



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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Mi Familia: Where food and family come together



COURTESY PHOTO

Mi Familia restaurant recently relocated to a new spot right next door to its original location on US-377, bringing with it the same fantastic food and a team of dedicated employees who have been serving the community for more than 20 years.

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

Mi Familia, the beloved Mexican food restaurant that has been a staple in Granbury for over two decades, recently embarked on an exciting new journey. The restaurant relocated to a new spot right next door to its original location on US-377, bringing with it the same fantastic food and a team of dedicated employees who have been serving the community for more than 20 years.

Tommy Prosize, the director of operations for Mi Familia Operating Company, LLC, has been a vital part of the restaurant's success for almost 21 years. When asked about the reason behind the move, he enthusiastically shared, "What a great location. The building next door became available for a price we felt was a rea-

sonable investment. It just worked out perfectly." Among other improvements, the completely renovated 7,300-square-foot location features a kitchen, prep area, and cold storage area double the size of the former location. Prosize promises the same delicious Mexican cuisine Granbury residents have come to cher-

ish. With a menu bursting with local favorites like sizzling fajitas, mouthwatering enchiladas, and its famous margaritas, Mi Familia continues to be a culinary gem in the heart of Hood County.

What truly sets Mi Familia apart, however, is its exceptional staff. Many of the restaurant's employees have been part of the Mi Familia "familia" for two decades or more. In recognition of their dedication, Mi Familia commissioned a local artist, Lauren Betancur, to paint a mural at their new location, honoring six long-time employees who have been with the restaurant since 2003 and some even since the restaurant's inception in 1996.

But what keeps these employees loyal to Mi Familia? Tommy Prosize didn't want to speculate; instead, he asked a few of the employ-

ees themselves. Their responses unanimously pointed to the "familia" culture that has been nurtured over the years.

Ricardo Gonzalez, one of the dedicated staff members, highlighted flexibility, consistency, service, and a sense of family as the reasons for their long tenure. "Even though they may not be related by blood, we consider ourselves family," said Lazaro Lopez. He further emphasized that loyalty goes well beyond the work environment, as they help each other out whenever needed. Another Mi Familia team member, Martha Lopez, added, "It truly feels like working with family."

Mi Familia's commitment to providing a safe family environment for its staff allows them to enjoy their job,

PLEASE SEE **FAMILIA** | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

In recent months this issue regarding pornography in Granbury has once again come to the forefront as concerns have been raised as to whether inappropriate or "pornographic" books exist within Granbury Independent School District school libraries.

Is there pornography in GISD schools?

BY KELLI MARTIN
Special to the Hood County News

The "hot topic" regarding pornography in Granbury goes back nearly 10 years, beginning with concerns being raised about content in the public library. In recent months this issue has once again come to the forefront as concerns have been raised as to whether inappropriate or "pornographic" books exist within Granbury Independent School District school libraries. Understandably, this issue has caused concern and debate among the public. There are community members who believe — despite the safeguards and procedures which are in place — pornographic materials may still exist on school campuses. Others in the community believe the policies in place safeguard the possibility of students accessing inappropriate material and feel confident no pornography exists at GISD.

GISD administration asserts it has taken appropriate measures to safeguard library materials and has adopted policies in support of the mandates required by state law.

In an interview with the HCN, Leah Dawson, GISD district services coordinator, explained how in the past, books for libraries were often purchased in bulk from book companies and publishers. According to Dawson, schools must now follow guidelines set by the TEA (Texas Education Agency) which is the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education. TEA policy dictates that "prior to any material being selected for inclusion, a library material shall have been read, reviewed, and recommended for inclusion by the district-level library supervisor or individual designated by that supervisor."

This review must conform to the TEA policies and: "(1) support and enrich the curriculum and/or students' personal interests and learning; (2) meet high standards in literary, artistic,

and aesthetic quality; technical aspects; and physical format; (3) be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, intellectual development, and ability level of the students for whom the materials are selected; (4) for non-fiction resources, incorporate accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources; (5) earn favorable reviews in standard reviewing sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel; and (6) balance cost with need."

According to Dawson, "Schools must follow another policy set forth by the TEA, which was revised and approved by the GISD school board on Aug. 21. This policy requires librarians to undergo several time-consuming steps before purchasing books. Each book must have two professional reviews, must be reviewed for the age level, reading level, and interest level intended, as well as meet the selection criteria laid out in policy and in local collection development guidelines."

Further mandates on public school library books were instituted when House Bill (HB) 900 was recently passed by the 88th Texas Legislature and went into effect Sept. 1. It sets forth and defines sexually explicit material as "any communication, language, or material including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, ... that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct... in a way that is patently offensive as defined by Section 43.21 of the state Penal Code."

Dawson also stated, "Books are constantly being reviewed. If a parent or community member brings a book to a librarian or library coordinator's attention because of a concern, we do an informal review to see if there is any reason why that book should be considered for removal or a formal challenge." An informal review, according to the GISD website, is "When a book is

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A3

'One pill kills'

Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

October is now Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month after Gov. Greg Abbott created and signed a proclamation for the month.

According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is a Schedule II controlled substance, meaning it is a drug that can cause severe psy-

chological or physical dependence. Fentanyl is similar to morphine but about 100 times more potent.

Two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal depending on a person's body size, tolerance, and past usage. A DEA analysis found counterfeit pills ranging from .02 to 5.1 milligrams of fentanyl per tablet.

"By coming together in this crisis, we can save more lives and ensure those



PHOTO COURTESY OF

THE UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug for pain relief and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.

around us are able to realize their dreams by reminding everyone that just one pill laced with fentanyl can take

someone's life. I encourage Texans of all ages to rec-

PLEASE SEE **PILL** | A3



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137TH YEAR, NO. 99

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 38 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 38 pages

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WE NEED MOORE/ALANA FOR GRANBURY ISD SCHOOL BOARD
WE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE AND THE INTEGRITY NEEDED IN GISD
YOUR VOTE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE NOVEMBER 7 ELECTION

Pd. Pol. Adv. Paid for by Treasurer Barbara Herrington

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Elevating your business The significance of chamber event sponsorship

Chamber message

In a dynamic realm of modern business, standing out and making meaningful connections is the key to success. One invaluable strategy that can help your business flourish is sponsorship of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's wide array of annual events and programs. This powerful investment not only places your business in the local spotlight but also offers a multitude of benefits for crucial growth.

NETWORKING POWERHOUSE

Chamber events function as a hub for local businesses, governmental officials, and community leaders. By becoming a sponsor, your business gains exclusive access to a diverse network of potential clients, partners, and decision-makers. The chamber's monthly Coffee & Connections and Business Development Series are excellent examples of opportunities to build on your network of contacts.

BRAND VISIBILITY

Sponsorship guarantees prominent brand exposure throughout the event, from banners to promotional materials. This increased visibility boosts brand recognition and trust among attendees. From our Area Guide and annual street map to broadcast emails and social media recognition, the chamber helps businesses grow their brand visibility.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chamber events frequently revolve around community initiatives and local causes. Sponsoring these events aligns your business with the chamber's mission and community commitment, elevating your reputation and demonstrating corporate social responsibility — a significant asset in the conscientious consumer market. The Chamber-led 4th of July Celebration (which will have its 50th Anniversary in 2024) is an excellent way to market your business to a wide variety of markets in and around Granbury.

ACCESS TO MARKET INSIGHTS

Sponsorship grants your business access to critical market insights. You will gain a deeper understanding of consumer preferences, economic trends, and industry-specific challenges, enabling you to make informed decisions about your business strategy and marketing efforts.

POSITIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sponsorship bolsters your business's public image, illustrating your dedication to the community's well-being. The goodwill can prove invaluable, especially during challenging times, as your business is more likely to receive support from the community. The Chamber's Annual Banquet and Golf Classic are just two of the ways to elevate your visibility in the community.

COST-EFFECTIVE MARKETING:

Compared to traditional advertising, sponsoring chamber events offers a cost-effective marketing strategy. The exposure and connections it generates often outweigh the investment, ensuring a high return on your sponsorship. Our Women In Business and Granbury Rising Leaders programs are exceptional opportunities to plug in to what's happening in our area.

To sum up, sponsoring chamber events is essential for businesses aiming to thrive in their local community and beyond. It offers networking opportunities, enhances brand visibility, and demonstrates community commitment. Access to valuable market insights, positive public relations, and cost-effective marketing make sponsorship essential. The opportunities for lead generation make sponsorship imperative for business success. To excel in today's competitive market, businesses must embrace sponsorship as a potent strategy for growth and prosperity. For more information on how your business can sponsor chamber events, please contact Maegan Derryberry at 817-573-1622 or maegan@granburychamber.com.

New members & Renewals

Welcome to our new chamber members who joined in September!

The Oaks of Granbury Assisted Living
Morton Buildings
Dr. Patti Birney Consulting
Texas Lumber, LLC
Candace Mazingo, Realtor, Central Metro Realty, LLC
Mysterious Scoundrels
Frog Juice Co, LLC

Thank you to the following members who renewed their chamber membership in September!
We appreciate your continued support!

Hood County YMCA
Mason-McDuffie Mortgage Corp
La Bella Luna

Fox and Vine Weddings Installation Specialists TX
Eh8 Sports, Inc.
The Allen Firm
Talent Financial Services
Service First Mortgage
ChiroHabit, PLLC
Southern Reflection Kettle Korn
Brazos Chamber Orchestra
Winston Properties – Laura Life
The Laser Junky
Kelly Dias Accountancy, PLLC
Candace Mazingo, REALTOR
First Financial Bank
Constellation Energy
Farina's Winery & Café
Green Electric & Air Conditioning
Atmos Energy
Stevan Buren Roofing, Windows & Floors
The Bridge Street History Center

Central Texas Title
Hope Builders & Development
First Presbyterian Church
Granbury Care Center
Granbury Place Apartments
The Residence at Legacy Park
Calvary Church of Granbury
Brew Aleworks
The Jewelers Workshop
Lake Granbury Newcomers Club
CareFlite
Granbury Self Storage
Granbury Eye Clinic, Nicole A. Mueller, D.O./FAOCO
Brazos Foot and Ankle Clinic
Shirley Hooks
Porter Title Company
Harbor Lakes Golf Club
Granbury Door & Window
Elite Asphalt

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening and new ownership of Home Instead, located at 983 Whitehead Drive.

COURTESY PHOTO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

API Roofing & Exteriors LLC
"API Roofing and Exteriors takes the worry out of dealing with the headache of an insurance claim so the customer can focus on the fun summer days instead of those stormy waves."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

API Roofing & Exteriors LLC, "Intense storms can cause significant roof damage that can lead to water issues inside the house. API Roofing can help repair or replace any storm damage with our reliable staff and responsive team. Give us a chance to quote your next project!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Star AC Supply
"Our motto of Trust-Reliability-Integrity is one we do not take lightly. In every transaction, you can rest assured we adhere to our motto for you. Try us and see if our motto is true!"

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Star AC Supply, "Star AC Supply LLC is a wholesale distributor of heating and our motto of Trust-reliability-integrity is one we do not take lightly. In every transaction, you can rest assured we adhere to our motto for you. Try us and see if our motto is true! Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!"

PLEASE SEE MORE **COMMUNITY BUSINESS** | A14

Hood County News
Find Contractors, Service Technicians, Landscapers, Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Carpenters, Painters, and more in the **CLASSIFIEDS**
www.hcnews.com

FAMILIA

FROM PAGE A1

serve the community, and earn a decent wage. This familial atmosphere is a key ingredient in their recipe for success.

Prosise also expressed his gratitude to the Granbury community, saying, "I want to say

thank you to our outstanding community! None of this would be possible if it were not for our loyal guests. I am continually amazed at how the residents of Granbury support the local businesses."

The relocation of Mi Familia may have changed its address, but it hasn't altered the restaurant's commitment to serving

delicious Mexican cuisine and fostering a family-like atmosphere for both its employees and customers. Whether you're a longtime fan or discovering Mi Familia for the first time, you can expect the same warm hospitality, mouthwatering dishes, and a sense of belonging that has made this restaurant a cherished part of

the Granbury community for decades.

So, the next time you're in Granbury, make sure to pay a visit to Mi Familia in its new home. You won't just savor fantastic food; you'll experience the warmth of family in every bite.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Long ago event stirs strong emotions



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.

This past week a subscriber brought me some old copies of the Hood County News which they had come across in the process of doing a massive housekeeping. Rather than throw them away, our reader thought the staff might enjoy looking through the editions. Some of the copies went back as far as the late 60s. I took the pile of faded newsprint and placed it on a table in my office and went on with my day. There were tons of things to take care of before I could leave for home that night, and surely any examination of the old newspapers could wait.

Early the next morning when I arrived to start my workday, I glanced at the pile of papers and curious-

ly picked up a section. As I began to consume my first cup of coffee of the day, my eyes fell on a headline which read, "services held for 6 young victims" and I became curious. As I read the report it explained there had been a two-car accident on 377 which had tragically caused the death of seven people, six of them Granbury High School students! The students were 15,16 or 17 years old; all were sophomores except for one junior.

As I finished the headline, I fell back in my chair, and the hands which held the newspaper dropped into my lap. I leaned back and all sorts of thoughts began to go through my head.

The story I had read was overwhelming. What a trag-

edy! My heart ached imagining the poor families that lost their children so young and to do so in such a tragic way. Granbury had a population of around 3,000 people in 1976. I feel certain almost everyone in town knew at least one of the departed or their family and was affected by this loss in one shape or form.

I tried to imagine the young students who lost their life that day. How they never got to call another friend and talk about what went on at school that day. There were no more movies to attend, ball games to play in, or tests to study for. The young people were no longer at the youth group meetings at church, nor seen out in the yard when neighbors

drove by, and their desks sat empty in their home room at school.

I did not know any of the children who passed, nor to my knowledge, do I know any of their surviving families. Yet, my heart aches for them. There is no way I can imagine the pain and what they had to endure by this loss. I can't help but wonder what the future would have held for the six, had their lives not ended so tragically. Life is precious, and so very fragile and without being understood by us mere mortals, it sometimes ends suddenly and without warning.

I do not know how much time we all have left, but what is remaining will never be enough. Hold close the ones you love, be kind to

your neighbors and friends, and care for your community and nation. Let's appreciate and value what we have and spend our lives lifting each other up rather than finding ways to divide us or tear each other down. The six young lives who passed on April 7, 1976, were part of our community. Be thankful we can live for them and make every day an opportunity for them to be proud of their hometown.

Thought for the day: The brightest souls often depart to become guiding stars...

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

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Laurie Lilly

Say hello to our neighbor, Laurie Lilly!

Laurie Lilly has enjoyed living in Hood County for almost seven years. She has been fully immersed in her job with the Forward Training Center of Hood County for six years. Her role as program director connects Lilly with resources for our youth and a wide array of responsible adults in leadership roles who will nurture and teach good character traits and instill inner confidence. "They can do what they set their minds to," says Lilly. Though Lilly believes some youngsters in our community are under-served, she also believes Granbury has the community spirit and a myriad of resources to provide unique opportunities for the youth of Hood County. Lilly loves the stories Hood County News has to offer. She says it makes a world of difference for Granbury's people, places, and organizations.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

called to the attention of a staff member or a librarian, three librarians meet and go through the selection criteria laid out in the local policy. The policy is used to determine if the book meets the selection criteria. This is an opportunity for parents to resolve the matter informally through a telephone conference or meeting between the complainant and the school librarian, designated campus administrator, or the district librarian.

If not resolved through an informal challenge, a formal challenge may be initiated by obtaining a reconsideration form. A reconsideration committee is formed within 10 days of receiving the form, and it is comprised of seven representatives: the principal, librarian, an instructional specialist, two parents, a teacher, and the district library coordinator. Each committee is comprised of a different parent and teacher rep. All committee members must read the challenged material in its entirety and members are provided a list of questions which consider if the book is pervasively vulgar and if it is educationally suitable. The committee may remove the book from all libraries, limit which libraries are acceptable to have the book, or allow the book to stay in its

current location.

When asked what actions GISD has taken to ensure there are not 'pornographic' books in the library, Dawson replied, "Over the past couple of years, GISD has put many things into place. Librarians have looked much closer at their collections and many books have been weeded and moved to higher level schools as they might be unsuitable for younger grades, or totally removed from libraries."

In addition, the GISD library webpage has an online catalogue feature where anyone can look up a book or an author for which they may have a concern and determine if the book is in the GISD library system.

Dawson said, "We have put in an opt-in program for parents to receive an immediate email each time their child checks out any library materials. As always, any parent/guardian can inform a librarian at any time if they choose for their child not to check out a specific genre, subject, author, etc. Any books that were challenged and found to be sexually explicit, or violating the penal code law, were removed from our school libraries."

According to school records, "The opt-in program was put into place in August of the 2022-2023 school year during which time 4,121 parents opted in to receive emails each time their child

checked out library materials. Over 41,715 emails were sent out last year. So far in the current school year 4,506 opted in to receive email notifications."

"There were anywhere from an average of 11,000 circulations a year per campus, but last year (2022-2023), for the district, 109,532 books were circulated for grades K-12," said Dawson.

There is also information on the GISD website about challenging a book or books, which can be found on the library's page.

Both Precinct 4 County Commissioner Dave Eagle and Republican GOP Chairman Steve Biggers have been vocal in their concern about content at school libraries. In an interview with HCN, Eagle stated, "transparency is needed for tax-paying community members to have access to the school libraries to allow a citizen to review books that are actually on the shelves. After all, the taxpayers are the ones not only paying for the books, but paying for the libraries where the books are kept."

Eagle further commented, "Even if a citizen doesn't have a child in the school district, a grandparent, aunt, cousin, or other relation to a child in the district may want to look for themselves to see exactly what types of books are available to these children."

Biggers shared a similar thought: "We need to trust, but verify."

When asked about the public examining the contents of the library, Granbury ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn told the Hood County News, "Anyone from the community is welcome to make an appointment to visit a school library when school is not in session, either before or after school hours, and to peruse the shelves."

When asked if any member of the public had made such a request, Glenn identified two individuals, Monica Brown and Donna Coleman, who had done just that. He indicated the two women requested to examine the library books at the Emma Roberson school on Dec. 13, 2022. They were given access and spent approximately two hours onsite. No protests were filed by either person. According to Glenn, no other citizens have made a request to inspect any GISD libraries.

Dawson said there were no complaints about any books received in the 2022-2023 school year and there are no current complaints for the present school year.

As they have been vocal on this subject, Hood County News reached out to GISD Trustees Karen Lowery and Melanie Graft for comment on this article, but both declined an interview.

PILL

FROM PAGE A1

ognize October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month and to acknowledge the scourge of this deadly drug," part of Abbott's proclamation reads.

Just this year, Hood County has seen 21 fentanyl-related cases according to Lt. Josh Lane of the Hood County Sheriff's Office.

"About five were overdoses, with one resulting in death," Lane said. In 2022, Hood County had four fentanyl-related cases and one in 2021. Two of these cases resulted in death.

"All illegal drugs are bad for what they do to a person, but Fentanyl is so much

more deadly, with the numbers of deceased or hospitalized overdoses on the rise. We will continue to fight this war on illegal drugs. Losing any more people, especially from Fentanyl, is too much and has to stop," Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, as of Aug. 25 there have been 841 fentanyl poisoning deaths this year in Texas. In 2022 there were a total of 2,189 fentanyl poisoning deaths in Texas.

Nationally, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has seized a record 62 million fentanyl pills to date in 2023, which already exceeds last year's total of 58 million pills.

In June, Abbott also signed

House Bill 3908 which requires each school district to annually provide no less than 10 hours of research-based instruction related to fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness to students in grades six through 12.

In 2022, the state of Texas launched the One Pill Kills public awareness campaign to educate Texans on how to prevent, recognize, and reverse fentanyl poisoning. This is a partnership with the national campaign from the DEA that was created in 2021.

Granbury ISD will talk about the destructive effects of drug abuse, including prescription drug misuse, and renew its commitment to promote healthy and drug-free lifestyles as part of

Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 23 to Oct. 31. Students will also make posters to display around campus and have themed days to highlight the importance of being drug free.

Lipan ISD will also talk about the effects of drug use during its Red Ribbon Week and as part of its health curriculum. Throughout the school year, counselors hold presentations discussing the dangers of drug use to students and also provide drug awareness and student drug testing.

Tolar ISD will also focus on teaching awareness by talking about the dangers of fentanyl and discussing the importance of staying drug free.

PLEASE SEE PILL | A4

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
 Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

City getting 'closer to normal' as utility billing resumes

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

While the city of Granbury continues to get back on track following a recent network outage and compromise, the city has made substantial progress involving utility billing.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, a notice was sent out to utility billing customers notifying them of the recent update involving their July bills.

"August bills for your July utility service have been sent to all customers," the notice reads. "Remember, those were extremely hot and dry weeks. Your bill accurately reflects your water and electricity usage."

The notice also states that by Oct. 24, utility billing customers should receive their September bill for their utility usage in August, which

was another hot and dry period of high usage.

"There's been a lot of progress, and that's been good," Jeff Newpher, city communications manager, told the HCN on Oct. 14. "Obviously, we're all impatient for everything to get back to 100% normal, and the stage we're in right now is the data has been able to be put together so bills can be sent out."

He said many customers have expressed concern regarding their bills being higher than normal, but Newpher assured that the bill amounts are "double-checked for accuracy" before being sent out.

"It was 100 degrees many, many days and people used a lot of extra water many, many days, so those are hot and dry weeks that these bills that they're receiv-

ing now encompass that time period, but they are double-checked."

The notice also states bank drafts have resumed for customers who are set up for automatic bank drafts. The date of a customer's bank draft will be listed on their bill, although some customers may see two separate bank drafts in the month of October as bank drafts are being processed for July and August utility bills.

"We're really thrilled to have bank drafts resume for people who have automatic bank drafts," Newpher said. "One of the things we do want people to know is this month they'll receive separate bank drafts, one for July and one for August, so, that will kind of get them closer to being caught up. When we went months with-

out collecting anything from people, obviously you have to make that up at some point, so we're so grateful for the people of Granbury. They've been very patient with us through this."

Newpher reiterated that no data was released from the network compromise that took place on July 30, explaining that "things were shut down very quickly to prevent that from happening."

As for the future of the city network, Newpher said progress is being made and the city is "getting closer to normal."

"We're making steps every day and every week. When it reaches normal, it'll be a better normal than it was before," he said.

If anyone would like to be removed from automatic bank drafts or if they have

any questions, they are encouraged to contact the utility billing team by email at ub@granbury.org, by phone at 682-205-1777 option 7, or by text at 817-776-8125.

"If you have questions, by all means, use whatever method is easiest for you," Newpher added. "If it doesn't matter, go ahead and send us an email because those things can be answered in batches. But if that's not something that's good for you, pick up the phone and call us. If you like texting, send us a text. The billing team wants to be interactive for people who need that personalized information."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS Automotive, 3809 E. Hwy 377, will be partnering with several local churches to offer free oil changes to single moms and widows in need on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 817-573-3911.

FIRST CHRISTIAN Church invites the community to celebrate their 150th anniversary during a two-day celebration beginning at 10 a.m. to approximately 12:15 p.m. at the Langdon Center Concert Hall, 308 E Bridge St. — the original location of First Christian Church. The service will feature former ministers, and a barbecue luncheon with speakers will follow. Saturday's program features Dan Vanderburg speaking on the early history of Hood County and the city of Granbury. The founding families of the church in 1873 will be highlighted. Marc Is-took, a direct descendant of Randolph Clark, will speak on the history of the Clark family and AddRan College. The Music Ministry will be leading the attendees with hymn singing. Pastor Justin will conclude with a "High noon communion." For more information, call 817-573-5431.

ACTON NATURE Center. Join us Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a free, family-friendly celebration of the Monarch butterfly migration at the Acton Nature Center, 6900 Smoky Hill Court in Granbury. Learn how and why we tag Monarchs, their incredible life cycle and migration, citizen science projects, how to create your own Monarch Waystation and butterfly habitat and more! Special activities for children include face painting, a caterpillar craft and a DIY butterfly water fountain, all offered by Rio Brazos Chapter volunteers from the Texas Master Naturalist program. <https://txmn.org/rbc/>

SUNDAY, OCT. 22

FIRST CHRISTIAN Church invited the community to celebrate their 150th anniversary at 10:30 a.m. at 2109 W US Hwy. 377 (next to Tractor Supply). The service will feature former ministers, and a barbecue luncheon with speakers will follow.

PLEASE SEE
CALENDAR | A14



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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.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION A

As a GISD graduate several years ago, I credit the teachers, facilities, and programs for my success as a good citizen, community contributor, and individual who tries to "give back." GISD, a large and integral component of our community, protects and nurtures our children. Children are our future. We must embrace their needs and provide a great learning environment for their individual growth. This election's propositions for enhanced teacher and staff salaries and much-needed lower school renovations, capacity increases, and transportation improvements do a lot to address GISD's increased enrollment.

I truly love Cresson, Hood County, and our way of life. Our population continues to grow, and it is not possible to slow or stop it. A better solution is to proactively provide infrastructure with the capacity to support projected student growth. Today, we are behind; our schools are over capacity, affecting our children's learning. Our buses are old with significant maintenance requirements. The salaries that our teachers and staff

receive are not competitive with surrounding communities. We must understand the issues and vote to support the children of our community.

Cresson, at the north end of the GISD boundary, has been deeply impacted by the growing student population. We see this every day as we drive down Highway 377. Our community expects 7,500 new citizens within the next 10 years, and we need to make sure we are ready to welcome them to our neighborhoods and schools.

Let me address the two school propositions and express my reasons for recommending that we all vote "yes" in support. First, GISD continues to lose teachers and staff to surrounding communities due to pay inequities. Proposition A is a Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE) which will permanently deliver a 10% raise to bring our teachers and staff to a competitive market position. Proposition B addresses our capacity issues by adding a new elementary school, the first since 1996, off Old Granbury Road behind HEB. This location will take pressure off Oakwood and the growth to the north. Acton middle school will also be expanded to manage the

middle school growth. All lower schools will be renovated to improve conditions and their critical learning environments. A new bus hub and 30 new buses will be added on the district's north side to shorten travel time, decrease maintenance issues, and make student commutes shorter.

Taxes are always important, and we must make sure we get value for our investment. If VATRE and Prop B pass, the school tax will decrease by 6 cents per \$100 and allow the district to give raises to all teachers and staff as well as add classrooms and bus services. GISD continues to show their sound stewardship of our tax dollars by delivering one of the lowest school tax rates in North Texas.

Join me in voting "yes" for Prop A and B and show your support for our students and our community! Help Cresson lead the way!

Teena Putteet Conway
Cresson Mayor

THIS ELECTION CYCLE MATTERS

As a lifetime conservative republican, I will tell you that the Republican Party of Hood County has been hijacked by extremists who

manipulate and seek to divide our party and control our county politics. The United Republicans of Hood County was formed this year to combat malicious and dishonest tactics and seeks to serve ALL republicans in Hood County and restore our small-town values.

This election cycle matters. We must elect individuals who support our students and teachers. Nancy Alana and Mike Moore are the only two candidates that have the background to fulfill these requirements. Nancy Alana has over 30 years of school service as a teacher, principal, and school board member. Mike Moore has been an effective school board member and is a local banker. Failure to elect the right trustees will cause significant harm to our children's education, our teaching staff, and our district at large.

GISD is an outstanding school district. Our school tax rate is the LOWEST for a district our size in the entire DFW metropolitan area. Our children graduate ready for college, technical schools, or to enter the work force as they desire.

If you are a parent and care about the education of your children, or if you are a concerned citizen who cares about the students' educa-

tion in GISD, please educate yourselves before you vote in this election. Talk with one of the hundreds of educators active and retired that live here or friends and neighbors who are informed on these issues. Then pass this information on to the other voters who care about our school district. Together, we can continue to offer a great education to all of our children.

Billy Wimberly
Place 5, GISD School Board

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/letters. 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.

PILL

FROM PAGE A3

The Hood County Substance Abuse Council has resources available for those dealing with substance abuse or those seeking more information.

"Our focus is to help coordinate community efforts and provide education and prevention services to the youth and adults of Hood County," the HCSAC website reads. "The HCSAC is a coalition of community volunteers dedicated to the prevention of youth and adult substance abuse and sup-

porting treatment services for those who need it."

The HCSAC has an abundant number of resources for both adults and juveniles listed on its website at hoodcosac.org.

The Pecan Valley Center in Granbury provides substance abuse help and has numerous resources to help those struggling.

"Opioid abuse is rampant in Hood County and the rest of the state. At Pecan Valley Centers, we are taking an active approach. We offer outpatient substance use disorder services in all counties in our service area. Not only

do we offer counseling, but we also provide education on different drugs, including opioids and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. We focus on reducing stigma and increasing prevention and intervention," Rachel Dye, a substance use disorder program director at the PVC said.

The best way to access outpatient substance use disorder services is to call 817-594-3225 or email SUD@pecanvalley.org. If you are interested in mental health services or are in a crisis, please call Pecan Valley Centers Crisis Hotline

at 1-800-772-5987.

SIGNS OF A FENTANYL OVERDOSE INCLUDE

- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils"
- Face is extremely pale and/or feels cold or clammy to the touch
- Body goes limp
- Fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color
- Vomiting or making gurgling noises
- Cannot be awakened or unable to speak
- Breathing or heartbeat slows or stops

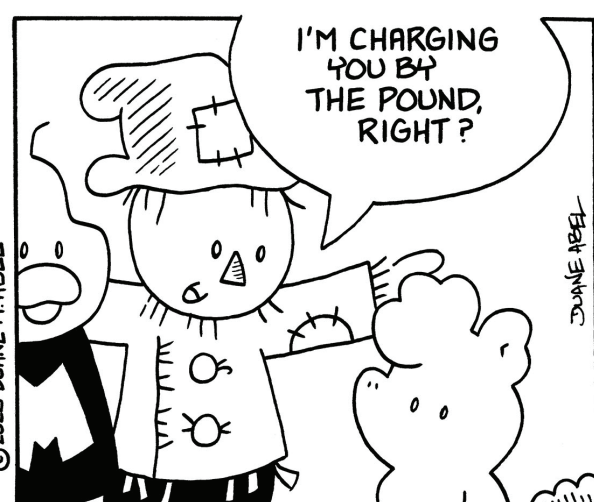
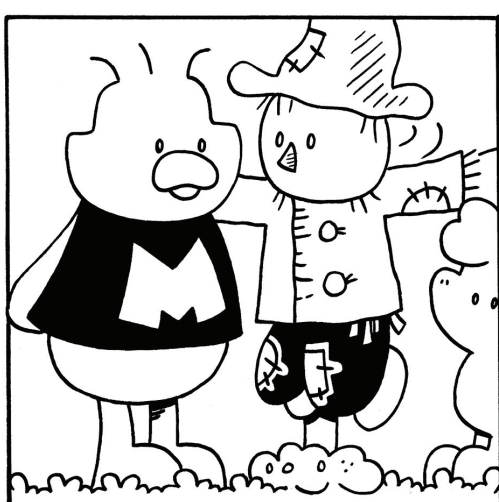
If you see someone experi-

encing an overdose there are important steps you need to take including:

- Call 911 right away
- Try to wake the person up
- Give naloxone, if available
- Begin rescue breathing or CPR
- Turn the person on their side to prevent choking
- Stay with the person until emergency services arrive

For more information on fentanyl, substance abuse and to find more resources visit the DEA's website at dea.gov.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury ISD school board held their regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 16.

Granbury ISD board approves school voucher resolution

“This isn’t a republican or democratic issue; this is about doing what’s best for kids”

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Granbury ISD Board of Trustees took on the subject of school vouchers during its regular meeting Oct. 16. Following much discussion, the board approved a resolution distributed by the Texas Association of School Boards by a vote of 5-2, with Trustees Melanie Graft and Karen Lowery voting in opposition.

The resolution has already been approved by 178 school districts according to Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn. School boards across the state were given the option of making their own changes to the resolution; GISD considered the original resolution and made no changes before approving it.

If it passes, Senate Bill 1, authored by Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, will create education savings accounts, a voucher-like program that will allow families access to \$8,000 of taxpayer

money to pay for private schools and other education-related expenses, according to The Texas Tribune.

This bill was approved in the Texas Senate on Oct. 12.

Senate Bill 2 is also in the works and, if passed, will provide \$5.2 billion across Texas school districts to help with teacher raises and rising costs of educational expenses, according to the Texas Tribune.

The bill also would give a one-time pay bonus for teachers. Those in districts with fewer than 5,000 students would receive a \$10,000 payment while those in districts with more than 5,000 students would receive a \$3,000 payment.

Gov. Greg Abbott has been adamant in supporting a voucher program and school choice.

The bill will now be in the hands of the Texas House.

At Lowery’s request, Glenn read the resolution created by TASB aloud to those who attended the meeting.

“WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires that the Texas Legislature establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;

“WHEREAS, Texas public school districts, including Granbury ISD, accept every student;

“WHEREAS, education savings accounts and other voucher schemes give private schools, not parents, the right to choose;

“WHEREAS, our community has high expectations about how their children are served in our schools, how their tax dollars are used, and of the level of transparency we provide in all matters;

“WHEREAS, Granbury ISD schools and all Texas public schools adhere to state-mandated academic and financial accountability standards;

“WHEREAS, private schools

PLEASE SEE **VOUCHER** | A7

Granbury ISD school board approves district improvement plan

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled school board meeting, the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2023-2024 district improvement plan.

Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark presented the 39-page plan where performance objectives are set along with strategies to align with the long-range planning goals.

Some of the plan is not up to date as the district is waiting on its rating from the Texas Education Agency’s A through F rating system. The system is statewide and allows the TEA to evaluate the academic performance of districts and campuses.

Ratings were supposed to be made public on Sept. 28 but were delayed by one month.

“The delay will allow for a further re-examination of the baseline data used in the calculation of progress to ensure ratings reflect the most appropriate goals for students,” according to the TEA.

“We address everything that was applicable to every single department,” Clark said before presenting the plan during the meeting.

Clark highlighted some of the improvement goals in different areas such as grade level proficiency and future-ready skills, coordinated health, highly effective and well-supported staff, community effectiveness, facility growth and security, demographics, curriculum, and instruction.

Clark said math and English need to be worked on as well as the College, Career and Military Readiness program. She noted the district will continue its

Advancement Via Individual Determination program and continue to explore ways to increase its advanced placement, dual enrollment and dual credit classes. The plan also focuses on increasing the Texas Success Initiative Assessment offerings.

When it comes to coordinated health, the district has plans to address the wellbeing of students.

Many goals have been set in terms of bullying and a culture committee has been working on the issue and how to address it, Clark told those in attendance. She added the district will continue to partner with Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (a telemedicine and telehealth program for school districts to help students), Communities in Schools (a program for providing support for students), the Children’s Advocacy Center, the Brazos Pregnancy Center and all the presentations they do to make sure students get what they need.

GISD is launching Catching Kids’ Hearts for secondary schools this year to make sure mutual respect is happening all around the schools. Likewise, the Can Do You program will allow short sessions that help students learn character-building traits, problem-solving traits and some conflict-managing traits that will be done through the student’s advisory classes. The elementary schools will focus on character education.

When it comes to supporting the staff across the district, if passed, the Voter Approval Tax Rate Election will allow for more competitive pay, Clark said. She added the district will look at getting observation feedback training for both staff

and administration. Through long-range planning, the district has created a committee for recruitment as well as a committee to unify the district model for mentoring. Clark also highlighted the partnership with Tarleton State University, which provides interns for teaching.

“There are some things that were pushed down from the long-range planning, like the standardized teacher/family, school/family and school/community communication expectations. We are working on creating some of those templates and creating a committee for them,” Clark said. “Unifying branding policy for the district and creating some surveys including student surveys, parent surveys, community surveys and teacher surveys so that we know we’re meeting everyone’s needs and connecting with them the best we can. We are going to continue our Purple Star Program and I’m super proud of that.”

If the bond passes, there will be a bond oversight committee, and the district is looking toward successful achievement on all state audits. Emergency operations plans are being put in place and continue to be updated.

After receiving its A through F ratings, the district will evaluate the demographics. Clark noted that EB (emergent bilingual) students, special education students and the economically-disadvantaged population are all growing, adding there will be many goals set around those students after the ratings are received.

In curriculum and instruction, the district is going to work to see if there is a deeper need for math intervention and College Career and Military Readiness program.



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Concerns of bullying voiced during Granbury ISD school board meeting

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled meeting of the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees on Oct. 16, bullying concerns were voiced by many after one bullying instance was heard around the district.

Beverly Cheney, daughter of board president Barbara Herrington spoke out about bullying around the district and noted how she was bullied when she was in school. She also shared how her mother has been bullied by members of the community.

"Bullying doesn't just happen with kids. Adults bully. Social media and the internet don't seem to help. There is even bullying right here in this room," Cheney said during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Cheney then read out some of the comments her mother has received, both written and spoken, in the last three months.

"You are old, and you are used up. You will burn in the pits of hell. You should crawl in a hole and disappear. Your fruit is putrid. You are classless and ignorant. Instead of buying a plane, you should have taken the school's money and gotten reconstructive surgery, so the public doesn't have to look at your horrible appearance," Cheney read during the meeting. "Not only were most of those things written by people right here in this room, some were written by people who have taken up the mantle of anti-bullying... We should all just try to be. We should try to live a life that makes people around us happy. We should all try to be better."

Jadyn Davis and his family showed up at the school board meeting and spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting to voice their concerns with the district's handling of a bullying incident that took place on Sept. 13.

Jadyn, a sixth-grade student at Granbury Middle School, had a student from behind put hand sanitizer into his eyes during the school day.

Jadyn's mom, Erin, went up to speak but before speaking President Herrington asked about what Erin had done in regard to solving the issue.

Erin told Herrington she had spoken with GMS principal Andy Smith and has another meeting scheduled



Protestors stand outside the Granbury ISD administration building, raising awareness on bullying after instances of bullying have been circulating the district.

PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

for Oct. 19. She also told Herrington she has already filed a level one grievance packet.

"My advice to you is, if it gets to (a) level three (grievance), you will have all the time you need in an open session to speak to the issue. It would be much better for the board if we heard your whole story rather than three minutes of it. However, that choice is yours," Herrington said.

"Is there any way to skip level one and two if I have emails with Dr. Smith and (Superintendent) Dr. Glenn? I don't see the point in having another meeting with the same people you're disputing with," Erin replied.

"By state law and board policy, you make your dispute at level one and if you're not pleased with the result, you get there, then you move it to the next level. If again you don't get the desired results, then you move it to the board at that point. That is the state law and how it's done. I want to caution you that at that time, you could have all the time you need to tell your whole story. But that's the way the procedure works," Herrington told Davis.

"So, we follow the procedures when it comes to y'all but when it comes to my son, he has to wait more time. He's still being bullied by the same group of kids," Davis replied to Herrington then chose not to speak and returned to her seat.

Following Erin, her husband Michael spoke.

"My son was assaulted at GMS. The one who assaulted him received, I would say, two days of in-school suspension. I do believe the code of conduct for the district is the removal of the child from the school pe-



Jadyn Davis speaks out at a Granbury ISD school board meeting voicing his concerns after he was bullied at Granbury Middle School.

riod, not just for his actions but for the safety of our son. It's also in the state-mandated law but that was also ignored," Michael said. "We asked everyone for help, and we need the help now. Not tier one or tier two or ask for everyone's permission, 'cause it's our son. If it's not our son, it's somebody else's son later. This is an important deal for us, and we will continue and continue to push until y'all finally hear us. Someone is going to hear us."

Jadyn's sister, Emily who is a seventh grader at GMS also spoke out.

"I don't think it's fair for the guy who hit my brother to get one day of ISS. When I asked (Jadyn) why this happened, he said 'I don't know. I don't even know him' So how is it fair for some kids to suffer, even though they are being bullied. I think what (the bully) is doing is wrong," Emily said.

Jadyn spoke out in front of the board also.

"I am a victim of a kid at GMS that claims to be in a gang. That kid came up to me from behind and hit me

two times in my eye and then rubbed hand sanitizer in my eye. Ever since then, the kids have called me cry baby and kept flicking me in the back of my head at lunch. I told my principal (Dr. Smith) this and I want to ask one question and would like an answer from the board. Why don't you help protect me?" Jadyn said.

"That took a lot of courage for you to speak," Trustee Melanie Graft told Jadyn. Shelby Parks, who is a sophomore at Granbury High School also spoke out during the meeting. Parks described how she has been bullied since elementary school both to her face and behind her back. She has been bullied for being plus-size, being unathletic and being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"I can confidently say that me and any other student that has been bullied in this district do not feel comfortable with the way the direction of bullying is going on and the way the district is handling it. Some not being handled in some situations," Parks said.

Parks noted she is the Gay Straight Alliance Club secretary at GHS. Parks shared the GSA is meant to be a safe place for everyone to feel welcome noting it is not meant to be sexual or inappropriate. "We have queer students. Acknowledge that. We have students who are being bullied and no one's doing anything to stop it. Acknowledge that. Every student belongs here and should feel safe. Acknowledge that. Every student should be treated equal. That's all I'm asking as a student of Granbury ISD," Parks said.

Michael Davis also spoke on bullying, noting that bullying happens everywhere and that he had been bullied.

Monica Brown also spoke on bullying noting that Michael Davis has been a bully to people in the community. "There has been bullying from (Trustee) Billy Wimberly since day one. Melanie (Graft), bravo to you and (Trustee) Karen Lowery, bravo to you and all the other people who are going to stand up and speak up until somebody listens. I've got a grievance filed against Dr. Glenn right now and also Billy Wimberly for bullying," Brown said, ending the public comment phase of the meeting.

Trustee Lowery shared that she was informed there were three bullying incidents in the district within the first two weeks of school and bullying has been an ongoing issue. "We have approximately 1,200 educators in Granbury ISD. I assure you that no member of our staff, whether it's a bus

driver or a custodian or a teacher or an administrator, ever wants to see a kid bullied or not feel safe in our schools. But we also recognize that it happens, and I want to encourage parents to know there are opportunities for their kids to report not only to the teacher or administrator on campus, but they can also use an online reporting system which is in our district website." Superintendent Jeremy Glenn told those in attendance.

He also thanked the speakers for speaking up and out on bullying.

The board moved to an agenda item considering approval of the 2023-2024 district improvement plan; it was noted bullying is further addressed under the coordinated health section of the plan.

"We have some really good goals from our strategic planning groups in that area. We have a culture committee that's been working already and are going to meet again this week to address some of that. It's just to take care of the whole child, their social well-being, their physical well-being, and their mental well-being," Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark said. "We will continue our partnerships with Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (a telemedicine and tele-health program for school districts to help students), with Communities in Schools (a program for providing support for students), the Children's Advocacy Center and the Brazos Pregnancy Center and all the presentations they do to make sure our kids get what they need. We also are launching Catching Kids' Hearts for the secondary schools this year to make sure mutual respect is happening all around the schools. We are also doing Can Do You for secondary campuses which are short sessions that help students learn character-building traits, problem-solving traits and some conflict-managing traits and they do that through their advisory classes. At our elementary campuses we do character education."

The district improvement plan passed with a 7-0 vote.

For bullying concerns or to view the student handbook regarding bullying visit the GISD website at granburyisd.org. Anonymous reporting of bullying is also available via the website.

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Granbury City Council greenlights \$34 million wastewater project

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Granbury City Council voted unanimously on Oct. 17 to award the East Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement project to Gracon Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$34,112,000.

City Manager Chris Coffman explained to the public this project had been rebid and the city has a "great working relationship" with Gracon following the completion of a previous project.

Place 2 council member Eddie Rodriguez asked Keith Kendall, who works for the civil engineering firm Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc., what the differences were between the companies they considered for the project recently compared to the last time the city put the project out for bid.

Kendall explained that all the construction companies had been "about the same," and they all had bids centered around a \$34 million cost.

Rodriguez then asked Kendall if this cost is normal for post-COVID and if he is seeing "the same thing" across the board in the industry.

Kendall said he thought he would never see a high cost of \$34 million for a wastewater treatment plant. However, he said as this particular plant contains a biological nutrient removal and other additions, this plant is considered "advanced."

He also added that with delays surrounding supply chain issues, the completion time for the project has been pushed back to 27 months.

"We had estimated 24



Granbury City Council voted unanimously on Oct. 17 to award the East Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement project to Gracon Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$34,112,000.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

months, but we're comfortable with the 27 months they proposed for substantial completion," Kendall said. "Obviously, with the price being the way it is, I certainly wish I could tell you this is the exception, but it's not."

Rodriguez then pointed out the sacrifices the city has had to make in order to move forward with the wastewater treatment plant project, including sacrificing almost \$10 million worth of other projects.

"Because of the increase in cost, we had to put those

projects on the back burner, which is really sad, because when you're a steward of the city's money and your taxpayers' money, we want to get the most bang for the buck," he said. "But the city is doing everything possible to be diligent and be good stewards of the city taxpayers' money. And I just want to say to Chris and your staff, and everybody that was involved in this, thank you for looking at this and seeing how we can even reduce the cost from \$38 million to \$34 million."

Coffman commented that

he networks with other city managers and explained they've talked about sewer plants and pricing. He said the type of system they're replacing the south treatment plant with is priced the same in another city.

"I feel like we're getting a good value here in today's world," he said. "It's unfortunate. I just want to go on record and say when we were looking at this in 2018, it was a little under \$10 million to do this project."

Coffman said following that, they went with a CMAR (Construction Manager at

Risk) construction to upgrade the old plant with new facilities and technology, and the estimate from the CMAR was almost \$16 million.

"By the time we got through COVID and the delays — the little electric switch that goes from the main power to the unit took two years to get — it's three-and-a-half times what it should have cost before COVID," Coffman said. "Of course, Texas is experiencing growth... so it's just kind of the nature of where we live. We're blessed to live in Texas

in a growing economy, but this inflation is killing us."

Kendall said Gracon has been in business for 46 years, and Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc., has worked with them for 34 years.

"Despite the long road to get here, I couldn't be happier to be here in front of you today, as this has been a long road for everybody — and this, despite everything, is a great day to get this moving," he said.

Place 3 council member Bruce Wadley then asked Kendall if anything had changed about the new wastewater plant since he had joined the Granbury City Council five years ago.

Kendall replied that "nothing within the plans and specifications from five years ago has changed."

"I know Mr. Coffman said when this was first looked at, it was \$10 million and when I was elected five years ago, it was \$13 million, so I know the opposition had good intentions, and they really felt like this is what they needed to do. But the delay caused by those lawsuits and everything has cost the city \$20 million," Wadley said. "We're building the same thing that needed to be built. I could understand this was a great plant. I appreciate that, but I just hate the delay because of the expense that it's cost (the city)."

With no further discussion, the council unanimously voted to award the East Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement project to Gracon Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$34,112,000.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

Texas State Parks Receive National Gold Medal Award, Recognized as Best State Park System in the Country

Submitted item

Texas State Parks received the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management Wednesday morning.

The National Gold Medal Award Program is governed and administered by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) and announced at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)'s annual conference.

"It's no secret to the more than 9 million people who visit Texas State Parks every year that we have one of the nation's premiere systems," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "However, it is touching and fitting to receive this prestigious award during our centennial year, truly substantiating the progress we have made over the past century to fulfill the vision laid out by Gov. Patt Neff of providing places where the people of Texas could enjoy the beauty of this great state."

Texas State Parks was named a finalist along with Missouri State Parks, Ohio State Parks and Watercraft; and Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class, awarded on odd numbered years, for state park systems.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff and elected officials. Four finalists in each class are chosen to compete for grand honors each year. For more information concerning the Gold

Medal Award Program, visit <https://aapra.org/National-Gold-Medal-Award>.

"We really tried to highlight for the judges the extensive amount of work we have done in recent years to increase accessibility and diversity in our parks," Franklin said. "We have used the excitement created by our Centennial Celebration as an opportunity to invite new audiences to take advantage of the recreational and health benefits provided by their state parks, and to prepare a new generation of

stewards for the next 100 years of growth."

For more information about the Texas State Park Centennial Celebration, including community events, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make a day visit or overnight reservation, visit the Texas State Parks 100 Years website at TexasStateParks.org/100years.

For video about Texas State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department YouTube page.

VOUCHER FROM PAGE A5

are not required to meet the same academic standards as public schools, and they do not report test results, graduation rates, and other performance measures to the public;

"WHEREAS, education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars;

"WHEREAS, school choice already exists in Texas via public school districts, charter schools, transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools;

"WHEREAS, during 2023 multiple sessions, including the 88th regular legislative session, Texas lawmakers did not deliver on promised and expected increases in funding for teacher and staff compensation and safety to Texas public schools, even with a \$33 billion surplus available to them at the state level;

"WHEREAS, using tax dollars to pay for tuition at private and religious schools would grow into a costly entitlement program at a time when the State is not allocat-

ing enough funding to public schools, including those in Granbury ISD, to address required, increased and non-discretionary expenditures caused by market forces and inflation;

"WHEREAS, a taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming communities like ours that are founded upon strong public schools;

"WHEREAS, Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in the Texas Education Code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education services; and WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature may meet again in 2023 to discuss public schools if Governor Greg Abbott calls another special session;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees call on the Texas Legislature to reject any diversion of public dollars to private entities in the form of education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes," the resolution read.

After Glenn read the voucher Trustee Courtney Gore said it was important for all trustees to look at the resolution and see if there was anything they'd like to change.

"I think there (are) some invalid points made in here regarding public education funding and services that students and particularly parents won't really have the right to choose. It really gives private schools the right to choose who they accept. We serve a majority of the students in our community so any funding they take away from our local public schools just hurts kids and ultimately that's why we're here. We're here to do what's best for kids," Gore said. "This isn't a republican or democratic issue; this is about doing what's best for kids. I think our legislature deserves to hear from us and where we stand on this issue. Whether that means we're going to see legislation or not this session, (Gov.) Abbott has made it clear he is going to keep calling special sessions until something is passed. I think it's important to point out some of the fallacies we see in vouchers, so our legislators know what

to look for with any type of voucher program brought or presented to them, so perhaps they can put provisions or protections in place for public schools to make sure some of the issues outlined in this resolution are addressed."

"Also, I hope it puts in their mind what they need to think of from a parent's standpoint — that the parent needs to understand there will not be the same academic standard or the same fiscal accountability and availability of public information we have in public schools. From my standpoint, I am a trustee of public schools; that is why I think this is important," Trustee Barbara Townsend shared during the meeting.

Gore noted that one or two children leaving a public school has a "huge effect" on that public school when it comes to expenses and pay.

"It's strange to me they would offer an \$8,000 program for someone who choose to go somewhere else where they may not even be able to go yet, they're not even looking at basic allotment increases. We have a huge discrepancy in the funding they are going to give to different

programs," Gore added.

"The financial fallacy of it all is what really gets me," President Barbara Herrington said.

Herrington added that many private school tuitions cost well over \$25,000 a year, not counting trips, activities, and other special events.

Both Gore and Herrington stressed that many students in Granbury ISD are economically disadvantaged and wouldn't be able to take the private school route even if they wanted to.

"Where they need help is at their public school... private schools aren't going to provide the resources they need that they may not have," Gore said.

Graft asked who put the item on the agenda; Herrington answered it was her.

"I'm really looking at this and seeing that it is a taxpayer-funded lobby which uses school resources to lobby the legislature. It's illegal use of school resources. TASB is a statewide funded lobbying group. Dues are paid with tax dollars," Graft said.

Gore told Graft elected representatives from local counties can visit TASB and

speak on issues happening within their own school district. Gore reiterated the trustees can change anything in the resolution if they don't agree with it or want something changed.

Trustee Billy Wimberly noted there were a lot of good points in the resolution. "I believe public schools statewide are under attack and I think approving this gives us good ammunition to go and try and lobby for ourselves if we have to for some of these points," Wimberly said.

Trustee Mike Moore said if private schools followed the same rules as public schools, he would be for vouchers. He pointed out private schools don't have to accept everyone and added that a public school will take care of everyone.

Lowery agreed with Graft, stating her position that this is taxpayer-funded lobbying and she would prefer as an individual to call and share how she feels with legislators.

After this discussion, the resolution was approved by a 5-2 vote.

Classifieds

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NOTICES

Public Notices

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

SOUTHBEND ADDITION, Lots 1X, 21R & 22R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, DONE Storage, located at 4508 Old Granbury Road, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction at www.LockerFox.com of contents to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on October 28, 2023.

Unit contents will be sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash only. Cleanup deposit is required. Contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All units contain household items unless additional items are noted. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Steven Jackson, Marco Cabrera.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Notice is hereby given that on October 11, 2023, Letters Testamentary as Independent Executor upon the Estate of DAVID D. CAMPBELL, Deceased, were issued to LYNDEL M. CAMPBELL, who resides at 712 Davis Road, Granbury, Texas 76049, by the Honorable Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, in Cause No. PB10184, pending upon the Probate Docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is now being administered are hereby required to present same to the Executor's attorneys, NORMAN & NORMAN P.C., at the address shown below, within the time prescribed by law.
 Respectfully submitted,
NORMAN & NORMAN P.C.
 BY: /s/ Catherine M. Norman
CATHERINE M. NORMAN
 State Bar No. 00791358
NORMAN & NORMAN P.C.
 Attorneys
 3200 RIVERFRONT DRIVE
 SUITE 100
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
 Phone: 817-335-5000
 Fax: 817-335-5013
catherine@normanestatelaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTOR

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sandra L. Miller, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10188, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Kimberly L. Siegenthaler.

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: Kimberly L. Siegenthaler
 5901 Rosemont Ct.
 Arlington, Texas 76017
 DATED the 11 day of October, 2023.
 /s/ E. Mark Piland
 E. Mark Piland
 Attorney for Kimberly L. Siegenthaler
 State Bar No.: 16008870
 1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101
 Granbury, TX 76048
 Telephone: (817) 579-0207
 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629
 E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jon Blythe Middleton, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10186, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Sara Middleton.

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: Sara Middleton
 4506 Overlook Ct
 Granbury, Texas 76049
 DATED the 12 day of October, 2023.
 /s/ E. Mark Piland
 E. Mark Piland
 Attorney for Sara Middleton
 State Bar No.: 16008870
 1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101
 Granbury, TX 76048
 Telephone: (817) 579-0207
 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629
 E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jose Merced Campos, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10154, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Jannet Campos.

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: Jannet Campos
 5408 Maverick Dr.
 Grand Prairie, Texas 75052
 DATED the 12 day of October, 2023.
 /s/ E. Mark Piland
 E. Mark Piland
 Attorney for Jannet Campos
 State Bar No.: 16008870
 1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101
 Granbury, TX 76048
 Telephone: (817) 579-0207
 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629
 E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margaret Elizabeth Lindsay a/k/a Margaret E. Lindsay, Deceased, were granted on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0175, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Mark Wayne Lindsay.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 c/o: Samuel I. Reid
 Attorney at Law
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 DATED the 27th day of September 2023.
 The Reid Firm, P.C.
 Attorneys for Mark Wayne Lindsay
 By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
 Steven J. Reid
 State Bar No.: 16747900
 Samuel I. Reid
 State Bar No.: 24105702
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 Telephone: (817) 573-3718
 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Johnny Victor Standridge, Deceased, were granted on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. P10161, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Marjean Kay Standridge.

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.
 DATED the 4th day of October 2023.
 The Reid Firm, P.C.
 Attorneys for Marjean Kay Standridge
 By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
 Steven J. Reid
 State Bar No.: 16747900
 Samuel I. Reid
 State Bar No.: 24105702
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 Telephone: (817) 573-3718
 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ACI Shops & Storage, Ltd. located at 1650 South Meadow Drive Granbury, Texas 76048 will have a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be Tuesday November 7, 2023 at 10:30 am. Sign-in at the office. Property will be sold by the unit to the highest bidder for cash.

Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale.
 Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with a brief description of contents in each space. COLTON VAN COWEN, Rods n reels, grill, golf clubs; MARY ANTONIA CUDD, Ceiling fan, toys, games, weed eater; JEREMIAH ANDREW HANEY, Floor tile, power washer, interior doors, table saw, painting equip., air tank; MISTY LADAWN SLATER, Twin beds, refrigerators, living rm furn.; LISA ANNE GLAZENER, Grandfather clock, gun safe, household furn.; LUCAS AARON NICKELSON, post hole diggers, spades, air tank; 5 CROWN MINISTRIES, stackable chairs; JODY WILLIAM SMITH, Texas flag, bats, tool chests, cabinet, varmint trap; HAROLD DEAN ROBERTS, Chain, wooden chest, table, gas can; JOSHUA KEITH SHEPHERD, Tent, car speakers, dog kennel, motorcycle parts, work bench.

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David Len Rogers a/k/a David Rogers, Deceased, were granted on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. P10155, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Carolyn Ann Rogers.

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.
 DATED the 27th day of September 2023.
 The Reid Firm, P.C.
 Attorneys for Carolyn Ann Rogers
 By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
 Steven J. Reid
 State Bar No.: 16747900
 Samuel I. Reid
 State Bar No.: 24105702
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 Telephone: (817) 573-3718
 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Meda Ernestine Rogers, Deceased, were granted on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. PI 0165, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Regina Lorraine Ruegsegger.

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.
 DATED the 4th day of October 2023.
 The Reid Firm, P.C.
 Attorneys for Regina Lorraine Ruegsegger
 By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
 Steven J. Reid
 State Bar No.: 16747900
 Samuel I. Reid
 State Bar No.: 24105702
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 Telephone: (817) 573-3718
 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Louella P. Van Zandt, Deceased, were granted on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. P10149, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Paul Edward Van Zandt.

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.
 DATED the 27th day of September 2023.
 The Reid Firm, P.C.
 Attorneys for Paul Edward Van Zandt
 By:/s/ Samuel I. Reid
 Steven J. Reid
 State Bar No.: 16747900
 Samuel I. Reid
 State Bar No.: 24105702
 1840 Acton Highway
 Granbury, TX 76049
 Phone: (817) 573-3718
 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732
 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com
samuel@reidfirmpc.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richard L. Johnson, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Richard L. Johnson, Deceased, were granted to Carol Anne Marcott on October 11, 2023 in Cause No. P10162, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Curtis Clinesmith and Kaitlin Travis c/o Carol Anne Marcott, Independent Executor of The Estate of Richard L. Johnson, at 325 N. Saint Paul, Floor 29, Dallas, Texas 75201.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ACI Shops & Storage, Ltd. located at 1650 South Meadow Drive Granbury, Texas 76048 will have a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be Tuesday November 7, 2023 at 10:30 am. Sign-in at the office. Property will be sold by the unit to the highest bidder for cash.

Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale.
 Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with a brief description of contents in each space. COLTON VAN COWEN, Rods n reels, grill, golf clubs; MARY ANTONIA CUDD, Ceiling fan, toys, games, weed eater; JEREMIAH ANDREW HANEY, Floor tile, power washer, interior doors, table saw, painting equip., air tank; MISTY LADAWN SLATER, Twin beds, refrigerators, living rm furn.; LISA ANNE GLAZENER, Grandfather clock, gun safe, household furn.; LUCAS AARON NICKELSON, post hole diggers, spades, air tank; 5 CROWN MINISTRIES, stackable chairs; JODY WILLIAM SMITH, Texas flag, bats, tool chests, cabinet, varmint trap; HAROLD DEAN ROBERTS, Chain, wooden chest, table, gas can; JOSHUA KEITH SHEPHERD, Tent, car speakers, dog kennel, motorcycle parts, work bench.

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 -TRC 109 & 114
 CAUSE NO. C2023175

STATE OF TEXAS
 IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
 PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION VS. BRANDI LIN HUDSON AKA BRANDI LIN BISCAMP AKA BRANDI PATTERSON, BRANDON HUDSON, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF SANDRA G. HUDSON

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF SANDRA G. HUDSON
 DEFENDANT, Greeting:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexaslawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written response to the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 4TH day of OCTOBER 2023, before the Honorable BRYANT BUFKIN, 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court, on the 18th day of JULY, AD. 2023, in the above entitled cause.

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

Plaintiff PNC Bank, National Association, by and through its attorney of record, Nicole M. Bartee of Codilis & Moody, P.C., 20405 State Highway 249, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77070, brought suit under Cause No. C2023175 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for enforcement and foreclosure of Deed of Trust Lien on the following described real property of which Defendants, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF SANDRA G. HUDSON, are potential parties in interest:

BEING A 4.53 ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN THE JOHN T SMITH SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 497, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, SAID TRACT ALSO KNOWN AS TRACT 15 OF COMANCHE SHADOWS, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, AND BEING THE SAME TRACT DESCRIBED IN A DEED FROM BILL WARD, TRUSTEE, TO TRUMAN O. HUDSON, ET UX, DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, RECORDED IN VOLUME 253, PAGE 365 OF THE HOOD COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY THE ORIGINAL PETITION FILED IN THIS CASE.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this 4TH day of OCTOBER 2023.

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

Attorney for Defendant(s):
 NICOLE M BARTEE
 CODILIS & MOODY, P.C.
 20405 State Highway 249, Suite 170
 Houston, TX 77070
 Telephone: (281) 925-5200
 Email: nicole.bartee@tx.cslegal.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Anna Spohn Welch Marsh, Cause No. P10207, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
 Holly Donigan Marsh McKee and Christian Noel Marsh in the above numbered and entitled Estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Anna Spohn Welch Marsh, 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 16th day of October 2023
 Katie Lang
 Hood County Clerk
 P.O. Box 339
 Hood County, Texas 76048
 By /s/ Christine Ledermann, Deputy

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids addressed to LGI Homes – Texas, LLC for Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County, will be received physically at the office of the Engineer, Pape-Dawson Engineers, 6105 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 210, Plano, Texas 75024, Phone 214-420-8494 until 2:00 PM, local time, **Thursday, November 9th, 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 **159 020 571** for the construction of the following project:

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

Scope of Work of the Contract includes:

WSD&D:

1. Approximately 17,000 LF of 3-inch through 12-inch water main and appurtenances.
2. Approximately 2,741 LF of 6-inch raw water line and appurtenances.
3. Approximately 13,100 LF of 6-inch through 18-inch sanitary sewer main and appurtenances.
4. Approximately 4,050 LF of 18-inch through 42-inch storm sewer and appurtenances.

Paving:

1. Approximately 3,400 SY of 4-inch reinforced concrete pavement
2. Approximately 44,800 SY of 6-inch and 8-inch reinforced concrete pavement
3. Approximately 1,950 SY of 2-inch and 6-inch asphalt pavement

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM, local time, **Wednesday, October 25th, 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 **102 648 360**. 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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Marjorie Ariss Hibbs, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10139, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: First State Bank Abernathy.

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.

DATED the 16th day of October, 2023.

/s/ Lindsay N. Owens

Lindsay N. Owens

Attorney for First State Bank Abernathy

State Bar No.: 24073477

300 North Marienfeld, Suite 700

Midland, TX 79701

Telephone: (432) 683-3351

Facsimile: (432) 688-1390

E-mail: lowens@calawfirm.com

ORDINANCE NO. 23-76

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES 3.04, 3.06, 3.07, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14 3.15, 3.20, 3.21, 5.02, 6.03 AND 6.04, OF THE GRANBURY CITY CODE, AS AMENDED, BY ADOPTING CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL CODES RELATING TO BUILDINGS, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, FIRE, RESIDENTIAL AND ENERGY CONSERVATION AND THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE RELATING TO ELECTRICAL; RESOLVING INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN STATE, FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL CODE AND THE CITY'S CODE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

The City Secretary of the City of Granbury is hereby authorized to publish in the official newspaper of the City of Granbury, the caption, penalty clause, publication clause, and effective date clause of this ordinance one time within ten days.

This ordinance shall become effective December 1, 2023, after its passage and publication as required by law.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-77

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL, UTILITY AND AIRPORT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on October 17, 2023, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2023-11, Request of David Brown for Grace Bible Church for a Variance to Zoning Ordinance, Section 7.5.B - Table of Permanent Signs, to exceed the maximum number of monument signs on the site. The property is addressed as 201 E. Clifton Rd.

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

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

Granbury 76048

Garage Sales 76048

GARAGE SALES AT 607 S Harbor & 1910 W Harbor- Come on out and get your bargains all day Saturday Oct.21 starting at 8am.

Granbury 76049

Garage Sales 76049

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY Fountain Village- Saturday October 14th Gates Open 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Off James Road

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 800 Shady Grove Drive- Multi-family garage sale - a little bit of everything including housewares, small appliances, miter saw, small furniture, linens, Christmas/Halloween stuff, and much more. Open at 8am. No early birds please! Saturday October 21

Community garage sale in Rolling Creek Ranch. 112 Maverick Ct & 7136 Heathington Ct. Also a lot more garage sales in the community 8am-5pm Fri. Oct 20 & Sat. Oct. 21. Holiday Decor, Clothes, etc.

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY Huge Sale 6430 Walters Bend Ct- Fri. Oct. 20 & Sat. Oct. 21. 8am-5pm. More items will be out on Saturday! No early birds!

ESTATE SALE: SATURDAY ONLY, OCT 21 2105 W Emerald Bend Ct. 7am-3pm Cash or Credit. Lots of Christmas decor, wreaths, arrangements, retired dept 56, lights and more lights. Storage containers, new window treatments, home decor, vtg windows, cash resister. Men's winter jackets, Chico/Dillard's women's winter sweater, clothes and shoes.

Tolar 76476

Garage Sales 76476

YARD SALE: TOLAR 207 Tolar Hwy-October 20th and 21st (F-S) 8-4, housewares, tack, farm stuff, tools, furniture, toys, home decor Rain or Shine.

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048

Garage Sales 76048

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Holiday craft show/sale. Sat. Oct. 21st. 9am-3pm. Gardens of DCBE at clubhouse. 5413 Garden Cir. Contact Lou B. 817-291-8399

Yard sale 803 Tahite Dr. Fri. Oct.20th & Sat. Oct. 21st. 9am-5pm. Good Stuff!

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GARAGE SALE**

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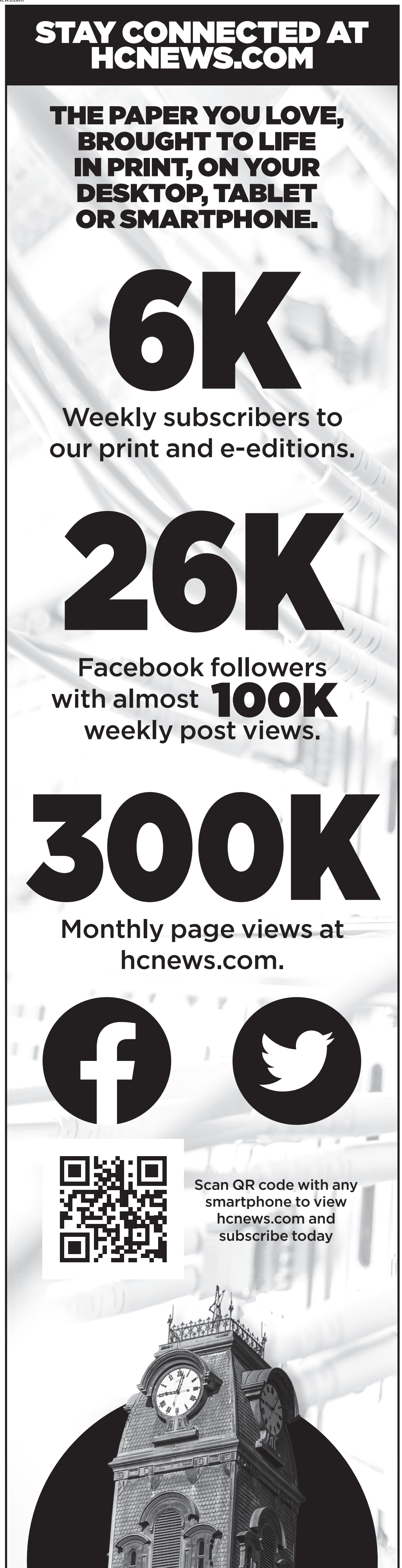
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LGMC breaks ground in new freestanding ER facility

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Lake Granbury Medical Center officially broke ground last week in the construction of a new freestanding ER facility to be built on the corner of U.S. 377 and Fall Creek Highway.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the Lake Granbury Emergency Center at Fall Creek took place on Oct. 12, with many well-known community leaders and residents in attendance.

LGMC CEO Curt Junkins announced during the ceremony the freestanding ER facility is about expanding emergency service access in Granbury and Hood County.

“Ultimately, we’re committed to the future around that and access to quality care, access for our neighbors, our families and the rest of the community and the people who come to Granbury to see everything that’s here in Hood County that we have to offer — and that doesn’t happen unless (we all participate).”

Junkins said LGMC staff and administrators, city and county leaders have collectively agreed that an expanding emergency care facility is “ultimately essential for all of us.” He also described how inspiring it is to work with people who share the same goal and vision for Hood County and Granbury.

He thanked Mayor Jim Jarratt, City Manager Chris Coffman, Economic Development Director Lance LaCour, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and several other community leaders for their assistance and support in getting the project started.

“It’s no small thing to be at this stage and to take healthcare to a whole other level where we have this



First responders and staff members of Lake Granbury Medical Center pose during LGMC’s freestanding emergency facility groundbreaking, which will house an emergency department staffed 24/7 by emergency medical physicians.

kind of access to an emergency room 24/7 at this end of town and where we can be that support that we always intended to be,” Junkins added.

Jarratt then took to the podium and thanked everyone who had a hand in bringing the freestanding ER facility to life, including his predecessor, former Mayor Nin Hulett.

Coffman said he is thankful for the Granbury City Council for adopting a strategic plan for the city that will encourage health care and the medical industry to grow in Granbury.

“That vision has helped us work with the hospitals to be able to implement this in the middle of a moratorium,” Coffman said. “They got creative and figured out a way to meet their needs, until we can get a sewer

plant online, so that’s part of what we’re doing — and we couldn’t have done it without the council and previous council. We’ve been at this for a while, so we’re excited. Congratulations on breaking ground.”

Junkins added that LGMC will continue to look for ways to grow healthcare and explained how there’s “no better way to do that than when we all come together.”

ABOUT FREESTANDING ER

Situated on 13 acres, the \$15 million, 10,000 square-foot freestanding emergency facility will house an emergency department staffed 24/7 by emergency medical physicians.

“Our goal is to increase access to emergency care on the northeastern side of Granbury as it grows,”

Junkins told the HCN on Oct. 16. “That’s probably the number one reason behind it. It’s no secret Granbury’s growing and that side of town is going to grow faster.”

The building will feature eight exam rooms, including a negative airflow room to contain the spread of airborne infections. There will be a major treatment room, triage, laboratory, and diagnostic imaging services.

Junkins explained the facility is a freestanding ER geographically, as it is not attached to LGMC, but from all other intents and purposes, the facility will be a “virtual hallway” between that location and LGMC.

“That’s noteworthy because there are other freestanding ERs that are independent or unaffiliated

with hospitals and their services are limited because of that, so our goal is to create that option there,” he said. “Freestanding ERs typically don’t keep patients overnight in a bed unless there’s a need to be admitted somewhere down to the main hospitals. Most of the time, what (we will) do is, if you walk in and you’re having a stroke, for example, or another acute illness, you (will be transferred) from that facility back (to LGMC) where we can treat that patient for more than 24 hours.”

As a department of Lake Granbury Medical Center, the freestanding emergency department will also accept the same insurance plans, including commercial, Medicare and Medicaid, for the convenience of patients.

“If you look at freestanding ERs that are not affili-

ated with hospitals, they tend to limit insurance availability,” Junkins explained. “They may not take Medicare, or they may not take Medicaid, or they may allow those people to walk in but then they’re going to ask them for cash instead. Other freestanding ERs will also run out-of-network. If they run out-of-network, they’re going to bill your insurance, which means you have higher deductibles, and you’re going to owe a bigger portion. That is not typically what happens with us. We are in-network with the vast majority of insurances, with the exception of probably Baylor Scott & White just because they’re a competitor, but other than that, we take the vast majority of all groups, and we strive to do so within reason to make access available.”

Junkins said many residents have expressed concern regarding the future of the current emergency room department at LGMC, but he explained LGMC will continue to provide the same services it does today. The freestanding emergency facility, he said, will simply serve as another option for emergency care in the community.

“The intent is that we are adding to the ER capacities,” he said. “We have 10 beds here, there’ll be eight beds up there. Our intent is to cover the entire support as needed for ER but given the growth in the market, we expect that it’ll probably outgrow that.”

Another inaccurate assumption about the freestanding emergency facility, Junkins said, is that it can only be accessed by emergency vehicles, and not through private

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An evening with United States Rep. Dan Crenshaw

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Dan Crenshaw currently serves as the United States Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Texas. He made a special trip to Granbury to speak with the United Republicans of Hood County on Oct. 13.

Crenshaw spoke at the Lake Granbury Conference Center where he discussed the current happenings in Washington, D.C.

Crenshaw is a former Navy Seal, a sixth-generation Texan and a U.S. Representative. He serves on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Energy and Commerce Committee as well as the Health Subcommittee. He also oversees the Investigation Subcommittee on Environmental Manufacturing. Crenshaw also leads the Cartel Task Force.

The evening was moderated by Cat Parks, a Texas political figure who formerly served as the Hamilton County chair, chair of the Republican Party of Texas' candidate recruitment task force, and most recently served as the vice chair of the Republican Party of Texas.

"Crenshaw is front and center in the fight over every major policy debate, border security, energy independence, trade, big tech, health care and more," Parks said.

Crenshaw began the evening discussing how there still hasn't been a vote for a new speaker of the house after former Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of the position in a 216-210 vote on Oct. 3 following a motion to vacate.

Crenshaw believes the motion to vacate rule needs to be changed, because it allows a single representative to declare the speaker role to be vacated and put to a vote.

"There's a lot of tension right now, but it really centers around this issue," Crenshaw said during the event. "You've just got to choose your battles and learn to accept some things. It's just blatant disagreement, which is kind of the point of politics — disagreement without violence. We're not all going to get along. We're human beings."



United States Representative Dan Crenshaw speaks at the Lake Granbury Conference Center as part of an event put on by the united republicans of Hood County on Oct. 13.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Crenshaw then went on to talk about the current Israel-Hamas war.

"This is the final war for Israel versus Hamas. This will be the final one. They're not going to stop until they kill every person or capture every last one of Hamas' members and that's going to be really difficult and grueling and a long military operation for a long time," Crenshaw said. "The United States is eventually going to have to be there. Maybe that's just the weapon systems, or it could be on the ground. We have Americans who are captured. We have been fighting terrorism in the Middle East for a long time... We may certainly be called upon to help train a lot of Israeli military members who just don't have that kind of training," Crenshaw said.

Crenshaw described the work of the Hamas as sick.

"We (in the House) find ourselves in another situation where people are actually debating over whether Israel deserves our sympathy and

support," Crenshaw said. "That is really concerning."

Crenshaw also touched on border security, cartels and their effects on the Texas border.

Parks then asked Crenshaw about the current division between Democrats and Republicans, both in the House and among citizens in the U.S.

Crenshaw said many in the House are very set in their ways and ideals. He noted that many citizens are like that as well and many don't do their own research into what they are fighting for.

Parks also asked Crenshaw what has surprised him most about Congress in the best and worst ways.

He said he was very surprised at how quickly some people will betray another and how difficult it is to trust people and make friends. However, Crenshaw noted he has dealt with more good things than bad.

"You're doing important work. That's what keeps me going, is

knowing that what you're doing means something. I wouldn't change it for anything," Crenshaw said.

Parks asked about bipartisanship and Crenshaw explained House members do agree on most topics and get many things done.

Parks also asked what people can do if they want to make a change in their state.

"If you want to be effective, you have to lay out what you want changed and do the work. You've got to write it out. You have to do your research and start there. Then I will tell you where your gaps are and what needs to be fixed," Crenshaw said. "You can send over a letter to my office, or to the House and I will try and help as best as I can. You have to be the legislative subsidy. You have got to do the research yourself and give us the data."

A few questions were asked by audience members. Some had questions about changing the rule vacating the speaker of the house;

others had questions about securing the border, gun rights, Abbott's actions on the border and attracting younger Republican voters.

Crenshaw restated his position against the House vacate rule. On the topic of securing the border, Crenshaw added it was his idea to put forth the buoy system and he believes they are a great idea.

He added that Texas Governor Greg Abbott can only do so much when it comes to the border and said Abbott needs the full support of the federal government.

When it comes to attracting younger Republican voters, Crenshaw added it is important to connect with voters by talking with them directly — especially those under the age of 40.

He feels many Democrats act nicer and less aggressive than some Republicans, and that many voters have a negative opinion of Republicans based on the poise of the party alone.

"I think we (Republicans) have an image problem because I think we get too used to talking in sort of extreme forms of language and so Democrats just seem nicer," Crenshaw said. "It's like we're saying all the right things with all the right substance, but (Republicans) are just saying it in these aggressive ways oftentimes and it doesn't work. To win, you have to fight to persuade people, and there is a certain way to persuade that 10% of undecided voters."

"We're still the greatest place on the Earth and I think we should all be really optimistic," Crenshaw said to close the event.

After Crenshaw finished speaking, an auction was held with proceeds going to enhance truth in elections, according to the treasurer of the United Republicans of Hood County, Sharee Westlund.

"United Republicans was honored to have U.S. Representative Dan Crenshaw come to Granbury," Westlund said. "Rep. Crenshaw stated the Republican Party needs to come together with all factions and others in general to make progress and not succumb to extremism."

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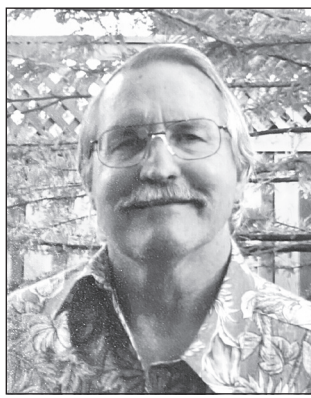
THE **Best** of Hood County
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OBITUARIES

Don Leon Mathews

March 26, 1938 - October 8, 2023

Don Leon Mathews, 85, of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2023. He was born on March 26, 1938, in a farmhouse outside of Driftwood, Oklahoma, to Clifford and Julia Mathews. He was their second child. Sue, his sister was seven years older, Sue and Don remained close throughout life. Don worked on his father's farm and built homes in the town of Cherokee, Oklahoma with Clifford in the winter season. He attended Driftwood High School, where he excelled in academics and sports. He went on to study electrical engineering at Northwestern State University in Alva, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University (OSU) and graduated in 1960. He married Suellen Lemke in 1959.



Don was a brilliant and innovative engineer who worked for Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, then to General Dynamics (later Martin Marietta and Lockheed) in Fort Worth, Texas. He made significant contributions to the fields of aerospace, defense, and energy. He was involved in many groundbreaking projects, such as the development of the F-16 fighter jet. He received numerous awards and patents for his work. He also earned a master's degree in electrical and aerospace engineering from Southern Methodist University (SMU). He retired in 2019 after more than 60 years of service.

Don was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He adopted two children, Joel and Judy, who were the joy of his life. He enjoyed spending time with his family, reading books, and watching sports. He was a man of faith who attended Ridgley Baptist Church, of Fort Worth. He was very involved in the local YMCA and met Roslyn Carter where he won an award for his work with the YMCA.

In 1987, he married Cynthia Bradley. Her passion for living showed Don the deepest love he had ever known. Their love story is one of romance and beauty for all time. Cindy must now carry on with him eternally in her heart. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sue Montgomery; nephew Darrin Montgomery, and eldest grandchild, Kenneth Houck.

Don is survived by his wife of 36 years, Cindy Mathews; Suellen Mathews; son Joel Mathews; daughter Judy; son-in-law Steve Baker; grandson Mathew Houck; stepson Jason, and pets BoBo, Murphy and little Ginger.

Larry Truman Crosby

June 5, 1946 - September 27, 2023

Larry Truman "Chief" Crosby 77, passed away Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at a Fort Worth Hospital.

Graveside service will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, October 28, 2023 in Holly Hills Memorial Park, 1909 Weatherford Highway, Granbury. Larry, affectionately known as "Chief" by his friends and relatives, was born June 5, 1946 to parents O.B. and Rosie Crosby who preceded him in death. He worked for Bruner's Car Dealership in Stephenville for many years until his retirement in 2005. He was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury and was a loving husband, father and grandfather. More than anything he wanted his family and friends to know Christ...and to have his chocolate ice cream and Dr. Pepper. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be



made to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, 290 Turnpike Rd. Suite 5-315 Westborough, MA. 01581.

He is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Sherrie Crosby, a son Chad Williams and his wife Tonya; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; sister Carol Pack and husband Sam; sister Rita Pack; sister-in-law Kay Patterson; and numerous nieces and nephews.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Curt Junkins, CEO of Lake Granbury Medical Center, speaks to the public during the groundbreaking ceremony of LGMC's new freestanding emergency facility on Oct. 12.

LGMC

FROM PAGE A11

transportation.

"It's actually built to be the opposite," he said. "We'll take either a private walk-in vehicle or EMS traffic. At the end of the day, it's designed to have even more access availability for a potential broken arm. The more acute it gets, the more likely you are to end up needing services beyond what's at the freestanding, but there are many things you don't want to drive further for, and you want to get treated quickly. We want to make sure people are seeking emergency care when they need to — that's the point of having an ER and having access."

According to information provided about the new facility, patients with emergent and potentially life-threatening conditions,

including heart attacks, strokes, head injuries, fractures, abdominal pain, and respiratory issues, will benefit from the freestanding ER's convenient location and the access it provides to LGMC's critical care services.

"You can show up with a skinned knee, we can take care of minor stitches, and we can handle checking out a bone to see if it's broken or not," Junkins said.

He added that an injury like a major bone fracture could result in the patient being transported to an operating room.

Stroke care, however, is one of the main priorities at LGMC, Junkins said, especially now that the facility is stroke certified.

"We purposely make an effort to try to educate the public and make a difference in the care of strokes," he explained.

A clot-busting drug given

within a four-and-a-half-hour window of the first sign of a stroke could also serve as the difference between life and death, Junkins said, which is why having a freestanding ER facility on the east side of town is beneficial to Hood County.

"That's the big difference, shaving off minutes and time," he said. "We're creating access to emergency care in places that really in many ways has been kind of split geographically, and I think as it grows, we want to be the first to do that."

In addition, the new freestanding emergency facility will also benefit Pecan Plantation. Junkins explained that a lot of its pathway for EMS traffic would come right up Fall Creek Highway.

"Hopefully this is a stop where it's easy access for them, versus having to drive all the way north or

even south," he said. "We try to work closely with Texas EMS, and they work with Pecan too, so I hope there's collaborative capability there — and that's the goal is really just to make availability for the entirety of Hood County."

Junkins added the facility is expected to be completed sometime next summer.

"The point is that the rest of Hood County has grown too," he added. "You've got growth in Tolar, growth in Pecan, you've got growth all over the place. But that northern side, when it grows to that larger capacity, and especially as the county starts pushing 70,000 (residents), you're going to see more and more need — and that's why we want to be first."

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 TX Janis died of a heroin over
- 5 Quanah's code is 254
- 6 it can be removed with brush or roller gazillions
- 8 this MacGraw starred with TX Kris Kristofferson in 1978 film "Convoy"
- 9 TXism: "you're dancing field" (in danger)
- 16 an email
- 18 TXism: "couldn't stir 'em with a stick"
- 21 hosp. trauma area
- 22 of (kinda)
- 23 first commissioned rank of TX Chester W. Nimitz (abbr.)
- 24 to be sure
- 30 in Hardin County on U.S. 69, 96 & 287
- 34 TXism: "old dirt"
- 35 TXism: "he's a man with the river"
- 36 Texas "horny"
- 37 red, swollen marks caused by fights
- 39 TXism: "you got the tail" (backwards)
- 43 this gymnast Comaneci now lives in Oklahoma
- 44 "it's fire way to do it"
- 45 TX Clint Black's "Tell Ourselves"

DOWN

- 13 TX Henley co-wrote "New Kid"
- 14 Yankess city (abbr.)
- 15 TXism: "red" (liquor)
- 17 TXism: "if I had my" (choice)
- 19 TXism: "dancing like a bobber"
- 20 WWII aircraft carrier: "Jacinto"
- 24 TX George Strait hit: "I've Come to Expect from You"
- 25 TXism: "every and again" (seldom)
- 26 mild expression of anger
- 27 triple bogey on a par 5
- 28 TX Bill Paxton 2014 film: "Tomorrow"
- 29 believers in God
- 31 Larry & Curly
- 32 TX Jimmy Dean hit: "Big John"
- 33 "pin"

38 "fender bender" result (2 wds.)

40 a Texas pecan, e.g.
41 pecan is the state of Texas
42 one who finds oil
48 TXism: "take a at it" (try)

50 Hamiltons
51 martial arts weapon
56 nickname for TX Rayburn, longest Speaker of the House (2 wds.)
57 TXism: "can't silk purse out of a sow's ear"

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Don't leave your IRA to the IRS

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



If you've invested in an IRA for many decades, it may well turn into a key source of income for your retirement. Still, you might not deplete your IRA in your lifetime, especially if you also have a pension or a 401(k) and other investment income. So, if your IRA still has sizable assets after your passing, it would likely end up in your estate plan. If you leave your IRA to grown children or other family members, could they be hit with a big tax bill?

Here's a little background: Up until the Secure Act of 2019, those who inherited traditional IRAs could extend

their required withdrawals over their lifetimes, which stretched out the annual taxes due on these withdrawals. But the Secure Act changed the provisions for non-spouse beneficiaries who inherited an IRA after 2019, meaning that beneficiaries of inherited IRAs had only 10 years (beginning the year after death) to withdraw the entire balance. For some beneficiaries, this could potentially create a tax burden. (Inheritors of Roth IRAs are also required to follow the 10-year distribution rule but are not subject to income tax-

es on account earnings if the Roth IRA's five-year holding period has been met). However, not all beneficiaries were affected by the new rules. Spouses can stretch their inherited IRA distributions over their lifetimes and exceptions exist for certain non-spouse beneficiaries. Minor children of the IRA owner (until the age of majority), chronically ill or disabled individuals, and beneficiaries who are no more than 10 years younger than the IRA owner may opt to stretch their distributions.

The new 10-year requirement applies to IRAs inherited on or after Jan. 1, 2020. But due to confusion over changes to re-

quired minimum distribution (RMD) rules for some beneficiaries of inherited IRAs, the IRS waived penalties for individuals who failed to take RMDs in 2021 and 2022 and extended the RMD penalty waiver for 2023.

Although these rulings give beneficiaries — those not eligible for the exemptions listed above — more time to plan, they will eventually need to start taking RMDs, which could affect their tax situations. To help protect your heirs, consider these suggestions:

USING PERMANENT LIFE INSURANCE

A properly structured permanent life insurance policy

could help you replace the assets your family might lose to the taxes resulting from an inherited IRA. You might even consider naming a charity as the beneficiary of an IRA, rather than your family members. The charity would receive the IRA proceeds tax free, and the life insurance could then provide tax-free benefits to your heirs.

LEAVING TAXABLE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS TO YOUR HEIRS

Apart from your tax-deferred IRA, you may own other, fully taxable accounts containing investments such as stocks or bonds. Typically, these investments receive what's known as a "step-up"

in their cost basis once they are inherited. This means your heirs will essentially inherit all the gains your investments earned by the time of your passing — but they won't be taxed on these gains if they sell the assets immediately. This type of sale could help offset the taxes your heirs will incur from the inherited IRA.

The tax and investment issues surrounding inherited IRAs can be complex, so consult with your tax and financial advisors before making any moves. And, as with many areas relating to inheritances, the sooner you start planning, the better.

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. We are Christian-based, nondenominational, and welcome all who are suffering. We meet from 3 p.m. to 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, from 6 p.m. to 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 to 1:30 p.m. A non-contact box-

ing 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, from 6:30 to 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 pm, on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recov-

ery 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 p.m. to 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, from 10:30 a.m. - 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, from 10:30 a.m. to 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.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



granbury CHAMBER

BOARD SPOTLIGHT
JANICE HORAK

Business:
Tarleton State University

Time on Chamber Board:
6 years!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Janice Horak, we are very thankful for our amazing board member. Janice has served as a chamber board member for six years! When asked what she loves about being a board member, she said, "It is one board that reaches across the entire community, and the work we do matters now and to the future." Fun Fact about Janice: "I just celebrated 11 years as radio cohost of Standards, Jazz & the Blues on KTRL 90.5 FM - Tarleton Public Radio. And our show plays great music!" Thank you, Janice, for being on the Granbury Chamber Board!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

grace
 Obstetrics & Gynecology

Grace Obstetrics & Gynecology
 "Grace Obstetrics and Gynecology offers a modern model of healthcare for modern women. We understand your time is valuable and your intuition is priceless."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Grace Obstetrics & Gynecology, "Grace Obstetrics and Gynecology offers a modern world of healthcare for modern women. We understand your time is valuable and your intuition is priceless. Whoever you prefer to work with on our staff of providers, you will experience consistent, compassionate, evidence-based care. Our providers serve women and families at two locations for appointments, and one location for your birth. We can't wait to see you!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR



CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

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COURTESY GRAPHIC

Christian Brothers Automotive, "With over 38 years of trusted auto service, we strive to treat every guest like family! Fixing cars from oil changes to engine replacements, all makes and models, we fix it."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4

THURSDAY, OCT. 26

RANCHO BRAZOS Community Center's 2nd Annual Rancho Gala at Lake Granbury Conference Center

from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Event includes live entertainment, a catered meal, a cash bar, and a silent and live auction. Dress is business casual. All proceeds benefit the Douglas Long Outreach Center. For tickets or more information, contact Jamie Franco at

ranchogala1@gmail.com or 817-219-8058.

MONTHLY MEETING the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall 3409 Davis Rd., Granbury. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and meeting is at 7 p.m. Support the fundraiser benefiting Marine and Navy personnel and families. Buy a chance to win a \$600 Cabela's Pellet Smoker/Grill, four \$100 grocery/gift cards from HEB, Albertson's, Kroger, and Walmart. Price value total \$1,000. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10, and five for \$20. Drawing will be Dec. 14. Contact Sr. Vice Commandant for tickets at mikemorgan921@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 27

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District Board of Directors

will hold a regularly-scheduled meeting with public hearing on proposed 23-24 budget on Friday, Oct. 27 at noon at the Hood County Courthouse 2nd floor courtroom located at 100 E. Pearl St. For more information, call 817-579-3200.

THE WINE Stroll, featuring six wineries, will be serving at this first ever wine component to the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts sponsored by the Granbury Wine Society on Oct. 28 and 29. Information can be found on the GWS Facebook page along with online ticket sales, \$45 per person, MUST be 21. Ticket holders will receive a complimentary glass, two - 2oz pours of wine at each winery. Tickets available at the event.

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Lori Wilde will speak to the Granbury Writers' Bloc from 10:15 a.m. to noon in the First Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall. She is presenting "Less Tell, More Show: Techniques for Making Your Writing Leap Off the Page." Ms. Wilde has published 97 books, selling more than five million copies. Her series, "Wedding Veil Wishes," inspired three movies from Hallmark. The Fellowship Hall is located at 300 West Bridge Street in Granbury. For more information, visit www.granburywritersbloc.com.

DCBE-ACTON VOLUNTEER

Fire Department Celebrate National First Responder Day with Truck-or-Treat at Firehouse Station 40,

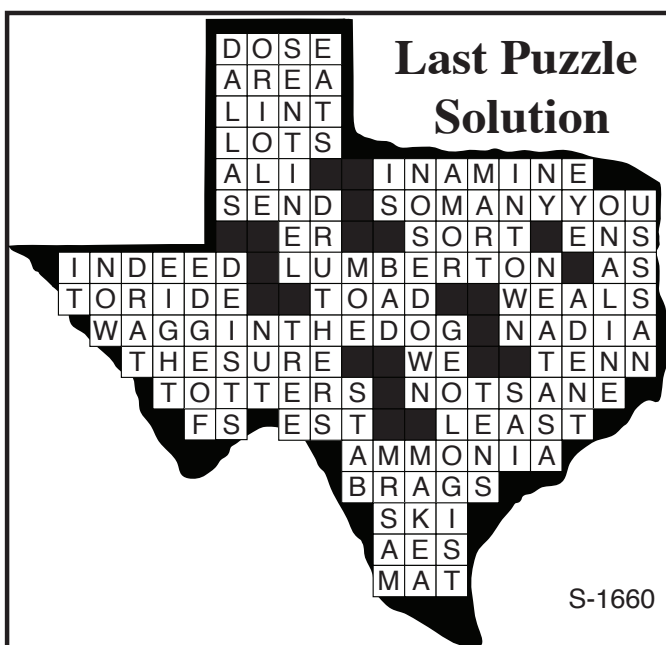
6430 Smokey Hill Court, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Trucks, costumes, candy, and fun.

The Wine Stroll, featuring six wineries, will be serving at this first ever wine component to the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts sponsored by the Granbury Wine Society on Oct. 28 and 29. Information can be found on the GWS Facebook page along with online ticket sales, \$45 per person, MUST be 21. Ticket holders will receive a complimentary glass, two - 2oz pours of wine at each winery. Tickets available at the event.

TUESDAY, OCT. 31

HALLOWEEN TRICK

or Treating sponsored by the Historic Granbury Merchants Association on Granbury's Square from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.



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S-1660

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Adventures in real estate



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.

YES, life as a REALTOR® can sometimes be an adventure. Almost every agent I know has at least once in their career surprised a homeowner when they walked in the door. Sometimes, it's a very innocuous situation easily resolved with a quick apology. But when that seller was in the shower or sound asleep... those surprise moments can be downright challenging and embarrassing.

Imagine showing a home with what appears to be an ornamental, life-sized, Gila Monster on the fireplace mantle and standing mere inches from it, talking to your buyers when that 'not so ornamental' animal,

comes alive and hisses at you. I promise you the neighbors heard the screams all the way down the block.

Or there was the time a colleague was showing a home only to be greeted by a huge Boa Constrictor when she opened a closet door in the spare bedroom. Contained in that closet with nothing more than chicken wire, as she tells the story, that showing ended most abruptly, as she and the buyers all tried to get out of that room at the same time, through the same small door. Sounds like something out of a Three Stooges' episode, but true, nonetheless.

Stay in this business long enough and you will be chased or bitten by at least

one dog, or accidentally let the cat out and spend hours trying to coax it out of a tree and back into the home. You will set off someone's alarm system and have to wait for the police to arrive and explain to them that you are not a thief, and unless you are very, very lucky you will have at least one seriously frightening encounter.

Which brings me to the serious part of this article...

If you watch the news, you know there have been instances of REALTORS® being attacked and even killed at open houses, or while showing vacant homes. The fact that this past September our local Association of REALTORS® offered a FREE Self Defense Class, titled "How to survive a violent encounter," speaks very clearly to how real the problem has become.

So, the next time you are sitting in front of a house with a for sale sign in the yard, please don't be insult-



COURTESY PHOTO

Life as a REALTOR® can sometimes be an adventure.

ed if the agent that answers the phone asks you to come to the office first, rather than jumping in the car to meet you there. Would you tell your son or daughter to jump in the car to go meet a complete stranger at an empty house? Additionally, don't be offended if you are asked for a copy of your

driver's license. While it is a sad commentary on our society that this has become necessary, the fact is, it has. As Realtors we ask only that you understand and appreciate the measures we are taking to continue to offer the highest level of customer service, while practicing smart, practical measures to stay safe.

As always, we would love to hear your feedback about this article and to answer any questions you may have about buying or selling real estate. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Moving every 30 minutes could offset harms of prolonged sitting

On average, adults in the United States sit for more than 12 hours daily. This sedentary lifestyle is becoming increasingly more common largely due to jobs that require sitting for prolonged periods, long commutes, TV binge-watching, and increased cell phone usage. But this lifestyle can cause real harm to overall health. Sitting down for extended stretches increases the risk of developing chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and obesity, even in those who exercise regularly.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Dean

Often, prolonged sitting can cause blood and fluids to pool in the legs and feet. This increases the risk

of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a blood clot that forms in a deep leg vein and can travel to the lungs. Additionally, sitting down puts excess strain on the spine and joints, such as shoulders and hips. This strain can increase pain in the lower back and tightness in the hip flexors, leading to muscular atrophy and premature degeneration.

A new study published in the American College of Sports Medicine journal found that moving for five minutes every half hour can help counteract the harmful

effects of continuous sitting. These small activity breaks helped lower the study participant's blood pressure and blood sugar.

"Adding more movement into your life doesn't have to be overly strenuous or negatively impact your work," says Casey Dean, D.O., family medicine physician at Lakeside Physicians. "To break up those long periods of sitting, try stretching at your desk, walking around during a phone conversation, visiting a coworker at their desk, or taking the stairs rather than an elevator."

In addition to added daily movement, regular exercise further reduces the risk of chronic conditions while improving mood and bone health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 25% of American adults are physically inactive, contributing to one in 10 premature deaths.

"For added health benefits, incorporate 20 to 30 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise into your daily routine," says Dr. Dean. "Brisk walking, dancing, biking, even gardening or housework can qualify. The goal is to raise

your heart rate, which helps oxygen and blood circulate better and can also help you burn more calories and lower cholesterol."

Before starting a new exercise program, speak with a physician. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Dean, please call 817-326-3900 or visit <https://lakegranbury-medical.com/CaseyDean>

For more health and wellness information, sign up for Lake Granbury Medical Center's email newsletter by visiting <https://www.lakegranburymedicalcenter.com/ewsletter-sign-up>

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ELECTION
2023

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PROPOSITION A | VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION (VATRE)

PROPOSED TAX RATE

2022 - 0.9996¢

2023 - 0.93420¢

REDUCE
STUDENT
TEACHER
RATIOS



ADDITIONAL
TEACHER
& STAFF
COMPENSATION



SAFETY &
SECURITY



PROPOSITION B | \$151,725,000 BOND

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- LIFE CYCLE REPLACEMENTS
- NEW NORTH TRANSPORTATION CENTER
- 30 NEW BUSES



ELECTION
2023

FAST FACTS

ELECTION DAY
NOV 7TH

- ✓ GRANBURY ISD RECEIVED AN "A" RATING FROM THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
- ✓ GRANBURY ISD DELIVERED THE 2013 BOND ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET
- ✓ GRANBURY ISD'S TAX RATE IS DROPPING MORE THAN 6 CENTS FROM LAST YEAR'S RATE
- ✓ TAX FREEZE FOR 65+ AND OLDER WHO HAVE FILED A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
- ✓ GRANBURY ISD'S TAX RATE IS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE METROPLEX

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OCTOBER 23RD TO NOVEMBER 3RD – EARLY VOTING

EARLY VOTING SITE

HOOD COUNTY ANNEX 1

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NOVEMBER 7TH – ELECTION DAY

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DR. JEREMY GLENN
SUPERINTENDENT OF GRANBURY ISD

VISIT [GRANBURYISD.ORG/ELECTION2023](https://granburyisd.org/election2023) FOR MORE INFORMATION



Rattlers QB a blessing

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Issac blessing with the Quarterback keep and the Tolar game winning touchdown at the Game Oct. 6, 2023.

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

For the starting quarterback of the Tolar Rattlers, playing the position is... well, a blessing.

As in Isaac Blessing — who could not be more thrilled to be in that position in this, his senior season.

"I came into high school wanting to play quarterback," Blessing said.

However, the Rattlers had a good starting quarterback in Jackson LeCluyse, who is now playing baseball at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. So Blessing focused on being an all-state linebacker and backing up LeCluyse, but when he did

get playing time he didn't disappoint.

Blessing didn't see much varsity action as a freshman as the Rattlers advanced to the second round of the playoffs. His sophomore season ended when he broke his collarbone and watched as the team reached the third round.

Last season he was a large reason the Rattlers finished 13-1 and reached the state quarterfinals — the best season in school history — with his performance at linebacker.

Now, it's his time to guide the Rattlers and so far, so good. He has led them to a No. 3 state ranking and his personal performances get better each game.

"We needed a quarterback

spot to be filled. We had a team meeting and I had a couple of talks with coach (Jeremy) Mullins," Blessing said. "I still get to play some defense, but we have Ty McClure, Drake Owens, Jaxon Riddle, they are all great players.

"This morning Jaxon just cracked me (in practice). It was the hardest I've ever been hit — and by my own teammate."

As he always does, Blessing went right back to work.

"I straightened out my helmet and laughed, but it was hard," he said with a smile.

GETTING STARTED

One of the reasons Blessing believes he is suc-

ceeding at quarterback is he's played a variety of positions, starting with the offensive line in his days in youth football.

"I was a little fat kid. I played guard," he said with a chuckle.

But he always knew where he wanted to play, and when he reached sixth grade, he got his chance. He moved to the quarterback position, where he played through junior high.

So, even though he didn't start for a few years, he felt he was ready when his time did come.

"I feel like I'm seasoned at quarterback. I've been playing it — though not always as a starter — for a long time," he said.

DEFENSE MADE HIM BETTER QB

Blessing admittedly misses playing defense sometimes. In fact, he believes his time on defense helped make him a better quarterback.

"I know what that linebacker is thinking," he said. "I loved defense. It's such a natural thing. You read the offense and stick it to a guy."

"But having a background at quarterback helped me there also. Against Hamilton (last season), for example, it was like I knew what they were going to do."

LEADING AND PANCAKES

Not only has Blessing developed into a leader on the field, but he has the utmost respect of his

teammates off the field.

"I love the guys around me, and they know I'm going to bring it, too," he said. "Come hit me, that's how you get good."

Often, Blessing will take his offensive linemen out for a pancake breakfast on Saturday, just to show them he is grateful for the protection they give him.

"I've gotta take care of my big boys," he said. "We load up in my mom's mini-van and I take them for pancakes. It's a lot of fun and a great bonding experience."

"Because of what they do I'm able to do what I do."

"Isaac is a blessing to be around, no pun intended," Mullins said with a chuckle. "We stress to all our athletes

PLEASE SEE **BLESSING** | B3

'Good kids and good barbecue'

Granbury High School barbecue team cooks up memories and learns lifelong skills

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

Granbury High School has been competing with its barbecue team since 2020 and has had much success since the start.

Brianne Langdon was the creator of the group and now serves as the head barbecue coach and as a culinary

teacher. The group originally started out as just four students, and now there are three teams with about 25 members total that are run through the high school's culinary department.

"The most important aspect of BBQ is that the kids become the best versions of themselves they can be. Character

and integrity come first. BBQ comes second. We spend a LOT of time together, so learning conflict resolution and teamwork is crucial. We learn so much more than just meat in BBQ," Langdon said. "We are learning about fire management and how weather and time impact our

PLEASE SEE **BARBECUE** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

Part of the Granbury High School Barbecue team gets together for a photo at the Texas Cowboy Symposium and Chuckwagon Cookoff on Sept. 29.



COURTESY PHOTO

Viola Allen who's a sophomore at Granbury High School set a national record in the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp during a three-position air rifle competition on Oct. 1.

GHS Student sets national record in air rifle competition

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer

Viola Allen, a sophomore at Granbury High School, set a national record in the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps during the Comanche Peak Three-Position Air Rifle Excellence-In-Competition Cup Match on Oct. 11.

The Three-Position competition includes standing, kneeling, and prone positions. Allen competed in the 20 Shots Standing event in the precision category and earned a perfect score of 200 points and 19x which indicates all her shots were above 10.2, beside one, from

the standing position.

Allen noted she didn't expect to break a national record, but by focusing on each shot and taking her time, she was able to perform to the best of her abilities. She also added that not letting her mind get in the way helped her be successful.

Allen also thanked her coaches and her parents for their support and teaching her the necessary skills needed.

Lieutenant Colonel and Senior Marine Instructor and rifle coach Scott Casey described Allen's performance as remarkable.

"What is more amazing

is she is a sophomore and has only been shooting for a little over a year. I can't wait to see what she will do in the future," Casey said.

Civilian Marine Instructor and rifle coach John Becker praised Allen's focus and hard work.

"She is an excellent example of what one can achieve with the right mindset. Allen has improved on the little things in the past few weeks and was able to put it all together on the line in this match," Becker said.

The Granbury MCJROTC Gold team also placed first in the event and the purple team placed second in the event out of eight teams.

GHS Junior ROTCs receive invite to State Fair

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Granbury High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp (MCJROTC) had the chance to be part of the Texas State Fair for one special night on Oct. 5.

The Texas State Fair in Dallas invites JROTC units throughout the DFW area to perform the evening colors retreat throughout the fair.

The State Fair sends an email to JROTC units in the DFW area to see if they're interested every year. From there a unit applies for a night to perform the ceremony and is selected.

This is the fifth year the GHS MCJROTC cadets have been a part of this special presentation.

The colors retreat is when the colors of the flags are retired each night at sunset.

"The cadets posted a four-person detail at the United States flagpole and the Texas state flagpole. Sharply at 5 p.m., the Texas flag was lowered to the Texas state anthem, 'Texas, our Texas' and then the United States flag was lowered to the 'Star-Spangled Banner.' The timing of lowering each flag is essential as each is to be lowered by the time each anthem ends. The cadets practiced repeatedly at the high school to make sure they performed it accurately," Johnny Rositas, Granbury High School MCJROTC instructor said.



COURTESY PHOTO

First row - Cadet Maj Trinity Streiff, Cadet Cpl John Self, Cadet 1stSgt Grace Larsen, Cadet Pvt Jaqueline Hernandez, Cadet Capt Cooper Waddell, Cadet Capt Ennio Montes Martinez

Second row - 1stSgt Johnny Rositas (Marine Instructor), Cadet Cpl Rodrick Wilburn, Cadet 1stSgt Noah Gomez, Cadet SgtMajor Johnathan Hutchison, Cadet Capt Braden Seaborn, Mr. Joe Oversreet (GHS Teacher) stand together at the Texas State Fair as after presenting the colors.

The four-person detail for the two flags included first year cadets of JROTC to cadets with three years of JROTC experience.

After the presentation, the cadets were able to change

out of their outfits and enjoy the many rides, food, and activities the state fair has to offer.

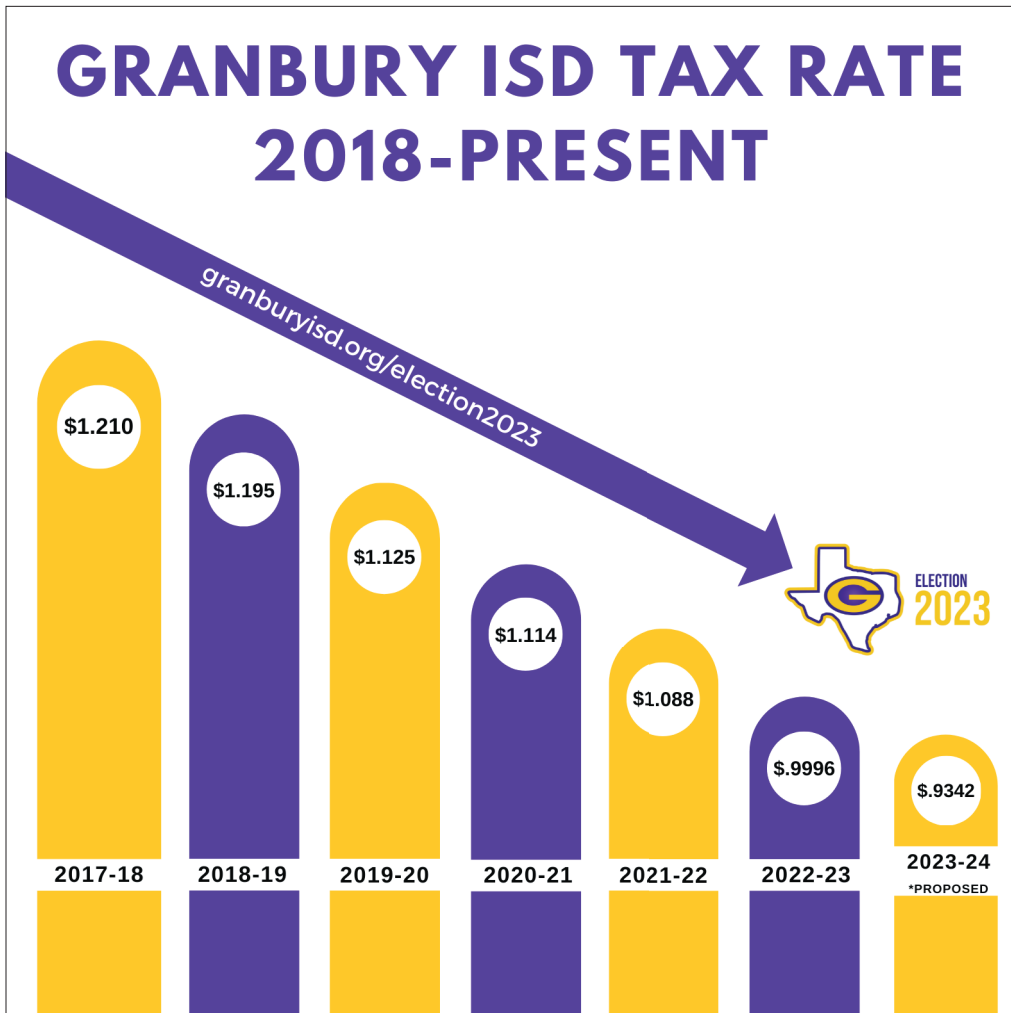
"The GHS MCJROTC was very honored to perform the

evening colors retreat. Many visitors at the fair surround the flagpoles each night to observe the ceremony.

Watching the cadets perform the ceremony in their dress blue uniforms and interact

with veterans afterwards is an especially proud moment for the instructors," Rositas said. "It's a great opportunity to showcase our cadets at their best. The highlight is when veterans approach the

cadets and let them know they did a great job. Hearing the compliments, especially from veterans, makes the cadets appreciate the opportunity to perform the ceremony each year."



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Lipan ISD hosts Zoom party for parents of emergent bilingual students

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Lipan ISD hosted a Zoom watch party to support and engage parents who have emergent bilingual students or English-language learners on Oct. 17.

In 2021, 21% of the student population in Texas public schools were emergent bilingual students, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The watch party is part of a three-part series put on by the Texas Education Agency under Title III engagement.

“As part of Title III Initiatives, the TEA Emergent Bilingual Support Division is thrilled to assist local education agencies in planning events which provide valuable information to attendees from presenters at the top of their fields across the state of Texas,” according to

the TEA.

The event equips parents with skills, activities, and training to improve their English language skills to become more active in their child’s education. The event caters to Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Japanese, Pashto, Russian, Ukrainian and Urdu speakers.

“The goal is to provide information and resources

to the parents and families that will help support their students in and out of the classroom,” Jodi Overton, director of special programs/district testing coordinator for Lipan ISD said.

The event featured four different speakers who spoke about bilingual education services, preparing for life after high school and what the cost of living looks like in Texas. There was also

a Q&A portion of the event that opened the floor for parents to ask questions.

The next event will switch from parent engagement to family engagement, where the program will focus more on an entire family and provide literacy services, activities and training to improve English language skills.

The family engagement program will take place on Nov. 9 from 9-11 a.m.

The third part of the series will focus on community engagement, where community participation is encouraged to help those English language learners.

The community engagement program will take place on Jan. 23 from 9-11 a.m.

To register for the next part of the series visit txel.org/t3series.

Texas A&M AgriLife to host hay and forage program in Cleburne Oct. 26

Staff Reports

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Hood, Johnson, Bosque, and Somervell County will be hosting a Hay and Forage Program on Oct. 26, at the Johnson County Extension Office, 109 W. Chambers St. in Cleburne.

Registration and a meal will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., with the

program lasting until 1:30 p.m. This program will cover sandbur and assorted weed control, grasshopper, and armyworm pest management.

The registration fee is \$20 per person and can be paid at the door. A lunch meal will also be provided. Two TDA CEU hours will be provided for participants with an applicator license.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will seek

to accommodate all persons with disabilities for these programs. Please call 817-556-6730 at least 72 hours before the program begins, so arrangements can be made.

For more information or to preregister and RSVP by Oct. 25 for the program, contact the Johnson County Extension Office at 817-556-6370.

Texas A&M AgriLife to host homeowner sewage maintenance class Nov. 14

Staff Reports

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units on Nov. 14, at the Hood County Reunion Grounds-Exhibit Hall, located at 641 Reunion Ct., Granbury, TX 76048. (Signs will be posted).

Registration will be from 8 to 8:30 a.m. with the pro-

gram lasting until 3:30 p.m. This program will cover on-site sewage facilities, aerobic treatment units (ATU), ATU operations and safety, operation and maintenance, and compliance of ATU.

The registration fee is \$150 per person payable online at the following website: <https://agrilife-register.tamu.edu/ereg/index.php?eventid=771480>. Individuals must register by

Nov. 7 to enroll in the class.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will seek to accommodate all persons with disabilities for these programs. Please call 817-579-3280 at least 72 hours before the program begins, so arrangements can be made.

For more information, contact the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280.

BARBECUE

FROM PAGE B1

product, time management, flavor profiles, meat science, communication, where our food comes from and how and why to respect those proteins, safety and sanitation, camaraderie, and flexibility/adapting on the fly. It’s a lifelong skill, and food is a universal language.”

The team meets two to three times a month to both learn and practice their cooking skills, and students also

practice on their own.

There are two high school barbecue leagues in Texas, and GHS competes in both all over the state.

“The categories are different, depending on which league you cook in. Categories include brisket, beans, dessert, boneless porkchop, flank steak tacos, chili, St. Louis pork ribs, and smoked half-chicken,” Langdon said.

The team competes at regionals first, then the top 10 teams compete at the state level. One of the two leagues

also has a national competition in which the top 30 teams in the state compete.

With only four years competing, the team has had much success thus far including several overall Top 10 finishes as teams and in individual categories at Regional Contests. In 2022, the team was 10th overall in the state out of 82 teams and won in the beans category. In 2023, two teams advanced to the national competition.

“Each year and season have unique memories. One of my favorites is when our

team won the bean category in 2022. I wasn’t able to be at the state contest because my sister was getting married, and my students FaceTimed me with the trophy, right before the wedding ceremony I was officiating. We were all crying happy tears! It was pretty amazing and definitely a lifelong memory I’ll always cherish,” Langdon said.

“Some of my best memories also include little moments... no trophies, no ribbons. Conversations about life and futures, little victories and seeing a kid’s

eyes light-up when their product turns out great, lifting a chin when they are sad or upset and encouraging them to never give-up, reminding them their worth is not in what judges or anyone says. Those are the best moments.”

When it comes to this season Langdon is looking forward to what is to come.

“It feels like this year is poised to be our best year yet. We are getting help and input from more mentors, getting more organized, and have so much buy-in from

our students. I am really excited and can’t wait to see what our kids learn this year. We would love to get some more trophies this year too,” Langdon said.

The team’s first contest this year will take place on Nov. 4 at Granbury High School.

The team is seeking sponsorships; for more information contact brianne.langdon@granburyisd.org.

BLESSING

FROM PAGE B1

that at the end of the day you really only have control over a couple of things—two of those being your attitude and your effort, and Isaac does a tremendous job of modeling both of those every day.”

WINNING WITHOUT PEYTON

When the season began Blessing and the Rattlers faithful were counting on him having one of the nation’s top running backs in the backfield. That changed when junior Peyton Brown injured his ankle and hasn’t played since the first game.

“That was rough. All summer Peyton and I had talked about being a two-headed dragon,” Blessing said. “The bulk of the offensive produc-

tion was instantly gone.”

However, senior Garrison Nation stepped in and the Rattlers continued being one of the best teams in the state — with an emphasis on team, Blessing noted.

“Garrison is doing fantastic. I am so proud of the way he’s playing this season,” Blessing said. “It was solemn in that locker room when Peyton went down, but it’s not going to knock us off course. We are locked in.”

Brown is a possible return for the postseason, Mullins said.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Rattlers’ dream season came to an end in 2022 when they fell to Crawford 14-7 in the state quarterfinals. Blessing said that loss, however, has fueled a fire in this season’s squad.

“A lot of the guys are locked into the idea of winning state and we know we have the talent to do it,” he said. “You never want to lose, but it brings a team back down to a calm level.”

“Last season the word around us was undefeated and obviously that didn’t happen. This season we have our one loss out of the way. We’re good at 15-1.”

The one loss was 37-6 at home to private school powerhouse and two-time defending TAPPS Division III state champion Dallas Christian. It was one of several tough opponents Class 2A Tolar faced in pre-district, including Class 3A programs Peaster, Early and Comanche, which at one point in the season was state-ranked.

“We played against some good teams in

predistrict and after our loss we came out with a fire. Also, Comanche scheduled us as homecoming,” Blessing said. “I think they wanted more people in the stands, but we didn’t like being their homecoming because normally homecoming is someone you expect to beat pretty good.”

The Rattlers won that game 41-18.

But there’s one opponent Blessing and the Rattlers have their sights set on.

“Losing that game to Crawford left a terrible taste in my mouth. It was rough. I want to face them again in the playoffs,” he said. “I’ve lost to Crawford three times in my career. I’ve yet to beat them, and they are a great program, but I’m getting goosebumps at the thought of meeting


PLEASE SEE **BLESSING** | B9




PHOTO BY KELLY MOODY


Tolar quarterback Isaac Blessing is enjoying success in his first season as the team’s starter with hopes of winning a state championship and playing in college.

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GHS Friday Nights



The Granbury Pirates pushed till the end against Lake Belton Broncos during the game Oct. 13
PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Amelio Rodriguez waiting for the kick.



Granbury High School cheerleaders doing a stunt.



Granbury Pirates coming on the field Friday, Oct. 13 for the game against Lake Belton.



Chase Cantrell (Granbury) bringing down Cameron Hamilton (Lake Belton.)



The Pride of Granbury Pirate band Performing their UIL show Painted during halftime.



A Granbury Stowaway during her halftime performance.



Jadon Rodgers running down the field for a Granbury touchdown.



Jace Kelly covering (pirates) Xavier Wells (Broncos) during the game Friday night

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Lady Granbury Volleyball

On Friday, Oct 13, the Granbury Varsity Girls Volleyball team won their match against Brewer High School by a score of 3-0.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Kylie Moody with a huge spike Friday night.



The Lady Pirates pumped up ready to go Oct. 13 in their game against Brewer High School.



Allyson McCabe serving for the Lady Pirates Friday night.



Sienna Watts and Brooke Marak setting the block against Brewer High School.



Peyton Johnson with a spike during the second set against Brewer High School.

Lady Pionners Win

PHOTO BY CHRISTY DODSON

The Lady Pioneers defeated Covenant Classical on Tuesday, Oct. 10, in three straight sets. Scores were 25-23, 25-17, 25-9. Junior Lea Lopicic had six service aces, six kills and six digs, while Senior, Anika Mijuskovic added six kills, had two solo blocks and four digs.





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Bailey Blum serving for the lady Pirates

SPORTS Roundup

Lady Pirates back in playoffs

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury Lady Pirates are headed back to the postseason.

The Lady Pirates (16-22, 7-3 in District 5-5A) secured their return to the playoffs after missing out last year when they swept Brewer (16-13, 3-6) 3-0 at home on Oct. 13. Sienna Watts (7 kills, 1 block, 12 digs) and Lily McCall (34 digs, 14 service returns) stood out in the win.

On Oct. 17 the Northwest Lady Texans (27-9, 8-2) got a little revenge by outlasting the Lady Pirates 3-2 at home. It's the second time in as many matches that Granbury and Northwest have gone the full five games in a match, with Granbury winning 3-2 at home on Sept. 22.

In Tuesday's match, Granbury won the first game 25-22, Northwest took the next two 25-18 and 25-22, the Lady Pirates won 26-24 to force a fifth game, which the Lady Texans won 15-9.

Once again, Watts stood out with 24 kills, while Kylie Moody had seven blocks. McCall (35) and Allyson McCabe (20) led in digs.

With 737 digs, McCall leads District 5-5A, is ranked 11th in Texas and 15th in the nation.

The Lady Pirates were playing at fourth-place Azle (16-24, 4-5) at press time and finish the regular season at Wichita Falls Rider (11-14, 2-8) on Tuesday, Oct. 24. A win in either of those matches would clinch no worse than third in district for Granbury.

GRANBURY CROSS COUNTRY

Last season as a freshman, Bryan Hailey had the best performance at state of any Granbury runner ever. This year he'd love to have some company, which he could get if he and his Pirate teammates can qualify from Monday's Class 5A Region I meet at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock.

The top four teams and the top 10 individuals not on those teams will advance to state in Round Rock on Nov. 3.

The Pirates finished second as a team at the District 5-5A Meet on Oct. 13 in White Settlement. They narrowly missed winning for a third straight meet, finishing with 39 points, just four behind Aledo.

"Our kids are excited to go compete. It's a familiar course for them, not near as challenging as the district course," Pirates coach Jody Brown said. "We have made improvements throughout the season."

"I told them at the beginning that this is the time of

year to be your best. We have started the taper phase of workouts, cutting volume. They need to be fresh and fast."

Jaxon Glenn led Granbury, finishing third individually with a time of 17 minutes, 02.92 seconds over the 5-kilometer course. Hailey was right behind in fourth in 17:19 and Alec Wilkinson was fifth with a 17:30.

Last season Hailey finished 20th at state. He was battling an injury this season but seems to be peaking at the right time.

Rounding out the Pirates' scoring at district were Bryce Young in 11th place and Aiden Lemens in 15th.

The Lady Pirates' season came to an end with a fifth-place finish. Freshman Kambry Zschiesche placed 21st, Emery Kirby was 22nd, Zaeda Sedgwick was 23rd, Aubrey Ward placed 27th and Alexie Patrick was 28th.

LIPAN/TOLAR CROSS COUNTRY

The Lipan boys and girls teams will be competing for a berth at state, as will Tolar's Hunter Keith, when they participate in the Class 2A Region II Meet at Lynn Creek in Grand Prairie on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The top four teams and the top 10 individuals not on those teams will qualify for state in Round Rock on Nov. 4.

Lipan's boys were second and the girls third at the District 11-2A Meet they hosted on Oct. 9. Keith placed fourth individually with a time of 18:07.58 over 5K.

Court Gaylor led the Indians, finishing second individually with a time of 17:53.48. Wyatt Yates was fifth in 18:15.42 and Colby Scott was 10th in 19:13.92.

The Lipan girls were led by Annslee Tarpley, who was third over the 3.2K course with a 12:58.22 time. Jacy Bolton posted a 13:14.30 for sixth.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The last home game is on the horizon as the Pirates (3-4 overall, 1-4 in District 4-5A Division I) will host the district co-leading Red Oak Hawks (7-0, 5-0) on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. That is followed by a road trip to face Killeen Shoemaker on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

The Hawks were ranked No. 7 in the state in Class 5A this week and were hosting Killeen (5-2, 3-2) at press time.

The Pirates were playing at Killeen Ellison (1-6, 1-4) last night.

The Pirates were coming off a 49-7 loss at home to Lake Belton (7-1, 5-1) on Oct. 13.

Granbury was led by Jadon

Rogers with 136 yards on just seven carries, including a 76-yard touchdown. He leads the Pirates in rushing with 442 yards and seven TD despite missing two games with an injury.

Chase Cantrell led the defense with six tackles, including one for a loss and a sack. Halston Main had five tackles with one for a loss, while Rylan Brenish and Sam Sutherland each had a sack and two tackles for loss. Jack Damphousse had his first interception of the season.

Through the first seven games, Brenish and Cantrell continue to lead the Pirates in tackles with 55 each, including a combined 11 for loss (Brenish 7, Cantrell 4). Augie Zapata has four of the team's 10 sacks.

The Granbury offense continues to have a strong running game, averaging 224 yards per game, outgaining their opponents by an average of 80 yards through the first seven games. Tyler Rodgers had 379 yards and five TD.

Red Oak's offense was led through the Hawks' first seven games by quarterback Reggie Moody (1,575 yards, 17 TD, 4 interceptions) and receiver Taz Williams (40 catches, 598 yards, 8 TD). On defense, Mekhi Williams had 68 tackles, four sacks and two fumble recoveries.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers (6-1 overall, 3-0 in District 5-2A Division I) quickly erased any possibility of suffering an upset to DeLeon (6-2, 3-1 in district). They came home with a 44-8 victory over the Bearcats.

It was Tolar's 17th consecutive regular-season road victory.

The Rattlers were home last night to play Bangs (2-5, 1-2). They will try to go undefeated on the road for a third straight regular season when they travel to Goldthwaite (3-4, 1-2) on Friday, Oct. 27.

Against DeLeon, quarterback Isaac Blessing had the best passing game of his career. He was 12-of-17 for 302 yards and four TD. He also rushed for 76 yards and a touchdown.

His TD passes went to four different receivers, Brylen Feist, Clayton Stenbridge, Garrison Nation and Matthew Behrens. Nation accounted for 120 yards (47 rushing, 73 receiving on two catches) and also had a rushing TD.

Stenbridge led the Tolar defense with 11 tackles, while Braylen Rice and Drake Owens each had nine and Cash Clark posted eight. Clark (3), Cutter Cain (2), Brooks Stone (1) and Hunter Michels (1) combined for seven sacks. Rice and Owens also had an interception each.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Rachael Poirier Spiking it back to the Brewer Bears

On the season, Blessing has 870 passing yards and a dozen TD with just two interceptions through six games. He had 700 yards rushing with nine TD. Behrens continues to be the leading receiver (16 catches, 342 yards, 3 TD).

Jaxon Riddle (63 tackles, 6 for loss, 1 interception), Owens (62 tackles) and Stenbridge (46 catches, 4 interceptions) were leading the defense.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (18-14, 2-2 in district) saw their hopes of a District 8-2A championship slip away with a 3-1 loss at home to Hamilton on Oct. 17. Both their league losses have been to Hamilton, giving the Lady Bulldogs the tiebreaker.

In a 3-0 rout of DeLeon on Oct. 13, the Lady Rattlers were led by Abbie Soileau and Semi Imel, who were named as standouts. In the loss to Hamilton, Trinity Rousseau stood out.

GRANBURY SWIMMING

Granbury hosted Lubbock's four schools at the Hood County YMCA for the Granbury Fall Meet on Oct. 14.

The Pirates scored 514

points and the Lady Pirates tallied 564. Lubbock High won both divisions with 676 for the boys and 607.5 for the girls.

Granbury swimmers with top three finishers were:

Girls
Individuals
200 freestyle: 2. Michela Petretto, 3. Madison Erez.

200 individual medley: 3. Jina Kim.
50 freestyle: 2. Ma. Erez,

3. Avery Young.
100 butterfly: 2. Grace

Larsen, 3. Young.
100 freestyle: 2. My. Erez.

500 freestyle: 2. Petretto.
100 backstroke: 1. My.

Erez.
100 breaststroke: 2. Grace

Larsen.
Relays
200 medley: 2. My. Erez,

Larsen, Young, Brenna

Haynes.
200 freestyle: 2. My. Erez,

Young, Ma. Erez, Haynes.
400 freestyle: 3. Petretto,

Larsen, Bailey McDermott,
Ma. Erez.

Boys
200 freestyle: 2. Michael

Kracy.
200 IM: 2. Leander Stuart.

50 freestyle: 1. Braxton

Heffernan, 3. Hunter Jones.
100 butterfly: 2. Sean Kim,

3. Colin Lindsey.
500 freestyle: 3. Leander

Stuart.
100 backstroke: 3. Luke

Basil.
Relays
200 medley: 2. Basil,

Brown, Lindsey, Heffernan.
200 freestyle: 2. Jones,

Lindsey, Heffernan, Basil.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates played in the Cleburne Classic this past weekend. The Granbury Purple Team finished fourth with a 665 (337-328), while the Gold Team shot 681 (335-346), finishing fifth.

Individually, Landon Womack of Purple was sixth with a 159 (78-81).

Also for Purple: Jaxson Vaughn, 168 (83-85); Brayden Thackerson, 169 (88-81); Jacob Reagan, 169 (88-81); and Caden Davis, 176 (90-86).

Gold scores: Andrew Haynes, 165 (86-79); Parker Jones, 171 (84-87); Will Webb, 171 (81-90); Quinn Bradley, 174 (84-90); and Kolton Montoya, 184 (90-94).

The freshmen played in the Saginaw Invitational recently, shooting 394 for third place. Individual scores were Kylan Loving, 90; Jeff Bowerman, 95; Briar Rouse, 98; Maxx Litts, 104; Ashton Heimer, 105; and William Farmer, 119.



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Gallaher the Texan leader again, Samaniego shines in final round at Oregon State Invitational

Tarleton State University

CORVALLIS, Ore. — For the third time in three golf tournaments this season, Carson Gallaher led the Texans, this time at the Oregon State Invitational on Monday, Oct. 9 and Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Gallaher shot +9 (72-73-77) to finish tied for 32nd at Trysting Tree Golf Club. Since joining the Purple and White, Gallaher has powered Tarleton State in each tournament.

It was a cold and rainy day on Tuesday, but Bladen Samaniego shined through it, turning in a career-best round of -1 (70) to shoot +13 (79-77-70) overall for tied-60th.

Alvaro Huidobro had the best opening round among the group at even-par (71).

He finished +14 (71-74-82) for tied-66th. Freshman Tate Littman made his collegiate debut, shooting +15 (76-78-74) for tied-75th. Freshman Chandler Barch rounded out the group at +18 (77-73-81) for tied-82nd.

As a team, Tarleton finished 14th at +43 (296-297-302). The host Beavers won the event at +3 (270-292-293). Arizona State's Nicholas Prieto was the medalist at -4 (68-70-71).

The Texans have one tournament remaining this fall, an international event just over the border. Tarleton State will play in George Washington's Monterrey International Invitational at Club Campestre Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico, on Oct. 27-28.



COURTESY PHOTO

For the third time in three golf tournaments this season, Carson Gallaher led the Texans, this time at the Oregon State Invitational on Monday, Oct. 9 and Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Kendall records 100th save in loss at Utah Tech

Tarleton State University

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Mikayla Kendall notched her 100th save of the season on her second save of the night in Tarleton State's 3-1 loss to Utah Tech on Thursday, Oct. 12 at Greater Zion Stadium.

Kendall became the first Texan and first Western Athletic Conference goalkeeper this season to eclipse the 100-saves mark with 8 against the Trailblazers. She is just the sixth NCAA Division 1 goalie to reach the feat this season.

Nicole Fels prevented the Texans from being shut out scoring her second goal of the season with two minutes remaining in the second half.

Avery Harr fired her 14th shot on goal to inch closer to the program record of 15

that she set last season.

Harr streaked 40 yards down the sideline in the third minute to take a shot from the far left 20 yards left that was saved by the UT keeper.

In the 15th minute of play, Kendall fielded a ground ball off a slow shot from 20 yards to notch her 100th save of the season. She faced three more shots in the first half recording a save on each and keeping the Trailblazers scoreless.

In the 27th minute, Mila Bettinelli found a pass in the middle of field and fired in a tailing shot that was just tipped out by the outstretched hands of the diving goalie.

Neither team was able to make any true scoring

threats in the first half resulting in a 0-0 deadlock after 45 minutes on the pitch.

Utah Tech was quick to score out of the half breaking the scoreless tie four minutes into the second half. Brynlee Rider found the left corner of the net past Kendall to give the Trailblazers a 1-0 lead.

Just over 15 minutes later, UT added its second goal of the night originating from a corner. Emily Garbett sent the corner nearly 10 yards in the middle front of the goal where Kearney Hoggan was there to send a header past Kendall who was being shielded by a Trailblazer defender.

The Trailblazers added a third goal off a free kick from 20 yards out. Garbett's



COURTESY PHOTO

Mikayla Kendall notched her 100th save of the season on her second save of the night in Tarleton State's 3-1 loss to Utah Tech on Thursday, Oct. 12 at Greater Zion Stadium.

free kick found Hanna Carlisle who headed in an insurance goal for UT.

With just over two minutes remaining in the contest, Fels headed in Jaycie Bass' corner just a few feet in front of the Utah Tech keeper,

to prevent the Trailblazers from earning a shutout. The Texans were unable to answer two more times in the final two minutes and fell, 3-1.

Utah Tech outshot the Texans, 22-5 and 11-4 on

goal. Tarleton held the advantage in corner kicks, 5-4 and was called for two less fouls than UT. The Purple and White also recorded eight saves to Utah Tech's, three.

Texans fall in double overtime heartbreaker at Eastern Kentucky

Tarleton State University

RICHMOND, Ky. - The Texans had a chance to win a roller coaster ride of a game as time expired, but a missed field goal pushed the conference contest to overtime. Eastern Kentucky ended up winning the United Athletic Conference game in Richmond, Kentucky, 41-35 in double overtime on their homecoming Saturday, Oct. 14.

The Texans (4-3, 1-2 UAC) dropped their second straight game and fell to 0-2 all-time at EKV, but this game was much different than their last at Roy Kidd Stadium. The offense exploded for their highest scoring game since Sept. 9, covering 527 of total yards, including 316 on the ground. The Colonels (3-3, 2-0 UAC) won their third straight game since starting the year 0-3.

Tarleton entered the fourth quarter trailing 28-21, tying it on a 3-yard Derrel Kelley III touchdown rush with 9:45 to play. The Texans forced a missed field goal on EKV's ensuing drive, then bled out the remaining 5:35 of regulation and attempted a 24-yard field goal as time expired that sailed wide.

In overtime, EKV got the ball first and scored a touchdown on two plays. Tarleton answered in a dire circumstance, facing 4th and 15 on the EKV 30-yard line. Texan

QB Victor Gabalis found Darius Cooper in the middle of the end zone for a 30-yard touchdown connection to push the game to double overtime. In 2OT, Gabalis' pass got hit in the air, and EKV's Logan Blake came down with the tip-drill interception. EKV's Parker McKinney QB-sneaked a 1-yard touchdown to win the game for the Colonels.

Gabalis finished 16-of-30 for 211 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Kayvon Britten exploded for 187 yards on 18 carries (10.4 yards per carry) and a touchdown. Kelley joined him above the century mark, rushing for 102 yards on 17 attempts (6.0 YPC) and a score. Cooper had six receptions for 149 yards and two touchdowns, and Benjamin Omayebu tallied five catches for 39 yards and a touchdown.

At 316 rushing yards, Tarleton had their most in a game since Sept. 11, 2021, vs. Fort Lewis (347). The Texans also had multiple players with 100-plus rushing yards since Sept. 25, 2021.

Defensively, Qua'Shawn Washington led Tarleton with



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans had a chance to win a roller coaster ride of a game as time expired, but a missed field goal pushed the conference contest to overtime. Eastern Kentucky ended up winning the United Athletic Conference game in Richmond, Kentucky, 41-35 in double overtime on their homecoming Saturday, Oct. 14.

nine tackles, adding 0.5 TFL. Ely Doyle had eight tackles, and Kyle Taylor notched seven. Brandon Tolvert and Caimyn Layne each recorded a sack.

EKU's Braedon Sloan scored four touchdowns, rushing for 120 yards on 24 attempts (5.0 YPC), adding a receiving touchdown on five catches for 40 yards. McKinney completed 19-of-33 for 190 yards and a touchdown, adding 98 rushing yards on 10 carries (9.8 YPC) and the game-winning touchdown.

The Texans started Saturday's game with a 75-yard scoring drive, sparked

by a 21-yard Gabalis rush. He then tossed a 2-yard touchdown to Omayebu, the wide receiver's first of the season.

Midway through the opening quarter, EKV answered with a 48-yard Joshua Carter rushing touchdown.

Tarleton answered right back, going 70 yards in just over two minutes. Cooper had a 36-yard leaping grab, then Britten punched in a 4-yard touchdown, his seventh score on the ground this season, eighth overall. The Texan running back has scored in six of seven games this year. Tarleton led 14-7 after the first.

The Colonels tied it once

again on their first drive of the second quarter, a Sloan 2-yard rush. But again, the Texans answered right back themselves, going 75 yards, scoring on a 27-yard Gabalis to Cooper connection.

With a minute left in the first half, Sloan ran in another score to make it 21-21 at halftime.

The Colonels opened the second half with a 75-yard scoring drive to take their first lead of the game, 28-21. Sloan scored his third touchdown of the day, his first receiving, on a 15-yard pass from McKinney. EKV led 28-21 entering the fourth quarter.

With about 11 minutes left, Britten broke free on a 59-yard rush to put the Texans on the doorstep, then Kelley finished the deal with a 3-yard scoring rush, his third of the season.

Tarleton then forced EKV to miss a 49-yard field goal wide left. The Texans marched down the other end, bleeding the clock all the way out with a chance to win. Facing 4th and 1 at the EKV 18-yard line, Tarleton decided to go for it, but Tuli Teuhema was called for a snap infraction, sending the Texans five yards back and the field goal on. A pre-snap penalty changed

things again, this time on EKV, called for a delay of game due to messing with Tarleton's snap calls. The Texans put the offense back on the field, and Kelley powered through for four yards and a first down.

Tarleton got down to the 7-yard line and called time out with three seconds left. Adrian Guzman, the reigning UAC Special Teams Player of the Week, missed a 24-yard field goal as time expired after a high snap and tough hold rushed the process. Guzman was a perfect 32-of-32 on kicks this season before the missed field goal, including 7-of-7 on field goal attempts.

In the first overtime, Sloan opened with a 20-yard rush, then scored his fourth touchdown of the day from five yards out. On Tarleton's possession, the Texans were down to their last play, 4th and 15 from the EKV 30-yard line. Gabalis zipped one up the middle to find Cooper in the end zone, and Guzman split the uprights on the extra point to tie the game.

In double overtime, Gabalis was picked off on third down, and EKV took advantage with the walk-off touchdown.

Next up for the Texans is their homecoming game against Morehead State on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville, Texas.

Governor Abbott promotes school choice momentum at Texas Capitol

Submitted Item

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday, Oct. 16 encouraged Texans to contact their legislators to voice their support for parent empowerment and expanding education freedom at the Texas Public Policy Foundation's (TPPF) Parent Empowerment Rally at the Texas Capitol in Austin. "I am here to tell you that, contrary to what you may be reading in the newspaper, we are closer than we've even been on a deal that will deliver school choice for you, your families, and all Texans," said Gov. Abbott. "The time for school choice is now in the great state of Texas. As I've traveled across the state, I have talked to so many parents and one thing I repeatedly hear in every location

I've been in is that parents know what is best for their child. Working together, we will deliver school choice and a brighter future for every child across Texas." In a packed auditorium with over 275 parents, students, and school choice advocates, Gov. Abbott outlined his ongoing efforts to expand education freedom and state-funded Education Savings Accounts to every Texas student, noting that a majority of rural, urban, and suburban Texans support increasing parental rights in their child's education. Additionally, the governor again called on lawmakers to carry school choice across the finish line, highlighting the critical need to pass legislation that empowers parents to be the primary decision-

makers in their child's education. The governor was joined by TPPF Campaign Director Mandy Drogin, elected officials, and other parent empowerment advocates. Hosted by TPPF, the Parent Empowerment Rally brings together parents, students, and parent empowerment advocates to discuss the pathway for expanding parental rights in education in Texas. In his 2023 State of the State address, Gov. Abbott announced education freedom for all Texans as an emergency item for the 88th Legislative Session. In June, Gov. Abbott signed into law four critical pieces of parent empowerment legislation passed during the 88th Regular Legislative Session.



COURTESY PHOTO

In his 2023 State of the State address, Gov. Abbott announced education freedom for all Texans as an emergency item for the 88th Legislative Session.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Oct. 14 (Puzzle 52).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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HCN Junior

NATIONAL Apple DAY
October 21

Apples are amazing fruits that are not only delicious but also super good for you. Here are some reasons why apples are awesome:

YUMMY TASTE
Apples come in many tasty flavors, from sweet to a little bit tart. They make a great snack all by themselves or in pies and apple-sauce.

HEALTHY AND STRONG
Eating apples helps keep you healthy. They are packed with vitamins and fiber that make your body strong and your tummy happy.

SHINY SKIN
Apples can make your skin look nice and shiny because they have antioxidants that keep your body healthy inside and out.

ENERGY BOOST
When you eat apples, they give you lots of energy to play, run, and have fun all day.

GOOD FOR TEETH
Apples can help keep your teeth clean. They're like nature's toothbrush! So, grab an apple and take a big, juicy bite. They're not only tasty but also really good for you. Enjoy your apples!

COLOR Time

Apples!

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

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

Word Bank

1. tree	2. apple	3. stem	4. core
5. sour	6. pie	7. delicious	8. tart
9. sweet	10. blossom		

Did You Know?

Apples are 25% air which is why they float in water. Fruits and vegetables are an important part of a healthy, well balanced diet.

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Apple
- SPANISH:** Manzana
- ITALIAN:** Mela
- FRENCH:** Pomme
- GERMAN:** Apfel

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CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE ON THE HOOD COUNTY JUNIOR PAGE

HOOD OUTDOORS

Cool mornings, warm afternoons



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.

It's that time of the year when you need to be prepared for both cool weather and sunny hot weather. Launching in the a.m. and running down the lake can be quite cool, but as the sun rises, you'll be shedding those jackets/clothes quickly.

I don't know how many times I have folks with me who are not prepared for the weather even if I warn them beforehand. It is a good idea to have a jacket this time of year that will keep you warm enough for that morning run down the lake. It is also a good idea this jacket be waterproof/water resistant for obvious reasons. Even if there is no rain in the forecast, you might need some protection from water spray from potential wave action, especially on those windy days. I do keep a couple of extra rain jackets in the boat just in case. They are not insulated at all, but the vinyl will break the wind for the run down the lake and they will keep your upper torso dry.

Most boats are relatively dry inside, but on occasion you will get water in the boat. Some boats have self-bailing decks that on occasion will allow a small amount of water in the boat. Other days on the water, the wave action can cause water to splash into the boat. People climbing in and out of boats will also bring in water. For this reason, tennis shoes that can get wet are not always the best choice on the boat. In the summer a shoe that is designed to get wet is a good idea. For cooler times of the year, a good water proof boat shoe/boot with good traction is a good idea. Having wet socks and shoes can make the day less favorable especially if it is cold. Currently it remains warm enough most days that I still wear my "water shoes" which are made to wade out in the water, but the time is near where I will use rubber boots when launching the boat to keep dry. Being wet when it's cold is not fun.

With these warm afternoons, don't forget the sun

block. When on the water in the boat, you can still get burned. I believe the reflection from the water can actually be more intense than on land. The afternoons can still get pretty warm, especially if there is not any wind, and we have had a bunch of days with no wind.

Bring plenty of water and fluids. Though the sun is not as intense in the fall, you still need to hydrate. I know I am more likely to have a headache if I don't hydrate. I also know after the day on the water is done, I am in a lot better shape if I drink plenty of fluids. It does make a difference.

Fall weather has arrived. Enjoy the water and the weather and I will see you out there!

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water levels continue to be about 2 feet low and falling slowly. Lake turnover is ongoing with water temperatures in the low to middle 70s. Granbury catfish continue to be good with an occasional big fish 20 pounds plus on cut bait fished on the upper ends. Striped bass to 12 pounds are possible on the lower ends on live shad and down rigged jigs or alabama rigs. Sandbass are fair with



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured (L-R) are Johnny Howard, Dave Spiva, Rett Sears, Colten Byrd and Ronnie Byrd. These fellows enjoyed a family outing with Granbury's Dave Spiva. They caught some big Granbury striped bass to 10 pounds this past weekend.

some good catches reported near DeCordova subdivision and in town by the Shores. Largemouth bass to 7 pounds are possible on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near main lake points and on 10-foot humps on many areas of the lake. Crappie limits continue to be taken on minnows and small jigs fished mid-lake on submerged structure (bridge pilings and trees). Comanche Creek (formerly

Squaw Creek) reservoir black bass are being caught in numbers on soft plastics with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds. Channel catfish limits are common on prepared and cut bait fished on many areas of the lake. Tilapia (invasive species) are abundant and are being taken with cast nets or others are catching them on worms fished under a bobber in the backs of coves and creeks.

On other reservoirs, Whitney and Possum Kingdom continue to brag on limits of striped bass on live bait and down rigged jigs. Some good topwater action near feeding flats are reported on both reservoirs.

michael.acosta@att.net | 254-396-4855

BLESSING

FROM PAGE B3

them one last time."

COLLEGE

Like most any good player, Blessing wants to play in college. He hasn't picked a school yet, but he is excited at the prospect of continuing his career.

"I'm hoping by the grace of God I get some scholarship," he said. "I know God will put me in the right place."

As for what he will study,

he's thinking business, or perhaps getting into coaching. His mother is in real estate and his father is a franchisee.

If he does play in college, Mullins believes the team that lands Blessing is a fortunate one, not only because of his skills, but also his willingness to do what is necessary to win.

"He continues to improve each week at the quarterback position. He is a great linebacker as well, and more than likely has a future in that position, but at the moment he has shown a good team-first

attitude taking fewer reps at linebacker while leading our offense," Mullins said. "You want your quarterback to be a fierce competitor and there's never a doubt you are going to get all of Isaac all the time."

OTHER SPORTS

Blessing was also a part of the best basketball season in Rattlers history. He helped them advance to the Class 2A Region II finals before falling to state champion and rival Lipan to finish with a 31-5 record.

"We're senior-loaded and

will have another great team," he said.

He also ran track and had he not clipped a hurdle he might have advanced to state.

"I was angry at myself. I was in first place," he said, adding that he's not sure if he will run track in 2024.

His father was a two-time national wrestling champion for LeTourneau University in Longview.

"He's been trying to petition Tolar for a wrestling team since I was in third grade (when the family moved to Tolar)," Blessing said. "We

moved the couch around in his living room and wrestled. I was sure I had him one time.

"That's where I get a lot of my competitiveness, my dad."

NEARING THE END

Even if the Rattlers win a state championship, the final game of his high school football career is coming for Blessing. It's something he tries not to think about and instead focus on the joy that comes from being part of a team the community loves.

For example, when he goes to the local convenience store,

it's never a quick in-and-out.

"It takes 20 minutes to leave because I'm talking to parents and customers about the game last night, or the game coming up," Blessing said. "I absolutely love that."

"I'm sad I'm a senior and walking away after this season, but I'm so glad to have been a part of this great time. From football throughout all our sports, there has never been a better time to be a Rattler.

"I've been a part of a lot of great atmospheres. I feel so blessed."

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Honoring God's creatures

COURTESY PHOTO

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd held its pet blessing ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Hood County churches unite in pet blessing ceremonies

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Three Hood County churches welcomed new — and unique — members to their congregations this month.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton, First Presbyterian Church of Granbury, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Acton, all recently hosted pet blessings where members of each church brought their animal companion to be blessed by the pastor or reverend.

Every year around Oct. 4, pet blessings are held worldwide to honor and celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi, a beloved saint who was well known for believing that all creatures are loved by God.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"St. Francis was known for his love of animals and of all creatures. It's because of that that we take sort of the idea of celebrating all our furry friends and feathered friends and so on in the vein of St. Francis," explained Bonnie McCrickard, rever-

end of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. "It becomes sort of a theme of rejoicing in all of creation, as all have been blessed by God, and are signs of God's love of creation."

McCrickard, who gave her first pet blessing in Hood County on Oct. 1, said she blessed about 20 dogs, 10 cats, and a "giant tortoise."

"It was a great turnout and one of my parishioners also made arrangements for me to go to the Hood County Animal Shelter. I went out there with several of my parishioners and we blessed the pets there," she said. "It was very sweet because these animals are frightened and looking for companionship, so it was nice to be able to pray for them, bless them, and see them as beloved creatures of God as well."

McCrickard explained that

PLEASE SEE **PET** | C2



COURTESY PHOTO

During the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd's pet blessing ceremony on Oct. 1, Reverend Bonnie McCrickard blessed 20 dogs, 10 cats, and a "giant tortoise."

Granbury residents may not be alone

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

With a plethora of history that lies within Granbury roots, residents may not be the only ones walking around the city, as there have been many sightings of ghosts around the town.

Granbury has held a ghost tour for 13 years now after it was first started by paranormal enthusiasts Brandy Herr and her mother Coletta Henderson.

Herr and Henderson didn't expect these ghost tours to have lasted this long but have had many unique experiences and have made many unforgettable memories along the way.

The two worked at the Café Nutt in the Nutt Hotel and encountered a spirit there who they believe to be Mary Lee Watkins, who was the owner of the hotel.

The idea of a ghost tour coming to Granbury was mentioned to Herr by a visitor at the hotel, and the mom and daughter duo turned the idea into a reality.

"Since this is such a history heavy town, we thought it would be perfect to do

The most famous ghost story is the belief John Wilkes Booth haunts the Granbury Opera House. The television series, "Ghost Lab" on the Discovery channel even made a visit to the opera house to investigate this story in 2009. They obtained a clear recording during their investigation where they heard a spirit say he was John Wilkes Booth, according to Brandi.

this, and we started doing the research from there and going door to door and asking people their experiences and had no idea what we would uncover. So many places we went to would say, 'let me just tell you what happened last week,' and so we were astounded at how many stories turned up," Herr said. "We started looking at the historical background in books and magazines and newspapers. We had no idea how well it would be embraced by the

town."
The tours are year-round on Saturdays and Sundays and are an hour-long walking tour. The tour features many ghost stories and legends of Granbury ghosts. Brandi noted that typically paranormal activity doesn't happen on the tour, but many times, guests will see spirits or unusual things in photos they take on the tour.

The most famous ghost story is the belief John Wilkes Booth haunts the

Granbury Opera House. The television series, "Ghost Lab" on the Discovery channel even made a visit to the opera house to investigate this story in 2009. They obtained a clear recording during their investigation where they heard a spirit say he was John Wilkes Booth, according to Herr.

Brandi explained that many believe Booth was not killed after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln. They believe he escaped and fled to Granbury under the name John St. Helen and used to tend bar at what is now known as St. Helens next to the opera house.

Booth became sick and, on what he thought was his death bed, confessed that he was Booth. He ended up getting better and realized he needed to leave Granbury.

In Enid, Oklahoma, a man named David George committed suicide after confessing he was John Wilkes Booth.

Herr also told of a ghost encounter at the Langdon Center formerly known as the Gordon House where it is said to be haunted by a young girl named Audrey

PLEASE SEE **GHOST** | C2

The reasons I fall for fall



COURTESY PHOTO

Recent research done by data research firm Morning Consult shows that 40% of people in the U.S. prefer fall over any other season.

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

Ah, fall! That oft-too-brief period between being slow-baked by the Texas summer and being freeze-dried by the short but brutal winters of North Texas! It's the season of pumpkin spice lattes, sweatshirts, cozy sweaters, and vibrant foliage. It's my favorite season of the year, and it always has been, even when I was a kid. It turns out many people feel the same way about fall. Recent research done by data research firm Morning Consult shows that 40% of people in the U.S. prefer fall over any other season.

So, what is it about this time of year that brings out such strong feelings? According to the data above, fall foliage is the number one reason people love autumn. Thanksgiving is a close second, followed by sweater weather, Halloween, football, and, yes, fall-inspired drinks as well!

It made me start thinking of all the reasons that make this time of year so special to me. These are my own reasons, and if fall is your favorite season, I'm sure you have your own list of reasons! Here are 12 compelling reasons why fall is the best season of them all, along with some tips on how to make the most of it.

THE REASONS I FALL FOR FALL

Cooler weather: This should come as no surprise. After weeks and weeks of oppressive 100-degree days during the summer, high temps in the 60s and 70s during the fall feel like a breath of fresh air! It's not too hot to be uncomfortable, nor too cold to be unbearable. It's the literal Goldilocks of seasons, where everything feels "just right."

The comfort of a hot beverage: Who doesn't enjoy relaxing on their couch or in their chair with a nice cup of coffee or a steaming cup of chai or Earl Grey? The simple act of sipping a hot beverage becomes a ritual of comfort as the temperature drops. Bonus tip: If you want some fantastic private blend coffees and teas, have you tried any of the unique blends at Merry Jaynes on the Square or the out-of-this-world tea at Restaurant Anise? You can thank me later!!

A season of creativity: Something about the crisp air and the changing landscape sparks our imagination. Whether it's writing, painting, crafting, or getting on stage, fall is the season to get those creative juices flowing. A perfect example is the Harvest Moon Arts Festival right here in Granbury next weekend. It's the ideal way to celebrate all the season's creativity!

Fall sports: Okay, I am a shameless sports fan, and the fall months are a veritable cornucopia of sports action! Especially with our Texas Rangers going

deep into the MLB post-season! Think about it... right now, you have the Rangers, Cowboys, Mavericks, and Stars all playing. Split or multi-screen viewing is a must right now!

The scent of the season: Fall has its own signature fragrances — a delightful blend of rain-soaked earth, decaying leaves, and the distant scent of woodsmoke. It's a natural perfume that no other season can replicate.

Mysterious autumn weather: If you're a fan of mystery novels like those by Agatha Christie or eerie landscapes, fall won't disappoint. The season can bring rainy, foggy weather that transforms ordinary scenes into something out of a Gothic novel. Bonus tip: If you like to experience your mystery more up close and personal, then you don't want to miss Granbury Theatre Company's production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" at the Granbury Opera House running Oct. 27-Nov. 12. Or take in the Granbury Ghosts & Legends Tour every Friday and Saturday night at 7 and 9:15 p.m.

The end of daylight saving time: I know this puts me at odds with so many people, but I will be honest. I am not a fan of DST... at all. But aside from that, let me ask you, who doesn't love an extra hour of sleep? When the clocks roll back, we get that additional hour to snooze, making waking up a little less painful. For those who, like me, are creatures of habit and not morning people, the end of DST is one of your favorite days of the year!

Pumpkin spice and everything nice: Whether it's in your latte, your candles, or even your cereal, the aroma of pumpkin spice is the unofficial scent of the season. It's comforting, warming, and undeniably fall.

A palette of colors: Fall is like an artist who uses the world as his canvas, painting leaves in brilliant hues of red, orange, and gold. The result is a visual feast that always captivates. Admittedly, we don't get near as much of it as other parts of the country, and what we get doesn't last all that long. So, enjoy the fall colors while you can!

A time for new beginnings: There's something about fall that feels like a fresh start. Maybe it's the back-to-school vibe or the changing leaves, but fall inspires us to try new things and set new goals, and that's never a bad thing.

A season for reflection: Fall marks the last quarter of the year, making it an ideal time to reflect on your achievements and set your sights on new goals.

The golden light: Unlike the harsh light of summer or the dull light of winter, fall light has a golden quality that makes everything look like it's bathed in a warm glow. If you are a photographer who loves to photograph during golden hour or a painter who loves to paint warm light, fall is your sweet spot! Bonus tip: Watch for my fall iPhone photography's tips article in next week's HCN!

PET

FROM PAGE C1

part of the St. Francis celebration usually involves the prayer of St. Francis, which states:

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

“O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”

“That prayer is beautiful and a good reminder of how we’re meant to carry out God’s love in the world,” McCrickard said. “I’ve always liked that prayer and the opportunity to share it with other people, and maybe people who’ve never heard it before. That’s a really, really beautiful thing.”

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Acton held its pet blessing on Saturday, Oct. 14. Church members were welcome to bring their pets, along with donations of pet food and cash that would be delivered to Mission Granbury’s food bank.

Sally Adamson, evangelism chairman for Emmanuel Lutheran Church, said the pet blessing is a way to



Several members of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Acton brought their pets on Saturday, Oct. 14, during the church’s annual pet blessing ceremony.

celebrate nature and the pets who give us love and companionship.

“I got my dog when my husband died, so she’s been a very important companion to me,” she said. “St. Francis of Assisi started blessing animals and we wanted to do something where we could invite the entire community to join us.”

“It’s definitely a celebration of God’s creation,” said Pastor Dan Weichert.

Although last year, Emmanuel Lutheran welcomed many other exotic animals like a local student’s heifer, this year the ceremony was limited in terms of unique animals.

“We invited the FFA at the high school but they’re having their own livestock show,

so they declined. We invited the sheriff’s canine officer, but he was going to be out of town so we’ve kind of struck out on unique animals,” Adamson said.

Weichert blessed each pet by placing a hand on their head, saying their name, and blessing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He then wished each pet a lifetime of happiness with their owner. Following the blessing, each pet received their own pet blessing certificate.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

While the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and Emmanuel Lutheran Church welcomed live animals, First

Presbyterian Church welcomed live animals, stuffed animals, and photos of animals to the ceremony on Oct. 14.

“Sometimes the animal is old, and doesn’t like to be around other animals, so you need a picture,” explained Sherrolyn Weed, interim pastor for First Presbyterian Church.

Weed began the ceremony by reading out of a book called “Prayers from the Ark” by Carmen Bernos de Gaszold. The book contains an illustrated collection of poems, with each one being a prayer by one of the animals in Noah’s ark.

“We are supposed to bless animals because they bless us in so many ways,” Weed said. “I mean, some of



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the First Presbyterian Church in Granbury brought live animals, stuffed animals, and photos of their animals for the church’s first pet blessing ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 14.

them are for food, some for transportation, if you need to move something heavy, you’d be glad to have the ox. They’re made for different things, and as I reminded the kids, we’re animals too, and we’re made for special things.”

She explained that mostly dogs showed up to the ceremony, while many other congregation members provided photos of an animal who couldn’t be there, or a stuffed animal.

“We’ve had quite a selec-

tion here today,” she said, on Saturday.

Weed said this is the first pet blessing she has done in Granbury, since she just became the interim pastor in May.

“I’ve pastored all over,” she said. “We did it in Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and now Texas, but it turned out to be such a beautiful day.”

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

GHOST

FROM PAGE C1

Gordon. Gordon was the granddaughter of A.P. Gordon, who was the owner of the house.

Audrey is very active and responsive to the ghost hunters that come to visit, according to Herr.

“We actually had a woman take a picture at the center during a tour, and she called out ‘bye Audrey’ and you can clearly see a little girl in the picture with pigtails,” Herr said. “We also have had three different times on the tours where someone’s cellphone will just start playing music.”

Another well-known ghost is the “lady in red” at the Square Café where it’s believed that she was a proprietor of the men upstairs where she accompanied them for the evening.

“One of the most popular ghosts is the faceless girl who is over on Houston Street at Oz Coffee Bar. Back in the 80s, they had a photo booth in the building. The workers were opening up one morning and found the photo booth in disarray. The camera was on the lowest setting on the tripod, and the antique chair had been removed. There was a blue dress draped across the chair, but everyone that had a key was inside the building at the time, so they had no idea what was going on. They



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury research and investigation of the paranormal (rip) group visits the Aston house on Bridge Street in 2022.

happened to find a picture in the trash can, and it was a picture of a little girl sitting in the same chair in the same dress holding flowers and wearing a bow, but you couldn’t see her face,” Herr said.

Herr and her mom have loved being able to keep

these tours going for this long and don’t plan to stop.

“It’s been great, because we have been able to be a part of so many people’s experiences. We’ve had bachelorette parties, birthday parties, anniversaries, and we have even had a proposal happen on the tour. It’s re-

ally cool thinking that we’re providing a unique and fun experience, but we’re also an important part of people’s memories,” Herr said.

Herr even created a book about the ghosts of Granbury and was originally told it wasn’t a good market by a publishing company.

Two weeks later she got an email from a bigger publishing company asking her to write a book about the ghosts of Granbury. She then wrote a proposal, and then “Haunted Granbury” was born in 2014. She also adapted that book into a children’s book titled “The Ghostly Tales of Granbury.”

Herr is also part of the Granbury Research and Investigation of the Paranormal (RIP) group where a team seeks to find paranormal activity.

The group was founded by Greg Stephens and his son Brandon back in 2007. Stephens formerly served 26 years in the United States Army. He previously was part of an investigation team but left after he felt the group was too focused on getting a television show.

The RIP group is made up of six members currently and will go visit houses of people who want to get their house checked for spirits and visit places with historic tales. Stephens likes to keep the group small and personal.

Stephens will gather the background history on where they are going to investigate to know the entire story and know what they could be dealing with beforehand.

“Our first goal is to try and debunk everything we were told. I don’t want to put anything out there that people don’t believe, or think is fake,” Stephens said. “I always get more interactions with entities than a lot of investigative television shows, because I’m legit and not doing this for entertainment purposes. Our main goal is to help people, and I’m very big into history. Historic preservation is big with me,” Stephens said.

Stephens has had a passion for ghosts since he was four years old; he has always been able to see the dead walking and would talk to the spirits.

When he was seven years old, he cracked his head from a backflip and couldn’t see full figures anymore but could still see shadows and hear and sense spirits.

Stephens said he has dealt with mostly friendly spirits, but sometimes there are more negative ones that can be dangerous.

“The talent I have is that I deal with the dark side and negative entities better. Those dark entities don’t like me, and they know where my heart and faith is at, so I can

help people,” Stephens said. “When I’m dealing with a dark spirit, I get a very heavy pressure in my head.”

Stephens has done hundreds of investigations around Texas and the entire square of Granbury and outside of it.

With Stephens being a veteran, he strives to help other veterans that may have post-traumatic stress disorder. He holds a charity ghost hunt biannually on the square to raise money for societal awareness and mental health awareness.

Since Stephens has traveled all over the state, he has had many bizarre ghost encounters, noting one of the craziest happening at the Motley County Jail in Matador, Texas.

“We ended up encountering a very dark entity. We already had an encounter right before we started, and one of my investigators got scratched right across her back. All of the team was in a half circle, and one of my investigators started saying how it stunk really bad and smelt like burnt rubber. I knew that wasn’t good. All of a sudden, the smell hit me, and it was sulfur,” Stephens said.

He thought one of the investigators was walking toward him and saw a big shadow. Stephens put his

PLEASE SEE GHOST | C3



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Rotary Club helps clean up the city during the first Great Granbury Cleanup in April.

Great Granbury Cleanup around the corner

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Great Granbury Cleanup is almost here, and the city is searching for volunteers to help keep Granbury clean.

This will be the second time for this cleanup after city councilman Steven Vale originally came up with the idea. The first cleanup happened in April and was a huge success with over 200 people participating.

“An idea with no action is just an idea,” Vale, creator behind the group said during a city council meeting on May 2. “Two thousand

pounds of litter were collected in the city. We are a community in unity.”

According to the Texas Department of Safety, “Each year, approximately 362 million pieces of visible litter pile up along state-maintained highways. Seventy percent of this litter is small trash like napkins, cigarette butts and fast-food wrappers. In 2021, litter cleanup efforts cost more than \$50 million.”

For the cleanup, teams of four or more people at least 7 years of age are needed. The suggested ratio is at least one supervisor for every child under 15. At least

one adult must be present for minors aged 15 to 18.

Each individual on a team will receive a trash bag and a safety vest, and the team leader will be given a map of the public area to clean up.

Vests are required to be worn at all times during the cleanup and it is required for each individual to wear gloves. Leather gloves are recommended to protect the individual from any poisonous plants, insects and sharp objects that may be encountered.

It is recommended those who participate also wear closed-toed shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and a

hat.

It is also important to remain safe along the highway while cleaning up. Some recommendations include not stopping or parking your vehicle along the highway and staying in the right-of-way. Watch your footing and stay off or away from steep slopes, trenches, and drop-offs.

Groups should also keep five feet of distance between themselves and the edge of the pavement and work facing traffic. Never walk on guardrails and do not lean over bridge railings.

It's also important to not pick up items on bridges,

tunnels, or overpasses. Do not pick up anything that can be hazardous such as needles, glass, animal carcasses or heavy objects.

Volunteers also need to be sure to have plenty of water available and remain hydrated throughout the cleanup.

“I’m excited that we are building upon the success of the first ‘Great Granbury Clean-Up’ in April when volunteers collected more than a ton of trash from roadsides. I hope we’ll again see families, teams from service groups, business associates, church groups, and individuals join our elected officials and city staff in this orga-

nized effort. It makes a big difference in the city,” City Manager Chris Coffman said.

To sign up, a Google Docs form is required to be filled out. For those under 18, a consent form must also be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. Both forms can be found at granbury.org/cleanup.

To suggest cleanup locations immediately adjacent to the road along U.S. Highway 377 or SH 144, please email them to pio@granbury.org.

The cleanup will take place on Oct. 28 at 8:30 a.m. starting at Hewlett Park located at 650 East Pearl Street.

The Granbury Bridge Club raises over \$19k for Alzheimer's Association

Staff Reports

With a total across teams of over \$1 million raised, the Granbury Bridge Club alone raised over \$19,000 for the Alzheimer's Association's yearly fundraiser “The Longest Day.” The Longest Day event takes place on the longest day of the year, summer solstice, the day of the year with the most sunlight.

The Granbury Bridge Club is part of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) which hosted the sanctioned games across the country to support the event. The Granbury Bridge Club ranked in the top 15 of teams in money raised among all teams across the nation.

Founded in 1937 the ACBL is the largest bridge organi-

zation in the world serving 135,000 members and 3,000 bridge clubs. The ACBL holds three North American Bridge Championships, each attracting up to 6,500 players from all around the world.

Bridge is a recommended activity to reduce the risk of cognitive decline. A game well-known for its critical thinking skills, the game of bridge also encourages social gathering. Due to the game's social-gathering aspects and mentally-engaging challenges the Alzheimer's Association recommends bridge among “10 Ways to Love Your Brain” for people to reduce their risk of cognitive decline.

The ACBL began partnering with the Alzheimer's Association for “The Longest Day” in 2013, and since then

bridge players for ACBL have raised over \$9.3 million toward the cause.

Gwen Faherty with the Granbury Bridge Club shared, “The Alzheimer's Association's ‘Longest Day’ fundraiser is so important to the cure and awareness of this horrific disease. We were so humbled and grateful to this wonderful community and bridge players for contributing so generously to this cause.”

Carmond “Fitz” Fitzgerald, echoed the sentiment, saying “I never cease to be amazed at how generous Granbury folks are with contributions to this worthy cause. I am also appreciative of Hood County News' support in advertising the campaign over the past eight years.” Fitzgerald is the Granbury

Bridge Club director and was the team captain for fundraising for the event.

The top fundraising groups of ACBL's global team were:

1. Bridge Club of Atlanta - Atlanta, Georgia - \$171,385 raised
2. BRIDGEExpress - Great Neck, New York - \$116,506 raised
3. St. Louis Bridge Center - St. Louis, Missouri - \$55,617 raised
4. Indianapolis Bridge Center - Indianapolis, Indiana - \$43,338 raised
5. Santa Barbara Bridge Center - Santa Barbara, California - \$40,034 raised
6. Unit 498 & The Peninsula Team - Belmont, California - \$33,732 raised
7. Bridge Heroes 2023 -

Arlington, Virginia - \$32,586 raised

8. Charlotte Bridge Association - Charlotte, North Carolina - \$30,297 raised

9. Fort Wayne Duplicate Bridge Club - Fort Wayne, Indiana - \$23,460 raised

10. Evansville Duplicate Bridge Club - Newburgh, Indiana - \$22,032 raised

11. Granbury Bridge Club - Granbury, Texas - \$19,200 raised

12. San Diego Unit 539 - San Diego, California - \$17,450 raised

13. Duke City Bridge Club - Albuquerque, New Mexico - \$16,737

14. ACBL Unit 206 - Hixson, Tennessee - \$15,551

14. Newtown Bridge Club - Sandy Hook, Connecticut - \$15,395

Additionally, ACBL donated all sanction fees collected from these games to the global team.

“Many of our lives have been touched by Alzheimer's and dementia, and the ACBL community has rallied to support the research for its prevention and treatment by participating in an activity they love,” said Bronia Jenkins, ASBL's executive director, “I am amazed by the generosity of our membership and the hard work they put into ‘The Longest Day’ to support the Alzheimer's Association.”

For information on ACBL visit acbl.org. For information on the Granbury Bridge Club email gwendolynleigh@att.net

Granbury Wine Society hosts Wine Stroll during Harvest Moon Festival

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, the Granbury Wine Society has been invited to host a Wine Stroll during the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts on Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29.

The stroll will take place

from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Oct. 28 and from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 29.

“We're excited about the wine component, the first ever, being added to the annual Granbury Harvest Moon Art Festival, now in its 45th year,” said Vickie DiGiovanni, president of the Granbury Wine Society. “The

Wine Stroll allows guests to casually stroll up and down the rows of artists' tents, preview the many different art media on display — of course available for purchase — while enjoying the variety of wines being offered. Unlike typical wine walks, each guest will enjoy a glass of wine vs. a taste from

the wineries present.”

The ticket bearer will receive two 2-ounce pours of wine from each of the six participating wineries, a commemorative glass, (while supplies last) and a punch ticket for their wine tasting.

Bottles of wine will be available for purchase from each winery (no warehouse

pickup).

All members of a party must check in together and must be 21, with proof of a valid ID.

Tickets are \$45 each and can be used for either or both days of the festival.

There is no charge for the art festival.

Free parking will be avail-

able with a trolley service to the square from Hewlett Park and other designated locations.

For more information, send an email to granburywinesociety@gmail.com.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

GHOST

FROM PAGE C2

arm out and let his friend know he was right there, but there was nothing there. Another investigator told Stephens she was holding his arm, but Stephens said she wasn't touching him. The team had more instances like that throughout the night.

He and his team also dealt with a demonic entity at a house in Fort Worth that caused one investigator to get scratched all over as well as other investigators to start feeling sick and disoriented. In situations like that, Stephens sends out the team, but he remains to deal with the entity.

A place that has stuck

out to both Stephens and Herr in Granbury is the old Granbury hospital/opera house dormitory.

“One of the first times we were there, we got some of the craziest stuff. We were hearing voices and seeing stuff on our camera. All of our equipment was going off like crazy the whole time. I felt like I was talking to a low-level demon type thing,” Stephens said. I was looking down the hallway and I could see something, and I was telling it I could see it and touch me. When you look on the camera you can see this long smokey arm coming out trying to reach out to me,” “That was one of the coolest things I've ever done there.” “I had something follow-

ing around touching me all night. I felt something brushing the side of my face, and when I moved the tower (a paranormal device that lights up when activity is sensed) to my face it lit up bright red,” Brandi said.

Stephens has had a lot of activities happen at the Hood County Jail on Crockett Street, as well as above Paradise Bistro on the square which used to be the mortuary.

“Most of all the spirits on the square we have encountered are friendly, and lots of the time it's the same spirits roaming the square,” Stephens said.

Stephens also has visited the Langdon Center many times and once had Brandon,

an investigator, with him playing the guitar and recording audio. When the other investigator stopped playing the guitar in the audio recording you can hear Audrey saying, “please don't stop playing Brandon.”

Another experience Stephens will never forget took place at Farina's Winery and Café. B.M. Estes is the original owner of the building who was a lawyer who didn't like women, according to Stephens.

“I was calling him out and, all of a sudden, this little pebble hit me in the head. I went over and looked, and there was a little box of decorative painted pebbles, and that was one of them. I guess he didn't like me talking

about him, so he hit me with a rock,” Stephens said.

The ghost hunt charity is open to the public and will take place on Nov. 11 on the square plaza where there will be vendors and live music. Later that night, the ghost hunt will take place with a ticket costing \$99 that will go toward Pecan Valley Center Services.

Stephens recommends to people that, if they happen to encounter a spirit that they are uncomfortable with, it is best to talk to it and acknowledge it. If someone is very worried, Stephens recommends saying prayers or reaching out to the RIP group.

Brandi suggests those who are skeptical of the paranor-

mal to stay open to the idea of spirits.

“I always think it's interesting to keep an open mind. You never know what you can experience. Otherwise, if you just close yourself off to it, then you might miss out on some really great opportunities and experiences,” Herr said.

For more information on Granbury's ghost tour, visit granburytours.com or email GranburyGhosts@gmail.com.

For those interested in learning more about the paranormal in Granbury or one's house, reach out on Facebook under the group's page Research and Investigation of the Paranormal.

Lake Granbury Art Association Fall Show open through Sunday, Oct. 29

Staff Reports

The Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA) displays its Fall Show through Sunday, Oct. 29 coinciding with the Harvest Moon Festival weekend.

The LGAA enjoyed a well-attended awards and reception event on Aug. 30. Artists, their guests and members of

the community enjoyed the facelift the Shanley House Art Gallery enjoyed this summer as a great backdrop to the diverse and exceptional artwork. The show is an annual juried show which means the work must be chosen to compete. The show is open to artists across the nation. This year there were artists

from Florida, Kansas, Nevada, Maine, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington and of course Texas.

Show Chairman Audrey Caylor shared, "The Lake Granbury Art Association is so honored to have such outstanding art from all over the nation in The Fall Art Show 2023. This year the art

exhibition has expanded its categories to show a broader example of visual arts to our community. We hope the public has a chance to come view the award winners and the full art exhibition that will be on display and for sale until October 29."

Shown in the photos are several of the local winners.

1ST PLACE
Dimensional Art
Bonnie Griffin
"First Steps"

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT
Dimensional Art
Leslie Slaughter
"Pattered Chaos"

AWARD OF MERIT
Watercolor
Morgan Vickery
"Shades of Summer"

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT
Mixed Media
Lynda Robinson
"Steel Magnolia"



COURTESY PHOTO

Bonnie Griffin



COURTESY PHOTO

Leslie Slaughter



COURTESY PHOTO

Morgan Vickery



COURTESY PHOTO

Lynda Robinson

Giraffe smashes Granbury resident's car windshield during trip to Fossil Rim

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Every year, Granbury resident Kari Hill and her family visit Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose for their annual family trip.

But Hill was not prepared for the scary encounter she faced with a giraffe this week — something she has never experienced before in any of her other trips to the wildlife center.

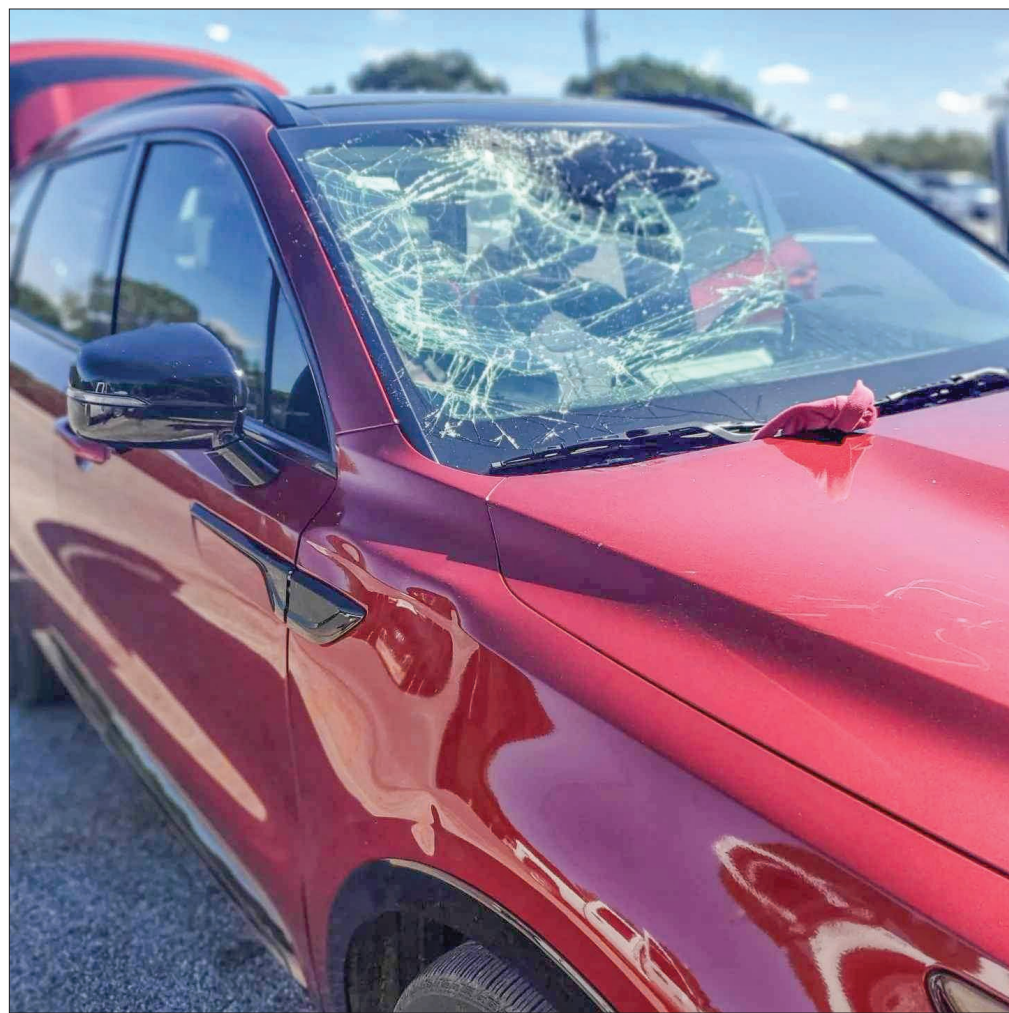
On Thursday, Oct. 12, around 12:15 p.m., Hill was driving through the self-guided tour at Fossil Rim with her teenaged sons and 1-year-old granddaughter, when they decided to park by the giraffes to try to feed them.

Hill told the HCN in a Facebook message that one of the giraffes had come up to their car and stuck its head through the sunroof.

"All was great until he lost his balance and fell onto my windshield, and it started caving in while he was flailing trying to get his footing back," she said. "We were covered in glass, and I thought it was about to turn very bad, but then the giraffe regained his footing and took off."

Hill explained the family then pulled off the main road, and she made sure to clear off any glass that had fallen on the children.

"I put everyone in the backseat while I called the parks emergency hotline to



COURTESY OF KARI HILL

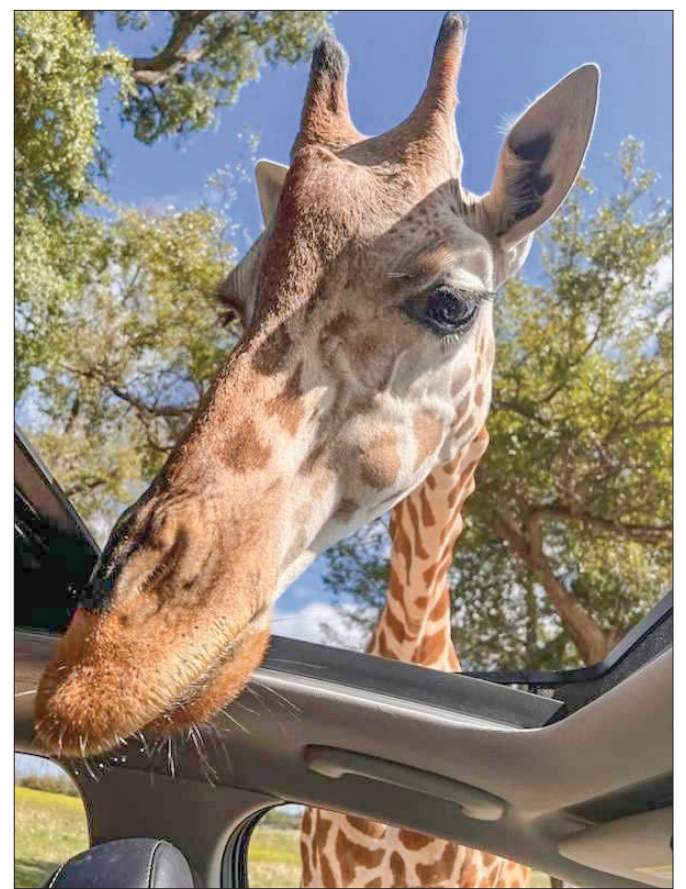
The windshield of Granbury resident Kari Hill's Kia Sorrento was crushed after a Fossil Rim Wildlife Center giraffe lost its footing and fell onto the car on Oct. 12. Hill said the car had to be towed and she had to file an insurance claim.

escort us out of there," she said. "My car had to be towed and I had to file an insurance claim."

Warren Lewis, chief marketing officer of the Fossil

Rim Wildlife Center, confirmed to the HCN the giraffe had stumbled and broken a car's windshield when it fell. He said the family and giraffe are both fine.

"It's an unfortunate situation and is the first time this has happened in the 11 years I've been here," he said in an email to the HCN. "We do have guided tours our guests



COURTESY KARI HILL

Granbury resident Kari Hill had her car windshield smashed by a giraffe after it stumbled and lost its footing during a recent visit to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose.

can take that allow them to visit the park without having to drive their own vehicle."

Lewis explained that guests have to agree to a statement before tickets to the center can be purchased. The statement reads: Fossil Rim Wildlife Center assumes no liability for damages to vehicles, people, or property

as a result of any interactions with the animals and facilities.

"I realize it was a freak accident," Hill added. "I'm just happy no one was hurt, and the giraffe is OK."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

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NEWS ON THE GO

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Take a trip down Willow Lane



Jan Bergeman, left, and Tracy Davis, right, are the owners of Willow Lane, located at 440 E. Pearl St.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Retired teachers 'branch' out in joint business endeavor

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Granbury residents Jan Bergeman and Tracy Davis may be former teachers, but the pair earned a big “F” in the subject of one of life’s greatest achievements — retiring.

Not long after Bergeman and Davis retired as educators in the Granbury Independent School District, the duo decided they weren’t ready to throw in the towel just yet.

“We both went into furniture upcycling after we retired,” Bergeman said. “Or as I like to call it, ‘we didn’t retire well.’”

After the longtime friends started to upcycle furniture, they eventually purchased a booth at Vintage Roads Antique Mall, where one day, a stranger made a comment about the pair going into business together.

As luck would have it, Christine McMillan, the owner of the since-closed boutique, Here’s To You, put her building up for sale, which set up the perfect opportunity for Bergeman and Davis.

In November 2021, the retired teachers purchased the building formerly known as Here’s To You, located at 440 E. Pearl St., and rebranded the store to Willow Lane.

“We really didn’t know what we wanted to name it,” Bergeman said. “The first thing we thought of was the Feathered Nest, and it’s good we didn’t name it that in hindsight, because The Nest opened on the square at almost exactly the same time, so that would have been very confusing.”

Each time Bergeman and Davis would get together, they would think of different names of items, plants, and trees they both liked until Willow Lane came into the mix — a name that just felt right to the duo.

A mural was then painted on the side of the building by artist Aubrey Cabrera that features a tall willow tree with the words “love, Granbury,” painted underneath the leaves. Customers can also take a picture under the willow tree and use the hashtag #Granburylove to post on Instagram.

“It’s got a hashtag that ac-



Willow Lane is described as a home furnishing store with items to make “your home feel like a home.” New, vintage, antique, and unique items are also curated for a “wonderful blend of options.”

tually will take you to Visit Granbury, too, so if you have a picture done with that not only will you go to our Instagram page, but you’ll also go to Visit Granbury’s Instagram page if you upload your pictures,” Bergeman said.

The mural now serves as an extra draw to Willow Lane and aligns with Bergeman’s and Davis’ vision of their boutique perfectly.

According to the website, Willow Lane is described as a home furnishing store with items to make “your home feel like a home.” New, vintage, antique, and unique items are also curated for a “wonderful blend of options.”

“There’s a lot of confusion,” Bergeman said. “Maybe because Cool Junk was over here, but (many people think) we’re a resale shop and we’re not. Tracy and I upcycle furniture, but even that is very few and far between. Besides that, it’s all new products.”

An aspect that sets Willow Lane apart from other boutiques is its focus on products that are locally made.

“We buy from local artisans who we try to support,” Bergeman said. “We try our very best to find locals. We try to keep the money in Hood County and if not Hood County, then Texas the best we can.”

Ranging in products of handmade soap, candles, clothing, jewelry, artwork, flowers, glasses, home décor, and kitchenware, Willow Lane is sure to have something for everyone — even men.

“I would say the variety of things we have (makes us unique),” Bergeman said. “Anywhere from purses and candles to kitchen goods and men’s gifts.”

Bergeman said her most popular items are the laundry detergent and candles from the Tyler Candle Company, candles from Swan Creek Candle Company, and jewelry from Rain Jewelry.

“We kind of get a variety of people in here because we have a variety of different things,” she said.

Glenda Ramsey from Décor & More along with Cindy Dennis, Granbury’s own “Pickle Lady,” are also two local artisans whose products are available at Willow Lane.

“That’s what we look for when we’re looking for companies to buy things from is to buy from smaller companies and those with handmade products,” Bergeman said.

She also explained how she likes to keep the store “fresh” and new, which is why when she does purchase products from a local busi-

ness, she purchases several different items as opposed to a big batch of one product.

“We like to have just a couple items here and there, and then when we sell out of it, we sell out of it, so chances are you’re going to find something in here you wouldn’t find somewhere else — and if you do find it here, you may never find it ever again,” she said, chuckling.

Bergeman said since opening Willow Lane almost two years ago, the response has been overwhelmingly positive from customers, who have commented about the sweet-smelling fragrance the store has upon walking in, and how the boutique is “adorable.”

“You have to come see what’s here, because it’s cuter than you would even imagine,” Bergeman added.

Willow Lane is also set to have its holiday open house on Nov. 11, from 1-5 p.m.

The hours of operation for Willow Lane are from 12-5 p.m. on Mondays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and it is closed on Sundays.

For more information about Willow Lane, visit willowlanegrabury.com online or call 817-964-3207.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

Hood County News

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Brazos River Corvette Club

The 17th annual Brazos River Corvette Club took over the Square the morning of Oct. 14. All proceeds will benefit the Hood County Volunteer Fire Department in Tolar.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



BURGERS AND BADGES EVENT BENEFITS CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Grumps Burgers hosted its annual Burgers and Badges event (formerly known as Tip A Cop!) on Oct. 12 to promote interaction with the local men and women in blue. Tips and a portion of the proceeds benefit the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Assn. (a 501.C3) which supports special programs and events created by the Granbury Police Dept.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



GAME ON



SCREENSHOT COURTESY AGGRO CRAB

Another Crab's Treasure is the adventure of a little hermit crab named Kril, who has lost his shell.

New games in 2024

It's new game season on Steam, plus more Unity news, and hackers insert malware into games on Steam platform



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.

Valve has had to add extra security for developers on Steam after hackers updated several games with malware that allowed them to take control of their browser access tokens.

Valve quickly stopped the attack and notified affected users (less than 100.) The company is introducing new two-factor authentication methods for developer accounts on Steam to help prevent future attacks.

There's been increased hacker malware activity on all platforms recently, so this is a necessary security upgrade.

UNITY CEO STEPS DOWN FOLLOWING RUNTIME FEE FIASCO

John Riccitiello, CEO of Unity, has stepped down from his position effective immediately. James M. Whitehurst has been appointed interim chief executive officer and will serve until a replacement is found, according to a news release from the company.

Unity has backed down from its previous Runtime Fee policy. According to a letter sent out by Marc Whitten, leader of Unity Create, the cap on total sales is raised to \$200,000. For games that are subject to the Runtime Fee, Unity will give you a choice of 2.5% revenue share, or an amount based on sales per month.

Most importantly, the new Runtime Fee will only apply to games made with the next LTS version of Unity, shipping in 2024 and beyond. The games currently being sent out or currently being worked on will not be affected, unless the developer chooses to upgrade them to the new version of Unity. Whitten says "No game with less than \$1 million in trailing 12-month revenue will be subject to the fee."

There will be no Runtime Fee for games built on Unity Personal. The terms that ap-

ply to the version of Unity the game was built on will remain applicable.

This is good news, but developers still fear Unity may change its mind in the future, and they're not sure about the viability of the platform.

Read Whitten's entire letter here: <https://blog.unity.com/news/open-letter-on-runtime-fee>

KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE – THE GAME!

Fans of the notorious B-movie "Killer Klowns from Outer Space" (1988) will be delighted to hear there's a new game coming out based on the movie.

All the characters you know and love from the movie are in the game. Play as your choice of human citizen of Crescent Cove or Killer Klown. Gameplay is asymmetric, meaning there are three humans to seven Klowns. There are five character classes for either side. They all have unique abilities, so of course the key to winning the game is picking the right team for the job.

The Klowns are based upon the ones from the movie — including Shorty, my favorite. You'll harvest humans with your cotton candy ray gun, your popcorn bazooka, and your scent-tracking balloon dog.

The five human character classes are inspired by the campy horror movie tropes — teens, punks, cops, rednecks, and bikers. You'll fight the alien invasion with combinations of speed, strength, stealth, and if all else fails, a trusty shotgun or police department-issued firearm.

According to the game trailer website, "Each class comes with its own strengths and weaknesses; and players will need to use teamwork, stealth, and good old-fashioned resourcefulness to beat back the merry menace."

PLEASE SEE **GAME** | C8

"Heather Cleveland Moon Auction"



COURTESY PHOTOS BY TERESA HOUSTON

Mini moons by various artists.

The Harvest Moon Festival Moon Auction is renamed

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29, Granbury will celebrate the 45th annual Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts. On Saturday, Oct. 28 at 5:15 p.m., the Granbury Cultural District will be officially recognized by the Texas Commission on the Arts. Directly following the ceremony will be the Harvest Moon Auction at 5:30 p.m.

For a decade now, the moon auction has been a key part of the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts. The auction entails local artists creating an original piece of art on a wood disc or "moon," they then donate this art to be auctioned as part of a fundraiser.

This year the moon auction will officially be renamed the "Heather Cleveland Moon Auction." Heather Cleveland has been such an integral part of Granbury becoming recognized as an art tourist destination and as a valued part of the history of the moon auction - the new name is a fitting new moniker.

Involved in many capacities around Granbury after the opening of her one-of-a-kind "The Pan Handle" kitchen boutique in 1993, Cleveland partnered with the Dora Lee Langdon Cultural Center to bring culinary classes, wine appreciation classes, tours, and trips.

For years an active member of both the Historic Granbury Merchants Association and the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland has always been a supporter of tourism. Her artistic ability and background in art history and photography caused her to have a soft spot for art tourism in particular.

Cleveland joined the newly formed Granbury Arts Alliance (GAA) in 2013. She was involved in the formation and acceptance by the city council of a public arts policy. This led to the successful petitioning of the city council for the creation of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission, where she served as chairperson for the first two years.

As part of GAA, Cleveland was involved in the Moon Auction fundraiser that was created by Elise Techtentine as part of the Harvest Moon Festival

PLEASE SEE **MOON** | C8



Art by Cassey Mitchell.



"Howloween" by Jocelyn Dominguez, student.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Fundraiser for emergency personnel a rousing success

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.

Pecan's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's recent Fall Bazaar enjoyed beautiful weather and boasted a fabulous crowd. Many thanks to the vendors, volunteers, and shoppers who fashioned a terrific day benefiting our community's first responders.

GARAGE SALE

Pecan's fall garage sale is happening today, Saturday, Oct. 21, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents may access a QR code on Pecan's website community calendar listing particular items for sale, and a limited number of printed copies will be available at the clubhouse today.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

Beginner pickleball clinics have been very popular in Pecan, and the next one is happening Monday, Oct. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the PAC. Reservations are requested: 817-573-7952.

GOLF GAME

The Ladies Golf Association is a busy group with its President's Choice Tournament happening on Oct. 23 and 24 and the Suburban Championship coming on Monday, Oct. 30 at Diamond Oaks Country Club. Finally, Halloween falls on a regularly scheduled LGA play day, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Ladies will be watching to see who dresses up as well as looking for surprises on the course.

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

The next meeting of Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club is coming on Tuesday, Oct.

24 when attendees will hear from Brandy Herr of the Granbury Ghost and Legends Tour sharing the history, legends, and folklore surrounding ghosts on the Granbury square. Ticket raffles for participation in Brandy's walking tour will also be part of the evening. In addition, the "special interest topic" for the month will cover real estate planning and be given by Jane Johnson, and Halloween bingo with "scary prizes" will complete the evening. Costumes are welcome but not required. The group invites all widows and widowers who live in Pecan, and folks may receive complete information on the club by sending email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BOOKS TO GO

The Hood County Bookmobile will return to the PAC on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return library books at the bookmobile.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will gather again on Wednesday, Oct. 25 with breakfast service beginning at 8 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m. Attendees will enjoy hearing from estate planning and probate attorneys Tawana Gray and Corey Weeks on the importance of proper estate planning. Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 24: 817-573-2641.

MUSIC TIME

The Brazos Room will feature Mark H. Morton on Friday, Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Brazos



Pecan residents Darla and Jerry Lyon, owners of Paluxy Puzzles, were among more than 66 vendors and artisans that occupied the PAC gym at the Auxiliary's Fall Bazaar. Hundreds of shoppers attended the annual event held to raise money for the Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LANA ROBINSON

Room with a repertoire of "road trippin' music," including classic rock, blues, and country.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Trunk or Treat is coming to the PAC on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and volunteers are needed to distribute candy to the costumed little ones. Call the PAC front desk to sign up: 817-573-7952. The Halloween festivities of the day will also include a cupcake walk, games, crafts, and a pumpkin carving contest. The contest will hold a category for ages 13 and over and one for 12 and under, and prizes will be awarded for the top three places in each group. Carved pumpkins should be delivered to the PAC between 8 a.m. and noon on Oct. 28 to be eligible for judging. Winners will be awarded at the afternoon party.

VETERANS DAY

Pecaners will be saluting military personnel at a Veterans Day celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the clubhouse. A very special program and breakfast will make up the day, and reservations

are necessary and due by Tuesday, Oct. 31: 817-573-2641. Hearing from General Bruce Carlson, a fly over by the Texas V-Tails Bonanza Group, and a musical performance by Judge and Jury are features on the program. In addition, folks may honor veterans by submitting a photo to be included in a pictorial display. Digital pictures of good quality may be sent to bpalmer@pp-poaweb.com and must be received by Oct. 31.

BLOOD DRIVE

After successful events in our community, the American Red Cross will be back in Pecan for a blood drive on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC. Folks may visit www.redcross-blood.org and enter "Pecanplantation" to schedule an appointment.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Lana Robinson writes that the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service has designated Oct. as a month-long celebration of our community's first re-

sponders and security team on which we rely for safety, security, and medical needs.

Auxiliary volunteer Patty Eatmon has spearheaded a variety of activities, including asking residents to place red lightbulbs in exterior lights on the front of homes for the month in addition to displaying VFD/EMS flags, which Auxiliary members have to sell (as well as t-shirts).

Thank you notes and donated gift cards are being distributed to emergency volunteers, and neighborhood children also participated in a coloring contest, the winners of whom will be notified soon.

Finally, an appreciation dinner is on the calendar for Saturday, Oct. 28, and volunteers are welcome as folks are needed both to cook and serve.

Send email to Lana for complete information on these activities and opportunities to support the emergency personnel in our community: robinsonsgranbury.com.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

GMAE

FROM PAGE C7

The in-game maps are faithful recreations of the locations in the movie, but each match has randomly-generated objectives, which should provide a new experience for repeated playthroughs.

"Clowns win by capturing most — or all — of the human citizens of Crescent Cove, while humans win by either de-activating the Klowns' Big Top spaceship, escaping the map before time runs out, or keeping the majority of the townsfolk alive for the entire round," the game trailer website explains.

Klowns from Outer Space: The Game is an asymmetrical multiplayer horror game based on the iconic 80s film developed by Teravision Games and published by Good Shepherd Entertainment. The game is for adults only with violent content, blood and graphical violence. Projected release date is some time in 2024. They're currently accepting applications from beta testers, so if you're interested, follow this link to the game page for more information: <https://www.killerklownsthegame.com/>

ANOTHER CRAB'S TREASURE

The latest release from Aggro Crab, Another Crab's Treasure follows the adventure of a little hermit crab named Kril who has lost his shell. You pick up trash along the way to protect your soft hermit body, upgrading to new and better shells. It's important to hide in your shell as much as possible. You can attack with a fork against enemies like crabs, and grapple to new locations with a fishhook. Limited swimming ability means you can swim to locations below, but not above.

I've played the free demo, and so far it's very cute. It's very easy to fall to your doom by backing up a little too far or not jumping far enough, so that's annoying. Expected release date is 2024 on the Steam platform.

THE CRUST

From the developer VEOM Studio: "In The Crust, you build a colony on the Moon — and lay the groundwork for the exploration of deep space! Mine valuable resources, automate production, manage scientific expeditions, and explore the lunar surface. From 400,000 kilometers away from Earth, you will see just how vast the cosmos really is, and how little we yet know about its mysteries. Get ready to face some tough choices — after all, the future of mankind may depend on your decisions..."

There's resource gathering, trading and influencing the world market, keeping your inhabitants happy, exploration of the moon to find new resources as well as unlock mysteries, and a research tree to guide your colony's development.

The demo starts out with a lot of talking/storybuilding. Gameplay is introduced through the building of solar panels, batteries and wires. Then there's an abrupt U-turn into a disaster, as an unidentified explosion on the far side of the moon causes the space elevator and the base's electrical systems to be deactivated. Now your task becomes to restore electricity to the elevator and get the systems running again.

This game feels very much like Starcraft. Instead of a team of humans or aliens harvesting resources, you have construction and mining drones.

At this point in the demo, it's hard to say whether I like this game or not. I'm still in tutorial mode. I think, like with all resource games, part of the challenge will be not to overbuild and use up all your available resources.

It also feels like this game doesn't know what it's going to be about. It starts out as a pretty typical corporate mining colony story, quickly devolves into a disaster recovery, all with resource gaming challenges. The storybuilding at the beginning of the story bogs it down.

It looks fantastic. It's visually very detailed. I can't tell whether the entirety of the moon terrain is available in the game, or just a limited section.

Available on SteamOS in the first quarter of 2024.

MOON

FROM PAGE C7

of the Arts (HMFA), during Techentine's tenure as chair of HMFA. Many hours were spent by Techentine cutting the initial rounds that would serve as bases on which the artists would create their designs. An earlier moon auction had taken place in the early 2000's to raise money for other causes.

When Techentine stepped down as chair after serving for several years, Cleveland would take the helm. The event continued to grow yearly and continues to do so under current chair Teresa Houston's leadership. The moon auction is a revered part of the Harvest Moon celebration, with many collectors hoping to add a new moon to

their collection. The event also offers a chance to collect a coveted artist's work that may otherwise be out of budget.

This year there are three types of moons available. The mini moons are available for purchase for \$15 each and can be carried home at the time of purchase. Most of the larger moons will be available by silent auction. Many local professional artists as well as student artists have participated this year.

Four special moons are featured this year for the live auction. These four celebrity moons are collaborations - a local artist paired with a local celebrity. The celebrity may choose which charity a portion of the auction price should be given to.

"We have been very fortunate to have so many talented artists contribute over the years.

We have around 30 mini moons this year and about 36 to 40 large moons. We are thankful to those who began and continued the moon auction, and we try to do good things with the money raised. We give money for the Shanley sculptures, money to Brazos Chamber Orchestra, and we are always looking for more ways to support the arts," shared Houston. Houston is the president of GAA as well as being chair of the moon auction. She is also a contributing artist for the event.

Artist Cynthia James partnered with Cleveland to create a moon. Cleveland has chosen the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) Association as her charity. Cleveland was diagnosed with ALS in May of 2021.

"Cynthia is a friend, and she wanted to collaborate with

Heather on her moon. Cynthia is also working on some cards that will have Heather's artwork on them. There will be a pre-bid available on Heather's pieces for those that attend the ALS walk Saturday morning," said Houston.

Houston created a moon in partnership with Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury. Other partnerships include artist James Spurlock with Granbury Mayor Jim Jaratt and artist Mike Tabor with Judge Ron Massingill.

The "Heather Cleveland Moon Auction" pieces may be seen at the Granbury Arts Alliance booth on Granbury's square during the Harvest Moon Festival. For more information, go to granburysquare.com

Light the Night
Hood County
Courthouse Gazebo
October 21, 2023
7 pm



Please join us as we celebrate all survivors of domestic violence and remember the Texans who lost their lives to domestic violence in 2022.



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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 20 October 2023 - Thursday, 26 October 2023

After Death (PG13)
Thurs: 6:00PM, 8:50PM

Butcher's Crossing (R)
Fri: 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 5:10PM, 7:45PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 5:10PM, 7:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:20PM, 4:55PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 6:50PM, 9:25PM

Five Nights at Freddy's (PG13)
Thurs: 2:20PM, 5:00PM, 7:40PM, 10:20PM

Killers Of The Flower Moon (R)
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:55PM, 5:05PM, 7:10PM, 9:20PM.
Sat: 10:40AM, 2:55PM, 5:10PM, 7:10PM, 9:25PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 2:15PM, 5:15PM, 6:30PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM.
Tues: 2:00PM, 2:35PM, 6:50PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 8:05PM

PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)
Fri: 12:15PM, 2:40PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 2:45PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:35PM, 5:00PM, 7:25PM.
Tues: 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:25PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:25PM

TAYLOR SWIFT THE ERAS TOUR (PG13)
Fri: 12:00PM, 12:25PM, 3:35PM, 4:00PM, 8:00PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:35PM, 4:00PM, 8:00PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:35PM, 4:00PM, 7:35PM.
Thurs: 2:25PM, 6:15PM, 9:50PM

The Blind (PG13)
Fri: 12:05PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:45PM, 3:30PM, 6:15PM, 9:00PM.
Sun: 10:15AM, 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:15PM, 7:20PM

The Domino Revival (PG13)
Tues: 7:00PM

The Exorcist: Believer (R)
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:40PM, 5:20PM, 8:00PM, 10:40PM.
Sat: 12:05PM, 2:45PM, 5:25PM, 8:05PM, 10:45PM.
Sun: 11:45AM, 2:25PM, 5:05PM, 7:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:05PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 10:10PM

• 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.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

"Redheads and Hotheads"



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.

All of us have known at least one hothead at some time in our lives, and we remember the stress they caused everyone around them. Therefore, that's all the space they get in this column.

When most people think of redheads, they think of places like Ireland or Scotland. But they may also be found in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. However, there seem to be more redheads in northern European countries. Another surprising country with a large share of redheads happens to be Morocco — where there is a large Berber population in North Africa.

It doesn't matter where in the world you travel, you will likely encounter someone with red hair. While it's a rare

trait, it stands out in such a manner that you notice it anyway. This might be one of the reasons there are so many different beliefs concerning red hair, such as what actually causes it and some of the characteristics associated with it. But many of those "facts" are nothing more than myths — such as the belief that all redheads have fiery tempers.

However, there are several aspects of being a redhead most of us do not know. For example, redheads (according to a 2005 university study) have a recessive gene (the mutated MC 1R gene) that allows them to detect changes in temperature before others, in addition to being predominantly left-handed.

Approximately 17% of people have blue eyes, but when combined with the 1% to 2% having red hair, the odds of having both traits are about 0.17%. That is 13 million people out of the 7.6 billion on Earth.

Studies also reveal that redheads can handle more pain than others when pain associated with stabbing, shocks, and sharp pains occur. But because redheads can tolerate more pain than the average person, they also need higher doses of painkillers and sedatives when needed — usually 20 percent more. That can be especially concerning when dealing with anesthesia, and those individuals with Irish heritage are among such patients.

Red hair allows some individuals to create their own vitamin D — that important vitamin that comes from the sun. But since the folks in northern European countries don't get as much sun as others, their bodies seem to have

become better at synthesizing the vitamin D they get.

And where do redheads fall in the "how many hairs do you have on your head" contest? Redheads usually have fewer hairs on their scalp (about 90 thousand strands). Blondes generally have more hair, but brunettes top the scales at an average of 140 thousand strands. And did you know that redheads rarely go grey? Although the red pigment will fade with age, it will usually turn white rather than grey.

Tina Louise was named "World's Most Beautiful Redhead" by the National Art Council in 1958 and her name was Ginger on Gilligan's Island. So, yes, it was natural. Actress Maureen O'Hara (1920-2015) was one of Hollywood's most famous redheads from the past. But who is today's most famous redhead? Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, of course!

Several U.S. presidents have

PLEASE SEE **THINK** | C12

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 5 p.m. 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 p.m. to 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, from 7:30 p.m. to 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 p.m. 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 card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 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

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11:15 a.m. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, from 5 p.m. to 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, from 7 p.m. to 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 p.m. to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45-minute spin/cycling session. Program will last 12 weeks. For more information, call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet

every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit, or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. from 1 p.m. to 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 a.m. to 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 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

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. HoodCountyCert@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, from 8:30 a.m. to 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., from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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 1 John 4:12

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Psalms 94:18-19

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Isaiah 41:10

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BOOK REVIEW

Great books for little readers

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

When the temperatures plunge, you feel like doing what's natural. You want to grab someone small and a nice fluffy blanket, and you want to snuggle in. Make it your best snuggle-session with a couple of these great books for little readers, ages 4 to 8...

Everybody needs an extra dose of love - isn't that why you're snuggling with your child and a book? So make that book "The Light She Feels Inside" by Gwendolyn Wallace, illustrated by Olivia Duchess (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$18.99). It's the story of a little girl whose loved ones make her glow with happiness. So who else in her lifetime would do the same, and how can she use her light to change the

world? Also try "Something, Someday" by Amanda Gorman and Christian Robinson (Viking, \$18.99), a story about friendship, potential, and the potential in doing good together. Either of these books are great for starting a conversation about making the world a better place.

If you've got a kid who already shows a preference for true stories or history, check out "Harlem at Four" by Dr. Michael Datcher, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Random House Kids, \$18.99). The first half of this story is about Harlem, a 4-year-old who loves to explore her neighborhood with her father. The second half of this book lets Harlem travel back in time to the Great Migration, where she learns more about the place she was named af-



COURTESY PHOTO

Kids Books for Snuggling by various authors and illustrators
C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS, \$18.99 TO \$29.99, VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

ter. This book is steeped in Black history and people a kid should know. Also look for "Welcome to the Opera" by Carolyn Sloan, illustrated by Kaly Quarles (Workman, \$29.99), an interactive, fun, and wonderfully kid-friendly book that includes a cute story and real sound effects that will entertain your child and prepare them for movie night, a TV special, or a thrilling night at the opera.

And, of course, sometimes you just need a bit of pure

silliness, right? So look for "How This Book Got Red" by Margaret Chiu Greanias, pictures by Melissa Iwai (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$18.99). Gee is a panda. Red is a panda, too - just a different kind of panda. So why aren't there any books about red pandas out there, huh? This is a cute book about being different, and there's a bit of rebellious humor inside, too. And for

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | C12

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Words well-chosen



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

Sometimes, newspaper headlines are clever to the max, like the one in the Dallas Morning News when the Texas Rangers mauled the Tampa Bay Rays in the first two games of the American League wild card playoff.

There was but a sprinkling of Texas fans in the half-filled stadium, none of whom carried brooms. This shouldn't be surprising, since getting brooms through airport security might be problematic.

The two words emphasized the Rangers' dominance. They also were timely, causing Halloween witches to take notice, not to mention eliciting smiles from

Cinderella lovers. I wish I could gift-wrap this observation with a drumroll. Alas, I can't, so without further delay, I extend kudos to the person employing the two bold-faced words splashed across the top of the sports page. They were big enough to signal the Second Coming: "SWEEPING BEAUTY." The writer coining this gem deserves a day off.

While on media topics, is anyone else tired of TV ads that were initially considered pleasant and clever for the first few dozen viewings, but, with multiple runs daily for several months, now seem annoying?

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | C12

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GARDEN PATCH

Heat loving plants rebound in fall

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 BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Mexican Petunia

is native to Mexico and South America, it is naturalized in Texas. Mexican petunia dies to the ground in freezing weather, but readily returns in spring (Zone 8 hardiness). Grow it in full sun or part shade.

Dahlias, *Dahlia pinnata*, are the national flower of Mexico. In Texas, they bloom in extremely hot, dry summers, producing numerous rounded "pom-pom" flowers in pink, red, peach, orange or white. If drought halts their bloom and dries the foliage, expect new growth by fall. Dahlias are mostly grown as annuals in North Central Texas, but they readily self-seed.

Mexican sunflower, *Tithonia diversifolia*, is a shrubby plant with daisy-shaped flowers in shades of bright yellow, orange and red. Flowers appear in summer and persist through early fall. In North Central Texas, Mexican sunflowers act as ten-

der perennials. They will regrow from the roots in spring after a mild winter.

Autumn sage, *Salvia greggii*, is a reliable repeat bloomer. This shrubby perennial draws bees and butterflies to its prolific red, pink, white, orange or purple blooms. Plants may drop leaves and halt flower production in extreme heat/drought. However, fall triggers new growth and fresh blooms. Its native range is Texas south to Mexico where it enjoys full sun and dry soils. Although drought tolerant, salvias need adequate water to get established.

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.

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IDLE

FROM PAGE C11

There are several such ads coming to mind, but I cast my vote for AT&T's well-worn ad about adult children chastising their mother for snuggling up to a much younger shirtless guy they believe to be taking advantage of her faster Internet delivery.

He says, "I am Yorgo." Seems to me it's time for Yorgo to find his shirt, button it up, take his leave, and head on down the road.

Switching gears... The assignment may be as difficult as convincing raging lions to use mouth-wash, but if someone isn't successful in helping Dallas Mavericks' basketball star Luka Doncic to minimize protests of officials' calls, his best years may already be in the books.

Some sportswriters and authorities may have attempted to charge his frequent outrage. They probably finally give in, charging his youth to be at the root of his outbursts.

He seems to be getting older without getting wiser. By now, he should realize that his childish conduct not only hurts himself and his team. Officials tire of his antics, and so do fans.

Years ago, a church bulletin with asterisks indicated points in the service when "ushers may seat persons arriving late."

This "welcome" seemed a bit frigid to worshippers who may be running a few minutes late, even if with good reason. I'm sure such attention to the tardy arrivals didn't sit well.

Sure enough, at the same church a few weeks later, the same message was conveyed in a subtle manner. "Ushers may seat those who are waiting."

Concerning arrivals, it was amusing recently to read of a guy pleading for admission to a Philadelphia Phillies' baseball game with his "emotional support" creature in tow.

It was harnessed, and the owner seemed flummoxed that he'd have to leave his emotional support at the gate.

Definition of what constitutes an acceptable "emotional support animal" --okay, in this case, reptile--taxes credulity to the limit. How'd you like to be seated next to an alligator, not even knowing which team he (or she) is rooting for?

Finally, here's a vivid memory of the fast-talking I once employed to get on a puddle-jumping airplane. I was jangled by fellow passengers who no doubt made the flight often, joking about betting on the plane's arrival. "Time or odds?" one asked.

I was surprised that all passengers had to step on scales for "weigh-in." No problem, I figured, since I was carrying only a suit bag containing a tuxedo needed for the out-of-state speaking engagement.

"You can board, but your carry-on will need to be on a later flight," the guy said. I explained that the tux was needed for a speaking engagement a few hours later. A kind fellow passenger agreed to leave his carry-on, so the day was saved. I invited him to dinner, but he declined. Alas, my speaking reputation must have preceded me.

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BOOK

FROM PAGE C11

the little kid with a big imagination, there's "If I Was a Horse" by Sophie Blackall (Little, Brown,

\$18.99). What would happen if a kid suddenly became a horse? Getting around the house could be very interesting. So would going to school. The advantages are that nobody could force you to do something you don't

want to do. This book is perfect for horse-loving kids and anyone who loves taking flights of fancy.

Of course, these books might not be enough. Check with your favorite librarian or bookseller

and ask for the picture books they love best and the best stay-in-all-winter books to read. Then grab your child and head for a chair.

You've got some snuggling to do.

THINK

FROM PAGE C9

been redheads earlier in their youth before politics turned them grey: Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren, Rutherford B. Hayes and Calvin Coolidge
Other famous individuals

who claimed red hair (but it was dyed) include: Amanda Blake, David Bowie, Ann-Margret, Lucille Ball and Rita Hayworth.

Redheads even have their own annual holiday. It is officially celebrated around the world on Nov. 5 each year — a day to celebrate their very own unique traits. Not only do redheads

have their own day of celebration, we also know that producers have a "thing" for redheads. Although such individuals are in the minority (2% in the U.S.), a 2014 study found approximately 30% of all commercials have a redhead.

A particular group of scientists believe red hair is slowly

disappearing and will be entirely gone by 2060. However, another group of scientists believe this is unlikely. They say red hair can stay dormant for generations before showing up again.

So, as they say: "We shall see."

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