



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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Granbury announces Stage 2 Water Conservation implementation

BY EMILY NAVA AND ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writers

Due to the continuation of drought conditions, the city of Granbury announced Stage 2 Water Conservation, which became effective Friday, Aug. 11.

According to the U.S. drought monitor, 90.57% of Hood County is under

severe drought. This is also the 51st driest year to date over the past 129 years.

Stage 2 Conservation is for moderate water shortage conditions and includes limitations on lawn care, washing vehicles, and pools.

Stage 1 is voluntary, Stage 2 is reduced water usage, Stage 3 is considered severe, Stage 4 is critical, and Stage 5 is an emergency water

shortage.

Jeff Newpher, communications manager for the city of Granbury, said that notices were posted on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and on the local TV channel, explaining the water conservation implementation.

“But then we said, ‘You know what? What about all those people that don’t do

those things?’” he said.

During the morning of Aug. 16, city employees started going door-to-door and hanging water conservation signs on doorknobs to try to reach more residents who don’t have access to internet or social media.

Newpher added that since the water conservation announcement was released, the city has received several

calls and questions regarding the new order.

“The lake is full, isn’t it? Why are you asking us to conserve water?’ Well, it’s not about the lake,” he explained. “Some people have permits through the Brazos River Authority to take water out of the lake to water their yard, their plants, or their trees. They can do that as much as they

want. There’s no restriction on that.

“But what’s happening that causes the Stage 2 Water Conservation is people are using more city water than we can make clean because it’s the height of the summer and they want their yards to look good all the way through Labor

PLEASE SEE **WATER** | A2

First day of school in Granbury

Eager students trek toward a new school year in Granbury.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City of Granbury continues to analyze network for potential threats

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The city of Granbury’s IT team is continuing to inspect the network for any additional infections following the July 30 incident in which the city’s network was compromised by an unknown source.

“Our IT team and outside high-level professional consultants are gradually analyzing the network to remove any possible infections, and also to make sure there’s not something

hidden in machines that go back online,” Jeff Newpher, communications manager for the city of Granbury, told the HCN on Aug. 16. “And that’s a very time-consuming process, but that process is underway right now.”

According to a previous article of the HCN, Chris Collins, director of IT services for the city of Granbury, explained that the “initial infection started from something being clicked that activated the malicious software.”

“That software used that user’s credentials to traverse the network,” Collins said, during an emergency city council meeting on Aug. 8. “Anywhere that user logged into previously, automatically infected those machines because the hacker had the credentials. Because that user was logged into our net motion system, it allowed that to travel from the police department side to city side. Immediately, I identified it as being something of malicious nature and discon-

nected those systems that the user had logged into.”

Collins and his staff further investigated the activity and after eight hours, the team was able to contain the problem. However, a second attack was launched on Aug. 7, around 2 a.m.

Collins then instructed the team to power down the servers that they had previously restored to prevent further infection.

During the emergency meeting, the Granbury City Council approved a budget amendment to fund con-

sulting services to mitigate the impact of attack. These services will augment existing city and outside resources to try to restore the city’s computer network.

Newpher explained that at this time, there is no evidence that any personal data of city customers was compromised.

“They did not gain access to any personal information. No credit cards, no addresses, no phone numbers, no email addresses, nothing like that,” he said. “Once we saw suspicious activity early

in the morning, our team started shutting down parts of the system to minimize the damage.”

He explained that the team’s focus now is to ensure that the system is “clean” from any potential infections or threats to the network.

“Really the thing (now) is, how do you bring up all those different parts of the system to make sure they’re clean and they stay clean?” Newpher said. “So that’s

PLEASE SEE **NETWORK** | A2



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137TH YEAR, NO. 90

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS



CHAMBER NEWS

Inspiring the champion in you

Rising Up! Women In Business Summit 2023

Mark your calendars for a transformative event on Tuesday, Sept. 26, as the Granbury Chamber of Commerce presents the 2nd Annual Women in Business Summit at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. This eagerly anticipated event promises a day of empowerment, enlightenment, and networking opportunities for women in Granbury. Thank you to Beam & Branch Realty, N on the Square, and The Nest for being this year's WIB Summit's Presenting Sponsors.

This year's featured keynote speaker, Teresa LaBarbera, a top music executive known for her remarkable achievements, will address the summit attendees with a captivating talk titled "Plate Spinning for the Modern Woman: My Journey Balancing Success, Work and Family". She will share personal stories of her world in the music industry while working side by side with artists like Beyonce, Destiny's Child, and Jessica Simpson and their discovery as superstars. Teresa will also offer invaluable guidance on achieving a harmonious balance between professional accomplishments and personal fulfillment.

The summit will also include a lineup of passionate speakers that are sure to inspire attendees to reach new heights in their professional and personal journeys. Holly Martin, General Manager of the Granbury Chamber, will kick off the event with an energizing session on "Unlocking the Power of Connections". Attendees will gain valuable insights on how the power of building meaningful relationships creates a sense of belonging and significance. Next, dedicated community leaders Tammy Dooley, Director of the City of Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau, Crystal Moore, Executive Director of United Way of Hood County, and Jan Caldwell Hulett, retiree of Luminant Power as the Community Affairs Manager, will follow with an enlightening panel discussion on "Rising Together Through Collaboration", sharing their insights on the power of collaboration in fostering success. The attendees will then be able to learn from Kelsey Wallen, President/COO of VYBE Marketing. She will present a stimulating session on how to "Make Your Mark", offering strategies and wisdom on creating a personal brand along with practical tips and tricks for not losing who YOU are as a woman in business. Deborah McKinnon, a renowned Life Coach, will then take the stage to guide attendees on a journey to "Find Your Path", encouraging self-discovery and personal growth.

The benefits of attending this summit are boundless, from gaining wisdom from women in our community that are industry leaders to expanding your network with like-minded professionals. Tickets for the Women in Business Summit are priced at \$75 for chamber members and \$100 for "not yet members", offering a full day of inspiring sessions and networking opportunities, plus a delicious breakfast by Baked and an amazing lunch by Chef Rose Pebbles and Oz Coffee Bar.

For those seeking to maximize their involvement, sponsorship opportunities are still available. This is a chance to showcase your business's commitment to empowering women in the workforce while gaining exposure among a dynamic audience.

This event will sell out! To secure your spot at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Women In Business Summit, explore sponsorship opportunities, visit www.granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622. Don't miss this chance to "inspire the champion in you", cultivate connections, and embark on a journey of growth and empowerment!

Jim Lilly embeds himself into the community

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Jim Lilly moved to Granbury eight years ago from Southlake. He is now a member of Leadership Granbury and works at the nonprofit organization Forward Training Center.

Lilly has lived all over Texas from Waco to San Antonio to Dallas and has worked in many different career fields such as architecture, construction, city government, customer service, and technical security.

After retiring from AT&T as a senior technical security manager, Lilly and his wife were looking for a place to retire.

After finding a house in Pecan Plantation and after coming for a visit they decided, "This is the place for us," Lilly said. "We love it."

Lilly now is a bank teller at First National Bank and has been with the bank for five years. He also is a part of the Rotary Club and is in the Optimist Club. Lilly noted that he and his wife are a package deal and always stick together.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jim Lilly is now a member of Leadership Granbury and works at the nonprofit organization Forward Training Center.

They both started at Forward Training Center as volunteers and then moved over as full-time staff members.

Lilly served as a board chairman for three years. He serves as a mentor and is a board director. His wife is the program co-

ordinator at the center. "We've been very blessed in our life, and so we need to

PLEASE SEE LILLY | A4

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Grand Opening, located at 2400 Fall Creek Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76049. Pictured are co-founders Jamie Alexander and Tasha Skeen-Richard, staff team, vendors/partners, ambassadors, and community members.

COURTESY PHOTO



Grand Opening, pictured are owner, Jacob Taylor and his family, staff team, ambassadors and community members.

COURTESY PHOTO

NETOWRK

FROM PAGE A1

what we're looking at right now is doing that process so that if there's something in our system that we are not aware of, that we don't unintentionally give it access to parts of the system that currently aren't infected."

Newpher also confirmed that the network compromise "did start with a click."

"(It was) by a member of our

staff who was working on a computer that was part of the computer network," he said.

Newpher added that this experience has also educated the city of Granbury on the motives behind these so-called "hackers."

"Apparently, there's a marketplace for people that do computer hacking, and the information that they might gain — which again, we feel like they've not gained from the city of Granbury's system — but there's a market for that

to be sold. There's a financial incentive sometimes, but I can't say that's the case for us," he explained.

The biggest public-facing effect of the computer network outage, Newpher said, is the utility billing.

According to an email sent out to the city of Granbury customers, August utility bills will go out as soon as possible and the due date will be extended appropriately.

"Right now, we're not taking

credit card payments; we're taking checks and cash," Newpher said.

Payments can be made by check, using the City Hall green drive-through drop box at 116 E. Bridge St., in person by cash or check inside city hall, or by mailing a check to: Utility Billing Payment, 116 E. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

Day weekend when they're having relatives over. Right now, water usage is extremely high. There's plenty of it. But we can only make so much clean water on a given day, and we want to make sure we always have enough reserve for fire-

fighting, so we're asking people, "Please conserve, use water out of the lake, or only water on Sunday and Thursday, or Wednesday and Saturday."

The lawn watering schedule includes watering your lawn on Thursdays and Sundays if your address ends in an even number, or Wednesdays and Saturdays if your address ends in an

odd number. Residents may only water their lawns between the hours of 8 p.m. and midnight or between midnight and 10 a.m.

Irrigation of landscapes areas is currently permitted by using a hand-held hose, faucet-filled bucket, a watering can that is five gallons or less, or a drip irrigation system.

For washing vehicles, the

hours are now limited to between 8 p.m. and midnight or between midnight and 10 a.m. The city noted to use a hose, equipped with a shut-off nozzle and to rinse quickly.

If you must add water to your pool, you may only do so between 8 p.m. and midnight or between midnight and 10 a.m. If you have an ornamental pond or foun-

tain that supports aquatic life or has a recirculation system, it must be turned off.

Other noted activities that are prohibited include washing sidewalks, driveways or parking lots, or dust control, unless for fire protection.

Those who violate these limitations may be fined up to \$500 dollars and/

or have their water service terminated.

With no rain projected in the near forecast and the continuation of triple digit temperatures, the water conservation will likely continue for the near future.

For questions, please call 682-205-1707 or visit granbury.org/savewater.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

What do you remember about being in school?



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

The school year began this week for most Texas students. Parents have purchased “school clothes,” school supplies, and adjusted the family’s lifestyle and routine to get back on a “school schedule.” It is a time of considerable change for most families.

Bedtimes will once again be enforced, and time allocated for homework. Traffic will be congested as school buses begin running their routes for the first time in several months. The lazy days of summer are long gone, and the hectic, sometimes chaotic schedule of school takes its place.

For high school seniors, it is their last “hurrah” and for younger students, it is a time to continue to grow, learn and

explore.

My granddaughter starts kindergarten this year. Admittedly, it is hard for me to imagine she is old enough to start school. I have little doubt when she graduates in 13 years, the time will have flown by like a comet. My prayer is that I am there to see her graduate and to witness her evolution.

My 50th high school reunion is next year. I have recently received informa-

tion about the get together, along with interesting bios on some of my fellow classmates regarding what they have accomplished since leaving high school.

Not long after graduation I left the community where I attended high school and lost touch with many of my classmates, yet I still have very clear memories of my experiences with them. As I have been receiving updates from the class reunion committee, many memories have been rekindled. Funny the things you keep logged in the dark recesses of your mind that come springing forward when slightly coaxed.

I have recalled specific experiences with teachers. How Mrs. Granger told me I would someday need the information she was presenting, and how there have been times in my life I have looked skyward and said, “You were right.” I remember lessons drilled into me by coaches who taught me the value of hard work, com-

mitment, self-sacrifice and playing on a team. There is the recollection of the passing of my grade school principal due to cancer and learning the finality of death sometimes comes unexpectedly.

Special have been the memories of my classmates. How my friend Guy was given the nickname “Snakebite” because he was bitten by a copperhead snake. How after graduation my friend Rob went off to college with me and was the best friend I could have ever hoped to have. The memories of my high school sweetheart, my first kiss, dancing at proms, and going for Cokes.

My high school car, “old blue,” which was by any measure a miserable piece of machinery. It took me two summers of work to save enough money to purchase that hunk of junk. It wasn’t much but got me to and from school and out of the house on Friday and Saturday night. Most importantly, I had

earned the money for the car and it taught me to appreciate the value of work.

These are all important pages in my book of life, and now with age, I understand how each one of these interactions shaped me into who I am today.

To my granddaughter Harper Rae and to all the other students who are starting back to school, please listen to this piece of advice. Not once have I ever thought of my school friends and remembered what shoes they wore. Never have I recalled whether they were dressed in designer clothes. Cell phones did not exist when I was in school, but I am confident that if they had, I would not remember what kind of phones or technological gadgets my friends were using. What will be remembered will be the experiences you share with your classmates. You will learn to appreciate your differences, celebrate your mutual accomplishments, cry

over your disappointments, and relish your growth as human beings. Those are the memories that will matter to you 50 years later; not how big your friend’s house was, where they went on vacation, or what they could afford.

Relish the time you have together with your classmates because it will pass in the blink of an eye. May you all someday look back and smile over the human experiences you shared and how those experiences shaped your life. There is a lot to look forward to and the road forward starts now. Good luck to each one of you!

God bless our teachers! Thought for the day: The first day of grade school is like trying to hold 30 corks underwater at the same time. - Mark Twain

Until next time...I will keep ridin’ the storm out!

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Beckett Kelley

Say hello to our neighbor, Beckett Kelley!

“Oh gosh, I’ve lived here seven years this month. I really like all the nice people in our community, especially everyone at the Granbury Opera House.” Says Beckett Kelley. Beckett loves participating in martial arts, theater and dance in his spare time. When he sees a Hood County News he always looks for photos and articles about his friends and people he knows. Beckett says the theater stories about are probably his favorite.

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Hood County News

HCDeals

County designates Sept. 1 as Ed Shipman Tribute Day



COURTESY OF HAPPY HILL FARM WEBSITE

Ed and Gloria Shipman (middle) are the founders of Happy Hill Farm, a children’s home and academy located at 3846 N. Highway 144 on a 500-acre working farm.

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court designated Sept. 1, 2023, as Ed Shipman Tribute Day, during its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 8.

Ed Shipman, who passed away at the age of 83 in 2016, is the founder of Happy Hill Farm.

According to its website, Happy Hill Farm is a children’s home and academy that educates a unified, but diverse, student body for lifelong success by providing a comprehensive education from a Christian worldview that cultivates the mind, transforms the heart, and develops each student’s character and God-given abilities.

Happy Hill Farm is now called North Central Texas Academy (NCTA) and provides a Christian boarding and day school serving children from North Texas, and around the world, who lack opportunity, according to the website.



COURTESY MELISSA WELBORN

The Hood County Commissioners Court designated Sept. 1, 2023, as Ed Shipman Tribute Day, during its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 8.

Shipman — along with his wife, Gloria — opened Happy Hill Farm in 1975 at 3846 N. Highway 144 on a 500-acre working farm.

According to the county proclamation, Shipman’s goal in opening Happy Hill Farm was to help bolster the academy’s future ability to provide children with a college preparatory education and the training necessary to produce men and wom-

en with compassion and character.

Today, NCTA is a fully accredited, comprehensive, academic program and boarding school serving more than 175 students in grades K-12. Supported by scholarships, boys and girls live on the campus year-round in small group homes overseen by house parents.

The proclamation to designate Sept. 1, 2023, as Ed

Shipman Tribute Day is in recognition of House Bill 2835 that will take effect on this day. The House Bill will rename the six-mile stretch of State Highway 144 in front of Happy Hill Farm as the “Ed Shipman Memorial Highway.”

To honor and recognize the life’s work of Shipman, along with his contribu-

PLEASE SEE SHIPMAN | A6

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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10 a.m. Wednesday

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

FORWARD TRAINING Center to host the Granbury Airport Fly-In Breakfast fundraiser on from 8-11 a.m. at 400 Howard Clemmons Rd. See the new runway in action with arriving and departing aircraft. Breakfast will include pancakes and sausage and the cost supports educational jobs skills training for youth and adults. Donations appreciated.

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 monthly meeting the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd. Chow is at 6 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m. Marines, FMF Navy Corpsman/ Navy Chaplains Memberships available. Associate memberships also available. All hands welcome. Next meeting is August 31st. Semper Fidelis. 682-498-3250

SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting/luncheon Sept. 5, held at Decordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. Come join us: Social/Check-in – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Entertainment / Michael Powell – singing your favorite Country songs. Short business meeting 11:30 a.m. Optional Lunch (\$18) – noon – House Salad, Chicken Picatta, Angel hair pasta, Steamed broccoli, Chocolate Cake, Rolls, Coffee/tea/water. Reservations required no later than Friday, Sept. 1. Contact 817-776-2898. General Membership, single \$25.00, joint \$35.00, Business Membership \$35.00. The Guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



HCNEWS.COM

County designates Aug. 21 as Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court designated Aug. 21, 2023, as Hood County Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day during its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 8.

According to the county proclamation, Aug. 21, 2023, is already established as the National Day in “remembrance of those lost to illicit fentanyl poisoning” and to “acknowledge the devastation this drug has brought to hundreds of thousands of affected family members and friends.”

The proclamation states that Aug. 21 is also a day of “coordinated response from fentanyl awareness organizations” and “affected families sharing their lived experiences as part of a whole group warning and informing the youth, the public, and the unsuspecting,” of the illicit drug.

Hood County is now recognizing the alarming number of fentanyl-related overdoses that have been reported in recent months — with some resulting in death.

Due to the increasing use among residents, the county now wishes to recognize those affected locally by the tragedy of fentanyl, as well as bring awareness to the prevention resources available locally.

“Prevention is the most powerful medicine,” Misty Sklark, executive director of the Hood County Substance Abuse Council (HCSAC), said in an email to the HCN.

“This proclamation shows Hood County coming together as a commu-



COURTESY MELISSA WELBORN

Hood County Substance Abuse Council Executive Director Misty Sklark, second from left, and HCSAC Program Coordinator Harley Walts, fourth from left, pose with the Hood County Commissioners Court proclamation designating Aug. 21, 2023, as Hood County Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day.

nity in order to prevent substance use and misuse,” Harley Walts, program coordinator at HCSAC, said in an email to the HCN. “This proclamation

is a step in keeping our community healthy and safe. A special ‘thank you’ to Precinct 2 County Commissioner Nannette Samuelson for allowing

HCSAC to collaborate on this.”
ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

Governor Abbott issues disaster declaration for wildfire activity in 191 counties

Staff Reports

In response to widespread wildfire activity across the state a disaster declaration has been issued for 191 Texas counties including Hood, Parker, Erath, Somervell, and Tarrant counties. Additional counties may be added as conditions warrant.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service, wildfire activity is expected to continue as high

temperatures and dry conditions persist. Critical fire weather is forecasted for Central and East Texas, with the risk increasing mid-week.

More than 95 fire departments from over 75 Texas cities have deployed to respond to wildfire activity across the state as part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS).

The Wildland Fire Preparedness Level remains at Preparedness Level 4 due to fuel and weather

conditions, current and expected wildfire activity, regional preparedness levels, and fire-suppression resource availability in the state.

“As we continue to respond to wildfire conditions across the state, Texas is ready to provide any additional resources and aid to impacted communities. I commend the bravery and service of the hundreds of emergency personnel and firefighters who have swiftly responded to the wildfires to protect

their fellow Texans and communities,” said Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Residents are encouraged to make an emergency plan, limit activities that may cause sparks or flames, heed warnings from officials, and keep emergency supplies easily accessible.

More information is available at TexasReady.gov and tfswb.tamu.edu.

LILY

FROM PAGE A2

give back. My father instilled in me ‘Those who have been given much, much is expected’ and I’m not a transactional person. I focus on being a transformational person. It’s important to just be kind,” Lilly said.

One of the focuses of the center is to “expand our spheres of influence,” Lilly noted. “We try to give people a hand up not just a handout. Our mission statement has been to educate, support and inspire the men and women of Hood County. This is a place where you can come and find your place.

If you don’t have what you need, we can find the people to help you.”

The core curriculum at the training center is their Jobs for Life training program designed to get those unemployed prepared for a job. The center provides training on resume building, mock interviews, elevator pitches as well as supplying clothes and providing haircuts. The center also has a GED program as well as computer classes teaching everything from how to use a computer to higher level computer classes. Everything at the center is free and available to anyone.

With lots of involvement in the community he has heard nothing

but positive remarks surrounding Leadership Granbury. Lilly deemed Leadership Granbury a perfect fit for him after his wife became a member two years ago and now serves on the board.

“My wife and I have always been very embedded in the community,” Lilly said. “Just trying to make the world a better place.”

One of the most positive experiences that Lilly had out of Leadership Granbury was the new friendships created as well as learning more about the many operations that make Granbury what it is.

“You’ve got people that come together that have entirely differ-

ent backgrounds, and yet we integrated so well,” Lilly said. “It was a lot of fun being involved. Success is built on collaborations and partnerships. Leadership Granbury opened up a whole new world of connections here in town that we can use to make Granbury better.”

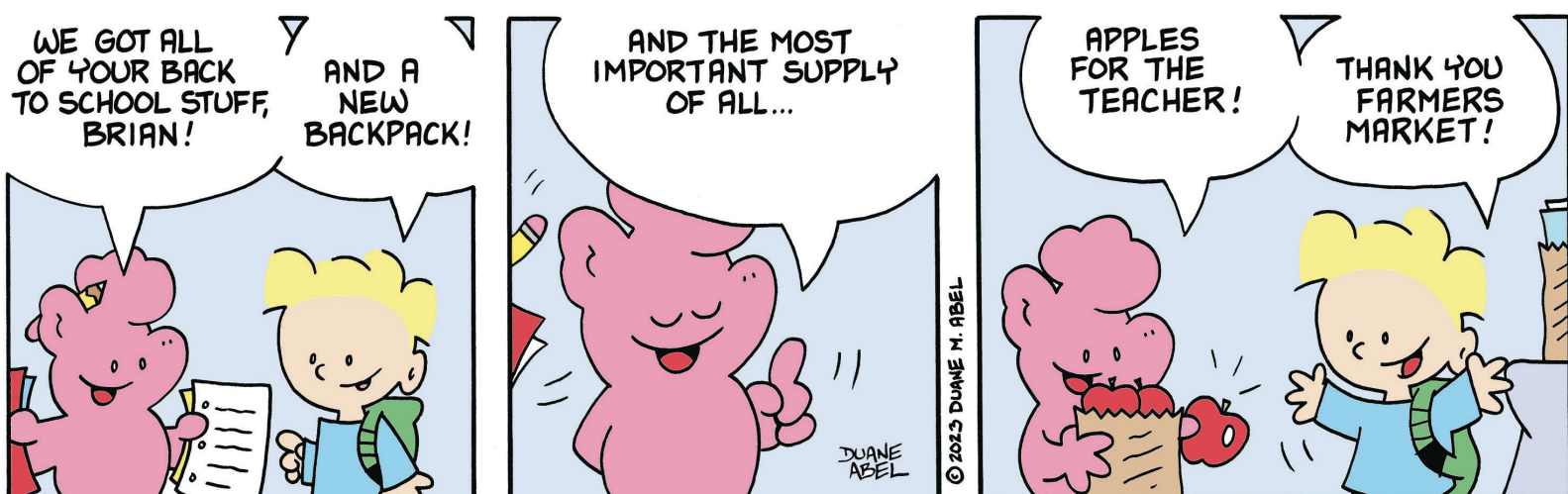
Forward Training Center is always seeking volunteers and for more information on the Forward Training Center email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org or call 817-573-6677 or visit their offices Monday through Thursday at 600 West Pearl Street. For more information on Leadership Granbury email leadershipgranbury@gmail.com.

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Defying all odds

Hope Academy graduate becomes Blue Angel

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Growing up with a learning disability can cause many children to feel isolated from their peers, as they constantly struggle to keep up with assignments and homework.

Additionally, as they work harder and harder to keep up with other students, they may start to experience feelings of self-doubt, which can lead to lower self-esteem.

But for Hope Academy of Granbury graduate Kevin Zabochnik, he proved to others — and most importantly, himself — that he is much more than any learning disability.

Hope Academy for Dyslexia exists to equip students with dyslexia with the fundamental skills needed to successfully return to the classroom setting, beyond Hope Academy, with newfound confidence and enhanced reading abilities, according to hopefordyslexia.org.

Originally from Burseson, Zabochnik attended public school from kindergarten

“She has given me a wonderful set of tools that I have used to help me graduate high school and beyond to get me in the career field that I am in today.”

Against all odds, Zabochnik is now an avionics technician for the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, a flight demonstration squadron.

“Growing up, I was always fascinated by technology,” he said. “By age 12, I had my own lab, and I was able to teach myself how to program. With this inspiration, I desired to have a job field in technologies. I found out really quickly though, if you don’t have experience, training or education, it’s nearly impossible — that’s where the Marine Corps came in for me. I joined January 2018.”

After graduating from boot camp, Zabochnik attended a

tain or repair the F-18 Super Hornets that we have and go from state to state and put on a show for you all.”

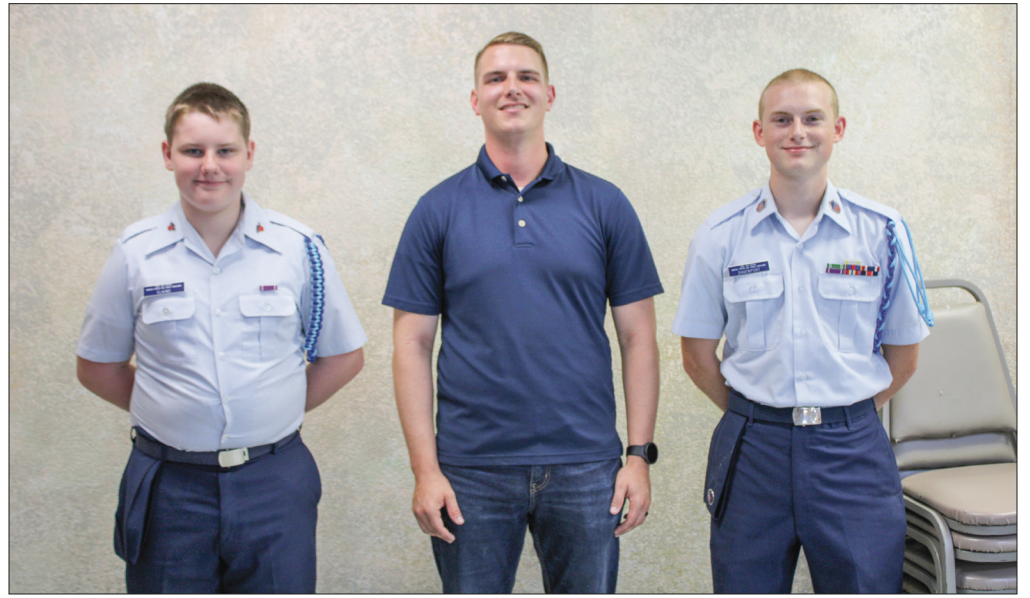
Zabochnik then showed a video during his presentation, explaining the day-to-day life for a Blue Angel.

According to the video, the United States Navy and Marine Corps premiere flight demonstration squadron is one cohesive team that performs air demonstrations throughout the United States and all around the world.

“We have shows that are somewhat close to home, and then a couple 100 miles,” Zabochnik said. “We’ll leave on a Thursday morning, and we’ll come back on a Sunday evening. If it’s further than that — sometimes we go to the West Coast — we can be gone for a week and up to four weeks.”

Since 1946, the Blue Angels have brought naval aviation to men and women of all ages, according to the video. They began flying the F6F Hellcat and have since flown a variety of aircraft showcasing the capabilities of naval aviation through the decades.

Today, the Blue Angel pi-



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Sgt. Kevin Zabochnik, middle, recently visited his former school, Hope Academy of Granbury, to educate other students on his work as part of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. Civil Air Patrol Cadet Airman Isak Elkins, left, and Master Sgt. Tucker Davenport, right, also visited Zabochnik’s presentation to discuss their role in the civilian-operated organization.

equipment needed to perform its air show and performs tactical maneuvers as part of the flight demonstration, according to the video.

Before each airshow, the pilots practice for their upcoming performance, while the maintenance team prepares the aircraft for the show, ensuring they are in top performing shape and completing any vital maintenance before the demonstration.

During the show, the maintainers and the pilots move deliberately and in unison, according to the video. Each movement is meticulously executed, and each team member of the Blue Angels knows their part and performs them with pride.

According to the video, each Blue Angel was hand-selected from the fleet embodying hundreds of years of Navy and Marine Corps tradition and heritage, and a representation of the 800,000 men and women who serve and defend our nation with each day.

From the precise wingtip to canopy separation of the delta to the upkeep of the Jets, each team member relies on one another, and each Blue Angel strives for excellence in everything they do.

Zabochnik said during shows, the jets get “as close as 18 inches,” and explained that the jets can reach top speeds of 1,700 miles per hour.

“Realistically though, it’s more like 500-600 miles per hour,” he said.

Some of the most rewarding aspects of being a part of the Blue Angels, Zabochnik

said, is being able to travel the world, and getting the opportunity to educate several schools, hospitals, and community functions about the benefits of military service.

Although Zabochnik prefers to “turn wrenches,” instead of flying — preferring instead to focus on the “simple life,” — he enjoys being a Blue Angel.

“From a young age, my passion was always technology,” he explained, during his presentation. “So really feed into your passion because what I’ve learned is for me to learn something, I have to be really interested in it. Otherwise, it’s like pulling hairs, so find what you’re interested in and what your hobby is.”

Hope Academy Director Joanne King said she’s not surprised Zabochnik chose to become an avionics technician for the Blue Angels.

“You guys do an amazing job, and I can’t even imagine,” she said. “Kevin was with us at a young age, and the high schoolers used to come and say, ‘Can you fix this on my phone?’ One of our staff members had you go to their house and hook up TV equipment or something, so it does not surprise me that you were able to do this.”

She explained that although Zabochnik suffered from dyslexia and dysgraphia growing up, he was a rather intelligent and gifted child.

“When Kevin came to school, and I watched him write, I had to look at it, and I mean it looks like English, but then I realized that it was

totally backwards. He wrote completely backwards,” she explained. “You can hold a mirror up and read it. Now, there’s somebody else that wrote completely backwards, but I just never had the opportunity to meet them, and it was Leonardo da Vinci. I thought ‘Okay, we all know Leonardo da Vinci was a genius,’ so I immediately was like ‘There’s something amazing in there.’”

King explained that the program that Hope Academy uses to help students with their writing is more of a corrective program, than a coping one.

“The key behind the Davis method that we use is turning off that disorientation and giving them a point where they can perceive everything from behind the head forward,” she explained.

According to the Davis Dyslexia website, the correction program is a comprehensive approach to dyslexia, which simultaneously provides tools for attention focus, resolving perceptual confusion, and building reading skills.

For now, Zabochnik plans to remain as a Blue Angel until at least 2026.

He also would like to thank King for teaching him “how his brain works” and helping him “discover his abilities at a young age.”

Zabochnik added, “Three-dimensional thinking was definitely the most influential thing I ever learned about myself.”

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“By age 12, I had my own lab, and I was able to teach myself how to program. With this inspiration, I desired to have a job field in technologies. I found out really quickly though, if you don’t have experience, training or education, it’s nearly impossible — that’s where the Marine Corps came in for me. I joined January 2018.”

KEVIN ZABOCHNIK

Hope Academy graduate, U.S. Navy Blue Angels avionics technician

through fifth grade.

However, in third grade, he was diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia, which are both learning disabilities that affect a person’s ability to read, write, and spell.

After becoming home-schooled in seventh grade, Zabochnik eventually found his home at Hope Academy of Granbury.

“That’s how I ended up here, as one of Mrs. (Joanne) King’s students,” Zabochnik said, during a presentation at Hope Academy on Aug. 10.

technical school, where he learned how to prepare communication navigations.

He moved to San Diego with his wife, Kathrine, where they remained for four years until he was offered a position with the Blue Angels.

“From there, we packed up all of our things, and we moved to Pensacola, Florida, and I have been out there ever since,” he said. “I’ve been out there for about six months now, and my job as a Blue Angel is to main-

lots fly the Boeing F/A-18E Super Hornet, a multimission strike fighter — versions of which have been operational throughout the fleet since 2000, according to the video.

The maintenance and support team travel aboard the Marine Corps C-130J Super Hercules, affectionately known as Fat Albert. The Blue Angels Super Hercules flies more than 100,000 miles each show season, carrying all of the maintenance and support personnel and

Girls Night Out

Ladies enjoyed Girls Night Out sponsored by the Historic Granbury Merchants Association on Aug. 12. Girls Night Out is a monthly event taking place on the second Saturday of the month from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. with an afterparty following. Participants receive punch cards and are entered for prizes.



A couple of lady’s enjoying the evening in D’Vine wine after shopping all afternoon during the Girls Night Out.

The main prize that ladies want to go for is the 500 downtown dollars grand prize, which equals a \$500 shopping spree at 15 participating shops.



PHOTOS BY LAYTHA PAIGE TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Girls Night Out is an event that takes place downtown on the Square from 3 to 6 p.m., with an after party at D’Vine wine on the second Saturday of every month. Ladies can shop, have fun, and win door prizes.



As ladies shop around the Square at participating stores, they get a chance to enter a raffle and win some prizes. Angie Courville is pictured calling out the winning numbers at D’Vine wine.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Cheshe Langford



Business:
Southern Star Market

Time as Ambassador:
1 year



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Granbury Chamber is SO very thankful for our Ambassador, Cheshe Langford! Cheshe has been an ambassador for one year. When asked why she loves being an ambassador she said, "I love being an ambassador because when I moved here to open my store, Southern Star on the Square, joining the Chamber made me feel a part of my new community!" Fun Fact: "I love to dress up for any occasion. Just ask me! I'll do it!" Thank you for all that you do in our community and for being an Ambassador of Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



New Member Spotlight



Diamond Cross Rodeo Company

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Our Member Spotlight today is Diamond Cross Rodeo Company! Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

New members & Renewals

Welcome to our new chamber members who joined in July!

- Star AC Supply LLC
- E-Z Out Bail Bonds
- Sarah McEntire, REALTOR
- API Roofing & Exteriors LLC
- Grace Obstetrics & Gynecology
- The Groutsmith
- Zev Martial Arts LLC
- STAR Council on Substance Abuse
- Lake Granbury Mercantile
- New Life Health & Concierge
- Trusted Foundation Repair LLC
- Elderly Care Concierge
- Allies in Youth Development
- Anxiety Solutions of America
- Southern Oak Customs Homes
- Carter Landscape Design and Installation
- TX HOP Club
- First Due Detailing, LLC

Thank You to the following members who renewed their Chamber Membership in July!


We appreciate your continued support!

- Greg Rose Home Services
- Sawyer Eye Center
- Winston Properties – Kyle Rose
- Johnson County Chem-Dry
- Xuxa Styles
- Steven Craig Bumpass Farmers Agency
- Mama's Pizza
- Bogeys and Stogies
- Granbury Ghosts & Legends
- Breakaway Travel & Cruises
- CFX Photo
- Beckett Marketing, Inc.
- Jackson Construction LTD
- David Purczynsky
- Brew Drinkery
- BeyondFaith Hospice
- Stonewater Church
- Rancho Brazos Community Center
- Opera Guild of Granbury
- Leadership Granbury
- Stonewall Tile Company
- Tommy's Properties
- Hood County Senior Center
- SporTherapy
- Epic Orthodontic
- Brazos Valley Grass
- Matthew Mills
- JP Allen Co.
- Harbor Lakes Golf Club



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SHIPMAN

FROM PAGE A3
tions to the communities of Hood and Somervell Counties, and his impact to the lives of innumerable young people over the last 48 years, the Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to hereby proclaim Sept. 1, 2023, as Ed Shipman Tribute Day in Hood County.

"Of all the people I've ever known in my life, there's usually somebody that has something negative to say about you, something bad about you, or at least something negative, but not for

Ed Shipman," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said during the meeting.

"He was a great man who did a lot of things for a lot of people, especially for children, and I heard that nobody would turn Ed Shipman down. He could get an appointment to see anybody at any time. He just picked up the phone, made a call, and said, 'This is Ed Shipman,' and he would be escorted right in. He didn't even have to have an appointment."

The commissioners also invited Shipman's grandson, Lucas, to celebrate in the momentous occasion.

"We're gonna have a big event out (on Happy Hill Farm) on September the first," Lucas said. "We'd love to have anybody come out and see the good work that we've been doing for all of those 50 years at Happy Hill Farm. We'd love to have you there."

"This is a great deal," Massingill added. "I know his grandfather would be awful proud of him, don't you think?"

For more information about Happy Hill Farm, visit happyhillfarm.org online.

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CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE
CREATION OF A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Section 372.009(c) and (d) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas ("City"), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the "Petition"), filed by RCM LAKEVIEW LANDING, LLC a Texas limited liability company (the "Owner"), requesting that the City create the Lakeview Landing Public Improvement District (the "District") to include property owned by the Owner and further described herein (the "Property").

Time and Place of the Hearing. The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m. on September 5, 2023, to be held at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas, 76048.

General Nature of the Proposed Authorized Improvements. The general nature of the proposed public improvements to be provided by the District that are necessary for the development of the Property within the District and which shall promote the interests of the City and confer a special benefit upon the Property, may include: (i) street, roadway and sidewalk improvements, including related drainage, utility relocation, signalization, landscaping, lighting, signage, off-street parking and right-of-way; (ii) drainage improvements and facilities; (iii) parks, trails and recreational facilities improvements; (iv) projects similar to those listed above authorized by the Act, including similar off-site projects that provide a benefit to the Property within the District; (v) acquisition of real property, interests in real property, or contract rights in connection with each of the improvements listed in (i) through (iv); (vi) payment of costs, including, without limitation, design, engineering, permitting, legal, required payment, performance and maintenance bonds, bidding, support, construction, construction management, administrative and inspection costs, associated with developing and financing the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (vii) payment of costs associated with operating and maintaining the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (viii) payment of costs of establishing, administering, and operating the District, as well as payment of interest, costs of issuance, reserve funds, or credit enhancement of bonds issued for the purposes described in (i) through (viii) above (collectively, the "Authorized Improvements").

Estimated Cost of the Authorized Improvements. The estimated cost to design, acquire and construct the Authorized Improvements, together with bond issuance costs, eligible legal and financial fees, eligible credit enhancement costs and eligible costs incurred in establishment, administration and operation of the District is not to exceed \$25,000,000.

Proposed District Boundaries. The District is proposed to include approximately 47.28 acres of land generally located east of Lake Granbury and south of US Highway 377, located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City and as more particularly described by a metes and bounds description available at the offices of Winstead PC, c/o Sarah Landiak, 2728 N. Harwood Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75201, and available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Proposed Method of Assessment. The City shall levy assessments on each parcel within the District in a manner that results in imposing equal shares of the costs on property similarly benefited. All assessments may be paid in full at any time (including interest and principal), and certain assessments may be paid in annual installments (including interest and principal). If an assessment is allowed to be paid in installments, then the installments must be paid in amounts necessary to meet annual costs for those Authorized Improvements financed by the assessment, and must continue for a period necessary to retire the indebtedness issued to finance or refinance those Authorized Improvements (including interest).

Proposed Apportionment of Cost between the District and the City. The City will not be obligated to provide any funds to finance the Authorized Improvements, other than from assessments levied on real property within the District. No municipal property in the District shall be assessed. The Owner may also pay certain costs of the improvements from other funds available to it as developer of the District.

During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the establishment of the District and the advisability of the improvements to be made for the benefit of the property within the District.

CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION A PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Section 372.009(c) and (d) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas ("City"), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the "Petition") filed by the person identified in the Petition (the "Petitioner"), requesting that the City create the Lakeview Landing Operation and Maintenance Public Improvement District (the "District").

Time and Place of the Hearing. The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m., on September 5, 2023, at Granbury City Hall, 116 W Bridge Street Granbury, TX 76048.

General Nature of the Proposed Authorized Services. The purpose of the District is to provide special supplemental services for improvement and promotion of the District which may include, but not be limited to: (1) payment of annual service costs related to the operation of the District consisting of the actual annual costs of the operation, repair, and maintenance of park improvements, including irrigation, canal headwalls, sea and detention walls; advertising; promotion; health and sanitation; public safety; security; business recruitment; development; recreation; cultural enhancement; and marketing costs, upon property within or benefitting the District; (2) payment of expenses related to the establishment of the District, and (3) payment of expenses related to the collection of the annual assessments (the "Authorized Services"). These Authorized Services shall promote the interests of the City and confer a special benefit on the Property.

Estimated Cost of the Authorized Services. The Petitioner estimates that the total cost of the Authorized Services for the first year of the District's operation will be a total of approximately \$50,000. The cost of the Authorized Services for subsequent years will be determined in the annual update to the service plan approved by the City each year in accordance with Section 372.013 of the Act.

Proposed District Boundaries. The District is proposed to include property owned by the Petitioner, consisting of approximately 47.28 acres of property generally located east of Lake Granbury and south of US Highway 377, located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City and as more particularly described by a metes and bounds description available at the offices of Winstead PC, c/o Sarah Landiak, 2728 N. Harwood Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75201, and available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Proposed Method of Assessment. The City shall levy an annual assessment on each lot within the District to pay the costs of the Authorized Services in a manner that results in imposing equal shares of the costs on property similarly benefited. Each annual assessment must be paid in amounts necessary to meet annual costs for the Authorized Services.

Proposed Apportionment of Cost between the District and the City. The City shall not be obligated to provide any funds to finance the Authorized Services, except to the extent the costs of the Authorized Services exceeds the funds generated by the District assessments. The cost of the Authorized Services will be paid from the assessments and from other sources of funds, if any, available to the City.

During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the establishment of the District and the advisability of the Authorized Services to be made for the benefit of the property within the District.

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Hood County News

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

PERMIT NO. WQ0002889000

APPLICATION. Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency, 5912 Matlock Road, Granbury, Texas 76049, which owns a reverse osmosis water treatment plant, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0002889000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0102598) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 2,500,000 gallons per day. The water treatment facility is located at 5912 Matlock Road, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76049. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on May 15, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying a Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency, Administration Building, 5912 Matlock Road, Granbury, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.665,32.41611&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

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

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Stefan Dollins, General Manager, at 682-500-1690.

Issuance Date: August 3, 2023

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
-TRC 109 & 114 STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. C2023171
in the 355th District Court
of Hood County, Texas

LARRY GILBERT THOMAS AND LAURIE ANN THOMAS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE PROPER-T LIVING TRUST

VS.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LAURELL E. HAND, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARSHALL T. VOSE, JR. A/KIA MARSHALL T. VOSE, JR., GENE W. HAND A/KIA EU-GENE WALTER HAND

TO: The Unknown Heirs of Laurell E. Hand and The Unknown Heirs of Marshall T. Vose A/KIA Marshall T. Vose, Jr.

Defendant, Greeting;

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being MONDAY the 18TH day of

SEPTEMBER 2023, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 12TH day of JULY, A.O. 2023, in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

THE ORIGINAL PETITION IS A SUIT FOR CIVIL, REAL PROPERTY, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit, the nature of which suit is PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION BEING Trespass to Try Title suit involving Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Rancho Brazos Subdivision, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to the plat on file in the office of the County Clerk of Hood County, Texas. Property Address: 3604 and 3606 Sundown Trail, Granbury, TX 76049.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 04 day of AUGUST, 2023.

Attorney for Plaintiff(s):
Dakota Wrinkle
Texas Landowner Law Firm, PLLC
1901 Pacific Ave, Ste. 5020
Dallas, TX 75201
Phone: 469-833-3380
E-mail:
dakota@texaslandownerfirm.com

WITNESS: TONNA L. NEWMAN
CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT
OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
By Camie Roybal, Deputy

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NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE
HOOD COUNTY

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Hood County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on August 4, 2023, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in September, 2023, the same being the 5th day of said month, in the 2nd floor Courtroom of the Hood County Courthouse at 100 East Pearl Street, in the City of Granbury, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:00 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Hood and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 6 rows of property sale information.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 10 rows of property sale information.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 11 rows of property sale information.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 10 rows of property sale information.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 10 rows of property sale information.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains 10 rows of property sale information.

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Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains multiple rows of public notices.

Table with 6 columns: Sale #, Cause # Judgment Date, Acct # Order Issue Date, Style of Case, Legal Description, Adjudged Value. Contains multiple rows of public notices.

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Hood County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Dated at Granbury, Texas, August 4, 2023

Signature of Chad Jordan, Constable Chad Jordan, Hood County, Texas

By Deputy

Notes:

The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (817) 877-4589

PUBLIC SALES

Garage Sales 76048

Garage Sales 76048

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Garage Sales 76049

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 4503 LakeShore Dr. Tools, building supplies, over 1,000 DVDs & CDs, household & kitchen items, home decor, Boat, skis, wakeboards, clearing out a 4Bdrm house. Rain or Shine. Friday August 18, thru Sunday August 20, 8am til 3pm

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MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 4503 LakeShore Dr. Tools, building supplies, over 1,000 DVDs & CDs, household & kitchen items, home decor, Boat, skis, wakeboards, clearing out a 4Bdrm house. Rain or Shine. Friday August 18, thru Sunday August 20, 8am til 3pm

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

Savoring the last of summer vacation

With school starting up this week, some families were able to get out last weekend and enjoy the sun, sand and water at the Granbury City Beach Park.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH PAIGE TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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OBITUARIES

Clair Louise Evans

April 23, 1917 - August 13, 2023

Clair Louise Brown Evans, affectionately known to many as "GiGi", was born on April 23, 1917, in Nuberg, Georgia to Frank Wiggins Brown and Bobbie Ida McCurry Brown, the middle of five children, she passed away on August 13, 2023, at the age of 106. GiGi attended schools and the Methodist church in Nuberg. It was at a church function when she was 14 years old that she saw "the best-looking boy in town". They began dating two years later when she was allowed to date. She married Albert Sidney Evans under an oak tree in front of the church on August 12, 1934. Soon after marrying, the couple moved to Elberton, Georgia and set up house. On July 13, 1938, the couple welcomed the first of two daughters, Mary Helen. In 1943, the family moved to Brunswick, Georgia so Sid could work at the shipyards. On July 22, 1946, the couple welcomed their second daughter, Patsy Louise. GiGi was a homemaker and stayed at home until Patsy entered school. While staying at home she loved to sew and sewed most of her daughters' clothes, including both of their wedding dresses. In 1952, she decided to take a part-time job at J. C. Penney's which ended up being a career that lasted 30 years. It was during this time in April 1968 that she unexpectedly lost the love of her life, Sid. The couple shared lunch together almost every day and after lunch upon Sid's return to work, he had a heart attack and died at his desk. A widow for 55 years, she never dated, citing the love that she and Sid shared. GiGi continued working until a mandatory age retirement forced her to leave Penney's in 1982. She enjoyed a very short retirement of only three years when she was asked to come back and help open the new store. She then worked for three more years. She went back to work at the age of 77 as a favor to the owner of a local bookstore for what was going to be a year, but she stayed four.

In 2004, after living in her house for 48 years, she made the decision to move closer to family in Oklahoma. She first moved to Okmulgee and lived in a house on her own not far from Helen and her husband, Henry. After three years in Okmulgee, it was decided the three of them would move to Broken Arrow to be closer to better health care and more services. They moved into a house with GiGi occupying the second floor. The desire to be closer to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the threesome moved to Granbury, Texas in 2019. At the time of her death, GiGi was residing at The Oaks of Granbury.

GiGi was an avid sports fan, particularly baseball and golf. She was a Braves fan for most of her life attending several games but always watching them on TV. She could recite stats on most all players and give you many details most did not know. She saw games in many stadiums all around America. She loved to travel as well. She wasn't afraid to drive halfway across the country to see her family and loved to go on many bus trips with her friends from her church of 60 years, First Baptist Church of Brunswick. When asked the secret to her long life, she often spoke of her love of the Lord and trying to always have a positive attitude. GiGi was preceded in death by her parents, her four siblings and her husband. Also preceding her were her two daughters: Helen Maxey and Patsy Sellers; Patsy's husband Gary. She is survived by her son-in-law, husband of Helen, Henry Maxey and her grandchildren: Tal Maxey and wife Jody; Cathi Clanton; and Rick Maxey and partner Gary. By her great-grandchildren: Lauren Morrison and husband Micheal; Jessica Jeter and husband Kris; and Auston Clanton and wife Jillian. Also surviving her are her five great-grandchildren: Jase Jeter, Corban Morrison, Gage Jeter, Isabella Clanton and Savannah Clanton. She is also survived by countless friends which she considered her extended family.

Visitation was held on Friday, August 18, 2023, 6 to 8 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home, 400 Highway 377 East, Granbury, Texas 76048. A private family graveside service will be held in Brunswick, Georgia.



Donald Buren Wright

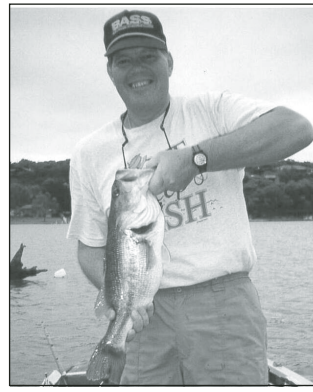
January 26, 1946 - August 10, 2023

Donald Buren Wright was a rare gift of a man. Anyone who knew him, whether for five minutes or for many years, saw that he was a man who radiated joy, love, and grace. He glowed from within with a happy grateful heart. Don was a perfect loving husband, son, father, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather who loved well and laughed often. He always said that every day was a gift, and that's how he lived his life.

Don was a life-long musician, the ultimate family man, and a true "car guy" at heart. He loved to talk about the many cars he had over the years—from the 1965 Chevy blue Corvette convertible to the 1968 Silver Chevelle convertible to the Lexus convertible he and his "Sweet Carol", as he called his loving wife of 32 years, shared for the last two decades.

Don grew up on Forest Park Blvd with his parents, Frank and Eloise Wright, and his brother Ed, and he spoke fondly of his time going to the Forest Park pool and playing in the band at Paschal. As a teen, he began playing drums professionally. For many years he worked during the day and played drums professionally at night including a regular gig at the Roadrunner Club in Fort Worth. One of Don's favorite memories is the last time he took to the drum set at Christmas a few years back and belted out "Bad Bad Leroy Brown", one of his favorites to play and sing.

Don worked for many years as a local OPEIU and



International AFL-CIO union rep, but his dream was to retire to a lake home, and he and Carol did just that in 1992. He loved music, fishing, reading, movies, and holding hands. Don and Carol were regularly spotted walking to the mailbox together hand in hand.

Don always saw the best in people and never had a down day. He was a gift to his family, and the world was a better place for him being in it. His final wish was to be remembered with joy and happiness. A celebration of Don's life will be held in the coming weeks.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Eloise. Left to cherish Don's memory are his loving wife, Carol; brother Ed and wife Carla; sons Brad Wright and his wife Laura, Bryan Wright and his wife Lisa; grandsons Sean Graham and wife Emily, Duncan Wright, Graham Wright; great-grandson Oliver and a host of friends. Don loved his family with all his heart and soul, and they loved him. He will be missed more than words can express.

Herbert Walton Van Pelt

February 26, 1930 - August 7, 2023

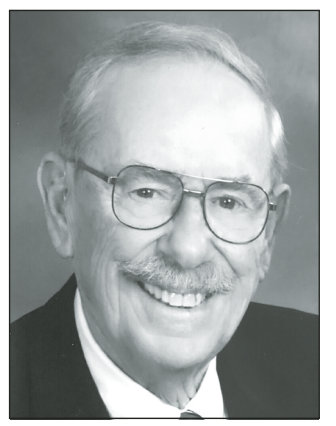
Herbert Walton Van Pelt passed away in Granbury on Monday, August 7, 2023.

Herb was born February 26, 1930 in Columbus, Mississippi to Clinton Van Pelt and wife, Mary Emma Anderson Van Pelt. He graduated from Silver Creek High School in Sellersburg, Indiana in 1948 and enlisted in the United States Army. Following his service, he married Evelyn Scott on June 20, 1953 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. They were married for almost 50 years, until Evelyn's death in 2003.

Herb received his Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University in 1956 and began his career at Ford Motor Company in Detroit. He later accepted a job in Texas and the family relocated to Grand Prairie in 1958. Herb enjoyed a successful career as an international semiconductor sales rep for over 40 years. After retirement, he and Evelyn moved to their lake house in Granbury to reside full-time.

After Evelyn's death, Herb married Joan Zogg in 2005 in Granbury. They were active members of First Christian Church and enjoyed traveling and socializing with family and friends. He was also active in the community and especially enjoyed mentoring First Grade readers.

Herb loved the outdoors



and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was also a man of culture who enjoyed art museums, literature, and fine dining. He loved to travel and saw much of the world in his later years. He will be missed by a host of friends, both in the U.S. and abroad.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Van Pelt of Granbury; son Scott Van Pelt and wife Debbie of Big Spring, Texas; son Jamie Van Pelt of Ingleside, Texas; daughter Cary Stulzenburger of Fort Worth, Texas; stepdaughter Radonna Bickham and husband Gary of Corpus Christi, Texas; eight grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren. Herb also served as an important father figure to many of his children's friends over the years, including his "adopted" son, Thay Collis of Weatherford. Herb was predeceased by one son, Locke, in 1980.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A14

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries are submitted online at obituaries.hcnews.com. Advance payment is required and you may do so online when placing the obituary. Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with the facility handling the body or the church where service will be held. You must provide the contact info for verification when submitting the obituary. The Hood County News deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS	DOWN
1 TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"	1 Texas birth town of Willie Nelson
5 squeezein' snakes	2 northernmost Texas town
6 TXism: "it's near '_____'" (approximate)	3 Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet
7 Texas veggie: fried _____	4 TXism: "como _____" (how are ya?)
8 golf or football prop	9 TX Holly's "____, Boy"
9 TXism: "bone _____" (cemetery)	10 stealing cattle
16 TXism: "got a mind like a steel _____"	11 honky tonk, e.g.
18 Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)	12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort
21 TX Don Henley's "All She Wants _____ Do Is Dance"	13 TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"
22 TXism: "working between _____" (night work)	14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
23 once a brand of GMC cars	15 TXism: "shin _____" (big dance)
24 Crowell High School football (2 wds.)	17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)
30 TXism: "behind the _____" (predicament)	19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)
34 TX Chandra Wilson was _____ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"	20 you're apt _____ what you sow
35 small, narrow river	24 35th governor, Coke (init.)
36 Gulf canvas	25 former Ford model
37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-_____ steak	26 Semitic person
39 TX George H.W.'s NASA director (2 wds.)	
43 cowboys _____ buckle on their belt	
	27 TX Ted Cruz group
	28 Gulf traveler
	29 pilot Earhart
	31 TXism for "female"
	32 TXism: "the _____ out" (concealed)
	33 in Jones County on highway 6
	38 TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)
	40 _____ Chaney is a San Antonio street
	41 Lee Greenwood hit: "_____ Bless the USA"
	42 spread near Albany (2 wds.)
	48 "_____ in the tub"
	50 West Texas animal: mountain _____
	51 Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)
	56 extreme adjective
	57 TXism for old, senile men

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Should you downsize when you retire?

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



to a change, you could find that moving to a smaller house, a condo or an apartment may make sense for you.

Carroll Let's consider some of the advantages of downsizing:

SAVE MONEY

Moving to a smaller space could lower your utility bills and upkeep costs.

SAVE EFFORT

A smaller home will mean less maintenance and cleaning.

DE-CLUTTER

Over the years, most of us accumulate more possessions than we really need. Downsizing gives you a chance to de-clutter. And you can do some good along the way, too, because many charitable organizations will welcome some of your items.

MAKE MONEY

If you've had your home for many years, it's certainly possible that it's worth more — perhaps a great deal more — than what you paid for it. So, when you sell it, you could pocket a lot of money — possibly without being taxed on

the gains. Generally, if you've lived in your home for at least two years in the five-year period before you sold it, you can exclude \$250,000 of capital gains, if you're single, or \$500,000 if you're married and file taxes jointly. (You'll want to consult with your tax advisor, though, before selling your home, to ensure you're eligible for the exclusion, especially if you do own multiple homes. Issues can arise in connection with determining one's "primary" residence.)

While downsizing does offer some potentially big benefits, it can also entail

some drawbacks. First of all, it's possible that your home might not be worth as much as you had hoped, which means you won't clear as much money from the sale as you anticipated. Also, if you still were paying off a mortgage on your bigger home, you may have been deducting the interest payments on your taxes — a deduction that might be reduced or lost to you if you purchase a less-expensive condo or become a renter. Besides these financial factors, there's the ordinary hassle of packing and moving. And if you're going to a much smaller living space,

you may not have much room for family members who want to visit or occasionally spend the night.

So, as you can see, you'll need to weigh a variety of financial, practical and emotional issues when deciding whether to downsize. And you will also want to communicate your thoughts to grown children or other family members who may someday have reason to be involved in your living space. In short, it's a big decision — so give it the attention it deserves.

OBITS
FROM PAGE A13

Kenneth Carl Morgan

June 3, 1931 - August 4, 2023

The family of Kenneth Carl Morgan is saddened to announce Ken's passing on Friday, August 4 at the age of 92. Ken leaves a legacy of strength, compassion and love that will forever live in our hearts.



Ken was born June 3, 1931, in the town of West, Texas. Ken lived an amazing life filled with many successful hobbies that included aviation, sports cars, golf, and amateur radio. Ken was a great Christian and enjoyed his family and friends. He touched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Ken served in the Air Force and then graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in electrical engineering. He held his professional degree for over 50 years. He loved his Aggies and was a long-time contributor to the Texas A&M Century Club. Ken and his family lived in Hurst for many years. He later moved to Pecan Plantation near Granbury, where he resided for the past 28 years.

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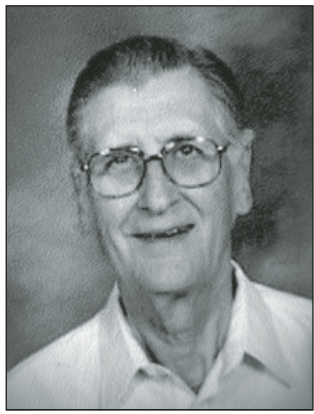
A memorial service to celebrate the life of Kenneth Carl Morgan and honor his memory will be held on August 26, at 11 a.m., Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury, TX.

As we say goodbye to Ken, we take solace in knowing that he is at peace, surrounded by His Heavenly Family and watching over us from above. May his soul rest in eternal peace, forever loved, forever remembered, and forever missed.

James Francis Bradel

February 14, 1932 - August 10, 2023

Lieutenant Colonel James Francis Bradel, a distinguished Army Ranger and revered veteran, peacefully departed this life on August 10, 2023, at Harris Methodist Hospital, at the age of 91. Jim leaves behind a legacy of courage, sacrifice and dedication that has left a mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Born on February 14, 1932, in Richmond, Virginia, to his parents Violet Irene Hamelka and Sigmund Francis Bradel, Jim's journey began, destined for greatness. His path started by graduating from the United States Military Academy, at West Point in 1954, an unbelievable milestone that laid the pathway for his exceptional career in service to his country.

Throughout his 23-year career in the United States Army, Jim's commitment to duty and bravery were exemplified in his role as an Army Ranger within the 1st Cavalry Division's Infantry. His valor during the Vietnam War, where he served with pride flying Huey helicopters, earned him a multitude of accolades that spoke to his extraordinary character and sacrifice.

Among his numerous commendations were the esteemed Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the revered Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal with Numerals 11. Jim's selfless acts of heroism earned him the Army Commendation Medal with V Device and the National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, reflecting his enduring dedication to his nation. He also received the Senior Army Aviator Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and Parachutist Badge that adorns his uniform. He proudly wore the Ranger Tab, symbolizing his elite status as an Army Ranger, and his awards included the Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and the Vietnamese Cross Gal-lantry with Silver Star.

Beyond his distin-

guished military career, Jim worked as an Energy Engineer for Tarleton State University, until his retirement in 2002. His golden years were spent enjoying time with friends and family, watching football, and donating his time to the sandwich ministry at the Good Shepherd Anglican Church. Jim was preceded in death by his late wife Linda Bradel, his parents, and his brother-in-law, Ray Kilpatrick. He is survived by his stepson and daughter-in-law, Michael & Jimi Roberson, and his three beautiful grandchildren: Tanner, Laken, and Saylor Roberson. Jim also leaves behind his sister-in-law, Susan Kilpatrick and her children Michael Kilpatrick and Kelly Toney (Travis) with their three children Presleigh, Teaguen, and Bouyer; sister-in-law Teri Mitchell (Jimmy) and their daughters Madison Petty (Lance) with daughter Lennon and Spencer Stromberg (Matt) with son Rowan.

Jim may have departed from our lives, but his spirit will forever inspire those he leaves behind. His unwavering selflessness, courage, and commitment to family and country will be remembered for generations to come. May he rest in eternal peace, knowing that his impact on the world will never fade. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Arrangements: The viewing is scheduled for August 23, 2023, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on August 24, 2023, at Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Acton, Texas, followed by a military service at 2 p.m. at the DFW National Cemetery in Dallas.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept 13 - Dec. 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a sup-

port group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWater-Church.com or call 817-579-9175.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEFSHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Gran-

bury. 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.

PLEASE SEE **SUPPORT | AX**

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.

Marvin Leon Guthrie

December 4, 1942 - August 8, 2023

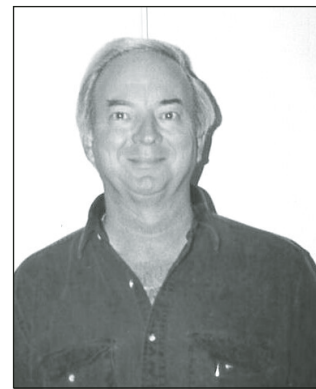
Marvin, 80, "discovered America" as he would say, in Decatur, TX on December 4, 1942, to Morris Doff and Regina Lois Guthrie. He went to be with the Lord on August 8, 2023, in Jamestown, North Dakota. He was predeceased by his mother and father, his mother and father-in-law, and his brother and sister-in-law. His remains will be interred at a later date at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Marvin graduated from Decatur High School in 1961 and joined the United States Navy in 1962. He did three tours in Vietnam from 1962-1966. After his military service, he applied and was accepted to The Texas Department of Public Safety as a State Trooper after completing their required training. He was a State Trooper from 1967-1993 and served in Driver's License, Warrants, License and Weight and he ended his career as a Sergeant Investigator in the Criminal Law Enforcement department where he worked in the auto theft division.

After retiring from TXDPS, he decided that he was too young to be completely retired, so he went to work for Southwest Airlines in the Corporate Security department from 1994-2002. He loved working at Southwest because he loved people, and he loved working for Herb Kelleher and Colleen Barrett.

After retiring from SWA, his wife, Kay, decided that he needed something else to occupy his time while she was golfing. So, he worked for Classic Chevrolet doing dealer trades throughout Texas. He loved driving the new cars and trucks without having to pay for them.

Marvin loved his extend-



ed family. His son, Brian, his wife, Kay, his sister and brother-in-law, JoAnn and Gary Schimmel and his brother-in-law, Trey. He also had several nieces and nephews who he adored: Donna and Jordan, Morris, Kim and Bill, Michelle and Doug, Lori and Breck, Trent and Karen and Holly.

Kay and Marvin were married in October 1979 and enjoyed almost 44 years together. They loved to travel and visited many countries including Mexico, Russia, South America, Canada, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Scotland, and England. They were life members of the National Corvette Museum, so they loved their road trips to Kentucky where they would drive their Corvette up to the National Corvette Museum. Their last road trip in the United States ended suddenly in North Dakota.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 25, 2023, at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel in Granbury.

Graveside services with Military Honors will be held at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

William Lynn Strickland

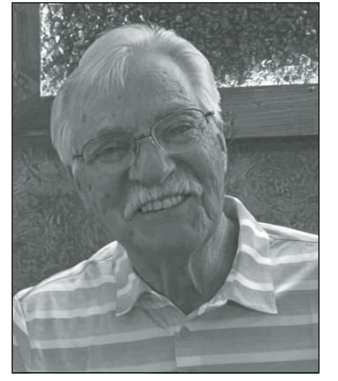
January 27, 1942 - August 14, 2023

William Lynn Strickland, 81 passed away on August 14, 2023, in Granbury, Texas. He was born on January 27, 1942, in Annona, Texas. William, known to his loved ones as Lynn, will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Lynn is survived by his beloved wife, Sue Strickland, and their children Steven Strickland, Brian Strickland and wife Angela, along with his grandchildren, Mason, Katharine, and Alyssa. He is also survived by his brothers, Kenneth Strickland and Kim Strickland, and their wives, Tammy and Deborah, respectively. Lynn had a special place in his heart for his nieces, nephews, and his cherished dog, Bailey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William H. Strickland and Lula Booth Strickland, as well as his sister Brenda Schomers, and his beloved dog, Spunky.

Lynn attended Granbury High School before embarking on a military career. He proudly served in the United States Navy as a Navy Seabee from April 16, 1966, to August 19, 1969, during the Vietnam War. Lynn pursued a career as an Electrical Engineer, working for Brazos Electric until his retirement. He also worked for Technical



Diagnostic Services where he traveled to all 50 states and some foreign countries.

Outside of his professional life, Lynn had a passion for golf, fishing, old western movies, and researching his family ancestry. He was a proud Master Mason of the Granbury Lodge.

A memorial service to honor Lynn's life will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Wiley Center in Granbury, Texas. Prior to the service, a visitation will take place at 9 a.m. at the same location.

Lynn Strickland will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his country, and his passions. His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Tommy Raymond Dutton

January 28, 1939 - August 7, 2023

Tommy Raymond Dutton, age 84, passed away on Monday, August 7, 2023, in Weatherford, Texas.

Graveside funeral services were held 10 a.m., on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, in the New Electra Memorial Park Cemetery in Electra, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, Weatherford, Texas.

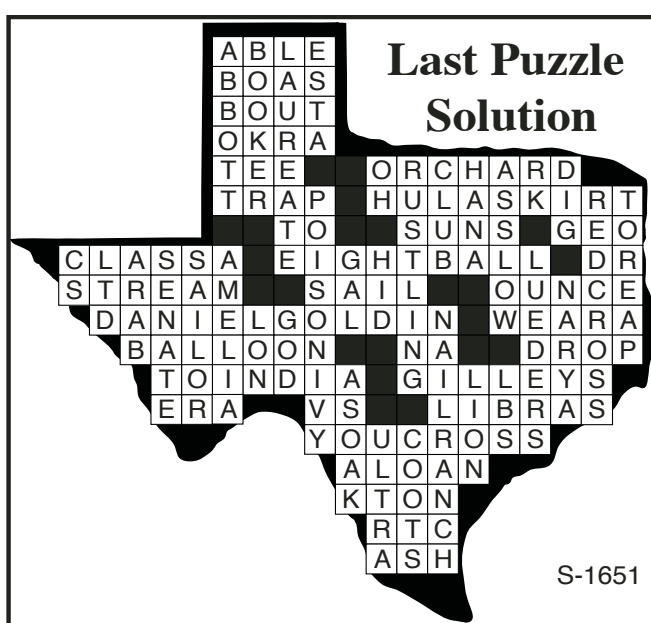
Tommy was born on January 28, 1939, in Ringgold, Texas. His parents were Melvin O. (Bub) and Essie Fox Dutton. He and Mary Ella Erwin were married in McLean, Texas on August 10, 1962. He was a longtime resident of Granbury, Texas. He worked for many years as a cable repairman for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and later for its successor, AT&T. He enjoyed living on Lake Granbury and liked to fish and hunt. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and spent a year in Korea.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary; two brothers, Melvin, Jr. and Billy Carl



(Bill) Dutton; a brother-in-law, Delbert Pittman and sister, Patsy Pittman; a sister-in-law, Pauline Pierce; and a brother-in-law, C.A. Barker.

Survivors include a son, Jonathan Dutton, a grandson, Damien Dutton, both of Granbury, Texas; four sisters, Sue Hale (James) of Archer City, Texas, Peggy Jean Barker of Iowa Park, Texas; Linda Stell (Don) of Wichita Falls, Texas; Rena Jo Miller of Burkburnett, Texas; a brother, Larry Dutton (Norma) of Iowa Park, Texas; a sister-in-law, Molly Martindale (Clifford) of Pampa, Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews.



SUPPORT

FROM PAGE 14

SECOND SATURDAY

GRIEF SUPPORT group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 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 group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833

"A little bit of Ireland in Texas"

New Irish Pub coming to Granbury

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

In 2014, a Granbury couple came up with the idea of creating an Irish pub in Granbury. Now their dream has come to life and the "Pub McDonough" is in the works.

Mary and Kevin McDonough worked in the nuclear industry where Mary was a safety professional and Kevin a supervisor. Through their jobs they met each other and have now been married for 10 years. Mary has been a resident in Granbury for 21 years and Kevin moved after they got married.

In their field they are required to travel all over, and the couple visited Ireland many times. They fell in love with the country as well as

the many pubs all around.

They noticed there is no Irish restaurants or pubs in Granbury and decided to turn their idea into a reality in 2019.

"We're bringing in something that there's not anything like it around, and a lot of people have never been to Ireland. Some people have been and they're on the same page as us. They wish there was something like it around," Mary said. "It's been a long process. It's been stressful but we have learned a lot. We're just regular working joes that have decided to build a brand-new restaurant from the ground up."

The couple has enjoyed getting to work together hand in hand with their creation of the pub.

"To be able to have an idea and

work together to make that come true is the most enjoyable thing," Mary said. "We appreciate each other and respect each other. We complement each other, my weaknesses are his strengths and vice versa."

The 2,505 square foot restaurant will be a traditional Irish pub with Guinness Irish beer and whiskey, Irish dishes, and much more.

"We want people to walk in and feel like they're in Ireland and have a really good experience," Mary said.

The couple has held events for the past couple of years to start getting the word out about the business and start building those relationships within the community.

The couple got a building per-

mit in January and construction is expected to be done by the end of this year. They are hoping to have the pub open before the next Saint Patrick's Day next year.

Pub McDonough will be located at 529 North Houston in Granbury.

The couple is having a tasting featuring whiskey, wine and an Irish dish as part of the Women's Wednesday Club Taste of Granbury. The event will take place on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at La Bella Luna located at 7700 Glen Rose Highway in Granbury.

For more information on Pub McDonough visit thepubtx.com, email info@thepubtx.com or call (817) 964-6536

THE GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE



COURTESY OF GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

The Granbury Association of REALTORS® Public Relations Committee delivered 168 backpacks to Rancho Brazos. These packs, of various sizes and colors, will be distributed to the kids to begin their school year. In October, the committee will be focusing on a Halloween "Surprise/Treat" for the kids and kicking off GAR's Annual Food Drive. Members pictured are from left to right, Eliza Knapp, Denise Huber, Lynn Silvestri, Jacque Gordon, Kathy Cheek, Erin Bassett, Kara Watson and Donna Dunning.

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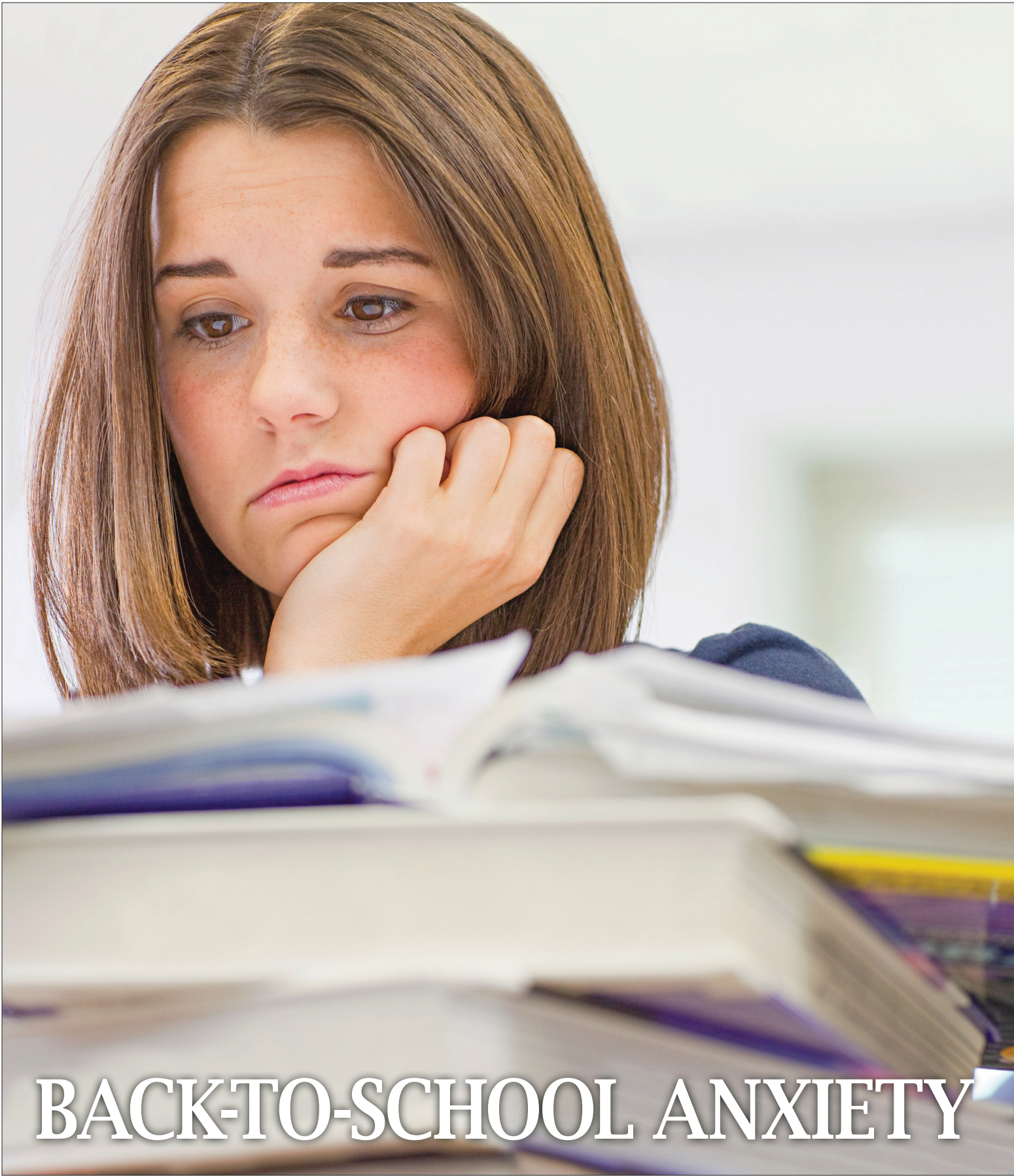
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BACK-TO-SCHOOL ANXIETY

COURTESY PHOTOS

Anxiety in children and teens this first week is fairly typical. Fatigue alone can cause students to have more trouble handling change.

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

The first week of school can be a rough one for students of every age, and not a walk in the park for their caregivers. There is a bustle to acquire school supplies and to replace outgrown and worn-out clothing. There is typically a significant change in schedule, this often means changes in diet and sleep schedules. The first week back is exhausting.

Anxiety in children and teens this first week is fairly typical. Fatigue alone can cause students to have more trouble handling change. New routines, including classes with friends or classes with those they may not get along with, create stress. New teachers and new expectations can add to the child's concerns.

"Some stress is normal when children start school or when there is any big adjustment in life. So, I have noticed many kids struggle each time they move to a new school, such as going from preschool at a church/day-care and then moving on to kindergarten in public school," said Amy Aston, Granbury therapist in private practice.

Struggles don't end at the elementary level. "They will possibly struggle again when they move from 5th grade to middle school. Normal stress for all ages would include fears of leaving their parents each morn-

ing, what the routine will look like and some physical symptoms, such as a stomachache like 'butterflies in their tummy,'" Aston said.

An adequate amount of sleep and proper nutrition should be the first line of defense when helping students settle into new routines.

One of the best things parents and caregivers can offer children is a calm demeanor. If a child is ill-at-ease, they will look to adults to provide stability. If the child is one who is still struggling at the end of this first week, encourage them that they still need a little time to adjust.

Parents and caregivers can create an environment where children want to share what is bothering them by not asking questions that invite anxiety. Simply asking what they might be learning in math rather than "are you worried about math, may work better."

"They will usually



If a child is ill-at-ease, they will look to adults to provide stability. If the child is one who is still struggling at the end of this first week encourage them that they still need a little time to adjust.

then give more information and it can be typical thoughts, such as irrational fears, for example, they are afraid they will be lost or won't be able to find the bathroom," said Aston.

Different ages present different concerns. "Middle school students are often afraid they won't be able to find their class and won't know where to sit for lunch. It's good to talk through each fear and come up with a plan. This helps build resiliency too so they can decide how to solve the problem for themselves and ask for help," Aston said.

Children who struggle with separation will find these days especially hard. Parents and caregivers should take heart knowing that the school staff is trained to handle

these challenges.

Patience should be dealt with generously. If your child continues to struggle to adjust beyond the first week jitters speak to the teachers of your children's class. They may be able to offer suggestions to make school easier for your child and this will also make the teachers aware of the students' continuing struggle. School counselors can be contacted, they are specially trained for these types of issues.

So when should you seek outside professional help for your child?

"I usually get referrals from pediatricians once a child's physical symptoms have been ruled out," she said.

Aston continued, "The following are symptoms, which could mean there is

a more significant problem that needs professional help: for the majority of each night before school and morning of school your child feels nauseous, extremely fearful, worries something terrible will happen to them or their family while apart, difficulty concentrating in class, inconsolable crying, intense headaches, difficulty going to sleep on Sundays. I have found the earlier a child has intervention and help with these issues the better so they can adjust and cope."

Mental health issues are often covered by insurance. Additional information can be found at Child Mind Institute, your school's counselor or a private practice therapist or counselor.

Tolar football preview

After best season ever, Rattlers ready for more

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Star-Telegram

The Tolar Rattlers set the bar pretty high for the football program in 2022. They posted the best season in their history, they finished 13-1 and reached the Class 2A Division I state quarterfinals.

And now, with five offensive and five defensive starters, along with 15 returning lettermen from that squad, optimism is high for even more in 2023. In fact, they enter the season ranked No. 5 in the state in their classification by "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" magazine.

"It was a great season. I will always remember that group and the pride they took in doing their part to continue to improve the Rattler Football program," head coach Jeremy Mullins said.

Over the past two seasons the Rattlers are 23-4 under Mullins, having reached the third and fourth round of the post-season. Since his arrival in 2017 they have reached the playoff six times in seven years and advanced to at least the second round five times.

"Every year it is a new group of guys in that locker room. Fortunately, they normally all know each other pretty well, but a huge piece to having a great team is having a great locker room," Mullins said. "You've got to have guys that have that 'Team First' mentality and truly care for each other, a brotherhood of trust. I believe they have done a great job in building that over the last few months and, really, the last few years.

"Football is a demanding season both physically and mentally. Can you stay mentally tough enough to focus on the little things you can improve each day? We want to be playing our best football at the end of November going into

PLEASE SEE **TOLAR** | B9

Granbury football preview

Senior-laden roster helped bring coach out of retirement

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Sonny Galindo was at home, set to enjoy his recently started retirement, when he got the call - the one that now has him preparing the Granbury Pirates for what they hope will be an improvement in the 2023 football season.

Galindo, 61, retired on the last day of May. Then, when Chad Zschiesche resigned in late June to pursue other interests, Galindo was asked to take over on an interim basis.

He said yes, and he believes the timing is right for a turnaround. His excitement is fueled by a roster that features 40 seniors.

"Never in my career have I had 40 seniors (on the roster)," Galindo said.

The Pirates weren't that far from a winning season in 2022. They began the season 4-0 before things fell apart and they lost their next six.

But with seven offensive and six defensive starters returning, the optimism is understandable.

OFFENSE

Junior Hayden Meyer is expected to step in as the starting quarterback and lead the triple-option offense. He became the starter late in the 2022 season and in limited action completed 17 of 28 passes for 227 yards with three touchdowns and one touchdown.

Meyer has a pair of senior running backs to distribute the ball to in Jadon Rogers (767 yards, 6 touchdowns rushing; 19 catches, 167 yards, 2 TD receiving) and Tyler Rodgers (130 yards, 1 TD rushing; 50 yards receiving). Rogers was a first-team all-district pick last season and Rodgers was honorable mention.

PLEASE SEE **GRANBURY** | B11



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CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE IN THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — ACTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



AES to provide special education program on campus this fall

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

A new change at Acton Elementary School will soon serve as a huge benefit for special need students.

Beginning this fall, AES will start housing a special education program on campus — a program that has previously only been available at STEAM Academy at Mambrino.

“We actually are taking some of the special education programming from Mambrino and bringing it over here, which we’re very excited about,” said AES Principal Maggie Walton. “It will allow students to be closer to their home campus.”

Last year, students in the program who lived on the Acton side of Granbury had

to ride a bus across town to the Mambrino campus, as AES didn’t have the necessary qualifications to educate students with disabilities.

“Us housing part of that program now will allow kids to go to school closer to where they live, which is something we’re excited about, so we’re welcoming six new teachers there,” Walton said.

But that’s not the only positive change the campus will experience this fall.

NEW STAFF

AES will start the school year off in August with a total of 16 new staff members, a number that is particularly high for the campus, Walton said.

“There was a period of time with COVID where people weren’t moving, so be-

cause of that it was hard to find people who were highly qualified, but we’re very excited about the quality of new teachers that we’ll have for this year,” she said.

TARLETON PARTNERSHIP

For the past few years, AES has partnered with Tarleton State University’s education program to allow student interns to serve as teachers on the campus.

“They go to new hire orientation with all of our new teachers and they’re here from the first day of school to the last day of school,” Walton explained. “They’re in college still, but they really are fully running with our teachers and learning from them, so we’re excited to continue that partnership with them.”

Five TSU interns will be

joining the staff at AES in the fall, with the potential to come on as part of the permanent staff after they graduate.

“Every single year we’ve hired at least one intern that has been with us on campus,” Walton said. “This next year, one of our second-grade teachers was an intern this last year, so they already know the Granbury way, and they are already acclimated to Acton Elementary School, so we’re excited about that, too.”

PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION

At the end of last semester, AES applied to be a Purple Star Campus Designation through the Texas Education Agency (TEA).



COURTESY OF MAGGIE WALTON

Acton Elementary School Principal Maggie Walton poses with a student during the Popsicles with Principals event on July 31.

PLEASE SEE **AES** | B5

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — BACCUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Baccus ‘Launches into Learning’ with new house system

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Nettie Baccus Elementary School Principal Julie Rohleder is over the moon with the campus’s new theme of “Launching into Learning” for the 2023-24 academic year.

“We have the eclipse coming up this year (on April 8, 2024), so the sun is going to be totally covered,” she explained. “We have this (theme) where it’s aligned with all our subjects, so when you launch into learning, and you’re talking about space, and all of the things that come with it, it connects all the way across the curric-



ulum. We have a lot of things that are going to be embedded into all the subjects; it’s not just science.”

With approximately 450 enrolled students and seven new staff members, Rohleder is prepared to

shoot for the stars this year — especially with Baccus’ new house system.

Nettie Baccus Elementary School Principal Julie Rohleder, left, and Assistant Principal Tiffany Biggs, right, prepare to ‘launch into learning,’ for the 2023-24 academic year.

ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Similar to the house system at Hogwarts in the Harry Potter universe, Baccus will be unveiling six houses this year, where students and teachers of all grade levels will be randomly assigned to a specific house.

“We won’t be doing Harry Potter houses though; we’re doing different Latin words of character traits,” Rohleder explained. “But what I’m excited about is the unity and the team building it will bring for our kids and our staff. Kindergarteners through fifth graders will be placed into different houses at random, along with teachers, and then those teachers will drive a house meeting where they’ll do a team building activity, and the kids will be able to earn points through their character traits for their houses.”

A house meeting and house rally will also be held once every six weeks for everyone to get together and celebrate.

“They’re meeting people across campus, not just in their grade level, or class,” she said. “We’re excited to start that system here.”

Baccus’ administrative team of Rohleder, Francesca Garcia, and Jario Martinez will be joined by Melissa McHugh and new Assistant Principal Tiffany Biggs this year.

“The administrative team is kind of new and coming together, so (we can push) forward and continue on our mission here at Baccus: growing every individual child,” she said.

Rohleder said she is also excited to continue with

PLEASE SEE **BACCUS** | B9

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — BRAWNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Brawner’s Sandy Ruiz excited to ‘push campus forward’ as principal

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Sandy Ruiz thought she would continue her position as assistant principal at Brawner Elementary School for one more year.

But a surprise opening made by former principal Jincy Ross inspired Ruiz to finally strive for her heart’s desire.

“I always knew I wanted to be a principal one day, but I was very specific in which route I took,” she explained. “This is year 24 for me.”

Ruiz taught in the classroom for 14 years at the elementary level before becoming an instructional specialist and later, assistant principal at Brawner.

“I really wanted about one more year of AP (assistant

principal), but then when the job came open, I was like, ‘No. No one else can have it. I have to have it,’” she said, chuckling. “I love the school. I love these kids. It was so quick, but I love this campus, and there was no way I was letting anyone else have (this position).”

The position of principal was previously left open by Ross, after she accepted a position with Region 11 as a coordinator of certification.

As she assumes her role as principal, Ruiz said she’s excited to continue the programs that they’ve implemented in the past, like Brawner BEST and the MAP Test.

In the Brawner BEST program, students earn a ticket whenever they display their BEST by being respectful, en-

gaged, safe, and trustworthy. When staff or teachers in the building see a student showing their Brawner BEST, they will give them a ticket. If a student’s ticket is drawn, they get to shop at the Brawner Toy Shop.

The MAP Test is another campus program that allows students to track their MAP test scores.

“We are so excited about



this school year. Our theme this year is Destination Success: Where will your MAP take you?” explained Courtney Renard, instructional specialist at Brawner. “The MAP tests are some

of the many rigorous tests that K-5 students take three times a year here in Texas. We are rolling out a new engaging way for kids to track their MAP testing scores. The score they earn correlates to

a destination here in Texas; the better their score, the farther they get to ‘travel.’ We are hopeful this will get students more excited about the test and motivate them to perform well.”

One of Ruiz’s goals as principal is to strive to become an “A”-rated campus as graded by the Texas Education Agency’s accountability rating.

“We’re always wanting to work on our academics, like, that’s always a push every single year is trying to improve from the year before,” Ruiz said. “We just got our STARR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) test scores in, so we’re really digging through those and seeing ways that

PLEASE SEE **BRAWNER** | B7

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Cornerstone Christian Academy focuses on being “better together”

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Cornerstone Christian Academy is a private school in Granbury that was founded in 1999 after several homeschool families came together to create the school that had a well-balanced education with biblical principles. The school serves pre-k through 12th grade with around 240 students. The school is run by the Head of School Jennifer Mitchell. Mitchell received her bachelor's degree from Texas State University in 1991 and her master's degree from Grand Canyon University in 2022. She has been in education for over 15 years serving



in both public and private schools, with most of her teaching in private schools. Mitchell came to Granbury

in 2015 and first served as a teacher at the academy, then as the academic dean and principal and now is the

Head of School Jennifer Mitchell has been in education for over 15 years serving in both public and private schools, with most of her teaching in private schools.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

head of the school.

She wanted to serve as head of the school because she wanted to be able to provide and support the teachers.

“I really felt it in my heart to serve them. I truly believe in servant leadership style. I want to help them be the best they can be because if they're the best they can be, then the students are going to benefit from that,” Mitchell said.

Being able to work in a private Christian school, Mitchell loves being able to set the foundation for students through the biblical world view, noting teachers don't get that freedom in a public school.

The academy has doubled their elementary staff and Mitchell is looking forward to seeing the growth in their elementary students.

In January, the academy expanded and created a secondary building that serves sixth through 12th grade where in previous years all students were together in one building. Mitchell is looking forward to their first full year in the new building.

“To go from one building to having two is just phe-

nominal,” she added.

The theme for this school year is “better together”, where the school wants to focus on encouraging students to work together and learn from each other.

Mitchell described the most rewarding part of her job, being the students.

“We're small enough that we can come together and work through difficult situations, make those reconciliations happen and help kids learn to be friends. The most rewarding thing is to have a student come back and say, 'Hey I loved it here. Thank you so much for everything.' That's always great to hear,” Mitchell added.

The school's first day was Wednesday, Aug. 16.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — MAMBRINO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Melissa Shipp talks moving campuses, finding ‘niche’ at Mambrino

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

Since 2008, Melissa Shipp has called Granbury Independent School District home, working in several different roles and forever “bleeding purple.” After serving as teacher and instructional specialist at Oak Woods School and as assistant principal at Nettie Baccus Elementary School, Shipp is now transitioning to her third GISD campus — STEAM Academy at Mambrino. One of her main goals as Mambrino's principal, she said, is to create an “intimate family,” where visitors can't tell that there's 900 staff, teachers, and students on campus. “I want it to be an intimate

environment where we know each other well, and we all have each other's back, and we work hard as a team to move to the next level — whatever that may be,” she said. This year, Mambrino kicked off the school year with about 850 enrolled students, and 14 new staff members, including Shipp herself. “We have around 100 staff members on campus, and we have 14 that are new,” she explained. “A few teachers have moved grade levels, but not many, most of them are staying where they were. These few that joined our team, some of them are general education teachers, and some of them are helping with our special education

Melissa Shipp, STEAM Academy at Mambrino's new principal, is excited to find her “niche,” and start her journey at her third Granbury ISD campus.

ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

students, but they're kind of spread out all over the campus one or two here in each grade level. So that's been kind of cool to watch that unfold and get to handpick some really, really awesome people who, I think, are going to move our campus (forward).” Shipp said the staff is excited to “revamp” some of the programs on campus, like unified robotics. “This will be year two, and it'll be a little more official this year,” she said. “We're



hoping to ramp up the (student and staff) participation to get us a good team represented.” As this is Shipp's third GISD campus, she said the transition hasn't been a challenge at all, especially since she already knows the

“Granbury way.” “Of course, getting to know new staff when you don't have a relationship established yet with them, that has been a big transition,” she said. “I'm just trying to find my niche and how I relate to all the people that

work here, because everybody has a different personality and perspective on things.” She said she has officially closed the chapter on Baccus and has left the campus in a “really good place” with Julie Rohleder and new Assistant Principal Tiffany Biggs. “I would say just having a shortened summer to ensure that we're stepping out on the right foot has been the biggest piece of the transition,” Shipp added. “My two APs (assistant principals) are fantastic and so we have been able to really hit the ground running, so we're excited to kind of see how that all unfolds.”

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT — OAK WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



“We are a family” Oak Woods principal profile

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Chelsey Gibson is the principal of Oak Woods Elementary in Granbury. Gibson's grandmother was a teacher, and she would visit her classroom when she was young and admired her teaching skills. Gibson then studied education at Texas Tech University and met her husband there. He graduated a year earlier and landed a job at Granbury Middle School and a year later Gibson followed in his footsteps, also landing a teaching job in Granbury. Gibson started at Oak

Woods teaching fifth grade science, then moved to assistant principal and is now going into her third year serving as a principal. This will be her 17th year at Oak Woods. “There's nowhere else I would want to be. Being able to see the teaching perspective and then having moved into the role of (assistant principal), and just having that perspective and then the perspective here (principal), she said. “This is my family. Being loved by these people, staff and the community and our families and being able to turn back and love on them as well,” Gibson said. “It's

not one person or a specific group of people but everyone. Our dedicated teachers are truly amazing at what they do. Our children who walk in the doors each and every day, our families who send us their most precious gift and the community of Granbury. It truly is a blessing to call Oak Woods my home and I couldn't imagine being anywhere else.” Being in a small community, Gibson has loved being able to build relationships with all the students across campus as well as the families. “We try to love everyone as well as we can. We are a character campus, so we re-

ally focus on building those relationships and giving a helping hand whenever we need to,” Gibson said. “That is something we really pride ourselves on is the family that we are, the families that we have, and the kids that we have.” One of the most rewarding parts Gibson described is seeing them head off to middle school and seeing how much they have grown as a student and as an individual. “Whenever they leave us, being able to know that we poured into them, and we want them to know that they're loved. I love letting them know we are proud of them,” Gibson said.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Chelsey Gibson is the principal of Oak Woods Elementary.

When it comes to the new school year, Gibson is excited to welcome students back onto campus as well as let them know how much they were missed. New resources are coming in this year including a new phonics program that will be available for up to third grade students. The 2023-24 school year for Oak Woods began on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Aug. 12 (Puzzle 43).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are Sonny Galindo and his wife, JoAnn Galindo.

Hard work, good times

Coach Sonny Galindo's approach to football and life

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

Ah, Fall Friday nights in Texas! The echoes of anticipation and excitement from "Friday Night Lights" ripple through the air as communities across the state come alive under the glare of stadium lights. Amidst the cheers and roars of the crowd at Pirate Stadium, a familiar figure in a brand-new role will be standing on the sidelines, a guiding presence in the lives of young athletes. Sonny Galindo, the new Head Football Coach at Granbury High School, steps onto this storied stage with a journey that spans from Hamilton to Granbury, encompassing a deep dedication to shaping wins and losses and the players' futures under his watch. Born and raised in

Hamilton, Texas, Coach Galindo's early life lessons were rooted in the values passed down by his grandfathers, Teodoro Blanco, and Frank Galindo Sr. "Both men taught me about humility, work ethic, a steady demeanor regardless of adversity, and love of family," Coach Galindo shared. These timeless principles guided his upbringing, fostering a deep appreciation for hard work and the importance of relationships. Growing up in a large family, Coach Galindo found solace in his parents' unwavering love and support despite limited financial means. "My Mother (Geneva) and Father (John Sr.) raised us without a lot of money but with tons of love. We never wanted for anything. I never knew that money was a thing

PLEASE SEE **GALINDO** | B5

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS ACADEMY VOLLEYBALL



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRISTY DODSON

This weekend the Lady Pioneers played in the Brock Varsity Volleyball tournament and Jana Cetkovic made "All Tournament" out of 10 teams.

BRAWNER

FROM PAGE B2

We can improve. We are a 'B' campus right now, so we always want to strive higher. Our goal right now is to be an 'A' campus but we're really close, like we went from a 73 to an 88, so that's just always our goal — the push for academics."

With Brawner's dual language program set to be fully implemented across all grade levels this year, Ruiz is confident that the campus is moving in the right direction.

"I just love our dual language programs so much," she said. "Just to

see, like our little kinder babies come in that know Spanish only and then by Christmas, they're speaking both languages fluently — it's so exciting, especially how quickly the kids pick up the language. It's just a great program."

Brawner is kicking off the school year with approximately 871 students and 10 new staff members, including five Tarleton State University student teachers.

"The teachers are so positive and hardworking. We have a really good team," Ruiz said. "I talked with some of our admin team (recently) and just the ideas

that they're coming up with, like, it's just so exciting. Everyone's just happy and really wants to push our campus forward with our goals. We're all on the same page, so that's very exciting."

Ruiz said another goal — besides getting an "A" rating — is to continue getting to know the students and their families.

"In this job that we're in, relationships are the most important, and, I mean, it's like they're my own kids," she explained. "It's like, I have 871 of my own kids, so you get attached and close to them. My goal is just to continue what we've

been doing at Brawner. It's a happy place, the kids love being here, but also working hard to make sure we're meeting our academic goals as well."

She added that she loves Brawner Elementary School, the students, and their families.

"Elementary has my heart," Ruiz added. "I can't imagine doing anything else or being at another secondary campus. I can't imagine that. I just love elementary school so much. It's going to be a great year."

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HCN

Junior

WORLD

Photography

DAY August 19

Can you spot the differences in these two pictures? Look closely! (the answers are down below)

Did You Know?

SOME CAMERAS USE FILM, A TYPE OF PAPER THAT IS REACTIVE TO LIGHT. AFTER THE PHOTO IS TAKEN, THE FILM HAS TO BE BATHED IN SPECIAL CHEMICALS TO DEVELOP THE PHOTO. ALL THIS TAKES PLACE IN A DARK ROOM TO KEEP THE FILM FROM BECOMING OVER EXPOSED.

SCIENCE FACT!

THIS DEVICE REQUIRES A LENS TO TAKE IN LIGHT RAYS AND USES A GLASS TO REDIRECT THEM TO A SINGLE POINT TO CREATE AN IMAGE.

ANSWER: CAMERA

Photography is the amazing art of capturing pictures using a special device called a camera. It all started a long time ago when people wanted to find a way to make pictures without drawing them. In the early 1800s, a clever person named Joseph Nicéphore Niépce invented the first camera that could capture an image. It took a really long time for the camera to make a picture, but it was the beginning of something incredible.

Later on, another smart person named Louis Daguerre improved the camera and made it much faster. This made it possible for more people to take photographs. Over time, cameras got even better, and people could take pictures in color!

Today, we have all sorts of cameras, from big ones to tiny ones in our smartphones. We can take pictures of anything we want, and they appear instantly! Photography helps us capture special moments, explore the world, and tell stories through pictures. It's a fantastic way to keep memories alive and share our experiences with others.

PICTURE ANSWERS

1. The seagull
2. The kids building the sandcastle.
3. The lady's pants have a different color stripe.
4. The lady's hat is a different color.

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AES
FROM PAGE B2

According to tea.texas.gov, the Purple Star Campus Designation recognizes Texas district and charter schools that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. "We have not found out if we got it yet, but that designation basically indicates to the community and to the state of Texas, that we are a campus that really prioritizes welcoming families — military families specifically, but we like to think that we welcome all families," Walton said. "Part of the criteria for that is having a committee that welcomes new students and welcomes families." She explained that with AES's military luncheon in May, plus the student ambassador program that welcomes new students, she is hopeful that AES will be awarded the designation.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Another prestigious designation of AES is that it's a national school of character — a certification that has been in place on the campus for the past five years. According to character.org, the organization certifies schools and districts each year at the state level that have developed and implemented an intentional, proactive, and comprehensive approach that embeds character into all aspects of the school life. "It's a designation that lasts for five years, so this year, we plan to apply for that again," Walton explained. "We pride ourselves on the character education that we do."

CHALLENGES

Although several positive changes will affect AES in the coming months, the campus has still been experiencing its own fair share of challenges. Walton said the main challenge teachers and students faced last year involved major changes to the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) Test. "The biggest thing is just navigating the new STAAR test," she said. "We have always tested on paper, and so testing online — especially for a third grader — it is different, and that created some challenges. But I'm really proud of the way that our kiddos did at the end of the school year on the test. We're just going to push for academic growth for all of our kids, and we'll just continue to learn and grow."

Overcrowding is another huge issue that AES — and Granbury ISD as a whole — are working to fix. "We've given up every nook and cranny. We don't have the teachers' lounge, we don't have a science lab, we don't have a computer lab, we don't have any of those things that we used to have because those are classrooms now," Walton explained. Additionally, with a total of 815 students enrolled in AES at the end of last year, Walton is predicting an increase in enrollment for this next semester.

"Our classes have been significantly bigger the last few years, which makes sense with what's coming this way," she said. "It's a challenge that the district is looking at, but hopefully with community support, we can alleviate some of the overcrowding on this side of town."

Walton added that she is excited to welcome students back and watch the campus grow.

"What I'm most excited about every year is just the opportunity to love kids and get to engage with their families, and I think our families appreciate that," she said. "They appreciate that this feels like home, not just to their kids, but to them as well. We've had a lot of new families enrolling also, so we're excited to embrace them and just continue to do what we do well at Acton, which is love kids, engage with families, and continue to strive for academic excellence."

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on sale Aug. 15



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

The fall hunting and fishing seasons are quickly approaching, so be sure to renew your annual licenses for the 2023 - 2024 season. Current-year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expire at the end of August. Licenses for the 2023-24 season go on sale Aug. 15.

Hunters and Anglers purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses annually, directly funding a

multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website or by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business

hours. Licenses are also available at certain retailers.

New this year, hunters and anglers can purchase additional types of digital licenses including Youth Hunting, Lifetime Hunting tags, Lifetime Fishing tags and the Exempt Angler tag. The Super Combo license continues to be available for purchase as a digital license this year as well.

The digital license option is available through online purchase only when licenses go on sale Aug. 15. Digital license holders will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. Digital tagging is required of digital license holders through the "My Texas Hunt Harvest" mobile app. The license can be viewed through this app and the TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

When buying their license,



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured are Patrick Ryan and his daughter Bridget with their catch of big Granbury striped bass caught this last weekend.

resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the "Lifetime License Drawing". Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, by phone or at any license retailer. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers

can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans Assistance. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas

PLEASE SEE **OUTDOORS** | B7



Pictured left to right are Tommy Gresham, Tony Callaway and Tony Gresham with their catch of Granbury big striped bass caught this past Saturday.

FORWARD TRAINING

Forward Training Center announces the launch of WorkerSpring platform



BY KATY OFFUTT

Katy Offutt is executive director of Forward Training Center of Hood County. Her community leadership roles include: Help Ministry coordinator, Stonewater Church; alumnus and past president, Leadership Granbury; vice president, Granbury Housing Authority; president, Public Facility Corporation; Nominating Committee chair, LGMA; and volunteer with Ada Carey Center.

Forward Training Center, a renowned educational training institution in Granbury, Texas, is taking bold steps to connect individuals seeking employment with suitable job opportunities, aiming to create a seamless pathway to connect their job seekers directly with employers. This collaboration signifies

Forward Training Center's ongoing commitment to supporting its graduates in their career development and personal growth. By leveraging WorkerSpring's intuitive and advanced hiring platform, graduates can now easily access and apply for various job opportunities with local employers.

ENHANCED ACCESS TO LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

With this new platform, enrollment in Forward Training Center's programs will open up better access to work opportunities for local residents. Recognizing the critical role that community connections play in assisting job seekers, The WorkerSpring platform, offers a systemized approach to connect employers with verified candidates in their programs. This solution connects program participants with relevant job opportunities, increasing

PLEASE SEE **FORWARD** | B11



COURTESY PHOTO

Powered for Life jobs seekers are practicing mock interviews with City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle, ready to connect with local business for future employment. Pictured from left to right are: Aaron Hogan, Lucas Keays, and Jeremy SoRelle.

GALINDO
FROM PAGE B4

to have. I just knew that food, clothing, shelter, and love were always present," he reminisced.

His mother worked tirelessly as a nurse and later as a custodian at Hamilton ISD. His father worked for his grandfather from the time he was about 10 years old.

"They would travel the countryside picking pecans, cotton, melons, etc. I remember those times fondly because I was too young to work, so I just chased sheep and played in the fields," recalled Galindo. "My father then began working for a dry-cleaning business in Hamilton and learned the trade enough to where he actually took it over. I worked for him at around 13 years old after school. My parents set an example of dedication and sacrifice for me to follow."

Coach Galindo's educational journey began in the heart of Hamilton, where he attended Ann Whitney Elementary and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1980. He recalled his high school years, "Our class do-

nated a mirrored, spinning ball that might still hang in the cafeteria. I was doo-wop to Motown to classic rock to disco to country within an 18-year span. I wore bell bottoms and platform shoes, then Wranglers and name belts. I was pretty much Kool and the Gang meets Urban Cowboy. We had a small graduating class, but we all stayed close... It was a blessing to be raised in a town where you had more than one set of parents."

During these formative years, Coach Galindo found himself drawn to sports, playing football, basketball, and track.

"I was a decent athlete, but I was uncoachable and arrogant," Galindo reflected, "I regret who I was and how I represented my family and school, but I had coaches and teachers that stuck with me despite my faults."

After high school, Galindo attended trade school for a couple of years and then went to work for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Institutional Division.

"I decided in the late 80s that I should be doing something to help young

people before they get to such a point of despair and hopelessness they wind up in prison," he recalls. "I left TDCJ as a Captain in 1991 and began going to school part-time while helping to raise three children as a single father."

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and a minor in government from Tarleton State University in 1998, followed by a master's degree in educational leadership from Stephen F. Austin University in 2016.

Over his 26-year coaching career, Coach Galindo's philosophy has evolved around the core tenets of "Strongest, smartest, toughest is who we'll be!" He believes in nurturing his players' physical strength, intellectual growth, and emotional resilience. He stated, "I get to meet, connect, and build relationships with all types of students. As a coach, I mentor young people on how to face adversity, overcome it, and remember that there is ALWAYS an opponent of the person you want to become."

Feeling satisfied with all he had accomplished as a

coach and a teacher, Galindo decided to retire late last year.

"When I told Coach Zschiesche in November that I was retiring, I decided this based on a feeling that it was time for me to let others experience what I was blessed with for years," said Galindo. "I still loved the game, the kids, the coaches, and my colleagues. I felt I never wanted to be that old, negative, grumpy guy who brought others down. I officially retired on May 31 and had a blissful retirement life for all of 27 days!"

Coach Galindo's decision to return from retirement exemplifies his dedication to his students and the game.

"When I was asked to come back, I just saw a need for someone to come in and give these young men a chance to finish what they started and to establish a culture that our community, school, student body, parents, and athletes can take with them down memory lane one day and be exceptionally proud of," he shared.

Coach Galindo's goals this season go beyond just victory on the field.

"I will say that we expect to make the playoffs from our district. It will be tough, but it is achievable with this group of young men," said Galindo. "I also want our community to know that we WANT high expectations from them. We won't be satisfied with 2-8, 3-7, 4-6, 5-5 and our fans shouldn't be either. But more than that, our goals are to see these young men grow physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally and evolve into well-rounded young adults who carry the lessons of teamwork, accountability, and resilience into their futures."

As he guides the Granbury Pirates through the coming season, Coach Galindo remains steadfast in his commitment to creating lasting memories.

"Hard work, good times," he sums up succinctly, capturing the essence of his coaching philosophy.

With an unwavering dedication to his players and a fervent belief in their potential, Coach Galindo's journey from Hamilton to Granbury continues to inspire both on and off the field.

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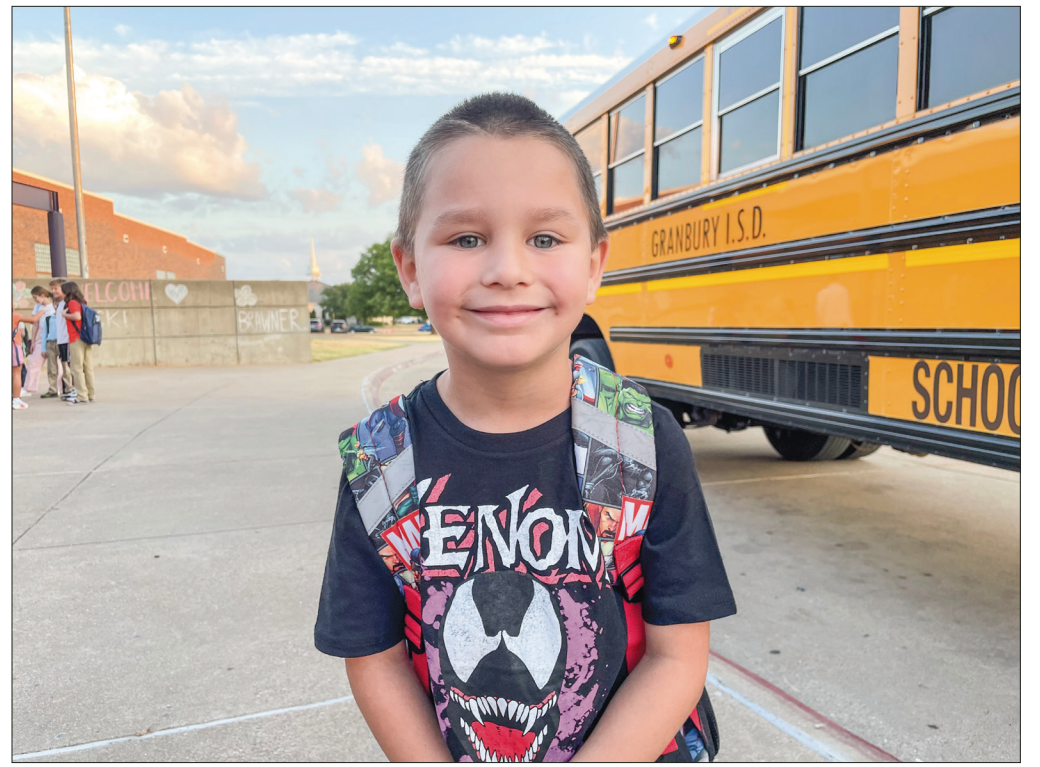
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A bear of a tale

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Throughout most of your childhood, he was rarely more than three feet away. He never said much, even when you hugged him too hard or let him fall to the floor. He kept your secrets but not all his fur; and he kept watch, even after he lost one eye.

Your childhood teddy was an important part of your life but as you'll see in "Eight Bears" by Gloria Dickie, his forebears are quite another story.

When she first moved to Boulder, Colorado, Gloria Dickie was charmed, she was once "a child obsessed with wild creatures," and "bears were frequent visitors" to her new hometown. But over time, the romance waned. Having bears everywhere was not good for Boulderites or for bears.

That's the story around the country: we don't know how to live alongside bears and "so-called 'problem' bears" often die because they've become habituated nuisances. Bears are stronger than they look and can ruin a car in minutes. They can annihilate a farmer's herd or flock. Some bear species - Dickie says that a mere eight of them survive on the planet today - are downright Papa-Bear-grumpy and will kill a human in a heartbeat.

And so, she went searching for bears.



"Eight Bears: Mythic Past and Imperiled Future" by Gloria Dickie C.2023, W.W. NORTON, \$30.00.

Ursas, says Dickie, were once thought to be our closest relative, perhaps because they look very human when standing. Humans haven't treated them very well through the centuries, though, at least not until Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot one in 1902 and people started appreciating bears a little more.

Still, today's bears struggle. In South America, Dickie found that climate change is hurting the shy, gentle spectacled bear that lives in the cloud forest of Peru. In India, she discovered a small bear with big attitude, one that kills dozens of humans annually and maims even more.

She learned the politics of pandas and she tried to visit a bear bile farm in Vietnam. She learned about super-smart black bears, the management of grizzlies, and a North American bear species that can hold an entire town hostage...

So, it turns out that Goldilocks was correct: "Eight Bears" is just right.

Rather than go all science-y on her readers, author Gloria Dickie brings the story of the world's bears to a level that's understandable by almost anyone. Oh, there's science in here, yes, but it's accessible, even fun, and can easily be paraphrastically explained to a youngster. That's great, if you're going on vacation to Bear Country.

Speaking of which, the globe-trotting adventure that Dickie took to find out about the bears is good reading, too, and filled with stories. Animal lovers will enjoy knowing what's being done for the bears around the world, while bear victims will learn what's being done to ursines to keep them from destroying livestock and lives.

Don't be surprised, in either case, if you're not happy.

This is a wonderfully accessible book that's deep enough but not fluffy, and that's really quite informative. If you know bears - or you want to - "Eight Bears" is a book to cuddle up with.

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Looking forward to FALL



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading.

The library's summer reading challenge was a HUGE success! Ms. Cookie outdid herself in all her planning! Thank you to all those that participated that made it a success. Kids and adults alike tracked their daily reading and earned lots of prizes in the process. We had a total of 794 patrons enrolled ages 0-99. We had an overall of 1,170 people attend the different events held throughout the summer. I call that an accomplishment!

I am not sure about the rest of you, but I am ready for cooler temps and fall comfort foods. I am all set for cozy reads while wrapped in a blanket with a good cup of coffee. But alas, here we are still surviving this heat. We are keeping cool in the library this August while we take a reprieve from our programming. The staff is gearing up for all the fun planned for the Fall. Be watching our Facebook and website for our schedule. September's schedule is listed below.

I do want to mention a couple of new programs we are introducing this September. The first one is CRAFTAFTERNOON! The last Wednesday of each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for school-aged kids, tweens, and teens. Come hang out at the library and create with

all sorts of supplies and mediums. This is an undirected event, so it's up to the creator to decide what to produce! We ask that any crafter under 10 be with a parent or guardian.

This will be our fourth consecutive year (Wow!) to host the HCL Novel Idea Book Club. This book club reads a variety of genres, and of course we have one series that we follow. You can find the reading list on Facebook and our website. Since this club has been so popular, and to reach a different set of readers, the Hood County Library will offer a second club. The Other Book Club will meet the first Wednesday of each month and will focus on speculative fiction.

Speculative fiction is a genre of fiction in which the setting is not in the world that we live in. It involves the supernatural, futuristic and other imagined and magical elements. The booklist for this club can also be found on Facebook and our website. The titles for September are mentioned below in the events. Of course, our regularly scheduled events such as Story Time, Music & Motion, and Code Club all resume after Labor Day!

We hope to see some new faces this fall, along with our friendly faithfuls!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children Events
 Mondays 10:30 a.m. Music and Motion
 Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. Storytime & Craft (Preschool)
 Thursdays 4:30 p.m. Code Club (8-11 yrs.)

Events for All
 Lego saturday all day every saturday!

Sept. 5
 5 -6 p.m. Solar System Ambassador Maria Blue presents: Ocean Worlds by Solar System
 Sept. 19
 5 -6 p.m. Solar System Ambassador Maria Blue presents: Eyes on the Extreme Weather
 Sept. 27
 4:30-5:30 p.m. Crafternoon (school aged kids, tweens, teens. Under 10 must be accompanied by an adult)
 Adult Events
 Sept. 6
 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Other Book Club; A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking by T Kingfisher
 Sept. 15
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Trivia Night@The Fisherman's Corner: FRIENDS sitcom!
 Sept. 25
 5:30-7:00 p.m. Paluxy River Children's Advocacy presents: Keeping Children Safe Online (movie and care will be provided in the children's room for school aged kids during this presentation)
 Sept. 26 6-7 p.m. HCL Novel Idea Book Club: Everyone Here is Lying by Shari Lapena

OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE B5

families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

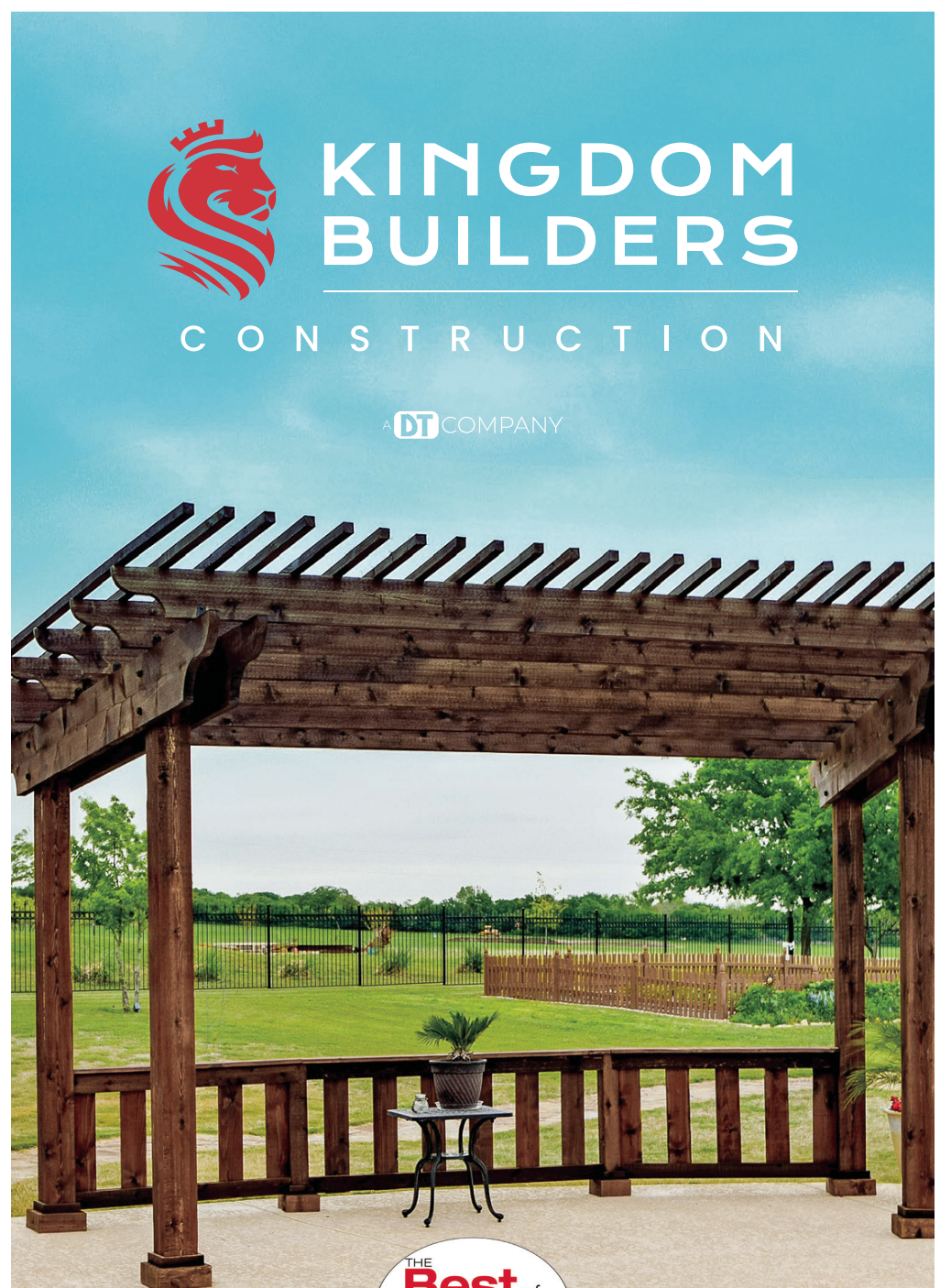
For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

The heat continues and the lake is in the upper 80s and low 90s. Thermocline continues to be relatively shallow (15 to 20 feet) on most areas of the lake. Sandbass are schooling early near the Pecan launch and near Decordova. Striped bass to 10lbs continue to be caught on live bait and downrigging jigs/crankbaits on the lower ends near channel ledges. Crappie catches continue to be excellent on minnows and jigs when located suspended on structure. Underwater

timber and/or bridge pilings are popular. Nighttime catfish are good on prepared and cut baits on various areas of the lake. Largemouth bass to 7lbs are good on shaded docks, shallow humps and points on crankbaits and soft plastics.

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass limits are common on live or cut bait fished from the State Park to near the Katy bridge. Possum Kingdom striped bass are good from Hells Gate to the dam on live and downrigged baits.



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SPORTS

Roundup

SEALS have baker's dozen compete at Junior Olympics

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury SEALS summer season came to an end with a baker's dozen competing at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa recently. The competition featured the nation's top young swimmers.

Here are the SEALS who reached the finals in their respective events, listed in alphabetical order:

Leah Citzler, Girls 9-10: 13th in 50 breast, 54.96; 19th in 100 breast, 2:03.37; 24th in 100 back, 1:53.96; 30th in 50 back, 55.80; 31st in 100 free, 1:47.67; 35th in 50 free, 46.84.

Bethany Crowe, Girls 15-18: Fifth in 200 back, 2:44.15; sixth 100 breast, 1:26.26; seventh in 100 free, 1:04.99; eighth in 200 breast, 3:11.90; ninth in 100 back, 1:14.36; 10th in 50 free, 29.67; 12th in 200 individual medley (IM), 2:47.32.

Logan Crowe, Boys 13-14: 10th in 100 back, 1:16.24; 10th in 100 breast, 1:26.14.

Burkley Massey, Girls 11-12: Fourth in 200 free, 2:31.49; fourth in 50 free, 30.29; fifth in 100 free, 1:08.38; sixth in 50 breast, 43.00; sixth in 100 breast, 1:35.06; seventh in 200 IM, 3:02.84; 10th in 100 fly, 1:30.93; 14th in 50 fly, 36.82; 15th in 50 back, 40.67.

Bailey McDermott, Girls 15-18: 24th in 400 free, 5:44.66. Tyler McDermott, Boys 15-18: 15th in 100 breast, 1:17.62.

Davis Moore, Boys 8-Under: 19th in 50 back, 1:07.45; 20th in 50 free, 57.10.

Stella Morris, Girls 11-12: Sixth in 50 free, 31.10; sixth in 100 free, 1:09.78; seventh in 50 fly, 35.54.

John Stone, Boys 9-10: Fifth in 100 back, 1:39.13; eighth in 50 back, 45.46; 15th in 50 fly, 50.12; 16th in 50 free, 39.00; 18th in 100 free, 1:31.53; 21st in 50 breast, 59.25.

Also competing, but not reaching the finals, were Carmen Citzler (Girls 13-14), Bailey Stone (Girls 13-14) and Heath Crowe (Boys 15-18). Mason Prince (Boys 9-10) reached the finals in several events but scratched.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates, in their first competition under the leadership of interim head coach Sonny Galindo, had little difficulty in controlling Fort Worth South Hills at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth on Aug. 10.

Galindo said he lost track of the touchdowns scored by the Pirates varsity squad at around seven. Meanwhile, the defense surrendered a single score.

"Every mistake we made we've got our pulse on and can correct," Galindo said. "I would really have to be nit-picky to find something that really bothered me."

The Pirates were scrimmage Everman at home at press time. They open the regular season, also at home, against Carrollton Creekview on Friday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

Creekview brings an 11-game losing streak into the contest. This is on the heels of a 6-5 record in 2021 that included a surprise playoff appearance.

The Pirates are looking to end a six-game losing streak after starting 2022 with a 4-0 record.

The Mustangs, who compete in District 3-5A Division II, return plenty of starters on both offense and defense (7 on each). The offense will be led by junior quarterback Jaiden Page (1,644 yards,



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Lady Pirates are hosting their own Granbury Classic this weekend.

12 TD passing), while the defense will be paced by senior defensive end Destine Deans (73 tackles, three-year starter).

The Pirates, members of 4-5A Division I, have plenty of starters returning themselves, seven on offense and six on defense. The offense, which will operate out of a triple option, features senior running back Jadon Rogers (695 yards, 5 TD rushing; 19 catches, 167 yards, 2 TD receiving). Senior Halston Main is a multiple threat on offense at wide receiver/running back and even quarterback, along with starting at safety on defense.

SENIOR NIGHT POSTPONED

Due to the excessive heat, the Pirates are postponing the Senior Night festivities that were previously scheduled for the varsity football home opener on Aug. 25 until the Sept. 22 game against Killeen High. The festivities will still take place during the pre-game festivities.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers were scrimmaging Cisco at home at press time, coming off a strong showing in their first scrimmage at Eastland on

Aug. 11.

"I was very pleased with our effort. We hope that in our two scrimmages we find out all the little things we need to continue to work on before they start officially counting, as well as have a better idea of who fits where best," Rattlers coach Jeremy Mullins said. "I think we scored four times with our first group, and they scored twice with theirs."

Tolar begins the season at home against Peaster on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Peaster, from District 4-3A Division I, is coming off a 3-7 season. The Greyhounds return seven offensive and eight defensive starters.

Senior linebackers Cannon Kelley (116) and Wyatt Lacy (153) combined for 269 tackles. Junior Gannon McElroy looks to move into the role of starting quarterback after serving successfully in a utility role in 2022.

Of course, nothing can be said about the Rattlers without noting their all-state junior running back Peyton Brown. He was among the national leaders in rushing yards (2,777), touchdowns (49) and points scored (296).

The Rattlers, who compete in District 5-2A Division

I, posted a 13-1 record and reached the state quarterfinals for the best season in team history. They return five offensive and five defensive starters.

Senior Isaac Blessing (299 yards, 3 TD passing; 295 yards, 4 TD rushing) looks to step in as the starting quarterback. Blessing also returns as a linebacker on defense (team-high 135 tackles).

Junior defensive lineman Cash Clark is back after posting 72 tackles, including six for a loss, with three sacks.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Granbury Lady Pirates are hosting their own Granbury Classic this weekend. They are coming off competing in the John Turner Classic in Pearland this past weekend in which they posted a 3-5 record.

Standouts were Blakely Bleeker and Lily McCall, said coach Desiree Shahan.

"We had some ups and downs, but overall, I am very pleased with the way the girls played," she said. "They came together as a team and kept fighting through the hard. I am so excited to see how they compete in our tournament."

The Lady Pirates (3-8) traveled to Waxahachie Tuesday, Aug. 15, where they fell 3-0 to both Waxahachie and Joshua. Lily McCall (3 aces, 36 digs), Allyson McCabe (23 digs) and Lauren Franco were noted as standouts.

Following this weekend's tournament, the Lady Pirates host Euleus Trinity on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m. They will compete in the Arlington Showcase Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 24-26.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (3-3) split four games in the Brock Tournament over the past weekend, followed by a 3-0 loss against Peaster at home on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

TOLAR

FROM PAGE B1

December, and in order to get that done we will have to improve little by little each day."

Mullins has a group of players who understand that philosophy, with the team having played seven rounds in the playoffs since 2021.

OFFENSE

You can't talk about the Tolar offense without focusing on junior all-state running back Peyton Brown. He was among the national leaders in rushing yards (2,777), touchdowns (49) and points (296), topping all classifications in Texas in the latter two.

This was on the heels of a freshman season that saw him rush for 1,394 yards and 28 TD.

But while Brown has been known to produce some eye-

popping moments and leave defenders embarrassed, the Rattlers have plenty of other weapons back from an offense that averaged 49 points per game.

Senior wide receiver Matthew Behrens hauled in 23 catches for 292 yards and five touchdowns. Junior tight end Drake Owens caught six passes for 77 yards and two TD and is a solid blocker, joining returning offensive linemen Oakley Saffer (senior) and Sam Stewart (junior).

Brown was the District 5-2A Division I MVP last season. Behrens, Saffer and Owens were first-team all-district, while Stewart was second team.

Senior Isaac Blessing (299 yards, 3 TD passing; 295 yards, 4 TD rushing) looks to be the top candidate for the starting quarterback job after backing up the now-graduated Jackson LeCluyse.

DEFENSE

Blessing (135 tackles, 9 for loss, 1 sack, 1 interception) was an all-state linebacker last season and returns to that position. District Defensive Newcomer of the Year Cash Clark (72 tackles, 6 for loss, 3 sacks), a junior, returns on the line.

The defensive backfield is loaded with returning talent in three seniors, Clayton Stembriage (62 tackles, 3 interceptions), Garrison Nation (40 tackles, 2 interceptions) and Braylen Rice (29 tackles, 3 interceptions).

Blessing and Stembriage were first-team all-district honorees last season. Owens, Nation and Rice were named second team.

The Rattlers defense last season surrendered just 109 points and posted four shutouts, all consecutive. Five other times they held an opponent to a single touchdown, and no one scored

more than 18 points against them.

OTHER PLAYERS TO WATCH

Among players who could move up from a reserve role last season and make an immediate impact this season are:

Senior defensive tackle Jesse Owen, honorable mention all-district.

Junior defensive back/wide receiver Talan Culberson.

Junior linebacker Ty McClure, expected to start.

Junior defensive lineman Cutter Cain.

SUBVARSITY

Tolar's junior varsity went 9-1 last season and a lot of talent from that squad is expected to move up and help the varsity this season, including:

Senior linebacker Jaxon Riddle.

Senior Michael Johnson,

offensive/defensive line.

Senior offensive lineman/linebacker Reid Baugh.

Senior wide receiver Talan Brown.

Junior wide receiver/safety Grant Sherley.

Junior wide receiver/cornerback Caden Pate.

Junior offensive/defensive lineman Toby Combs.

Junior offensive/defensive lineman Zane Graham.

Junior defensive end Hunter Michels.

Junior tight end/defensive end Brooks Stone.

Junior wide receiver/cornerback Brylen Feist.

DISTRICT

While the Rattlers rolled through district last season, Mullins believes there will be across-the-board improvement in 2023.

Joining the Rattlers in being preseason state-ranked are No. 22 Coleman and No. 25 Hamilton.

Standouts in the Brock Tournament were Trinity Rousseau and Senne Imel for their defense, coach Misty Rhodes said, adding that standouts against Peaster were freshmen Allie Terrell and Kamryn Kolb.

Tolar is back on the road this weekend in the Glen Rose Tournament. That is followed by a very busy week that includes hosting Grandview on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m., playing in the Rio Vista Tournament Thursday and Saturday, and hosting Three Way on Friday at 5 p.m.

GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates (0-3) had their best performance of the season so far, dropping a 12-7 home match to Decatur.

Highlights for Granbury included:

Boys Doubles: Roland Krause and Colten Whitefield won 8-1, Kaden Bohney and Oakley Boyd won 8-3, Chase Bohney and Braxton Bailey lost a thrilling 9-7 match.

Girls doubles: Allie Kasmier and Joseline Briones dropped a back-and-forth 9-8 match.

Mixed doubles: Justin Rios and Shelby Beech won 8-3.

Boys singles: Whitefield won a 9-7 thriller, Tyler St. Don won 8-5, Boyd outlasted his opponent 9-7.

Girls singles: Ava Hamrick won 8-4.

Competing in the Nos. 7 and 8 slots, not counting in the team score, were freshmen boys C. Bohney and Bailey garner their first singles wins of the season. Also, Kyleigh Ledesma and Beech won their matches in those positions.

"Overall, we are continuing to improve week after week," coach Athan Laskaris said.

"We still have plenty of work to do, but I am proud of the way we have competed these last few matches."

Granbury hosts Aledo on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

BACCUS

FROM PAGE B2

Tarleton State University's residency program, where students earn their education degree by teaching on a school campus.

"This will be our second year, but this is a big deal," she said. "We get to have four interns this year, and they'll

be with us all year long, so it's like having another set of hands. Last year, I got to hire one of my interns, so Miss (Paige) Fair in first grade was a Tarleton intern last year with us, so bringing her on the team is easy, because she already knows the procedures, so that's kind of cool.

I'm very excited to have our interns this year, and they've already done a great job getting connected with us, so I'm super excited about that."

Rohleder said as they start this next school year, staff members and teachers will work on streamlining and tightening systems in place to provide a better academic experience for their students.

"Things have been going in a great direction, but now it's a matter of holding it together," she said. "I'm

not sure where the STARR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) test scores brought us this past year, but what I do know as a principal and as a leader, I saw a lot of hard work from staff and students, so if they didn't do some great things, I'll be really surprised."

She said the biggest challenge and "learning curve" last year was aligning writing

across the curriculum — but with the help of her administrative team, they were able to come out on top.

"I feel blessed to have the support that I have from central office to make decisions for my campus that's best for our kids," she said. "I have a lot of support. I don't feel like I'm working against people, so that's such a big blessing. It's pretty special to me."

She said her goal is not to have her students ace the STAAR test or "strive for perfection," but to "move up," — even if they're only making small progress toward their goal.

Rohleder added, "This year's going to be astronomical."

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton announces cross country schedule

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas – The Texans are less than a month away from their 2023 campaign.

Tarleton State University Cross Country announced its full schedule, a five-event season that begins Sept. 1 at TCU.

"I am extremely excited about moving into our second year with our cross-country program," head coach Clay Holland said. "Coach Chase Rathke made huge strides in his first year with the development of our distance athletes and expect the same going into year two. The schedule is set up for our athletes to be the most prepared when we walk on the course for the WAC Championships at the end of October."

The Texans will compete three times in September before closing out the regular season in October. After their final regular season race on Oct. 13, the Texans will travel a short way down I-20. They will compete for the fourth straight year in the WAC Cross Country Championships, this year hosted in Abilene.

"I am very anxious to get the team back on campus and start rolling again," assistant head coach Chase Rathke said. "We ended the year on a very high note on both the men's and women's side at the outdoor conference championships. On the women's side, we bring back a roster that made big strides this past year and have put in a lot of work this summer to get to where they are. On the men's side, we bring in a lot of new faces that can come in and make a difference right away, as well as some familiar faces that helped lead us to our first ever regional ranking last year. I have high expectations for both squads, and I believe they do as well."

The Texans kick off the season just down the road at Big 12 host TCU. They will compete in the TCU Horned Frog Invitational on Sept. 1.

After an off weekend the following week, the Texans will head to Bryan-College Station. The Texans will line up for the Texas A&M Invitational on Sept. 15, just as they did last year. After that meet up with the Aggies, the Texans will travel up to the Chile Pepper Festival hosted by Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on Sept. 29.

The Texans will then travel down the interstate to WAC foe Abilene Christian. They will take part in the ACU Naimadu Classic on Oct. 13.

The Texans will then wrap up the season two weeks later back in Abilene. The WAC Championships this year will be hosted by Abilene Christian on Oct. 27.

In the 2022 season, the men's team saw their best outing at the Texas A&M Invitational, posting a second-place finish. On the women's side, their best outing was at the following meet hosted by Arkansas in Fayetteville.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Tarleton State University women's soccer team will kick off its second season with an exhibition match, its first match against a Power-Five conference school, the Baylor Bears.

Tarleton gears up for second season with exhibition match against Baylor

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — The Tarleton State University women's soccer team will kick off its second season with an exhibition match, its first match against a Power-Five conference school, the Baylor Bears.

Just 363 days after its first exhibition as a program against Texas A&M - Corpus Christi, Tarleton State is opening its second season with an exhibition match against the Baylor Bears. This will be the first of two Big 12 matches this season. The Texans will travel to Houston to battle the Cougars on Aug. 27.

The Texans return 10 of

their 11 starters from their final match last season. Kiki Baurmann is the only non-returning starter who graduated in the spring. Tarleton in total is returning 17 student-athletes from its inaugural team and has added seven freshman for this year's slate.

Last season, Mila Bettinelli lead the team with eight goals and 17 points and subsequently was named to the WAC All-Freshman Team. Bettinelli became the first Texan to earn a postseason honor from the conference. In addition to Bettinelli, 12 individuals were selected to the WAC All-Academic team.

Head coach Pete Cuadrado and his staff are ready for their second competition season as a group. Cuadrado is in his 21st year of coaching and has totaled 174 total wins across his tenure. Baylor opened its 2023 campaign with a 3-2 exhibition win against Oklahoma. Sophomore Tyler Isrig stole the show assisting on the first goal and punching in the last two goals.

Baylor finished the 2022 season with a 4-11-2 record in Michelle Lenard's first season in Waco. The Bears return Ashley Merrill and Reneta Vargas who combined for nine of Baylor's 15 goals last season. BU loses

its primary goalkeeper from last season in Lauren Traywick who played 14 games accruing over 1200 minutes between the posts. Madison Martin is the only returning goalie with Oklahoma transfer Makinzie Short joining the room alongside sophomore Ashlee Zirkle who did not see playing time last season.

Michelle Lenard is coaching her 16th season. Prior to Baylor, she spent 15 seasons at the helm of the Dallas Baptist program earning 201 wins at a .705 winning percentage. This is the first meeting between Baylor and Tarleton State in the two programs' history.

Shakur Daniel signs professional contract with AD Feniks 2010 in Macedonia

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — After spending the last three seasons playing for head coach Billy Gillispie at Tarleton State University, Shakur Daniel has signed his first professional contract with AD Feniks 2010 of the Macedonian Superleague.

In his three seasons in Stephenville, Daniel averaged 6.9 points and 3.2 rebounds per game. In 2022, Daniel started in all 33 games he played and averaged 7.8 points per contest. He posted at least 10 points in 14 games scoring a season-high 15 at UTRGV. The Toronto, Canada native, led the Texans and the WAC playing an average of 35.7 minutes per game. He ranked 10th in the league in steals and 15th in assists during his final

season as a Texan. He was named to the Academic All-WAC Team.

As a junior in the 2020-21 season, Daniel was named honorable mention All-WAC. He averaged 7.0 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.6 steals per game. He ranked second on the team in minutes played, assists and steals. He posted double-digit scoring figures in six games. Daniel was known for his elite ball-handling notching 13 games with one or less turnovers.

Daniel started his collegiate career at Southern Miss before transferring to play his sophomore season at Ranger College under coach Gillispie. At Ranger, Daniel was named conference defensive player of the year and earned all-conference honors.

AD Feniks 2010 competes in

the Macedonian Superleague. Denis Dervisevic is in his third season as the head coach of the squad. In the 2022-23 season, Feniks 2010 finished 12-13. The Feniks 2010 dropped in the league quarterfinals to Pelister in a best-of-three series. The 12-team league features a 22-game regular season schedule and then an eight-team playoff bracket. MZT Skopt won the league title last season finishing the regular season 20-2 and touting a perfect 7-0 record in the playoffs.

Daniel becomes the second Tarleton State Texan graduate to sign a professional basketball contract in the Division I area of the program. Montre Gipson signed in the G-League a year after graduating from Tarleton in 2021.



COURTESY PHOTO

Shakur Daniel has signed his first professional contract with AD Feniks 2010 of the Macedonian Superleague.

Texans earn recognition on GCAA Outstanding Team Academic Award

Tarleton State University

NORMAN, Okla. — Tarleton State University Men's Golf recently announced that three Texans earned some of the highest academic awards in the sport, and now the team overall has taken one of the highest honors as well.

The Texans were placed on the Presidents Special Recognition list among the 2022-23 GCAA Outstanding Team Academic Award winners. In order to make the top recognition category, the team had to finish the 2022-23 season with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

The Texans are one of just 54 NCAA Division I programs on the Presidents Special Recognition list, and one of 266 schools across six divisions to earn a GCAA Outstanding Team Academic Award.

Last week, three Texans were named GCAA All-America Scholars - Jack Anderson, Alvaro Huidobro and Masen Ward. Those three were also awarded Academic All-WAC honors last month.

COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State University men's golf team.



GRANBURY

FROM PAGE B1

Senior Halston Main is a three-way threat on offense as wide receiver (12 catches, 119 yards, 3 TD), running back and as a backup quarterback, and senior receiver Hunter Burns (7 catches, 54 yards) is another top pass catcher.

The line will be anchored by senior returners Reid Wyss at tackle and Diesel Dooley at guard. Wyss was named second-team all-district and Dooley earned honorable mention.

Others who could be in the starting lineup and/or see significant playing time this season, according to Galindo, include seniors Monty Whittle at center, Alan Orocio at tackle and Jeff Lenard at wide receiver, along with junior guard Ricky Sanchez. Sanchez was a state powerlifting qualifier this past winter.

The offense is switching to the triple option, something not many teams are doing nowadays. He said the decision to change from a more high-powered fast-action offense was actually made before Zschiesche left.

"My first four years of coaching I was offensive line coach and we ran a Wishbone," Galindo said. "We enjoyed running over people."

"Defenses today aren't built for power football. They're built for finesse. And we're strong. They pride themselves on throwing a whole bunch of weight around."

The Granbury offensive line averages between 250 and 260 pounds per player, Galindo said.

The Pirates will operate with a quarterback under center - another rarity today

- and Galindo said they will huddle before every play.

DEFENSE

The Pirates are heavy at the linebacker position with two senior returners at the position, led by honorable mention all-district pick Augie Zapata (25 tackles, 1 sack), along with Rylan Brenish. Sophomore Chase Cantrell is moving over from defensive end as well.

The defensive backfield is likewise loaded with returning talent in Main (19 tackles, 1 interception), adding to his multiple position threat, and Josh McGinnis (26 tackles). Senior Justin Roath (21 tackles) returns at defensive end.

Expected to also start and/or see significant playing time are seniors Moses Meis, defensive end, up from the junior varsity; linebacker Jack Damphousse; tackle Sam Sutherland; and cornerback Christian Paddock, a starting wide receiver last season.

"He made a very unselfish impactful move," Galindo said of Paddock.

Senior Kannon Lightfoot and junior Eli Sisco are also battling a starting spot at wide receiver and both could see solid time on the field.

The Pirates will operate out of a three-man front with four linebackers and four defensive backs, a very similar look to what Galindo brought with him to the program seven years ago.

"I feel confident because even the kids that weren't on varsity have been playing that defense since middle school," he said.

OTHER PLAYERS TO WATCH

Senior Cameron James, linebacker/special teams.
Senior Parker Temple, offensive/defensive line.

Senior Wyatt Riddle, safety/special teams.

Senior Jace Kelley, wide receiver.

Senior Davin Jones, fullback.

Senior Michael Gifford, linebacker.

Senior Caden Crouch, utility.

Junior Carter Riley, wide receiver/slot back.

DISTRICT

The Pirates compete in arguably one of the most top-heavy districts around with the top four teams combining for a 37-10 record, led by Midlothian at 12-1. Midlothian lost in the third round of the playoffs to state champion Aledo, Red Oak finished 9-3 and reached the second round of the postseason, while Killeen Shoemaker and Lake Belton were each 8-3, with Shoemaker also being ousted by Aledo.

"Midlothian is strong again and is reloading," Galindo said. "The district is very athletic and well-coached."

"I think if we get on a roll, beat some teams we're supposed to beat, we could make an impact."

RETURN TO OLD SCHOOL

Along with using a bit of a throwback to old times in their offense, Galindo is getting his team used to the way things were done before the football was flying around faster than Superman to rescue Lois Lane.

During preseason workouts, the players spent some time at Decker Field. The idea being that it doesn't matter if the setting is old or new, success can be achieved no matter the surroundings.

Pirate teams of many years past had success on that field, including the 1966 state finalists.

Galindo said he was impressed with how the players seemed to grasp and respect the past history. He was also thankful for those he said made the experience possible, including the Granbury City Council, City Manager Chris Coffman and the city's parks department.

INTANGIBLES

Galindo believes several intangibles work in his team's favor this season. Chief among them is a team motto, "Strongest, smartest, toughest."

"Strongest is not just in the weight room, but also out in the world," he said. "Smartest means take care of business in the classroom, but also make the smartest decisions you can. And toughness means mental toughness, facing and conquering adversities. These are three areas we can control in our lives and make a difference."

"That's really what it's going to come down to. You give yourself tools for success against any opponent."

Another helpful intangible is the tightness of the program, he said.

"I don't know if I've ever seen a better family environment," Galindo said. "We're not afraid to throw the word 'love' around and we're not afraid to pray."

And, of course, the senior leadership brings a smile to his face.

"I can go into that locker room and say we need this fixed and they'll get it fixed," he said.

"I'm excited our kids are putting in the work and they're going to see there's not a secret pill or magic potion. Hard times have to happen before they see good times."

FORWARD

FROM PAGE B5

the likelihood of successful placements. It will serve as a bridge between local employers and individuals ready to work, fostering growth and prosperity in the Granbury community.

The WorkerSpring Advantage

WorkerSpring provides a systematized approach to hiring that benefits both job seekers and employers in unique and impactful ways:

Better Hiring Outcomes: With WorkerSpring, employers will experience better hiring outcomes through Forward Training Center's verification of each individual's identity and program participation.

Positive Brand Image: By participating in this new initiative, employers align themselves with a socially responsible platform that enhances their brand image. It demonstrates a tangible commitment to supporting the local Granbury community and promoting responsible hiring practices.

Streamline Talent Acquisition: WorkerSpring's platform allows employers to streamline the hiring process by minimizing irrelevant job applications. This enhances efficiency in finding the right talent, reducing time and resources spent on recruitment.

Relationships Matter: With 85% of jobs landed through connections, WorkerSpring emphasizes the importance of relationships in the hiring process. By fostering connections between job seekers and employers through their association with Forward Training Center, WorkerSpring helps ensure

that more people find opportunities within a community support system.

Enhanced Engagement: WorkerSpring enhances the employee/employer relationship out of respect of the association with their community. By creating a platform that values integrity and community, both parties are encouraged to engage in a more meaningful and productive relationship. These advantages collectively create a hiring environment that is efficient, transparent, and community-focused.

Through WorkerSpring, Forward Training Center is not only connecting individuals with meaningful employment but also enhancing the overall quality of the hiring process for employers in the Granbury, TX community.

Impacting Community Residents

Through the launch of WorkerSpring, Forward Training Center aims to foster the essential employment connections needed for individuals in their programs. This new platform will enable seamless collaboration with employers to help job seekers find meaningful work, building stronger connections within the job market.

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Attorney Paul Hyde is responsible for the content of this advertising



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Fern Nielsen celebrated her 102nd birthday at AVIVA Granbury on Aug. 7, complete with a spread of several photos from her past, including her Coast Guard uniform from her time in SPARS (Semper Paratus — Always Ready).

LGAA hosts photography and digital exhibition

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

The Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA) is presenting a photography and digital exhibition that runs through Aug. 26. The exhibit takes place at the Shanley Gallery and is the first of its kind for the association. The last day of the exhibit coincides with Granbury's "Last Saturday Gallery Night."

Before COVID-19, the Camera Club of the LGAA had a show annually. These shows were juried and judged. Members submitted entries for a fee and their piece/pieces would be considered for the show. Then the pieces selected would be judged to be awarded places and prizes.

The current photography and digital exhibition is significant for a couple of reasons. First, an exhibit means the work is being shared with the public but not judged.

Secondly, and more significantly "this is the first time that the LGAA opened a show up to embrace digital work in different applications," long time former president of the Camera Club Phyllis Webster said.

Photography has almost entirely used digital media instead of film for some time. However, only photography for its own sake could be used in past LGAA shows and not work that employs any digital collage or similar digital assemblage work.

"I wanted to get some enthusiasm going for the digital medium, since I know it's a changing world," Show Chair Doris Bernier said.

The definition of digital has been expanded. A show of this nature allows an opportunity for those digital creators to have a space to show work side by side with more traditional photography.

"The digital medium captures what our lens actually sees, but it also can create what's in our imagination. The artwork on our walls will take you to places you can only dream about," Bernier said.

Jim Hill, whose work is in the exhibit, said he originally joined the art association a few years ago expressly for the opportunities to show his photography. Other photographers joined for the same reason.

"I won a ribbon in a judged show, that was pretty exciting," Hill said.

Hill was also a volunteer who helped to hang the exhibit.

"We have gotten so many compliments on the show. It's amazing what artists can do," Bernier said.

The Shanley Gallery at 224 N. Travis Street shares a parking lot with the Hood County Library. Gallery Hours can be found on the LGAA Facebook page. For last Saturday Gallery Night on Aug. 26 the Shanley will be open until 8 p.m.

PLEASE SEE **EXHIBIT** | C7 FOR PHOTOS

102 WITH PLENTY TO DO

Coast Guard veteran celebrates 102nd birthday at AVIVA

BY ASHLEY INGE
Staff Writer

To describe Fern Nielsen as being "adventurous" would be a complete understatement. The AVIVA Granbury resident celebrated her birthday on Aug. 7, but the now-102-year-old doesn't act — or look — a day over 70.

Nielsen told the HCN she's "lived a long and good life," but that doesn't even begin to cover her career as a Coast Guard veteran.

She originally grew up in Williamsport, Pennsylvania — otherwise known as the "home of the Little League" according to Nielsen.

She worked at the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company in the office, along with four of her peers.

"It was a good place to work because there were four of us that did the billing for customers and we had all graduated at the same high school in the same year, so we had a lot in common," Nielsen said.

But as time went on, and World War II was just beginning, Nielsen

wanted to make a difference.

"We wanted to do something for the war effort," she said. "We just felt like we weren't doing anything new. We were still doing the same thing that we had done before, but they would not release us from our jobs since we were told a utility company was essential. So, we said, 'Well, we'll show them. We'll just join the service. They can't prevent us from going in the service.'"

Originally, Nielsen and her friends were going to enlist in the Navy, but then a friend of hers came home on leave and "painted a glowing picture of the SPARS."

The SPARS (Semper Paratus — Always Ready) was known as the Coast Guard Women's Reserve.

According to the United States Coast Guard website, the SPARS



Granbury Mayor Jim Jarratt read Fern Nielsen a proclamation on Aug. 7, celebrating her 102nd birthday with her family and friends.

were under military direction, and they were subject to assignment according to the needs of the service. This was one of the key factors in using women as part of the military force. The jobs they were filling could not

have been done by civilians working for the armed forces because they were not as mobile and did not fall under military law and discipline.

PLEASE SEE **102** | C4

Time Traveler's Delight

Unveiling the enchanting Granbury Railroad Depot

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

In the heart of Hood County lies a gem that transports us back in time to an era of hustle, bustle, and boundless potential. Nestled quietly along the Fort Worth & Western Railroad tracks at 109 Ewell Street, it might be easy to overlook or pass right by the old Granbury Railroad Depot. But this venerable structure, constructed in 1914, is a living testament to a time when commerce in the area was just sprouting

its wings. Its timeworn walls whisper stories of a bygone era that continue to echo in the modern day.

Imagine stepping into a world where the past intertwines with the present. The Granbury Railroad Depot remains almost frozen in time, it's timeworn exterior reminiscent of a cherished memory.

"You can still travel to the past at the Granbury Depot," local historian Melinda Ray said. "You can visit our archive room full of historical and genealogical info about Hood County! Other displays in the old

telegraph office and lobby are full of fun displays on local railroad history! You also might hear a local tale or two from one of our volunteers!"

This isn't just a building; it's a cultural nexus that mirrors the ebbs and flows of Granbury's evolution. It stands as a sentinel to the days when rail transportation was more than just a means of getting from one point to another — it was a catalyst for the region's economic boom, propelling the town into a dazzling heyday

PLEASE SEE **DEPOT** | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

The old Granbury Railroad Depot—constructed in 1914 and located along the Fort Worth & Western Railroad tracks at 109 Ewell Street—is a living testament to a time when commerce in the area was just sprouting its wings.



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Granbury's guitar hero

The unforgettable Odis P. story

Michael "Odis P." Parrish credits his values and aspirations to numerous teachers and mentors who made an impact in his life through his formative teen years, but most especially his youth praise band leader, Lincoln Wiseman.

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

In the heart of Granbury, a small Texas town brimming with charm and history, a local sensation named Michael Parrish, affectionately known as Odis P., has been causing quite the stir. With fingers that effortlessly dance across the strings of a guitar and a stage presence that electrifies audiences, Odis P. is the lead guitarist for Koe Wetzels and The Konvikts. However, his journey from Granbury to the glamour and glitz of the stage is more than just a tale of musical prowess; it's a story of dreams, faith, devotion, and the deep-rooted love for the town he calls home.

Growing up, Michael's life was a symphony of memories intertwined with the sights and sounds of Granbury.

"I was born in Amarillo. We moved to Brownwood when I was four, and then to Granbury when I was eight," he recalls.

Recollecting his early days in Granbury, he shares, "I remember long summer bike rides to the city pool, days spent on Lake Granbury tubing and skiing, and getting into a little trouble."

His mischievous side even led to an encounter with neighborhood security for a bout of toilet papering a buddy's house. Whether it was laughter at the local spots like Rinky Tinks and The Coffee Grinder or watching performances of "The Man of 1000 voices" Carey Dyer at Granbury Live, Michael's heart was firmly rooted in the Granbury experience.

Graduating from Granbury High School in 2009, Michael's teenage years were a blend of music and church activities.

"Jesus and music definitely took up most of my time," he laughs. "Most of my best memories were tied to the youth group at church. That's where I played guitar with a band for the first time."

He credits numerous teachers and mentors who made an impact in his life through his formative teen years, but most especially his youth praise band leader, Lincoln Wiseman. These individuals played a significant role in shaping his values and aspirations, supporting his pursuit of music.

Today, Michael's family continues to be his bedrock, with his mother, stepdad, sister, and niece still residing in Granbury. And while his roots remain deep in the town, his own family's story began at Tarleton State University, where he met his wife, Mia, during a college night at Timber Ridge Church. After tying the knot in 2018, the couple settled in Aubrey, Texas. Their joy multiplied in March 2022 with the birth of their daughter, Hazel Belle Parrish.



Michael "Odis P." Parrish is the lead guitarist for Koe Wetzels and The Konvikts.

But Michael's journey into music started at the age of 14 with a gift that struck a chord deep within him.

"That Christmas, I got my first guitar - a \$100 Washburn Lyon. I was hooked instantly," he shares.

His musical influences are an eclectic mix, ranging from classic rock legends like Van Halen and Slash to contemporary acts like Paramore and Kings of Leon. These inspirations formed the foundation of his distinct style, fusing red dirt, pop rock, and even worship music.

The path to stardom began during his time in the Clint Levi Band during his years at Tarleton State. Fate led him to meet Mason Morris, who would later become his bandmate in Koe Wetzels and The Konvikts. Their future collaboration with Koe Wetzels took root with a faithful gig at Blaine's Pub in San

Angelo, where Koe's cover of "Somewhere Beautiful" left an indelible mark.

"Mason and I knew the minute we heard Koe sing that song that if things ever went south with the Clint Levi Band, we wanted to be with Koe Wetzels," Michael recalls.

Shortly thereafter, the Clint Levi Band disbanded, and the trio joined forces. The rest, as they say, is history. For almost a decade now, Michael, Mason, Koe, and the rest of the Konvikts have been making music magic together.

Beyond the stage lights, Michael finds solace in his non-musical interests.

"Any free time I have, I prefer to spend hunting - preferably bow hunting," he shares.

Archery is a skill he's diving into with enthusiasm. His days also involve doing

carpentry work with skills passed down by his dad and managing social media for a few businesses, all while supporting his wife's breeding program, The Parrish Doods.

With success comes its own set of challenges. Michael cherishes the electrifying connection he feels on stage.

"Off the stage, I'm a fairly reserved and easygoing person. On stage is where I can release that," he explains.

"The roar of the crowd, the feedback from my amp, and a little Jack Daniel's, and it turns into a very electric and spiritual thing!"

Yet, as his career soars, the distance from his daughter becomes the most poignant challenge.

"Since my daughter was born, being away from her is absolutely the most difficult aspect of being a musician,"

he admits.

Through it all, Michael's faith and values serve as his compass. He embraces his unique position as a role model within the energetic Texas music scene.

"I've been blessed to be in the 'hardest partying' and 'rowdiest' act to come out of Texas because it sets the stage for people to notice something different with how I carry myself and treat others," he states.

His wife, Mia, standing by his side as a source of strength and accountability, and his band's understanding and support allows him to navigate the industry's challenges with integrity and keep him grounded and focused on his priorities.

For aspiring musicians, Michael offers insightful advice.

"Listen to as much music as possible, meet as many musicians as possible, and play as many gigs as possible," he urges.

But his wisdom goes beyond just the music. He encourages aspiring artists to stay humble yet discerning, surrounded by those who hold them accountable.

"Always keep a close friend that can help hold you accountable," he suggests, acknowledging the challenges that fame can bring.

Michael Parrish's story is one of passion, persistence, and hometown pride. From the streets of Granbury to the grand stages, his journey has struck chords both in music and in hearts. As Odis P., he continues to mesmerize audiences with his guitar prowess, leaving a trail of inspiration for aspiring musicians to follow.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Hood Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 31, 2023 at 5:00 P. M. at the Hood Central Appraisal District Office, 1902 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$2,863,413

The total amount of decrease for the current year's budget is \$92,350

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 20 full time.

The number of employees compensated under the current budget is 21 full time.

2024 Budget \$2,863,413
2023 Budget \$2,955,763

Decrease \$92,350

The appraisal district is supported primarily by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
1902 WEST PEARL STREET
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048
PHONE #817-573-2471

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Lipan ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:15 PM, August 30, 2023 in Sylvia Wilson Baccus Library 106 Osage St Lipan, Tx 76462. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The school district has elected to adopt a tax rate before receiving the certified appraisal roll from the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) and before adopting a budget. In accordance with Texas Tax Code, Section 26.05(g), the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) in which the school district participates has (have) certified to the assessor for the school district an estimate of the taxable value of property in the school district as provided by the Texas Tax Code, Section 26.01(e). In accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 44.004(j), following adoption of the tax rate, the school district will publish notice and hold another public meeting before the school district adopts a budget.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.751400/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.330000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value
(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year*
Total appraised value** of all property	\$767,857,093	\$859,731,776
Total appraised value** of new property***	\$6,193,880	\$11,352,733
Total taxable value**** of all property	\$273,548,644	\$298,724,810
Total taxable value**** of new property***	\$6,193,880	\$11,352,733

*All values identified are based on estimate(s) of taxable value received pursuant to Section 26.01(e), Tax Code.
**Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
*** "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(17), Tax Code.
**** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$14,118,077

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.940200	\$0.335000	\$1.275200	\$8,619	\$6,582
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.751400	\$0.330000	\$1.081400	\$8,580	\$8,805
Proposed Rate	\$0.751400	\$0.330000	\$1.081400	\$8,580	\$8,805

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$201,265	\$234,198
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$141,138	\$110,778
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100	\$1.275200	\$1.081400
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,799.79	\$1,197.95
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-601.84

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.082518. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.082518.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$2,800,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$300,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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 Master-points. 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. beginning Sept. 11 at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. December program will feature songs of Christmas from around the world. www.granburycivicchorus.org

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING 2 p.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing! Details: 505-710-5100.

BEGINNERS' CHAIR Yoga 45-minute Class. Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. - Donations for Local Charities are accepted. Class will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy, 76049. For more information call 817-326-2201

PEDALING FOR Parkinson's

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

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND FOOT game day. 10 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club offers a "fun duplicate" bridge game at noon at the Texas Cottage, 5920 Henslee Court. \$4. Details: 817-480-4472.

THURSDAYS

MELODY BELLES singers, women's choral group, weekly rehearsals for Christmas concert season starting August 31. from 10:00 a.m. to noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge Street. For details, please call 817-999-1364

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. tai chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11:15 a.m. chair yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

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

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

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



CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT
Friday, 18 August 2023 - Thursday, 24 August 2023

Barbie (PG13)
Fri: 1:45PM, 4:25PM, 7:05PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:40PM, 8:20PM

Blue Beetle (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:25PM, 8:20PM

Gran Turismo: Based On A True Story (PG13)
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 8:10PM

Meg 2: The Trench (PG13)
Fri: 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 1:45PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 5:45PM, 8:30PM

Oppenheimer (R)
Fri: 1:30PM, 5:20PM, 9:10PM.
Sat: 1:55PM, 5:45PM, 9:35PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 2:50PM, 6:40PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:15PM, 7:05PM.
Thurs: 7:05PM

Sound of Freedom (PG13)
Fri: 1:45PM.
Sat, Sun: 10:45AM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:45PM

Strays (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM, 11:20PM.
Sat: 10:10AM, 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 10:10AM, 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:15PM, 4:35PM, 6:55PM, 9:15PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM

TMNT: Mutant Mayhem (PG)
Fri: 1:30PM, 3:55PM, 6:20PM, 8:45PM, 11:10PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 10:05PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 6:50PM, 9:15PM.
Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:40PM

TMNT: Mutant Mayhem - Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 11:30AM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

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Hood County News

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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.

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

DEPOT

FROM PAGE C1

during the 1880s.

The Granbury Railroad Depot isn't just a place; it's a time machine that propels us through the annals of time. It's a living relic, a connection to events that have etched their marks on local, regional, and even national history. As you stroll through its hallowed halls, you're confronted with stark reminders of the past. Right away, you notice the depot's separate waiting rooms for white and black passengers that are poignant markers of a challenging era, a tangible embodiment of the struggles African Americans have faced throughout our history as a nation. The layers of history are like brushstrokes on a canvas, revealing both the triumphs and tribulations of an evolving



COURTESY OF MELINDA RAY, LOCAL HISTORIAN

Pictured is the interior of the Granbury Railroad Depot.

society.

The birth of the Granbury Railroad Depot was not a solitary endeavor but a communal vision. The town's pioneers, their dreams as vast as the Texas sky, pooled their resources, contributing a whopping \$25,000 to woo the Fort

Worth and Rio Grande Railroad to their doorstep in 1887. Legendary names like Ashley Crockett and E.A. Hannaford echo through time as those who dared to believe in progress and prosperity.

In an ever-changing world, the Granbury Railroad

Depot stands resolute, a silent witness to time's unceasing march. It's not merely a building; it's a symbol of progress, an embodiment of Granbury's journey from humble pioneer beginnings to a bustling county seat and year-round tourist mecca. Recognized as a local landmark on Nov. 8, 2008, the depot is still owned by the Fort Worth & Western Railroad, but the city of Granbury leases the building and provides maintenance and upkeep on the facility and grounds.

So, next time you find yourself in the heart of Hood County, don't merely pass by the Granbury Railroad Depot – step inside, embrace the stories, and let yourself be transported to an era where railroads united a nation and progress was etched in bricks and tiles.

102

FROM PAGE C1

"Yeah, my dad didn't want me to go in the service. But I finally talked him into it," Nielsen said, with a chuckle.

In a letter she wrote, Nielsen also detailed her reason for joining SPARS and recounted her time in the Coast Guard.

"There were six girls to a room — three bunkbeds and two dressers. During white glove inspection, we had to stagger our drawers," she states in the letter. "One time a girl in our room left a slip strap hanging out and so all six of us had extra duty. Your bed (also) had to be tight so you could bounce a dime on it."

During boot camp where she was stationed in Palm Beach, Florida, Nielsen explained that the girls had to complete drills, like marching, calisthenics, swimming, and attend classes about the Coast Guard.

"Our drill sergeants were men who showed no mercy," she wrote. "Some girls fainted in drill field — hot in September in Florida."

After six weeks of boot camp, the girls were allowed to sign up for a school. As she was fed up with office work, she wanted to try something different, so Nielsen decided to attend "cooks and bakers school."

"(We) had one free period each day and I chose that time to sing in a choral group," her letter states. "When work duties were given, the girls in choir received serving food duty — the other girls scrubbed floors and worked in hot dishwashing machines."

Nielsen completed school and then took a test, earning the rating of ship's cook, third class — equal to a sergeant in the Army.



ASHLEY INGE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Fern Nielsen's cake for her 102nd birthday was decked out in red, white, and blue, signifying her two years of service in the Coast Guard reserves.

She then spent six months in Florida, although she recounts it "wasn't all work."

"Several times four of us would rent a car and drive to another town," Nielsen's letter states. "Before we had liberty, we had to pass personal inspection. We would line up and in those days, stockings had seams. The officer in charge would tell us our port or starboard seam was crooked."

After Palm Beach, Nielsen met her future husband, George in a town called Sandwich, Massachusetts on Cape Cod.

"He was from Washington State, and I was from Pennsylvania," she said. "How we met was we were on the beach, and I lost my identification bracelet."

Nielsen's oldest son, Keith, explained that one of her friends shouted out that "whoever finds her bracelet, Fern will go out on a date with you," — which inspired George to make a show.

"He made it look good," she said. "He kept diving in after it and he said he found it the first time he dove in, but he made it look good."

Fern explained that after her first date with George, she told her best girlfriend, "That's the first boy I ever went out with that I could talk to like another girl."

"I told him that later on, and he said, 'I don't know if that's a compliment or not,'" she said, chuckling.

Fern and George got married in March of 1946, right after they were "mustered out" of the Coast Guard "by length of service, plus age."

After they married, they moved to Washington. However, the rainy days were too much for Fern.

"The first year they were out there, it rained 360 days out of 365, so she said, 'We're leaving, we're going back to Pennsylvania,'" Keith said.

From Pennsylvania to Ohio to Rio Hondo, George and Fern traveled to find the place they would finally call their retirement town.

They finally decided on Rio Hondo because a grocery store clerk didn't ask for their I.D. when they bought groceries.

"He looked over at her and he said, 'Fern, this is where we're going to retire,' so that's

how they ended up in South Texas," Keith said.

The couple loved to travel and were very active in their church. Fern also enjoyed reading, knitting, playing card games, and teaching line dancing.

Today, Fern has three children: Larry, Keith, and Jeff, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

"One of the things she always told us was, 'You learn from yesterday. You live for today. You look to tomorrow. And then you always take a nap and rest this afternoon,'" Keith said.

But Fern doesn't always listen to her own advice.

At 102, she is still highly active in AVIVA Granbury completing crossword puzzles, playing Bingo and bean bag baseball, and enjoying happy hour.

"She'll try anything," Colleen Nielsen, Fern's daughter-in-law said. "I remember one time going to a winery and all of sudden I turn around and she was in there doing the stomping of the grapes kind of like Lucy did on 'I Love Lucy,' so she'll try anything for fun."

Fern has now lived at AVIVA Granbury for about three months now — but she has loved every minute of it.

"They're wonderful to you here," Fern said. "I have yet to hear anybody say an unkind word or anything."

Overall, Fern said she has "lived a good life," with her only regret being that she didn't go to college.

As for her time in the Coast Guard, she said she wouldn't trade her experiences for anything.

"It all seems like a dream," her letter states. "The best thing that happened to me was the fact that I met George in Sandwich."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

PLAY

FROM PAGE C3

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.

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somerville A&M Club meets the 3rd Thursday (except June, July & August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W Hwy 376 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

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

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets on the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

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

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

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Granbury sisters compete in nationwide Mustang horse show

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Two Granbury sisters are competing in a nationwide Mustang horse show in hopes of winning a big cash prize.

Lily and Sophie Douglas have been riding horses since they were young. Now they have the chance to compete in the adult category after recently turning 18.

Lily began riding at the age of 12 and Sophie began riding at nine. Ever since the sisters began riding, their passion has only grown.

The girls have competed in the youth division up until this point. It was in 2013 when their coach Lanny Leach introduced the girls to the Mustang world and gave the girls the chance to be featured in the television show "Mustang Millionaire."

In the Mustang show, all the horses are wild and come from public land. The trainers must work with them, gain their trust, and then compete with them.

"Training the Mustangs for competitions was some-

thing I became addicted to. I grew more in my training skills every year and was challenged with each Mustang," Sophie said. "Taking them wild to mild is so rewarding, especially when you have those moments of remembering that you have gained the trust to sit and ride on the horse that was wild a few weeks or few months ago."

"I have loved horses for as long as I can remember, not dreaming that I would ever be training wild mustangs," Lily said.

The girls are now competing at the adult level and will compete in the nationwide Mustang show in Fort Worth where Mustang shows have been held there since 2007.

The horses are shown in different categories in hand, a trail class and must ride in

a certain pattern. The horse and trainer are judged and then the top 10 are chosen to do a three-and-a-half-minute freestyle performance. The winner will receive \$10,000.

The horses will also be available for adoption after the competition has concluded, and the top 10 horses will be sold.

"This competition is showing the public that these mustangs are versatile and are just as capable as domestic horses. We hope to encourage people to adopt these incredible mustangs. Once you adopt one, you will want to adopt another," Lily said.

The Mustang show will take place over two days at the Will Rogers Memorial Center on Sept. 8 and 9. Both days are free up until 6 p.m. with the second part of the event being ticketed at \$20.

For more information on the show or to purchase tickets visit fortworthmustangshow.com.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured is Sophie Douglas



Pictured is Lily Douglas.

Texas Cowboy Symposium and Chuckwagon cookoff coming to Granbury

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Texas Cowboy Symposium and Chuckwagon Cookoff event is the first event of its kind to come to Granbury. The event will also have a swing dance festival and several programs that promote the Western way of living over two days.

There will be food, swing dancing, a youth cookoff, vendors, and live entertainment.

The idea of a chuckwagon cookoff stems from Homer Robertson who is a life-long Granbury resident that started cooking on a wagon 28 years ago after finding a Dutch oven in his grandmother's house. Robertson is a retired Fort Worth Firefighter after serving for 37 years.

Homer has been immensely successful in his chuckwagon contests, winning three national championships and having appearances on the Food Network.

Robertson has visited Ruidoso, New Mexico numerous times and has seen them host many symposiums and thought of the idea to



bring something like that to Granbury. Robertson mentioned the idea to friends in the area and they all agreed it was something they wanted to make happen.

He wants to show the residents of Granbury the western life and the chuckwagon way of cooking.

"I'm so excited. Chuckwagon cooking is my passion. I think it's exciting for people in Granbury to get to see this," Robertson said. "It will be a fun event."

The first day will feature the youth cookoff where the youth will work with the chuckwagon teams to pre-

pare two items for judging. There will be five different cooking categories including beans, bread, dessert, meat and potatoes. Winners from each category and an overall grand champion will be named. The youth cookoff is meant to help the youth understand the hardships of



COURTESY PHOTOS

Chuckwagon cookoff photos from past events.

the pioneer forefathers by using Dutch ovens.

Following the cookoff, meals will be served for those with tickets and then the swing festival will begin where JD Barham and Cowjazz will serve as the entertainment.

Saturday will feature the Chuckwagon cookoff and entertainment from Jody Nix and his Texas Cowboys.

The event will take place

on Sept. 29 and 30. Tickets for the performance from JD Barham can be purchased online through Warren's Backyard on Facebook. The chuckwagon meals have sold out but Robertson hopes to be able to get more wagons to get more wheels. To follow along with the upcoming event or for more information follow the Texas Cowboy Symposium on Facebook and Instagram.

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DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
 1 John 4:12

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,
 817-326-2035

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Crossing Place
 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
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 817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
 Glen Rose
 254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
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 817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
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 817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
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 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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 Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
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 817-573-4901

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 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
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Patillo Baptist
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Pecan Baptist
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 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

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 254-835-4375

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 817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
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 507 Western Hills Trail
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Dayspring Christian
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 817-573-5431

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 817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
 5904 Walnut Creek Circle
 817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-326-3041

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Granbury Church Of Christ
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Lipan Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
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 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

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 1106 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL
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 4530 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-6074

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
 Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
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 817-573-4259

LUTHERAN
 Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
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 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
 1400 N. Meadows Dr.
 817-573-5011

METHODIST
 Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 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
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 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
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 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
 4323 Waples Rd.
 817-573-9076

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Granbury Church Of The
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 921 Lipan Dr.
 817-573-4041

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Hood Pentecostal
 3100 Beechwood St.,
 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
 4800 Glen Rose Hwy
 817-559-7372

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First Presbyterian
 303 W. Bridge St.
 817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day
 Adventist
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 817-326-3573

OTHER

Anchor Fellowship
 3200 Acton School Rd.
 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
 4332 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-554-3432

Christian Science Society
 528 N. Crockett
 817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 917-326-5501

Crossroads
 200 S. Crook St., Cresson
 817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood
 County
 2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,
 817-579-9332

Generations Church Of
 Granbury
 5718 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-326-5378

Hope Community
 3206 W. Hwy. 377
 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
 205 West Lipan Dr., Lipan
 254-396-3162

New Season Global Ministries
 3755 Acton Hwy.
 817-910-8777

Pure Praise
 2901 Glen Rose Hwy.
 817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel
 6101 Rock Church Hwy
 Tolar, Texas 76476

St. John Victorian Mission Of
 Granbury
 5031 Bandy Rd.
 817-573-2669

Stonewater
 911 E. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-579-9175

The Bridge
 1107 Weatherford Hwy
 254-522-5330

The Heights
 1921 Acton Hwy
 817-558-2121

The Sanctuary
 4400 Daugherty Ct.
 817-326-2709

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

 Psalm 94:18-19

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

 Isaiah 41:10

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

 Romans 8:28

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Botanicula

A game full of life

SCREENSHOT COURTESY AMANITA DESIGNS

The characters escape from a black fuzzy parasite that threatens their tree.



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.

Dark, many-legged parasites are killing your tree, and you, along with your tree friends, must save the last seed.

The game starts with a view of a branch, with seeds budding on every twig. Click on the buds, and the seeds form. A dark parasite with one red eye comes and eats all the seeds but one, which escapes. It falls from the branch and lands on Mr. Lantern, our main character. He looks like an acorn to me, but he's supposed to be a physalis (part of the gooseberry family, like a tomatillo).

In a quick, simple montage, the seed communicates with Mr. Lantern, telling him that they must escape from the parasites, and plant the seed somewhere safe, so it can grow. Mr. Lantern hides the seed within his papery hull. He and his friends, Mr. Twig (a stick), Mr. Poppy Head (a poppy seed pod), Mr. Feather (a fly) and Mrs. Mushroom (you guessed it) travel through the tree branches, evading parasites and other dangers on the way. Eventually they'll defeat the parasites and plant the seed, creating a new home for them and their children.

This is another beautiful game from Amanita Designs. Jára Plachý, the project's lead animator, signed up with them to create it back in 2009.

"With Botanicula, I wanted to create a game that will be faster and have more locations to explore," Plachý said.

The original intent was to create a narrative like an animated movie. But after consulting with Jakub Dvorsky of Amanita Designs, they made it a more playable game with puzzles to solve.

Plachý said, "I started to work on games when I was hired by friends from

Amanita Design to create some animations for Machinarium, and I really enjoyed working on the project. It was Amanita that actually showed me how to create a game. Until this collaboration, I worked mostly on animated movies, and I realized it's possible to create original and unique computer games that have narrative and expression equal to animated movies or graphic novels."

The backgrounds are huge and lush. When your mouse hovers over small objects like root hairs, dust clouds, and leaves, a small animation plays. With the click of a mouse, leaves unfurl, lights blink on and off, and little creatures hop from branch to branch. This makes the game feel larger, because of the number of actions you can take. There's lots of hidden animations that are triggered with the right combination of clicks.

Not every element solves a puzzle, which addresses one of the issues with a point and click gaming system. If you limit your active elements to only those that are important to complete the game, then it makes the solutions easier. The active elements are consistent with the look of the rest of the game. You'll need a bit of patience and thorough examination of the graphics to solve the puzzles, instead of just clicking things until something happens.

These puzzles fit within the universe of the story, instead of being shoehorned in. One solution requires you to change the way stems are arranged, so that a drop of dew can fall in the exact right spot. Some are elimination or combination puzzles, so that eventually you'll find the right combination through perseverance. Mr. Lantern and his friends solve puzzles in dif-

ferent ways, and each bring their own strengths to the table. Mr. Lantern protects the seed and can use it to activate elements. Mr. Twig can grow his stems longer and can sprout flowers. Mr. Poppy is the largest and can solve problems with his size. Mrs. Mushroom can duplicate herself and bounce things from her cap. Mr. Feather is the smallest and can fly.

This is a relatively large game for an indie. One of Plachý's goals was to create a larger game that would take more time to play. There are several different levels, including a final boss level, and lots of hidden in-game achievements to unlock.

Amanita hired DVA, a Czech alternative rock music duo formed by Bára Kratochvílová and Jan Kratochvíl, to create the soundtrack and the sound effects for the game. Since the game features trees, plants and seeds, they thought, "Hey, maybe we can do it with sounds from real nature... We had a Dictaphone, and there are many sounds of birds and flies."

But since this was February, there were no mosquitoes to be found. They set up a Foley studio for the rest of the sounds they needed. Twenty percent of the sounds in the game are real, and the rest were recorded by the duo making sounds that seemed appropriate with their mouths. This makes the game so endearing and organic. There's no language barrier, even though the game is Czechoslovakian, because all the creatures speak in nonsense words, with the meaning in an animated thought bubble above their heads.

If you had to describe this game with one word, it would be 'joyful' - it's a pleasure to play, with beautiful backgrounds, and an awesome soundtrack. Great for all ages.

Botanicula, 2012 is available on SteamOS. It's on sale this month for \$2.24.

EXHIBIT

FROM PAGE C1

The photography and digital exhibition at the Shanley Gallery continues from now through Saturday Aug. 26 coinciding with Last Saturday Gallery Night when the gallery will be open until 8 p.m. Current daily hours can be found on the Lake Granbury Art Association Facebook page.

COURTESY PHOTOS BY DORIS BERNIER



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	7 Mission Granbury 5K/1K Ghost Run
	13-15 Here's to Clue--Spooky Edition
	14 Granbury Rock N Blues Bash

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Pecaners host successful food drive to benefit local families

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.

Pecan resident Dennis Prevost writes that on Aug. 10 and 11, residents of Pecan Plantation conducted a driveway food drive for nonperishable items to benefit the Brazos River Food Bank. After the two-day event, more than 600 pounds of food and over \$1,200 in financial donations were collected. Special recognition goes to the Lady Bug Garden Club members, led by President Cathy Gaines, who worked tirelessly to secure the drive's success.

This event was the second Pecan driveway collection of 2023 benefiting the Brazos River Food Bank with the first occasion happening during Mother's Day weekend in May. At that gathering, over 2,200 pounds of food and \$1,400 in donations were received.

Despite last weekend's scorching temperatures, Dennis notes that "the Lady Bugs were troopers" and "were determined to make sure no child started school hungry."

PAINT PARTY

"Pecan Paint Along" at the PAC will happen tomorrow, Sunday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. when Kathy Yoders leads 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.

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club will gather on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at

5:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse for a salad meal and a program. Want more information about the group and its activities? Send email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan Plantation's Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, Aug. 23 in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Breakfast service begins at 8 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m. Attendees will hear from Dr. Scott Myers, an award-winning sculptor and artist, as well as a locally practicing veterinarian. Dr. Myers boasts exhibits throughout Texas, Wyoming, and Arizona, and his list of awards and honors is long. Reservations to attend are due by noon on Tuesday, Aug. 22: 817-573-2641.

GUITAR LESSONS

The next session of beginner guitar lessons for adults will commence on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the PAC. Reading music is not a prerequisite for the class, which will include six to eight sessions. Meeting time is Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. with a \$25 weekly fee.

Instructor Carolyn Troland encourages students to bring a guitar with new strings and says she will have class members "playing favorite songs in no time." Contact Carolyn for more information (580-369-8485) and the PAC to sign up: 817-573-7952.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nominations are currently being accepted for folks interested in serving a three-year term beginning Nov. 11 on the Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service board of directors. Resumes may be delivered to Rene Garrett at the emergency services compound or emailed to ppems@ppvfdems.com. Deadline for submission is Friday, Sept. 1.

LABOR DAY

Summer might be coming to an end, but another neighborhood party is on Pecan's agenda. Labor Day will hold a two-day celebration with a street dance and activities happening Sunday evening, Sept. 3, followed by a pool party with a disk jockey playing music on Monday, Sept. 4. More details on this celebratory weekend are forthcoming.

POOL NEWS

With school beginning, a change in lifeguard staffing is also happening at Pecan's pools. The PAC no longer has lifeguards on duty, and residents will follow "swim at your own risk" guidelines until the pool closes on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The clubhouse pool will remain fully staffed until its close date on Monday, Sept. 4.

GOOD READS

Many thanks go to the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club for making the "Children's Book Nook" a reality in the Pecan clubhouse. The collection is located at the top of the stairs and ready for young readers.

ROAD WORK

Several streets in Pecan are getting a makeover, and currently Brierfield Road is being repaved. Also on the list for work are Prospect Hill as well as portions of Bellechase and Monticello. Crews will be out from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Tuesday trash pickup will run as scheduled. Pecan's Operations Manager Daniel Van Patten thanks residents for their patience during this time of road

improvement.

MARINA MUSIC

The "Marina Music Trio" consisting of Eric, Jim, and Bruce entertains patrons every second and fourth Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Pecan's marina. Folks having enjoyed their music call the group "great talents" and comment how "lucky" Pecaners are to enjoy this amenity.

SCHOOL DAYS

School bells have rung, and the students of Pecan are back in the classroom, which means increased morning and afternoon traffic along with bus routes operating again. Neighbors will want to be mindful of little ones out and about for school.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Ken Morgan, who passed away Aug. 4; to the family of James Segrest, who passed away Aug. 5; and also to the family of James Bradel, who passed away Aug. 10.

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