



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County NEWS

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886



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THE POWER OF PRAYER



Granbury couple safely returns home from distressing Israel trip

COURTESY PHOTOS BY JON AND SUSY CURTNER

Granbury residents Jon and Susy Curtner recently returned from their trip to Israel, where they also got to tour Giza, Egypt at the site of the Great Pyramid. Jon explained that the site has "numerous pyramids" where tourists can also ride the camels far enough away from other tourists in order to get pictures.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Jon and Susy Curtner recently returned home to Granbury from the most terrifying trip of their life — but the husband-and-wife couple are crediting their safe return to God and the power of prayer.

The Curtners, who have been residents of Granbury for about six years, traveled to Israel at the end of August to serve as hosts in a house owned by StoneWater Church Granbury.

"StoneWater has a house in Israel, and as part of that house, they offer it (to give) people from StoneWater and others who want to go over and explore Israel a place to stay," Jon explained. "At the same time, they had an opportunity to have hosts stay at the house, so when the groups came in, the hosts would help out by cooking breakfast and cleaning up in between groups. We volunteered to go as hosts for two months."

Susy explained that the idea was presented by StoneWater Church Pastor Joey White and

was initially launched at the beginning of this year.

"We were scheduled to stay until Nov. 1," Susy said.

But plans would later change for the Granbury couple.

Jon and Susy spent the first two weeks of their trip exploring Israel, and then later spent two weeks traveling to places like Jordan and later, Egypt. "We went rafting in the Jordan River, we went swimming at the Sea of Galilee, we just really enjoyed the country," Susy said. "The house is up in the north part of the Sea of Galilee, so about an hour from the Lebanon/Syria border, so we were out there and just really got to meet a bunch of people and really enjoyed the local aspect of it as opposed to just going from tourist site to tourist site."



Susy and Jon Curtner are pictured sitting on the deck of a felucca boat in the Nile River in Aswan, Egypt.

The Curtners then returned to Israel to serve as hosts for their first group, who later left on Thursday, Oct. 5.

Jon explained that the pair had dinner on Friday, Oct. 6, with some neighbors they had met in Israel.

"They had invited us over to their house to experience a Sukkot dinner," he said.

According to Spectrum News, Sukkot is a week-long

Jewish holiday that celebrates the fall harvest. It is one of the most joyful festivals in Judaism, meant to bring families, friends and communities together. The holiday also commemorates the 40 years that Jews spent in the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt.

After the couple enjoyed a nice Sukkot dinner, the pair

PLEASE SEE PRAYER | A5



COURTESY DALLAS COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Hood County Treasurer Leigh Ann McCoy and her husband, Drill Sgt. Steve McCoy.

Hood County treasurer elected CTAT state treasurer

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hood County Treasurer Leigh Ann McCoy was elected treasurer of the County Treasurers Association of Texas (CTAT) for 2023-2024 on Sept. 20.

McCoy, who has been the Hood County treasurer for four years, was officially sworn into office in McAllen, surrounded by county treasurers from across Texas.

The role of the treasurer, McCoy said, is to keep the checks and balances, and transparency within the county in place.

"The treasurer is the only elected eyes that watches the monies coming in and the monies going out," she said. "We are the voice of the citizen and the taxpayer. We are able to stand firm for discrepancies that may come about, if any. Along with duties as the 'banker' for the county, we also have the function of payroll (and) designated chief investment officer. We handle unclaimed property, report state quarterly's, (and are a) bail bond board member, among many other duties."

According to a newsletter provided by the

PLEASE SEE CTAT | A11

Lake Granbury Medical Center helps educate expecting parents

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Lake Granbury Medical Center is working to educate expectant parents on numerous things when it comes to having a child.

The center offers multiple programs from prenatal care to postpartum. Some programs include birthday orientation and a car safety

class.

Birthday orientation started in 2016 and is a two-hour program that allows expectant parents who are planning on delivering their baby at LGMC to become educated about the hospital and what to expect.

Parents can learn about visiting hours, amenities, a safe sleep presentation, breastfeeding, postpartum

depression and other mental health disorders after having a baby. Parents can also get a tour of the hospital.

"The main purpose is to educate parents (about) all the different things that encompass being a parent, but also to allow them to be more comfortable with where they are delivering and understanding the process to alleviate stress,"

Lauren Maurer, registered nurse and international board-certified lactation consultant said.

Earlier this year, LGMC became a car seat distribution site where the center gives away car seats to those who take part in the car seat class.

The car seat class started in May and provides information on how to install a

car seat, removal of it, and how to properly secure a child, as well as an installation checklist.

"Our goal with this class is to help parents use car seats correctly so that we can prevent injuries and deaths," Maurer said.

Both programs are free to the public and the only requirement is signing up.

The center also has an in-

patient program where new parents are seen by consultants for support on feeding their baby whether through breastfeeding or formula. There is also an outpatient lactation program where moms are able to follow up for more information if they are having trouble breastfeeding or have questions.

The center also partners

PLEASE SEE LGMC | A2



137TH YEAR, NO. 101

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 40 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 40 pages

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



School vouchers sound good in principle, but fall short in reality

Chamber Message

The Texas Legislature is in the middle of yet another special session - this time dealing with education savings accounts or, more familiarly, school vouchers. Simply put, public money (i.e. taxpayers' dollars) are made available for parents to 'choose' their child's school... instead of public schools, vouchers can be used to help lower the cost for private, parochial or home-schooling options.

In a recent study conducted by Raise Your Hand Texas, 20 studies that applied to the school voucher concepts and an additional eight studies published between 2019-2021 were reviewed. Their methodologies focused on three key areas: first, examining statewide voucher programs; second, investigating longitudinal effects of voucher programs, and third, systematically reviewing academic voucher studies. In short, the summary of these programs provided little to no positive impact. And, in several cases, the studies concluded that there were multiple negative impacts including not helping disadvantaged students, the challenges of availability of vouchers, college and career readiness, and the student and family experiences.

From the Raise Your Hand Texas report, "Voucher and school choice programs claim to provide educational opportunities to disadvantaged students. However, recent studies in their research review show voucher programs do not always reach the populations of students they claim to reach, nor are they accessible and maintainable for the students whom proponents argue are in most need." Simply put, voucher programs generally don't benefit the intended student populations. Where vouchers have been used to send students to private schools, in many cases, parents are left with paying the difference between the cost to attend and the voucher... leaving parents unable to afford the remaining tuition, uniforms, transportation, meals, etc.

Research on student achievement, test scores, and college and career readiness showed mixed results at best, which further suggests that, without significant impact, vouchers rarely deliver on their intended purposes. Even college graduation rates from students who attended schools on the voucher program saw little to no difference than their matched peers in public schools.

And, lastly, there is the claim that vouchers and school choice induce market competition between schools. Once again, the results are mixed at best. In higher density population markets where there were more schools to choose from, the initial results were indeed positive. However, in rural communities with fewer private school options available, vouchers actually weakened the community by fostering the departure of relatively high-achieving students from the local public schools to neighboring private schools.

At the end of the day, Granbury and communities like ours have turned out and continue to turn out a future workforce of college and career-ready students. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at its most recent board meeting passed a resolution against voucher programs that could potentially drain monies from public education without holding private, parochial, and homeschools the same accountability standards for using public monies that public school districts must follow. In addition, 30+ chambers of commerce in North Texas recently supported an op-ed in the Dallas Morning News from the North Texas Commission, that vouchers are ultimately bad for business, bad for public education, and bad for Texas.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



VYBE Realty & VYBE Marketing & Media. A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate their Grand Opening, located at 2421 East Hwy 377.

COURTESY PHOTO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"Sparks says Elderly Care Concierge upholds the dignity of the parent by allowing them to remain in their own home as long as possible. However, it also provides ongoing monitoring in the event a discussion is necessary to evaluate more involved care options, including assisted living. Elderly Care Concierge matches a professional concierge with an individual requesting support. There are no long-term commitments as the arrangements are available on a monthly basis. ECC has partnered with several name-brand providers who deliver the requested products and services." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"STAR Council is governed by an all-volunteer board, consisting of individuals from all walks of life that are passionate about finding solutions for individuals and families suffering from the ravages of addiction and who have the strongest conviction that early prevention education for our communities' children promotes a healthy lifestyle and provides tools that encourage young children to make healthy life choices throughout their lives." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

PLEASE SEE **COMMUNITY BUSINESS** | A15

LGMC

FROM PAGE A1

with the Breast Pump Depot where patients are able to get a breast bump with qualifying insurance.

This year the center created a newborn outpatient program where parents are given information on what to do when their baby comes home, including time frames to see a pediatrician,

and making sure the baby is healthy.

"I love these programs and I feel super blessed to be able to be part of these programs, and not only the programs but to be a part of these families. Helping them gain knowledge and keeping these babies safe is so important," Maurer said.

The center also partners with Family Connects, a free visiting nursing program that allows nurses to visit

parents at the hospital and after they arrive home with their newborn.

Some of the services these nurses provide include checking the baby's weight, the mom's health, offering help with breast- or bottle-feeding, performing a postpartum depression screening, informing the parents about childcare options, discussing family dynamics, teaching parents about bathing, diapering and

swaddling, managing infant crying and providing early literacy information.

"It is a really great resource for these parents, and this program is also able to inform these parents on even more resources that they may need," Maurer said.

To learn more about programs at LGMC visit lakegranburymedicalcenter.com under maternity services or call Maurer's office number at 817-964-7981.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Political hogwash and political agendas



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.

As November nears, the calendar finds us amid the heart of political season with Election Day just a few short days away. Going to the polls should be a day to celebrate. An opportunity for the members of our community to come forward and vote. A chance for the everyday citizen to express their needs and wants and have a direct impact on the leadership which will determine our collective future. It is the fulfillment of the most basic tenets of our democracy and one of the very fundamental reasons why the United States has stood as a beacon to the world for freedom and fairness.

In the last few days, I have been hit by a barrage of campaign flyers, social media posts and direct mailers concerning the various elections. I have looked at the materials, watched the videos, spoken to door-to-door campaign workers and I must say I have walked away shaking my head. There was a time in our country where candidates developed a platform of what they believed, and

they worked to inform the electorate as to their goals and plans for the better operation of our government. It allowed citizens to make informed decisions. Seemingly, those days are long past.

With very few exceptions, I have yet to see candidates come out and factually represent their plan for fulfilling the job upon election. If they are not an incumbent, they are sure to say the of-

fice they seek has gone to heck in a handbasket, and a change must take place or catastrophic conditions will continue. Seldom is there espoused a clear and cogent plan as to what the candidate has planned to change the situation. On the other hand, incumbents offer little explanation of what they have accomplished while in the office, or their plans. Often, they simply attack their opponent, not with specific policy position failures, but with vague attacks on their intentions and motivations.

Candidates use numerous platitudes directed at the electorate, letting the populace hear broad-based feel-good labels like describing themselves as "Christian" or "conservative," though little explanation of what that means to the candidate. The underlying tone is they are "more Christian" and "more conservative" than their opponents. There are sometimes innuendos and occasionally outright attacks, that the opposition is a fake "conservative" or "Christian," an assertion which some would say

seems very un-Christ like. The reality is this group of candidates sees everyone who does not think exactly like they do as evil. How does one govern the people they represent if they view a portion of the electorate not as the political opposition, but as an enemy? Is there any wonder why we are deadlocked?

Then there are the political catch phrases that say nothing but infer action. "We need more transparency" is the call, but no specifics are espoused as to what information is being kept from the public. Sadly, the candidates who call for additional transparency frequently are not missing information, they simply reject the information which is available because it does not fit into their narrative. They have an agenda to fulfill, and information, facts or evidence are of little value unless it supports that agenda. They are not concerned with what is right, or fair or even honest, unless it promotes their end goal.

Then there is the long standing reference to the "good old boys" who evi-

dently are a group of politicians who are in control of the world and manage government in secret to the detriment of the electorate. It would seem this group of individuals is any governing group in power, which is not aligned with the politician making the allegation. It plays into the long-standing "conspiracy" theory that somehow if we simply vote out a couple of people, good government can return, everyone will work together and life will be wonderful.

My all-time favorite is the candidate who takes a hard stance on cutting taxes. Who wouldn't vote in favor of cutting taxes? Everyone would like to pay less in taxes. Everyone I know would also like better schools, better roads and better infrastructure. These two conflicting ideas are at loggerheads and epitomize the basic conflict in governing: balancing needs and wants, with reasonable taxing to acquire the money to fulfill reasonable expectations. Clearly the government cannot spend without restraint, and clearly, it cannot cut taxes to the point

it cannot fill the necessary needs of the community. Instead of making broad general statements, candidates should, with some degree of specificity, tell us their plan! Don't tell us you will cut waste, without being specific where the cuts lie.

I will vote. I hope my friends and neighbors' vote. When the election is over, let us accept the results and attempt to work together to govern wisely and purposefully for the good of all. Let us act as a community, accepting our differences and working to understand each other. That is truly the American way. I have my fingers crossed.

Thought for the day: "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters." Abraham Lincoln
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

Elizabeth Caudle

Say hello to our neighbor, Elizabeth Caudle!

There is a good chance you have been served by Elizabeth Caudle if you have enjoyed your morning meal at the Hilton Garden Inn, The Garden Grille. In her 18 years as a Hood County resident, Caudle has enjoyed raising her children in a place with a true sense of community. Caudle highly praises the individuals and organizations so quick to jump into action and address our local causes and needs. She feels that Hood County's first responders are prepared for any crisis. Scholarships offered by a myriad eager to help too were instrumental in setting up her two daughters for success as a doctor and medical technician. Her son is a GHS sophomore who may also benefit from the community generosity. Caudle loves using her "me" time to socialize with friends, enjoy photography, and gardening. Caudle shares that she loves that the Hood County News still prints newspapers, she thinks it is the coolest thing the little in-house press is still in operation.

Hood County Vote Centers

Hood County Vote Centers will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the Constitutional Amendment Election.

Voters may vote at any of the locations listed:

Acton Methodist Church
3433 Fall Creek Hwy. (Granbury)

First Baptist Church
1851 Weatherford Hwy. (Granbury)

Hood County Annex 1
Meeting Room, 1410 W. Pearl St. (Granbury)

Tolar Community Center
120 Tolar Cemetery Rd. (Tolar)

Calvary Church
4800 Glen Rose Hwy. (Granbury)

Lipan Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall, 119 N. Caddo St. (Lipan)

Pecan Activity Center
(PAC), 9145 Plantation Dr. (Granbury)

St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, 2301 Acton Hwy. (Granbury)

Generations Church
5718 E. Hwy 377. (Granbury)

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 4530 Acton Hwy. (Granbury)

For questions, please visit co.hood.tx.us or votetexas.gov



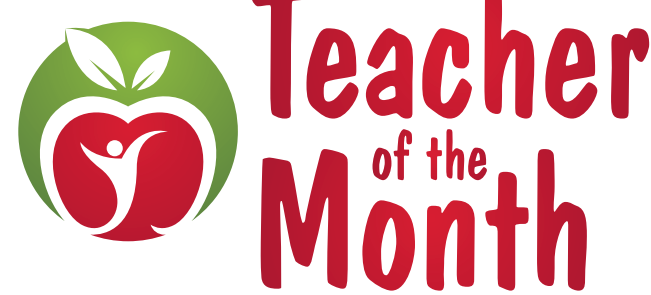
Hood County News announces Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year awards

BY SAM HOUSTON

Hood County News
Publisher

It is with a great deal of joy I wish to announce that Van Griffith Kia, the Hood County News and a host of other great sponsors are coming together to create a monthly Teacher of the Month award. Hood County is the proud home of some of the most dedicated, hard-working teachers in Texas and we feel it is about time they receive some special recognition.

The winning teachers will be selected monthly from the staff of the Lipan, Granbury, and Tolar school



districts. Each winner shall receive a wonderful packet of gifts as well as \$100 in cash. There will be 14 winners each month, one from Lipan, and one from each Tolar and GISD campus. Each winning teacher's photo will appear in the Hood County News in recognition

of their accomplishment.

At the end of the year, a Teacher of the Year for each school district will be selected from the monthly winners, with the winners receiving over \$750 in cash and merchandise.

Look for the photos of the winners and congratulate

those teachers for a job well done!

Thank you to the sponsors of this program to include the Van Griffith Kia, the Granbury Theatre Company, Kroger, Walmart, First National Bank, Santo Propane, Taco Casa, Cinergy Entertainment, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, the Tolar Education Foundation, the Granbury Education Foundation, the Hyde Law Firm and the Hood County News. These entities are thankful and inspired by the efforts of our teachers and are proud to support their efforts.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

OUR MISSION: The Hood County News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

THE PAPER YOU LOVE, BROUGHT TO LIFE IN PRINT, ON YOUR DESKTOP, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE

Time to set those clocks back

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Remember to set your clocks back an hour as Nov. 5 marks the end of daylight saving time. This means everyone will get one extra hour of sleep, gaining an hour of sun in the morning but losing one during the night.

THE HISTORY

Daylight saving time first stemmed from George Hudson who was an entomologist in New Zealand in 1895. He proposed a two-hour time shift for more hours of sunshine after work. He suggested clocks move two hours ahead in October and two hours back in March, according to National Geographic.

Later in 1907 William Willett wrote a pamphlet called "The Waste of Daylight" where he proposed the idea of having daylight saving time in the United Kingdom.

He had the idea of setting clocks 20 minutes ahead for four Sundays in a row in April and 20 minutes behind in September to help people and animals adjust.

"Everyone appreciates the long light evenings. Everyone laments their shrinkage as autumn approaches, and nearly everyone has given utterance to a regret that the clear bright light of early morning during spring and summer months, is so seldom seen or used," part of his pamphlet read.

He wanted to encourage people to get out of bed earlier during the summer.

In 1908, the daylight saving bill was the first attempt in the UK to move clocks forward one hour in the summer. The idea was to provide more daylight hours after work for training of the Territorial Army, to reduce railway accidents, and to reduce lighting expenses, according to National Museums Scotland.

The House of Commons rejected the bill but later it was brought up in 1916 by Germany during World War



COURTESY PHOTO

Remember to set your clocks back an hour as Nov. 5 marks the end of daylight saving time.

I to conserve energy.

Germany ratified a daylight saving time bill that was followed by Britain's creation of the Summertime Act.

In 1918, the United States adopted the Standard Time Act which established that standard time in the U.S. be divided into five time zones. It also stipulated that on the last Sunday of March each year, clocks be advanced one hour and then returned one hour on the last Sunday of October in an effort to save fuel.

The Standard Time Act was repealed in 1920 after dairy farmers voiced their concerns on how the time change affected their cows.

DST returned when the U.S. entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Another bill was passed in Congress in 1986 that increased the time period of DST by moving the start of it to the first Sunday in April with the goal to conserve oil.

The current DST was established through the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that went into effect in 2007 calling for clocks to be

set ahead one hour on the second Sunday of March.

Under the Uniform Time Act, as amended, states may exempt themselves from observing daylight saving time by state law. Daylight saving time is not observed in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and most of Arizona according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Senate Bill 582, known as the Sunshine Protection Act, passed the U.S. Senate in 2022 and would permanently extend DST from its current eight-month period to the entire 12 months of each year, eliminating the need to change time. Permanent DST would mean darker mornings and lighter nights.

The bill was first introduced by Senator Marco Rubio of Florida in 2021, and still needs to pass the U.S. House of Representatives. For now, the time change remains the same.

THE EFFECTS

Harvard Health found

that many people may have trouble adjusting their sleep schedule to the new time. For the first few days or even a week, they may go to bed later or wake up earlier than usual, which can cause sleep deprivation. One study found that the average person gets 40 minutes less sleep on the Monday after DST begins compared with other nights of the year.

A study by UT Southwestern Medical Center shows that oftentimes people feel more anxious, down and depressed due to it becoming darker quicker in the fall. The study shows that people are getting less sun exposure. They are taking in less vitamin D which directly impacts one's mood.

Low vitamin D can also make someone feel more fatigued as well as have muscle pain and weakened bones.

"Lack of sunlight suppresses the production of two important hormones: sleep-inducing melatonin and the 'happy chemical' serotonin, which plays a key role in mood balance. In other words, we're

more likely to be grumpy and tired — but unable to fall asleep — in the days following daylight saving time," according to UT Southwestern Medical Center.

One study showed that hospitals reported addressing 11% more depressive symptoms right after the fall time change.

HOW TO PREPARE

When it comes to sleep, you need to stick to a consistent schedule and go to bed around the same time. It is important not to go to bed later because you are getting an hour of extra sleep. Keeping a consistent sleep-wake pattern is best for your body.

Since there will be less daylight, it is important to take advantage of the time you have to be outside and to try and soak in as much sunlight as possible to boost vitamin D.

Set your clocks back the night before so when you wake up, you are up at the adjusted time so the change will feel more natural to your body.

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOV. 7

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting and luncheon at Decordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. 10 a.m. Social/Check-in, 11 a.m. Entertainment/For Shane Brooks — Country & Old Time Rock & Roll, short business meeting at 11:30 a.m. Optional lunch (\$18) at noon — pumpkin soup, pork medallions w/chutney, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls, peach cobbler, coffee/tea/water. Reservations required no later than Friday, Nov. 3, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898. General membership, single \$25, joint \$35, business membership \$35. The Opera Guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

CALLING ALL military officers, active, retired, reserve, guard. The Greater Granbury Chapter of MOAA invites you to please join us for our next dinner. We are a fun group that works to support the local JROTC club at Granbury High School as well as the Memorial Day Field of Flags. Come join us. Social hour: 5:30-6:30 p.m., dinner served: 6:30 p.m. at Harbor Lakes Golf Club, 2100 Clubhouse Dr., Granbury, TX 76048. Price: \$25 per person. RSVP (817) 988-3333 The speaker will be Samuel Reid, attorney at law, who will discuss the critical elements of estate planning.

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

JUSTICE KEN Wise will speak at Granbury Live as part of The Bridge Street History Center's ninth installment of the Ramey-Macatee Speaker Series. This highly-anticipated event will explore Texas History and particularly the early days of the Texas Rangers. Tickets are priced at \$10 and \$20 and may be purchased at granburylive.com.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

GUEST SPEAKER Retired MSgt Jim Rodriguez will speak at Granbury High School from 9:30-11 a.m. The event is hosted by GISD and Friends of Memorial Lane.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

VETERANS DAY Ceremony at Jim Burkes Firefighter Park, 561 N. Travis St. at 11 a.m. All veterans in attendance receive a special gift. Event sponsored by Friends of Memorial Lane.



PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICAL MAILING

I received a political mailing last week that surprised me. It was from and paid for by the Hood County Republican Party and encouraged me to vote NO to VATRE Tax and NO to the Bond Tax. I'm a big supporter the Hood County school system and was very surprised to learn that the Republican Party is not.

We have an excellent school system and as citizens it's our responsibility to support it and make sure they have the resources to

continue to maintain that level of quality education for our children.

I will be voting yes and I'm disappointed that the Republican Party isn't supporting our schools. Guess it's time for a new party.

George Olthoff
Granbury, Tx

VOTE YES FOR GRANBURY!

If you are an invested citizen in our Granbury community, you want to vote YES on the Bond and the

VATRE. During my husband's 34-year career we moved many times. One of the top criteria that dictated where we would live was the quality of the school district — even before we had children to consider — because it is all part of what makes a great community and adds value to your home.

The Long Range Planning Committee consisted of no less than 80 community participants — parents, grandparents, teachers, students, school board members. They spent months together, the result being

an extremely well-thought-through plan. They studied the demographic data: 3 out of 6 of our elementary schools are at or over capacity; the same is true of our middle schools. Bringing in portables is a temporary and unsafe solution.

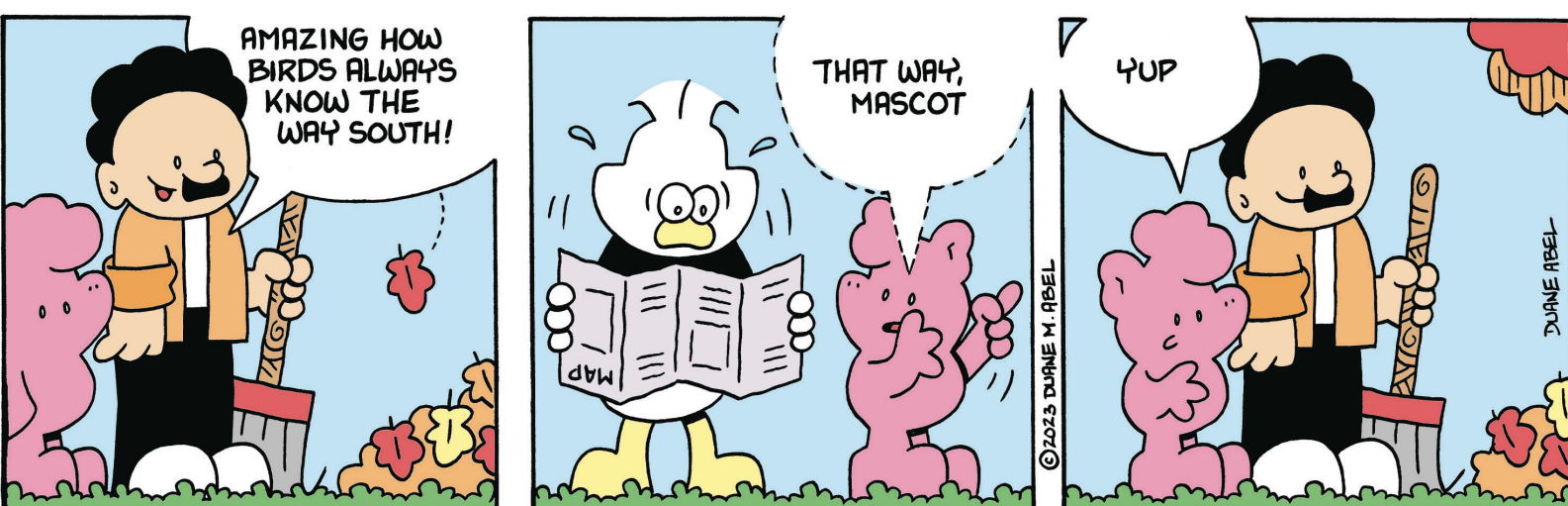
The bond package would build a new elementary school on the east side of town where all the growth is and update existing schools. Our aging bus fleet breaks down on a weekly basis; the bond would purchase 30 new buses and build a second bus hub on the north-

east side, which would help reduce busing times and traffic.

The bond would have no impact on your tax rate. The last bond that was approved was in 2013, for approximately \$82 million — and since then the school tax rate has consistently gone DOWN. The VATRE would give our valued teachers a 10% increase and reduce student/teacher ratios. The funds would also help to increase security, and most importantly would be exempt from the state re-

PLEASE SEE LETTERS | A7

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com



PRAYER

FROM PAGE A1

went back to the StoneWater house and fell asleep — only to be awoken the next morning by frantic texts from friends and family members telling them to “check the news.”

CHAOS ENSUES

“Sirens had been going off in Jerusalem,” Jon said. “We had another person down in Jerusalem at the time who texted us and was like, ‘Sirens had been going off all night. They’re shooting rockets!’ and that was our first indication that it was a little crazy.”

On Saturday, Oct. 7, the Hamas terrorist organization launched a brutal, highly-organized and unprecedented attack upon Israel and its citizens.

According to the proclamation issued by Hood County Commissioners Court on Oct. 24 in support of Israel, Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the state of Israel and has been designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization.

During its attack, Hamas fired thousands of rockets against Israeli population centers in an attempt to kill untold numbers of innocent civilians, according to the proclamation.

“You hear about how in Israel they have incidents,” Susy said. “I mean, people warn you going over there that there’s incidents, so we were like, ‘OK, they’ll get it under control,’ but as we were watching the news and hearing more and more about what was happening, we started looking to get flights out of Israel.”

Susy explained that the whole attack took place in a “small, contained area,” adding that “Israel fits into Texas 31 times.”

“It’s a very small country, and when I describe it to people, I tend to say, ‘OK, say we’re here in Granbury. Austin is where the attack took place, and Dallas is shooting missiles over at you.’ It’s that small an area where things are happening. It’s not a big place.”

Jon said the pair then became concerned about what they were going to do, especially when they started seeing neighbors heading into their “bomb room.”

“The house was located in a neighborhood, and the neighborhood is gated — they call them villages,” he explained. “The village we were in was called Had Nes and it’s right up near Tiberius at the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee, and the neighborhood has bomb shelters built into it. Every house out there has a bomb room... and it’s a reinforced room somewhere in the house, so when you see it on the news, where people went into their safe rooms or bomb rooms, and then shut



Jon and Susy Curtner pose in front of the “I Love JLM” sculpture located just outside the Jaffa Gae leading into the old city of Jerusalem, Israel.

COURTESY PHOTOS BY JON AND SUSY CURTNER

the doors, we really had to make a decision and a tough decision at that.”

The couple eventually decided to start looking for a flight home, but soon ran into some complications.

“We would book a flight and a couple hours later, the flight would get canceled,” Susy said.

“Delta and American, they canceled all flights to Israel, so those airlines went off the boards altogether,” Jon said.

Susy said they then went online to Google flights and typed in the word “anywhere” for their destination.

“That was our goal: get anywhere, we don’t care where, and then from there, we’ll just get a hotel, and we’ll get another flight home,” she said.

Unfortunately, they ended up looking for a flight online for hours, until Jon suggested they take a break.

“You’d get into it, and it looked like there’d be a flight, but as you’re going through it, getting into the signup part, it said ‘this flight is no longer operating.’ They were dropping off the charts,” Susy said. “So, Jon said he was going to send out something to the church to some of our small groups of friends, neighbors, and just asking them to put up some prayers for us so that we can find something to get out of here.”

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A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

It wasn’t long before several members of StoneWater Church were praying for the Curtners. Word quickly spread all over Granbury, reaching other cities in Texas and then finally, all over the nation — with hundreds and perhaps thousands of people



Jon and Susy Curtner pose on top of Mount Bental, Israel. Jon said the mountain peak used to be a military outpost that was “instrumental in the Yom Kippur War in 1973.” He also explained that the current war started almost “50 years to the day” on the anniversary of the Yom Kippur War.

praying for Jon and Susy. “It was literally hundreds and hundreds of people praying for us. It was crazy,” Jon said.

“People we didn’t even know,” Susy chimed in. “And we will probably never meet,” Jon responded. “But it was amazing. I mean, it just felt like everybody pulled together.”

“And we felt protected,” Susy said. “It just gives you this feeling of comfort to know that there’s so many people out there praying

for you and helping you get home.”

Which is exactly what happened.

The following morning after Jon sent out prayer requests, the pair immediately found a flight out of Israel — and not to just anywhere, but to Dallas.

“We have no doubt that everybody’s prayers got us back home and not only that, but God actually cleared the way for us to get to the airport and home safely,” Susy said.

She explained how when they were staying at StoneWater’s house, it was “fairly quiet” in the north where they were located. However, after arriving at the airport the afternoon before their flight was scheduled, they received information that sirens were then going off near the StoneWater house.

Additionally, Jon and Susy’s flight from Tel Aviv to Dubai to Dallas was the last flight out before all later flights were canceled that day.

“We were the last flight out,” Susy said. “That was a flight that was meant to be.”

The pair said they also believed they saw a sign from God in the airport.

Jon explained that they found a space under a stairwell in the airport to set up camp for the night. He said they were both anxious and prayed to God to watch over them.

The next morning, they woke up and above the door to the airport synagogue was a picture of the Roman Colosseum and a cross.

“We hadn’t noticed before,” Jon said. “Talk about God saying I’m here? It was so lifting.”

FINALLY HOME

After 50 hours of traveling, Jon and Susy finally made it back home to Granbury on Oct. 13 — Friday the 13th to be exact.

“I knew, but I didn’t tell my wife,” Jon said, chuckling. “Honey, we’re flying on Friday the 13th.”

“Yeah, what else can go wrong?” Susy asked with a giggle.

The Curtners have now been back in Granbury for

about three weeks, and they couldn’t be happier — but they still don’t regret the trip.

“We had a great time,” Susy said. “I mean, even with the way it ended, our trip was amazing. We loved every minute of it. But (we) don’t have to flee a war zone country anymore. That’s checked off our list.”

“Bucket list item done,” Jon said, with a chuckle.

THE EXPERIENCE

Although they were limited to only using WhatsApp to communicate with the U.S., grocery shopping in a foreign country was challenging, and the monetary exchange rates were difficult, the people they met along the way made it all worthwhile for the Curtners.

“We met a lot of very nice people,” Jon said. “And that I think is what makes it so hard now when we watch the news or something because it’s not something distant happening somewhere else; this is happening to people that we know and care about.”

Jon and Susy were lucky to stay out of the fray, but the experience still affected them.

“It’s not like we were underneath rockets flying over us,” Jon said.

“But we did hear the bomber plane above our heads,” Susy said.

Jon explained that the Hamas attack is “so much more” than what is shown on TV.

“Right now, we see anger, and the reality is the Israelis are very generous, loving people,” he said. “It’s amazing. What you see is just a microcosm of what’s real.”

Jon and Susy describe themselves as being “adventure travelers,” but the pair is definitely planning on staying around Hood County for a while.

“It changed the way that we look at where we’re going to go in the future,” Jon said. “Israel is surrounded by countries that aren’t necessarily friendly to their issues when something happens, so all the borders shut down. There was not an exit plan. I still enjoy traveling, but we’re probably not going to go anywhere for a while.”

Susy said StoneWater Church is planning on opening up the house in Israel for people who have been displaced due to the war, adding that the house can sleep about 20.

Jon added that the church is also trying to build up a food supply for refugees if needed.



The trip may have been exciting — in more ways than one — but overall, the couple is happy to be back home in Granbury.

“It’s good to be home now,” Susy added.

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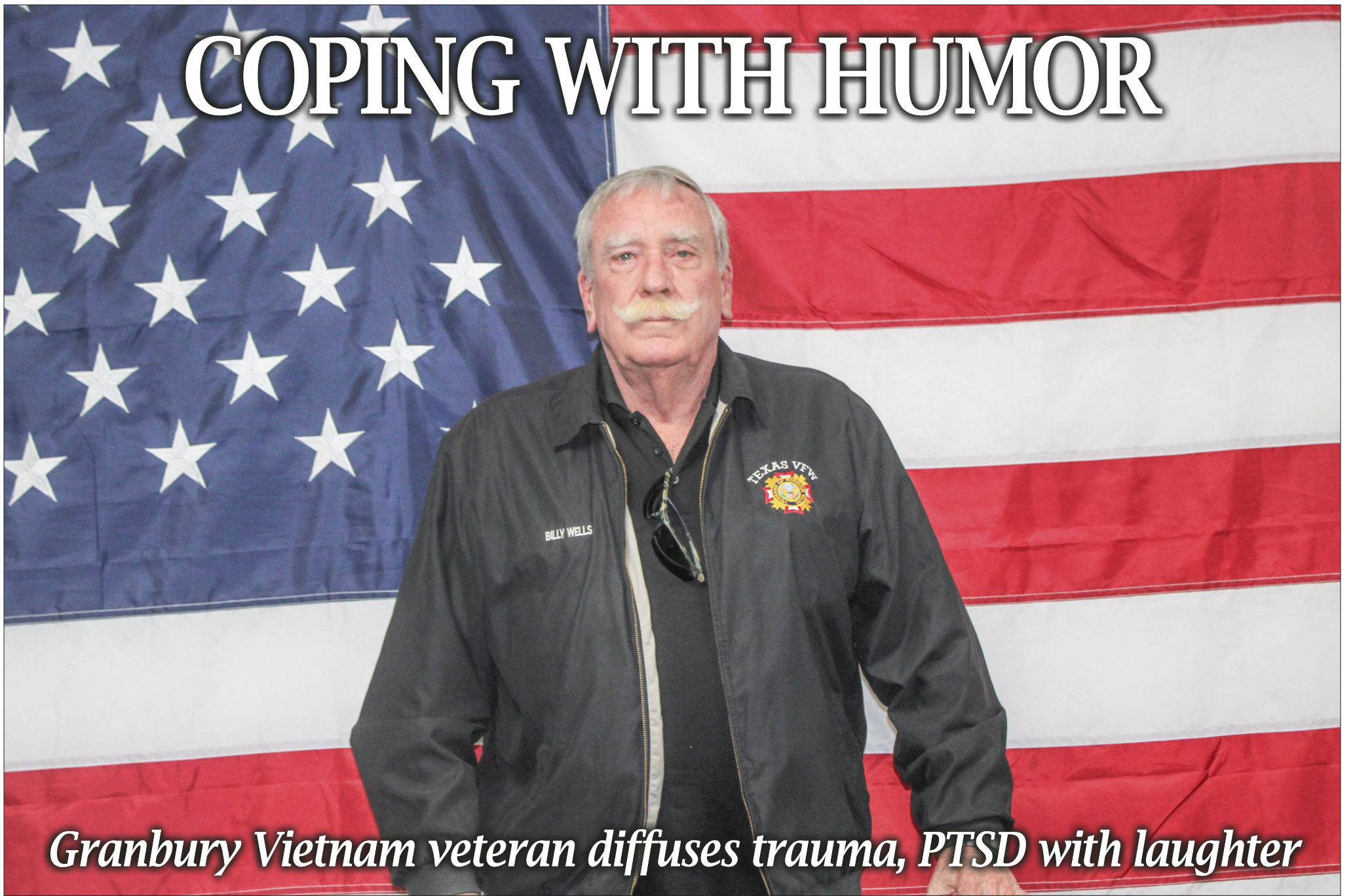



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COPING WITH HUMOR



Granbury Vietnam veteran diffuses trauma, PTSD with laughter

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury resident Billy F. Wells is an Army veteran, who served in three Vietnam tours from 1969 until 1972.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Granbury resident Billy F. Wells may have encountered several traumatic situations during his three Vietnam tours — but the 74-year-old doesn't let any of the negative memories from his service affect him today.

In fact, the Army veteran uses the emotion-focused coping strategy of humor to get through the dark times. "As far as my experiences in Vietnam, I never really talked to anybody about any particular thing," Wells told the HCN on Oct. 30. "I tell funny stories. That's the only way I'll talk about it."

Wells grew up in north-west Florida and was attending junior college when he got his military draft notice.

"I didn't want to be drafted, so, I went and joined the military," he said, with a chuckle. "That way I could choose what I wanted to do."

Wells enlisted in the Army in 1969 and became an aviation crew chief, where he was responsible for the maintenance and repair of aircrafts.

He explained how he

didn't have any qualms about joining the military, because his father served in World War II as a Marine.

"He fought in the Pacific, and he was on four major invasions in the Marines. How he survived that I have

no clue, because I've seen the shows and what they had to go through, but (joining the military) didn't seem too bad," Wells said.

Although Wells didn't feel comfortable relaying any of his traumatic experiences while serving in Vietnam,

he did recount a couple of "funny times" that occurred during his time in service.

He remembers his friend Johnny, who always received care packages from his mother containing guava paste.

Guava paste, also known as guayabate or goiabada — is a very thick puree of guava fruit and sugar, often with added pectin.

"I've never had guava paste, but it was really great. He'd let me have a little bit of it. I would sneak in and steal some from him," he

explained.

One day, Wells wanted to talk to Johnny's sister, whom he described as being "beautiful." She didn't speak English though, so he asked a Spanish-speaking guy for guidance on what he could say to Johnny's sister.

Unfortunately, what he was told to say to the sister was not a nice phrase in English, which resulted in a "big fight" between Johnny and Wells.

"I never got any more guava paste," Wells said.

Another story he remembers well is a funny encounter that took place at an "orphanage mountain yard" in Vietnam.

"There were a couple of Australians that ran the orphanage, a couple of Australian priests, and we would fly over there every

hear (the children) coming up from behind me."

Wells turned around and was stunned to see the children carrying a large lizard. Understandably, Wells was startled and proceeded to kick at the lizard, telling the children to "get it away."

"They didn't understand what I was saying, but one of the priests came out and said 'Hey, mate, you hurt their feelings,'" he recalled. "I said 'How's that?' He said, 'Man, they'd been working for like two weeks to catch one of these lizards to give

responded that it was a "bad story," explaining how a mama-san (a woman in a position of authority) wanted the lizard — assumably for consumption.

"I'm sure they ate it," he said. "That's what they gave it to me for was to eat. It was something."

Wells explained how he spent three tours in Vietnam — one for 12 months, and two for six months — so he experienced the coldness and hostility from people every time he came through the airports over the West Coast.

"It was bad," he said. "And it got worse."

It even got to a point where Wells didn't even want to admit to anyone that he was a Vietnam veteran because of everyone's "attitude" toward the soldiers.

"I'd go to activities, and they would ask all the veterans to stand up, (and I would just sit and clap for them)," he said. "That's the way it was because people didn't accept Vietnam."

Wells said he is thankful he came back from the mili-

"As far as my experiences in Vietnam, I never really talked to anybody about any particular thing. I tell funny stories. That's the only way I'll talk about it."

BILLY F. WELLS
Retired Army Veteran

so often and give them blankets and milk and stuff," he said. "I would always go and buy some chewing gum to give to the kids. There's one time we went over, we landed, and I was turned around, and I was unstrapping some stuff, and I could

to you,' because that's a gift. I told him to go and tell them 'I'm sorry' and that I didn't understand. They brought the lizard back, and I tied him up in the helicopter."

When asked what happened to the lizard, Wells

PLEASE SEE **HUMOR** | A7

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Governor Abbott encourages Texas students to participate in cybersecurity training

The National Cyber Scholarship Foundation online talent search, \$20 million in scholarships

Submitted Item

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott encourages Texas high school and college students to participate in CyberStart America (CSA) and Cyber FastTrack (CFT), innovative, online cybersecurity talent search and competition programs sponsored by the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation that awards more than \$20 million in scholarships to high-performing students.

“As Texas’ technology industry continues to grow, it is more important now than ever for Texas to strengthen its cybersecurity workforce and talent development,” said Gov. Abbott. “These immersive, online cybersecurity programs will help ensure high school and college students have the opportunity to develop crucial skills for high-demand jobs in this critical industry. CyberStart and Cyber FastTrack are engaging ways to jumpstart a career in cybersecurity, and I encourage Texas students to take advantage of this opportunity to become leaders in this important field. Together, we will continue to build a more secure Texas.” Registration for both CSA



COURTESY PHOTO

In 2020, Gov. Abbott announced a partnership with CyberStart America to help promote the cybersecurity field for Texas high school students.

and CFT is now open, with student play ending on March 15, 2024.

Open to all students in grades 9-12, CSA provides students with access to more

than 200 unique security challenges they can solve as cybersecurity agents inves-

tigating criminal gangs. As students play, they develop cybersecurity skills and re-

ceive cybersecurity credentials for subjects that include coding, penetration testing and digital forensics.

CFT aims to simplify and accelerate college students’ path to a cybersecurity career by helping them develop advanced training and skills needed for the profession. Currently, there are more than 58,000 cybersecurity-related job openings in Texas and more than 660,000 open cyber-related jobs in the United States.

In 2022, the Texas Department of Information Resources created the CyberStart America Texas task force to increase awareness and participation in both CSA and CFT among Texas students. The task force is working to include Texas curriculum standards in CSA challenges to support educators who want to bring the program into their school. In the 2022-2023 school year, more than 5,000 Texas high school students participated in CSA.

In 2020, Gov. Abbott announced a partnership with CyberStart America to help promote the cybersecurity field for Texas high school students.

HUMOR

FROM PAGE A6

tary unscathed — especially because many of his fellow soldiers weren’t as lucky.

“I was very fortunate,” he said. “I came back without a scratch. I had a lot of friends at home who went to the military and went to Vietnam and came back in pretty bad shape and even died not too long after they got back.”

He explained that there is a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. that contains the names of more than 58,000 service members who

passed while serving in the Vietnam War. However, it bothers Wells because “those are not the only ones who got killed.”

“This (one guy) got married, and we thought he was doing good, but he went out on the interstate one day, pulled over (and shot himself), and then there’s others who had drug overdoses, and it was caused by what they experienced in Vietnam,” he said.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem that can occur after a traumatic event like war, assault, or disaster, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran

Affairs.

Wells explained how having a strong support system from his family helped keep him on the right track mentally following his discharge from the military.

“Some people come back from being overseas and in places where you see a lot of death, and they can’t get that out of their mind, and they don’t have support, so consequently they go off in the wrong direction,” he explained. “So, I had a lot of support — not that I don’t have some problems myself.”

Wells also explained how he witnessed PTSD in his father, who had “one of

the worst cases he’s ever known.”

“The way he handled his PTSD was a lot different than some people,” he said. “He spent his whole time helping other people. My mother actually would fuss at him from time to time that he was spending more time helping other people than he was our family, but he did good. We never wanted for anything.”

Wells said he is glad that soldiers now get benefits like counseling to help combat PTSD. He said he also travels to the airport occasionally to greet young soldiers who are returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, so

they are always greeted with a friendly face.

“I don’t want anybody to have to ever experience that again,” he said. “American people should always support the military.”

Following Wells’ discharge from the Army, he joined an electrical apprenticeship program and eventually became an electrician, where he worked all over the country.

He then went into the nuclear business and started working at several different nuclear plants until he eventually found his way to the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose, where he worked for 28

years.

Wells served for 15 years as the VFW Post 7835 Commander in Granbury before stepping down last year. He is the father of two sons, Robert, and his late son, Doug, who passed away from cancer last June.

“I did meet some good people in Vietnam,” he added. “I really did. Not just soldiers, but actually Vietnamese. There were some good people there.”

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

LETTERS

FROM PAGE A4

capture program (otherwise known as “Robin Hood”).

The monthly tax implication on a \$350K home would be approximately \$12. That is a small investment that would give you a great return. An investment in our schools is an investment in our children, which in turn is an investment in our community. It’s time to embrace the future and invest in our children. The question remains, if not now — then when? If you don’t repair a leaky roof it will eventually collapse.

Vote YES on the Bond and VATRE!

Lori Vale
Granbury, Tx

IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 9

My name is Marie Burke

and I am a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA). I am a retired Texas public school employee and educated Texas children for 38 years.

I am asking for your support of Proposition 9 on the November General Election ballot. Prop. 9, when passed, will provide the first cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) since 2004 for 420,000 Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) annuitants.

No Texas public-school employee who has retired since Sept. 1, 2004, has ever received a COLA. That is 70% of TRS retirees! TRS annuitants are living on an average monthly annuity of just \$2,174, though more than 140,000 receive \$1,000 or less per month!

Inflation is the highest it has been in 40 years. A pension increase for TRS retirees is needed and is overdue. All TRS retirees are suffering from inflation; but longer-

term retirees are hit hardest. Many are struggling to pay their bills and are making difficult choices about food and medicine. Prop. 9 will provide a tremendous value to our retirees, which in turn will benefit our local economy.

Many of our family, friends and neighbors also do not know that most retired teachers are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits; therefore, a TRS pension is their primary source of income. The Social Security raises that helped so many recently were often not received by your community’s retired school personnel.

As a voter and taxpayer, you should know that when passed, Prop. 9 will not create a tax increase. The Texas Legislature has already set aside the funds to make this happen with voter approval using surplus funds. In fact, Prop. 9 has unanimous legislative support. Every

single one of the members of the Texas Senate and House voted to support this much-needed retirement boost.

Please vote FOR Proposition 9!

Marie Burke
Granbury, Tx

OBSERVATIONS

After graduating college in 1987 I taught math in Dallas area schools. Four years later I left to become an air traffic controller, because I couldn’t support my family on my teacher’s salary. After nearly 32 years in ATC, I retired.

The day before teachers reported to work this school year, someone in administration who knew I was a certified teacher asked if I would come teach math at GHS. They had a dire need there. I love our community and want to give back, so I agreed. Since starting this adventure, here are some of

my observations.

1. The programs at the high school are amazing, offering opportunities for every type and aptitude of student.

2. Students have the same needs as when I started teaching. They need good teachers and mentors.

3. The teachers at our local schools are incredible! They care about each student, both academically and as individuals. I am continually impressed with how they pour into the students and the community.

4. Initially, I was hesitant to come out of retirement to take this job. Now, I will say that I am proud to be numbered among these amazing GHS teachers.

I will always be thankful for the opportunity to return to my first career and meet so many amazing individuals who give sacrificially and pour into the next generation.

Please support our teachers and the future of the students under their care.

Bryan Rife
Granbury, Tx

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.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4

MONDAY, NOV. 13

VETERANS DAY essay winners will be announced at the GHS School Board meeting, 6 p.m. at the administration building. The essay contest is hosted by the by GHS/MOAA and Friends of Memorial Lane.

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. Hwy 377. The program will be

presented by Dr. David K. Barnett, a local historian, who will speak on “Granbury, Texas, and the Civil War. This is a “must attend” program for anyone with an interest in our local history. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncntexcwrt.com>.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC

Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Josh Worthey, regional union business manager, will

talk about the importance of voting. 11:00 a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: call 254-716-5195.

LAKE GRANBURY Art

Association meeting, 6 p.m. at the Shanley House Gallery, 224 N. Travis St. Come join our monthly meeting (second Mondays) where you will enjoy refreshments and meeting other like-minded art enthusiasts. A free demonstration from our very own member, glass artist Susan Thillen.

Susan will also conduct a 2-day fused glass workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 14 and 15. Create a unique gift tag/ornament and tree.

To register, email lgaaworkshops@gmail.com. Also, see our Facebook page: LGAA — Lake Granbury Art Association.

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

SALVATION ARMY

Women’s Auxiliary monthly meeting, DeCordova Country Club. Guest speaker will be Debbie Taylor, author of “Little Van Gogh.” The topic

is the process of making a book and the importance of volunteering. The mingle begins at 10 a.m. and the meeting at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

JOIN LAKE Granbury Master Gardeners for our next membership meeting at 1 p.m., at First Christian Church, 2109 W. Hwy 377. Jackson Weston will speak about fall and winter color, featuring perennials that bloom in fall and winter. For more information, call the Hood County Extension office at 817-579-3280.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

IT’S A Wonderful Life in a Wonderful World’ Christmas Market from 6-9 p.m. at La Bella Luna, 7700 Glen Rose Hwy. It’s a Wonderful Life in a Wonderful World’ Christmas Market is the largest annual fundraiser for Forward Training Center of Hood County. The mission of our organization is to educate, support and inspire life-changing growth in men and women through free educational programs to lower generational poverty in our community.

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NOTICES

9031
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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.StorageTreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on November 13, 2023. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Shonda Arrambide- boxes, furniture

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

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

OAK TRAIL SHORES, SECTION C, Lot 52R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, November 28th, 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.

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club License by Nutcracker Beverage Corporation located at 9500 Orchard Dr., Granbury TX 76049 Hood County. The officer of record is Patsy Hanson.

9031
Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY JANE WEBB, Deceased, were granted on October 11, 2023, in Cause No. P10190, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Lisa Rene Gist.

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 11th day of October 2023.
The Reid Firm, P.C.
Attorneys for Lisa Rene Gist
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@reidfirm.com
samuel@reidfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTHA FRANCIS WATSON, Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P10195, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: GARY LEE WATSON.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban
Attorney at Law
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 26th day of October, 2023.
Steven G. Kuban
Attorney for Gary Lee Watson
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
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- Aldous Huxley

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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 the 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

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

OAK TRAIL SHORES, SECTION C, Lot 52R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, November 28th, 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.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate, by KM Resort Hospitality LLC, dba Blackstar Grille to be located at 551 Sweet Chex Dr, Granbury, Hood County, TX 76048. The Officers are Matthew Bays-Manager and Kimberly Bays-Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage retail Dealer's Off premises permit to be issued to: El Solar DbA Staffing to be located at 730 E Bluebonnet Dr Granbury, Hood County Tx 76048. Daniela Orihuela - Sole Proprietor

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Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID CITY OF TOLAR, TEXAS

The City of Tolar will receive competitive sealed Bids for the Public Works Shop project until 3:00 PM local time on Monday, November 6, 2023, at the Tolar City Hall, located at 8712 HWY 377, Tolar, Hood County, Texas 76476. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time.

Bids shall be addressed to the City Administrator, Michelle Burdette. Bidding Documents and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, may be examined at:

Tolar City Hall, located at 8712 HWY 377, Tolar, Hood County, Texas 76476.

Bidding Documents and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are available from the City Administrator.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders within ten days after the opening of Bids. The remaining bid sureties will be returned after the complete execution of the Contract.

The surety company providing the Bid Bond must conform to the same requirements for surety companies providing Performance and Maintenance Bonds, and Payment Bonds described below.

The successful proposer must furnish Performance and Maintenance Bond, and Payment Bond on the forms furnished with the Contract Documents in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety. The surety company must have a minimum Best's Key Rating of "B" or better. The surety company, the agency, and the agent issuing the Performance and Maintenance Bond and Payment Bond must be authorized to issue such bonds in Texas in an amount equal to or greater than the total contract price. City of Tolar, Texas

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals 2023-20 for line item bid for 1,000 Chromebooks.

Bid proposals are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. The bids are open immediately and will close November 8th, 2023 at 1:00pm.

Please contact purchasing manager Houcine Chraibi or Purchasing Assistant Bradee Watson with any questions at (817) 408-4029.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hugh C. Smith, Deceased, were granted on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P10198, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Robert Randal Smith.

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 25th day of October 2023. The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for Robert Randal Smith 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

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048

Garage Sales 76048

405 Kinson St- Big garage sale! Fri & Sat Nov 3 & 4, 8:30am - 4pm. Women's clothes (M-XXL). Dresser, 2 couches, 2 recliners, glider chair with ottoman all in good condition. Toddler boy & girl clothes (18mo-3T) and boy size 8. Adult & kid tennis shoes. Kitchen ware, dishes, pots & pans. Holiday decorations. Will cancel if it rains.

YARD SALE: GRANBURY 806 W. Bluff Multi Family: Clothing, toys, household goods, Craft. Fri and Sat November 3rd & 4th 8:00am to 2:00pm Reschedule week later if rain.

2201 Weatherford Hwy- Nov 3 & 4, 8AM - 5PM. HUGE multi family yard sale.

6005 S Lakeside Hills Ct- HUGE YARD SALE: Clothes, jewelry, cookstove dishes etc. Thur-Sat, Nov 2-4, 8am-5pm.

Comanche Cove 1006 Bobcat Trl- Multi family yard sale. Fri. 11/3, Sat. 11/4, Sun. 11/5. 8am-5pm. Many items to choose from!

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Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm Sat. 10am - 4pm Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

3910 Country Ln- Nov 3 & 4, 8am-12pm. Men's bike & carrier, Wedgewood Jasperware, mantel, hot wheels, household items & HO model trains.

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 205 Harborview Ct Brazos Harbor Dishes Lawn Tools Puzzles Audio Books DVDs Deer Antlers Priced to Sell Sat Nov 04

Granbury 76049

Garage Sales 76049



MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 1601 Goodnight Ct-Nov 3rd/4th 8-2 Non-smoking home. Off Meander RD. Moved into new home. Many household items new and nearly new. New light fixtures. Women's clothing (a lot of jeans & leggings) 10-14 xl-xxl). Armoire, vanity settee, silk plants, mirrors, holiday decor, lamps, area rugs, electronics, dog kennels & MUCH more. All well cared for. Rain or Shine.

YARD SALE: GRANBURY 2700 Casas Del Sur Ct- 7am-5pm Nov, 3rd, 4th, 5th. Dishes, clothes, tools.

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 2101 TIMBERWOOD CT- Recently moved. Sale on Friday/Saturday, Nov 3-4, 8a-5p, Furniture, TV, misc household goods & home decor. Rain or Shine.

AMAZING ESTATE SALE: GRANBURY 8812 Brierfield Rd. Amazing Sale in Pecan Plantation! Furniture, Dining Table, Armoire, Lamps, Beds, Antiques, Collectibles, Men & Womens Clothes, W/D, Upright Freezer, Refrigerator, Bookshelves, Books, Piano, Cello, Clubman Golf Cart, Golf Clubs, Artwork, Record Albums, Dishes, China, This is a CASH only sale. CASH is the only form of payment taken. There will NOT be loading assistance available, if you buy it YOU must load it. Sale Hours 10-5, Nov. 2-4 only. Gates open a 9:00 AM. No Early Birds. You must know the address for the sale to be admitted at the Gate.

GARAGE SALE: 126 Donna Cir & 207 Donna Cir- Nov. 10th & 11th. 9am-3pm. 3 family sale. Yard items, clothes, house items, decor & much more! Bring small bills please.

Living room furniture, dining room set, patio set, male and female clothes, female shoes, baker's rack, 40" Visio TV, house goods, big dog kennel, misc. 505 Davis Rd. Fri-Sat, Nov 3-4, 8am-2:30pm.

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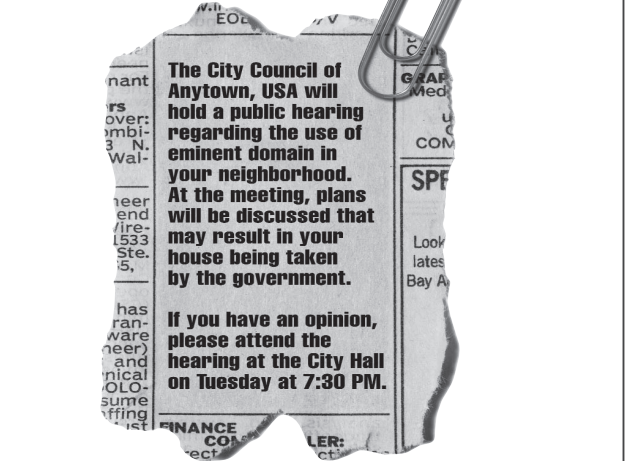
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Hood County News

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COURTESY DALLAS COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Association of Texas featured left to right: immediate past President Gayla Hawkins, Secretary Raul Reyes, Treasurer Leigh Ann McCoy, President Karrie Crownover, President-Elect Ruben Cavazos, 1st Vice President Pauline Medrano, 2nd Vice President LeAnn Monk.

CTAT

FROM PAGE A1

Dallas County Treasurer's Office, being elected as a treasurer for a statewide organization like CTAT is a huge honor.

"The counties have what we call the Texas Association of Counties," McCoy explained. "From that, we have the County Treasurer's Association of Texas. The executive board, which is what I'm on, we basically will come in and provide support for the treasurers."

For this year, McCoy will be tasked with providing support to county treasurers, judges and commissioners all over Texas.

"We have a scholarship fund that we take care of," she said. "If there (was a) county treasurer (in the family) and that child is going to college, they can apply for the scholarships. We do a lot of fundraising for the counties. If there's anything that they need, we can help out in that area."

She explained that she also has another duty — serving as both secretary and treasurer for region 6, which includes the counties of Taylor, Runnels, Concho, Coleman, Callahan, McCulloch, San Saba, Brown, Eastland, Comanche, Mills, Lampasas, Erath, Hamilton, Coryell, Bell, McLennan, Hill, Bosque, Somervell, Hood and Johnson.

"We have the executive

board, which is over the state of treasurers, and then we are broken off into regions," she explained. "We have a region six, which I'm secretary and treasurer of that one, so we're just kind of your local help. We're a good support system for anybody."

In total, McCoy serves as treasurer for Hood County, treasurer for CTAT, and secretary and treasurer for region six.

She added that in the 254 counties in the state of Texas, there are only nine counties that do not have treasurers.

"I think the last one (that was abolished) was back in the 80s, and of course now, they're realizing they need that position, but it's really

hard to put that position back once you abolish it," McCoy explained.

Last year, McCoy served as secretary for CTAT, but she believes the treasurer position is the "most intense position of the whole board."

She said her goal in her new position of treasurer is to serve as a resource for people and to grow her knowledge as treasurer.

"Even though I've been here four-and-a-half years, it still seems like there's so much more to learn," she said. "When they do reach out, I just want to be that comfort. I think this year is just to grow and to learn. I just want to become more knowledgeable on my position and governmental

issues."

Before serving as Hood County treasurer, McCoy worked for the district clerk for three years. Prior to that, her mother owned a court record research business, and she spent her time traveling from courthouse to courthouse, where she obtained records from the district clerk, county clerk and district judge.

"Since my mother started the business when I was a teenager, I'd always wanted to be with the county," she explained. "Like, I would see the courthouse, and I'd be like, 'I want to be there one day.' I never thought I'd become an elected official, but here we are."

McCoy has been a resident of Granbury since 2014.

She and her husband, Steve, have three children and eight grandchildren.

"I look forward to serving CTAT as treasurer," McCoy stated in the newsletter. "I look forward to learning from the leaders in this association, and also connecting with new treasurers. I am grateful to serve as the Hood County treasurer for my community and the citizens. I absolutely enjoy the journey."

She told the HCN, "I want to know that I've done the best job that I can do, no matter what."

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WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS

Some geese decided to take a dip in the new area of water in front of the Brazos Harbor community after several hours of rain fell on Oct. 25.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Hood County experienced a long rainy day on Oct. 25 that led to high rainfall totals and some minor flooding.

The National Weather Service's rain gauge which sits in the middle of Granbury measured 4.74 inches.

Some of the higher totals were found along Highway 377 totaling 7.27 inches

and 6.58 inches near Pecan Plantation.

The NWS issued two flood advisories for Hood County, one at 6:12 p.m.

and the other at 10:30 p.m. Both were later replaced with flash flood warnings

after rain continued to pour down for hours upon hours.

Jennifer Dunn, warning coordination meteorologist with the NWS, added that an advisory is typically issued when minor or nuisance flooding is expected or occurring.

"This is usually issued when flooding of the normal trouble spots occurs, or creeks and streams are rising or overflowing a little bit. A flash flood warn-

ing means life-threatening flooding has occurred or (is) anticipated. Flooding is beyond the normal trouble spots and people need to take actions to protect themselves (in these cases)."

Dunn continued, "One of the main contributors was the moisture from Hurricane Otis that carried into our region (and) played a large factor in the higher rainfall totals."

According to the Brazos

River Authority's Lead Hydrologist Chris Higgins, areas around the upper end of Lake Granbury, including Tolar and Lipan, received around three to four inches of rain since Oct. 25.

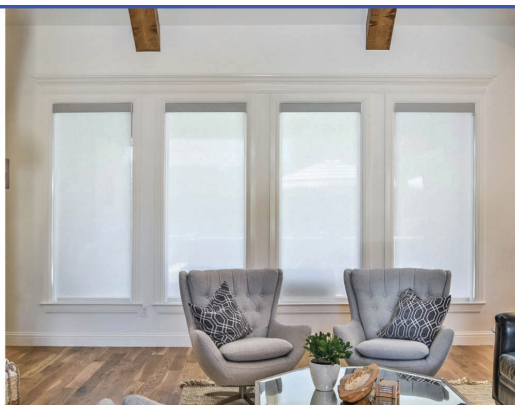
"There were areas in the lower portion of the lake that received rainfall totals ranging from six to eight inches. Lake Granbury was about 1.5 feet low before this event and is now near full," Higgins said.

Higgins noted that a re-

lease of water was initiated early in the morning on Oct. 26 to manage the lake at a safe operational level.

Although some culverts are clogged in the Tolar area, Granbury and Lipan report no damage from the storm.

As a result of the heavy rains, the burn ban for Hood County, in place since July 18, has been lifted.



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- Replacement Windows

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- Interior Doors
- Hardware

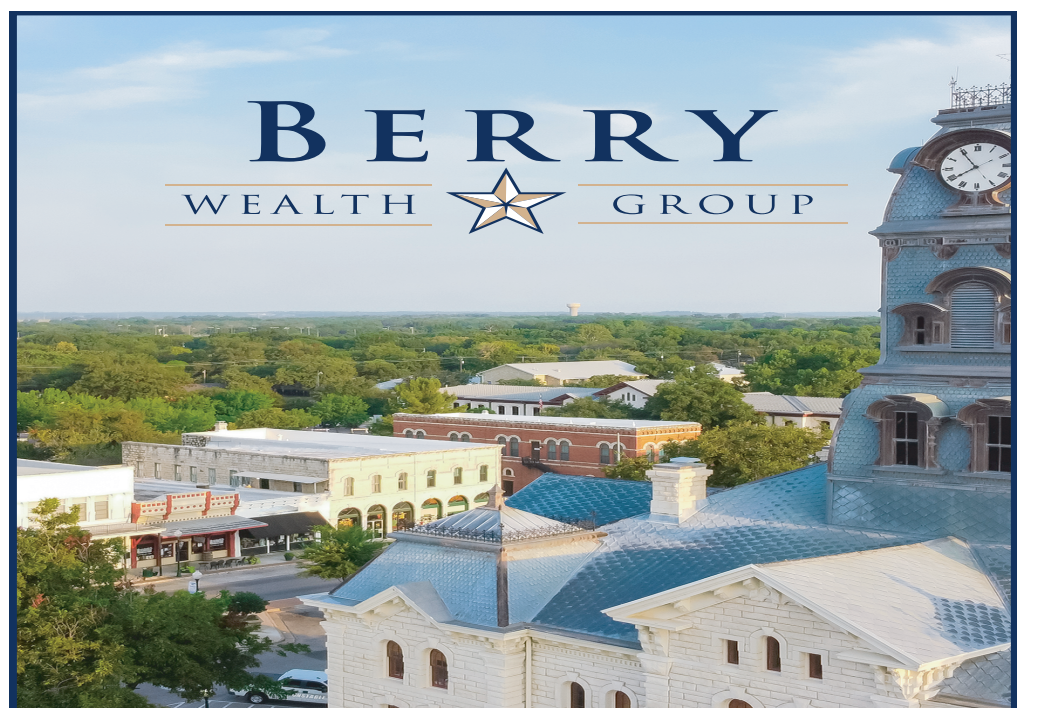
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- Plantation Shutters
- Wood Blinds
- Faux Wood Blinds
- Vertical Blinds

- Roller Shades
- Cellular Shades
- Natural Shades
- Pleated Shades
- Roman Shades
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OBITUARIES

Rebecca Ann Rizer

October 11, 1942 - October 18, 2023

Rebecca Ann (Dixon) Rizer died on October 18, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas, following hospitalization from a stroke. She was born to Lealice King Dixon and Ellis B. Dixon on October 11, 1942, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where her father was assigned during WWII. Native West Texans, following the war, the family moved back to San Angelo, where Rebecca grew up, graduating from San Angelo Central High School in 1960, attending San Angelo College, and graduating in 1964 from Southwest Texas State College, now Texas State University in San Marcos.

Known by all as Becky, she had a special passion for music and dance, and was a member of the dance teams at all three schools. She was married in 1967 to Lewis Craig Rizer, who preceded her in death on December 19, 1995.

Becky and Craig spent many happy years living and working in Granbury, Texas - he as a Kraft Foods representative and she in local banks. They were members of First Presbyterian Church of Granbury. With many friends and acquaintances, both were active in community life; he helped to establish the Indian Harbor Volunteer Fire Department in their lake-side community, and she volunteered with several organizations, including the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Board of the Indian Harbor Homeowners Association for many years.

Following Craig's death, Becky turned her focus once again to her lifelong love of dance, becoming active in both tap dance



and clogging groups which participated in community events and entertained for nursing homes and others. During those years, Becky met and shared a loving friendship with Joe Bingham centered around friends, the antique car hobby, visits with their extended families, and a mutual love for their cat, Libby, until Joe's death in 2010.

In 2018, Becky moved to San Antonio to be near her sister, settling in the Waterford on Huebner, a senior living community, where she made many new friends and enjoyed playing games, celebrating special events, and visiting. She is survived by her sister, Lou Williams; brother-in-law, David Williams; nephew, Tom Williams; niece, Susan Williams Sloan; and numerous cousins.

Following cremation, interment will be at University Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, and a memorial plaque will be placed beside her husband's grave in the Bosley Cemetery, Santo, Palo Pinto County, TX. Memorial celebrations of life are pending in both places.

Memorial contributions to the charity of your choice are welcome.

Henry Thomas Womack, Jr

December 5, 1941 - October 18, 2023

Passed away October 18, 2023. Tom was born December 5, 1941 in Mare Island, New York to Henry Thomas Womack, Sr. and Ava McQuiston Womack. He grew up in West Texas, completing his bachelor's in mathematics, and master's in School Counseling at Abilene Christian University. He taught school in New York, coaching golf and bowling in his early career. He moved to Granbury in 1985 where he taught math at Granbury High School until he retired.

Tom bowled three per-

fect 300 games, was an avid golfer, enjoyed playing poker, cooking, and could calculate square roots to four decimals in his head.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, only brother Rick, and first wife Jan. Survived by his wife Kathy Bedford Womack, daughters Lauren Womack (Andrew Levegood), Katie Womack (Charles Walker) and Jill Womack Fields (Adam Fields) and grandson Colin Fields.

No services are planned at this time.

Lynvol Joe Arthur

March 18, 1939 - October 24, 2023

Lynvol J. Arthur died in Granbury, Texas on October 24, 2023. A memorial service will be held at Wiley Funeral home in Granbury, Texas at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

Lynvol was born on March 18, 1939, in Amarillo, Texas. He graduated from Mineola High School in 1957. He received a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech in 1963 and a master's degree in Engineering Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1969. He worked for General Dynamics, F&M Systems, and ultimately for Electrospace Systems Incorporated.

He married the love of his life, Anne Tomlinson, on February 28, 1965, in Frederick, Oklahoma. He and Anne lived in Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano, Glen



Rose and Granbury.

Lynvol is survived by his wife Anne Arthur, his children, Illayna Arthur and Garrett Arthur and his wife Amy. His grandchildren, Grayson Miller, Fiona Arthur and Emmett Arthur. Also, his brother D'Nard Dawes Arthur and his wife Beth.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

Wanda Gray Langston

December 7, 1930 - October 27, 2023

Wanda Gray Langston, 92, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and longtime Granbury resident passed away in the early hours of Friday, October 27, 2023.

Wanda entered this life on December 7, 1930, in Tolar, Texas. She was the youngest of nine children born to the late Earnest and Sarah Gray. A woman of deep faith, she was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Granbury for over six decades. There she made many lifelong friendships and engaged in numerous ministries, including service as a prayer warrior. Wanda delighted in gardening, volunteer work, Texas Rangers baseball, Dallas Mavericks basketball, baking cookies, reading books, playing games, watching Gunsmoke reruns, and crocheting. Most of all, she treasured time spent with her family - especially with her grandchildren, who adored their Grandma. She had a steadfast sense of humor and was always quick to note that she did not go to school just to eat her lunch. And those around her believed it.

Wanda enjoyed many productive working years and held notable positions at what was then Tarleton State College in Stephenville and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth. She is survived by her children: Michael (Ina) Langston of



Knoxville, Tennessee, and Elaine Langston of Arlington, Texas; her grandchildren: Kathlin (Lucian) Godwin of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Keith Langston of San Francisco, California; and her great-grandchildren: Lucy, Matthew, and Lily Godwin.

In addition to her parents, Wanda was preceded in death by her siblings: Myrtle Williams, Theodore Buff, Mary Ellen Kiesling, Earnest Gray, Fredonia Fox, Bobbie Kephart, Charlie Gray, and Rose Hatcher; and by her cherished grandson, Glen Langston.

Visitation was held from noon until 12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023, at the First United Methodist Church of Granbury, located at 301 Loop 567. A celebration of her life was held at the church. Afterwards, Wanda was laid to rest in a private ceremony at Rock Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Methodist Children's Home in Waco.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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ACROSS

- gem found in Texas
- this Guthrie was at several "Farm Aids" with TX Willie
- owner of "Cantina" in song "El Paso"
- Fri. night score
- "adios" in Mexico
- a primate is one
- "___ to your own business"
- TXism: "thin skinned"
- TX Gary Morris' "___ Is All It Takes" (1991)
- in Wichita County on highway 258
- Baylor has bronze sculpture "___"
- Hands of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- leave out or exclude
- fancy word for members of a household
- in Johnson County on highway 174
- enters again on a word processor
- late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
- barbecue beef cuts (2 wds.)
- kick out
- "Zip-a-dee-doo-___"
- being a Texan can ___ you to brag and exaggerate
- Dorothy Malone attended "___ Academy of Dallas"
- IRS number for an employer (abbr.)
- this Houston played for the University of Texas in 2010 BCS Championship Game
- "leave ___ that"
- "Alamo City" abbr.
- this Nen pitched one season for the Rangers
- "___ Tex Cavalry" was an Indoor Football team
- cowboy boot option for the toes
- British singer, John
- TX Tanya's "___ Cowboy Lovin' Night"
- TXism: "take a look ___"
- TX Annette O'Toole film: "48 ___"
- TXism: "he's only got one ___ in the water" (slow witted)
- a Spur, Rocket, or Mav, e.g.
- Van ____, Texas
- TXism for "equipped" (3 wds.)
- "Big ___ National Park"
- TXism: "that'll ___ (exciting)"
- TXism: "got ___ itchy trigger finger"
- Miss or Mrs.
- this Texan won shot put Gold in 1992 (2 wds.)
- South Padre Island acquisition (2 wds.)
- capital of Peru
- TXism: "brave enough ___"
- "boomtown cafe"
- narrow cut
- homeless person
- Crystal City, TX has a statue of "Pop ___"
- Sailor Man"
- that'll ___ (exciting)
- TX Carolyn of "The Addams Family" (init.)
- ___ Fresno, TX
- this Arthur won 1975 tennis title held in Dallas
- emitted light
- ___ Creek State Park"
- Don't ___ With Texas"
- happy cat sound
- actor Taylor of Texas-based "Ride, Vaquero!" (init.)
- TXism: "he's green around the gills"
- noted Texas jewelry designer, Malouf
- TX Freeman was ___ Hall on "One Life to Live"
- not less
- put an end to
- snouts
- rape evidence abbr.

What should you know about RMDs?

TAYLOR MOBLY
 Edward Jones
 Financial Adviser



Taylor Mobly

You may spend decades contributing to various retirement accounts. But for some accounts, such as a traditional IRA and 401(k), you must start withdrawing funds at a certain point. What should you know about this requirement?

To begin with, the rules governing these withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — have changed recently. For many years, individuals had to begin taking their RMDs (which are based

on the account balance and the IRS' life expectancy factor) when they turned 70½. The original SECURE Act of 2019 raised this age to 72, and SECURE 2.0, passed in 2022, raised it again, to 73. (If you turned 73 in 2023, and you were 72 in 2022 when the RMD limit was still 72, you should have taken your first RMD for 2022 by April 1 of this year. You will then need to take your 2023 RMD by Dec. 31. And going forward, you'll also need to take your RMDs by the end of

every year.) Not all retirement accounts are subject to RMDs. They aren't required for a Roth IRA, and, starting in 2024, won't be required for a Roth 401(k) or 403(b) plan. But if your account does call for RMDs, you do need to take them, because if you don't, you could face tax penalties. Previously, this penalty was 50% of the amount you were supposed to have taken, but SECURE 2.0 reduced it to 25%. When you take your RMDs, you need to be aware of a key issue: taxes. RMDs are taxed as ordinary income, and, as such, they could potentially bump you into a higher tax

bracket and possibly even increase your Medicare premiums, which are determined by your modified adjusted gross income. Are there any ways you could possibly reduce an RMD-related tax hike? You might have some options. Here are two to consider: • Convert tax-deferred accounts to Roth IRA. You could convert some, or maybe all, of your tax-deferred retirement accounts to a Roth IRA. By doing so, you could lower your RMDs in the future — while adding funds to an account you're never required to touch. So, if

you don't really need all the money to live on, you could include the remainder of the Roth IRA in your estate plans, providing an initially tax-free inheritance to your loved ones. However, converting a tax-deferred account to a Roth IRA will generate taxes in the year of conversion, so you'd need the money available to pay this tax bill. • Donate RMDs to charity. In what's known as a qualified charitable distribution, you can move up to \$100,000 of your RMDs directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity, avoiding the taxes that might otherwise result if you took the RMDs yourself.

After 2023, the \$100,000 limit will be indexed to inflation. Of course, before you start either a Roth IRA conversion or a qualified charitable distribution, you will need to consult with your tax advisor, as both these moves have issues you must consider and may not be appropriate for your situation. But it's always a good idea to know as much as you can about the various aspects of RMDs — they could play a big part in your retirement income strategy.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

know, is suffering from the loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19, 2023. We are Christian-based, nondenominational and welcome all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the parish hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

EVERY MONDAY
PROMISES AL-ANON group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept 13.-Dec. 13,

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

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

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

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

RE-ENGAGE MARRIAGE enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email paige.kitchens@stone-waterchurch.com

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

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

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

community. Details: 817-326-4693.

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

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

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

THIRD TUESDAY
ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church,

3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

FOURTH TUESDAY
PARKINSON'S SUPPORT Group, 1 p.m. at Lakestone Terrace, 916 E. U.S. Highway 377. Open for those with Parkinson's Disease 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.

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Small changes could help prevent Type-2 Diabetes

Type-2 diabetes is on the rise among children and young adults

Over 30 million Americans have Type-2 diabetes. If left untreated or unmanaged, the disease can damage all aspects of the cardiovascular system, cause blindness, heart disease, loss of limbs, and other serious conditions.

While Type-2 diabetes is most often diagnosed in adults 45 and older with a family history of the disease or in those who are overweight or obese, the condition is now becoming more prevalent in children, teens, and young adults. Fortunately, there are small lifestyle changes and habits that can help prevent this chronic condition in people of all ages while also improving overall health.

As the most common type



Dr. Kline

of diabetes, Type-2 diabetes is when the body creates too much insulin or resists it, which causes blood sugar levels to rise.

"The reality is that there is no cure for Type-2 diabetes, so taking steps to prevent this disease is your best course of action," says



LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Kathryn Kline, M.D., family medicine physician at Lakeside Physicians. "Even small changes in lifestyle like taking a daily walk or drinking water instead of juice can help ward off a diagnosis and make a big impact on your health."

Dr. Kline suggests four ways to prevent Type-2 diabetes.

MANAGE WEIGHT AND BELLY FAT
 Excess weight in the abdo-

men and obesity are main causes of Type-2 diabetes. Experts recommend maintaining a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 and a waistline of less than 35 inches for women and less than 40 inches for men.

EXERCISE REGULARLY
 Daily exercise can help avoid heart disease, reduce stress and Type-2 diabetes. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes of moder-

ate aerobic exercise, like walking or biking, and two strength workouts each week.

MOVE MORE
 Additional movement beyond exercise can also help keep off weight. Consider taking the stairs rather than an elevator or standing during work meetings to add more movement into daily life.

EAT FRESH FOOD
 Avoid overly-processed foods like chips, candy and deli meats, and focus on foods rich in fiber and nutrients like fruits, vegetables and lean protein.

Unfortunately, Type-2 diabetes could take years to develop, and symptoms are often hard to detect. If you experience extreme fatigue, numbness or tingling in the hands or feet or blurred vision, it is important to get tested.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kline, please call (817) 326-3900 or visit <https://lakegranburymedical.com/KathrynKline>

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Midas Granbury to offer free oil changes to veterans Nov. 11

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

One local business is doing its part to give back to service men and women by providing a complimentary vehicle service this Veterans Day.

Auto repair shop Midas Granbury, 1441 N. Plaza Drive, will offer free oil changes to veterans from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11.

"This is where it starts. This is the beginning," said Robert Rangel, owner of Midas Granbury. "We have historically done other things for veterans. Before I owned the shop, (we) used to give away state inspections sometimes to veterans on certain occasions. Then, we gave away a truck to a veteran a few years ago."



Midas Granbury is offering veterans a free oil change on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11.

In 2021, Midas Granbury gave away a red 2009 Chevy Silverado pickup to Marine

veteran James Farrell as part of its Project Spark program. "We buy vehicles that are

probably too expensive to repair, and then we get vendors to donate parts, we

donate the labor, we get it fixed, and then we donate the truck," Rangel previously told the HCN. "This particular one (was given) to a vet who doesn't have a way to get to work anymore."

The creation of the free oil change event, however, was the brainchild of recently hired store manager and veteran Bryan Blackheart.

"As a veteran myself, for the last many years, a lot of places do things to help veterans out, especially during Veterans Day, to bring awareness to the sacrifices that veterans have made over the years, from any war and any era," Blackheart explained.

The free oil change is for one vehicle per family with a maximum value of \$49.99, which includes a maximum of five quarts of synthetic

blend oil. Full synthetic oil and diesel oil are extra, while supplies last.

"It's whatever marks up to 50 bucks, so other than that, they would have to pay the difference," Blackheart said, who served in the Army for nine years and the Air Force for 11. "It's first come, first served and no appointments. We expect we can handle about 80 vehicles that day."

Rangel, who has no history of serving in the military, explained that his mom worked for the VA (Veterans Affairs) her entire career, serving as chief of psychology at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

"She's been giving back to veterans her entire life. She specialized in studying PTSD, finding treatments,

PLEASE SEE MIDAS | 16

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Allies
in Youth Development

Allies in Youth Development

"Allies in Youth Development provides donors, advocates, and volunteers the organization they need to rescue orphans from a future of despair by providing them with human connection, life skills, and a pathway to education."

"Our 2023 Vision is to Empower 1000 in-country volunteers across 25 countries to forever transform the lives of 13,000 orphans through nurturing friendships, modeling biblical love, and providing education. Allies in Youth Development provides donors, advocates, and volunteers the organization they need to rescue orphans from a future of despair by providing them with human connection, life skills, and a pathway to education." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

ANN TOWLES

Business:
Independent Financial

Time as Chamber Ambassador:
1 Year!

We are very thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Ann Towles! Ann has served as a chamber ambassador for a little less than 1 year! When asked what she loves about being an ambassador, she said, "I love getting to know my community, meeting new people, and getting to learn about their business. Supporting a new incoming business or celebrating an established business makes me feel great to be an ambassador." Fun Fact about Ann: "I used to develop pictures for a newspaper. The owner of the paper knew that I was a fan of boxing, so he gave me the opportunity to interview Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad before their match in 1999!" Thank you, Ann, for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Once upon a time... 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.

Before the internet Realtors® searched for listings in an MLS book. Updated only once a month, with a font size so small you needed a magnifying glass, it was basically a catalog that contained the address of the property, age, price, room dimensions, a brief description, and if you were lucky, a single black and white photo. These books were still being used well into the mid-1990s, until the online versions were finally streamlined enough to be user friendly. In today's world, sitting on my couch with my laptop, e-mailing listings to clients or taking a virtual reality tour on my smart phone, I marvel at just how much technology has impacted my life as a Realtor®.

Prior to the invention of the electronic "key" each broker held the keys to their

listings in their offices. This meant agents had to visit multiple real estate offices to pick up keys before going out to show houses, and at the end of the day those keys had to be returned. Once after having shown all day and returning all keys, I left with my family to go to dinner in Fort Worth. We made it all the way to Benbrook when my cell phone (which was too big to fit in my purse and weighed as much as a brick) started ringing. It was a broker from a competing office wanting to know where her key was. A quick search of my car revealed a key that had fallen between the seats. So, back to Granbury we went to return the key with apologies not only to the broker but also to my unhappy and very hungry family.

It wasn't until 1996 that the fax machine was finally



COURTESY PHOTO

Prior to the invention of the electronic "key" each broker held the keys to their listings in their offices. This meant agents had to visit multiple real estate offices to pick up keys before going out to show houses, and at the end of the day those keys had to be returned.

recognized as a legal method for obtaining signatures. Prior to that, sales contracts had to be signed in person. Agents spent hours and hours driving to clients' homes and offices to obtain

signatures. Out-of-town clients had to do everything by US mail. It was a slow and tedious process at best. The fax machine brought some relief; however, the quality was sometime so bad docu-

ments were barely legible. You can only imagine how quickly the real estate industry embraced the technology that brought us online signature capability.

This is, of course, the short

list, but try to envision buying or selling a home without access to all the amazing and sophisticated IT tools we have now: photos and extensive details on every home listed in the MLS, virtual reality tours, and the ability to sign contracts on your smartphone. There are also lockboxes that tell us who has accessed your home and when, and the list goes on. Technology changes so fast in today's world, it's easy to forget just how much it has truly impacted our industry, and in a very positive way.

The Knieper Team has always embraced and set out to master the latest and greatest tools at our disposal, and I feel that is just one of the reasons we continue to enjoy so much success in this industry. If you have questions or comments about how we can use today's technology to help you buy or sell real estate, give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

pamK@knieperteam.com / 817-219-0456

MIDAS

FROM PAGE A16

and helping people," Rangel said. "I love giving back to the community, but I'm also curious to see how we can get 80 cars done in a day. It's gonna be all hands on deck."

To qualify for the free oil change, veterans must be present at Midas Granbury on the 11th and must show a valid form of ID, like a military or a veteran's ID, or a DD Form 214 (a certificate of release or discharge from active duty).

Rangel said if this event brings a good turnout, Midas

Granbury will also offer this event again in the future.

"I definitely think we'd like to do more events in general," he said. "You'll see us doing more things."

Rangel has been the owner of Midas Granbury since November 2019, with his main goal of giving back and providing customers with quality care and satisfaction.

"I really like the brand," he said. "I like what we have to offer, and what we have to give customers. We've got nationwide warranties on a lot of parts, and we're always giving back to veterans. Actually, if you're a veter-

an and you want to open a Midas, they waive, I think, almost all the franchise fees."

Blackheart has only been employed at Midas Granbury for a few months, but he said Rangel has already given him the leeway to assist families if needed.

"It isn't just veterans," he said. "If there's a family that needs help, I have the right and permission already to just go ahead and take care of it. I've done it already a few times where I'll either nix the bill completely and let them go or just (ask them) 'How much can you afford?' and that's what it will

be. That right there is the difference between a straight corporation and a mom and pop (business). Even though this is a corporate store, it's still run like a mom and pop (business), so we have that leverage that we can do."

Rangel said it's a tough retail business to be in, because to customers, car service is normally a "grudge purchase."

"Most people don't wake up in the morning and say, 'I want to spend my paycheck fixing my car,' so they're already walking in unhappy to be here, so we try to turn that experience around,"

Rangel explained. "If you're gonna have to do it, you might as well be treated right and make sure you get good quality (service)."

Blackheart added that Midas Granbury will also provide courtesy vehicles for people in the case of a large repair, so customers won't have to find alternate means of transportation while their car is being serviced.

"We're actually thinking about expanding that fleet, so we have more vehicles available," Blackheart added.

Rangel added that most mom and pop businesses have longer wait times due

to a small staff. However, for Midas, he said he usually tells his customers to come in on that same day.

"Obviously some days are busier than others, but we want people — when they have an issue — to be able to get it fixed quickly," he said.

Rangel said he is hoping for a big turnout for Midas Granbury's first Veterans Day event.

For more information, call Midas Granbury at 817-776-8372, or visit midas.com.

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Lipan freshman wasted no time in making impact

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Lipan has long been known for its success in basketball, including state championships for both the boys and girls last season.

But the basketball court isn't the only place Lipan is running to success. They do pretty well on the cross country course as well, and for the second time in three seasons the Lady Indians will be represented at the Class 2A state meet.

Freshman Annslee Tarpley will hit the course at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 10:10 a.m. She qualified after finishing 12th in the Region II meet in Grand Prairie on Oct. 24.

"I'm very surprised about making it to state as a freshman because at the start of the season I never thought I would make it this far," said a humble Tarpley. "I'm so thankful and blessed that coach (Misty) Little not only

pushed me to do my best, she believed in me even when I doubted myself."

GLIMPSE OF FUTURE

Indeed, Little did. She knew from Tarpley's performances in junior high what the young runner was capable of.

"When Annslee was in junior high she was consistently my first- or second-place runner. She was the district champion her eighth-grade year," Little said. "She came into high school workouts already running very well. She earned her spot on the varsity team.

About midway through the season Tarpley experienced a hip flexor strain that set her back a bit. She had to pause her workouts for a few days.

However, she bounced back quickly and set a personal best at the District 11-2A meet of 12:58 over the 2-mile course for third place. She followed that up with another personal-record time of 12:36 at regionals, which has her ranked 21st in

the state among all Class 2A runners.

GETTING STARTED

Tarpley started running long distance in the seventh grade with a group of friends.

"We had a lot of fun running together and we got in shape for basketball. I realized then I might have a talent for this," she said.

She comes from a running family. In fact, her father, Steve Tarpley, was on the first Lipan cross country team ever to reach state in 1997.

Her mother also reached state in distance running four straight years and received a scholarship to run at Stephen F. Austin State University.

FAMILIAR COURSE

Tarpley is not unfamiliar with the course at Old Settlers Park as Lipan competed in the McNeil Invitational there on Sept. 22. Ironically, it was Tarpley's worst performance

of the season, something she is eager to correct this time.

"It's a tough course because the path is so narrow it's easy to get stuck behind other runners. That's why it's important to get out fast, which can also be a challenge because you have to save some energy for all the hills," Tarpley said.

"She is excited to get another opportunity at it and hopes to PR for the year," Little said. "The 2A race should be a great one because there are so many great runners at our level.

"I'm excited Annslee has achieved her goal of making it to this point and I hope she competes to the best of her ability and attains the goals she has set for herself."

And while she's competing solo, Tarpley showed her commitment to her team and the overall program with her comment, "I would just like to thank my team, my coach and the manager for making this season of cross country one of the best. Without them I wouldn't be where I am right now."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISTY LITTLE

Lipan freshman Annslee Tarpley qualified for the Class 2A State Cross Country Meet. She will compete in Round Rock Saturday, Nov. 4.



COURTESY OF TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Justice Ken Wise will serve as speaker for the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, at Granbury Live, 110 N. Crockett St.

Justice Ken Wise to speak in Ramay-Macatee series

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Bridge Street History Center will have an esteemed guest speaker at its Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series on Thursday, Nov. 9. The event is set for 6:30 p.m. at Granbury Live, located at 110 N. Crockett St. in Granbury.

Justice Ken Wise will serve as speaker for the ninth annual event as he provides guests with an enlightening exploration of Texas history.

As the host of the award-winning — and cleverly-named — podcast "Wise About Texas," Wise has captivated audiences with his engaging storytelling.

In fact, his podcast is what inspired interest from the Bridge Street History Center to invite the Houston resident to serve as a speaker for the Ramey-Macatee Speaker Series.

"I listen to podcasts when

I exercise, go for a walk, for a drive, whatever, and I found (his podcast) and somehow I started listening to it," said Cody Martin, board member of the Bridge Street History Center. "(Wise) typically covers stuff that's not really well-known, like some lesser-known topics about Texas history. But I just reached out to him after I started listening to his podcast, emailed him, and chatted with him by email a few times about different topics."

In addition to his podcasting prowess, Justice Wise serves on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston and has shared his expertise as a professor at both the University of Houston Law Center and Houston Baptist University.

"He's kind of a big deal," Martin said. "At least in legal circles anyway. I don't know how many justices there are around the state, but prob-

ably not that many."

During the series, Wise will delve into captivating stories from the early days of the Texas Rangers, including a remarkable episode near Granbury involving the legendary Ranger John "Rip" Ford.

"It ties into the early Texas Rangers because back then, the Texas Rangers didn't think of themselves as law enforcement," Martin said. "They considered themselves a military unit."

Following Wise's talk, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session, providing a chance to delve deeper into Texas history and gain valuable insights from the distinguished speaker. The evening will conclude with a short reception, offering an excellent opportunity

PLEASE SEE WISE | B2

Girls basketball previews

Lady Indians go for repeat Championship

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Anyone who is at all familiar with Lipan basketball knows each season begins with the same quest — competing for a state championship.

Now comes time for another familiar scenario — defending a state championship. Last season ended with the Lady Indians and Indians capturing a Class 2A title in each of their respective categories — the first time the historic program has ever accomplished that feat.

It was the third state championship for the Lady Indians, 35-3 in 2022-23, all under the leadership of coach Amber Branson — a former player who led Lipan to state in the mid-1990s. She also coached them to titles in 2016 and 2021.

The Lady Indians have played in 10 state tournaments in their history. Branson has led them to eight since 2011.

The Lady Indians enter the 2023-24 season as favorites to repeat as state champions. They are ranked No. 1 in both the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) and Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) pre-season polls.

Back to lead the charge as Lipan looks to make another appearance are returning starters Taylor Branson, a senior point guard, and junior guard/forward Hanna Gaylor. Between them they received a plethora of accolades, including:

- T. Branson - District 11-2A Defensive MVP, academic all-district, all-tournament selection at Brock and Lipan Tournaments, TABC All-Region, TABC All-State, TGCA All-State, TGCA Academic All-State, Class 2A All-State Tournament Team, Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) 2A Super Team.
- Gaylor - District 11-2A Co-Offensive MVP, aca-

demically all-district, all-tournament selection at Lipan Tournament, TABC All-Region, TABC All-State, TGCA All-State, TGCA Academic All-State, THSCA 2A Super Team.

Key reserves who could make the move to the starting lineup this season include senior forward Ashlyn Clark and junior guard/forward Madison Cornelius. Clark was the district's Sixth Man of the Year and Cornelius was a first-team all-district pick.

A newcomer who could make a quick impact, coach Branson noted, is junior guard/forward Alisha Green.

"The girls have worked really hard this spring, summer and fall. We graduated a lot of key players, and a group that has played together for a long time," coach Branson said. "This group has worked at filling the gaps of those that have graduated and building a team chemistry on and off the floor.

"They have been really fun to watch, and we can't wait to get the season started."

The Lady Indians will open the season at Maypearl on Tuesday, Nov. 7 and play their first home game on Friday, Nov. 10 against Priddy. Both varsity games are slated for 6:15 p.m.

GRANBURY LADY PIRATES

On the heels of their best record since 2011, the Granbury Lady Pirates are looking to improve on that impressive showing this season.

Last season contained many highlights, including head coach Alan Thorpe getting his 600th career victory. Thorpe also led the Lady Pirates to the third round of the playoffs for a third straight season.

Back to lead the way as Granbury seeks a playoff return are senior guard Ella Garner and junior post Kate Hamlin. Garner was a first-team All-District 5-5A selection and Hamlin was second team.

Senior post Brionna Johnson is a key reserve who could find herself in the starting lineup this season, Thorpe noted. He added that several newcomers are set to make their mark, including sophomore point guard Jolie Hayes and junior guards Bailey Goodman and Fayth Fry.

"We will be inexperienced early this year, but I feel good about this team and what they can accomplish," Thorpe said. "(I'm) looking forward to this season. It should be another fun ride."

The Lady Pirates began their season on the road at Keller Central on Friday, Nov. 3. They are on the road again Tuesday, Nov. 7 at North Crowley at 6:30 p.m. and play their first home game on Nov. 14 against Burleson at 6:30 p.m.

TOLAR LADY RATTLERS

Ericka Halfmann takes over at the helm of the Tolar Lady Rattlers basketball team as she looks to build upon last season's 13-17 squad that advanced to bidistrict. Returning starters are senior guards Trinity Rousseau and Senne Imel, along with sophomore guard Callan Nix.

Imel was a first-team All-District 11-2A selection. Rousseau and Nix were named to the second team.

"The starting lineup is always up for grabs and the kids who show up every day and work hard are the ones that will earn those spots," Halfmann said. "The competition is tough and the kids are working hard.

"Every year is always exciting to watch the kids develop and grow. I'm excited for each one to make an impact. We are going to grow and continue to play with a relentless attitude."

The Lady Rattlers begin the season Saturday, Nov. 4, at home against Early at 11:30 a.m. They travel to Gorman Tuesday, Nov. 7, for a 6:15 p.m. tipoff.



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Halloween traditions, old and new

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

Halloween. With each decade Americans' obsession with the holiday grows, spending now over \$10 billion a year on costumes, decorations, candy and greeting cards. Even pets are included in the holiday as pet costumes continue to rise in sales.

A favorite sight is costumed children scampering across Hood County at the courthouse, in the neighborhoods, at "trunk or treats" and senior centers.

Offices across the county enjoyed matching or themed costumes, costume contests or pumpkin carving contests, and more. Schools across the region celebrated "dress like a book character day" and even golf games ensued in costume.

Though there is debate on the origin of Halloween, one thing is agreed upon: Halloween has become a thoroughly American holiday. Though celebrated in many places, Americans have taken the holiday to new heights. Most of how we celebrate Halloween in our culture has developed over decades as a celebration and even that has changed over time.



PHOTO BY DARREN CLARK | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

In business for 26 years, Dr. Stephen Krzeminski's staff at the Lakeshore ENT office competed in a costume contest on Halloween. The staff alternates between pumpkin carving contests and costume contests every year. Patients and visitors vote on each year's winners who receive cash prizes. The contestants this year, from left: Chik Fil-A Jenna Calderola, Cereal Killer Jaye Robinson, Witch Andrea Aguayo, Three Blind Mice Meghan Currier, BOOger Catcher Jessica Carvajal, Operation Game Blayne Butterfield, Ursula Cheyenne Redden, Bridegroom Kelli White, and Mermaid Tamara Crites.

Originally popularized in the United States by the influx of immigrants at the turn of 1900, particularly the Irish, by the 1920s and 1930s Halloween had become a community-centered holiday. By the 1950s Halloween was seen as primarily a children's holiday.

Rarely would a current Halloween party include bobbing for apples though that was a common game at

parties in the last century. Bobbing for apples is a game where participants would try their hand (pardon the pun) — no hands allowed — to retrieve an apple with their mouth alone. Perhaps we no longer want to share saliva with a room full of people as we stick our heads in a bucket of cold water.

Even trick-or-treating, the hallmark of the holiday, has changed somewhat. Rarely

is a trick-or-treater expected to entertain the candy-givers with a trick like standing on your head to earn the treat, though you will occasionally hear of this.

It's no wonder trick-or-treaters used to expect to be entertained in exchange for a treat — the treats were typically handmade prior to the 1950s. Homemade popcorn balls, fruit, coins or homemade cakes were the norm

until candy makers noted an opportunity to offer an economical alternative — pre-packaged candy.

Baby boomers recall the simple costumes of their childhood: a cowboy, a rodeo clown, a ghost with a sheet and two eye-holes that moms may have made, or children put together themselves.

Many of Generation X recall costumes mom brought

home from the grocery store packaged in a cardboard box with a clear window to see the costume. The plastic mask gathered moisture as the wearer attempted to see through the eyeholes.

Millennials fared better as costumes became ever more plush, better made and machine washable.

Generation Z and onward has the best of all worlds, since the internet makes any costume a reality as long as the budget allows. And yes, Moms have upped their costume-making game as well.

At one time teen trick-or-treaters would be unheard of but are common today. Even some adults trick or treat and online discussion on the aging out of trick-or-treating seems to suggest that no age is too old — as long as the candy-seeker entertains with a costume.

A slew of American movies has become a part of the holiday for many families as they return to these movies year after year just as they do Christmas movies. It's not unusual to hear a family gathered for an evening of Halloween movies with a bowl of popcorn handy.

Showing no signs of slowing down in popularity, Halloween also marks the beginning of the holiday season where the preparations for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day begin in earnest.

LIPAN HIGH SCHOOL

October brought festivities, activities and more



BY SARAH MARCANTONIO

Sarah is a senior whose interests include journalism, playing softball, participating in National Honor Society, student council and the local 4-H program

Near the beginning of the month, the students, both part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and surrounding churches, came together to attend Fields of Faith. At this event, students challenge their peers to read the Bible and follow Jesus Christ. Not only do students share their testimonies, but they also join in worship and hear a message from a guest speaker. Students filled up

two school buses and traveled to Dublin High School to participate in the student-led event. Overall, five adults and about 60 students attended.

Without a doubt, volleyball has been quite the addition to our school. The high school team concluded its season Oct. 14 with a win against Abilene TLCA. This victory made the team's record 17-11. The junior high

teams also had success; the A team's record is 11-7 and the B team's record is 11-6.

As the season ended for the girls, coach Aaron Callaway spoke in anticipation for next year. "We want to continue growing as a program and keep moving in the right direction," coach Callaway said.

To follow up on cross country, the athletes who advanced ran in Grand Prairie on Oct 24 at the regional meet. The boys, led by freshman Court Gaylor, competed well, dodging mud puddles as the rain was relentless during their race. Out of 166 2A runners, the Lipan girls placed fifth

overall as a team, with freshman Annslee Tarpley placing 12th and advancing to the state meet.

Other extracurricular programs are staying active such as the Lipan school bands. For example, on Oct 11, band teacher Jameson Ash and his band traveled to McMurray University to attend a performance by one of the greatest tuba players in the world. About 28 students witnessed the solo recording artist Oystein Baadsvik of Norway and received autographs and pictures. The field trip was free and full of learning opportunities for the students. Mr. Ash was exceptionally satis-

fied with the trip as well as the students' attentiveness. "The entire thing went really well, the kids' behavior and respect," said Ash. "I am very happy with the way it turned out."

In addition, the bands held their first fundraiser and saw tremendous results. They sold cookie dough as part of the fundraiser, called CashCow. They advertised through brochures and an online store. As a result, over 800 items were sold, totaling \$16,000. The bands profited more than \$7,000 of that total. When asked what this money will go toward, Mr. Ash said it will fund more trips such as music festi-

vals and performances. For example, the bands plan to go to Dallas to experience authentic arts and fun.

To conclude the month, Lipan holds two big festivals. First is the annual Kickapoo Festival on Oct. 21 held by the Lipan Volunteer Fire Department. Not only do locals gather, but also many people travel from all over to participate in the classic car show, donate to the Lipan VFD, shop at various vendors and eat good food. The other festival held on Oct. 27 is school-hosted with tons of fun-filled booths, bingo and barbecue.

WISE

FROM PAGE B1

for networking and further discussion.

Named after Georgia Ramay and Vircy Macatee — both of whom played an integral part in creating the Bridge Street History Center — the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series was estab-

lished in 2015 to bring some of the finest Texas historians and authors to Hood County.

"The Bridge Street History Center brings in someone who's well-known throughout the state," Martin explained. "Typically, it's an author who's written a book about Texas, but we try to bring in someone who has a regional or statewide appeal.

Normally we're focused on local history, but once a year, we host the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series to talk about a topic related to Texas history."

Formerly, the event was called the Ramay-Macatee Lecture Series, but Martin explained the word "lecture" immediately suggests something akin to a col-

lege course, which is not the angle the Bridge Street History Center was going for originally.

"It's fun, it's interesting, it's entertaining, and it's a good way to learn more about history from someone who has spent lots of time doing research and learning about a particular topic," Martin said. "Even if you

don't care about that topic, it's fun just to go and listen."

Tickets are priced at \$20 for VIP and \$10 for prime. Individuals can purchase tickets online at granburylive.com. Given the popularity of this event, attendees are advised to secure their tickets promptly to ensure the best seating arrangements and an unforget-

table experience.

For more information, email admin@bshc-granbury.org or call Granbury Live at 800-340-9703.

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Despite the cold, wind, rain, mud, one runner in pain, and another runner losing a shoe (and continued running without it) the Cornerstone Christian Academy Boys Varsity Cross Country team managed to pull off a 4th place finish at the TAPPS Cross Country State Championships on Monday, October 30th in Waco. Congratulations to the CCA Boys Varsity Cross Country team and Coach Michael Carter!

Pictured from left: Coach Michael Carter, Slade Moore, Noble Carter, Carter Jones, Brennan Richter, Cale Davis, Eli Williams, and Carson Jones.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

The question is 'why'



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.

Why do we blink? The average person blinks about 12 times per minute, 10 thousand times per day, and 4.2 million times per year. The most obvious reason for blinking is to lubricate our eyes. Lubricating tears are constantly being produced in the body and consist of three layers: the mucus layer so it adheres to the eye, the aqueous layer that hydrates and keeps bacteria away, and the oily layer that prevents the other two layers (which are predominantly water) from evaporating.

Why do we blink? The average person blinks about 12 times per minute, 10 thousand times per day, and 4.2 million times per year. The most obvious reason for blinking is to lubricate our eyes. Lubricating tears are constantly being produced in the body and consist of three layers: the mucus layer so it adheres to the

eye, the aqueous layer that hydrates and keeps bacteria away, and the oily layer that prevents the other two layers (which are predominantly water) from evaporating.

In addition, blinking helps clear dust and particles that are continuously getting into your eyes. When your eyes water, the extra fluid helps cleanse and soak up the debris, while the blinking is like a windshield wiper pushing it away.

Blinking also works as a reflex in response to external stimuli. Your eyes can close in one-tenth of a second after stimulus (bright light or sand, for example) is de-

tected. This is called the "corneal reflex" and is designed to prevent as much debris as possible from entering and damaging the eye.

We produce fewer tears as we age, which is why dry eyes are more common in older adults. This is especially true for women after menopause due to hormonal changes.

Why do we sneeze? The primary reason is to remove irritants from the nasal passage that have become stuck there. Sneezing also plays an important role in fighting the spread of bacteria when we are sick. The body's natural reaction to infection is to produce mucus in an effort to trap the bacteria. Once trapped, the body must get rid of it, and sneezing is the most efficient way to rid the body of the bacteria.

Sneezing is still somewhat of a mystery, as there are some causes that do not seem to make sense. About one in four people sneeze when they look into a bright light. This is called a "photic sneeze reflex," and it seems to be an inherited genetic trait. The leading theory is that a certain stimula-



COURTESY PHOTO

The average person blinks about 12 times per minute, 10 thousand times per day, and 4.2 million times per year.

tion of the optical nerve causes the same sensation in your brain as irritation in the nose. However, the true cause seems to escape researchers.

Why do we have wisdom teeth? Wisdom teeth are just like any other molar in the mouth. For the first few years of a human's life, they eat only soft foods and have no need for molars to crush and grind. Around the age of six, the first set of molars come in. When a person reaches 12, another set appears. The wisdom teeth are the final set of molars that appear between ages 18 and 21.

Early humans were hunter-gatherers who survived on leaves, roots, meat, and nuts — things that required a lot of crushing ability. The more grinding teeth you have, the easier it is to eat tough foods. As humans

evolved, they began to cook their food, making it softer and easier to chew. Having three full sets of molars became unnecessary.

Additionally, early humans had larger jaws than we do today, which supported more teeth. Over time, as the need for super-powerful jaws decreased, human jaws became smaller. But the number of teeth stayed the same. That's why today, many people need to have their wisdom teeth removed in order to create more space.

Why do we get goosebumps? Goosebumps are known in medical terminology as "piloerection" and are caused by small muscles that are connected to hair follicles. This creates a depression on the skin's surface, resulting in the hairs standing upright.

Goosebumps can be as-

sociated with a wide range of emotional situations. People talk about getting goosebumps when scared or while listening to rousing songs or watching a high stakes sporting event. Goosebumps can be triggered by the subconscious release of the testosterone hormone. When high levels of stress occur, whether positive or negative, testosterone is released in the fight-or-flight decision-making process. This causes goosebumps. And we start to feel our hair prick up.

Goosebumps may be a little mysterious but, generally speaking, when you feel them cropping up, all you need to do is take a deep breath, relax a little, and maybe put on a sweater.

cgheizer@gmail.com



COURTESY PHOTO

About one in four people sneeze when they look into a bright light. This is called a "photic sneeze reflex," and it seems to be an inherited genetic trait.

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PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lipan hosted their annual "Boo Parade" on Oct. 27 where students across the Lipan district are able to dress up for Halloween and show off their costumes. The event is usually outside but was moved inside the high school gymnasium due to the chance of rain. Characters of all kinds, shapes and sizes made their way around the gymnasium walking to Halloween music to celebrate the upcoming spooky day.



Aviva PUMPKIN Palooza

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Organizers are pleased to report the recent AVIVA Senior Living Pumpkin Palooza was a resounding success! On Friday evening, Oct. 27, AVIVA invited the community to go from door to door to trick or treat comfortably indoors. Attendees also enjoyed Halloween goodies offered by local vendors, crafts, music, and much more.





PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Pirates played the Red Oak Hawks during a wet and cool Friday night, on Oct. 27



Hood County Library **HALLOWEEN** Reading

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Library opened its doors Saturday Oct. 28, for some kiddos to enjoy some fun Halloween stories.





Lady Pirates, Lady Rattlers advance in VB playoffs

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

After missing the playoffs in 2022, the Granbury Lady Pirates weren't about to let this season end in the opening round of the postseason. Continuing a turnaround that began in district play, the Lady Pirates (19-22) swept Fort Worth Arlington Heights (25-13) in their bidistrict match Monday, Oct. 30 at Wilkerson-Greines Activities Center in Fort Worth.

The Lady Pirates took command of the match early, winning the first game 25-12. They followed with wins of 25-13 and 25-11.

The Lady Pirates finished third in the tough District 5-5A, while Heights was the 6-5A runner-up.

Granbury collected 48 kills in the match, led by Sienna Watts with 16, Kylie Moody with 11, Rachel Poirier with eight and Brooke Marak with seven. Poirier also served four of the team's seven aces and Moody delivered four of its five blocks.

Defensively, Granbury thwarted the Lady Jackets with 64 digs. Watts and

"They've been working really hard for this and I can't wait to see what they can accomplish in this next round."

The Lady Pirates began the season with a 9-19 record in pre-district. Since they have posted a 10-3 mark.

Granbury's district includes a pair of teams that spent much of the season in the state rankings, district champion Aledo (still ranked) and Justin Northwest, with whom Granbury split matches. All four playoff teams from the league (Azle is the fourth) advanced to the second round of the postseason, defeating their bidistrict opponents by a combined score of 12-1.

This is the Lady Pirates' 13th appearance in 14 years and their first time to advance to the second round since 2019. They were playing Argyle (37-7), ranked No. 3 in the state at press time.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (21-14) swept Quanah (7-20) in their Class 2A Region I bidistrict match in Graham on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Leading the Tolar attack was Ally Dobbs with her play at the

start slipped away on the scoreboard to a 3-7 finish.

However, head coach Sonny Galindo said a lot of positives came out of the season.

"My message: What mattered coming in is the same as what will matter later," Galindo began, adding:

"1. A team that will put their egos aside and play for the guy next to you harder than you ever have.

"2. Weight room, coachability, and habits that emit toughness matter, regardless of circumstances.

"3. Creating a culture change in behavior and resiliency on campus and on the field, controlling the controllables, realizing if we do our job then the name on the other bus doesn't matter.

"4. Embracing the unconditional support of those in our community and families and giving back time and blessings we can always spare.

"5. Knowing that difficult times bring us closer and separate others. Together takes on a new, lasting meaning.

"6. Playing the game the way it's supposed to be played. Hard-nosed, aggres-



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tanner Thompson runs the ball to try to get past the Granbury Defense.

your absence makes us better, then change. Your leadership should have a lasting impact on others. Will you leave a mark or will you leave a scar?"

"9. The desire from football is to win.... the lesson from football is to grow toward success.

"10. Love is a word that's okay to use and even better to feel.

"The young men involved in Pirate football are tasked with learning and retaining these lessons. We are proud of each of them for representing the program and qualities we stress."

The Pirates (1-6 in District 4-5A Division I) played their final home game of the season on Oct. 27, falling 27-3 to Red Oak. The Hawks are ranked No. 5 in the state in Class 5A Division I.

The Pirates played the Hawks tough and were only down 14-3 entering the fourth quarter. The Granbury defense limited Red Oak's running game to 40 yards on 19 carries.

Christian Paddock gave the Pirates a 3-0 lead on a 37-yard field goal in the first quarter. However, the following kickoff was returned 82 yards for a Red Oak touchdown.

Tyler Rodgers led the Granbury offense, picking up 42 rushing yards. The defense was paced by Rylan Brenish with nine tackles, including one for a loss and a sack, while Sam Sutherland had six tackles (one for a loss) and Amelio Rodriguez and Chase Cantrell each had five.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers topped the

60-point barrier for a second consecutive week. In fact, they duplicated the score of the previous week when they defeated visiting Bangs 61-6 by doing the same at Goldthwaite.

Tolar (8-1 overall, 5-0 in District 5-2A Division I) remained No. 3 in the state this week. They were finishing the regular season at home last night against San Saba before beginning the postseason and their quest for the program's first state title next week against Trenton (4-5) Thursday, Nov. 9 at a site yet to be decided at press time.

"Playoff football is always a special time. There always seems to be a little more pep in your step as you roll into that stage of the season," Tolar coach Jeremy Mullins said. "Our kids and coaches continue to do a great job of keeping the focus on the W.I.N. (What's Important Now).

"The current task at hand is finishing off the district season on a high note as we honor our seniors as they take the field at Rattler Stadium one last time. I'm just coming off the practice field and I felt like we had as good energy and focus today as we have had all year. This is a fun group to be a part of!"

In the win over Goldthwaite, Tolar quarterback Isaac Blessing threw for three touchdowns and ran for three more. He completed eight of nine passes for 198 yards and rushed seven times for 43.

Talan Culberson caught two of the Rattlers' touchdowns. Freshman Kelvin Murray rushed seven times for 55 yards and two TD and

Garrison Nation's 67 yards on 10 carries included a score.

Leading a swarming defense was Drake Owens with 13 tackles, while Clayton Stembbridge posted seven (2 for a loss). A slew of Rattlers had six tackles, including Murray, Julien Rodriguez, Hunter Michels (2 for a loss), Cash Clark and freshman Cayden Abrego (2 for a loss). Michels also had a sack.

Stembbridge intercepted his fifth pass of the season. Michels and Owens also had interceptions, while Murray and Clark recovered fumbles.

As a team through nine games, the Rattlers had 16 interceptions and eight fumble recoveries on defense.

RODEO

With the North Texas High School Rodeo Association season underway, several area competitors are among the league leaders in a few categories.

From Tolar, Joseph Rickabaugh is second in chute dogging, fourth in ride-up goat tying and eighth in walk-up goat tying. He is only 42 points out of first place in chute dogging.

Granbury's Tylee Proctor is fifth in breakaway roping, 91 points out of first in a tight race. Teammates Levi Johnson and Grace Burdich are seventh in chute dogging and seventh in walk-up goat tying, respectively.

Also from Tolar, Takota Kenley is fourth in team roping-header.

At the end of the regular season in May 2024, the top 15 in the standings in each event advance to the NTHSRA Finals.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Sam Sutherland (pirates) Chases down Reggie Moody (Hawks).

Bailey Blum each had 13, while Lilyan McCall had 11, along with 15 of the Lady Pirates' 32 serve returns. Allyson McCabe set up 41 assists.

"I'm very excited and honored to be in this position with this group of girls," Lady Pirates head coach Desiree Shahan said. "The bond and determination that they have is truly incredible. They have really kicked it in gear since district started and I'm excited for them to compete at this next level.

net. This is the sixth consecutive season for the Lady Rattlers to reach the playoffs and the third time they have advanced to the second round.

Tolar was playing Miles (29-9) in the area round at press time.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates' 2023 season came to an end at press time against Killeen Shoemaker in Killeen. A season that began with the promise of a 3-0

sive, smart, tough, and having fun. Someday there will be a conversation you'll have with yourself or a child/grandchild. The question will be, 'How did you play the game?' Be able to tell the truth with a smile on your face.

"7. The guy in the mirror should be your measuring stick. If he's criticizing you, listen.... if he's praising you, listen. It's God's words he's using.

"8. If your presence makes us better, then keep it up... if



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Pirates punt the ball to the Hawks Friday night.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hayden Burns between turnovers.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Anthony Debello tries to get past the Hawks defense.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans cement fourth straight win in D1 winning season

Tarleton State University

CONWAY, AR — Nothing about the conditions surrounding Tarleton State's game on Saturday, Oct. 28 seemed favorable, but the Texans have proven for four straight years at the NCAA Division I level they only know one thing — winning.

The Texans cemented their fourth straight winning season with an upset bid over No. 18 Central Arkansas on the road 25-23. By improving to 6-3 with two games to play, the Texans became just the third program since 2004 to post winning seasons in each of their reclassifying seasons, joining North Dakota State and South Dakota State.

It was a downpour in Conway, Arkansas, on the Bears' homecoming weekend, and the Texans spoiled the festivities more by snapping UCA's four-game winning streak. This was Tarleton's first game against a Football Championship Subdivision-ranked opponent since joining the subdivision, and they defeated a Bears' team that was 4-0 at home and ranked seventh in total offense at 455.6 yards per game.

The Texans (6-3, 2-2 UAC) outgained the Bears (5-3, 2-1 UAC) 376-347, winning the time of possession 32:55 to 27:05.

Kayvon Britten stole the show in the United Athletic Conference showdown between two of the conference's top running backs, rushing for 156 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries (7.1 YPC). His first touchdown was a 38-yard, Marshawn Lynch-like "beast mode" run with several alterations and a plow over the defensive back at the end. He also opened



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans cemented their fourth straight winning season with an upset bid over No. 18 Central Arkansas on the road 25-23.

the fourth quarter with a 59-yard score to give the Texans the game's first two-possession lead, 22-10.

The Texan defense held off UCA at the end as the Bears wouldn't go quietly. Down eight, Central Arkansas scored a touchdown after a 72-yard march in 1:45 with 14 seconds remaining. But needing the two-point conversion for the tie, Tarleton's Caimyn Layne got to UCA QB Will McElvain quickly and forced him into a spinning incompleteness to seal the win for the Purple and White. UCA tried a unique onside kick by booting it over Tarleton's line, but Tucker Swoboda gobbled it up and Texan QB Victor Gabalis went in victory formation to send the Texans home with the win.

Tarleton's defense held UCA at bay for most of the night, earning six tackles for loss, two sacks, a forced fumble, seven pass break-

ups, a blocked field goal, and that final two-point try stop. Blake Smith had a team-high 12 tackles. Devin Sterling had two tackles for loss among his six total. Ty Rawls and Josh Griffis each had a sack, with Rawls adding two pass breakups. Bryson Collins was credited with the field goal block to end the first half, adding four tackles and a TFL on the night.

Gabalis completed 12-of-21 passes for 168 yards on the wet Saturday. Trevon West was the leading receiver with 60 yards on three catches. Darius Cooper had 58 yards on two catches, including a one-handed sure-to-be SportsCenter Top-10 grab. Benjamin Omayebu recorded five catches for 46 yards.

One of the biggest storylines coming into Saturday was how Tarleton would handle UCA RB ShunDerrick

Powell. Powell entered as the conference leader in rushing yards per game and ran for 204 yards plus three touchdowns on 13 carries just a year prior against Tarleton while with North Alabama. This time around, Tyrone Nix and his defense shut him down to just four yards on six carries.

Upon walking onto a flooded Estes Stadium, Tarleton embraced it, spending even more time warming up pregame it seemed in the sopping conditions, while UCA stayed dry by warming up in their indoor practice facility.

The Texans were the tougher team early, forcing two three-and-outs and striking first with an Adrian Guzman 22-yard field goal at the 3:14 mark in the first quarter.

UCA took its first lead on its first drive in the second quarter, capping off a 16-play, 66-yard march with a

13-yard touchdown connection between McElvain and Jordan Owens. On Tarleton's ensuing drive, the Texans used a 25-yard Omayebu reception to give Guzman a chance from 43 yards out. He split the uprights to make it a 7-6 Texan deficit.

On Tarleton's next drive, they scored their first touchdown to take a 13-7 lead, going 79 yards in nearly five minutes, with Britten bursting ahead for a 38-yard score, his 10th rushing touchdown of the season.

UCA nearly answered to end the first half, thanks to a 51-yard rush by Kylin James to put UCA in the red zone. With time waning, Tarleton's defense held firm and forced a field goal try that was blocked by Collins to send the Texans into the locker room up 13-7.

To open the third quarter, the Bears forced the game's lone turnover on a

sack fumble by Gabalis that spoiled a solid Texan drive. They threatened by getting to Tarleton's 3-yard line but had to settle for a 26-yard field goal to make it 13-10 Texans.

Guzman answered right back with his third field goal of the night to boost the lead back to six, 16-10, from 25 yards out.

On the second play of the fourth quarter, Britten broke free for 59 yards and his 11th rushing touchdown of the season. Tarleton went for two and didn't get it, making it a 22-10 game.

McElvain found James for a 19-yard score to quickly answer, cutting it to a 22-17 game with 10:41 to play.

With about seven minutes to play, Griffis came up with a huge third-down strip sack, to force a Bears punt when UCA had the momentum. That led to Guzman's fourth field goal on the night, this one from 36 yards out, to extend the Texan lead to 25-17 with 1:59 remaining.

Central Arkansas had several chunk plays lead to a McElvain-Owens three-yard touchdown with 14 seconds left to make it 25-23 Tarleton. Layne's pressure on the two-point try got to UCA, and Tarleton State left Conway with the conference victory.

The Texans improved to 3-2 on the road this year, their most road wins since 2019. That was also the last time Tarleton started a season 6-3 or better overall.

They have just two games remaining, and will host their final home game of 2023 on Saturday, Nov. 4, against Stephen F. Austin at 6 p.m. It will be both Senior Night and Military Appreciation for the conference battle at Memorial Stadium.

Kevin Baez notches top-15 win at 2023 WAC Cross Country Championship



COURTESY PHOTO

On Friday, Oct. 27 in his final race as a Texan, Kevin Baez took 11th place leading the Purple and White to a sixth overall finish Tarleton State men's and women's cross country wrapped up their seasons at the 2023 WAC Championship. The men took sixth place overall with the women taking tenth.

Tarleton State University

ABILENE - On Friday, Oct. 27 in his final race as a Texan, Kevin Baez took 11th place leading the Purple and White to a sixth overall finish.

Tarleton State men's and women's cross country wrapped up their seasons at the 2023 WAC Championship. The men took sixth place overall with the women taking tenth.

MEN (6TH)

The Texans were led once again by senior Baez who took 11th place overall with a time of 24:16.9. Baez finished 24 spots higher this go-around at the WAC Championship. Last season he finished in 35th with a time of 24:39.9.

The Purple and White finished as a team sixth overall with a point tally of 166, just one point short of fifth place Utah Tech.

"I was really proud of our guys and the way that we competed," said coach Chase Rathke. "It was a hard-fought battle obviously. Going in we got a

few pieces back with Angel Gomez and then also dealt with a couple minor injuries going into the conference meet just like every team. We were one place or one point away from being 5th. I thought they competed extremely well. I was really proud of Kevin Baez going out and finishing 11th. To come in 11th, he ran a really gutsy race and put us in a position to do really well. Our guys went out and executed the race plan really well and I know we had high expectations and everything but at the same time I was really proud of the way those guys competed.

Following Baez and notching a top-30 finish was Gomez with a time of 25:06.8 earning him 29th place. Not far behind Gomez was Angel Contreras who finished in 34th place with a time of 25:20.6.

Ricky Tolentino claimed the final spot in the top-50 with a time of 25:52.7. Three spots behind Tolentino was Kellen Frickel who finished in 53rd with a time of 26:01.9.

Rounding it out for the

Purple and White was Diego Flores and Christopher Moreno. Flores came in 75th with a time of 27:26.6. Moreno wrapped it up for the Texans with an 82nd place finish and a time of 27:59.6.

WOMEN (10TH)

The Texans were led by Sage Lancaster as they have been the entire season. Lancaster finished in the top-50 with a 46th place finish with a time of 23:09.2.

The Purple and White finished in tenth place as a team with a point total of 303.

"It unfortunately wasn't our day," said coach Chase Rathke. "There's a bunch of factors that went into it, but I was proud of the way the girls competed and battled all year. We battled injuries and other things and at the end of the day it was just about getting to the conference meet. I was really proud of the way that they competed and laid it all out there. It was a gutsy performance in a tough race, and I think it gave a lot of those

girls some needed experience. I think that we're going to use that going forward and build on it and continue to grow as a team. We are going to continue to build that culture and I think we're on the right track for sure and I know that they're very hungry to continue to build on that and I'm really excited for them going forward."

Kailey Sykora finished in 62nd place with a time of 23:35.8. Four spots later Georgina Balderas finished with a time of 23:42.8 in 66th place.

Aimee Landers-Wilburn and Emily Teal finished back-to-back in 80th and 81st places respectively. Landers-Wilburn turned in a time of 25:29.6 and Teal crossed the finish line at 25:32.1.

Rounding it out for the Texans were Jordan Jones, Morgan Lamberson and Magaly Lopez. Jones came in 84th with a time of 26:22.2. Lamberson finished in 86th place with a time of 26:41.3. Lopez came across the line in 87th place with a time of 26:44.5.

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Waterfowl hunters play major role in helping prevent spread of invasive species

Submitted item

Waterfowl season is on the horizon, and as hunters across the state start prepping their gear and boats for opening day, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reminds them to join the fight against the spread of aquatic invasive species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels

Hunters play a pivotal part in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. By taking a few minutes to clean, drain and dry their boats and equipment, including decoys and other hunting gear, before traveling from lake to lake, hunters help keep these species from establishing new homes.

Aquatic invasive plants can easily become entangled or trapped on boats and boat trailers and moved

to other lakes.

Giant salvinia, one of the most problematic aquatic invasive plants in Texas, can double in size and acreage in less than a week, quickly becoming a problem and impeding access for boats. Just a small fragment of giant salvinia or other aquatic invasive plants can cause an infestation in a new lake, making it critical for boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats and gear. "Giant salvinia is often

thought of as a plant that blocks recreational access for anglers and boaters, but it can cause serious problems for waterfowl hunters, too," said John Findeisen, TPWD aquatic habitat enhancement team lead. "Not only does it form thick mats that block hunters' access to prime waterfowl hunting areas, but it can also out-grow and replace the native plants that waterfowl rely on for food and habitat."

Other major invasive species threats in Texas include zebra and quagga mussels. Currently, zebra mussels are found in 36 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in river reaches downstream of infested lakes.

These invaders can harm aquatic life, litter shorelines

with sharp shells, damage boats, clog water intakes and cause costly damage to water supply and control infrastructure. Invasive mussels attached to plants or boats can travel to new lakes, and boats and equipment can transport the microscopic larvae of invasive mussels in residual water.

"Waterfowl hunters can help keep invasive mussels and aquatic plants from being moved and harming more lakes by taking a few minutes to remove plants and debris from boats, along with draining water before leaving the lake and allowing everything to dry completely afterward before travel-



COURTESY PHOTO

Giant salvinia, one of the most problematic aquatic invasive plants in Texas, can double in size and acreage in less than a week, quickly becoming a problem and impeding access for boats

PLEASE SEE **INVASIVE** | B9

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Oct. 28 (Puzzle 54).

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Candy

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

Word Bank

1. sugar	2. sucker	3. treat	4. bar
5. sweet	6. gum	7. lollipop	8. chocolate
9. snack	10. goodie		

COLOR Time

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Candy

SPANISH: Caramelos

ITALIAN: Dolciumi

FRENCH: Bonbon

GERMAN: Süßigkeit

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Hooks for live bait fishing



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

I get asked quite often what type hooks are best to use for fishing with live bait. There is not just one good answer. Each guide and fisherperson has his or her own favorite. The size and type of hook may depend on the size bait you're using and the size fish you're catching.

Probably the most favored type of single-barbed hook for striped bass and catfish is a "Kahle"-type hook in a 2/0 to 5/0 size. These Kahle-type hooks can be used for many species and different bait types. Another favorite is a straight shank standard J-hook that has been used essentially forever. I prefer an offset shank hook that seems to do the trick for me (Eagle Claw L042) and I have used this type hook for decades.

Hooking live bait is typically done by running the

hook through the bait's nose or lips. You can also run the hook through the back or tail. The generally-preferred method that I use is to hook a shad through the nose/lips. The bait seems to stay alive longer and a striped bass will typically take the bait head-first. The hook through the nose is tough and the baitfish can swim fairly naturally.

One other hook that is a favorite of many and is used widely everywhere is the circle hook. I came across a study done by the Wildlife Commission Fisheries Division in North Carolina. The study evaluated the use of circle hooks for catching striped bass. The results of the study indicate there were fewer incidents of deep-hooking striped bass than the traditional J-hooks. These may be the desired hook type for catch and release.

If you have never used a

circle hook, you are not supposed to set the hook as that will jerk the hook out of the fish's mouth. This is difficult for most people who are used to setting the hook. The idea is to let the fish run and the hook will set itself typically in the corner of the fish's mouth. All you need to do is reel the fish in without setting the hook. "Crank, but don't yank".

Another live bait hook that is used by a variety of anglers for catfish and some striper anglers is a treble hook. I do use these on occasion when the bite is finicky. A #2 to a 1/0 treble may get you the fish when other hooks won't. You can hook one of the hooks through the fish's nose and the other two hooks are exposed. I also use a treble at times as a stinger hook when fishing large live bait. This is similar to a live bait rig for Kingfish.

There are many hooks on the market. Try some of the above types and make your own choice.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT



COURTESY PHOTO

Probably the most favored type of single-barbed hook for striped bass and catfish is a "Kahle"-type hook in a 2/0 to 5/0 size.

We wished for the rain and we finally got it. The lake is full. Some areas are stained and as they release water that stain may move down the lake. Watch out for floating debris. Right now, most of the lake is clear from Indian Harbor down to the dam but that may change. Water temperatures have fallen into the 60s with this early cold snap. Striped bass continue to be good on live bait and trolled Alabama rigs on the lower ends of the lake. Catfish are

also good in stained water midlake and upstream on cut shad. Crappies are good on submerged structure on small jigs and minnows. Best largemouth action is near main lake points. Some good topwater action has been reported. Sandbass are schooling on the surface with smaller striped bass near Decordova and Blue Water shores.

Comanche Creek (Squaw Creek) continues to produce limits of channel catfish.

Largemouth action reports of numerous catches to 6 pounds on this power plant lake on crankbaits and soft plastics. Comanche Creek is open Thursday through Sunday during the day. Call ahead for reservations.

On other reservoirs, Possum Kingdom continues to boast of limits of striped bass from Hogs Bend to the dam. Cooler weather will have these fish moving. michael.acosta@att.net | 254-396-4855

INVASIVE FROM PAGE B8

ing to a new location," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. "Taking just a few minutes for these simple steps can help prevent impacts on ecosystems, infrastructure and recreation, and make a huge difference in our efforts to protect and preserve Texas lakes for current and future generations."

In addition to cleaning, draining and drying their boats and trailers, hunt-

ers should also make sure they aren't inadvertently carrying invasive species on other equipment like waders, decoys, decoy bags and marsh sleds by cleaning, draining and drying this equipment as well. A video to help hunters learn how to properly clean, drain and dry can be found on the TPWD YouTube Channel.

On top of the harm invasive species can cause to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of these organisms can result in legal

trouble for boaters.

Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. It's also the law that boaters must drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat, trailer and tow vehicle before leaving a lake.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes

where they haven't been reported before — or who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment being moved — can help identify and prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD immediately at (512) 389-4848 or by emailing photos and location information for new invasions to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

To learn more about giant salvinia, zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.



COURTESY PHOTO

Other major invasive species threats in Texas include zebra and quagga mussels. Currently, zebra mussels are found in 36 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in river reaches downstream of infested lakes.

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September

October

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Tolar Elementary Teacher

CONNIE GILBRETH



Tolar Elementary Teacher

SUE COURTNEY



Tolar Junior High Teacher

JUSTIN GILBRETH



Tolar Junior High Teacher

APRIL ARLETT



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SCOTT RICHARDSON



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THANKSGIVING REFLECTIONS

COURTESY PHOTOS

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's an opportune time to explore the many benefits of living a life steeped in gratitude, both for our physical and emotional well-being.

The role of gratitude in physical and emotional health

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

In a world that has weathered the harrowing storms of a global pandemic, the concept of gratitude takes on a newfound significance. The COVID-19 crisis has illuminated the fragility of life, teaching us not to take the simplest joys for granted. As Thanksgiving approaches, it's an opportune time to explore the many benefits of living a life steeped in gratitude, both for our physical and emotional well-being.

PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF GRATITUDE

It's becoming increasingly clear how closely our mental states are intertwined with our physical health. Practicing gratitude can have a wide array of beneficial impacts on your body. For starters, people who maintain a grateful outlook tend to experience better sleep quality. Focusing on positive

aspects of your life before bed can reduce the time it takes to fall asleep and improve sleep duration.

Additionally, gratitude is linked with lower levels of stress hormones like cortisol.

PLEASE SEE **GRATITUDE** | C3

Gratitude is linked with lower levels of stress hormones like cortisol.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Emergency Assistance Network Coordinator Andi Luna.

Mission Granbury looks to fill Pantries with Plenty

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

New name. Same mission. Mission Granbury's Pantries of Plenty program has been around for more than eight years, but under a different name. This year, however, with the new name the concept has been broadened, said Emergency Assistance Network Coordinator Andi Luna.

The food drive is currently underway and will run through Nov. 10.

Pantries of Plenty was originally created to help friends and neighbors in need during the holiday season. The donations were also used to help the pantry stay sustainable for another year.

"This plan worked until the first year after COVID," Luna explained. "Due to the supply chain issues and the rising cost of food and living expenses we saw an increase we were not anticipating."

Luna said in 2022 the community helped Mission Granbury raise over 33,000 pounds of canned goods and nonperishable items, 95% of which were used by March 2023.

"We are serving over 300 families a week. The pantry distribution is three days a week — Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesdays 2-5 p.m.," she said. "Our goal is to raise enough donations, whether it's monetary or in product, to feed families sufficiently for the next year."

WHAT'S NEEDED

Donations needed include canned goods, nonperishable boxed items, and hygiene items for men and women. Luna said Mission Granbury is also experiencing a critical need for diapers and wipes. The most requested diaper sizes are 5 through 7. Household cleaning items and pet food are also heavily requested.

"We also are serving 34 homebound seniors who cannot get out to buy groceries. We want to make sure they are getting specific needs like diabetic-friendly items and that they have food for their pets," Luna said. "Holiday items such as canned sweet potatoes and boxes of stuffing are greatly appreciated."

"The pantry here at Mission Granbury not only feeds our friends and neighbors, but we help those with emergency situations and the Ada Carey shelter with a pantry there on site."

COMMUNITY HELP

Luna said the community has been generous and eager to help. Mission Granbury currently has 450 totes in the local businesses and restaurants to take up collections.

All of Granbury ISD, as well as Tolar ISD are participating again this year. The elementary schools are having a contest on each campus to see who can collect the most canned goods.

"Granbury High School is having a contest headed

PLEASE SEE **PANTRIES** | C7

Lake Granbury Kiwanis offers membership incentive for young professionals

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

Young professionals in the business world have their whole life ahead of them — but that doesn't mean they aren't struggling with work-related stress, job security, and especially, financial hardships.

Times are tough, so to help with the financial hurdle, Lake Granbury Kiwanis is offering a membership incentive for all young professionals in Hood County.

As part of its membership challenge for the Kiwanis year (which began Oct. 1) the volunteer service organization offers one year of completely free dues and meals for anyone 30 years old or younger.

"When I joined Kiwanis at age 24, I remember how money was tight, and I would go anywhere for free food," said Lake Granbury Kiwanis Vice President Matthew Mills. "We're hoping this initiative will help build some leaders for the



COURTESY PHOTO

Lake Granbury Kiwanis is offering a membership incentive for all young professionals in Hood County. As part of its membership challenge for the year (which began Oct. 1) the volunteer service organization offers one year of completely free dues and meals for anyone 30 years old or younger.

next generation by giving them a helping hand and encouraging them to serve our community."

Alison Ullom, president of

Lake Granbury Kiwanis, explained that the idea for the membership incentive was created after the Granbury Kiwanis chapter attended

the organization's district meeting this past summer.

"I was a delegate for our particular division, and I gave out some prizes for

people who had different accomplishments; one of them was for the one (division) that had the most new members, and they had 41," Ullom explained. "I like trophies and I'm highly competitive, so I brought it up, and Matt said, 'Hey, I've got this kooky idea, I think it might work.' We talked about having younger professionals, or just younger members as a whole in the club, so we thought it was a really grand idea. We took it to the board, and we got it approved."

She jokingly added there were some board members who were not happy at first — but that it had nothing to do with the idea itself.

"There were a few board members who were not thrilled to know they were not considered young anymore, but otherwise were super excited about it," Ullom said with a chuckle. "We have several members under 40. Those are the ones who were a little upset about not being young

anymore."

Every Thursday at noon, Lake Granbury Kiwanis meets at Farina's Winery & Café to network with other members, plan future community events, and listen to a speaker — usually someone who is fully integrated into the community.

Ullom shared that at previous meetings, they have had guests like Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn and a representative from the Granbury Education Foundation.

"Lunch is included with your membership and then we listen to a speaker and just generally have a great fellowship," she said.

Individuals age 30 and under are invited to come to Farina's every Thursday, network with other members, and plug into the events and the community service projects organized by Lake Granbury Kiwanis.

"We are all about kids,"

PLEASE SEE **KIWANIS** | C3

Granbury resident hoping to make it to Hollywood through passion of horror

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

A Granbury resident is hoping to make it to Hollywood with his creations in the horror realm.

Gunner Barron, who is only 20 years old, has had an eventful life thus far and is continuing to pursue his passion of horror.

Barron had his first encounter with the horror world after he saw the movie Jaws on television at the age of 4.

Barron remembered asking his dad at the time why sharks were allowed to kill people; Barron's father told him it was just a movie.

After that his love for horror movies and special effects makeup grew into what it is now — a huge passion and hobby.

In his spare time, when not working as a tattoo artist at his father's tattoo studio, Barron creates horror masks from scratch and is self-taught.

"My dad helped me design stuff along the way and just really pushed and encouraged me to just explore my art element, and with him being an artist himself, he was really supportive," Barron said.

Barron added that he is influenced by Rick Baker who is a retired Academy Award-winning special effects makeup artist.

He also studied a lot of makeup techniques from films and watched behind-the-scenes videos.

Over the course of his life, he has made more than 400 masks with much trial and error.

To make a mask, Barron starts with clay and sculpts

it into the shape he wants, working with different textures to add to the realism of the mask. He relies heavily on reference photos and makes a mold of the mask by putting it in plaster. The mold then gets latex poured into it, and after it's dried, he pulls out the latex and a mask is formed. He then cuts and trims it up and paints it.

"I really fell in love with the idea of being able to become a completely different character. I liked that there was some oddity to it, and it wasn't something that a lot of people were into," Barron said. "I just ended up exploring that further and the older I got, I really wanted to become better in that element. I didn't want to get away from anything that I knew I was going to be happy with doing. Eventually we started going to these conventions, meeting some actors and people that were in the horror community and we just got a really good feel of the community."

Barron eventually grew a love for the 'Halloween' films and the iconic Michael Myers mask.

"It's a really amazing series and there's just a lot of spookiness to just a man in a mask that does these heinous things, and you never know why," Barron shared.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gunner Barron has a passion for all things horror and creates masks from scratch. He is particularly passionate about the iconic Michael Myers mask from the 'Halloween' franchise.

Barron is friends with Chris Nelson, a famous makeup artist who has done work for the 'Halloween' films.

He was invited to the set of a 'Halloween' movie filming, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pro-

duction was delayed. He was later invited back.

"They were filming a flashback scene to the 1998 'Halloween' film and unfortunately Nick Castle, who is the main man of 'Halloween,' couldn't do the role and ended up get-

ting COVID. So, turns out I'm (Castle's) build, and I ended up getting asked to do a small part in the film and did a few scenes," Barron said.

Not being an actor, Barron was nervous but was able to pull it off.

"It was really scary because it was quiet, and everybody was trying to stay in their own zone and focus and work. It was all really professional and just again really scary, but it was fun," Barron said.

Barron has entered the Face of Horror contest where one person will be named the Face of Horror. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$13,000, a photo shoot for the Rue Morgue magazine with Kane Hodder, an actor most known for his role of Jason Voorhees in the "Friday the 13th" franchise, as well as a three day stay in Los Angeles, California.

The contest started in September with 252,000 entrants and now is down to 2,500 people. Some of the different rounds so far have included themes such as first kill, bloodsucker, witch trials and the living dead.

Barron hopes to win Kane's Pick which gives contestants a chance to submit a video of their best special effects/makeup work. Barron entered a video of his dad dressed up as Leatherface from the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with makeup to resemble Leatherface.

Barron noted that if he wins the contest his main goal is to open a special effects studio in Texas.


"I want to give people a space to take their creative abilities and go wild with it," Barron said.

He added if the studio doesn't work out, he wants to donate a majority of the winnings to a charity and share the rest with some of his close friends and family.

"I really fell in love with the idea of being able to become a completely different character. I liked that there was some oddity to it, and it wasn't something that a lot of people were into. I just ended up exploring that further and the older I got, I really wanted to become better in that element. I didn't want to get away from anything that I knew I was going to be happy with doing. Eventually we started going to these conventions, meeting some actors and people that were in the horror community and we just got a really good feel of the community."

GUNNER BARRON

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THE NUTCRACKER

NOV 24 THRU NOV 26

Crafting community, one beer at a time: Inside Brew Drinkery

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

When you step into Brew Drinkery in downtown Granbury, the first thing that hits you isn't just the enticing aroma of hops and malts but also the warm and inviting atmosphere. It's a place where bar stools aren't just seats — they're an invitation into a community. Owned by Christian Piatt, this local gem serves not only an impressive range of 40+ craft beers on tap but also a slice of that cherished "everyone knows your name" sentiment.

A SYMPHONY OF FLAVORS

Brew Drinkery takes its craft beers seriously, offering a rotating selection that could leave any beer aficionado awestruck. Among the crowd favorites on the tap wall are the "Dizzy Blonde," "Jitterbug" and "Bugsy Lager," all three brewed locally right here in Granbury by Brew Aleworks, Brew Drinkery's sister business. In fact, six of the 10 most popular beers on the tap wall are Brew Aleworks products, along with another local brew, "Blood & Honey," brewed by Revolver Brewing. The other Aleworks beers are the "Speakeasy Stout," the "33 Hef," and the "Charleston Amber."

MORE THAN JUST A BAR

But what sets Brew Drinkery apart from any other pub is the sense of community that fills the air as much as the aroma of beer. The venue hosts weekly events such as live music, trivia and comedy

nights, converting patrons into friends and friends into family.

"Coming here is like stepping into a 'local Cheers,' where the staff not only knows your preferred brew but also how your day has been," said Jada Masten, one of Brew's many regulars. "It's about more than just beer — it's about building lasting connections."

Another Brew regular, Marta Clinkscales, says, "Brew Drinkery is one of those places where you always feel welcome. Our family frequents Brew because there is something for everyone. From great food, specialty coffee and 40 rotating craft beer taps, it is truly a one-of-a-kind gem for Granbury."

CHRISTIAN PIATT: THE MAN BEHIND THE TAP

For Piatt, Brew Drinkery isn't just a business; it's a labor of love. The curated list of craft beers is a testament to his passion for quality and



COURTESY PHOTO

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commitment to providing Granbury with an experience that's both unique and comforting.

"In a world where big brands dominate, we want to give people the opportunity

to taste something different, something carefully crafted and local," said Piatt.

Brew Drinkery offers the perfect blend of quality craft beers and a community atmosphere that feels just like

home. Whether you're a seasoned craft beer connoisseur or someone who's looking to try something new, Brew Drinkery is the place where every pour is a toast to friendship, community and

the simple joys of life.

So, the next time you find yourself in Granbury, remember: at Brew Drinkery, the taps are always flowing, and the seats are always welcoming.

GRATITUDE

FROM PAGE C1

sol. When cortisol levels are high, it can negatively affect everything from digestion to immunity. Engaging in acts of thankfulness can lower these stress markers, fostering a healthier physiological profile.

But the benefits don't stop there. Studies suggest that people who are consistently grateful have lower blood pressure and are less likely to suffer from chronic diseases. There is even evidence that gratitude can bolster immune function, making us more resistant to illness.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

On the emotional front, the benefits of gratitude are equally compelling and far-reaching. When you practice gratitude, you're essentially engaging in mental strength training. This can be especially beneficial for reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, as focusing on positive aspects of life can counterbalance negative thoughts and feelings.



COURTESY PHOTO

On the emotional front, the benefits of gratitude are equally compelling and far-reaching. When you practice gratitude, you're essentially engaging in mental strength training. This can be especially beneficial for reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, as focusing on positive aspects of life can counterbalance negative thoughts and feelings.

In addition, practicing gratitude enhances your capacity for empathy and reduces feelings of anger or resentment. By recognizing

the good in your life, you become more attuned to the struggles and successes of others. This leads to a more compassionate

worldview and a heightened ability to form meaningful connections.

Focusing on the positive elements in life also

generates higher levels of happiness. Gratitude shifts our focus away from what we lack or wish were different, creating a mental

space where contentment can flourish. This shift is significant in times of crisis or uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE COVID-19 PERSPECTIVE

The pandemic served as a global pause button, forcing us to reconsider our priorities. Suddenly, simple things like health, family and even the ability to walk freely outside became treasures. It underscored the importance of not taking things for granted and elevated the role of gratitude in our lives. When the world outside is unstable, turning inward and counting our blessings can provide a much-needed anchor.

The lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis have the power to catalyze a lifelong practice of gratitude. This Thanksgiving, as we gather (safely) around our tables, let's commit to making gratitude more than just a seasonal practice. Let's make it a cornerstone of a life well-lived, knowing that this focus brings benefits far beyond the holiday season.

KIWANIS

FROM PAGE C1

Ullom said. "I (recently) got to go and give Super Citizen Awards to these elementary students, about three or four from each elementary, and it was just so lovely. I know that as we get some younger members, we'll be able to do a whole lot more in the community and with the kids."

Lake Granbury Kiwanis Club is a volunteer service organization made up of community members from Hood County, according to its website. Members are diverse in their careers and backgrounds, but they all share one thing in common: a passion for serving children and communities.

"We have done food drives and benefits for Rancho Brazos Community Center," Ullom said. "Last year, I believe we gave away right at \$24,000 in scholarships to our high school kids. We've really tried to be

"We're hoping to get more young blood, fresh ideas and more energy. If we can get some college kids in there and people who are just out of college, they can start hearing from those people, you know, their experiences, that sort of thing, and they're going to be able to relate really well."

ALISON ULLOM

President of Lake Granbury Kiwanis



COURTESY PHOTO

Currently, Lake Granbury Kiwanis has approximately 60 members, with about five of the members aged 30 or under.

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you know, their experiences, that sort of thing, and they're going to be able to

relate really well."

Lake Granbury Kiwanis also has a Key Club, specifically for students in high school. Ullom said if more college-aged individuals joined Kiwanis, it would inspire more high-schoolers to join at the junior level.

"The 20-somethings, these high-schoolers think they're so cool and they can present some great examples and bring in some new ideas," she said.

Although anyone can join Kiwanis, Ullom said this promotion is intended to bring in more younger members.

"Come to one meeting and see if it's for you," she said. "If you come and you see

that it's something that's really for you, it's right up your alley, and you can be passionate about it, then you would ask to join. The board would vote on the membership, and then you become a full-fledged member."

After the one year is up, the young professional will be responsible for paying dues of \$50 per month, which covers all meals.

Ullom added that even if this promotion only brings in five or six young members, she would still be open to holding it again in the future.

"As long as I'm on the board, it's going to be something I'm going to be voting for," she added. "I can see us continuing this in the future."

For more information about Lake Granbury Kiwanis, visit granburykiwanis.org online.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

The holiday season and real estate

BY WHITNEY KNIEPER



Whitney Knieper grew up in and around the real estate industry and has had her license for 12-plus years. She recently earned her broker's license and is a broker at Knieper Realty. Whitney is the 2023 President of the Granbury Association of REALTORS®. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University. Go Frogs!

WOW! It's hard to believe it is already November and the holiday season is just around the corner. I hope everyone had a great Halloween weekend and got to visit Granbury Square for the Harvest Moon Festival.

With this year coming to an end here in a couple of months, I want to talk about the pros and cons of selling real estate during the festive seasons. The market has slowed down here in our area, but homes are still selling. However, rolling into Thanksgiving you can expect showings to slow drastically.

Have you been thinking about putting your house on the market? If so, there are pros and cons to holiday decorations for your real estate listing.

Everyone enjoys seeing the fall pumpkins, Thanksgiving turkey decorations and Christmas lights and trees. They are cute and festive and grab people's attention. Those big displays of the holidays in a home let buyers imagine what their holiday could look like when they own it.

However, the biggest downside of holiday season decorating is that after the holidays are over, if your house has not sold, those pictures are a dead ringer for

how long your house has been on the market. And the longer your home is listed "Active" on the market, it will pose the question, in the buyers' mind, "what is wrong with this house?"

So, yes do the decorations and WOW potential buyers! But, once the season has passed, take them down and get new photos. Once the new year has rolled out, the decorations need to be put away.

Side tip on getting your home prepared for selling: LESS IS MORE! Declutter your shelves and counters. Take down any excessive amounts of wall décor or art. The cleaner the space looks, the better buyers can envision their stuff in the space.

For those of you who follow baseball, I want to give an honorable mention to our very own Texas Rangers. After a 7-game series with the Astros, the Rangers made it to the World Series! It has been over a decade since the Rangers and our opponents, the Diamondbacks, have been to the World Series. This is quite an exciting time for baseball fans!

I hope you all enjoy this upcoming season of holidays, cool weather, football and the World Series. Happy Thanksgiving!



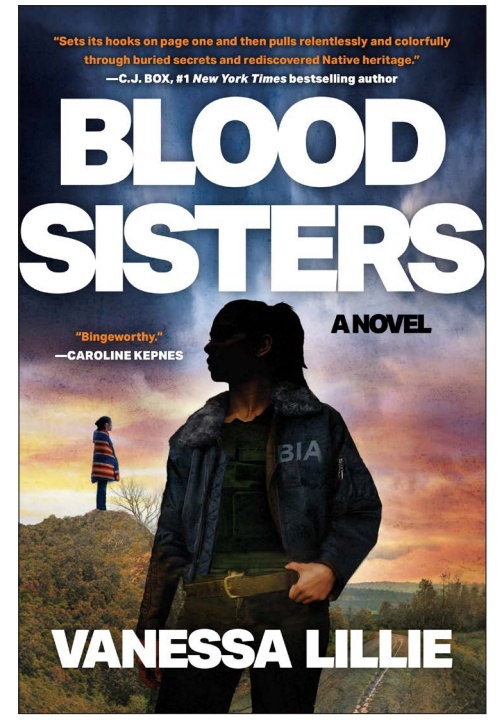
COURTESY PHOTO

Big displays of the holidays in a home let buyers imagine what their holiday could look like when they own it. However, after the holidays are over, if your house has not sold, those pictures are a dead ringer for how long your house has been on the market.

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BOOK REVIEW



COURTESY PHOTO

"Blood Sisters" by Vanessa Lillie C.2023, BERKLEY, \$27.00, 84 PAGES

It's the truth: Scout's honor

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Pinky swear. Spit on your palms or prick your fingers, and shake hands. As a child, you had many ways to show you intended to keep a promise when you made it and your word was your bond, but you've grown up. Today, you cross your heart but, as in the new novel



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Vanessa Lillie

"Blood Sisters" by Vanessa Lillie, you hope no one has to die. She wasn't looking for skeletal remains.

For Bureau of Indian Affairs archaeologist Syd Walker, such a find was very unusual but not unknown. Odd things happen during geological surveys on tribal lands everywhere. Still, the gruesome recovery in Rhode Island wasn't top on Syd's mind.

She'd gotten a call that her sister, Emma Lou, was missing in Oklahoma.

Again.

Fifteen years before, as Syd, Emma Lou, and Luna, who they'd considered a sister, were chilling in Luna's family's trailer, a group of men broke in. Wearing masks, the "devils" killed Luna and her parents, and the small town of Picher, was never the same.

Neither were Emma Lou or Syd.

As a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Syd was well aware of the problems near her hometown, the issues Native Americans had there with the BIA, and her own ancestors' efforts to survive on land that was given and then snatched back. She also knew the fact that she had a wife at home in Rhode Island set her apart since she'd left. And drugs — too many people on tribal allotments were getting drugs too easily.

But someone wanted Syd to come home: a female skull was found in the crook of a tree with her old work badge in its mouth. Despite knowing Syd had fled Oklahoma on purpose, her new boss at the BIA pulled strings to arrange the trip and assigned her the case.

Years ago, Syd had promised to protect Luna and Emma Lou.

One of them was already dead. The other was missing.

Was the skull a threat — or a warning? Here is the best advice you're going to get when you grab "Blood Sisters": pay close attention to the minutiae. Without being a spoiler, little things mean a lot.

Unless you watch carefully, you'll be cruising along at 200 miles an hour in a screaming run through pages and pages of barely-bearable excitement when suddenly, your brain will make that scratchy sound like a stopped record album. It's there where author Vanessa Lillie drops three tons of TNT, right toward the almost-end of her story and whoa, Nelly. If you're not paying attention, you may have to read the chapter multiple times to cut your "What the...?" down to a manageable level.

Yeah, this is that kind of book, the kind that's written with authenticity, an insider's feel, and heightened tension that'll keep you awake. The kind you think you know how it'll end and you're wrong. For mystery lovers or thriller fans, "Blood Sisters" is the kind of book you should scout out.

Opera Guild thanks sponsors following successful bingo fundraiser Oct. 12



COURTESY PHOTO

The Opera Guild of Granbury is thankful for its sponsors, including Walmart, for the continued annual support of the nonprofit organization.

Submitted item

Following a very successful fundraising event recently held at La Bella Luna, the Opera Guild of Granbury met with Walmart, one of its significant sponsors, to thank them for their annual support. Walmart has been terrific in assisting the Opera Guild with this fundraising event since its inception and the guild is so grateful for their assistance in making this event a huge success.

The guild is also so very thankful for the table sponsors, bingo

game sponsors and many merchants who made donations, making this event possible. In addition, a huge shout-out to all the Opera Guild volunteers who worked tirelessly before and after the event handling so many details, and to all attendees who opened their hearts and pocket-books making the bingo event special.

The guild is planning an Opera House 10th Anniversary Renovation Celebration on Dec. 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Convention Center.

Tickets are \$20 each with open seating. We invite you to join us for a fun event. Watch for more information on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

The Opera Guild of Granbury is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts with funds for repairs to the Opera House and scholarships to the Granbury Theatre Academy.

The Guild meets on the first Tuesday of every month at De Cordova Country Club.

Reservations required. Consider joining the Guild as a supporting member.

Dues are \$25 for individuals; \$35 for couples or joint membership and \$35 for businesses. You may pay at the meeting or mail to: Granbury Opera Guild, P.O. Box 2182, Granbury TX 76048.

For further information please contact our membership director at granburyog@gmail.com or call 817-776-2898.

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2nd Annual Rancho Style Gala, a success

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

On Thursday, Oct. 26 the Rancho Brazos Community Centers 501C(3) hosted their second Annual Rancho Style Gala at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. The event included a live auction, a silent auction, a pumpkin patch, a wine/whiskey pull and more. Well over 200 people were in attendance.

“Our second annual Gala in support of the Doug Long Outreach Center was a success. We want to thank everyone in the community for their continued support of this vision and vital mission to support ‘At-Promise’ families,” shared Ralph Hanna, RBCC Board Treasurer. The gala was held to benefit the construction of the Douglas Long Outreach Center. The center is part of the “Five Acres of Impact”, which is a project that incorporates agricultural spaces and gardens designed with the goal of helping to meet the nutritional needs of Hood County residents.

The new Douglas Long Outreach Center will include a “free shopping pantry” called Paula’s Pantry, as well as a “Children’s Closet”, which will include new clothing and shoes provided by children’s charities. There

will be a large space for the free programs provided to both adults and children in the community. The center will also have a warehouse space that will serve as an emergency shelter.

“The staff and the board at Rancho Brazos Community Centers was so excited to host this event in order to raise awareness to the services we provide our community, the plans we have for the development of our center, the progress we have made thus far, and also to raise funds in order to fully realize our community impact goals. We are grateful for the support from those that have helped us so far in this time of growth. We love where we live!” Tammy Clark, Vice President of the Rancho Brazos Community Centers Board of Directors expressed.

Executive Director Sharla



On Thursday, Oct. 26 the Rancho Brazos Community Centers 501C(3) hosted their second Annual Rancho Style Gala at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. The event included a live auction, a silent auction, a pumpkin patch, a wine/whiskey pull and more. Well over 200 people were in attendance.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Caro agreed,

“We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of Rancho Brazos Community Centers. We were humbled to have so many people come out to support our gala, and the vision of ‘5 Acres of Impact.’” She added, “This support will bring us even closer to our goal of bringing the Douglas Long Outreach Center to life. A heartfelt

thanks to Brian Gaffin and Brady Overstreet for believing in us and working so hard to see us succeed on this project.”

The staff also wanted to thank those that contributed to the success of the gala by providing items for the live auction: Bond Arms, Inc, Jack Wilson, County Commissioner, Texas Rangers, Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP

Attorneys at Law, Genie Cass, Stock Dogs, Silver Cactus, Patricia Barron, Coppermine Ranch, and the Rancho Brazos Board for their donations.

The staff of Rancho Brazos is encouraged by the outpouring of support and looks forward to continuing with the center’s goal of nurturing healthy lifestyles in Hood County,

“We are so amazed at the

outpouring of support for Rancho. We just want to thank everyone who bought tables and seats, donated silent and live auction items, and our incredible volunteers! Because of all these people, our Gala was a glorious event!” Jamie Franco, Director of Marketing and Events said.

To contribute to the Douglas Long Outreach Center, call 817-910-8114.





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HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The 45th annual Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts celebrated over 100 of the best of fine art and fine crafts from artists all over the country Oct. 28-29. Presented by the Historic Granbury Merchants Association, this long-running festival showcased artists in 15 different mediums. In addition to fabulous artist gallery booths, festival goers enjoyed food, local entertainment and live acoustic music on two stages. Seasonal activities including the Children's Creations area were presented by the Granbury Theatre Academy for young artists ages 5-12 at Granbury Square Plaza.

New this year, the Granbury Harvest Moon Arts Festival included a wine stroll that allowed guests to casually stroll up and down the rows of artists' tents, and preview the many different art media for sale, while enjoying the variety of wines being offered. Each guest could enjoy a glass of wine from six local wineries.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS





PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Andi Luna boasts that she has the best of the best with her team of volunteers who love serving our friends and neighbors.



Mission Granbury's Food Bank team is a well-oiled machine ready to jump into action, especially on extra busy days when a Tarrant Area Food Bank fresh produce delivery comes in on distribution day.

PANTRIES

FROM PAGE C1

by Kylie (Peterson) and the students will use the cans to make sculptures to be judged by staff and board members at Mission Granbury," Luna said.

"Many participants did not want a tote, but instead have put up flyers with our most needed items, and it has our QR code for those who just want to scan and have it shipped directly to us."

Among the biggest supporters, Luna said, are:

- Shottenkirk auto dealerships presented a check and have put out a challenge to fill trucks at each dealership with donated items.
- Fit Body is having a competition with other Fit Body locations to see who can raise the most donations.
- Magnolia Reality is a new participant this year and has totes and flyers set up at its

location.

• Kroger has always been a strong supporter for the pantry, Luna said. This year the store will host a one-day collection outside its store with volunteers and bins set up on Nov. 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"This is a new part of the program we think will be a huge success," Luna said. "Lance (McMichael) is great about getting us backpack items or meat. Kroger also donates grocery bags and other items, so we do not have to spend money on distribution bags and other costly items."

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Luna added that volunteers are always in need and welcome, including for this event.

"We will need help picking up totes from the various locations, as well as stocking and cleaning the pantry

as donations are brought in," she said. "We also need help on distribution days, especially backup volunteers."

"We strive to keep a clean and organized pantry, so even though we do not serve food here, it is clean enough to serve meals. One of my favorite things I hear from volunteers is 'Serve where you live.'"

Donations are always welcome throughout the year. Mission Granbury has an Amazon wishlist for donors to choose from, and visitors are welcome to take a tour and see how the donations are distributed.

"Our goal in the pantry is to not only serve our friends and neighbors with a smile, but to give them a hand up so they can take care of themselves and their families," Luna said. "We are all in this together and it takes all of us working together to make this happen."

TheNewGranburyLive.com

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Salute to Music of

November 10th | 7:30pm

Roy Orbison

Rick Lindy as Roy Orbison



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JukeBox Legends

Rick Lindy doing your favorite voices of the 50's and 60's



OH WHAT A NIGHT!
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS

November 17th & 18th | 7:00pm

Oh What A Night

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons




Mission Granbury's Food Bank has distributions three times a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 2-5 p.m. Wednesday afternoons.

GRANBURY ISD ELECTION 2023

DID YOU KNOW?

HOMEOWNERS 65 AND OLDER WHO HAVE FILED THEIR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION WILL NOT SEE AN INCREASE IN THEIR SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES



GRANBURYISD.ORG/ELECTION2023

GARDEN PATCH

Asters signal fall's arrival

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

Texas aster, also known as fall aster, is a hardy native perennial, covered itself in violet-blue blooms, which provided brilliant contrast to popular golden-yellow chrysanthemums.

Fall finally arrived with rain, a drop in temperature, changing leaves and autumn flowers. So, after a season of brutal heat and drought, what was blooming? Texas aster, a hardy native perennial, covered itself in violet-blue blooms, which provided brilliant contrast to popular golden-yellow chrysanthemums.

Also known as fall aster or aromatic aster, *Aster oblongifolium* forms a mounding, deciduous shrub throughout the growing season. Its leaves are small, but fragrant. Because of its low-growing habit, Texas aster makes a nice front-of-the-border plant. It also looks good in mass plantings. Since Texas aster has low water needs, grow it alongside other drought-tolerant plants. Do not overwater this aster. It prefers well-drained soil and minimal supplemental water once established.

As with most native plants, Texas aster needs little, if any, fertilizer. If fertilized, the plants can become too leggy and flop over. In the wild, Texas aster grows on rocky soils and alongside native prairie grasses where it receives at least four hours of full sun daily. It requires a sun-to-part-shade site and well-drained soil. Before planting, eliminate weeds and amend the soil with a good landscape mix or compost. After planting, top dress the soil with mulch to minimize weeds and retain soil moisture.

Texas aster grows 2 to 3-feet tall and wide. In fall, these bushy plants sport numerous, small (one inch) daisy-like flowers. Each flower has a yellow center disk encircled by violet-blue petals. Aster's late bloom provides a much-needed nectar source for migrating butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Because of their

fragrant foliage, asters are considered deer resistant.

To keep the plants compact, cut them back by half in May. Trimming back too late in the season can reduce flowering. Whether or not the plants need grooming depends upon the weather. Abundant spring rain results in taller plants that benefit from cutting back. Plants that are frequently irrigated react similarly. In hot, dry environments, asters can be left alone. They grow slowly without moisture.

Texas aster's showy flowers continue their bloom until late November or later in mild winters. After a hard freeze, the plants die back to the ground except for a green rosette base. Remove dead stalks and dried foliage in late winter to make way for spring growth. Texas aster is a reliable

performer that's winter hardy north to zone 4, which makes it one of the rare plants that endures both heat and cold. (North Central Texas is rated zone 7/8.) Texas aster has few pest problems, but excess moisture on foliage can promote fungal diseases.

Tip: Plant spring blooming daffodil bulbs amid Texas asters. The daffodils will emerge in late winter and bloom before the asters fill out. These bulbs prefer similar growing conditions, so do not add fertilizer or give them too much water.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymaster-gardeners.org.

pwebsterco@gmail.com / 817-680-4849

GAME ON

Creaks



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANITA DESIGNS

Creaks gameplay is very simple, and the hand-drawn visuals are amazing.

All the things that go bump in the night

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.

Another game from my favorite indie game company, Creaks is a side-scrolling puzzle platformer, entirely hand drawn in ink and watercolor, including our humble protagonist character.

"The ground starts shaking, light bulbs are breaking—and something rather unusual is happening right behind the walls of your very room. Equipped with nothing but wit and courage, you slowly descend into a world inhabited by avian folk and seemingly deadly furniture monsters."

Our hero is at his desk, reading a book, when the light in his room flickers.

While trying to fix the light, it breaks in his hands, the building shudders, the pull-down shade covers his window, and the wallpaper peels down, revealing a mysterious metal hatch. He gets a flashlight and enters the hatch into a dark tunnel but drops the flashlight and has to go down the ladder without it. Many of the puzzles involve light, so it makes sense that they take away the flashlight at the beginning. The designer said the flashlight gave our hero "too much power."

He descends the ladder into a mysterious underground cavern with a huge, crumbling castle.

The game is called "Creaks" for a reason. It's all about the things that go bump in the night. This is a place of creatures that are monsters in the dark, but when you shine a light on them, they turn into ordinary objects. The game calls them 'creaks.' Barking robot dogs become a chest of drawers with a plant on top. A spiky-headed creature wearing a fur coat becomes a coat rack. A floating deadly jellyfish becomes a world globe.

The castle is actively crumbling while you try to travel through it. As you play through the game, the story is revealed to you — sometimes because a board or brick has fallen, allowing you to peek through. The mysterious denizens of this under-

ground castle appear to be bird people, revealed in the paintings you discover in your explorations. It doesn't take long for you to realize something threatens to destroy this world, and you have the chance to stop it.

The puzzles themselves are very simple, but pretty clever. I don't see a lot of recycled puzzles in this game — they're new ideas. It's not a very active interface. You have side-to-side motion, you can jump over gaps, and you can activate the collectible "paintings" throughout the game. The puzzles depend upon timing and the use of lights, turned on by switches or plates. If you don't time it just right, your character dies, and you have to do that puzzle over.

Designers Jan Chlup and Radim Jurda took eight years to complete this game. Like many of Amanita's games, originally Creaks was created as a final project for a degree in animation. They worked with Amanita Designs to further refine and improve it to make it a playable, entertaining game.

The art in this game is fabulous. It is a genuine pleasure to play a game that looks hand-drawn, instead of the usual obsessively rendered detail.

The music for Creaks is composed by Joe Acheson of Hidden Orchestra, who said "In keeping with the hand-drawn visual aesthetic of the game, the music features no 'fake' software-sampled instruments. All the music is performed by real musicians playing acoustic instruments," with the exception of the scenes in the science lab, which feature synthesizers and electronic modules. This is his first soundtrack for a game, but it does exactly what a game soundtrack should do — it's music that doesn't demand your attention, and helps you focus on the game.

Available on SteamOS for PC and Macintosh for \$19.99. Total playtime for me was around 10 hours.

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Are ocean cruises all-inclusive?



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

Ocean cruises have been marketed as all-inclusive by many travel suppliers, but are they really? The answer depends on what you think is required to be included to qualify as all-inclusive. Let's start by looking at what is included with your cruise fare when you book a cruise vacation.

The cost of your cruise fare for an ocean cruise includes your stateroom accommodations, main dining, on-board entertainment, and visits to foreign ports of call. That appears all-inclusive, but let's look a little deeper at the details.

Your stateroom is your private room on the ship; it's like your hotel room only smaller than rooms you have on land. Space is a premium on a ship, and you may be surprised at the more compact quarters. You also get a stateroom attendant who cleans daily and makes your bed. There are

many options for stateroom accommodations including suites, balconies, ocean view, interior and more.

Main dining includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks throughout the day. There are many restaurants, cafes and snack shacks to choose from. Beverages included are typically only tea, coffee, juice, milk, and water. You will not go hungry on an ocean cruise; many people gain five pounds!

Entertainment is available every day. You will enjoy stage shows, comedy, live music, games, water activities, movies, kid's clubs and more. And your itinerary will take you to exciting ports of call to explore.

So, you could say it's all-inclusive; but what's not included that most travelers want and pay extra to add on? The most popular additions for ocean cruisers include shore excursions, beverage packages, Wi-Fi, spa

treatments, travel protection, prepaid gratuities, specialty dining, photo packages and casino gaming.

Most travelers will add a shore excursion at each port of call. For example, in Alaska many choose to buy whale watching, dogsledding, train tours, crab fishing, salmon bake party, glacier experiences and more! In the Caribbean you can swim with dolphins, snorkel, scuba, jet ski, Mayan Ruins tours, ATV in the jungle, etc.

Beverage packages can save you money on the cost of sodas, specialty coffees, and bartender beverages. These beverages are not included in the base cruise fare. And please remember to tip your bartender!

There are some dining venues that are not included in your base cruise fare. These specialty dining venues are a fun experience. Sushi bar, hibachi grill, steakhouse, crab shack are all examples of upcharge dining. There is no need to eat at these venues as there is plenty of dining included already, but these extra opportunities can be amazing.

Cruise ships have incredible spas, and their treatments and massages are wonderful.

As your travel advisor I encourage you to buy the travel protection and add the prepaid gratuities. Travel protection is more than just cancellation coverage for a nonrefundable cruise. The emergency evacuation and medical coverage is important, especially in remote destinations like Skagway, Alaska or Grand Cayman. Prepaying gratuities for your stateroom attendant and dining staff is a great way to make the experience more hassle free and relaxing.

There is truly something for everyone on an ocean cruise, and your fundamental needs are all included: room, dining and entertainment. But the full cruise experience will cost more than the base cruise fare. Be sure to budget for shore excursions, beverage package, specialty dining, spa, tips, photos, and more.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Timing Is everything...



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

An older woman, her age nearing the century mark, deeply desired to attend the recent Howard Payne University homecoming. She received her baccalaureate degree there some 75 years ago, and this was her first trip back to Brownwood since her graduation.

"I wanted to see Old Main one last time," she said, remembering that most of her classes were held in the old three-story sandstone structure which was HPU's only building when classes began in 1890.

Other alumni would have enjoyed seeing it, too; that regal centerpiece where students kidded that ivy crept around on the outside and faculty crept around on the inside. Too bad the old grad

didn't hear that Old Main had gone up in flames back in 1984.

My ancient Uncle Mort in The Thicket is shaking his head about the many controversies that dominate news cycles.

He was saddened that several hundred persons protested recently in front of the Dallas Morning News. Groups included the Palestinian Youth Movement, Indian American Muslim Council, Dallas Anti-War Committee and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

He doubts there are many youngsters hawking newspapers around the newspaper headquarters these days.

Though Mort knows little about astronomy, he is fascinated by news about outer

space.

"As a kid, the closest I got to astronomy was singing, 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star,'" Mort laughed.

He said astronomers have confirmed the most distant radio burst ever came in on radio waves lasting less than a millisecond from a galaxy so far away its light took eight billion years to reach us. I can't wrap my head around this, either, but will whistle the melody about the twinkling star much of the day.

Mort knows I don't cotton to use or promotion of alcohol, and rarely make any reference to it. An item from across the pond, however, confounds, amuses and amazes!

Sotheby's is gearing up for an auction next month, and obviously places a high value on, uh, "ancient hooch." It promises to take the highest bid for a "96-year-old bottle of single malt from distiller Macallen — "The Macallen Adami 1926." It will come

under the hammer on Nov. 18, and the likely winner will need to pony up with \$1.46 million.

That's a hefty price to celebrate anything, and for those who decide to drown their sorrows in alcohol, there are many brands available that produce the same results at a fraction of the price.

This reminds me of the yard maintenance guy whose boss gifted him with a bottle of whiskey.

The worker thanked him profusely for the "just right" whiskey.

Asked what "just right" meant, he answered thusly: "If it had been any better, you wouldn't have given it to me, and if it had been any worse, I couldn't have swallowed it

I began this piece referencing my alma mater, where I was a student from 1956 to 1961 and president from 1985-1997. I'll end it with an observation made by my friend Dave Lieber, who writes twice-weekly "watch



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the 'Old Main' at Howard Payne University which was destroyed by a fire in 1984.

dog" columns in the Dallas Morning News.

He remembered the late Blackie Sherrod, nationally renowned sports columnist for the DMN who retired in 2006 and died a decade later at age 96. He cited Sherrod's unique ability to weave stories together, usually under a "scattershooting" headline. Sherrod, too, was an HPU graduate. Though he never took a journalism class, he credited the late Dr. Cleo McChristy, a masterful English teacher, for teaching him much. She was in the early years of a brilliant

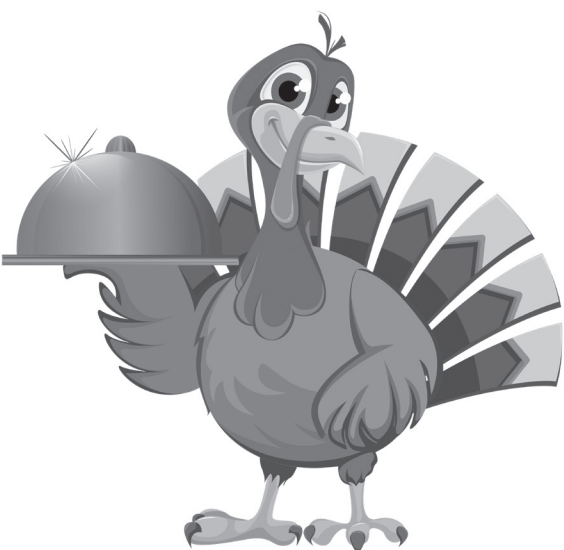
career and was also my mentor a couple of decades later. However, she "lern't" him a heap more than she did me!

Lieber quoted the light-hearted Sherrod who once wrote, "Freeways come in two models — over-crowded and under construction." On Sherrod's first day of retirement, he wore a t-shirt inscribed thusly: "You have mistaken me for someone who cares."

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Community Gardens members reap bountiful fall harvest



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.

Members of Pecan Plantation's Community

Gardens held both a workday and a "happy hour" in

October, and on both occasions, folks gleaned, fertilized and shared the garden's first fall harvest. Among the bounty were zucchini, yellow squash, eggplant, okra and peppers.

The Community Gardens are located near the PAC walking track, and new members to the group are always

welcome. Applications are available at the PAC information desk.

DONATION DROP

A food drive benefiting Mission Granbury is currently happening at the PAC, but the final day will come on Monday, Nov. 6. Nonperishable food and hygiene items are requested.

giene items are requested.

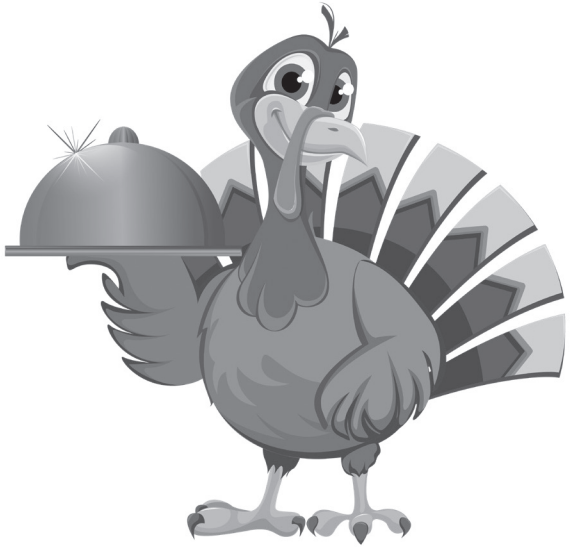
AUXILIARY MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary comes Monday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the EMS meeting room at the emergency compound on

Monticello Drive. Folks are invited to come for a 6 p.m. potluck meal and social time prior to the meeting. All Pecaners who desire to support this emergency personnel fundraising group are welcome.

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C13

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PECAN FROM PAGE C11
ELECTION DAY

Pecaners may cast their votes on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at the PAC. Operating hours run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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 comprise the day, including a message from General Bruce Carlson, a flyover by the Texas V-Tails Bonanza Group, and a musical performance by Judge and Jury. In addition, folks will be able to view a photo array honoring veterans consisting of pictures submitted by Pecan residents.

BLOOD DRIVE

After several 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



COURTESY PHOTO BY STEPH PHALEN

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club held both a workday and a happy hour recently at which members both tended to plants and reaped a fall harvest. Pictured (left to right) working the land are Gae Seal, Susan Harris, and Linda Steele.

PAC. Folks may visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter "Pecanplantation" to schedule an appointment. Folks participating in the drive will be eligible for several prizes: gift cards, cash, coupons from Deja Brew and Ace Hardware and "buy one get one" pizza from Chef Jordan in Pecan.

GOOD READS

The Hood County Bookmobile will return to Pecan on Wednesday, Nov. 8 and Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and be ready to receive patrons in the PAC parking lot. Folks may both check out and return library materials.

DINNER EVENT

A "Southern Night Buffet and Bingo" is on the food and beverage calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 14. Call the clubhouse front desk for reservations: 817-573-2641.

ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will gather again on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the PAC when the day will hold an art auction. Bidding by PPAG members will run from 10 to 11 a.m. and then open to all Pecan residents from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Furthermore, raffle prizes and art supplies will be plentiful.

The PPAG welcomes residents ages 18 and older with a love of and appreciation for art.

RED FRIDAYS

Thanks to a patriotic group of Pecan golfers, our food and beverage department staff members are donning red attire on Fridays as part of the "RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Fridays Movement." As each week

comes to a close, residents will see red uniforms on the 19th hole in honor of men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

LOST AND FOUND

Pecan has a "lost and found" collection at the clubhouse front desk for trinkets members might have misplaced. Folks may drop by to check for and claim items.

EXERCISE TIME

Word on the street is that the ladies chair yoga class led by DeDe Lamont at the PAC is full of fun, stretching and fellowship, and they promise new recruits won't be sorry for joining. Meeting times are Mondays and Thursdays from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

FALL FUN

Trunk or Treat and the annual Halloween party last week at the PAC were fabulous successes thanks to the PAC staff and all volunteers who made the fun happen. Congratulations to the winners of the pumpkin carving

contest who took home gift cards for their creativity and skill: Brenda Tralee, Tripp Carsen, Harper Albrecht, Kate Nichols, Haddie Perry, Connie Jo Carson, Wyatt Nichols and Emmory Perry.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The much-anticipated Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual Holiday Tour of Homes and Santa's Workshop is on the calendar for Thursday, Dec. 14, but preparations for this event are already well underway. The first "drop off" of items for the workshop happened last week, but more donation opportunities are coming up on the calendar. The ladies are anticipating a large shopping crowd this year, so a plethora of items for purchase is needed. For complete information on the event or for idea inspiration, email Vicki Winder at windervicki@att.net.

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