



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, November 25, 2023]

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Granbury High School hosted a Veteran's Day event on Nov. 10.

MORE PHOTOS
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Granbury ISD School Board adopts changes to several policies

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

During a regularly scheduled school board meeting on Nov. 13, the Granbury ISD School Board adopted changes to several local board policies in a 5-2 vote with Trustee Melanie Graft and Trustee Karen Lowery opposing.

The agenda item voted on focused on several local board policies as well as changes to the board's standard operating procedures.

Public comments were made regarding this item by Kerri Rehmeier and Faith Barnes before the item was voted on.

Rehmeier called the agenda "skimpy" and noted it does not inform the public with the topics they are voting on. Rehmeier added that Superintendent Jeremy Glenn is not being held accountable and does not want to increase transparency.

Barnes expressed that the behavior displayed in the board room is not setting a good example for the future, and public comments should not be used for political agendas. She also pointed out that as a former employee she swore in many of the board members including trustee Graft. She claimed that Graft has defamed her character online. She closed her comment by noting that any change that would protect the space of the board room is supported by parents and staff.

When the board got to this agenda item board president Barbara Herrington noted that several board members wanted the board to look at these policies and operating procedures again.

"I want to add in, that public comments at meetings will only be allowed for items on the agenda. A special meeting will be called at least quarterly to hear non-agenda item topics," Trustee Courtney Gore said. "This is something during the strategic planning on the culture committee that I got a lot of feedback from the community members on, and this was one of the recommendations that the community members made... Also, I'd like to add in, that for any special called meeting for public comment on non-agenda items any member of the public who lives within the district will be given priority to speak. All district visitors will speak at the end of each public comment session. I want to get rid of the limited to one minute. I don't believe that should have been in there. I think whether they're a resident or non-resident they are allowed the same amount of time either way... and then the board president can set reasonable restrictions on the length of a special called meeting to hear public comments on non-agenda items so depending on how many people sign up, the board president would be able to set reasonable limits there."

Trustee Barbara Townsend then suggested some edits be made to reduce redundancy.

"I was wondering if this could be tabled till the next meeting so that the public could take a look at this because I don't believe that it was put online for them to see it. Also, I'd like to know who was involved in crafting this. I was not included in this," Graft said.

President Herrington then reiterated her previous statement noting several board members had asked to revisit their policies.

Gore then told Graft she made some suggestions, as this is something that the board does yearly.

Graft then asked when a meeting was held where they discussed these suggestions and Gore said she emailed her changes to President Herrington.

"I was not included in that," Graft said.

"In our board operating procedures, it says that we will review standard operating procedures annually before the reorganization of the board," Townsend said.

"I'm just letting the public know that we were not all included in that," Graft noted then asked if the board talked to an attorney before making these changes to which Dr. Glenn and President Herrington noted they did.

"We knew this was coming which is why I made my request to the board president," Gore added.

"It did not come to every board member," Lowery noted, and Graft agreed.

"I'd also like to know how this benefits the children, parents and taxpayers of Granbury," Graft asked the board.

Graft then read page 199 from the board policy handbook which states that closed meetings may not be recorded by an individual trustee nor may a trustee record a closed session by using a personal

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A4

Small-town resident to world-famous inventor Actor, inventor Joe Peters becomes Granbury's own renaissance man

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

For most people, pursuing acting while also simultaneously serving as one of the world's most famous inventors of pinball cleaners would be too much work.

But not for Granbury resident Joe Peters.

AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT

Peters, 83, didn't even set out to sell pinball cleaner — it just sort of happened.

"I worked for a major chemical company in Dallas for almost five years, and it was very successful. This was in the mid-1960s," Peters said. "Believe it or not, at that time, I was making \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year, which at that time was a lot, but the company was growing and growing, and being the independent that I am, I was like 'I can do this,' so I left them."

Peters said he knew industrial chemicals well, so he purchased a used pickup he used to transport his chemicals to customers for about two years.

He then went to visit a man who owned a vending company and Peters asked him about a pinball machine.

"He said, 'You're in the chemical business. Do you have something to clean and polish this?' I said, 'No,' and he said, 'Get me something that would sell,'" Peters said. "Not being a chemist, but being a marketing major, I made phone calls here and there, did R&D, research and development, and I finally came up with a product."

The man told him his product was good, so Peters

bought a booth at an international trade show in Chicago, Illinois.

Peters said he was originally worried he wasn't going to meet his expenses, as a booth cost him \$500, plus lodging and food.

"I was just naive as it comes," he said. "I didn't know anything about the industry, per se."

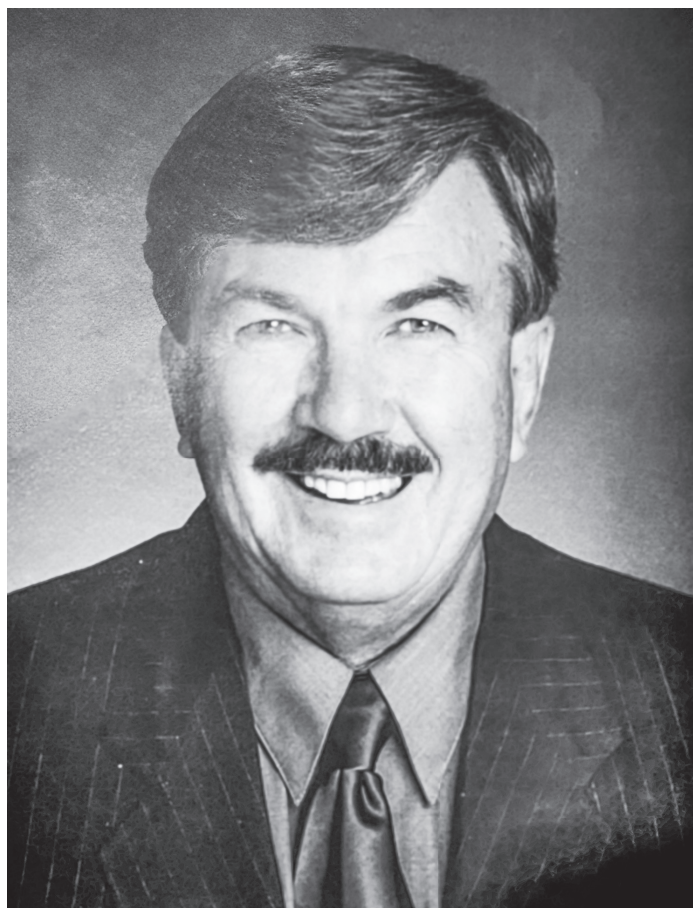
But then two guys walked by Peter's booth, ultimately changing his life forever.

"These two guys came by. Little did I know who they were, but they were engineers from Bally Manufacturing, who at that time was the world's largest manufacturer of pinballs and slot machines," he said. "They sold 90% of all the slot machines in the world."

The guys picked up a bottle of Peters' cleaner and started to walk away, before he stopped them and told them they had to pay for it.

"My friend from Fort Worth came back a few minutes later, and I told him the story," Peters said. "He said, 'Are you kidding? That's Bally!' and I went, 'OK.' He said, 'Take a bottle and go and catch them and give it to them!' So, I did. I didn't think anything about it."

A month later, Peters gets



COURTESY PHOTO

At the same time as Joe Peters' worldwide success in the pinball industry, he also spent what was left of his free time acting in commercials as well as independent movies and TV shows.

a call from Bally's marketing director inviting him to come up to their headquarters in Chicago to meet American stunt performer and entertainer Evil Knievel.

"He said, 'We're making a back glass and a new pinball with him on it, and we want to introduce your product simultaneously,'" Peters explained. "So, I flew up there again and went over to their factory, went upstairs, went

into a little room and there's Evil Knievel and the president of the company. They took photographs and all that stuff, and everything went fine."

About three weeks later, Peters was contacted again by Bally. But this time, they asked him to provide 10,000 samples of his pinball cleaner.

"You have to understand, I was very small," he explained.

PLEASE SEE **PETERS** | A2



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137TH YEAR, NO. 104

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

INSIDE

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Granbury Chamber of Commerce prepares to welcome new 2024 board members

Chamber Message

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is governed by a volunteer board of directors. The board consists of 18 directors serving staggered three-year terms. Each year, following the chamber's by-laws, nominations for open seats on the chamber board are sought from the membership. A nominating committee, appointed by the Chairman of the Board and comprised of board members and non-board members, vets the nominations received and identifies candidates based on the number of seats available. Directors may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms before they must cycle off the board.

The role of a board member on the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is both an honor and a commitment to the growth and prosperity of the organization. These individuals play a pivotal role in shaping the chamber's strategic direction, fostering economic development, and enhancing the overall business environment in our beloved community. Being a board member is more than just a title; it represents a responsibility to the chamber, a commitment to collaboration and a dedication to the success of Granbury and its surrounding communities. Each board member brings a unique perspective and skill set to the table, contributing to the collective strength that drives our chamber forward.

For 2024, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is set to welcome a new cohort of board members, individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities and a passion for our community. These incoming members will join an existing, dynamic board of professionals and community advocates, bringing fresh perspectives and diverse expertise to the chamber. We are thrilled to welcome Tammy Dooley with Visit Granbury/City of Granbury, Chad Ammons with A Plus Roofing and Construction, Bret Deason with Texas Classic Insurance, and Madison Northcutt with Northcutt Farmers Insurance to the team. Their diverse expertise and passion for our community growth will undoubtedly enrich our board of directors at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Incoming board members are crucial to maintaining the chamber's momentum and ensuring that our strategies align with the evolving needs of our community. Their willingness to contribute their time, talents and insights speak volumes about their commitment to Granbury's success. To celebrate and officially welcome the incoming 2024 board members, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce will recognize its outgoing and new board members during the Annual Best of Business Awards Event on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024.

As Granbury looks towards a future filled with opportunities and challenges, the role of a board member on the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors remains indispensable. Please join us as we welcome our newest board members for 2024!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Radiance Wellness MediSpa

"Women and men wishing to refresh their look enjoy a full menu of laser and aesthetic treatments to choose from. Laser treatment options include FemTouch™, Smartlipo Laser Liposuction, NuEra Tight, Dermaplaning, SkinPen, and CO2 resurfacing. Dr. Morris and the team at Radiance Wellness MediSpa also provide nonsurgical rejuvenation treatments, like facial-filler injections, Botox®, and chemical peels."

Radiance Wellness MediSpa. "Under the leadership of nationally known plastic surgeon Carrie L. Morris, MD, the medical and professional staff at Radiance Wellness MediSpa take pride in providing the highest level of medical esthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery treatments." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Your Private Collection Art Gallery

"Your Private Collection Art Gallery specializes in one of a kind gifts, collectibles and award-winning artwork in various mediums. We work one on one with the artists, which allows us to fill any needs a client might have. We look forward to helping you build your private collection."

Your Private Collection Art Gallery. "Your Private Collection Art Gallery specializes in one-of-a-kind gifts, collectibles and award-winning artwork in various mediums. We work one on one with the artists, which allows us to fill any needs a client might have. We look forward to helping you build your private collection." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Charlotte Kuykendall

Business:
Holiday Inn Express Granbury Studio "C" Crafts and T's

Time as an Ambassador:
6 1/2 years

Charlotte Kuykendall. We are very thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Charlotte Kuykendall! Charlotte has served as a Chamber Ambassador for 6 1/2 years! When asked what she loves about being an ambassador she said, "I love being an ambassador because I love giving back and being a part of an amazing community. I've never worked and lived in the same town until now so I want to give back in every way I can." Fun Fact about Charlotte: "My favorite accessory is a fabulous pair of high heels!! Thank you, Charlotte, for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!"

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Trevu Creative

"Our unique brand name and identity is inspired by the ancient Latin word 'tria,' meaning three. Every successful project involves three key elements: the creative team, the client, and the client's project itself. By focusing on these three elements, Trevu is able to create a dynamic partnership with their clients, working together to bring their ideas to life."

Trevu Creative. "Our unique brand name and identity is inspired by the ancient Latin word 'tria', meaning three. Every successful project involves three key elements: the creative team, the client, and the client's project itself. By focusing on these three elements, Trevu is able to create a dynamic partnership with their clients, working together to bring their ideas to life." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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PETERS

FROM PAGE A1

"I was in a 1,500-square-foot office, so I didn't have a lot to work with. I got a little four-ounce bottle and I didn't have any mixing equipment. I did it all by hand."

Peters went to Goodwill and purchased an old blender to help with the mixing of the chemicals. He also used Elmer's glue to attach his label called "Wildcat #125" on every single bottle.

After sending Bally all 10,000 bottles, Peters was told "congratulations" and that the company would put

a bottle of his pinball cleaner in every future pinball machine that the company built.

"They had a schematic, a little booklet on every pinball they make that tells you all about it and gives you all the wiring diagrams and so forth," he said. "Well, the back page they dedicated to me and Wildcat."

A week later, he was invited to attend a cocktail party at the Continental Hotel in Chicago.

"The guy that I had met that got me started in this, he had a large distributorship in Fort Worth, but he was an outlet for a guy in Dallas,

who was a major distributor of all games, but especially Bally, and the guy introduced me to him," Peters said. "He went, 'Oh, I know who you are. Come with me, son.'"

Peters was then led to a huge ballroom that was filled with major pinball distributors from around the U.S.

"This guy proceeds to go with me and introduces me to every distributor in the United States," he said. "He says 'I know who this young man is. He makes a good product. You call him Monday and buy his product.' And boom, the very next Monday, I started getting

phone calls." From there, Peters' pinball cleaner grew in popularity to a point that his company wasn't able to make the product fast enough to keep up with demand.

"We started appearing in magazines and I started going to trade shows all over the United States which resulted in a lot of flying," he said. "One of the trade magazines wrote an article about me saying that I was the most traveled manufacturer in the industry because I've tried to build up the company."

PLEASE SEE **PETERS** | A7

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A new gameshow: Political Jeopardy!



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.

It is hard to imagine but soon the holidays will have come and gone. We will celebrate the New Year and then before you know it, the 2024 political primary season will heat up. Politics will grow more and more intense throughout the spring and summer, finally getting red hot as Election Day, Nov. 5, 2024, comes into sight.

I like to keep my eye on the political scene as much as the next guy. Listening to candidates and watching political debates should be informative, though nowadays it seems harder and harder to understand where politicians stand and their true position on the issues. Frankly, there seems to be a lot of rhetoric but very little communication about specifics. Why are specifics important? That is like asking the chef if ingredients for a cake are important. It only matters if you really care about how things taste and smell.

Regrettably, I find some people do not like listening to meaningful political debate; it challenges their preconceived ideas and forces them to think. Heaven knows this could be a painful and undesirable experience; something which many attempt to avoid, seemingly at almost all cost. They would rather ignore facts and evidence, and instead cling to "comfortable" beliefs. By comfortable, I mean ideas which support their mindset, irrespective of the evidence to the contrary.

I began contemplating if there were a way where

the average citizen could participate with the politicians and improve political discourse. Then it hit me: perhaps I could create a new TV game show! It would give access to millions of viewers allowing them to follow American politics while providing politicians an opportunity to reach out to their constituents.

"Political Jeopardy" would operate similarly to the long-standing television show featuring Alex Trebek. There would be contestants, only there would be two instead of the traditional three. We have two major national parties, and heaven knows they do not want anyone "playing the game" who might be an outsider with fresh ideas, so there is no reason for the show to include any citizen whose views might be independent.

The game itself is simple. There is a big board with answers to political questions, listed under various political categories. One of the contestants chooses a category. It might be border security, social security, inflation or the Middle East. Once a topic is selected,

the answer is read by the host, and the contestants ring their buzzer when they believe they have the right question to the answer. For example, if the revealed answer is "Will balance the federal budget" each contestant might respond, but of course their answers would be completely different. One might say, "What is tax the rich?" and the other might say, "What is end entitlements?". Politicians would love this game because they do not have to explain their answers, they simply spout out talking points they believe the audience will support and then they move on to the next question.

In case both contestants respond, "Who is no one?" and do so at the same time, no points are awarded. This rule seems fair since giving such an honest answer should not be rewarded as it contradicts the entire political system as we know it.

Notably, bonus points would be given to each candidate who can answer while insulting or degrading their opponent in their response. Extra Double Jeopardy points are awarded if the

insult is based on a lie or half-truth.

There is also a special bonus round, where no questions get answered at all, the contestants merely appear on screen with a 1-800 number flashing across their chest, seeking financial contributions.

On special episodes the contestants will be joined by a national party leader, who will not answer questions either, but will endorse a contestant, not for their skill or legislative plan, but solely because they share the same political party. After all, it is not about a candidate's potential performance, it is all about being sure the office is held by somebody "in the club."

It would be nice if the game would allow well-timed, direct questions at the candidates, but the potential sponsors of the show are certain that no politician would be willing to participate if they were held up to such a platform. After all, no candidate wants to answer questions concerning what they would do, they would much rather tell you all the things their opponent has

done wrong or is going to do wrong if elected.

After further review, I am not sure Political Jeopardy would be a good thing. It might just let the politicians do what they have been doing for years, only give them a bigger stage on which to do it. But then again, in today's world, it really doesn't seem to matter if politicians have a political plan to put into place, it only matters if they have a plan to hurt the other party. After all, it is "them" who has caused all the ills in our society. It is them we need to be afraid of.

Come to think of it, this all sounds like political jeopardy to me... in more ways than one. God help us!

Thought for the day: "I've learned people will forget what you say, people will forget what you do, but they will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

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

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Holly Austin

Say hello to our neighbor, Holly Austin!

It's all about the kids, according to Tolar High School secretary Holly Austin. Many of the kids Holly is referring to she has known for most of their lives after 16 years of working for TISD. First residing in Tolar, and more recently Granbury, Holly and her husband Eric Austin raised their three grown sons (all Tolar graduates) in a community that they feel gets behind the needs and makes good things happen for its citizens. The Austin's are a football-loving family. They also enjoy kayaking and cherish family activities most of all. Holly likes how the Hood County News is quick to run photos and write about things going on in our schools. Holly says she misses the cheers and jeers, and says it was fun, but in many ways, social media picks up where that left off.

Leadership transition at Granbury Regional Airport

Submitted item

There's an upcoming departure and new arrival at the city-owned and operated Granbury Regional Airport.

After eight years with the city, including the last six as director of aviation, Pat Stewart is retiring in mid-December.

"Under Pat's leadership, the airport has grown tremendously," said City Manager Chris Coffman. "We have a new runway, new hangars and expanded services because Pat has been able to successfully interact with federal and state government agencies, as well as cast the vision for our city councilmembers and airport board." Stewart departs as the construction of a new terminal building enters its final phase.

Cody Mathis is coming to Granbury as director of aviation from the Waco Regional Airport where he has been operations manager since 2018. His professional aviation career began in Houston in 2006, followed by leadership positions in Shreveport and Dallas.

He is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives and is certified as an air-



COURTESY CITY OF GRANBURY

Cody Mathis is the incoming director of aviation for the city of Granbury.

port security coordinator. Mathis earned a B.S. in aviation management from Louisiana Tech University.

"Granbury is already known as the 'Friendliest Little Airport in Texas.' That matches my personality and is a reflection of my passion for advancing and promoting the aviation community.

I am excited for the opportunity to build on what Stewart and Granbury's management team has already accomplished," Mathis said.

Mathis said he has "...had a love for airplanes since I was a kid." As a self-proclaimed "history buff," he is looking forward to explor-

ing Granbury's past with his wife and four children. All the kids have aviation-inspired first names; the youngest is Amelia, as in "Earhart."

Mathis arrived in mid-November and is working with Stewart for a smooth transition.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRESSON BYPASS

I know patience is a virtue we all need. But the time to start questioning TXDOT and Zachry Construction on the constant delay tactics and lack of activity on the Cresson bypass is now. The excuse given never made sense to me at the start and to keep using it now makes even less sense.

The bridges are supposedly completed other than paving. Yet there is NO work happening out there. The rusted rebar that was in place for a year has been removed, but other than that nothing is happening out there. I contacted Senator Birdwell's office and a case worker read me the same update TXDOT has used since January 2023. I was told we must be patient. The time to start digging into this is now. Patience will come

with valid updates and actual effort to finish the bypass! The taxpayers have spent too much money to be held hostage by FWWR and Zachry Construction. TXDOT needs to be held responsible for letting this drag out far too long!

Jimmy Jordan
Granbury, TX

THANK YOU

I just want to say a big 'Thank You' to the Granbury Parks Department and all the City of Granbury officials who make our town look so wonderful and welcoming throughout the Christmas season. Seeing the lights and decorations going up makes me realize how much I love living in Granbury. My husband and I moved from a big city area in Georgia almost seven years ago and have

not regretted coming to Granbury.

The first Christmas we lived here we loved all the Christmas spirit we felt. Granbury rightly deserves the title of Celebration Capital of Texas. Granbury has big arms to welcome people into our community, both permanent and visitors. Wishing all the people in and around Granbury a very wonderful Christmas season.

Carol Hoefs
Granbury, TX

WILLFUL IGNORANCE

Apparently when the final mail-in ballots were counted (arrivals up to the final day for acceptance), Proposition B, the Granbury Independent School District bond, failed by TWO (2) votes. In speaking with my married neighbors, they volunteered

the info that they didn't know anything about "all those propositions" so they voted "NO" on all of them. Additionally, since they didn't know anything about the candidates for city council, they didn't vote for any of them, either. So why did they even vote?

People, if you are an intentionally uninformed voter (internet anybody?) please abstain from exercising the franchise. You are NOT fulfilling your duty as an informed citizen, so please don't sabotage our democratic processes. An irony is that they maintain residency here because they pay far less in DMV, car insurance and property taxes (frozen) than where they really live 10 months of the year. Their willful ignorance only hurts our fellow citizens willing to pay their fair share for educating

our kids.
Shameful!

Charles Stonick
Granbury, TX

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/letters. Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters should be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions to the Hood County News will become the property of the Hood County News. Letters to the Editor will appear in the Saturday edition of the Hood County News.

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

CALENDAR

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.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

THURSDAY, NOV. 30 annual fundraiser benefiting Marines and Navy personnel and families, American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd., Granbury. Win a \$600 Cabela's pellet smoker/grill plus four (4) \$100 grocery/gift cards from HEB, Albertsons, Kroger and Walmart. Total value \$1,000. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10 and 5 for \$20. Drawing is Dec. 14. Contact Senior Vice Commandant for tickets at mikemorgan921@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

MELODY BELLES singers present "Sing We Now of Christmas", annual Christmas concert at First Presbyterian Church, 303 W. Bridge St., 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Tour musical entertainment. Free to the public. Donations welcome. Details: 817-999-1364.

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting and luncheon at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. 10 a.m. social/check-in; 11 a.m. entertainment/Christmas in Granbury with The Judge & The Jury; Short business meeting 11:30 a.m. Optional lunch (\$18) at noon — house salad, honey ham, garlic mashed potatoes, bacon/onion green beans, chocolate truffles, rolls, water/coffee/tea. DeCordova Bend has a new chef, and we are very excited to have him there! Reservations required no later than Friday, Dec. 1, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

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

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



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EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury ISD School Board held their regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 13.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

recording device or cell phone.

Graft said that a Penal Code was referenced but after speaking with an attorney, she was told that Penal Code doesn't apply to the board.

President Herrington noted that not recording closed sessions is the law.

Graft then requested again for these changes to be made available to the public and Gore added that

she has requested these changes be available online after they voted.

"So, you're saying after we vote on it. So, the public has no input. That's not very transparent," Graft commented.

"This is for us as a board to operate. This isn't about local policy this is about board operating procedures," Gore said.

"This impedes board members from doing what is authorized in the Education Code Open Meetings Act Public Information Act and also

infringes on constitutional rights," Graft noted to which Gore disagreed.

Lowery also noted the changes showed a time change for people to sign up to speak for public comments from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lowery didn't believe that was fair for people who are busy in the mornings, but Gore added people have three days to sign up to speak.

Gore then referred back to her motion regarding the changes and Graft and Lowery added that discussion was still being

had while Trustee Billy Wimberly seconded the motion.

Graft and Lowery continued to attempt to be heard and Herrington moved forward with the vote on the changes resulting in a 5-2 vote.

These changes also include the creation of an online system for patrons to use as a method to sign up and speak at meetings.

"The goal of the board is to streamline the public comment portion of our meetings by providing stakeholders with

clear and easy access policies," GISD Director of Communications Ryan Cox said. "As technology becomes more advanced, Granbury ISD is following suit with other surrounding school districts who have taken similar steps to ensure meetings are conducted professionally and all stakeholders have a chance to be heard."

To learn more about Granbury ISD's School Board Procedure handbook visit granburyisd.org.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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GISD PROUDLY SALUTES OUR VETERANS

Granbury High School hosted a Veteran's Day event on Nov. 10. The community gathered to honor fallen veterans, current veterans as well as those who are currently serving. The event featured a speech from a retired Air Force Master Sgt., songs from the GHS Choir, and a presentation from the GHS MCJROTC.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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County allocates \$5.1 million from ARPA grant to first responders

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Following an hour-long discussion, the Hood County Commissioners Court approved the allocation of the \$5.6 million pandemic-related American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 14.

In a 3:2 vote, the commissioners court voted to allocate \$3.5 million to construct three new combined fire and EMS stations in Indian Harbor, Baccus, and DeCordova; \$1.1 million to expand the current Pecan and Cresson Fire Departments; \$500,000 to the Hood County Sheriff's Department for new equipment; and \$25,000 to the Hood County Constables for new equipment — resulting in a total of \$5.1 million.

For new equipment, the Hood County Sheriff's Office is requesting ballistic helmets, rifles, ballistic rifle vests and plates, and night vision goggles. The constables are likewise requesting ballistic helmets, vests, and plates.

According to the Hood County website, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local and tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Awards under this program are intended to be used for projects benefiting Hood County that may involve the support of single or multiple organizations. Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

As the commissioners court began its discussion on which departments and organizations would get the ARPA funds, Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds addressed the court and explained that the grand total for the new equipment came out to be \$527,338.72.

Cresson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ron Becker also addressed the court and explained how many of the fire departments need new pumper tanker trucks. However, with the new trucks, the departments would also need specific facilities.

"We needed (a tanker truck), but obviously we got ours from a different source," Becker said. "I do want to make sure you understand that without the facilities, these are not usable trucks. We can't have these trucks sitting out and water freezing in them, so you have to have facilities to store these types of trucks making sure that they're ready to go. I would just en-

courage you if you consider the need for those sorts of trucks to remember, such as in our case, that without the facility, the truck almost becomes useless."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews suggested a different approach — pulling all of the requests for the funds together in a bigger package.

"We need to look into the buying power of what the fire departments can get for the money," Andrews said.

"Building wise is phenomenal, and I think that that is a great avenue to have the fire departments and EMS build these buildings. I (would) like to be able to say, 'Hey, with the three fire stations that we talked about, that's a go, let's make that happen, and

equipment that we all need, that everybody would share, that would benefit every single citizen, and every single volunteer fire department in the whole county," Massingill concluded.

Andrews then suggested that the commissioners allocate the funds for the three new fire and EMS stations, new equipment for constables and sheriffs, the expansion of the Cresson and Pecan Fire Departments, the four new tanker trucks, and a couple of other needs for a total of \$9.6 million. He suggested using the \$5.6 million of the ARPA funds and then using the tax debt service rate for the remaining \$4 million.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson said she agreed with Andrew's suggestion, adding that the county may not have to use the debt service rate due to the excess fund balance.

"I do agree that we need to focus this money on emergency services, and that's the best thing too for all the citizens in Hood County," she said. "I think that (both) fire/EMS and ensuring that we

two of the EMS/fire stations are needed currently: Indian Harbor and Baccus, and that the four tankers are also needed right now. He then asked if everybody could work together to get the same pumper tankers for half a million dollars.

Becker said the truck Cresson is going to get is almost a "carbon copy" of what Granbury already received. He said speaking for all of the fire departments, he believes everyone would be fine with that decision.

Samuelson then suggested allocating \$2.2 million to the sheriff's department, \$2 million for four pumper tankers, \$1.1 million for expansion of the Pecan, Cresson and Lipan Fire Departments, and then \$25,000 for the constables, totaling \$5.6 million.

Massingill then added an organization that he felt should be considered for the funds but had not yet been brought up: nonprofits.

"Rancho Brazos is the only one that's a qualified soup kitchen in the whole county, and it's a safety place for kids in the event of a

agreement with the pumper tankers, both volunteer fire departments, and at least two of the EMS buildings.

Andrews said he believed the third EMS building "may not be as high priority as the other two," but that it is still a significant priority for the county.

Young then walked up to the podium and explained that the station expansions were on a five-year plan, noting they are currently in year two. He explained that in his opinion, the top priority for the fire departments are the three stations and the four tankers, adding that he agreed with Andrews' proposal.

Young also suggested using the ARPA funds for the building projects and using the fund balance to purchase the tankers, which Samuelson agreed was a "really good idea."

"With the ARPA funds, I think that we lean hard on the buying power of the fire departments and EMS, with building projects," Andrews said.

Samuelson asked what Andrews had previously

worry about tomorrow. Look at where we're at in 10 to 15 years because this decision has that impact. The departments know what they need. You got to remember that. That's why they're chiefs and that's why they're there. They're telling you what they need, and it's not for tomorrow. It's for 10 years out."

Hood County resident Tina Brown said she was "completely saddened by this court," as she emphasized how much the nonprofits were hurting.

"All the law enforcement, the fire departments can all be funded by you," she said. "The ARPA money was given to us to help. I know it can be used for many things, but it was given to help the underprivileged, the people who were hurting from COVID. I only heard the judge talk about nonprofits, about the people that are still hurting from COVID. I didn't hear any of you speak up. This is sad. I am ashamed of this court. I really am."

Brown said Rancho Brazos needs to be put in multiple places around the county and pointed out that United Way of Hood County is struggling this year, with their numbers down to \$25,000.

"This is the first time that this court has actually come forward and said what your priorities are," she said. "These people need our help."

Andrews chimed in saying philosophically, the government took the county's money. He explained that the money wasn't given — it was forcibly taken away by the government and later given back with certain "labels" on what the money should be allocated for.

"It's not easy to sit up here and say it's not okay for the government to take from somebody so that I can give to a nonprofit to feel better about myself. A person has every right in the world to go support the nonprofit out of their own pocket of their choice," he said.

Brown then responded by asking Andrews why he supported Shanley House.

"Why do you get to pick and choose?" she asked. "Because you're sitting there."

"There's a million good causes out there," Andrews said. "There absolutely are, and to sit up here and confiscate somebody's money, and then decide which good cause to go to, that's not okay. That's not the position and that's not the role of government."

Eagle explained that ARPA money is money that was "taken from us via federal income tax."

"The Biden administration came in and came up with this grandiose program

"To have a county, you got to have protection for our first responders. That's number one."

RON MASSINGILL
Hood County Judge

let's earmark some funding for it.' There's still a lot of hoops that we're gonna have to jump through, but do we approve of that project as commissioner's court? We say, 'yes' on that and give it the green light, and then, you know, kind of bundle everything together."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill then chimed in, explaining that he previously spoke with Hood County Fire Marshal Jeff Young about purchasing four new pumper tanker trucks.

"They're about a half a million dollars apiece, that's \$2 million right off the top," Massingill said. "What I got from talking to all the different volunteer fire department chiefs is that none of them disagreed with the fact that we need the pumper tankers. All of them responded that if it's a big fire, all of the nine fire departments are going to be there, and they're all going to want to share the water. With (Cresson's) and the county (buying) four more, we would have five 3,000-gallon tankers and that would really be enough."

Becker then added that the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department had previously purchased a tanker truck in May, which meant there would then be six trucks.

"The pumper tankers have got to be the main piece of

have the building expanded in both Cresson and Pecan (are dire) because those communities are growing so fast, and they've more than outgrown their buildings."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle explained that the Hood County Sheriff's Office will have an opportunity in January to apply for a \$500,000 grant.

"I would say that, if that ask — and I'm acknowledging there's an 'if' there — but if the sheriff's department is able to obtain that grant, then that takes away some of the burden off what we're doing right now, and then we've got the next budget cycle to take care of some of those other needs," Eagle said.

Massingill said the grant for \$500,000 would be an "epic win," but the sheriff's department needs the ballistic proof helmets and vests now — not four months from now.

"To have a county, you got to have protection for our first responders. That's number one," Massingill said. "So, I'm for giving the ARPA funds to protect our community. That's where it becomes basic. I disagree with Commissioner Eagle about that. That \$500,000 if and when it does come, we're not going to get any money before that."

Massingill said that only

big disaster where they can go up there, and the third thing that's important for Rancho Brazos is that they were being supported by the Methodist Church and they do not have that anymore," he said. "We've got to do something. That is a tremendous deal to the entire community to have that facility up here to where it can take in those kids. I just think that is just something we really have to have in my opinion, and, you know, to give them \$500,000 to provide a safe place for kids in the event of a disaster and to continue the good work that they have because we've got the land up there."

Massingill then suggested allocating \$2.2 million for the three EMS buildings, \$2 million for four pumper trucks, \$500,000 for the Hood County Sheriff's Department, and \$500,000 for Rancho Brazos, totaling \$5.2 million.

Samuelson then pointed out Massingill had left out the expansion of the Pecan and Cresson Fire Departments, spurring Massingill to suggest the idea of fundraisers.

Becker said they are working on the fundraisers and are also working to get a landing site for the helicopters.

Massingill then said it seemed like the court was in

proposed. He explained he was going to "pull the Lipan building project off" as Lipan was the recipient of one of the tankers.

Samuelson then made a motion of allocating \$3.5 million to construct three new combined fire and EMS stations in Indian Harbor, Baccus, and DeCordova; \$1.1 million to expand the current Pecan and Cresson Fire Departments; \$500,000 to the Hood County Sheriff's Department for new equipment; and \$25,000 to the Hood County Constables for new equipment — resulting in a total of \$5.1 million.

Eagle asked about the pumper tankers, and Samuelson explained that the county has "capital, fund balance or debt."

With a motion on the table, speakers were then allowed to come up and express their opinions or concerns.

GVFD Chief Matt Hohon asked that the court consider the impact their decision will have on the future.

"Twenty plus years ago, the commissioners were poised in the same position and having to make a decision that would impact the community," he said. "That was the right decision, and that impact carried them for 20 plus years. The decision that you're about to make has the same impact. Look forward. I emphasize don't

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1 - 3 Candlelight Tour of Homes
2 - 10 Away In a Manger (1,200 Nativity Displays)

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PETERS

FROM PAGE A2

Peters said eventually, owners of a large parts company — the world's largest, he said — were interested in his product, but he kept telling them "No," until finally he relented.

"Good thing I did," he said. "They were spending \$12,000 to \$14,000, every 60 days."

As time went on, Peters' company continued to grow, with him traveling extensively across the United States and across the world.

"The second or third year I was in business, I worked in 39 countries," Peters said. "So, what does that tell you?"

Peters' pinball cleaner was definitely a hit — but it wasn't the only product he invented.

MULTIPLE INVENTIONS

As the pinball industry was progressing, so was foosball. It was while Peters was in Wisconsin that he visited a unique hotel in Oconomowoc, where he met a gentleman who was starting a foosball company.

"There was a country western singer, and his nickname was Tweety Bird, Conway Twitty," Peters said. "He knew him really well, and he was gonna put him on the playfield of the foosball to get all the advertisement he could, so I met with him and later, he said 'Joe, I need something for the rods. They don't always spin that fast,' so to make a long story short, I developed a foosball cleaner. Well, not a cleaner so much as a silicone for the rods, but I patented Foozball."

It didn't take long for Peters' foosball cleaner to become almost as popular as his pinball machine product.

Countries like France, Italy, Germany and Spain contacted Peters and wanted his product, with him selling \$70,000 worth of foosball cleaner in a span of only three hours.

But that's not all.



Granbury resident Joe Peters is the successful inventor of the Wildcat #125 pinball cleaner.

Peters also created a product called TR-60, with the TR standing for "tape remover" that removes sticky residue from surfaces, and RC-88, a rubber cleaner (RC) that would clean the bumpers on pinball machines.

"I created a product that would not only clean it, but rejuvenate the rubber, make it soft. People would buy both of those," he said. "I created a lot of products."

WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

Through the launch of his successful career, Peters was also able to meet several celebrities like the Elvira character, Cassandra Peterson, and Nolan Bushnell, the inventor of Pong and founder of Atari.

"She's gorgeous," Peters said on Peterson. "I mean, she's prettier in person than she was in the movies. Beautiful girl. I also got to know Nolan fairly well, and he was richer than you would believe. Over the years I met a lot of people."

But Peters didn't really begin to realize the depth of his product's popularity until he visited a large distributorship in Germany and a pub in London, where both

places featured a bottle of his Wildcat pinball cleaner.

"I was doing quite well and had four secretaries and had built my plant Wildcat Chemical Company. It's now Wildcat Products," he said. "But there was a song, 'Times, They are A-Changing.' The industry, it was a-changing, and the industry was slowing down considerably. I was still doing well into the 80s, but it was slowing down, and distributors were dropping like flies."

PRODUCTION DECLINE

He explained he had one of his secretaries conduct a survey in 1980, revealing there were 12,000 operators and about 300 distributors nationwide.

"Today, there might be 20 or 30 distributors and maybe several hundred operators," he said. "They're gone, they're just gone. Bally, they're not in the gaming business anymore at all. But today, I think there are only two foosball manufacturers and there are only two pinball manufacturers."

He said he's heard from several different sources that "what's new is old, and

what's old is new again."

"I heard that there are some new arcades opening, and you can play anything. That may be a trend that's starting to pick up again," Peters said.

ACTING CAREER

But all the while Peters was building his successful company, he was also spending what little free time he had appearing in TV shows and movies.

"It started when my oldest son was in UNT, and his frat brothers said, 'You got a great voice.' His is not quite as deep as mine, but they said that he ought to go and do voiceovers or be an actor," Peters said, thinking back. "He tried it in Dallas, and everybody turned him down. So, I called an agent and talked with her for 10 minutes. She said, 'I don't really care about your son. I love your voice,' and she said, 'Will you come and visit me next week?' I went to visit her, and within an hour she said, 'I want you on contract.'"

Peters starred in an American Airlines commercial and was on "Walker, Texas Ranger," on several

different occasions.

"I played everything from a drug dealer to a drug user to a schoolteacher," he said. "It was no big deal, but I did all of this while I was still running Wildcat."

Peters said he remembers shooting in west Texas on a day where it was freezing outside. He explained how the director sent someone to 7-Eleven to purchase ice chips for the actors.

"Before they shot a scene, we always had to put a piece of ice in our mouth, and that leveled the temperature of our body so that it came out clear," he said. "I just thought that was cool."

He explained that while filming a movie as a sheriff, he walked over to the nearest Dairy Queen for a Dr. Pepper.

"I had my sheriff's outfit on, had the badge, the gun, and the hat and I walked up to the drive-through window, and I say, 'Can I have a Dr Pepper?'" he said. "But I went to give her money and she said, 'No, we don't charge the police department.' I went, 'No, no, no, you don't understand.' She said, 'I know you're the sheriff.' I said, 'Yeah, but I'm an actor.' I went back and some of the crew saw me, and they said, 'Where'd you get that?' and I told the story, and they went, 'Come with us, we won't tell her.'"

Peters also explained how he was offered a job to serve as the voice for Big Tex at the Texas State Fair. However, he would be forced to work for 12 hours a day and only receive \$10 an hour.

"That's where you have to start," he said. "You're the rookie. I had a lot of opportunities in the business, so to speak, and didn't pursue them. The pay sucked and the hours sucked more. And I mean, my ego was not that great to where I had to have my picture in front of people. But I've worked with some well-known stars."

Peters said he worked with a "big name, Nick Nolte," when they were shooting a film in both Dallas and Cresson inside an old

mansion.

"He was always drinking a bit," he said.

Peters also starred in a movie with the late "F.R.I.E.N.D.S." star Matthew Perry — who was alive at the time of this interview. Peters described Perry as being "terrible," and "could never remember his lines."

A GOOD RIDE

Peters has lived an interesting life, both as an actor and the inventor of a successful product — even though the need for a pinball cleaner has decreased drastically.

"Electronics has changed this world completely," he said. "The industry that I was so much a part of is basically nonexistent. But my company name is still known and there are, like I said, maybe 25 or 30 distributors. But in the meantime, John or Mary, a real person out of their home, sells the products on the internet. Essentially, the industry is an absolute shell of what it used to be, and that's sad because it provided cheap entertainment for the public. It was an industry that circumnavigated the world and provided entertainment for an economic fee and sustained itself through word of mouth. People would say, 'Have you seen the new pinball?' and it's pretty much gone and that's a sad commentary on that industry."

However, although his life isn't what it used to be, Peters wouldn't change anything about it now. He currently lives with his wife, Felicia, in Granbury.

"It's been a good ride," he said. "The old adage of 'been there, done that.' I've traveled, seen the world, created my own products, my own company, and got the accolades that go with it, you know? And I mean, at 83, I couldn't ask for much more. I've had my 15 minutes (of fame)."

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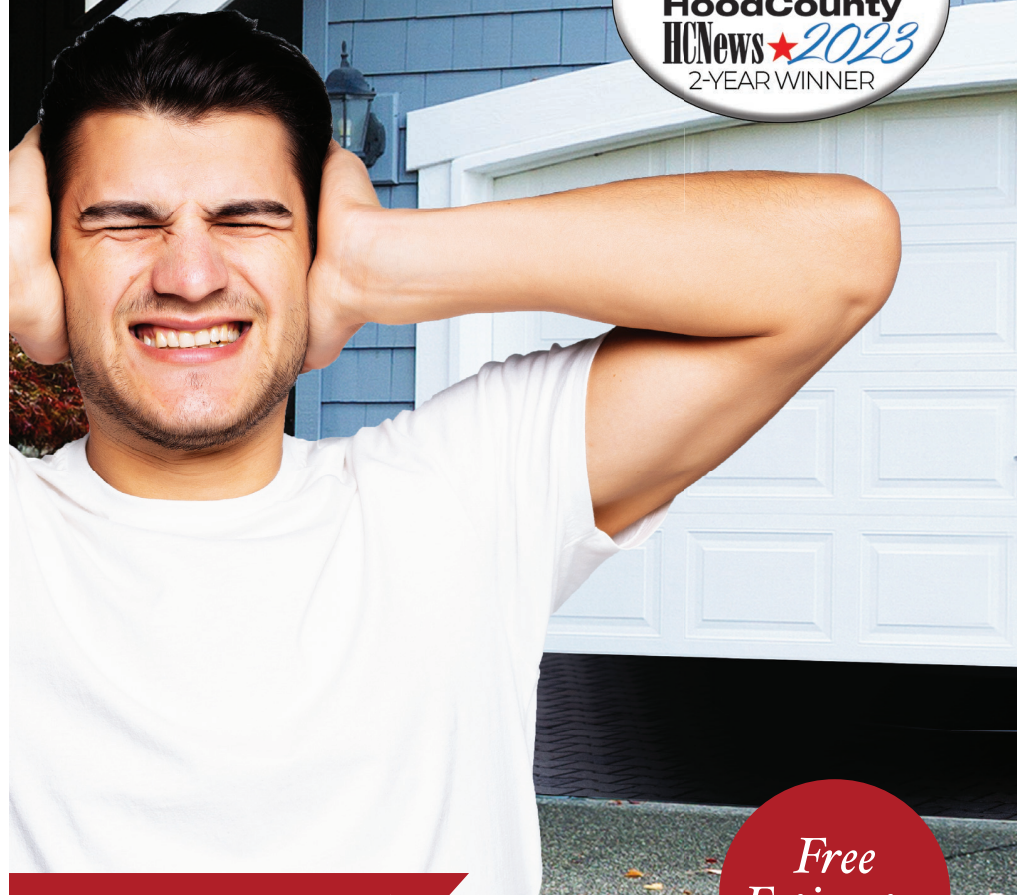


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Commissioners create policy, procedures for reserving county-owned facilities

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to create its own facilities policy for when non-county organizations wish to reserve space inside county-owned facilities.

During a regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court on Nov. 14, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that through a recent request to

use a Hood County facility, it became apparent that the county did not already have a procedure in place.

"Several meetings back, it came to (our) attention that we are not covered for liability," Samuelson said. "So, we talked about implementing some type of request for people who wanted to use it."

She explained the organization could have purchased a liability policy, but County Attorney Matt Mills and HR Director Melissa Welborn came up with

the idea to include a hold harmless clause on the application. A hold harmless clause is used as a release of liability in a contract that protects one party from injury or property damage caused by another party.

The only problem, Samuelson said, was the county didn't have a facility application — leading Mills and Welborn to create two documents: Hood County Use of Facilities Policy and Procedures; and Use of Hood County Facilities Requirements and

Agreement.

FACILITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The policy includes all Hood County facilities and grounds except for the Hood County Library as it has its own policy and procedures.

Groups that are eligible to reserve county facilities include civic, educational and nonprofit groups or organizations that are holding meetings or events of public interest.

Excluded meetings/events include:

- Personal events or social gatherings such as birthday parties, baby showers, dances, etc.
- Political campaigning or political fundraising.
- Noncounty related fundraising by an individual, group or cause.
- Meetings requiring payment for admission, a registration fee (including fees taken off-site), materials fees or required donations.
- Programs involving the sale, advertising, market-

ing, promotion of individual or commercial products or services, or programs sponsored by a business firm, regardless of purpose.

• The use of the room to provide direct healthcare services.

There is generally no charge for facilities/building use. However, the county may charge a security, maintenance or cleaning fee, depending on the facility/building used, length

PLEASE SEE **POLICY** | A10

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

November memories and finding help



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

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

"In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year."

CYNTHIA RYLANT, IN NOVEMBER

I have to agree with Cynthia Rylant, food absolutely tastes better in November. I am certain it is not only because of Thanksgiving, but because of memories of past Thanksgivings. The aroma of certain foods cooking can transport me straight to my Memaw's kitchen and around her table.

There's a sort of comfort that comes with gathering with loved ones and enjoying recipes that have been handed down over the years. I hope everyone found a place at a table with someone you love and shared some sort of meal that connected you to those people.

Suicide Prevention

Training Comes to the Library

With that said, I do not want to be so naive to think that everyone has family or friends to gather with. In fact, this time of year can exacerbate the existing sadness of many people. Not just the feeling blues type of sadness, but the gut wrenching, soul seeking, pit of despair type of sadness that sees no hope. The kind of sadness that can slip into clinical depression.

According to the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and their "Report on Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Texas 2022," Texas has seen an increase of 36.7 percent suicide death rate since 2000. In fact, it is the second leading cause of death for young

people ages 10-24.

There are many factors that play into a person's decision to end their own life. My family has been directly affected by suicide this past year, and so has this community. Because of this, I found a program to bring to the library in hopes of training families in the QPR method (Question, Persuade, and Refer). On Tuesday Dec. 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation will present their free Let's Taco 'Bout QPR in order to train any person to have the confidence to talk with those at risk of suicide. Space is limited so please use the QR code below to register. According to the foundation's website this program is recommended for middle school aged children to

adults.

Philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca is quoted saying this: "Sometimes even to live is an act of courage."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Library will be closed Dec. 23 to January 1

Children Events

Mondays 10:30 a.m. Music and Motion
Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. Storytime & Craft (Preschool)
Thursdays 4:30 p.m. Code Club (8-12 yrs)

EVENTS FOR ALL

Lego Saturday all day every Saturday!

Dec. 16: Cookies, Cocoa & Carols 1 to 3 p.m.

Dec. 21: Holiday Movie Marathon 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adult Events
Dec. 13, 6 to 7 p.m. The Other Book Club; The Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarns

Dec. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Trivia Night@Fisherman's Corner: Christmas Movies

jllogsdon@co.hood.tx.us / 817-573-3569

Scan QR code to visit

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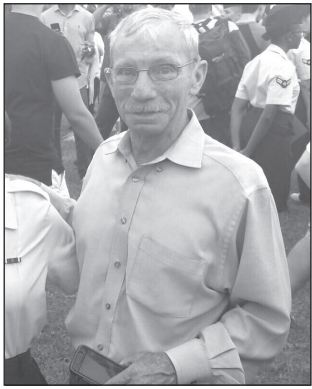
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OBITUARIES

John Morris Andrews

February 11, 1958 - November 9, 2023

John Morris Andrews, 65, passed away at his home in Granbury, Texas, on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023. He was born on Feb. 11, 1958, to Kenneth Franklin Andrews, Jr. and Joanne Margaret Florin Andrews in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



John was an Eagle Scout in his younger years, he later served his country proudly in the U.S. Navy. He had an incredible work ethic and was in the car business for 40 years. He loved spending time with his family, and he was a good friend to anyone who needed a friend. He also had a special place in his heart for animals.

John is preceded by his mom, Joanne Andrews and

sister, Cheryl Chin. He is survived by his two daughters, Paula Shelly and Danielle Mershon; his dad, Kenneth Andrews and wife Kathleen; two grandchildren, Angela McCraw and Amber Shelly; longtime companion, Peggy Belt, and extended family.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

RANCH DISPERSAL AUCTION DEC 7TH

Full dispersal auction of the 430-acre McKellar Ranch.

Land & Homes: 430 acres w/2homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 58+ acres each ideal for homesites or development.

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VETERANS VOICE

VA pauses pension overpayment collection

BY LINDA MALLON



Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years.

Low-income wartime veterans and surviving spouses may apply for a monthly payment in the form of a VA Pension Benefit to supplement their social security if their income minus non-reimbursed medical expenses take their income below the pension rate.

The VA relies on applicants to provide accurate information when reporting income, assets, and non-reimbursed medical expenses. Normally the VA is able to run a data match with social security to verify Pension recipients self-reported income, however between 2011 and 2022 the VA was unable to accurately confirm income due to discrepancies discovered in data matching. Once the discrepancy was resolved in July 2022, it was discovered that almost 10,000 beneficiaries were showing higher income

levels than what was self-reported resulting in overpayments, some spanning several years.

There are also approximately 30,000 additional pension recipients whose debts have not yet been established. Normally when there is an overpayment, the VA will contact the pension recipient by letter to advise them. They will show a comparison between the self-reported income and the income provided through Social Security Data match and give the veteran or surviving spouse time to reconcile the difference with additional documentation. If the discrepancy is accurate and the overpayment is verified as correct, Pension Management will forward the case to Debt Management, and they will send a letter to the pension recipient showing the

amount of the overpayment and a voucher for collection. At that time, our office can assist with requesting a waiver if the recipient is unable to pay due to severely limited income or we request a repayment arrangement.

Under these new circumstances however, having discovered that data matching has been inaccurate for 11 years, and understanding the distress and financial hardship a pension debt would cause a veteran or survivors with limited means, the VA has elected to pause the collection of all established pension debts and the establishment of new debts while they determine a path forward. Not wanting to burden an already vulnerable population, the VA is working to provide as much debt relief as possible exploring all avenues available and will be reaching out to all effected veterans and survivors about the pause as they pursue all options. The VA will also be conducting a review to better understand how these discrepancies happened and what they

can do to prevent this in the future.

Veterans who have questions may contact our office or VA Debt Management at 1-800-827-0648. One of the best ways to avoid any overpayments through the VA Pension Benefits Program is making sure that you keep the annual Social Security Benefits statements showing the amount paid, and deductions. We send these with the initial application so hold on to those yearly statements. When applying for pension make sure you have the most up to date bank statements showing balances, statements for all assets not including your home showing value, and income statements from any pensions, retirement income, interest income, rental etc., and all medical expenses you paid out of pocket for the year. If you are a VA Pension recipient and receive a debt letter, please contact our office so we can work with you on a waiver or payment option.

lmallon@co.hood.tx.us / 817-579-3292

ARPA

FROM PAGE A6

under COVID to put money back into each community with numerous strings, and I knew that we had a Trojan horse coming in here with this money, in many ways," he said. "But philosophically, I have to agree with Commissioner Andrews and disagree with the last speaker and there's nothing wrong with that. We can disagree, and you can be ashamed, but the bottom line is this, it's not our job to redistribute money. We have 33 501(c)(3)s here. Which one do you give it to? They all have great causes. But it

deprives the individual the chance to donate to those outfits and to the charity of their choice."

Eagle said that with an aged community, Hood County needs EMS services, adding that the county needs to give first responders "all the resources they need to protect us."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson then spoke out, pointing out that the court had "hashed this thing to the point that it's ridiculous."

"We're only talking for the 501(c)(3)s that met the requirements for the form that were put out less than \$600,000 what was requested," Wilson said. "I'm

not taking anything away from the fire departments, EMS or the sheriff's department. I've been there. But you know, to sit up here and, you know, focus on one thing, and it's quite obvious that the three other commissioners on this court have had multiple sessions together, and I will accuse them of that now. It's quite obvious."

"That is absolutely false," Samuelson said. "I don't appreciate that."

"I don't talk over you; you don't talk over me," Wilson said. "We've got people that live in \$1 million and \$2 million homes, we got people who live in \$20,000 shacks. The benefits of these 501(c)

(3)s far outweigh the benefits of these people that are living in those high-end places for what they don't do for the county and the citizens thereof. I will sit here and tell you based on the motion that's on the table now, I'm voting 'no'. Not against the fire department, not against the sheriff's department, not against the EMS, but because of the way it's structured."

The court then voted on the motion that had previously been presented by Samuelson, which resulted in a 3:2 vote, with Massingill and Wilson voting "No."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

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ACROSS
 1 San Antonio AM
 5 TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"
 6 TXism: "suit ___ company" (family)
 7 Dallas public FM
 8 TX Willie's "Turn ___ the Party's Over"
 17 "ugly" in Mexico
 18 UT QB in 1973 Cotton Bowl victory
 20 Emmitt's home state (abbr.)
 21 this TX David was Colorado Rockies pitcher (1993-96)
 22 pizza toppings
 24 this moves "Big Tex's" jaw (2 wds.)
 29 archaic plural of cow
 30 historic "___ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
 31 TXism: "grabbing ___ straws"
 32 "Tapestry" artist (2 wds.)
 34 NM ski destination for some Texans
 35 init. of Gov. Runnels (1857-59)
 36 1st newspaper in Texas territory: "___ Texas"
 37 TXism: "scared ___ out of my wits"
 38 El ___ Texas
 39 what UT's Darrell Royal called the goal line (2 wds.)
 41 preowned vehicle: ___ car
 42 this Linares was first director of Texas Lottery
 43 TXism: "___ tailed tooter" (party animal)
 44 Indian warrior (2 wds.)
 45 ex-Cowboy Dorsett
 46 TXism: "___ as dirt"
 47 mother of ex-Cowboy coach Jimmy Johnson
 48 ch. 8 in Dallas refused to air this cop series when it first started (2 wds.)
DOWN
 1 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
 2 very old Lockhart church: ___
 3 south Dallas suburb
 4 TXism: "hard as putting up ___ in a windstorm"
 9 actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
 10 Gen. Robert ___ young fellow
 11 young fellow
 12 TXism: big frog ___ the pond" (VIP)
 13 TXism: "never sign anything in the ___ a neon light"
 14 TXism: "___ dusters" (dry ___)
 15 Houston's Pennzoil Place has ___ towers
 16 great TX blues guitarist Vaughan (init.)
 19 a night to stay up: New ___
 21 a club to use near the green (2 wds.)
 23 walked with long steps
 24 Texas need (abbr.)
 25 "Texas Monthly," e.g. (abbr.)
 26 TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
 33 in Wichita County on highway 258
 34 NASA drink
 35 TXism: "he ___ itchy trigger finger"
 37 sauropod track in Glen Rose (2 wds.)
 38 grinds food finely
 40 TX Cyd Charisse first stage name
 41 TXism: "she talks ___ ___ streak"
 44 bet the lot (2 wds.)
 47 TX Willie hometown
 49 singer Bobby in TX-filmed "State Fair"
 30 public auction, e.g.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Can you make charitable giving less 'taxing'?

TY ANDREWS
 Edward Jones
 Financial Adviser



Ty Andrews

Once again, it's the season of generosity. In addition to considering gifts for your loved ones, you might want to think about charitable gifts as well. But what should you know before making gifts to charities? And what impact might these gifts have on your financial and tax situation?

First, you may want to create a gift budget by deciding just how much you will give to charitable organizations over the rest of the year.

Next, look closely at the groups to whom you wish to contribute. You can find

many reputable charities, but some others may be less worthy of your support. One of the red flags of a questionable organization is the amount of money it spends on administrative costs versus the amount that goes to its stated purpose. You can check on the spending patterns of charitable groups, and find other valuable information about them, on the well-regarded Charity Navigator website (charitynavigator.org).

Once you've established a gift budget and are comfortable with the groups you

choose to support, you might turn your thoughts to another key issue connected with charitable giving: tax benefits. A few years ago, changes in the tax laws resulted in a large increase in the standard deduction, which meant that many taxpayers found it more favorable not to itemize — and lost the ability to take charitable deductions. But if you still do itemize, your charitable gifts or contributions to tax-exempt groups — those that qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations — can generally be deducted, up to 60% of your adjusted gross income, although lower limits may apply, depending on the nature of your gift and the organization to which you're

contributing.

Other, more long-term avenues also exist that combine charitable giving with potential tax benefits. One such possibility is a donor-advised fund, which allows you to make an irrevocable charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. You can give cash, but if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, your tax deduction would be the fair market value of the assets, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Plus, you would not incur the capital gains tax that would otherwise be due upon the sale of these assets. Once you establish a donor-advised fund, you have the flexibility to make charitable

gifts over time, and you can contribute to the fund as often as you like.

Another possible tax benefit from making charitable contributions could arrive when you start taking required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and 401(k). These RMDs could be sizable — and distributions are counted as taxable income. But by taking what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can move money from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charitable organization, possibly satisfying your RMD, which then may be excluded from your taxable

income. You must start taking RMDs at 73 but you can begin making QCDs of up to \$100,000 per year as early as age 70½. (This amount will be indexed for inflation after 2023.)

Establishing a donor-advised fund and making qualified charitable distributions are significant moves, so you'll need to consult with your tax advisor first. But if they're appropriate for your situation, they may help you expand your ability to support the charitable groups whose work you admire.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

community. Details: 817-326-4693.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOURTH SATURDAY
GRIEF SUPPORT group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833



SUPPORT SYSTEM calendar will feature recurring activities that provide group support and are open to the public. These items will run each Wednesday. Submit Support System listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

TWC Celebrates Apprenticeship Week

Staff Reports

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) celebrated Texas Apprenticeship Week held Nov. 13-19, 2023. The weeklong event encouraged employers to explore the many benefits of apprenticeship programs and highlighted the growing popularity of apprenticeships in a variety of industries. Apprenticeship programs draw on support from businesses, education partners, labor organizations, workforce partners, and industry associations to meet the ongoing need for a skilled workforce.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently issued a proclamation recognizing Texas Apprenticeship Week while noting how apprenticeship programs serve as instruments of workforce and economic development in Texas. Concurrent with National Apprenticeship Week, the Texas celebration also showcases how employers are finding and retaining the talent they need to remain competitive in a global economy.

"Apprenticeships give Texans the ability to earn while they learn and obtain the skills needed by Texas employers,"

TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "The education and training offered through these programs make them effective strategies to prepare for a rewarding career."

There are more than 800 registered apprenticeship programs in the state. In addition, apprenticeship programs supported by TWC have trained more than 20,000 apprentices in the past three years, with an investment of \$14.6 million. Texas is continuing to innovate and invest in apprenticeships with \$20 million allocated in the 88th Legislative Session to Texas Industry Recognized Apprenticeships. The application for those funds will soon be available to businesses throughout the state.

"Apprenticeships are critical to the development of Texas' civilian workforce as it continues to grow from month to month," TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III said. "Through apprenticeships, workers benefit from earning wages while gaining hands-on experience to improve employability for high-demand careers in expanding industries."

"TWC encourages employers

to offer apprenticeship programs as they explore ways to develop their workforce for the future," TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza said. "Employers that use apprenticeship programs can provide specialized training and create a dedicated talent pipeline for their businesses."

Texas Apprenticeship Week recognizes leaders in business, labor, education, and industry, and highlights how apprenticeships prepare workers for careers in demand today and in the future. Events are planned around the state to promote Texas apprenticeships and the employers benefiting from the work-based learning model. ApprenticeshipTexas encourages local employers and industry partners to develop new apprenticeship training programs and expand on current registered apprenticeship training programs.

Employers seeking information on building the core components of an apprenticeship training program should contact TWC at ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov or visit TWC's ApprenticeshipTexas website.

POLICY

FROM PAGE A8

of time, time of day and condition after use.

All meetings held must be open to the general public. County staff retains the right to attend any meetings or events to ensure compliance of policies and procedures. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to attend the requested meeting/event.

A group may request the use of a facility/building by email or in person. A facility must be reserved giving a reasonable time in advance with no more than four applications from the same group within a 90-day period if another group is requesting the use of the same room or space.

Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups must make the county aware of any cancellations no less than 72 hours in advance.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND AGREEMENT

The requirement and agreement document explains that Hood County buildings may be utilized for nonprofit organizations directly or indirectly related to Hood County government.

Requirements state that a single person must be designated to be responsible for the conduct of persons attending the meeting.

The designated person will ensure the facility is returned to the same condition as it was found,

including:

- Tables wiped down and placed on rolling carts and chairs stacked
- Kitchen area cleaned
- Floors vacuumed / swept
- All trash bagged and carried out (there is a dumpster located behind Annex 3)
- All lights turned off and doors are locked upon departure

The designated person must also contact the following for access to the building being requested:

- For the County Annex building contact the personnel office at 817-408-3450
- For the Historical Courthouse contact 817-579-3200
- For the Walton Justice Center contact 817-408-2698

If any of the requirements are not met, it may result in the forfeiture of the group's future use and charges assessed.

The individual is required to list their group name, telephone number, purpose of the meeting, the number of expected attendees, and the requested date/dates to use the facility.

No reservations will be accepted until the form has been completed and returned.

MOTION

Samuelson made a motion to approve the Hood County Facilities Policy and Procedures, and the Facilities Requirements and Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243

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TUESDAY, DEC. 5
 Mineral Wells: 11:45am-12:30pm at MINERAL WELLS FEED & FARM SUPPLY
 Stephenville: 1:30-2:15pm at HAY & FEED RANCH
 Granbury: 3:00-3:45pm at RUSSELL FEED
 Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
 Cleburne: 7:30-8:15am at ROWLETTE HARDWARE

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THIRD MONDAY

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

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

THIRD TUESDAY

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

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

GRIEF SUPPORT group for anyone grieving a loss in their life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community. Location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449, or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833



SUPPORT SYSTEM calendar will feature recurring activities that provide group support and are open to the public. These items will run each Wednesday. Submit Support System listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

TWC Celebrates Apprenticeship Week

Staff Reports

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) celebrated Texas Apprenticeship Week held Nov. 13-19, 2023. The weeklong event encouraged employers to explore the many benefits of apprenticeship programs and highlighted the growing popularity of apprenticeships in a variety of industries. Apprenticeship programs draw on support from businesses, education partners, labor organizations, workforce partners, and industry associations to meet the ongoing need for a skilled workforce.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently issued a proclamation recognizing Texas Apprenticeship Week while noting how apprenticeship programs serve as instruments of workforce and economic development in Texas. Concurrent with National Apprenticeship Week, the Texas celebration also showcases how employers are finding and retaining the talent they need to remain competitive in a global economy.

"Apprenticeships give Texans the ability to earn while they learn and obtain the skills needed by Texas employers,"

TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "The education and training offered through these programs make them effective strategies to prepare for a rewarding career."

There are more than 800 registered apprenticeship programs in the state. In addition, apprenticeship programs supported by TWC have trained more than 20,000 apprentices in the past three years, with an investment of \$14.6 million. Texas is continuing to innovate and invest in apprenticeships with \$20 million allocated in the 88th Legislative Session to Texas Industry Recognized Apprenticeships. The application for those funds will soon be available to businesses throughout the state.

"Apprenticeships are critical to the development of Texas' civilian workforce as it continues to grow from month to month," TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III said. "Through apprenticeships, workers benefit from earning wages while gaining hands-on experience to improve employability for high-demand careers in expanding industries."

"TWC encourages employers

to offer apprenticeship programs as they explore ways to develop their workforce for the future," TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza said. "Employers that use apprenticeship programs can provide specialized training and create a dedicated talent pipeline for their businesses."

Texas Apprenticeship Week recognizes leaders in business, labor, education, and industry, and highlights how apprenticeships prepare workers for careers in demand today and in the future. Events are planned around the state to promote Texas apprenticeships and the employers benefiting from the work-based learning model. ApprenticeshipTexas encourages local employers and industry partners to develop new apprenticeship training programs and expand on current registered apprenticeship training programs.

Employers seeking information on building the core components of an apprenticeship training program should contact TWC at ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov or visit TWC's ApprenticeshipTexas website.

POLICY

FROM PAGE A8

of time, time of day and condition after use.

All meetings held must be open to the general public. County staff retains the right to attend any meetings or events to ensure compliance of policies and procedures. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to attend the requested meeting/event.

A group may request the use of a facility/building by email or in person. A facility must be reserved giving a reasonable time in advance with no more than four applications from the same group within a 90-day period if another group is requesting the use of the same room or space.

Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups must make the county aware of any cancellations no less than 72 hours in advance.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND AGREEMENT

The requirement and agreement document explains that Hood County buildings may be utilized for nonprofit organizations directly or indirectly related to Hood County government.

Requirements state that a single person must be designated to be responsible for the conduct of persons attending the meeting.

The designated person will ensure the facility is returned to the same condition as it was found,

including:

- Tables wiped down and placed on rolling carts and chairs stacked
- Kitchen area cleaned
- Floors vacuumed / swept
- All trash bagged and carried out (there is a dumpster located behind Annex 3)
- All lights turned off and doors are locked upon departure

The designated person must also contact the following for access to the building being requested:

- For the County Annex building contact the personnel office at 817-408-3450
- For the Historical Courthouse contact 817-579-3200
- For the Walton Justice Center contact 817-408-2698

If any of the requirements are not met, it may result in the forfeiture of the group's future use and charges assessed.

The individual is required to list their group name, telephone number, purpose of the meeting, the number of expected attendees, and the requested date/dates to use the facility.

No reservations will be accepted until the form has been completed and returned.

MOTION

Samuelson made a motion to approve the Hood County Facilities Policy and Procedures, and the Facilities Requirements and Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

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Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
Cleburne: 7:30-8:15am at ROWLETTE HARDWARE

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CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

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New report reveals Texas lags behind country in life saving Lung Cancer screenings

American Lung Association examines toll of lung cancer in Texas

Staff Reports

The 2023 "State of Lung Cancer" report reveals that Texas ranks 49th in the nation for screening rates. This means that Texas is among the worst in the nation for percent of those at high risk receiving screening, so more work is needed to reduce the burden of lung cancer.

The American Lung Association's sixth annual report, released today, highlights the toll of lung cancer in Texas and examines key indicators including new cases, survival, early diagnosis, surgical treatment, lack of treatment and screening rates.

The report also found that Texas ranked 45th in the nation for lack of treatment and 42nd for surgical intervention. In Texas, Black Americans are least likely to receive surgical treatment. Nationally, the "State of Lung Cancer" report found that lung cancer survival rates are improving for everyone, including people of color. In fact, the five-year lung cancer survival rate for people of color has increased by 17% in the last two years, helping close the health disparity gap.

"Thankfully, nationally, the lung cancer survival rate has improved because of increased awareness, improved access to healthcare and cutting-edge research into new treatments for the disease," said Charlie Gagen, Advocacy



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2023 "State of Lung Cancer" report reveals that Texas ranks 49th in the nation for screening rates. This means that Texas is among the worst in the nation for percent of those at high risk receiving screening, so more work is needed to reduce the burden of lung cancer.

Director for the American Lung Association in Texas. "However, lung cancer is still the leading cause of cancer deaths here in Texas and across the nation, and our recent report makes it clear that we have more work to do to increasing lung cancer screening and early diagnosis."

The report found that Texas ranked: 10 out of 48 in the nation for rate of new lung cancer

cases at 46.76 per 100,000. The national rate is 54.6 per 100,000.

25 out of 42 in the nation for survival at 24.8%. The national rate of people alive five years after a lung cancer diagnosis is 26.6%.

44 out of 47 in the nation for early diagnosis at 23.4%. Nationally, only 26.6% of cases are diagnosed at an early stage when the survival rate is much higher.

49 out of 51 in the nation

for lung cancer screening at 1.2%. Lung cancer screening with annual low-dose CT scans for those at high risk can reduce the lung cancer death rate by up to 20%. Nationally, only 4.5% of those at high risk were screened.

42 out of 47 in the nation for surgery at 16.1%. Lung cancer can often be treated with surgery if it is diagnosed at an early stage and has not spread. Nationally,

20.8% of cases underwent surgery.

45 out of 47 in the nation for lack of treatment at 29.2%. Nationally, 20.6% of cases receive no treatment.

The Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas received full funding in the 2023 state legislative session to continue investing in cancer research and prevention. Since 2010, the state agency has invested more than \$324 million to

address lung cancer, including more than \$10 million in 2023.

The 2023 "State of Lung Cancer" report highlights that Texas must do more to reduce the burden of lung cancer and encourages everyone to help end lung cancer. Join the Lung Association's efforts by asking your member of Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 4286, the Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act at Lung.org/SOLC

ABOUT THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, which has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and is a Platinum-Level GuideStar Member, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: Lung.org. To support the local work of the American Lung Association, find a local event at Lung.org/events.

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Attorney Paul Hyde is responsible for the content of this advertising



Acton Middle School sixth graders named champions in annual baseball tournament



COURTESY PHOTO

A sixth-grade team from Acton Middle School was recently named champion of the annual Middle School Madness baseball tournament — surpassing the 19-team field at Big League Dreams in Mansfield on Sunday, Nov. 12

From Staff Reports

A sixth-grade team from Acton Middle School was recently named champion of the annual Middle School Madness baseball tournament — surpassing the 19-team field at Big League Dreams in Mansfield on Sunday, Nov. 12. The only team from the Granbury Independent School District, the AMS sixth graders came out on top during the title game

against Joshua ISD's Nichols Middle School when the team scored four runs in the final inning to win in walk-off fashion. The Middle School Madness tournament was formed as a unique weekend for middle school baseball players to play for their local school. Coach Jaime Handy explained that while sports like football, volleyball and basketball are normally offered in Texas middle schools, having a formal baseball

team is not customary. "The tournament field is aligned by grade level, and you must attend the school you are playing for," Handy explained in an email to the HCN. "This allows players who may play for different teams, and at different skill levels, to play together and represent their school and community." Overall, the boys enjoyed an unbeaten 5-0-1 record for the weekend, defeating: Hughes Middle School (Burleson ISD), Kerr Middle

School (Burleson ISD), Smith Middle School (Cleburne ISD), Dieterich Middle School (Midlothian ISD) and Nichols Middle School (Joshua ISD). The team played two pool play games on Saturday before enduring four games on Sunday. Handy said Granbury ISD had no involvement with the program, explaining that two volunteer coaches formed the team from prior relationships and held one tryout. "All 12 players on the roster are current sixth-grade

students at Acton Middle School," he explained. "Each player received a jersey and hat for the tournament, created by the coaches. They also earned a ring for winning the championship." The team roster from AMS's team for this year's Middle School Madness is listed below:

- #9 Hudson Handy
 - #10 Brooks Burcie
 - #11 Crue Wisdom
 - #16 Eli Sanchez
 - #19 Aubrey Heimer
 - #22 Cooper Gill
 - #25 Bowen Bleeker
 - #44 McCoy Fabrizio
 - #99 Branton Pugh
- Coaches: Jaime Handy and Derek Gill

Lady Rattlers captured magic

Tolar VB has historic playoff run

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News
In 2005, when she was known as Misty Uchacz, Tolar coach Misty Rhodes made history by starting the school's first volleyball program. In 2013 she left coaching volleyball to focus on cross country and her family. In 2019 she returned to the helm, and now she has taken the program into more history. The Lady Rattlers had their best postseason run ever, advancing to the Class 2A Region I finals before being eliminated by defending

state champion Windthorst. "After having our youngest son and coaching volleyball for one season, it was too much for me and my family," Rhodes explained. "When they (administration) asked me if I would consider volleyball (again), there had been a lot of turnover in the girls athletic program. Our youngest son was old enough at that point, so I was able to, so my husband and I decided we could make it work." The volleyball program, though successful for the

PLEASE SEE **MAGIC** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tolar Lady Rattlers volleyball team enjoyed their best playoff run ever, reaching the finals of the Class 2A Region I tournament.

Pirate senior made his dream come true, kept promise to mom

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News
Amber Zapata remembers her son Augie making a declaration when he was only a youth. While watching the Granbury Pirates play a homecoming game, he told her it would be him out on that same field someday. "It's every boy's dream to play at that level and he made a verbal promise to himself and me when he was

in peewee (football) that he'd play on that field when he got to high school," Amber recalled. "My response was we'd see when he got there — and did we ever!" Not only did Augie keep his promise, he played on Johnny Perkins Field at Pirate Stadium for four years on the varsity. He recently concluded his career as a Pirate, playing for the final time on the field he loved so much on Oct. 27.

GETTING STARTED
Augie remembers being

envious of some of his peers when he was young. They were playing youth football and he desperately wanted to join them, but at the time the sport was simply too expensive for his family. "When everyone was talking about it, I was that kid without a jersey," Augie said. "I'd see kids with the jerseys and their name on it and I said, 'I want that.'" Then, when he was in the fourth grade, he told his mom yes, he could play. From that moment on he proved her decision to be a correct

one as he has steadily stood out in the sport. "He always wanted to play for the right reason — enjoy and have fun," Pirates head coach Sonny Galindo said. "He's still that fourth-grader in that respect." Unlike youth football, Augie found himself on the varsity in his very first year in high school. As a freshman he unwittingly made an impression on the varsity coaches.

PLEASE SEE **PIRATE** | B4



COURTESY OF SONNYZW

Augie Zapata got his mother's permission to play varsity as a freshman and left quite an impression on the program in his four years.

Lady Pirate volleyball announces all-district awards



COURTESY GRANBURY ISD

The Granbury High School 2023 District 5-5A volleyball season awards for the Lady Pirates were announced the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 7, with 16 students recognized for their athletic and academic achievements.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Granbury High School 2023 District 5-5A volleyball season awards for the Lady Pirates were announced the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 7, with 16 students recognized for their athletic and academic achievements.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED INCLUDE:

- Defensive Player of the Year
- Lily McCall, junior, libero
- First Team All-District
- Allyson McCabe, junior, setter
- Sienna Watts, junior, outside hitter
- Second Team All-District
- Kylie Moody, senior, middle blocker
- Blakely Bleeker, junior,

- right side
- Honorable Mention
- All-District
- Brooke Marak, senior, middle blocker
- Bailey Blum, senior, defensive specialist
- Rachael Poirier, senior, outside hitter

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

- Blakely Bleeker
- Bailey Blum
- Addi Cowlingz

- Lauren Franco
- Audrey Greinert
- Megan James
- Peyton Johnson
- Brooke Marak
- Allyson McCabe
- Lily McCall
- Kylie Moody
- Masyn Noe
- Nicole Petschel
- Rachael Poirier
- Esmeralda Rios
- Sienna Watts

"I'm very proud of our

girls this season," Desiree Shahan, head volleyball coach for the Granbury Lady Pirates, said in an email to the HCN. "They truly put in the work, and it paid off! We ended up having one player get a superlative award, two players on First Team All-District, two players on Second Team All-District, three Honorable Mentions and then 16 of our girls made Academic All-District. We are in a very

tough district and I'm very proud of our girls for getting the achievements that they did."

The Granbury Lady Pirates qualified for the UIL Class 5A Playoffs this season and advanced to the second round after a bidistrict win over Arlington Heights.

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Granbury High School MCJROTC student receives scholarship

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

After a Veteran's Day event on Nov. 10 at Granbury High School, a GHS Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps student received a four-year Marine option scholarship worth \$180,000. The scholarship was presented to Cadet Sgt. Maj. Johnathan Hutchison by the United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station of Fort Worth.

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Program (Navy ROTC-Marine Option Scholarship) is a multi-year program that runs concurrently with a student's normal college or university educational course of study. In addition to a normal academic workload leading to a baccalaureate degree, Navy ROTC Marine Option students attend classes in naval science, participate in the Navy ROTC unit for drill, physical training and other activities, and are generally taught the leadership principles and high ideals of a military officer.

"In this most recent selection board, there were more than 250 applicants from the Fort Worth area and only 15 were selected, which included Johnathan.



PHOTO BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School MCJROTC Cadet Sergeant Major Johnathan Hutchinson received a four-year Marine option scholarship that is worth \$180,000 on Nov. 10.

Stellar academics and superior physical training are essential to being select-

ed for this scholarship," Granbury High School ROTC Instructor Johnny Rositas

said. Marine Option applicants are also required to

complete the Marine Corps physical fitness test (PFT). The PFT consists of maxi-

mum pullups, max amount of crunches in two minutes, and timed three-mile run. Other factors that affect selection are community service, participation in high school extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation from teachers.

"Every day I try to promote integrity, discipline, honor and the first amendment," Hutchison said.

During the summer break between school years, Navy ROTC students participate in a variety of training activities. These sessions help students understand various career options as well as familiarize them with military life.

High school students who have completed less than 30 college credits can be submitted for the scholarship prior to graduating high school.

"Johnathan has been a truly amazing student for a very long time. He is taking challenging courses, demonstrates a heart for service and patriotism, and is always leading by example," GHS Principal Jamie Robinson said. "His commitment to being his best and bringing out the best in others is one of his best qualities and I see an amazing future ahead of him as a leader."

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SAME PAPER

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Tolar quartet defensive about success

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Snake Farm in Tolar is a dangerous place for visiting football teams, and four senior defenders lay in wait to lead a team of Rattlers ready to bite any opposing offenses.

Safeties Clayton Stembridge and Garrison Nation have been on the varsity four seasons. Cornerback Braylen Rice is in his second season on the varsity and outside linebacker Jaxon Riddle joined the varsity this season after moving in from Glen Rose following his sophomore season.

"My freshman year I wouldn't say we were amazing, but I wasn't either," Nation said of his and the Rattlers' growth in the past four seasons. "We've just put it all together."

Tolar head coach Jeremy Mullins said of the group, "Those four are certainly solid in regard to their leadership. They lead by example."

That includes academically, Mullins said. "And they're all good in

class. They handle their business in the classroom as well as on the field," he said.

GARRISON/STEMBRIDGE

Nation and Stembridge have helped the Rattlers to much success since they came to high school. The 2020 team was 5-7 and reached the second of the playoffs, followed by 10-3 and the third round, 13-1 and state quarterfinals last year and at press time this season they were 10-1 and ranked third in the state.

At press time, Tolar had outscored its opponents 511-110 with three shutouts and three other times holding an opponent to a touchdown or less.

"I still remember the first scrimmage, first game, first play," Stembridge said. "We all saw it come together. We saw it developing."

"I had a shoulder to lean on with Garrison, and he had one with me, with both of us being so young and already on varsity."

Stembridge relied on his friend a lot after tearing his

ACL in his knee going into his sophomore year. He said the injury, however, "made me stronger and mentally tougher."

He won't get much of an argument. Through the first 11 games of this season, on defense Stembridge had 62 tackles, including seven for a loss, with five interceptions (one returned for a touchdown) and two fumble recoveries. On offense he had 19 catches for 315 yards and four touchdowns.

Nation has also shone on double duty. Defensively, he had 50 tackles (3 for a loss) and an interception. As running back, he picked up much of the slack when regular starter Peyton Brown went down after the first game with an ankle injury, rushing for 611 yards and 13 TD on 73 carries, along with catching seven passes for 204 yards and three more scores.

Both are also threats on special teams. Nation has returned two punts for touchdowns and Stembridge has a punt and kickoff returned for a score.

Last season Stembridge was

first-team All-District 5-2A Division I at defensive back and Nation was second team at the same position. Mullins noted that both have only gotten better since.

"I'd be willing to say they are two of the best safeties in the state," Mullins said.

Nation said looking back at their freshman season, "It seems like it's a long way, but here we are."

Stembridge said after his sophomore season a realization sat in with the team that continues to this day.

"It's way special. That 10-3 team looked at each other and said, 'We're pretty good,'" he said.

RICE

Rice made an instant impression when he joined the varsity last season and as of the time of this article's writing, he had helped the Rattlers to 23 wins in 25 games.

"I feel like it all of a sudden really clicked for me," Rice said. "I'm really grateful for being on a team this good."

No doubt his teammates

and coaches are grateful also. Through the first 11 games of this season, Rice had 37 tackles with three interceptions and two fumble recoveries - one for a TD. He also had a receiving TD.

RIDDLE

Like Rice, Riddle wasted no time in establishing himself as a top player once he landed a varsity roster spot. Through the first playoff game he had 75 tackles, six for a loss, with an interception and fumble recovery.

"I was ready to roll when I got to varsity this season," he said. "Pretty much the first day I walked into the weight room I felt like was part of a family from Day 1."

COLLEGE/WRAPPING UP HIGH SCHOOL

Riddle has decided not to play in college, Nation and Rice are undecided and Stembridge is interested in continuing to play after this season.

"I'd like to. There's always a chance," he said.

One thing that is out of their control, however, is their time as Tolar football players is nearing an end - even if they go on to win a state championship.

"I have not stopped to think about that," Nation said.

"I've kinda thought about it, but I just don't focus on it right now," Rice added.

Though it's only been one varsity season, Riddle is happy that he got to ride, albeit a short one.

"Everything's gotta come to an end. I'm just real grateful to be on a team like this," he said. "To be on a team like Tolar is really something special."

Stembridge said the realization of the end of his Rattlers career is something he's trying to put off as long as he can - hopefully until mid-December and the final game is played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"I know it's coming," Stembridge said. "But for now I just want to share these special moments."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announces the winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts

Submitted item

TPWD has notified the 14 winners of their random selection from the pool of 144,274 entries, which raised more than \$1.3 million to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting across the state. Specific examples of how the funds support the TPWD mission can be found online.

"Big Time Texas Hunts continues to be an impor-

tant conservation fundraiser for TPWD, and we greatly appreciate the support of our Texas hunters who purchase entries each year," said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. "If a hunter is lucky enough to win, they will experience the hunt of a lifetime. If they don't win, they can feel good knowing the funds from their entry go directly to wildlife conservation and public access projects

on public hunting lands in Texas."

Stephen Frederick Vobach of Dallas, winner of the Texas Grand Slam hunting package, is making plans for four separate guided hunts for the state's top four premier big game species — desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn and mule deer.

Winners from other categories include: Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt

— Joseph Kevin Leago, League City

— Nilgai Antelope Safari — William R. Defriend, Groesbeck

— Premium Buck Hunt — Brett Edgar Culver, Fort Worth

— Exotic Safari — Wesley R. Young, Leander

— Whitetail Bonanza — Jay Paul Kasper, Shiner; Mark W. Lowrance, Garden City, Kansas; Roger E. Hunter, Salado; Paul Graham

Hicks, Fort Worth; Gerald Muhammad, Lantana

— Big Time Bird Hunt — Gabriel Gonzalez, New Braunfels

— Gator Hunt — Nathaniel August Priess, Granbury

— Powderhorn Cast and Blast — Brandon Garcia, Houston

— Wild Hog Adventure — Matthew C. Dickson, Midland
"We want to congratulate the winners, but also thank all the hunters who bought an entry this year," said Janis

Johnson, TPWD marketing manager. "They are the ones who helped us raise over \$1.3 million from entry sales for Big Time Texas Hunts to support wildlife management, research and conservation efforts in Texas."

Entries for next year's Big Time Texas Hunts go on sale May 15, 2024.

Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.

MAGIC
FROM PAGE B1

most part, went through four coaches before Rhodes returned.

ON A ROLL

And it has indeed been working as Rhodes has led the Lady Rattlers to the post-season in each year since her return, highlighted by this season. After finishing second in District 8-2A, the Lady Rattlers reeled off four consecutive playoff victories to finish among the top eight teams in the state, knocking off three district champions in the process.

In bidistrict they swept Quannah, the third-place team from District 7-2A, 3-0. They followed that with a 3-2 win over District 5-2A winner Miles.

Then came a 3-1 victory against 6-2A winner Hawley. In the regional semifinals, the Lady Rattlers defeated District 2-2A winner Ropes.

"I am most proud of the strength of their mental game," Rhodes said, praising this season's Lady Rattlers. "At times in the past when a couple of us got down we couldn't overcome as a team. We didn't allow this to happen during our playoff run."

"They lifted each other up by reminding one another of

their capabilities and pushing each other to be better. Senne Imel was instrumental in balancing us out in these situations. She was our rock, our consistency, the voice on the court that steadied us."

LOOKING AHEAD

Imel, a junior, is one of many reasons Rhodes and folks in Tolar are optimistic about the possibility of making even more history next season. The Lady Rattlers only had two seniors on the roster this season, Maddie Rue and Trinity Rousseau.

"Even though we ended with a loss I can say that this season was still a win. This team has made history and

it is an honor to be a part of it," junior Ally Dobbs said.

"Looking back at the beginning of the season I can barely recognize us now. We have grown in so many ways as people, teammates, and athletes. We have grown from an average team to a strong family."

"Unfortunately the two seniors we are losing are a big part of this team's success and will be greatly missed. Being able to look up to them these past three years is an honor to me."

"That being said, I can't wait to see how we will continue to grow and can't wait to welcome next year's newcomers. We have built a foun-

ation for future Tolar teams and I fully believe that we will continue to build off of it."

Rhodes also praised "the heart that each member of this team brought to the court."

"I am sad the season has come to an end but losing to a team like Windthorst playing as hard and with as much fight, passion, heart and determination as we did, I cannot be disappointed," she continued.

"But it's not just their performance athletically that makes me so proud. It's their character, their sportsmanship, and their belief in themselves and each other. These girls are role models, inspir-

ing young Lady Rattlers with their achievements and by their admirable character."

ALL-DISTRICT

The Lady Rattlers were well-represented on the All-District 8-2A Team, selected by the league's coaches and before their playoff run.

Tolar had three superlative honors, with Rousseau being named Libero of the Year and Rue collecting Offensive Player of the Year. Also, Allie Terrell was picked as Newcomer of the Year.

Imel and Abbie Soileau were named first-team, with Kamryn Kolb, Kinzy McQuain, Lily DeWitt and Ally Dobbs on the second team.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Nov. 18 (Puzzle 57).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Unleashing the power of mobile photography: iPhone camera settings to take your mobile photography to the next level

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

INTRODUCTION TO IPHONE CAMERA CONTROLS

Granbury, a town rich in history and natural beauty, offers endless opportunities for photographers of all skill levels. The awesome thing about today's mobile devices is that practically all of us are walking

around with the ability to capture the moments and beauty that's around us every single day! By mastering your iPhone's camera controls, you can be ready to capture the essence of local landmarks like the historic Granbury Square or the serene Granbury Lake with ease!

BASIC CAMERA FUNCTIONS

Start your photographic

journey at the Granbury Opera House. Open your iPhone camera and switch between the rear and front cameras to capture both the intricate exterior and your excited expression. Use the zoom feature to focus on architectural details, creating a memory of Granbury's artistic heritage.

FOCUS AND EXPOSURE

Visit the Hood County Courthouse, a perfect subject to practice manual focus and exposure adjustments. Tap on different parts of the courthouse on your screen to see how the focus shifts, enhancing details. Adjust the exposure to capture the play of sunlight on the historic bricks, bringing out the textures.

ADVANCED CAMERA MODES

Explore the Dinosaur Valley State Park and experiment with various camera modes. Use the Pano mode to capture the vastness of the park, or switch to Time-Lapse to record the subtle changes of light over the Paluxy River. These modes can add a dynamic perspective to your Granbury story.

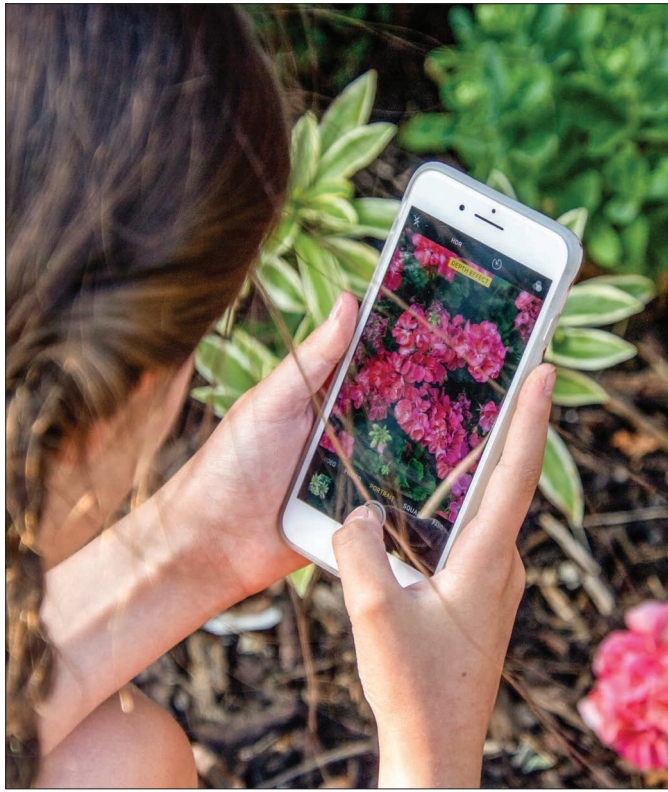
LIVE PHOTOS AND FILTERS

Stroll along Granbury City Beach and use Live Photos to capture the movement of the waves. Experiment with filters to reflect the mood of the day, whether it's a



COURTESY PHOTO

With these tips and your iPhone in hand, you're ready to explore and capture the unique beauty of Hood County



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury, a town rich in history and natural beauty, offers endless opportunities for photographers of all skill levels.

sunny afternoon or a cloudy evening, adding an artistic touch to your beachside memories.

HDR (HIGH DYNAMIC RANGE)

The Brazos Drive-in Theater, with its vibrant colors against the evening sky, is an ideal place to use HDR. This feature will help you balance the bright sky and the darker foreground, ensuring your photos of this classic Granbury landmark are evenly exposed.

FLASH AND NIGHT MODE

When night falls over Lake Granbury, use your iPhone's Night mode to capture the beauty of the lake under the stars. The flash can be useful for close-up shots of local flora and fauna during your evening walks along the lake.

ADDITIONAL TIPS AND TRICKS

Finally, don't forget to use the volume button on your iPhone to take photos when you're on a boat tour of the lake — it's much easier than

trying to tap the screen. And explore third-party camera apps to discover even more creative possibilities in Granbury's picturesque settings.

With these tips and your iPhone in hand, you're ready to explore and capture the unique beauty of Hood County. Whether it's the historic landmarks, natural landscapes, or everyday moments, your iPhone is a powerful tool to document the world around you. Happy shooting!

PIRATE

FROM PAGE B1

Augie had just finished playing in a scrimmage with other freshmen and was preparing to shower and go back out to watch the junior varsity and varsity scrimmage. Then, a fellow player came to him with a message.

"He said, 'You're supposed to be out there.' So I put my sweaty clothes back on," he recalled.

He went back out onto the field and played with the JV — but that wasn't the end of his night.

"I'm getting undressed again and this kid named Aaron Cohen came up. He said, 'Come on, you're supposed to play varsity.'"

Before Augie could do so, however, then Pirates head coach Chad Zschiesche needed permission from Amber.

"He called my mom in the stands and asked if I could play. She was uncertain," Augie said. "I could tell she had some concern. I was a 14-year-old playing varsity, but she said I could."

"We've always seen his talent, but we're shocked. Dad and Augie voted yes, and I agreed to give him a shot," she said. "He was completely worn out but still managed to impress everyone."

"A couple of days later I received a phone call from the

head coach stating that during his career, he'd only encountered a handful of kids as a freshman that had what it takes to play on varsity and that Augie had it."

Though she said yes, Amber admitted being a nervous wreck.

"I'd always been adamant that he wouldn't play that young at that level. Augie wanted it bad enough to ride the bench at 14 if that's what it took, and Dad agreed," she said. "So I was simply outvoted."

HITTING IT OFF

Her concern didn't lessen when, during the team's second preseason scrimmage of his freshman season Augie received what he still calls the hardest hit he's ever received.

"I got hit so hard I was crying," he remembered, even pausing a moment at the recollection.

In fact, he thought his time on the varsity was going to be short-lived.

"I thought there's no way they're going to want me up here now," he said. "I got back up. My head was hurting. I thought I was dying."

"Usually I was laying the hits. I was humbled real quick. It made me a better football player."

Galindo, an assistant then, remembers the moment well. He said Augie's response to

that hit is part of what solidified his spot on the varsity. "Using the word 'tough' is very appropriate," Galindo said. "He wasn't scared of the contact. He loves the game."

DIFFERENT POSITIONS

In junior high, Augie played running back and linebacker. However, he said he always had a knack for doing the hitting instead of getting hit.

"I always liked defense more, but I also enjoyed offense," he said. "I just always liked being the one who was making a big play on defense."

He's certainly made plenty of those, no matter what position he's played. Over the past two seasons he played safety, outside linebacker, inside linebacker and defensive end.

In the 2023 season, he led the Pirates in tackles for loss (8) and sacks (6), posting 36 tackles in all.

MORE THAN WHAT'S ON FIELD

Augie said he learned more than how to be a good football player from the sport. He also learned how to be his best as a person.

"I think one of the biggest benefits is trying to be a great young man, maturity and facing challenges," he said. "Treat people like you want to



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Augie Zapata between turnovers on the rainy Friday Oct. 27 Game

be treated.

"Believe in your teammates, your coaches, and most of all in yourself."

Galindo said Augie also developed into a great leader for the program.

"He's more vocal than he gives himself credit for. If something needs to be said to make us better, he's going to open his mouth," Galindo said.

COLLEGE

At 5-feet-11 in height and 180 pounds and no football scholarship offers, Augie once again finds himself in a

position where he believes he can excel if some college team will give him a chance.

"I'd totally like a scholarship, but I feel like I could walk on," he said. "I really do want to play in college."

Augie said he plans to study either business or engineering.

Galindo said Augie would make whatever team accepts him better instantly, and not only on the field.

"If a college coach asks I'll tell them he's going to make you better in several ways. He's not going to be a grade issue or a discipline prob-

lem," Galindo said. "He's as fine a young man as you'll find. There's nothing fake about him. He was raised right by his mom and dad."

"Everybody associated with him will remember him."

Amber still recalls watching her baby take the field for his first varsity game. She marvels at how he progressed from that day to now.

"I remember sitting there watching him go out for the first time and being completely sick with nervousness," she said. "But he came, he saw and he conquered and we are so very proud of him."

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Empowered youth serving up justice

Hood County Teen Court provides students with real-world law experience



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury High School debate students talk with Hood County Justice of the Peace for Precinct #1 Roger Howell before a Hood County Teen Court last year.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Since 2011, a local peer-to-peer court has put justice in the hands of teens — allowing Hood County students to learn the inner workings of a courtroom while also practicing their speaking and critical thinking skills.

Hood County Teen Court was first implemented by the Hood County Substance Abuse Council to offer teens a second chance at a clean record following a Class C misdemeanor citation.

“Teen Court is real, actual court for teenagers,” said Shyller Byrom, Granbury High School debate teacher. “Those kiddos go to their Justice of the Peace and plead guilty to their ticket, and then depending on who their judge is or what the ticket was for, they sometimes are offered the opportunity to do Teen Court. If they do choose to do Teen Court, it’s a benefit for them because it doesn’t go on their record.”

Byrom explained that each case is then put on the docket and her debate class will interview the teen to get a better understanding of what occurred before her students present the case to

a jury — also consisting of teenagers.

Typically, two students from Byrom’s debate class will serve as prosecutors and two students will serve as defendants for each case.

“Sometimes they will swap around,” she said. “I may have eight kids that are serving as attorneys, but usually it’s just four and they may flip flop back and forth. But as I have a bunch of new freshmen that want to get in the rotation, we will put them with a varsity person and sort of tutor them into the system, so I may have several kids in the rotation that evening that are gonna be in the chair at any given time.”

Byrom explained that her debate students do not have to serve in Teen Court, but several choose to — especially if they wish to pursue a law degree in the future.

“We do it as volunteer service,” she explained. “We do take a little bit of class time to interview clients, but it’s not really a requirement for the class (itself).”

Hood County Teen Court takes place on the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Ralph H. Walton, Jr. Justice Center, with as many as five cases taking place in the court-

room on that day.

Class C misdemeanors in Teen Court can range anywhere from a traffic violation, like speeding or driving without a license, to minor possession of an illegal substance or alcohol.

Byrom said the program is mainly for students in high school, although one time a 13-year-old had to go to Teen Court for shining a laser at a helicopter.

“Back in the day (we) used to (have cases involving) truancy, but now the law has changed so kids don’t get truancy tickets anymore; their parents get the ticket,” she said. “We don’t get to have those anymore, but those were interesting.”

Following the presentation of the case — with both the prosecution side and the defendant side getting to ask the defendant questions — members of the jury will head to another room to decide on the verdict.

Sentences for the defendant include community service hours and a requirement to serve as a future juror. Community service hours can range anywhere from six to 60 for each offense. Community service work sites must also be picked from the list of approved community partners.

Byrom explained that students with a serious offense could receive more community service hours in the verdict, along with a requirement to serve as a juror more than once.

“We have a chart, but (it all depends) on the level of offense,” she said. “In addition to the community service, these defendants have to come back and sit on the jury again. They’re paying it back, so they get to be on the other side, and see what it feels like to be in that jury room.”

While the prosecutors, defendants, and jury are all teenagers in Teen Court, the JPs in each precinct take turns serving as judges for the cases, while the constables rotate in serving as bailiffs and security.

Teen Court is especially beneficial for students who want to become attorneys in the future, like Granbury High School senior Katie Morrison, who’s been involved in the program for three years.

“I joined the debate team, and I thought it was so cool, because I was convinced my whole life I was going to be a lawyer,” she said. “My first time I was on the prosecution, and I loved it so much, I still do prosecution every

time.”

Morrison said she loves serving as a prosecutor because it allows her to be “the bad guy” without any social repercussions.

“It’s a mock trial, and most people — if not everybody — at some point goes to court, whether they’re behind the stand, or they’re on the jury,” she said. “I think the most important part is the jury because although it is fun to be an attorney, the jury is actually just random people as it would be in real life, so they get to learn that, and they get to experience it.”

She added that Teen Court is a great way to get service hours and it prepares students for the real world.

“I feel as if politics in law has become so demonized, but then you get in there and it’s like, ‘This really isn’t so bad,’” Morrison said.

GHS sophomore Lexi Scarpello has been involved with Teen Court for about a year now; her passion to become a lawyer is what inspired her to volunteer to be on the jury for her first case.

“I really enjoyed it, so I try to (volunteer for Teen Court) every time,” she said.

Unlike Morrison, Scarpello said she normally chooses to serve as the defense attorney.

“I think defense is a lot of fun, because the clients already pled guilty, so everyone is going in with a preconception in their mind that that person is in the wrong,” Scarpello explained. “I think it’s more gratifying when you win the case or when the case slants your way, because everybody there is already thinking that they want to give the maximum sentence when they walk in, so I think it’s fun to have everyone there against you.”

Scarpello said through Teen Court, she has learned how the legal system works and how to expand her speaking and social skills.

“You do have to give a speech in front of a bunch of random people that you’ve never seen before,” she said. “It’s definitely a little stressful, but it’s really fun.”

Byrom said since she joined GHS in 2004, five of her debate students have gone on to pursue a law degree and career.

“As a debate coach, they’re exercising their speaking skills, they’re exercising

their critical thinking skills, they’re exercising their questioning skills,” she said. “I love getting those phone calls, or those kids showing up at Christmas dinner and saying, ‘Guess what? I got my bar card!’”

She said rule number one for her students in the courtroom is: don’t ask a question you don’t already know the answer to.

“Don’t ask questions that are unfriendly to your client, or that will not accomplish your goal,” Byrom said. “If you’re on defense, and you know that your client has failed a grade or makes bad grades in school, you wouldn’t want to ask them that question because that’s gonna make them look bad and that’s your client; you’re trying to protect your client.

Prosecutors also need to ask leading questions, and that’s a skill, remembering to frame the question. ‘You knew the speed limit, didn’t you?’ ‘You’ve driven this road before, haven’t you?’ Those kinds of questions are leading questions and prosecution needs to be asking those questions, so that’s something that we practice a lot.”

Although many volunteers for Hood County Teen Court are from GHS, Byrom explained that any student in Hood County can serve as a lawyer or as a juror, including those who attend Tolar and Lipan ISDs.

“We really, really encourage our neighboring towns, like Tolar and Lipan, to send us jurors,” she said. “I’ve had a couple of times when Tolar kids have come and been attorneys with us, so the whole thing is open to all of Hood County, and we want everybody to know that.”

To be eligible for Teen Court, students must be under the age of 18 or enrolled in high school or GED classes. They also must not be currently enrolled or have completed any Teen Court program previously.

A parent or guardian must also be present during all court proceedings.

For more information about Hood County Teen Court, visit hoodcosac.org/teen-court/ online.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury High School debate students volunteering as defense and prosecutor attorneys for Hood County Teen Court pose for a photo last year after former Hood County Justice of the Peace for Precinct #2 Martin Castillo presided over his last court cases in December.



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State rolls UNT Dallas in home opener

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE -- Five scored in double-figures as Tarleton State downed UNT Dallas, 92-53 on Saturday, Nov. 11 in its regular home opener at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (2-1) returned to Stephenville making a statement against 10-year NBA veteran Josh Howard's UNT Dallas Trailblazers (1-2).

After the game, fans gathered for over 30 minutes to meet and obtain autographed poster schedules from the players showing their appreciation to the fans for coming out and supporting them.

"It was a great crowd... They [the fans] always over-achieve and we certainly do appreciate that," said coach Billy Gillispie after the game. "Our guys love to play for them and we are so lucky to have them. It was a big crowd for us... These fans, they really do make a difference."

KiAndre Gaddy led the team in scoring for the first time this season, notching 20 along with seven boards.

For the third-straight game, Devon Barnes scored in double figures, recording a season-high, 17, paired with a team-leading five as-

sists. He shot five-for-five from the charity stripe increasing his season-total to a perfect 13-for-13. The newcomer shot four-for-six from beyond the arc notching all four three-pointers made by the Texans.

Lue Williams tallied his first double-double of his Texan career with 16 points and 10 boards. Emmanuel Innocenti brought down a season-high 13 boards and two steals.

Once again, the bench contributed with two double-digit scoring totals marking the eighth-straight game that a Texan scored 10-plus off the bench. Izzy Miles recorded 11 and Dario Domingos added 10 in his Texan debut.

Neither team scored in the first two minutes, with UNT Dallas putting points on the board first at the 17:41 mark. After that, it was all Texans. Just 30 ticks later, the Texans tied the game at two on an Innocenti bucket to spark a 7-2 run in just 1:07. UNT Dallas cut it to 7-6 at 15:02, when the Texans broke it open. Four different scorers for the Texans creating a 11-0 run to give Tarleton an 18-6 lead at the midpoint of the half.

The Texans didn't take their foot off the gas to end



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans (2-1) returned to Stephenville making a statement against 10-year NBA veteran Josh Howard's UNT Dallas Trailblazers (1-2).

the half heading into the break leading 49-32. Barnes scored 14 in the first half to lead all scorers. Innocenti tied his season-high in rebounds in the first half with seven. The Texans shot 14-for-16 from the foul line, an 87.5 percent clip.

In the second half, the

Texans outscored the Trailblazers, 44-20. The Texans opened the half on a 13-4 run enlarging the lead to 62-36 just after the under-16 media timeout.

In a six-minute span in the middle of the final 20 minutes, the Texans broke out on a 16-2 run extending

the lead to 81-43 with 6:06 remaining.

Gaddy scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half including an explosive dunk that lifted the fans to their feet in the final minute of action.

Tarleton shot 33-for-63, a 52.5 percent rate, marking

the Texans 25th-straight win when shooting 50 percent or better from the field. The Texans won the battle of the boards, 44-26. For the first time this season, Tarleton won the turnover battle, 19-13. The Purple and White scored 20 points off those turnovers.

Tarleton State Volleyball deals Abilene Christian University its second loss at home this week before heading into the WAC Tournament

Tarleton State University

Abilene — The Texans took down the Wildcats on Monday, Nov. 13 for the second time this season

to head into the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament as the sixth seed.

Tarleton State claimed the first two sets 26-24 and 25-

17. ACU took set three with a 25-22 final and the Texans closed out the match, stealing the fourth set, 25-19.

Tarleton State is now 16-14 overall and 7-9 in confer-

ence after putting down the Wildcats. ACU is now 11-17 overall and 6-10 in conference play. The victory over Abilene Christian will see the Texans going into the conference tournament as the sixth seed and ACU as eighth.

Rajini Fitzmaurice led the team in kills and tied her season high (22). Kenzie Kellerman and Fitzmaurice each added three aces for the Texans. Megan Hodges amassed 24 assists on the match and Melina Maldonado and Ortiz compiled 19.

Allison Bryant led the defense with three blocks and Emma Burke and Madison Frank each tallied two. The two-time reigning WAC Libero of the Week, Matti Theurer, compiled 29 digs for a new season high. Kellerman added 12 digs for the Texans and Maldonado Ortiz ended with 10.

The opening frame saw Tarleton State first on the board with a kill from

Breanna McDonough. The first set saw seven lead changes and nine ties. Down by six points with a 19-13 score in favor of the home team, a 7-0 scoring run from the Texans claimed the lead. With 22 on the board for the Wildcats, the visitors took the next three consecutive points to lead by two. Abilene Christian tallied two to tie the set but an error from the home team and a kill from Grayson Schirpik sealed the deal on the first set for a 26-24 final in favor of Tarleton State.

The Wildcats took the first point to start off the second set. ACU held the lead until point seven when the Texans took off with a five-score run to see the home team down by three at 10-7. The remainder of the set was controlled by Tarleton State with a 6-0 run to put the Texans ahead by eight points. Three more points saw visitors up, 23-13. Fitzmaurice and Schirpik

closed out the set with a pair of kills to see a 25-17 ending.

Abilene Christian took the first point to start off the third set but the next four were claimed by Tarleton State. A 4-0 scoring-run for Tarleton State showed the Texans up 15-10. At point 18 for the visitors, the Wildcats took the next seven points to take the lead at 21-18. The Texans didn't back down and tied the set at the 22nd point but the next three went to the home team to close out set three at 25-22.

The fourth and final set was a neck-and-neck battle for the first six points with six ties. A block from Burke and Bryant put Tarleton State up by one and they held the lead the remainder of the time. With the home team down by one point at 20-19, a pair of kills from Fitzmaurice began a 5-0 run for the Texans to see a 25-19 final set and a 3-1 final for the night in Moody.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans took down the Wildcats on Monday, Nov. 13 for the second time this season to head into the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament as the sixth seed.

Tarleton forward Andjela Bigovic named WAC's first Newcomer of the Week

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Following a commanding season-opening win and great efforts at Texas Tech and New Mexico, the Western Athletic Conference rewarded the Tarleton State women's basketball team with one of its two weekly honors.

The WAC announced on Monday that Texan forward Andjela Bigovic was named the WAC Women's Basketball Newcomer of the Week after the first week of games from Nov. 6-12.

Bigovic, a transfer from Cochine College, averaged 10.0 points, 8.3 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.3 blocks

across three games this past week.

Her best game was on Sunday at New Mexico, where she posted 12 points, 16 rebounds, three assists, two steals and two blocks. It marked Tarleton State's first double-double of the season. Her 16 rebounds are the most in a game by a Texan in over six years, last accomplished by Mackenzie Hailey vs. Western New Mexico on Feb. 4, 2017. It's the tied-13th most amount of rebounds in a game at the NCAA Division I level this season.

Bigovic tallied multiple blocks in each of the three games. She leads the team

in both rebounding (8.3 RPG) and blocks (2.3 BPG), and is second in assists at 3.3 APG.

Tarleton went 1-2 on the week, with a 106-38 win vs. Howard Payne, a close 70-63 road loss at Texas Tech, and a close 64-55 road loss at New Mexico.

The WAC's Newcomer of the Week award is one of two weekly awards the conference will distribute all season. The other, the WAC WBB Player of the Week honor, was distributed to Utah Tech's Breanna Gillen this week.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Following a commanding season-opening win and great efforts at Texas Tech and New Mexico, the Western Athletic Conference rewarded the Tarleton State women's basketball team with one of its two weekly honors.

HOOD OUTDOORS

Dress for the weather



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

The colder water continues to bring on the striped bass, largemouth bass, crappie and the big catfish action across our area lakes. Many seasoned anglers are prepared, however even the seasoned angler or hunter needs to keep their guard up. One mistake and a tragedy can occur. The cold water can take your life.

Every year I take folks out on the water who are not dressed for the trip. Some days it doesn't appear to be that cold from the bank, but when you start down the lake it will be cold. Luckily I keep an extra jacket or two just in case. It may not be enough, but it is better than nothing. It is always good to dress in layers and bring more than you need. I know you all have heard that before, but it is a good philosophy.

It is true that once the fish start biting you will likely forget about the cold. However, it is really important to stay warm. Being exposed to the elements in an open boat can be tough and dangerous. You hunters have the same problem sitting in those open stands. Somehow though, the water always seems to be colder.

I recommend a set of insulated coveralls, a jacket to break the wind, some good, insulated boots, something to cover the head, and some good gloves. If rain is in the forecast, make sure your coveralls are rain proof or bring a rain suit. You do not want to be wet and cold.

This can be dangerous as well.

Wool socks help tremendously with a good set of boots. The first body parts to get cold for most folks are the feet and the hands. If you keep these warm you will have a great time on the water. It is a little tough to remove fish, tie knots and do miscellaneous chores with gloves on. Some of these tasks can be mastered with gloves on, other tasks may require removing the gloves and putting them back on as soon as possible. Keep a towel handy to dry your hands before you put the gloves back on.

The inexpensive chemical hand warmers can be placed in your shoes/boots and gloves to keep you warmer. Many folks use these religiously. I have found it is better for me to get accustomed to the conditions and there is less impact to me versus going from hot to cold repeatedly. If you have a good set of gloves and boots you can keep warm without the warmers. There is even battery-powered clothing available to keep you warm if your budget



COURTESY PHOTO

A set of insulated coveralls, a jacket to break the wind, some good, insulated boots, something to cover the head, and some good gloves. If rain is in the forecast, make sure your coveralls are rain proof or bring a rain suit. You do not want to be wet and cold. This can be dangerous as well.

can afford them.

The coldest weather has yet to come. When it does, there are other precautions you should take. The real cold weather may have other obstacles. Slippery icy or slick surfaces on the boat, dock and launch can be dangerous. A fall off the boat can be deadly in cold water as I alluded to earlier. Slips and falls can take you to the emergency room. Walk carefully and think about every step when the conditions call for it.

Cold windy days on the water may be the most dangerous especially if you are fishing on an elevated

deck or platform that is wet or slippery. Be careful and methodical on every move. Better to stay in the cockpit (in the gunnels).

Yes, you can be prepared and safe in the winter and have some of the best days chasing big fish. See you all on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the low 60s. Lake Granbury is full. Big blue and yellow catfish are good from in town to the upper ends on cut bait. Look for these big catfish on shallow flats just off

the channel. Striped bass to 10 pounds continue to be good on live bait and soft plastics worked near channel ledges or under the birds from near City Beach to the lower ends. Crappie catches on small minnows and jigs are good on submerged structure from Indian Harbor to the Peninsula area. Largemouth bass are good on swimbaits and crankbaits near creek entrances, main lake points and in the river near Tin Top. Some good top water action for schooling sand bass near Indian Harbor and DeCordova. Some schooling largemouth bass are reported to be in the same areas as

the sand bass.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to produce limits of channel catfish. Tilapia are abundant and can be caught on worms fished under a cork. Largemouth anglers are lining up to get on this power plant lake in the colder weather as the action is tremendous with some good fish to 8 pounds possible. Best baits are Texas-rigged soft plastics and drop shot rigs. Look for topwater early and late.

Whitney and Possum Kingdom continue to boast of limits of striped bass on trolled Alabama rigs and live bait. Look for the birds.

HCN

Junior

NATIONAL PLAY DAY WITH DAD

NOVEMBER 25

Kids and dads can enjoy a variety of activities together to create lasting memories and strengthen their bond. Here are some fun ideas:

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Go for a nature hike or a walk in the park.
- Have a picnic in the backyard or at a local park.
- Try fishing, biking, or flying a kite together.

SPORTS AND GAMES

- Play a game of catch or shoot some hoops.
- Join in a game of soccer or frisbee.
- Attend a local sports event or play miniature golf.

CREATIVE PROJECTS:

- Build a birdhouse or a model together.
- Have an art session with drawing, painting, or crafting.
- Create a scrapbook of special memories.

COOKING OR BAKING:

- Cook a meal or bake cookies as a team.
- Have a pizza-making night with various toppings.
- Make breakfast together on a lazy weekend morning.

READING AND STORYTIME:

- Take turns reading a book aloud.
- Visit the local library together.
- Create your own stories and illustrate them.

MOVIE OR GAME NIGHT

- Watch a favorite movie or have a movie marathon.
- Play video or board games that everyone enjoys.
- Build a blanket fort for an extra cozy experience.

SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION:

- Conduct simple science experiments at home.
- Visit a science museum or planetarium.
- Explore the backyard for bugs or interesting rocks.

MUSIC AND DANCE:

- Create a playlist together and have a dance party.
- Learn to play a musical instrument.
- Attend a live music performance or concert.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Volunteer together for a local charity or community event.
- Plant flowers or trees in a neighborhood park.
- Participate in a charity run or walk.

TECH TIME:

- Play video games together.
- Build something cool with LEGO or other building sets.
- Explore educational apps or websites.

Color Time

Did You Know?

Fathers and their children spending time together through play helps build strong bonds, creates lasting memories, and contributes to a child's emotional development.

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AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Texas Master Naturalist Program celebrates 25th Anniversary



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Devils River is a great example of the Beauty that the arid Trans Pecos region offers

Staff Reports

Over the last 25 years, more than 15,300 Texas Master Naturalist volunteers have made their mark by dedicating their time to helping protect and conserve the state's natural resources.

Their impact spans across more than 256,000 acres of Texas' landscapes from the lush tidal marshes of the Gulf Coast to the arid vistas of the Trans Pecos.

Established in 1998 as a partnership between the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Master Naturalist pro-

gram is the first naturalist program of its kind in the nation to be implemented on a statewide scale. It has served as the model for other states seeking to harness the power of volunteers for the benefit of their wild things and wild places.

"We really pulled together the strengths of both agencies to create this program," Michelle Haggerty, TPWD's Texas Master Naturalist state coordinator said.

The program has developed a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of Texas' natural resources and natural areas within

their local communities. The program comprises 49 chapters serving 213 counties across the state.

"On average, we have 6,000 active Master Naturalists contributing volunteer hours each year," Mary Pearl Meuth, Texas Master Naturalist assistant state coordinator with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service said. "Our volunteers help state agencies accomplish goals on a large scale."

In 2022, Texas Master Naturalists logged more than 515,000 volunteer hours, completing projects such as collecting research data, tagging monarch butterflies, leading guided

hikes, developing educational curriculums, providing small-acreage land management consultations and more.

To obtain the skills and knowledge needed to tackle these diverse projects, Master Naturalist trainees must successfully complete an approved training program through a Texas Master Naturalist chapter using the state-approved curriculum. This includes at least 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction.

Chapters hold training sessions during the spring or fall of each year, and no existing ecological knowledge or outdoor experience

is required to get involved.

"You don't need existing natural resource knowledge to become a Master Naturalist," Haggerty said. "All you need is the interest to get started."

To date, the Texas Master Naturalist program has reached more than 6 million people through educational programming, constructed more than 3,000 miles of trails and clocked 6.787 million service hours with an economic impact totaling over \$215 million.

The program has received more than 40 state and national awards, including:

The Bright Idea in Government Award from

Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

The Governor's Volunteer Award in Community Leadership from the OneStar Foundation.

The Keep Texas Beautiful Organizational Award.

The Civic and Community Environmental Excellence award from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

For more information about the program, go to TPWD's or AgriLife's Master Naturalist pages.

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SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS HCNEWS.COM



Teresa Houston creates Granbury ornament for the Texas Capitol



COURTESY PHOTO

Hood County Christmas for Children collects toys, clothes and gifts to give to children across the county for Christmas.

Hood County Christmas for Children works to give kids across the county a joyful Christmas

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Hood County Christmas for Children was first formed in 1994 and has been serving families across Hood County ever since.

The group participates in Operation School Supplies through Granbury ISD and collects toys, clothes and gifts to give to children across the county for Christmas.

If a family qualifies, they are able to sign up for three specific gifts per child.

"They get their three gifts with some stocking stuffers, but also every child gets hygiene products, a book, a blanket and various other items," HCCC President Shane Deshoutel said.

Deshoutel has been with the organization for five years and became a board member within two years of joining. He later served as vice president and is now in his second year as president.

"I was completely shocked when I saw how the program worked and I was actually introduced to this organization through Leadership Granbury. I saw how Christmas for Children operated and how many kids it was able to provide to," Deshoutel said. "Last year alone we were able to provide Christmas for 1,800 kids. We also take care of kids in the foster system. I'm a sucker to help out kids, so I immediately jumped in and signed up to be on the board."

The organization partners with the Salvation Army to purchase beds for kids in need. The group gave out over 80 beds last year according to Deshoutel.

They also raise money to purchase as many bikes as possible and assemble them. Last year the HCCC assembled around 200 bikes.

"We keep a rotating cycle so if a kid gets a bed, they can

PLEASE SEE **KIDS** | C5

Woman Across the Water

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

Warriors sometimes come in unexpected packages. Her Native American name is Woman Across the Water. Audricka Young has a quiet demeanor; she is gentle and humble, and this belies the fact she is a warrior, a mountain mover, like the water whose persistent waves change rock formations.

Young is living a life now she never would have imagined as a child. She sits on the council of chiefs of her tribe — the youngest female to do so — in a place of honor typically reserved for older members.

Young holds the positions of education director, storyteller, ceremony holder, water protector and language keeper for her indigenous culture. Young says each position holds, "certain responsibilities and certain blessings."

Originally Young's people are from Louisiana. Her earliest years were spent in Fort Worth. Her family moved to Granbury the summer before her kindergarten year after the death of Young's 13-year-old sister at the hands of a drunk driver. Young's parents wanted the safety of a smaller community. The kindergartener attended her first day of school on the day of her sister's memorial.

Only vaguely aware of her heritage growing up, Young remembers an elementary production for Thanksgiving where she was cast as a pilgrim. Something about it didn't feel right to her. It was then that her parents shared about her heritage.

Her parents explained that Louisiana was a melting pot of cultures: French, Black, Creole, and Indigenous cultures. They explained that some of these various heritages were part of her own identity.

"I started to connect to my heritage for the first time when I had to be a pilgrim and that is when I figured out that there was a whole aspect of myself that I was not connected to. I didn't fully understand what that meant to be connected to my Indigenous culture at that time."

Her Indigenous heritage comes from Young's father's side of her family. "My father was raised in the generation where you wanted to be anything other than Native. He lived his life that way. It wasn't until I began reconnecting with my heritage that he started to reconnect."

The information that she carried these Native genes appeared Young as a child but as she became a teenager, she struggled with spiritual identity, "I wasn't sure where to plant my feet." She felt she had the freedom to explore in a way her father didn't due to the time period in which he

PLEASE SEE **MOCS** | C3

Three sides of the ornament created by local artist Teresa Houston. It was chosen to represent Granbury and the rest of District 59.

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

Local artist Teresa Houston was chosen to create an ornament to represent Granbury and the rest of House District 59. The ornament will hang on the Christmas tree at the Texas capitol in Austin.

Houston was recommended by Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury. The request came from

Representative Shelby Slawson for the ornament to represent the 59th district.

Every year a different town is selected by the offices of the House districts. Granbury was last chosen in 2019 when artist Olivia Banz was chosen to provide the ornament for Mike Lang's office.

Overlapping her extensive work on the Harvest Moon Festival as president of the Granbury Arts Alliance, Houston barely had time to catch her breath after the festival before executing the ornament in time for the deadline.

When Houston received

PLEASE SEE **DIST. 59** | C5

Anne of Green Gables video auditions through Dec. 3

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

Granbury Theatre Company will accept video audition tapes for its production of "Anne of Green Gables" now through Sunday, Dec. 3. Callbacks will be Wednesday, Dec. 6 and rehearsals begin Saturday, Dec. 9.

"Anne of Green Gables" will be the first show of the new year for Granbury Theatre Company. The

play will run Friday, Jan. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 4.

Director of the show Tracie Griffiths is joined by assistant director Haley Twaddell and stage manager Victoria Minton-Tate for the "Anne of Green Gables" production.

Based on the novel by L.M. Montgomery, the story was adapted for stage by R.N. Sandberg. Originally published in 1908, the story follows an orphan girl named Anne Shirley on Canada's Prince Edward Island in the late 19th century.

The popular story has

been translated into at least 36 languages and has sold more than 50 million copies, making it one of the best-selling books worldwide. Montgomery wrote a series after the initial book that follows Anne's life.

In the original book Anne is sent from the orphanage to live with a brother and sister by mistake. Matthew Cuthbert and his sister Marilla had asked for a boy to help work their beautiful farm outside of picturesque Avonlea.

Spunky Anne cheerfully faces her adventures and

challenges with a surprising amount of self-confidence considering her sad background. Though Matthew likes Anne immediately, Marilla takes a bit more convincing.

"Anne of Green Gables" follows the relationships she forms at school, with the townspeople and with Matthew and Marilla.

All information available on the GTC website: granburytheatrecompany.org/anne-of-green-gables-auditions/

'They're never forgotten'

Wreaths Across America to honor, remember fallen veterans

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

The Hood County community will remember fallen veterans, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom through Acton Cemetery's annual Wreaths Across America ceremony beginning at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16.

EVENT DETAILS

Since 2016 — in conjunction with National Wreaths Across America Day — Acton Cemetery, located at 3629 Fall Creek Hwy., has participated in the annual wreath-laying ceremony, along with 4,000 other locations across the United States, at sea, and abroad.

Hosted by the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), the remembrance ceremony will allow those in attendance to place wreaths at the graves of the 495 veterans — representing all branches of the military — who are buried at the historic cemetery founded in the early 1800s.

Respected military veterans and prominent citizens will direct the always-moving observance, including: retired Marine, senior Marine instructor at Granbury High School MCJROTC, and master of ceremonies Lt. Col. Scott Casey; retired Marine and keynote speaker Lt. Col. Mitch Bell; Vietnam War veteran and chaplain John Bell; soloist Errol Flannery; bagpiper Dr. John Taber; and bugler Arthur Nutt.

The Granbury High School JROTC will present the ceremonial wreaths and the Brazos Valley Chapter Color Guard, Sons of the American Revolution, will post colors.

Casey served with the 11th and 12th Marines from 1992 to 1995. He participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and the Unit Deployment Program in Okinawa, Japan.

He served as a commanding officer during Operation Tandem Thrust in Australia and with the Third Marine Division in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following several additional assignments, Casey retired from the Marine Corps in May 2012, to accept his current position as se-

our community are forever grateful for the freedoms afforded to us by the bloodshed of our nation's heroes."

Granbury resident Mike Musselman served as a Marine Corps infantryman and officer for 31 years, serving in three deployments to Iraq and one year-long deployment to Afghanistan. During his time in service, he explained that he lost 48 friends to the wars.

"I knew more than just their names," he said. "I knew their moms, their dads, their goals, their lives, their expectations, their wives, their future children, everything else."

He added that the number of friends he lost since being discharged from the Marines in 2015 has now increased to 60, as many of them took their lives following the effects of the war.

"Unfortunately, a lot of these guys, the war didn't kill them," Musselman said. "They come back, and eventually death catches up to them, and they take their lives. They died back then. We lost them back in the war, but then they came here and just held on as long as they could."

Lance Corporal (LCpl) Luke Scott passed away on Dec. 3, 2010. Although 13 years has passed since his death, Musselman said he continues to call Scott's mother every year, and they both laugh and cry together.

"Luke's been gone 13 years, and the pain that you can still hear in the mother's voice ...," he said, trailing off. Major Kevin Nave passed away on March 26, 2003 — the same day his daughter turned 5.

"They were going to do a video conference and he was going to wish her a happy birthday, and then she got the bad news that her father had died," Musselman said. "The sad thing is, his daughter will never know how great a man he was."

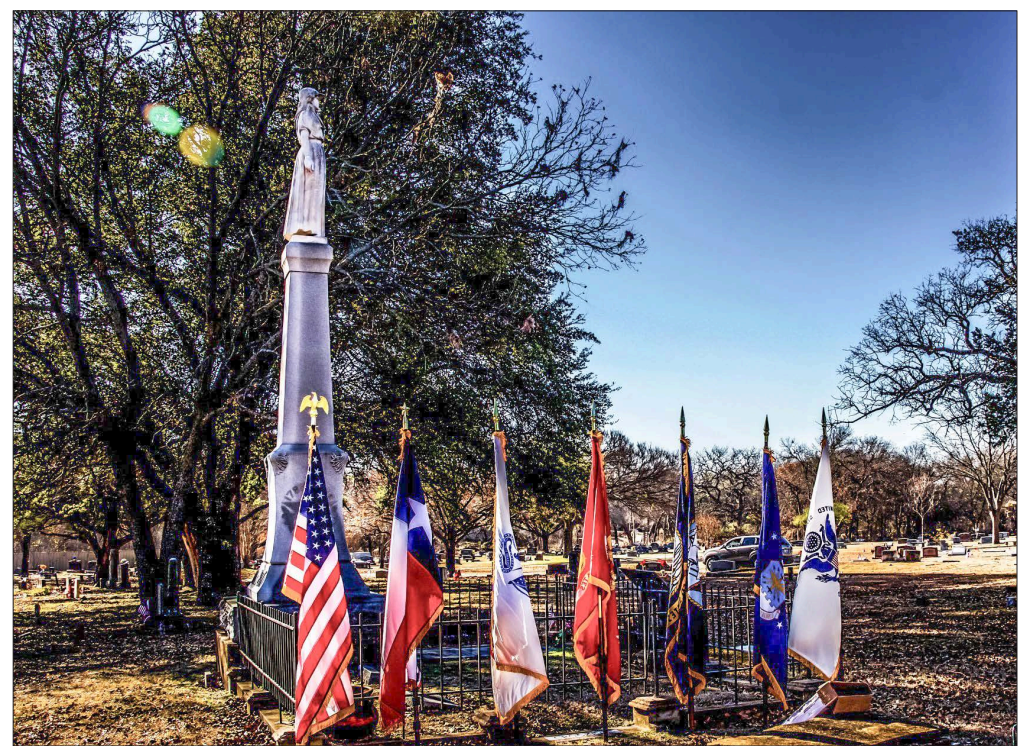
Major Megan McClung died on Dec. 6, 2006. As a public affairs officer, Musselman said she always wanted to leave her office to see combat.

"Her job kept her in an office, writing and reporting on the war, never seeing it," he explained. "I told her all the time, 'There's nothing beautiful about it. There's nothing to see. Cherish your



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTOS

The Hood County community will remember fallen veterans, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom through Acton Cemetery's annual Wreaths Across America ceremony beginning at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16.



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job.' I had left the country because my rotation was up and probably two weeks later, I get a phone call and they told me that Megan had died in a roadside bomb. She had finally convinced somebody to take her out on a tour, to see outside the walls that she lived, and it cost her her life."

Musselman said by saying a service member's name out loud, they will never be forgotten.

"When a serviceman dies,

he gives his life, but we fail to realize, they've given up two lives: the life that they're living, and the life that they would've lived," he said. "To have met these people, to have been in their company, it was very profound. Profound enough, where it still affects me today, 20 years later, in most cases. If we model our lives off those that we knew and make our lives different and live in their honor, then we're mak-

ing a difference. If you say their name, then they're never forgotten. They're never gone."

The public is invited to attend the free, patriotic event where all veterans will be honored for their service and remembered for their sacrifices made for our freedom. Limited seating will be available.

ashley@hcnews.com/
817-573-1243

Thanksgiving Memories: A tapestry of tradition and togetherness

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

As the leaves turn golden and the air gets crisper, Thanksgiving approaches, bringing with it a flood of warm, nostalgic memories. For many of us, Thanksgiving brings with it an abundance of memories of the cherished moments spent with family and friends. As a child growing up in Euless, Texas, my Thanksgivings were scented with the aroma of my granny's cornbread dressing and sweetened by the chocolate pies she lovingly prepared from scratch.

The day before Thanksgiving was an olfactory delight, with scents wafting from granny's kitchen next door, heralding the feast to come. My granny's chocolate pies were legendary throughout the family and the neighborhood. She would put that thick meringue on her chocolate pies which everyone loved. Everyone, that is, but me. I couldn't stand the meringue - largely because one of my uncles, who loved to pester me, called it "calf slobber." So, I would scrape the meringue off the pie. All my family would tease me about scraping off the meringue, so my granny started making me a chocolate pie without the meringue. This small, loving gesture not only left me with a pie all to myself but also a heartwarm-



COURTESY PHOTO

For many of us, Thanksgiving brings with it an abundance of memories of the cherished moments spent with family and friends.

ing memory of granny's thoughtfulness.

As years passed, our family traditions evolved, intertwining with the larger-than-life Texas culture. We became part of the throng of Dallas Cowboys fans making it a tradition to attend the Thanksgiving Day game. Our day would start with a family lunch, followed by a shuttle ride to Texas Stadium — my dad staunchly refusing to

pay the then-exorbitant \$10 parking fee. These outings were more than just football games; they were exuberant family reunions, punctuated by thrilling moments watching Cowboys legends such as Roger Staubach, Walt Garrison, Drew Pearson, Bob Lilly, and Tony Dorsett. We had a front-row seat to some of the greatest Thanksgiving Day games in Cowboys history, like the last-second

win over the Washington Redskins in 1974.

Thanksgiving, for many, is a time of reflection and gratitude, a day when the pace of life slows just enough for us to appreciate the bounties and blessings we often take for granted. It's a day marked by the comforting routine of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the aroma of turkey roasting in the oven, football on

TV, and the bustling sounds of a kitchen in full swing. It's about the laughter that fills the air as families gather, the clinking of glasses in toasts, and the inevitable naps after a hearty meal.

And yet, in recognizing the tapestry of Thanksgiving memories, it's important to acknowledge that for some, this time of year may not evoke the warmth of traditional family gatherings.

Memories can be complex, and the concept of family during Thanksgiving, and indeed in life, is not always about blood relatives. For many, 'family' is found in friends who have become closer than kin, in mentors who have guided us, or in communities that have embraced us. These are the people who have stood by us in challenging times, offering support and understanding when it was most needed. Thanksgiving, therefore, becomes a time to express gratitude for all those who bring meaning, love, and a sense of belonging into our lives, regardless of whether they are related by blood. It's a celebration of the bonds we choose to form and nurture, a reminder that family is as much about the heart as it is about heritage. Wherever you are and whoever you're with this Thanksgiving, it's an opportunity to be thankful for the presence of those who enrich our lives in countless ways.

But what about you, dear readers? What are your favorite Thanksgiving memories? Is it the taste of a special family recipe, the warmth of a crowded dinner table, or perhaps the thrill of a community football game? As we approach this Thanksgiving, I invite you to share your stories. Let's celebrate the rich tapestry of our community's Thanksgiving traditions and the countless memories that make this holiday so special.

'Because we can'

Local motorcycle clubs continue to spread Christmas joy to nursing homes

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Christmas is the season of giving — and nobody abides by that phrase better than local motorcycle clubs Iron Maidens and Rogue 22 MC.

For the past four years, husband-and-wife duo Jerry and Dawn Perales have combined their two motorcycle clubs, with members from both clubs donating presents to residents and staff at local nursing homes.

"The biggest reason why we do that is because a lot of people are left (in nursing homes) and never seen again by family members, so they enjoy hearing us pull up on bikes," said Jerry, who is the president of Rogue 22 MC.

"It's very humbling to us to do that for somebody."

The inspiration to start the gift-giving tradition came from Iron Maidens president and founder Dawn herself, whose grandmother resided in Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center during the later stages of her life.

"My grandma was like, the glue that held our family together, and when she got into the nursing home, sometimes life just hap-

PLEASE SEE **JOY** | C5



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Every year, an all-female motorcycle club Iron Maidens donates coloring books, crossword puzzles, and other gifts to Hood County nursing homes residents and staff.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Audricka Young participates in "Stroll through Texas History" at the Acton Cemetery.

MOCS

FROM PAGE C1

grew up.

Young became even more interested in her culture after the birth of her first daughter Annalise followed by daughter Juliana. Raising her children created a desire to pass on heritage to the next generation. This prompted her to explore more. It was then she began to attend Powwows.

For many years Young remained a volunteer. Traveling to indigenous functions was more difficult when Young's children were growing up. Since they have grown, Young is able to spend more time on advocacy and policy change for Indigenous people.

Besides her two biological children, Young and her husband Steven took in many youth over the years — some for a short time and some for longer. All of them she considers her children; 11 of them, all now in their 20s. She now counts two grandchildren as part of her legacy.

Marsha Grissom of Premier High School found a safe place in the Young home to refer at-risk youth of Hood County who needed a place to feel loved and supported. The Youngs also offered this tender care to Native children through the foster program.

The Indian Child Welfare Act assures that Native foster children are placed with Native families to encourage support for their heritage. Additionally, the Youngs took in a barely-adult young man of Native descent, whom they consider their son. "He needed a mom, and I needed a son," explains Young.

Young took the task of nurturing the culture of each child seriously even in her cooking as she prepared meals such as Indian fry bread, etouffee, gumbo and Jamaican jerk — a full range of culture for the tastebuds.

Young has a heart for children of all cultures. She calls young children "babies." At local events such as the Texas History Stroll, Young can be seen preparing Indian fry bread over an open fire for these "babies" as she makes food, fills bellies and feeds curiosity with her stories of Native American heritage.

There is a grace about Young, a compassion and yet pain beneath the grace. Young shares about atrocities committed not only against Indigenous people but against other minorities as well. Tears fill her eyes as she struggles to put the stories into words.

"We wanted badly to do away with the Native Americans. It was



Audricka Young shares the joy of drumming with young children in Granbury.

almost impossible for a Native American to say they were Native American. If we could learn from that, then all people could embrace their culture. And it wouldn't have led to so many dying if they could just be proud of who they are."

Young has used this heartache to fuel her passion for advocacy. She speaks at events, lectures, colleges and more. She protests both on Native lands and in Congress as she supports legislation to protect and provide for Native people.

It has been just two short years that Young has been able to more fully commit herself to this pursuit, but she has come far. Before she was able to advocate to the level she does now she had to prove her lineage.

Young has a cousin in her tribe who felt Young's gifts would be beneficial. The process of becoming an official member of the tribe entailed using the tools of Ancestry.com. Never one to waste and with a heart for all people, Young now uses this knowledge to

help others both Native and non-Native find their lineage. She has worked cold cases, helped with adoption cases and assists people find their ancestors for the purpose of health analysis.

Paperwork ensues after the initial proof of DNA, but that is not the hardest part of embracing Indigenous heritage. Tribes are understandably protective of their heritage and knowledge. It takes time and commitment to be brought into the fold. It takes a servant-hearted attitude that

works where needed.

"I learned through volunteering at Powwows and public events. There are opportunities to volunteer inside the reservation, digging wells, repairing homes, building homes. It takes diligence. You must prove yourself."

Now there is no stopping her. Young counts Native people across tribes and across the nation as her friends and mentors. She counts these "Elders" as her

PLEASE SEE **MOCS** | C10

Saddle up for Ryder & Scout

Granbury's newest western boutique now open on the square



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County residents looking to westernize their wardrobe and put a little “yee-haw” in their step will welcome the addition of Ryder & Scout, Granbury's newest Western boutique located at 111 E. Bridge St. on the square.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer

Hood County residents looking to westernize their wardrobe and put a little “yee-haw” in their step will welcome the addition of Granbury's newest boutique on the square.

Ryder & Scout, located at 111 E. Bridge St. in the previous Beam & Branch Realty building, opened on Nov. 11, looking to add a different market and niche to the center of town.

Ashley Roland is the current owner of the square's Pug on a Pontoon, a boutique known for its pink and girly atmosphere and vulgar-themed merchandise.

But something was missing — namely a different “niche” that seemed to be lacking in the store in terms of products.

“We saw that we wanted to carry these more neutral pastels over somewhere else, but it just wasn't fitting, literally in Pug on a Pontoon's walls,” explained Ashlee Stacey, manager of Ryder & Scout.

It soon became clear that trying to mix western, girly, and raunchy wasn't exactly working — leading Roland to search for a different location for her new business idea.

“We started putting some words out, trying to get another space on the square, and it just so happened that the Beam and Branch Realty space came open,” Stacey said. “This was quite literally the perfect space. We just saw a market that wasn't here. We know that there's an interest in Boot Barn, but we really wanted to be on the square. People that are coming to visit Granbury are not going to be interested in Boot Barn, so we wanted to have something not the same, but I guess similar, while also providing an experience.”

While the reasoning behind the store's name is sentimental and personal, Roland's inventory is all-inclusive and all-encompassing — including both the merchandise and pricing.

“The word Western is considered a high-end word, meaning people think it's really expensive,” Stacey said. “But we're going to try to have a little bit of everything and have something for everyone, so our price ranges from high-end to not low-end, but affordable.”

Stacey said Ryder & Scout

is also trying to be as “size-inclusive” as it can, carrying everything from extra small to 3XL.

“We have noticed that Western vendors or brands aren't always (size-inclusive) so we're really trying hard to work on that,” she said.

With jackets, jeans, sweaters, T-shirts, boots and jewelry, Ryder & Scout has a product for everyone — even men.

“I'm really excited about our men's stuff that we have coming in,” Stacey said. “Men are forgotten about on the square. All they get is restaurants and like, a few places to buy a beer, so we're working on men's gifts and clothing.”

The goal, Stacey said, is to eventually offer genuine, authentic turquoise as well as big-name brands like Wrangler and Ariat.

“I'm most excited about this store being a niche market on the square,” she said. “Everywhere around has its own. We have The Pan Handle, that's just kitchen, and we have St. Helens and The Nest that are specifically home decor, so we really wanted to bring in something that is not already here.”

Ryder & Scout will also be hosting some events in the building's built-in bar, with the grand opening scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13 at

2 p.m.

“Our job is to create a five-star customer service experience,” Stacey said, adding that the online website ryderandscout.com includes a chat box in case a customer has a question on an item.

The website also offers local pickup for those who don't require their purchase to be shipped.

“If you don't want to deal with the weekend crowds, but you want to make sure you get that graphic tee before it sells out, that's the place to do it,” Stacey said. “We do ship every day, so if you purchase before 4 p.m., it can ship out on Sunday depending on the speed of the postal service.”

Stacey added that Ryder & Scout has a VIP page on Facebook as well, where customers can call “dibs” on brand new merchandise.

Ryder & Scout's hours of operation are the same as Pug on a Pontoon: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to five p.m.

For more information, visit the Facebook page at Ryder and Scout, the Instagram page @shopryderandscout, or the website at ryderandscout.com.

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Art of Faith art show at Shanley Gallery

Public invited to the Lake Granbury Art Association reception Saturday, Nov. 25

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

“The true work of art is but a show of divine perfection,” Michelangelo.

The Lake Granbury Art Association is hosting a group show at the Shanley Gallery through the months of November and December and ending on Jan. 9. The reception is on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. The public is invited.

“Art of Faith” is the title of the show and showcases a wide variety of styles and mediums with the central theme of faith. The artists thought their theme was the perfect fit for the Christmas season and hope families will come through the gallery when out celebrating the holidays.

The show features eight artists: Sue Bagwell, Betsy Ferguson, Barbara Loyd, Pam McLean, Lynda Robinson, James Spurlock, David Tripp and Kay Wirz.

“Each one of us has a unique style and a unique way of expressing our faith which makes for a very interesting show,” offered Sue Bagwell. She went on to say,

“This show means a lot to me as I have always been drawn to spiritual art and working with other artists to put it together has been such a blessing.”

PLEASE SEE LGAA | C10



COURTESY PHOTO
“You know I love you, LORD!!!” (St Peter) by James Spurlock.

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BALLET FRONTIER
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GAME ON

Little Inferno

Warning: Do Not Play With Fire



SCREENSHOT COURTESY TOMORROW CORPORATION

Little Inferno rewards certain combinations of objects burned in the fire — an alarm clock and a packet of seeds gets the Spring-time Combo. Each catalog of new things to burn is unlocked after a certain number of combos are achieved.



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.

"Throw your toys into your fire and play with them as they burn. An adventure that takes place almost entirely in front of a fire-place — about looking up, up, up out of the chimney, and the cold world just on the other side of the wall. From the creators of World of Goo and Human Resource Machine."

Looking for a game that will keep you warm this winter? Cozy up to Little Inferno, a bizarre little game from Tomorrow Corporation. The world has gotten colder, so everyone has Little Inferno Entertainment Fireplaces from the Tomorrow Corporation to keep their homes warm. This means you'll be burning everything you own in the house to keep yourself warm, but don't worry, the Tomorrow Corporation has an answer for that, too. They'll sell you all sorts of things to throw in the fire.

Their advertising brochure says "There are no points. There is no score. You're not being timed. Just make a nice fire... and stay warm in the glow of your high-definition entertainment product!"

Your view is that of an enormous fireplace with a circular face in the center. Put things in the fireplace and use your mouse pointer to create a flame and light them on fire. Almost every object has some sort of special animation that plays when you throw it into the fire.

You'll occasionally get letters from Sugar Plumps, or Miss Nancy with the Tomorrow Corporation, but for the most part you're just buying things,

throwing them into the fire-place, lighting them on fire and collecting the coins.

The only goal in Little Inferno is to get all the combos. If you throw a packet of seeds and an alarm clock into the fireplace, for ex-ample, you get the Springtime Combo. Movie Night is the television plus a corn cob. (The fire causes the kernels to pop.) There's quite a bit of dark humor in this game, and it's not for kids, even though the graphics are cute and cartoonish. Finding all the combos isn't easy — it took me a while.

There's nothing epic about this game. It's just throwing things into the fireplace to watch them burn. What I like about it is it's a very relaxing gaming. It's nice to have a game like Little Inferno I can play without saving a princess or going on an epic quest. It's a nice stress relief.

DLC CONTENT: HO HO HOLIDAY

After 10 years, Tomorrow Corporation celebrated its anniversary by releasing DLC content for the base game of Little Inferno featuring more than 50 possible combos, plus lots of new holiday-related items to keep you warm.

These include new things for your Entertainment Fireplace, like Gingerbread Disaster, Balls of Tape, Pear Tree, Poodolph Poo Poo Plushie, Smart Dreidel, Nutcracker Doll and more.

Little Inferno, by Tomorrow Corporation (2012) has been out for a while, but it's still fun to play. And there's brand new DLC for the holiday season.

JOY

FROM PAGE C3

pens, and you can't get over there as much as you want," Dawn said, in a previous interview to the HCN. "So, I decided I was gonna start at least once a year, going and seeing those elderly people and making them smile."

This year, the Christmas-giving couple will kick off their fourth annual Nursing Home Run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec 16, giving gifts to the employees and residents of eight local nursing homes: Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation of Granbury, Granbury Rehab & Nursing, Waterview the Cove Assisted Living & Memory Care, The Oaks of Granbury, Lakestone Terrace Senior Living, AVIVA Granbury, and Courtyards at Lake Granbury.

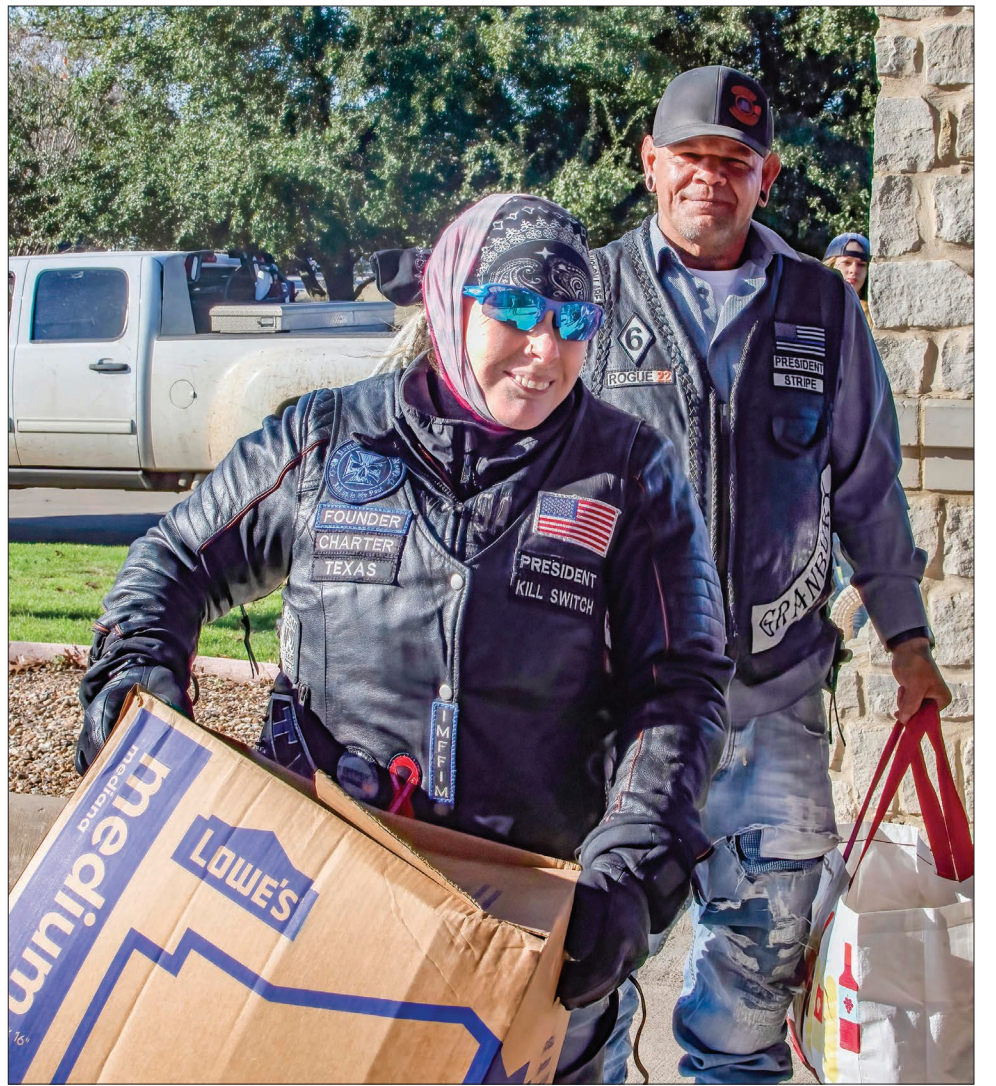
"We're both nonprofit organizations that just do things for people in need," Jerry said. "We're not about money. We're more about putting time in to help people, and it makes you feel better about yourself and that's what we're about. At one point in time, some of us didn't have two nickels to scratch together, and now we've been blessed where we can do things like this, so it's a fun, humbling experience to see what you can do for somebody else."

Last year, Jerry said he enjoyed speaking with a nursing home resident whose blue eyes matched those of a clown painting that she showed him.

"I was sitting here talking to her and she's all excited about it and I'm like, 'That clown's eyes match your eyes. That's so brilliant,' and you can just see the glow in her face. She was so happy about it," he said.

The two motorcycle clubs sponsor and support each other in their many philanthropic efforts, like feeding the homeless, giving school supplies to children in need, and local motorcycle ride fundraisers.

"The Buddy Run, the 13-year-old boy passed away, we did a ride for him and raised over \$8,000," Jerry said. He added that they also held a Ride for Athena event last year, where they raised \$9,000 for the family of 7-year-old Wise County girl Athena



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Dawn, front, and Jerry Perales, back, are a husband-and-wife team who combine their motorcycle clubs Iron Maidens and Rogue 22 MC every year to donate Christmas presents to local nursing home residents and staff.

"We just wanted to find (a motorcycle club) that actually did what they said, got into the community and made a difference — and that's (Dawn). That's Iron Maidens."

DIANE HEFFERNAN

Iron Maidens Member

Strand, who was tragically killed last November.

Stephenville residents Melinda Jenkins and Diane Heffernan recently joined Iron Maidens because of the organization's charitable focus.

"We just wanted to find (a motorcycle club) that actually did what they said, got into the community and made a difference — and that's (Dawn)," Heffernan said. "That's Iron Maidens."

"They say they're gonna do something, and then they do it," Jenkins said. "They don't just talk about it. The Iron Maidens actually come through with it, and it is a great sisterhood. The Iron Maidens take care of their own. With the support of Rogue with Jerry, it's amazing to see two clubs get together to make something happen."

Dawn told the HCN last

year she enjoys seeing the smiles she brings to the nursing home residents every year and that she wouldn't trade making those residents smile "for anything."

"It wasn't little smiles," she said. "They were smiling from their hearts because somebody took the time to go up there and see them. My thing is, I love what I do, and I'll do it all day every day."

"Dawn's passion for this is extraordinary," Jenkins added. "She's the reason that we wanted to join because she is an amazing person."

The two motorcycle clubs are also currently looking for donations of puzzles, coloring books, Sudoku, board games, cards, dominos and blankets to give to the nursing homes.

"We'll take anything that we can get," Dawn said.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Nursing Home Run can contact the Iron Maidens Facebook page by searching "Iron Maidens Granbury."

"Anybody who gets involved with us, this is what we do," Jerry said, adding his thanks to Iron Soldierz MC and other organizations who stepped up to help. "We're just a humble organization that does things because we enjoy them, but the biggest thing is because we can. We don't have to, but we like to do whatever we can to make sure that nobody goes without."

"It's our passion, and we love to run for charities," Jenkins added. "We'll give beyond giving."

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH
CITY BEACH PARK

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Set the Pace, Repair the Rest

Hood County News

KIDS CLASSIC HITS
GRANBURY

KIDS

FROM PAGE C1

ask for another one in five years. If they get a bike, they can request another one in three years," Deshoutel noted. "That way if we can't afford to buy one for every kid that requests one, it'll cycle through and hopefully every third year we are able to provide for every single kid that requests one."

Deshoutel added that none of what the organization does would be possible without the support of county residents, which he called "overwhelming."

After the toys are collected, the group moves into the barn at the Reunion Grounds and gets to work. Inside the barn, the organization also sets up its own store with all the toys and donated items for the toy

drives around the county.

Deshoutel explained the volunteers are there for about three weeks straight working in the barn until the big distribution day.

On the distribution day, families drive through as volunteers bring out everything the children are getting for Christmas. Families will receive an email around the first week of December with more information on picking up.

When it comes to the future of the organization, Deshoutel is looking forward to updating and streamlining as much as possible.

"It's truly rewarding (being a part of this organization). I grew up with a single mother, so I know what it's like to struggle and not have those special moments around the holidays and be

able to have things. That's why when we give things to the families and the parents, we do it while the kids are still in school so they can pick up without them. Nothing's wrapped, that way the parents can choose to wrap it or give it to them however they want, and it can be from them. It's truly about just making sure no matter what the family's economic status is, that they get to enjoy Christmas morning and have the same excitement and happiness as other families."

Distribution day will take place on Dec. 14. Those interested in donating to HCCC or becoming a volunteer can go to the group's Facebook page to stay informed with the latest updates and information.

DIST. 59

FROM PAGE C1

the blank, glass ornament she thought 4" seemed a fairly large ornament, but working on a round, glass surface made the space seem much smaller.

Though the Granbury courthouse provides a recognizable symbol of Granbury, Houston felt she needed some fresh imagery as the courthouse had been used previously to represent our fair town on an

ornament.

"I sat down and started thinking about Granbury. I had some imagery in mind. The Brazos Motel sign, the peak. Sure enough, when I googled Granbury those are the images that came up. I also thought about this old truck they used to have in front of Whitherspoons - they had a giant Christmas tree in the back of the truck."

Houston would use these three images to represent the town and would suggest the lake with the blue

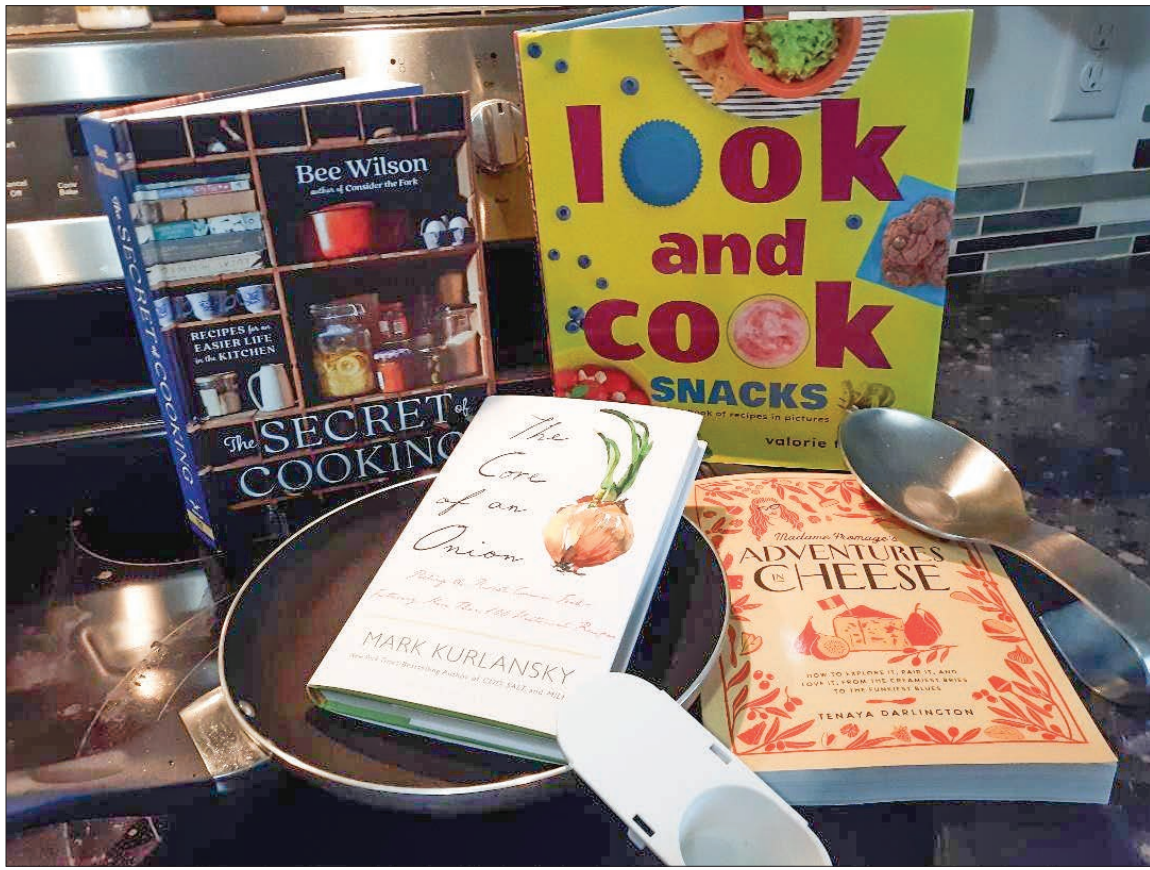
she painted across the bottom. The fiery colors on the top of the ornament signify the striking sunsets over Granbury.

The ornament is finished with a sprig of greenery and ribbon.

The Christmas tree with the ornaments recognizing the House districts of Texas will be on display at the capitol from Nov. 29 until Jan. 2.

"I think we will have to go see it while it's on display. I guess we will need to take a road trip," shared Houston.

BOOK REVIEW



COURTESY PHOTO

Fall cookbooks for your entertainment by various authors C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS, \$19.99 - \$40.00, VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

The smells coming from the kitchen are making your mouth water

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The guests have started arriving, you'll pull things out of the oven soon, and then you'll begin collecting compliments. The holidays are the best time to entertain, so look for these great food books and cookbooks to enhance your splashy party, simple meal, or big feast.

When you're trying to add zing to a recipe in an easy way, you might reach for a staple in your fridge and start chopping. In "The Core of an Onion" by Mark Kurlansky (Bloomsbury, \$28.00), you'll see how that small vegetable went from garden plot to mandatory ingredient in the kitchen — but the onion isn't just a food, as you'll read. It's a tradition, a science and a secret many chefs use to create their favorite dishes. Like many of Kurlansky's

other books, this one focuses on one single item on your plate. That, and the accompanying recipes will make you hungry.

If you always start your guests off with appetizers and you want to keep things simple, look for "Madame Fromage's Adventures in Cheese" by Tenaya Darlington (Workman, \$30.00). Here, you'll become a cheese expert in short order. Learn how cheese is made and why it's important to know. Move on to the verbiage, how to tell your cheeses apart, what to include when building the perfect cheese board, what wine goes best with which cheese, and unusual ways to use cheese in your kitchen. This is a fun book to read, and you can put its lessons to work tonight.

For the cook who isn't into fancy kitchen frou-frou, "The

Secret of Cooking" by Bee Wilson (Norton, \$40.00) is absolutely a book to have on a shelf near your stove. Part cooking lesson, part tips and hints, and part recipes, it's great for the kitchen newbie as well as for the experienced cook who knows how all the tools work. Wilson writes plainly here, with simple directions and recipes that can be challenging but are mostly uncomplicated (although some of the ingredients may need explaining). A nice bonus is the chapter on cooking for one.

This is a pretty book and even if you don't like to cook, you'll enjoy reading it. It might even make some converts.

Finally, if you've got a kiddo in the kitchen, or if someone

PLEASE SEE BOOK | C9

IDLE AMERICAN

Messing with Texas



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Much of what is making the news cycles these days is borderline un-American, and in some cases, absolutely un-Texan.

That's the opinion of my Uncle Mort, an ancient relative who has lived more than a century down in The Thicket of East Texas.

He is shocked that iced coffee has become an obsession in the U.S., even reviving cafes that are welcoming any menu items that will keep customers coming back for more. Mort didn't even know iced coffee drinkers have a foothold in the market. Truth to tell, he figured a toehold might be all that consumers of the chilled variety could muster.

Mort thinks most Texans will continue to favor hot coffee, and in his crowd, most of 'em like java that is so hot it needs to be "sauced and blowed" before consumption.

Further, in our frontier state where chaps are still worn and the "jingle jangle" of spurs is heard on the prairie, most men like their coffee strong.

Many prefer it to be made in a coffee can over an open fire, always remembering that "it don't take much water to make good coffee," Mort opines. He can't imagine cowboys crawling from their bedrolls on cold winter mornings, eager to start their morning after first swigging iced coffee.

Statistics don't lie, however, and it is possible that researchers on coffee consumption are right on. The consultancy firm Allegra World Coffee Portal says nearly a quarter of coffeeshop customers are drinking cold offerings every single day, up 17% in just one year.

The younger you are, the more likely you take your caffeine cold. A survey of 5,000 consumers found that almost eight in every 10 buyers under the age of 35 purchase the drink at least once weekly.

Icy beverages have become such a craze that the segment is helping U.S. coffeeshops bounce back from the COVID hit, and the industry is now topping pre-pandemic levels.

Maybe we old-timers might consider joining the younger bunch, but we simply don't want to order from menus that list numerous multi-syllabic flavors. Many of us are timid about learning new words like "latte" and "mocha." We are admittedly worried about holding up the line, even if we wish only to order a cup of black coffee, nothing more, nothing less.

Who woulda thought, several decades ago, that a cup of coffee tab was a mere 10 cents, with many restaurants offering free refills? Back then, thoughts of iced coffee seemed light years away.

Early in my speaking career, I told the story of a hobo who asked a passerby for a quarter "to buy a cup of coffee." When the prospective donor pointed out that coffee cost only a dime, the hobo countered, "But won't you join me?"

During a brief visit to Alto, New Mexico, this summer, I was taken aback at a convenience store, where ice in seven-pound bags was priced at \$3.49.

With inflation hitting the ice industry so hard, I may need to consider investing, or, better yet, get a parttime job, selling ice priced by the cube.

Whatever, maybe ice is to be partially blamed for inflated costs of cold coffee. After all, half of industry leaders consider cold coffee to be the most important current market trend. So, maybe the old bromide is near the mark, the one expressing regret that youth is wasted on the young.

Meanwhile, researchers have found a new way to recycle clothing. Currently, 99% of all used clothing winds up in dumps, greatly impacting environmental efforts.

With almost all clothing a blend of cotton and synthetics, the new process will produce similar materials once more, thus turning old garments into new.

No longer will the claim that "he'd give you the shirt off his back" be universally true. Instead, the donor may be giving us the shirt off many backs. So, we press on, hopeful that too much information can be avoided.

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GIFTS

We now offer Jon Hart Designs!
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Check out our MacKenzie Childs and Kendra Scott products!

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Jewelry • Children • Apparel
2001 E Hwy 377, Granbury 817-579-9599
1207 NE Big Bend Trail, Glen Rose 254-898-9040
2004 W. Swan Street, Stephenville 254-213-6667
www.cheerfulheartgifts.com

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"ALL ABOUT TEXAS SHOW"
DECEMBER 29TH, 2023 | 7:30PM

celebrating TEXAS music and Texas artists

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50's, 60's, 70's,
80's AND MORE
Michael Hix taking
you through the
Decades of Hits
December 30th, 2023 | 7:00pm

NEW YEARS THROUGHOUT THE
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50'S, 60'S, 70'S, 80'S, 90'S, AND MORE

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IN THE NEW YEAR!!!
December 31, 2023 | 7:00pm

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Changing of Seasons Official Ceremony comes to Pecan's golf course

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.

Texas' weather affords golfers year-round play (even through the summer heat!), but temperatures have now cooled down and "winter rules" have begun; therefore, Pecaners recently marked this change with a unique ceremony at the number 1 tee box.

At the event, bagpiper Don Shannon led a procession up the number 9 hole and to

the clubhouse while playing traditional tunes. Upon arrival at the tee, Pecan's Golf Professional Duff Cuningham symbolically drove a ball down the number 1 fairway, a gesture ushering in winter, followed by attendees participating in a toast. May our community's golfers enjoy great success this winter following such a ceremonious

event marking the change of seasons.

VETERAN SALUTE

Pecan's recent Veterans Day gala proved a dynamic success with approximately 150 residents celebrating both current and former members of the United States military. The day held a fly over, a musical performance, speeches, and the presentation of our nation's colors. Thank you to everyone who supported this commemorative morning, and of course THANK YOU to the men and women of our armed forces.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

The Pickleball Association is offering a clinic for beginners this month at the PAC gym on Monday, Nov. 27 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.

DINNER GATHERING

The next meeting of Pecan's Widow and Widowers Club is on the calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Monty Lewis

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C9

CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, November 24 2023 - Thursday, December 1 2023

See Website for movie times by going to <https://www.cinergy.com/granbury> or by scanning the QR Code Below.

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice
(682) 260-5920 | [cinergy.com/locations/granbury/](https://www.cinergy.com/locations/granbury/)

Matching Gift

Please team up with our sponsors for this year's Match fund for **Habitat for Humanity of Hood County**. Habitat believes affordable homeownership changes lives. You can help "build" that change with a donation to the Match.

Donations received November 15, 2023 - January 31, 2024 will be matched up to the amount of the fund.

Please mail your donations to:
Habitat for Humanity of Hood County
PO Box 1866, Granbury, TX 76048
or give at [habitatofhoodcounty.org](https://www.habitatofhoodcounty.org)

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) 573-4271
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm;
First Saturday of each month (adoptions only) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Adoptable cats can be found at PetSense in Granbury!

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

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

HCNEWS.COM [hcnews.com/subscribe](https://www.hcnews.com/subscribe)

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 Somerville

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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(817) 573-3726

DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches and a verse for inspiration.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
1 John 4:12

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ANGLICAN

Good Shepherd Anglican
3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,
817-326-2035

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Crossing Place
1900 W. Hwy. 377
817-573-1581

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
3630 Hill City Hwy., Tolar
254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
300 Granbury Court
817-326-2270

BAPTIST

Acton Baptist
3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
4804 E. Hwy. 377
817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
1840 Acton Hwy.
817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
Hwy. 56
254-965-3840

First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-613-2322

First Baptist
214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
2815 Lipan Hwy.
817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
1851 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
Viva
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.
Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
4501 Peppertree Rd.
817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
4791 Fm 2803, Lipan
940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
1718 Fall Creek Hwy.
682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
820 Paluxy Rd.
682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
400 Tolar Hwy.
254-835-4375

VINEYARD BAPTIST

320 W. Pearl St.
817-573-5318

WAPLES BAPTIST

1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
507 Western Hills Trail
817-573-7588

BIBLE

Grace Bible
201 E. Clifton Rd.
682-498-3014

CATHOLIC

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
2301 Acton Hwy.
817-326-2131

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
3314 S. Clifton
817-573-0107

First Christian
2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
4900 Sonterra Ct.
817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
5904 Walnut Creek Circle
817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
608 Shady Grove Dr.
817-326-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Church Of Christ
310 W. Pearl St.
817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
1905 W. Pearl
817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
112 N Caddo St., Lipan
254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
Christ
4219 Old Granbury Rd.
817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
3006 Thorp St.
817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4397

CHURCH OF GOD

Church Of God
1106 Weatherford Hwy.
817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal
4530 Acton Hwy.
817-326-6074

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
3734 W. Hwy. 377
817-573-4259

LUTHERAN

Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
2301 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
1400 N. Meadows Dr.
817-573-5011

METHODIST

Acton Methodist
3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
110 South Crook St., Cresson
469-730-6496

Granbury First United
Methodist
301 Loop 567,
817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global
Methodist Church
3410 Glen Rose Hwy
682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
820 Paluxy Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
4323 Waples Rd.
817-573-9076

MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of
Latter-Day Saints
1226 Ross Lane
817-573-6825

NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The
Nazarene
921 Lipan Dr.
817-573-4041

PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal
3100 Beechwood St.,
817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
4800 Glen Rose Hwy
817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian
303 W. Bridge St.
817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day
Adventist
2016 Acton Hwy.
817-326-3573

OTHER

Anchor Fellowship
3200 Acton School Rd.
682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
1855 South Hwy. 377,
817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
1950 Acton Hwy.
817-579-0968

Calvary Family
3306 Oak Trail Dr.
314-606-1211

Center Point
4332 E. Hwy. 377,
817-554-3432

Christian Science Society
528 N. Crockett
817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge
4900 Sonterra Ct.
917-326-5501

Crossroads
200 S. Crook St., Cresson
817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood
County
2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,
817-579-9332

Generations Church Of
Granbury
5718 E. Hwy. 377,
817-326-5378

Hope Community
3206 W. Hwy. 377
254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
205 West Lipan Dr., Lipan
254-396-3162

New Season Global Ministries
3755 Acton Hwy.
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Psalms 94:18-19

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PECAN

FROM PAGE C7

will serve as disk jockey for the evening making sure holiday tunes are abundant. Also bringing holiday cheer will be poet laureate John Pelham sharing some of his writing centered on thankfulness and the Christmas spirit. And as with any holiday party, there will be surprises for attendees. Want details about this group's outings? Send email to Caryl Mahaffey to caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

At the Nov. 28 event, folks will have the chance to share holiday spirit and be generous to the residents of BeeHive Assisted Living, a new facility to our community, by bringing items to donate. Gifts of toiletries (for both ladies and gentlemen), playing cards, games, and crossword books are sugges-

tions, but any small gift to share will be appreciated.

BIG EVENT

Pecaners are invited to join a "Garrison Brothers Distillery" evening at the clubhouse on Thursday, Nov. 30. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. when Executive Chef Jordan Ray will present a three-course meal where each part of the menu will be paired with the famous Garrison Brothers Bourbons. Furthermore, attendees will enjoy a "crash course" on how to build the perfect "old fashioned." Reservations are a must. Call the clubhouse front desk to secure a spot: 817-573-2641.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club happily announces a golf cart Christmas parade happening on

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Participants will be tossing candy to children lining the route, and cocoa and cookies with Santa at the clubhouse will end the caravan. In order to make the day a success, parade entrants are needed, and first and second places in the competition (for Best Decorations and Best of Parade) will receive a cash prize. The entry fee for the event (\$30) will benefit the ladies' chosen Hood County charities as well as their high school scholarship recipients. Deadline for registration is Thursday, Nov. 30. For complete information on the event or to register, send email to ppwcp@parade@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITY

Since Christmas is right around the corner, the Men's Golf Association's Toys for

Tots initiative is underway. The pro shop boasts a bright red "Toys for Tots" donation box where donors may leave checks, which will in turn be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children in our community. In addition to leaving a donation in the box, folks may participate in the Toys for Tots Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2 when all proceeds will directly benefit Granbury's local Toys for Tots group. Start time is 9 a.m. for the scramble format event, and the \$50 entry fee also goes to Toys for Tots. Sign up deadline on Foretees is Friday, Dec. 1. Making this year "the biggest and best ever for as many local children as possible" is the goal for our golfing community.

PAINT DAY

The next "Pecan Paint-

Along" with Kathy Yoders is on the calendar for Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. The afternoon promises step-by-step instruction (with no previous painting experience necessary) for a fun lesson in acrylic painting. Supplies are included in the registration fee, and signing up is necessary. Call the PAC to secure a spot: 817-573-7952. More good news: beginning in Jan. 2024, a paint-along workshop will happen monthly on every second Sunday afternoon.

MAGIC CARDS

On Friday, Dec. 8 Jim Chatham will present "Cards, Cards, Cards" with his set straight from the Magic Castle in Hollywood where he perfected and presented his show for more than nine years. The fun will begin at 7 p.m. at the PAC, and the

attendee number is limited to twelve adults. Interested folks may purchase tickets at the PAC front desk, and the evening promises to be a "top level show" for folks who love card magic.

REINDEER ART

Another painting opportunity exists when Pecan resident and artist Heidi Easley will lead artists ages 5 to 14 in completing a reindeer canvas painting. Christmas music and hot cocoa will complete the day on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Sign up also for this event at the PAC.

dianedlong@yahoo.com / 817-579-9360

BOOK

FROM PAGE C6

you know is totally, 100% all-thumbs around a stove,

"Look and Cook Snacks: A First Book of Recipes in Pictures" by Valorie Fisher (Astra Young Readers, \$19.99) may be a book to

find. It's really super-simple with measurement conversions and step-by-step photos of the ingredients as well as the utensils you'd use to

make easy dishes like salads, sandwiches, dips, wraps, cookies and other finger foods. Meant for kids ages 5-to-10, check it out for your-

self, too, or for your favorite self-avowed non-cook.

And if these books aren't exactly what you need in the kitchen, head to your

favorite bookstore or library and ask the bookseller or librarian about their favorite recipes.

Then, bon appetit!


Hood County News

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"Circular Madonna" by Sue Bagwell.

COURTESY PHOTO

LGAA

FROM PAGE C4

Barbara Loyd concurred, "An opportunity to show my spiritual art alongside other Christian's work has been an enriching and comforting experience."

The imagery in the show is both powerful and emotive.

"The show itself is expressive, but the viewer can

understand and become so much more involved by reading the interesting and personal 'backstory' beside each piece," shared Bagwell.

James Spurlock agreed that the words enhance the images. "A picture is worth a thousand words but that saying reverses itself with the few words on these cards that explain the image even better."

The artists hope that the

public will attend the reception so that they will be there to answer questions about the work - discuss their inspiration and the way the work was created. Some of the work comes along with some miraculous stories.

Gallery hours are Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun. 1 to 4 p.m. The gallery is located at 224 N. Travis St., Granbury.

MOCS

FROM PAGE C3

spiritual advisors as she serves the Indigenous culture and sits on her own tribe's council explaining, "Not everything has a black or white answer."

Young is a member of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana. The tribe is one of many that, though recognized by their state, is yet to be federally recognized. The land that is owned by the Natchitoches is the same land they bought many years ago when the white settlers began selling the land.

Becoming recognized at the federal level is a main goal of the Natchitoches. A federally recognized tribe receives protections, health care and other benefits as well as a reservation designation.

The council of chiefs Young sits on "is the democracy of the tribe, the governing body," Young says, adding, "More importantly, the council is the middleman between Congress and the tribe," to decide on such matters as where money is allocated.

Young sits on council meetings take place in person, and she makes the five-and-a-half-hour drive to participate. Some meetings take place over Zoom, and they vary in length. "It depends on what we are bickering about. This last one was just an hour, but when you get the building committee and land committee and all the committees in there, they can take two or three hours," Young said.

In her role as Water protector, Young remains committed to clean water for all. "Nothing is more humbling than watching a 90-year-old woman or babies carry their own water."

This role requires quite a bit of travel as she both goes to sites where water is threatened and to capitals and Congress to protect these water sources.

Young also does water blessings. "All Native Americans believe water is life. So we do water blessings to give thanks. It's a ceremony to honor the water. I sing the water song and pray," Young explained.

As Education Director, Young assures that children receive proper historical information as well as informing them of current events.

In her role as Storyteller, Young shares through oration the stories of Native American cultures which she is quick to point out, vary from tribe to tribe. Even being counted as a member of the tribe varies according to the tribe.

Young as Language Keeper is the only one in the tribe to speak the language of the Natchitoches people, "No matter how much of your Native tongue you know — use it."

Ceremony Holder is a position that helps to facilitate the ceremonies of the Natchitoches people. Young is careful to explain that the focus of a Powwow is the drum circle where drummers, singers and dancers celebrate. This is different from a Native family gathering which is the same as a big reunion with food and games.

Young plans to tirelessly keep advocating, to keep educating and to never give up the fight for Indigenous people to be properly recognized and to get the respect they rightly deserve.

"We are the only race that has to provide a blood quantum like dog or cattle. It's on the Indigenous person's I.D. Mass extinction

was the goal. They wanted the number to be zero. A dead Indian is good business for a government. No other race, past, present or future has had this," Young said, adding that the Constitution of the United States referred to Indigenous people as "merciless Indian Savages."

"A true first American, Audricka presents more than history. She shares her heritage for the day, and she petitions the government for the recognition of her tribe. I'm most impressed that she works all year to have the resources to continue that struggle. Her dedication makes her a history hero," said Peggy Purser Freeman of Young. Freeman is a local historian and member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Young took her "Daddy" along with her on her last trip to the Natchitoches land. Seeing him embrace his heritage has been one of the most rewarding parts of her journey,

"I think he has embraced it more and more — just seeing how his demeanor and approach has changed. He now wouldn't step on ants. Says, 'look out for the greats.' These things are phenomenal to me."

Her dream going forward? "All of our hopes and dreams. I want to help carry my people as far as I can. I want to be there the day we are recognized. I want to stand there. Yes, I am owning that. This will happen and I will be there."

To contact Audricka Young for tribal storytelling, Indigenous education, cultural advising, freelance genetic genealogist work or water blessing call 682-205-9941 or email havemocswilltravel@gmail.com. Website havemocswilltravel.com.

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