to go through the administrative process of condemnation and then requesting them to tear it down within so many days, and then if they don't, we have to, and then we have to send them to a bill then we have to go through all that, then there's a collection process."

Coffman continued, "It's much more efficient to apply some common sense

here. I'm sorry if that's abrasive to our historic committee but they've got a job to do and they've done it well. They're trying to preserve something here and at the same time there's some expense that cannot be recuperated there. At some point you gotta, kind of like the old hospital, we just didn't have a choice."

A motion to overturn the previous denial from the historic preservation commission was made and unanimously approved, and a Certificate of Appropriateness was granted for one year for the property on 221 E. Bridge Street.



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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# Students recognized for Lemonade Day event

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

**F**our hard working young entrepreneurs received a significant prize for all their hard work on Friday, July 21 at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Rising sixth graders, Layla Bowman, Brooklyn Clanton (who has moved to East Texas), Emma Daccardo and Zoey Laurence received bicycles after winning the most sales as part of National Lemonade Day.

The students were fifth graders this past school year at Nettie Baccus Elementary. National Lemonade Day was held on Saturday, May 20 just days before school was released for summer break, which is why awards were given over the summer.

Granbury Chamber of Commerce chose to participate in the national program, which awards one bicycle to the lemonade booth with the top sales in their community. This was Granbury's first year participating.

"We have an agreement with the national Lemonade Day organization that they will provide a bicycle to the student with the top sales, but a team won top sales. The Chamber was not about to let just one bicycle be given so we provided three additional bicycles," said Granbury Chamber of Commerce CEO Brian Bondy.

The Lemonade Day program began in Houston, Texas in 2007 where it initially served 2,700 kids in one city.

The National Lemonade Day program is now in 90 communities in three countries, 1.5 million children have been served and those children have raised 270 million dollars in profit. Granbury students alone this year made a gross of \$11,200.00 with a net profit of \$7,700.

There is a greater value than dollar value in the program shared Bondy.

"There is an entire curriculum that goes with the program that teaches the students to create a brand, develop a marketing plan,

create their product and set their own prices to meet the goal they want to achieve," he said.

Students even participated in Shark Tank-type presentations to local businesses who then invested in the student's lemonade businesses.

Across Granbury about 20-25% of fifth graders at each of the five schools participated with their teachers sharing the Lemonade Day curriculum.

"Students were taught the concept of spend, save and donate as part of the program," Bondy said.

According to lemondadeday.org their mission "is to help prepare youth for life through fun, proactive and experiential programs infused with life skills, character education, and entrepreneurship. The foremost objective is to help today's youth become the business leaders, social advocates, community volunteers and forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow. We want to build self-esteem and new mindsets that can propel youth to success they likely would not have pursued otherwise."

Bondy said Lemonade Day fits with the chamber's mission.

"It also allows us to partner with GISD (Granbury Independent School District)," he added. "The girls earned this, they worked hard. Their investors were Northcutt Financial. This is a feel-good event with real-life issues," Bondy said.

**From left, rising sixth graders, Layla Bowman, Brooklyn Clanton (who has moved to East Texas), Zoey Laurence, and Emma Daccardo received bicycles after winning the most sales as part of National Lemonade Day.**

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PLEASE SEE MORE **COMMUNITY BUSINESS** | A14

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# 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.

Buy your tickets today for \$30 each at [www.thenewgranburylive.com](http://www.thenewgranburylive.com)

Jenn Kelly	Michael James
Rebecca Faiola	Tee Etheridge



# 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, three daughters-in-law, 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.

## Martha Watson

September 26, 1940 - July 22, 2023

Martha Watson passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2023. Family received friends from 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 27, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, Granbury, the service followed at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 27, 2023, Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, Granbury.

Martha was born on September 26, 1940 in Fort Worth, Texas to Horace and Ruby Busbee.

She was a Nona to not only her grandchildren and great-grandchildren but also to everyone she met. She was a caring soul that took everyone under her wing and cared for them as if they were her own. Martha wasn't shy, she was confident and spoke her mind especially to those she loved. She had a servant's heart and volunteered often for numerous charitable organizations. Her love also extended to animals. She had a huge soft spot for her furry children and furry grandchildren. She will be missed immensely.

She is survived by her husband, Gary Watson; daughter, Carla Johnson and husband Guy Bradford; son, Chris Watson and wife Connie Watson;



son, Kevin Watson and wife Kara Watson; son, Chris Brown; brother, Tommy Busbee and wife Holly Busbee; sister, Earlene Prince and husband Jerry Prince; grandchildren, Michael, Carolyn, Christen, JP, Jack, Evie, Britan, Brody, Briley, and Emalee and their families; and nieces Jennifer Watson, Nikki Lewis and Amanda Loomis and their families.

Special Thanks to Martha's lifelong friends, Tommy and Jean Clayton, Marguete Land, Melody Smith, Merry Stephens, Terry Clayton and Tony Clayton.

In lieu of Flowers, please make a donation in Martha's name to Hood County Animal Shelter or Friends for Animals.

## Donald Davidson

October 29, 1921 - July 13, 2023

Don Davidson was born on October 29, 1921 and died July 13, 2023. Don was born in England, raised in Ohio, came to Texas as soon as possible in 1942 when he transferred to the United States Army Air Corps from the Royal Canadian Air Force. As a member of the 12th Bomb Group he flew 50 Combat missions in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy earning the Air Medal with seven clusters. He instructed pilots in combat tactics after his return to the States. He ferried aircraft to Europe and the Mediterranean area. He flew rescue missions out of Bermuda in a B-17 carrying a twenty-four ft. boat, finding, on one occasion the Joseph V. Connelly burning in the Atlantic Ocean, resulting in the rescue of the Captain and crew. He flew the B-45, four engine jet bomber in 1949 while in Tactical Air Force. He was qualified in 25 different types of aircraft both military and civilian. Don served as Liaison Officer for the Air Force in Cleveland, Ohio for four years. He served in Japan in combat operations for three years but was recalled to Michigan to help establish the Rescue program for the central United States. Don set up the Southwestern Air Rescue Center in Dallas in 1958 and the Central Air Rescue Center in Kansas City in 1962 at Richards Gebaur AFB. He retired from the Air Force and went into Real Estate for 17 years in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas. Don and his



wife, Enid, moved to Pecan Plantation in Granbury in 1979. Don served 13 years on the volunteer ambulance, seven years on the volunteer fire department, three years as Golf Committee chairman and on various other committees. He also served on the board of directors and was president. He left behind two wonderful sons, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They were dearly loved each and everyone. Don loved the game of golf and continued playing until he was 97, shooting his age many times after he was 76 years of age. Don was a member of Glen Oaks Methodist church in Dallas and Acton United Methodist church in Acton. He was a past member of Riverlakes CC and Oak Cliff CC in Dallas.

Don will be inurned at the DFW National Cemetery at a later date.

The Davidson Family would like to thank the staff at The Courtyards of Lake Granbury Assisted Living and Hospice for making his last years feel like home and for taking excellent care of our dad.

## SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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

The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. 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  
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**ACROSS**

- TX George W.
- Baird High School class (2 wds.)
- St. Marks in Dallas is a school
- 29th and 32nd governor " Ferguson
- TXism: "living high on the " (rich)
- in Eastland County on highway 6
- TX Ryan Palmer is on PGA
- in Cameron County on highway 107
- soft fruit that is not commercially grown in Texas
- hollow unleavened breads
- Galveston's "Bishop Palace" (2 wds.)
- TX Gramm, U.S. senator (1985-2002), and representative (1979-83)
- kin to the llama
- mockery, ridicule
- TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)
- late TX Helmond of TV show "Who's the Boss?" (init.)
- "North \_\_\_\_\_ & Rodeo" in Denton
- "\_\_\_\_\_ and void"
- Del \_\_\_\_\_, Texas
- former Cowboys tight end, Jay
- using electronic sounds to substitute for expletives
- fish appendage
- married woman, south of the border
- TXism: "easy as falling off \_\_\_\_\_"
- this Sarah made the first "one star" flag (init.)
- natural hair style worn by some Texas black folks
- TXism: "the \_\_\_\_\_ in the fire" (trouble)
- most graceful
- "Zeke's" college state
- most light bulbs today
- poetic "before"
- dir. to Lufkin from Mineola

**DOWN**

- TX Wills, "Western swing" musician
- "one" in Mexico
- Baylor County seat
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ snappin' turtle"
- "\_\_\_\_\_ for the best"
- "All the Gold in California," Texas group (2 wds.)
- late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
- Jason Spezza went from the Dallas Stars to this Toronto team (2 wds.)
- got \_\_\_\_\_ in my shirt (tear)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ lick of" (none)
- TX Shelley Duvall's "Tall \_\_\_\_\_ Legends"
- TX Ellerbee book: "And \_\_\_\_\_ Goes"
- tackling Dak for a loss
- TXism: "happy \_\_\_\_\_ in slop"
- actress in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"
- TXism: "old \_\_\_\_\_ dirt"
- TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse \_\_\_\_\_"
- \_\_\_\_\_ gallon hat
- this Fred won TX Byron Nelson Golf Classic, 1987 (init.)
- this Stilwell started Port Arthur (init.)
- "One \_\_\_\_\_, one Ranger"
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ half a dozen of the other"
- singer Randy who has a ranch outside Tioga, Texas
- "ready, willing, and \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism for "hello"
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Siecke State Forest"

# Inflation can be 'shocking' in retirement

**TONY MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser



**Mobly**

financial shock in retirement is inflation and the rising cost of living, according to a recent survey by Age Wave and Edward Jones.

As you know, we have experienced mild inflation for some time, up until the past couple of years. But even when inflation subsides again, it can still be a threat to your retirement security. A 3% annual inflation rate can double your cost of living in about 25 years. What can you do to help alleviate the shock of inflation?

Actually, you can take considerable action to help

meet this threat. Here are a few steps to consider:

### TRY TO CUT DOWN ON EXPENSES

Take a close look at all your discretionary expenses, such as travel, entertainment and so on. You might find areas in which you can cut back somewhat — and every little bit helps. Also, take advantage of all the senior discounts available to you. These days, many businesses and services offer these discounts, but you may have to ask about them. And if you want to look at an area that potentially offers even bigger savings, you might consider downsizing your living

space, though this decision involves many factors, not all of them financial.

### CONSIDER PART-TIME WORK

If you wouldn't mind doing some part-time work or consulting, you'll find that the extra income could improve your cash flow and possibly make you somewhat less dependent on your investment portfolio for the financial resources you need to maintain your lifestyle. And the added income could eventually contribute to increased Social Security benefits. (However, if you earn over a certain amount and have already started collecting Social Security but haven't reached your full

retirement age — between 66 and 67 — your benefits may be temporarily reduced.)

### REVIEW YOUR INVESTMENTS FOR OPPORTUNITIES

Understandably, many investors shift their investment portfolios toward a more conservative approach when they retire — after all, they simply have fewer years to recover from the inevitable short-term market declines. Yet, to help stay ahead of inflation, even retired investors need some growth potential in their portfolios, such as stocks and other growth investments. At the same time, it may be a good idea to consider whether you're

getting what you need from your income-producing securities, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), bonds and other fixed-income investments. A financial professional can help review your portfolio to determine if the mix of growth and income is aligned with your particular needs given your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

The past few years have been a wakeup call for many people, especially retirees, on the threat that inflation poses to their financial security. But being proactive can help prevent inflation from deflating your retirement hopes and dreams.

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 Birmingham 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.

**OBIT**  
FROM PAGE A8

**Adam Lloyd Poteet**

August 12, 1976 - July 10, 2023

Adam Lloyd Poteet, a Granbury native, was born on August 12, 1976 to Jack E. Poteet and Robin L. Looney. He was a 1995 graduate of Granbury High School where he lettered in football as a Granbury Pirate. He received district honors for both offensive and defensive play at the tackle and guard positions as well as team awards, and was recently named as a top player for the past 30 years by David Youker's All-time First and Second Teams.

He worked with his hands whether it was laying turf, moving people, building houses, hanging sheet metal, or welding pipes at A&A. These jobs took him all over the United States and the Caribbean. Recently, he developed woodworking skills and crafted custom pieces of shelving and wall art from mesquite wood.

Adam was a fun-loving, high-spirited guy who loved hard, loved pickin' and singin' John Pryne and Willie Nelson for his family and friends, fought injustice determinedly, lived life on his own terms, and forgave easily. He sacrificed for others ahead of his own needs. The outpouring of love from so many is testimony of his character and value to those who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack E. Poteet of Taylor, MI; his maternal grandparents, Robert (Bob) and Loyce



Looney of Granbury, TX; his paternal grandparents, Jack O. and Faye Poteet, and his uncle Vance Poteet, all of Taylor, MI.

He is survived by his mother, Robin Looney Poteet of Granbury; his sisters, Jennifer Poteet Bravo (Willk Marilao) of Bakersfield, CA and Jana Graddy (Doug) of Bourbon, MO; and his brothers Vance Poteet (Krista) of Lima, OH and Jacob Poteet (Cindy Morrisette) of Taylor, MI.

He was uncle to four nieces and nine nephews. He was beloved by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Even children of his friends referred to him as "Uncle Adam."

A memorial to celebrate Adam's life with family and friends will be held on Friday, September 8, in Wiley's Chapel followed by a time for sharing and a luncheon in the nearby Wiley Center.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/celebration-of-life-service-fo/534660925433464/?mibextid=RQdjQZ>

**Larry Dean Price**

January 31, 1954 - July 9, 2023

Larry Price, passed peacefully at home July 9, 2023.

Dr. Price was preceded in death by his parents Truitt and Pearlene Price, and his wife Michelle Price. He is survived by his wife Rebecca Preston. He is survived by a sister, Barbara Williams of Granbury; two sons, Jason Price and wife Jessica, their children Wade and Emma along with her children Skyler and Samantha; Justin Price and wife Erica Fidone. Stepson Stephen Secrest



and wife Mary with their children Grant and Jack.

## Surprising health benefits of summer vacations

*Four reasons why taking a break is critical to your health*

The benefits of a good summer vacation go well beyond having a good time. Taking a vacation can reduce stress levels and decrease the risk of chronic conditions like heart disease, stroke, and Type 2 Diabetes.

Time off is also associated with greater happiness and improved job performance when you return to the office. And, while we all know a little time away from work is critical to health and well-being, 55% of Americans fail to use all their paid time off given by employers.

According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), 745,000 people died in 2016 from stroke and heart disease that was associated to some degree with working long hours. The study also found that those who work more than 55 hours per week are at a 35% higher risk of stroke and a 17% higher risk of dying from heart disease than those working 35 - 40 hours a week.



**LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER**

"Rest and recovery are important to your physical and mental health, including short breaks during regular days and totally disconnecting by taking a vacation from time to time," Karen Ripley, FNP, Nurse Practitioner at Lakeside Physicians Family Medicine said. "There is a large body of evidence that shows your body and brain need time to recharge. When we fail to take time off, we are more likely to suffer burnout, frustration, stress, and even serious health issues."

Ripley shares four health benefits of taking a vacation this summer:

**Better heart health:** Taking yearly vacations (along with mini breaks here and there) can help reduce the risk of dying from heart disease, according to a study by the National Library of Medicine. Additionally,

people are more likely to participate in physical activities like swimming or hiking when they are on vacation, which helps improve cardiovascular health.

**Boosted brain power:** Being in a state of relaxation helps improve the capacity to learn. Traveling to a new place or experiencing a different culture can help deepen mindfulness and awaken more creative thought.

**Reduced stress:** If chronic stress is left unmanaged, it can lead to devastating consequences for your health. According to the American Psychological Association, vacations help reduce stress by removing people from environments and activities that are associated with stress or anxiety.

**Improved sleep:** Sleep is essential for cardiovascular health, proper brain func-

tion and a strong immune system, but one in three U.S. adults doesn't get enough. Working late into the night by responding to emails and checking phone notifications negatively impacts sleep. A vacation is an opportunity to break those habits and get more restful sleep.

"On vacation, there's time to unwind, try new activities, and reconnect with yourself and loved ones which contribute to your overall health and well-being," Ripley said.

To schedule an appointment with Karen Ripley, FNP, Nurse Practitioner at Lakeside Family Medicine in Granbury, please call (817) 408-3320 or visit: <https://lakegranburymedical.com/KarenRipley>



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## SPORTS & RECREATION

### 6010 Boats & Water Sports

17' 2007 Hurricane boat, 115 hp Yamaha motor, 4 stroke, motor needs work. \$4100 OBO 817-487-8946.

## MERCHANDISE

### 6620 Miscellaneous

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Ladies boots, size 7, new, still in boxes: white with front zipper, white fur around zipper; paper bag bootie, side zipper, charcoal; dingo slough w/ harness, tan. Beautiful handbags. White Puma shoes, 7, worn once. Signature Levi Strauss jeans, totally shaping 22M, W36, L32, never worn, some with tags. 817-986-7291, Mary

MEANS MEATS Certified Angus beef for sale! High choice/prime beef: grain fed, aged, antibiotic free, hormone free. Available July & August. Call to reserve your whole or half beef. Craigie (254-977-2790) Jay (254-977-2379)

New universal transfer bath bench. 2 new tool free bath seat. 2 new tool free bath seat with back. 4 aerobed twin, used, hands free inflation and deflation. 80 pieces chef figurines. Culligan hot and cold water cooler. 682-936-4410.

### 6635 Pocket Stuffers

NEW BLACK STETSON HAT 4x Beaver, 6 7/8, \$40. 817-487-8946. Drum set \$50, Hospital bed \$50 (817) 219-0654

### 6670 Wanted

**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.**

## LIVESTOCK & PETS

### 8010 Livestock

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

### 8030 Pets



JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING Very Reasonable; Senior Discount (817) 408-5288 wilsonjulianne@gmail.com



**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

### 8030 Pets

STANDARD POODLE 7 Years, Male, Lovable Poodle needs good home. Loves kids & other dogs. House trained. Very intelligent & friendly just needs TLC. Current owner unable to provide him the attention he needs. \$0.00 (817) 219-0313 gforce52@charter.net

### 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

### 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

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

**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.

### 8510 General

# HELP WANTED



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- 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 Holli at 432-288-5574 (432) 288-5574

**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**

CDL DRIVER Hiring Class A CDL Driver for Experiential Marketing Agency. As a Class A CDL Driver for our agency, you will travel alongside tour assistants to some of the most thrilling events across the country, including fairs, rodeos, sporting events, and car shows. Your primary role will be to promote a leading automobile manufacturer by showcasing their products and engaging with consumers. (817) 326-4277

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Certified Medication Aide

Certified Nurse Aide



EEOC kami\_minchew@csnhc.com Come be a part of a caring team where the residents come first! 301 S. Park St • 817-573-3726 Granbury, Texas

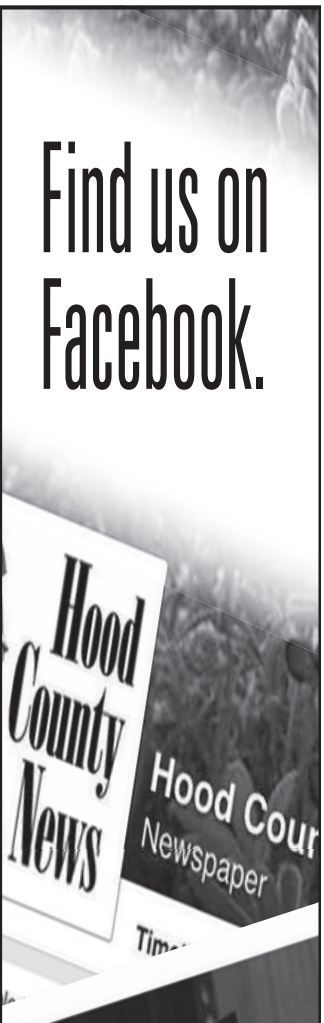
### 8560 Professional

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.northcentralexasacademy.org/about-hhfa/employment/teacher-application/>

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### 8510 General



Keep up with up-to-the-minute happenings in Hood County using one of today's greatest social media sites. [facebook.com/hcnews](https://facebook.com/hcnews)

## NOTICES

### 9031 Public Notices

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

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/Purchasing> 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](mailto:crussell@granbury.org). The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NOTICE is hereby given that Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Glendon Leon Stokes, Deceased, were issued on June 28, 2023, in Cause No. P10006, pending in County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Connie Beth Taylor, as Independent Executor, who resides in Kennedale, Texas. The post office address is: Roylea M. Cox, P.C., 228 N.E. Wilshire Blvd., Suite D, Burleson, Texas 76028.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 6th day of July, 2023. Roylea M. Cox State Bar No.: 04956350 228 NE Wilshire Blvd, Ste D Burleson, TX 76028 817-295-1345 phone 817-295-7654 facsimile [royleacoxassociates@sbcglobal.net](mailto:royleacoxassociates@sbcglobal.net)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** On July 21, 2023, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Amy Watts Phillips, Deceased were issued to Edgar Allen Phillips, Independent Executor, by the County Court for Hood County in Cause No. P10078 pending on the docket of said Court. All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present them within the time prescribed by law in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor addressed as follows:

Tracy Phillips Stanley Law, PC 230 Westcott, Suite 120 Houston, Texas 77007 (713) 980-4381 (713) 980-1179 facsimile /s/ Tracy Phillips, Texas Bar No. 00784762

**Notice to Creditors** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gloria Jean Darr, Deceased, were issued on July 21, 2023, under Docket No. P10061, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Robin Darr Kennedy. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Robin Darr Kennedy, Independent Executor Estate of Gloria Jean Darr c/o Megan C. Sanders Bourland Wall & Wenzel PC 301 Commerce St., Ste. 2500 Ft. Worth, TX 76102 Msanders@bwwlaw.com 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 24, 2023 By: Megan C. Sanders Attorney For Estate (817) 877-1088 lbull@bwwlaw.com

### 9031 Public Notices

**Notice to Creditors** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hugh Gary Darr, Deceased, were issued on July 21, 2023, under Docket No. P10092, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Robin Darr Kennedy. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Robin Darr Kennedy, Independent Executor Estate of Hugh Gary Darr c/o Megan C. Sanders Bourland Wall & Wenzel PC 301 Commerce St., Ste. 2500 Ft. Worth, TX 76102 Msanders@bwwlaw.com 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 24, 2023 By: Megan C. Sanders Attorney For Estate (817) 877-1088 lbull@bwwlaw.com

It is known and in the public record; Sandy SMITH, born 02131952 at Dublin Hospital, Dublin TX. CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH NO. E51450, AUTHENTICATION STATE OF TEXAS 116536666, 1427 WILD HORSE LN, STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS 76401, now comes forward without any legal disability to announce Status change that acknowledges that she has reached the age of majority and is now considered an adult and not only acknowledged Legal Diplomat by normal operation of law, but also an American National in Exclusive Private Equity who is now and forever a Transmitting Utility outside of Admiralty Law (and all Royal Decree etc.) and does not pay any taxes, Registration fees, fines, etc. in common law Jurisdiction, worldwide. Sandy SMITH is the rightful inventor, owner, administrator, and sole beneficiary Of all intellectual Properties related to the properties SANDY SUE SMITH; SANDY S SMITH; SANDY S SMITH; SANDY SMITH; SSS; SANDRA SUE QUARLES; SANDRA QUARLES; SANDY S DUVAL; SANDY DUVAL; SANDY S KENNEDY; SANDY KENNEDY; all versions of birth name, married name, all known spellings, variations of same including backwards names etc Sandy SMITH, and all she owns (itemized Within her UCC filing as "anything and everything listed and itemized within the UCC) has been removed from Public to Exclusive Private Equity.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of James W Bair, Deceased, were issued on July 21, 2023, in Cause No. P10072, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Brenda Bair. 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: Brenda Bair 805 Elizabeth Blvd Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 24th day of July, 2023. E. Mark Piland Attorney for Brenda Bair State Bar No.: 16008870 1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101 Granbury, TX 76048 Telephone: (817) 579-0207 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629 E-mail: [markpiland@pilandlaw.com](mailto:markpiland@pilandlaw.com)

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CRESSON CROSSROADS MUD NO. 2 CRESSON POINTE - PHASE 1** Separate sealed bids for the Excavation and Grading construction of CRESSON POINTE - PHASE 1 will be received by the MitMar Land, LP on behalf of Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2, until 2:00 p.m., on 21st day of August 2023, at 5189 East I-20 Service Road N. Suite 106, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of Excavation and Grading. The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following location: 5189 East I-20 Service Road N. Suite 106 Willow Park, Texas 76087

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 Derek Turner MUD Engineer

Find what you're looking for in the **CLASSIFIEDS** 817-573-7066 hcnews.com



www.hcnews.com

9031 Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of BOBBY CHAD TURNER, Cause No. P09615, County Court of Hood County, Texas. GEORGE WADE RAILSBACK in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the unknown heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of BOBBY CHAD TURNER, 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 25th day of July 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Lee MacLeod, Deceased, were issued on June 28, 2023, in Cause No. P09743 pending in Hood County, Texas, to: Sarah Flores, c/o James D. Schull, Attorney, 8507 Benbrook Blvd., Ste. F, Benbrook, TX 76126. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of PHILLIP ALTON GROOM, Cause No. P10128, County Court of Hood County, Texas. BETSIE HOEFNER in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of PHILLIP ALTON GROOM, 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 19th day of July 2023. KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By/s/CHRISTINE LEDERMANN, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JERRY LEE THOMPSON, DECEASED: Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Executor upon the Estate of JERRY LEE THOMPSON, Deceased, were issued to STEVEN TRACY THOMPSON on the 12th day of October, 2022, in Cause No. P09787, County Court of Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that STEVEN TRACY THOMPSON now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to STEVEN TRACY THOMPSON, Independent Executor, at the offices of Eggleston King, LLP, 102 Houston Ave., Ste. 300, Weatherford, TX 76086, care of Courtney A. Kuykendall.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES F. PUTNAM, DECEASED: Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Executor upon the Estate of JAMES F. PUTNAM, Deceased, were issued to TRACY L. LYNCH on the 14th day of June, 2023, in Cause No. P10053, County Court of Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that TRACY L. LYNCH now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to TRACY L. LYNCH, Independent Executor, at the offices of Eggleston King, LLP, 102 Houston Ave., Ste. 300, Weatherford, TX 76086, care of Courtney A. Kuykendall.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES F. PUTNAM, DECEASED: Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Executor upon the Estate of JAMES F. PUTNAM, Deceased, were issued to TRACY L. LYNCH on the 14th day of June, 2023, in Cause No. P10053, County Court of Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that TRACY L. LYNCH now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to TRACY L. LYNCH, Independent Executor, at the offices of Eggleston King, LLP, 102 Houston Ave., Ste. 300, Weatherford, TX 76086, care of Courtney A. Kuykendall.

Does your house... need a new look? Buy, sell, trade your stuff or find new bargains! In the paper and online Hood County News

9031 Public Notices

Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination Lipan ISD and Tolar ISD FORMULARIO DE MUESTRA (Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional) Es norma del Distrito no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Es norma del Distrito no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. El Distrito tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 del Distrito. Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination It is the policy of the District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. It is the policy of the District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Section 504 Coordinator of the District.

Public Notices

PUBLIC SALES Granbury 76048 Garage Sales 76048 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am -1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.

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

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 404 Granbury Ct.- THIS WEEKEND: 7/27-29 Commercial welding shop liquidation, plus in-home estate sale. Welders, plasma cutters, presses, drills, saws, gas bottles, generators, compressors, lifts. 1999 Ford F450 w/welding bed; 1984 Chevy C20 w/overhead rack and tool bed; 2001 Chevy Suburban; 2007 Mazda 6, military M4K forklift. Inside: rustic furniture, TVs, neon signs, knife/camera/model ship collections, buckets of Legos and HotWheels, metal signs, gym equip, stereo. Find photos on estatesales.net. 12p -5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

5469 Lake Granbury Trail- Moving Sale! Sat July 29, 8am-3pm. Beds-twin & full, lots of things. Granbury 76049 Garage Sales 76049 Huge garage sale! 4 units at Acton Self Storage, 3008 Fall Creek Hwy. Fri & Sat July 28 & 29, 7am-2pm

9031 Public Notices

Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination Lipan ISD and Tolar ISD FORMULARIO DE MUESTRA (Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional) Es norma del Distrito no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Es norma del Distrito no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. El Distrito tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 del Distrito. Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination It is the policy of the District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. It is the policy of the District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Section 504 Coordinator of the District.

Public Notices

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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, SCPRP 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.)

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For more information about becoming a CASA,  
Call Justin Rossner at 87-936-4838

**24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848**

# Scammers impersonate delivery service support to rip off drivers and restaurants

**BY LARISSA BUNGO**  
Senior Attorney, Division of Consumer and Business Education, Federal Trade Commission

You may have heard about food delivery services like DoorDash or Uber Eats: you order through a restaurant's website or a delivery service's mobile app and drivers deliver your food. We're hearing about a new scam targeting food delivery drivers and restaurants.

Scammers posing as "support" from food delivery services are contacting delivery drivers and restaurants and trying to steal their personal and financial information.

In one scenario, the scammer tells delivery drivers and restaurants they're sending a free tablet or printer to handle food delivery orders. To do that, they

say, they need to "verify" your phone number, email and login, Social Security number and bank account to send the equipment.

In another scenario, the scammer says they need the driver's email or bank account because there's a problem with an order, or they want to refund them money from a canceled order. After getting the driver or restaurant owner's email, the scammer may ask for an email verification code... which you never want to share.

If you get requests like this, no matter where you work: Stop. Here's how to avoid the scams.

Don't give your personal or financial information to someone who unexpectedly calls, texts, or emails you. They may be trying to steal from you.

If you think the request is legitimate, contact the business directly. But use a phone number you know is real or a website or app you found yourself.

Never share an email verification code with someone if you didn't contact them first. Scammers are after your information and money. Sharing verification codes makes it easier for them to pretend to be you. Once they're "you," they have access to your accounts and can take your money.

Find out what to do if you paid a scammer or gave a scammer your personal information.

And if you spot these scams, tell the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. When you report a scam, you help the FTC and other law enforcement agencies stop scams.

# Restaurant report card for June

## Staff Reports

Each month, health inspections are conducted at city restaurants and commercial kitchens — any establishment with a license to serve food. The scores are published on the city of Granbury website. The Hood County News will publish the findings of these inspections monthly.

Each establishment with a food license is subject to inspection twice a year, according to an email from the city of Granbury. Only the schools and day care facilities are given prior notice of inspection.

In May, a total of 18 establishments were inspected. Only one establishment received a Failing inspection.

## GRADING SYSTEM

According to the Granbury.org website, each inspection results in a score based on the number of violations found. Each score is based on a point system from 0-100, with a score of 100 being perfect. Each violation has a demerit value; that value is subtracted from 100 to give the inspection score.

A score of 100 to 90 is classified as Very Good. A score of 89 to 80 is classified as Good. A score of 79 to 70 is classified as Passing and there is an increased inspection schedule. A score of 69 to 60 is classified as Failing and requires a compliance inspection within 48 hours. A score of 59 to 0 requires immediate closure and re-inspection before re-opening.

## VIOLATION SEVERITY

Violations may be classified as critical or non-critical. Critical violations, such as temperature control and cross-contamination issues, are more likely than other violations to contribute to food contamination, illness, injury, or cause an environmental health hazard. If a critical violation is found, immediate action is taken to resolve the issue to ensure that public health is not put at further risk.

A non-critical violation is one that does not seriously affect public health. Any non-critical violations found during an inspection must be corrected by the time of the next inspection.

At times, violations are corrected at the time of inspection.

6/1	J-Mart	92	6/16	Braum's	70
6/2	McDonald's (377)	95	6/16	La Mesa	98
6/5	Firehouse Subs	93	6/16	Lake Stop (407 W Pearl)	96
6/7	Nares MFU	79	6/22	Miyako's	100
6/12	McDonald's (Morgan St)	95	6/22	La Sombrita	69
6/14	Willie & Dick's	90	6/27	Bob's Off the Square	81
6/14	Papa John's	99	6/28	China Café	85
6/14	Brew Ale Works	90	6/28	Fisherman's Corner	94
6/15	Pam's	99	6/29	Garcia's	98

## VETERAN'S VOICE

# Hood County participates in Veterans' Engagement Action Center



**BY LINDA MALLON**

Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years.

In late May I was invited to participate in the Veterans Engagement Action Center (VEAC) by Sandra Coven, our team leader at Texas Veterans Commission. Two months later we began getting emails with instructions to download Ring Central and create an account in AppointmentPLUS and were given a (202) phone number.

Once we did all of that they set up a zoom meeting to begin our training. I still had no idea what all of this was until a poster went out on email blast to every veteran in the state soliciting veterans to participate by signing up on the VA's website and choosing a time between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for a VA Accredited Representative to call them at their scheduled appointment and assist them with whatever they needed. We did several "practice" runs over the course of two weeks prior to the event,

which kicked off on 10 a.m. July 18, 2023, and ended at 3 p.m. July 20, 2023.

On the day of the event, we had an early meeting and at 10 a.m. I opened my Scheduler online and started calling the veterans who signed up. We handled claims status, initial claims, and intent to file then did a "battle handoff" to the Veterans Engagement Team and they transferred the veterans to representatives from Burial Benefits Services, Veterans Benefits Administration, Appeals, and Education.

The VeT team also did referrals to local resources and the Veterans Health Administration for homeless veterans and those who need to enroll in the VA Health Care System. In addition to taking care of my Hood and Somervell veterans, I was successful in making contact with 28 of the 30 veterans assigned to me, sent mail outs for POA's, was able to counsel on a number of topics, but was only able to open claim files for those who were represented by Texas Veterans Commission or VFW, the two organizations I am certified through. These veterans were from Denton, Tarrant, Dallas, and Ellis County so referring them to their local resources was challenging, but the VeT team was phenomenal.

Once the event was over, I was able to assess what I learned. My biggest takeaway was MOST of these veterans had no County Veterans Service Officer or representative assigned to them to help them with their claim and were not affiliated

PLEASE SEE **VETERAN** | A14

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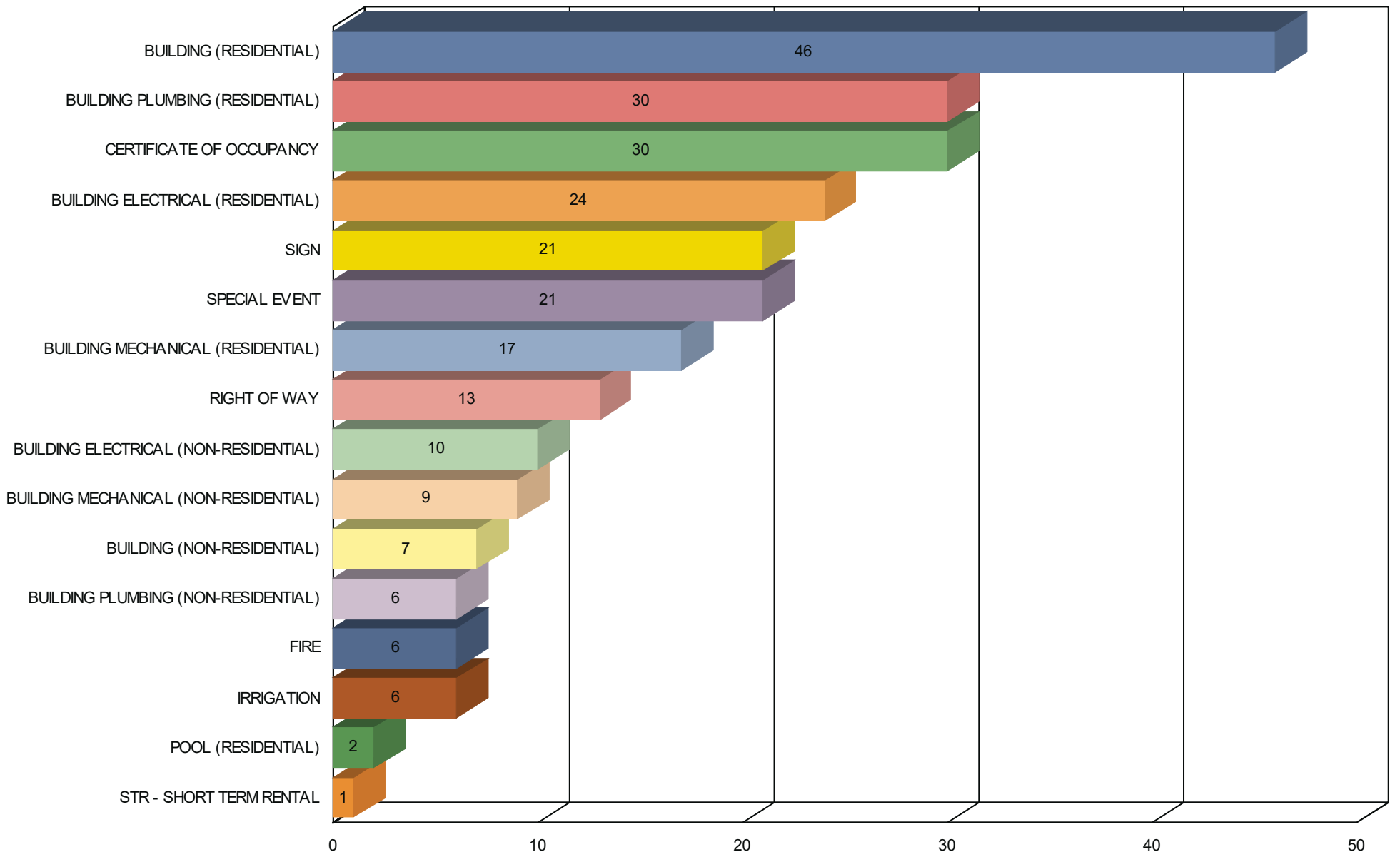
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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

# Permits issued by type for Granbury in June



## VETERAN

FROM PAGE A13

with any Veteran Service Organization. They didn't even know they HAD a County Veteran Service Officer. I wondered how many veterans in Hood and Somervell County don't know about

us, so I am taking my show on the road.

On August 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., I will be at Lakestone Terrace Independent Living 916 East Highway 377, Granbury, to prepare enrollment applications for the VA Healthcare System and answer questions.

On August 23, 2023, at

noon, I will be at the Glen Rose Community Center to answer questions, file claims, whatever the troops need out there. The lunch meal is Pot Roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, and birthday cake so if you want to come out and eat, call for a reservation at 254-897-2139 and Hood County

Veterans are invited to come to Glen Rose.

I also have an office at the Annex in Glen Rose and meet veterans out there by appointment and every "odd" Friday (August 11, and 25 for example). The VEAC event was stressful and exhausting for me, but I am very grateful I participated

and am asking the community to help me get the word out about what I do and where I am located so veterans know they have a LOCAL experienced Certified and Accredited Representative in their corner to help them get the benefits they earned.

My office is in the Historic

Hood County Courthouse on the Square in downtown Granbury. If your organization would like me to come out and speak, PLEASE don't hesitate to call me. Community outreach is part of my success for our veterans.

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The Bridge Church in Granbury recently helped eight Granbury High School seniors who were homeless.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Church helps eight homeless graduates

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

Helping, Jesus said, does not come with any ties. Do not give gifts with the expectation of getting something in return.

The folks at The Bridge Church in Granbury proved to be the epitome of this when they recently helped eight Granbury High seniors who were homeless. What's more, they didn't - and still don't - know the names or have ever even seen the students they helped.

"We didn't ask anything like were they doing well in school - but they were - or any other questions. We didn't care. We just knew

there was a need, and we could be a solution," said Shane Brooks, Pastor at The Bridge Church.

"All the kids were in good standing in the school district, and I find that amazing, given the hardships they've had to deal with," said Russell Heil, Outreach Pastor. "Despite everything, they maintained good grades and were good students."

According to Brooks and

Heil, among the homeless scenarios, one of the students was "couch surfing" at different friends' homes and another was living in a car.

"I think when people hear someone's homeless, they think they're living down on the beach or in the park, but it means not having a regular home," Brooks said, adding the student living in his car was working two jobs to save money for college.

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Brooks and Heil learned about the students through a church member who works in administration in the Granbury School District. While she could not reveal the names of the students - and again, it didn't

matter to church members - she did ask what the church could do to help upon hearing about their plight.

Heil and Brooks took things from there. With the help of the congregation, they raised enough money so each student received \$1,450 in cash and a \$50 restaurant gift card.

"Russell would get up every Sunday and say, 'Don't forget the basket in the foyer,'" Brooks said. "I felt like our church really got the call. A lady whose boss does not even come to church wrote a big check."

Brooks and Heil - and to their best knowledge, no one in the church - has met the students to this day. Likewise, they have no idea how the students spent the money, and they don't care. "My wife said they probably needed to go buy a cool

PLEASE SEE GRADS | B3



The Bridge Church Pastor Shane Brooks and Outreach Pastor Russell Heil led an effort that resulted in their church collecting and donating around \$12,000 to help eight homeless Granbury High School graduates. Neither they nor anyone at the church knows the names of or has met the graduates as they said the help was simply what we are supposed to do as fellow humans.

PHOTO BY RICK MAUCH



## Granbury ISD releases statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in schools

By Granbury Independent School District

At a recent board meeting a few individuals expressed concern about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) being brought into the Granbury ISD curriculum. DEI is not part of the services we use, nor is it something Community in Schools (CIS) of Greater Tarrant County utilizes as part of their partnership with schools.

The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS does this by connecting families with the resources they need and removing barriers to success. Students are then able to reach their potential, graduate, and lead productive lives as contributing citizens. CIS has been a Granbury ISD partner for five years and is part of a strong, statewide network of support. Community In Schools of Greater Tarrant County is just one of the 27 affiliates that make up CIS of Texas. Their President and CEO, Lindsey Garner is a graduate of Granbury High School and Texas A&M University and has 15 years of experience serving Tarrant County and surrounding communities through the nonprofit sector. She and her staff are always happy to answer any questions; they can be contacted at (817) 446-5454 or through their website, <https://www.cistarrant.org/>

Granbury ISD's student population is approximately 56% economically disadvantaged. Research has shown two of the main factors in breaking the cycle of poverty are (1) a successful education and (2) feeling/being connected to the community. This is the focus of CIS. Most importantly, like many of the programs in our district CIS is an "opt-in" program. Students must obtain written parental consent to be enrolled in the CIS program. In fact, CIS social workers often engage with the whole family, providing rental, utility, and transportation assistance, as well as food, clothing, and other personal items.

Our district recognizes the political polarization associated with DEI, which specifically includes a business' employment process or (until SB 17) a Texas university's admission/grading process. Most national organizations have some type of DEI statement, and what that looks like in practice can vary from organization to organization. Regardless, all organizations have to follow anti-discrimination laws.

Some concerns we have heard include:

DEI was used by some universities as part of their admission's process.

Our response: This does not apply to public schools since we do not have an admission process. Public schools in Texas are required to accept every student as long as they live in district.

DEI is used for student grading.

Our response: Public schools, including Granbury ISD, have the same grading practices for all students. There is no sliding scale for students of different ethnicities or backgrounds. In Granbury ISD, if a student does well in a class or on a test, it's because they earned it, not because of a DEI practice.

Granbury ISD has a culturally, economically and academically diverse population. We are here to serve, educate, and protect all students. Our educators know it is important to be aware of this diversity so we can make instruction meaningful for our students. As an example, a teacher would most likely not ask his/her students to write about where they went for summer vacation knowing that over half of our student population lives below the poverty line. Instead, a teacher might ask students to write about their favorite part of summer, or to draw a picture of something they did that summer and then write about it.

Equity is also important in our district. Like all public school districts, Granbury ISD has students with physical disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and/or neuro-diverse academic needs that may require an IEP (individualized education plan). What this looks like in practice will vary based on the educational needs of the child. For example, instead of making an oral presentation in front of the class, a student with a speech difference may be allowed to do so one-on-

PLEASE SEE GISD | B7

## Sparks Music School forms new band for homeschooled students

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

The Sparks Music School has just recently created a band specifically for students that are homeschooled.

The owners of the school have a son who is homeschooled and there are many students in the area that attend homeschooling, and so the school decided to create a program for those students.

"We just want to make sure that we're able to serve that community and help them have that same fun and experience learning to play music in a group with other kids since they don't attend regular public school," Meredith

League Office Manager said.

The program will include all band and string instruments taught by Michael Manning who has a bachelor's in music education. The students will get to perform twice throughout the year with a recital in January and June.

The school is looking to have a small group for the program to be able to focus on each student.

"They'll be able to really get a lot of out of it, even more one on one time than maybe they would if they were in a regular school band" League said.

Classes will be on Friday's from noon to 1 p.m. The

group class is \$65 with a one-time registration fee of \$99 including books and materials. There is also an option for a trial lesson that is 20 minutes for \$29 to see if the program is something your child would be interested in.

Registration is open and for inquiries you can call 817-776-6459, email at [hello@sparksmusicsschool.com](mailto:hello@sparksmusicsschool.com) or visit the school at 2901 Glen Rose Hwy. Suite 105 in Granbury. The school is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday's, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and is closed Tuesday's and Sunday's.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sparks Music School band program will include all band and string instruments taught by Michael Manning who has a bachelor's in music education.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — TOLAR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Tolar ISD looks ahead to future growth

## Superintendent Travis Stilwell prepares for new school year

BY KATHY CRUZ  
Senior Staff Writer

Tolar School Superintendent Travis Stilwell, dressed in a Tolar-purple polo shirt, is all smiles and seems relaxed on a recent Tuesday. The parking lot at the school administration building has only a couple of vehicles parked there, and the nearby school parking lots are empty.

On this scorching summer day, Tolar's approximately 875 students are undoubtedly doing a variety of things but what they are not doing is schoolwork. It is summer, after all.

For Stilwell and the admin staff, though, work continues as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

Stilwell anticipates that the number of students will hold steady for the 2023-2024 school year, but he knows that the student population will soon grow as families move into new housing developments that are either planned or underway in the community

southwest of Granbury.

He and the School Board of Trustees are preparing for that growth.

"We know it's coming, so we're planning for that," he said.

Stilwell stated, "I have no way of knowing for sure, but I do feel like we're going to see steady growth. I don't think Tolar will ever be a huge school district, (but) I do see us, probably as early as next year, being a small 3A, then over the next four or five or six years, I can see us being a big 3A."

A few years ago, as part of the school board's forward thinking, the school district



Stilwell

purchased 60 acres of land about a mile southeast of the elementary school.

"Last year, we did a lot of long-range planning, and the plan right now is at some point, whenever we're ready, we'll go for a bond for a new junior high campus, and that would go out on that 60 acres," Stilwell said.

The superintendent added that some people would prefer to see a new high school built, so that has been taken into consideration where plans for the junior high are concerned. It will be constructed with an eye toward eventually adding onto it.

"So, phase one would be a junior high," Stilwell explained. "And then phase two, down the road, you could add onto it and make it the high school and move the junior high up to the current high school."

Stillwell noted that the district is "growing quite a bit" at the elementary level but that the junior high school facility "is by far our oldest building."

After addressing the need for a new junior high building, the district will add another wing onto Tolar Elementary School, the superintendent said. Four new portable buildings were recently added to increase the number of classrooms.

Construction of a practice gym at the high school is underway and has seen some delays, but Stilwell said it will likely be completed "in the very near future."

Another current project is renovation of the Ag barn.

Stilwell said that, just as with other school superintendents, he is busy this summer dealing with state reports and staffing and budget issues in preparation for the new school year.

"One thing that people don't understand, with superintendents, summertime is one of our busiest times.

It's because you're closing down the previous school year and you're opening up the next school year. And it all happens at the same time."

### ROOTED IN TOLAR

Stilwell grew up in Azle. After graduating from Azle High School, he headed to Tarleton State University in Stephenville in 1988. He earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from TSU and met his future wife Michelle, who he said is "a Stephenville girl."

Michelle is head nurse for Stephenville ISD. The couple's son, Skylar, 22, is about to start his first year of teaching and coaching at Stephenville High School. Daughter Niconia, 25, is a pediatric physical therapist in Abilene.

Stilwell's 30-year career has included work in Mineral Wells, Granbury, and Stephenville.

At the start of his career, he spent a semester as di-

rector of alternative education in Mineral Wells. From 1994-1997, he was middle school athletic coordinator at what was then Meadows Middle School in Granbury.

Following that, he coached for a couple of years in Tolar, spent a year as assistant principal at Mineral Wells High School, three years as principal at Santo High School, and then 11 years with Stephenville ISD, two as intermediate principal and nine as high school principal.

He said that when Tolar needed a school superintendent, "some people reached out to me and I applied."

That was nine years ago.

In explaining why he chose education as a career, Stilwell stated, "I went in just simply to make a difference. I enjoy being around kids. I think it was just something that maybe I was called to do."

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EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar High School Principal Clint Gardner.

## "The most rewarding part is the relationships"

### Tolar High School Principal Profile

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Tolar High School is run by Principal Clint Gardner. This will be his first year as a Principal of Tolar High School after previously serving as Assistant Principal at all three Tolar ISD campuses floating around throughout the week.

"It was a big piece for me to be able to grow just because I was able to see from day one of a Pre-K kid to the senior year graduation. I got to be a part of that and just see the whole scope of things. It gave me a new perspective in education, seeing the whole piece," Gardner said.

"The most rewarding part is the relationships you get to build with kids and co-workers and those lightbulb moments for kids. When stuff finally clicks that's what we're looking for every day in the classroom"

When Gardner first came to Tolar he was the Assistant Principal for part of the day, a teacher as well as a coach.

Before the start of his educational career, Garner received his bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University where he met his wife Amy, who is also a teacher. He then earned his master's from Stephen F. Austin State University. Both his parents were also educators as well as his wives.

opportunity came to move to Tolar ISD he took it.

"I've always enjoyed the small-town feel, the environment, the family atmosphere that's in small towns," Gardner said.

When it comes to the upcoming school year Gardner says, "We have a lot of good things going with our teachers and our team. So, to be able to see that develop and grow, that's going to be exciting to see."

Gardner described the most rewarding part of the job, "the relationships you get to build with kids and co-workers and those lightbulb moments for kids. When stuff finally clicks that's what we're looking for every day in the classroom"

The school is also planning to continue to develop their current programs such as the agriculture program by adding on to help serve more kids. They are also expanding their health science program as well as adding a new gym.

"There is a lot of growth in our district, and our teachers are embracing that and running with it... I'm really excited to get started to work with the team that I have. I'm stepping into a really good situation. The people who have sat in this seat before me were really good and did a lot of things to help the kids and the district, so I'm honored to sit in that seat," Gardner said.

Tolar High School's first day of the 2023-24 school year will take place on Thursday, Aug. 10.

## "I'm blessed to be here"



COURTESY OF CASEY HAMILTON

Tolar Junior High School Principal Casey Hamilton.

### Tolar Junior High School Principal Profile

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Tolar Junior High School serves grades sixth through eight and is run by Principal Casey Hamilton.

Hamilton first got into education by coaching for 12 years before making a switch over to administration.

"When I got into administration, I went from affecting 150 kids to 1,100, and so I was able to make a bigger impact and do more for kids. It's a passion."

Previously Hamilton was a Junior High Coordinator in Temple where he taught physical education and coached every sport offered.

He earned his bachelor's, master's and principals' certificate from Tarleton State University.

Hamilton then made the move from Temple to Stephenville in 2010 where he taught math, history, life skills, physical education, coached at all levels and even served as the Assistant Principal of Stephenville High School.

He wasn't looking to move from Stephenville

but when a friend sent him the job posting he described it as very appealing. "It was everything I could have ever imagined," Hamilton said. "The Lord works in mysterious ways and put things in your lap that you need."

Just last fall was Hamilton's first year in Tolar ISD and he said working there has been nothing but a pleasure. "This town, these kids and this school district is a great place," Hamilton said.

What stood out the most to him about this school district was the students' character. "They come in and they do the work, they act right, they have good manners, and they display that everywhere we go."

Hamilton's goal for the upcoming school year is to improve. "That's always our goal is to get better and to help kids grow. We want to make this campus better, the district, and ultimately Tolar ISD. No matter what we do we can always get better."

Going into the new school year Hamilton is most excited to have the

PLEASE SEE TOLAR | B3



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Elementary School Principal Christal Hollinger.

## "It's all so rewarding"

### Tolar Elementary School Principal Profile

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Christal Hollinger is the principal of Tolar Elementary School. She is going into her 25th year of education, and this will be her fourth year at Tolar Elementary.

Hollinger grew up in Dublin before going off to Tarleton State University. She taught one year in Dublin then 10 years in Glenrose.

After getting married Hollinger moved to the DFW metroplex and taught in the Euless-Bedford area for six years then Saginaw for four years.

Hollinger decided to apply for the open principal position because she heard good things and wanted to put her family first and be close to home.

"When I interviewed what I loved about it was it reminded me of where I grew up, it was very small and very close knit. In a small town were all one. I just loved the fact that there was a strong community support," Hollinger said.

Tolar Elementary is the first school that Hollinger has been a principal at, which is the biggest in the Tolar district.

"To me, it's the best profession. Every single day, there's someone to help, there's a kiddo, there's a staff member, there's someone to be able to help and service. There's never a day that there's not a grand opportunity for service, so that's very rewarding," Hollinger said. "I just feel like it's my job to just make

sure that people walk in here and know that they're loved, and that they belong, they're cared for, so that they can do the work they need to do."

During her first year at Tolar, COVID-19 hit and since then it hasn't felt completely normal yet.

"I feel like we've kind of gone through trails together and we're finally getting to a place where were getting to come together," she said.

When it comes to the 2023-24 school year Hollinger is very excited for what is to come. She has loved getting to work with her staff thus far and can't wait to continue to make a difference within their school.

"I love these people and I love what they're doing for kids. I just think there's so many good things that are coming out of this school, and that are helping our kids, so that makes me very proud to be here every day and have them represent our work," she said.

One of the main focuses on the upcoming year is creating student leaders all over the school. Hollinger is looking at ways with her team to incorporate leadership practice for every grade level.

"Leadership is about influence. So how do we help every kiddo build some leadership capacity and then utilize it? We're pushing to help them with that and become more responsible," Hollinger said.

The first day of the 2023-24 school year will take place on Thursday, Aug. 10.



# GRADS

FROM PAGE B1

pair of tennis shoes," Brooks said with a smile. "And why not? They deserve something cool and new."  
 "I was sitting at graduation, and it crossed my mind that eight of those kids were helped by The Bridge," Heil said. "Not knowing who the recipients are makes it kind of a blessing to us. This opportunity is unique. Serving others is in the DNA of the church."

However, through the proverbial grapevine, they did hear some stories about how some students reacted upon receiving the gift.

"Our contact at school said tears were abundant as they were handing out the money," Heil said.

Heil noted that he was told one girl said she plans to use her money for expenses student loans won't cover. One boy planned to use the money to get an apartment with some friends close to a job he was getting.

And another boy wouldn't accept the money at first, saying he hadn't done anything to deserve it. Heil and Brooks disagreed, saying that his maintaining positivity and finding a way to survive made him deserving - and, of course, being a fellow human being in need.

"That breaks my heart still, thinking of that," Heil said. "He did tearfully take it, we were told, and I am so glad."

## PREVIOUS AID

This is not the first time The Bridge has reached out to help folks. Other examples are helping someone buy a car to get to and from work. Another time they helped with repairs to a house after a fire.

"It's what it's all about. You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving," Brooks said.

It is also noteworthy that attending the church is not a requirement for them to help. It was also with reluctance they agreed to this story, as Brooks stressed, they were not seeking publicity, though they hope what they've done will inspire others.

"We're not trying to toot our own horn," Brooks said. "We just saw the chance to do something for someone else, and that's what we're supposed to do. We're not supposed to ask questions or cast any judgment, but we're just supposed to help."

"We're not the only ones helping people," Heil added. "There are other churches serving in different capacities, such as weekend backpacks, summer meals, etc."

## MORE IN NEED

Heil said he believes there are more homeless folks in Granbury and Hood County who can use help.

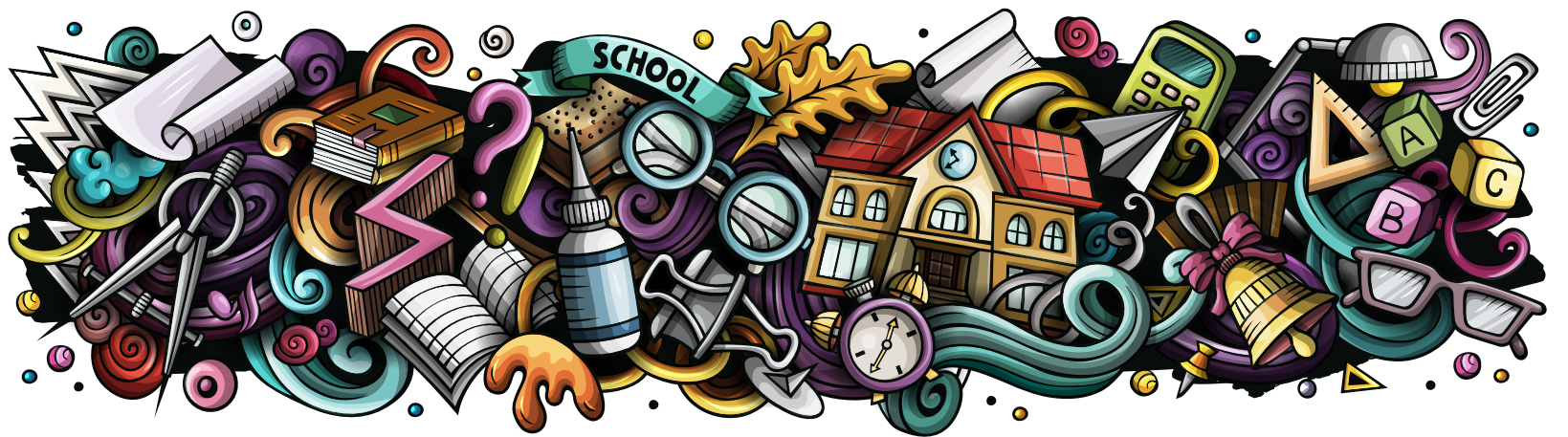
"Those eight are eight of many more in the GISD," he said. "There are two sides to Granbury."

Brooks said, "It's easy to look at Granbury and see that it's beautiful - and it is. Nice homes are being built. There's so much right about Granbury, but sometimes we don't see the parts that are wrong."

"Everyone was truly shocked to learn about these seniors. They've had to fight and claw for everything. They've still got obstacles ahead, but we might have softened their burden."

Heil said the experience should be a life lesson for all ages.

"That's some grit right there. You talk about perseverance in the midst of a storm," he said. "Maybe what our church did made their walk across the stage a little softer."



# Tolar ISD school supplies list

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

With school just weeks away, it's time to start gathering up school supplies. Here is a list separated by school district of what your student will need for the 2023-24 school year.

## TOLAR ISD – START DATE: THURS. AUG. 10

### Pre K

- 8 Glue Sticks (disappearing purple recommended)
- 6 Boxes of Large Crayola's, 8 Count

- 1 Pair of 5-inch Scissors, blunt tip

- 1 Package of Watercolors
- 1 Package of EXPO Markers, 4 Count

- 1 Pack of Playdough, 4 Pack
- 1 Backpack without wheels
- 1 Kindermat 1 inch thick (red/blue)

- 1 Small Towel for Nap Time
- 2 Rolls of Paper Towels
- 2 Packs of Baby Wipes, 72

### Count

- 3 Large Boxes of Tissues
- 3 Containers of Disinfectant Wipes, 75 Count or more
- Change of clothes in backpack
- Lace-up or Velcro Strap Tennis Shoes (For PE Class)

### Kindergarten

- 1 Package of Ticonderoga Pencils
- 1 Red Plastic Folder with Brads
- 1 Blue Plastic Folder with Brads
- 1 Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook (Solid Color)
- 1 Pink Eraser
- 6 Boxes of Crayola Crayons, 24 Count (no ultra-clean waterproof)
- 20 Glue Sticks (not liquid)
- 1 Package of EXPO Black Dry Erase Markers (2 Pack)
- 1 Pair of Pointed 5-Inch Fiskars Scissors
- 1 Small Plastic School Box (no

- zippers or small compartments on top)

- 1 Package of Washable Markers

- 1 Set of Watercolors
- 1 Package of 9x12 Colored Construction Paper (if possible, please open and sort by color)
- 1 Package of 9x12 Manilla Paper

- 1 Sandwich Size of Ziploc Bags

- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 1 Pair of Headphones (no earbuds, no Bluetooth)
- 1 Roll of Paper Towels (Boys)
- 1 Container of Clorox Wipes (Girls)
- Pair of Tennis Shoes (For PE- If your child cannot tie their own shoes, consider getting them Velcro)

### First Grade

- 1 Pack of 9x12 Colored Construction Paper (sorted by color if possible)
- 1 Pack of 9x12 Manilla Paper

- 2 Plastic Folders with Prongs (1 Red, 1 Blue)

- 6 Boxes of Crayola Crayons, 24 Count

- 1 Box of Crayola Markers (Thick)
- 1 Watercolor Set
- 18 Glue Sticks (3, 6 Packs)
- 1 Pair of Fiskars Pointed 5

- Inch Scissors

- 1 Tissue Box
- 3 Packs of Ticonderoga Pencils (12 Count, Pre-Sharpended)

- 1 Tissue Box
- 3 Composition Notebooks (Wide Ruled)

- 1 Pair of Wired Headphones (no earbuds)
- 2 Rolls of Paper Towels

- 1 Pencil Box (5x8x2)
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer (Girls)

- 1 Package of Quart Size Baggies (Girls)
- 1 Package of Clorox Disinfecting Wipes (Boys)

- 1 Package of Gallon Size Baggies (Boys)

- Pair of Tennis shoes for PE

### 2nd Grade

- 1 Large Plastic Pencil Box
- 2 Boxes of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)

- 1 Pair of Fiskars Scissors
- 2 Large Boxes of Tissues
- 2 Large Pink Erases

- 1 Box of Ticonderoga Pencils (24 Count, Pre-sharpened)
- 2 Wide Ruled Composition Notebooks

- 1 Package of Mixed Colored Highlighters
- 1 Green Plastic Folder with Brads and Pockets

- 4 Jumbo Glue Sticks
- 1 Container of Clorox Wipes

- 3 Packages of Black Expo Markers (Thin Tip)
- 1 Box of Crayola Brand Colored Pencils

- 1 Pair of Headphones (not earbuds-may need second pair later in year)

PLEASE SEE **SUPPLIES** | B4

# Tolar Elementary to host back to school block party

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

School is nearly underway and so that means "Meet the Teacher" is coming up even quicker, but Tolar Elementary is taking a different approach to the

event. The school is hosting a block party to kick off the 2023-24 school year.

The idea came to the staff after their meetup in July. The first half of the event will be designated for meeting the student's teacher for the year and

visiting the classroom. The second half of the event will kick off the block party.

There will be snow cones, food, face painting, book giveaways, music and visits from the high school athletes.

"This is a great community event and I'm really excited," Christal Hollinger Tolar Elementary School Principal said.

Parents are encouraged to bring their child's school supplies in preparation for the year.

The event will take place at Tolar Elementary School located at 300 Hull Hwy in Tolar on Monday Aug. 7. The first half of the event will be from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the block part will follow from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

# TOLAR

FROM PAGE B2

kids back after summer break. "I love seeing kids back on campus. Kids are my mojo. When they come back to campus, they get my energy going up. It's good to see them grow. When you're at the junior high level, it's cool to see them grow. There are also a lot of lifelong habits that are created at this age. It's a very important time in their life."

Hamilton described one of the most rewarding parts of the job, "When I see kids that I've taught or as an administrator, and

I see them when their 19, 20, 25, 28 and I'm getting wedding invitations, or when I walk into a restaurant and their sitting there eating with their family, and whoever I taught or coached or was an administrator for, they jump up and give me a big hear hug. That relationship that you create, you make an impact on their life, forever. Having that opportunity is amazing."

Tolar Junior High will kick off their 2023-24 school year on Aug. 10. Meet the teacher will take place on Aug. 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on July 22 (Puzzle 40).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — TRINITY FAITH ACADEMY

# Headmistress of Trinity Faith talks all things academy

*“God called me to do this”*

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Regina George is the Headmistress of Trinity Faith Academy formerly known as Lake Baptist. George has been with the academy since the start nearly 15 years ago. Since then, she has dedicated her time to spreading faith, inspiring freedom, and encouraging excellence.

George grew up in Odessa and comes from generations of teachers. Education runs in her blood. Christian values have also been in the family for generations and her dad served as a minister for over 60 years before passing in January.

George graduated from Wayland Baptist University with a Bachelor's in All Level Music. She also earned her elementary teaching certification.

She has not always taught in private schools. She taught fifth grade in

Plainview up until she started having kids. She now has four grown kids and has been teaching since 1987.

“I’m a public-school prodigy,” George said. “But I really felt a tug in my heart and a God-calling that God has entrusted me with these four babies. It is my job to make sure that they know right from wrong.”

When she was a first-time mom and her child was about to hit the age of five ready to go into school, George asked one of her mentors if they could go



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
Headmistress of Trinity Faith Academy Regina George.

back in time and change anything, what would you do? Her mentor told her that with these eight-hour days of school and extracurricular she wished she had more time with her kids. It was after that George talked to her husband and decided to home school their child and those to come.

“I wanted to make sure not to shield them from everything but keep them in the greenhouse until those roots are firmly stuck. Then by the grace of God, you’re going to take that little plant and you’re going to plant it, and it’s going to thrive and do well,” George said.

George learned she wasn’t

fully equipped to teach some subjects as her kids got older, and so she went to friends to help with certain topics. She also took the kids to Travis Academy of Fine Arts, where the kids participated in the band and choir. It was through Tafa George started hearing of a nurse that was going to start teaching Biology at her home, so she took the kids to her. After much driving back and forth her husband said she should bring the teacher to her. It was then the concept of the homeschooling academy came about.

“This was born out of a necessity in my life that I needed teachers to help me teach things I am not called to, or I am not gifted in,” George said.

Trinity Faith Academy has been an incredible success thus far. With teachers on average staying 10 plus years, the relationships between the students and teachers are strong. George said what sets them apart from other private schools is their rela-

tionship with parents.

“Our new slogan for Trinity Faith is rooted in faith. That’s most important. I want these kids to have an understanding and working of the word of God. Everything we do is going to be Christian based, rooted in faith and strengthened by families,” George said.

The academy is unique because it only operates on a three-day week with 14 hours, the most a student can take. The school is also open 31 weeks for the entire academic year. The school is separated by K-6, junior high being seventh and eighth, and ninth through 12th.

When it comes to the upcoming school year, George is looking forward to another year of excellence. For approval into the score a student must have references recommending them to the academy. For more information on the school or to set up a tour visit [trinityfaithacademy.org](http://trinityfaithacademy.org).

## SUPPLIES

FROM PAGE B3

- 1 Package of 9x12 Manila Paper (Girls)
- 1 Package of Colored Cardstock (Girls)
- 1 Box of Sandwich Sized Ziplock Baggies (Girls)
- 1 Package of 12x18 Construction Paper (Boys)
- 1 Package of White Cardstock (Boys)
- 1 Box of Gallon Sized Ziploc

- 2 Packs of Wooden #2 Ticonderoga Pencils (12 Count)
- 18 Glue Sticks (no glitter or scented)
- 3 Composition Notebooks Wide Ruled
- 2 Pairs of Earbuds/Headphones
- 1 Folder with Pockets (any color)
- 4 Boxes of Kleenex
- 1 Pack of Black Fine Tip Expo Markers
- 2 Containers of Clorox Wipes
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer

### Third Grade

- 1 Plastic School Box (8 3/8 x 5 5/8 x 2 1/8)
- 1 Pair of Fiskers 7 Inch Pointed Scissors
- 1 Box of Crayola Crayons, 24 Count
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils
- 1 Pack of Crayola Classic Color Washable Broadline Markers, 10 Count

- 1 Pack of Bright Colored Copy Paper (Girls)
- 1 Box of Sandwich Ziploc Baggies (Girls)
- 1 Pack of Multi-colored Construction Paper (Boys)
- 1 Box of Gallon Size Baggies (Boys)
- Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.

- 1 Pack of #2 Ticonderoga Pencils (Pre-sharpened)
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils, 24

- Count
- 1 Pack of Crayola Thin Tip Markers, 8 or 10 Count (NO SHARPIES ALLOWED)
- 1 Box of Crayons, 24 Count
- 1 Pack of Glue Sticks, 8 Count
- 1 Pair of Scissors
- 1 Package of Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper
- 3 Composition Wide-Ruled Notebooks (No spirals, simple cardboard cover type, at least 100 pages)
- 1 Large Cloth Zippered Pencil

- Bag
- 1 Box of Tissues
- 1 Roll Paper Towels
- 1 Solid Yellow Pocket Folder (No Black)
- 1 Solid Red Color Pocket Folder (Without brads, no black)
- 1 Pair of Earbuds (Necessary for testing)
- 1 Package of Colored Copy Paper
- 1 Package of Expo Markers
- 1-2 Pack of Pink Erasers

PLEASE SEE SUPPLIES | B5

# HCN

Junior

National

## CHALLENGED CHAMPIONS AND HEROES

Awareness Day

JULY 29, 2023

This is an accessibility placard. Some people call it a “handicap tag”. Drivers of cars who are differently capable put this on the rear view mirror of their car and it allows them to park in special parking places that are closer to the entrance of the store. Not everyone who is differently capable and requires a tag like this looks or walks differently than everyone else. Some people have trouble walking distances without stopping but otherwise walk as well as everyone else.

National Challenged Champions and Heroes Awareness Day was created to call attention to people who are differently capable in our community. Some people have to use wheelchairs to get around. Some people have difficulty seeing, hearing, or moving normally so they use special things to help them. No matter how a person is differently capable, they are still a person and deserving of all the love and respect we pay others.

Many people who are differently capable still play sports and do other activities that everyone else plays and does. These men are playing basketball while in wheelchairs. What other sports do you think people who are differently capable can still play?

## Did You Know?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt used a wheelchair while serving as President of the United States. Sometimes, our bodies may not work the same way as others, and that’s okay. Roosevelt had a condition called polio, which made his legs weak and difficult for him to walk. But that didn’t stop him from being a great leader!

Roosevelt’s wheelchair was like a special chair with wheels on it. It helped him to get from one place to another easily. He would sit in his wheelchair and use his hands to move the wheels, just like when we ride a bicycle.

Even though Roosevelt used a wheelchair, he never let it hold him back. He worked hard to make our country better and to help people who were struggling. His courage and determination taught us that anyone can make a difference, no matter what challenges they face.

COLOR Time

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**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL**

# Premier High School Campus Director talks about her school and being an educator

*“Serving in education is a privilege”*

**BY EMILY NAVA**  
Staff Writer

**P**remier High School is a tuition-free, open enrollment Charter school located in Granbury run by Campus Director Marsha Grissom.

Grissom was formerly the principal of Granbury High School before retiring in 2010 after being with GISD since 1974. This charter school appealed to Grissom to come out of retirement because instead of working nearly 80 hours a week, he now gets to stay in education with less hours due to school having no extracurricular activities.

“What we try to help our kids do is to become lifelong learners. So, when they leave us, they know they have left

an environment where they were safe, where they were cared for and got the knowledge base they needed to take that next step in life. Our kids can do anything when they graduate from here. It just depends on what do you want to do,” Grissom said.

The school opened in 2010 with 65 students. Now they have had over 600 graduates walk across the stage with the previous spring class being the largest at 95 students.



**Campus Director Marsha Grissom.**

The school’s curriculum is based on the state Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and solely focuses on education with no extracurricular activities.

In May the school was notified that they were named one of the National Showcase School’s in the United States. There are 486 schools that were awarded this year in the

United States for K-12.

Grissom described the most rewarding part of the job as, “being able to see students walk across the stage. Seeing them be successful, seeing them walking through the door. You get to know the kids and build relationships with the kids. The building relationship compared to my time in public school is just getting to know the kids better.”

This past school year was the start of the “Powered for Life” program under the sponsorship of Forward Training. The program helps students prepare for jobs by holding mock interviews and creating resumes. 16 students successfully completed this program thus far.

“One of the main differences instructional wise is we don’t lockstep kids. We don’t stand up and lecture kids. It’s strictly self-moti-

vation. They’re motivated to get work done and they may work ahead by putting in more hours. Our kids can earn up to 10 credits a year whereas in a traditional school the max they can work is seven,” Grissom said.

The school runs Monday through Friday and is separated by “Junior Varsity and Varsity” students. Grades nine and 10 go to school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and grades 11 and 12 go from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Two informational meetings will be held on July 27 and Aug 3 both starting at 5:30 p.m. and will last for about an hour.

To enroll in the school, you can go online under [responsiveducationsolutions.com](https://responsiveducationsolutions.com) and go to school brands, apply, premier, then fill out an application. The first day of school is Aug 14.



## SUPPLIES

FROM PAGE B4

- 1 Container Antibacterial Wipes (Girls)
- 1 Bottle of Germ-x (with pump dispenser) (Boys)
- Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E

### Fifth Grade

- 2 Packs of Ticonderoga Pencils (Pre-sharpened) OR Mechanical Pencils
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils, 12 Count
- 1 Pack of Markers, 8 or 10 Count (NO SHARPIES)
- 2 Packs of Crayons, 24 Count
- 1 Pair of Medium/Large Scissors
- 3 Packs of Glue Sticks (Unscented)
- 1 Package of 9x12 Manilla Construction Paper
- 5 Composition Books (200 pages total-buy the 100 sheet book), Wide Lined
- 1 Large Zipper Pencil Bag (No Boxes)
- 1 Roll of Paper Towels
- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- 2 Pocket Folders with Brads, Black Only
- 1 Box of Clorox Wipes
- 1 Pair of Earbuds
- Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E

### Sixth Grade

- 3 1 Inch 3 Ring Binders

- 1 Pocket Folder (Plastic Preferred)
- 4 Composition Journals (non-spiral)
- 2 Packs of #2 Pencils, 24 Count
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils
- 1 Pack of Washable Markers
- 1 Pack of Highlighters
- 1 Box of Expo Markers
- 3 Packs of Elmer’s Washable Glue Sticks
- 1 Package of Index Cards
- 1 Pair of Earbuds or Headphones with cord
- 1 Zippered Pencil Bag
- 1 Roll of Paper Towels (Boys)
- 1 Box of Kleenex (Girls)

### Seventh Grade

- 3 1 Inch 3-Ring Binders
- 1 Pack of Glue Sticks (4 Count)
- 2 Composition Journals (non-spiral)
- 3 #2 Pencils, 24 Count Box
- 1 Pair of Scissors
- 2 Packages of Wide Ruled Notebook Paper
- 1 Package of Elmer’s Washable Glue Sticks, 2 Count
- 2 Packs of Highlighters, 4 Different Colors
- 1 Spiral Notebook
- 2 Folders (No Brads)
- 1 Pair of Earbuds or Headphones
- 1 Pack of Expo Markers, 6 Count
- 1 Pack of Pencil Top Erasers
- 1 Pack of Pens (any color but

- black)
- 2 Packs of Map Pencils
- 1 Plastic Pencil Box

### Eighth Grade

- 1 2-Inch Binder
- 3 1-Inch Binders
- 3 Spiral Notebooks
- 2-4 Dry Erase Markers
- 1 Pencil Box or Bag
- 2-3 Boxes of #2 Pencils
- 2 Boxes of Colored Pencils
- 1 Pair of Scissors
- 1 Pack of Pens (any color)
- 1 Pack of Highlighters (assorted colors)
- 2 Packs of Clorox Wipes (Girls)
- 1 Roll of Paper Towels
- 10 Elmer’s Glue Sticks
- 1 Folder with Pockets
- 1 Composition Notebook
- 1 Purple Composition Notebook
- 1 Sketch Book
- 2 Fine Tip Sharpies
- 1 Box of Ziploc Bags, Quart Size (Boys)
- 1 Box Ziploc Bags, Gallon Size (Girls)
- 1 Pair of Headphones

All good things must come to an end and that means summer is almost over. Here’s to a successful and rewarding 2023-24 school year.

*As of press time, Tolar High School supply lists were unavailable.*

## Tolar Junior High schedule pickup

### SCHEDULE PICKUP

# 2023-2024

Please make sure your student is up to date on all immunizations, all school issued items are accounted for and all paperwork complete.

## 6th Grade

### Aug. 1st 3pm-6pm

- Get your Schedule
- Decorate Your Locker (inside only-optional) No locks
- Drop Off School Supplies

Get your Schedule

- Decorate Your Locker (inside only-optional) No locks
- Drop Off School Supplies

## 7th and 8th Grade

### Aug. 2nd 3pm-6pm

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# Heroes and Helpers event brings kids and community together

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Local heroes of the community came together to inform kids on the importance of working together through the Heroes and Helpers event held at the Hood County Library on July 22.

Kids were able to talk with firefighters, paramedics, postal workers, Air EVAC, boat rescue, Upper Trinity Groundwater conservation employees, and the county Command Center, all while learning about the importance of meeting the needs of the public.

The kids also had the opportunity to climb into the workers' vehicles and get a feel for what each job looks like.

With around 200 people in attendance the event was a big success for the library. Diana "Cookie" Haun who is the assistant director of the library was thrilled with how the event went.

"I was tickled to see how many people came. It was great to see our community come together and see the kids get excited," Haun said.

The event was part of the summer reading program where this year's theme was all together now. July 26 marked the last day of the program and will start up again next summer.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIANA "COOKIE" HAUN



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COURTESY PHOTO

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

## GISD signs Tarleton State dual enrollment pact

From Staff Reports

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

Tarleton and Granbury 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 Granbury, through its nationally acclaimed Distinguished High School Partners outreach. Launched in 2020, the pro-

gram 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 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.

"Granbury ISD values its long-standing relationship with Tarleton and is excited about expanding this partnership into dual enrollment animal science courses," Dr. Jeremy Glenn, Granbury ISD superintendent said. "We look forward to the amazing opportunities this will create for our students."

Tarleton is developing dual enrollment opportu-

nities in agricultural and STEM areas with school districts throughout Texas. Districts choose the courses they offer.

Dual enrollment classes use the same lesson materials and learning objectives as courses taught at 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, A&M RELIS at Bryan 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.

### BOOK REVIEW

# A horror-mystery story with a bite

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You couldn't wait for that first little tooth to come in. It was a milestone in your baby's life, an indication of a readiness for big-kid food and a regular place at the family table. Oh, how you love that adorable, heart-melting toothy smile, but be careful. As in the new book, "Cutting Teeth" by Chandler Baker, a mouthful of dentin means a mouth that can bite.

Miss Ollie had to go. Rhea didn't like that woman at all. As the new preschool teacher at Little Academy, Miss Ollie should've had some boundaries, shouldn't she? So, when she said she felt as if her students were "her" kids, it was natural for Rhea to get angry. Rhea was Bhodi's mom, the one who fed him, bathed him, slept with him. This lying Miss Ollie, no, she couldn't even deal with an unfortunate little preschool habit.



COURTESY OF ERYN CHANDLER

Author Chandler Baker.

If Mary Beth could've formed a committee to solve the problems in her daughter, Noelle's, preschool class, she would've done so. But no task force would fix the fact that some of the four-year-olds had started biting, hard, and slurping up the victim's blood. No group would solve the mystery of who was pooping on Miss Ollie's classroom floor. None of Mary Beth's lists or notes could help solve the murder of Miss Ollie, who

was found in a puddle of her own blood in a supply closet. She knew the names of the four-year-olds who witnessed the bloodbath, but Mary Beth had no clue who left shoe prints in the gore. What else could she do but throw herself into volunteering at the church affiliated with Little Academy?

Spending time with yummy Pastor Ben was just icing on the cake.

Darby couldn't understand why her husband Griff, said he wasn't at the Academy when she clearly saw him as she dropped their daughter, Lola, off at school. Griff was usually an even-keel guy, trustworthy, never prone to drama. So why would he lie about his whereabouts on the day Miss Ollie died?

So, what kind of bookmark do you prefer to use? A scrap of paper, a sticky note, or something a bit more formal and fancy? You'll need one when you start "Cutting Teeth" because, at first bite, this novel may take a few starts before you'll want to continue.

You won't need that bookmark for long, though, once you notice the wonderfully sardonic tone that's here. Author Chandler Baker tells this tale with the most delicious sarcasm ever, and a cheeky, cynical, almost impertinent tenderness with which Baker treats the mothers in this story: Mary Beth, Rhea, and Darby are characters worthy of sympathy, but they harbor secrets that are often unspoken. They worry about being judged. They love their kids and will do anything for them but don't misunderstand they don't always like being mothers.

The reason why, well, that's something to bite into when you're feeling up for a horror-mystery novel with a twist. "Cutting Teeth" is gruesome fun, and it's absolutely worth a nibble.



"Cutting Teeth" by Chandler Baker

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### GISD

FROM PAGE B1

one with the teacher. A student may process information better when they are moving, so they may have an exercise ball instead of a regular chair to sit on, while another student may have different mental stimulation needs and be provided with a fidget device to play with during instruction. Accommodation for stu-

dents with special needs can be diverse and vary greatly from student to student.

Finally, for many years school districts have used the term inclusion as a special education model for bridging general education content and instructional modifications. This method is used to ensure all students are provided the least restrictive environment for their needs. Every child deserves to be included

and feel a sense of belonging regardless of ethnicity, language, religion, economic status, etc.

Our district hopes this information will help stakeholders understand the differences between DEI at the corporate and university level compared to what diversity, equity, and inclusion look like in Granbury ISD's public education setting.

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# SPORTS Roundup

## Tolar's Talan Brown honored by THSBCA

### SEALS sending plenty to state

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

**T**alan Brown was nothing short of phenomenal pitching for the Tolar Rattlers this past season. In fact, many thought he was among the state's best pitchers.

Among those who think are the members of the Texas Sports Writers Association as they named him to the Blue Bell/TSWA Class 2A All-State Team.

Brown, a junior, is among the honorable mentions.

Brown was a major part of the Rattlers having the best season in team history. They finished 25-10-2, were a perfect 8-0 in winning District 13-2A and advanced to the Region II final for the first time ever.

Along the way, the Rattlers knocked off defending state champion and then second-ranked Valley Mills.

Brown was also named Pitcher of the Year in district. His league success included a perfect game.

He finished the season with a 10-2 record and a save in his only save opportunity. He struck out 75 batters, walked 21 and hit two in 78.2 innings pitched.

Brown's earned run average was a miniscule 1.25. When runners did reach, they had very little success coming home as he left 62 stranded.

In addition, Brown had no balks all season.

He was also a force when he came to bat. Brown posted a .299 batting average with four doubles and 22 runs driven in.

He also drew 13 walks.

### SEALS SWIMMING

Continuing a long-standing tradition, the Granbury SEALS swim team will once again be well-represented at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas, being held this weekend in Brownsville.

SEALS swimmers qualified at the recent TAAF Region 4 Meet in Southlake July 15-16. The top four swimmers in each event for ages 14 and under qualify, while swimmers ages 15 and over qualify simply by competing at regionals.

However, SEALS coach Janet Steenberge said no swimmers in the 15 and up category have opted to compete this weekend. Also, in the younger categories, several swimmers (scratch qualifiers) advanced in some events because qualifiers in front of them opted not to compete at state.

The younger SEALS swimmers competing will be:

\*Boys 11-12 medley relay foursome of Conner Spence (backstroke), Kyle Brawner (breaststroke), Adler Snow (butterfly) and Cameron Brinkman (freestyle).

\*Boys 11-12 freestyle relay quartet of Spence, Brinkman, Snow and Brawner.

\*Eliana Sanchez and

Camille Vazquez in the Girls 6-Under division individual events.

\*Mason Prince and Asher Beatty, Boys 9-10 individuals.

\*Brawner, Snow, Brinkman and Spence, Boys 11-12 individuals.

\*Charlotte Sorrells, Annabel Ross and Harper Fox, Girls 11-12 individuals.

\*Abigail Beatty, Girls 13-14 individuals.

The SEALS top finishers at regionals were (distances in yards):

### MALES

#### 9-10

100 medley relay: 2. A group, Beatty, John Stone, Prince, Jameson Plash, 1:20.48; 4. B group, Dipson Thapaliya, Zane Frasier, Jaxon McKelvy, Lincoln Bleasdel, 1:44.29.

50 freestyle: 1. Stone, 35.33.

25 backstroke: 1. Prince, 19.00.

25 breaststroke: 2. Beatty, 22.97; 3. Stone, 23.27.

25 butterfly: 1. Prince, 15.98.

100 individual medley: 1. Prince, 1:29.65; 2. Stone, 1:38.92.

#### 11-12

200 medley relay: 4. Tyler Citzler, Ayaan Sarma, Aiden Gifford, Snow, 2:55.19.

100 freestyle: 2. Jude Ward, 1:05.71; 3. Snow, 1:10.18.

50 backstroke: 1. Brawner, 34.14; 2. Ward, 36.44; 3. Gifford, 36.70.

50 breaststroke: 3. Brawner, 38.61.

50 butterfly: 1. Snow, 36.67; 4. Gifford, 38.73.

50 freestyle: 1. Brawner, 29.23; 3. Snow, 32.81; 4. Gifford, 32.83.

100 IM: 1. Brawner, 1:14.22; 2. Ward- 1:15.96.

200 free relay: 2. Ward, Gifford, Brinkman, Brawner, 2:12.48.

#### 13-14

100 freestyle: 3. Sean Kim, 1:00.01.

50 backstroke: 1. Logan Crowe, 31.51.

50 breaststroke: 2. Crowe, 34.81.

50 butterfly: 1. Kim, 27.24.

50 freestyle: 1. Kim, 25.98.

100 IM: 1. Kim, 1:07.07; 2. Crowe, 1:09.93.

#### 15-17

100 free: 4. Heath Crowe, 57.02.

50 breaststroke: 2. Zane Herndon, 30.35.



PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY

Tolar pitcher Talan Brown was dominant this past season, winning 10 of the Rattlers' 25 games and helping them to their best season ever. He was named honorable mention Class 2A All-State by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

### FEMALES

#### 6-Under

25 freestyle: 1. Eliana Sanchez, 23.75; 2. Camille Vazquez, 24.69.

25 backstroke: 2. Sanchez, 26.43; 6. Vazquez, 28.64 (scratch qualifier).

25 backstroke: 2. Leah Citzler, 20.43.

25 breaststroke: 2. Citzler, 22.86.

#### 11-12

100 freestyle: 2. Charlotte Sorrells, 1:11.09; 5. Harper Fox, 1:13.90 (scratch qualifier).

50 backstroke: 2. Lilli McKelvy, 38.22; 4. Sorrells, 38.76.

50 breaststroke: 5. Fox, 45.35 (scratch qualifier).

50 butterfly: 1. Sorrells, 37.70; 2. Annabel Ross, 40.25.

50 freestyle: 3. Sorrells, 32.43.

100 IM: 1. Fox, 1:24.00; 3. Ross, 1:29.15.

200 freestyle relay: 2. Sorrells, Ross, Fox, Kaia Boulware, 2:18.07.

#### 13-14

200 medley relay: 2. Valentina Uzcatequi, Carmen Citzler, Hannah Ward, Abigail Beatty, 2:18.82.

100 freestyle: 2. Citzler, 1:05.35; 4. Ward, 1:05.71.

50 backstroke: 1. Citzler, 33.90; 5. Beatty, 37.57 (scratch qualifier).

50 breaststroke: 8. Beatty, 43.44 (scratch qualifer).

50 butterfly: 3. Citzler, 33.62; 4. Beatty, 33.90.

50 freestyle: 4. Ward, 30.14.

100 IM: 2. Ward, 1:15.05; 3. Citzler, 1:15.16; 7. Beatty, 1:22.65 (scratch qualifier).

200 freestyle relay: 2. Miley Maxwell, Bailey Stone, Citzler, Ward, 2:06.09.

#### 15-17



COURTESY OF MELISSA WARD

Back row, from left, Jina Kim, Aimee Palmer, Bethany Crowe, Rayah Gifford, Elise Ward; middle from left, Carmen Citzler, Miley Maxwell, Valentina Uzcatequi, Abigail Beatty, Bailey Stone, Hannah Ward; front row, from left, Annabel Ross, Harper Fox, Kaia Boulware, Charlotte Sorrells.

100 freestyle: 1. Bethany Crowe, 58.21; 2. Rayah Gifford, 1:00.93.

50 backstroke: 1. Crowe, 30.85; 2. Gifford, 31.65.

50 breaststroke: 1. Crowe, 34.42; 3. Jina Kim, 37.20; 4. Aimee Palmer, 37.36.

100 IM: 1. Crowe, 1:05.63.

50 butterfly: 1. Gifford, 30.17; 4. Elise Ward, 33.56.

50 freestyle: 1. Gifford, 26.65.

200 medley relay: 1. Crowe, Palmer, Gifford, Ward, 2:09.71.

200 free relay: 1. Ward, Kim, Crowe, Gifford, 1:53.73.

15-17 Mixed

100 freestyle relay: 1. B. Crowe, Gifford, H. Crowe, Herndon, 50.82.

200 medley relay: 1. Ward, Palmer, Herndon, Colby Parker, 2:09.12.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Kim, B. Crowe, H. Crowe, Parker, 1:51.06.

The SEALS finished third in overall medal counts with 54, including 23 gold, 20

silver and 11 bronze. Flower Mound had the most with 144 and Trophy Club was next with 68.

### AAU JUNIOR OLYMPICS TRACK

Two Granbury brothers are competing through Aug. 5 at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa.

Gannon Dolan is racing in the Boys 15-16 age group, while his younger brother Malachi is competing in the Boys 8-Under division. Both are distance runners.

Gannon is following up on setting a national record in the Boys 13-14 age group last summer in the 3000-meter run, clocking a time of 8 minutes, 59 seconds.

Malachi is making his first Junior Olympics appearance.

Each also qualified for the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, going on Eugene, Oregon currently, but they opted to go Des Moines instead. They compete for Mach I Track Club in Weatherford.

### JUNIOR GOLF

Lipan's Lainey Barnett has enjoyed the month of July on the Northern Texas PGA Junior Tour. She has a first-

place finish and a runner-up finish in the Prep Division. Barnett captured the top spot in the Girls 11-12 age category at The Courses at Watters Creek in Plano on July 9, shooting a 33 over nine holes, giving her a four-shot victory. She then placed second at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas on July 24 with a 41, one stroke back of first place.

Barnett was competing against girls from much larger cities, including Lewisville, Plano and Irving.

Competition around the Metroplex in recent weeks featured a host of area players, including top-25 finishes by:

\*Townes Chauveaux, Granbury, tied for ninth at Brookhaven among Boys 9-10 with a 41 over nine holes on the Prep Tour.

\*Brayden Thackerson, Granbury, Boys 15-18, Metro Tour, tied for 16th at Texas Star Golf Course in Euless on July 19 with an 88.

\*Jack Smith, Lipan, Boys 13-14, Metro Tour, finished sixth at Mansfield National Golf Club in Mansfield on July 19 with a 100.

\*Jacob Reagan, Granbury, Boys 15-18, Metro Tour, tied for ninth at Mansfield National, shooting 83.

\*Drew Haynes, Granbury, Boys 15-18, Metro Tour, tied for 12th at Mansfield National, shooting 85.

\*Landon Womack, Granbury, Boys 15-18, Metro Tour, tied for 14th at Mansfield National, score of 86.

\*Quinn Bradley, Granbury, Boys 15-18, Metro Tour, tied for 22nd at Mansfield National, score of 93.



COURTESY OF MELISSA WARD



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## “God called me to do this”

WAC releases Tarleton State Men's Basketball 2023-24 conference schedule

Tarleton State University

**A**RLINGTON, Texas — The Western Athletic Conference announced the 20-game full round-robin schedule for the Tarleton State Texan men's basketball team for the 2023-24 season on Wednesday.

For the first time since Tarleton State joined the WAC in 2020-21, the league will feature a pair of conference games at the end of November and then resume with 18 conference games starting in January of 2024, for a total of 20, the most ever scheduled all-time in the WAC. The Nov. 29 tip will be the earliest start as well. Also for the first time, the league features a mash-up between the men's and women's schedules with the same two schools competing on the same night in opposite venues for the entirety of the season.

The Texans will travel about 10,600 miles in total just in conference play with traveling to all 10 teams for the first time. The schedule is designed featuring games primarily on Thursday (10 times) and Saturday (nine times) as well as a contest on a Wednesday.

Last season, Tarleton State finished their third consecutive season of at least .500 in WAC play at 9-9, earning a trip to the WAC Tournament in the first year they were

eligible.

In 2022-23, Tarleton State won their first five conference home games in part of a 10-0 start at Wisdom Gym and finished with a 7-2 overall conference home record.

“We're excited about another season in the WAC. The league has consistently become tougher with several good teams making postseason play,” said head coach Billy Gillispie. “The 20-game double round robin is extremely tough to navigate. Whoever is good enough to win the most games over a 20-game balanced schedule will produce a deserving champion, one that will be very capable of doing damage in the postseason. Our players are excited to take the challenge against great competition.”

The Texans will kick off the conference slate with a road bout against Stephen F. Austin on Wednesday, Nov. 29. The squad has won its last two WAC openers. Since joining the WAC, Tarleton is 1-0 when they open the WAC slate on the road. Tarleton State will open the home por-



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans will kick off the conference slate with a road bout against Stephen F. Austin on Wednesday, Nov. 29. The squad has won its last two WAC openers.

tion of their schedule against UTRGV on Saturday, Dec. 2. Last season, Tarleton State knocked off the Vaqueros in the first round of the WAC Tournament in Las Vegas.

After a one-month break in which the Texans will continue their non-conference schedule, to be released at a later date, Tarleton will host UT Arlington on Thursday, Jan. 4. The Texans swept the Mavericks last season in their first year in the WAC.

The Texans will enjoy a seven-day break before playing four games in nine days, with three of them away from Stephenville. Tarleton State will open the stretch with a pair of road games at California Baptist and Grand Canyon on Jan. 11 and Jan. 13, respectively. Next, the Texans will head back home

for a bout against Abilene Christian on Jan. 18 before heading to Edinburg to face-off against UTRGV. Abilene Christian is the most common opponent the Texans have faced in the WAC, touting a 17-5 overall record against the Wildcats in the two programs' history.

Tarleton State will round out January with a pair of home games against Southern Utah on the 25 and Utah Tech on the 27. Last season, the Texans were 4-1 against WAC teams from the state of Utah, including a perfect 3-0 at home.

The Texans will start off February on the 1st at Abilene Christian which will mark the halfway point of conference play for Tarleton State. The squad will then head back to Stephenville for a Saturday

square-off against Stephen F. Austin. The Lumberjacks travel to Stephenville for just the second time with the Texans victorious in the first match-up, 77-72, on Jan. 8, 2022.

Tarleton will then embark on a three-game road trip originating at Utah Valley on Thursday, Feb. 8. On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Texans travel to the WAC's northernmost school, Seattle U. The Texans will cover nearly 4,000 miles on the trip, their longest travel distance of the conference slate. The three-game road trip will conclude at UT Arlington on the 15th.

Closing out February, Tarleton will host Grand Canyon on the 22nd and California Baptist on the 24th. The Texans knocked off the eventual WAC Tournament

champion Grand Canyon Antelopes, 84-66, at home last season. On the final day of the month, the Texans will travel to Utah Valley for just the program's fourth contest on Leap Day in which they have a 2-1 overall record.

Tarleton State will close the regular season with a trio of games in March. In its final conference road game, the Texans travel to Southern Utah on March 2. The final pair of games come at home on March 7 against Utah Valley and March 9 against Seattle U. Tarleton has not played Seattle U twice in the same season yet and are searching for their first win against the RedHawks.

Tarleton State's full schedule with non-conference games will be released at a later date.

## TSU Baseball adds former McNeese associate head coach Nick Zaleski to coaching staff

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Tarleton State welcomes Nick Zaleski as the newest addition to the Texan baseball coaching staff.

As head coach Fuller Smith continues to build his coaching staff, the former associate head coach and offensive coordinator from McNeese State will trade the blue and gold for purple and white. In his first season at Tarleton State, Zaleski will serve as the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator.

“Nick Zaleski has left an incredible impact on every program he has been a part of,” Smith said. “The experience and success that Nick can contribute to Tarleton Baseball was an opportunity we didn't want to miss out on.”

Within 13 years of college baseball, Zaleski has won eight championships as a coach and player. Zaleski began his collegiate coaching career in 2013 as a volunteer assistant coach at UTSA. After two years with the Roadrunners, he began his eight-year run at McNeese State in 2016 where the Cowboys have had tremendous success.

“My wife and I are excited to get back into the state of Texas and welcome our little girl as a Texan as well, and we are eager to see what the opportunities that we have been afforded are going to bring,” Zaleski said. “Looking at the direction of the baseball program is extremely encouraging. To be successful on the field you have to do everything successfully off the field too. I've been very



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Within 13 years of college baseball, Zaleski has won eight championships as a coach and player.

fortunate to be around really good players and coaches and that's allowed me to be a part of successful championship teams as a player and coach. Success and failure both leave clues. I want to be around people who are driven by the goal of success.”

In 2016, Zaleski began his stint at McNeese as an assistant coach for four seasons then was promoted to associate head coach and offensive coordinator for his final four seasons. Throughout his eight years as a Cowboy, the baseball program has appeared in two NCAA Regionals, won two Southland Conference regular season championships and earned two league tournament titles.

Zaleski has also been a part of the two longest winning streaks in Southernland Conference tournaments, the first being during his time as a player at Sam Houston and the second time as a coach for

McNeese.

The former Cowboy stands alone as the only person to win three consecutive championships in the history of the Southland Conference as a player and a coach. During his eight seasons in Lake Charles, Louisiana, McNeese has led the Southland Conference in total hits, total doubles, total home runs, total bases, batting average and fielding percentage. The Cowboys ranked second in the conference in total runs, total triples, total RBI and total stolen bases.

Zaleski had a hand in the success found by the top two hitters within the history of Cowboy baseball, Payton Harden and Joe Provenzano as well as the leader in all-time steals for McNeese, Reid Bourque. During his time coaching in the Southland Conference, he has assisted in guiding players to receive awards such as; SLC Pitcher of the Year (2023), SLC Player

of the Year (2022), SLC Relief Pitcher of the Year/Louisiana Pitcher of the Year (2022 and 2021), Rawlings Gold Glove winner (2019), SLC Hitter of the Year (2017), and the National Stolen Bases Leader (2017).

Prior to his career at McNeese, Zaleski spent three seasons with the Roadrunners of UTSA working with the infielders and offense. During this time, his coaching efforts led to some of the top offensive numbers in the Western Athletic Conference as well as Conference-USA and one of the top-10 offenses within program history at UTSA.

In Zaleski's first year at UTSA in 2013, the Roadrunners had their most successful season since 2008 with an overall record of 35-25 and advanced to the Corvallis Regional hosted by Oregon State after taking the

Western Athletic Conference Tournament Championship title. The following year, the blue, white, and orange transitioned into Conference USA and finished the season seated in the top five in most major offensive statistical categories.

The Sugar Land native spent his collegiate playing career as a Sam Houston Bearkat from 2006-2009.

During his time in Huntsville, Zaleski played a large role in their three Southland Conference Tournament Championships and three NCAA Regional appearances, including the Oxford Regional Championship game in 2007. In 2009, Zaleski claimed the single season batting average record at Sam Houston after hitting .419 and still holds the title. During this time Zaleski received a Ping! Baseball honorable mention All-American and was named the Bearkats' Most Valuable Player

Zaleski played a year professionally in the Toronto Blue Jays organization in 2009-10.

Over the past 10 years, Zaleski has assisted in coaching or recruiting 28 players that were drafted and four players that signed Free Agent contracts. Out of the 31 athletes that went on to play at the next level, 15 are still actively playing and three made their way into the majors. Also in his resume of successful athletes are 52 All-Conference players, 33 Academic All-Conference players, 27 All-Tournament players, four Academic All-Americans, four Freshman All-Americans and three All-Americans

In 2009 Zaleski received his bachelor's degree in marketing from Sam Houston State and went on to earn a master's degree in human performance with an emphasis in sports management two years later from Alabama. Zaleski is married to the former Amy Brown, and they will welcome their first daughter in September of 2023

### TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS (PLAYER/COACH)

McNeese - Associate Head Coach  
2022 Southland Conference Champions  
2021 Southland Conference Tournament Champion  
2021 NCAA Fort Worth Regional Appearance  
2019 Southland Conference Tournament Champion  
2019 NCAA Nashville Regional Appearance  
2017 Southland Conference Champions

### UTSA — VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACH

2013 Western Athletic Conference Tournament Champion  
2013 NCAA Corvallis Regional Appearance

### SAM HOUSTON — STUDENT-ATHLETE

2009 Southland Conference Tournament Champion  
2009 NCAA Houston Regional Appearance  
2008 Southland Conference Tournament Champion  
2008 NCAA Houston Regional Appearance  
2007 Southland Conference Tournament Champion  
2007 NCAA Oxford Regional Appearance



# Lady Pirate volleyball team earns academic award



COURTESY GRANBURY ISD

The Granbury Lady Pirate volleyball team has recently earned the United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association Academic Award this season.

### Staff Report

The United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association recently announced that the Granbury Lady Pirate volleyball team has earned

the USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award this season.

The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale.

Consisting of 15 teammates, the 2022 Lady Pirate Volleyball members are listed below.

### VOLLEYBALL ROSTER :

Carly Barton — Senior

Megan James — Sophomore  
Christen Nichols — Senior  
Sara Welch — Senior  
Blakely Bleeker — Sophomore  
Kaylee Kirkland — Senior  
Gracie Weaver — Senior  
Bailey Blum — Junior

Sienna Watts — Sophomore  
Kylie Moody — Junior  
Rachel Poirier — Junior  
Kassidy Kirkpatrick — Senior  
Peyton Johnson — Junior  
Allyson McCabe — Sophomore  
Brooke Marak — Junior

# North Central Texas Academy Volleyball team receives recognition



COURTESY PHOTO

The NCTA Varsity Volleyball team was named to the 2022-2023 United States Military Academy/American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Academic Team.

### Staff Reports

The NCTA Varsity Volleyball team was named to the 2022-2023 United States Military Academy/American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Academic Team, said Head Coach Teresa Smith.

She added that the team was also named to the Top 20% Academic Team for all high schools in the country.

### TEAM MEMBERS WERE:

Andrea Andjelkovic

Aela Barahira  
Jana Cetkovic  
Benedicte Djontu  
Lea Lopicic  
Sara Maksimovic  
Anika Mijuskovic  
Natacha Neza

Dunja Simovic  
Ola Wielogorska

The Lady Pioneers' practice begins on Aug. 2, 2023. Their Home games take place on Aug. 29 against Brownwood; Sept. 5

against Ovilla Christian; Sept. 26 against Waxahachie Life; Oct. 3 against Benbrook; and Oct. 10 against Covenant Classical.

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HOOD OUTDOORS

# Summertime bass willing to chase!



**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.

In the hottest part of summer, the striped/hybrid bass and white bass are more prone to chase. In addition, the lake is so hot the fish are more concentrated in the thermocline. So, what is one of the best ways to target these fish? Summertime downrigging is extremely effective especially when a thermocline is present.

As I have discussed previously, the thermocline is a layer of water where the water temperature is slightly cooler and there is sufficient oxygen to sustain life. Below the thermocline, oxygen levels are too low to sustain life. On Granbury, our thermocline is fairly shallow right now. The thermocline is about 15 to 20 feet down. On deeper reservoirs, the thermocline may be 30 to 40 feet down. Lately on Granbury, I only put my presentation 12 to 14 feet down.

I mainly fish live bait in the summer, but another option to catch summertime fish is to use a downrigger or a device to keep your bait at the desired depth. Some days when the fish are not real active the downrigging technique can put fish in the boat better than live bait as the strippers/hybrids and sandbass are willing to chase. In addition, trolling/downrigging allows you to cover a lot of water at the desired depth to locate active fish.

The downrigger allows

you to lower your presentation to your desired depth so you can slow troll your presentation. Once the fish hits, the line is pulled out of the clip release, and you can fight the fish to the boat.

With a downrigger, you can troll jigs and or plugs. Some of the most favorite baits included a bucktail jig with a swimbait or a curly tail trailer. Others use crankbaits to entice a bite. One of the most popular bait to troll is the Pet Spoon. For striped bass you might want the bigger version of the spoon.

If you don't have a downrigger, other options include a Hellbender with a jig or spoon tied behind it. Other "dipsy divers" can allow you to troll at certain depth as well, but the downrigger with a line counter makes life easier to control depth.

I would let out line on your reel to get the bait behind the boat (30 feet or farther), then attach your line to the release and lower to the desired depth and troll over the areas holding



COURTESY OF MIKE ACOSTA

Pictured from left are Brian, Ben and Lynn Hommel. Lynn Hommel is a Granbury resident and enjoyed filling the boat with big striped bass with his son and grandson on Lake Granbury.

fish. Be careful around submerged structure as you can lose everything.

Trolling is a great summertime technique. Just be courteous on the water and maintain safe distances from other anglers and pleasure boaters. See you on the water!

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Water temperatures are in the upper 80s to low 90s

and there is no sign of relief on the way. Thermocline is present at 15 to 20 feet down on most main lake areas on Granbury. Despite the hot water and temperatures, the fishing continues to be good to excellent for striped bass. Striped bass to 10lbs are possible on the lower ends on live bait or trolling jigs with curly tail trailers in white or chartreuse. Sandbass are slow to fair on slabs/spinners

and trolled pet spoons. Look for schooling sandbass near Decordova and Indian Harbor early and late. Largemouth bass to 6lbs are good on crankbaits and Texas rigged worms worked on shallow humps and near shaded docks. Blue catfish continue to be good to excellent on cut bait fish mainly at night. Crappie are best on jigs and small minnows fished suspended on deeper structure. Good

numbers of crappie continue to be caught.

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass limits continue to be caught on live/cut bait on channel ledges in 20 to 30 feet of water. Some top water action is available. Possum Kingdom striped bass to 15lbs are possible on live bait or trolling on the lower ends.

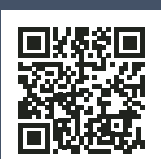


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## 'Barbie' movie sparks ladies' night fun



COURTESY STACY REGEON-WELLS

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

**W**hat happens when you mix Gen-Xers, Millennials, and Zoomers/Gen-Zers with pink glitter? Ladies' movie night in Granbury during the "Barbie" premiere weekend at Cinergy Cinemas.

Knowing that Barbie has been a pop cultural phenomenon since 1959, Stacy Regeon-Wells, a 1987

Granbury implant, decided she would do something special and unique for her friend's birthday.

"I immediately flashed back to when my brother tore up my Barbie mansion, pink Corvette, and cut her hair so I (was) excited to see how she is living now," Regeon-Wells said.

She decided to appeal to some of her local Granbury friends and told them to purchase tickets for the "Barbie" premiere weekend on

July 21.

"I was hoping they would do their part - wear something pink and show up," she said.

At first, Regeon-Wells only purchased seven tickets because she was afraid that everyone would think she was silly.

**Above, a group of local friends unleashed their inner "Barbie" by dressing the part for the movie premiere at Cinergy Cinemas in Granbury on July 21.**

PLEASE SEE *Barbie* | C2

## Hood County saddles up for first youth rodeo

BY EMILY NAVA  
Staff Writer

Dust off your boots and get ready for the Hood County Youth Rodeo, a Hooey Junior Patriot Qualifier at the Reunion Grounds presented by the Hood County Livestock Raisers Association.

Roy Madearis the Vice President of the Livestock Association went to the association and said, "We need to keep youth in rodeo." That is where the idea started for the first youth rodeo in Hood County.

The event became what is referred to as a patriot, which is something you must qualify for and is a big accomplishment in the rodeo world.

"It's probably going to be one of the largest youth rodeos in Central Texas with it having every single event," Madearis said. "I was told we're expecting 300 to 350 entries."

The event will feature mutton busting, tie-down roping, goat-tying, chute dogging, steer wrestling, barrel racing, breakaway,

pole bending, bull riding, bronc riding, saddle bronc and team roping. There will also be numerous vendors there.

"I'm looking forward to putting a smile on a bunch of kids' faces and do something for our community to bring people into our community, and start a new tradition at the Reunion Grounds," Madearis said.

Admission is \$10, or free for those 18 and under at the gate. The gates will open at 6 p.m. and the rodeo will start at 7:30 p.m.

The event will be located at 641 Reunion Court, Granbury TX.

Entries are open to those 19 and under and will be accepted Aug 14-15 9 a.m.-7 p.m. only by calling 903-276-8339. Contestants may only enter one night, and voice-mails will not count as an entry.

There are still open slots for non-food vendors. It is \$100 for both days. Contact Roy Madearis for more information [rmadearis66@yahoo.com](mailto:rmadearis66@yahoo.com)

For specific age requirements and pricing see below.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hood County Youth Rodeo will be located at 641 Reunion Court on Aug 14-15.

### SEVEN AND UNDER

- Mutton Busting - \$10
- Tie-Down Roping age - \$35
- Goat Tying - \$35
- Chute Dogging - \$35
- Steer Wrestling - \$35

### 10 AND UNDER

- Junior Barrel Racing - \$30

- Junior Breakaway - \$35
- Junior Pole Bending - \$30

### 11 AND UNDER

- Barrel Racing - \$30
- Breakaway - \$35
- Pole Bending - \$30

### 14 AND UNDER

- Junior Bull Riding - \$40
- Junior Bronc Riding - \$40

### 14 AND UP

- Bareback - \$55
- Bull Riding - \$55
- Saddle Bronc - \$55
- Team Roping - \$70

## Bright Beginnings Preschool set to open in August

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH  
Special to the Hood County News

Bright Beginnings Preschool will be opening this August 2 for ages 8 weeks through preschool. Bright Beginning is a ministry of First United Methodist Church (FUMC). FUMC previously closed their preschool during COVID-19 and had not reopened.

"Many mothers and fathers in our community need to be able to

drop off early and pick up late. We hope to meet this need by opening at 7:00 a.m. and closing at 6:00 p.m. With instructional time from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.," FUMC Senior Pastor Steve Moss said.

Bright Beginnings will operate Monday to Friday year-round and will follow the Granbury Independent School District calendar for holidays and breaks. Summer sessions will take place in June and July.

"Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for your child to grow in the knowledge of God and community. We also strive to provide a Christian educational and developmentally appropriate program," Moss said. "Bright Beginnings teachers and staff will collaborate with Granbury FUMC and the Texas state standards required to assist you in preparing your child with the fundamental require-

ments for the academic years ahead."

Bright Beginnings has the full support of the FUMC congregation. The daycare will be run by experienced and caring teachers with new classroom equipment and supplies. Their focus being to "create an environment where children can learn and grow in Christ while preparing academically for kindergarten and beyond."

The Bob Jones University Press curriculum "Footsteps for Fours" and "Bible Truths for Early Childhood," has been chosen for Bright Beginnings Preschool, which will provide the academic rigor for Pre-K students to prepare them for kindergarten.

The mission of Bright Beginnings Preschool is "To provide an atmosphere of love and

PLEASE SEE **PRESCHOOL** | C2



*'It is the best day ever. So was yesterday, and so is tomorrow.'*



COURTESY PHOTO

Friday night at the Brazos Drive-In this three-generation family enjoyed the Barbie movie. Both the Brazos and Cinergy Cinema, Granbury were both packed with patrons decked out in Barbie and pink attire throughout the weekend of July 21-23. Cinergy Cinema showed the movie at early release showings on Thursday, July 20. Back row from left: Zoey O'Neal, Julie Thomas, Wynlee Hall, Lindsey Hall, Lexi Harlin, Memphis Harlin, Emma O'Neal and Avery Findley. Front row from left: Maddyn Harlin, Waverlee Hall and Maverick Harlin

# Barbie

FROM PAGE C1

But that was clearly not the case. When she pitched the idea to birthday girl Stephanie Smith-Fisher of Backroad Kisses Store, and Mandy Davis-Holderness, a local hair stylist, the motivation became clear. Other than nostalgia, the friends genuinely care for one another.

"When Stacy suggested a 'Barbie' night, no 'Kens' to celebrate my birthday, I never imagined that 20 of my girlfriends would immediately jump online to buy a ticket and start texting new outfits and cute nails just for a movie," Smith-Fisher said.

"I always loved Barbie as a child, her beauty, and fashion," Davis-Holderness said. "This idea totally put a spark in me to dress up and be all young-hearted again."

This growing assembly of Granbury ladies are known to show up much like the star-studded cast in this movie for the good and the bad in life's journey. They are all distinctive and colorful in not only their fashion, but also their personalities and careers.

"Maybe the movie can be an icebreaker for others," Regeon-Wells suggested. "Call an old friend (or more) and do the same. Take the chance and indulge in childhood memories together."

The "Barbie" movie is currently playing at Cinergy Cinemas in Granbury, at 1201 Waters Edge Drive.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



COURTESY PHOTO

Bright Beginning is a ministry of First United Methodist Church (FUMC). Pictured is the interior of a classroom.

## PRESCHOOL

FROM PAGE C1

acceptance through a caring Christian environment that encourages children to grow

in all areas of development: physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually." With a vision "To foster a child's early educational experience and development while nurturing their love for God and others." Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting for Bright

Beginnings Preschool will take place on Monday, July 31 at 11:30 am with light refreshments and tours available afterward. Open House is Thursday, August 3 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Uncle Mort on migration



BY DON NEWBURY

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

**M**y intrepid Uncle Mort does much "huffing and puffing" about state and national politics. At the end of the day, though--when everything is said and done--always more is said than done.

Sometimes he claims to see two imaginary punching bags, one inscribed "Austin" and the other "Washington, DC." He flails away at them as if his mid-air punches land squarely on noses of ne-er do wells in both capitals.

"I know I'm biased," he admits. "But we've had occasional statesmen at both levels in bygone years and would be hard-pressed to find any now."

He claims to feel sorry for all decision-makers who are frustrated about our border policy.

"Years ago, I kidded about it," Mort said. "Way back there when federal troops were sent to guard the Rio Grande River, I kidded that national leaders were way off base. Yankees swarming across the Red River through Oklahoma were the bigger problem. Clearly, the troops were guarding the wrong river."

With most efforts to control illegal migration from Mexico failing, Mort believes the State of Texas initiative--called "Operation Lone Star"--is a 14-carat mess. He thinks a more apt name would be "Operation Blown Star."

Mort leans heavily on this modified expression: "Southern born and southern bred, and when I die, I'll be southern dead." (He's kept a couple of apple crates full of Confederate money, just in case.)

Years ago, he drove a tour bus through Civil War battlefields. He pointed out various battles, all won by troops of the Confederacy. One day, a little old lady from Connecticut asked, "Didn't the Union army win any battles?"

"Not while I'm driving this bus they didn't," Mort snapped.

Mort continues his pleas

to radio and television news folks to start pronouncing "Uvalde" correctly. He knows that Spanish pronunciation varies from the way most townspeople in the South Texas community pronounce it.

"The news people ought to pronounce it the way the folks who live there do," Mort maintains. Quite simply, he thinks the accepted pronunciation is "U-val' (like VALue)-dy," not "U-vol' (like VOLume)-dy."

He commends the distinct minority on radio and TV news who pronounce it correctly and understands the confusion of a visitor who wondered if it is "Heeco" or Hico, "Chee-co" or Chico? (A new TV weather guy in the Metroplex called Lipan (LY'-pan) "Lip'pen" a while back.)

Slack is understandably cut for radio/tv sports people covering the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays have two "Loves," Joshua and Brandon. They are not related and pronounce their last names differently. The former (whose brother Nathaniel is a star for the Texas Rangers) pronounces his last name like Lowes, the home improvement store. Brandon favors a different pronunciation, rhyming with "How now, brown cow?"

Tampa Bay fans may have other names for this pair, and

for the rest of the team, too.

They don't cotton to the way the Rays played recently in Texas, where they lost all three games to the Rangers.

One of the Texas Rangers' great moments (and there are many) occurred when Alex Speas provided critical relief pitching for the final game against the Rays. In the minors for six seasons, he survived Tommy John surgery and COVID 19 pandemic issues before his major league debut against Tampa Bay. The 25-year-old struck out the first three batters he faced. His mother--present in the grandstands--seemed borderline berserk, delighted with her son's sterling performance. It was fun to watch her dancing around in euphoria.

As the season enters its second half, Texas Rangers fans offer a massive "tip of the hat" to their new manager, Bruce Bochy. A great model for young aspirants who dream of being baseball managers one day, Bochy makes the job look easy.

A paraphrased poem is worth remembering: "Bullfight critics, ranked in rows, crowd the vast arena full, but the only one there who really knows, is the one whose job's to fight the bull."

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

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**PETS OF THE WEEK**

**Buddy** is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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

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## GO PLAY

## MONDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**GRANBURY BRIDGE Club**, ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game, noon at Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$8, earn Masterpoints. Details: 817-480-4472.

**SONS OF the American Legion** Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5 - 7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

**GRANBURY CIVIC** Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: [granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:calendar@hcnews.com) and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.



# THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9748 DONATED TO 13 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



COURTESY OF JAMIE FRANCO

The Knights of Columbus Council 9748 from the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Acton presented checks to 13 local nonprofit organizations totaling \$50,000 on July 20.

## GAME ON

# Papetura

*A hand-crafted adventure game made from paper*



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.

In the game "Papetura," you play a piece of paper named Pape. There's not a lot of explanation as to why you're a piece of paper. Perhaps this is what beings look like in this paper world - because everything in this game is made out of paper. A dark adversary follows you and has the power of fire, which threatens to burn your world. Your quest is to save the world, with your companion, Tura.

Among all the slick and computer-animated games that are out right now, it's nice to find something that's unique, hand crafted, and utterly charming.

Polish game designer Tomasz Ostafin made the entire game out of varying thicknesses of paper. No paint was used. Every color in this game is a type of paper - from brown craft paper to a white card stock. Ostafin sketched every scene out, then created the three-dimensional elements in each scene - flowers, caves, rock formations, etc - using Blender. He printed out the patterns, transferred them to paper, and assembled them all by hand, cutting and gluing paper together.

Ostafin inserted LED diodes into the pieces so they could be lit from within. He also spent a lot of time experimenting with different textures of paper, embossing hexagons and other patterns. Everything feels very organic and natural. Light plays a big part in how beautiful this game looks. Some of the paper objects have light reflected from their surfaces, while other objects have light behind them and look as if they're

glowing.

Then he photographed everything, edited the shots, erased the backgrounds, and used Unity as the game engine to put the game together.

Ostafin says about his inspiration that "It must have been the influence of 'The Neverhood,' a game from 1996 where clay was used, and also I had paper near me laying around, so it was a very tempting choice."

The composer Tomáš Dvořák composed original music for the game. Ostafin contacted Dvořák because he wanted to use songs from his album Zorya for the game, but Dvořák decided that the game needed an original soundtrack. (Dvořák is the composer that created the Machinarium soundtrack. Which is incidentally how I heard about Papetura in the first place - I follow Dvořák on Bandcamp.) He also brought in Juraj Mravec for sound effects to give the game more atmosphere.

The interface is a simple point and click. Pape can walk, climb, and has a hornet's nest that shoots dead hornets (also made out of paper) to solve certain puzzles. Each 'room' is large



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETUMS

The seed pod, now lit from behind and staged for the game.



Ostafin gluing each section of paper together to make the seed pod that our hero appears in at the beginning of the game.

and has several puzzles to solve within it.

This game took so long to make that it's short out of necessity. Because the game uses stop-motion animation, the settings had to be designed, assembled, and lit, and then each frame of the animation was shot separately. It took six long years between when the

demo was released and the game was completed. When you see the work that he put in to finish the game, it's completely understandable. The end result of all his efforts is a beautiful game with stunning visuals.

Papetura has won many awards. Independent Games Festival, Excellence in Visual Art category; Pixel

Awards Europe 2021, "Best Art" winner, "Best Audio" winner, "Indie Grand Prix" winner; CEEGA Central & Eastern European Game Awards 2021, "Visual Art" winner, "Hidden Gem" winner; and DevGAMM Awards Fall 2021, "Excellence In Visual Art" winner.

It's a work of art, with a great soundtrack that

adds a lot of atmosphere to the game. It's well worth the \$11.99 to purchase. Total gameplay for me was 2.5 hours. Available on SteamOS. If you'd like to check out the game without a purchase, the Papetura demo is available for free.

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## WE COVER YOU





GARDEN PATCH

# Take a forest bath



Forest bathing.

COURTESY PHOTO BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

**BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER**

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.



In appreciation for our U.S. National Forests and Grasslands, each July we celebrate National Forest Week. These natural areas are havens for wildlife and for the people who flock there for recreation, relaxation and... bathing. Yes, forest bathing is a thing. The 1980s term originated in Japan, but there is no bathtub nor shedding of clothing involved. Instead, it's a way for people to disconnect from their stressed-out lives and connect with the natural world to reap health benefits, such as lower blood pressure. A forest bath is much more about taking an immersive break in nature than anything to do with water. It's about mindful walks, meditative activities

and fine tuning the senses to observe nature's sights, sounds and smells. Although many cultures have long recognized the health benefits of the natural world, the popularity of this form of "ecotherapy" surged in the wake of the pandemic. Millions flocked to national parks, filling them to capacity. Soon after, attendance spiked in state parks, forests, and other public open spaces. More than 193 million acres now comprise the National Forest System. The National Forest Foundation claims that 7 in 10 Americans are less than a two-hour drive from a National Forest or Grassland. Of course, that statistic does not hold up well in Texas. In Texas,

the U.S. Forest Service manages approximately 675,000 acres of public land, which is divided into four National Forests in East Texas and the Caddo-Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands in the northeast part of the state. However, you need not drive long distances to reap the benefits of forest bathing. In fact, no forest is needed. You may enjoy nature in your own backyard, neighborhood, or local park. Indoors, benefit from growing potted plants, listening to nature sounds or surrounding yourself with scenic views or photos. A plethora of spas and resorts have forest bathing on their menus. There you may choose from solitary activities, such as hiking, or guided walks, lectures, outdoor meditation, and exercise classes. Take a cue from the Japanese and indulge in the outdoors by leaving behind the things that detract from a peaceful experience

PLEASE SEE **GARDEN** | C7

PECAN PLANTATION BITS



COURTESY PHOTO BY PPWC PUBLICITY

Ladies from the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club enjoyed their July Chit Chat gathering where attendees found beach themed decorations in the comfort of the Pecan clubhouse. The final 2023 Chit Chat will happen Aug. 17 before a new club year begins in Sept. Pictured (left to right) are PPWC past presidents Mary Scott, Annelle Teal, Shelly Brandenberger, and Betty Milburn.

## Chit chat luncheon finds ladies enjoying beach dreams

**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.

While the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club recesses formal meetings for the summer, the fun, fellowship, and food of "Chit Chat" gatherings fill the season with pizzazz. For the July event, ladies relaxed and enjoyed the day in the cool temperatures of Pecan's ballroom, but thanks to Cherry Redwine, Betty Milburn, and Shelly Brandenberger, who decorated tables with mini palm trees and beach toys, ladies could dream of being on the lake or at the beach for a summer day.

The Chit Chat gathering brought a crowd of PPWC members who partook of a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Jordan Ray and his staff. The final Chit Chat of 2023 will happen on Thursday, Aug. 17. In addition, memberships for the 2023-2024 PPWC year are now available. Ladies may visit [www.myppec.com](http://www.myppec.com) to join.

**NIGHT TIME**  
In addition to a daytime gathering, the most recent evening Chit Chat event found ladies enjoying each other's good company as well as partaking in line dancing instruction. Many thanks go to Dawn Peterson and Kay Jones for facilitating this fantastic outing.

**GOLF TIME**  
This weekend brings the long-awaited Men's Golf Association's Member-Guest Tournament; therefore, there will be no open tee times through tomorrow, Sunday, July 30.

**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 offered for purchase by tickets, which are available now. The event is part of the Men's Golf Association's Member/Guest Tournament.

**SUMMER CAMP**  
The final session of golf,

tennis, and swim camp for little Pecaners ages six and over will happen Aug. 1-4 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration is happening at the tennis shop: 817-579-9412.

**TWINKLE TOES**  
Enchanted Summer Dance Camp will be a magical time for ladies ages 3 through 7 when princess dance classes happen at the PAC on Aug. 3-5. 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: [rebeccashowbiz@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccashowbiz@gmail.com).

**WORK DETAIL**  
Road crews began working last week on Prospect Hill Drive, which begins an

extensive overhaul of many of our community's streets. Management thanks members for their patience in this endeavor to make driving in our neighborhood even smoother.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
A great way to keep up with the news and action of Pecan Plantation is to follow its page on Facebook. A link for this medium exists at the bottom of all email blasts and may also be found by searching Pecan Plantation on Facebook.

**PAINT PARTY**  
"Pecan Paint Alongs" at the PAC will happen Sunday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. when Kathy Yoders will lead an afternoon of step-by-step instruction (no experience necessary) of acrylic painting. Participants may bring their own beverages and should wear an old shirt or apron. Register at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

**ART SCENE**  
Congratulations to Lana Robinson for being chosen as artist of the month for July in the Pecan Plantation Art Guild. In addition, Beth Eschbach will be presenting a demonstration and workshop on color theory at the Sept. 12 guild meeting. Spaces are limited and sign up is necessary. Folks may visit the PPAG's Facebook page or [www.pecanplantationartguild.com](http://www.pecanplantationartguild.com) for registration information.

**UPCOMING DATES**  
August begins next week, and the summer season's events are not slowing down. Monday, Aug. 7 will find the Green Thumb Garden Club working at Pecan's front circle from 8 to 11 a.m. while Tuesday, Aug. 29 will focus on the back circle; the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary gathers again on Monday, Aug. 7; Breakfast Club will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 9; and the next Widows and Widowers Group event comes Tuesday, Aug. 22. Watch for more details as these dates approach.

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A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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 1 John 4:12

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 3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,  
 817-326-2035

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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  
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 817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist  
 4501 Peppertree Rd.  
 817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist  
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 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist  
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 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist  
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 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist  
 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow  
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist  
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 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist  
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 682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist  
 400 Tolar Hwy.  
 254-835-4375

Waples United Methodist  
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 817-573-9076

### VINEYARD BAPTIST

320 W. Pearl St.  
 817-573-5318

### WAPLES BAPTIST

1200 Temple Hall Hwy.  
 817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist  
 507 Western Hills Trail  
 817-573-7588

### BIBLE

Grace Bible  
 201 E. Clifton Rd.  
 682-498-3014

### CATHOLIC

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic  
 2301 Acton Hwy.  
 817-326-2131

### CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian  
 3314 S. Clifton  
 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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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  
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Church Of God  
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 817-279-6753

### EPISCOPAL

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### JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

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 817-573-4259

### LUTHERAN

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Our Savior Lutheran  
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 817-573-5011

### METHODIST

Acton Methodist  
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 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist  
 110 South Crook St., Cresson  
 469-730-6496

Granbury First United  
 Methodist  
 301 Loop 567,  
 817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global  
 Methodist Church  
 201 E. Pearl St. Suite C207  
 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist  
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-  
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist  
 8812 Hwy. 377, Tolar  
 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist  
 4323 Waples Rd.  
 817-573-9076

### MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of  
 Latter-Day Saints  
 1226 Ross Lane  
 817-573-6825

### NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The  
 Nazarene  
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 817-573-4041

### PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal  
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 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury  
 4800 Glen Rose Hwy  
 817-559-7372

### PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian  
 303 W. Bridge St.  
 817-573-2337

### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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### OTHER

Anchor Fellowship  
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 682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community  
 1855 South Hwy. 377,  
 817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries  
 1950 Acton Hwy.  
 817-579-0968

Calvary Family  
 3306 Oak Trail Dr.  
 314-606-1211

Center Point  
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 817-554-3432

Christian Science Society  
 528 N. Crockett  
 817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge  
 4900 Sonterra Ct.  
 917-326-5501

Crossroads  
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 817-886-9577

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 County  
 2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,  
 817-579-9332

Generations Church Of  
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 817-326-5378

Hope Community  
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 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy  
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New Season Global Ministries  
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Pure Praise  
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 817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel  
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 Tolar, Texas 76476

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 817-573-2669

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 817-579-9175

The Bridge  
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 254-522-5330

The Heights  
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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.*

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

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Romans 8:28

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

Jeremiah 29:11

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# The Voice of Granbury

Don't miss Audition Night Aug. 4

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

**H**ood County's favorite voice event returns as 12 new contestants vie for the top three spots for next winter's showcase performance competition.

The Voice of Granbury Audition Night set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, at Granbury Live will feature performances from 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. According to granburylive.com, each contestant in The Voice will perform a song in round one, and the audience will vote on who advances to the next round. The second round will consist of the top six singers, who will then per-

form a second song. There will then be another round of voting, and the top three finishers will qualify for the Main Event show in January. The top finisher will also win \$250. Additional votes are on sale for \$10 each, and votes may be cast in either round. Each audience member will also receive three voting tokens to begin the night. Every year, the Lake Granbury Kiwanis Club hosts two Voice of Granbury events — Audition Night in the fall and the Main Event in the winter — to raise money for its organization.

The Lake Granbury Kiwanis Club is a volunteer service organization made up of community members from Hood County, according to the website. Its members are diverse in their careers and backgrounds, but they all share one thing in common: a passion for serving children and communities. "We're excited to produce our fifth annual Voice of Granbury Audition Night event on August 4," Matt Mills, event director said in an email to the HCN. "This coincides with the Kiwanis Texas/Oklahoma convention our

club is hosting that weekend. Our lineup is filled with talent and several professionals. We also have two husband-and-wife duos competing against each other." Tickets for the event are \$30 each and can be purchased prior to the event through the Granbury Live website. As of July 25, only 28 seats are available for purchase, so plan accordingly. For more information on the Voice of Granbury, visit granburylive.com. [ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com) / 817-573-1243



Alex Souther



C.J. Sexton



Cara Hernandez



Daniel Hernandez



Frank Faiola



Hayden Phillips



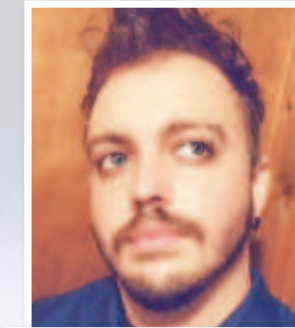
Jen Maroney



Jenn Kelley



Michael James



Nick Pannell



Rebecca Faiola



Tee Etheridge

## GARDEN

FROM PAGE C5

— cell phones, computers, earphones, etc. Don't do anything in a hurry; slow

and mindful is the key to minimizing stress. While a two-hour forest bath is suggested, the Texas heat may limit you to 20-30 minutes at the coolest times of the day. A stroll in Granbury's

shaded Shanley Park, for example, offers a quick respite from the sun and daily stressors.

At home, plant a mixture of Texas tough trees, shrubs, and perennials. A

multi-layered landscape best mimics a natural space, which attracts birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Having plants that grow to varied heights also helps to buffer noise from nearby

roads and businesses, enabling you to better hear nature sounds.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at

817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymaster-gardeners.org.

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USA TODAY READERS' CHOICE  
#1 GRANBURY, TEXAS  
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5	Blazin' Saddle 75 Bike Rally
19	Hood County Youth Rodeo
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
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
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
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](http://visitgranbury.com) for more!

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GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS



# New program — Art Talks — and gallery night

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

Your Cultural Arts Commission is starting another new thing, Art Talks. Approximately four times a year, the GCAC will present

to the community a talented local artist. The first one is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 at the Langdon Center's beautiful grounds.

Our first celebrated artist will be Daniel Aston, an accomplished entrepreneur who found his success in the real estate business for 50 years. He was instrumental in planning and developing the urban revitalization in the eastern region of the United States and successfully participated in rezoning the entire Uptown area of Dallas. He also taught real estate development on a graduate level to MBA students as an adjunct professor at the

Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary and did mission work throughout Mexico and Honduras. And now he's our neighbor; you've seen his newest venture all over town. As the owner of Built to Last, he manufactures and sells outdoor Adirondack furniture all over the world with a plant right here in Granbury.

But it's Mr. Aston's love for writing and the arts that eventually overflowed into a love of great Texas landscape art. In almost a decade of collecting, he assembled a major collection of art painted by some of the greatest Texas artists with

their respective impressions of the Texas hill country. As he says: "Once you know what you like and you can spot value, it is a fun hobby and a good investment that brings a lot of great joy. Great paintings allow your mind to travel without leaving your chair." And more than that, he's a prolific poet himself, and is dedicated to continuing to write poems and short stories at his home near Mineral Wells. When asked about his vision to display and celebrate art in the future, he responds: "I would really like Granbury to have a great art museum on the square celebrating Hill

Country Art. The square is always so packed with people it would be a great way to share the art of the region." Wouldn't we all?

Come hear Daniel speak on why he feels visual art is important and what type of art he collects as well as tell stories about his poetry and how it has reached the hearts of readers. We'll hear his plans for the future, and he will share several of his own poems with us.

This weekend - Saturday, July 29 - come out to the Square from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Granbury's monthly Last Saturday Gallery Night featuring several galleries and

artistic outlets exhibiting all manner of art you will want to see! Most also show true southern hospitality with food and beverage offerings for your enjoyment. This month you'll be able to see one of your writers' work featured in the same gallery where the other is a constant highlight - come see us both and help us to meet our readers! We are interested in what you have to share.

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[cwerley@werleylaw.com](mailto:cwerley@werleylaw.com) | 817-946-3865

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