



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, September 16, 2023]

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Friends of Memorial Lane hosted a 9/11 Memorial Service to remember and honor the 2,977 people who lost their lives after the attack that turned the country upside down at 8:46 a.m. on September 11, making the country forever changed. Please see story, A5.

Jeff Law returns to serve again as Chief Appraiser

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Law is coming back to Hood County to serve again after he was named the new Chief Appraiser for the Hood County Appraisal District on Sept. 7. Law is taking the place of Eddie Roe after his resignation in May.

Law was born and raised in Burleson and received his bachelor's in business administration and finance with an emphasis in real estate from Texas Christian University in 2003. Law has been married for 33 years and has twin daughters who are both currently in college.

He started working in the appraisal district straight out of high school in 1988 and originally began working in the mapping department of the Tarrant Appraisal District, then transitioned to a draftsman then a staff appraiser. Ten years after he first started in the appraisal district, Law became the Chief Appraiser of the Hood County Appraisal District at the age of 32.

He served in Hood County from 1998 to 2008 before making the transition over to Tarrant's Chief Appraiser from 2008-2023 before recently resigning on Sept. 1.

"I had several folks reaching out to me after Roe re-

signed wanting to know if I would be interested in taking that role back," Law said. "When you have 10 times a larger district, you have 10 times the challenges as well. So, I decided to make the transition and decision to come back to a small-town community again."

His resignation letter noted he would be looking at other employment opportunities. The letter came three days after a vote of no confidence and an urge for the board of directors to fire Law during a Tarrant County Commissioner's Court meeting on Aug. 29.

"I did not resign because of what was going on. I resigned because I got a job offer in Hood County that I wanted to take," Law said. "Some of the folks up there (in Tarrant County) have spun it into he

PLEASE SEE **LAW** | A2

Granbury ISD School Board holds special called meeting

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Granbury ISD School Board called for a special meeting that took place on Sept. 11, where several public comments were heard, and seven level three grievances were addressed in closed session.

The grievances are complaints filed against GISD school board members. Level three is the highest level of local grievances where the first level is for

Tensions filled the room when it was noted that public comment would be limited to one minute per speaker. Board President Barbara Herrington said not everyone was called because what they wished to speak about was not on the agenda.

According to Attorney Don Richards and volunteer for the Freedom of Information of Foundation of Texas hotline, "If it's public comment they have to let them speak on whatever subject they want to speak on. If it's not on the agenda, the school board meeting cannot discuss it. All they can do is put it on the agenda, but that doesn't prohibit members of the public from raising any concerns about anything that they want raised. They may limit them in time or if everyone is speaking on the same subject, they can limit the number of speakers for time purposes. Legally they can do that. Unless it's a public hearing, you can't require them to hear everybody. It's really hard to enforce because they (the board) are given some discretion on public comments even though they have to have them, but there still given some discretion to keep them (speakers) from just dominating the whole meeting and saying the same thing."

Richards cites the Open Meetings Act under the Texas

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A5

County rescinds donated statues following ruling from historical commission

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court voted to rescind the donation of two bronze statues during its regularly scheduling meeting on Sept. 12, following a final ruling from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) stating that the statues were essentially "too big."

The two statues — Silent Prey and Black Star — are two pieces crafted by well-known Texan and Western artist Covelle Jones and were recently donated to

the county by the Ken Hill Foundation. The statues were presented by CEO Jeff Farris, who is in charge of the disbursement of the late Ken Hill's estate.

Although both statues were previously accepted by the Hood County Commissioners Court during the bimonthly meeting on Nov. 29, 2022, the location of the Black Star statues was not properly agreed upon, which spurred Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle to place the item back on the Aug. 8 agenda to clear up any confusion.

While Black Star faced

controversy with some residents calling the medicine woman a "witch," the statue was eventually approved by the commissioners on Aug. 8. Both statues were then scheduled to be placed on the northeast corner of the Hood County Courthouse lawn on Sept. 8.

However, during its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 22, the Hood County Commissioners Court sparked discussion on the topic again, when it was revealed that the THC had final say on the matter.

"I put this on the agenda as a discussion only item,"

Eagle said, during the Aug. 22 meeting. "But this is not about the merits of the statues. I've got a grant of easement here that this county granted to the Texas Historical Commission back on December 12, 2000, and this grant of easement really takes it completely out of our hands."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill then explained that once he had learned that the THC needed to be contacted for a final vote, he reached out to Senator Brian Birdwell and explained the

PLEASE SEE **STATUES** | A4



137TH YEAR, NO. 94

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 36 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 36 pages

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Business development programs designed to help businesses grow



Chamber Message

In the ever-evolving landscape of business, staying ahead of the curve is essential for success. Fortunately, chamber of commerce organizations across the world understand this need and regularly organize business development events to empower their members and local businesses. These events are more than just gatherings; they are invaluable opportunities for networking, learning and growth. In this article, we will explore the significance of these events for chamber members and businesses alike.

One of the primary reasons businesses and chamber members should attend these events is the unparalleled networking opportunities they offer. Whether you are a small local business or

a multinational corporation, building strong connections within your community is essential. Chamber events provide a platform where like-minded professionals and business owners can come together to share ideas, experiences, and even collaborate on projects.

By attending these events, you can establish vital relationships that can lead to partnerships, collaborations, and new customers. Furthermore, networking within the Granbury Chamber of Commerce often brings together individuals with a shared commitment to the local business community, creating a supportive ecosystem that fosters growth and success.

In the fast-paced business world, knowledge is power. Granbury Chamber of Commerce business de-

velopment events offer a diverse range of workshops, seminars, and keynote presentations by industry experts. These sessions cover a multitude of topics, including marketing strategies, financial planning, technological advancements and much more. Attending these events allows you to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices, ensuring that your business remains competitive.

Moreover, the knowledge-sharing aspect of the chamber events often extends to peer learning. Business owners and professionals can exchange insights, discuss challenges, and provide solutions to common problems. This collaborative atmosphere fosters innovation and helps businesses navigate hurdles more effectively.

Granbury Chamber of Commerce events are also an excellent platform for businesses to enhance their visibility with the local community. These events often attract a diverse audience, including potential customers, investors, and partners. By participating in these events, businesses can showcase their products and services, creating brand awareness and generating leads.

Furthermore, Granbury Chamber of Commerce events often provide sponsorship and speaking opportunities. This exposure can help position your business as an industry leader and authority in your field, boosting credibility and trust among potential clients and partners.

Granbury Chamber of Commerce Business Development events are

not mere social gatherings; they are essential tools for growth, learning, and success in the business world. From networking opportunities and knowledge sharing to increased visibility and exposure, the benefits of attending these events are numerous. For chamber members and businesses, these events serve as a cornerstone of community building and business development. To thrive in today's competitive environment, attending Chamber Business Development events should be a top priority for all businesses and professionals.

We would love you to join us for our next Business Development Workshop Series in October. Krystal Wooley, CEO of NoveltyHR, will provide insights on unveiling the elements of Employment Branding &

Culture, plus guide you in developing an actionable plan for success. This is a two-part workshop series that occurs on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. For more information on this Business Development Series and to get registered, please visit our event calendar on our website at www.granburychamber.com or call us at 817-573-1622.

In addition, if you would like more information on how to be a one of our presenters for our 2024 Business Development Events, please email Holly Martin at holly@granburychamber.com. We look forward to bringing more opportunities for our chamber members and business community to grow, learn, and thrive!

“I have learned that I am truly meant to be here” Leadership Granbury Tami Fleeger finds unity in the community

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Tami Fleeger is the General Manager for Comfort Suites in Granbury and is also a recent member of Leadership Granbury.

Fleeger moved from Aledo to Granbury two and a half years ago. Before coming to Texas, Fleeger used to live in Northern California where she served in hospitality for 12 years managing hotel teams and operations.

Fleeger's husband Kevin always wanted to move back to Texas as he used to live in Midland when he was younger. Fleeger and her husband



Tami Fleeger

COURTESY PHOTO

also have family living in Texas, including Fleeger's father who is now just a few hours away. After some

thought, it only made sense to make the move to Texas.

“It felt like a big hug from God that he made the way for us to be here. Granbury is so charming and in my short time working here, I have learned that I am truly meant to be here. The unity that is at work in this community is what truly makes Granbury the special place that is,” Fleeger said.

Having been in the hospitality business for 14 years now, Fleeger has become a stronger leader.

“We have a unique opportunity everyday to connect with not only staff, but also the guests that stay

with us. No two days are alike. Everyone we meet is going through something. Something we get to celebrate with them or something we cry together over. Whatever the case may be, we get to meet people where they are, guests and employees alike, and lock arms with them in support and pray for their needs,” Fleeger said.

After settling down in the town, Fleeger decided she wanted to join Leadership Granbury to get better connected to the town and the people. Fleeger now serves on the board as one of the event directors.

“It has connected me to so

many people within the community. It has truly opened my eyes to see what a community that supports each other and works together in unity can accomplish,” Fleeger said. “I love connecting people with resources and I have learned so much through Leadership Granbury what resources are available here. From non-profits to education, from the chamber of commerce to Visit Granbury, from city hall to every small business in town...there is so much that Granbury offers its community.”

When it comes to the future Fleeger is eager for what

is to come both in her leadership as well as her current role at Comfort Suites.

“I am looking forward to creating systems and streamlining processes and formations with the current board of directors, making the way for future Leadership Granbury generations,” she said. “I am looking forward to watching other leaders come in and be as amazed as I was. We all want to be a part of something and to feel like we belong. We all want to continue to grow and move forward. Leadership Granbury Alumni continues to provide the space to do just that.”

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT
STAN WASIELEWSKI

Business:
Waterview Senior Living

Time as Ambassador:
13 Years!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Stan Wasielewski, we are very thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Stan Wasielewski. When asked why he loves being an ambassador he said, “I have had the opportunity to be an Ambassador for many Chambers. Granbury is the one I am most proud to represent. In addition, I am very enthusiastic about supporting our business community (the backbone of our country & economy)!” Fun Fact about Stan: “My ongoing efforts in making a ‘fashion statement’ with my hats & socks!” Thank you, Stan, for being an Ambassador of The Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

D'Vine Wine

Our mission is to create an inviting environment where visitors and members of our community have a place to enjoy learning about wine and the wine process.

COURTESY GRAPHIC

D'Vine Wine. “Located in the heart of historic Granbury, surrounded by the romantic nuances of the Brazos River, quaint shops, wonderful restaurants, entertainment and a moonlit beach, D'Vine Wine opens its doors to friendship. Joshua Winters, Diane and Tony Hedges and Ron Van Meter create an inviting and fun environment where you can learn about wine and the wine process.

PLEASE SEE SPOTLIGHT | A6

LAW

FROM PAGE A1

resigned because of all the pressure that was going on and that's not true. The time frame in which I received a valid offer from the HCAD it just so happened to fall in that particular time frame.”

On Aug. 24, the mayors of Colleyville, Keller and Southlake issued a letter demanding the TAD board of directors hire a new chief appraiser. The letter posted to Twitter by Keller Mayor in part stated, “Taxpayers have lost trust in the Tarrant Appraisal District,” and went on to say, “As mayors of the cities, we refuse to sit complacent while the TAD tries to justify yet another scandal.”

This joint letter came after the head of Information Systems at the TAD was suspended and later fired after he was heard in a leaked recording during a staff meeting saying, “I'm OK with creating a false narrative that distances the truth from the media” according to the Fort Worth Star Telegram.

Law noted he has dealt with reporters that “have not been very favorable” and noted

that “rarely” was he able to give his side of the story.

“Essentially, I had a couple of circumstances in which employees of the appraisal district took certain actions that I had to deal with. I've also had some situations in which some politics have cracked into the appraisal district and that has caused a lot of news relative to the appraisal district. In all these situations, we have tried to manage the appraisal district in a professional way and obviously if a reporter can find a hot topic, they will report on that,” Law said. “There are some media outlets up there (in Tarrant County) more in particular the print media that have taken advantage of some situations that they chose to report on, and I was never really provided an outlet or a manner in which to explain both sides of the story.”

Law is looking forward to this new chapter back in Hood County as he starts work on Sept. 18.

“I'm excited about it. I think it's going to be fun and interesting. Hopefully we can work to make sure that the public service aspect of the appraisal district is as good as it can be. We hope to be able

to serve the taxing units that we do work for in a courteous and respectful way and just follow the law,” Law said. “I've always had a service heart kind of mindset when it comes to this type of work. We recognize that we are a governmental institution of the state of Texas, and we are here to serve. I like helping people and I like helping people solve problems. I like helping folks get the tax relief that they deserve whether it be exemptions, agricultural designations and of such... Our goal is to communicate with public and with the taxing unit stakeholders what's happening in and around with the community.”

Board Chairman for Hood CAD and City Councilman, Eddie Rodriguez stated, “We are exceptionally pleased to have Mr. Law come on board to lead our district. We were seeking someone with extensive experience and strong leadership characteristics, and Mr. Law certainly meets those criteria. We will work closely with him to ensure accuracy of appraisals in Hood CAD and provide excellence in customer service and a transparent operation for our citizens.”

MONDAY - THURSDAY DAILY SPECIALS!

<p>Mon.</p> <p>BONELESS & BONE-IN WINGS</p> <p>.79 Plus Tax.</p>	<p>Tue.</p> <p>CHICKEN TENDERS</p> <p>.89 Plus Tax.</p>	<p>Wed.</p> <p>JUMBO SHRIMP</p> <p>.79 Plus Tax.</p>	<p>Thur.</p> <p>BONELESS WINGS</p> <p>.69 Plus Tax.</p>
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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Isn't it time to try something different?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

I spend a considerable amount of thought and time trying to determine the subject matter for a column. Irrespective of the topic, in today's volatile political climate there is an ever-present risk I will offend some readers or incur their wrath. While I never mind writing something which might ruffle a few feathers if it is well reasoned and serves a valid purpose, on this occasion, I have a disclaimer to put forth. This column is not in support of a specific political party or a specific candidate. It is not intended to attack either or both major political parties. It is not intended to attack a particular class of people. It is intended to be an objective look at where we are and why we need to change our mindset.

How did I get so old? I am 67 and everyday there is some activity or action I undertake, which I notice is significantly more difficult to accomplish than when I was 40. I feel confident the people who work with me would say I am very active, work lots of hours, and always trying to improve the newspapers and the communities where I live

and work. There is a sense of pride I have in my vitality and energy and knowing that while many people my age have retired, I am still capable of handling all the responsibilities which I have on my plate. At the same time, I fully understand in a few years, I will not be able to do my job to the standards it requires. I have no illusion I would be

able to handle my current responsibilities when I am 75. It is simply the natural wear and tear of time called the aging process. We all must face it.

There is nothing wrong with being older, and an individual may have a great many skills and experiences which are valuable to a business, but how much have they diminished through the natural aging process, and more importantly, how much more will they diminish and how fast? It is a reasonable question to ask. I have some valued friends and co-workers which if they see me start to slip, have been advised to let me know so I can step back. My job is to prepare for the next person to take on my responsibilities. Someone younger, with new ideas, and the drive to accomplish great things, my greatest wish is to see continued success after I am gone from the equation.

At what age do we quit the leadership role? I have asked friends and neighbors and no one, not a single person, thought it would be a good idea to hire an 80-year-old to take on a critical task in their business, much less sign a four-year contract for the

overall leadership position. The comment I repeatedly heard was, "Too big of a risk and there has to be somebody younger who could do the job, bring in fresh ideas, and live to see them through".

This does not mean someone who is 80 cannot have a good idea, nor does it diminish their wealth of experience, it simply comes down to the practicality of doing the job. This means having the physical stamina and mental acuity to be at their peak, to be able to handle the stress of the job, and make solid, thoughtful decisions.

I know some wonderful 80-year-olds. They are clear-headed, thoughtful, and experienced and as the saying goes, they get around well for someone their age. Does that mean there are the best choices for a huge job which affects millions of people, I think not. Are there possible exceptions to this general rule? Maybe, but I have serious doubts and concerns.

We have an 80-year-old President and his likely opponent in the general election is currently 77. No matter which candidate is elected, we will have a very old man in the oval office.

If you would not consider a person of such an advanced age to be in control of your business, why would ever want such an elderly person in the position of holding the most powerful job in the world? Why do we take such a risk? What do we gain from clinging to the elderly holding our highest public offices? Out of 330 million citizens is there no one in their 40's or 50's who is capable?

We have five US Senators over the age of 80 including the Senate Majority leader and a Senator from California who is 90! The House Minority Leader just announced they are going to seek another term in office at age 83! Where are the young leaders and why do we not embrace them? Where is the energy, the vision, the vitality of the young. Surely, we do not cling to "old politicians" because of their great success and accomplishments. If that was the case, we wouldn't be in the shape we are in.

Where are the fresh ideas? Where is the youthful enthusiasm to accomplish great things? Where is our future? These characteristics are in the hearts and minds of a whole group of our fellow

Americans which we seem to dismiss. 68% of Americans are under the age of 60 and only 18% are over the age of 65. These "young people" see the world differently, communicate differently and have adjusted to the changes in technology and science the world has experienced. Isn't it time to give them some consideration?

Other countries around the world embrace young leadership to invigorate their political landscape and to keep from being stuck in the same political quagmires which have saddled them down for years. Why do we continue to call upon the same old "war horses"?

I wish someone had the answer.

Thought for the day: Only the self-serving keep power and control when they become old. True leaders step aside for the next generation and allow their enthusiasm and new ideas to plant the seeds which grow a mighty forest.

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

Holly Martin

Say hello to our neighbor, Holly Martin!

Creating connections and building authentic relationships fuels Holly Martin's passion! When Holly isn't fully emmersed in her duties as General Manager of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, she loves spending quality time with her son, friends, and family. "Being active, adventurous, and outdoors doing just about anything like biking, kayaking, hiking, camping, listening to live music, and volunteering are some of my favorite things!" A resident of Hood County for 17 years, Serving others is at the core of her beliefs, and she actively volunteers in numerous community events and organizations. With so much focus on the negative nowadays, Holly always looks for all the positive human interest stories she knows the Hood County News will deliver.

City of Granbury earns designation as cultural district

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The city of Granbury received designation from the Texas Commission on the Arts to be a Cultural District on Sept. 7. Granbury and Garland were both named cultural districts making 54 total cultural districts across the state.

The cultural district is centered around the historic square and all that lies in it, as well as all the many amenities and attractions that Granbury has to offer.

The cultural district will extend from the Lake Granbury Conference Center to the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park, from east to west and from the railroad tracks to Lake Granbury from north to south.

The efforts to get Granbury named as a cultural district started 10 years ago according to Cora Werley who is a lawyer and a chair of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission that was formed in 2018.

Werley noted that the role of their commission is to advise the city on the acquisition of public art which is anything owned by the city.

Werley added that a group 10 years ago under the Granbury Arts Alliance included Dominique Inge, Elise Techentine, Heather Cleveland, Joel Back, Scott Young, Janie Jones Linda Watkins and Shad

Ramsey plus artists Cynthia James and Phil Groeschel. Attempted a couple of times to get Granbury designated as a cultural district. Their efforts were turned down for not having the backing of the city.

"They were very dedicated people who saw an opportunity to put Granbury on the map with what we already do," Werley said. "They knew that it would be very beneficial to our city... They were really wise in looking ahead."

The Texas Commission on the Arts is the only body that can officially designate cultural districts on behalf of the state.

According to Gary Gibbs, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on the Arts, "Communities must submit an application that is reviewed by panelists. The application must demonstrate cultural assets, tourism and marketing plans, community and artist engagement and local government support. Qualifying non-profit organizations within the district are eligible to apply for special funding from the TCA," Gibbs said.

Werley said the process of the application alone took over a year including the creation of a master plan and many hours and detailed information that had to be obtained.

"We have really put aside our other public art things

to get that done... It's a very, very detailed application. It was eye opening," Werley said. "Granbury has world renowned artists that live here. It's amazing to me in this little town, the quality of the art that we have. We have 500 artists that are living or working in the city. For a city this size that's pretty amazing. We've got a lot of initiative and a lot of energy."

Reports are submitted annually, and each district must be re-certified every 10 years.

"The mission of the Texas Commission on the Arts is to advance our state economically and culturally by investing in a creative Texas. TCA supports a diverse and innovative arts community in Texas, throughout the nation and internationally by providing resources to enhance economic development, arts education, cultural tourism, and artist sustainability initiatives," Gibbs said.

The TCA hopes to attract cultural tourists and spur community vitality and pride through these cultural districts.

"Designations like this power Granbury's tourism economy. Tourism is Granbury's number one industry, and the City of Granbury supports all things tourism via Visit Granbury, Tammy Dooley Director of Granbury Convention and the Visitors

Bureau said. "Art Tourism generates numerous streams of revenue into our visitor economy and creates a quality of life for the entire community. Granbury, the new official 'Celebration Capital of Texas' celebrates all things art and will continue to be a focus in telling our unique story."

In the future, Werley noted she would love to be part of the county and form a county commission as the current Granbury Cultural Arts Commission is under the city.

The commission also has taken the initiative to put forth many plans into action to add to Granbury's art. There are plans to have mosaics commissioned for the Granbury Opera House, as well as art to be wrapped around the utility boxes around the square. There are also plans to do more murals around the town and a related festival.

Stacey Watkins-Martin, Vice-Chair, Mary Ella Riley, Barbara Loyd, Mickey Parson, Janice Horak and Cheshe Langford alongside Werley all submit the application for the destination. Others who helped make this possible include Butch Barton, Carey Dryer, Chris Coffman, Jeanette Alexander, Sam Houston, Shelbie Miller-Gaddy, Teresa Whites, Tom Campbell, and Yvonne Miller.

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Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST church is hosting The Judge and Jury quartet. Entry is free. The program will start at 5 p.m. at 910 Paluxy Rd., Granbury. For more information please call 817-573-1463.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

HOOD COUNTY Democrat Club will meet Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, at Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Nancy Alana will be the speaker. Meal at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District Board of Directors will have a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday Sept. 22 at noon. The meeting will be held at the Annex I Meeting Room located at 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. For more information call 817-579-3200.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST church is having a Family Fun Day for children and youth. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 910 Paluxy Rd., Granbury. For more information please call 817-573-1463.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

MID CITIES Stamp Club annual auction of collections, stamps, and supplies will be held at Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court, at 7 p.m. For more information, please call 817-910-8174.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

CERT (COMMUNITY Emergency Response Team) Basic Training Classes are to be held at the EOC – Emergency Operations Center Sept. 27 to Oct. 7, Wednesday and Friday evenings 6-9 p.m. and both Saturday sessions from 8 a.m. to noon. Attendees MUST attend all six class sessions to receive CERT certification. Registration required to hoodcocert@gmail.com

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

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. Semper Fidelis. 682-498-3250

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



HCNEWS.COM

City of Granbury provides update on water treatment plant

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The new South Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the final phase of construction and is expected to be completed by early November.

The contract for construction work was awarded in the fall of 2018. The study began in 2016 on the

South plant and was completed in 2018.

The South Wastewater Treatment Plant is more than 30 years old and worn out according to the city. It is now being completely replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment including the complete redesign and implementation of a new treatment process.

According to the city,

“The city wants to be a good neighbor.” The new plant not only treats the water to the highest standards possible, but it is also constructed to minimize or eliminate light pollution, noise pollution and odor.

The South Wastewater Treatment Plant is the only current plant in Granbury.

This update will produce Type 1 water for reuse.

This type of use includes irrigation, return to natural water bodies including Lake Granbury where recreational activities, such as wading or fishing and anticipated. The plant will produce water with even less phosphorous and nitrates according to the City of Granbury. The water coming out of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant is of a bet-

ter quality than the water in Lake Granbury according to the city.

This water will continue to be sold to the Harbor Lakes Golf Club and returned to Lake Granbury.

The South Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 1800 Water's Edge Drive.

STATUES

FROM PAGE A1

situation.

“I said what had happened, and that we’ve taken two votes,” Massingill said. “We passed it in November of 2022, that the two statues Black Star and Silent Prey, could be put on the courthouse square lawn and then we passed it again two weeks ago. I said, ‘No one knew. At least it was never brought up and I didn’t know about it, but I am a lawyer and I do follow the law.’”

Birdwell then put Massingill in contact with Mark Wolfe, the executive director of the THC, where several emails were exchanged back and forth detailing the statues and their significance to the county.

Massingill read the email exchanges to the public and to the court during the Aug. 22 meeting and assured everyone that the county “would not install anything” until permission was obtained from the Texas Historical Commission.

FINAL RULING

After days of uncertainty, Massingill revealed on Sept. 12, during the next regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court that the THC had denied the application of placing Silent Prey and Black Star on the Hood County Courthouse lawn.

“For clarification, they did not deny the application based upon Black Star being a pagan worship site,” Massingill said, during the Sept. 12 meeting. “They said it was too big and it detracted from the look of the courthouse. That’s in essence, what they said.”

Following the news, many residents came up to the podium to express their opinion on the final verdict from the THC.

“When I saw on the agenda plans to rescind the donation made from the Ken Hill Foundation, I felt compelled to talk,” said Courtney Coates Blackman, member of the Shanley Park Board. “I believe there is an ideal location for Silent Prey and the Black Star in the city park behind city hall.”

Blackman explained that the Shanley Park Board is currently working on turning Shanley Park into the Shanley Sculpture Garden, similar to the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland, Colorado.

Jason Hodges, Blackman said, is a new board member who had previously moved to Granbury from Lubbock,



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Courtney Coates Blackman, member of the Shanley Park Board, speaks to the Hood County Commissioners Court on Sept. 12, detailing her wish for both statues donated by the Ken Hill Foundation — Silent Prey and Black Star — to be placed in the city park behind Granbury City Hall in the upcoming Shanley Sculpture Garden.

where he was the landscape architect for the outdoor arts and installations at Texas Tech University.

“He does outstanding work and recently, we had the opportunity to walk the park and talk about ideas for future installations,” she said. “I told him about the bronzes donated by Mr. Farris, and I think we found the perfect spot for Silent Prey and several options for Black Star. In the location that we have chosen for Silent Prey, you would be able to see it from Houston Street, and it would be a very dramatic entrance to the city park/Shanley Sculpture Garden while still being on city property.”

Blackman explained that she was unsure if the city and county could collaborate on this project, but had hopes that Farris would agree to it, as “it would be a shame” for citizens and visitors of Granbury to not be able to enjoy “majestic pieces of art” from such a well-known and successful artist.

“I have known Covelle for over 45 years, and he was an incredible sculptor,” she explained. “In ‘84 and ‘85, the state legislature named him the official Texas State Artist of the Year. One of his bronzes is in the White House, and another one is on display at the Alamo.”

She added that Granbury and Hood County “should not pass up this extraordinary chance to acquire these remarkable works of art.”

“We should not let this pass us by as it will unlikely ever be an opportunity for us again,” Blackman said. “I am sure Ken Hill and

Covelle Jones would have wanted these pieces to stay in Granbury — we just need to find the right situation to make that happen.”

Stacey Martin, board member of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission, also spoke in favor of Blackman’s idea of the Ken Hill Foundation donating the sculptures to the city.

“It would be amazing because it does support the cultural arts history,” she said. “It enhances our footprint greatly with tourism, and it’s a teaching moment for all of the children and adults to celebrate the history of Granbury.”

Resident Tina Brown added that if there was anything the community could do to allow the statues to be moved in the city, to let everyone know and she would do her best to help.

Massingill put the motion to a vote in rescinding the two statues to the Ken Hill Foundation in the care of Jeff Farris, chairman of the board. The vote passed unanimously.

KEN HILL REIMBURSEMENT

Massingill then moved on to the next agenda item, which focused on reimbursing the Ken Hill Foundation for the cost of the Silent Prey bronze and the Black Star bronze, totaling \$5,730.

Resident Harold Granek spoke in favor of the reimbursement as it was “only fair.”

“I want to congratulate Commissioner Eagle digging up the fact that there were restrictions,” Granek said. “I wish he had dug that up early

enough that we wouldn’t be in this position where the foundations were paid for — I don’t know if the foundations can be utilized if it then goes to the park or not — but I think it’s reasonable that because the air sits on the county’s part for not recognizing that early enough that we just do not penalize the Hill Foundation.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson then chimed in, saying she was having a “difficult time saddling the taxpayers with \$5,700.”

“This was no fault of the taxpayers,” she said. “The county commissioners and the Hall of Historical Commission were not aware of this requirement of the Texas Historical Commission that the agreement that was entered into when the courthouse was restored. That is the duty of the Historical Commission to understand what those requirements are, so I have a really hard time saddling the taxpayers with the mistake that was made.”

Massingill then replied and explained that he knew about the restrictions on the courthouse itself, meaning how no permanent changes could be made, but he was unaware about the easement that had been granted in 2000.

“It’s a tricky deal,” Massingill said. “I wrote a bunch of letters, saying that this was not done intentionally. It passed in November. I don’t know if the state would have ever found out about it, but there was an uproar about Black Star being pagan worship. That’s what started all this.”

He then added that the Ken Hill Foundation was not to blame for this mistake, and how they give enough to the community as it is.

“Last year, the Ken Hill Foundation gave close to \$900,000 to 501(c)(3) organizations in Granbury and Hood County, so I think that asking Hood County to reimburse the Ken Hill foundation \$5,730 when they’ve contributed and will, in hope, in all likelihood, continue to make contributions like this to help our community, I think it’s certainly worth doing the right thing,” Massingill said. “The right thing, in my opinion, is reimbursing the cost that the Ken Hill Foundation paid for the foundations.”

“To understand what you’re saying, you would have been OK going against the ruling over the laws that were set forth with the agreement with the Texas Historical Commission, as long as they didn’t find out?” Samuelson asked Massingill. “Is that what you’re saying?”

“No,” Massingill responded. “I am a lawyer.”

“That sounded like what you said,” Samuelson replied. “When you said, ‘The only reason that this is happening is because they found out about it,’ and that is not true. We should have always known. Lesson learned. We need to know what the requirements are and go and be in alignment with the requirements so that this doesn’t happen again. We need to know what the requirements are.”

Massingill responded to Samuelson saying he gave every board member all of the copies of the letters that were written to Wolfe and Susan Tietz, the program coordinator at the Courthouse Prevention Program at the Texas Historical Commission.

“Nobody knew about it in the county as far as I knew,” he said. “The city attorney didn’t know about it. Nobody knew about it until we got to do the investigation phase of it. It’s not Ken Hill’s fault.”

“No, it is definitely not. It is this court for not knowing what the rules were,” Samuelson said.

Massingill then put the motion of reimbursing the Ken Hill Foundation with \$5,730 to a vote.

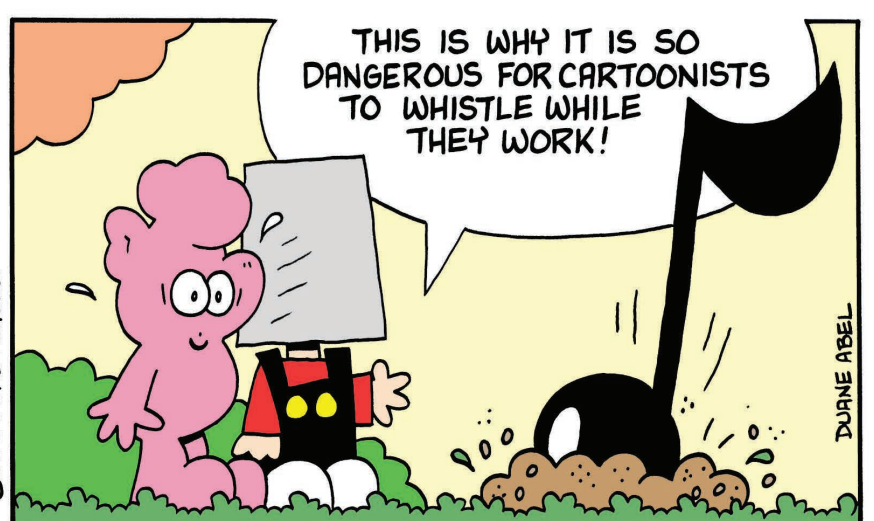
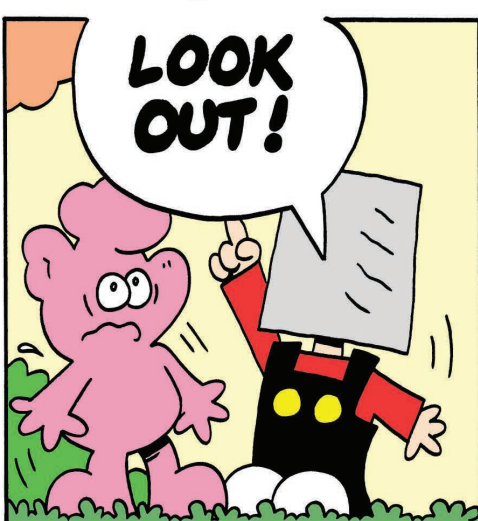
Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson, and Massingill voted “yes,” with Eagle and Samuelson abstaining.

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Never Forget: 9/11 Memorial Service held to honor and remember those fallen

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Friends of Memorial Lane hosted a 9/11 Memorial Service to remember and honor the 2,977 people who lost their lives after the attack that turned the country upside down at 8:46 a.m. on September 11, making the country forever changed.

2,753 people died at the World Trade Center, 184 near the Pentagon, and 40 died outside Shanksville Pennsylvania. 343 firefighters, eight EMS, 72 police officers, and 55 military personnel lost their lives while trying to protect the country from the attacks that occurred that day.

The event named Patriot Day was named after the city declared an official proclamation making September 11 Patriot Day during a city council meeting. The key-



note speaker was Granbury City Councilman Place six Greg Corrigan. Over 120 people attended

the event including Texas State Representative Shelby Slawson. The event was co-ordinated by Mike Donnelly who

formerly served in the Air Force. Donnelly noted that it takes a village to create successful events such as this

The Tarleton State University CORP of Cadets present a flag folding ceremony.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

one.

The event featured the sounds of bag pipes, many notable speakers including Mayor Jim Jarratt, and placement of wreaths to honor those who lost their lives. Tarleton State University's ARMY ROTC was also there to present the colors.

Senator Brian Birdwell of District 22 was unable to attend due to being in Austin for the Ken Paxton trial, so Birdwell's wife Mel spoke on his behalf. Julia Pannell, a member of Friends of Memorial Lane said her speech was very touching.

Mel talked about Birdwell's firsthand experience he had on 9/11. Birdwell was serving as a military aide to a flag

officer at the Pentagon at that time and witnessed the harrowing events that day and even watched American Airlines Flight 77 crash nearly 20 feet away before his very eyes. Birdwell suffered more than 60% of total body burns. Birdwell was honored with the Purple Heart for his service.

Pannell recalled a memorable moment during the ceremony when during the placement of the three wreaths, the lights at Memorial Lane came on at the same time.

"Everyone just looked around and was shocked. It gave everyone goosebumps. I just looked up and said thank you God," "Everything was memorable. It was wonderful, Pannell said. "I just encourage everyone to visit (Memorial Lane) and to go and remember and reflect on those who have lost their lives."

City of Granbury approves \$69 million 2024 fiscal budget including a half cent tax rate increase

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

At a regularly scheduled Granbury City Council meeting, the council voted to approve the 2024 fiscal budget set at \$69 million with a passing of 4-1 that is set to start October 1 of 2023.

Mayor Jim Jarratt noted in the meeting that the city of Granbury's budget is "one of the most transparent budgets you will ever see."

The budget's planned expenditures will go towards personnel costs at 36%, following paying back debt services at 18%, with services set at 16%, cost of goods sold at 12%, supplies and maintenance set at 8%, capital at 6% and interfund transfers being at 4%.

The budget includes an increase to the tax rate at 38.5 cents, a half cent increase from the 2023 fiscal year. This increase will bring in \$103,600 which will keep the budget balanced.

This would affect property owners per \$100,000 costing \$50 a year with the half cent increase.

"It's not a tax, it's an investment and I'm all for it," Mayor Jim Jarratt said in the meeting.

"I think we're doing a great job keeping the tax rate low," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting.

"That's why we're growing."

In the August first city council meeting, Mayor Jarratt had an agenda item that passed 6-0 requesting the disapproval of the Hood County Appraisal District's proposed budget as well as the sending over of a refund of excess funds of one point nine million dollars to all the eleven tax entities including the city. This money had accumulated over the previous years and was supposed to be refunded to the city but never was.

Mayor Jarratt noticed this after looking further into the HCAD's budget and noticed the numbers were not right and didn't add up.

According to city attorney Jeremy SoRelle the HCAD needed to create and request an amendment to change their budget and send out a notice to each of the taxing units noting that they were going to create that amendment, but they did not.

Mayor Jarratt also noted that these were actions from the previous HCAD board and not the current board. Mayor Jarratt and Coffman also noted that they did not want to undermine the current board and their work.

The city received \$104,228 from 2020 through 2022 from the HCAD two weeks ago.

Mayor Jim Jarratt noted

that this money was "erroneously withheld".

City councilman Eddie Rodriguez noted that they should vote to not increase the tax rate and use the money received from the HCAD to offset the budget and keep it balanced without having to increase the tax rate, thus the reason he voted against the city council proposed budget during the meeting.

When it comes to the new tax rate, City Manager Chris Coffman noted that in comparison to neighboring cities, Granbury's tax rate at 38.5 cents is the lowest compared to Benbrook, Burleson, Cleburne, Crowley, Godley, Joshua, Keene, Mineral Wells, Stephenville, and Mineral Wells with the closest in comparison being Stephenville at 39.5 cents and the highest being at 86.7 cents in Keene.

"Every department goes through exactly what they need," City councilman Bruce Wadley said during the meeting. "Nothing cost this year what it did last year. We all have to spend more... We just try to collect exactly what we have to have."

In the budget, the city also noted three positions that would be hired for including a geographic information systems technician, airport supervisor, police criminal investigator, three part

time clerks and two full time clerks. The city also plans to hire five part time interns.

There are many capital projects that the city is looking to work on with this new budget including:

Street Improvements \$1,020,300
Utility System Maintenance \$940,000
Multiple Department Equipment Needs \$514,000
Life Station #13 Impact Fees \$480,000
IT Equipment \$428,000
Geographic Information Systems \$425,000
Four Police Vehicles \$360,000
Reserves for Future Maintenance \$305,000
Membrane Replacement Fund \$250,000?
Vitrified Clay Tile Pipe Replacement \$250,000?
Recreation \$220,000
Utility Major Equipment \$212,000
GIS Conversion to City-Hosted \$200,000
Patrol \$190,000
GF Major Equipment \$173,000
Investigations \$170,000
UF Minor Equipment \$167,600
Freightliner Dump Truck \$165,000
Lambert Branch Park Playground \$160,000
Police Equipment \$155,500
Lake Granbury Conference

Center Upgrades \$125,400
Comprehensive Plan Update \$115,000
Digital Ticket Program \$113,000
Network Storage Replacement \$100,000
Sanitary Sewer Manhole Coating \$100,000
Water Meters \$70,000
Access Control Cameras \$75,000
Tractor W/Bursh Hog and Finishing Mower \$71,000
Sanitary Sewer Mahole Rehabilitation \$65,000
GF Minor Equipment \$65,000
City Pool Replaster \$60,000
Bobcat Skid Steer Loader \$55,000
LGCC Lighting Plan Phase 1 \$50,000
Half-Ton Truck \$47,000
Chevrolet 1500 Silverado \$47,000
Well Plugging \$45,000
Replace Tables \$37,400
Pump Motor Replacement Fund \$35,000
Four Flock Safety Cameras \$33,000
Pole-Mounted Security Cameras \$28,000
Pump Station Flow Meters \$28,000
PEG Equipment-Wireless Mics \$25,000
Electric Meters \$25,000
Air Compressor for Fleet \$22,300
Pump Motor VFD Sinking Fund \$20,000

Paint Upstairs \$20,000
SCBA Packs for Well Sites \$18,600
Replace TV Monitors \$18,000
Utility Line Locator \$15,000
City Hall HVAC Motorized Damper \$14,400
Light Tower \$11,000
Mower Replacement Program \$10,300
Paint Sprayer \$10,000
Fuming Chamber \$9,000
The city's overall revenue is up from the 2021-2022 fiscal year from \$36,445,572 to the 2022-2023 year collecting \$41,133,433.
The city's biggest revenue stream comes from sales tax. The city of Granbury collected \$11.9 million in sales tax in the fiscal year of 2022.
Another big revenue stream comes from the Hotel Occupancy Tax that is paid for by those who come to stay in hotels or bed and breakfasts. In the fiscal year of 2022 the city collected \$1,132,517.
Coffman noted that with such high revenue from sales tax and visitors it is important to keep the city at its best and continue to improve infrastructure and make upgrades.
For more information on the city's budget report, annual reports and revenue streams visit granbury.org/opensgov.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

Association of School Boards.

According to the Texas Association of School Boards Under Open Meetings Act, "The board is not required to provide a public forum for every person wishing to express an opinion on any matter whatsoever. See Tex. Gov't Code § 551.001(5) ("open" means open to the public). See also Tex. Atty. Gen. Op. No. JH-0188 (1973) ("open to the public" does not mean that the public may choose the items to be discussed; it means that the public is permitted to attend the meetings). Boards may choose to allow members of the public to provide information and feedback to the board about matters not listed on the board's agenda as a matter of local practice."

Further down it reads, "As long as limitations do not discriminate against particular viewpoints or deny speakers the opportunity to address the board about an agenda item to be considered at an open meeting, school boards may limit public comment to subjects listed on a meeting's agenda or to matters that are within the board's control

or jurisdiction," under the Texas Government Code § 551.007(b).

Speakers from the audience who disagreed with Herrington's comment spoke over the board member protesting their right to speak. Superintendent Jeremy Glenn told Herrington to keep reading but the audience grew louder.

Herrington noted that if anyone couldn't keep order, they would be removed from the meeting to which one audience member shouted that she (Herrington) couldn't keep order, and boos were heard from the crowd.

Herrington called for a five-minute recess.

"Because these grievances are complaints against a district official this matter will be heard in closed session pursuant to the Texas Government Code 551.074 unless a district official to whom the complaint is filed has requested to hold the hearing in open session," Herrington said.

Superintendent Glen then issued the following statement.

"No district official against whom these complaints were brought has requested to hold these hearings in open session," Glenn noted.

The board then went into closed session to discuss the complaints filed against Granbury ISD Trustees pursuant to Board Policy GF local. The complaints being heard came from those who were not parents of students in the district nor employees of the district, according to Herrington. The seven level three grievances came from Marcy Galle, Mark Lowery, Shelly Weddel, Lisa and Mark McDermott, Jerry Doherty, Terry McNew, and Sharon Shelander.

As the board came back from closed session, the following results were read.

Every grievance was denied with a 4-2 vote for each one with Graft and Lowery voting for the grievances. Graft read off two of the grievances but the other five were not shared by anyone on the board.

Mark Lowery's grievance had a motion made by Graft to grant the grievance and Lowery seconding the motion. Graft requested relief be given to Mr. Lowery which included him asking for an outside investigation to be engaged in completing this investigation, and appropriate discipline be taken through human resources if necessary. He also requested

the resignation or termination of Dr. Herrington, Dr. Glenn and Trustee Wimberly.

His grievance requested read as followed, "President Herrington has displayed a complete failure to control order and decorum over a GISD school board meeting for some time. This latest incident is the culmination of her inability to lead," Graft read from Mr. Lowery's complaint.

"Dr. Glenn has demonstrated failed leadership and has demonstrated disrespect for female trustees. On a side note, some weeks back he advised his wife to avoid any situation or circumstance Superintendent Glenn without a witness. I'm concerned about his ability to control his rage, his insult to trustee Graft is an example of how he cannot control himself," Graft read.

"Trustee Wimberly showed a complete disrespect for the public meeting process and his disrespect displayed for female trustees should disqualify him from holding public office," Graft read.

The board voted 2-5 to grant the grievance and relief to Mark Lowery with Graft and Lowery being the trustees in favor. Trustee Barbara Townsend made a motion to

deny the grievance and relief with a 4-2 vote with Graft and Lowery against.

The grievance from Shelly Weddel was denied with a vote 4-2 with Graft and Lowery against.

The grievance from Lisa and Mark McDermott was motioned by Graft to be granted with the relief of, "The actions of the board cannot go undisciplined or unaddressed. Trustee Herrington, Wimberly, Gore, Moore and Townsend need to publicly acknowledge their clear violation of board policy, board operations and board ethics. They also need to publicly apologize for their unprofessional behavior and failure to adhere to equity, trustworthiness, stewardess, honor and conduct and integrity of character which they are to exemplify. In addition's Trustee's Wimberly, Gore, More and Townsend need to be censured or resigned for their failure to adhere to the board policy manual and the board policy ethics. Superintendent Glenn needs to publicly acknowledge his violation of board policy and failure to uphold his superintendent duties. He needs to publicly apologize for his unprofessional conduct towards Trustee Graft and

Lowery and for his failure to uphold board policy and ethics. In addition, he needs to resign and or be released from his official duties for his failure to adhere to the educator's code of ethics. In addition, the school board policy manual should be revised not to include any requirements that are not already found in the Texas Educators Code. This would ensure that there would be no confusion as to what procedure or code to follow and eliminate any potential discrepancies.

The board voted 2-5 to grant the grievance and relief to Lisa and Mark McDermott with Graft and Lowery being the trustees in favor. Trustee Barbara Townsend made a motion to deny the grievance and relief with a 4-2 vote with Graft and Lowery against.

A grievance from Jerry Doherty was denied with all relief denied in a 4-2 vote with Graft and Lowery against. A grievance from Terry McNew was denied with a 4-2 vote with Graft and Lowery against. A grievance from Sharon Shelander was denied with a 4-2 vote with Graft and Lowery against.



COURTESY DONNA ENGLE

The Granbury Woman's Club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Granbury High School student Dianna Koch earlier this year. Koch, right, is pictured accepting the award from Sherrie West, left, scholarship chairman of the organization. Koch is the granddaughter of Dianna McDaniel and is currently majoring in business at Tarleton State University.

Granbury recycling group under nationwide company earns certification for hard work

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

A nationwide recycling company recently was awarded a Benefit Corp Certification meaning the business met the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparen-

cy and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. The B Corp Certification was awarded by the non-profit B Lab U.S. & Canada, one of six global partners of the B Corp global network. The global network creates standards, policies, and tools for business.

"B Corp Certification is the only certification that measures a company's entire social and environmental performance. By becoming B Corp certified, Recyclops is making a long-term commitment to our customers, employees, corporate part-

PLEASE SEE **RECYCLE** | A13

City moves to voluntary Stage 1 Water Conservation

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The city of Granbury is no longer under mandatory water restrictions following the city's implementation of a voluntary Stage 1 Water Conservation on Sept. 11.

Due to the continuation of drought conditions, the city of Granbury was previously under a Stage 2 Water Conservation, which put limitations on lawn care, washing vehicles, and pools. Stage 2 Conservation is for moderate water shortage conditions and became effective on Aug. 11.

But after a month, many residents reduced their water usage, which led the city to move from Stage 2 to Stage 1 Water Conservation. "The city has a water plan

and in that are the different stages or steps and those are based on usage. What we have found is the usage has declined enough that we can go from Stage 2 to Stage 1," explained Jeff Newpher, communications manager for the city of Granbury. "We needed people to conserve more water and they did that."

City of Granbury Water customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage for lawn irrigation by following this schedule:

If your home address ends in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8, only water on Sunday and Thursday between 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m. or between 8 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

If your home address ends in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9, only water on Wednesday and Saturday

between 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m. or between 8 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

There is no specific voluntary conservation request for any other activity using city water, but residents are asked to please keep conservation in mind.

"Stage 1 is voluntary, and we're just asking people to please continue to water on the odd and even days on the schedule," Newpher said.

If residents have a well or can draw water from Lake Granbury, they are able to use those sources for lawn watering or for any other use on any day they desire.

For additional information, please email pio@granbury.org.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

New members & Renewals

Welcome to our new Granbury Chamber of Commerce members who joined in Aug.!

- Starpointe Realty Management
- United Republicans of Hood County
- Best Electric
- Scott Moltzan Insurance Agency
- Radiance Wellness MediSpa
- Trevo Creative
- Your Private Collection Art Gallery
- M.A.M.A.S. Creative Sweets

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

We appreciate your continued support!

- State Farm Cody Garrison
- Southern Star Market
- Wholesale Granite Direct
- New York Life
- Stress Free Mobile RV Repair
- The Workplace
- JH3 Metalworks & Gutters
- In The Pattern Flight School
- Calculated Solutions LLC
- Pecan Valley Centers
- Chris Matthews
- United Way of HC
- Hometown Pest
- The Heights Church
- Randy's Shrimp & Oyster Bar
- Oz Realty - Eliza Knapp
- BMV Wealth Management

- Midas Auto Service
- Crain Restoration Services
- La Quinta
- Jay L Thomas, DDS
- Hood County Substance Abuse Council
- Hood County Democratic Club
- Lake Granbury Master Gardeners
- H.E.B.
- Dinosaur World/Jurassic Valley
- Quick Roofing
- Nin & Jan Hulett
- Storehouse Financial
- G & G Electric Service
- Clark Gardens
- The Reid Firm
- Kevin Downing
- Brock's Food & Drink
- Plains Capital
- Lakeshore ENT
- Waterview Senior Living
- Bridgewater Memory Care
- Spring Creek Barbeque
- Interim Healthcare
- Abella Wellness
- Bond Arms
- Granbury Villa Rehab & Nursing
- Bennetts RV Ranch
- Bennett's Camping Center
- Lions Club of Granbury
- La Paloma Animal Hospital
- Clark Real Estate Group
- Towne Lake Apartments

GRANBURY DOOR+WINDOW

WE DO THE HEAVY LIFTING

- Design a scarecrow at your home or business.
- Winners in multiple categories.
- Category judging October 18.
- ALL entry fees go back to our schools.
- Entry Fees: Home \$15; Business \$25

Fundraiser Benefitting: Granbury Educational Foundation

Wanna build a Scarecrow?

For More Info

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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight

Granbury Executive Transport

"Sit back relax and we'll G.E.T. you where you need to go"

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight

Expert Automotive Solutions

"Equipped with factory-grade technology, we provide quality automotive services, including ADAS calibration."

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9 Chisolm Trail 100 Car Show - Honoring Hood Co. Heroes

21-Oct.30 Edgar Allan Poe Experience - B C Experience

23-24 Spooky Spectacle

24 Art in the Vines at Pemberton Cellars

30 HANK FM Lake Fest

OCTOBER

Sep.21-30 Edgar Allan Poe Experience - B C Experience

6-8 Oktoberfest

7 Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival

7 Mission Granbury 5K/1K Ghost Run

13-15 Here's to Clue--Spooky Edition

14 Granbury Rock N Blues Bash

14 Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show

14 Pub Shindy

21 Monarch Celebration & Tagging Event

21-22 Dallas Spartan Ultra 50K, Beast 21K, & Sprint 5K

28-29 Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts

Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

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Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday • 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday

CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

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

14x60 older 2-bed, 1-bath mobile on 50x100 lot in OTS. Fenced yard, concrete drive, carport. No owner financing. \$65,000. Chris 682-202-5008.

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1510 **Apartments for Rent**

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Sofa, \$200. Glider chair with ottoman, \$150. Oak lamp table, \$100. 682-936-2009. 2200 Cobblestone Ct, 76049

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6670 **Wanted**

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

VINTAGE BASEBALL/FOOTBALL CARDS 1970's or earlier. Any size collection. Will pay cash and come to you. Call Jim (646)529-1265

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1550 Weatherford Highway,
Granbury, Texas 76048
817-573-4277

8040
Pets Lost & Found

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



CHIHUAHUA Lost 08/22/23 on Walker St, Granbury, TX in Briarwood Edition. Goes by Prissy. She has a pink collar and is not microchipped. If found contact Erika (325)200-9496.

EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

Granbury ISD is currently looking for a Groundskeeper to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburyisd.org/jobs> Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CDL DRIVER - CLASS A As a Class A CDL Driver for our experiential marketing agency, you will travel alongside our tour assistants to some of the most thrilling events across the country, including fairs, rodeos, sporting events, and car shows. To apply for the Class A CDL Driver position, please send your resume, cover letter, and any relevant driving certifications to [bethanyh@newscope.net]. Please include "CDL Driver - Experiential Marketing" in the subject line. (817) 326-4277

TOUR ASSISTANT/ BRAND AMBASSADOR NewScope Marketing is on the lookout for enthusiastic individuals to join us as Brand Ambassadors/On-Tour Assistants for our nationwide branded tour. As a Tour Assistant at NewScope Marketing, you'll be an integral part of our experiential marketing team. This entry-level position offers you the chance to immerse yourself in the world of marketing and event management. Your responsibilities will include: Day-to-day project management, Event coordination, Event recapping, Staff management. How to Apply: We invite you to apply in person at our office: 5845 Acton Circle, Granbury Phone: (817) 362-4277 E-mail: bethanyh@newscope.net (817) 326-4277

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

Hood Central Appraisal District is seeking applicants for the position of appraiser. Applicants must have a high school education-college work preferred. Skill in math, good people skills, and real estate knowledge are good attributes. Make a difference in the changing culture at HCAD by joining us today. Send Resume to megboomer@hoodcad.net or drop off at the office at 1902 W. Pearl in Granbury. \$40,000 starting salary plus benefits.

8510
General



Extra! Extra!

JOB OPPORTUNITY
The Hood County News is seeking a part-time photographer to shoot sports and other school-based events. Applicant must have their own equipment and a working knowledge of photography. Salary is negotiable. Assignments will be three or four events per week. To apply email sam@hcnews.com No phone calls please.

8590
Employment Wanted

Help needed. House keeping, part time. Couple days a week. (817) 219-0871

NOTICES

9020
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JUNK REMOVAL We haul your clutter off. Appliance removal to entire house cleanouts. Reasonable rates and fast service. (817) 578-5510

9031
Public Notices

LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

ROLLING CREEK RANCH, PHASE 3, LOT 218R1

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

SEALEY RIDGE, LOT 61-R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

FINNEY ACRES, LOTS 1R1 & 1R2

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

TRIANGLE ACRES, LOTS 2R-1 & 2R-2

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.



BROWSE ONLINE
classifieds.hcnews.com

8510
General

9031
Public Notices

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
Cause No. C08872

TO: Unknown Heirs of E.G Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Lizzie Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Vera Brooks, Unknown Heirs of J.M. Brooks, Unknown Heirs of H.J. Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Ruth Edgin, and Unknown Heirs of Billie Edgin
YOU are commanded to appear and to answer before the County Court at Law of Hood County, Texas, 1200 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048, at or before 10 A.M. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of the issuance of this citation, being at or before 10 A.M. on Monday, 16th day of October 2023, then and there to answer the Petition Adverse Possession: 10 Year Limitations Period and 25 year limitations period, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code 16.026 and 16.027, in the County Court at Law, Hood County, Texas, in which the plaintiff is STORMY INVESTMENTS, LLC. The defendants are Unknown Heirs of E.G Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Lizzie Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Vera Brooks, Unknown Heirs of J.M. Brooks, Unknown Heirs of H.I. Edgin, Unknown Heirs of Ruth Edgin, and Unknown Heirs of Billie Edgin. The Petition, filed on July 14, 2023, discloses the nature of this suit to be as follows: Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Section 16.026 and 16.027 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, entitled Adverse Possession: 10-Year Limitations Period and 25-year limitations period. Plaintiff is the adverse possessory owner of a parcel of real property and all the improvements on that property, commonly known as 8607 W. Hwy. 377, Granbury, Hood County, Texas 76048, and more particularly described as follows (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): Lots 5, and 6, Block 2 of the town of Tolar, according to the Plat recorded in Volume 87, Page 378, Deed Records, Hood County, Texas Plaintiff also seeks a declaratory judgment from this Court declaring that Plaintiff own full title to the Property pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code §§ 16.026, 16.027 and 16.030, and the doctrine of presumed lost deed.

NOTICE
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 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Name and address of attorneys for Plaintiff:
Cheyenne A. Haddad
State Bar No. 24096912
500 W. 7th Street
Suite 600
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Telephone: (817) 332-3245
Facsimile: (817) 877-4781
E-mail: chaddad@popehardwicke.com

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS COURT on the 11th day of August 2023, at Granbury, Hood County, Texas.
KATIE LANG, Clerk of the County Court at Law of Hood County, Texas
By: /s/Christine Ledermann, Deputy Clerk

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817-573-7066

9031
Public Notices

ABC STORAGE, WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE [CHAPTER 576 ACT OF THE 68TH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION 1983] HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF SALE UNDER SAID ACT, TO WIT: ON **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023** BEGAINING AT ABC STORAGE AT 2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET [HIGHWAY 144], THEN TO 3606 CONTRARY CREEK ROAD STARTING AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. OF {THURSDAY} 9-28-23.

ABC STORAGE WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC SALE, IN TOTAL UNIT ONLY, **FOR CASH ONLY**, OF THE CONTENTS OF:

- 2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET**
- 01-10 ABANDON-** RALEIGH MENS BIKE, CB RADIOS & SMALL ANTENNAS, POWER INVERTER, BEDDING.
- 01-86** DANIEL ROGERS-ELECTRIC HEATER, WINDOW A/C UNIT, CHEST OF DRAWERS, END TABLE, OTTOMAN, TOASTER OVEN, MUCH MORE MISC..
- 01-104** UNCLAIMED- MISCELLANEOUS ITEM..

- 3606 CONTRARY CREEK ROAD**
- 02-18** SHEILA NEWMAN- OLD DOOR W/ KNOB, CAIN BOTTOM STOOL, WOODEN HEAD BOARD'S, MIRRORS, WOODEN ENTERTAINMENT HUTCH, WOOD, MUCH MORE MISC..
- 02-35** PEGGY WRIGHT- GAS STOVE, FLOOR JACK, CHRISTMAS ITEMS, UNIT IS A 10X20 SIZE COMPLETELY FULL OF BOXES OF ITEMS, TOO MUCH TOO LIST.
- 02-39** DIANE MEREDITH- ADULT ROLLING WALKERS, METEL SHELFs, SUITCASES, WOODEN BABY BED, WOODEN BED HEAD & FOOT BOARDS, CHRISTMAS ITEMS, ELECTRIC FAN, PLASTIC SHELVES, UNIT IS A 18X26 SIZE AND IS FULL, A LOT OF TOTES, MUCH MORE..
- 02-40** SHELIA NEWMAN- OLD SUITCASES, CAIN BOTTOM CHAIR, CHILD WOODEN CHAIR, LAMPS, JEWELRY, GLASS FRONT CABINET, MUCH MORE..
- 02-41** SHELIA NEWMAN- STANDING BOOK SHELVE, HALL TREE, OLD DOOR, LARGE ARCHED WINDOW, OLD WICKER LOUNGE CHAIR, IRONING BOARD, WOODEN BOX WITH HANDLES, MUCH MORE..
- 02-48** SHELIA NEWMAN- DOOR WITH FRAME, MICROWAVE, SMALL COLEMAN GAS HEATERS, SLEIGH BED HEAD BOARD & FOOT BOARD, DOG CARRIER, FLOOR BUFFER, MUCH MORE...

THE SALE IS TO SATISFY A LANDLORD LIEN. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND, DATE THURSDAY, 9-28-23, AT 10:00 A.M. MEET AT 2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET.

REMINDER: CASH ONLY.
T.E. [BUDDY] WATERS OWNER / LESSOR

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by BW Gas & Convenience Retail, LLC dba Allsup's #102425 to be located at 6801 Glen Rose Highway, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Thomas N. Trkla, CEO, President and Chairman; Thomas W. Brown, Senior Managing Director; Ericka L. Ayles, Treasurer and Kurt M. Zernich, Secretary.

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9031
Public Notices

CORRECTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Aldermen of the City of Stockton Bend, Texas (formerly Brazos Bend, Texas) will conduct a public hearing on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at 1901 Canaveral Ct., Stockton Bend, Texas for the purpose of receiving public input on the proposed 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget. The meeting is open to the public and all persons in attendance will be given an opportunity to make comments on the proposed budget. Written comments on the proposed budget should be addressed to: City Secretary
City of Stockton Bend
PO Box 1119
Granbury, Texas 76048
817-403-0053
The proposed budget is on file in the office of the City Secretary and is available for inspection by the public.

LEGAL AD
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Farina's Granbury, LLC dba Farina's Winery & Cafe, to be located at 202 N. Houston St., Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Gary Farina and Jean Willie Hood, Manager.

LEGAL AD
Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10:00 a.m., October 6, 2023. Proposals will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

Request for Proposal
Fire Truck Maintenance
RFP2023-07
Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the Bon Fire website at <http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing website <http://www.co.hood.tx.us/purchasing.htm>.

Hood County reserves the right to award by best value and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.

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

Small Taxing Unit Notice
The City of Tolar will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 18, 2023, at City Hall to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2023. The proposed tax rate is \$0.460000 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in City of Tolar by 55.09%.

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.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER EXECUTION

BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION issued out of the Justice of The Peace Court of Hood County on a judgement rendered in said county on the 16th day of July 2013 in Cause No. CV130067.

Eliodoro Garza
VS
Edward Trammell Individually & D/B/A

I did on the 27TH day of July 2023 at 11:20 A.M. levy upon the following property of: TRAMMELL, EDMOND R III

Lot No 90, Block I, Section A, Lake Granbury Harbor Subdivision as shown by the plat thereof recorded in Volume 3. Plat 59, Plat Records, Hood County, Texas

Address: 5721 Texas Trail -Granbury, Texas 76048

On the 3rd day of October 2023, between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M., at the South door of the Courthouse of Hood County, I will offer for sale and sell at public auction, for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of the property of the said defendants name by selling the lots separately or until judgement is fulfilled.

Dated at Granbury, Texas this 6th day of September AD, 2023

John D. Shirley
Constable Precinct 2
Hood County, Texas

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Exemption by David Johnson dba American Legion Post 491, to be located at 3409 Davis Rd., Granbury, TX, 76049, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said organization are David Johnson, Finance Officer; Kenneth Lobo, Adjutant.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates Of MICHAEL TIMOTHY BASDEN, Cause No. P10176, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
THERESA ANNE SHORES in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application To Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of MICHAEL TIMOTHY BASDEN, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 7th day of September, 2023.
KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ DEAN ARMSTRONG, Chief Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates Of DIANA SUE BRUMBALOW-MANIER, Cause No. P10178, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
SPRING BILLET RUSSELL in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application To Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of DIANA SUE BRUMBALOW-MANIER, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 7th day of September, 2023.
KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ DEAN ARMSTRONG, Chief Deputy

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2023-10, Request of Roger Martin for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 11.7.A.1.1.C.9 to reduce the required roof pitch on a commercial building. The property is addressed as 3601 Plaza East Ct.

A. § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Zoning Board of Adjustment seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

CITY OF GRANBURY
P.O. Box 969
Granbury, TX 76048
Publisher's Affidavit requested
Attn: Community Development

Please publish 9-16-2023 in the smallest, legible font possible.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rose Tamez Wright a/k/a Rose T. Wright, Deceased, were granted on August 9, 2023, in Cause No. Pl 0076, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Dennis W. Wright.

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

c/o: Samuel I. Reid
Attorney at Law
1840 Acton Highway
Granbury, TX 76049
DATED the 9th day of August 2023.
The Reid Firm, P.C.
Attorneys for Dennis W. Wright
By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
Steven J. Reid
State Bar No.: 16747900
Samuel I. Reid
State Bar No.: 24105702
1840 Acton Highway
Granbury, TX 76049
Telephone: (817) 573-3718
Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
To all persons interested in the Estates of JERALD DEE NOTGRASS, Cause No. P09872, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

DENNIS DEWAYNE NOTGRASS in the above numbered and entitled Estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of JERALD DEE NOTGRASS, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this 12th day of September 2023.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.Storagetreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on October 02, 2023. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: John Hillery- furniture, gun cabinet, tools.

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury
817-573-2416

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids addressed to LGI Homes – Texas, LLC for Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County, will be received physically at the office of the Engineer, Pape-Dawson Engineers, 6105 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 210, Plano, Texas 75024, Phone 214-420-8494 until **2:00 PM**, local time, **Thursday, October 5th, 2023**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, and also read via the telephone number **210-926-0892** with Conference ID **140 034 637** for the construction of the following project:

**“Construction of Brookside Phase 1 Earthwork and SWPPP for Cresson MUD No. 1”
Project No. 70193-01**

Scope of Work of the Contract includes:

[Phase 1 Earthwork & Erosion Control]

Brookside Phase 1 includes 161 single family residential lots and approximately 30-acres of Commercial and Multifamily property. The scope of this contract will include:

- Approximately 100 Acres of Site Preparation
- Approximately 315,000 CY of Excavation
- Rough and Final Grading for 161 residential lots
- Erosion Control BMP’s

A **mandatory** pre-bid conference will be held at **10:30 AM**, local time, **Thursday, September 21st, 2023**, physically at the office of the Engineer, Pape-Dawson Engineers, 6105 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 210, Plano, Texas 75024, and by calling in the telephone number **210-926-0892** with Conference ID **823 168 261**. Electronic access information to be provided prior to the meeting. Please contact Ted Nelson via email at tnelson@pape-dawson.com to obtain Microsoft Teams access information.

Instruction to Bidders and other bid documents will be available for review at the office of the Engineer and will be provided electronically, through CivCast, to prospective bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or minor defects. In case of the lack of clarity or ambiguity in prices, the Owner reserves the right to accept the most advantageous or reject the bid. All bids received after the closing time designated above will be returned unopened.


The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

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Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION**Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)**

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)**

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)**

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)**

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)**

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)**

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment

would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)**

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)**

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)**

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the

legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)**

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)**

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)**

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, www.sos.texas.gov, 1/800-252-VOTE (8683).

“As business leaders we must stand up and not stand down”

Congressman Roger Williams stops by Granbury to talk to business owners

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

U.S. Congressman D-25 Roger stopped by Granbury to connect with small business owners and talk about what he is doing to serve the state while working in Washington D.C.

Williams grew up in Fort Worth and received his education from Texas Christian University on a baseball scholarship. He later became the head coach of the team and got into his family business selling automobiles in Weatherford.

Williams served as Secretary of State from 2005 to 2007 before he started serving in congress.

“Never ever did I say I want to be a congressman,” Williams said at the event and has now been serving in congress for 12 years. “I got to run for congress because no one is fighting for small business, nobody’s fighting for main street America.”

Williams serves on two committees including the financial services committee and the small business committee where he serves as



Congressman Roger Williams discusses what he is currently working on in Washington D.C. at an event on September 8.

the chairman. Williams says he is unique in congress in the fact that he still owns a business whereas very few people in congress own a business.



“If I pass legislation that affects you, it’s going to affect me too,” Williams said during the event.

The economy and border control were his biggest concerns when it comes to the state of the country.

Williams also talked about the effects of inflation, higher interest rates and the strain on smaller businesses. He went on and talked about community banks being under attack due to a group in Washington wanting to only have four banks for the country.

Williams remarked about how many Texas students drop out of high school. He wants to tell those kids how you don’t have to lose hope and necessarily go to college to be successful. He went on to say that there is a need for more plumbers, welders, and carpenters.

The congressman noted that he passed a bipartisan bill to where when a student applies to a state university, they must be shown the cost of the university compared to a career and technical education school.

Williams also talked about the small business administration and noted that they have gone rogue and have become too political. Williams added that he asked for an audit from the SBA and in the report showed that they were out \$200 billion dollars, and noted the SBA later defended

that number reporting it was only \$36 billion dollars.

“That money belongs to taxpayers,” Williams said during the event. “We know that foreign nationals got some of that money. That makes me mad as heck. There’s some businesses here in Granbury that wanted to borrow money, and they didn’t get it because there are foreign nationals running around with that money. That’s just wrong... We’re going to get that money.”

Williams went on to add, “We’re going to put America on commission. We’re going to ask you to go out and find this money. If you find this money, we’re going to pay you 10%. If you find money from China, we’re going to pay you 15%,” Williams said. “I think that in itself will bring back a lot of the money from people who stole the money... If we get people to find some of this money, we’ve done our job.”

Williams then took a few questions from the audience and gave a few remarks before his departure.

“We’ve got a great district. I just want to say thank you to you all. You’ve got a unique community here. People as I travel around know where Granbury is. There’s a lot of smaller towns that want to emulate what you have got here. From an outsider I want to say keep it going... Williams said during the event.

“You’ve got a personality here in this community that most people don’t have. I’m proud to represent you because I like to tell people what we’ve got here in the district. We’ve got the (Texas) Rangers, the (Dallas) Cowboys, we have a nuclear plant, and we have Granbury Texas.”

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

GRIEF CONNECTION, a discussion-based support group for anyone grieving any loss. We meet on Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Sept. 11 to Oct. 30. First Christian Church, 2109 W. US Hwy 377, enter on the side by Tractor Supply. For info call Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833

EVERY TUESDAY

PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

FIRST MONDAY

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

FIRST TUESDAY

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

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

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

WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W US Hwy 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

THIRD TUESDAY

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

GRIEF SUPPORT 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

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.

RECYCLE

FROM PAGE A6

ners, and the communities we serve. It is in our DNA to put people and the planet over shareholder profits and being a part of the B Corp movement helps us shift the behavior, culture, and structural underpinnings of capitalism in such a way that everyone benefits," Brigitte Black, Program Manager of Recyclops said. "Recyclops values what B Corps stands for and aligns with the vision of B Corps globally-- to transform the economy to benefit all people, communities, and the planet. It is recognition of the positive impact we're making, not just by recycling but with our company culture."

Recyclops provides curb side pickup recycling services out of 20 states, one of which includes Granbury after joining the company in 2020.

There are approximately 103 customers in Granbury and nearly 13,000 customers throughout the nation.

"Our purpose is to have a positive impact on communities and the environment by reducing waste," Ryan Smith, CEO of Recyclops said.

Recyclops uses smaller vehicles which allows them to reach smaller areas and provide more effective service while eliminating contaminants in the recycling.

According to Smith, Recyclops underwent a comprehensive audit that took two years to complete. Every three years the company is required to recertify, meet the standards set, and show the process being made. "The average Recyclops customer recycles approximately 480 pounds per year," Smith noted.

Smith added that according to the Environmental Protection Agency, 480 pounds a year is equivalent to saving three trees, 782 gallons of oil, 6,280 hours of electricity and 9992 gallons of water, thus just some of examples showing the importance of recycling.

Recyclops accepts aluminum and steel tin beverage and food cans, cardboard and pasteboard, glass containers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, paper, books, newspapers, plastic beverages, food, soap containers, and shredded paper.

Recyclops works in three steps. A customer will bag up recyclables in the Recyclops bags, a customer will place the bag on the curb on their pick-up day and the truck will pick up the bag to be taken to get recycled.

Subscription pricing varies based on location pickup as well as pickup frequency.

To learn more about Recyclops or get more information visit recyclops.com.

City of Granbury approves \$69 million 2024 fiscal budget including a half cent tax rate increase

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

At a regularly scheduled Granbury City Council meeting, the council voted to approve the 2024 fiscal budget set at \$69 million with a passing of 4-1 that is set to start October 1 of 2023.

Mayor Jim Jarratt noted in the meeting that the city of Granbury's budget is "one of the most transparent budgets you will ever see."

The budget's planned expenditures will go towards personnel costs at 36%, following paying back debt services at 18%, with services set at 16%, cost of goods sold at 12%, supplies and maintenance set at 8%, capital at 6% and interfund transfers being at 4%.

The budget includes an increase to the tax rate at 38.5 cents, a half cent increase from the 2023 fiscal year. This increase will bring in \$103,600 which will keep the budget balanced.

This would affect property owners per \$100,000

costing \$50 a year with the half cent increase.

"It's not a tax, it's an investment and I'm all for it," Mayor Jim Jarratt said in the meeting.

"I think we're doing a great job keeping the tax rate low," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting. "That's why we're growing."

In the August first city council meeting, Mayor Jarratt had an agenda item that passed 6-0 requesting the disapproval of the Hood County Appraisal District's proposed budget as well as the sending over of a refund of excess funds of one point nine million dollars to all the eleven tax entities including the city. This money had accumulated over the previous years and was supposed to be refunded to the city but never was.

Mayor Jarratt noticed this after looking further into the HCAD's budget and noticed the numbers were not right and didn't add up.

According to city attorney Jeremy SoRelle the HCAD needed to create and

request an amendment to change their budget and send out a notice to each of the taxing units noting that they were going to create that amendment, but they did not.

Mayor Jarratt also noted that these were actions from the previous HCAD board and not the current board. Mayor Jarratt and Coffman also noted that they did not want to undermine the current board and their work.

The city received \$104,228 from 2020 through 2022 from the HCAD two weeks ago.

Mayor Jim Jarratt noted that this money was "erroneously withheld".

City councilman Eddie Rodriguez noted that they should vote to not increase the tax rate and use the money received from the HCAD to offset the budget and keep it balanced without having to increase the tax rate, thus the reason he voted against the city council proposed budget during the meeting.

When it comes to the new tax rate, City Manager

Chris Coffman noted that in comparison to neighboring cities, Granbury's tax rate at 38.5 cents is the lowest compared to Benbrook, Burleson, Cleburne, Crowley, Godley, Joshua, Keene, Mineral Wells, Stephenville, and Mineral Wells with the closest in comparison being Stephenville at 39.5 cents and the highest being at 86.7 cents in Keene.

"Every department goes through exactly what they need," City councilman Bruce Wadley said during the meeting. "Nothing cost this year what it did last year. We all have to spend more... We just try to collect exactly what we have to have."

In the budget, the city also noted three positions that would be hired for including a geographic information systems technician, airport supervisor, police criminal investigator, three part time clerks and two full time clerks. The city also plans to hire five part time interns.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET | A14



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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A14

There are many capital projects that the city is looking to work on with this new budget including:

- Street Improvements \$1,020,300
- Utility System Maintenance \$940,000
- Multiple Department Equipment Needs \$514,000
- Life Station #13 Impact Fees \$480,000
- IT Equipment \$428,000
- Geographic Information Systems \$425,000
- Four Police Vehicles \$360,000
- Reserves for Future Maintenance \$305,000
- Membrane Replacement Fund \$250,000?
- Vitrified Clay Tile Pipe Replacement \$250,000?
- Recreation \$220,000
- Utility Major Equipment \$212,000
- GIS Conversion to City-Hosted \$200,000
- Patrol \$190,000
- GF Major Equipment \$173,000
- Investigations \$170,000
- UF Minor Equipment \$167,600
- Freightliner Dump Truck \$165,000
- Lambert Branch Park Playground \$160,000
- Police Equipment \$155,500
- Lake Granbury Conference Center Upgrades \$125,400
- Comprehensive Plan Update \$115,000
- Digital Ticket Program \$113,000
- Network Storage Replacement \$100,000
- Sanitary Sewer Manhole Coating \$100,000
- Water Meters \$70,000
- Access Control Cameras \$75,000
- Tractor W/Bursh Hog and Finishing Mower \$71,000
- Sanitary Sewer Mahole Rehabilitation \$65,000
- GF Minor Equipment \$65,000
- City Pool Replaster \$60,000
- Bobcat Skid Steer Loader \$55,000

- LGCC Lighting Plan Phase 1 \$50,000
 - Half-Ton Truck \$47,000
 - Chevrolet 1500 Silverado \$47,000
 - Well Plugging \$45,000
 - Replace Tables \$37,400
 - Pump Motor Replacement Fund \$35,000
 - Four Flock Safety Cameras \$33,000
 - Pole-Mounted Security Cameras \$28,000
 - Pump Station Flow Meters \$28,000
 - PEG Equipment-Wireless Mics \$25,000
 - Electric Meters \$25,000
 - Air Compressor for Fleet \$22,300
 - Pump Motor VFD Sinking Fund \$20,000
 - Paint Upstairs \$20,000
 - SCBA Packs for Well Sites \$18,600
 - Replace TV Monitors \$18,000
 - Utility Line Locator \$15,000
 - City Hall HVAC Motorized Damper \$14,400
 - Light Tower \$11,000
 - Mower Replacement Program \$10,300
 - Paint Sprayer \$10,000
 - Fuming Chamber \$9,000
- The city's overall revenue is up from the 2021-2022 fiscal year from \$36,445,572 to the 2022-2023 year collecting \$41,133,433.
- The city's biggest revenue stream comes from sales tax. The city of Granbury collected \$11.9 million in sales tax in the fiscal year of 2022.
- Another big revenue stream comes from the Hotel Occupancy Tax that is paid for by those who come to stay in hotels or bed and breakfasts. In the fiscal year of 2022 the city collected \$1,132,517.
- Coffman noted that with such high revenue from sales tax and visitors it is important to keep the city at its best and continue to improve infrastructure and make upgrades.
- For more information on the city's budget report, annual reports and revenue streams visit granbury.org/opengov.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

Pesticides, herbicides and Lake Granbury



BY JUDI PIERCE

Judi Pierce has been the public information officer for the Brazos River Authority for 20 years. Her office is in Waco.

If you're like many people living near the lake, each time you hear someone from the Brazos River Authority state that Lake Granbury is a water supply reservoir, you might want to roll your eyes or throw up your hands and proclaim, "Yes! We know!"

It's true, it's a mantra for BRA employees that often gets lost in the label. By "water supply," we're trying to make people understand that the lake stores water for when it's needed for such things as drinking water. Yes! The water that comes from your faucets many times comes from the

"water supply" in the lake. It's treated and sent to our homes. So, it's extremely important that we care for this water supply.

Recently, there has been a lot of advertising locally by companies that offer to come out and spray stuff that will rid docks and walkways of unwanted pests, like the ever-present spiders drawn to these areas.

Though some claim to be using "natural" agents to take care of the problem, spraying anything over or around the reservoir is a bad idea.

Ask yourself this ques-

tion: Would you want pesticides mixed in with your drinking water?

Most water treatment processes can't remove pesticides from water. And, most "natural" remedies, such as essential oils, include "oil," which will harm or kill gill-breathing organisms. Finally, consider that pesticides accumulate in fish tissue. If you eat fish caught from the lake, you may be ingesting pesticides as well.

To keep your family and ours safe, we must be careful about what we may be putting into the lake.

So, what can you do to get rid of unwanted pests? Here's a combo of preventive measures, natural solutions, and environmentally friendly practices to consider:

Regular Cleaning: Keep your boat dock clean and free of debris. This will help eliminate hiding places and breeding sites for insects. Use a broom and sweep the invaders away.

Remove Standing Water: Empty any containers that collect water, as stagnant water can attract mosquitoes and other pests. Ensure proper drainage to prevent water from pooling.

Natural Predators: Encourage natural predators like birds, bats, and beneficial insects (e.g., lady-

bugs, lacewings) that feed on pests. You can create habitats that attract these predators near your boat dock. Planting flowers that attract beneficial insects, such as marigolds, sunflowers, and alyssum can help control pest populations.

Vinegar: A mixture of water and white vinegar can help repel certain insects like ants and flies. Spray this solution in problem areas.

Plant Selection: Choose plants that are naturally resistant to pests. For example, some aromatic herbs like rosemary, mint, and basil can help repel insects.

Finally, just a reminder: Brazos River Authority regulations state that there can be no application or storage of any pesticide, herbicide or other harmful chemicals over, on, or in BRA lakes and associated lands without written permission of the BRA. If you're considering spraying, please contact the lake office at 817-573-3212.

Completely eliminating all insects might not be achievable or desirable, as insects play important roles in ecosystems. The goal is to manage pest populations to a tolerable level while minimizing harm to the environment.

judi.pierce@brazos.org



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Attorney Paul Hyde is responsible for the content of this advertising



THERE'S A NEW FOOTBALL PROGRAM IN TOWN



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Generals are the new youth program in town designed to be a feeder system into the high school system.

And Pirates faithful couldn't be happier

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Granbury Pirates, say hello to the Granbury Generals. With hard work and dedication, the youngsters in the latter will grow up to someday win football games for the former.

The Pirates is the name of the beloved teams belonging to the local high school. The Generals are the new youth program in town designed to be a feeder system into the high school system.

"We have met with the high school coaches, and I have talked to coach (Sonny) Galindo about what his needs are and how we can tailor our program to emulate theirs as closely as possible, making the transition that much easier when the kids reach middle school," said Truxton Fox, Founder and President of the Generals program. "We implement some of the high school plays and techniques as best we can, dependent on age."

Suffice to say, there are a lot of football-hungry youngsters in the Generals system. They have the most teams in the Power 5 League in which they compete with teams from Tolar, Peaster, Glen Rose, Santo, Breckenridge, Weatherford, and Cisco.

Granbury has 262 players competing on a dozen teams. Divisions include Freshmen Flag (pre-K/kindeergarten), Sophomore Flag (first/second grades), Rookie Tackle (first/second grades), Junior Tackle (third/fourth grades) and Senior Tackle (fifth/sixth grades).

After that, the plan is to have the players enter the programs at Granbury and Acton Middle Schools before, hopefully, going on to star at the high school level.

"This is not including the record number of cheerleaders that are supporting us this year, either," Fox said. "It has been an awesome turnout for the youth of Granbury."

Galindo is certainly happy to see so many youngsters participating in the program.

"I'm excited to see and talk to the young 'uns who are involved. They have a well-organized league and are completely centered around kids enjoying the game while learning it," he



There are also a record number of cheerleaders.

said.

The season began on Sept. 9 and will run for nine weeks. Following two week-ends of playoffs champions will be crowned before Thanksgiving, Fox said.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

Fox said the idea came about simply by seeing a need for more opportunities for youths to participate.

"We noticed the team sizes were pretty small for the amount of kids that are enrolled in GISD, so we began to research the 'Why?' of that and then game plan a solution," he said. "We went live with the website

in early January."

There was previously a youth football program in Granbury, but Fox noted that the program dissolved after the summer and most of their players moved over to the Generals. He was an assistant coach with the former program's youngest flag team last year, so slightly connected but in no real capacity.

Among the major reasons the Generals became an attractive alternative is the cost. The new program provides all the necessary equipment to the youngsters, reducing out-of-pocket expenses for families.

"Football is an extremely

expensive sport, especially at the youth level where the kids are constantly outgrowing their equipment. This equipment can easily top \$600 per kid when you have to replace it all, and the majority of people can't afford that or don't see the cost/reward benefit from that," Fox said. "They put their kid in a different sport with less overhead expense."

Fox also stressed that a lot of time and resources are spent educating coaches in the league.

"While these guys are volunteers, they have all gone through approximately 35 hours of in-depth train-

ing for not just football, but also age-appropriate teaching, child safety, fundamentals and the latest techniques to keep the kids safe," he said.

WHAT'S IN A NAME
So why not name the new program the Pirates, a name the community has known and been proud of for decades? Fox said there was a clear well-thought-out reason for this decision.

"The name decision was kind of multifaceted. First, the town was founded by General Granbury. Then, grammatically Granbury Generals flows well," he said. "And lastly - most importantly - we wanted to give the kids something to aspire to be. By naming everything Pirates from pre-K to 12th grade, there is never any shift in the kids' identity."

By starting them off as a General and telling them that with hard work, dedication and perseverance they will one day have the opportunity to be a Pirate, it is something earned and not given."

While no exact research has been done for such a connection, it is commonly believed that a successful youth program that closely

PLEASE SEE
FOOTBALL | B2

Open House at Brazos River Charter School

Staff Reports

Brazos River Charter School (BRCS) invites families of High School students to their Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Visitors can meet teachers, tour classrooms and eat a free hot dog.

Brazos River Charter School, opened in 2000, is a school that offers a non-traditional framework to High School students. As part of the Texas Public School system attendance at BRCS is

free for students. The school is located in Nemo, Texas and has students registered from Johnson, Somerville and Hood Counties.

BRCS offers two half days of study. Students may choose to attend from 8 - noon. Or they can choose to attend from noon - 4 p.m.

"The school has inspired and driven me more than any other public or online school," said Sophomore Cat McArthur, "the creative freedom teachers give students

on projects" is another reason she chose BRCS.

Each of the five core subjects are taught by in person teachers. Electives are completed online and checked by the teachers of BRCS. The higher sciences of Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology and Forensics are offered in addition to English, Math, History and Government, and Spanish.

Jan Stewert has worked at BRCS for 17 years, "Some of our students come here

in the ninth grade because when they start High School, they get overwhelmed." BRCS offers the support and smaller classes that some students need.

Teachers at BRCS work hard to meet those needs. Students and their families chose BRCS for a variety of reasons. Some students work and the schedule works better for them. For some students they attend to finish their credits and graduate early. Still others have

started a family themselves and wish to obtain their diploma.

Senior Sayer Whaley enrolled in BRCS as a sophomore. He says, "I chose to come to the school for the opportunity of small, well-organized classes." Whaley would stay for a different reason, "The teachers have become my own family. They truly care about the student and the person as well."

BRCS Principal Carolyn Kendall echoes the thoughts

of a family, "People thought I was crazy for leaving Grandview where I taught for over ten years, but I felt called to begin a new chapter at BRCS. It did not take long for me to realize I had made the right decision. BRCS is a family. Our teachers truly care about the "whole" student."

For families that cannot attend the open house tours are available. Questions contact Carolyn Kendall at 254-898-9226.

YMCA opens registration for inclusive soccer league

Staff Reports

Registration is open for Hood County YMCA Inclusive Soccer League. The league is open to everyone from ages 3-22. The Inclusive Soccer League is a soccer league for children with adaptive and/or additional needs. Children and their partners

can register for the five weeks of season play and adaptive team sport. The program provides opportunities for fun and physical activity for children, youth and young adults with special needs. The season will be from Nov. 4 to Dec. 2. Registration deadline is Nov. 4. The fee is \$10. For



more information contact Karissa Sorrells at 817-573-7159

Tolar Memorial Scholarship Foundation to host BBQ Bash

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

Hood County residents will soon be chomping down on some delicious barbecue — and it's all to benefit Tolar Independent School District. An organization that has been supporting Rattler education since 1981, the Tolar Memorial Scholarship

Foundation is hosting its BBQ Bash from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, at LC Ranch, 4610 Shaw Road. The event will include a night of brisket, beverages, silent and live auctions, and live music featuring Alan Parsons. Tickets for adults are \$15 each, and for children 12 and under, tickets are \$10 each.

Limited VIP tables will be available for purchase for a total of \$500. Each table seats 10 people and includes a meal and two drink tickets per person. Guests will be sure to enjoy a night complete with BBQ, bids, and beats. ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1 emulates what the high school is doing can lead to greater success at the high school level. This has proven true in places such as Aledo and Stephenville, for example. "I can tell you that having a structured and disciplined program like the one these coaches have established will not hurt the high school program. Anytime strong, Christian men can positively influence boys and show them what being a true man is all about is a win, especially in today's culture where men have less and less staying power," Fox said. "Impacting these kids in a loving and positive manner will most certainly create a better high school program - and a better town. "From the coaches who have bought in to the par-



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Galindo believes the future of the Pirates is in good hands with the new youngsters.

The plan is to have the players enter the programs at Granbury and Acton Middle Schools before, hopefully, going on to star at the high school level.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

ents who volunteer their time, this league is nothing without them. We have amazing people in Granbury who want nothing but the best for their kids. I hope that we leave a positive, everlasting impact on these kids that forever change the landscape of what Granbury is." Galindo believes the future of the Pirates is in good hands with the new

youngsters. "I feel strongly that we'll see the effects of good fundamentals and skills in our future. Kudos to Truxton Fox and Luke Cunningham (vice president) and all the coaches who are selfless enough to lend time and resources to improve football in Granbury and to improve the community as a whole."

Finding a qualified dealership alternative that's easy to deal with. (That's driving joy.)

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Hood County 4-H hosts youth kickoff

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Hood County 4-H kicked off an event for youth in the community to come out and learn about everything that 4-H offers at the Reunion Grounds on Sept. 7.

K-12 students were able to get more information about the many different aspects of 4-H including numerous clubs and projects that they can get involved in.

The event had members

from the 4-H Sharpshooters, the food and fashion club, and those involved with a dog project, a horse project.

The event also gave the youth a chance to hear from those involved with livestock and leadership through 4-H.

For those interested in more information, contact the Hood County Extension office at 817-579-3280. Enrollment started Aug. 15, but there is still time to join just visit 4honline.com



PHOTOS BY
MARY VINSON
HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Granbury ISD earns A rating from Texas Education Agency

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Granbury Independent School District received an A rating under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas which equals superior achievement and a district score of 100.

This is the highest rating of achievement a school district can earn from the TEA for financial integrity ratings. This is the eighth year in a row that GISD has received a superior achievement rating.

"Granbury ISD always strives to be fiscally responsible, and this recognition once again validates those efforts by having a perfect score and rating from the TEA. To have a superior achievement rating for financial integrity eight years in a row speaks volumes for GISD," Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said.

"The state's school financial integrity rating system

ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve these practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes," according to the Texas Education Agency.

The four financial accountability ratings for Texas school districts are "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for "Standard Achievement" and "F" for "Substandard Achievement."

"I'm proud to serve on a board where the district is fiscally responsible and is recognized for their efforts. This is a tremendous honor for Granbury ISD, and an even higher honor to achieve it eight straight years," Granbury

ISD Board President Barbra Herrington said.

919 schools across the state received superior achievement, 50 received above standard achievement, 41 met standard achievement, and 8 received substandard achievement for the 2021-2022 school year.

These are the first scores released from the TEA for the 2022-2023 school year.

This is the second award GISD has received from the TEA in the past week after the district was named a Purple Star School District on September 5. GISD was the largest school district in the entire state of Texas to have every campus across the district awarded a Purple Star. The Purple Star recognizes schools for their exceptional commitment to supporting and meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

Lipan ISD and Tolar ISD also received A ratings.

THE GRANBURY WOMAN'S CLUB AWARDED A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



The Granbury Woman's Club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Granbury High School student Dianna Koch earlier this year. Koch, right, is pictured accepting the award from Sherrie West, left, scholarship chairman of the organization. Koch is the granddaughter of Dianna McDaniel and is currently majoring in business at Tarleton State University.

COURTESY OF DONNA ENGLE



COURTESY PHOTO

Each September, National Preparedness Month to encourage and remind Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

Hood County Emergency Management hosts fair

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Hood County Emergency Management will be hosting an emergency preparedness fair for the first time in observance of National Preparedness month.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Each September, National Preparedness Month encourages and reminds Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Homeowners, families,

communities, and businesses can use this opportunity to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment."

According to Margaret Campbell from the Office of Emergency Management, "The fair is an event aimed to helping local residents be ready for an emergency and understand who responds to emergencies. The fair brings together first responders, non-profit organizations, and other emer-

gency preparedness experts for a day of how-to's and demonstrations along with children's activities."

The event will let attendees meet volunteer fire departments, Texas EMS, Granbury Police Department, Hood County Sheriff's Office, Hood County Community Emergency Response Team, Texas A&M AgriLife, and the Brazos River Authority.

The attendees will also learn about disaster plans, go-kits, emergency binders, water safety and more.

Attendees can take a first-hand look at Hood County Law Enforcement and Fire Department response vehicles, meet private & non-profit agencies that provide disaster relief for the community, and learn how to create a personal preparedness kit.

The event will take place at the annex one parking lot located at 1410 W. Pearl Street in Granbury on September 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

BOOK REVIEW

Scary but humorous with a fun twist



COURTESY PHOTO

"The September House" by Carissa Orlando

C.2023, BERKLEY, \$27.00, 344 PAGES

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The curb appeal is pretty high.

Really, the house has everything: enough bedrooms, enough bathrooms, the yard is partially-fenced, good-sized, but not too much; there's a ton of kitchen storage, a tool shed out back, and the cutest little garden. Seriously, the place is great; the appliances are included, so are the window treatments, and, as in the

new book "The September House" by Carissa Orlando, maybe even a few ghosts.

It had been her dream house. She thought it was Hal's, too, but that was before he told her he was leaving, and he got into a cab.

To be fair, Margaret wasn't looking forward to a fourth September in the old Victorian house, either. But Hal never had the kind of relationship she had with

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | B11

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NATIONAL Cleanup DAY September 16, 2023



We're in this together.

National Clean Up Day is like a super exciting day when everyone becomes a superhero for the Earth! It's like a big, special day when we all join hands to make our world shiny and clean. Imagine playing a fun game where we pick up litter and garbage from parks, streets, and beaches. We wear cool gloves and carry magic trash bags to collect all the yucky stuff.

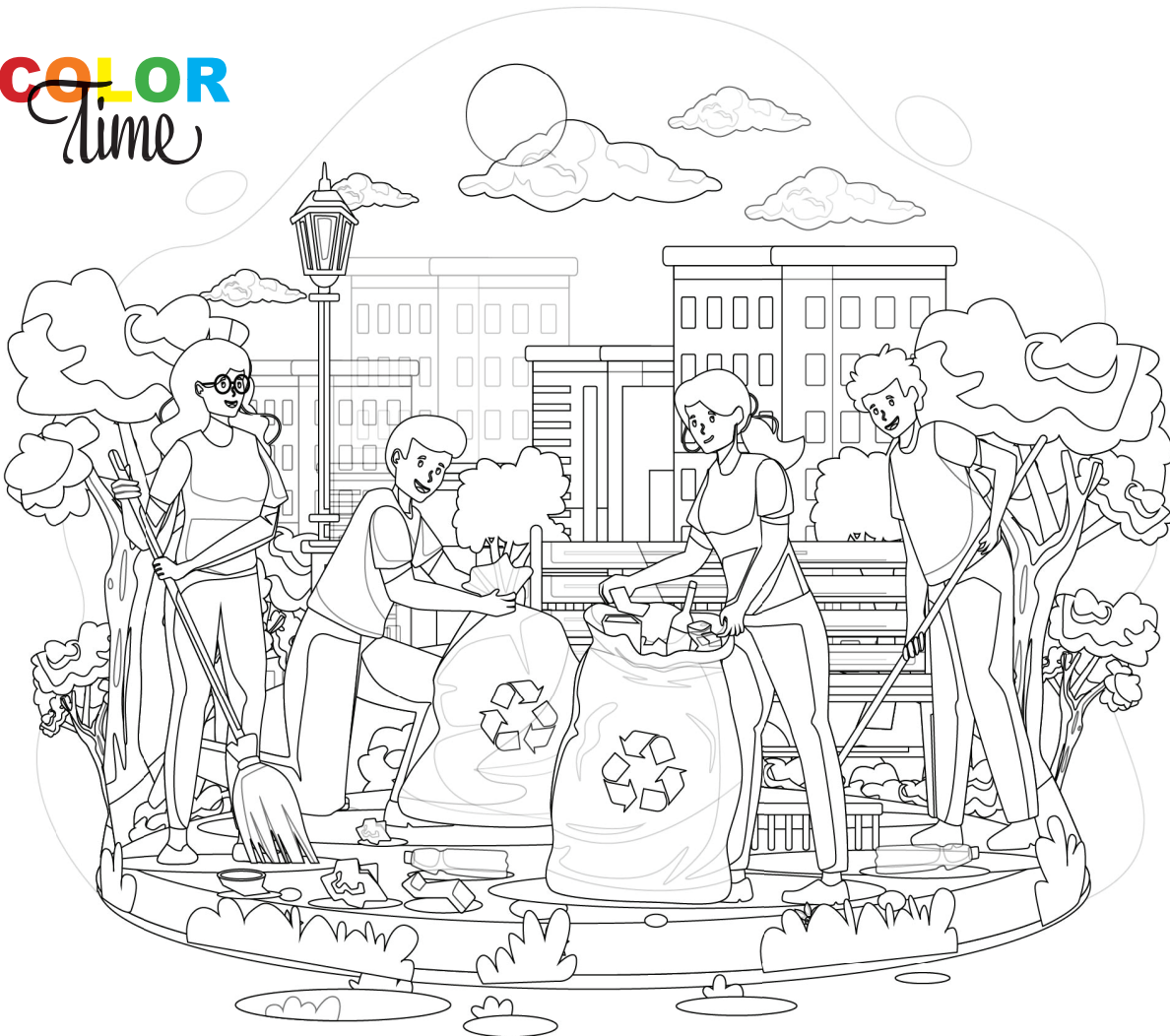
But wait, there's more! We don't just pick up trash, we also learn about recycling and sorting things into different bins, just like sorting puzzle pieces. It's like a treasure hunt for doing good deeds!

You'll see grown-ups and kids working together, giggling and laughing while they make the planet happy. And guess what? When we clean up, animals like squirrels

and birds, and even fish in the oceans, do a happy dance!

National Clean Up Day teaches us how to take care of our home and make it a wonderful place for everyone. So put on your superhero cape (or just comfy clothes), grab a garbage picker, and let's make the world the best playground ever on this awesome day!

COLOR Time



Answers: 1. Woman wearing necklace 2. Extra trash on floor 3. Missing person on right 4. Man wearing sunglasses

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SPORTS Roundup



COURTESY PHOTO

Pirates home for strongest test of season

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Last season this is when things started unraveling for the Granbury Pirates, something they hope to avoid repeating when they host the Killeen Kangaroos in a District 4-5A Division I contest Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

The game is also Senior Night, with all the senior players on the Pirates' roster being honored.

The Pirates won their first three games of the season, just like season, and were playing at winless Cleburne at press time with expectations of duplicating last season's 4-0 start. The Kangaroos (3-0) had this week off after opening the district season with a 37-13 win at home over Cleburne.

In last season's meeting in Killeen, the Kangaroos defeated the Pirates 40-22.

Granbury topped Waco 17-14 on Sept. 8 in the Pirates' homecoming. Quarterback Hayden Meyer passed for 104 yards, including a 60-yard touchdown to Carter Riley, and rushed for 76 yards with a 19-yard TD. Weston Cantrell's 36-yard field goal in the first quarter gave the Pirates a 10-0 lead and was ultimately the difference in the game.

Defensive end Chase Cantrell paced the Pirates defense with 10 tackles, including one for a loss. Linebacker Rylan Brenish posted nine tackles with a fumble recovery and safety Josh McGinnis had eight and an interception returned 49 yards.

The Granbury defense limited Waco to 36 passing yards and only 1-of-8 on third-down conversions. The Pirates converted six of a dozen third downs and were 1-of-1 on fourth down.

Granbury coach Sonny Galindo said that while the team is once again off to a

good start, they haven't forgotten what happened a year ago.

"The feeling this year is different. We have seasoned, mature young men who understand that we have to earn each day and week's success," he said.

Through the first three games, Granbury's offense was led by running back Tyler Rodgers with 295 yards and five TD on 32 carries. Riley was the top receiver with three catches for 117 yards and Meyer had completed seven of 12 passes for 272 yards with two TD and one interception. Cantrell led the defense with 24 tackles.

Killeen players to watch (no updated statistics available) include wide receiver/running back Kardae Hicks, wide receiver Raymond Anthony Howard, cornerback Christopher Vargas and defensive back Jaeshaun Peyton.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers lost their first regular-season contest since 2021 on Friday, Sept. 8 when they fell at home to two-time defending Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III state champion Dallas Christian, 37-6.

Despite the loss, Tolar only fell two spots in the state rankings from No. 3 to No. 5.

Tolar (2-1) was playing at Comanche (3-0) at press time and now has a week off before preparing for the start of District 5-2A Division I play at

Hamilton on Sept. 29.

The Rattlers last lost in the regular season at Crawford, 19-7, on Oct. 1, 2021. They were 10-0 last regular season en route to a 13-1 overall record and the best season in team history.

The Rattlers are playing without standout running back Peyton Brown, who is expected to be out for most of the regular season with an ankle injury.

Through three games the Rattlers were led on offense by first-year starting quarterback Isaac Blessing (202 yards, 2 TD, 2 interceptions passing; 34 carries, 188 yards, 3 TD rushing), with freshman Kelvin Murray having rushed for 93 yards and a TD rushing and Matthew Behrens had nine catches for 127 yards.

Jaxon Riddle was leading the defense with 29 tackles, including five for a loss, while Garrison Nation (23 tackles) and Drake Owens (20) are right behind. Clayton Stemberidge has four interceptions with 17 tackles.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates began District 5-5A play on Friday, Sept. 8 with a 3-0 sweep at home against Saginaw. They followed that with a 3-1 loss at Aledo on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Leading the way against Saginaw were Sienna Watts (7 kills), Lily McCall (20 digs) and Allyson McCabe (28 assists, 17 digs, 3 aces). Standouts against Aledo were McCabe (37 assists, 20 digs, 2 blocks) and Kylie Moody (5 kills, 18 digs).

The Lady Pirates (10-20, 1-1 in district) are on the road again Tuesday, Sept. 19 when they travel to White Settlement Brewer. They return home on Friday, Sept. 22, hosting defending district champion Justin Northwest. Both matches begin at 6 p.m.

The Granbury junior varsity defeated Saginaw 2-0, as did the freshmen Purple.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers finally returned to the comfy confines of their own gym on Friday, Sept. 8 as they won 3-1 against Grafard. That was followed by a 3-0 win at home against Bosqueville on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

"We were back to firing from all cylinders," Tolar coach Misty Rhodes said of the win over Grafard. "Our defense remained solid and our play at the net on offense that had been down the past couple of matches was finally back in action. Our setters did a great job of moving the ball around and leading that offense."

Rhodes noted Kamryn Kolb for serving five aces in the third and fourth games against Grafard, also praising Allyson Dobbs for being "a wall" with her blocks, including a thunderous block to end the match.

Dobbs and Maddie Rue also received accolades for their play against Bosqueville. Rue served three aces in a run to end the third game, including on match point. McKenzie McQuain also stood out for her play at the net.

Tolar (13-11) next plays at Strawn on Saturday, Sept. 16 and returns home to host Fort Worth Trinity Valley Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

GRANBURY CROSS COUNTRY

The Pirates varsity won the Castleberry Clash with a score of 50 points on Friday, Sept. 8. They edged Joshua by four points.

The Pirates were led by Jaxon Glenn, who finished second over the 5K course with a time of 16 minutes, 41 seconds. Alec Wilkinson was ninth in 17:29, Aiden Lemens was 13th in 17:51 and Bryan

Hailey placed 15th with a time of 18:05.

The Lady Pirates varsity placed fourth, paced by Kambry Zschiesche's eighth-place individual finish with a time of 21:18. Emery Kirby finished 20th in 22:54.

Also, for the varsity Pirates, Bryce Young was 27th, Aidan Turpin was 28th and Jacob Wolfe was 37th. Also, for the Lady Pirates varsity, Josefina Berry placed 23rd, Zaeda Sedgwick 26, Karolina Berry 32nd and Aubrey Ward 33rd.

The JV Lady Pirates also placed fourth. Davila Presley was fifth individually, clocking 26:21 over 5K, with Ziva Sedgwick 15 in 28:15.

The Pirates JV was fifth. Samuel Valdez led with a time of 20:40.

Granbury is competing in the Paschal Invitational Saturday, Sept. 16, followed by the Birdville Flying Hawk Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 21.

TOLAR CROSS COUNTRY

The Rattlers and Lady Rattlers participated in the Hico Bluebonnet Invitational on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

The Rattlers were led by Hunter Keith, who finished 22nd over the 5K course in a time of 20:29. Ernesto Ramirez was 48th.

The Lady Rattlers' top finisher was Olivia McClain, who ran the 3.2K course in 15:22.

Zoe Bolting of the Lipan JV girls placed 19th with a time of 17:18 over 3.2K.

Tolar will next compete in the Dublin Invitational on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

LIPAN CROSS COUNTRY

The Indians and Lady Indians traveled south to Port Aransas to run on the beach on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Jacy Bolton led the Lady Indians, finishing 16th on the 2-mile course with a time

of 13:40.86. Also, Taylor Branson was 22nd and Kinsley Robinson was 49th.

The top finisher for the boys over their 5K course was Court Gaylor, who was 38th.

As a team, the Lady Indians were seventh and the Indians were 13th.

Lipan will compete at Poolville on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates (2-7, 1-3 in District 5-5A) dropped a 15-4 league match at home to Northwest on Tuesday, Sept. 5, followed by a 17-2 loss at Wichita Falls Rider on Sept. 12.

Highlights for Granbury against Northwest included:

Boys doubles - Roland Krause and Oakley Boyd won 6-3, 6-1; Justin Rios and Braxton Bailey won 7-5, 6-3.

Mixed doubles - Katie Childs and Tyler St. Don won 6-0, 6-0.

Boys singles - St. Don won 6-2, 6-4.

Highlights against Rider were:

Girls singles - Ava Hamrick won 6-4, 1-6, 11-9, overcoming an 8-4 deficit in the tie-breaking third game.

"In a time where she could have given up, her mental toughness prevailed and came out with a victory," Granbury coach Athan Laskaris said.

Boys singles - Rios won 8-4.

"Overall, there were a lot of competitive matches and we had every opportunity to have a different outcome," Laskaris said.

"Still, very proud of how we competed and looking forward to learning from this and getting better because of it."

Granbury is off this week and travels to Azle on Sept. 26.

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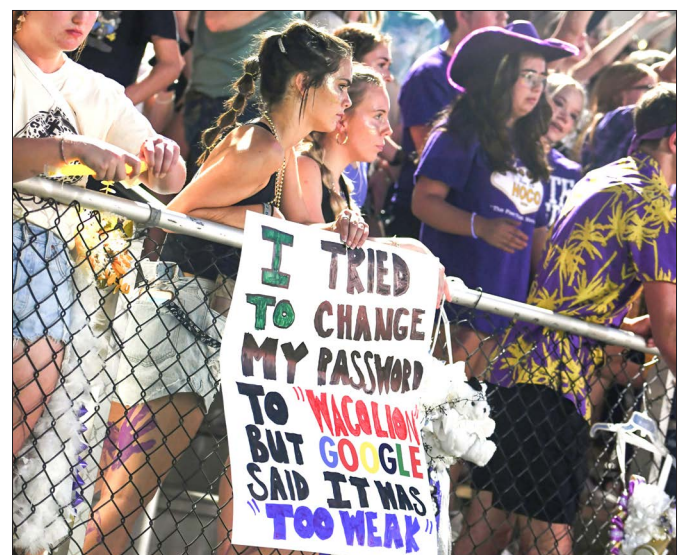
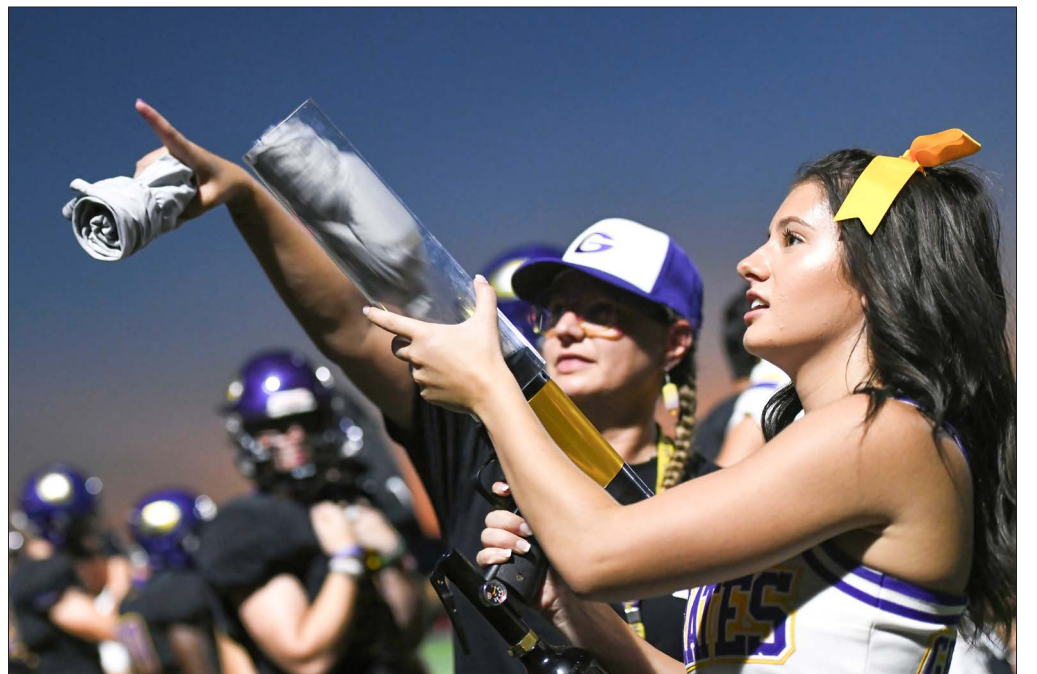


GRANBURY PIRATES -vs- WACO LIONS 17-14

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON AND LAYTH TAYLOR HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR AND MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS





TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans outscore Lions 35-3 to win home opener

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Now that's how a home opener is done. The Tarleton State University football team couldn't be stopped in the second half for the second straight game, outscoring North Alabama 35-3 in the final 30 minutes to win 52-31 at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The Texans (2-0, 1-0 UAC) won the first ever United Athletic Conference game, dropping the Lions (1-2, 0-1 UAC) for the second time in as many seasons. On Purple Out, the Purple and White scored 52 points for the second straight game, this time in front of 20,127 fans, a new Tarleton State home opener attendance record.

Victor Gabalis and Keylan Johnson connected on four touchdowns, as Johnson tied the program record for touchdowns scored. He had six receptions for 219 yards, finishing with the fifth most receiving yards in a single game in team history.

The Texans are 2-0 for the first time in their NCAA Division I era, beginning the year with a pair of wins for the first time since 2019. They've scored 104 points over the first two contests, their most points in a two-game stretch since Nov. 2-9, 2019, which also marked the last time the Texans had consecutive games with 50-plus points scored.

Based on the team stats, one might think the score would be flipped. North

Alabama ran 109 plays to Tarleton's 55, they out-gained the Texans 565-477 in total yardage, and owned the time of possession advantage of 36 minutes to Tarleton's 24. But Tarleton State was much more efficient. They averaged 8.7 yards per play to UNA's 5.2 and had 23.2 yards per completion to the Lions' 9.5

The Texans also forced five fumbles and three turnovers, including a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown by Robert Rios to seal the game.

Saturday started with a kickoff delay of about 40 minutes due to lightning in the area, the second straight time Tarleton's game has been delayed this season for the same reason. But that didn't deter Texan fans, who turned out in the droves to pack Memorial Stadium to start the 2023 home campaign.

It was all North Alabama to start Saturday, however. UNA began with a 64-yard drive, but the Texans forced the turnover to hold off the scoring threat, as Blake Smith forced a fumble, re-



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans (2-0, 1-0 UAC) won the first ever United Athletic Conference game, dropping the Lions (1-2, 0-1 UAC) for the second time in as many seasons.

covered by A.J. Sargent.

The Lions scored touchdowns on their next two drives to make it 14-0 UNA in the first quarter. The Texans responded with a Derrel Kelley III 12-yard touchdown rush to cut the deficit in half, then Gabalis found Johnson for his first of four touchdowns just before the first quarter expired to tie the game 14-14 at the break.

North Alabama then traded their two touchdowns in to go back up 14 late in the first half. With two minutes left, Adrian Guzman nailed a 25-yard field goal to make

it 28-17 at halftime.

From there, it was all Texans. Gabalis found Johnson from 64 yards out to make it 28-24, then after a UNA field goal, the two hooked up again from 55 yards out this time to tie the game 31-31 with eight minutes to go in the third.

Texan running back Kayvon Britten gave the Texans their first lead with an 8-yard scoring rush with 4:17 to play in the third. Early in the fourth, Johnson caught his fourth touchdown from Gabalis to make it 45-31, then Rios' pick-six capped off the 52-31 final.

Gabalis completed 13-of-22 passes for 301 yards, four touchdowns, and an interception. His 22 pass attempts compared to UNA's 64 on the game, including Lion starting quarterback Noah Walters, who went 36-of-63 for 342 yards, zero touchdowns and a pick.

Britten finished with 64 yards on 13 carries and a score, while Kelley had 56 yards on 11 attempts with a touchdown. Gabalis also rushed for 41 yards.

Defensively, three Texans finished with double-digit tackles. D.J. Harris had 12 tackles, a forced fumble, a

sack and a quarterback hurry. Qua'Shawn Washington had 11 tackles, two tackles for loss and a quarterback hurry. Patrick Jones recorded 10 tackles and a pass breakup.

Smith ended up with two forced fumbles, to go with nine tackles. The Texans had four fumble recoveries on the night, one each by Washington, Kyle Taylor, Sargent and Jed Whitney.

The 2-0 Texans now turn their attention to Texas Tech. Tarleton will face the Red Raiders in Lubbock on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.

Texans place 3 in top-25 in first tournament of season

Tarleton State University

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Tarleton State University had three of their five-man lineup place in the top-25 of the first final leaderboard of 2023-24 on Sept. 6-7.

Newcomer junior Carson Gallaher went 67-68 over his final two rounds to finish even-par at the Ram Masters Invitational in Fort Collins, Colorado to pace the Texans. He shot 75-67-68 overall at Fort Collins Country Club, taking tied-ninth in his first tournament for the Purple and White.

Tarleton sophomores Max Bengtsson and Cristobal Sepulveda weren't far behind, with Bengtsson finishing tied-18 at +3 (72-71-70) and Sepulveda tied-25th at +6 (70-74-72). Senior Bladen



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University had three of their five-man lineup place in the top-25 of the first final leaderboard of 2023-24 on Sept. 6-7.

Samaniago shot +18 (75-74-79) for tied-61st, and junior Alvaro Huidobro turned

in at +25 (76-78-81) for tied-69th.

The Texans took eighth as

a team at +27 (867).

"It wasn't the week we were looking for, but there

were a lot of positives to build off of at the same time," head coach Chance Cain said. "Round one is what really hurt us, but we played better each round after. Also having three players in the top-25 is a good sign for things moving forward."

"It was awesome to see Carson grind it out in the first round and then come into form the remaining 36 holes to earn a top-10 off the bat," Cain added. "Max and Cris were steady all week as well, and I can already tell their experience from last season is paying dividends."

Gallaher had the tied-second most birdies among the 75-man field at 14, just two behind the leader. Sepulveda led the entire field in pars at 40 across 54

holes, along with posting the tied-sixth fewest bogeys.

Sepulveda led the Purple and White through the first round at even-par (70), taking 14 pars in the opening 18 holes. Gallaher ended the day with a -3 (67) in Round 2, sinking five birdies compared to just two bogeys. He then finished it off with a -2 (68) on Thursday to place in the top-10.

Long Beach State won the tournament at -15 (825), with Colorado State's Connor Jones taking medalist honors at -13 (64-65-68).

The Texans will next compete at the Graeme McDowell Invitational for the second straight year on Sept. 24-26. The tournament, hosted by UAB, will be held at Limestone Springs Golf Course in Oneonta, Alabama.

Tarleton State University edged by Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's Women's soccer dropped a 1-0 decision at Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Pumphrey Soccer Complex.

The Lions improve to 4-3-1 with the victory.

Emma Barnes made her first collegiate start in goal and recorded two saves.

Rylee Low was credited with two of the Texans' four shots on goal, with both of her shots landing on net.

In the 14th minute, the Lions took a 1-0 lead with a goal by Brisha Musungu assisted by Iyanah Hicks.

Tarleton State held UAPB

scoreless in the final 30 minutes of the second half and headed into halftime trailing, 1-0.

The Texans took control in the second half preventing the Lions from taking a shot and firing four of their own.

With six minutes remaining, Jaycie Bass fired a shot on goal, but the UAPB goalkeeper got a hand on it as it went out of play drawing a corner kick. Mila Bettinelli took a shot off the corner but was unable to find the back of the net. The Texans were unable to push one in the back of the net and fell to the Lions, 1-0.

The Lions evened the series after the Texans 6-0 win

in Stephenville last season for Tarleton's first home win as a program.

The Texans out-shot the Lions, 7-5, including 4-3 on goal. Tarleton also held a 7-1 advantage in corner kicks.

Tarleton will close its non-conference schedule on Saturday, Sept. 16 against Prairie View A&M at the Tarleton Soccer Complex at 7 p.m.

Tarleton State University's Women's soccer dropped a 1-0 decision at Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Pumphrey Soccer Complex.

COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY



FORWARD TRAINING

Local gold reserve needs volunteers

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.

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ize the volumes of knowledge they have garnered over a lifetime of working in their chosen occupations. Or realize how those valuable experiences can prepare others who are seeking entry into the community workforce.

Located within walking distance from the heart of our downtown Granbury Historic District the Granbury ISD's 1935 era

school has been refreshed and remains an educational campus to be appreciated. You can sense the ambiance of history in the buildings as you walk through and imagine the thousands of lives over the decades that have obtained their education right here.

You will feel the excitement of the campus coming to life each day when the fresh faces of our eager youth, adults, and instructors arrive.

Ninety-seven percent of programs are led by volunteers who bring their vast knowledge and skills to give back to others. They motivate students to lay a foundation for long-term sustainability and purpose-filled lives for our citizens.

If you have not figured it out yet we are talking about the Forward Training Center of Hood County. An education facility unlike those you might have experienced in years past in a more formal educational class setting.

Forward knows that "one size doesn't fit all" and we are ready to customize an educational experience to the individual student's needs as it pertains to employment. The students desired goals for their future become our goals as we help them craft a step-by-step path to succeed.

We start early with youth. Students enter a partnership with a mentor who will be on hand throughout the student's classroom time guiding them to reach the

desired destination. This partnership also includes a small community of classmates and other volunteer leaders who form a unified group that supports and encourages one another. Measurable outcomes are professional resumes, interview prep, best practices for the presentation to potential employers, appropriate workplace attire, character development, problem solving, conflict resolution, and fiscal management resulting in a head start above other job seekers.

Forward Training Center sees the students through their end goal of assisting with employment or further education depending on their chosen career.

Our community has a resource as valuable as gold itself and that is the potential workforce of people among us who need what Forward Training Center has to offer.

You are needed to help us educate, encourage, and then be enriched with the experience of witnessing the transformation that occurs when the most valuable commodity in our community, our people, walk out with a roadmap for long-term success.

Go to our website to inquire about how your gifts and talents can impact a life.

www.forwardtrainingcenter.org

Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center presents "An Adult's Guide to Keeping Kids Safe Online"

Staff Reports

Monday, Sept. 25 the Paluxy River Advocacy Center (PRAC) is offering a class to help parents keep kids safe online. The event is from 5:30 -7:00 p.m.

Topics to be covered include: the pitfalls of popular websites and apps, red flags to recognizing predators online, cyberbullying and practical tools and resources for monitoring your child's internet usage.

There will be food and a movie played for school-aged children. For questions call the PRAC at 817-573-0292.

HOW TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE

By law, all adults in Texas are required to make a report if they suspect or witness child abuse. Child

abuse may be reported to a toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or online at www.txabusehotline.org.

If you feel your situation is a life-threatening emergency, dial 911 or contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

If you need to report child abuse in a different state, please call the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-422-4453.

If you are looking for a children's advocacy center in another part of Texas, visit Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas for a complete list. The National Children's Alliance maintains a list of Children's Advocacy Centers across the United States.

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE

Drop in school performance or sudden non-participation in school activities

Skipping school, running away from home

Arriving early to school and staying late

Drug use other than experimental

Feelings of low self-worth

Eating disorders - anorexia, bulimia, sudden change in appetite

Sleep disorders - insomnia or nightmares

Regressive behaviors - bedwetting, wetting pants, nail biting, excessive crying, clinginess

Sudden onset of fear of adults or places that were not feared before

Suicide attempts (especially among adolescents)

Difficulty concentrating

Delinquent behavior

Overly aggressive, withdrawn, secretive, depressed, compliant, anxious

Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge*

Shame*

Promiscuous/sexually provocative (in adolescents) or otherwise acting out sexually*

Fear of bathrooms and showers*

Frequent and overt self-stimulation*

Compulsion to cleanliness - feeling dirty, wanting to wash all the time*

Physical Indicators of Sexual Abuse

Vaginal or penile discharge

Genital or anal bleeding or bruising

Sexually transmitted diseases

Pregnancy

Genital or oral sores

Frequent urinary tract infections (uti's)

Sore throats

Unexplained genital injuries

Semen

Itching

Torn or stained clothing

Pain with urination or bowel movements

Foreign bodies in genital or rectal area

Physical Indicators of Physical Abuse

Bruises

Fractures

Skin or bone injuries in various stages of healing

Burns with unusual patterns - Cigarette burns

Scalded feet or buttocks - Head injuries/skull fractures

Internal injuries - rupture of stomach, liver, etc.

Human bites

Injuries to eyes-retinal hemorrhages, black eyes,

detached retinas

Injuries to ears-bruising, sudden hearing loss

Injuries to mouth-chipped or missing teeth, oral trauma from forced feeding

Intentional poisoning

Indicators of Neglect

Malnutrition

Failure to thrive

Child is cared for by underage sibling

Abandonment

Exposure to domestic violence

Keeping child out of school

Child left unattended for long periods of time

Child is improperly dressed for weather

Exposure to dangerous items or substance - guns, poison, etc.

Failure to seek medical attention

Failure to provide clothing, food, shelter.

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HCNEWS.COM

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Sept. 9 (Puzzle 47).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Shoebox school supplies gifted to children overseas

Staff Reports

As the school year gets underway, shoebox packers are making use of back-to-school prices to purchase gifts and essential items for children in need around the world.

Residents in Granbury are collecting school supplies, along with personal care items and fun toys, to pack in shoeboxes. Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries.

For many children, access to these simple items is essential to an education. This was the case for Justin Thomas, a shoebox recipient in Southeast Asia whose parents could not afford the supplies needed for school. Thomas remembers the specific day he received a gift-filled shoebox from Operation Christmas Child and found it filled with toys and most exciting to him—school supplies!

Growing up with hand-me-down clothes and used items, Thomas used to write with a pencil so short that he held it using a pen cap. Having an entire packet of new pencils and a pencil sharpener all his own was a treasure to him. This simple gift made a life-changing im-

pact for Thomas because it opened the doors for him to receive an education.

For more information, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. National Collection Week is Nov. 13-20.

Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will celebrate its 30th year of ministry.



COURTESY PHOTO

As the school year gets underway, shoebox packers are making use of back-to-school prices to purchase gifts and essential items for children in need around the world. Residents in Granbury are collecting school supplies, along with personal care items and fun toys, to pack in shoeboxes. Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries.

How literacy can empower children this Hispanic Heritage Month

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated every year as Americans learn about the cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Although many assume Hispanic Heritage Month takes place during one full month, it's actually celebrated every year from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 — a recognition that started back in the 1960s.

The observation first started in 1968 as only a weeklong event under President Lyndon Johnson but was later expanded by

President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was finally enacted into law on Aug. 17, 1988, according to hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

Sept. 15 is also a significant day for Hispanic Heritage Month, as it was the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is Oct. 12, falls within this 30-day period, according to hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

But now that we know

more about this holiday, how can children best learn about the different cultures around them?

The Hood County Library recently shared a link from NewsBank Inc. on social media detailing the 10 best kids' books to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month:

"Alma and How She Got Her Name," by Juan Martinez-Neal tells the story of Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela, when in learning to write her name, she discovers just how many stories of her ancestors are packed into it and learns just how perfect her name is for her. This book does a great job of explaining to kids the uniqueness of names and will be sure to

leave them asking similar questions about their own names.

In Sonia Sotomayor's "Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You," the author — who is also the first Hispanic Supreme Court Judge — encourages kids to ask questions and embrace their own uniqueness. The story follows her childhood story of being diagnosed with diabetes and other kids with different struggles as they all work to build a community garden.

"Where Are You From? ¿De dónde eres?" by Yamile Saied Méndez is a lyrical picture book that tells a story of a young girl who isn't sure how to answer the constantly asked question,

"Where are you from?" and by asking her Abuelo and receiving an unexpected answer, she learns about self-acceptance, identity, and belonging.

"Undocumented: A Worker's Fight" by Duncan Tonatiuh is the perfect book for those ages 12 and up. "Undocumented" tells the story of Juan, a hard-working immigrant from Mexico that came to the U.S. without papers. Exploited and underpaid as a busboy, he risks everything to stand up for himself and his community. This inspiring tale will teach kids about the injustice of exploitation, the bravery and strength of immigrants, and the importance of standing up for

yourself and others.

Hispanic Heritage Month is the perfect way to educate children on their heritage as they learn exactly where they come from. The 30-day celebration also allows other children from different cultures to learn about the varying differences in families and how everyone's culture and history is something to take pride in for the rest of their lives.

For more information and for a complete list of the books for Hispanic Heritage Month, visit infoweb.newsbank.com.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

BOOK

FROM PAGE B4

the home's permanent occupants, the gauzy maid, or the little boy who'd bite you if you weren't careful. Hal never even bothered to learn the names of the children who hazily appeared, pointed to the boarded-up basement stairs, and whispered "He's down there." Margaret was sure he'd seen

them, but he told himself he didn't — until the blood on the walls got to be too much and he got tired of his possessions being moved by unseen hands.

So, Hal was gone and that was fine. Margaret was used to handling things by herself anyhow, until her daughter, Katherine, decided to visit and that would just make things worse. Margaret loved her daughter, but Katherine could be,

well, intense. And profane. Katherine's girlfriend had just broken up with her, so add "angry" to that list.

Yep, this visit would be a challenge.

But Margaret was up for it. She'd been warned that a death or two had occurred in the house, and she'd been through three Septembers of mayhem with the "pranksters" and spirits of the deceased. She knew what to expect. Another September

shouldn't be a problem, as long as she could keep the cellar door nailed shut...

Sometimes, a smirk isn't a bad thing. It's quite appealing when it's accompanied by a "what-cha gonna do?" shrug and a story like what's inside "The September House." A smirk's prime stuff when you get a good, and deliciously gruesome, scare, too.

For a many pages into

this novel, in fact, you may be unsure if author Carissa Orlando is poking you in the ribs or not. Is Margaret insane or just insanelly patient with her home and its ethereal residents? Is Hal the mysterious "he," or is Hal maybe mysteriously dead? There's humor inside this novel — dark humor, but humor nonetheless — but then tiny chuckles turn into a tsunami of horror and oops, you barely noticed it

coming. Figure out one scary thing and another leaps out of a closet, screaming, teeth bared.

Never mind the skeleton buried in the woods. As if you could forget.

This is a fun book, but unsettling enough to make you want to keep the lights on. For horror fans with a humorous streak, "The September House" should have big appeal.

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Fall time shallow (top water) fishing



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 season is a great time to start looking for shallow feeding fish. Many folks prefer this time of the year, especially for the top water action that can be had. Top water action is already being reported all across north Texas and many anglers are taking advantage of it.

Top water to me means fishing probably in the top 10 feet of water. Sometimes the fish will be pushing bait to the surface out in deep water and other times fish will be pushing bait up on shallow flats near the bank.

Catching fish on topwater baits, swimbaits or lipless crankbaits fished just below the surface to me is all top-water action. Most folks consider topwater to be when the fish hits a surface presentation. My definition of fish on top includes fishing just below the surface.

Many times, those fish on the surface are typically the smaller fish and the bigger fish are usually waiting below for an easy meal injured in the feeding frenzy. This is not always the case for sure, but I will always try to fish under the schooling fish looking for those bigger predators.

The birds are in the process of returning to north Texas as they do every fall, and they can point you to surface feeding fish in a hurry. Keep your eyes open and your binoculars handy. I talk all year about thrash-

ing the water to call in the fish, but if you are fishing shallow this may not be a good choice. Shallow feeding fish will spook easy, and a little stealth is recommended. It is also recommended that you use long casts, especially on calm days. Keeping the boat distant from the fish is a good choice in shallow waters.

Another method for catching big fish feeding in the shallows is the use of live bait fished under a balloon or float. Position your boat, if possible, such that your balloon presentation can float into the feeding area. A large shad fished under a balloon with a slip knot is effective this time of the year. When the fish takes the bait, the line will be pulled taught, and the balloon releases and you fight the fish back to the boat.

You can also cover a big feeding flat with balloons being pulled behind the boat. Use your trolling motor with a couple of balloon rigs behind the boat to work an area.

Free-lining live bait is an-



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury fishing continues to be good.

other option in shallow water. When I say free-lining, I am talking about tossing a live shad or perch without any weight into a shallow area where fish are holding.

Large topwater plugs are also a good choice. Long As, Redfins and other similar baits worked through feeding fish can produce some major hits. Chug-bugs or any water popping baits can draw a strike as well.

This is an exciting time of the year. I know I look forward to it each year. Bring it on!

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are starting to fall and are in the low to middle 80s. Water levels are close to 2 feet low and falling slowly. Granbury fishing continues to be good to excellent for striped bass to 10 lbs. on live bait from Decordova to Blue Water Shores. Some topwater is being reported near Stripper Alley on shallow banks. Largemouth bass numbers continue to be good with an occasional bigger fish to 6 lbs. possible. Spinner

baits and crank baits are good early and soft plastics later for these largemouth bass. Blue and yellow catfish are good to 25 lbs. on cut shad fished on the upper ends. Crappie numbers continue to be good as well on small minnows and jigs fished on structure mid-lake. Whitebass (sandbass) numbers are improving with fish schooling near Indian Harbor and Decordova.

Squaw Creek (Comanche Creek) will be reopening Oct. 1. Many folks will be taking advantage of the excellent largemouth bass and chan-

nel catfish fishery there. This lake also has an abundance of Tilapia (invasive species).

On other reservoirs, large crappie on Benbrook continues to be good to excellent. Crappie jigs and small minnows are putting limits of big crappies near stick-ups in 8 to 20 feet of water on Benbrook. Whitney and Possum Kingdom continue to boast of easy limits of striped bass on live bait and/or downrigged jigs with curly tail trailers.

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Conversations matter *One father's crusade against teen suicide*



Brad Hunstable with his wife, April, daughters Addy and Kinley, and son, Hayden, 2019.

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

For Granbury native Brad Hunstable, life read almost like a storybook. He grew up in Granbury and went to Granbury High School, where he was a star athlete in multiple sports. He was inducted into the Granbury High School Hall of Fame along with legendary Granbury educator Marsha Grissom in 2016. His dad was on the coaching staff at GHS, and his mom worked for GISD as well. Both were pillars in the community.

Upon graduating from Granbury High School in 1997, Hunstable received a coveted nomination to West Point from Congressman Charlie Stenholm's office. While in the military, Hunstable and his wife, April, started their family.

After serving in the United States Army for five years, Hunstable moved his family back to Texas and lived in the Keller area, where he went to work for the Ross Perot family in one of their Real Estate Development companies. When the Real Estate industry began slowing down, Hunstable pivoted and started his own internet company called UStream.com. Ross Perot was one of the first investors in his new startup.

In 2008, Hunstable moved his family to the Aledo area, where his son, Hayden, was born. In 2016, Hunstable sold UStream.com to IBM, and from the sale of that company, Hunstable's entrepreneurial spirit led him to start several other companies that allowed him to work with numerous notable sports personalities, including former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Evander Holyfield.

By just about every measure, the Hunstable family was living the American Dream.

All of that changed, and Hunstable's world came crashing down when, on April 20, 2020, just four days shy of his 13th birthday, Hunstable's son, Hayden, took his own life.

"It was right at the beginning of the COVID pandemic in April of 2020," recalled Hunstable. "The schools were all locking down, and no one knew at that point for how long. Hayden didn't like the lockdown. He didn't like being out of school. He missed his friends. Social isolation is hard enough for adults and even more challenging for our kids.

Back in December, he had got a brand-new monitor for Christmas. He was a big-time gamer. He was an incredible Fortnite player. One night, he got frustrated with Fortnite, and he tossed the game controller over his shoulder. It hit squarely in the center of the monitor, and the monitor broke. We told him, 'Son, we

don't care about the monitor, but we do care about how you react.' We wanted it to be a life lesson, so we told him we wouldn't just buy him another monitor. Over the next couple of months, Hayden did a lot of extra chores around the house and had been helping in many additional ways, so he earned himself a new monitor. We found out later he had broken his computer monitor again for the second time, and he didn't want to come to tell us because he was embarrassed and was afraid he would get in trouble. In a twelve-year-old's mind, everything was pressing down on him, and Hayden made a rash, impulsive decision."

"Hayden was a normal kid. I went through his cell phone, and there was nothing that would have sent up a red flag or caused us alarm. He wasn't noticeably depressed. He wasn't someone who moped

Hunstable's world came crashing down when, on April 20, 2020, just four days shy of his 13th birthday, Hunstable's son, Hayden, took his own life.

around," he said. "Sometimes, it can be kids who are obviously depressed and who've had issues over many years. But sometimes, it's the ordinary kid who just briefly gets overwhelmed by life, and in a brief flash, they make an impulsive decision."

Two days after Hunstable buried his son, he went out on his father's front porch here in Granbury and recorded what would become not only a viral video on social media but would also serve as a catalyst for what was to come. The video started with Hunstable saying, "Day two since I buried my son. My son died from the coronavirus, but not in the way you think. The human condition is not to be socially isolated..." That video has now amassed over 150 million total views and has been shared by nearly 600,000 people.

One of those who saw and shared the video was business partner Evander Holyfield. Shortly after Hayden's death, Holyfield called Hunstable and told him, "You've got the four-time heavyweight champion of the world in Hayden's



Brad Hunstable with Hayden, 2019.

corner. That just sort of stuck in my head," recalled Hunstable.

Shortly after that, Hunstable formed "Hayden's Corner," a non-profit organization based in Aledo dedicated to raising awareness about and reducing teen self-harm and suicide.

"The statistics I found were shocking," said Hunstable. "The second leading cause of death among 10-17-year-olds is suicide. When you look at the data, particularly in youth, I'll call youth anything under 24 because the brain's pre-

frontal cortex is not fully developed until we're about 24-25 years old, which is where rational decision-making takes place. Under that age, kids use more of the amygdala part of their brain, which is the part of the brain where the "fight or flight" response happens."

According to Hunstable, 50% of all youth suicides have a previous mental health diagnosis, and about 50% do not have any previous mental health diagnosis.

"That's what the data shows. And of that, about 55% of those are impulsive, meaning they made the decision very rapidly. About 70% of those made the decision within the last hour, and about 45% of those decided within the last five minutes. That goes back to that fight-or-flight response in the brain."

When asked what initiates that fight-or-flight response in the brain, Hunstable stated, "Particularly in younger youth, it can be something as seemingly innocuous as their girlfriend or boyfriend broke up with them. They bombed a test or failed a class. They get in a fight with a parent.

Bullying is also a prevalent factor. With the added pressure brought on by social media, everything is magnified to seem worse than it really is, and they go into that fight-or-flight mentality."

One of the first major initiatives that Hayden's Corner took on was the making of a 17-minute movie entitled "Almost Thirteen." The film, written and directed by Bill McAdams, Jr., and narrated by Peter Coyote, won the 2021 Global Documentary of the Year.

"We had three goals in mak-



COURTESY PHOTO

In 2021, Texas had the highest number of deaths from suicide. Suicide is something that takes the lives of a range of ages but is more prevalent in those ages from 10 to 14, and 25 to 34.

Becoming more educated on those who are down and how to support them

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Since 2008, September has been the mark of National Suicide prevention and awareness month. This is a month to remember all the lives lost due to suicide and to support those who have lost a loved one to suicide. It is also a time to raise awareness about suicide prevention.

According to the CDC, suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. The number of deaths by suicide increased 2.6 percent from 2021 to 2022 from 48,183 to 49,449. In 2021, Texas had the highest number of deaths from suicide with 4,193 people per 100,000 total population.

Suicide is something that takes the lives of a range of ages but is more prevalent in those ages from 10 to 14, and 25 to 34 according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

While there is no one cause of suicide there are some risk factors or conditions that can increase the chances of suicide such as mental health conditions like depression, anxiety disorder, conduct disorder, substance abuse, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or traumatic brain injuries. More risk factors include access to firearms and drugs, prolonged stress such as bullying, relationship problems or unemployment, stressful life events such as divorce, financial troubles, loss, and exposure to another person's suicide.

Here are some warning signs of someone with suicidal ideation from the National Institute of Mental Health:

A person may talk about feeling like a burden to others, feel guilty or shameful, or talk about wanting to die. Some feelings can include emptiness, hopelessness, feeling trapped, or no reason to live. Feelings can also include being extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage. Some feel-

ings can be unbearable emotions and even physical pain.

A person with suicidal ideation may also have a change in behavior such as withdrawing from friends, taking dangerous risks, eating, or sleeping more or less, using drugs or alcohol more often, and making a plan or researching ways to die.

Some factors that can help protect someone from taking their life can include, mental health care, connections to family and support, problem solving and coping skills, and creating a strong sense of purpose and self-esteem.

You can help someone struggling by educating yourself and others about suicide prevention by learning these risk factors. Some other helpful actions include talking with them, asking questions, listening without judgment, staying with the person, removing any harmful objects, and reaching out to the suicide and crisis line and following their guidance.

Hood County's counseling center is a great resource to seek help or find guidance and support for adults, adolescents, and children.

The center specializes in the treatment of mental health and life issues. They offer psychotherapy and specialize in the treatment of depression, anxiety disorders, relationship problems, PTSD, ADHD, career services, substance abuse, parenting, life skills, and grief counseling.

The center also offers telebehavioral therapy which allows for counseling over the phone.

The center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit their website at hood-countycc.com, call 817-559-4589 or email at hccc807@yahoo.com for more information.

For someone to talk to 24/7, contact the suicide and crisis lifeline number at 988 by text or phone call.

You're not alone.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)** text "STRENGTH" to the **Crisis Text Line at 741-741** or go to [SuicidePreventionLifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

A Nightmare on Pearl St.

Actor Ken Sagoes to appear at Spooky Spectacle Sept. 23-24

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Attendees at this year's Spooky Spectacle event may never sleep again after speaking with horror movie actor Ken Sagoes, known for his role as Roland Kincaid in "A Nightmare on Elm Street III and IV."

Sagoes will be at the Lake Granbury Conference Center located at 621 E. Pearl St., for the 12th annual event on Saturday, Sept. 23 and Sunday, Sept. 24.

Brandy Herr, co-founder of the Spooky Spectacle, first met Sagoes at Monster Con in San Antonio a few years back. After editing three of his books, the pair became fast friends — leading Herr to feel comfortable enough to ask Sagoes to appear at this year's event as a guest.

"He was like, 'Of course I'll come in for you, Brandy,'" she said. "He's just the sweetest guy. You'll definitely want to meet him."

Sagoes became nationally known for the role of "Kincaid" in the two "Nightmare on Elm Street" movies, making him the first African American to survive an international horror film and return for a sequel. He is also an author and will be on hand during Spooky Spectacle to sign copies of his new horror graphic novel.

"The first 50 people who buy autographs will get a free gift from him," Herr added.

Other special guests will include Kristina Downs of the Texas Folklore Society, Paranormal Investigator Leila Olivari, and a special live horror story performance from radio show Freeze Frame & Kirk.

Attendees at Spooky Spectacle will also be blown away by exhibitors in a variety of genres, including horror, paranormal, science fiction, cosplay, fantasy, and metaphysical.

"Ink of Geek, she comes just about every year, and she does really great artwork," Herr said. "She does drawings with horror movie characters. We also have Pink Light Images and Weirdo Weddings. She's a wedding photographer, but she specializes in weird weddings, so elopements and people that have a horror movie theme, that kind of stuff. She'll be doing a panel about how to come up with a weird wedding. We also have our ghost hunting group, Research and Investigation

of the Paranormal (RIP), who will be showing off some of their equipment and talking to people about their investigations."

For 12 years, Herr has been putting on Spooky Spectacle, with the intention of creating a different and otherworldly event for those who enjoy everything paranormal.

"My mother's the one that came up with (Spooky Spectacle)," Herr said. "We do ghost tours, so she was saying how it would be cool to create an event where a bunch of groups would come together in a conference, and it just kind of snowballed from there."

Spooky Spectacle was originally called the Granbury Paranormal Expo, which focused more on ghost hunting. However, Herr said the name was eventually changed to Spooky Spectacle in order to create more of an inclusive event for those who enjoy fantasy, science fiction, and horror.

"It evolved to where it's almost like a comic con kind of event, but with a spooky angle," she explained. "We still have a ghost hunting group and that kind of stuff, but it's a little more inclusive for everyone who's just into anything weird."

Herr said guests are welcome to show up in their own costumes as the event is technically a Halloween party.

"I'm excited to see the excitement of everyone else," she said. "I have people who have thanked me for putting it on each year because it gives a little something different in Granbury for the weirdos out there. I love checking out the fun, nerdy stuff and seeing the costumes."

Admission is \$5 per person and children five and under get in for free. A portion of the proceeds will also benefit Texas Equine Xperience and Sanctuary (T.E.X.A.S. Rescue Inc.).

The event will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24.

"We are so excited to put on this event each year," Herr said. "All the support we continue to receive from Visit Granbury and our followers means so much to us."

A welcome party will be held on Friday, Sept. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hewlett Park on Pearl Street. The party will feature live music from The McGrath Project and is free to the public.

For the latest news and



MARY VINSON | HCN FILE PHOTO

This year's Spooky Spectacle event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24, at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, located at 621 E. Pearl St. The 12th annual event will feature everything spooky and paranormal, like this booth from last year's event featuring black and white drawings of horror movie characters.

updates on the event, visit SpookySpectacle.com online and like the Facebook page at facebook.com/SpookySpectacle. Herr can be reached by email at TheSpookySpectacle@gmail.com or at 817-964-6524.

Herr added, "If you love

Halloween and you're excited to get started (for this year) then this is a great way to do it."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

Hood County nonprofits participate in North Texas Giving Day

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

North Texas Giving Day (NTX Giving Day) 2023 commences this Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. The event began in 2009 as an effort to encourage a collective day of giving and has become the largest collective giving day in the nation. Over 500 million dollars has been raised for over 3,000 non-profit organizations in over 20 counties of the North Texas region. In 2022 alone \$62.6 million was raised through 94,385 donors benefiting 3,210 local nonprofits.

The group behind the NTX Giving Day is the Communities Foundation of Texas which designed the 18-hour online event to "empower every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform."

NTX Giving Day benefits non-profit organizations, donors and sponsors.

Tools are offered to organizations participating in host employee giving campaigns. For non-profits it's also a good opportunity to get their name in front of the community and share their vision.

The Grace Classical Academy page shares, "As a private Christian school who relies on the generosity of donors, Grace Classical Christian Academy greatly appreciate North Texas Giving Day. It creates an overall sense of awareness in our community of the needs of non-profits, and is a unified way for folks to give toward causes they believe in. In our school's case, our mission and vision have been greatly supported by NTXGD donors giving toward the cause of Christian education in our area. GCCA has been able to raise funds through NTXGD to go toward student scholarships, which has opened the door for more children to receive a private, Christian education through the years. For that we are extremely grateful!"

Second Chance Farm echoes the need for donations. "Monetary donations are needed the most. With rising costs of everything, our largest costs are day to day expenses such as veterinarian expenses and feed. It will enable us to help more animals, livestock and domestic. This past year we have had some large rehabs and surgical costs. As with most organizations- donations are down but we thrive on the help we receive. Donations enable us to continue to help the many animals that require immediate and often lifesaving or quality of life care, along with necessities such as food

PLEASE SEE **GIVING** | C5

SUICIDE

FROM PAGE C1

triggered that starts the healing process when we talk to someone about what we are going through and how we feel. But the fact is, if you're in a bad place, you can't get help unless you tell somebody, and you can't help somebody unless you talk to them. So, it all starts with all of us having these conversations with the people we love. It's real life, and these are tough discussions. But you don't solve tough problems by not talking about them. The kids can handle more than you think, and you won't put it in their heads by talking about it.

In fact, you're going to save their life probably."

Dr. Kathleen Powderly, Pediatric Physician and former Medical Director of Cook Children's Hospitalist Group, agrees, "Start with talking to your preschool and younger elementary-aged kids about bad days, failure, and being worried. Parents can discuss stress and anxiety as they go into the late elementary years. In middle and high school, start the conversations around stress, then discuss depression and specifically ask if they have ever thought of hurting themselves or suicide. Those are scary words, but we need to say them to our kids so our kids can

say them to us if they are struggling."

According to statistics compiled by Cooks Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, every 1.2 days, a youth in the community is admitted to Cooks with a suicide attempt. The average age is 14.4 years of age. "In 2020, suicide became the leading cause of traumatic death in Tarrant County," said Dr. Powderly. "Ten percent of teens suffer from depression, and roughly 18% of children and adolescents have thoughts of suicide at some point."

According to Dr. Powderly, there are warning signs that may indicate that children, adolescents, teens, and even

young adults may be struggling with feelings of depression. Powderly recommends watching for the following warning signs:

- Changes in eating and sleeping habits
- Feelings of sadness and hopelessness
- Lack of interest in their hobbies or fun activities
- Low energy level
- Increased irritability
- Behavior troubles at school

While this can be scary, both Hunstable and Powderly believe that the best defense against self-harm and suicide is a good offense and that the best

offense is parents or other trusted adults having age-appropriate dialogue with kids and teens.

"The other main thing I've learned is that no one wants to die. People want to escape pain," remarked Hunstable. "I don't believe for a second that Hayden wanted to die. He got overwhelmed by life and, in his twelve-year-old mind, made an impetuous and rash decision that he couldn't come back from. Our one big regret is that we never sat Hayden down and talked to him about suicide. That's why I believe with all my heart that conversations matter."

For more information about Hayden's Corner or

to view the film "Almost Thirteen," you can go to <http://haydenscorner.org/>. The movie is also available to watch on YouTube.

If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States by simply calling or texting 988. The service is entirely free and confidential.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan Woman's Club begins celebratory year in community



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will commence its 45th year in Pecan on Thursday, Sept. 21, and the year's schedule holds numerous commemorative elements for this sapphire anniversary of friendship and fellowship.

Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. in the clubhouse ballroom with President Sandy Hoelting calling the group to order at 10 a.m. The morning will hold a business meeting, program, and lunch prepared and served by the clubhouse staff.

A "musical montage of fun, faith, and romance" presented by "For His Glory," also known as Lois Akers and Ray Scott, will entertain the crowd.

At the inaugural meeting of the club year, raffle tickets will be for sale, and ladies may also purchase PPWC monogrammed t-shirts, tote bags, and pouches, the proceeds of which will benefit the members' chosen charities and scholarship recipients. Ladies may remit cash or check for these fast-selling items. The tabletop

charity of the day is Joseph's Locker for which monetary donations are welcome.

The PPWC honors the tenets of friendship, fellowship, a pursuit of the arts, and supports charitable groups and endeavors in and around our community. All female residents of Pecan are welcome to join the club.

ART EVENT

A two-day mixed media workshop is on the PAC's calendar for today, Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and tomorrow, Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon to 6 p.m. Instructor Deanna Thibault will lead the event. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

CAMP TIME

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club will enjoy its

fall rally beginning tomorrow, Sunday, Sept. 17, through Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Shady Campground. The event will include shopping, golf, games, and good food and fellowship. For full information about the RV club and its activities, contact David Kroon: dk1341@swbell.net.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The "Let Freedom Ring" Pecan Belles Member-Guest Tournament for the Ladies' Golf Association is on the calendar for next Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 18-20. Sign up in the golf pro shop.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Pecan's Genealogy Group will gather on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. in the

EMS Training Room of Pecan's emergency service compound on Monticello Drive. Attendees will enjoy a time of "show and tell" and should bring a family heirloom or other interesting object to show the group. Everyone (both Pecaners and non-residents) is welcome. Call or text with questions: 682-459-5718.

MOBILE BOOKS

The Hood County bookmobile will be back in Pecan on Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the PAC parking lot. The bookmobile is a free service provided through Hood County, and patrons may both check out and return books in this spot. In addition, library staff will also bring free books for distribution that require no return.

HIGH FLYING

EAA chapter 983 will facilitate Pecan's fall fly-in and car show on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pecan's Planeview Park and airstrip. Young Eagle flights, aircraft simulation, a silent auction, emergency vehicles, and food for purchase will all be a part of the day.

DINNER GROUP

The Pecan Widows and Widowers Club will meet again on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room for a "no host" dinner featuring items from Chef Jordan Ray's menu. Following dinner, Pecan resident Anna Langley will review John Graves' title "Goodbye to a River," a book featuring the proposed se-

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C5

CINERGY
ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 15 September 2023 - Thursday, 21 September 2023

A Haunting in Venice (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Wed: 4:55PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 3:20PM, 5:55PM, 8:25PM

Gran Turismo: Based On A True Story (PG13)
Fri: 6:00PM.
Sat: 4:35PM, 8:00PM.
Sun: 3:55PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues: 4:55PM, 7:10PM.
Wed: 4:45PM.
Thurs: 4:55PM

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 3:35PM, 5:55PM.
Mon, Tues: 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM.
Wed: 2:00PM, 4:25PM.
Thurs: 2:20PM, 4:40PM

Retribution (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM.
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: 2:25PM, 4:50PM, 8:00PM.
Wed: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 7:50PM.
Thurs: 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM

The Equalizer 3 (R)
Fri: 2:30PM, 5:05PM, 7:40PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 10:10AM, 12:50PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM.
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Wed: 2:00PM, 4:05PM.
Thurs: 3:15PM, 5:50PM, 8:25PM

The Expend4bles (R)
Thurs: 6:00PM, 8:30PM

The Hill (PG)
Fri: 3:05PM, 9:05PM.
Sat: 10:30AM, 1:40PM.
Sun: 10:05AM, 1:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 8:00PM

The Nun II (R)
Fri: 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM, 10:10PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Wed: 2:10PM, 4:20PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 3:20PM, 7:00PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

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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) 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

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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 will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek HWY, Granbury, TX 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints! Info & reservations: 225-933-4074.

SONS OF the American Legion

Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5 - 7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC

Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. 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 community-health@ymcafw.org.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot game day. 10 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

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.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

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

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Hood County CERT meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@gmail.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.

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.

PLACE YOUR AD TO RUN IN PRINT AND ONLINE AT CLASSIFIEDS.HCNEWS.COM

HOME IN ON MORE BUYERS

Blues Bliss

Second Annual Granbury Blues Fest returns to Brock's

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

The greater Granbury area is set to resonate with soulful rhythms and electrifying performances as the Second Annual Granbury Blues Fest kicks off this Saturday, Sept. 16, at the iconic Brock's Food & Drinks. This musical extravaganza promises an unforgettable night of blues, rock, soul, and more. With tickets priced at just \$15 at the door, it's a bargain you will want to take advantage of.

A LEGACY OF MUSIC AT BROCK'S SALOON

James Brock, the owner of Brock's, has been a beacon for live music enthusiasts in Hood County, Texas. His journey began three years ago when he acquired the old Rib Shack and transformed it into the vibrant music hub it is today. The saloon, accommodating around 75 people, boasts an intimate setting perfect for up-close musical experiences. Additionally, there's a sprawling beer garden and a spacious outdoor stage that can seat over 200 people, ensuring that all can enjoy the music.

Brock's dedication to live music is evident, with performances six nights a week catering to diverse musical tastes. But what sets Brock's apart is its commitment to the local community, as every other Sunday afternoon, they host a bluegrass gospel band, providing a musical sanctuary for all.

MEET THE BLUES FEST LINEUP

The Second Annual Granbury Blues Fest features a stellar lineup of two nationally known blues artists and three regional acts. These blues legends and rising stars will each bring their unique flavor to the stage. Here's a glimpse of the talent you can expect:

Tutu Jones Jr.: With a heritage steeped in blues, Tutu Jones Jr. is the son of the late R&B guitarist Johnny B. Jones. He began playing the guitar at the tender age of five and has since graced stages worldwide. His large following spans both the United States and Germany, making him an international blues sensation.

Larry Lampkin: Hailing from Fort Worth, Larry Lampkin has made a name for himself through his blues prowess. He was a finalist in the National Blues Challenge held in Memphis, a testament to his exceptional talent. Blues & Rhythm Magazine has recognized Lampkin as a blues powerhouse who can hold his own against the best in the blues world.

Ray Reed: At the age of 83, Ray Reed is a living legend in Fort Worth, celebrated for

his contributions to the city's cultural tapestry for over 69 years. Reed's journey began as a teenage sharecropper in Maypearl, Texas. Through his resilience and musical gifts, he caught the attention of blues icon Freddie King. His story is a testament to the enduring spirit of blues music.

Killer Bug Morris: A lifelong friend of Ray Reed, Killer Bug Morris has been enchanting audiences with his blues performances for over 50 years. Like James Brown, his dynamic style includes energetic dancing and strutting through the crowd, all while wielding his signature wireless microphone and donning outrageous, jazzy attire. Killer Bug's shows are nothing short of electrifying, and his fan base extends across the state.

Alice "Fantastic" Faye: Alice Faye is a beloved figure in Texas, known for her enchanting and soulful singing. Her performances have a magical quality that can bring any crowd to their feet and encourage them to join the musical celebration.

Steve Pirner: Steve Pirner is revered as one of Texas's finest blues harmonica players. His soulful harmonica melodies can make you dance to jump blues or touch your heart with a slow rendition of classics like "Dock of the Bay."

Gator & the All-Stars: This dynamic quintet is the busiest band in Granbury and one of the busiest in the state. With a diverse range of instruments, including sax, piano, guitar, bass, drums, accordion, and trumpet, they can seamlessly switch instruments on the fly to provide the perfect backing for any song. Gator has collaborated with numerous Rock and Blues Hall of Fame members, making their performances a true musical spectacle.

JOIN THE BLUES EXTRAVAGANZA

The Second Annual Granbury Blues Fest promises an unforgettable evening filled with the rich sounds of blues, soul, and rock. It's a celebration of music, community, and the enduring spirit of live performances. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this extraordinary event at Brock's Food & Drinks this Saturday, September 16! Get ready to tap your feet, sway to the rhythm, and immerse yourself in the bluesy bliss that only the Granbury Blues Fest can deliver.

Mark your calendars and secure your spot for this musical journey that will linger in your heart long after the final note has been played. The \$15 ticket at the door is your passport to an unforgettable night of music and fun! We'll see you at the Second Annual Granbury Blues Fest!



COURTESY PHOTO

As a child Riley Stephens would play with little plastic Army men and build forts for his Army men. Lots of Army men, and lots of forts. Forts to build, to overtake, or to knock down. A lot of strategic play, this was Riley's favorite thing to play.

Ruck Forward, never give up

Event honors the life of Sgt. 1st Class Riley Stephens

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

There are people that seem to have a specific call on their lives from the very beginning and then there are those that grow in their purpose over time. Riley Stephens was in the former group. His interests and abilities always pointed in one direction.

JoAnn Stephens describes her stepson as a boy. A mop of brown curly hair skin almost as brown "he looked like a teddy bear." He would follow her daughter LeAnn around, learning to ride horses from her and one day naming his children after the sister he lost tragically.

As a child Riley Stephens would play with little plastic Army men and build forts for his Army men. Lots of Army men, and lots of forts. Forts to build, to overtake, or to knock down. A lot of strategic play, this was Riley's favorite thing to play.

As a teen Riley would love to run. So much so that on school mornings he would run around the property he lived on with his family before "running off" to school. He ran the two miles to Tolar High School on foot. Once there he would participate in football practice - more running. JoAnn said, "He wasn't fast, but he was consistent."

By the age of seventeen Riley would serve with the Volunteer Fire Department. One day when coming home he drove up on a terrible automobile accident. Stephens would call for aid and administer CPR in a desperate attempt to save the life of the child who died in his arms.

Riley graduated Salutatorian of his class. He had a photographic memory, excelled at his studies.

In 1993 Riley Stephens would enlist in the United States Army.

Riley Stephens would become a well decorated Green Beret, where he would use his natural abilities of intellect, planning, compassion and grit to become a medic, an interpreter and a trainer. Spending his own personal time training soldiers to better prepare them. Soldiers who visit the Stephens family say they would never have survived without Stephens. His name is well known in military circles.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, veterans, active-duty military, first responders and civilians will unite for this year's "Ruck Forward." The



COURTESY PHOTO

Cathy Castro, Ken Stephens, JoAnn Stephens and Mic Stephens stand in front of the tribute to Riley Stephens and other military personnel.

event which began eleven years ago honors the life of Sgt. 1st Class Riley Stephens who was killed in action on September 28, 2012, of wounds received in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

"Rucking" is a term used in the military, formally called a "loaded march," it is a training exercise used to condition soldiers and to prepare them for the task of carrying heavy gear over difficult terrain with objective at hand. "Rucking" has now been shared with civilians as they participate in "rucks" often-times to honor servicemen and women.

The event which began with the "Riley Run" in 2013 has grown and changed over the years After Stephens' death members of the community donated money to the family of Stephens. JoAnn explained, "There is not another community like this one. We were getting all kinds of money; the fire department gave us a bunch of money. And I said, 'Well, we don't need the money.' And Riley loved to run, and so we thought we would hold a run and give the money in scholarships and then even more money came in."

The Stephens family collected the money and awarded scholarships to deserving students of Tolar High School. Students were chosen who may not have had the grade point average that Riley did. Instead, explains Mic Stephens, father of Riley, "scholarships were given to students headed to trade school or those who had to work hard" for their achievements.

For five years the Stephens family would continue the "Riley Run" donating

\$56,000 in scholarships.

The Stephens family kept in contact with the students throughout their higher education. Some of them still keep in contact. One young lady, "Bailey" still sends Christmas cards to the Stephens family every year. Bailey is now a counselor in the Texas prison system.

In 2017 Mic and JoAnn's son Sgt. 1st class Ken Stephens would retire after 19 years of service and multiple tours. Ken is little brother to Riley by five years. At one point Mic and JoAnn's son Riley was serving in Afghanistan as brother Ken served in Iraq. Ken is someone who fell into his purpose over time, he wasn't interested in college, or trade school - military seems the logical choice for a young man raised in the patriotic Stephens family.

Mic and JoAnn sent many packages across the globe to their sons each time they were deployed. Packages to their sons, and their teams and other teams. The couple would do whatever they could to provide a smile or a small comfort. Candy for Ken to give the children in the villages of Iraq. Army men to Riley to share and for him to use in strategy sessions, and one time a watermelon.

"Riley had been really hungry for a Tolar watermelon. The Swaims grew watermelon. It would be about a month for the watermelon to get to Afghanistan," Mic explained. The Stephens family went to the Swaim farm, and they all conspired to find out how to best ship the watermelon. It would have to be a month away from being ripe, they would pack it in a wood structure and fill the spaces

with foam. The watermelon survived and arrived at the perfect stage of ripeness. Operation Watermelon was a success.

2017 would be the first year a ruck was added to the run. The first "Riley Run/Walk/Ruck" was a three-day, 66-mile ruck from the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery to Tolar. The 66 miles would be symbolic of Stephens' football number. The participants would complete 22 miles a day symbolizing the estimate of veteran lives lost daily to suicide according to the Stephens family.

In 2018 the Stephens family took a break from the run, in 2019 they would return to organizing the event, this time with a more civilian friendly approach. An easier ruck. A 22k or 5k dubbed "Ruck Forward." That same year the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Granbury would be renamed the Riley Stephens Memorial VFW Post 7835. The Stephens' would continue Ruck Forward for a couple more years, and though they didn't run out of passion Mic and JoAnn were running out of steam.

One day, members of the Stephens family ran into Granbury resident Cathy Castro at the Granbury's Field of Flags. Castro is herself a veteran and the mother of Capt. Garrett Kirkpatrick who is stationed at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Castro encouraged Mic and JoAnn to continue the event with the support of the local VFW - bringing fresh air to their efforts. Now Castro heads the event with the full support of the Stephens family. In 2022 the "Ruck

PLEASE SEE RUCK | C5

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PECAN

FROM PAGE C3

ries of dams along the Brazos River. Reservations for the evening are due by Tuesday, Sept. 19: caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

GALLERY NIGHT

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild happily announces its annual gallery night that is happening on Friday, Sept. 29. The evening will consist of folks touring five estate homes filled with fine art offerings from PPAG members. A special facet of the event this year consists of the Jim Stewart Gallery (PPAG member, teacher, and mentor) honoring his many artistic accomplishments. Attendees may check in at the clubhouse from 4 until 8 p.m. to receive a map and beverage tickets. The evening promises a time of fine art, food, friends, and fellowship, and folks throughout Hood County are invited to attend.

AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service eagerly anticipates its Fall Bazaar, formerly known as the Arts and Crafts Fair, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the PAC grounds. Gates will be open that day for the public to attend this event, which always provides an exciting opportunity for shoppers to find unique, hand-crafted home décor, apparel, artwork, and food and gift items.

Spaces for vendors both outside and in the activity room may be requested by calling 615-394-5058. Food will be available for purchase in the PAC kitchen. In addition, Cowtown Gold and Silver will be on hand to purchase scrap gold, silver, and other precious metals with the VFD/EMS receiving a portion of the day's profits. Every cent raised at the Auxiliary's fundraisers supports Pecan's emergency personnel.

GAME TIME

With football season here, Pecan's 19th Hole offers game watchers both screen access and good eats. Executive Chef Jordan Ray announces that most college and professional matches are available for viewing on the multiple televisions in the pub, and on Sundays and Monday and Thursday nights, the 19th Hole will hold "football happy hour" during NFL games. Special Monday hours begin at 6 p.m. Chef Ray has also instituted a new Gameday menu with special items, including traditional fare as well as new dishes, only for football season.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Richard Brunner, who passed away Aug. 27, and also to the family of Sandi Miller, who passed away Sept. 3.

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Taste of Granbury returns for the fourth year

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The popular Taste of Granbury Whiskey & Wine event hosted by the Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury is returning for its fourth year on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 5-8 p.m.

"Based on very positive feedback, our event is returning to La Bella Luna, which is located at 7700 Glen Rose Highway," said Cathy Weeks, Taste of Granbury co-chair. "The venue is beautiful and large enough to accommodate all of our vendors and guests."

The event supports the Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury's Lois G. Cleveland Memorial Scholarship Fund which offers scholarships to Hood County female graduates.

"The main mission of the Woman's Wednesday Club is to provide scholarships for young women from our area, and the Taste of Granbury is our primary fundraiser," said co-chair Michelle Davis. "Through community support and the generosity of our event attendees, we were able to award 21 scholarships last year. It's gratifying to help local residents pursue their educational goals."

The scholarships certainly make a difference in the lives of the recipients, including Ellen Brite, a past Lois G. Cleveland Scholar. "I'm very grateful for the scholarship I received from the Woman's Wednesday Club," Brite said. "It's nice to know that I have the support of people who believe in me."

Juliet Jackson, another Lois G. Cleveland Scholar, also affirmed the mission of the Woman's Wednesday Club and the Taste of



COURTESY PHOTO

The fourth annual Taste of Granbury Whiskey & Wine event hosted by the Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury will be held on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 5-8 p.m. at La Bella Luna, 7700 Glen Rose Highway.

Granbury.

"I am so grateful for the Woman's Wednesday Club for everything they do for our community and the amount of people they support," Jackson said.

This year's event features samplings from 11 local restaurants, a brewery, three wineries, and three distilleries.

Restaurants participating in the event include Baked, The Local Cafe, Randy's Shrimp & Oyster Bar/Randy's Bar & Grill, Mesquite Pit, Hoffbrau Steak & Grill House, Del Norte Tacos, Brock's Food & Drink, Board & Cork, Mama's Pizza, Ketzler's/Fisherman's Corner, and

Pub McDonough.

Guests will have the opportunity to sample drinks from seven local businesses: Brew Aleworks/Brew Drinkery, Silver Spur Winery, D'Vine Wine, Barons Creek Vineyard, Silver Star Spirits, Blackland Distillery, and Acre Distilling.

"We also have great live and silent auction items," Weeks said. "Some of the live auction items should generate some spirited bidding."

The live auction includes sought-after items like Dallas Cowboys tickets and parking pass, a Bond Arms handgun, a Romance package featuring Hotel

Lucy and Wiseman chocolates, a meal and wine tasting in your home, a weekend getaway to Ruidoso, New Mexico, and a guided fishing trip with Unfair Advantage Charters.

"We are excited to announce that Hood County Entertainer of the Year Jerry Allen will be performing throughout the evening," Davis said. "Just great food, great drinks, and a great atmosphere."

Weeks added that the event couldn't happen without the support of the underwriters: Collinsworth Thoroughbred Racing, LLC of Bluff Dale, Henson's Lumber, and Kroger.

This year's sponsors also

include First National Bank, H-E-B, and Hood County News.

Tickets to the event are still available to purchase through the website, tasteofgranbury.com, or by contacting Weeks at 214-335-3518.

Tables for eight are available for \$1,200, while single tickets are \$150 each.

Weeks added, "I am looking forward to members of our community coming out in support of this very worthy cause. As the cost of education rises, it's important that we continue to support our leaders of tomorrow."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

RUCK

FROM PAGE C4

Forward" funded the veterans memorial statue on the Granbury courthouse square.

Ruck Forward is about so much more than a physical challenge. The ruck reminds participants and onlookers of the struggle of our military. A struggle that is not just physical but mental, emotional and spiritual. Cathy Castro and the

Stephens family hope that attention will be brought to veteran needs, and veteran suicide which is twice the amount of civilian suicide. Their message is one of hope - to never give up, to just keep going forward, and to seek help when needed.

Ken shares, "Ruck Forward is significant because it honors Riley but also in a ruck you can't fall back, you have to keep moving forward, you have to have the mindset that

you keep going forward. The camaraderie between the active duty and the civilians is breathtaking. Civilians think that veterans are damaged. They do a ruck with us and by the time the ruck is over we have learned from each other, we have learned how to understand each other better."

Ninety percent of the proceeds of this year's "Ruck Forward" will benefit the Riley Stephens Memorial

VFW Post 7835, ten percent will benefit Granbury High School's Marine Corp JROTC program. A Marine Corp ROTC cadet will carry the flag in this year's ruck. Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, and the Sheriff's department will participate along with Fire Departments and Police. All first responders and military may participate at no charge. For more information and to sign up go to ruckforward.com.

For veterans who need help or who may be in crisis contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Dial 988 then press 1. Chat is available at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255. Also getting involved with the local VFW can offer companionship and support. Locally that is the Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835 vfw7835.org.

For civilians in crisis Call 988. Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat.

GIVING

FROM PAGE C2

and shelter.

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they will forever be at the farm, living out their lives with friendship, dignity, respect and love."

Citizens can donate early for the event anytime during the month of September. Some local non-profit organizations are planning events to coincide with NTX Giving Day. The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, for example is having an

open house on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Granbury and Hood County non-profits participating in this year's NTX Giving Day are: Baptist Center for Global Concerns, the Forward Training Center of Hood County, Friends for Animals, Grace Classical Christian Academy, Granbury Theatre Company, Habitat for Humanity of

Hood County, HALO (Hood County Animal Lovers Organization), Happy Hill Farm, Helping Animals in Need, Hood County Children's Charity Fund, Inc., Hood County Senior Center - Meals on Wheels Hood County, Hood County Substance Abuse Council, Lake Pointe Granbury, Mission Granbury, Inc., Paluxy River Children's

Advocacy Center, Rancho Brazos Community Centers, Second Chance Farm, Premier High School and the United Way of Hood County.

For more information on the needs of these local non-profits and to donate go to northtexasgivingday.org enter the non-profit or type of organization in the search bar.

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Isaiah 41:13

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

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

When 'tangles' get 'tougled'



BY DON NEWBURY

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

We've always heard about how tiny errors can foster various responses, ranging from serious misunderstanding to thigh-slapping laughter.

Hitting the keyboard's "l" instead of the intended "o" caused chuckles recently. Reading an advertisement for funeral home employment, a radio announcer listed requisites for the job.

"Must be able to ease the grieving process for live ones," he said, quickly changing to, "I meant, loved ones."

Many Texans could complete college degrees in the time it takes to be served at Texas Drivers License offices.

Even the simplest requests require appointments to be made months in advance. The system is broken, and all I have heard suggests that a "fix" is nowhere in sight. Now, the "blame spotlight" is cast on computers.

A while back, I learned that I'd need to make an appointment some three months ahead in order to make a simple change to my driver's license.

To the computer I went, perusing communities that have DPS offices, even if for only a few hours each month.

With a trip to Lubbock upcoming, I checked on Floydada, a small town en route, learning that a DPS representative would be there on the day of my trip. Upon arrival, I was "next up" at the DPS office.

Within 10 minutes, the task was accomplished; my new driver's license came in the mail about 10 days later.

How many among us have chipped nails, broken pencil leads or worn ends of index fingers plumb off listening to recorded messages, urging us to stay on the phone?

"Your call is very important to us. However, due to heavy call volume, you may experience a delay." We often hear such multiple times.

Just once, I'd like to hear another message, like, "Due to reduced call volume, most of our agents aren't busy helping other customers. You will be served immediately."

It's fun to hear unusual names, particularly in the world of sports.

How about Jonah Bride, who plays professional baseball for the Oakland Athletics?

His name has intrigued

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | C8

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

The city of Granbury and its renaissance

BY SCOTT YOUNG

Most everyone parallels the renaissance of Granbury with the formation of Lake Granbury and the restoration and improvement of the Historic Granbury Court House Square that followed. The Historic Granbury Merchants Association was an integral force in that renaissance. As Lake Granbury emerged, many real estate opportunities and businesses were springing up in town.

Mary Lou Watkins and Joe Nutt, descendants of the founding Nutt family restored the Nutt Hotel building. Upstairs was an hotel and Mary Lou started her country style restaurant on the ground floor. Another iconic store, Jeannine's, opened by Jeannine Macon, was on the north side of the Square just down from the Nutt House. It was apparent that there was a renewed momentum within the town square, which had always been the town's business center. Mary Lou Watkins was concerned that the charm and beauty of the architecture might be lost to quick re-development.

The city of Granbury became an early leader in historic preservation in Texas and created a historic district for the downtown in 1972 at Mary Lou's request. An ordinance passed that year establishing the Historic Preservation Commission, which enforces preservation policies in the historic

district. Jeannine Macon served as chairwoman of the commission for 15 years and led the commission in updating the Historic Landmark and District Zoning Ordinance several times. Fortunately, Mary Lou had a chance meeting in the early 1970s with O'Neil Ford, a well-known Texas architect from San Antonio, who was visiting Granbury. While sitting in front of the Nutt House on a bench with Mrs. Watkins, he suggested she nominate the entire town square for the National Register of Historic Places. Because of her efforts, the Granbury Courthouse Square was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It was the first town square in Texas to be listed and was described as "one of the most complete examples of a late 19th century courthouse square in Texas." Businesses were opening on the Square at a steady pace, mostly boutique and specialty stores. The quality of these busi-



COURTESY PHOTO Scott Young

nesses and the backgrounds and expertise of these early merchants was creating a new type of retail, entertainment, and tourism in Granbury.

In 1976 several of these businesspeople met in the back of Rinky Tink's ice cream shop and set up Historic Merchants Association, the first name of the organization, that became the Historic Granbury Merchants Association (HGMA). They established a Mission Statement:

To promote and educate the community on the history of Granbury and Hood County.

To promote trade and tourism in and around the Historic District.

To preserve the historic district in keeping with the guidelines by the national Register of Historic Places.

The original founders were Tom Hafford, Marylou Watkins, Jeannine Macon, and Linda Brock Powell Preston. They were soon joined by Jean Cate, Dee Gormley, Diane Lock, Howard Clemmons, The King family of the Wagon Yard, and many others. In 1978, in an effort to create more business in the first

quarter of the year, HGMA produced Gen Granbury's Birthday Celebration and Bean cook-off, now known as Founders Day. Howard Clemmons became the persona of General Granbury. When he retired, Darrell Morgan stepped forward. Two years later HGMA created the first Granbury, A Candlelight Tour. Both of these events have continued annually for over 40 years.

The square and HGMA were off and running. To the delight of the locals, HGMA brought an annual carnival to town for many years. Many new annual events were established through the years. The Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts, Memorial Day Event, Labor Day Event, Oktoberfest, Girls Night Out, Granbury After Dark, and Night of Lights Christmas Parade provide the basis for Granbury being The Celebration Capital of Texas. HGMA is located in Granbury Square Plaza with two employees and an army of volunteers.



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GAME ON

Path of Exile

If you like Diablo, you'll love Path of Exile



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.

The whole reason I joined the Steam platform back in 2014 was because I wanted to play Path of Exile. I really missed playing "Diablo," and PoE was a nearly identical gameplay experience, but better.

Like Diablo, Path of Exile is an online action role-playing game. You play as your choice of Templar, Shadow, Marauder, Scion, Ranger, Duelist, or Witch. Even though the gameplay resembles Diablo, the game engine was created entirely in-house by Grinding Gear Games and has a unique currency system and skill gem system.

Just like in any other sword and sorcery game, the stats of your character depend on the class you've picked. Strength, intelligence, and dexterity attributes can be boosted manually or automatically as experience points

accumulate.

Your character has been exiled to Wraecast. You're earning power "that will help you get revenge against those who have wronged you." That's what the description says, but so far, no revenge. I've killed several monsters, demons, a couple of demigods, and lots and lots of zombies, though. There are weird monsters in this game, like animated blobs of water, electrified steampunk bird cages and flying ribbons of death. There's a lot of really imaginative monster designs, and some spectacular spell effects.

What makes Path of Exile



A marauder is one of the character classes in Path of Exile.

PHOTO COURTESY GRINDING GEAR GAMES

stand out is its insanely complicated passive skill tree. Each character starts at a certain point on the tree that gives them access to the characteristics they're best at. The characters can get better at what they already do well, pretty standard with an adventure game. Or use the experience points to travel across the tree and find weirder skills for the character, like making a Marauder with magic abilities. It's all about how you choose to use the experience points.

Path of Exile did two things better than Diablo - the money management currency system, and the death in-game of the character.

In the original Diablo, when your character died, they left everything on the battlefield, including what they were wearing and the items they picked up. I always made sure to have a backup suit of armor so I could go and rescue the regular outfit. Even in Diablo 3, when the character dies, they get a little bit of damage to all the items that they're equipped with.

A screenshot from Path of Exile 2, coming in 2024.

PHOTO COURTESY GRINDING GEAR GAMES

In Path of Exile, when your character dies, they are resurrected either at the last checkpoint, or at the portal in the last camp/town you reached in the narrative, with all their inventory intact and undamaged. In fact, if you don't want to cast a town portal spell to get them back to town, you can just quit. Very refreshing.

Instead of picking up gold pieces, you pick up skill gems, scrolls, and orbs. Skill gems give you various spells, which improve with experience points. Weapons and wearable items have color sockets, and your character has a wide range of combinations of gems that can be inserted into these sockets. Gems, orbs, and scrolls can be traded up or down for whatever your character needs.

One thing I always admired about the Path of Exile creative team was that they never charged for the game. "The game is completely free and will never be 'pay to win.'" If you want to give the developing team money, you can purchase character looks from their online shop. They also have pets, and spell effects that change the look of spells you cast.

If you're cheap like me and just rely on items you pick up, after a while you'll have

a collection of what they call unique (extremely rare) items. Many of the items you pick up have an attribute generator with a naming system (also very complex, and kind of boring unless you're into that kind of thing.) Unique items have specific pieces of art that's rendered for that object alone and have better attributes.

After you've finished the story, there are side quests, Ascendancy paths, spy missions, and even an arena where you can battle really difficult monsters for prizes. It's a huge game.

Now, after seven years, they've come out with Path of Exile 2!

It's set 20 years after the original story, and promises updated visuals, items, mechanics, and a new storyline. It will be available alongside the original story, rather than replacing it. It will also be free to play. Expected release date will be in 2024, but no firm release date has been set. The release of trailers coincides with ExileCon, an annual convention for fans of Path of Exile.

Path of Exile, free to play on SteamOS. Solo, cooperative or PvP. I have played 487 hours of this game, and I'm nowhere near done playing it.

IDLE

FROM PAGE C7

sportswriters, one of whom suggested, "...Never a bridesmaid but always a Bride."

I've never been certain about how to differentiate boats from ships. Until now, that is.

Google claims that a boat must be less than 40 feet long and weigh less than 40 tons. Longer or heavier vessels qualify for designation as ships.

I guess I'm up the creek without a paddle--or sailing down the river on Sunday afternoons--on boats. Too much information, right?

One last thing about "getting it right." Football coaches today employ some expressions their fathers and grandfathers used.

Here's one: Questioned by reporters on topics they can't immediately answer, coaches lean on this response: "We won't know about that until we see the film."

They haven't "filmed" games for decades. The process is digitized now, and I guess it would sound silly if they answered, "until we see the digits." By the time they get this one right, games will be recorded in some new manner where digits don't come into play, but AI (artificial intelligence) may.

A young father faced frustration in helping his six-year-old son learn how to display his age by holding up his fingers and thumb.

The youngster had mastered the technique in years two through five. He was foggy, though, about also using his other hand. To him, this was advanced math!

Now, Dad is wondering when he should break the news that when he reaches age 11, he'll need to take one shoe off.

Numbers will keep going up, but for now, they're saying that 70,000 "participants" were "muddled in" by the heavy rains that blanketed the usually dry desert in Black Rock, NV.

It'll shoot into hundreds of thousands later when stories are spun for grandchildren.

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but at rally's end near Black Rock, they likely feared that what happens in the desert stays there, too!






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