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An integrity that's 'unimpeachable'

Former District Judge Ralph Walton honored with portrait

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Ralph H. Walton, Jr. Justice Center now proudly displays a portrait of its namesake, following the official unveiling of the painting created by local artist James Spurlock on Sept. 14.

Ralph Walton, who presided over the 355th district court for a total of 27 years, retired on May 31, 2021, citing health reasons as his cause for departure.

Following his retirement, the Hood County Commissioners Court voted unanimously on Dec. 14, 2021, to rename the Hood County Justice Center the Ralph H. Walton, Jr. Justice Center.

But that's not the only honor that Walton has received.

Now, two years later, the county is honoring the long-time judge once again, with a painted portrait that will be hung up and displayed at the justice center for many

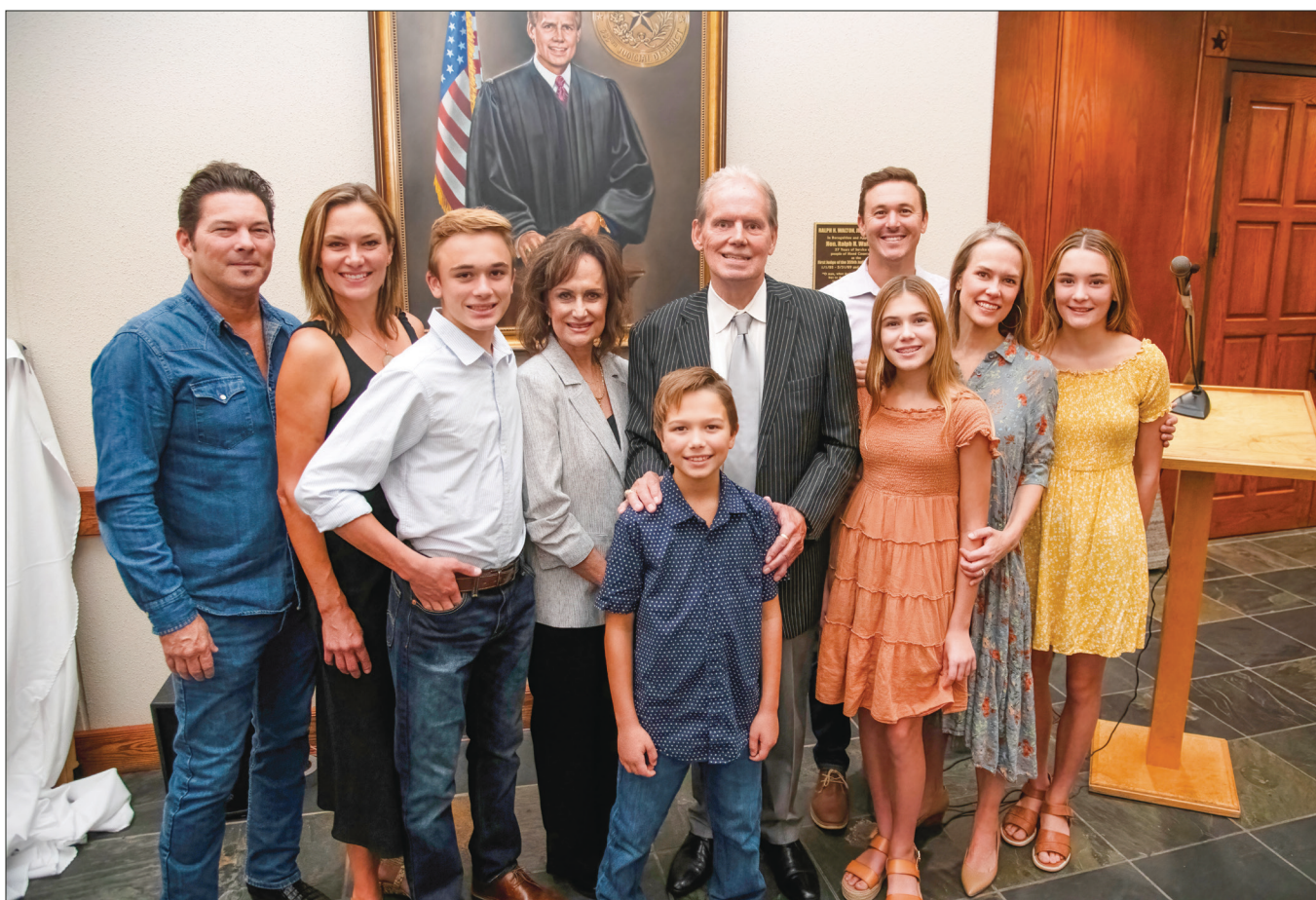
years to come.

During the unveiling ceremony on Sept. 14, Walton's family and friends spoke about the many accomplishments and accolades that he has earned over the years.

Walton's brother, Maurice, spoke about their childhood with their brother, Paul, and how their parents believed that a person's "greatest contributions were the ones they leave behind."

Maurice explained how they were regular churchgoers as a family and how both brothers prepared for college following high school graduation — even though it was never discussed beforehand.

"In 1966 when he gradu-



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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ated from high school, he enrolled in Baylor that fall," Maurice said. "I went to Baylor in 1969."

Ralph married his elementary school sweetheart, Patsy, in 1968. Maurice said that in the early years, he spent "a lot of time at Ralph and Patsy's house."

"I remember when he started law school," he said. "I remember when he finished his finals after that first quarter."

"Don't talk about that," Ralph chimed in, leading to chuckles around the room.

"I don't ever remember not knowing (Patsy),"

Maurice continued. "They've been married 55 years this August."

Coincidentally, the same day that Ralph and Patsy moved to Granbury is also the same day that their oldest daughter, Allison, was born.

"In 1974 — June, to be

exact — Paul, Ralph and I, we loaded up their worldly possessions in a U-Haul, and we came to Granbury," Maurice said. "Patsy, and my Aunt Shirley loaded up and went to Arlington Memorial Hospital. That day, we got

PLEASE SEE **WALTON** | A3

GISD assistant superintendent gives update on strategic plan

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Granbury Independent School District's five-year strategic plan is just barely in the works, but many plans have already been put into action.

The strategic plan was approved by the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees on July 17, as a way for parents, students, district employees, city officials, business partners, and clergy to collaboratively shape the future of Granbury ISD.

Jimmy Dawson, GISD assistant superintendent, shared an update on the strategic plan during the monthly board meeting on Sept. 18.

"Dr. Deborah Brennan from Region 13 has charged us to keep our vision at the forefront, so here it is," Dawson began during the meeting. "Granbury ISD inspires excellence and empowers all students to be future ready, and positive contributors to our community."

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JIMMY DAWSON
GISD Assistant Superintendent

The five-year plan envelops district data and contains four key pieces: facilities, culture, human capital, and student achievement.

Dawson said that the Long-Range Planning Committee was formed in June. On Aug. 8, the committee obtained a group consensus on the needs for a bond, and on Aug. 21, the LRPC approved the call for a \$151 million bond.

The next steps for facilities, Dawson said, are to hold the bond election on Nov. 7 and to develop a facilities committee that will discuss district needs, research potential projects, and will create plans for keeping the

district facilities secured and maintained.

"Dr. Deborah Brennan came up and did a training with us, so we're going to be able to track all of our progress through this dashboard," he said. "Our staff and community have a quick glance at the progress, and as we take steps for each one of these strategies that are embedded into the strategic plan, we'll be updating that dashboard."

As for Granbury culture, three committees have been formed: a Capturing Kids' Hearts Committee, a communications committee, and a culture committee.

"During our summer train-

ings, all secondary staff went through the Capturing Kids' Hearts training," Dawson said. "We've already had great feedback from our staff."

Next steps, he said, will include setting dates for every committee meeting, to get the communication committee to align all communications platforms for every campus, and for the culture committee to research, develop, and create a guidebook for staff to prevent and address bullying.

"I know it's a big topic, but just know we do have strong systems and procedures in place that have been used for years — this is going to just

enhance and bring awareness to all of our staff," Dawson said.

For human capital, the focus has started off strong with several accomplishments, including a committee that has now met and discussed a recommendation to secure funding to give raises to teachers.

A job fair and recruitment committee have also been formed, along with a mentor committee to "revise a line of work to support first- and second-year teachers."

The next steps for human capital are to plan the job fairs, consider successful recruitment ideas, and to

create surveys to gather data so the district can eventually implement a new mentoring program.

In student achievement, GISD's curriculum team has trained all teachers in K-2 in the benchmark phonics curriculum, along with all instructional support teams and have been using that data to drive instruction.

Dawson said the next steps in student achievement are to establish a high-quality instruction committee and design a walkthrough form that's going to capture benchmark phonics implementation and to gather data for improvement.

"Remember, this is just a five-year plan, so it's gonna take time to get through the entire plan over the next four and a half years," Dawson said.

For more information on GISD's strategic plan, visit granburysd.org online.

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District judge: Biggers' lawsuit against Massingill dismissed with prejudice

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

A federal lawsuit involving Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Hood County Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers has been "DISMISSED with prejudice," according to an order by United States District Judge Mark T. Pittman on Sept. 8.

On April 14, Biggers filed a lawsuit against Massingill accusing the county judge of violating Biggers' First Amendment rights to share his viewpoint and petition his government during open public meetings of the Hood

County Commissioners Court.

According to the case file from the United States District Court, Biggers has spoken at the Hood County Commissioners Court "from time to time since 2022."

The case file states that Biggers' speeches have "drawn the ire of Defendant Massingill," and stated that the county judge has "illegally abused his position" and "illegally forced Plaintiff to leave public meetings" due to the content of his speeches "which at worst can be character-

ized as mildly critical of individuals."

The file states that Biggers was seeking "damages under 42 U.S. §," and an "injunction against (Massingill's) misapplication of the court's meeting rules, in which (Massingill) allows those he agrees with to speak freely, but denies critics a voice, and even has them removed from public meetings."

Incidents cited in the file include the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting on March 22, 2022, when Biggers spoke about

an agenda item relating to septic tanks. After Biggers concluded his remarks, the "Defendant (Massingill) began bantering with Plaintiff (Biggers)." Biggers eventually asked the court to take a vote, spurring Massingill to respond to Biggers, telling him that he "came close to being out of order," and that "You can't tell us when to vote. We will vote at the proper time."

On April 26, the file states that Biggers "referred to former Commissioner Ron Cotton by name while speaking about a specific

agenda item." The case file states that Massingill then interrupted Biggers and "accused him of attacking Cotton," and then "directed Sheriff Roger Deeds to escort him out of the meeting," leaving Biggers unable to finish his remarks within the remaining time. It was also stated that during this same meeting, another speaker criticized Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle, "alleging a violent attack," but Massingill "allowed the critical speech."

Another incident recorded in the case file includes

another Hood County Commissioners Court meeting held on Oct. 25, in which Massingill was said to have "singled out" Biggers from the audience in order to "criticize him for the way he ran the Hood County Republican Party meetings, despite no agenda items pertaining to that issue."

The case file states that Massingill was also recorded with others on a "hot mic" in the minutes preceding the opening of the Nov. 8, 2022 meeting of the Hood County

PLEASE SEE **LAWSUIT** | A14



137TH YEAR, NO. 95

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 34 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 34 pages

INSIDE

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS



Leadercast Super Teams are elevating community leadership

Chamber Message

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce recognizes the significance of strong leadership in our community. And in a world increasingly defined by collaboration and interdependence, effective team leadership is paramount.

Teams, whether in a corporate world, sports, or community organizations, are the engines driving innovation and success. To harness the full potential of teams and nurture outstanding team leaders, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is excited to host Leadercast Super Teams on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. This extraordinary, half-day, simulcast event is designed to inspire, educate, and empower individuals to excel as team leaders.

Leadercast Super Teams features a lineup of world-class keynote speakers and a panel of industry experts who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in diverse fields. Keynotes Julie Bauke, Ryan Hawk and Paaras Parker will share their personal stories, strategies, philosophies, and offer invaluable inspiration and insights on how to develop healthy teams. The challenges of maintaining a healthy team can seem overwhelming. Pressures of deadlines, conflicting personalities, and ever-growing demands of digital age can hinder collaboration and leave us feeling disconnected. Attendees will learn how to overcome the barriers to effective collaboration and build a resilient and positive culture that will lead to increased engagement and productivity. Attendees will also connect with like-minded professionals, exchange ideas, and build relationships with individuals who share their passion for leadership and teamwork.

Leadercast Super Teams is a must-attend event for anyone passionate about leadership and team excellence, plus it's an excellent opportunity for teams within organizations to attend together. The shared experience can promote team cohesion and align members with a common vision for effective leadership. By participating in Leadercast Super Teams, individuals and organizations can elevate their team leadership capabilities and make a meaningful impact in their spheres of influence and in their communities. It's not just an event; it's a catalyst for personal and professional growth in the realm of team leadership.

To register for this event or get more information, please visit www.granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622. Tickets for chamber members are \$30 and \$40 for Not Yet Members. Table sponsorships are also available. We hope you and your team join us on Oct. 25, 2023!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"Team up with a trusted and knowledgeable neighborhood partner to make your real estate dreams come true. From search to sale, Hayden will provide expert advice and unwavering support to help make your experience stress-free." Thank you VYBE Realty for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce and congratulations on being recently voted Best Realtor of Hood County 2023!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"Personalized Service for America's Homeowner. While we do offer new construction services, we believe that personalized, residential plumbing repair no longer has to be a thing of the past!" Thank you Texas Patriot Plumbing for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

We are very thankful for our amazing Board Member, Rhett Keisler! Rhett has served on the Granbury Chamber Board for six years. When asked what he loves about being a Board Member he replied, "Being connected to the Granbury area's business community and the pride in supporting such a positive resource for local commerce." Fun fact: I lived in Singapore as a child and modeled American blue jeans in the local newspaper. Thank you, Rhett, for being on the Granbury Chamber Board!

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"We offer a wide selection of products and custom engraving options! We can engrave and cut on your item or one of ours!"

PLEASE SEE MORE **COMMUNITY BUSINESSES** | A4

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BIGGERS VS MASSINGILL

The recent case Republican GOP Chair, Steve Biggers brought against County Commissioner Judge Ron Massingill in Federal Court was dismissed. I pray the ruling will remind folks to behave with decorum when they are speaking at Commissioner's Court, School

Board and City Council meetings. It is a privilege we have in America that few citizens in other countries share and probably also citizens in many other states, cities or countries share. If abused, the privilege may be taken away.

Faye Landham
Granbury

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

“I don’t need to remember...its saved!”



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

The telephone plays an important part in life.

As a very young boy in the early 60s, I was instructed by my parents that the “telephone” was not a toy. It was a serious device intended to be used by adults and only for emergencies, business, or to speak with family. It was not something for a child to answer when it rang, and it was not something to play with. The phone sat purposely on its stand in the living room, much like the phone in most everyone else’s house.

Though I did not understand how or why, I soon learned there were charges when using the phone and that somehow talking to someone “long distance” costs a significant amount of money. It was those charges that caused adults to scamper to the phone when they heard the cry, “It is the grandparents, and they are calling long-distance!”.

I learned there were also variations in phone service. When visiting my grandparents at their rural farm home, I became aware they did not have a private phone line. Instead, they were participants in a party-line. This meant there were three neighboring families sharing the same line. Each family had a distinctive ring so they would know if an incoming

call was intended for them. My grandparent’s ring was “two longs and a short”, so an incoming call intended for them would sound like this: RINGGGGGGGGG, RINGGGGGGGGG, Ring!

A party line also meant that if you picked up the receiver and one of the other families was engaged in a call, you could hear their conversation. This led to a compilation of interesting memories of my grandmother excusing herself from her chores in the kitchen and easing into the living room to pick up the receiver of the phone, listening to a conversation not intended for her ears. Some would call her actions eavesdropping. Grandma would call it “just checking”.

I can remember my first phone number, EV5-6282. Many young people may not know that at one time phone numbers had letters and numbers. This was because the letters were a “prefix” which would take the call to a telephone exchange hub where calls would be routed to the proper place. When I was in the fourth grade

and my family moved to a different house, technology had improved, and the “prefix” was eliminated. My new phone number became 993-2493.

Long distance was still a major concern for many years. Heaven only knows how much money I spent in college calling my high school sweetheart who was not located in my calling zone. A three-minute call would cost \$1.95, and this was in 1974 dollars! Not sure if we broke up because of problems with our relationship or the size of the phone bill.

Everyone had a phone directory for frequently called numbers. This was usually a small notebook-like item, which sat under the phone or in the drawer beneath. In it was a compilation of phone numbers one was likely to call at some time in the future. As a backup, there were these humongous books called the White pages and the Yellow pages. They contained the names and addresses of every person in your town who had a phone. It was the source you went to

find a phone number you did not have. Of course, most of us had significant numbers committed to memory, like the phone number of a best friend, and “time and temperature”.

Now almost everyone has a cell phone, and we are free from the restraints of land lines. Does anyone remember a phone number anymore or do they simply have it stored in the database of their phone and hit speed dial when they want to make a call? Whenever I am filling out paperwork for the doctor, or for some other official reason, I am frequently asked for my wife’s phone number as she is my backup contact person. It is a little embarrassing to be forced to pull out my phone and look at the number in my contacts. I call my wife for one thing or the other, two or three times a day. You would think I would know the number, but I do not. There is no reason to remember it because I use speed dial. I feel certain that if I was hurt in an accident and my phone was lost or destroyed, I would have no idea of what

to tell the emergency crew when they asked whom to call, or their number. I am a prisoner of technology.

Maybe the good outweighs the worst things the technological improvements with phones have affected. It is certainly nice to be able to reach and speak to someone and not being tied to a single land line phone attached to the kitchen wall or sitting in the front room. The elimination of long-distance fees is so much more economical, as is the freedom to speak as long as you want without incurring additional costs. On the other hand, there are fond memories of the phone ringing and knowing someone wanted to speak with you so badly they willing to bear the cost of calling “long distance”. It made you feel special.

Thought for the day: Spoken during a eulogy; “He was such an honest man a fella could shoot dice with him over the telephone.”

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

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Folks around town

Kevin Heredia

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Kevin Heredia!

Kevin is enjoying his third year in Hood County. You may recognize him, he’s the helpful fellow greeting clients and visitors at the front desk at Ruth’s Place medical clinic on Crawford Ave. in Granbury. He lives in Granbury with his girlfriend, dog and cat. Kevin loves cooking, so much he actually makes food for his dog Pablo himself. The friendliness and sense of unity in our community is a refreshing change for Heredia, who was accustomed to living in a large city where “People just don’t wave to each other like they do here.” Right now, it’s technology that peaks Kevin’s interest, always has. Technology classes were among the courses Kevin was taking when illness forced him to put college on hold. Future plans include going back to school to concentrate on the newest technological possibilities. The Hood County News is a great source for Kevin see what’s happening event wise and to learn about some of the interesting people that contribute our community.

WALTON FROM PAGE A1

to move Patsy and Allison, so it was a big day in the lives of the Waltons. The change was huge.

Maurice and Ralph ended up following the same career path, as well, with law becoming a huge passion for the two of them.

“When Ralph called, it was just a part of the plan,” Maurice said. “We talked about it when he was in law school and I decided, ‘Well, I’ll go to law school.’ We decided that if we ever had the opportunity, we would practice law together.”

Ralph practiced law until 1985, when he went “on the bench” for a newly created judicial district, according to Maurice. He was then appointed by another lawyer, Governor Mark White, where he served about four years, stepped down, and was then reelected in 1999. Following his reelection, he continued to serve on the bench until his retirement in 2021.

“Ralph served as attorney or as a judge, for Hood County/Granbury for a total of 47 years, and everybody knows — except some criminals sitting in a jail or prison somewhere — that he did a good job,” Maurice said.

He jokingly added that many people might wonder what it’s like being a younger brother to Judge Walton, but to him, he will always be “Rah.”

“We have been more than brothers — we’ve been friends,” Maurice said. “I believe in divine providence. I believe that God directs the affairs of this earth, and in doing that he had a path for Ralph, and he had a path for me. When we were growing up, we were taught that if you had an accomplishment, it was an accomplishment for the family. So, when I see the things that Ralph has done, it brings joy to me. I appreciate what he’s been able to do.”

Ron Sutton then came up

to the podium during the ceremony to talk about his good friend and brother in Christ, Ralph.

He started off by saying that Ralph is a man “loved by women and little girls,” “admired by men and boys,” and “feared by lawyers and criminals.”

“One of the reasons that Ralph is so well respected is his commitment to the rule of law, and I’m referring to Ralph’s commitment to God’s law and that’s the foundation for all of Ralph’s relationships,” Sutton said. “First, with Christ Jesus, second, with his family, and third, his work and the community.”

He explained how he was introduced to Ralph by a mutual friend more than 25 years ago, adding that both Ralph and Sutton had different colored hair at the time.

“And more of it,” Ralph chimed in.

Sutton continued, “Ralph and Patsy would be the first ones to tell you that they would not be the people they are without the community of Hood County. And I tell you, I think everyone here will agree with me that our community would not be what it is today without Ralph and Patsy Walton. Ralph, thank you. Patsy, thank you — for all y’all have done to bring us here for this moment. And thank you, Lord, for allowing it and blessing it.”

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill then took to the podium to speak about his relationship with Ralph, and his own perspective of him “from the bench.”

Massingill explained how when he was elected for his first term, he received the “most beautiful handwritten personal note from Judge Walton” congratulating him.

The note also read how much Ralph was looking forward to working with Massingill and included Ralph’s personal cell phone number.

“Do you know how heartwarming that was for me to get from somebody like Ralph Walton, who was already a legend, in my mind?” Massingill said. “But that’s what he was to me. So, when I give you the perspective of how Ralph Walton treated another young judge — young in the sense of experience, not in age — that’s what he did.”

Massingill talked about how the pair worked on committees and boards together, and how they were a “committee of two” in making certain decisions pertaining to Hood County.

After Massingill had worked as a judge for about a year and a half, he came to speak to Ralph hoping to seek his guidance on a situation.

“I said, ‘I really would like to make a change. But I’m gonna defer to you’ — at this time, I had about a year and a half of experience as a judge, and he only had like 25 years’ experience as a judge — and he leaned back, and he says, ‘No, you have to deal with that situation on a daily basis. You make the decision, you do what’s best, and I will support you 100%.’ — that’s the type of guy Ralph Walton is,” Massingill said, choking back tears. “That’s what he did for me — that trust, that encouragement.”

He also described how he would attend several judicial conferences and had many people come up to him who had heard nothing but positive remarks about Ralph Walton.

“They said, ‘We hear about him, and that his honesty, his fairness, and his knowledge of the law is just unparalleled,’” Massingill said. “He is a great judge. He’s fair, and he’s honest, and we’re so fortunate to have him. But the one thing that I also wanted to say is that in addition to all of his other good qualities that he does have, this is the one thing that we can say about him: his integrity is un-

impeachable. I guarantee he’s a friend to everybody here in Hood County except for the ones who are doing time.”

Following Massingill’s speech, Ralph walked up to the podium and said simply, “Dadgum it. I feel like I’ve been attending my funeral,” eliciting chuckles throughout the building from attendees.

“But seriously, this is wonderful, and I appreciate all the kind words,” he said.

“Patsy and I’ve been here a long time. As most of you probably know, we came here in 1974. Allison was about to be born and was born, the day that we moved as Maurice has already described. We just decided that we were going to make our life here in Hood County.”

Ralph said he remembers visiting Granbury for the first time and saying, “My gosh, why would anybody want to come here?”

But the beautiful lake convinced Ralph and Patsy to make their home here in town, because as he told Patsy, a lake “means people.”

“I have no doubt in my mind the Lord sent us here,” Ralph said. “I don’t know all the reasons and what all the purposes were, but I know that he sent us here, because there was no other reason to come — believe me, not at that time — but it has become a great place.”

He then took the time to thank his family and for everyone who has stood by him throughout his career.

“All of these folks that have worked with me all these years, it’s a wonderful thing and I appreciate it,” Ralph added. “Thank you all so much for coming. Thank you for what you have done for me and my family. God bless you, God bless Texas, and God bless Granbury. I love you all.”

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Market Selector August 2023 Market Statistics - Hood County

Local Association
Granbury Association of REALTORS®

Market Type
County

Market Name
Hood County

Frequency
Monthly

Date
August 2023

Property Type
All (SF, Condo, Townhouse)

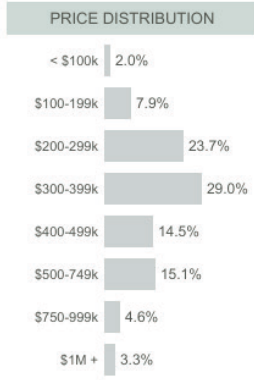
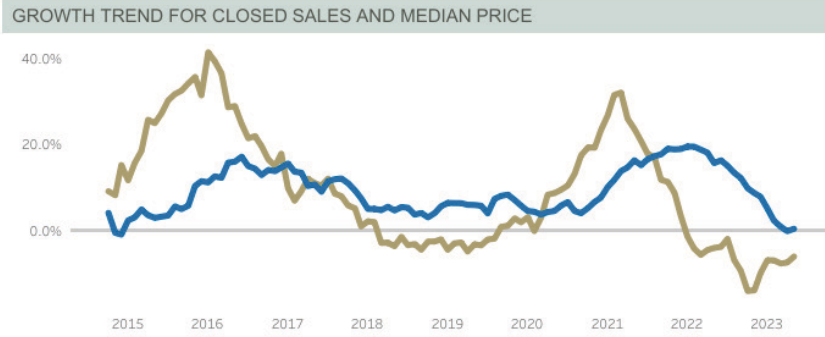
Construction Type
All (Existing & New)

Median Price
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▲ 2.9% YoY

Closed Sales
155
▲ 11.5% YoY

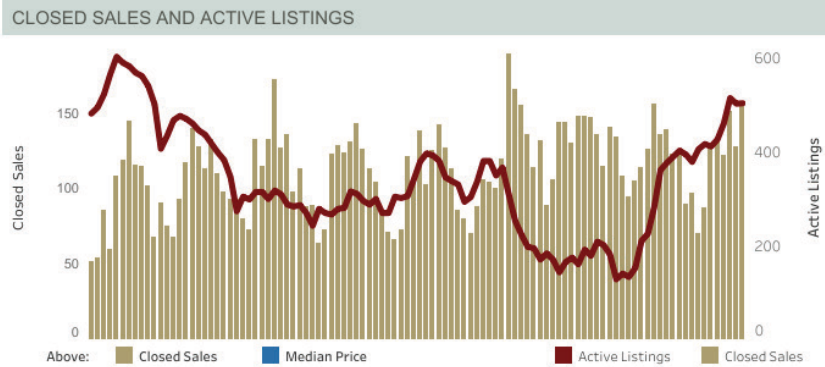
Active Listings
504
▲ 33.7% YoY

Months Inventory
4.3
▲ 1.3 YoY



TRANSACTION TIME STATS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Days on Market | 52 |
| 22 days more than August 2022 | |
| Days to Close | 33 |
| 2 days more than August 2022 | |
| Total Days | 85 |
| 24 days more than August 2022 | |



HOME VALUATION STATS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Median Price/Sq Ft | \$199.78 |
| ▲ 2.6% YoY | |
| Median Home Size | 1,787 sq ft |
| Median Year Built | 2004 |
| Close/Original List | 94.5% |



© 2023 Texas REALTORS®. Data used in this report comes from the Texas REALTORS® Data Relevance Project, a partnership among Texas REALTORS® and local REALTORS® associations throughout the state. Analysis provided through a research agreement with the Texas Real Estate Research Center at Texas A&M University.

The graphic shows the Hood County market statistics for August 2023.

Hood County Housing Report August 2023

Median price
\$350,000
▲ **2.9%**
Compared to August 2022

Price Distribution

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| \$0 - \$99,999 | 2.0% |
| \$100,000 - \$199,999 | 7.9% |
| \$200,000 - \$299,999 | 23.7% |
| \$300,000 - \$399,999 | 29.0% |
| \$400,000 - \$499,999 | 14.5% |
| \$500,000 - \$749,999 | 15.1% |
| \$750,000 - \$999,999 | 4.6% |
| \$1,000,000+ | 3.3% |

Active listings
▲ **33.7%**
504 in August 2023

Closed sales
▲ **11.5%**
155 in August 2023

Days on market
Days on market: 52
Days to close: 33
Total: 85
24 days more than August 2022

Months of inventory
4.3
Compared to 3.0 in August 2022

About the data used in this report: Data used in this report comes from the Texas REALTORS® Data Relevance Project, a partnership among the Texas Association of REALTORS® and local REALTORS® associations throughout the state. Analysis is provided through a research agreement with the Texas Real Estate Research Center at Texas A&M University.

The graphic shows the Hood County Housing Report for August 2023.

CERT basic training class open for registration

Staff Reports

The Hood County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will be presenting the CERT basic training class from Sept. 27 through Oct. 7 at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

There are six class sessions and individuals must attend every session to earn a completion certificate. If unable to commit to all six dates, please do not register. Seats are limited with high demand.

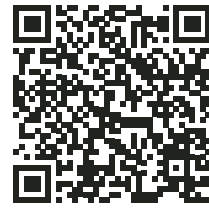
DATES:

- Wed., Sept. 27, 6 to 9 p.m. Preparedness & CERT organization
- Fri., Sept. 29, 6 to 9 p.m. Disaster Medical Operations - Part 1
- Sat., Sept. 30, 8 a.m. to noon: Disaster Psychology & Medical Operations - Part 2
- Wed., Oct. 4, 6 to 9 p.m. Fire

Safety and Utility Control

- Fri., Oct. 6, 6 to 9 p.m. Light Search and Rescue & Terrorism
- Sat., Oct. 7, 8 a.m. to noon: Exam, Disaster Simulation and Graduation

To watch a short video on what CERT is all about, go to: https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-trainings?language=en_US



To register, email HoodCoCERT@gmail.com with your name, email address, and phone number.

PLEASE SEE **ERCOT** | A5

ERCOT grid nearly reaches max demand before temperatures fell

Now the preparation for winter is underway

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

With September and August having many record-breaking temperatures the ERCOT grid reached its peak of energy usage and set an all-time unofficial demand record. On Aug. 10, the grid hit 85,435 megawatts.

In 2022, the peak demand of August was 78,465 MW. This summer alone, ERCOT set 10 new all-time peak demand records, according to ERCOT.

From June through September there have been 77 triple digit days that Granbury has faced. According to Margaret Campbell Emergency Management Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management of Hood County, "There were eight Excessive Heat Warnings from June 2023-current, 14 Heat Advisories from June 2023-current and 11 Red Flag Warnings in August."

ERCOT issued several voluntary conservation notices asking Texas to reduce electricity if safe to do so due to high demand and lower reserves.

On Sept. 6, ERCOT initiated its alert level two noting that conservation is critical. An EEA 2 is issued when ERCOT's operating reserves have dropped below 1,750 MWs and are not expected to recover within 30 minutes according to ERCOT. Fortunately, no rolling outages occurred, and reserves and levels returned to normal later that evening.

"ERCOT will continue to operate the grid conserva-

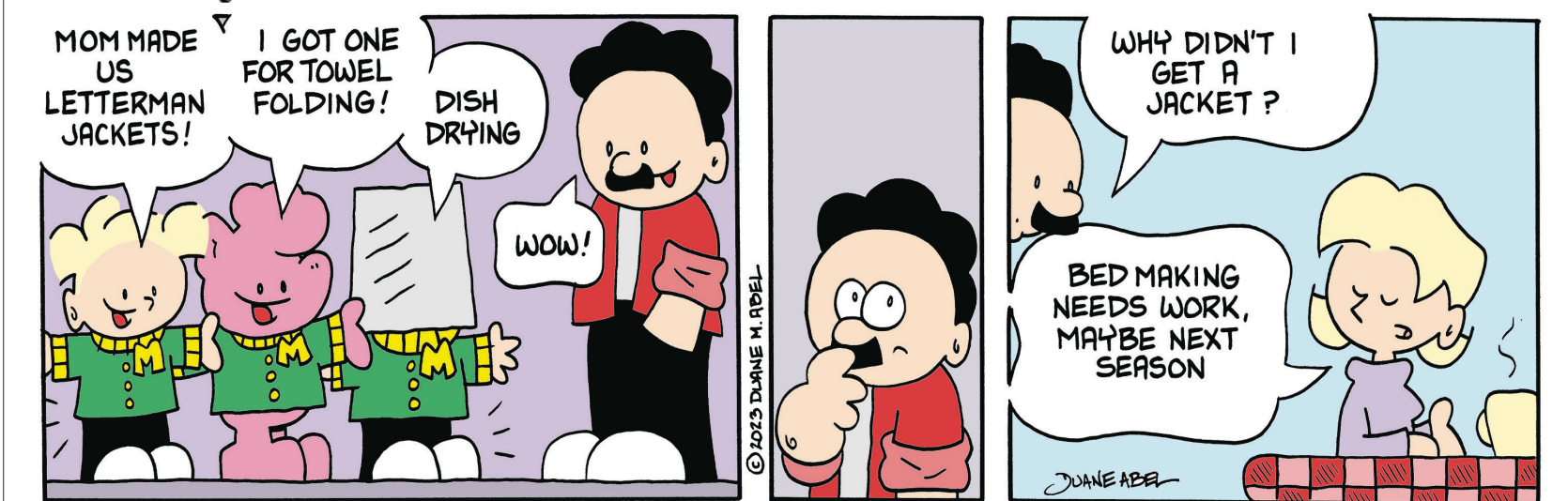
tively, bringing generating resources online early to mitigate sudden changes in generation or demand. ERCOT will continue to use all operational tools available, including implementation of new programs, like the new ERCOT Contingency Reserve Service (ECRS), as well as executing previous sessions' legislative reforms (like summer and winter weatherization inspections)," a spokesperson from ERCOT communications said.

Improvements have been implemented to make the grid more reliable according to ERCOT Communications,

includes:

- New Ancillary Service, ECRS. The ERCOT Contingency Reserve Service went live June 8 and brings a 10-minute response to our other Ancillary Services.
- Weatherization and Inspections. Electric generation units and transmission facilities weatherize and are inspected by ERCOT.
- Firm Fuel Supply Service. An additional source of fuel onsite for generators benefits the grid by providing a redundant, or additional, fuel source should there be a natural gas scarcity.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

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.

THORP SPRING Cemetery Association Annual Meeting Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Church of Christ in Thorp Spring, TX. For more information call 817-905-5725.

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

PLEASE SEE **CALENDAR** | A16

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

ERCOT

FROM PAGE A4

- Scheduled Maintenance Period. ERCOT has worked with generators and transmission operators to schedule their maintenance so they could prepare their equipment for winter.

- Fast Frequency Response Service. This is a new addition to our ancillary services that provides a group of generators that can power up quickly during operating conditions that change rapidly.

- Reliability Unit Commitments. ERCOT can bring more generation online sooner when needed.

- Critical Supply Chain and Critical Infrastructure Map. This map was created to share the locations and connectivity of all the critical parts of the Texas power infrastructure.

- Improved Communications. Agencies are seeing improved communications through both the Texas Department of Emergency Management and Texas Energy Reliability Council.

ERCOT also announced on September 14 a new peak demand record webpage that will provide Texans with current and yearly demand records.

"The new Peak Demand Records webpage increases public visibility into current and past record-breaking demand on the grid," said ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas. "Providing updated, readily available information on grid operations remains a key part of ongoing transparency in our communications with the public."

With the 2021 Texas Freeze, a historical winter event occurred that set records all over the state including being the first billion-dollar weather disaster of the year. It was the coldest winter storm for Texas since December of 1989. The freeze also broke records for the longest freezing streak in the state's recorded history, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information.

A survey conducted by the University of Houston (UH) Hobby School of Public Affairs in mid-March found that more than two out of three, or 69%, of Texans lost power at some point during Feb. 14-20, and almost half, or about 49%, had disruptions in water service.

The storm contributed to at least 246 deaths, ranging in age from less than a year old to 102 years old. In addition, causes of death ranged from hypothermia, exacerbation of pre-existing illnesses, motor vehicle accidents, carbon monoxide poisoning, fires and falls according to The Texas Tribune.

"This statewide disaster clearly illustrates the lingering effects of the retirement of the many coal-fired and gas generation plants in Texas. Relying on wind and solar for such a large part of our needs does not provide flexibility and sustainability for this type of an event," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the freeze in February of 2021.

From this freeze thousands of cases were filed against ERCOT according to The Texas Tribune. Some of which included San Antonio's municipally owned utility, CPS Energy, alleged that ERCOT mishandled the soaring price of power during the 2021 winter storm. And private equity investors at Panda Power Funds alleged that 10 years earlier ERCOT issued reports that misled them about how much power the grid needed.

The Supreme Court of Texas voted 5-4 that the ERCOT could not be sued and was protected under sovereign immunity which stated that's a sovereign or state cannot commit a legal wrong and is immune from civil suit or criminal prosecution.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, "Texans will need to bundle up, as unseasonably cold weather is forecast throughout January and February, with a possible major winter storm in mid-January."

The Farmer's Almanac had an accuracy of just about 70% for last year's winter across the country.

ERCOT has taken more measures to prepare for the winter season ahead. In July, the Public Utility Commission voted in favor of ERCOT's proposed plan as part of their winter weather readiness efforts, that include ERCOT to,

- Require each generation entity and transmission service provider to file with its declaration of winter weather preparedness the ambient temperature and wind speed design values for each resource or facility under that entity's control

- Assess, in part, a resource's or facility's winter weather preparedness on the 95th percentile, minimum average 72-hour wind chill values

- Inspect documents verifying the design criteria and the entity's efforts to prepare its resource or facility to that design criteria, as needed

- Evaluate actual temperature and wind speed experienced at a resource or facility that suffers an outage or deration during winter weather conditions

This plan will take into effect beginning this winter starting on December 1.

"As we move out of summer and winter approaches, we are beginning to look at the expected needs of the community and plan accordingly. After the 2021 freeze event, we established a network of facilities that are available to us to serve as warming centers or shelters when needed," Campbell said.

"Additionally, the 2021 event brought a loss of both power and water to our county. During that time, we distributed over 100,000 bottles of water to the community with the help of our local first responders. We have been making preparations so that should we have another winter such as this, that we are prepared to offer a quick and effective response as well as up-to-date information throughout the event.

To stay up to date with the current conditions of the grid visit ercot.com/gridmktinfo/dashboards. To learn about peak demand records, visit ercot.com and go under the helpful resources page. To learn more about ERCOT and their current plans for the winter more in detail visit ercot.com

HOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT AWARDS TWO



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, middle, presents plaques to Shawn McGuire, left, and Tyler Brown, right, during the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting on Sept. 12, in recognition of their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the Trunking System Project.

City votes to start discussions with County about possible dis-annexation of the extraterritorial jurisdiction

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled city council meeting on September 19, the council discussed Senate Bill 2038 that passed the senate in April and recently went into effect on September 1.

The bill allows release of an area from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction also known as an ETJ, by petition or election to the city.

"We currently have a state mandated development agreement with Hood County that provides for the city to provide the planning of the subdivisions and the development in the ETJ which is basically one mile from the city limits," City Manager Chris Coffman said. "Now that we have this bill, there are people that are in the ETJ wishing to be dis-annexed from that. There is no provision in our code to provide planning and development services in those Swiss cheese holes that are being created in our ETJ. With this layout we're going to end up with, we're not going to have a comprehensive thoroughfare plan that can be enforced."

City Manager Chris Coffman noted that since this bill went into effect, he has already received a large stack of petitions from people seeking dis-annexation. He added that he foresees many more to come. With all the necessary information put together from the petition the city has to dis-annex the area requested from the resident then redraw up a map of the annexation areas in the city limits.

Coffman has met with the county to talk about this issue but wanted to first bring this up with the council before moving any further.

Coffman pointed out that Cresson ETJ is up against Granbury city limits on the east side of town. Before that the city expanded the water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. The Public Utility Commission told the city the area where they were obligated to provide utilities since that area was annexed.

"Since the dis-annexation, that CCN has never been reduced," Coffman added. He pointed out the Putteet Hill built in that area and want out of that to which the city said to fill out the required paperwork.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

During a regularly scheduled city council meeting on September 19, the council discussed Senate Bill 2038 that passed the senate in April and recently went into effect on September 1.

"They just went ahead and drilled well and never reduced the CCN. That is something that we need to address as part of this bill. We need to look at what we're doing for Granbury not what we're doing for Cresson. There needs to be some continuity between Cresson and Hood County and the City of Granbury as it relates to developing in the areas around our community."

Coffman talked about completely dis-annexing all the ETJ and pulling in all the CCNS.

"Then we have an incentive to be apart of the city if they want to be a part of the city, we could provide utilities on an agreement type basis. That way when they would be annexed into the city. No longer do you have involuntary annexation. The state has made it to where we are a locked in city. We can no longer extend our city limits unless it's by a voluntary arrangement," Coffman said. "The most important thing that we can do is prepare for the next generation for our community. It seems pretty short-sighted to not do anything. I think we need to sit down with some city officials, and I need to kind of plow the ground and I want to make sure you are all good with it. This isn't an agreement at this point, this is just talking about what we need to do as a city to better prepare us."

Coffman noted that the worse outcome that could happen is that the county never adopts a master thoroughfare plan and added that the county does not have one currently.

"That's going to cause all kinds of development issues... We need to play ball together as a community to make sure that the transportation and the public safety needs are met as the communities grow out in the county and as they come into our city and how that's going to transform. It's not an easy puzzle to put together," Coffman said.

City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle later said during the meeting that completely dis-annexing the entire ETJ is not something he would recommend. He noted that the state hasn't done that themselves, adding that later in the future something may come up in the next legislative session. He also pointed out some development agreements from the last successful annexation the city made back in 2019.

The council talked about forming a committee including three council members and Coffman to work specifically on this topic and meet with the county to talk further.

Mayor Jim Jarratt noted that this is a "fuzzy situation" and that creating a committee and talking with the county would be best.

"The city for decades has hired people to work in the county area of the ETJ at taxpayer expense with the intention of having orderly development in Granbury and when you're coming into Granbury and some part of the city. With that no longer being a possibility unless there's some kind of incentive to attract someone to want to be in the city, we really do need to cut our costs of operating the planning department," he said. "We're spending money to develop the county and the county lobbied for this bill. I don't know that all of them did, but I had two commissioners tell me they're going to get it approved and they did. I think they don't understand what we've been doing for them for decades as doing this planning. My thought process is, let's cut expenses, let's take care of Granbury and let the county take care of the county. We'll figure this out..."

After about 30 minutes of discussion between the council, the council unanimously voted 6-0 to authorize Coffman to amend the state mandated development agreement for the development in the ETJ.

Coffman will now create his committee team and they will ask to meet with the county on this issue.

Texas Employment reached historic highs in August

Staff Reports

After continued growth through the month of August, Texas has once again set new records for the number of jobs, number of people employed, and size of the civilian labor force.

"Texas continues to grow jobs at a faster rate than the nation thanks to our welcoming business climate, our hardworking entrepreneurs,

and the strength of our young, skilled, diverse, and growing workforce," said Governor Greg Abbott. "In Texas, we want businesses to succeed. When businesses succeed, Texas succeed. We see the impact of that pro-growth model month after month.

More Texans are working than ever before, and we continue to break all previous records for total jobs and total labor force. The significant investments we

are making today in education, innovation, infrastructure, and workforce development will build an even stronger Texas of tomorrow."

Total nonfarm employment increased by 16,700 positions over the month to reach a 23rd consecutive series-high level with 13,979,100 jobs and a 30th consecutive month of growth. Since August 2022, Lone Star State employment grew by 402,000 positions and

continued to outpace the nation in the rate of annual employment growth.

The number of employed persons grew by another 24,300 people over the month, raising the new record high to 14,489,000. The Texas seasonally adjusted civilian labor force grew over the month by another 33,500 people, raising the total to 15,111,900 and

PLEASE SEE
EMPLOYMENT | A15



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Joshua Morrison, Director of Veteran Services at Pecan Valley Centers, Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Vice-Chair of the Texas Veterans Commission and Ruben DeHoyos, Chief Operating Officer of Pecan Valley Centers.

Governor Greg Abbott awards grant money for veterans across the state including Granbury

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Veterans Commission announced over \$36 million dollars in grant funding for veterans across Texas, including Pecan Valley Centers in Granbury in early September.

The funding was approved by the TVC Commissioner's in May and will be awarded to 135 organizations across Texas.

Pecan Valley Centers provides a variety of behavioral healthcare services from mental illnesses, intellectual and developmental disability as well as alcohol and chemical dependency.

"Our mission is to provide help and hope to all who strive to overcome challenges associated with mental illness, alcohol and chemical dependency intellectual and developmental disabilities within our community," their website states.

For the third year in a row, the Pecan Valley Center was

awarded money through two grants that provide support for veterans including a grant for mental health assistance and a grant for financial assistance. The center received the maximum amount possible for the regional provider and received the largest amount awarded to a regional provider in the North Texas area.

"Our total grant amount this year is \$600,000," Joshua Morrison Director of Veteran Services at Pecan Valley Center said. "These grants are crucial to sustain our efforts in the Veteran Services program. Over the last two years, we have averaged \$200,000 in financial assistance for bills like rent, utilities, minor vehicle repairs, and more that we would not be able to provide without the financial assistance grant. Our mental health grant was previously for \$150,000 and we were able to average 1,500 hours of free mental health services to our Veterans, dependents, and surviving

spouses. This year, the Texas Veterans Commission doubled that grant to \$300,000, so we've set a lofty goal of 2,500 hours of mental health services in 2024. None of this would be possible without these grants, so we're always grateful to be able to receive these funds and continue to serve our Veterans and their families."

The center is able to have mental health and financial assistance due to the funding of these grants.

The center offers clinical counseling services and treatments that include evidence-based practices for diagnosed conditions or co-occurring conditions that can include but not limited to:

- Trauma and Stress Related Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Suicide Ideation and Behaviors
- Substance Use Disorders
- Concerns related to Identity

PLEASE SEE **GRANT** | A12

HHSC highlighted services for Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention Day Sept. 22

Staff Reports

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission highlighted the numerous resources available to veterans as the state observed Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 22.

During the 88th Texas Legislative Session, Governor Greg Abbott and lawmakers designated Sept. 22 as Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention Day. The House resolution notes that "the wounds sustained through armed service to the United States are both visible and invisible," and emphasizes the critical importance of providing veterans and their families access to support and resources.

"Veterans Suicide Prevention Day reminds us that many veterans have experienced trials that most of us will never comprehend," said Governor Greg Abbott. "Texans are forever indebted to the brave men and women who fought to protect the precious freedoms we enjoy every day. No veteran should feel hopeless or alone. Together, we can make sure these heroes don't face life's burdens on their own. If you or a loved one is a veteran in crisis, please call 9-8-8 for support."

Veterans comprise a disproportionate percentage of adult suicides in the United States. In 2020, an average of 17 current or former members of the armed forces died by suicide each day, according to the 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report.

Texas veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis

Line at 988 and press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

"Those in the U.S. armed forces — all of its branches and all its duty statuses — deserve the best we can give to honor their service," said Tim Keesling, director of HHSC Office of Veterans Services Coordination. "Asking for help displays both leadership and courage. Veterans need to know that help is just a phone call or text message away."

Sen. Bob Hall, a co-author of the House resolution and a member of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs, said veterans often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or have sustained traumatic brain injuries, making them more prone to suicidal tendencies.

"Designating Sept. 22 as Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention Day will create awareness for Texans everywhere of the silent killer to our brave heroes who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and the steps that could be taken to prevent it," Hall said.

Rep. Ray Lopez, also a co-author and vice chair of the House Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the designation is a first step in recognizing the silent war that has raged in the minds of veterans.

"Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention Day is not just about prevention. It is about reaching out, offering support, and helping them heal because as Americans we owe it to them," Lopez said. "In doing so, we're crafting a future that promotes meaningful change through

our collective efforts. In the end, we need to provide all of them with the hero's welcome they truly deserve."

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Veterans Mental Health Director Blake Harris said veterans' service and sacrifice can result in an increased risk of suicide and noted the importance of people understanding the signs of mental health issues and how to help.

"The Texas Veterans Commission partners with agencies and stakeholders across the state to enhance access to mental health resources such as training and technical assistance," he said. "Our Military Veteran Peer Network is an excellent example of how being in direct contact with veterans improves well-being."

Additional resources and programs dedicated to veterans include:

Mental Health Program for Veterans. HHSC administers the program in partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission. Through local mental health authorities and behavioral health authorities the Mental Health Program for Veterans provides peer-to-peer counseling to service members, veterans and their families who have experienced military trauma or are at risk of not receiving the support they need.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 for a confidential chat. A special line for veterans and their loved ones can be reached online or by dialing 988 and choosing option 1. Veterans can also reach out for help by texting 838255.

PLEASE SEE **HHSC** | A15

SPOOKY
Here's to
CLUE
OCTOBER
FRIDAY THE 13TH
14TH AND 15TH
2ND ANNUAL

You are cordially invited!

Murder, mystery, and the thrill of the hunt. Follow the clues in this life-size board game based on the classic favorite.

FRIDAY 13TH - SUNDAY 15TH

Be the first to experience this unique game night with themed treats along the way.

Scan to buy tickets! FOR MORE INFO TEXT SUE: 817-205-3251

2023
Granbury Oktoberfest

October 7 & 8, 2023
Accordion Music

Lederhosen & Dirndl Fashion Show
Saturday at 5:30

Saturday night Street Dance
with music by **The Royal Klobasneks**

Sunday at Noon & 2:00
Alraush German Dancers

German games on Saturday & Sunday!
Kinderplatz with Kids Activities
Stein Hoisting - German Costume Contest
Jenga - Brat-Eating Contest - Hula Hoops

Classifieds

Deadlines: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

(817) 573-7066

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

CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1020
Cemetery Lots

2 Cemetery Plots in Holly Hills Memorial Park, Garden of Prayer, Lot 129-C, spaces 3&4. Total \$2500. Contact Lee Velta 718.614.2490

2 lots for sale at Holly Hills Cemetery in the faith edition. \$1600 for both. Will meet at cemetery. (817) 880-9908

1050
Homes for Sale

DCBE - Gated Community



4515 Overlook Court

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EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

Pecan Plantation now hiring in the following departments: F&B servers, cooks, security gate and patrol, roads and grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, Pecan Activity Center front desk attendant. Job descriptions on website at ppoaweb.com. Call 817-573-2641 and ask for department.

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

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- 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.

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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.

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General

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Public Notices

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.

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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Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LINDON M. STEWART, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0119, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: RICHARD WAYNE WESSLER.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Steven G. Kuban
Attorney at Law
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 13th day of September, 2023.
Attorney for Richard Wayne Wessler
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gail Diane Morris, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. PIO 116, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Laurie Sami.

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: Tracy S. Bush
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
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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

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.

9031
Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT
Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the General/Special Election held on November 7, 2023, will be tested on September 27, 2023 and September 28, 2023 beginning at 9:30am. The test will be conducted at the Hood County Annex 1 meeting room located at 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76049, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.
Stephanie Cooper
Hood County Elections Administrator
AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion general que se llevara a cabo el 7 de noviembre, 2023 se probara el 27 y 28 de septiembre, 2023 a las 9:30 am en el Anexo 1, 1410 W. Pearl St para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.
Stephanie Cooper
Firma dela Oficial

ORDINANCE NO. 23-63
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES 1.50 OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW FEES AND AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN OTHER FEES ADOPTED BY SAID ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council on September 19, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of David Gaytan, Cause No. P10189, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Humberto M. Gaytan in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Declare Heirship and for an Agreed Independent Administration, Appointment of Independent Administrator with Power to Sell Property and Serve Without Bond to declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of David Gaytan, 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 on this the 20th day of September 2023.
KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Dean Armstrong, Deputy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A public hearing will be held by the Granbury City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 3, 2023 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, to discuss and consider action to extend a moratorium, enacted on December 14, 2020 and extended on April 6, 2021, October 4, 2021, and September 20, 2022, staying the acceptance and processing of all plats and respective building permits in the eastern city limits and extra territorial jurisdiction, and to receive input from citizens regarding the extension of said moratorium as authorized by law and noticed pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 212.

A public hearing will be held by the Granbury City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, to discuss and consider action to extend a moratorium, enacted on October 25, 2021 and extended on February 15, 2022 and September 20, 2022, staying the acceptance and processing of all plats and respective building permits in the central and western city limits and extra territorial jurisdiction, and to receive input from citizens regarding the extension of said moratorium as authorized by law and noticed pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 212.

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Hood County Brush Yard

Wednesdays 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon

1510 Weatherford Highway

We accept cash and checks only.

The following fees apply:

- Pickups -- \$10.00
- Trailers 8' or Less -- \$10.00
- Trailers Greater than 8' / Equal to or less than 14' -- \$20.00
- Trailers Greater than 14' / Equal to or less than 18' -- \$30.00
- Trailers Greater than 18' -- \$50.00
- All Dump Beds -- \$50.00

Tree limbs, brush, and leaves must be free of dirt, barbed wire, other metals, trash, and rubbish. No tires, garbage, lumber, construction debris, landscape fabric, furniture, appliances, or anything but natural brush & limbs. Logs up to 15" in diameter and 16' in length will be accepted. Any logs larger, will need to be split/cut before accepting.

*Stumps with root balls will not be accepted.

*Enclosed trailers and trailers with permanent side rails, will be unloaded by the owner in a designated area.

ABC Storage, wishing to avail itself 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 beginning at ABC Storage at 2100 South Morgan Street [Highway 144], then to 3606 Conrany 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 men's 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 Conrany Creek Road
02-18 Sheila Newman- old door w/ knob, cain bottom stool, wooden headboards, 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 to list.
02-39 Diane Meredith- adult rolling walkers, metal shelves, 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

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Public Notices

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Public Notices

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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Hood County News

PUBLIC SALES

Cresson 76035
Garage Sales 76035
433 Stone Mountain Ct- Fri & Sat, 9/22 & 9/23, 7am-6pm. Some antiques, furniture, tools, kitchen & misc. Cash only.

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 3543 KELLY CT - Our trash is your treasure!! Housewares, Home Decor, Kitchen Appliances and Dishes. Tons of Vacuums, Electronics, Strollers, Car Seats, Baby Items, Outdoor Items, Suitcases, TOOLS, Fall & Christmas Decor! Plus tons more!!! Rain or Shine. FRIDAY & SATURDAY September 29th & 30th

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

New Beginnings
Resale Shoppe & Boutique

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

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY Co-manche Cove OA Community Garage Sale. Oct. 6th, 7th, 8th.

Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

GARAGE SALE: DECORDOVA
5301 Country Club Dr.- DeCordova Community Garage Sale open to the public Saturday, September 23rd from 8am to 2pm. Saturday September 23

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 9409 Gimme Ct. - Large, varied sale in Pecan Plantation. Provide address and DL at guard house for entry. Blue/white chinoiserie, Victorian furniture, die cast & RC toys, Vaseline glass, sports/outdoors, tools, appliances, mens/ladies clothes, tons of indoor/outdoor Christmas. Photos at estatesales.net, search 'Gimme.' SEP 21-23/ 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY
1001 N Blue Quail Ct- 7am-4pm 65 in TV Pool Pump in box Pool Automatic Vacuum (above ground). Christmas Trees(2). Men's, Women Clothes. Jeans and Shirts(Wrangler)kitchen items. Decorative items. Christmas Decorations. Christmas Houses. Refrigerator Miscellaneous items. Friday September 22, Saturday September 24

ESTATE SALE: 3902 Monterrey Dr, Granbury. Furniture, household, small appliances, too much to list! Rain or Shine. Fri 9/22 - Sun 9/24

9031
Public Notices

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).

New bill in Texas makes certain online activity illegal

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

As of September 1, it is now illegal to disclose a resident's address and phone number if posted on a publicly accessible website with the intent to cause harm of a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household, also known as a form of "doxing or doxing".

This new house bill falls under section 42.074 of the Texas Penal and is a Class B misdemeanor that is punishable by six months in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,000. This can be elevated to a Class A misdemeanor if the offense results in bodily injury to the individual or the individual's family or household.

"Doxxing is a slang term for dropping documents or doc-dropping. Doxxing is another form of cyberbullying that attempts to use personal data to harass or intimidate the victim," according to the Social Media Victims Law Center.

Safe Home, a safety company, reported that over 43

million Americans have been doxxed which resulted in lost friends, jobs and identities. Fifty-two percent of doxing attacks stem from online interactions with strangers, almost one in four perpetrators are personally known to the targets.

Some other examples of doxxing can include releasing a person's work information online with intent to harm and publishing photographs of a person online.

"We have not had any reports as of yet, and hopefully people will realize it's now illegal and won't do it," Chief of Granbury Police Mitch Galvan said.

A federal prosecutor could also bring charges under the interstate Communications State 18 USC 185, that prohibits using electronic communications to extort someone by threatening harm to their reputation.

There are also a few other laws that could come into play if one is caught doxxing including harassment, stalking, and swatting.

Harassment is defined under the Penal Code section

42.07 as an intent to "harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass" another person. This is a Class B misdemeanor and can result in a maximum of 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine. It will be a Class A misdemeanor if this is the individual's second time.

Stalking is defined under the Penal Code 42.072 as engaging in any act focused on someone with the intent of causing them to fear serious bodily injury or death. This can result in a third-degree felony which is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Swatting is defined under the Penal Code 42.061 as reporting a fake emergency to 911, as a prank or with the goal of harassing someone. This is a Class B misdemeanor, which can result in a maximum of 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

This is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by up to 180 days in jail and \$2,000 dollars in fines and can be elevated to a Class A if the defendant has a previous conviction for harassment.

It is important to keep

your information safe and secure, making it harder for someone to use your information against you. Some tips from the Federal Bureau of Investigation include:

- Keep systems and software up to date and install a strong, reputable anti-virus program.

- Create a strong and unique passphrase for each online account you hold and change them regularly. Using the same passphrase across several accounts makes you more vulnerable if one account is breached.

- Do not open any attachments unless you are expecting the file, document, or invoice and have verified the sender's email address.

- Be careful when connecting to a public Wi-Fi network and do not conduct any sensitive transactions, including purchases, when on a public network.

- Avoid using free charging stations in airports, hotels, or shopping centers. Bad actors have figured out ways to use public USB ports to introduce malware and monitor software onto devices

that access these ports. Carry your own charger and USB cord and use an electrical outlet instead.

- Examine the email address in all correspondence and scrutinize website URLs. Scammers often mimic a legitimate site or email address by using a slight variation in spelling. Or an email may look like it came from a legitimate company, but the actual email address is suspicious.

- Do not click the link in an unsolicited text message or email that asks you to update, check, or verify your account information. If you are concerned about the status of your account, go to the company's website to log into your account or call the phone number listed on the official website to see if something does in fact need your attention.

- Scrutinize all electronic requests for payment or transfer of funds.

- Be extra suspicious of any message that urges immediate action.

- Make online purchases with a credit card for an

extra layer of protection against fraud.

- Do not send money to any person you meet online or allow a person you don't know well to access your bank account to transfer money in or out.

If you are a victim of doxxing it is best to act as quickly as possible. Here are some steps to take if you fall victim from internet defamation law firm Minc Law:

- Gain as much information as possible including screenshots, URL's, download the page where the doxxing occurred with timestamps, and save any copies of message of harassment.

- If the doxxing took place on social media, report the doxxing to the platform.

- Contact law enforcement if doxxing revealed information that you feel could potentially put you in harm's way or report it through the FBI under their Cyber Crimes unit.

- Contact an attorney to seek removal of the doxxing or help better understand your options and rights going forward.

FNS awards \$723,564 to the Texas HHSC to improve recipient fraud prevention, detection and investigation efforts

Fraud Framework Grants help provide states with the tools they need.

Submitted Item
The Southwest Regional Office of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has awarded the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) \$723,564 to help improve their recipient fraud prevention, detection and investigation efforts by implementing principles from the SNAP

Fraud Framework. The award is designed to support Texas as officials develop new efforts or improve on existing ones.

"SNAP is a cornerstone of the USDA nutrition assistance programs," said FNS Southwest Regional Administrator Bill Ludwig. "We applaud HHSC's commitment to program integ-

ity and congratulate Texas on being selected for this grant, enabling HHSC to further strengthen its program through innovative efforts to prevent and detect fraud."

FNS is committed to expanding and improving efforts to combat fraud in the delivery of these critical nutrition assistance benefits. The SNAP Fraud Framework

provides states tools and options they can implement in order to improve program operations and outcomes.

"The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is pleased to receive the SNAP Fraud Framework Implementation Grant for the fifth consecutive year," said Texas Health and Human Services Deputy

Chief Program and Services Officer Molly Lester. "These funds will be used to provide HHSC staff with resources, skills, and professional development related to fraud detection and prevention to support the agency's mission to preserve program integrity, as well as share this knowledge with fraud prevention and eligibility

counterparts nationwide." HHSC will use the funding to develop a fraud educational program for clerical staff, who have historically not formally participated in fraud prevention response. In addition, they will establish a comprehensive fraud prevention training program

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Please consider making a donation to help us meet our goal.

Donations may be made at
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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Ashley Taylor Inge, 27, and Johnathan Paul Terry Jr. (JP), 29, were wed at La Bella Luna in Granbury on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023.

Ashley is the daughter of Johnny and Christi Inge of Jacksboro. She is a 2014 graduate of Jacksboro High School. She obtained her associate degree from Weatherford College in 2016 and her bachelor's degree in communications/journalism from Tarleton State University in 2018. She currently serves as a staff writer for the Hood County News.

JP is the son of Johnathan and Brenda Terry. He is a 2012 graduate of Midlothian High School and is currently a crew chief at Lina T. Ramey & Associates in Farmers Branch.

Ashley Taylor Inge, 27, right, and Johnathan Paul Terry Jr. (JP), 29, left, were wed at La Bella Luna in Granbury on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Governor Abbott encourages Texans to participate in school choice Sunday

Submitted Item

Governor Greg Abbott called on Texans to participate in School Choice Sunday on Sunday, October 15 to voice their support for parent empowerment and expanding education freedom for all Texas students. During a tele-townhall with faith leaders from across the state, the Governor highlighted the importance of Texans contacting their legislators about protecting parents' fundamental role as the primary decisionmakers in their child's education.

"This is one of those unparalleled opportunities when all of us together have the ability to achieve a better state for all families across Texas," said Governor Abbott. "I believe that every parent can do a better job of raising their children if they are given the

power to choose the school that is best for their child. If they are given that power, that child will go down a pathway to better educational success, personal success, and relationship success. Collectively, we can make Texas even better when we all go to work to make sure we get across the finish line this urgent need to provide parents the ability to choose the school that's best for their child."

The Governor was joined on the tele-townhall by Cornerstone Church Lead Pastor Matt Hagee, The R.O.C.K. Founder and Senior Pastor Dr. Dana Carson, two-time World Heavyweight Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist George Foreman, U.S. Pastor Council Founder and President Reverend Dave Welch, First Baptist Dallas Senior Pastor Dr. Robert Jeffress, and Diocese of

Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns.

"I want to thank all the men in the kingdom of God and the Governor of the great state of Texas, Governor Greg Abbott, for his concern for parental choice," said Dr. Carson. "Parents should have a right to choose to educate their children in a kingdom environment. This is a tremendous opportunity for low income and minority kids to have an increased probability of success."

"What I am most impressed with is we truly have a champion Governor," said Pastor Foreman.

"Governor Abbott set the stage for us to really shape education for the next 30 years. I am in absolute support of this fine Governor."

"A child's education is one of the most important priorities in any family," said

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GRANT

FROM PAGE A6

- Adjustment Disorder
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- Skills Training
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- Vehicle Fuel and Repair
- Insurance
- Vehicle Loan Payment

The required documents for an application include proof of veteran status and 180 plus days of service, a budget worksheet, 90 days of bank statements to validate financial need, a copy of most current bill due and additional documents may be needed after review.

"The State of Texas continues to support our brave veterans and ensure they receive the resources needed to thrive," Governor Abbott said in a press release. "I thank the Texas Veterans Commission for providing veterans who have honorably served our nation with comprehensive support services and assistance through over \$36 million in state grants.

Texans are forever indebted to the service of our veterans, and we will always honor the sacrifices of these brave men and women and their families to our state and nation."

For more information on mental health services at the Pecan Valley Center you can reach out by email at mmullin@pecanvalley.org or call 817-579-4489 under option three. For more information on the financial services, you can reach out by email at rball@pecanvalley.org or call 817-579-4489 under option five.

To learn more about the Pecan Valley Centers visit pecanvalley.org or visit their office located at 2101 W Pearl Street in Granbury.

Carroll Tyler

December 8, 1943 - September 13, 2023

Carroll "Pete" Tyler passed away Wednesday, September 13, 2023; he was 79 years old.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at the American Legion Post 491 located at 3409 Davis Road from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. All who knew him are encouraged to come by for food, drinks, desserts and memories.

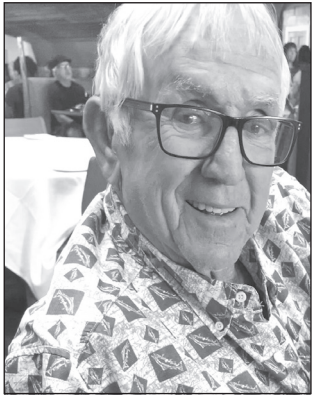
Friends and business acquaintances knew him as Carroll. He was always ready to deliver a load of dirt or rock and always had a story to tell, no matter the scenario. You could often find him at "The Dam Store" aka Tommy's buying fuel and lottery tickets.

To his family, he was fondly known as Pete. Pete was fun loving, opinionated, and loyal to a fault. He would just as soon give you the shirt off his back or go to the casino with you, passing along a few large bills to make sure you had a good time as well.

Whether you knew him as Carroll or Pete, you always knew where you stood with him and exactly what was on his mind, even if you did not want to know. Throughout his life, he'd never met a stranger. One of his joys in life was to watch his grandsons play sports; he traveled from California to Florida to watch them play, and often times would run into someone he either knew or knew someone related to them.

He was born in Lumberton, North Carolina, moving from town to town as part of a share cropper family. He left home at an early age, hitchhiking his way up and down the east coast eventually making it to Texas where he settled down. He met and married his wife Carmen in 1971 with a three-day courtship, and they were married for 40 years until her death. Pete made Granbury his home and adopted Carmen's large family as part of his own.

Throughout his life, Pete tried his hand at any job that came along. He picked cotton, pumped gas, made donuts, drove tug boats in the Intercoastal Waterway, and delivered propane, just to name a few. He was also mechanic, carpenter, salesman, volunteer fireman (way back in the day),



newspaper carrier, and for the past 23 years, a dump truck driver. He was rarely without a job, and in the early years, often had two jobs to ensure his family had food on the table and a roof over their heads.

His personality was such that you either loved him or hated him, but you never forgot him. Growing up he had a severe stutter; shocking, since once he learned to string two syllables together, he never stopped talking. When his wife was diagnosed with renal failure, Pete's only wish was to live one minute longer than her to ensure she was cared for. In his mind, every minute he lived after she passed was a blessing. She died in 2011.

Pete is preceded in death by his parents Sadie and Cephus, brother J.C., and wife Carmen. He is survived by his favorite daughter Sammie with husband James, Carmen's favorite son Jeff with wife Charity, Pete's gambling buddy, Steve, and the special son, Jon with his special wife Randi K. His grandchildren include William, Garrett, Jaxon, Jaden, and his "little hunnies" Payton and Harper. He also has two great-grandsons, Owen and Lewis. He leaves behind his sisters, Edna and Mary Alice and brothers, Bill and Kenny and their wives Janet and Becca, respectively. He also leaves behind many brothers and sisters-in-law from the Rodriguez side of the family as well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and friends.

Carroll/Pete was certainly one of a kind and will always be remembered in part for his crazy life stories. He loved to tell people this: "if you can manage your time and your money, everything else will fall in place."

OBITUARIES

Tom Holmes

May 31, 1935 - September 16, 2023

Tom Holmes (88) passed away on September 16, 2023.

Visitation was held at Wiley Funeral Home, Glen Rose, Texas on Sunday September 17, 2023, 6 until 8 p.m.

Funeral: Private burial at the Texas State Cemetery, Austin, Texas.

Tom Holmes was born in Hood County on May 31, 1935 to Cora Harkins and Thomas Holmes. Tom attended school in Hill City, Tolar and Glen Rose, where he graduated. He attended Tarleton State University where he helped form the rodeo team and was a saddle bronc rider and RCA member. Tom joined the Air Force in 1954 and was stationed in Great Falls, Montana and Japan and was a member of the Air Force football team. Tom served in the Texas State Legislature from 1965-1973. As a State Representative, Tom's focus was on education and agriculture, and he was Chair of the Livestock Committee. Tom was an entrepreneur at heart and had many business ventures including founding Granbury State Bank, Hood County Feedyard and Lake City Motors. Tom spent the latter part of his life as a rancher in his childhood home of Paluxy, where he lived a simple



life on the farm that he grew up on with his parents Cora and Floyd Harkins. The family is grateful for the care given by the Glen Rose Nursing Home and St. Gabriel's Hospice and Palliative Care.

Tom is survived by his daughter Vickie and son-in-law Gary Marks, son Charles and daughter-in-law Cindy Holmes, son Tommy and daughter-in-law Donna Holmes, six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Tom is preceded in death by his mother Cora Harkins, father Thomas Holmes and step-father Floyd Harkins.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Roger E. Marks Healthcare Foundation at drmarksfoundation.org or P.O. Box 773, Glen Rose, TX 76043.

Ruth Ellen Ling

November 22, 1929 - July 26, 2023

Ruth Ellen Ling, 93, passed away on Wednesday July 26, 2023 in Granbury, Texas.

Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 30 in the chapel of Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

Inurnment will be at 2:15 p.m. Monday, October 16, 2023 in Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Ruth was born November 22, 1929 in Irving, Texas to parents Luther and Bessie Collett.

She married Robert Ling on June 3, 1961 in Dallas, Texas.

Ruth worked for G.E. for many years. Ruth loved volunteering at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and enjoyed working in her yard and gardening.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Robert Miles Ling, her parents, two brothers and two nephews by marriage Richard King and George Small.

Survivors: Her brother Robert Lewis Collett, stepson Robert Thomas Ling and his wife Wendy and sister-in-law Genevieve Stevens.

Nieces: Kristen Collett,



Cathy Kelsey, Cheryl Maddock, Wendy Herbert, Lorie and Patti Grant, Dawn Stephens, Terry Edwards, Pam Small and Charis King.

Nephews: Robert Collett, Robert and Ronald Grant, Clint Herbert, Pat Stevens and Kenneth Edwards.

And multiple great-nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Meals on Wheels Hood County Senior Center, 501 E Moore St, Granbury, TX 76048.

A memorial service will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. on September 30, 2023 at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, 400 Hwy 377 E., Granbury, TX, 76048.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A14

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "he's ___ not to mess with" (mean)
- 5 Not any ___
- 6 "___ a Texan, always a Texan"
- 7 TXism: "spun a yarn"
- 8 evangelical seminary in Dallas (abbr.)
- 9 TXism: "in the ___ of luxury" (rich)
- 12 1961 hurricane that was the most destructive in Texas
- 17 decomposing
- 19 TXism: "she's got ___ as big as Texas" (kind)
- 21 TXism: "scarce as grass ___ hog trough"
- 22 "pretty" in Mexico
- 23 TXism: "as pitiful ___ child"
- 28 This outlaw Jim married Belle Starr in Texas in 1866
- 29 fishin' poles
- 30 currency of Gambia
- 31 Texas golfer Bob who won 1994 Texas Open
- 35 TXism: "she can ___ blue streak"
- 36 TX Gene Watson sang "Raisin' ___"
- 42 TXism: "happy as a kid on ___"
- 44 family car that's not a SUV
- 46 they keep doors away from walls
- 48 shoulder raises to express doubt
- 49 longest U.S. Speaker, TX Rayburn (init.)
- 50 "___ Carter Museum of American Art"
- 51 works hard
- 52 Brenham's Blue Bell makes ___ cream
- 53 Branch Davidians that were near Waco, e.g.
- 54 Victoria TV station

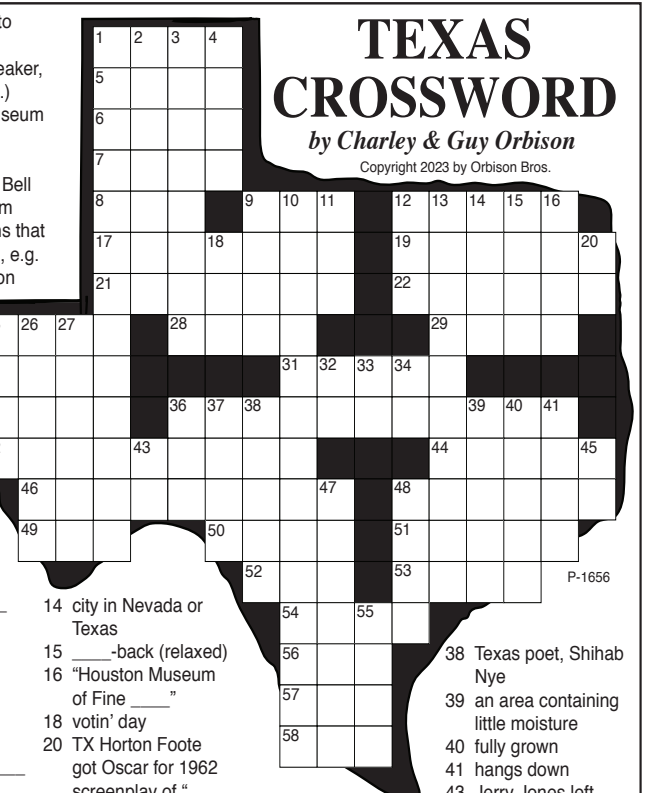
DOWN

- 1 "leaky as ___ in a junker"
- 2 newspaper in Naples, Texas
- 3 forefather
- 4 ___ville, Texas
- 9 TXism: "hook, ___ and sinker" (all)
- 10 TXism: "he has short arms ___" (cheapskate)
- 11 Frisco is headquarters of this golf org.
- 12 taxi
- 13 TXism: "it can float ___" (strong coffee)
- 14 city in Nevada or Texas
- 15 ___back (relaxed)
- 16 "Houston Museum of Fine ___"
- 18 votin' day
- 20 TX Horton Foote got Oscar for 1962 screenplay of "___ Kill a Mockingbird"
- 23 commercial on television, e.g.
- 24 admissions test for a Texas college
- 25 expression of grief
- 26 chef, cobb and taco
- 27 JFK: "___ what your country can do for you ..."
- 32 "yes" in Mexico
- 33 Davy Crockett's home state (abbr.)
- 34 actress in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)
- 36 an ironclad during the Civil War: "___ Virginia"
- 37 Claudia ___ "Lady Bird" Johnson
- 38 Texas poet, Shihab Nye
- 39 an area containing little moisture
- 40 fully grown
- 41 hangs down
- 43 Jerry Jones left this state for TX
- 45 TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- 47 TXism: "she has to ___ on a mirror to fix her hair" (homely)
- 48 LBJ alma mater, now TXST
- 55 Oldham County seat

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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HOME IN ON MORE BUYERS

What to know about HSAs and FSAs

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Mobly

Paying for health care can be challenging — but are you taking full advantage of all the resources available to you?

You might have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), so let's look at both.

An HSA is a personal savings account used to pay health care costs. If you're enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to

an HSA. You aren't taxed on the money you put into this account or on the earnings generated from your contributions, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs such as deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. And there's no "use it or lose it" provision with HSAs — the money stays in your account until you use it. In fact, you can carry your HSA with you all the way until retirement, when you can use the money

to pay for qualified expenses that Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) doesn't cover. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,850 to an HSA, or \$4,850 if you're 55 or older; for family coverage, you can put in up to \$7,750.

It's important to keep in mind that your HSA's tax benefits only apply when your withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs. If you use the money for non-qualified expenses, it is considered taxable income, and you may also face a penalty of 20% on the amount

withdrawn. However, once you turn 65, you can use your HSA funds for any purpose without a penalty, though the withdrawals will still count as taxable income.

Now, let's turn to the Flexible Spending Account. An FSA may be available to you if you get health insurance through your employer. And because you fund your FSA with pretax dollars, your contributions can reduce your taxable income. (In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,050 to an FSA.) Your employer may also choose to contribute to your FSA. Once your

account is funded and active, you submit claims with proof of your medical expenses, along with a statement that these expenses aren't covered by your plan, and you can be reimbursed for your costs.

It's helpful to have a good estimate of your yearly medical expenses for a Flexible Spending Account. That's because an FSA generally needs to be spent before the end of the plan year — if you don't use all the money, you can only carry over some of it and any remaining balance is forfeited. (You can carry over up to \$610 from 2023 into

2024.)

You can't contribute to an HSA and a traditional FSA in the same year. But if you have an HSA, you might be able to use what's known as a Limited Purpose Flexible Spending Account (LPFSA) for dental and vision expenses. You'll need to check with your plan to see if this option is available.

Managing your health care expenses should be a key part of your overall financial strategy — so consider putting an HSA or FSA to work for you.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

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.

OBITS

FROM PAGE A13

Rickey Lynn Fields

February 19, 1953 - September 17, 2023

Rickey Lynn Fields, 70, of Granbury, Texas, sadly left us on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Rickey is survived by his loving bride of 52 years, Ginger Fields. Survived by daughter Dana and son-in-law Brad Moss, son, Tom Fields and Aleasha Dugan, and Brodie McBeath and his wife, Kristen and two great-granddaughters Kamryn and Landry and soon to be great-grandson. And Paw Paw's only granddaughter Brittanie McBeath, grandson Hunter Fields and Taylor Worthington, and grandson Ryan Fields and Hailey Kapcsos, grandson Cannon Moore and wife Haylee and Cait Moore. And second mom Aunt Pat and Uncle Glen.

Rickey worked as Head of Purchasing at Fox Electric for over 50 years. He took great pride in his work and passed that along to all of his family. One of his life goals was to work at the same company for 50 years, he accomplished that goal in August of 2023.

In Rickey's younger

Sally Ann Dove

July 7, 1935 - September 14, 2023

Sally Ann Coleman Dove quietly passed away in Glen Rose surrounded by her family on September 14, at the age of 88. She was born in Fluvanna, Texas, on July 7, 1935, to Frank and Mit Coleman. The family moved to the ranch in Tolar in 1948. She graduated from Tolar High School when she was 16, then attended Tarleton Junior College. Ann and Wallace Dove married on January 29, 1954, in Fort Worth.

Ann graduated from Texas Tech University in 1968. After teaching at Brownfield and Tahoka, she spent over 33 years teaching high school English and history in Glen Rose.

Ann was an avid reader and known for her vast collection of books. She loved working at the ranch, feeding her Hereford cattle, and drinking coffee. The most important thing in her life was her family.



years he took up bull riding where he met the love of his life Ginger. Rickey loved hunting and fishing with his son Tom and three grandsons. He enjoyed playing with the great-grandchildren Kamryn and Landry. Rickey served four years in the Navy Reserves.

Rickey was preceded in death by his father Bob Fields and mother Bonnie Fields, and brother Bobby Wayne Fields.

Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 2, at First Baptist Church in Alvarado, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Wallace, and great granddaughter Hattie Wright.

Survivors include her sister, Sis (Max deceased) Morrison of Tolar, her brothers Jim (Norma Sue) Coleman of Tolar and Don (Linda) Coleman of Alpine, daughter Diana Wright of Bluff Dale, and son Sam (Catherine) Dove of Alpine. She is also survived by three grandsons: Brad (Janean) Wright of Hearne, Will Wright of Bluff Dale, and Chet (Bailey) Dove of Alpine. Gran Ann was always excited to see her great grandchildren Shannon Wright, Clara Wright, Mason Dove, Raylyn Dove, and Tulah Paschal.

A celebration of life will be held at the ranch at a later date. Per Ann's request, anyone wishing to make a donation is encouraged to contribute to the Somervell County Library or Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth.

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE A1

Commissioners Court, where he was recorded to have made "demeaning" statements about Biggers and his church, and how he "bragged" about throwing Biggers out of the court. This incident was also further referred to as the "November Recording" in the document.

According to the case file, Biggers made two attempts to speak on the "November Recording" incident but was "threatened with removal" on Dec. 13, 2022, and was removed from the meeting on Jan. 10.

The file states that Massingill's "enforcement actions do not appear to be supported by the Public Comment Rule," which is also outlined in the document that states:

"It is not the intention of the Hood County Commissioners' Court to provide a public forum for the demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Court to allow a member (or members) of the public to insult the honesty and/or integrity of the Court, as a body, or any member or members of the Court, individually or collectively. Accordingly, profane, insulting or threatening language directed

toward the Court and/or any person in the Court's presence and/or racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or epithets will not be tolerated. These Rules do not prohibit public criticism of the Commissioners' Court, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service."

The document states that Biggers "did not demean any individual or group, or use profane, insulting, or threatening language, or any sort of racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or epithets."

In addition, the file states that Biggers' speech "has been chilled" and he "reasonably fears that he will be held in contempt and jailed" as his "freedom of speech and right to petition has been infringed" by Massingill.

In the Causes of Action section outlined in the document, it was stated that Biggers "should have been allowed to publicly criticize the Commissioners Court, including the actions of (Massingill), so long as he followed basic rules of civility in his speech."

Under Application for Injunctive Relief in the document, Biggers requested an "immediate temporary restraining order ("TRO"), then a preliminary injunction hearing, and permanent injunc-

tion following a trial, to prevent (Massingill) from enforcing arbitrary rules at government meetings that constitute prior restraint on speech by (Massingill) in his efforts to stop (Biggers) from playing the November Recording."

The final judgment from Mark T. Pittman, United States District Judge, states that the case against Biggers vs. Massingill is now "DISMISSED with prejudice," essentially stating that the decision is final and can't be retried in the future.

"The federal judge's order is very clear,"

Massingill stated in a text to the HCN on Thursday, Sept. 14. "Steve Biggers' lawsuit was DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. I did not violate his constitutional rights, and contrary to his allegations, all actions I took were appropriate and within the law, including having him removed from Commissioners Court."

Biggers stated in a text to the HCN on Monday, Sept. 18. "Unfortunately at this time, I cannot comment on the ongoing litigation."

ashley@hcnews.com | 817-573-1243

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Last Puzzle Solution
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Don't miss this gifted songstress whose album *The Gospel Coalition* named one of the "Best Albums of the Decade." Come hear her express her love for Jesus and God's Word through her heartfelt songs.
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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Timelines are deadlines, not guidelines



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

Missing a timeline in a Real Estate contract can cost buyers and sellers real money, so it is critical to know and understand when those deadlines are, what they are for, and what the consequences of missing a date and/or time could mean.

Earnest Money and Option Money are two of the very first items with dates that are CRITICAL. Both must be delivered to the Title Company within three days of the Effective Date of the Contract. So, your first ques-

tion should be What is the effective date of the contract? That is that date that all parties agreed and signed a final draft of the contract. In the TREC 1-4 Family Residential Re-Sale Contract that date is currently shown on page 9 of

11 and is titled EXECUTED. So yes, to answer your next question, Effective Date and Executed Date are typically the same thing.

Failure to timely deliver earnest money: Buyers, if you don't get Earnest Money deposited in time you can be in Default and the Seller can Terminate the Contract, which means you just lost out on your dream house. Or if you changed your mind and don't want the house and thought not depositing the Earnest Money would negate the contract, think again. The contract has a whole paragraph dedicated to legal remedies in the event either party defaults. One of the remedies a seller could use would be to enforce 'Specific Performance':

I know, I know... What is Specific Performance? Wikipedia defines it as an equitable remedy in the law of contract, whereby a court issues an order requiring a party to perform a specific act, such as to complete performance of the contract. In layman's terms, the seller could possibly sue you and force you to buy the house.

Failure to timely deliver the option money means you just lost your unrestricted right to terminate, even if inspections reveal the roof is bad and the foundation is so bad the house is about to slide down the hill, you are, at best, going to lose your earnest money when you try to terminate. At worst, you could be facing Specific Performance. Yes, this is a

bit of an exaggeration; but it does happen, and I don't want it to happen to you.

The date and time to exercise your right to terminate under the option clause is hugely important. The date is whatever was agreed to in the contract, but the time dictated in the current TREC 1-4 Re-Sale Contract is 5 p.m. So, if you are trying to negotiate repairs at 4:50 p.m. on the last day of your option and haven't reached an agreement, you should consider sending in SIGNED Termination paperwork at or BEFORE 5 p.m. I don't mean 5:15 p.m., I don't even mean 5:05 p.m. Otherwise you have lost your right to terminate and you may have to pay for that new AC System out of your own pocket.

In closing I want to say loud and clear, "I am not an Attorney and the information in this article is not intended to be used as legal advice". My intent is solely to make buyers and sellers aware of the importance of the deadlines in a Residential Sales Contract and of the importance of working with a REALTOR® who understands these timelines and is there to help keep you on schedule. As always thanks so much for reading our articles, if you have questions or comments, we would love to hear from you. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

pamK@knieperteam.com / 817-219-0456

EMPLOYMENT FROM PAGE A5

marking another record high for the state. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held at 4.1% in August, marking the fourth month at that rate. Hood County August numbers saw 29,934 employed with a 31,237 civilian labor force. Unemployment was 1,303 or 4.2% unemployment rate for the month of August.

"After 30 straight months of job growth, the number

of employed Texans has reached more than 14.4 million," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "TWC supports the state's continued economic growth through programs like Jobs and Education for Texans and the Skills Development Fund, that help upskill the Texas workforce to meet employer demand

Leisure and Hospitality saw significant growth over the month with 9,100 jobs added. Another 5,000 jobs were added in Other Services, while Financial

Activities gained 3,300 positions. Over the year, the job market grew faster in Texas than the U.S. in industries such as Mining and Logging and Financial Activities, which outpaced national growth rates by 3.9 and 3.0 percentage points, respectively. Other Services also grew 2.7 points faster in Texas than nationally over the year.

"Our world-class Texas workforce has grown by more than 400,000 jobs over the last year, thanks largely to the energizing job

creation by our private-sector employers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "This continued growth highlights TWC's unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration and building partnerships with Texas employers across the state."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) maintained the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.8% in August, followed by Amarillo at 3.6%, College Station-

Bryan at 3.8%, and Odessa at 3.8%. Abilene, Austin-Round Rock, and Lubbock were each at 3.9% through August. The Midland MSA civilian labor force grew the fastest in the state at 5.5% in August. The civilian labor force in Dallas-Fort Worth grew by 4.6%, adding more than 195,000 people and representing 40% of all MSA growth over-the-year.

"We continue to strengthen the Texas civilian labor force with career pathways through apprenticeship, internship and second

chance hiring," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "TWC empowers economic growth with services such as quality childcare and early learning, technical training, vocational rehabilitation, and job finding resources."

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

HHSC FROM PAGE A6

The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program aims to make

mental health services and treatments more accessible for veterans. These include evidence-based therapies and treatment, peer support services, individual and family counseling, suicide pre-

vention initiatives and other efforts.

The TVC's Veterans Mental Health Department connects veterans to local services and partners with organizations to address veteran-specific

issues like suicide prevention, homelessness and military-related trauma.

HHSC funds and administers the TexVet initiative which includes a website hosted by the Texas A&M

University Health Science Center. By entering their ZIP code on the TexVet website, veterans and their loved ones can access a list of local organizations that can help them receive mental health

services, emergency housing, legal assistance and other services.

Veterans can find additional resources and crisis assistance at the MentalHealthTX Veterans webpage.

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CHOICE

FROM PAGE A12

Bishop Burns. "Parents have a choice in education options for their children in 32 states and the District of Columbia and Texas parents should also have that same choice. The Catholic Church teaches that as the primary educator of their children, parents have the right and responsibility to determine the best educational environment for their children. That is why the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops supports Governor Abbott's push to empower all parents with parental choice."

"I want to applaud Governor Abbott and his courage for supporting school choice," said Dr. Jeffers. "I am a product of the Texas public school system, but it's time for a choice. We are going to do everything we can at First Baptist Dallas to support Governor Abbott and his courageous call for school choice."

In his 2023 State of the State address, Governor Abbott announced education freedom for Texans as an emergency item for the 88th Legislative Session. In June, Governor Abbott signed into law four critical pieces of parent empowerment legislation passed during the 88th Regular Legislative Session.

Lakeview Landing development progresses

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

A Public Improvement District (PID) for the Lakeview Landing development as well as a Maintenance and Operations District was unanimously approved during a regularly scheduled city council meeting on Sept. 5.

A development agreement for the Lakeview Landing Development was adopted as part of the three-and-a-half-year 47-acre project. The development will include residential, retail, restaurant, and office spaces as well as outdoor amenities including trails, a boardwalk and public park. With this agreement, progress is being made and worked on to continue to the development.

"This is the step that is necessary for us to create the district that will provide for the funding to build the infrastructure for this development," Trent Petty, a consultant of this project said during the meeting. "This project will culminate in about a 200-million-dollar development for the city of Granbury. This will be groundbreaking in many ways. The beauty of this development is that it does not change taxes for the local community at all."

"The bonds that the developer is going to utilize for this project, is paid for by the recipients in that district. In other words, the money that services the debt for future bonds for infrastructure for this project will come from the 47 acres that are being developed," City Manager Chris Coffman said. "These bonds are only being paid for from the generated revenues on that site."

Coffman also noted that there will be a public park on the lake that will be open that is stemming from this new development. Dirt is expected to start being moved soon, Coffman also noted.

"It's pretty exciting to see this finally coming about... This is the largest economic development deal this city has ever done," Coffman added. We're working very hard to ensure the sustainability of it and also the success but also to protect our citizens from being taxed for this development. We do not want that to happen."

The city also voted 5-0 approving the creation of a maintenance district for the development.

"This issues a maintenance and operation tax on those businesses and those apartments and single family dwellings to maintain the public infrastructure in that area," Coffman said. "This is another attempt to bring development to an undevelopable area and create something really unique and not tax our citizens for it."

These are very common in developments." Coffman also noted that through this PID and M&O where the residential units are involved that they are doing something special. "The developer has agreed to pay all the PID taxes when he sells the land to build the house or the builder himself. There won't be a PID tax for the capital improvement against the homeowners. There's going to be some new canals built in Granbury. Those headwalls are going to be maintained through this PID tax," Coffman said during the meeting.

The projected completion of this development is in 2026.

FNS

FROM PAGE A11

for designated staff, providing continuing and dynamic professional development, effective monitoring of progress and performance, and regular reevaluation of training needs. HHSC also will develop an easily accessible resource repository of fraud prevention information and shared publications for distribution.

The awards will support

new projects under any of the seven components of the SNAP Fraud Framework, which include organizational management, performance measurement, recipient integrity education, fraud detection, investigations and dispositions, analytics, and data management, and learning and development.

Grantees plan to use their funds in a variety of ways. For example, states will:

- Utilize media campaigns to educate recipients about the security of their

Electronic Benefit Transfer, or EBT, cards.

- Establish trainings for county offices to proactively prevent and recognize fraud during the application stages.

- Implement new features in EBT technology to reduce the impacts of stolen SNAP benefits through electronic methods, including card skimming, card cloning and other similar methods.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service works to end hunger and improve food and nu-

trition security through a suite of more than 16 nutrition assistance programs, such as the school breakfast and lunch programs, WIC and SNAP. Together, these programs serve 1 in 4 Americans over the course of a year, promoting consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food essential to optimal health and well-being. FNS also provides science-based nutrition recommendations through the co-development of the Dietary Guidelines

for Americans. FNS's report, "Leveraging the White House Conference to Promote and Elevate Nutrition Security: The Role of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service," highlights ways the agency will support the Biden-Harris Administration's National Strategy, released in conjunction with the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September 2022. To learn more about FNS, visit www.fns.usda.gov and follow @USDANutrition.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

ROCKS ALIVE! Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Acton Nature Center, 6900 Smoky Hill Court, Granbury, TX. Educational and fun interactive exhibits on

rocks, soil, water (on and below the surface), air/weather, and the sun. Special exhibit previewing the upcoming eclipses. Presented by Texas Master Naturalist, Rio Brazos Chapter. Sponsors and Partners: Acton Nature Center, Hood County Development District #1, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas AgriLife. Event information contact is

Melody Holm mholm@rio-brazosmn.org, 303-349-5531

OCTOBER

TUESDAY, OCT. 3

COME & Learn Social Square Dancing at the YMCA Tuesday evenings beginning Oct. 3 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This 14 week class is a family-friendly

class for 7th graders thru adults. For more information, text Sandi at 682-248-9292 or send an email to sandiknoyes@gmail.com

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting/luncheon Oct. 3 held at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. Come join us:

10:00 a.m. Social/Check-in -11:00 a.m. Entertainment/ For His Glory-Ray Scott & Lois Akers -Showtunes & Gospel Music, Short Business meeting - 11:30 a.m. Optional Lunch (\$18) - noon - House Salad, House made Lasagna, Broccoli, Breadsticks & Butter, Assorted Cookies, Coffee/Tea/Water Reservations required no later than

Friday, Sept. 29. Contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898. General Membership, single \$25.00, join \$35.00, Business Membership \$35.00. The Guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.




LakeFest

NOON - 10PM SEPT 30, 2023 FREE EVENT!



90s COUNTRY TRIBUTE STRAIGHT TEQUILA NIGHT



HIGH ENERGY COVER BAND TIME MACHINE



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Food Trucks, Vendors & Boat Rides at 12PM | Live Music 5PM - 9:30PM











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Once a Brawner, 'always a Brawner'



Brawner Elementary School Security Officer Steven Fowler, middle, presents a certificate and a plaque to the school following his return from Africa on his Navy deployment military assignment. He is pictured with Brawner Assistant Principal Julie Sellers, left, and Brawner Principal Sandy Ruiz, right.

Brawner Elementary School celebrates return of Officer Fowler

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Brawner Elementary School Security Officer Steven Fowler may have spent the past year giving back and serving his country in Africa — but the call of duty had nothing on the pride and joy he felt coming back to a school that means the world to him.

Last fall, the Navy Seabee traveled abroad to Djibouti Africa on a military assignment, where he was tasked with loading cargo such as vehicles, uniforms, and medical supplies onto large planes.

"While I was there, I got to go on a couple helicopter rides," Fowler said, during Brawner's school assembly on Sept. 15. "I got to do a couple snorkeling trips and got to go out of town and do coalitions to take stuff to other bases. I can't talk too much about what I did, though because I just signed a letter of confidentiality."

After being gone just shy of a full year, Fowler officially returned to Brawner on Monday, Sept. 11 — and he couldn't have been happier.

"I'm enjoying being back. I miss being here," Fowler told the HCN on Sept. 15. "I love this job, just the kids make it great, so being gone that year it was kind of depressing being away from all of them, but they did write me letters, so I enjoyed that, and I got to

hang up pictures that they had sent."

Before he left last year, the school presented Fowler with a Granbury Independent

School District "G" flag containing signatures from around 900 students. Once he arrived in Africa, he proudly displayed the flag on his wall so he could always remember where he came from.

"The welcome home and giving them hugs, it was overwhelming," he said. "I loved it and it almost brought tears to my eyes. I try not to cry, but it was nice.

I'm just feeling so welcomed and appreciated coming back and the kids missing me. It's hard to explain, but it's a feeling that not a lot of people will get to enjoy."

During Fowler's "Welcome Home" ceremony, he also presented students and faculty with a plaques that he designed himself in Africa using a woodworking program.

"The plaque is the shape of Africa, and it has my name and 'Brawner' presented on it," Fowler explained to the

really special place so that all of you (students) can see this every single day," Brawner Elementary School Principal Sandy Ruiz said during the ceremony. "Thank you, Officer Fowler. We're so glad you're back."

While Fowler was gone completing his military duties, Officer Chris Burke stepped in as his replacement.

"For the last almost year, when Fowler left for deployment, we had somebody step up in a really, really big way,"

"I'm enjoying being back. I miss being here. I love this job, just the kids make it great, so being gone that year it was kind of depressing being away from all of them, but they did write me letters, so I enjoyed that, and I got to hang up pictures that they had sent."

STEVEN FOWLER
Brawner School Security Officer

HCN. "The coin is my command coin that we had made over there, (and it also has) our Spartan helmet, and a titan helmet with tentacles coming out to represent our different jobs."

Fowler explained that he also flew a flag on a ship in Djibouti in honor of Brawner Elementary School, which in turn, earned a certificate that he presented to the school.

"We're gonna hang this in a

Brawner Assistant Principal Julie Sellers, said during the ceremony. "Officer Burke came in and served at Brawner. He has a very calm, very serious presence. That's something that I love about him. As a matter of fact, one of the first things I asked him was 'Hey Burke, were you ever a police officer in the military or something?' and he's like, 'No,' and I was like,

PLEASE SEE FOWLER | B8



Freshman members Bryson Carlock and Andrew Debellow of the Granbury High School bass club placed 15th out of 200 boats with a total of 7.27 pounds in the Texas High School Bass Association tournament at Lake Granbury on September 16.

Fishing Fever

Granbury High School Bass Club kicks off another season

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Granbury High School has a bass club where the students compete in tournaments against other fishing teams.

This is a high school program open to any high school student that started back in 2016. Since then, the program has grown tremendously, and the club has brought many anglers together.

The Granbury group competes in the west division where they go up against 37 other schools.

There are currently seven teams with 20 anglers and captains. Each team can practice as much as they want on their own.

In Texas there are nine regions with around 200 boats per region. Each team weighs in their best five fish at the end of each tournament to see who had the biggest catch.

Points are awarded at each tournament and regional qualification is based on total points for the year.

On Sept. 16 the season kicked off and two freshman members, including Andrew Debellow and Bryson Carlock, took 15th out of 200 boats in the Texas High School Bass Association tournament. The team totaled in at 7.27 pounds on Lake Granbury.

In March the club tied for 11th place out of 40 teams in the west division.

In December 2022, the team competed in the Texas High School Bass Association tournament and took home 15th place out of 205 teams with anglers Braidyn Creecy and Wesley Kitching.

Two teams also qualified for regionals last season including Hudson Hamilton, Grant Young, Wesley Kitching and Braidyn Creecy.

With such success thus far, the new president James Young is hopeful for what is to come.

"I'm looking forward to growing the program as I have a younger son and daughter that are interested in fishing," Young said.

The club's next tournament will take place at Lake Whitney on Oct. 21. The last qualifying tournament before regionals will take place on March 9 next year with regionals following on April 13.

For more information on becoming a sponsor for the team or any other inquiries contact Jody Brown at jody.brown@granburysd.org

Lipan family of soccer players creates community for youth to play

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Sept. 14 marks the first ever official soccer game played in Lipan for youth players.

Archie Martinez created a team in 2021 after his three-year-old daughter Presleigh wanted to start playing soccer.

Archie and his brother and sister grew up playing for the Granbury Soccer Association under the coaching of their father. His father was the one who suggested starting a team for the kids of Lipan.

Archie then reached out to the GSA to see about having Lipan teams play under their association.

"Once we got the approval from GSA, I asked none other than the best goalkeeper I have ever seen in person, my brother Fredi, to help me coach," Archie said. "At the age of 15 he was the #1

ranked goalkeeper in Texas."

Fredi was heavily recruited by collegiate teams and professional teams in Mexico like Club Leon and Las Chivas De Guadalajara and went to Georgia to play.

"Due to injuries mainly, he retired from soccer after playing on some professional development leagues, and Mexican amateur leagues," Archie said. "He and I found great success in the Mexican amateur soccer leagues, where my dad coached our team. We went seven seasons in a row winning first place, with my brother winning best goalkeeper, and I winning the leading goal scorer award in those seven seasons."

Ever since the start in 2021 the youth soccer community has gone from six kids to now almost 30 kids under the GSA. The five Lipan teams' range in age from five to eight currently.

"The team that we started

this off with is in their 5th season, and even though their scores don't really matter in the big picture, they are sure to remind us of their successes. In five seasons, and winning three tournaments, the Lipan Indians U6 Gold Team has 48 wins 2 ties and 2 losses," Archie said.

There is one U5 co-ed team, two U6 co-ed teams, and one U8 boys' team.

Each team plays 10 games per season and tournaments are optional. The teams will currently play only against the Granbury teams expect in tournaments. Once a player turns nine, they will be able to travel.

"The response has been great. The kids are improving, and having fun, and the crowds are getting bigger and bigger. The goal is to create teams for all the ages from U5 up to U8 and eventually try to create an actual Lipan club team for the

older kids. A Lipan ISD club team that only enters tournaments, so that their soccer season does not interfere with all their other fall and spring activities," Archie said. "Something similar to the schools fishing team, and BBQ clubs is the vision. Who knows, maybe in 10 years, we can have Lipan compete at the UIL level, like other 2A schools like Tatum and Tenaha for instance."

Archie noted that the GSA is also currently looking for sponsorships and volunteers in order to keep the league going strong.

If anyone is looking to help with volunteering or sponsorships, contact Lorrie Smethers at 817-243-0395.

Archie Martinez huddles with his soccer team during a game in 2021.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ZULLY ESPINOSA

Granbury coach alongside good friend at HOF induction

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

When it came time for his good friend Zach Thomas to enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame, a long-distance congratulations just wasn't good enough for Jody Brown.

So, the Granbury High boys cross country/track coach hit the road to Canton - Ohio, that is - to be alongside his buddy for one of the biggest moments of his life. The former NFL linebacker was among the inductees this year on Aug. 5 after waiting 10 years.

"It was a great honor to be in Canton and be a part of his weekend. Great memories were made," Brown said. "It's awesome to see one of the good guys have the success he had. He did it the right way, always gave credit to his teammates and was unselfish...you don't see that a lot in today's game. I couldn't be happier or any prouder of him. Truly a great dude!"

Thomas played for the Miami Dolphins from 1996-2007, for the Dallas Cowboys in 2008 and was on the Kansas City Chiefs' roster before a training camp concussion led to his retirement.

"It was great to have not only my good bud Jody there, but also other guys from Tech," Thomas said. "We had a great class at Tech and just a good bunch of guys."

HOW THEY MET

Brown and Thomas were in the same recruiting class at Texas Tech, in 1992. They were teammates for four years on the Red Raiders football team and have been friends ever since, along with his brother Bart Thomas.

"My first memories were being in the dorms at Tech in 1992, Weymouth Hall.

We were both from small towns (White Deer for Thomas and Cross Plains for Brown) and had pretty good high school careers," Brown recalled. "His older brother Bart was already at Tech playing. We all just hit it off pretty good. Bart later became my best friend. We used to travel in the summers to their parents' cabin in Colorado."

Thomas said his most memorable moments from their time together at Tech were "Battling together on defense and just hanging out and enjoying the college experience. Both of us were small town guys, so it was a big transition for us."

A transition they both made very well, both in life and on the field. After standing out as Red Raiders, they have each gone on to success in their separate career paths.

"Zach was as competitive as they came and one of the humblest people you will ever meet," Brown said. "He could diagnose a play faster than anyone I had been around. He usually had a step on everyone."

MEMORABLE PLAY

That included one particular play in which he accidentally hit Brown in the 1995 Copper Bowl against Air Force - a 55-41 Tech victory. Brown said it was the hardest hit he ever gave or received - and on this play he and Thomas did both.

"They (Air Force) ran that triple option stuff like they have for years, lead back tries to cut me outside, I played off his block and



Granbury Pirates cross country and track coach Jody Brown (right) celebrates with his good friend and former Texas Tech teammate Zach Thomas when Thomas was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame recently.

went to tackle the pitch guy," he remembered. "He ducked as I was zeroing in on him, then here comes Zach flowing from the inside. When the back ducked, we hit helmet-to-helmet, full-speed. We both bounced off each other.

Given that Brown himself was an All-Big 12 defensive back in 1996 and was later inducted into the Big Country Hall of Fame, that must have been some hit - and indeed, he said it was.

"I think I saw stars for two weeks after that," Brown said with a chuckle. "I still have the video clip and will send it out every once in a while, for a good laugh."

FIRST TRIP TO CANTON

Brown had never been to Canton before going with his friend. He called it an incredible experience with a friendly, small town feel

like the one he's from and the one in which he lives now in Granbury.

"The NFL spares no expense, first class all the way. You can feel the history and nostalgia," he said. "The best part was being with some former teammates and good friends from Tech. There were 10 of us at his induction speech and private party.

"We were all in tears when he came out and gave his speech. It's like we were all being inducted with him. Those friendships and bonds you form in the locker room are special."

Despite being far apart physically, their friendship has never wavered. In fact, before Brown made the trip to Canton, Thomas remembers when Brown was honored, and he was so happy for his friend.

"We've both been very busy with family, and we've

lived halfway across the country from each other for almost three decades now, but we still stay in touch," Thomas said. "I was able to congratulate him on his induction into the [Big Country] Hall of Fame a few years ago and it was sure good to see him in Canton.

"There are so many fun times we've had through the years. We will always be close."

Being a coach, Brown said it was hard to get to Miami for games, so he was happy to see his friend join the Cowboys, even if it was only for a season. But in person or watching on TV from afar, Brown was always cheering for Thomas.

"It was always fun to watch him on that stage," he said. "Zach definitely deserves the honor. His NFL stats speak for themselves. I thought it was a little overdue, but it's all timing."



Susan Moore

'Smile like Susan'

AES honors late teacher at GISD board meeting

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hearts were heavy and filled with love during the Granbury Independent School District's regularly scheduled board meeting on Sept. 18, when Acton Elementary School Principal Maggie Walton presented a heartfelt speech about a beloved fourth grade teacher who passed away last month.

Before leading the public in the pledges to the U.S. and the Texas Flags, AES staff and family of Susan Moore gathered to honor the late teacher's dedication and passion for education.

"Susan was a respected teacher and an integral part of our AES family," Walton said, during the board meeting. "Anytime you walked by her classroom, you saw her doing what she did best, which was loving and leading her students well."

According to a Facebook post from AES on Aug. 21, Moore had been with Granbury ISD since 2021 and was quoted as being a "passionate educator, a dedicated staff member, and a trusted friend."

"To know Susan was to love her and you could not see her big smile without smiling, and in return she was known for her smile," Walton said. "One of our staff members made stickers with the slogan 'Smile like Susan,' in honor of her and we brought one for each (board member) tonight."

Although the campus was affected by such a profound loss, Walton said staff members and teachers stepped up and proved their "steadfast commitment to this profession," — proving the quote by Richard Evans that "it is often in the darkest skies that we will see the brightest stars."

"In the hours, days, and weeks following Susan's

PLEASE SEE **BOOSTER** | B3

PLEASE SEE **MOORE** | B7

Pirate football's unsung heroes

The Granbury High School Football Booster Club

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

The excitement and mystique of Friday Night Lights are literally woven into the fabric of life for most people throughout the State of Texas. In even the smallest communities, the pomp and production value of each week's football games rival that of a Rock

and Roll concert tour!

In Granbury, as in most towns across Texas, the Pirate Football team isn't just a group of young athletes but a symbol of community pride and resilience. While the players and coaches put in the hours on the field, there's a dedicated team off the field that works tirelessly to ensure they have everything they need.

Enter the Granbury High School Football Booster Club.

Leading the charge of this commendable effort is the club's president, Scott Wyss; Sarah Riley - Vice President; Kelly Meyer - Secretary; and Damon Cumba - Treasurer. Wyss has dedicated four years to the Football Booster Club, working alongside an army of passionate parents

and community members to uplift and support the GHS football program.


"The Booster club is made up of parents of players at the high school," said Wyss. "We have roughly 50 members."

But these aren't just any parents. They're individuals who sincerely believe in the value of

GRANBURY ISD ELECTION 2023

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR DISTRICT HASN'T BUILT A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SINCE 1996 ... A LOT HAS CHANGED IN 27 YEARS!

 GRANBURYISD.ORG/ELECTION2023


GRANBURY DOOR+WINDOW
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- Design a scarecrow at your home or business.
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- 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

The PRCAC is working to support and heal abused youth

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Paluxy River Children's Association Center (PRCAC) has been around since 2006 and has been working to support those 18 and under who have faced abuse in Hood County. The center provides many services, all of which are at no charge.

"The PRCAC's mission is to promote healing of child abuse one child at a time," Margaret Cohenour Executive Director of the center said. "The PRCAC coordinates a multi-disciplinary team that represents law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, child protective services, forensic interviewers, and family advocates. The PRCAC has specially trained forensic interviewers whose purpose is to provide an unbiased, fact-finding interview."

The center also has family advocates that provide resources to the non-offending parent/caregiver and makes referrals as needed as well as counseling program with licensed master's level counselors.

"Healing can sometimes be accomplished in a short amount of time; sometimes the abuse is severe and may take a very long time to heal," Cohenour noted.

According to Cohenour,

the center provided 2,340 counseling sessions last year. There are many counseling services available at the center including individual therapy, play therapy, trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing.

Individual therapy sessions focus on helping victims of abuse communicate with their family about what happened to them as well as their feelings. Parents also are able to engage in parent consultations with a counselor to learn how to help their family members and reduce the risk of any future abuse.

Play therapy allows children to express their emotions using toys, art and make believe. They can experiment with finding solutions, with having things turn out the way they want, and can also have experiences that assist them in regaining their sense of personal power.

Trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy is a phase-based psychotherapy for children ages four to 18 that have experienced trauma. Clients and their caregivers work through each phase to conquer coping skills, identify problematic thought processes, and find bravery to tell their story and find hope in the future.



COURTESY PHOTO

The PRCAC's mission is to promote healing of child abuse one child at a time.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing involves eye movements during therapy, where the eye focuses on an object that moves from side to side. EMDR helps people use both sides of the brain to help process negative images, emotions, beliefs, and body sensations associated with traumatic memories.

According to Cohenour, "Indicators of child abuse may include but are not limited to unexplained injuries, changes in behavior, returning to earlier behaviors, fear of certain places or people, changes in eating, changes in sleeping, changes in school

performance and attendance, lack of personal care or hygiene, risk taking behaviors, inappropriate sexual behaviors - some signs are more obvious than others. Trust your instincts - suspected abuse is enough of a reason to contact the authorities. One way we can all help a child is to listen to them. If a child outcries, remain calm, believe the child and allow them to talk, reassure and support their feelings. Don't panic or overreact or press the child to talk. Don't promise anything you cannot control. Do not confront the offender, do not blame or minimize the child's feel-

ings or overwhelm the child with questions. Remember you are obligated by law to report suspected child abuse."

Cohenour noted that in Hood County, there is a Child Exploitation Unit that responds to allegations of abuse. There is a hotline available if you suspect abuse at 800-252-5400.

The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center is preparing to hold an event at the Hood County Public Library titled "An Adult's Guide to Keeping Kids Safe Online" on Sept. 25.

Cohenour added that one of the top issues that youth

is facing is online safety, hence the reason for the creation of the event at the Hood County Library.

"Children/youth share too much information, their accounts are public, they develop fake relationships with fake profiles. Children are being groomed online which sometimes leads to setting up an actual face to face meeting. Sextortion is another significant issue - kids sharing photos online then being blackmailed for money or more photos or videos," Cohenour said. "They are ashamed and afraid to tell their parents. Part of online safety is helping parents know how to approach their kids in a way that isn't punitive and shuts them down, but in a way that creates open dialogue which will encourage children to talk to them."

The event at the library will include a presentation that will address the pitfalls of popular websites and apps, red flags to recognize predators online, cyberbullying, and practical tools and resources for monitoring your child's digital usage.

There will also be food as well as a movie in the children's room for school-aged children.

The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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BOOSTER

FROM PAGE B2

sports in molding young minds and championing their community spirit. The club's primary aim is fundraising, acting as the financial backbone for the Pirate Football team. From purchasing helmets for the senior class, updating game jerseys and pants, to ensuring the team never plays on an empty stomach with pre-game meals during home games, the Booster Club has it covered. Additionally, they put together game-day programs and an end-of-year banquet and fervently promote the team within the community.

Their mission statement reflects this commitment: "To support the coaching staff, players, and football community in achieving athletic excellence on and off the field while providing a mechanism to raise funds and instill a sense of public camaraderie."

"I am grateful for our Granbury Touchdown club and the work they do for our young men and our program," said Head Coach Sonny Galindo. "The work these parents and volunteers are doing is clearly in line with our program's vision of building young men into good citizens, fathers, and persons in general. I'm also excited that they are growing in membership numbers this season. I would hope we can reach upwards of 100 members soon."

Focused on supporting Pirate Football Players, the Booster Club operates with a clear goal: to ensure the team's success and well-being. Moreover, the club is recognized as a 501c3 non-profit, making contributions to the organization tax-deductible.

Community support is the lifeblood of the Booster Club's operations. Through generous donations from individuals and businesses, the club has facilitated numerous initiatives.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved and champion the Pirate Football team, from golf tournament sponsorships to banquet sponsorships to game day promotions.

"We encourage anyone who wishes to attend our monthly meetings and to be involved as much as they want," remarked Wyss. "We will have our yearly elections in December after our football banquet."

For those in the Granbury community, here's an open invitation: step up, set sail, and become a part of the thrilling journey of the Pirate Football team. By supporting the Football Booster Club, you're not just backing a team but fostering a legacy of sporting excellence and community pride. You can follow Granbury Pirates Touchdown Club on Facebook for updated information.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Sept. 16 (Puzzle 48).

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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ANC to host 'Introduction to Backyard Composting' lecture Oct. 1



COURTESY OF KRISTINA DEL PINO BORGSTROM

Master Naturalist Kristina Del Pino Borgstrom instructs a student on how to read the temperature of the compost pile. Borgstrom will be giving a lecture on "Introduction to Backyard Composting" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center, 6430 Smokey Hill Ct.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hood County residents will soon learn how to become a partner with the environment after listening to Acton Nature Center's "Introduction to Backyard Composting" lecture set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Opal Durant Acton Community Center, 6430 Smokey Hill Ct.

Hosted by Master Naturalist Kristina Del Pino Borgstrom, community members will learn how to compost around their own home.

Composting is a controlled, aerobic (oxygen-required) process that converts organic materials into a nutrient-rich soil amendment or mulch through natural decomposition, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The end product is compost - a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling material.

"People are always looking to see what they can do with their food scraps or lawn scraps, so it's fun to kind of educate folks on what they can do with their waste material other than putting it in the garbage can to go to a landfill," Borgstrom said. "With this presentation, I'm really aiming to just introduce people to what composting is. I think some folks really like the idea but getting started can be hard, so I'll be kind of introducing them to the fun science that goes into composting."

Back in 2021, Borgstrom had taught composting in a homeschool class and the children got the opportunity to start a compost container at the Acton Nature Center.

"Each homeschool session would be able to put their food

scraps in there and the kids would be the ones in charge to help maintain the compost system as part of their curriculum— that's kind of where our local area got started," she said.

According to the ANC flyer about the composting lecture, over 50% of the waste we produce can be diverted from a landfill, either by recycling it or composting it.

"What I kind of hope to do in the class as well is introduce folks to all these different systems where there's composting available," Borgstrom said. "If you live in an apartment and small house or if you have a large plot of land, there's something that everyone can do."

Borgstrom, who currently works as an animal care specialist at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, said composting also reveals "fun little critters" that live in compost piles like the Armadillidium vulgare or roly polys.

"My husband also has gotten really into roly polys, and so those are also good composting organisms to use for small scale systems," she said. "I'll probably have some of those as well for people to see, just some examples of critters that you can find in your compost system."

Composting for Borgstrom all began as a hobby when she was attending college at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Wisconsin.

"It's a big natural resource school, and within that we had a student organization called the Green Team," she said. "Soil science was one of the majors that they offered at that university, and so as just a student leader in the community, we kind of created this Green Team ef-

PLEASE SEE ANC | B5



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury High School Choir students competed in the first round of the All-State Choir auditions on September 16.

Granbury High School Choir students hope to make it into All State Choir

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Forty-nine Granbury High School students competed in the first round of auditions for a chance to advance to the next round as part of the All-State Choir auditions.

In the first round of auditions there were over 700 students in the region who auditioned, and GHS had 18 vocalists advance to round two.

There are four rounds of auditions. Each student's audition is about three minutes long where they sing a pre-selected cut from each of their three pieces for the audition. The student finds out the same day of the audition if they advanced to the next round and can hear the judge's feedback.

The district audition takes the top 40 girls and the top 22 boys. Round two, three and four students must sight sing a music example they have never seen before. They get 30 seconds to look at it and practice and use their method of

choice and then sing the selection and are scored on accuracy in pitch and rhythm.

Region is where the top 12 singers for each part advance to round three. Pre-Area is round three where the top five singers in each voice part advance to the final round of auditions. For Area, the top five singers from four regions come together to compete for chairs in the all-state choir. At the final audition, the top four singers and placed in the Texas All-State Mixed Choir, five to ten are for the sopranos/altos that are placed into the women's choir and five to 10 are apart of the tenors/bases that will be in the tenor/bass choir.

"There are approximately 256 students in the All-State Mixed Choir: approximately 180 kids in the All-State Tenor-Bass and All-State Treble Choirs. Over 15,000 kids across the state of Texas will begin the audition process, so it is a very small percentage of

students that actually earns a place in one of the choirs. It is a big accomplishment for those that are able to make one of the choirs," Kendra Fisher GHS Choir Director said.

"The prep work for these auditions begins in the summer for a lot of kids. They attend All-State Choir Camps in the summer to begin learning their music," Fisher said. "We also start rehearsals at our school in the summer to help kids begin preparing their music for auditions. Once school starts, we practice before and after school, or sometimes do sectionals during choir classes to help students learn their music. There are students who work on this music with private voice lesson instructors as well."

Fisher noted that these auditions make a great place for students to meet kids from all over that make life-long friendships.

"In addition, participating in these auditions makes our students better singers

whether they advance or not, just from the rigorous learning that takes place in the process. The kids also gain valuable life skills like performing under pressure and performing in public, accepting criticism and praise appropriately, and many more important transferable skills," Fisher added.

Region auditions for round two will take place on Oct. 7 at Centennial High School in Burleson.

The students who advanced to round two include Soprano ones Cameron Magat, Audrey Ann McKee, Alana Miler, and Grace Belvins. Alto ones include Anna Sommerfeld, Adyson Page, and Tara Moon. Bass ones include Aidan Lemens and Ryan Weibe. Bass twos include Aidan Fisher and Bryce Young. Tenor ones include Kaleb Cover, Pete O'Carroll, and Zachary Mitchell. Tenor twos include Jackson Powell, Landon Areno, Aidon Felton and Gavin Torres.

LADY PIONEERS VS WESTLAKE ACADEMY



The Lady Pioneer volleyball team lost in the fourth set against Westlake Academy Saturday, Sept. 12.

COURTESY PHOTO BY AELA BARAHIRA.

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PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cleburne Yellow Jackets No. 6 Luke Stewart getting pushed to the first down during the game Friday night.

SPORTS

Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Halfway through the season, the Granbury Pirates have an off night this coming Friday, before returning to play at Midlothian on Friday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

The Pirates took a 3-1 overall record and a 1-1 mark in District 4-5A Division I into their home game against Killeen (3-0, 1-0) last night. Midlothian (3-11, 2-0) was hosting Cleburne at press time and will face Killeen Friday, Sept. 29 before tangling with the Pirates.

The Pirates entered last night's game looking for a bounce back performance after being shocked 13-6 at Cleburne on Sept. 15.

Halston Main scored Granbury's lone touchdown on a 32-yard run - his lone carry - after Cleburne had built a 13-0 halftime lead.

On defense, linebacker Rylan Brenish led with 11 tackles, including two for a loss, while defensive end Chase Cantrell had 10 tackles.

"Hats off to Cleburne and the coaching staff for playing a good game. As for us, it comes down to penalties killing offensive momentum coupled with turnovers and missed assignments," Granbury coach Sonny Galindo said. "Defensively, we did not get off the bus ready to play. Our second-half defense gave us several chances to win, so kudos to the staff and coach (Luke) Barnes for adjustments.

"Our kids will learn from this, rally around each other and still uphold our expectations to work hard, play for each other and treat the game with respect. This is a quality group of young men, and they will respond."

On the season the Pirates were being led offensively through their first four games by their running game that is averaging 258 yards. Running back Tyler Rodgers had 336 yards and five touchdowns. Quarterback Hayden Meyer had 257 yards and five TD and running back Jadon

Rogers had 215 yards and five TD.

Brenish and Cantrell each had 34 tackles to lead the defense, including three for a loss by Brenish. Overall, the defense was surrendering 215 yards per game, with just 73 coming through the air, while forcing nine turnovers opposite seven of their own.

Quarterback Drew Wendel leads the Midlothian offense, completing around 65% of his passes and had nine TD throws opposite a single interception through four games. Bryant Wesco (22 catches, 308 yards, 8 TD) is his top receiver and Michael Garber (62 carries, 312 yards, 4 TD) leads the running game.

The Panthers defense features linebacker Beau Wendel (20 tackles, 4 for loss, 2 sacks) and end Jack Ashley (17 tackles, 3 for loss).

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers had a night off this week after disposing of Comanche 41-18 on Sept. 15. Now, they prepare to open defense of their District 5-2A Division I championship when they open league play at Hamilton on Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

The Rattlers (3-1) also moved back up two spots in Dave Campbell's state rankings. They are No. 3 in Class 2A Division I.

The Rattlers made short work of Comanche as quarterback Isaac Blessing had his best game yet as the starter. He completed nine of 16 passes for 126 yards and an 88-yard touchdown pass to Garrison Nation, along with rushing 13 times for 146 yards and two more TD.

Nation also had a rushing touchdown, as did Clayton Stembbridge and Kelvin Murray.

Jaxon Riddle led the de-

fense with 13 tackles, while Hunter Michels had 12 and Drake Owens posted 10.

"Our kids and coaches did a tremendous job of responding this past week after coming up short the week prior. The guys had a great week of preparation and did a great job of carrying that over into Friday night," Tolar coach Jeremy Mullins said. "Comanche is a good football team, and they are going to win a lot of games this year.

"It was good to see us execute well against a solid team. We've still got a lot of areas to sharpen up before we are where we want to be. We will use this open week to work on some of those smaller details as well as get our legs back under us."

Hamilton (3-1) was opening district play last night at San Saba.

No individual statistics were available for Hamilton. Through four games the Bulldogs had outscored their opponents 124-34, with the majority of those points surrendered in a 20-7 season-opening loss to Millsap.

Entering last night, Hamilton's defense had posted shutouts in two of the Bulldogs' past three games. Meanwhile, the offense had outings of 55 and 42 points.

The Rattlers are led offensively by Blessing (328 yards, 3 TD passing; 334 yards, 5 TD rushing). Wide receiver Matthew Behrens has 10 of the team's 28 receptions for 131 yards.

Defensively, Riddle leads with 42 tackles, Owens has 30 and Michels and Nation have 29 each. Stembbridge has four interceptions.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

After having an open date to end this past week, the Lady Pirates returned to play on Tuesday, Sept. 19 with a 3-1 win in a District 5-5A match at Brewer.

Leading Granbury (11-20, 2-1 in district) were Rachel Poirer (17 kills, 2 aces, 8 digs) and Allyson McCabe (4 aces, 43 assists).

The Lady Pirates were hosting Northwest last night and



Number 21 Tyler Rodgers, making a dive over fellow pirate during the game Friday night against the Cleburne Yellow Jackets

will host Azle Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers swept their match at Strawn, 3-0, on Sept. 16 and followed with a 3-1 setback against visiting Trinity Valley on Sept. 19.

Abbie Soileau served six aces to lead the offense against Strawn, while Maddie Rue's play at the net was also praised by coach Misty Rhodes. Against Trinity Valley, -----.

Tolar (14-12) will return to the court when they travel to Clifton for a 7 p.m. match on Sept. 26.

GRANBURY CROSS COUNTRY

Freshman Jaxon Glenn led Granbury in the Paschal Invitational on Sept. 16, finishing eighth among 211 runners. Glenn clocked a time of 16 minutes, 46.74 seconds over the 5K course.

As a team, the Pirates were 12th, while the Lady Pirates were 11th.

Another freshman, Kambry Zschiesche, paced the Lady Pirates, finishing 23rd with a time of 21:20 over 5K.

Also, for the Granbury varsity girls, Emery Kirby, 53rd; Alexie Patrick, 58th; Aubrey Ward, 75th; Josefina Berry, 89th; Presley Davis, 107th; and Karolina Berry, 127th.

Also, for the varsity Pirates, Bryce Young, 57th; Aiden Turpin, 73rd; Alec Wilkinson, 92nd; Bryan Hailey, 102nd; Jacob Wolfe, 116th; Kolden Rand, 131; and Rylan Fleming, 168th.

Samuel Valdez had the top finish for the JV Pirates, finishing 19th with a time of 19:31.47. The JV Lady Pirates were led by Ziva Sedgwick, who finished 36th.

The Pirates and Lady Pirates were competing in the Birdville Flying Hawk Invitational at press time. They host their own Race for the Loot on Friday, Sept. 29 at the Granbury Disc Golf Course at 8:30 a.m.

LIPAN/TOLAR CROSS COUNTRY

The Lipan Lady Indians varsity finished fourth in their own 16th Annual Lipan Indian Invitational meet on Sept. 13. Meanwhile, the Indians placed ninth among varsity boys.

Jacy Bolton paced the Lady Indians, taking 13th over the 3200-meter course with a time of 12:38.07. Annslee Tarpley was 16th, clocking a 12:45.24. Also, Taylor Branson was 28th and Kinsley Robinson was 30th and Ashlyn Clark was 53rd.

Court Gaylor led the Indians, placing 14th over the 5K course with a time of 17:42. Colby Scott was 38th and Wyatt Yates was 42nd.

The Tolar varsity boys were led by Hunter Keith in 43rd place. The Lady Rattlers were led by Bailey Gammons in 60th place.

The Lipan JV girls were also fourth, topped by Addiline Lawrence, who was fourth in 13:32.87.

GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates began the fall season by hosting their own Fall Classic at Harbor Lakes Sept. 15-16.

The Lady Pirates had a two-day total of 757 (389-368).

Akyah Ditto paced Granbury, shooting a 169 (87-82), followed by Halle Carr with a 176 (90-86). Also, Claire Jordan shot 200 (104-96), Ariel Jimenez shot 212

(108-104) and Grace Jimenez had a 225 (115-110).

The four lowest scores in each round comprise the team total.

The Lady Pirates varsity returns to competition at the Argyle Eagle Invitational at Wildhorse Golf Club at Robson Ranch in Denton Oct. 20-21.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The fall portion of the Pirates' season got underway Sept. 15-16 at the Bart Granger Memorial at Pecan Valley Golf Course in Fort Worth. The tournament, named after the late Paschal High golfer who died in a car wreck in 1997, is normally 54 holes, but was shortened to 36 after inclement weather earlier in the week.

It featured 48 teams, including many of the top programs throughout the state.

The Pirates shot 662 as a team, posting a 336 on the first day and 326 on the second. They were led by Landon Womack with a 155 (77-78), followed by Brayden Thackerson (87-83 = 170), Quinn Bradley (91-80 = 171), Koltan Montoya (85-87 = 172) and Jacob Reagan (87-85 = 172).

The four lowest scores in each round comprise the team total.

The varsity Gold is in the Glen Rose Invitational this weekend. The varsity Purple and Gold will host the Briggs Berry Memorial tournament at Pecan Plantation Country Club on Oct. 2.

The tournament is named in honor of the former Pirate golfer who passed away in 2014 at the age of 18 from a rare immune deficiency disorder.

ANC

FROM PAGE B4

fort to kind of really hype up recycling and compost within student living and then working with the soil science department to create an onsite compost facility for students to use. It was fun, just kind of getting people to understand like, 'Where does your food go afterwards?' and 'How can it be used differently?' It gave a

purpose to your food scraps, so it's where professionally some of my interests developed there."

One of her favorite activities for both kids and adults, she said, is where she gathers different samples from the compost piles at Fossil Rim and allows volunteers to inspect the piles to show how they can change over time.

"We have what's called windrows, and they're these long piles of decaying plant

material and animal poop, and you kind of just set them up in different aged piles," Borgstrom explained. "Over time, you'll go from something that's really smelly, and you can identify some of the plant material or poop that's in that pile, and over time, bacteria and microorganisms and macro-organisms break that down into a finished soil product. It's called hummus, and after it's all digested by those organisms, it really doesn't

have any smell to it, so it's not really stinky, it's just kind of like this fresh, earthy smell.

"For kids, I like to get different samples of the different age compost for them to dig into — if they're brave enough, smell it — and kind of really see how those products are broken down over time because that's really where a lot of our plants come from too."

Borgstrom added that she is excited for the lecture and hopes to inspire people to

continue to learn more about composting.

"Hopefully they won't be as afraid of it or don't think it's as smelly or stinky so that they might be intrigued to start their own little system," she said. "If it's a worm bin that they keep indoors or if they're ambitious enough to start an outside pile in their backyard, (I want to) really open them up to the science behind it and to get a greater appreciation for what com-

posting is and what all those bacteria and organisms out in nature really do for us."

For those who cannot make it to the lecture, they can register for the Zoom link by emailing actonnaturecenter@gmail.com.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texan Volleyball ends Dr. Pam Littleton Classic 3-0

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University Volleyball takes down Texas Southern and UMES to complete their time in the Dr. Pam Littleton Classic Sept 15-Sept 16.

After a win over UC Riverside to finish out day one of tournament play, the Texans sweep the Tigers of Texas Southern and defeat the Hawks from UMES to complete the weekend's action.

TARLETON 3 TEXAS SOUTHERN 0

In set one, the Texans saw the first two points on the board after an error from the Texans followed by a service ace from Dallas Balanay-Flores. A kill from Breanna McDonough put up the first point for Tarleton State. Rajini Fitzmaurice responded with a kill to tally point two for the Purple and White and another kill from McDonough gave the Texans the lead, 3-2. A kill from Chenise Cook and a few errors from Tarleton State gave Texas Southern a three-point lead. An error from the Tigers followed by back-to-back kills from Fitzmaurice put the Texans ahead 11-8. The Purple and White held the lead for the remainder of the set. A kill from Allison Bryant followed by two errors from Texas Southern put up the final points for Tarleton State ending the set, 25-18.

The second stanza began with a kill from Amber Johnson to put the Tigers on the board first. Texas Southern was up 3-2 until a kill from McDonough sent Tarleton State on an eight-score run with two kills from McDonough, two kills from Madison Frank, and a kill from Bryant to put the Purple and White up 9-3. The Texans kept the fire burning and held the lead for the rest of the frame. Another four-score run saw Tarleton State put up the 22nd point making the score 22-15. A kill from Fitzmaurice followed by a block from Emma Burke and Grayson Schirpik tallied the next two points for the Texans. The set point for the Purple and White came from a service error on Texas Southern.

The third and final set of

the match saw a kill from Fitzmaurice claim the first point for Tarleton State. An error from the Texans put the Texans up 2-0. A kill from Kennedy Reed tallied point one for TSU. Burke responded with a kill to put up another point for the Purple and White. An error from Tarleton State and a kill from Johnson tied the set at three. Bryant took back the lead for the Texans, but Johnson added another point to the board for Texas Southern with a kill to even the score. A kill from Schirpik put Tarleton State ahead, where they stayed for the remainder of the frame. Reed and Kourtnei Collier took turns adding points to the board for TSU, but the Texans held their own. Schirpik put down another kill beginning a five-score run for the Purple and White making the score 22-11. Fitzmaurice and Burke both added kills to see the 23rd and 24th point for Tarleton State and an error from the Tigers put up the set point for the Texans with a 25-16 final.

Tarleton State tallied 43 kills, 38 digs, eight blocks and seven aces on the match. Fitzmaurice led the Texans with 13 kills. Bryant and Burke tied in second for kills with seven each. Fitzmaurice and Burke saw three aces each and Matti Theurer tallied an ace as well. Burke led the Purple and White with five blocks while Fitzmaurice and Frank compiled three apiece. Hodges led in assists with 20 and Melina Maldonado Ortiz racked up 14. Fitzmaurice and Theurer tied for most digs with eight each and Hodges saw six of her own.

TARLETON STATE 3 UMES 1

In set one, the UMES Hawks came out strong with three kills and an error from Tarleton State to put the Texans down 4-0. An error from the Hawks gave the Purple and White their first point of the stanza and a kill from Bryant tallied point two. The Texans were down by seven but some fight from



STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University Volleyball takes down Texas Southern and UMES to complete their time in the Dr. Pam Littleton Classic Sept. 15 and 16.

Tarleton State and a kill from Bryant began a six-score run to put the Texans up 16-15. In a back-and-forth battle, each team took turns putting down kills and collecting errors until two kills from Anjola Omolewa and an error from Tarleton State put the Hawks up 23-20. The Purple and White replied with a four-score run to take the lead. A kill from Nkemjika Ikemefuna tied the set 24-24. Frank put down a kill for the Texans and an error from UMES saw the set end 26-24 with Tarleton State on top.

The Purple and White claimed the first point of the second set with a kill from Fitzmaurice. An error from the Texans added a point for the Hawks. Tarleton State quickly responded with a kill from Fitzmaurice to begin a six-point score run with a kill and an ace from Fitzmaurice, two kills from Bryant, a kill from Burke and a block from Burke and McDonough to put Tarleton State in the lead 7-1. After a kill from Bryant, UMES put up five consecutive points with three kills from Soleil Cotton and two aces from Ikemefuna leaving UMES trailing by one point. Bryant laid down another kill making

the score 13-11, but back-to-back kills from the Hawks tied the frame. Fitzmaurice and Schirpik contributed two kills and a service ace from Theurer put the Texans ahead by three. A service ace from Ranyla Griggs followed by several errors from Tarleton State gave the lead to UMES. As the Purple and White were down 17-20, a couple of errors from the Hawks and back-to-back service aces from Fitzmaurice put the Texans ahead, 21-20. A kill from McDonough tied the set at the 22nd point but Ikemefuna responded with a kill to regain the lead for UMES. An error from Tarleton State followed by a service ace from Ikemefuna finalized the second stanza with a score of 25-23 for the Hawks.

In the third set, a kill from Griggs tallied the first point for UMES. The Texans responded with a kill and service ace from Fitzmaurice followed by an attack error from the Hawks and another kill from Bryant to make the score 4-1. Several errors from the Purple and White accompanied by a service ace and two kills from UMES put the Hawks up, 8-5. Tarleton State battled back with a kill from Fitzmaurice tying the set 12-

12. Both teams took turns laying down kills until a kill from McDonough followed by an error from UMES and a kill from Frank claimed the lead for the Purple and White, 20-18. Omolewa and Griggs put down several kills for the Hawks, but it wasn't enough to take down the Texans. Two kills from Fitzmaurice and a kill from Frank tallied the final points for Tarleton State ending the set, 25-22.

The fourth and final stanza began with a kill from Cotton to tally point one for UMES. McDonough responded with a kill for Tarleton State. A kill and service ace from Burke followed by two attack errors from the Hawks put the Purple and White up, 6-2. Although UMES fought back, the Texans held the lead for the rest of the frame. Schirpik, Burke and Fitzmaurice each put down a kill and Burke tallied a block for a four-score run for the Purple and White, putting the Texans ahead, 16-7. The Hawks added a couple kills and service aces in an effort to close the gap but the fight from Tarleton State was unmatched. The Purple and White raced to the finish line with a seven-score run made up of three aces from Burke,

kills from Burke, Frank and Bryant as well as a block from McDonough and Frank for the addition of the 24th point for the Texans. McDonough claimed the match point for Tarleton State with a kill finalizing set four, 25-13.

The Purple and White racked up 52 kills, 46 digs, 11 blocks and a new season-high of 12 service aces on the match. Fitzmaurice and Bryant tied for most kills with 13 each and Schirpik compiled eight on the nightcap. Burke led the team with six aces, while Fitzmaurice racked up four and Theurer two. Burke, Fitzmaurice and Theurer each reached a new season high in aces in the match against UMES. Burke and McDonough tied with five blocks to lead the Texans followed closely by Frank with four of her own. Maldonado Ortiz led Tarleton State with 22 assists and Hodges sat in second with 21. Theurer had 11 digs on the night, Hodges finished with nine and Fitzmaurice with five.

Tarleton State completed the second annual Dr. Pam Littleton Classic 3-0 and the team added new season-highs in several categories

Red Raiders take advantage of early Texan miscues

Tarleton State University

LUBBOCK — All eyes were on the highly anticipated Tarleton State-Texas Tech matchup in Lubbock, Texas on Sept 16, as the 2-0 Texans tried to send the 0-2 Red Raiders to their first 0-3 start in over 50 years.

But the Red Raiders took advantage of early Texan miscues to jump out to a hot start and never looked back, upending Tarleton State 41-3 at Jones AT&T Stadium Saturday night.

The Texans (2-1, 1-0 UAC) were facing their second ever Power Five conference opponent, a year after taking on TCU in Fort Worth, a Horned Frog team that eventually played in the College Football Playoff national championship game. The Red Raiders (1-2, 0-0 Big 12) had suffered close losses in 2023 before beating the Texans, dropping a road contest at Wyoming 35-33 in double overtime, then a 38-30 defeat in their home opener against No. 13 Oregon.

It was a sellout crowd of 56,200 in Lubbock for the Tarleton State-Texas Tech game Saturday, and the energy was palpable throughout all 60 minutes.



The 2-0 Texans tried to send the 0-2 Red Raiders to their first 0-3 start in over 50 years, but the Red Raiders took advantage of early Texan miscues to jump out to a hot start and never looked back.

The Texans made an impression right out of the gate, as Josh Griffis sacked Texas Tech QB Tyler Shough on their first play of the game. Tarleton forced a three-and-out on their first defensive series.

On the ensuing drive, however, Texan quarterback Victor Gabalis was

intercepted on 3rd and 7 by Malik Dunlap, his first of two interceptions in the game, and returned it 54 yards for a touchdown to put the Red Raiders ahead 7-0 about two-and-a-half minutes in.

After the Red Raiders forced a three-and-out on Tarleton's next possession, Texas Tech put together a 64-

yard scoring drive to go up 14-0 nearly seven minutes in on a Shough two-yard rush.

Again, the Red Raiders, and again struck on their ensuing drive, this time a 68-yard march capped off by a Shough 28-yard throw to Mason Tharp with 4:36 to play in the first. Texas Tech

led 21-0 after one.

The Texan defense limited the Red Raiders from there, allowing just a field goal through the rest of the half, as the teams entered the locker rooms with the score 24-0.

Tarleton got things moving more in the second half, but drives just stalled at the end. Texas Tech added a field goal and a 15-yard touchdown, Behren Morton to Myles Price, in the third quarter to lead 34-0. In the fourth, Morton found Jordan Brown from five yards out to go up 41-0. Tarleton kicker/punter Adrian Guzman made a 21-yard field goal with five minutes to play to avoid the shutout.

Gabalis completed 21-of-40 passes for 182 yards, with three interceptions on the night. Tarleton's third running back Caleb Lewis ended up leading the backs with 67 yards on 11 carries (6.1 yards per rush), with Derrel Kelley III adding 45 yards on 10 attempts, and Kayvon Britten 40 yards on nine attempts.

Benjamin Omayebu set a new career-high in receptions with 12, going for 76 yards. Jaden Smith had four receptions for 62 yards.

Smith had to leave the game in the fourth quarter, just a

couple of plays after making a spectacular one-handed grab. He was transported to the hospital for further evaluation on a neck injury, and as of this publication, he was undergoing testing but had full neurological function.

Defensively, the Texans had three sacks on the night, one each by Griffis, Kyle Taylor and Ahmir Crowder. Les Odimara had a late fourth quarter interception. Blake Smith had a tied-team-high seven tackles to go with a pass breakup. Patrick Jones also had seven tackles, six in solo fashion. Griffis added another tackle for loss to his sack to finish with 2.0 TFL.

Tarleton ended up with more passing yards than Tech, 197 to 195, but the Red Raiders had the ground game going, rushing for 221 (5.7 YPC) compared to the Texans' 145 (4.0 YPC).

Tarleton State now returns to non-Power Five conference play for the rest of the season, where they're 2-0 and had the most average points across all of the FCS (52.0 PPG) entering Week 3. The Texans will host Southwest Baptist on Family Weekend, with kickoff set for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at Memorial Stadium.

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

A peek at what's coming to the Hood County Library



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

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

While the outside is cooling down, things are heating up here at the library. Fall programs are in full swing with our regularly scheduled programs resuming and new ones beginning. See our "Upcoming Events" for more information.

Bookmobile Update
The bookmobile arrived at the end of April and has been serving citizens all over Hood County ever since. It has made around 145 stops with about 1,460 visitors. It is a JOY watching the smiles spread across our patron's faces as they get new items. To track the bookmobile stops, you can see the schedule on Facebook, or refer to the calendar included with this article. If you see that it

will be near you, feel free to stop in to return books, get new ones, or pick up holds. If your neighborhood would like to be added to the bookmobile's regular schedule, a request form can be completed online via our website under the "Services" tab. The bookmobile can also be requested for special events using the same form. Let us serve you!

SPECIAL GUEST

Oct. 28 5:30 to 7 p.m.
The Hood County Library is hosting local criminologist, Dr. Kelli Tomlinson Martin. Dr. Martin is a native of Hood County. She grew up attending the Hood County Library's summer reading programs with her little sis-

ter and developed a love for reading and writing. Martin graduated from Granbury High School in 1989. She obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice, and a PhD in criminal justice. She has worked in the field of criminal justice adult probation for 28 years. These years included working as a court officer, a pre-sentence investigation officer, and specialized sex crimes unit officer. She was promoted to management and for some time supervised the Sex Crimes Unit for Tarrant County and served as the training academy director. She is currently the Research & Policy Planner for several adult probation departments in Texas. Dr. Martin has also had a career in academia teaching at Texas Christian University for ten years in the Criminal Justice Department, at Tarrant County College, the University of Texas at

Arlington, and the University of Texas at Dallas. She has published numerous scholarly journal articles in criminal justice journals and conducted research for the U.S. Department of Justice on domestic minor sex trafficking. Dr. Martin is in the process of publishing a book, *Homicide in the Hood: Murders that Haunt a Small Town Girl*. This covers new and exciting details of local murders that took place in Hood County during the 1980s. She will walk through her investigative process updating each case in hopes to help get these murders solved while empowering the victims' families to have a voice.

IN CLOSING

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of

life." Sidney Sheldon (1917-2007. American writer and producer).

Stop by the Hood County Library and fuel up! Let us help you open the windows to new worlds or connect you with tools to assist you in achieving goals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children Events

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

Events for All

Lego Saturday all day every Saturday!
Oct. 3, 5 to 6 p.m. Solar System Ambassador Maria Blue presents: Dragonfly
Oct. 17, 5 to 6p.m. Solar System Ambassador Maria Blue presents: What is an Eclipse?
Oct. 25, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Crafternoon (school aged

kids, tweens, teens. Under 10 must be accompanied by an adult)

Oct. 28 Spooky Story Saturday Come dressed up throughout the day and get a grab bag of treats. "Spooky" stories will be read at the following times: 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 5 p.m.

Adult Events

Oct. 4, 6 to 7 p.m. The Other Book Club; House of Cotton by Monica Brashears
Oct. 10, 6 to 8 p.m. Crafting with Tammy: Wine Cork Pumpkin (register 1 week prior)
Oct. 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Trivia Night@Oz Coffee Bar: Twilight
Oct. 24, 6 to 7 p.m. HCL Novel Idea Book Club: The Uninvited by Cat Winters
Oct. 30, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Homicide in the Hood with local author and criminologist Dr. Kelli Martin

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MOORE
FROM PAGE B2

death, already incredible AES staff turned into true heroes," she said. "They walked their students through the loss of their teacher with incredible care and compassion, recognizing that this might be some students' first experience with loss and with grief. They loved and cared for one another. They stepped up to love and support the Moore family in indescribable ways. We have no doubt that the Moore family will forever be a part of our AES family because of a bond that was forged during this time. They continued to teach despite the unimaginable grief that they



Acton Elementary School staff members gathered during the Granbury Independent School District's monthly board meeting on Sept. 18, to honor the late fourth grade teacher Susan Moore.

were facing from losing one of their closest and dearest friends."

Walton said this past week, teachers and staff at AES welcomed a new teacher to

their team with open arms, and explained how without hesitation, district leaders

and staff provided "constant support" to the students and staff by "wrapping their arms around them."

She recognized GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn, GISD Student Services Coordinator Leah Dawson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Stacie Brown and Director of Special Education Shelly Curtsinger for their strong dedication to the students and staff during this time.

"While we never may be able to repay them, the beauty is that we don't have to because that's what family does," Walton said. "Family loves and supports each other during difficult times. In the darkest sky, they were the brightest stars, and we are grateful for them. We

are grateful and incredibly proud to work for Granbury ISD."

Moore's daughter-in-law Sarah Miller, and two of her granddaughters came to honor Moore, along with several GISD staff: AES Assistant Principal Mallory Myers, AES Teacher Connie Oelschig, AES Teacher Kristin Murry, AES Instructional Specialist Haley Briggs, and AES Counselor Jill Jernigan.

"During her 16-year career, (Moore) impacted hundreds of students' lives, and she is deeply missed by all that knew and loved her," Walton said. "What a legacy Susan lives, where we all strive to live and love like she did."

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4CN Junior

HELLO Autumn

Have you ever heard of the autumnal equinox? It's like a magical day when the sun gives a high-five to the Earth! Imagine you have a special friend who lives up in the sky, and that's the sun. During the year, the sun moves around and some-

times it's closer to you, and sometimes it's farther away. But on the autumnal equinox, something super cool happens. The sun stands right in the middle, like a perfect balance!

This special day happens in the fall, when the leaves

on the trees turn all sorts of amazing colors. On the equinox, day and night are almost the same length. It's like a giant seesaw with day and night sharing equal time to play.

After the equinox, the days start to get a little shorter and the nights a bit longer, getting ready for winter. So, it's like a signal for all the animals to start getting cozy and gather some nuts for their winter nap.

Remember, the autumnal equinox is nature's way of saying, "Hey, get ready for pumpkin pies and warm sweaters!" It's a time of year full of wonders and changes.

Autumn

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

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

Word Bank

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. cool | 2. leaves | 3. football | 4. pumpkin |
| 5. school | 6. fall | 7. colors | 8. spice |
| 9. halloween | 10. basketball | | |

Autumn begins when the sun is lined up with the Earth's equator. This is called the autumnal equinox.

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Thunderstorms: what should you do?



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.

Sometimes when you're out on the water, out in the field or maybe on the golf course, the rain will come. A slow drizzle without any thunder can be refreshing certain times of the year and may not interfere with your outdoor activity. Fishing and hunting on some of these days can be excellent. Chances are however, if you spend a lot of time in the outdoors, you will get caught up in a storm or two. Hopefully you will have a chance to seek shelter before the lightning approaches, other times you may need to take quick action if a storm develops right on top of you. Today's discussion will hopefully shed some light on this subject.

If you are out boating or swimming, get to land, get off the beach or shoreline,

and find shelter immediately. Stay away from rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity. When lightning strikes nearby, the electrical charge can travel through the water. Each year, numbers of people are killed by nearby lightning strikes while in or on the water. We had a couple of fatalities in Hood County previously due to a lightning strike right on the boat launch area adjacent to the lake.

It is recommended that you take shelter in a permanent enclosed structure such as reinforced building or house. Stay away from unprotected gazebos, tents, picnic shelters, golf carts, baseball dugouts and/or bleachers. These type shelters are often isolated

in open areas and can be a target for lightning. In addition, these non-permanent structures are often easily damaged in strong winds or during large hail.

Staying in your automobile will generally protect you from lightning. If a tornado is imminent, you should get out of your automobile and find a low-lying area such as a bar ditch and cover your head. Of course, a storm shelter would be best, but if you're outdoors this may be difficult to find. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles. Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide little or no protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

If you are in the woods, find an area protected by a low clump of trees. Never stand underneath a single large tree in the open. Be

aware of the potential for flooding in low-lying areas.

As a last resort and if no structure is available, go to a low-lying open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to floods. Make as little contact with the ground as possible. Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible. Do not lie flat on the ground this will give the electricity flowing through ground more chance to flow through you.

Avoid tall structures such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone lines, and power lines. Lightning will generally strike the tallest object in the area, as this may be its easiest path to arc across.

Stay away from natural lightning rods, such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, and camping equipment. Metal or graphite poles/rods are generally better conductors of electricity, and these may be the easiest

path for the electricity to follow.

If you are isolated in a level field or prairie and you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike), drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Crouch on the balls of your feet. Do not lie flat on the ground. The electrical build-up or elevated charge just before lightning strikes will cause your hair to stand on end. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize contact with the ground.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the low 80s and falling slowly. Water levels continue to be about 2 feet low. The fall feeding frenzy is starting and many are reporting surface action. Striped bass continues to be fair to good to 10 lbs. on the lower ends on live bait and downrigged/trolling baits. Sandbass action is improving near DeCordova subdivi-

sion and near Indian Harbor. Big blue catfish are being caught mainly on the upper ends near Hunter Park on cut bait. Largemouth bass are good in numbers with an occasional bigger fish. Largemouth are good near points and creek entrances on spinners and crankbaits early and soft plastics later in the am. Crappie limits are being caught midlake near submerged timber on small minnows and jigs.

Squaw Creek now called Comanche Creek will be opening to the public on Oct. 1. Call to reserve your spot.

On other reservoirs: Lake Whitney top water action for striped bass is coming strong near the McCown Flats. Possum Kingdom striped bass action is excellent on live bait and downrigged jigs on the lower ends. Some good top water reported near Hogs Bend. Benbrook crappie are excellent on small jigs and minnows.

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FOWLER

FROM PAGE B1

'You carry yourself like 'I mean business.'" But at the same time, Officer Burke has taken the time to get to know the teachers, get to know our staff, and get to know each and every one of you. And I think it's so very special when we have an officer that takes the time to

do that."

To honor Burke for his time and dedication, the staff presented him with a gift basket of goodies and a signed photo of every staff member at Brawner.

Sellers added that she hoped Burke would hang the photo up once he started his new position at Acton Middle School.

"Thank you, Officer Burke. We couldn't have

asked for anyone better," Ruiz added. "Once you're a Brawner, you are always a Brawner."

As Fowler leaves his African Seabee duties behind, he will resume his duties as a security officer at a school that has always held a special place in his heart.

"This was actually my middle school 20 years ago," Fowler had previously told the HCN before he left

on his deployment. "I was the last eighth grade class who went through when it was Meadows Middle School."

The 37-year-old Seabee only has a year-and-a-half left in the Navy before he retires, but he said he is glad that Africa was his last deployment, so he never has to leave Brawner again.

"I didn't really want to leave, but I enjoyed it," he

said. "I won't ever have to actually leave again unless something bad happens — which fingers crossed nothing does — but I'm looking forward to not having to leave anymore."

Ruiz added that "it feels amazing" to have Fowler back at Brawner.

"We're going to truly miss Officer Burke, but having Fowler back, it feels like our whole family is back together again," she said.

Fowler added that he plans to stay at Brawner until he retires at the age of 65.

"If I can stay here until I retire from the school district, I'll be happy," he added. "So long as they'll let me, I'll keep coming."

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Jesus Reigns Parade & Celebration



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The fifth annual Jesus Reigns Parade and Celebration took place in Granbury Saturday, Sept. 16.

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

The Jesus Reigns Parade and Celebration took place in Granbury Saturday, Sept. 16. This was the fifth year for the event to take place locally. The parade route came down Pearl Street from Morgan went through Granbury Square and ended at Hewlett Park for an all-day celebration. The parade included dancers from Glen Rose's 'The Promise.'

Parade participants and spectators gathered at the park for teaching from area pastors and worship music from area bands. Food trucks and snow cones added to the festive atmosphere.

Estimates are that this year's event in Granbury had about double the number of participants as last year.

Beginning in the Philippines with the vision of uniting Christians, currently the event is held across 82 provinces of the Philippines simultaneously. The movement has spread to Japan, Indonesia, and the United States. The theme for this year's event was "Intimacy with the Word."

The movement has been



Jesus Reigns Parade and Celebration began in the Philippines with the vision of uniting Christians and has been stateside since 2012.

stateside since 2012. According to jesusreignsusa.us the mission of the Jesus Reigns event is "To continue commemorating the Jesus Reigns: A Day of Celebration every year by gathering all churches and promoting unity in the body of Christ, simultaneously in every state/province in the nations. To reach out to unbelievers and declare that there is hope in Jesus."

Core values of the group are described as "P.A.U.S.E.- prayer, anonymity, unity, sacrificial giving, and excellence."

The movement came to

The theme for this year's event was "Intimacy with the Word."

Granbury because a member of Pure Praise church of Granbury is from the Philippines and is a friend of the founder who began the movement.

"I am so stoked about it! I am still stoked about it," said Jenny Wager Thomas who is the social media coordinator for the event.

Thomas mentioned how encouraging it was to see so much growth.

"We started in 2019 at the worst possible time. We didn't have permission or a permit yet, so we just drove around the square twice with our flags in the back of pick-up trucks, saying 'Jesus Reigns' and headed

PLEASE SEE **JESUS** | C2



A 'solid rock on Christ'

Granbury residents form new Methodist church

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

A group of Granbury residents are witnessing firsthand just how powerful faith can be after relying completely on God for guidance as they embarked on their latest venture.

Granbury residents Debbie Parcel and Jake Caraway are just two of about 50 community members who decided to step out in faith completely and organize their own church on Aug. 21, 2022.

The church, called Solid Rock Global Methodist Church, was essentially created to "provide a new and fresh start for people who love the Lord, follow Christ, and believe in following the Word of God through the Bible," according to its website.

LED BY GOD

Parcel, who is now the pastor of the one-year-old Solid Rock Global Methodist Church, said the church's name was the first thing their congregation needed to figure out.

"When we stepped out in faith, they all kept saying, 'We want to plant our feet on the foundation of Christ,'" she explained. "So, we said, 'OK, well, what do you want to call it?' And they kept saying, 'The foundation.' I said, 'Well the foundation is really not a church name,' and they kept coming back to 'Well, I love the song 'Solid Rock on Christ.'" We put it out to the members at the time and said, 'What do you want?' and they came up with Solid Rock, because we are using our foundation, and Christ is our foundation."

Although Parcel had obtained her Master of Divinity and her Doctor of Ministry in the past, she never dreamed of going back to seminary at this point in her life — but it was something God was leading her to do.

"It's almost like a revival," she said. "At least it seems to be in the hearts of the people that I'm dealing with, but it is for me too, because I didn't plan on preaching, but that's where God has placed me. I will be ordained a full elder in the Global Methodist Church in February. It was simply God's plan."

What was once a group of 30 individuals who met as a congregation in Caraway's garage has now become a congregation of 50, who meet every Sunday above Ketzler's Schnitzel Haus and Biergarten at 201 E. Pearl St. Suite C207.

"We were wanting to follow the Bible, to follow Christ, and to see where it took us," Parcel said. "We're renting right now above Ketzler's, and that used to be the location of the original Methodist Church in this town. If you drive by the square, you'll still see the arch of the sanctuary. It's now the pavilion, but that was a sanctuary, and that whole area was a Methodist Church, before it became United Methodist, so in a way, we're going back to our roots by renting there."

Parcel said one of the first orders of business when they officially formed the church was to really get back to the basics in what was preached.

"During our first service, I preached on the Bible," she said. "'Do you believe in the Bible? What do we believe? Where do we go?' We've gone through communion, and we've gone through weeks of the Lord's Prayer. Right now, I'm in the middle of the fruit of the Spirit. We're just trying to get people to find Jesus in their heart again."

GIVING BACK

The church recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, with the congregation united in its focus of one main goal — giving back to the community.

"I have a congregation that's on fire and they all want to serve," Parcel said. "They want to help, particularly small ministries that maybe don't get a lot of attention."

She said the first charity project they started was the change box, where members of the church started to donate their extra change to give to local nonprofit organizations.

"A little bit of change can change the world," Parcel said.

At first, Solid Rock Global Methodist Church was only raising about \$40 to \$50 at a time, but to some nonprofits, it made all the difference.

"There are just certain groups that don't get any support," she said.

The donations grew, and now, the church has donated checks, toiletries, clothes, and backpacks to organizations like the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, the Ada Carey Women's Shelter, Operation School Supplies, and Hood County Children's Charity.

For the month of September, the church

PLEASE SEE **CHRIST** | C2

First Christian Church of Granbury to celebrate 150th anniversary



COURTESY PHOTOS

The First Christian Church in 2023.

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

The First Christian Church of Granbury is getting ready to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

The church began in 1873 when Joseph and Addison Clark and their two sons Addison and Randolph established the AddRan Male and Female College in Thorp Spring. It also served as a church for Clark and his family as well as the students at the college.

The Clarks and AddRan which later became Texas Christian University moved to Waco and then to Fort Worth. Some congregants stayed behind to minister to the community of Granbury.

In 1889 members of the congregation constructed a frame building at the southeast corner of Houston and Bluff Streets. The deed to the building was filed in Hood County on April



The First Christian Church in 1889.

22, 1889.

The congregation worshiped in that building for the next 97 years, but the original frame of the building has since been

moved to the corner of Bridge and Brazos Streets and is now called the Langdon Center Concert Hall owned by the city of Granbury.

In 1986, the members of the First Christian Church worshipped for the first time in the new building located at 2109 West Highway 377 in Granbury. Nine years later, \$1.1 million dollars was dedicated from the congregation that included a fellowship hall/gymnasium, an enlarged sanctuary, a classroom wing, a new nursery, and a lobby.

Later in 2006 the second additions of the facility were complete, and the congregation burned the mortgage and are now debt free.

The church has now gone from a worshipping membership that barely filled two pews to a membership now of well over 400 people and with worship attendance averaging 300 people each Sunday.

The senior pastor of the church is Justin Jeter who has

PLEASE SEE **CHURCH** | C3

JESUS

FROM PAGE C1

back to the church and we felt blessed to get to do that," shared Thomas.

The following year was bleak for the participants with the obvious challenges of COVID-19. But the movement has been gaining speed since then and event organizers were happy to see people from the community along the parade route.

"We had at least double the attendance of the previous year. It's just so awesome! I was so overwhelmed all of the time," shares Thomas.

The local movement has grown a lot in just five years, this year six different bands performed: the Band Jam, Redemption 180, Apostle Road, Spirit River, Praise Band from the Heights Bursleson, and the worship band from the Church of God with Shlena leading.

Rudy Arista's ministry Acts 2 provided tents for the event. Arista was also the closing speaker. Other speakers included Alan

Latta, Pastor Lowell, Jesse Johnson, Drew Dill, and others. A total of 11 churches across different denominations participated.

At the park the event had a tent designated as a prayer tent where Kathy Biggers led the prayer team. Biggers is the lead for the Prayer Task Force of Granbury which is part of The National Day of Prayer Task Force and a ministry of the Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance. There was a tent as well for kids' activities.

Replying via email Misty Hancock who blew the shofar for the event said, "The King of Glory Jesus Reigns over Granbury and our state of Texas and our nation. 'Lift up your heads O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory. Selah. Psalms 24:8-10'"

"We have felt from the very beginning that our city needs Jesus, it's a perfect opportunity for all the churches, well, all the people to come together. All



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

It is estimated that this year's event in Granbury had about double the number of participants as last year.

the people who know Jesus are part of the church," said Thomas who looks forward to seeing how the movement grows by next year.

Hancock also shared, "Jesus wants His people to return to Him, their first love - who handknit you in your mother's womb. 'For

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son so that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.'"

Ronnie Allard of Pure Praise Church is the coordinator for Jesus Reigns Texas. For questions call Allard at 817-279-3063.

CHRIST

FROM PAGE C1

will be taking its change box to purchase supplies for senior residents at The Oaks of Granbury.

"Every quarter, we do something with the senior citizens there," Parcel said. "We've done Bingo, we've done singalongs, we've done Christmas parties, Valentine's parties, all sorts of things. We're also (hosting) a sock hop for them. We are small. We can't take on some of the big, huge areas, but we certainly can take on 25 people in an assisted living facility."

Female members of the church have also crocheted beanies for the NICU unit at the Lake Granbury Medical Center and sewed prayer blankets for those who are in dire need of prayers.

"For just over a year, (we've been) really involved," Parcel said.

Additionally, a sister church of Solid Rock Global, Lovech Methodist Church, was formed in Bulgaria on May 1, 2022, inspiring the Granbury congregation to step up and assist as needed.

"For five years, our mid-Texas conference of the Global Methodist Church has been helping the Bulgarian church to get on their feet so that they can survive, readjust, and move forward for God," Parcel said. "Bulgaria has gone through a lot more than most people in the United States ever understand. So, our little area (now) has a sister church, and we are to come up with a certain amount of money each year to help them until they're on their own. It's kind of



COURTESY OF DEBBIE PARCEL

Every Sunday morning, Solid Rock Global Methodist Church hosts Sunday school at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m. A women's bible study meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Caraway's garage on Pearl St, while a men's bible study — that was recently formed — meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Caraway's Garage on Pearl St.

an exciting thing to reach out beyond, but most of the time we stick pretty much to something local."

A COMMUNITY CONGREGATION

Parcel said the congregation may be small, but there's enough love and care to go around in the members alone.

"It's been such a delight to watch people others have known for years, all of a sudden blossom, because they found their spot," she said. "They plugged in and

they're doing things that they hadn't done before and stepped out, so offering that opportunity is precious to me."

She said she encourages congregation members to share God with others in the community.

"As wonderful as it is to get people in the door of our church, it's more important that we help people find the door to heaven — and that's kind of the approach we've been taking," Parcel said. "This church has been an absolute blessing and a gift

and I'm way out of my comfort zone, but they seem to help me get there. God has led me, and God has led us every step of the way. Every time something has come up, and we need a door to open, the door has opened, but that comes from trusting that we're doing what he wants."

SERVICES

Every Sunday morning, Solid Rock Global Methodist Church hosts Sunday school at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m.

A women's bible study meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Caraway's garage on Pearl St, while a men's bible study — that was recently formed — meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Caraway's Garage on Pearl St.

Group bible study will also be held every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Caraway's Garage, with discussions centered around the "I Can Only Imagine" movie.

"We can't really do a lot with children, youth, and even nursery until we define ourselves a little better, and we can't define ourselves until we land somewhere," Parcel said.

GOALS

Although the church has a temporary location for its services, Parcel hopes to find a permanent location for the congregation soon.

"We're in the process of that," she said. "We have a building fund that is in process right now that's growing. We are actively looking, but we figure God will lead us where we're supposed to be — hopefully sooner than later."

But in the meantime, Parcel said she also loves giving to senior residents as well as helping people find a relationship with God.

"I'd love to see more youth involved," she said. "Our senior citizens are ready to be involved with the youth, so it's just sharing and being able to help people find that relationship with God, but I don't want anybody to feel marginalized. A lot of our senior citizens that I'm working with now who are so active and busy felt like they were

pushed aside."

She made a comment about her mother who is 92 but remains active by baking five dozen cookies every week for their reception area.

"It keeps her going," Parcel said. "She said, 'They're just cookies,' and I said, 'That's your ministry.'"

A 'REVIVAL'

Parcel said the Solid Rock Global Methodist Church is the first — and only — Global Methodist Church in Granbury.

"It's exciting to me," she said. "It's a revival of the Holy Spirit, it's a revival of people's spirits, and their outlooks, and it's hope — and in this world, we need hope."

She added she couldn't have done any of this without the help of her "wonderful support group."

"Over the years, I've heard (people) say that 10% of the church does 90% of the work, but right now I would say 95% of the church does 100% of the work," Parcel said. "And the only ones that don't are in prayer because they're too old to do a lot anymore. Everybody's actively involved, so it makes it a lot easier for me. Yeah, it's scary, but it should be whenever you do something for God."

For more information about Solid Rock Global Methodist Church, visit src-granbury.org online or call 682-498-3838.

"Everybody's welcome," Parcel added. "But the Bible is still the guide."

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Lakefest will kick off at noon Sept. 30, with all day activities until 10 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

Big Lakefest event coming soon to send off the summer

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Lakefest started as a music lake celebration put on by Visit Granbury back in 2018 when the community was looking for more events at Lake Granbury. It has now turned into a huge celebration that many look forward to.

92.1 HANK FM is now the head of the event and continues to bring in bigger and better additions that keep the community coming back.

The event is not only free to the public but will last all day, featuring live music, vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, contests, prizes and much more.

"From the first time we had this it went from very low attendance to now over 1,000 people. This year we are projecting it to be over 1,500 people." Director of the Granbury Convention and Visitor's Bureau Tammy Dooley said. "We get people from all over, and many of them stay for the weekend."

This year's Lakefest is much more anticipated because for the first time ever, the event will feature a drone show. The show will feature 250 drones that will be put on a 15 to 20 minutes show with customized animations that will focus on Granbury.

"This drone show is a significant investment in the Granbury community... I think it's going to be the neatest thing that the public has ever seen. This could be an annual send-off with the drones over the lake. This kicks the event up a notch," Dooley said.

Before the drone show, Time Machine cover band will perform with high energy music from the 70s to cur-

rent songs as well as the country cover band Straight Tequilla Nights who cover 90s country.

This year, the city beach is also going to be incorporated into the event with kids' activities there as well as new sand being added for this event.

Attendees will also get a chance to speak to boat salesman and representatives for those interested in learning more about boats and looking to buy.

"In the future I think that it will become a multi-day event. That's the plan. We're gradually making it better. The focus is to keep the event quality but keep adding neat things," Dooley said.

Dooley recommends attendees to bring lawn chairs and noted that coolers are not allowed.

The event will kick off at noon Sept. 30, with all day activities until 10 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. For more information go to VisitGranbury.com.

Concert to benefit local woman undergoing colon cancer treatment

Staff reports

The First United Methodist Church of Granbury is hosting a free concert and fundraiser Friday, Oct. 6, at 6:30 p.m. The gospel show titled Time for Love will feature Ransomed 180 and Shane Brooks as entertainment.

The performers donated their time to the event. There will be a bake sale at the concert and a silent auction.

There is no fee to attend but donations will be accepted.

The event was organized as a fundraiser for Tonya Cline, a Granbury single mother who is undergoing two different surgeries for colon cancer. Cline has been unable to work because of her illness and her medical leave unemployment is not enough to cover her expenses.

Cline is a 1989 graduate of Granbury

High School. Three of her four sons are graduates of Granbury High School as well and her youngest son is a current student in Granbury schools.

A Time for Love was organized when Hood County residents Sandra Head and Patsy Parr joined forces to try to alleviate at least some of Cline's concerns. Please reach out to Parr at 817-578-9001 with questions or if you have items for the silent auction.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE C1

been serving the church since 2014 before becoming the senior pastor in 2016.

"Next to being a husband and dad, serving with the people of FCC has been the greatest privilege of my life," Jeter said. "They're a humble, genuine, fun-loving, neighbor-loving, deeply faithful bunch, and I think the founders of our congregation would be proud of the way they continue to follow Jesus, explore the sometimes-messy questions of life and faith, find their center in a divine love that's greater than our differences, and advocate for the dignity of all people. We're committed to really seeing people -- in all their hunger and hurt -- and responding with the relational love of Christ. And while we'll probably fall short today, we'll get up and try again tomorrow."

To celebrate the 150th anniversary the church is planning a two-day celebration.

Saturday's event will take place at the concert hall at the Langdon Center. Sunday will feature one church service followed by a barbecue lunch with former ministers and regional ministers.

The event will feature some special speakers including author and historian Dan Vanderburg with history from the early days of Granbury and Hood County. Marc Istook, who is a morning anchor of Channel 8 WFAA will also be speaking. Istook is a direct descendant of Randolph Clark as well as a Texas Christian University alumnus. Istook will be speaking on the history of the Clark family and the connection of Add-Ran College to Texas Christian University.

The church will also be highlighting some of the founding families of the Church including Dr. Hannaford, Dr. Morgan, Dr. Lancaster, and Dr. Dabney.

Members of the music ministry will be leading attendees in old fashioned hymn singing. Pastor Justin Jeter will be speaking on the mission of our congregation today. He will conclude with a "high noon" communion as well as speak on the hopes for the future of the community.

"As I think about our 150th anniversary, I'm reminded that we're part of something much bigger than ourselves. We're focused on how we can both stay rooted in timeless sacred truth and evolve to meet the needs and challenges of our growing community. From worship and sacred practice to community life to missional service, our people have lots of exciting ideas in the pipeline, and I'm excited to see what the next 150 years bring," Jeter added.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. and Sunday, Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 2109 W. Hwy 377.

Million dollar lottery winner Granbury resident wins big after successful scratch off

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

One Granbury resident was a lucky winner after winning one million dollars on a lottery scratch ticket game "Million Dollar Loteria".

The ticket was purchased from Allsup's located at 2205 Conrad Hilton Blvd in Cisco about 80 miles west of Granbury according to the Texas Lottery.

This was the second of 10 top prizes worth \$1 million to be claimed in this game. Million Dollar Loteria offers more than \$378.2 million in total prizes. Overall odds of winning any prize in the game are one in 3.29, including break-even prizes.

The winner of the ticket elected to remain anonymous.

The 85th legislative regular session enacted HB 59 authorizing certain prize winners who win lottery prizes in the amount of \$1 million or more to choose to remain anonymous.

In addition, Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) Rule \$401.324 governs the non-disclosure of personally identifiable information (Information that alone or in conjunction with other information identifies an individual: name, social security number, date of birth, or government-issued ID number such as driver's license or passport. It does not include the name of the prize winner's city or county of residence.) of certain lottery prize winners.

This is not the first time a Granbury resident has won big. One resident in 2011 won \$35 million dollars from a Mega Millions jackpot according to the Mega Millions Jackpot history archives.

The winner decided to claim the prize as the MAIM Revocable Trust meaning the owner is able to make changes to the terms at any time. The Mega Millions winner decided to keep details about their personal life private.

COURTESY PHOTO

One Granbury resident was a lucky winner of one million dollars on a scratch off ticket purchased in Cisco.

BIG BAND DANCE AT OASIS TRANQUILLO BENEFITS T.E.X.A.S. RESCUE

The second annual Big Band Dance was held Sept. 16 at Oasis Tranquillo. All the proceeds and contributions at Saturday Night's Big Band event go to T.E.X.A.S Rescue, a non-profit organization that takes care of horses, donkeys, and mules. The Granbury Jazz Orchestra provided the music for the event while dancers enjoyed the music and atmosphere.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



A NIGHT IN CASABLANCA

The United Way's fundraising event, "A Night in Casablanca" featuring Pete's Piano Bar was held Thursday Sept. 7, 2023. The event held at La Bella Luna included both live auction and silent auction items with money raised being used to fund United Way activities and programs throughout the year. The "dueling pianos" were highly entertaining and had the audience engaged either singing along or participating in the antics on stage. The evening was catered by the Granbury High School Culinary Arts students.

PHOTOS BY SAM HOUSTON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PATIO SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER LINE UP

- KIM YOUNKIN 7-10 PM FRIDAY 9/8**
- KIM YOUNKIN 7-10 PM FRIDAY 9/29**
- THE BOOMERANGS 7-10:30 PM SATURDAY 9/9**
- ZACH CROW 7-10 PM FRIDAY 9/15**
- MARK DOVE 6-8 PM SUNDAY 9/17**
- ZACK CROW 8-11 PM FRIDAY 9/22**
- JERED HALEN 7-10 PM SATUR 9/23**

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Honoring Hood's Heroes Motor Festival

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



The Chisholm Trail 100 Club hosted its second annual "Honoring Hood's Heroes (H3) Motor Festival" Saturday, Sept. 9. H3 is a fundraiser to support their mission of standing in the gap for first responders and their families in times of tragedy. The CT100 Club has been hosting the "Hot Rods & Heroes Motor Festival" for the past 8 years in Johnson County and expanded in 2022 for a Hood County-centric event.

The festival featured demonstrations by first responders, decade-specific vehicle categories (as well as categories for motorcycles, off-roads, commercial, and more), custom awards, vendors, food and beverages and live 80s music by Scant.



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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Woman's Club enjoys successful beginning to new club year



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 began a new club year celebrating its sapphire anniversary in our community with a lovely crowd of ladies who enjoyed a business meeting, musical program, and lunch.

The next collective meeting of the PPWC comes on Thursday, Oct. 19. All female residents of Pecan are invited to join the group and attend its meetings. Membership information may be found by visiting www.myppecan.com.

HIGH FLYING

EAA chapter 983 happily announces Pecan's fall fly-in and car show happening today, 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 on display, and food for purchase will all be a part of the day. Everyone is welcome.

MARINA MUSIC

The Marina Music Trio plays every second and fourth Saturday evening from 4 to 7 p.m. at the marina, which means that today, Saturday, Sept. 23, folks may enjoy live music from Eric, Jim, and Bruce with outdoor dining and activities.

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



COURTESY OF PPWC PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club is celebrating its 45th anniversary in the community, and leading this sapphire year are (left to right): Gerta Howell, Vice President; Oneta Bergman, Historian; Carol Herrick, Parliamentarian; Sandy Hoelting, President; Kathie Schoepf, Assistant Treasurer; Charlotte Brooks, Treasurer; Judy Scott, Secretary.

review John Graves' title "Goodbye to a River," a book featuring the proposed series of dams along the Brazos River. For complete information on the group and its activities, contact Caryl Mahaffey at: caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again on Wednesday, Sept. 27 with breakfast service beginning at 8 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m. Attendees will hear from Martha Headrick, Director of Air Evac Lifetech Program, which is the leading provider of emergency air medical transportation services and one of the providers for Pecan Plantation. Everyone is invited, and reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, Sept. 26: 817-573-2641.

AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is busily planning its next fundraiser, Pecan's 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, handcrafted home décor, apparel, artwork, and food and gift items.

Donna Bullis, co-president of the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary and chairman of the upcoming bazaar, said the quality of merchandise and skill level of the artisans and craftsmen who offered their creations for sale at the 2022 fair was amazing, and she is delighted that many are returning this year.

"All spaces/booths inside the PAC have been reserved, but artisans wanting to participate can contact me (817-454-0422) or Vicki Paxton (615-394-5058) about setting up on the PAC lawn, weather permitting," said Bullis.

In addition, food will be available for purchase in the PAC kitchen.

Finally, 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.

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.

ROAD WORK

The milling, stabilizing, and chip sealing of roads continue on Brierfield, Prospect Hill, and parts of Bellechase and Monticello. A final layer of asphalt is scheduled in the near future, weather permitting. Pecan's Operations Manager Daniel Van Patten thanks residents for patience and caution during this period of road improvement for our community, and he has answers for any questions concerning the road resurfacing process: 817-573-2641.

GLOBAL EATS

"Dining around the World" will come to Pecan on

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C7

GAME ON



SCREENSHOT COURTESY CYANIDE STUDIOS

Styx, our anti-hero in the game Styx and the Master of Shadows, is very good at sneaking around.

Confessions of a proud save scummer

And other observations about gaming



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

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

I have over 80 games in my Steam library. This is a ridiculous amount of games. Some of them I've played through, completed, and uninstalled. Some of them I keep installed because I'm not done playing it (like Cities: Skylines.) And there are seven games in my library right now that I haven't installed yet.

So out of shame, I finally installed Styx: Master of Shadows, which I've had since 2014, and began playing it. What a great game. The rendering is fantastic, everything is skinned elaborately, the AI of the NPCs is very well done, and the mechanisms for solving puzzles are really innovative. Styx is a goblin creature that can hide very well but isn't very good at fighting. He mostly jumps, rolls, hides, turns invisible, and has a clone he can create which crawls through gates and unlocks doors. He also swears a lot, and sneaks up on people and stabs them, so this is definitely a game for mature audiences.

I also have Bendy and the Ink Machine, Little Nightmares, We Happy Few, Ori and the Will of the Wisps, and Subnautica to look forward to if I need a break from Styx.

SAVE SCUMMING

But I'm not here to review Styx: Master of Shadows. This is an old, popular game, and I haven't played enough of it to evaluate it properly.

I wanted to talk about 'save scumming.' It's the practice of saving often so that you can explore different options to solve a puzzle, or because you don't want to lose your hard-earned progress in the game.

I'm not good at Styx, so every five seconds it seems I'm going down the wrong hallway, forgetting to crouch and knocking over a mop bucket, and alerting the guards, who then come and pound on me. Styx allows a save whenever I want, so after I crawl up the wall and walk across the beam to the next wall, you bet I'm going to save that point, because I don't want to have to do it again. I also end up saving an alternate, older point, because I'm trying not to paint myself in a corner.

I also save scum if I'm playing Potion Craft. The game requires some precise grinding and mixing of the various herbs and crys-tals in the cauldron, and one tiny jerk of the mouse can ruin a potion. So, I'll save before I start the process, just in case.

There are many gamers who think of themselves as somehow virtuous for trying to play the game without that safety net. I say, good for you if that gives you some satisfaction. Personally, I get very frustrated at having to do things over, and I enjoy the game more if I can save at convenient spots.

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | C7

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PECAN

FROM PAGE C6

Saturday, Oct. 14 when dishes representing Germany, France, Italy, New Orleans, Polynesia, and Texas will be on the menu. No passport is needed to enjoy this fare, and complete event details will come soon.

VACCINATION AVAILABLE

Flu shots are currently available at the emergency services compound on Monticello Drive. Hours of service are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a \$20 cost per vaccination.

GARAGE SALE

Pecan's fall garage sale weekend is on the calendar for Friday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Oct. 21. Friday's sale for members only will run from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Saturday's operations happening from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and open to the pub-

lic. Residents desiring to be included in the garage sale master list may send details of items available to reception@ppoaweb.com from Oct. 1 to 16.

FOOTBALL FEVER

Pecan's 19th Hole announces "Game Day Happy Hour" on Sundays at noon, Mondays at 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 6:30. All three evenings will end with the final whistle of the game. Attendees will enjoy selections from Chef Jordan Ray's new game day menu.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Milton Schultz, who passed away Sept. 9. Milton owned and operated Pecan Drugs and served our community and its residents well. Sympathy also goes to the family of Bill Hoffman, who passed away Sept. 15.

dianedlong@yahoo.com
817-579-9360

GAME

FROM PAGE C6

GAMEON CONCERT IN FORT WORTH

The Fort Worth Symphony is performing a GameON Concert (nothing to do with this column!) in Ft. Worth on Saturday, Oct 7 at the Will Rogers Auditorium. They'll be playing music from Civilization 5, Ori and the Blind Forest, Portal 2, Destiny 2, World of Warcraft, Bioshock, Diablo, The Witcher, and more.

"Game On! Comes to the Fort Worth symphony sat. Oct. 7 For a mesmerizing performance of legendary symphonic game music! Be among the first in Texas to experience the excitement and adrenaline-fueled drama of this wonderful symphonic music, as the epic universes of The Witcher 3, World of Warcraft, The Elder Scrolls Skyrim, Assassin's Creed, Guild Wars 2, Ori and the Blind Forest, and many others unfold before your eyes."

Tickets start at \$41.80.

UNITY'S NEW RUNTIME UNITY FEE HAS INDIE GAME DEVELOPERS OUTRAGED

Apparently, Unity, the gaming engine that many indie game developers rely on to build their games, has announced a new fee structure, and will start charging developers on a per-install basis after certain minimum income thresholds have been reached. \$.20 per install after an individual game reaches \$200,000 in annual revenue and 200,000 lifetime installs. This will force the smaller game developers to pull their games entirely from distribution services, because they won't be able to afford the per-install fees. This is a drastic U-turn from Unity's previous pricing structure, which was royalty-free.

Users of Unity Pro and Enterprise tiers, which are paid subscriptions, will be a smaller per-install fee. But the real problem here is that Unity is applying the new fee structure to existing games, not just new ones. So

developers that have successful games will owe Unity thousands of dollars starting January 2024.

The indie developers are abandoning the Unity Engine. Unity's fees will destroy these small game developers because they can't afford for their game to be successful. Even worse, this will probably kill game subscription services like Game Pass and Netflix. Developers would not be liable for fees from distribution through these services, but it will make indie games far less attractive to these major companies. Free demos of games will be a thing of the past.

Experts say that this will make in-game micro-transactions more attractive because it will generate more revenue for developers, which is just awful. I don't know about you, but I absolutely hate micro-transactions.

At this point game developers are recommending that everybody should avoid Unity for any new projects, and if your game in devel-

opment uses Unity, switch to something else, as the Unity Engine can't be trusted. Game developers will move to Unreal Engine, Source, Havok, or one of the other game engines as a more reliable platform.

Unity games on Steam include: Kerbal 2 Space Program, Outer Wilds, Ori and the Blind Forest, Ori and the Will of the Wisps, Gorogoa, Everything, Bendy and the Ink Machine, Return of the Obra Dinn, Two Point Hospital, Battletech, Hollow Knight, Cities Sky-lines, The Room series 1-4, Inside, Subnautica, Cuphead, and many, many more. At this point we don't know if Unity will change their minds, or if the companies that produced these games will withdraw them from distribution. So this may be your last chance to get Cult of the Lamb, Serious Sam 4, The Falconeer, and many other award-winning games. If you've got these games on your wish list, get them now!

GO PLAY

CINERGY
ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 22 September 2023 - Thursday, 28 September 2023

A Haunting in Venice (PG13)
Fri: 2:25PM, 4:55PM, 7:25PM, 9:55PM.
Sat: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM, 9:25PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:25PM, 4:55PM, 7:25PM.
Thurs: 3:25PM, 4:20PM

Gran Turismo: Based On A True Story (PG13)
Fri: 4:20PM, 9:45PM.
Sat, Sun: 1:20PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:20PM.
Thurs: 2:15PM

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG13)
Fri: 3:05PM, 5:25PM, 7:45PM, 10:05PM.
Sat: 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM.
Sun: 12:00PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:35PM, 4:55PM, 7:15PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:55PM

Retribution (R)
Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 7:25PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 4:25PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 4:25PM.
Thurs: 5:20PM, 9:15PM

Saw X (R)
Thurs: 6:00PM, 9:00PM

The Blind (PG13)
Thurs: 6:30PM

The Creator (PG13)
Thurs: 6:00PM, 9:00PM

The Equalizer 3 (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 11:50AM, 2:25PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM, 10:10PM.
Sun: 11:50AM, 2:25PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.
Thurs: 3:25PM

The Expendables (R)
Fri, Thurs: 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, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM

The Nun II (R)
Fri: 2:05PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM, 10:05PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:05PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM.
Thurs: 3:20PM, 7:40PM, 9:15PM
Show times

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

PETS OF THE WEEK

Buddy is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

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

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

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 communityhealth@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-

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

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A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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 1 John 4:12

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 817-326-2035

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 254-965-3840

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 817-613-2322

First Baptist
 214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
 254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
 2815 Lipan Hwy.
 817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
 Glen Rose
 254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
 1851 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.
 817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
 4501 Peppertree Rd.
 817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
 1844 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
 4791 Fm 2803, Lipan
 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
 7178 Fall Creek Hwy.
 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
 910 Paluxy Rd.
 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
 400 Tolar Hwy.
 254-835-4375

VINEYARD BAPTIST

320 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
 1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
 817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
 507 Western Hills Trail
 817-573-7588

BIBLE

Grace Bible
 201 E. Clifton Rd.
 682-498-3014

CATHOLIC

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
 2301 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-2131

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Dayspring Christian
 3314 S. Clifton
 817-573-0107

First Christian
 2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
 5904 Walnut Creek Circle
 817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-376-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Church Of Christ
 310 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
 1905 W. Pearl
 817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

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Church Of God
 1106 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal
 4530 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-6074

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
 3734 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-4259

LUTHERAN

Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
 4301 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
 1400 N. Meadows Dr.
 817-573-5011

METHODIST

Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
 110 South Crook St., Cresson
 469-730-6496

Granbury First United
 Methodist
 301 Loop 567,
 817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global
 Methodist Church
 201 E. Pearl St. Suite C207
 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
 8812 Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
 4323 Waples Rd.
 817-573-9076

MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of
 Latter-Day Saints
 1226 Ross Lane
 817-573-6825

NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The
 Nazarene
 921 Lipan Dr.
 817-573-4041

PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal
 3100 Beechwood St.,
 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
 4800 Glen Rose Hwy
 817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian
 303 W. Bridge St.
 817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day
 Adventist
 2016 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-3573

OTHER

Anchor Fellowship
 3200 Acton School Rd.
 682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
 1855 South Hwy. 377,
 817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
 1950 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-0968

Calvary Family
 3306 Oak Trail Dr.
 314-606-1211

Center Point
 4332 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-554-3432

Christian Science Society
 528 N. Crockett
 817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 917-326-5501

Crossroads
 200 S. Crook St., Cresson
 817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood
 County
 2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,
 817-579-9332

Generations Church Of
 Granbury
 5718 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-326-5378

Hope Community
 3206 W. Hwy. 377
 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
 205 West Lipan Dr., Lipan
 254-396-3162

New Season Global Ministries
 3755 Acton Hwy.
 817-910-8777

Pure Praise
 2901 Glen Rose Hwy.
 817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel
 6101 Rock Church Hwy
 Tolar, Texas 76476

St. John Victorian Mission Of
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 5031 Bandy Rd.
 817-573-2669

Stonewater
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 817-579-9175

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 1107 Weatherford Hwy
 254-522-5330

The Heights
 1921 Acton Hwy
 817-558-2121

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 Romans 15:13

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For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'
 Isaiah 41:13

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 Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.
 Psalm 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
 Isaiah 41:10

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 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

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BOOK REVIEW

They prefer to keep you in the dark around here...

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Nobody tells you a thing, that's it. Mom won't say what's going on, no matter how hard you beg. Dad's not breathing a word and there are too many closed doors and locked cabinets to find out yourself. Nobody tells you a thing but maybe, as in the new book "Wild Spaces" by S.L. Coney, it's for your own good.

Before the dog arrived at the mint-green cottage on the edge of the South Carolina wetlands, it looked like a long summer with not much to do. When the coppery-red animal didn't leave, though, the summer was better because the boy was allowed to keep the dog he named Teach, after his favorite pirate.

For the next month, everything felt brighter. Days were spent exploring the outdoors near the cottage, or helping the boy's mother in the kitchen, or learning inter-

esting things from his very smart father. At night, the boy's mother tucked him into bed with Teach by his side, and she told them stories of swashbucklers and sailing ships.

The boy knew he was safe. And then a rickety station wagon came down the gravel driveway.

The boy could tell that his grandfather's visit wasn't planned. Teach could, too; he growled at the old man and tried to bite him. Grandfather seemed to be an okay guy,

but he made the boy's parents uncomfortable, which was more reason for the boy to head outside, down to the beach and the mud and to stand at the mouth of the cave he wasn't allowed to enter.

His grandfather liked to go to the beach, too - why, the boy couldn't quite tell. The old man ruined a lot of afternoons by the water with the boy's father. The boy and his dad couldn't even go in their boat without problems - but really, it was okay. Being on the skiff wasn't probably going to happen much anyhow. There was a big storm on the way; the boy could feel it.

And then the monster arrived.

Please don't be too concerned by the fact that, at 121 pages, "Wild Spaces" is a tiny little book. Just consider it a literary snack. A sinister, foreboding, distressing snack.

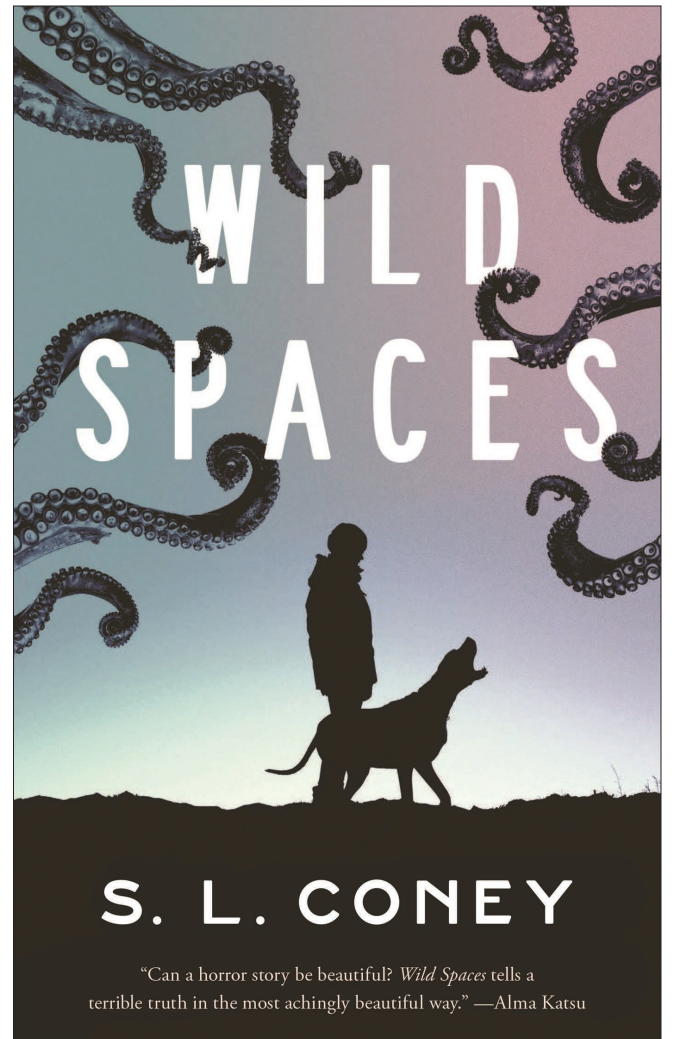
Indeed, you'll sense from

the very first page that something dreadful is going to happen to the boy who goes unnamed, and to everyone he loves, but to what extent, and how bad? Those are the questions, and getting to the answers in this story is like creeping bare-kneed through slimy ooze or stepping on something dead in the dark. Open the covers of this book, start the first page, and author S.L. Coney makes it clear without saying so, that the only good thing that's going to come from this book is the scare you're going to feel.

This book is perfect for Bradbury or Lovecraft fans and would make a good gateway to those authors for a savvy 12-to-17-year-old reader. "Wild Spaces" is perfect for those darkest nights.

COURTESY PHOTO

"Wild Spaces" by S.L. Coney
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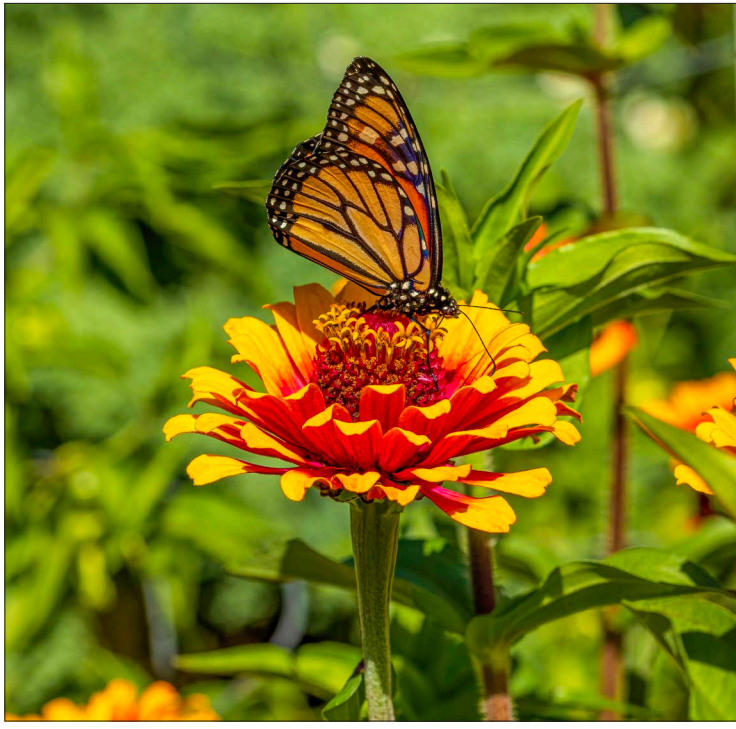
GARDEN PATCH

Create a monarch waystation



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.



COURTESY PHOTO

Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies migrate from Canada across the United States and through Texas to Mexico where they overwinter.

Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies migrate from Canada across the United States and through Texas to Mexico where they overwinter. While this great journey is not as famous as the African migration of wildebeest and zebra, it is one of the mightiest feats of nature by some of the smallest creatures.

Despite their herculean efforts, monarchs need help. Their population is dwindling due to habitat loss. A proper monarch habitat consists of nectar plants and host plants. Monarchs need milkweed; it is the only host plant upon which they lay their eggs. And monarch larva/caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed leaves.

However, milkweed is disappearing due to development (subdivisions, shopping centers, etc.), mowing along roadsides and the widespread use of herbicides on crops and in pastures. Nectar sources are also limited for similar reasons. Monarchs need nectar to give them the energy they need to fly long distances, which ensures their life cycle.

How can you help? First, grow mostly native plants, which are better adapted to the area's weather and soils. Native plants are the preferred choice of food

and shelter for native wildlife. When possible, plant milkweed native to Texas, such as antelope horn milkweed or green milkweed. If you grow tropical milkweed, cut it back in fall to encourage migration. Second, try to mimic nature in your landscape by using diverse plant species. The more diverse, the better for wildlife such as birds and bees.

You may also create monarch waystations in parks, nature centers, along roadsides and on other land parcels where the creatures will not be at risk for harm. Waystations provide the resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. They include both host and nectar plants. There is no minimum or maximum space requirement, although MonarchWatch.org mentions 100 sq. ft. as the optimum size. Other tips for creating a waystation include:

Site: Locate the station in an area that receives at least six hours of sun per day. Select an area with good drainage to avoid root rot. Milkweeds and nectar plants perform best in lighter soils (low clay content). The plants should be close together, but not crowded, to shelter the butterflies from predators and

the elements.

Plant selection: A waystation should have at least 10 milkweed plants, which may include one or more species. Since various milkweed mature and flower at different times, increasing the number of milkweed species at an individual waystation will boost monarch use. Plant nectar sources so that they bloom sequentially spring through fall. Include annual, biennial and perennial plants. To sustain the waystation, perform typical garden chores, such as weeding and mulching.

For more information on protecting monarchs, attend Lake Granbury Master Gardener's Romancing the Monarch educational, fun event on Saturday, Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the group's Demonstration Garden, 1410 W. Pearl St., behind Hood County Annex 1. The festival includes activities for all ages including crafts, monarch tagging, a live butterfly release and garden tours. Admission is free.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

pwebsterco@gmail.com / 817-680-4849

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Learn how to fail



CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who recently moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky. She has had short stories published in eight editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks.

I gain inspiration for my writing from many sources - some of which you would expect - others from rather unique sources. I sometimes develop ideas from speeches, newspaper articles, holidays, nature, children, pets, and even television. Yes, television - that source that now offers few quality shows and wholesome take-aways to later consider. But today was an exception.

While watching a re-run of America's Got Talent, I was privileged to watch human commitment and courage to an unparalleled degree. Twenty-five-year-old Zion Zachariah Clark came onto the stage walking on his hands - not as a stunt to surprise the audience - but because he had no legs. He had been born with Caudal Regression Syndrome. It is a congenital disorder in which the fetal development of the lower spine - the caudal partition of the spine - is abnormal. It occurs at a rate of approximately one per 60,000 live births. It results in deformity, shortening, or absence of limbs. He is not the first person I have witnessed with this condition, but his story bears repeating.

He was rejected by his parents at birth and spent the next 16 years in multiple foster homes - being rejected by those around him and bullied by his peers. People passing him on the sidewalk often stepped on his hands - either knowingly or unknowingly. When he reached the age of being "thrown out" of the foster care program, he was adopted by a woman who saw a young man who deserved to have a future surrounded by those who loved him.

Zion does not know why his parents named him as such, but he knows that Mount Zion is mentioned in the Bible. Additionally, Zechariah (spelled slightly different) was one of Israel's kings and the father of John the Baptist (the man who gave his life for his faith).

Therefore, perhaps divine providence played a part in his naming - he certainly has a mountain-strength when overcoming obstacles to which many individuals would admit defeat. And he certainly displays a "kingly" attitude in his willingness to inspire people with his ability to rule over his circumstances.

At a moment in time during those tumultuous years, he made a life-altering decision. He could choose to either journey through life as a pitiful victim or as a man of inherent value and worth. He chose the latter.

His physical condition obviously limited his options, so he began considering an activity that utilized his upper body strength. He chose wrestling and eventually became one of the top two wrestlers in the state of Ohio. He is also a professional mixed martial artist, wheelchair racer, and the subject of a documentary titled Zion.

But all this information is not the most amazing part of Zion's life story.

As he performed unbelievable gymnastic maneuvers in AGT on ropes hung from the ceiling (using only his chiseled upper body strength), his pre-recorded life story played in the background, giving his performance a powerful message, I kept re-playing it in my mind during the hours that followed. I decided his story - his attitude - deserved its own column.

Zion's first comment that caught my attention full force was "learn how to fail." It was a lesson he learned well, for he failed in his first 200 attempts at competitive wrestling before winning a match. Did you catch that? Two hundred times? And how often do we run up the white flag of defeat after two or three attempts at an endeavor? He then continued his presentation on how to turn obstacles into steppingstones for new opportunities and achievements.

It is to Zion Zacharia Clark - and the countless other individuals - who have overcome insurmountable odds in their determination to prove to themselves - and to the world - the mettle of which they are made.

You can read Zion's story and other such inspirational stories by searching for them on the internet. Perhaps you are at a point in your life where you feel inadequate or discouraged by what is facing you. If so, perhaps it is time to sit back, consider your commitment and strength, and begin to forge ahead!

Blessings to each of you as you begin!

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