



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, November 11, 2023]

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“THE FEW AND THE PROUD”

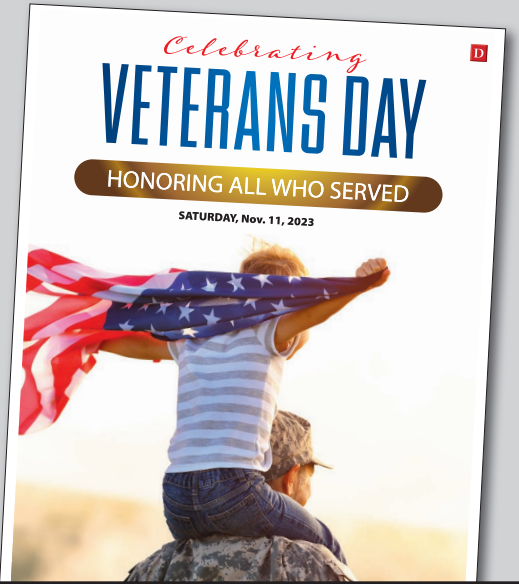


Nikzad and the motor transportation contact team deploy into Tunisia in North Africa.

COURTESY PHOTO

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. In this special section, Hood County News and special advertising partners honor Hood County veterans. Thank you to all who served.



Texas votes on 14 proposed amendments

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Voters across Texas had the opportunity to vote on 14 proposed amendments on Election Day. Thirteen of the 14 amendments were approved.

Proposition 1 protects a person's right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture and wildlife management practices on property that a person owns or leases. Proposition 1 passed with 79% approval and 21% disapproval.

Proposition 2 allows for a county municipality to exempt a qualifying child-care facility from property taxes. Proposition 2 passed with 65% approval and 35% disapproval.

Proposition 3 is an attempt to prevent future wealth tax that would ask voters for approval on if they could impose new state taxes on residents based off net worth and wealth. Proposition 3 passed with 68% approval and 32% disapproval.

Proposition 4 will allow the state of Texas to spend
PLEASE SEE **AMENDMENTS** | A6

Marine Corps veteran shares her story

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Amber Nikzad is a Marine Corps veteran who served four years as a captain and made the move to Granbury in June of last year.

Nikzad comes from a rich history of military background with great-grand-

parents, both her grandfathers and step-grandfathers, mother and father, stepdad,

uncle and one of her siblings having served in the military.

Her great-grandmother served as one of the few women in the Women's Air Corps and both of her grandfathers served in World War 11 as part of the Marine Corps.

“One of my grandpas was there for the Iwo Jima raising of the flag. That stood out to

me in my childhood as being a very important event,” Nikzad said. “My great-grandma was in the Women's Air Corps which a very small portion of the female population at the time joined and she was one of them.”

Nikzad shared that she was inspired by her fam-

PLEASE SEE **VETERAN** | A6

“One of my grandpas was there for the Iwo Jima raising of the flag. That stood out to me in my childhood as being a very important event. My great-grandma was in the Women's Air Corps which a very small portion of the female population at the time joined and she was one of them.”

AMBER NIKZAD
Marine Corps Veteran

Preliminary election results show GISD Prop. B failed by six votes

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Preliminary voting numbers currently show that Proposition B, the Granbury Independent School District bond, failed by six votes.

When preliminary totals from Hood County came in on Tuesday night, Proposition B was ahead by 74 votes. However, as results came in from the counties of Johnson, Somervell and Parker, the overall vote total shifted.

The current preliminary numbers for Prop. B are list-

ed below:

HOOD
For: 6,149
Against: 6,075

JOHNSON
For: 29
Against: 32

PARKER
For: 34
Against: 110

SOMERVELL
For: 7
Against: 8

TOTAL
For: 6,219
Against: 6,225

Preliminary numbers show that Proposition A, the Voter Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE), is currently passing by a total of 885 votes.

Additionally, GISD Board of Trustees incumbent Mike Moore is currently in the lead for Place 1 with 59.1% of votes, followed by Rhonda Rogers Williams with 34.1% and Jessica Wark with 6.9%.

For GISD Board of Trustees Place 2, preliminary numbers show Nancy Alana is currently leading with 64.8% of the votes, with Alejandra Munoz at 35.2%.

Granbury ISD

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn posted a statement to the Granbury ISD Facebook page on Wednesday morning thanking the community for a strong turnout in this year's VATRE and school bond elections.

“Our district is grateful that voters chose to ratify Proposition A, the Voter Approved Tax Rate Election, which will help fund staff pay increases, smaller class sizes and additional security for all GISD campuses,” Glenn's statement reads.

PLEASE SEE **PROP. B** | A3

City of Granbury election results

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

There were two seats up for grabs on Granbury's City Council this election. The election resulted in a runoff as well as the re-election of a councilman.

Gary “Skip” Overdier is leading in Place 4 that was previously the place of Trish Burwell. Burwell opted not to run for re-election.

Overdier came out with a total of 1,072 votes or 45.93 percent where his opponents Charles Beard had 639 votes or 27.38 percent and Brad Benson received 623 votes or 26.69 percent.

According to the City of Granbury, since none of the candidates received more than half the votes, a runoff election is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9.

Early voting in person for this election will start on Nov. 27 and ends on Dec. 5.

Place 6 also was up for grabs and was won by incumbent Greg Corrigan facing a challenge from Alex Wolf.

Corrigan received 1,183 votes or 52.25 percent and Wolf received 1,081 votes or 47.75 percent.

Election returns will be officially confirmed at the Granbury City Council meeting on Nov. 16 at 1 p.m.



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137TH YEAR, NO. 102

Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 40 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 40 pages

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Granbury Chamber of Commerce celebrates Women in Business with annual holiday fashion show: A night of glamour and giving

Chamber Message

Get ready to sparkle and shine as the Granbury Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the Women in Business Annual Holiday Fashion Show on Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 5:30-8pm at Hotel Lucy. This dazzling event promises a night of glitz, glamour and giving.

Picture it: Hotel Lucy bathed in the warm glow of lights providing an atmosphere of luxury and style with a buzz of excitement in the air. Local boutiques, all cherished chamber members, will take center stage to showcase their latest and greatest holiday fashion —

from chic winter attire to exquisite accessories that'll make your heart skip a beat. We will see amazing fashions from The Pearl, Red on the Square, Jean's Crossing, Lake Granbury Mercantile, The Class Act, Beyond Cuffs and Bella Rosa Consignment Gallery.

Ladies, we are in for a treat! This event is not just a celebration of the vibrant fashion scene in our fabulous town but a chance to celebrate the remarkable women behind these businesses. Plus, we want to celebrate all our Granbury businesswomen, who work tirelessly to make our community thrive. It's an



opportunity to enjoy fellowship and networking with others who are ready to be a part of the spotlight.

But that's not all... door prizes, generously donated by our local boutiques, will also be up for grabs. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase for your chance to win one of these amazing prizes. And the best part? Every dollar raised in the

raffle will go straight to the Many Mansions local charity, spreading the love and warmth to those who need it most this holiday season.

A huge shout out to our presenting sponsor, Town Square Title, for making this spectacular evening possible. Their unwavering support is a shining example of how local businesses can come together to create unforgettable and

meaningful events for the women in our community.

And let's not forget about the refreshments that will make your taste buds dance with joy. Thanks to our refreshment sponsors — The FIT Lounge, Tristand Stuart Insurance Agency and Bella Rosa Consignment Gallery — you'll enjoy delectable bites by Hard Eight while celebrating the finest fashion and the spirit of giving. Sips will also be provided with a cash bar and our fabulous DJ will keep the energy high, while the 360 photo booth captures your stylish moments, making memories that will last a lifetime.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to revel in the glitz and glam, embrace empowerment and become part of a community that cares. Join us at the Women in Business Annual Holiday Fashion Show and let your heart be warmed by the generosity and talent of Granbury's businesswomen.

For more information and ticket inquiries, please contact the Granbury Chamber of Commerce at 817-573-1622, email Maegan at maegan@granburychamber.com or visit our website at www.granburychamber.com. Get ready to shine, ladies, because this night is for you!

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Texas Lumber: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening. They are located at 4805 E. Hwy 377.

COURTESY PHOTO



Radiance Wellness MediSpa: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening of the New Surgery Center, located at 600 S. Harbor Ct.

COURTESY PHOTO



La Fondita de Cristina: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening. They are located at 8905 Glen Rose Hwy.

COURTESY PHOTO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight



Southern Oak Custom Homes

"Beyond the construction and completion of high quality homes, Southern Oak Custom Homes aims to deliver a better build experience to all homeowners from our first contact all the way to move-in day and beyond."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Southern Oak Custom Homes. "Beyond the construction and completion of high-quality homes, Southern Oak Custom Homes aims to deliver a better build experience to all homeowners from our first contact all the way to move-in day and beyond." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight



TX Hop Club

"TX HOP Club features climate controlled courts with professional, permanent nets, court dividers which create a comfortable and spacious play area and strategically placed LED lighting"

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"TX HOP Club features climate controlled courts with professional, permanent nets, court dividers which create a comfortable and spacious play area and strategically placed LED lighting. We invite beginners, pros and in-betweeners to make TX HOP Club their home club! We will offer reserved courts so you can play with whomever you choose at your convenience. You will also enjoy open play, clinics, local and traveling league play, drills and skills sessions, tournaments and special events all designed to enhance your fun and improve your play." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight



Carter Landscape Design

"Over 20 years of experience in upscale residential landscape architectural design and installation."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

"Carter Landscape is a design/build landscape company with over 20 years of experience offering landscape architecture services and installation, as well as licensed irrigation and drainage services. We specialize in upscale residential properties, large estates, and ranches." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

PLEASE SEE MORE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | A14

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

If it is mechanical, it will break down



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.

Last weekend our granddaughter spent the night. It was a fun evening and on Sunday morning my girls explained to me it had been decided we were going out for breakfast. Something was mentioned about pancakes and bacon, and the next thing I knew they were all dressed, and we were loading up my wife's car to head to the diner.

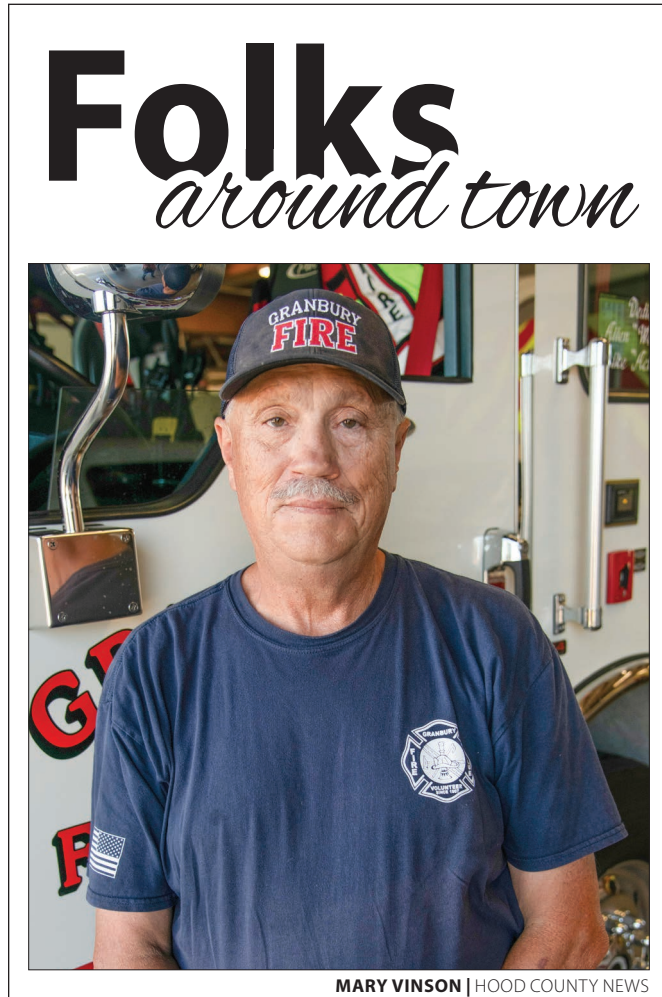
My granddaughter was buckled into the car seat and my wife had jumped into the front seat as I pushed the ignition button on the car. When I did, nothing happened. I guess that is not exactly true because the engine did make sort of a groan, but it did not turn over. Instantly I assumed it was the battery and wondered if maybe something like a courtesy light switch had been left on, thinking it might have

drained the battery overnight. There had been no warning of a battery issue, it was just suddenly dead. The girls unloaded, got into my car and we headed off to breakfast. When we returned, I discarded the prior plans made for the morning and went about determining what had gone wrong with the car. Since the vehicle was parked in the garage, and there is a substantial slope to the driveway heading into

the garage, pushing the car out to be able to "jump it" seemed unlikely. Instead, I got out the battery charger, plugged it in, and hooked it up. It took about 20 minutes before the battery had taken enough charge to let the engine turn over, but once it did, it started right up. I then headed to the parts store where I got the battery tested only to learn it had gone bad. Two hundred seventy-five dollars later I had a new

battery installed and I had a degree of comfort knowing my wife and the grandbaby would not be out someplace stranded because of a mechanical issue. Mission accomplished and all is well. On the way home from the auto parts store, my mind drifted to all the other occasions in my life where I had car-related battery problems. In the days before electronic ignitions, there were all sorts

PLEASE SEE **PORCH** | A6



Folks around town

Mack Bennett

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Mack Bennett!

Mack has called Hood County home since he was a child. In 1964 the Bennett family moved here from West Texas, Pampa, to be exact. Bennett has always appreciated the small-town feeling and feels good core family values can still be found in Granbury. Mack and his wife Meredith, a retired RN, raised three boys here: Brandon, Justin, and Mack Jr, his namesake. The couple are now experiencing the joy of four grandchildren, with a fifth on the way. Now retired from the Local 178 Union of Operating Engineers, Mack spends much more time with fellow Granbury Volunteer Fire Department volunteers. Bennett has been volunteering in Hood County for over 40 years, pretty much his entire adult life. Depending on where he resided at the time, Mack has also volunteered for DCBE, Acton, and Indian Harbor Fire Departments. The Bennett's eldest grandson, 21-year-old Caven Bennett, also proudly serves as a GVFD volunteer. The couple loves to take in the good old-fashioned country gospel at the Triple Cross Cowboy Church. Mack also shared that his newest favorite hobby is laser crafting! When Mack was asked about the Hood County News the quick reply was: "The Hood County News is always on the spot with good reporting."

Granbury City Council candidate's house raided

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

The Hood County News received an anonymous tip the morning of Nov. 6 that Granbury City Council candidate Brad Benson's house was raided that day.

Benson is the general manager and partner of Cinergy Cinemas and a Granbury volunteer firefighter who lives in the 1200 block of Mallard Way.

At around 6 a.m., approximately 30 to 40 cars were spotted at Benson's residence.

Two of the vehicles were state troopers and five of the cars were white and unmarked. Only the state troopers were in uniform, and the other people were dressed in street clothes according to the tip.

Badges were clearly seen, and the officers were carrying guns, the tipster stated.

"You could tell that they were some kind of investiga-

tor. They had Brad in the back seat of an unmarked car and then he came out of it and was standing outside for a bit before they put him back in the unmarked car," the tipster added.

The tipster noticed one of the people who came out of Benson's residence was holding a brown paper sack and gave it to one of the state troopers.

The people at Benson's residence were going in and out of his house, according to the tipster and they later searched his truck and truck bed.

After searching Benson's truck, the tipster noticed Benson was put into the back of a state trooper's car before it drove away with the rest of the cars following.

HCN Publisher Sam Houston reached out to the chairman of the Republican Party of Hood County Steve Biggers, to confirm a statement the group posted on

social media.

"We have just learned that longtime community member, Deputy Fire Marshal, lifetime member of the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, small businessman and city council candidate Brad Benson was taken into custody by law enforcement this morning. Based on the limited information available, it is our understanding that a serious sex-related offense may be involved. If these allegations are true, there is no such way the party would ever condone such activity."

In addition, the HCN learned from the Hood County Sheriff bond report that Bradley Jay Benson was charged with two counts of felony first-degree child pornography possession on Nov. 6 at 2:04 p.m.

According to Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, Benson's bond was set on Nov. 7 at \$100,000 for each of the two charges.



Brad Benson

COURTESY PHOTO

"There was no arrest warrant. It was an on-site arrest. We executed a search warrant at his house and then found child pornography and then arrested him at that point," District Attorney Ryan Sinclair told the HCN on Nov. 8.

HCN will continue to follow the story and provide updates as the story develops.

Sheriff: Former judge candidate arrested, charged with deadly conduct

From Staff Reports

Granbury resident and former Hood County Judge candidate Mark Burton Shackelford was arrested at his residence in Nassau Bay at 6:44 p.m. on Nov. 3, for a Class A misdemeanor charge of deadly conduct (assault, other weapon).

According to Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, the incident resulted in Shackelford "not getting along with his neighbors" and stemmed

from a previous occurrence where his neighbor rode by his house on a bike and was bitten by Shackelford's dog.

"In this world we live in, my sheriff deputies can't be everywhere they need to be all the time, so it is very important to get along with your neighbors and watch each other's backs," Deeds said in an email to the HCN on Nov. 6. "Apparently, they do not all get along in that neighborhood."

Shackelford previously ran

against current Hood County Judge Ron Massingill in the November 2022 election, with Massingill receiving 4,187 votes and Shackelford receiving 2,706.

After being booked into the Hood County Jail at 11:28 p.m. on Saturday, Shackelford posted a bond of \$2,500 and was released from jail on Sunday morning, according to Deeds.



Mark Burton Shackelford

COURTESY PHOTO

Hood County News

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PROP. B FROM PAGE A1

"In the coming months, we will study feedback from Proposition B to better understand why voters chose not to support additional facilities in our district. The facilities proposed on the ballot were truly needed to accommodate future student growth and provide equity within our district. We look forward to a continued

strong partnership with all stakeholders as we work to provide all students in our schools with an exemplary educational experience. Thank you for your involvement and genuine concern for our students and GO PIRATES!"

Glenn also congratulated candidates Moore and Alana on "winning the election" for the Granbury ISD Board of Trustees.

"I look forward to working together for the better-

ment of the students, staff and community of Granbury ISD."

The Granbury ISD election preliminary results are listed below:

Proposition A (VATRE)
For: 6,641 (53.6%)
Against: 5,756 (46.4%)
Proposition B (Bond)
For: 6,219 (49.9%)
Against: 6,225 (50.1%)
Granbury ISD Trustee, Place 1
Mike Moore: 6,847 (59.1%)
Rhonda Rogers Williams: 3,938 (34.1%)
Jessica Wark: 794 (6.9%)
Granbury ISD Trustee, Place 2
Nancy Alana: 7,491 (64.8%)
Alejandra Munoz: 4,063 (35.2%)
As these are still preliminary numbers, the Hood County News will provide updates on the final voting numbers as soon as they become available.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

TWC kicks off statewide hiring event for veterans and their families

Hiring Red, White & You! enters 12th year of connecting nation's heroes with Texas employers



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) began its 12th annual Hiring Red, White & You! statewide hiring event on Wednesday, Nov. 1, which provides opportunities for veterans, transitioning military members and military spouses to connect with employers across Texas.

Submitted Item

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) began its 12th annual Hiring Red, White & You! statewide hiring event on Wednesday, Nov. 1, which provides opportunities for veterans, transitioning military members and military spouses to connect with employers across Texas from Nov. 1-17.

“Thank you to our Texas veterans who have served their nation proudly,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. “We are honored to

again present statewide hiring events to connect veterans, service members, and their spouses with opportunities to showcase their skillsets and create meaningful careers.”

Since 2012, Hiring Red, White & You! has served more than 20,000 employers and connected more than 114,000 job seekers to meaningful job opportunities. The free hiring events organized through Hiring Red, White & You! have facilitated more than 3,000 same-day hires since the initiative was launched.

“Hiring Red, White & You! is a win-win situation as it connects Texas employers with our nation’s heroes and provides veterans an opportunity to continue their career with commitment and purpose after the military,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. “Texas employers that hire from the veteran community will gain a uniquely skilled leader who will be an asset to the company.”

Employers are also invited to participate at no cost and are encouraged to con-

tact their local Workforce Solutions Office for more information. Employers who hire veterans may be eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which allows employers to receive up to \$9,600 of federal business income or payroll tax benefits when they hire from certain qualified groups, including veterans.

“TWC is proud to support more than 22,000 uniformed service members and their families as they transition from active military duty to a civilian lifestyle in the Lone Star

State each year,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. “Our annual Hiring Red, White, and You! job fairs continue to help Texas veterans transition and join the strong civilian labor force.”

Find information on how to participate in Hiring Red, White & You! hiring fairs at twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you. For information on all veteran workforce services available in Texas, visit twc.texas.gov/services/veterans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

It’s time to abolish the ETJ or let the residents vote for representation. The extra-territorial jurisdiction, or ETJ, is described as the 1-mile easement between the Granbury city limits and Hood County. Essentially, those residents are beholden to the city of Granbury for any development, construction and general guidelines; however, they are not allowed to vote, or sit on the boards that govern them.

Most residents are completely unaware that they live in the ETJ until they attempt to build, modify or install on their county property anything that is not compliant with the Granbury city codes or

charter. At that point, they need to apply through the city of Granbury, then its planning and zoning commission, and finally, the city council for approval.

These same residents are not allowed to vote in the election of any of those representatives. They are simply governed by force (e.g., if you live here, you are forced to follow our rules without any elected representatives). Are you in the ETJ? If you live on the Southside of OTS, in Sky Harbour, Laguna Tres, Comanche Cove, Ports ‘O Call, Meander Estates, Western Hills, Decordova Ranch or any of the “unnamed” locations on the ETJ map, then this applies to you. These are thousands of residents who are not represented but

live in these areas. Those are thousands of potential votes for city council candidates that are never cast.

I would urge you to write your county commissioner and address the city council to either abolish the ETJ or allow those residents to vote in elections that affect their livelihood.

Joshua Morrison
Granbury

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

I recently overheard someone speaking negatively of Lake Granbury Medical Center (hospital). I wondered if they were speaking of somewhere else. Earlier this year, I broke my ankle and was in LGMC for seven days. While there, I received

the most efficient, attentive and loving care I’ve had anywhere in a long time. All the professional staff, including those who kept everything spotless, were the essence of TLC. Even the food was great.

By the seventh day, I told them if they didn’t discharge me, I was going to apply for permanent residence because they were spoiling me. Most of us would rather be well and in our own homes, but if we need an exemplary hospital, I personally discovered that Lake Granbury Medical Center is the place to be.

Willa Avery
Granbury

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

THROUGH NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

LAKE GRANBURY Art Association hosts a group show perfect for the holiday season at the Shanley Gallery, 224. N. Travis, Granbury. Reception is 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 25. Gallery hours vary.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

CHRISTMAS CRAFT Fair, Southside Baptist Church at 910 Paluxy Road, Granbury from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 817-573-1462 or 432-556-4053.

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.

MONDAY, NOV. 13

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

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. 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.ncentexcwrt.com>.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC

Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Josh Worthey, regional union business manager, will talk about the importance of voting. 11 a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: Call 254-716-5195.



PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A9

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



ZED by Duane M. Abel



Granbury US Bitcoin Corp erects 24-foot soundproofing wall



COURTESY OF MATT PRUSAK

The Bitcoin mining corporation located near the Wolf Hollow data center in Granbury recently completed its 24-foot-high and almost 2,000-foot-long soundproofing wall.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

For the past year, the constant fan noise emanating from the Bitcoin mining corporation located near the Wolf Hollow data center in Granbury has led to many Hood County residents becoming disgruntled with the new center.

But now, residents can finally sleep better at night following the completion of a 24-foot high and almost 2,000-foot-long soundproofing wall that was recently constructed around the center.

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency — a virtual currency designed to act as money and a form of payment outside the control of any one person, group or entity, thus removing the need for third-party involvement in financial transactions, according to investopedia.com.

With Bitcoin essentially being the currency of the internet, rather than being controlled by a bank, the currency is controlled by mathematics and software.

However, with banks out of the equation, Bitcoin will

need some agency to keep track of the funds, and that is where bitcoin mining comes into play.

Bitcoin mining refers to the process where a global network of computers running the Bitcoin code work to ensure transactions are legitimate and added correctly to the cryptocurrency's blockchain. Mining is also how new Bitcoin is entered into circulation, according to forbes.com.

With Bitcoin mining basically being the accountants of the internet, Granbury's massive 300-megawatt Bitcoin mining data center runs its accounting software on supercomputers using a very specific chip.

Matt Prusak, chief commercial officer for US Bitcoin, explained that Granbury's

Bitcoin mining site — known as the delta — is "one of the largest in North America," using between 70,000 to 90,000 supercomputers at its location.

"We're not the biggest, but we're very proud," he said. "We don't own it. It's actually owned by a private equity fund, but we're the responsible one. We're the operators. We've been operating that site now for roughly a year."

Prusak explained that when US Bitcoin took over the Granbury site, they were brought in by the owner to "keep things in shipshape."

One of the issues Prusak noted was complaints from residents regarding the loud noise caused by fans to keep the supercomputers cool.

"We were a big believer in being a good citizen, and being a good neighbor was addressing any neighborly concerns," he said. "We're trying to run the software as fast as possible, as best as possible, so we run them hot, and we have fans to cool them down. Now the fans, much like the old desktop computer fans can make some noise, so we commissioned with our partner a large investment in a



COURTESY OF NANNETTE SAMUELSON

The new soundproofing wall at Granbury's Bitcoin mining site is metal and contains an acoustic dampening material inside the siding that is used to absorb sound.

noise wall."

Prusak explained he presented the soundproofing wall project at a town hall meeting with Hood County Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson in attendance, where he laid out the "multimillion dollar investment" that US Bitcoin was making on the wall.

"Not long after taking office, I began getting calls and emails from residents complaining about the noise from the Bitcoin data center next to Wolf Hollow power plant," Samuelson said, in a text message to the HCN. "Constable (John) Shirley and I did some investigation to verify, and then reached out to US Bitcoin to discuss solutions."

Samuelson said from the first meeting with Prusak, he was "committed to being a good community partner."

"The company had already made plans to build a noise barrier wall, which he explained during a community town hall I held in June," she said. "I kept in touch with Mr. Prusak getting updates every few weeks. He was very accommodating when I requested a tour to see the wall firsthand. Once the wall is complete, the residents should see a reduction in noise emitting from the data center."

Prusak said the wall was just recently completed and that he is pleased to say it's the "best in class."

"This thing is awesome," he said. "It is 24 feet high and almost half a mile long. We had three different crews with over 30 people working to build this wall and I'm pleased to say that it will — and it has — solved the concern."

The soundproofing wall is metal and contains an acoustic dampening material inside the siding that is used to absorb sound.

"It was a big investment in time and money, but we think it's worthwhile," Prusak said. "We built the site with the intention that we would stay and keep everyone employed and show that this is best in class and again, this is one of the crown jewels in North America for Bitcoin mining, so part of being that is showing that you care about your neighborhood."

Prusak added that Commissioner Samuelson was an "awesome partner" in the soundproofing wall project.

"She's been nothing but hospitable in terms of allowing us to participate in the town hall and sort of giving us input from the community on how to be a good neigh-

bor, and I have to thank her for her kind partnership," he said.

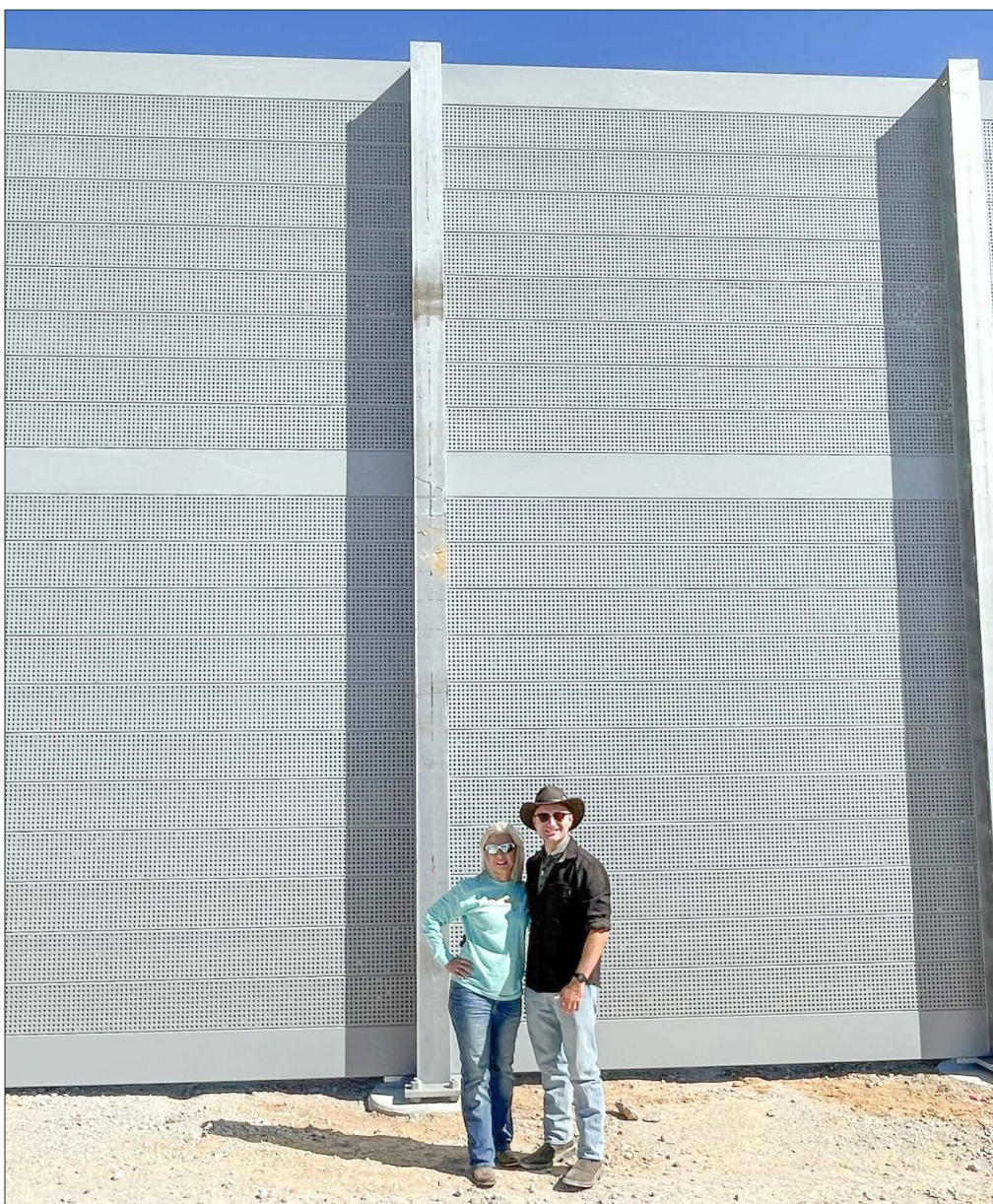
Prusak explained that one Bitcoin is equal to about \$35,000 in U.S. dollars, adding that he doesn't have a specific number on how many Bitcoins the site is able to produce in a day.

"There's a lot of math, so I can't say we make 10 a day or anything like that," he explained. "I can say that they're worth about \$34,000-\$35,000, and we've got, you know, tens of thousands of machines running to do that."

As for the future of Granbury's delta site, Prusak said with already being the "largest private Bitcoin mine operator in North America," the focus now is on continuing to develop its place in the industry, build great facilities, and hire locals.

"Our mission is to secure the future of finance; that's the goal," he added. "At the end of the day, we're proud Bitcoin miners and we're very proud of this wall. We're quite happy with the result and we look forward to continuing to be a good neighbor."

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COURTESY OF NANNETTE SAMUELSON

Hood County Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, left, poses with Matt Prusak, chief commercial officer for US Bitcoin, in front of the new soundproofing wall at Granbury's Bitcoin mining corporation located near the Wolf Hollow data center.

AMENDMENTS FROM PAGE A1

\$18 billion dollars on property tax cuts for businesses and homeowners as well as cut school district's tax rates. Proposition 4 passed with 83% approval and 17% disapproval.

Proposition 5 will create the Texas University Fund that will allow for research universities to better their research capabilities.

Proposition 5 passed with 64% approval and 36% disapproval.

Proposition 6 will create a \$1 billion dollar water supply fund for the state that will help support aging and bad pipes and mitigate water loss. Proposition 6 passed with 78% approval and 22% disapproval.

Proposition 7 will create a Texas energy fund for the Public Utilities Commission to provide \$5 billion to finance construction and

maintain electric generation facilities. Proposition 7 passed with 65% approval and 35% disapproval.

Proposition 8 will bring high-speed internet to all Texans by creating a broadband infrastructure fund. Proposition 8 passed with 69% approval and 31% disapproval.

Proposition 9 will grant retired teachers a raise in their cost of living to their monthly pension checks. Proposition 9 passed with

84% approval and 16% disapproval.

Proposition 10 exempts school districts, cities and counties from collecting property taxes on the value of equipment and inventory by medical and biomedical product manufacturers. Proposition 10 passed with 55% approval and 45% disapproval.

Proposition 11 authorizes the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso

County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. Proposition 11 passed with 63% and 37% disapproval.

Proposition 12 abolishes the office of the county treasurer in Galveston County. Proposition 12 passed with 53% approval and 47% disapproval.

Proposition 13 did not pass but would have increased the mandatory age

of retirement for state judges from 75 to 79 and the minimum retirement age from 70 to 75. Proposition 13 failed with 37% approval and 63% disapproval.

Proposition 14 will create the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks. Proposition 14 passed with 76% approval and 24% disapproval.

VETERAN FROM PAGE A1

ily and wanted to join the military to serve the United States.

Her mother and father both served in the Air Force and met while serving as firefighters. Her brother served in the Navy.

When Nikzad was in high school, she was part of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program and fell in love with the idea of the Marine Corps.

After graduating high school, she knew she wanted to go to college but still had that military desire in the back of her mind.

She studied criminal justice at Samoa College in California and later got her master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Nikzad is currently pursuing a PhD at Liberty University.

After graduating from Samoa at the age of 22, Nikzad was ready to serve.

Before going into the Marines, her dad took her to look at other branches, so the two went to an Army, Navy and Air Force recruiter.

"I was like 'Dad, I don't want to be in any of these, I want to be in the Marine Corps,'" Nikzad said. "There was no changing my mind on that one."

She always knew she wanted to be a part of the Marine Corps, noting the toughness of the program is something she wanted to prove she could be a part of.

Women became an official part of the Marine Corps on June 12, 1948, when Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

"It is the hardest, the most grueling and physically demanding branch there is,"



Nikzad and her daughter Arya welcome home Ryan after he got back from deployment.

COURTESY PHOTO

Nikzad said.

She shared that being a woman in such a grueling branch was tough.

"A lot of instances where even in the Marine Corps you feel this inferiority complex to the male counterparts and that's not an opportunity to fight back or argue because that's just

going to add fuel to the fire. Often the men view women as overly emotional, so it's an opportunity to prove them wrong."

Not only did Nikzad have to face the challenges of being a woman in the Marines she also had to deal with being much younger than those around her.

"Assuming such a literally life-or-death leadership position at such a young age, when you're working with people who are oftentimes much older than you and oftentimes way more experienced than you, it became very important to humble yourself. To understand that you don't know every-

thing, and to utilize those other people serving and their knowledge on what exactly you're trying to get done and use them as an asset instead of a threat to your position."

Like her parents, she met her future husband in the Marines right before they were getting ready to deploy. They were both stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Nikzad was a captain and served as a logistics officer while in the Marines.

Logistics officers plan, coordinate, execute and/or supervise the execution of all logistics functions and the six functional areas of tactical logistics: supply, maintenance, transportation, general engineering, health services and services.

Logistics officers serve as commanders or assistants to the commanders of tactical logistics units/elements and as members of general or executive staffs in the operating forces, supporting establishment and joint staff, according to the United States Marines Officer website.

"I did a lot of weapons-handling and ammunition as well as motor transport operations," she said.

To become an officer, Nikzad had to attend officer candidate school which she noted was the officer equivalent of boot camp.

The program is 12 weeks long and a person can be dropped from the program at any given time. After this, the candidate must go to six months of basic school to become a proficient rifle platoon commander.

She described the program as grueling but worth it in the end.

Nikzad shared the most important lesson she learned from serving in the Marines and as a leader was

the lesson of empathy.

"Not everybody's story is the same. Not everybody walks the same path and there's room to understand and room to show empathy to those who may need extra care. I feel like that was easy to forget in the Marines because it's kind of set, like things are needed to be done this way, with no areas of gray but that's not really how the real world operates — so showing empathy and understanding that there are those instances where there are those shades of gray."

Nikzad left the service in 2016 when she and her husband decided they wanted to have a child. They now have two girls.

Her husband got out of service in 2020 after serving for 15 years.

"There's no other place in the world that loves their veterans the way Texas does," Nikzad said.

She noted that since the Marine Corps' birthday takes place the day before Veterans Day, it's an even bigger celebration.

"The whole weekend (of Veterans Day) is just a weekend to be proud. Being in a community like Granbury where people value veterans, it's a source of pride where it's like 'I did serve the country' which is not something a lot of people sign up for. It makes me very proud to be just a part of that puzzle, not only within the country but within this group of people that have decided to potentially put themselves in harm's way for the sake of their country's freedom, but also being a piece of that puzzle within my family."

This Veterans Day it is important to keep in mind that veterans come in different ages, gender, race and everything in between.

PORCH FROM PAGE A3

of issues which could prevent your car from starting. It could be the points, the distributor cap, the coil, and of course, the battery.

When I started driving 50 years ago batteries were not as strong or as long-lasting as they are now. In high school my old '65 Fairlane would sit out all night in

freezing temperatures and when I headed to school in the morning, it was not unusual for me to turn the key and hear that familiar whining sound as the car failed to turn over. Invariably, I would have to get the jumper cables and hook them up, so they bridged from my dad's car battery to mine. It was a frustrating, freezing and aggravating way to start a morning. Unfortunately, it was a

process which was regularly repeated, especially during the cold winter months.

There have been a lot of old cars in my past, with lots of mechanical problems. Seems half my youth was spent under the hood of a car trying to solve an issue. I guess similar problems went on for generations as I recalled my dad telling me about a Model A he had in high school that leaked

so much oil and water, he would have to stop and fill it up every 20 or 30 miles. He told me the car could not go faster than 25 miles an hour but it sure beat walking to town from the farm.

Times have changed, and car engines have gotten more efficient and reliable. Oh, they can still break down, but the expectation is they will run and run well. In the "good old days," it seems

like it was more of a 50-50 proposition. My money says a lot of my older readers have some of the same car experiences I did, or my dad did. In some ways it is nice to stroll down that "auto repair" memory lane, but all in all, I don't miss the problems or the aggravation.

Getting a new battery was painless and I bet I do not have to worry about the same problem for another

four or five years. I think that is progress.

Thought for the day: The only time you should ever look back is to see how far you have come.

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

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City of Granbury declares November Home and Hospice Care month



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Mayor Jim Jarratt reads an official proclamation naming November as National Home and Hospice Care month during a city council meeting on Nov. 7.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled city council meeting on Nov. 7, the City of Granbury announced a proclamation naming November National Home Care and Hospice month.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 4.9 million people in the U.S. receive home health care and more than 1.6 million receive hospice care.

During November, the National Association for

Home Care (NAHC) encourages all communities to celebrate National Home Care and Hospice Month, honoring the many nurses, therapists and social workers who make a difference for the patients and families they care for.

Mayor Jim Jarratt presented the official proclamation and read it during the meeting.

“WHEREAS, home care and hospice services provide high quality and compassionate health care services to those in need, especially

during times of community or personal healthcare crisis, allowing families to remain together in their homes for a greater length of time, as well as provide better care, dignity and comfort in our community; and WHEREAS, thousands of everyday heroes such as home care and hospice nurses, therapists and aides provide compassionate, professional health and palliative care to millions of Americans in need; and WHEREAS, these professionals and volunteers provide fundamental

support within the health care provided to our elderly, infirm and disabled population; and WHEREAS, Interim HealthCare Home Health and Hospice, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, and thousands of agencies across the nation have declared the month of November as National Home Care and Hospice Month and are asking all Americans to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies and activities. NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Jim Jarratt, Mayor of the City

of Granbury, do hereby proclaim November 2023 as National Home Care and Hospice Month in Granbury, Texas and encourage the support and participation of all community members in learning more about home care and hospice services to better care for our neighbors and enhance the quality of life in our community,” the proclamation read.

According to Home Hospice and Health Care, “Home care is medical care that is appropriate for people suffering from chronic

illness, following surgery, or recovering from acute injury or illness and want to remain at home. When medical care can no longer offer a cure, hospice care focuses on providing patients with comfort, dignity and quality of life as the end of life draws near. Hospice is not about giving up hope, but instead about new hope.”

There are multiple home health care services in Granbury as well as hospice care.



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1550 Weatherford Highway,
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817-573-4277

Maltipoos for sale waiting on your TLC. \$600. 817-343-8584.

8040 Pets Lost & Found

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

EMPLOYMENT

8510 General

ATTENTION!



HERITAGE CLEANERS is now hiring pressers. Apply in person. Heritage Cleaners esta ahora planchadoras. 600 S. Morgan St. 817-579-9274

HEALTHCARE SERVICES - HOME HEALTH CARE Experienced in home health care, including household chores, errands and cooking. \$20 hour (682) 498-7156

8530 Food Services

DeCordova Country Club Now Hiring Line Cooks, day and night shifts available, competitive pay, benefits available after 90 days. Interested applicants please send resumes to sarah@dcbweb.com or call 817-326-2381.

NOTICES

9031 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

9031 Public Notices

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.

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 27, 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: William Ferguson- furniture, tools, boxes.

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Judy L. Cornelius, Deceased were issued on October 30, 2023, in Cause No. P10156, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Jeaneen Duffey.

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

c/o: Tracy S. Bush
Attorney at Law
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GERALD WAYNE PARRY, Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P10181 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: LAURIE LETA PARRY.

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: Representative, Estate of GERALD WAYNE PARRY
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 03rd day of November, 2023.
/s/Ashley Gale Vaughan
Ashley Gale Vaughan
Attorney for LAURIE LETA PARRY
State Bar No.: 24115896
827 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-5997
Facsimile: (817) 573-4933
E-mail: ashleygale@hydefirm.com

LEGAL AD

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Granbury Recreational Assn., Inc. to be located at 1611 Rockview Drive, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Mike Robinson, President, and Judy Goforth, Secretary.

9031 Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR., Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P10171 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: DAVID WAYNE JOHNSON.

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: Representative, Estate of JAMES DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR.
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 03rd day of November, 2023.
/s/Ashley Gale Vaughan
Ashley Gale Vaughan
Attorney for DAVID WAYNE JOHNSON.
State Bar No.: 24115896
827 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-5997
Facsimile: (817) 573-4933
E-mail: ashleygale@hydefirm.com

9031 Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marvin Earl Wright, Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. P10177 pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Deborah Reynolds.

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: Representative, Estate of Marvin Earl Wright
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 03rd day of November, 2023.
/s/Ashley Gale Vaughan
Ashley Gale Vaughan
Attorney for Deborah Reynolds
State Bar No.: 24115896
827 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-5997
Facsimile: (817) 573-4933
E-mail: ashleygale@hydefirm.com

9031 Public Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSON HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER E. CARLILE, DECEASED CAUSE NO. P09543

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Christopher E. Carlile, Deceased, were issued to Matthew Bragg on the 26th day of October 2023, in Case No. P09543, Hood County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Matthew Bragg now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be billed/sent to Matthew Bragg, as Independent Administrator, at the offices of Cooper & Lyster, PLLC, 6300 Ridglea Place, Suite 405, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 in care of Monika Cooper.

LEGAL AD

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

THE LANDINGS, Lot 3262R

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.

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BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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Hood County News

9031 Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-78

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE UTILITY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-79

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE UTILITY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-80

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE AIRPORT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-81

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-82

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 16-50 WHICH ADOPTED THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY AMENDING THE MAP OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN [FLUP], CONTAINED WITHIN THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE MAP OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-83

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, REVISED ORDINANCE NO. 19-88, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning the hereinafter property and area described as Lot 1R1, Lot 1R2, Lot 1R3, Lot 2A1R, Lot 2A2R, and Common Area A, Block 1, Pearcey Christon Addition No. 1, and Lot 2B, Block 1, Pearcey Christon Addition No. 1, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, on an approximate 8.6 acres being more fully described as Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein:

From "PD (Planned Development/Heavy Commercial)" zoning district to "PD (Planned Development/Heavy Commercial):"

- Provide Pad #2 proposed Restaurant Drive-In/Retail uses;
• Provide Pad 2 site layout to that shown on Exhibit 'B';
• Provide Pad 2 building elevations shown on Exhibit 'C';
• Provide Pad 2 landscaping shown on Exhibit 'D'; and
• Provide Pad 2 development standards shown on Exhibit 'E'.

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

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-84

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property located on an approximate 0.34-acre tract of land described as a Portion of Block 52, Thrash Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas addressed as 321 W. Doyle Street and located in the R-10 Single Family Residential Zoning District.

The Specific Use Permit shall be issued to allow for "Bed & Breakfast, Hosted", as defined by the City of Granbury Zoning Ordinance under the following terms and conditions:

- 1. The specific use permit shall automatically expire 3 years from City Council approval (November 7, 2028).
2. Except as required by these conditions, the site shall conform to the site plan (Exhibit B) and the floor plan (Exhibit C).
3. The Bed and Breakfast, hosted shall be limited to not more than 4 bedrooms.
4. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-85

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit on the property located on an approximate 0.23-acre tract of land described as West 1/2 Lot 3, Block 183, Thrash Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas addressed as 522 W. Mill Street and located in the R-8.4 Single Family Residential Zoning District.

The Specific Use Permit shall be issued to allow for "Short-term Rental (STR) Residential Unhosted", as defined by the City of Granbury Zoning Ordinance under the following terms and conditions:

- 1. The Specific Use Permit shall automatically expire 1 year from City Council approval (November 7, 2024).
2. Except as required by these conditions, the site shall conform to the site plan (Exhibit B) and the floor plan (Exhibit C).
4. Except as provided in these conditions, the Specific Use Permit shall be subject to the Supplemental Standards as contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
5. This Specific Use Permit is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
6. Any violation of the supplemental land use standards or terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the Specific Use Permit may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on October 3, 2023, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following Public Hearing will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

- 1. SUP-2023-20, Request of Progressive Powersports Properties to amend the Specific Use Permit adopted Ordinance #21-45 to allow for the operation of sales and service of new and used ATV's, Motorcycles, and Boats or similar craft. The property is addressed as 4332 E Hwy 377.

For more information, contact Community Development at 817-573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORAGE AUCTION A&E Storage will hold 2 public auctions to satisfy a landlord lien/abandon, belonging to Candice Clemments Unit B22, Contents, household items -Shelby Reed Unit B16 Contents household items at: 2101 Bob White Drive, Granbury TX 76049 on 11/27/2023. The auction will be listed and advertised November 27th 2023 on www.storage treasures.com. Cash only. A&E Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. TX PROP CODE 59.044 lageri07@gmail.com

9031 Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-78

ORDINANCE NO. 23-79

ORDINANCE NO. 23-80

ORDINANCE NO. 23-81

ORDINANCE NO. 23-82

ORDINANCE NO. 23-83

ORDINANCE NO. 23-84

ORDINANCE NO. 23-85

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: JOSHUA ANTHONY GUY, Respondent: GREETINGS: NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "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 a.m. of the first Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of PHOEBE KATHERINE GUY Petitioner, was filed in the COUNTY COURT AT LAW Court of Hood County, Texas on the 16th of OCTOBER, 2023, against JOSHUA ANTHONY GUY Respondent, numbered CL2023129 and entitled "In the Matter of the Marriage of PHOEBE KATHERINE GUY and JOSHUA ANTHONY GUY". The suit requests: PETITION FOR DIVORCE as is more fully shown by the Petition on file in this suit. "The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage, providing for the division of property, which will be binding on you." Issued and Given under my hand and the Seal of Said Court at Granbury, Texas, this the 31 day of OCTOBER A.D. 2023. TONNA NEWMAN CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW Hood County, Texas By: Susan Ashmore, Deputy

9031 Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF TAX ABATEMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury, Texas, will hold a public hearing to consider a proposal to designate as a Tax Abatement Reinvestment Zone under Section 312.201 of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act, Texas Property Tax Code Chapter 312, the real property located in the City of Granbury, Texas, known as the GRANBURY COMMERCE CENTRE (EXHIBIT A). The public hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the City of Granbury City Hall, City Council Chambers, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

EXHIBIT A

Legal: 6.340, Lot: 1, Blk: 3, Subd: GRANBURY COMMERCE CENTRE, PHASE ONE B. Address is 2301 Ruth Smith Drive, Granbury, Texas 76048

ArcGIS Web Map



Legend for the map: Street Centerlines, Private/Other, Granbury Parcels, Building Footprints, Service/Ramp, Specific Use Permits, Secondary.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: CAUSE NUMBER P10142

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Philip Dean Stuckey, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2023, in Cause Number P10142, pending in the Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, to Janet Ann Stuckey, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented care of the Estate addressed as follows: Janet Ann Stuckey, Independent Executor of the Estate of Philip Dean Stuckey, 6603 Bulow Court, Granbury, Texas 76049.

All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Janet Ann Stuckey, Independent Executor, Estate of Philip Dean Stuckey.

9031 Public Notices

Garage Sales 76049

TWO ESTATE SALES BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 3305 Arrow Creek Dr.- Decorative items inside/out, Pyrex, Fiesta, Christmas, T-giving, Easter, DVDs; 3612 Abe's Landing Dr.- large collection of Frankoma, coastal decor, Lenox Christmas, vintage board/backyard games, fishing, reloading, camping, tools, gun safe, watersports. NOV 9-11: THR 12p-5p FRI 9a-4p SAT 9a-1p

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 4620 Stoney Creek Ct- Nov 9, 10 & 11, 8am-3pm. Selling 40 yrs of stuff! Furniture, tools, clothes, toys, household & kitchen items, yard art etc. All priced to sell!

4400 Old Granbury Rd- 3 family moving/yard sale. Sat, Sun & Mon. Nov 11, 12 & 13, 9am-5pm.

Ashley Oaks behind HEB. 310 Donna Cir. 4 families, Thur-Fri, Nov 16-17, 8am-4pm.

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 504 Apollo Ct- Washer/Dryer, lots of furniture, Cowboy Hat, Gun cabinet, tons of miscellaneous items. Rain or Shine. Fri-Sat, Nov 10-11.

PUBLIC SALES

Garage Sales 76035

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Large advertisement for Hood County News featuring a clock tower image and various headlines: 'Town halls scheduled ahead of GISD bond election', 'Clarendon shatters Lipan's promise of perfection', 'Competition sizzles at Brock's steak cook-off', 'Book review completed, three more titles removed'. Includes the slogan 'NEWS ON THE GO' and 'WE COVER YOU'.

GVFD orders fire truck to prepare for road work

Staff Reports

Granbury City Council approved the purchase of a quick attack fire truck at its Nov. 7 meeting.

The Granbury Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) requested the quick attack truck to prepare for upcoming major road work on U.S. Highway 377.

GVFD Fire Chief Matt Hohon explained it is difficult to quickly maneuver a large fire truck through heavy traffic, as it takes drivers longer to move to the right when traffic is congested.

Road construction, with closed shoulders, makes it more difficult for drivers to pull to the right for emergency vehicles to pass.

GVFD asked the city council

to purchase a quick attack truck because this truck is more maneuverable and can respond faster when traffic is congested. Because the quick attack truck is smaller, about half the size of a large fire truck, it can deliver firefighters and equipment to an emergency a few minutes faster in heavy traffic. A large fire truck, with more firefighters and equipment, would be a few minutes behind. Hohon said having a faster response is important to safeguard lives and property.

GVFD expects to take delivery of the quick attack truck in the fourth quarter of 2025.

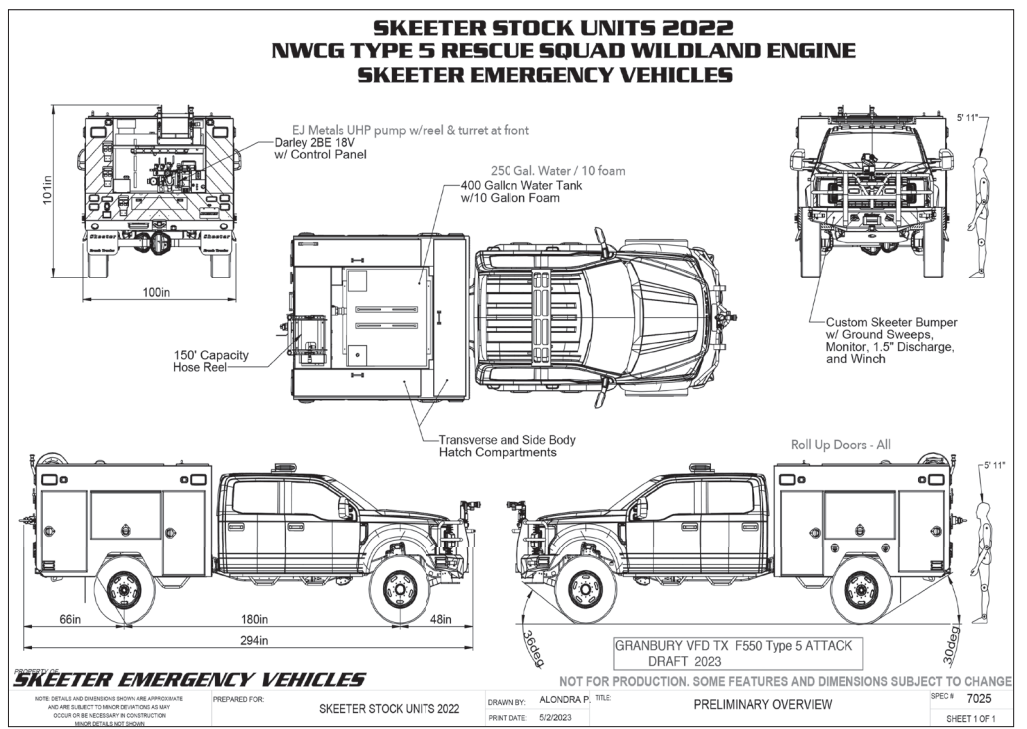
The Granbury City Council also approved the purchase of an aerial truck to replace

the aging Ladder 1. Ladder 1 entered service in 1999 and is nearing the end of its useful life.

GVFD's new aerial truck, which will have a 107-foot ladder, is expected to arrive in the third quarter of 2026.

Persons interested in learning more about the fire department or becoming firefighters should contact GVFD online at GVFD.org or by calling GVFD's Station No. 1 at 817-579-1111.

COURTESY GRAPHIC
GVFD asked the city council to purchase a quick attack truck because this truck is more maneuverable and can respond faster when traffic is congested.



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SAME PAPER

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

How colonoscopy screenings help prevent colon cancer

BY DR. TARIQ KHAN
gastroenterologist, Lake Granbury Medical Center

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Despite being preventable and treatable, many individuals still die from this disease due to a lack of awareness about preventive care.

Lake Granbury Medical Center is committed to promoting early detection and prevention of colon cancer through regular colonoscopy screenings because, when detected early, the survival rate for colon cancer is approximately 90%.

During this non-invasive procedure, doctors examine the colon and rectum for precancerous polyps, which can be removed during the same process, reducing the risk of developing colon cancer in the future. They also can screen for cancer. This is important, as studies show those who undergo regular screenings are less likely to die from colon cancer.

Many people fear there might be discomfort and pain associated with a colonoscopy. However, it's important to know that you will be in a "twilight sleep." Unlike general anesthesia, which puts patients to sleep completely, conscious sedation keeps patients drowsy and comfortable yet awake enough to respond to questions and follow instructions.

"Colonoscopies may not be the most enjoyable procedure, but they are essential for early detection and prevention of colon cancer," said Dr.



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Despite being preventable and treatable, many individuals still die from this disease due to a lack of awareness about preventive care.



Tariq Khan, gastroenterologist. "Don't delay in getting this life-saving procedure done."

Colonoscopy screening should start at age 45 for those at average risk, with regular screenings continuing every 10 years. However, the screening frequency and start date may differ for individuals at higher risk of developing the disease, as colorectal cancer incidence is higher in certain populations, including Black and Indigenous adults, people with a family history of colorectal cancer, and men.

In addition, researchers have observed a noticeable increase in cases and fatalities in the 20 to 49 age group over the last

20 years. However, the cause behind this trend remains uncertain and demands further examination.

Age also plays a big factor when it comes to risk. On average, those 50 and older are the most likely to suffer from colorectal cancer. Men are typically diagnosed around 68, while women tend to be 72. Both men and women with rectal cancer usually are diagnosed at 63.

While age and family history cannot be changed, there are several lifestyle factors that you can modify to lower your risk, including losing weight, maintaining a healthy diet, limiting alcohol, quitting smoking,

and regular exercise.

"Colonoscopies have revolutionized how we detect and prevent colon cancer. With advancements in technology and improved patient comfort, there's never been a better time to prioritize your colon health," said Dr. Khan. "Early detection is key, and a screening colonoscopy could save your life."

Talk to your healthcare provider about your risk level and the appropriate timing and frequency of screenings. Remember, you're never too young to take charge of your health.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Khan, please call 817-579-3978.

To watch Dr. Khan's recent seminar, online, please visit: <https://lakegranburymedical.com/VideoColonCancerYT>

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COURTESY GRAPHIC

Heidi Gebhardt. We are very thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Heidi Gebhardt! Heidi has served as a Chamber Ambassador for one year! When asked what she loves about being an ambassador, she said, "I love being an ambassador because of the connection and support that I receive from my fellow Ambassadors and that we all do our best to provide the same business to the businesses within our thriving, award winning community." Fun Fact about Heidi: "While I was attending Texas Lutheran University, I played the oboe in the Mid-Texas Symphony for four years." Thank you Heidi for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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Young and tough

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cowboy chute dogging a steer during the first annual NTHSRA Granbury Rodeo Saturday Nov. 4

High school rodeo dreams in Hood County

BY LAYTH TAYLOR
Special to the Hood County news

Granbury High School and Cleburne High School rodeo teams came together to host the first annual Granbury High School Rodeo at the Granbury Reunion Grounds Nov. 3-4. This event is one of the North Texas High School Rodeo Association's 2023-2024 rodeo season events. It's a chance for young cowboys and cowgirls to compete in various rodeo events for points that help them get to the finals at the end of the season.

While football does reign the king of high school sports in Texas, one thing a lot of people don't know is that rodeo is the Texas state

sport. Rodeo came to life out of the tasks cowboys had to perform in their daily life. This weekend kids from all over North Texas flocked to the Granbury Reunion Grounds to prove they have what it takes to compete in the state sport. The NTHSRA has been around for 50 years hosting events for young rodeo stars to compete in.

"Rodeo is a way of life, it's not just something you do, it's a way of life," Carsyn Nolen of the Granbury rodeo team said. The passion and grit these young future rodeo stars show is evident in the work and performance that they put on. They show a sense of pride that is not seen in many high school students.

They work hard and long hours to get to each rodeo and put it all on the line for the brief time they are in the spotlight. These cowboys and cowgirls are the future of the sport of rodeo. Many go on to compete in the big leagues taking what they learned with them.

"We wanted to put on an event here in Hood County. It's the first time this event is put on here in Granbury," said Melinda Nolen, Granbury High School rodeo sponsor, whose hard work brought the event to the Granbury Reunion Grounds.

"Rodeo is about family, it's about competition, and it's about responsibility. These kids have to take care of their animals and learn their event. It's more mental



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Barrel rider rounding a barrel at the Granbury Reunion Grounds Nov. 4.

than physical," Nolen said. It's a unique sport where athletes shine physically and mentally as well. It's not easy — it's rough, dirty and

injuries do occur. "They have to be tough. Messing with big animals and small animals you have to be tough; you might take

a kick and take a fall. It's just how it goes. You get

PLEASE SEE **RODEO** | B2

Tolar Elementary and GISD work together to support local nonprofit

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Mission Granbury, a local nonprofit, is currently holding its annual food drive that benefits the Pantries of Plenty. Tolar Elementary and Granbury ISD have been working to collect cans as

part of a canned food drive to help provide for Mission Granbury.

Mission Granbury has a weekly food drive and is always in need of donated food items to give to the community. It also collects food to feed those at the ADA Carey Shelter for wom-

en and children. The nonprofit also delivers food to over 30 homebound seniors.

Last year, more than 30,000 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items were donated to the pantry, according to Mission Granbury's website.

Andi Luna serves as the

Emergency Area Coordinator and has been with the nonprofit for about three years.

"I've just always wanted to be a voice for the voiceless, which meant children, seniors and women, and Mission Granbury covers all of that," Luna said.

Mission Granbury typical-

ly serves over 300 families a week through its drive-thru food distribution days with boxes of food weighing about 40 pounds.

With help from all over the community, Luna is grateful for such support.

"It's nice to see the community come together,"

Luna expressed. "We're thankful for this food drive because then we can help so many families during the holidays."

Tolar Elementary is participating in the food drive and

PLEASE SEE **FOOD** | B3

Four Granbury High School athletes named the "Best and Brightest"

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Four Granbury High School volleyball players were named the "Best and Brightest" as part of the American Volleyball Coaches Association third annual awards.

According to the AVCA, "The Best and Brightest Award is an award meant to honor individual high school senior student-athletes who excel on and off the court."

To be eligible for this honor, the student must have earned at least a 3.5 unweighted/4.0 weighted GPA during both their junior and senior years, and play in 50 percent of their varsity team's sets during their senior season.

The awards are broken up into three different teams including first, second and third. First team must have a 3.8 unweighted GPA/4.3 weighted GPA or above; second team requires a 3.65 unweighted GPA/4.15 weighted GPA or above; and

third team requires a 3.5 unweighted GPA/4.0 weighted GPA or above.

Only 723 players across the United States were distinguished with this first team honor including GHS' very own Bailey Blum, Brooke Marak and Kylie Moody. Rachael Poirier was one of 210 athletes named part of the second team.

Blum is a setter and defensive specialist, Marak is a middle blocker, Moody is a middle blocker and left back defensive specialist and Poirier is an outside hitter.

"I am so proud of how these girls strive for success on and off the court. It is a standard for our girls to have good grades and these girls have gone above and beyond," GHS Volleyball Head Coach Desiree Shahan said. "They know that education comes first, and volleyball comes second. They take care of business in the classroom so they can give 100% on the volleyball court."

"Being named best and brightest just showed me

that I am fully capable of managing a high level of scholarship and being able to play sports and have fun as a high school student," Moody said. "It definitely wasn't easy balancing it all — lots of late nights, tears and communication with teachers. I would definitely not be able to achieve this without the help of my teachers."

"It's such an honor. My academics has always been a main priority for me, so it feels extremely accomplishing that it is paying off," Blum expressed. "Although it is tough, maintaining high academics has been extremely rewarding, and I wouldn't change it for anything."

Moody shared some advice for young athletes: "Always communicate with your teachers and give 100% of what you have, and they will always find a way to help you. Never give up no matter how hard it gets to keep up with your grades. All the late nights and early mornings of homework and practices pays off in the long run."



COURTESY PHOTO

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) named four Lady Pirate Volleyball players to the third annual AVCA Best and Brightest Awards for girls High School Senior student-athletes. From left are Brooke Marak (MD, 1st Team), Bailey Blum (L/DS, 1st Team), Kylie Moody (MB, 1st Team), and Rachael Poirier (OH, 2nd Team).

The team recently defeated Arlington Heights in three sets in the bidistrict round

on Oct. 30 and moved on to Area competition. The team went up against Argyle on

Nov. 3 and was defeated in three sets.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy's Bilingual pre-K students enchanted an adoring audience with a "Dia de Los Muertos" (the day of the dead) performance on Thursday, Nov. 2.



RODEO

FROM PAGE B1

hurt and go on to compete the next week," Nolen said. "The support of the parents and coaches at these high school rodeos show the camaraderie that this rough sport brings is what keeps the athletes competing."

If you have never been to a rodeo, there are many events you can watch. There are rough stock events like saddle bronc and bull riding, where young cowboys hop on the back of 1,000-pound plus animals and try to stay on for eight seconds, as the horse or bull tries to get the rider off its

back. There are many horseback events both girls and boys compete in, from barrel racing, in which girls race down the arena on horseback around three barrels placed in a pattern they have to stick to, to the various roping events like team roping. Boys and girls are put into

pairs, chase down a steer on horseback and try to throw a rope around the head and feet of the steer to hold it in place. The young cowboys and cowgirls also show their grit in strength events such as chute dogging and

goat tying. Chute dogging is an event in which the boys hold on to a 400-500 pound steer for a select distance and have to flip it on its side. Goat tying is when girls run down to a staked goat, flip it, tie its legs and

must hold it for six seconds. Each event touches on a different aspect in which a young and tough cowboy or cowgirl can show their grit and heart and leave it all on the line for a sport that is full of history.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

High School Rodeo student holding on for 8 Seconds Saturday afternoon.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Young cowboy and cowgirl roping a steer during the teaming roping event Saturday afternoon.

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Pirates have high hopes

Rattlers among state's best, Indians look to reload

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

If head coach David Breazeale and his Granbury Pirates seem a little antsy these days, there's a good reason. They simply cannot wait to get the new season underway.

"These guys want to do some things that have not been done either in a long time or ever by a Granbury boys basketball team. So we are all anxious to get started," Breazeale said.

The Pirates return plenty of talent, including four starters, from last season's 20-13 District 5-5A runner-up that reached the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

Returning starters are seniors Kensington Colston, guard (13 points, 6 rebounds per game); along with forwards Dylan Couto (10 points, 7 rebounds per game), Isaiah Trejo (7 points, 3.5 steals per game) and Jenaro Reyes (6.5 points, 3 assists per game). Trejo was the 5-5A Co-Defensive Player of the Year, while Colston and Couto were first-team all-district and Reyes received honorable mention.

Key reserves will include senior forward Max McPherson and senior center/forward Jarmaine Rucker.

A host of players are moving up to the varsity from a 20-4 junior varsity squad,

including seniors Kyler Shankles, Noah Brown, Daylon Webb, Halston Main, Payton Thomason and Alec Wilkinson; juniors Grant Young, Murphy Page, Bryndon Freeman and Aaron White; along with sophomore Miller Schenewark.

"As you can see, we have a ton of guys who can play. We will be incredibly deep with experienced players," Breazeale said. "We have a ton of guys who are competing hard to keep spots and to get spots in the rotation. So, managing minutes, giving guys adequate chances to get into a permanent rotation, as well as trying to max out our play are among the many challenges in predistrict.

"Once district play begins, we need to have a rotation set unless certain unforeseen things happen. Our district is vastly improved over last year."

In assessing the league overall, Breazeale said, "Brewer, Saginaw and us have many key players back from playoff teams. Aledo lost two key players but has looked really good in summer/fall play. Rider has a new coach, thus, the great unknown, but they do have three starters back. Azle graduated quite a few but are a tough rival and Northwest is always good."

The Pirates get the season underway on Saturday, Nov. 11 at home against Cleburne at 1:30 p.m. They travel to

Joshua on Tuesday, Nov. 14 for an 8 p.m. tipoff.

TOLAR RATTTLERS

Last season was the best ever for the Rattlers. They finished 30-8, the most victories in program history, and advanced to their first regional final ever before being eliminated by eventual state champion and rival Lipan.

Now, coach Scott Richardson's team enters the season ranked No. 3 in Class 2A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. And they are ready to make even more history.

"Last year we did a great job of raising the bar. We hope to use that momentum and experience to make another historic run for Tolar," Richardson said.

The record-setting season for the Rattlers came on the heels of a 29-6 season in 2021-22.

Returning starters from last season are seniors Merritt Imel (13.9 points, 7.9 rebounds, 1.9 blocks per game) at post and Matthew Behrens (7.1 points, 5.4 rebounds, 1.8 steals per game) at forward. Senior Isaac Blessing (4.5 points, 4.1 rebounds per game) is expected to join them in the starting lineup once football season concludes.

The Rattlers football team is ranked third in Texas in Class



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury's first home game is Nov. 11 at 1:30, Lipan's first home game is Nov. 11 at noon

2A and is expected to make a serious run toward a state championship.

Imel was named District 11-2A Defensive MVP last season, Behrens was first-team all-district and Blessing was second-team.

Newcomers who could make a quick varsity impact include senior Tyson Ellis, juniors Zane Terrell and Brooks Stone, and freshmen Briton Rice and Cayden Abrego.

Not only do the Rattlers share a district with perennial power and defending state champion Lipan, another consistent postseason advancer, Poolville, is in it also. The Monarchs advanced to the second round last season.

"Our district is as competitive at the top as any in the state. Knowing that we will hopefully get our guys from football late, we will have

to be patient early on in the season with two of the top teams not playing football (Lipan and Poolville)," Richardson said. "Our guys are adapting to how that works. I am looking forward to watching how this group comes together."

The Rattlers were opening the season at home against Huckabay at press time. They travel to Lingleville for a 7:30 p.m. contest on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

LIPAN INDIANS

Coach Brent Gaylor's squad returns just two starters from a 38-1 state championship season. In fact, they graduated seven of the nine varsity players on last season's varsity roster.

The top two returners, who were reserves a season ago, do give him a solid nucleus around which to

reload. Senior Tyson Tarpley was honorable mention All-District 11-2A and sophomore Darius Steed was the league's Newcomer of the Year.

Among newcomers who could make an immediate impression, Gaylor said, "We are going to need sophomores Payton Cornelius, Kolt Larsen and freshmen Court Gaylor to step up and contribute right away.

"We graduated a really good group of kids, most of which had played varsity all four years. We will be very young this year but I like our potential."

The Indians enter the season ranked 20th in the state by the TABC. They open the season at home against Wichita Falls Hirschi on Saturday, Nov. 11 at noon and travel to Peaster Tuesday, Nov. 14, for a 6:15 p.m. start.

Bitten and smitten

Glass work was love at first sight for Susan Thillen

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

Monday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Susan Thillen will demonstrate working with fused glass at the monthly meeting of the Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA). Thillen will also teach two one-day workshops using these techniques on Tuesday, Nov. 14 and Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Retired from teaching in 2015, Thillen sees herself as a teacher first and an artist second. This really behooves a student taking her class. Many artists are gifted in their media, and Thillen certainly is, but fewer can com-

municate their techniques in a way that a student can easily absorb.

It was this desire to acquire knowledge and then share it that led her to glass as a medium. She had taken a workshop to teach her students in public school, but something more happened. She fell in love with the magical quality of the transparent medium.

"Five years before I retired, I took a ceramics and glass workshop for teachers, I thought I was going to teach that. The first day of the workshop was fused glass. I was bitten and smitten and fascinated by glass."

There really is such a thing as love at first sight.

It was similar to the love

Thillen felt for Granbury when she first laid eyes on the town. After retirement Thillen was teaching part time at Tarrant County Community College and also doing research and some training for clients. Covid had her feeling cooped up.

"We were stuck inside on the weekend. I thought we might as well be at the lake if we were going to be stuck at home. So, we came to look at Granbury."

Spending her career teaching in the metroplex, Thillen and her husband Jim were enjoying a lovely home close to the cultural district in Fort Worth. Thillen had no idea the new life that would await her right down U.S. Highway 377.



COURTESY PHOTO

Artist Susan Thillen and her work titled "Undersea Adventure".

The Thillens shared with a Hood County realtor their

specific desires for a home in Granbury — a workshop and

PLEASE SEE **ART** | B7

FOOD

FROM PAGE B1

is working to collect as much food as it can.

"Our daily mission is to 'Ignite Passion, Grow Together, and Serve Others.' One way we work to live that mission to serve others is each year we partner

with Mission Granbury for its annual food drive," Tolar Elementary Principal Christal Hollinger said.

Hollinger added that this year the school is also collecting food for the Tolar Food Pantry located at the First United Methodist Church.

"We are grateful for the ways these two organizations serve our community and

are happy to be able to be a part of their work," Hollinger expressed.

Many Granbury ISD schools are also participating in the food drive, including Brawner Elementary.

"The importance of this food drive is that it provides weekly food to those that need food for their household. This is many of our

families and students within our school district. The goal is always to collect as much as we possibly can," Brawner Elementary School Principal Sandy Ruiz said. "Last year, Brawner collected so much food that a trailer had to be brought in to take it all. Our community and staff members always make sure our students are provided what

they need and taken care of."

When it comes to the future, Luna is looking forward to growing the nonprofit and networking more with the community. The organization is also looking forward to celebrating its 25th year anniversary.

Mission Granbury accepts food and monetary donations all year round and is always

in need of volunteers. The nonprofit is most in need of peanut butter and jelly as well as cereal. For a list of Pantries of Plenty collection locations, more information on food pantries or for volunteer information visit missiongranbury.org.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Nov. 4 (Puzzle 55).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Tolar Rattlers vs San Saba Armadillos

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Rattlers defeated the San Saba Armadillos Friday Nov. 3, and they were presented with the District Championship trophy.





Lady Rattlers VB makes history with first regional tourney; Running back Brown makes return for Tolar FB

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

For the first time in their history, the Tolar Lady Rattlers are headed to a regional volleyball tournament. Meanwhile, for the first time since 2019, the Lady Pirates advanced to the second round of the Class 5A playoffs.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (23-14) continued their postseason success by knocking off Hawley (28-13), 20-25, 25-12, 25-22, 25-21 on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

“No limits’ was the theme of the season, chosen by our seniors and returners. They bought into that idea and are now executing that concept in every match,” Tolar head coach Misty Rhodes

said. “We are peaking at the perfect time. Every match we play we are getting better and better, playing selflessly. It is so much fun to watch them celebrate each other.”

The Lady Rattlers were playing Ropes (33-10) at press time in the Region I semifinals in San Angelo. The winner will face Wink (36-9) or defending state champion Windthorst (42-5) for the right to advance to state Saturday at 1 p.m.

The 2A State Tournament is Nov. 15-17 at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland.

In the win over Hawley, Tolar standouts included Allie Terrell (16 kills, 6 digs), Abbie Soileau (28 assists, 8 digs, 3 aces), Trinity Rousseau (14 digs), Allie Terrell (16 kills, 6 digs) and Senne Imel (18 kills, 22 digs).

The Lady Rattlers also defeated Miles (29-10) in the area round, 3-2. The back-and-forth match saw Tolar

win the first and third games 25-21 and 25-23, but drop the second and fourth 25-16 and 25-21.

However, in the fifth game, they pulled away for a 15-10 victory to advance. This came on the heels of a 3-0 sweep of Quanah in bidistrict.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (19-23) concluded their best season since 2019 by reaching the second round of the Class 5A playoffs following a third-place finish in District 5-5A.

Their season came to an end with a 3-0 loss to Argyle (38-7) in the area round with scores of 25-18, 25-17 and 25-12. Argyle is ranked No. 3 in the state.

Granbury had opened the postseason with a 3-0 sweep (25-12, 25-13, 25-11) over Fort Worth Arlington Heights.

“This season was a lot of fun. This group of girls had a tremendous bond that helped us do as well as we did in district and with our run in the playoffs,” head coach Desiree Shahan said. “I loved watching them grow and to see the amount of support that the community brought during playoffs was just incredible.”

“We will have six returners next year and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish next season. They are a very determined group of girls, and regardless of what the realignment brings, I think they are going to make the most of it and push to make history for the Granbury volleyball program.”

The annual University Interscholastic League realignment is set for February.

Against Argyle, several



COURTESY OF MISTY RHODES

The Tolar Lady Rattlers have made program history this season by advancing to the first regional tournament in their history.

seniors ended their careers with solid performances, including Rachel Poirier (9 kills), Brooke Marak (3 blocks), Kylie Moody (10 digs, 18 serves returned) and Bailey Blum (13 serves returned).

LIPAN CROSS COUNTRY

Annslee Tarpley concluded her freshman season with a 39th-place finish at the Class 2A State Meet out of 150 runners. She posted a time of 12 minutes and 50 seconds over the 2-mile course at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

“Annslee ran great at the state meet,” Lipan head coach Misty Little said. “She improved tremendously from the 14:20 she ran at Round Rock previously (earlier this season).”

“I was so proud of her because she competed really well against some great com-

petition on a tough course.”

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers (9-1) are headed back to the football playoffs on a roll both offensively and defensively. They ended the regular season with a 63-0 victory against San Saba (3-7) to wrap up a perfect 6-0 record in District 5-2A Division I.

In their final three regular-season games the Rattlers, ranked No. 3 in the state, outscored their opponents 185-12, scoring 61, 61 and 63 points.

Tolar was hosting Trenton (4-6) in the bidistrict contest at press time.

Against San Saba, Rattlers standout junior running back Peyton Brown saw his first action since the season opener, rushing three times for 24 yards. He had been out with an ankle injury.

Brown was among the state and national leaders last season. He ranked 10th nationally in touchdowns (49), 11th in points scored (296) and 21st in rushing yards (2,777).

In his only action this season, he rushed for 121 yards and four touchdowns, along with catching a touchdown pass, in a 49-9 win over Peaster.

Also against San Saba, quarterback Isaac Blessing threw for three touchdowns to Clayton Stembbridge, Matthew Behrens and Talan Brown. Kelvin Murray rushed for 117 yards on 11 carries, with Garrison Nation running for two TD, and Blessing and Grant Sherley also scoring on the ground.

On defense, Cash Clark recovered a fumble for a TD.

PLEASE SEE **SPORTS** | B7



COURTESY OF MISTY LITTLE

Lipan's Annslee Tarpley competed in the Class 2A State Cross Country Meet in Round Rock this past weekend.

HOOD OUTDOORS

Working the birds!



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

It is definitely that time of the year as the wintering birds are returning to our lake and many other reservoirs in Texas. These birds can assist anglers by pointing you to active fish. It is a good idea to have your binoculars on board this time of the year. Some of these birds can also fool you into thinking there are active predator fish when in fact it is other diving birds that they are working. Learning to read the birds can help you on the water.

Most everyone knows when the birds are diving on feeding fish you may have found the “hey day” you been looking for. From a distance, you may see the gulls working but they may not be on feeding fish. They may be working diving Cormorants. You will see gulls and Terns working Cormorants on all of our area lakes. As you approach the birds, the Cormorants will take off as

they are easily spooked. Use those binoculars to check to see if the birds are working cormorants.

Another bird that frequents our area in the winter is the Loon. When you find Loons diving, you are probably on the fish. These birds are never here in large numbers, but when you locate them they are on fish or very close to fish. I have seen them on Granbury, but I usually see them on Whitney. They are also common on Lake Texoma. Loons are not easily spooked, and they may dive/feed right next to your boat at times.

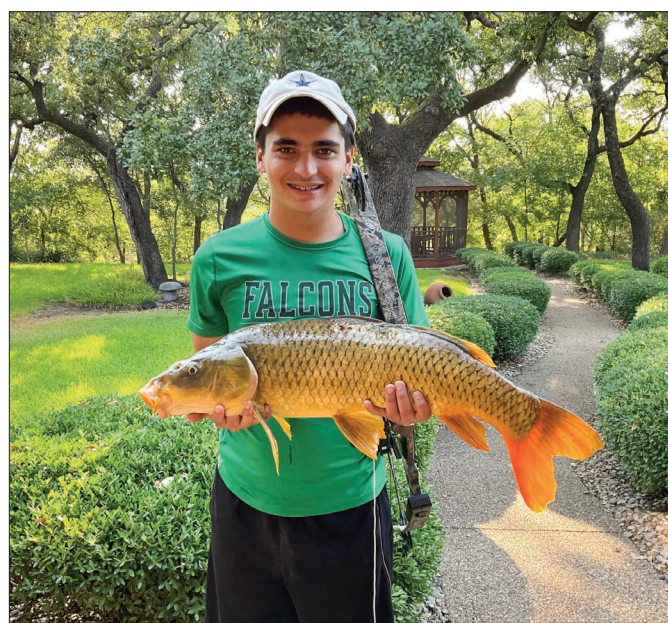
Other birds called Terns are similar to gulls but smaller and they may be working surface feeding fish or they may be picking up bugs near the surface. Many anglers call these Terns “liar birds” as they can fool you to think they are on surface feeding fish when in fact they are not.

You can and will see Osprey and Bald Eagles on occasion, and they can and will dive for their dinner. The numbers of gulls are probably more reliable for finding active fish, but I would not discount where those big birds are diving.

When you will find birds either hovering over an area or if they are diving on splashing fish you more than likely have found the spot. If they are hovering, they are watching fish below the surface. A good set of binoculars comes in handy to scan the lake for these active birds and to see what they are doing.

I have caught feeding fish where Cormorants were feeding but that was an exception. Catfish anglers like to fish below Cormorant roosts. The droppings from the Cormorants are essentially pure fish and the catfish are there for the easy meal.

The Egrets typically fly from one place to another and are not typically known to point anglers to active fish, but I have seen Egrets working active fish with the gulls. The cranes can also point you to active fish. They will take an easy meal if it is available.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mitchell Meche, 14, in his first attempt at bowfishing on June 4, caught a 6.4-pound Common Carp. Over the next several weekends, he also caught an 11.4-pound Smallmouth Buffalo, a 1.2-pound Spotted Gar, and a 12.4-pound Common Carp (pictured), which broke his earlier record by six pounds. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department certified all catches as Junior Angler fishing records for Lake Granbury. With these latest bowfishing catches, Meche has set a total of 10 Lake Granbury Junior Angler fishing records in various categories and methods, four of which were also state records. Meche lives in Hickory Creek, Texas, and made these record catches while visiting his grandparents, John and Susan Meche, who live on Lake Granbury.

The key is to watch their actions. If they are circling or diving they are probably on fish.

When you approach a group of birds working fish, do not run through them

with your big motor. Put your trolling motor down and work slowly around the school. You will catch fish. If for some reason another boater runs through the fish you are working, give it a few

minutes and sometimes the fish will resume their feeding after the water settles down.

The gulls will be with us throughout the winter, and they are a welcome asset to most anglers. See you all on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in middle 60’s as of last weekend. Granbury is full and clear on the lower end. Striped bass are good to 10lbs from Decordova to the dam on live shad and trolled Alabama rigs. Sandbass are fair to good on slabs near main lake points from Blue Water Shores to Ports-O-Call (look for the birds). Large blue and yellow cats are good to 30lbs on cut bait fished on the upper ends. Largemouth bass to 6lbs are possible near main lake points on top water/crank baits early and on soft plastics fished later in the morning. Some largemouth are schooling with the sandbass and striped bass on feeding flats.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) largemouth bass and catfish continue to be good to excellent. Blackbass are being caught in numbers on soft plastics and topwater presentations. Channel Catfish limits are common on prepared baits and cut bait.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans stomp Lumberjacks in home finale, set new D1 single-season wins record

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Stephen F. Austin hadn't made the trip to Stephenville in 49 years. It might be another 49 years before they agree to visit Tarleton State again.

The Texans (7-3, 3-2 UAC) stomped the Lumberjacks (3-6, 0-4 UAC) 59-17 on Saturday, Nov. 4 at Memorial Stadium. Tarleton Football won its third straight game, finished 4-1 at Memorial Stadium this season, and set a new single-season record for wins in its NCAA Division I era. The Texans sent SFA to its fourth straight loss, its longest losing streak since 2019.

This was a season-high in points for Tarleton, its highest scoring game at the D1 level, its most since dropping 66 on Midwestern State on Nov. 2, 2019. It marked the team's third 50-plus point game of the season, its most such games in a season since 2019 (four).

Texan quarterback Victor Gabalis had five touchdowns on the night, completing 15-of-19 passes for a season-high 389 yards. He threw a season-high four touchdowns, plus ran a touchdown in from two yards out. Kayvon Britten added two more rushing touchdowns to his total, finishing with 63 yards. He's scored six rushing touchdowns over the past three games, now at 13 on the year. Darius Cooper recorded five receptions for 168 yards and two touchdowns, including an 85-yard TD grab. Trevon West and Dawson Hearne each had a



Stephen F. Austin hadn't made the trip to Stephenville in 49 years. It might be another 49 years before they agree to visit Tarleton State again.

touchdown reception, and Kristian Dalton sealed the night with a 70-yard rushing score.

The Texan defense forced five takeaways on Saturday, all fumbles. Qua'Shawn Washington had two of those recoveries, adding a team-high 10 tackles, to go with two pass breakups. Ty Rawls had a fumble recovery with seven tackles, Greg Eggleston, Jr. had a recovery, and Bryson Collins forced a fumble at the 1-yard line that

went out of the end zone for a touchback. Josh Griffis had a strip sack in the first quarter that Washington recovered.

It was both Military Appreciation and Senior Night at Memorial Stadium on Saturday. With several special military vehicles in attendance, veterans and active military members were honored all night. Also, the Texans held a special presentation to honor seniors Javian Bellamy, Jalen Carr,

Tayvis Coleman, Bryson Collins, Ahmir Crowder, Ely Doyle, Cody Henderson, Patrick Jones, Dejuan Miller, Fernando Piedra and Washington. Plus, Tarleton Athletics had fireworks throughout the game to help celebrate.

The Texans brought their own fireworks all night, starting with a 28-spot in the first quarter. To open the game, the Texans marched down 83 yards, Britten running in from 14 yards out to

open the game 7-0. After SFA made it 7-3, Griffis answered on the Lumberjacks' ensuing drive, and Washington recovered at the SFA 26-yard line. On the next play, Gabalis had a short pass to West, who took it 26 yards to the house.

SFA answered with its first touchdown of the game, but Tarleton answered right back, with Gabalis finding Cooper from 17 yards out to make it 21-10. Eggleston then pounced on a muffed kickoff, and Tarleton made

it 28-10 before the quarter ended, as Gabalis faked the handoff and ran around the left side for a 2-yard score.

Tarleton State opened the second quarter with another touchdown, this time on two plays, with Gabalis finding a streaking Cooper at mid-field who took it the rest of the way for an 85-yard touchdown.

On SFA's ensuing drive, Collins forced a fumble at the 1-yard line that went out of the end zone to make it Tarleton's ball. With about 90 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Hearne caught a 9-yard touchdown from Gabalis to send the Texans into the locker room 42-10 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Britten had a six-yard score to make it 49-10, and Adrian Guzman split the uprights from 44 yards out to make it 52-10 after three. With four minutes remaining in the game, Dalton burst through on Tarleton's first play of the drive for a 70-yard touchdown run to put an exclamation point on the victory.

Tarleton had 389 passing yards to SFA's 203, averaging 20.5 passing yards per attempt to SFA's 4.1. The Texans outgained the Lumberjacks overall 577-411.

The all-time series between head coaches Todd Whitten and Colby Carthel is split again, now at 4-4.

Tarleton and ACU will play at Wildcat Stadium at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11 in the last game of the season.

Bengtsson goes -13 over last two rounds to win medalist honors in Mexico, Tarleton takes third

Tarleton State University

MONTERREY, MX. -- The Texans turned in their best performance of their fall campaign in their final tournament on Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28, seeing individual medalist honors and finishing third as a team.

Sophomore Max Bengtsson went -13 over the final two rounds to finish first among the 62-man field. He shot -15 overall (70-66-65) in the Monterrey International Invitational on Friday-Saturday at Club Campestre Monterrey for his first collegiate individual victory.

Carson Gallaher, who led the Texans in each of their first three tournaments to start the year, was tied for first after the first 27 holes. He was boosted by the first albatross in the modern era of Texan Men's Golf. After the first day, he was tied for first at -8, as the event was being played with 27 holes on the first day and 27 holes on the second day. Gallaher finished tied-17th overall at -6 (69, 67, 74).

The Texans finished third as a team at -26, bettering their previous season-best score to par by 53 strokes. They were just three strokes short of the winning team, Utah State.

"It was a great week in Mexico and was an awesome experience all around," head coach Chance Cain said. "Max went on an unbelievable 27-hole run to shoot 10-under in that stretch with only three bogeys to pull off the victory by a shot. It's a great confidence boost for him and the team to cap off the fall on a high note. We were so close to pulling off our first team victory as well and just made a couple costly mistakes coming in. It's a good learning experience all-around, because when we keep putting ourselves in positions like this, we will figure out how to handle it and close it out."

Alvaro Huidobro had a strong first two rounds, finishing tied-35th overall at +2 (72, 69, 77). It was a similar event for Bladen Samaniego, who shot +3 (73, 70, 76) for tied-39th. Cristobal

Sepulveda went -5 in the final round to salvage a tough start, going tied-46th at +6 (76, 79, 67). Finally, Chandler Barch, who competed as an individual, took 51st at +8 (72, 76, 76).

Bengtsson won the tournament by one stroke on Saturday, besting Utah State's Julio Arronte (-14) and three others at -13. In his final round, between nine holes, Nos. 6-14, he turned in eight birdies to tie the lowest round in Texan Men's Golf history at 65 (-7). Last year, Jack Anderson shot an opening 65 (7) enroute to a second place finish in Utah.

The Texan sophomore joins Anderson as the second medalist in Tarleton's short revived history. Bengtsson had the most birdies in the tournament with 22, three more than the next closest. He was a major reason by Tarleton also finished first in birdies in the event, five more than the next closest programs of Loyola Maryland and North Dakota State. On Par 5's, he was unstoppable, going -10 on the specific hole, a gross



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Sophomore Max Bengtsson went -13 over the final two rounds to finish first among the 62-man field.

score average of 4.3. The Texans as a team were second in Par 5's at -31.

Gallaher had the lone albatross in the tournament with a 2 on the Par 5 13th hole. On the 570 yard hole, Gallaher bombed his drive 350 yards, then sank his second shot from 220 yards out. In the second round, he started

with three straight birdies and was -6 through 10.

The Texans took third among 10 programs, competing against Utah State (-29), North Dakota State (-28), Loyola Maryland (-23), UTRGV (-23), Valparaiso (-21), Howard (-20), Idaho (-9), the host George Washington (-9) and Yale (-5).

This marked Tarleton's last tournament for nearly three months. The Texans will be back in action on Feb. 12-13 for Rice's Bentwater Intercollegiate at Bentwater Yacht and Country Club in Montgomery, Texas.

Deltombe wins individual title and leads Texans to best team finish

Tarleton State University

HATTIESBURG, Mississippi — In just her fourth tournament as a Texan, sophomore Lou Deltombe carded a three under-par to lead Tarleton

State to a fourth-place finish, the best of the season, in its final event of the fall at The Judson 2023 at Hattiesburg CC.

Deltombe's win marked the first win by a women's golfer since 2021.

"Lou played phenomenal golf this week," said coach Isabel Jimenez after the third round on Tuesday. «She is the type of player that always wants to do well, she has that fire in her veins, whether it is a tour-

namment or a little game at practice, she wants to win. I am very happy of the way she finished off the fall season, very well deserved for her.»

Deltombe started off the tournament on fire, shoot-

ing a five-under par, 67, in the first round of the day on Monday. Deltombe proceeded to card a pair of 73s to finish the event three under, two strokes up on the runner-up. The sophomore carded 12 birdies across

three rounds including six in the first round alone. She turned in her best performance as a Texan setting a new single round low and 54-hole round low.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE B5

Stembridge also returned a punt 67 yards for a TD.

Clark led the team in tackles with seven, while Hunter Michels had six with three for a loss.

Last season the Rattlers advanced to the state quarterfinals, finishing 13-1 for their best season ever. They are 32-5 over this season and the previous two so far.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates' season came to an end with a 75-7 loss at Killeen Shoemaker on Thursday, Nov. 2. Granbury finished 3-7 overall and 1-7 in District 4-5A Division I.

The Pirates were led offensively by senior running back Jadon Rogers with 48 yards and a TD on six carries. Defensively, senior Rylan Brenish and sophomore Chase Cantrell each posted a dozen tackles, while seniors Augie Zapata and Amelio

Rodriguez each had seven. Rogers also returned three kickoffs for 72 yards.

Rogers led the Pirates on the season with 536 yards and eight touchdowns rushing, while fellow senior Tyler Rodgers was right behind with 500 and five TD. Junior Carter Riley led in receiving with six catches for 189 yards and a TD.

Brenish and Cantrell finished 1-2 in tackles with 70 and 65. Brenish also led in tackles for loss (8) with Zapata right behind (7), while Zapata led in sacks (6). Rodriguez and Hayden Burns led in interceptions with two each, with senior Michael Gifford and Cantrell leading in fumble recoveries with a pair each.

CORNERSTONE CROSS COUNTRY

Cornerstone Christian Academy had several runners compete at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 1A

State Meet in Waco recently. The boys team finished fourth, led by Carter Jones (22nd, 20:14.72 over 5K course) and Carson Jones (23rd, 20:15.06).

The Cornerstone girls were led by Rease Porter, who was 40th with a time 18:37.44 over 2 miles.

GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates began the season with a 39-27 victory at Keller Central on Nov. 3, followed by a 52-45 overtime loss at North Crowley on Nov. 7. The Lady Panthers used an 11-4 run in the fourth quarter to force overtime, followed by an 8-1 burst in the extra stanza.

Ella Garner led Granbury against North Crowley with 20 points, while Kate Hamlin added nine and Briona Johnson scored six.

In the win over Keller Central, Garner had 11 points and Hamlin added eight.

The Lady Pirates play their first home game of the season against Burleson on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

In subsvarsity play, Granbury JV defeated Central 27-19 and the freshmen lost 28-22. The JV fell to North Crowley 31-29 and the freshmen lost 51-44.

LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians, ranked No. 1 in the state, began defense of their Class 2A state championship with a 64-19 win at Maypearl on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hanna Gaylor led Lipan with 20 points, while Madison Cornelius added 11 and Kynzi Callaway tallied 10.

The Lady Indians were hosting Priddy at press time and are competing in the Hill Country Classic in Marble Falls this weekend.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Kelvin Murray Working past the armadillo Defenders. During the game friday night Nov. 3 at Tolar High School

ART

FROM PAGE B3

a view. Jim Thillen is a woodturner. A space where they could both hone their crafts



COURTESY PHOTO

"Into the Woods," by Susan Thillen

while taking in a pretty view topped the list.

The realtor called that same day with two properties to view. The Thillens chose the property that allowed a river

view for the glass artist.

"It was exactly what God had planned for us. I knew absolutely nothing about Granbury. It's seriously a God story, the whole thing is a God story. We were able to sell our house (in the metroplex) almost immediate-

ly. The first offer fell through, but a second cash offer came through and closed on the same day the original offer would have closed."

The next-door neighbors quickly became best friends of the Thillens, and the group headed downtown in October for Thillen's birthday. Thillen, of course, wanted to see the art in Your Private Collection Gallery. Thillen met Stacy Watkins Martin who asked to see her work and offered to represent her when the images were shared from Thillen's phone.

Soon after Thillen participated in the Harvest Moon Festival of 2020. Sadly, Thillen's booth was one of the ones the wind smacked into the fence that windy festival. A lot of her fused glass work was broken. Despite this, Thillen is thankful for the journey her work takes her. Thillen's artistic journey

equipped her with the confidence to consider herself a glass artist. The journey included lots of instruction, workshops, trials and failures. The journey continues as she still seeks to learn more.

"The Lord kept telling me how grateful I should be, and so I named my studio Grateful Hearts Glass."

Thillen isn't seeking fame and fortune. She desires to share what she has learned with students and share that joy with her art patrons as well.

A piece called "Crazy Girl" sold to a client named Tom. Thillen has plans to see where Tom has hung the piece. The work made both the artist and the patron happy. "Tom was just so excited and thrilled to have it, and that brought me so much joy."

Thillen employs a method in her work she calls DDS, for

drape, drop and slump. All different processes take place in the kiln after she places the work in the kiln.

"Each piece is unique, and each uses at least one of the drape, drop and slump techniques in some form."

Her main interest is transparency and thus what drew her to glass as a media initially. Though it seems an unlikely theme for glass, Thillen has a keen interest in movement as a theme, such as the movement provided by the wind. Depth as the kind seen in landscapes remains an important component in her work.

Thillen layers her work, taking multiple trips through the kiln to achieve the desired effect. Each layer makes the piece thicker, which means it takes longer to heat up and longer to cool down.

For the LGAA workshop Thillen will teach two differ-

ent projects. The projects will be simple layering pieces such as the Christmas tree project. Thillen will take the art pieces home to fire them in the kiln and return them to the students.

A wonderful thing about this, shares Thillen, is these simple glass works can be successfully completed without a wealth of art knowledge. In fact, she used to teach afternoon workshops to the wives of woodturners when she accompanied Jim to woodworking workshops. So don't be intimidated if your art experience is lacking.

Thillen's demonstration will be at the Stanley Gallery, 224 N. Travis St. To sign up for the workshop email lgaa-workshops@gmail.com, also see the LGAA Facebook page.

HCN Junior

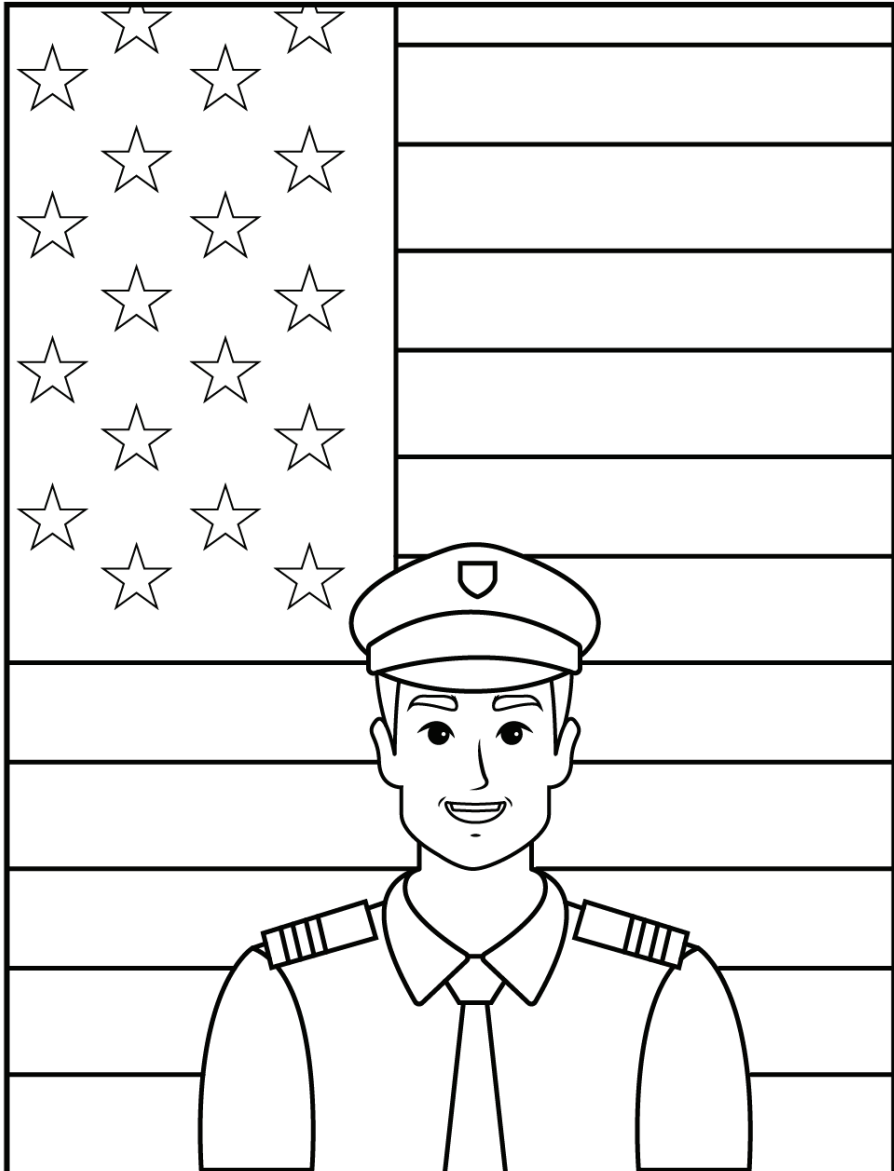


VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11th

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

COLOR Time



Veterans

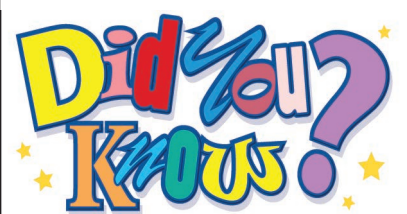
Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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

Word Bank

- 1. force
- 2. army
- 3. family
- 4. marines
- 5. sacrifice
- 6. honor
- 7. air
- 8. veteran
- 9. serve
- 10. navy
- 11. military

Veterans Day is a special day when we honor and thank the brave men and women who have served in the military to protect our country. It's a time to show our gratitude for their courage and sacrifice. On November 11th, we celebrate them and remember the importance of peace and freedom. We might see parades, flags, and ceremonies to say "Thank you" to our heroes. It's a day to appreciate and remember our veterans.



Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it's largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.

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Rebecca O'Dell
Oakwoods Teacher

Not Pictured: Kim Rains
Oakwoods Teacher





LET'S PAR-TEE

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Harbor Lakes Golf Club celebrated its 20th anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Harbor Lakes Golf Club celebrates 20th anniversary

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Harbor Lakes Golf Club recently reached a huge milestone, with members, charter members and staff joining to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary on Nov. 4.

Branded as "Granbury's premier golf club," Harbor Lakes officially opened for business in July 2003 — featuring up to 7,239 yards of "golfing adventure," according to a previous article in the Hood County News.

At the time of completion, the \$6 million Dick Phelps facility boasted numerous water features and great scenery, with "tee box views of Comanche Peak, Lake Granbury and the Granbury courthouse," according to the article.

Matt Mitchell, general manager of Harbor Lakes Golf Course, said he has only been in his position for about nine weeks, but when he heard no one was doing anything to celebrate the club's 20-year anniversary, he immediately jumped into action.

"It's a big thing; it's 20 years, and we're a big part of Granbury," he said. "Even

though it's a golf course, and a little different than a regular business, for something to stick around for 20 years is a milestone, so we put together the party. We wanted to celebrate our members, celebrate the 20 years, and look forward to the future."

The festivities kicked off on Saturday with an official ribbon cutting and champagne toast, followed by hors d'oeuvres, complimentary cigars from Granbury Cigar Company, and a 360-degree photo booth for guests to capture memories of the cocktail event.

Mitchell then made opening remarks and introduced the public to Harbor Lakes Golf Course architect and Colorado Golf Hall of Famer Dick Phelps, along with his son, Rick, who took over the design firm when his dad retired in 2006.

"It's nice to come back and see something that I created

and it's nice to see it mature," Dick said, during the event. "So many times when we do a golf course, we never go back to it and we don't get a chance to see (the finished product), so the opportunity to come down here is very much appreciated. It just blows my mind that we're down here celebrating roughly 20 years. We're very proud and we have received a lot of compliments and I appreciate that very much."

Dick — who told the HCN he completed about 87 golf courses in his career — explained that before construction of Harbor Lakes ever began, the land was "essentially flat."

"One of the things we had to do in the design was to accommodate the water," he said. "We didn't know when I first started on this thing that we had groundwater so close to the surface, and that's why some of these lakes have railroad tie walls because the soil was horrible."

In golf, bulkheads are a type of retaining wall used to keep water or sand from another part of the course. They are usually made of wood and sometimes constructed by using railroad ties.

"To be very blunt, I mean, there wasn't much to work with — but that's part of the fun, trying to create something," Dick said, adding the old saying that they were trying to "create a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

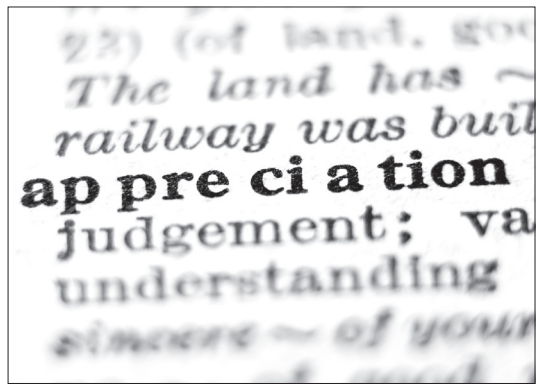
He added that since he resides in Colorado, this is the first time he's seen the completed course since he attended the ribbon cutting 20 years ago.

"This is the first time I've seen it since it opened," he said. "Future plans, we've suggested a few minor things, but basically, the golf course is terrific. We love it. I love it. I'm just tickled pink to see it in the shape it's in."

Although the club is situated inside the Harbor Lakes residential subdivision, Mitchell told the HCN only 30% of Harbor Lakes homeowners are members of the golf club, adding that the average age of membership is 63-and-a-half.

"We've got members from Midland/Odessa that will fly their private plane in and then go stay at their million dollar weekend home, and then we've got blue collar guys that are working during the week, and play on the weekend, and then

PLEASE SEE **GOLF** | C2



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Gratitude is often a feeling of thankfulness that arises in response to receiving a benefit or kindness from others. Appreciation, on the other hand, is more about recognizing the value or quality of something and can be felt independently of having received a personal benefit.

Thanksgiving reflections

What we appreciate appreciates

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

Have you ever noticed that the individuals who exude the greatest joy, contentment and emotional well-being are often those who make a conscious effort to express their appreciation daily? It's a principle that transcends time and place, suggesting the act of appreciation not only enhances our own lives but also elevates our collective spirit. As Thanksgiving draws near, we turn our focus to the power of gratitude, exploring how the simple yet profound act of recognizing that "what you appreciate appreciates" can transform our lives and the fabric of our community.

Let's start by talking about the terms gratitude and appreciation. While the terms are often used interchangeably, and while gratitude and appreciation are closely related concepts, they have subtle differences in their emotional context and how they are experienced.

Gratitude is often a feeling of thankfulness that arises in response to receiving a benefit or kindness from others. It is typically directed toward a person who has given you something or has done something for you. Gratitude is reactive, acknowledging the role of others in providing something that has enhanced your well-being or happiness. It is often accompanied by a sense of humility and the desire to express thanks or to reciprocate the kindness.

Appreciation, on the other hand, is more about recognizing the value or quality of something and can be felt independently of having received a personal benefit. It is the act of acknowledging the worthiness or excellence of someone or something, and it does not necessarily involve a benefactor. Appreciation can be proactive, a spontaneous recognition of the good qualities in people or things around you, without any sense of having been the recipient of a particular favor.

In essence, while gratitude is a thankful acknowledgment for what one has received from others, appreciation is a broader, more general acknowledgment of what is valuable and meaningful, regardless of its source. Appreciation is the natural response to a life lived in gratitude.

PLEASE SEE **REFLECTIONS** | C2

How Toys for Tots brightens Christmas for Hood County children

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

In the heart of Hood County, the spirit of giving and unity shines brightly, especially during the festive Christmas season. The Marine Toys for Tots Program, an initiative with a long-standing tradition, is a testament to this spirit. Every year, this program sets out with an unwavering mission: to ensure that less fortunate children can also experience the magic of Christmas.

MISSION AND VISION

The fundamental mission of Marine Toys for Tots is straightforward yet profound: to collect new, unwrapped toys and present them to children in need during the Christmas season. The core goal behind this generous endeavor is to bring a glimmer of hope and the joy of the season to America's less fortunate children, showing them they are cherished and remembered.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Founded on the principles

of unity, generosity and community, the program took a significant leap in 1991. To optimize the collection and distribution process, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation was established at the urging of the Marine Corps. This foundation streamlined the procedures, ensuring that more children could be reached in a more organized manner.

PROCESS OF COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Gathering toys is a concerted effort involving vari-

PLEASE SEE **TOTS** | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

The fundamental mission of Marine Toys for Tots is straightforward yet profound: to collect new, unwrapped toys and present them to children in need during the Christmas season.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Individuals who exude the greatest joy, contentment and emotional well-being are often those who make a conscious effort to express their appreciation daily.

REFLECTIONS
FROM PAGE C2

Appreciation is a multifaceted gem, encompassing the act of being fully conscious of something, holding it in high regard, being grateful for it and recognizing its growth in value. When we appreciate the myriad facets of our lives, we not only acknowledge their worth but also invite an increase in their value — be it in relationships, personal growth or happiness.

As we approach this season of thanks, let's delve into three practices that can cultivate a more profound sense of both gratitude and

appreciation:

The daily gratitude list: Begin each day by writing down three specific things for which you are grateful. This act of writing serves as a commitment to recognizing the good in your life. For instance, instead of a general note of thanks for health, you might express gratitude for the vigor you felt during a morning walk. This specificity brings the abstract into sharp focus, making gratitude tangible.

But don't just write — feel. Let each word resonate with the warmth of genuine thankfulness. Make this practice a ritual akin to your morning coffee.

PICTURING GRATITUDE

In a world often clouded by negativity, a picture of something for which you are thankful truly is worth a thousand positive words. Creating a photo collection of things you appreciate is like building your own beacon of light. It could be the sun casting long shadows on the historic Hood County courthouse, the laughter of children at play in City Beach Park or the comforting embrace of a loved one.

These snapshots of joy, collected in a digital or physical album, become a visual gratitude journal. They serve as reminders of the beauty that surrounds us, waiting to

be acknowledged and cherished. This practice doesn't require grand gestures; it simply asks you to be present and mindful of the everyday wonders that life in Hood County offers.

THE APPRECIATION CARD

Imagine the joy of receiving a card that details how much you mean to someone. Now, imagine giving that joy to others. Writing a heartfelt card is a powerful way to convey deep appreciation to those who have touched your life in both big and small ways. Detail the ways they've made a difference, the specific instances that have stayed with you and the

qualities you admire in them.

If you truly want to rock someone's world in a very positive way, put the card in an envelope, address it, put a stamp on it and drop it in a mailbox. Think about it — in this high-tech digital age, where text messaging and DMs are the norm, receiving an honest-to-goodness paper greeting card or letter with a handwritten message in our mailbox is a revolutionary act! Consider making this a monthly tradition, a way to strengthen bonds and spread warmth within your community.

These practices are not just for the individual; they can ripple through our community, creating a culture of

appreciation that uplifts and unites. As we gather around the Thanksgiving table, let's carry these practices with us, weaving gratitude and appreciation into the fabric of our daily lives.

In the end, gratitude is more than a response to receiving; it is an approach to living. It's about seeing the fullness of life in Granbury and beyond, recognizing the good, and nurturing it with appreciation. This Thanksgiving, let's embark on a journey of gratitude and appreciation together, transforming our lives and community — one thankful thought, one picture, one letter at a time.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Branded as "Granbury's premier golf club," Harbor Lakes officially opened for business in July 2003 — featuring up to 7,239 yards of "golfing adventure."

GOLF
FROM PAGE C1

we have a lot of retirees here, so it's a real diverse membership, and just a bunch of great folks," he said.

Harbor Lakes Golf Club is currently described as being "semi-private," with both members and non-members allowed to play golf on the 18-hole course.

"The club itself with just the membership base and the membership dues that

come in monthly, just that alone, it's not a viable club, it would lose money, so allowing public play, non-member play generates revenue that keeps the club going," he explained. "We've got a vision for the club down the road, and it depends on a lot of factors, but the goal is to be fully private at some point."

A social membership is \$65 a month, while a golf membership is \$199 a month. Independent play is \$60 during the week and \$70

on weekends. Mitchell said Harbor Lakes Golf Club also plans to "roll out some specials" before the new 2024 pricing goes into effect.

"Golf, unfortunately, it's very expensive — not only to buy clubs, but to go play. It is what it is, but this is a great value for anybody," he said. "Certainly, if you love to play golf, and if you play golf four times a month out here, then you should join as a member because it's less expensive than just coming out and

playing."

In addition to golf, Harbor Lakes also offers social events like karaoke, dueling pianos and pasta night.

"The club is a great place to come and hang out with your friends and enjoy downtime," Mitchell said. "We've kind of tried to make this a home away from home for them."

With 300 members in the club's social membership and 300 members in the golf membership, Mitchell said

he also has plans to increase the membership's total numbers.

"We're looking at different amenities to add on," he said. "We have no definitive plans yet, but we are hoping to see lots of growth in members, revenues, activity, and hopefully some new amenities too, down the line."

Mitchell said he believes the 20-year celebration will serve as the club's "launching pad" into 2024.

"We're gonna do some

strong push to build our membership, we've got big plans for improvements all around the club and the golf course, and we want to make it the place to be if you live in Granbury, and the place to work if you want to work at a golf club. We've got a great team here and a great place."

For more information on Harbor Lakes Golf Club, visit harborlakes.com online.

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'Burning' love spurs spontaneity GVFD couple to host public wedding Nov. 17

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Aaron Kreag and Kymper Nowicki are not your average couple.

From meeting online — Bumble to be specific — to a shorter-than-normal courtship and engagement, it was clear from the beginning this relationship would be anything but traditional.

But adding in the desire for a public wedding — at Warren's Backyard no less — it's obvious that Aaron and Kymper are not your typical bride and groom.

"We had both been married before, so it's not the whole traditional wedding. We didn't need that," Kymper said. "We love to be around fun people and so we thought, 'Let's just have something fun, more of a party.'"

LOVE STORY

Aaron, 47, and Kymper, 51, first matched on Bumble on Jan. 14, before deciding to meet in person on the same day.

"The cute thing about the story is we did meet online Sunday and we decided, 'Well, let's just meet,' so I suggested we meet at Warren's because it was a really nice sunny day and it's like a park kind of setting," Kymper explained. "We just sat there for hours, and we just talked."

From there, the relationship and love blossomed — leading Aaron to move to Granbury in February, as at that time, he lived closer to Denton.

"I was looking for a town that had a volunteer fire department," he said. "I spent a number of years as a paramedic and volunteered as a firefighter in Indiana over 20 years ago. For me, it was kind of serendipitous. I didn't want to be near the big city. I wanted a place with the volunteer fire department, I was looking for a church at the time..."

"And a beautiful woman," Kymper chimed in. "It all kind of oddly came about," Aaron continued. "We met and shortly thereafter I went to church. Our saying is 'No coincidences.' It was just pretty weird the way everything kind of just started falling into place, and I was just like, 'This is it.' It was kind of 50%. I was curious about her and I and what can happen, but then the other 50% was just like, 'This all feels right, and it all makes sense.'"

Aaron joined the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department in June, with Kymper following close behind in July.

"Subsequently, as I was going through the fire department process, Kymper ended up having some curiosity and asking some questions," Aaron said. "Next thing, you know, she got brought into the fray."

Kymper said joining the GVFD with Aaron served as the glue to their relationship and allowed her to connect

with other members of the community.

"Even though I had been here, I really didn't know very many people, and I didn't like that I felt very disconnected, so we were both hoping to find a community and make friends, and that definitely has served that purpose," she said.

Kymper's comment also led Aaron to reminisce about the time he posted on the Hood County Breaking News Facebook page asking for friends and letting the public know about their public wedding — even though Aaron hadn't even proposed at that time.

"I'm like, 'Okay, that sounds really, really weird,' but it worked," Kymper said. "We've connected with a lot of people. It is a little odd, and unconventional, but it's so us. We decided to have it at Warren's because that's where we had our first date, and it just seemed right. Like, it's our vibe. It's close, it's casual and it's open."

On their six-month anniversary, Aaron had also casually broached the topic of the public wedding to Steve Berry, the owner of Warren's Backyard, who was thrilled with the idea and offered to serve as the officiant for their wedding.

"It went from 'Let's just get married at the bar with Steve in T-shirts and blue jeans,' to a big party," Aaron said. "It kind of started taking on a life of its own."

Once it became clear that the public wedding was going to be something more than just an idea, Aaron realized he needed to start planning his proposal.

ROMANTIC PROPOSAL

In early September, Aaron and Kymper were in Chicago for the wedding of Aaron's younger brother. However, unfortunate circumstances led to the wedding being canceled.

With the pair all dressed up and nothing to do, they decided to go to a nice dinner at the Signature Room at the 95th — a restaurant that has since permanently closed.

"We sit down and we're looking at the menu and the menu is custom. It says, 'I'll always love you, Kymper,' or something like that," Kymper said. "They asked if we want dessert and I'm like 'No, let's just go out. We're gonna hit the town,' and all of a sudden the waiter comes over with this big silver platter and he unveils it and there's this beautiful like chocolate torte, and on the plate, it says, 'Will you marry me?' and there's a ring there. And I'm like, all tears, you know, then he proposes, and we took pictures next to the window with the skyline behind us. It was perfect. It was everything."

Aaron explained how the ring is a family heirloom, so he needed to get it resized for Kymper. The only issue was sneaking it from his sister's house and travel-

ing with it undetected all the way to Chicago.

"My brother-in-law takes me, he parks down the road and makes me walk to the jeweler and leave my phone in the car because we have the little location sharing on our phones, so I'm like, 'Alright, well she's gonna think I'm at Dunkin' Donuts, not the jeweler, because he's parked at Dunkin' Donuts,'" Aaron said. "So I go to the jeweler, I dropped the ring off, then I told my sister, 'I need help getting this ring (back) because I can't go do it,' so my sister and her friend made up an excuse to leave, and they go on a little secret mission, and they pick up the ring."

Following the "secret mission," Aaron's sister then informed him she had put the engagement ring in a used Wendy's cheeseburger bag, crumpled it up and put it in the glove box in his car.

Realizing the situation, plus thinking about how they would need to valet the car in Chicago, Aaron had to think of another way to get the ring without Kymper seeing.

He parked at a gas station and told Kymper to check their lottery tickets. While she was gone, he quickly grabbed the sack, pulled the ring out, and put it in his pocket.

"Then we get to the hotel, and I had moved the ring from my blue jean pocket to my tux pocket before we went downstairs, and then I had to get the ring to the waiter at the Signature Room," he said.

"It was so cute," Kymper added. "When he revealed that whole story, I was like, 'Wow. It's so much better.' I love the effort that went into keeping the secret."

Kymper explained that back in June, they had booked a cruise for Thanksgiving with a group of friends and thought about using the cruise for their honeymoon — but that also meant they would have to get married in just a couple of months, leaving the public wedding as the perfect idea for the couple.

"We knew that it was going to be difficult for a lot of people because it's short notice so we thought, 'OK, we will keep it cool, casual and public,'" she said. "It doesn't matter, because it's still going to have that vibe of a party. We feel like people with the same kind of vibe want to share that with us, and that's totally what we were going for. Even if we don't know them. They're gonna be there with good intentions and the right reason."

WEDDING DATE

Aaron and Kymper's public wedding is set for Friday, Nov. 17, from 7-11 p.m., at Warren's Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Hwy., with the wedding ceremony starting at 8 p.m.

The event will feature a cash bar, a photo booth and a live performance from the



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury volunteer firefighters Aaron Kreag, left, and Kymper Nowicki, right, are hosting a public wedding on Friday, Nov. 17, from 7-11 p.m. at Warren's Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Hwy., with the wedding ceremony starting at 8 p.m.

From meeting online — Bumble to be specific — to a shorter-than-normal courtship and engagement, it was clear from the beginning this relationship would be anything but traditional.

Fort Worth classic rock band, Ashmore — an experience that also does not require a cover charge.

"We're not able to host everybody, so we wanted to do what we could to make it as easy as possible," Kymper said.

To add to the fun vibe of the night, the couple will also host a raffle to determine who will serve as a witness to their holy matrimony.

"We'll take a picture with them to add to the randomness," Kymper said, with a chuckle. "These were our witnesses. We didn't know them. But now we're best friends."

Although many guests have inquired about a wedding registry, Aaron explained they will not be accepting gifts at their wedding. Instead, guests are encouraged to donate to a nonprofit organization with the memo "for love and community."

"We've been married before, you know, we're good," Aaron said. "Find your favorite nonprofit — that (gesture) fits with our energy and our vibe."

There is no dress code or appropriate attire for the evening.

After 8 p.m., the venue will have an age requirement of 21 and older.

Warren's can accommodate up to about a thousand people, and there is ample free parking on-site.

THE ONE

What first began as a right swipe on a dating app has now led to a passionate love

story between two individuals who were both looking for a second chance at love.

"For me, I've always been a bit restless and I've had a unique life with a lot of military stuff and foreign travel and a lot of chaos," Aaron said. "If you're with somebody and they're like, 'Oh, they think I'm attractive,' or 'They think I'm funny,' that's a bit commonplace. But what I never felt was 'I'm with somebody who cares about my soul,' and I (felt that early with Kymper). That was probably within two weeks, where I was like, 'She's soul medicine for me.' We spent hours and hours and hours talking. I've never talked to somebody so much in my life, and I've never had somebody be so interested in me and my stories."

Kymper said Aaron has a "lot of life," which she finds "intriguing." She also remembers their first date when she was "taken aback" by finally getting to meet him in person.

"He had sent me a selfie that morning, so I knew what he looked like, but when you see someone in person, (it's different), and I was just like, 'Holy crap,'" she said. "We sat for six hours, because it was that easy. I didn't want to leave. I was just like, 'I like his energy, and this just feels so comfortable.' I always knew that I would know that I met the person that was supposed to be for me because I would feel like they were me. I can't explain it — not physically looking like me, but they feel like me." Kymper said they would

be laughing hysterically in the middle of the night, and it was then she realized this was her person.

"I told him, 'I'm supposed to be in your life. I don't know in what capacity. I just know I am, so I'm here. I'm gonna ride this out, and we're gonna figure out what we need to figure out,'" she said. "I think it was pretty instant, but by a month-and-a-half in, I was like, 'I'm locked in. I really, really like this man,' and here we are."

After almost a year of knowing each other, Aaron and Kymper plan to tie the knot with family, friends, and strangers in attendance.

"Here's the thing: we don't know who or how many people are going to show because it's public," Kymper said. "They could come because it's Friday night and they go to Warren's, they could come because they're coming to follow Ashmore, and they could come because they saw one of the million posts (about the wedding), so we're hoping it's just going to be this huge mix of everybody. Whether you're there for us or not, it doesn't matter. We're just happy that we're gonna have people there."

Kymper added that she plans to keep the evening "chill and cool."

"That's the game plan," she added. "But let's see how well we can pull that off."

"I'm looking forward to it," Aaron added. "It should be fun."

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A 'haunting' Veterans Day tribute

Ghost hunt to benefit veterans, Pecan Valley Centers



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Joshua Morrison, left, and Greg Stephens, right, will be investigating The Gordon House for any paranormal occurrences on Saturday, Nov. 11. Proceeds from the ghost hunt will benefit the Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral & Developmental Healthcare.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

A local paranormal research team is combining Veterans Day with a ghost hunt — creating a spooky and unique tribute to the men and women who fought for our country.

Research and Investigation of the Paranormal (RIP) is holding an all-day event on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Granbury Square Plaza, 205 E. Pearl St., followed by the ghost hunt event from 7-11:30 p.m.

The ghost-hunting group was originally founded by Greg Stephens, a former first sergeant E-8 and senior non-commissioned officer in the Army.

For the past 13 years — the “lucky” number as Stephens calls it — RIP has been hosting ghost-hunting events, with 100% of proceeds benefiting Hood County veteran programs and nonprofit organizations.

“I do this annually to raise money for veteran services and for mental health and suicide awareness for our veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders,” Stephens told the HCN. “It’s not just the military that sees (tragedy) every day. Our law enforcement and paramedics see it too, on a daily basis — more than we do most of the time. That’s my way of giving back, using my platform that I have to spread awareness and do what I can.”

Last year, proceeds from RIP’s ghost hunt benefited REBOOT Recovery — a 12-week, spiritually-

led worldwide ministry group that helps veterans, law enforcement and first responders overcome trauma.

PECAN VALLEY CENTERS

This year, Stephens will finally get to collaborate with close friend and event recipient Joshua Morrison, who is the veterans program manager for Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral & Developmental Healthcare.

“I’m super pumped for it,” Morrison said. “As many years as I’ve known Greg, this is the first time we’ve ever been partnered up for anything, so I’m grateful that they chose us to be their charity for this year.”

Morrison explained that Pecan Valley Centers receives grants to help veterans with financial assistance and provide mental health services to veterans’ families.

“I have a contract with the state for claims and benefits assistance, but then there’s the other stuff,” he said. “We build anywhere between 25 and 30 wheelchair ramps for veterans every year because a veteran will go to the VA hospital, they’ll lose a leg, they’ll get sent home with a wheelchair, and the VA says, ‘Oh yeah, we’ll get you a ramp in the

next year or two.’ Well, what do I do in the meantime? So that was a need we identified right away, but there’s no grants that exist for that, so we have to do fundraising.”

DAY EVENT

Vendors for the day event will include best-selling authors Teal Gray and Susan Hill, along with local author Brandy Herr, known for her “Haunted Granbury” novel.

Gray will also be performing tea leaf readings at noon, followed by a musical performance from Anthony Price and the Southern Front Band from 1-4 p.m.

“I’m not a big medium person, but Teal is pretty accurate,” Stephens said. “Anthony is amazing. He’s 16 years old, and he can sing classic country like nobody’s business.”

T.E.X.A.S. Rescue (Texas Equine Xperience and Sanctuary) — a nonprofit organization that rescues, rehabs, and rehomes donkeys, horses, and mules — will also serve as one of the vendors for the day event.

“I just signed a partnership with them, where we’re going to help them establish their equine therapy program for veterans and first responders, so my therapists will be providing the services to them free of charge, and they will provide the horses, donkeys, and facilities,” Morrison said. “It’s a great partnership that we’re really looking forward to.”

EVENING GHOST HUNT

The ghost hunt will officially kick off at 7 p.m., as RIP will be joined

by Wraith Chasers Chris Smith and Mike Goncalves as they investigate The Gordon House, Merry Jayne’s, Bijou House of Beauty and Shad Ramsey’s studio apartment.

Ramsey was a well-known community photographer in Granbury and was a huge supporter of RIP. He passed away on Nov. 9, 2021.

In honor of his memory, RIP held a ghost event last summer, with proceeds benefiting the RALLY Project, a nonprofit organization that supports many veteran causes locally including the Field of Flags.

“Shad loved everything we did and was a huge supporter and friend,” Stephens said in a previous article to the HCN. “When he passed so unexpectedly, we wanted to find a way to honor him.”

Stephens explained that each ghost hunt will last about 35-40 minutes, with attendees leading the investigation.

“When I do these types of (investigations), the people that paid money for tickets, I’m not going to make them sit and watch me ask all the questions,” he explained. “It’s going to be their hunt. They’re going to be the investigators. We’re just going to be there to help them along.”

Stephens added that he always tries to debunk paranormal occurrences to see if there’s a logical explanation.

“We try to debunk everything we can, especially once we hear the stories,” he said. “We try to see, ‘Well, what could make that happen?’ where it’s a rattling window or a

PLEASE SEE **GHOST** | C9

TOTS

FROM PAGE C1

ous stakeholders. These toys come from local donations, purchases made by the foundation, and significant contributions from corporations. Once collected, they’re systematically sorted based on age and gender suitability, ensuring each child receives a gift that resonates with them.

EMPOWERING LOCAL COORDINATORS

Behind this enormous undertaking are nearly 40,000 dedicated Marines, Marine Corps League members, veteran Marines, and volunteers who manage annual campaigns. The program’s backbone consists of almost 800 local Toys for Tots coordinators, who are provided with promotional materials, financial management tools, and comprehensive guidelines to make their local programs a success.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE RIGHT HERE

In our very own counties of Hood, Somervell, Parker and Erath, businesses, individuals and various clubs come together to plan and execute events supporting our local Toys for Tots. Starting in October, toy collection boxes make their appearance in participating businesses, with donations collected in early December. And it’s not just about toys. Our local charities play an instrumental role in managing signups, qualifications and the distribution of these toys.

IMPRESSIVE LOCAL IMPACT

Local Toys for Tots coordinator Julie Hale is proud of the impact the program has had in recent years. Reflecting on 2022, Hale says the Toys for Tots initiative in Hood-Somervell-Parker counties distributed 14,124 toys to 5,850 children.

DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM

Several charitable agencies collaborate with Toys for Tots Hood-Somervell-Parker, facilitating the toy distribution process. “Potential recipients can apply through any of our partner agencies, such as Hood County Christmas for Children, Mission Granbury and Rancho Brazos Community Centers, among others,” says Hale. “Those unable to register with an agency have the option to request support directly from Toys for Tots H-S-P.”

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Hale says the best way people can support the work of Toys for Tots is to drop off new, unwrapped toys in any of the area collection boxes set up at local participating businesses. “We are not able to accept clothing or furniture donations,” said Hale. “A new unwrapped toy or a direct financial contribution are the best ways area residents can help.”

To make a tax-deductible financial contribution, you can go to the Toys for Tots website at <https://granbury-tx.toysfortots.org/> and quickly and easily donate online. Toys for Tots also has a fundraising raffle that is currently running and has a benefit car show coming up on Nov. 11. More information about those events can be found on the Toys for Tots website or on the organization’s Facebook page (Toys for Tots Local Community Organization).

The Marine Toys for Tots program is more than just a toy drive; it’s a movement of love, unity and community. As residents of Hood County and its neighboring regions, let’s continue to uphold this beautiful tradition, ensuring every child wakes up to the joy of Christmas.

PLEASE SEE **MOVIES** | C9

Cinema’s grand slams: My ultimate list of baseball movies

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

If you’re like me and you’re still on cloud nine a week after the Texas Rangers won their first World Series Championship, you’ve probably spent some time either watching or thinking about watching one of your favorite baseball movies!

After all, baseball isn’t just a game; it’s the narrative of America, woven into a tapestry of green fields and the crack of the bat. It’s no wonder that the sport has inspired some of the most heartfelt and memorable films in American cinema. Here are my top ten baseball movies that have captured the spirit of the game and the hearts of fans.

FIELD OF DREAMS (1989)

Synopsis: An Iowa corn farmer, Ray Kinsella, hears a mysterious voice one evening in his cornfield saying, “If you build it, he will come,” prompting him to construct a baseball diamond in his fields. What unfolds is a magical journey

through the love of the game and the reconciliation of a father and son.

Why It’s Great: This film transcends baseball, delving into themes of redemption, faith, and the power of dreams. It reminds us that sometimes, the most illogical decisions can lead to the most profound outcomes.

BULL DURHAM (1988)

Synopsis: In the minor league town of Durham, North Carolina, a veteran catcher is tasked with mentoring a dim-witted pitching prodigy to prepare him for the majors. But love complicates the equation when both men become involved with an ardent baseball fan.

Why It’s Great: “Bull Durham” delivers a pitch-perfect blend of romance, comedy, and sports drama, offering a gritty, realistic look at the life of minor league players.

THE NATURAL (1984)

Synopsis: Roy Hobbs, an unknown middle-aged batter with a mysterious past, appears out of no-

where to take a losing 1930s baseball team to the top of the league with his divine talent.

Why It’s Great: With its fairy tale-like storytelling and a majestic score, “The Natural” is a cinematic home run that celebrates the idea that it’s never too late to be a hero.

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (1992)

Synopsis: During World War II, a women’s professional baseball league springs up in the Midwest, funded by a wealthy entrepreneur. The film follows the trials and triumphs of the Rockford Peaches.

Why It’s Great: This film is a humorous yet bold statement on the capabilities and resilience of women, wrapped up in a heartwarming sports story.

FOR LOVE OF THE GAME (1999)

Synopsis: Aging Detroit Tigers pitcher Billy Chapel reflects on his life and career as he makes his way through a perfect game at Yankee Stadium.

Why It’s Great: Kevin Costner’s portrayal of Chapel is a poignant

exploration of a man finding clarity and purpose in the twilight of his career, making it a touching ode to the game.

MAJOR LEAGUE (1989)

Synopsis: The new owner of the Cleveland Indians puts together a purposely horrible team so they’ll lose, and she can move the team. But when the plot is uncovered, they start winning just to spite her.

Why It’s Great: “Major League” is a comedy that captures the underdog spirit, filled with memorable characters and quotable lines, proving that sometimes laughter is the best way to capture the essence of sports.

42 (2013)

Synopsis: This biographical film tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball, and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Why It’s Great: “42” is a powerful and inspiring tale of courage

PLEASE SEE **MOVIES** | C9

World's Toughest Mudder



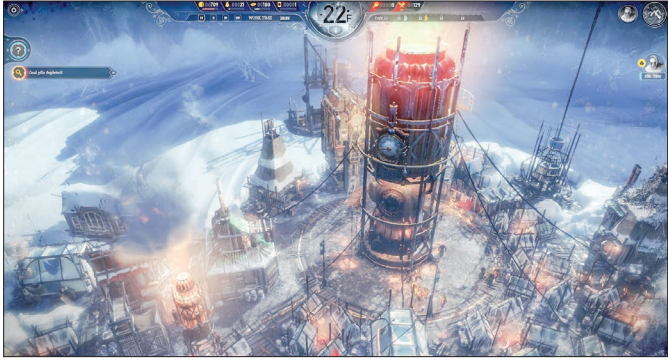
PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The World's Toughest Mudder took place in Granbury Sunday, Nov. 5. The event featured a huge pit area, food trucks, music, event announcers, fire pits, and a full race center. The course is described as one of the toughest events on the planet. Every year, the bravest Mudders gather from all over the world to face their fears and tackle 24 hours on a brutal course, innovatively designed to destroy their limits.



GAME ON

Frostpunk



SCREENSHOT COURTESY 11 BIT STUDIOS

A view of the city, with the Generator in the middle.

Survive an ice age with steampunk technology



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.

SteamOS page — “Frostpunk is the first society survival game. As the ruler of the last city on Earth, it is your duty to manage both its citizens and infrastructure. What decisions will you make to ensure your society’s survival? What will you do when pushed to the breaking point? Who will you become in the process?”

This game came out in 2018. I purchased it during the cold snap/pandemic in 2021. But the game made me viscerally angry. It was just too depressing. It was so promising, too! Great graphics, beautiful wintry landscapes, and steampunk-styled technology. In retrospect, this was the wrong kind of game to be playing during a cold snap/pandemic. So the other day I decided to reinstall it and give it another try.

The premise of the game is that you’re in a world that is getting increasingly colder, and you have to keep your citizens alive by any means possible. Everything you know and vaguely tolerate in a society simulation is here. With simulation games, it’s always a careful balance between keeping your people fed and safe, and exploring new technologies that will make their lives better. In this case, you’re doing what they actually need to survive, which doesn’t always allow for their comfort and happiness.

There are two scenarios with the base game — A New Home, which is the origin story, and Endless, which is just keeping your citizens alive while the temperature drops.

The structure of this game resembles Civilization. Instead of enemies to fight, there’re the ever-present cold and limited resources. Every few days the temperature drops from -22 degrees Fahrenheit to -44 degrees Fahrenheit. Resource gathering is limited to four things: coal, wood, steel and raw food. It looks like there are some elements you’ll mine later, but that’s not available at the beginning of the game. You can build around the inner ring within the radius of

the Generator, and eventually get the technology to heat individual buildings. You’ll be researching many of your builds, so, like Civilization, it’s a careful choice of which technologies to research first. There’s also exploration, which will bring more citizens, technology and supplies to your city.

Your goal is to make sure your citizens survive the coming cold. It’s not easy to do that without resorting to inhumane tactics. The game is chock full of moral dilemmas. Do you have your citizens work double shifts? Do you force the children to work? Do you add sawdust to the food? I’ve been trying to play this game in easy mode without giving the citizens double shifts and without child labor, and I keep running out of food/coal/wood at day 16. This is what made me mad at the game in the first place.

The game charts your progress and vulnerabilities based upon the mix of Despair and Hope at the bottom of the screen. As long as your Hope levels are above your Despair levels, the citizens will do what you want. If you have 0% Hope, you lose the game.

One absolutely useless but beautiful feature of the game is that you can customize your view, so there are more ice crystals and soot on the lens you’re seeing the game through. All the menus and splash screens are well-done visualizations, and the graphics are superb. This game looks wonderfully grunged and lived-in.

Do I recommend this game? If you like harsh environmental sims where you have to keep your citizens alive against overwhelming odds, this is the game for you. I found it very difficult to play, partly because I have empathy for fictional video-game characters. And I really hate being cold. I started over several times, trying to find the right balance between keeping the citizens happy and researching new technology.

Available on SteamOS (2019) for Macintosh and PC from 11 bit studios.

BOOK REVIEW

The sound must’ve been tremendous

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

If you’d been there — if you’d witnessed it — you might have thought you’d been deafened. Just think: millions of almost-vehicle-size animals racing across the plains as far as you could see. It’s almost unimaginable today, but it happened. Read about it in “Blood Memory” by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns.

Twenty thousand years ago, North America was full of large beasts, the likes of which we’ve never seen alive: saber-tooth cats, giant sloths and dire wolves populated the continent. Then, humans arrived and just after the last Ice Age, those animals and some 47 other species went extinct. That was good for bison-bison, a mammal that was smaller than the others and that took advantage of the sudden space, abundant food and lack of competition to survive the die-off and thrive.

“Fully grown,” the authors say, “an American buffalo can weigh more than a ton...” At over six feet at the shoulders, a buffalo is taller

than most humans and it can measure more than 10 feet long. It’s fast, powerful, protective and exquisitely built to live on the grasslands in almost any temperature. An animal that size changed the prairie and the very nature of nature.

While Lewis and Clark searched three months for a buffalo and claimed they didn’t see one, the plains then were full of bison. Millions of them, the authors say, and the animals were essential to the Native people for whom the buffalo was considered family, spiritual beings, and a source of food, clothing, shelter and tools.

Then Europeans arrived in North America.

Their presence brought diseases to which the Native Americans had no immunity, and Native populations dropped by more than 80%. The buffalo population completely disappeared east of the Mississippi River by the early 1800s and the “millions” that survived west of the river were hunted for railroad workers’ and immigrants’ sustenance; for their hides; and for sport, their carcasses left to rot in

the grass.

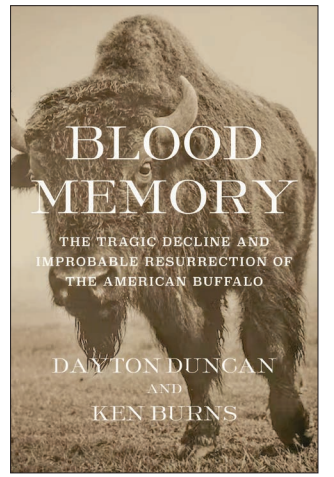
By 1884, the American buffalo was all but gone...

You, of course, know that total extinction didn’t happen; you can see American buffalo in many places around the country. But “Blood Memory” is not just about the buffalo.

Science peeks into the narrative you’ll find, and there’s the politics and early American culture here, too, but mostly, understandably, centuries of Native American history run side-by-side with that of the bison throughout this book. Indeed, as authors Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns suggest, you cannot separate one from the other. Even the book’s title reflects it.

The timeline here is crisp, leaving no questions about what happened, when, and readers will find no glossing over of facts. You can take that as a warning: there’s brutality and bloodshed in this book and much of it lands on specific culprits. The abundant illustrations are proof.

This elegantly-presented book speaks to the heart of every Western historian or cowboy fiction reader, and



COURTESY PHOTO

“Blood Memory: The Tragic and Improbable Resurrection of the American Buffalo” by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns C.2023, KNOPE, \$40.00, 331 PAGES

it’s great for students, too. Crack it open, and you’ll know that “Blood Memory” is a tremendous read.

Want more? Then look for “Rewilding: The Radical new Science of Ecological Recovery” by Paul Jepson and Cain Blythe (The MIT Press). There, you’ll learn about how the buffalo recovered and more conservation efforts.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Civil War Round Table to meet Nov. 13

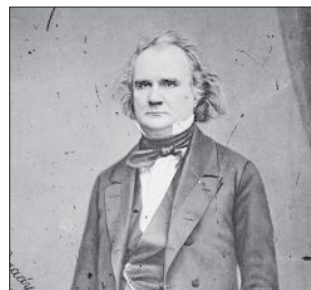


BY WILLIAM DYESS

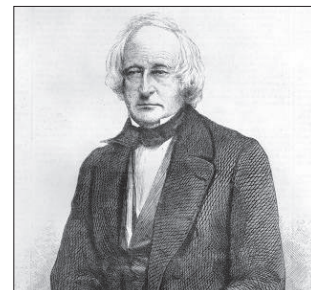
William Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 U.S. Hwy. 377 E., in Granbury. The program will be presented by Dr. David K. Barnett, a Hood County resident who has authored several books, including a Granbury history trilogy. Dr. Barnett holds an undergraduate degree in history from Indiana University, as well as advanced degrees in counseling and historical theology. He is currently working on a book entitled “Granbury, Texas, and the Civil War”, and will speak on that topic.

The October meeting was held on the ninth, and a very interesting program was presented by one of our members, David Wells. David, a retired Marine Corps officer, spoke on the history of Marines in America, with special em-



Pictured from left are James M. Mason, John Slidell, and Union Navy Captain Charles Wilkes, the three principal actors in the “Trent Affair.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

phasis on the Civil War era. Both the Union and the Confederacy had Marine organizations, although their combat operations were limited.

November in the Civil War — As in the preceding two months, small confrontations and skirmishes occurred almost daily in all three theaters. There were, however, no major battles. No doubt the most important event of the month — and one that could have had a major impact on history — began on Nov. 8 and is referred to as “The Trent Affair.” James M. Mason and John Slidell had been named by the Confederacy as commissioners to England and France and had reached Cuba by blockade runner. There they had boarded the British ship Trent, bound for England. On open sea, the Union ship San Jacinto, under Captain Charles Wilkes, in an action that many called an act of war against Britain, stopped by force the Trent and removed Mason

and Slidell, who were held as prisoners first at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and then Fort Warren, Massachusetts. While the Union at first cheered the action of Captain Wilkes, within a few days more serious minds began to reconsider, and saw the danger of serious trouble — even war — with Great Britain and France. By the end of the month, the “Trent Affair” was international news.

Did you know? — While most Civil War buffs are familiar with the participation of the cadets of Virginia Military Institute at the Battle of New Market in May, 1864, only a few are aware that the VMI cadets were not the only students to engage as an organized unit in battle during the war. Approximately 20 cadets, none older than 17, of the West Florida Seminary College in Tallahassee, Florida, took part in the March 6, 1865 Battle of Natural Bridge near Tallahassee. Like the Battle

of New Market, the Battle of Natural Bridge was a Confederate victory. Unlike the Battle of New Market, where four of the VMI cadets were killed, there were no casualties among the cadets of the West Florida Seminary College.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets on the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m., at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 U.S. Hwy. 377 E. in Granbury, and guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, please refer to our website; <http://www.nctcwr.com/> or call David Wells at 817-579-5769, or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent, and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.

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Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

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December 1st | 7:30pm
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CINERGY
ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 10 November 2023 - Thursday, 16 November 2023

After Death (PG13)
Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM.
Sat, Sun: 10:05AM.
Thurs: 2:00PM

Five Nights at Freddy's (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 4:50PM, 7:30PM

Journey to Bethlehem (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 6:50PM, 9:15PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 10:05PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 6:50PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM

Killers Of The Flower Moon (R)
Fri: 3:00PM, 7:45PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 3:35PM, 8:00PM.
Sun: 10:00AM, 2:15PM, 6:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 6:15PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM

Priscilla (R)
Fri: 2:25PM, 5:05PM, 7:45PM, 10:25PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:45AM, 1:25PM, 4:05PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, 5:10PM, 7:50PM.
Thurs: 6:30PM

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG13)
Thurs: 3:00PM, 6:45PM

The Marvels (PG13)
Fri: 4:30PM, 5:20PM, 7:00PM, 7:55PM, 9:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:35PM, 4:30PM, 6:10PM, 7:00PM, 8:45PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 11:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:35PM, 4:30PM, 6:10PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:35PM, 5:20PM, 7:10PM, 7:55PM.
Thurs: 4:35PM, 7:10PM

The Marvels in 3D (PG13)
Daily: 2:00PM

Trolls Band Together (PG)
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

(682) 260-5920 | cinergy.com/locations/granbury/

PETS OF THE WEEK

Buddy is a male Doberman mix. He is approximately 5-6 years old and weighs about 55 pounds. Buddy is playful and very social. Special adoption fee of \$25! The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

Sammy is a neutered male domestic shorthair cat. He is approximately 8 years old. Sammy is friendly and thrives on attention. His adoption fee is \$25. The adoption fee includes his rabies vaccination, the first round of vaccines, pyrantel dewormer, and a HomeAgain microchip.

Hood County Animal Control
1550 Weatherford Highway • (817) 573-4277
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Check us out on Facebook at Hood County Animal Control, TX

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

'Waisting' away: The battle of the bulge



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

A woman described her middle-aged hubby thusly: "He's 44 inches around the waist, size seven-and-a-half around the head, 95 around the golf course and a nuisance around the house."

Clever, of course, this play on phrases, but under the thin veneer of humor is a rock-hard truth about waistlines. Many men, as well as women, face ongoing warfare in the battle of bulges, and they're losing.

Merchandisers of pills, pushers of exercise equip-

ment and calorie-counting doo-dads are showing up at every turn. Yes, tons of adults are going to great heights to avoid great widths. They are tearful when stepping on "guess your weight scales," only to hear a recorded voice sternly command: "One of you will have to get off."

If a true confession truly is good for the soul, then mine is ship shape.

It's an absolute fact that I spent a full decade, from ages 15-25, trying to expand my waistline from 30 to 32

inches. I ate whatever I liked; taking seconds from the dessert tray was likely. (Okay, I'd sometimes grab a third dessert, but out of politeness, usually left a bite or two on the saucer.)

My, how things have changed. I've been challenged for three decades to rein in my belt length to 42 inches, sometimes feeling tummy-numbing pressure even after belt-loosening to the very last notch.

Fitness thoughts invaded my World Series preoccupation in the first inning of the first game. Traipsing across the TV screen was a guy dressed as Santa Claus. He was nimble and quick, this old St. Nick, sprightly dancing for Capital One credit cards.

The bearded geezer was well into rug-cutting, swinging and swaying to the beat of "Staying Alive."

I leaned forward in my chair, realizing that under that beard, cap and Christmas gear was John Travolta, the guy who made the song famous a full four decades ago! I know what you're thinking. He may have a gut usually associated with a guy approaching 70 years of age, but he was moving like someone half as old. (Side note: With credit card interest at an all-time high, I'll not get excited about Capital One or any other credit card, I'm absolutely committed to paying monthly balances in full to avoid paying any interest.)

PLEASE SEE **IDLE** | C10

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club

will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury, TX 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints! Info and reservations: 225-933-4074.

SONS OF the American

Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC

Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy. Details: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. December program will feature songs of Christmas from around the world. www.granburycivicchorus.org

TUESDAYS

LINE DANCING

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

GRANBURY JAM

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

BEGINNERS' CHAIR

yoga 45-minute class. Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Donations for local charities are accepted. Class will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 2301 Fall Creek Hwy., 76049. For more information call 817-326-2201.

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.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND

Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HABITAT FOR

Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

exercise classes. 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11:15 a.m. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB

5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA

7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl St. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

THE GRANBURY

Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HABITAT FOR

Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY

Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. at Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Hwy. Details: 817-326-4693.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL

Club meeting, 2 p.m. Granbury Doll House Museum, 421 E Bridge St. All doll appreciators are welcome!

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING

Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace at 817-279-2995 for additional details.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER

Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY

CERT meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCo-Cert@gmail.com

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD

Sommerville A&M Club meets the 3rd Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377, Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY

Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS

Guild meets on the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Hwy., 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry is in need of people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

WAMS (WESTERN

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

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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Romans 15:13



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Isaiah 41:13



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Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6




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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:18-19



So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10



DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

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 1 John 4:12

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 254-646-9926

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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28



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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



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GHOST

FROM PAGE C4

breeze that comes through. I won't put anything out there on social media that people will have the chance to try to call me crazy or stupid."

PARANORMAL ENCOUNTERS

He recalls one unique experience he was unable to debunk at the Aston House. Brandon, Stephen's son, was holding a picture of the former owners of the Aston House. Using a structured light sensor (SLS) Stephens

witnessed the husband come out of the picture and stand next to Brandon.

"Not too much surprises me after all I've seen, but that was a first," he said.

Another previous experience took place at The Gordon House, when Brandon was playing his guitar but stopped — spurring a disembodied child voice to say "Please, don't stop playing, Brandon." The voice was not heard during the investigation but was later audible during a playback of an audio/video recording.

"We will have merchandise booths set up, and we will actually have several of the — we call them K2s — EMF readers for sale," said Perri Parker, RIP coordinator.

GOOD VIBES, GOOD TURNOUT

With attendees coming from Massachusetts and Indiana, Stephens is hoping for a good turnout and that the weather will cooperate. "We're gonna do it anyway regardless (of the weather)," he said. "I always wanted to do it on Veterans Day. It just would never coordinate out-

right, but this time it did and we're gonna blow this one out of the water."

Morrison added that he is thankful for Stephens for choosing Pecan Valley Centers as the event recipient.

"I exhaust my grants every year," he said. "We average \$200,000 a year in financial assistance, about 2,000 hours in free mental health services for veterans, dependents and surviving spouses, and then we assist about 3,000 veterans with claims and benefits a year."

Since Pecan Valley Centers covers six counties — Erath, Hood, Somervell, Parker, Johnson, and Palo Pinto — Morrison said every little bit counts.

"We're the largest grant recipient in the state for a regional provider, so nobody in Texas gets or spends as much as we do on veterans," he said. "The unfortunate thing with grants is a lot of those funds, generally speaking, 90% go to administrative, their salaries and overhead. We use less than 30% for salaries, and we give

70% to the veterans and their dependents. That's not common. Usually, it's the opposite, so we're just fortunate we're structured in such a way that we don't have to do that. We're blessed in that way."

Tickets for the day event are free, while tickets for the evening ghost hunt are \$99 each.

To purchase tickets or to donate, go to tinyurl.com/RIPLLC online.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

MOVIES

FROM PAGE C4

and change, showcasing Robinson's determination and bravery in the face of intense racism.

THE ROOKIE (2002)

Synopsis: A high school science teacher and coach of the school's baseball

team discovers he can still throw a fastball and pursues his dream of playing in the majors.

Why It's Great: This film is a testament to the enduring power of dreams and the belief that it's never too late to pursue your passion.

MONEYBALL (2011)

Synopsis: Faced with a

tight budget, Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane must reinvent his team by outsmarting the richer ball clubs. Using statistical data, he changed the game of baseball forever.

Why It's Great: "Moneyball" is a smart, engaging film that challenges traditional notions of scouting and strategy in baseball, anchored by a standout per-

formance by Brad Pitt.

EIGHT MEN OUT (1988)

Synopsis: The film is a dramatization of Major League Baseball's Black Sox scandal, in which eight members of the Chicago White Sox conspired with gamblers to intentionally lose the 1919 World Series.

Why It's Great: It's a sober-

ing look at one of the darkest moments in baseball history, exploring the complex interplay of money, corruption, and betrayal.

Each of these films captures a different facet of baseball, from its impact on individual lives to its role in the larger American culture. They remind us that baseball is more than a sport—it's a narrative that contin-

ues to inspire and move us, inning by inning, play by play.

So, did I miss your favorite baseball movie? Tell me yours at micky@hcnews.com! I'm always looking to add to my list!

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Woman's club enjoys busy month with fashion show and bake sale



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.

For the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club, the month of November is filled with activity. First comes the group's monthly collective gathering slated for Thursday, Nov. 16 when social time begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by President Sandy Hoelting calling the meeting to order at 10. The program for the day is a fall fashion show. Under the direction of Kim McIntire and Debbie Rickman, this most popular event features PPWC members modeling top fashion trends from local merchants. In addition, entertainment by Michael James and PPWC member Rebecca Faiola will be part of the day. The ladies will conclude the morning with lunch prepared by Chef Jordan Ray.

Next, the ladies have been busily preparing for their annual holiday casserole and bake sale slated for Saturday, Nov. 18 beginning at 10 a.m. at the PAC. Items will go quickly, so shoppers should arrive on time. A delicious variety of homemade casseroles and baked goods will be available for purchase, and all proceeds from the day will benefit the PPWC's chosen charities.

Finally, 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. Tickets are currently on sale at www.mypwc.com, and ladies have three tour packages from which to choose.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

Fall was a very successful season for pickleball in Pecan, and the fall league completed play on Oct. 26. The league boasted four divisions that played three nights each week, in addition to 26 mixed doubles contestants, nine contestants in the men's division, 18 in the women's, and 13 recreational. Congratulations to everyone who participated in league play.

The pickleball association is offering two clinics for beginners this month at the PAC gym. The first comes on Monday, Nov. 13 and the second on Monday, Nov. 27, both from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Comfortable clothing and court shoes are recommended, and reservations are necessary. Call to secure a spot: 817-573-5529.

ART GUILD

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will gather again on



COURTESY OF PPWC PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will gather collectively on Nov. 16 when the ladies will enjoy their annual fall fashion show featuring items from local merchants. The PPWC also has its holiday bake sale slated for Nov. 18. Pictured are (left to right) PPWC members Rhonda Herdman, Karen Stahlman, and Jeanie Inbody at a recent PPWC event.

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 be open to all Pecan residents from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Furthermore, raffle prizes and art supplies will be plentiful.

In addition, Sue Bagwell took recent honors as Artist of the Month for the Guild, and her work is displayed at the clubhouse. Furthermore, art curator Betsy Ferguson has facilitated the showcase of Guild members' artwork in the dining areas of the clubhouse. This joint endeavor between management and the PPAG promises to enhance diners' experiences in our community.

The PPAG welcomes residents ages 18 and over with

a love of and appreciation for art.

GOLF DAYS

The Ladies Golf Association will take care of voting business at its last official meeting for 2023 on Tuesday, Nov. 14 following its regular play day. The Men's Golf Association looks forward to a "Two Man Scramble" on Thursday, Nov. 16.

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.

NIGHT MUSIC

Solo artist Mark H. Morton will be featured from 6 to 8

p.m. in the Brazos Room on Friday, Nov. 17. Attendees will enjoy "road-trippin' music" consisting of classic rock, blues and country.

GOOD READS

The Hood County Bookmobile will return to Pecan on Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 3:30-5 p.m. and be ready to receive patrons in the PAC parking lot. Pecaners may both check out and return library materials.

TENNIS NEWS

Many thanks go to the folks who made the Pecan Plantation Tennis Association's Oktoberfest an enjoyable evening of food (smoked brisket thanks to Gary Lundberg!), tennis and fellowship. Junior tennis

continues to be in full swing on Wednesday afternoons, and in addition, the call is out for current (and former) players who would like to get back into the game. Groups of players at all levels (managed by court captains) welcome athletes to their ranks. Contact Pro John Ingram for more information and to sign up: 817-579-9412.

IN SHAPE

"Hula-Hooping to the Oldies" began at the PAC last week and will continue on Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. The classes are led by instructor Sue Bagley and are free of charge. The hour provides a low-impact full body workout, all the while burning calories and having fun. Space is limited, so sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

GIVING BACK

Mission Granbury continues its "Panties of Plenty" campaign collecting nonperishable food items, and a bin for donations will be available at the PAC until Thursday, Nov. 16. Pecaners are welcome to stop by and drop off goodies for distribution in our community.

THANK YOU

Today is Veterans Day, and I wish a very happy observance to the men and women in our community who have served well to protect, preserve and defend our country. THANK YOU!

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

IDLE

FROM PAGE C7

In 1974, the great Elvis Presley came to Fort Worth, appearing before a full house at the convention center.

Since my wife would have underwritten a fan club to cop a closer seat, I decided it was worth it to secure stage-

side seats. She swears she caught several drops of "Elvis sweat."

That explains why she didn't bathe for a week.

Anyway, his writhing, contorting, twisting and turning at age 39 seemed to be every bit as crisply executed as when he exploded on stages worldwide almost two decades earlier.

Sure as shootin', though, he was developing a definite waistline bulge that defines many men approaching age 40. It took more than careful wardrobing to hide it. I'm guessing Travolta has worked harder at remaining trim than Elvis did.

My old daddy never cared much for Presley. He said when his hound dogs com-

menced wiggling like Elvis did, he'd give'em worm medicine.

In baseball, one of the most heralded rookies in history is Texas Rangers' phenom Evan Carter. A major leaguer since August, the 21-year-old is setting records right and left, and his stats probably indicate a waistline under 30 inches.

Proving that Christian faith and athletic success can go hand in hand, he boldly wears "Jesus Won" t-shirts during warmups, and several thousand have been sold. Word has it proceeds are going to his favorite organization: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

This young man seemingly has it all together, worthy of

all the adulation piling up at his feet. Youth is not wasted on this young 'un they call "the whippet," an apt nickname for a trim athlete on the front end of greatness.

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Colton Andersen
Unknown
United States Army
10 years



Duane J. Barnes
Unknown
United States Navy
Unknown




Sheila Bartley
Major
United States Army
1979-1996




Trivor Beardsley
Specialist
United States Army
2016-2020



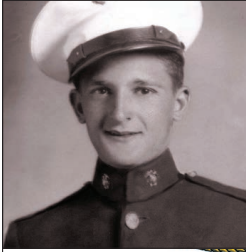
Joe Berger
E7
United States Air Force
1954-1977



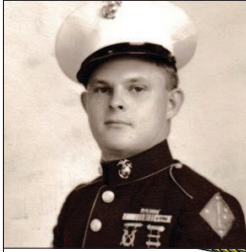
Wade Blake Sr.
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1948-1952



Ron Bonneau
Petty Officer 3rd Class
United States Navy
1968-1974



Columbus "Lump" Boulanger
Private First Class
United States Marine Corps
1943-1945




Sidney Boulanger
Master Gunnery Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1941-1968




John Bowen
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
29 years




Brandon Bryce
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
2003-2014



Rich Burns
Sergeant
United States Army
1954-1975



Jack Camp
Captain
United States Army
1967-1969




Paul Carrell
Unknown
United States Army
2 years



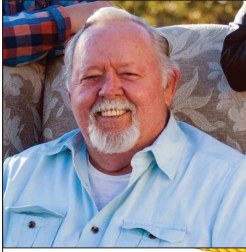
Scott Casey
Lt. Colonel
United States Marine Corps
1991-2012




Bryan Chambers
Sergeant First Class
United States Army
1985-1990



Lawrence E. Charlesworth
PVT-2
United States Army
1953-1955



Bill Clark
Boatswain's Mate
United States Coast Guard
1966-1970



Brian Clark
Unknown
United States Marine Corps
6 years



Kenneth Cobler
Specialist
United States Army
1966-1969

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Chris Cohenour
E-4
United States Navy
1964-1968



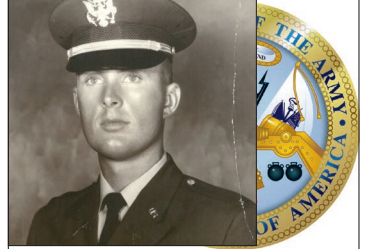
Lowell Conder
Major
United States Air Force
1961-1981




James Mike Conine
E5
United States Army
1970-1972



Samuel J. Cox
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
1940-1970



John B. Cox
Major
United States Army




Nancy Cox
Tec 4
United States Army
1942-1943



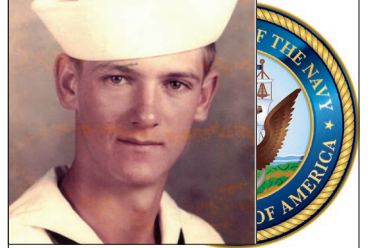
Laurence DeYoung
Captain
United States Air Force
1964-1969



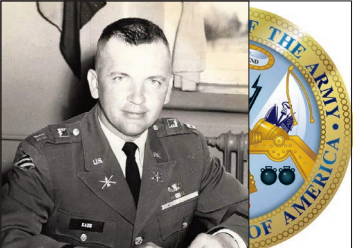
Jerald Dixon
Sergeant
United States Army
1937-1945




Stewart Drake
AE1
United States Navy
1955-1969




Aubrey Dutschmann
SN4
United States Navy
1972-1977



Dunavon Eads
Lt. Colonel
United States Army
1953-1976



Eric Edmunds
Tsgt
United States Air Force
1966-2008



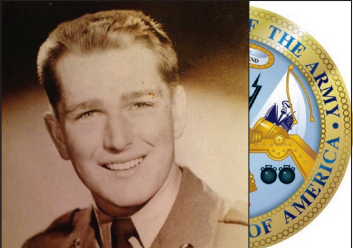
William Edwards
Colonel
United States Air Force
1967-1995




Claude Everette
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
1942-1944



Carmond "Fitz" Fitzgerald
Captain
United States Coast Guard
34 years



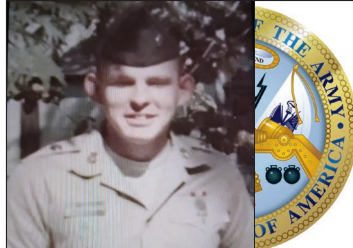
Philip Forsberg
Private First Class
United States Army
1951-1953



Joel Friske
Unknown
United States Army
10 years



Howard Goodman
Spec 2
United States Army
1971



Robert Greathouse
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
1965-1973



Jeffrey Guerrero
TSGT
United States Air Force
1951-1953

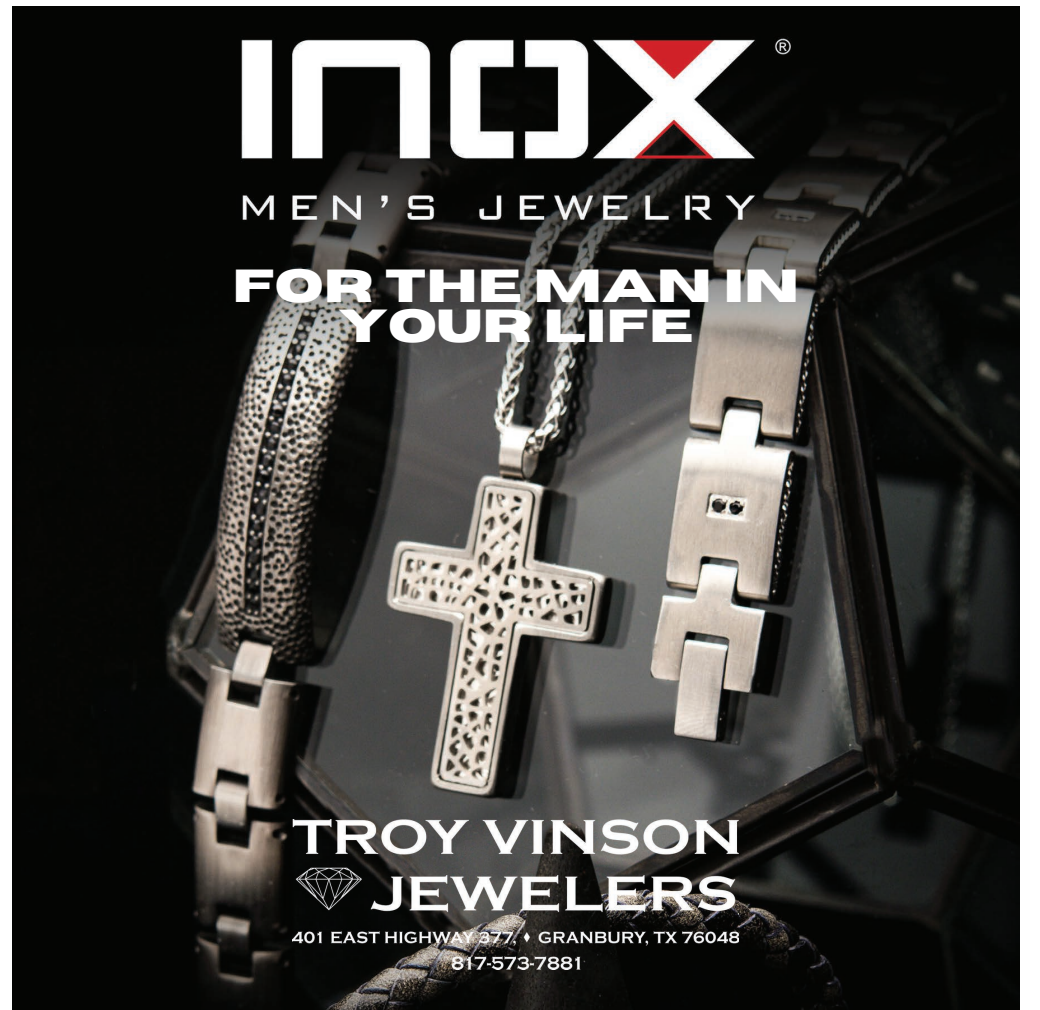


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Steve Haga
E-6/Tech Sgt.
United States Air Force
1981-2001



Larry Hamilton
Staff Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1965-1976



James Hanlon
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1968-1971




Raymond Hansen
Corporal
United States Army
1970-1972



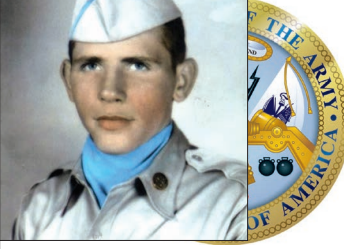
Tanya Hatch
PFC E3
United States Army
2004-2006



Richard Hattox
Sergeant E-5
United States Army
1975-1979



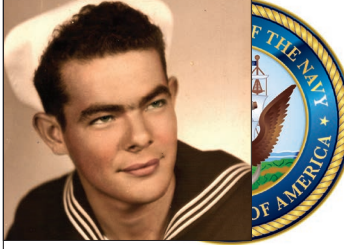
Joseph Hollingsworth
Unknown
Texas Air National Guard
15 years




Gary Hubbard Sr.
Private First Class
United States Army
1956-1964




Richard John Huchel
Lt. Colonel
United States Marine Corps
1958-1962, 1966-1989



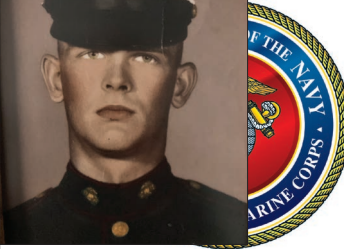
John Huddleston
Bkr 3rd Class
United States Navy
1945-1947



Commodore (CH) Huddleston
Petty Officer 3rd Class
United States Navy
1943-1946




Vergil Humphrey
Unknown
United States Army
1944



James "Jim" Humphrey
Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1965-1971




John Ingram Jr.
1st Lieutenant
United States Army Air Corps
1942-1945



Lyle Ivie
Specialist E4
United States Army
2005-2008



Gary Keel
CW3
United States Army
1966-1987



Walter (Ken) Keener
Specialist 4
United States Army
1956-1958



Kim Keith
MSGT
United States Air Force
1977-2000



Richard Klinetob
Sergeant
United States Army Air Corps
1943-1945



Joseph Krieg
AW2
United States Navy
1975-1995



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Jerome Kunkel
QM3
United States Navy
1959-1963



Douglas Letz
Unknown
United States Army Texas National Guard
22 years




Travis Lowrance
E7
United States Navy
1960-1987




Tim Lundy
Master Sergeant E8
United States Army
1983-2007



Johnathan Martin
Corporal
United States Marine Corps
2012-2016




Juilian Massey
Private
United States Army
WWII




Lowell Massey
Private
United States Army
WWII (KIA 1944)




Jeremy McCollum
Unknown
United States Marine Corps
2002-2008



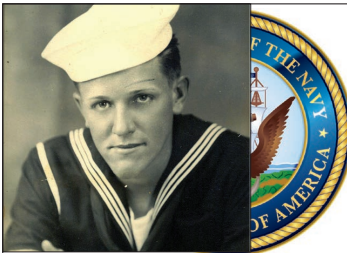
Dan McInroe
S2C
United States Navy
1943-1945



Pamela McRoy
E-4
United States Army
2009-2016



Ray Menefee
Captain
United States Air Force
WWII & Korea



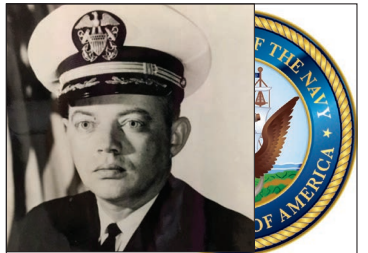
V.F. Tommy Meyer Jr.
Unknown
United States Navy
1946-1947




Darrell Morrison
Specialist 5
United States Army
1968-1970



Andrew Nace
Sergeant 1st Class
United States Army
1996-2013



Larry Nace
Commander
United States Navy
1953-1977



Winston Newman
Master Sergeant
United States Army
1950-1987




Don O'Brien
E5
United States Army
1972



David Orcutt
Submarine Commander
United States Navy
1989-2012



Skip Overdier
Chief Master Sergeant
United States Air Force
1966-1996



Andrew Ovhoa
E5
United States Army
1967-1969



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Robert Paige
MSGT
United States Air Force
1957-1977




Juan Pedroza
Unknown
United States Air Force
4 years




Michael Rebarchik
E4
United States Air Force
1960-1964



Cody Reynolds
Lance Corporal
United States Marine Corps
2018-Present



Warren Glenn (Rick) Rickabaugh
Petty Officer 3rd Class Aviator
United States Navy
1943-1946




Charles Rickgauer
LCDR
United States Navy
1963-1984




Nelson Roberts
Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1951-1953



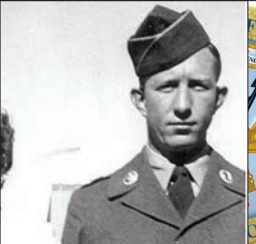
Fredrick Santiago
Major
United States Army
1990-2015



Roger Algene Sargent
Private First Class
United States Army
1943-1949



Billy John Sargent
Boatswain's Mate 1st Class
United States Navy
1951-1954




Norman Lee Schlittler
Major
United States Army
1954 (Career)



Kevin Sklark
TSgt
United States Air Force
1999-2015




Ronald J. Stevens
SSG
United States Army
27 years




Dick Stultz
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
1964-1989




Mike Sympson
E4
United States Air Force
1965



Dennis Thompson
Unknown
United States Army
1968-1971




Woodrow Thompson
Unknown
United States Navy
1944




Gary Towers
E4
United States Air Force
1963-1965



John Turnbow
Petty Officer 2nd Class
United States Navy
1974-1978



Shores (Sam) Turner
E5
United States Army
1968-1970



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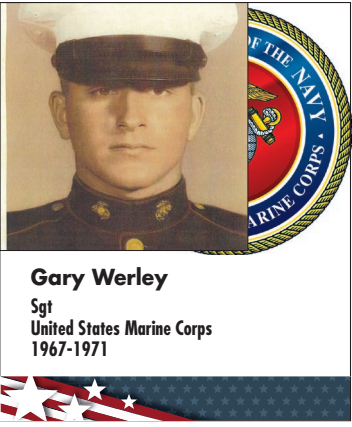


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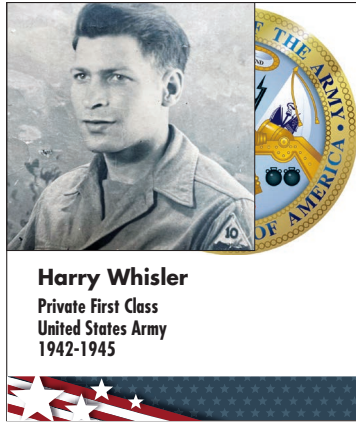
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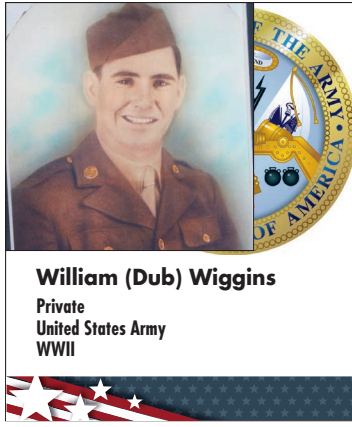
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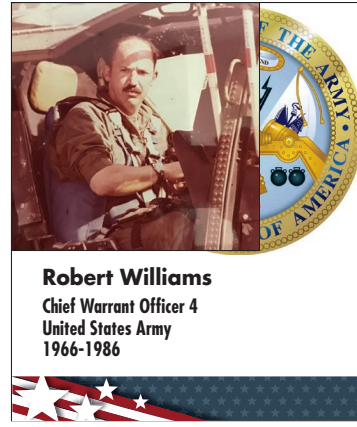
Gary Werley
Sgt
United States Marine Corps
1967-1971



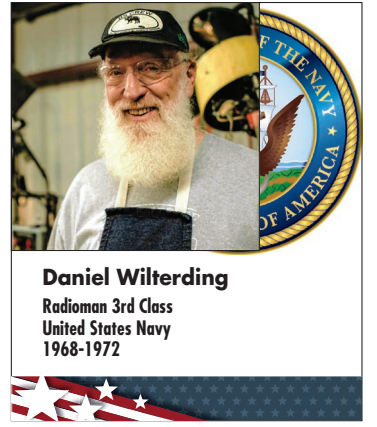
Harry Whisler
Private First Class
United States Army
1942-1945



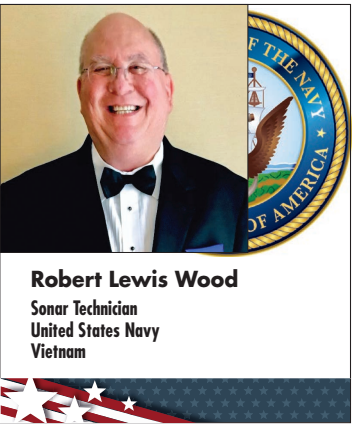
William (Dub) Wiggins
Private
United States Army
WWII



Robert Williams
Chief Warrant Officer 4
United States Army
1966-1986



Daniel Wilterding
Radioman 3rd Class
United States Navy
1968-1972



Robert Lewis Wood
Sonar Technician
United States Navy
Vietnam

DID YOU KNOW?

Estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that there were around 19 million veterans in the United States in 2021. Veterans Day, observed each year on November 11, honors all those who served honorably in the U.S. military during both wartime and peacetime. Data from the VA indicates that, as of 2016, Gulf War veterans account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans. Roughly 7.8 million veterans served during the Gulf War. Vietnam veterans also make up a sizable percentage of U.S. military veterans, as VA estimates indicate there were approximately 5.9 million veterans who fought in the Vietnam War in 2021. Though veterans need not have served in wartime in order to be recognized and honored on Veterans Day, the vast majority of U.S. veterans served during wartime. According to the VA, 78 percent of veterans in 2021 had served during wartime.



Thank you, Veterans!

Your bravery, dedication and sacrifice are unmatched. We are forever grateful for your service to our great nation.

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Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. Initially commemorated as Armistice Day but renamed Veterans Day in the United States in 1954, the holiday is a federal holiday

throughout the country.

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919. Despite that lengthy history, the general public may still have questions about Veterans Day.

WHEN IS VETERANS DAY OBSERVED?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of which day of the week that happens to be. In 2023, Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. Because Veterans Day falls on a Saturday in 2023, the federal observation date is Friday, November 10.

WHY IS NOVEMBER 11 SO SIGNIFICANT?

November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES VETERANS DAY FROM MEMORIAL DAY?

The VA notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served honorably in the military during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RED POPPIES?

Red poppies are ubiquitous on Memorial Day, but they're also visible on Veterans Day. Though it's not taboo to wear red poppies on Veterans Day, it's a tradition that aligns more with Memorial Day. That's because the poppies are typically worn to honor fallen military personnel. A 1915 poem written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders.

DO OTHER COUNTRIES HONOR THEIR MILITARY VETERANS?

Many countries across the globe honor their military veterans, and many do so on November 11 as well. For example, Canadians and Australians observe Remembrance Day in honor of their nation's respective veterans on November 11. Great Britain observes Remembrance Day on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to honor and commemorate the brave men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. military during wartime and peacetime.

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