

Published Saturday

First National Bank of Granbury announces leadership changes

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

The First National Bank of Granbury has undergone a leadership change as of Tuesday, Jan. 2. James Hodges, current president and CEO, will retire after almost 53 years working at FNB.

"My wife, Su Lin, passed away a vear and three months ago, and we had been married for 52 years, I think, so life changed for me in a flash," Hodges told the HCN. "The things that were important to me before all of a sudden were not important to me. I can't explain it, I

can't understand it, it's just the way it happened."

Hodges said he knew it was finally time to do something different - although he still doesn't know what that "something different" might be.

"Before she died, Su Linn looked at me, she got the finger out — and when she gets the finger out, you better damn well listen — and she said, 'Don't you make any drastic decisions before the year's out after I pass,'" Hodges said. "I should've asked her what she meant by 'drastic,' but I decided it was time for me to check out, to do something different."

Hodges started working for the First National Bank of Granbury as a teller July 1, 1971. In 1975, he was promoted to vice president cashier before being promoted to executive vice president cashier nine years later in 1984.

PLEASE SEE FNB | A4

Granbury Fire Academy continues to foster students for growth and success

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

he Granbury Volunteer Fire Department has a fire academy that hosts a nine-week training program both in the spring and fall that helps area firefighters become more well-rounded. On Nov. 11, 22 new firefighters successfully graduated from the Granbury Fire Academy. The diverse group of trainees represented fire departments from Adell-Whitt, Cresson, DeCordova, Granbury, Morgan Mill and Somervell County.

Throughout the week, fire academy trainees diligently studied written materials. They also gathered at Granbury's Fire Training Grounds for nine Saturdays, engaging in hands-on skill training sessions.

The extensive hands-on training covers a wide variety of topics including hose handling, extricating victims from wrecked cars, ladders, forcible entry, ventilation, fire science/smoke reading and various other essential firefighting

PLEASE SEE GVFD | A2



COURTESY PHOTO The trainees work together during the capstone exercise to fight a simulated propane tank fire

Hood County Hospital District Board to discuss hospital tax

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

Friday, Jan. 12 at noon is the next meeting of the Hood County Hospital District Board (HCHD). Members of the board want the public to be aware that discussions will begin at that meeting to add a hospital tax to Hood County property taxes. The tax will go on the ballot in November and the board hopes to make the public aware of the tax in the months leading up to the item being placed on the ballot.

Hospital taxes are taxes paid as a percentage per dollar valuation on property. In most counties residents pay this tax to cover the indigent care and care for those in jail. Hood County residents have not paid a hospital tax for some time, this is because the HCHD leased the hospital. On Dec. 31, 1996, HCHD made an agreement with Hospital

Corporations of America. The agreement paid \$15 million to HCHD to lease the hospital from 1996-2026 with an option to lease for an additional 10 years for a thousand dollars. The lease is now owned by Community Health Systems, Inc.

The last time Hood County residents paid a hospital tax was 1996. At that time the tax rate was 15 cents per \$100 of valuation according to the Hood County Appraisal District, this was paid when the residents paid their property taxes annually.

The future tax will not be nearly as high. "Just one penny per hundred dollars of valuation will cover what we do now. Two pennies will cover us for a while at that rate. Providing the lowest tax possible while also providing proper care for the ones we are responsible for is the goal," said Christy Massey, president of

HCHD.

The problem is that the fund is running out of money. Hood County has grown significantly in the years since the lease was signed, with the indigent and jail care growing as well. Additionally, the fund is not making the amount of interest that it once was. Health care for indigent and those in jail is required by state law.

"One of my goals as a County Commissioner is to promote transparent communication with the taxpayers. To this end, early last year, I made the motion to begin posting the HCHD agenda on the Hood County website. The HCHD agenda can now be found on the Hood County website under Boards and Commissions; Hood County Hospital District Board | Hood County, TX - Official Website. The Hood County Hospital District

(HCHD), as a special district of the State of Texas, is subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act. I encourage all taxpayers to attend these meetings to understand how their tax dollars are being spent. After all, it's all taxpayer money," said commissioner pct. 2 Nannette Samuelson.

The Hospital District Board consists of the county judge, all four commissioners, and four at large members who must be residents of the county with one being a physician. The current board: Christy Massey - President, Monty Lewis - Vice President, David Kuban, D.O. - Secretary, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill - Treasurer, Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Commissioner Dave Eagle, Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, Terry Stamper, and Commissioner Jack Wilson.

Residents encouraged to attend meeting!

Meeting of the Hood County Hospital District Board of Directors, Jan. 12 at noon, Annex 1 Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. For more information call 817-579-3200.



138TH YEAR, NO. 1

Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 26 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 26 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Zed — A4 | Obituaries — A9-A10 | Crossword Puzzle — A9-A10 | Classifieds — A11-A12

LEADERSHIP **★** COMMITMENT **JUSTICE WITH PROVENT INTEGRITY & CHARACTER**

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EXPERIENCE: 25 years surveying, preparing legal documents, easements and descriptions

For Hood County Justice of the Peace Precint 1

A SERVANTS HEART

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS Granbury Chamber of Commerce annual Best of Business Awards Banquet

Drink

Woman In Business:

Rising Leader: CJ Prater,

Small Business: Randv's

Bar & Grill/Randy's Shrimp

Large Business: Henson

Rising Star: Empire Realty,

& Oyster Bar, Randy and

Elizabeth Crawford

Lumber, Todd Garner

Tracie Harper, Daffan

Harbor Lakes Nursing &

Rehabilitation Center

Cooling and Heating

Having been a part of the Granbury community for more than 70 years, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce has been fortunate to recognize individuals and businesses who help make us better. And, each year, at the annual Best of **Business Awards Banquet**, these women, men, companies and organizations have the opportunity of being showered with congratulations and recognition. From the Ambassador of the Year to the Small and Large Businesses of the Year; our Rising Leaders and Stars; Women In Business and the Howard Clemmons Award, the Chamber takes time to say thank you to its members, the community and

these special people. Back in October, the Chamber opened up nominations for the Small Business of the Year (under 50 employees), the Large Business of the Year (over 50 employees), Rising Star Award (in business for less than three years and making its mark in our chamber and community), Rising Leader Award (formerly Granbury Young Professionals and now with an emphasis on growing leadership in Granbury, Hood County and the chamber; Woman in Business and the Howard Clemmons Award. Past recipients of these awards reads like a who's who of Granbury and Hood County, and when we closed the nominations on

Dec. 1, we had received 119 nominations!

Thanks in large part to the Best of Business Awards Banquet committee, chaired once again by Pamela Miller, they whittle down the nominations in each award category to three to five finalists. And at the Chamber's final board meeting of the year in December, directors selected this year's recipients in blind balloting. And, with the holidays, we wanted to let the community know the honorees who will be recognized at our Best of Business Awards Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center:

Howard Clemmons: James Brock, Brock's Food and



LLC-Kevin Watson, Broker Ambassador: Stan Wasielewski

These dedicated community leaders have made and continue to make Granbury and Hood County better every day and we couldn't be more excited to honor them! If you see these folks out in the community, tell them congratulations... they've earned the recognition as have all of our previous recipients over the past decades!

And finally, if you would like to join us later this month, there are some tables/tickets still available; however, we expect the event to be a sell out so please reach out to Maegan Derryberry by Wednesday, Jan. 10 to secure your seats. Congratulations to these honorees!!

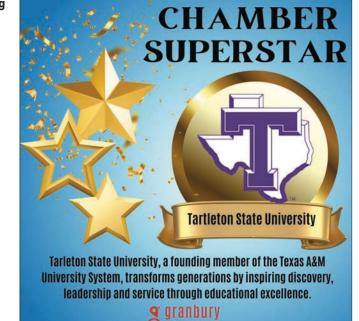
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



"DSG Benefits Group is breaking the mold in employee benefits. We partner with employers to provide an inclusive approach to employee benefits and HR management. DSG has a client-first philosophy. We are committed to serving our clients, ensuring they have peace of mind and an excellent experience."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



"With its main campus in Stephenville, an hour southwest of Fort Worth, Tarleton State University offers the value of a Texas A&M University System degree with its own brand of personal attention, individual opportunities, history, tradition, and community."

COURTESY GRAPHIC





a simulated propane tank fire. This challenging drill involved using water deluges from two large hoses to enable firefighters to approach the propane tank and manually shut off a valve.

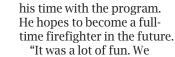
The class valedictorian, Aaron Kreag, and salutatorian, Robert Eakins, were recognized for their outstanding achievements at graduation.

Diego Guerrero has been a training lieutenant at Granbury Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) for two years. His grandfather was a former member of the GVFD and would take Guerrero with him to visit the station. Guerrero has been with the station for a total of six years.

"It's been rewarding just to see each student and see the organization grow as a whole. It's had a really big impact, not just on our organization but the county in general," Guerrero told the HCN. "It's just really cool to watch all the effects of the academy and I've really enjoyed it so far."

Guerrero added he enjoys teaching the wide range of students that come in and the relationships he gets to build along the way.

Carter Chance graduated with this class and enjoyed



learned a lot of different things from different perspectives of guys who have been in the service for a different number of years," Chance said. "There was a lot of challenging things they had us do to push ourselves, but all around I definitely feel like they've not only made me a better firefighter, but a better person in general."

"I find that you're learning just as much from the students as they are learning from you, so it's a twoway street. It's really neat and makes it enjoyable," Guerrero said. "I look forward to building that bond even stronger because we've found that training helps build cohesion and teawork.

COURTESY PHOTO Granbury firefighter Carter Chance climbs Tower 1, learning how to safely enter an upper-story window.

We've come a long way and it's a lot of fun."

GVFD welcomes firefighters from other departments, fostering a foundation of knowledge and trust essential for seamless cooperation during large-scale incidents.

Guerrero noted that students come in from all over the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex due to the Granbury Fire Academy's extensive training and the facility's features. He added the mentality of the department has changed and become more modernized to extend more opportunities to individuals.

One unique aspect of the Granbury Fire Academy is that it's a certified state testing facility, so those who want to become state certified are able to do so right here in Hood County. Guerrero said although the state certification is not required, the academy encourages its students to become certified to help them in the future.

Individuals interested in learning more about the fire department or becoming a volunteer firefighter are encouraged to visit GVFD's website at GVFD.org or contact GVFD's Station No. 1 at 817-579-1111. A clean background check and an application are required to become a volunteer.

The department always accepts donations of snacks and water as well as monetary donations. Donations may be dropped off at Station 1 located at 1701 West Pearl St. Checks should be made out to GVFD and may be dropped off at Station 1 or mailed.



GVEFD Training Lieutenant Diego Guerrero centered in the front poses with the Fall 2023 Granbury Fire Academy graduates.

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

Being better: On the way to who I am



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.

ew Year's Day has come and gone. New Year's Day is an important day for most of us and for some rather interesting reasons. Stop and think about it. Some holidays, like the 4th of July, are on the calendar because an event happened on that day. Other holiday events, like Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, are all set on the calendar by the powers to be as the recognized time which to celebrate, honor, or give remembrance. New Year's Day is celebrated on Jan. 1 just

bromoter. because it happens to be the first day of the year. Nothing notable in history happened on that day; it is simply a day set aside which allows us to reflect on the hope of what

we could be. Why does the start of a new year mean so much to people? Over a million people gathered in Times Square to watch a lighted ball "fall" and count out the last seconds of the previous year. Private celebrations were held with families and friends. People drink, consume certain food items like black-eyed peas, and set off fireworks. It is a big deal here in Texas, and it is a big deal around the world.

The day is notable for people making New Year's resolutions, which are nothing more than promises one makes to oneself about accomplishing a certain goal. It might be to quit smoking, or get in shape, or take more time for oneself. Unlike most other promises, these resolutions have no legal weight and are completely unenforceable. Many times, the resolutions are cast aside before the first of February comes to pass. So, why do we make these so-called "resolutions"?

Could it be hope? With each new year, we are mentally refreshed with the idea of a new beginning and recognize the whole calendar year is before us. The failures of the past fall by the wayside, and we can set new goals, seek new accomplishments, and make positive choices. Our minds are programmed to believe we can be better. It is something inside us we want to do. But, to be better we must confirm in our mind what we are seeking, what we want to become, and the price we are willing to pay. Thus, the New Year's resolution.

There is no question: Many people, including me, would like to lose weight. They may make a resolution to eat less, to exercise, and change their lifestyle to one which is healthier. Everyone can agree this type of change is positive, and the results will be beneficial. The tough part is paying the price to accomplish the goal and having the discipline to see it through. We kid ourselves that we will pass on the piece of pie, the cold beer, and laying on the sofa, watching an old movie. Instead, we envision ourselves eating carrot and celery sticks, drinking lots of water, and going to the gym religiously. Deep down inside we know that we probably are not going to be disciplined to achieve our goals, but something about setting the goal makes us feel better. With a little luck and perseverance, we might even accomplish at least a part of them.

Guess for me I like the idea of thinking about who I am becoming. What are the changes I can make which make me a better husband, father, columnist, citizen, and human being? I never want to be satisfied with the person I was last year. It is exciting and, to some degree, almost thrilling to imagine the reality of the person I am, rather than the person I may have once been. Maybe, by the time the end of the year arrives, I will be one step closer to making the hope a reality. Of course, if I don't accomplish my resolutions, I will get the chance to start all over again on New Year's Day of 2025. Hope springs eternal!

May all your resolutions be fulfilled, and you find the person you have become.

Thought for the day: "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person." Benjamin Franklin

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

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





MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury veteran has big plans for small businesses in Hood County

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

emily@hcnews.com

Kolton Krottinger, a Granbury resident and Navy veteran, has created a group to help and support local entrepreneurs in Hood County. Krottinger suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder and anxiety from his service.

After facing homelessness post-service, Krottinger turned his life around and became a successful bestselling author and entrepreneur. He created a nonprofit group known as Anxiety of America where he serves as president. Krottinger recently decided to create a space for veterans as an oasis for their mental health at the Blue Branch Historic Ranch under his nonprofit.

Along with the above accomplishments, Krottinger also has in-depth knowledge in the business realm after the struggles he has faced throughout his life. He taught online courses in basics of business and marketing and worked with hundreds of small and large brands. Krottinger has worked with brands such as General Motors, Netflix, Nestle, Hasbro, The Dallas Cowboys and many more. He also has a ton of experience with social media and currently reaches around 10 million people via social media.

"I want to share all the knowledge that I have with

Hood County businesses free of charge," Krottinger told the HCN. "I am committed to having this (group) be a free community for entrepreneurs to work together and grow, no matter what size or income level. I plan on this being the go-to for small business in Hood County."

Krottinger posted his idea for the group on Facebook and has had over 200 small businesses sign up in less than 48 hours.

His goal is to teach these business leaders how to get more customers and keep them coming back. There will be monthly meetups and newsletters as well as various experts to come speak. He is in the process of building a 4,000 square foot building that will house Hood County entrepreneurs with a full event venue, offices, recording studio and more. The office will be located at the Blue Branch Historic Ranch.

"I'm not the absolute expert but I have a lot to offer, and I know there are tons of seasoned entrepreneurs that will join that have a lot to offer as well," Krottinger said. "I'm simply creating the platform for everyone to come together."

To contact Krottinger email him at kolton@ Krottinger.com. For more information on the Hood County entrepreneurs group visit hoodcountyentrepreneurs.com.

Hood County Clerk's Office presented

Mickey White Say hello to our neighbor, Mickey White!

Mickey White remembers back around 1973 Rankins

Restaurant, Mildred's Lunch Box, Dairy King, and Jose's were the only eating places in Granbury. White and his high school buddies were frequent visitors to Jose's "Across the Lake on the Beach." to indulge in free chips, salsa, and a glass of water only to slip away before the waiter could take their order. White made up for it later in a big way by serving Hood County as a volunteer firefighter for many years. Mickey says, "This town is more giving than any place I have ever heard of. In crisis, all you have to do is ask, and the people here help, and help some more." White said his good friend Bud Strain says it best, "That's the way we roll in Hood."

Much of Mickey White's working life has revolved around food. With 48 years in the grocery business here in Granbury, White is familiar and a friend to many. After 27 years with Winn-Dixie, followed by 20 years at Brookshire's, White retired in February 2017. His short-lived retirement ended six months later when he was back on board with Brookshire's three days a week to enjoy quality time with treasured customers and colleagues.

Those who know are well aware of Mickey's competitive streak. With too many honors to list, Mickey's award-winning BBQ keeps him extremely busy — a sometimes welcomed distraction of the passing of his beloved wife Joan in 2019. This year alone he put out 13 briskets, eight slabs of ribs, 20 hams and he lost count of how many pots of beans went out over the holidays. White routinely turns his BBQ passion into charity by donating delicious cooking to several Hood County events.

Over the years Mickey and Joan, along with their three children Anthony, Amanda, and Jarod have always been Hood County News readers. The White family couldn't be prouder when their eldest Anthony while serving in Iraq sent an image of himself holding up a Hood County News for the camera. The photo ran in 2004 in the Aug. 21 issue.

Five Star Award for ninth straight year

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Clerk's Office (HCCO) was presented with a repeat notable honor Dec. 21, earning the Five Star Award for 2023 by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

According to dshs.texas. gov, the Five Star Award acknowledges vital statistics partners who understand the importance of vital statistics and their impact on the citizens of Texas. This award honors partners who go above and beyond the duties of birth and death registration by attending training and keeping up with the latest legislation and trends.

The award was presented to the HCCO for its excellence in vital statistics and for going above and beyond to ensure excellent customer service, security, and data quality in Texas.

According to the Texas Vital Statistics Section 2023 Five Star Criteria, local registrars must have attended either the 2022 Annual Conference or the 2023 Summer Conference to qualify for the Five Star Award. Additionally, local registrars must also have attended monthly webinars with a field rep, submitted a completed local registrar self-assessment survey provided by the Vital Statistics Section electronically no later than April 30, and registered 96% of birth records and death records within one business day between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30.

Hood County Clerk Katie Lang told the HCN that the HCCO has received the Five Star Award every year since she assumed the position of county clerk nine years ago.

"I'm very proud of my clerks and how hard they work to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Texas," Lang said. "They must be very knowledgeable on the variety of products we offer, and they must always follow the Texas State Statues. Their customer service is not only heartfelt but usually puts a smile on the customers' face. The future looks bright, and we hope to keep the citizens as our most important partner in the days ahead.'

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Tolar signs interlocal agreement with Hood County for animal control services

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

emily@hcnews.com

In a Dec. 18 Tolar City Council meeting, council members voted unanimously to sign an interlocal agreement with Hood County to provide various animal control services.

The City of Tolar has been without animal control for the past two years but now will have animal control, boarding, euthanasia/disposal, after hours facility access, adoption assistance and field call assistance.

"We need animal control, and it was agreeable to both parties, so we thought it was a good deal," Tolar Mayor Matt Hutsell told the HCN. He added the cost is \$970 annually which is paid to Hood County and divided into four equal installments.

Boarding services will allow the county to provide adequate boarding space

for all domesticated animals impounded by the City of Tolar until those animals are released or properly euthanized and disposed. Hood County will not board livestock under the agreement.

Under the agreement, Hood County will provide euthanasia materials, services and proper disposal of the animal in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code 821.051 and any other applicable state law.

Hood County will provide the City of Tolar with a means of access to boarding kennels after normal business hours. Hood County also agrees to provide Tolar with adoption assistance if the city impounds an animal due for disposal and the animal fits adoption guidelines. The county will also provide Tolar assistance on animal calls during normal business hours



Tolar City Council council members voted unanimously to sign an interlocal agreement with Hood County to provide various animal control services including boarding, euthanasia/disposal, after hours facility access, adoption assistance and field call assistance. Boarding services will allow the county to provide adequate boarding space for all domesticated animals impounded by the City of Tolar until those animals are released or properly euthanized and disposed.

Leap into heart health this leap year with Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians

Submitted Item

It's a leap year, and that means we all can look forward to an extra day in February — an extra day to enjoy life, be well and pursue the things that make us happy. And, while an extra day is nice, what if you could add more years to your life?

Caring for your heart is one of the best ways to increase longevity. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States, responsible for one in five adult deaths in the U.S. each vear. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) estimates one person dies every 36 seconds from cardiovascular disease.

COURTESY PHOTO Caring for your heart is one of the best ways to increase longevity. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States, responsible for one in five adult deaths in the U.S. each year.

its, "hop" into bed earlier for better rest, and other "steps" anyone can take toward a stronger, healthier heart. Julian Jimenez, M.D., fam-

ily medicine physician, says, "Most people can reduce the risk of heart disease by adopting a healthy lifestyle, not smoking, exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, and treating high blood pressure. And while this may sound like a lot to manage, in many cases, small adjustments can lead to measurable improvement in heart health." President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the first American Heart Month in February 1964. Several years before that, when he was Senate Majority Leader, Johnson was a 60-cigaretteper-day smoker and suffered a near-fatal heart attack. He was only 46 years old. Since then, every U.S. president has recognized February as American Heart Month and a time to educate Americans about ways to prevent



CALENDAR

THROUGH TUESDAY, **JAN.9**

LAKE GRANBURY

Art Association hosts a group show at the Shanley Gallery, 224. N. Travis, Granbury. Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN.8

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Installation of new officers and plans for the coming year, 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Hwy 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

THE NORTH Central

COURTESY PHOTO

Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8 at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Hwy 377. The program will be brought by Dr. Leah Tarwater, adjunct professor of Libertv University. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit the website at www.ncentexcwrt. com or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

LAKE GRANBURY Art

Association monthly meeting. Begins at 6 p.m. and includes free art demonstrations. Visitors welcome, no charge when attending to check it out. 224 N. Travis St., Granbury.

TUESDAY, JAN.9

SALVATION ARMY Women's Auxiliary Monthly meeting: De-Cordova Country Club Camp Hoblitzelle presented members, Junnie Gage and Andrea Bower. Junnie and Andrea will

share their experiences

But there are actions you can take right now to reduce the risk of heart disease.

This February, Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians are marking American Heart Month and the 2024 leap year with its Leap into Heart Health educational email series. People who sign up will receive short, fun-filled, factfilled, potentially life-saving emails designed to help improve heart health. Topics include ways to "spring" into action, "skip" past stress, "hurdle" over harmful habheart disease.

The Leap into Heart Health email series will be delivered to inboxes every other day in February with a short article and heart health tips you can try right away. The series also includes warnings about symptoms and conditions that may indicate you should see a doctor, especially high blood pressure, high cholesterol and genetic predisposition to heart disease.

"At Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians, we are commit-

SIGN UP

To "Leap into Heart Health," sign up at LakeGranburyMedicalCenter.com /Leap/ or scan the QR code.

ted to helping people live healthier, and, for most of us, that should start with taking better care of our hearts,' says Curt M. Junkins, CEO. "People who Leap into Heart Health with us this February will find the email content

takes only a couple of minutes to read each day, but the advice is fun, sometimes surprising, always informative, and it can be life-saving. I hope everyone will sign up.'

chuckling.

According to the Bankers Digest article, Webb said he is looking forward to finishing up his work life as president and CEO at First National Bank, with his focus being on "serving customers while protecting the bank.'

Following his retirement, Hodges will continue to serve on the FNB Board of Directors and will most likely still grace the bank with his presence periodically - but now, it will finally be on his own time.



FROM PAGE A1

In 2015, he became the bank's president and CEO, the position that will soon be taken over by current Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer Mark Webb.

Webb served as a former bank examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). Hodges said Webb examined FNB a couple of times, leading

Hodges to joke that the bank "had to hire him to get him off their back."

"He's been a wonderful asset to us," Hodges said. "I don't know how we would have grown and kept solvent if he hadn't had been here, honestly."

Webb was born and raised in Saginaw and attended Boswell High School, where he met his wife, Launi, whose father convinced him to attend college and pursue a career in banking. After graduating with a

University in Lubbock, Webb launched his banking career in 1987 when he began working for the OCC. Webb joined the First National Bank of Granbury in

BBA degree in corporate

finance from Texas Tech

1995 as a loan officer. He was promoted to senior vice president a few years later and was appointed to the board of directors in 2005.

According to an article in Bankers Digest, Webb is extremely active in the Granbury community, servPlantation Homeowner's Association, Granbury Opera House, Mambrino Baptist Church and Granbury/Hood County EMS. He currently leads a Sunday school class for "a small group of sweet, patient people" at Granbury Baptist Church, where he also serves as trustee.

ing as treasurer of the Pecan

"I spend probably too much time studying the scriptures and not enough time studying problems at the bank — but I don't really care," Webb told the HCN,

with Camp Hoblitzelle attendees, the effect on the campers and ways to help with this project. Mingle at 10 a.m., meeting at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. Trio salad plate (chicken salad with croissant, fruit salad, pasta salad) and dessert, \$20 (gratuity included, cash preferred). Make checks payable to SAWA. \$5 setup fee (if not staying for lunch). Can't wait to see you "doing the most good." PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A9

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration. The Community Calendar is a free listing in the Hood County News to inform readers of programs, special meetings and 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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Hood County Senior Center brings in new leadership for the new year Offering friendly smiles and warm meals for years

Staff Reports

eanette Scott, executive director for the Hood County Senior Center, has put a great deal of effort into bringing joy, happiness and care through the doors for many years. The Center is not only a lifeline for local homebound residents who depend on meal delivery and friendly smiles from volunteers. It is also a hub of activity for local seniors who enjoy fellowship, fun and a good meal. Her hard work is evident, but come January 2024, Scott is ready to retire and hand the reins to Trish Burwell, hired recently by the center's board of directors to take her place.

"For years, I have started my day with the smell of hot rolls cooking," Scott says as she ponders her time at the center. "Later in the morning, the sounds of the center start rising as it gets busy with knitting, dancing, singing and friendly games of pool. Meals on Wheels volunteers chat while their coolers are filled, and then lunch is served."

The Hood County Senior Center has long been a symbol of fellowship for local senior citizens who seek to maintain close relationships with other seniors in the community. The center's roots go back to 1977 at the Shanley House before it outgrew the historic space and moved to 501 E. Moore Street in 1999; it continues to grow and bustle with activity at that location.

"As I work in my office late into the afternoon, I hear conversation around the pool table and realize how far we have come in providing for our local seniors," said Scott. "The center is where friends meet and enjoy life. Long-term memories are made here."

CONTINUING THE MISSION TO SERVE THE CENTER

Trish Burwell is thrilled to accept the opportunity to serve as executive director for the center come January. She has been proudly involved with the center for many years on various levels, including volunteering for



COURTESY PHOTO Jeanette Scott is retiring from her position serving as the Executive Director of the Hood County Senior Center.

Meals on Wheels, providing activities in the center, and previously serving as a board member.

"I cannot overstate the tremendous honor it is for me to take on this position," stated Burwell. "It is no secret that I have a heart for the elderly and have spent the better part of my career ensuring our seniors have the resources necessary for the best quality of life possible." She went on to say, "I believe it is our responsibility to care for those who built our community and helped make it a great place to live."

No stranger to the throes of leadership, Burwell recognizes Scott's efforts in promulgating the mission of the center. "Filling Jeanette's



Former Granbury City Council Member Trish Burwell has taken on a new role now serving as the Executive Director of the Hood County Senior Center.

shoes will be challenging. She has reached significant milestones during her tenure," Burwell said. "I will enjoy working with the center team members to continue building on her efforts and am confident we will make her proud."

"I look forward to Trish and the team continuing to provide much-needed services to our seniors," Scott said as she wrapped up her day. "I am truly thankful for the warm welcome I have experienced over the years and will enjoy keeping up with the progress at the center while I savor retirement."



MORE INFO

The Hood County Senior Center has been committed to providing services tailored to the unique needs of Hood County senior citizens for nearly 50 years. If you would like more information on client services for yourself or a family member, please contact the center at 817-573-5533. Monetary donations are accepted online for the local Hood County Meals on Wheels Program at mowhctx.org.











We'll all be spending at least the next couple of months in our homes, snuggly wrapped up by the fire, chili on the stove (beans, no beans? That'll be another discussion), watching your favorite shows. It's time to slow down a little and recharge your batteries.

We'd love to help you start the new year fresh - fresh air that is. Breathe a little easier and healthier going into 2024.

This month we're offering a FREE dryer vent cleaning (a value of \$549) when you use Daffan's Air Duct Cleaning Services.



SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

Staff Reports

weather training program known as SKYWARN will be held at the Granbury Emergency Operations Center Jan. 22 from 6-8 p.m. The free program equips community members with essential information for all types of weather hazards. The main responsibility of a "SKYWARN spotter" is to identify and describe severe local storms.

Every year, the National Weather Service of Fort Worth conducts over two dozen SKYWARN classes within its coverage area of 46 counties in North and Central Texas. These classes are usually held between January and March before the spring severe weather season.

In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes. The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damage.

To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN with partner organizations. SKYWARN is a citizen volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. SKYWARN® storm spotters are citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Storm spotters play a critical role because they can see things radar and other technological tools cannot, and this ground truth is critical in helping the NWS perform our primary mission: to save lives and property.

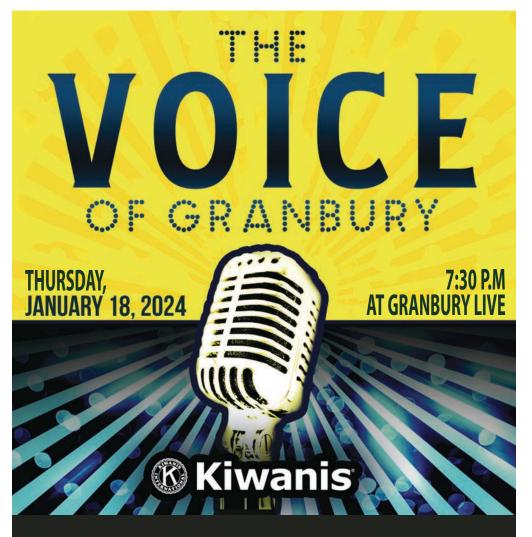
THE SKYWARN® PROGRAM AT NWS FORT WORTH

Many people ask how they can become a member of SKYWARN. In most cases, SKYWARN isn't really something you join, but instead is a concept based on having citizen volunteers help their community and the NWS by observing and reporting hazardous weather occurring in their area. Anyone can be a storm spotter and submit reports directly to the NWS. If you are interested in becoming a member of an official local SKYWARN storm spotter network, you'll probably want to contact your city or county emergency management office for information. Many communities have organized networks of storm spotters, often made up of amateur radio operators, fire departments, law enforcement or other volunteers. These local networks may have very specific training and membership requirements, so check with your local officials to see how you might be able to get involved.

There is no pre-registration (except for virtual classes), and you do not have to be a resident of a specific county to attend any of the NWS SKYWARN classes. For more information visit https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap or scan the QR code.



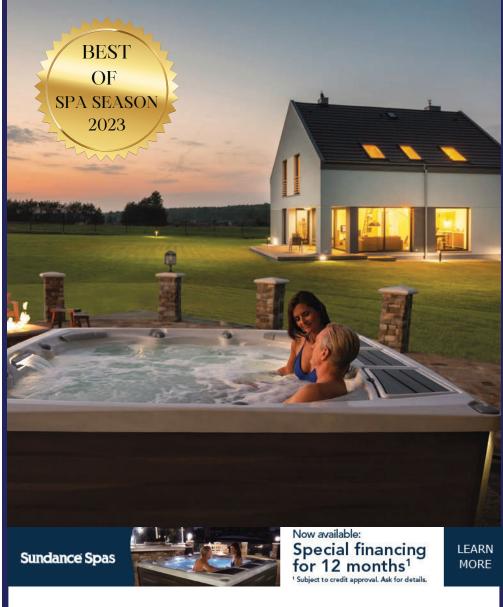




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PARADISE POOLS WE PROVIDE SOLUTIONS This show is a singing competition where 10 local talents will compete for audience votes to be crowned as the Voice of Granbury. Competitors will be Jen Maroney, Hayden Phillips, Tee Etheridge, Crystal McCraw, Lisa Sudbury, Lois Akers, AJ Sarcione, Nate Milson, Jackson Powell, and Pete O'Carroll. Each person will perform one song, which will be followed by a round of voting. The top five will advance to the second round, which will be followed by a second round of voting. The top three will advance to the second round and perform a final song. Our overall winner will also receive a \$350 cash prize.

To purchase tickets go to www.thenewgranburylfve.com Search for *The Voice of Granbury* Tickets are \$30/ea.

Allison Southern Ullom, Realtor R E A L T Y

KELLERWILLIAMS. Jaque Gordon, Realtor

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COURTESY PHOTO

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS Happy New Year!

BY JACQUE GORDON



Jacque and her husband David moved to Granbury in 2007. They have five children and fifteen grandchildren. A Realtor since 2017, she has been with Keller Williams her entire career and in Gary Keller's top 200 agents in the company for the past year. She was a Granbury Association of Realtors board member for three years and is now president of the board. jacquegordon@kw.com | 817-243-4324

y name is Jacque Gordon, and I am the 2024 president of the Granbury Association of REALTORS[®]. It is an honor to serve the association and this community.

The forecast for 2024? The Real Estate Market is still good and it's a good time to buy and/or sell a house, especially if you are a first-time homebuyer.

If you are a first-time homebuyer, it might not feel like a good time to buy a home — but it is. However, the window of opportunity may be shrinking.

Mortgage rates are dropping.

First-time homebuyer programs are still available. Big down payments are

not always needed.

MORTGAGE RATES ARE AT/NEAR 7%

According to Freddie Mac and its weekly survey, since peaking in late October 2023, 30-year fixedrate mortgage rates have dropped for five straight weeks.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

Another reason now is a good time to buy a house is that eligible first-time homebuyers can still access discounted mortgage rates through the First-Time Homebuyer Mortgage Rate Discount Program. The first-time homebuy-

er program is available on loans backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It lowers mortgage rates in all 50 states for low- to moderate-income buyers without credit score or down payment requirements.

Other government agencies make buying a home more affordable too. The Federal Housing Administration recently reduced its annual mortgage insurance premiums by 0.30 percentage points for buyers, lowering monthly payments on FHA-backed loans \$300 per year per \$100,000 borrowed.

The FHA mortgage insurance premium reduction is the agency's first-time lowering FHA MIP since 2015.

YOU CAN BUY A HOME WITHOUT A BIG DOWN PAYMENT

You don't need a big down payment to buy your first home. If you want to buy as soon as possible for any of these reasons, start a pre-approval:



The Real Estate Market is still good and it's a good time to buy and/or sell a house, especially if you are a first-time homebuyer.

Your lease is ending, and your landlord won't renew. Your lease is ending,

and your rent has been increased. You are moving out of

your parents' home. You are ready to buy a pet-friendly home.

There are over a dozen low- and no-downpayment mortgages for first-time homebuyers and local housing offices offer eligible buyers access to down payment assistance programs.

WHAT TO DO NEXT: GET PREAPPROVED TO BUY YOUR HOME

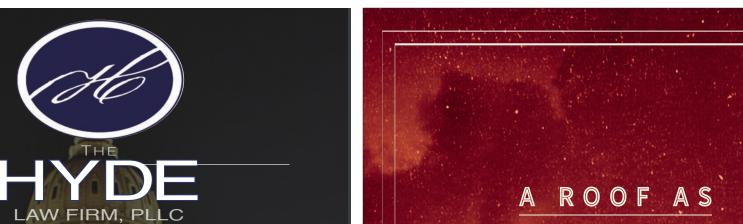
If you plan to buy a home in the coming weeks or

months, get a mortgage preapproval first. Mortgage preapprovals are a dress rehearsal for your home purchase. They use today's live mortgage rates and market conditions to show how much home you can afford to buy while setting realistic boundaries for your home search and budget.

Every successful purchase starts with pre-approval and buyers should get one as early in their home search as possible.

For a full list of realtors® and affiliates, visit the Granbury Association of Realtors® website at www. Granburyrealtors.com.





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CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Civil War Round Table to meet Jan. 8



BY BILL DYESS

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

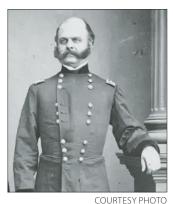
he North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 U.S. Highway 377 E. in Granbury. The program will be brought by Dr. Leah Tarwater, adjunct professor at Liberty University. Dr. Tarwater holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, as well as a master's and Ph.D. from TCU. Her area of expertise is in Kentucky soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

> The December meeting was Dec. 13, with the program brought by Bertram Hayes-Davis, a greatgreat- grandson of Jefferson Davis. While Jefferson

Davis will no doubt be best remembered in history as the first — and only — president of the Confederate States of America, he was an accomplished politician and statesman in prewar America, and Bertram

COURTESY PHOTO

Union forces under General George H. Thomas defeated a Confederate force under General George Crittenden, at Mill Springs, Kentucky, on the north bank of the Cumberland River.



General Ambrose Burnside.

Hayes-Davis provided a great deal of interesting information on the early years of his career.

JANUARY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In addition to the usual small skirmishes and battles throughout the contested areas, three actions of somewhat more importance occurred in January 1862. First, Confederate forces, under General "Stonewall" Jackson, drove the Union forces from, and established winter quarters at, Romney, in northwest Virginia. This marked the last Confederate

occupation of what would soon become the Union state of West Virginia. Secondly, in Kentucky, Union forces under General George H. Thomas defeated a Confederate force under General George Crittenden, at Mill Springs, Kentucky, on the north bank of the Cumberland River. This was the first break in the Confederate defense line in Kentucky, and was utilized in Grant's movement that, a year-and-a-half later, resulted in the fall of Vicksburg, and Union control of the Mississippi River.

The third notable action in January was the sailing of a Union fleet of approximately 100 ships, carrying 15,000 Union troops commanded by General Ambrose Burnside, from Hampton Roads, Virginia. These troops, when landed, supplemented a small Union force already holding an area on the North Carolina coast, and ensured a Union foothold in that area.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 1,008 general officers that served in the Civil War (538 in the Union army and 425 in the Confederate army), 384 were graduates of The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Of those 384, the Union had the service of 228, while 156 served for the Confederacy.

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

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



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OBITUARIES

ton, beloved mother,

2024. Funeral services cel-

ebrating her life will be

will follow at Holly Hills Cemetery in Granbury.

28, 1940, in Lincoln, Ne-

braska. She married Ger-

ald Helton and together

they had four children:

for helping anyone in

and was a wonderful

seamstress. Janet was

proud of her 10-year ca-

reer as a flight attendant

particularly to her favorite

city, Vancouver, B.C. A de-

vout Christian, she was a

long-time dedicated mem-

Church in Granbury where

ber of Lakeside Baptist

she volunteered her ser-

vices with an unselfish

heart. Janet's gifts were

"worth far more than

with American Airlines.

She enjoyed traveling -

Judy, Janine, James, and

Jason. Janet had a passion

need, and she "never met a

stranger." She was an artist

who was gifted in quilting

held at 3 p.m, on Sunday,

Jan. 7, at Lakeside Baptist

Church in Granbury. Burial

Janet was born on May

home.

William (Bob) R. Cornett

September 8, 1940 - December 31, 2023

William (Bob) Cornett, 83, of Cresson, Texas, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 31, 2023.

His Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Diana Jones Memorial Training Center located at 9401 Hwy 377, Cresson, Texas 76035. In Lieu of flowers, the family would love for a donation to go to the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 42, Cresson, TX 76035.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Sandra Cornett; daughter, Tamara Gomez of Cresson, Texas; daughter, Kelly Flud and husband Charles of Cresson, Texas; grandchildren, Jerad Gomez and wife Toni; Scott Gomez and wife Kristen; Morgan Ortega; Tiffanie Matherne and fiancé Cory Blair; Rebecca Barker and husband Corey all from Cresson Texas; Tabitha Burton; Tommy Matzen and wife Kristen of Trophy Club, Texas; Michael Flud and wife Kristy of Arlington. Great-grandchildren Shaun Gomez and fiancé McKenzie Graves; Alyssa Gomez, Ty Gomez, Charlin Gomez, Aiden Matherne, Annabelle Ortega, Chloe Barker, Jackson Barker, Abigail Flud, Tasha Burton, Zachary Burton, James Wann, Samantha Wann, Jacy Matzen, Brooklyn Matzen, McKenzie Lance, Tyler Seay and many other loved family members and friends.

Bob was born in Omaha, Nebraska. His family moved to Iowa and then he met and married his high school sweetheart Sandy on Nov. 30, 1957. They started their family and moved to Texas in 1968. Bob was hard working and devoted to his family. He had a witty sense of hu-



mor which passed on to his children and grandchildren. In 1983 they moved to Cresson and in 1988 he joined the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department. He served as a firefighter, Captain, Assistant Chief and for the last few years has served as the Assistant Chief Emeritus. Earlier in December at the fire department Christmas party he and Sandy were recognized for 35 years of service with the department. In the last few years Bob wasn't able to make calls, but nobody was more proud of what the department had become than Bob. Each year the Chief gives small gift bags to the members and Bob's last service to the fire department was stuffing those 80 plus bags with help from Sandy. Bob served as Mayor Pro-Tem and Mayor of the City of Cresson from its incorporation until 2020. Bob set an example for all of us of true servant leadership. He was quick to point out to new members that anyone could contribute to our work and everyone brought value. He taught every one of us unselfish giving of one's time and abilities. He loved his family and his fire family so much. He will truly be missed by all.

Janet Ellen Helton

May 28, 1940 - December 25, 2023

Janet Ellen (Kelley) Heldaughter, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and a friend to many, passed away early on Dec. 25, 2023, in her Granbury Visitation will be held at the Wiley Funeral Center, 420 Highway 377 East, in Granbury from 4 until 7 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 6,

> rubies." She will affectionately be remembered for her unconditional love and for being a "mother to many and a friend to all!"

> Janet is survived by her children, Judy and spouse Brit Jennings, Janine and spouse Steve Welch, James and spouse JoAnne Helton and Jason and spouse Kurt Gunter-Helton; her grandchildren, Josh, Britney, Amy, Amber, Scott, Jessica, and Jasmine; her greatgrandchildren, Luke, Sam, Connor, Dalton, Caleb, Brody. Dylan. Kyle. and Josey; her sister, Doris McLain; and numerous nieces and nephews that loved her so dearly.

Janet was predeceased by her father, James Kelley; her mother, Adeline (Bell) Brucker; her step-father Laverne Brucker, her sisters, Shirley McLain, Anabell Ruiz, Mary Brucker, and her infant brother, Walter Brucker.

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.

CALENDAR

CALENDAR FROM PAGE A4

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

HOOD COUNTY 4-H Pancake Breakfast hosted at the Hood County Reunion Grounds during the week of the Hood County Livestock Show. All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Hood County 4-H youth by funding educational experiences, contests and leadership training. 641 Reunion Ct., Granbury, 76048) from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. For any questions, please contact the Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

MEETING OF the Hood County Hospital District Board of Directors at noon. Regularly scheduled meeting. Subjects will include re-introducing a tax. Annex 1 meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. 76048. For more information call 817-579-3200.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

GOOSEBUMP JUMP hosted by Visit Granbury. The event will take place at the Granbury City Beach and end with warm festivities at the Hilton Garden Inn. Registration is at the Lake Granbury Conference Center parking lot adjoining City Beach Park entrance. The event schedule: 10 a.m. registration and sign in; 11 a.m. costume judging and awards; Noon: Official Jump; 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. slide activities. To warm up after the jump there will be hot tubbing fun provided by JR Spas. Hilton Garden Inn will host the Coffee/cocoa/cookies after party to begin immediately following the jump.

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Nancy Durie Duncan

November 17, 1927 - December 22, 2023

Mildred Nanette (Nancy) Durie Duncan, 96, passed away peacefully on Decem-



ber 22, 2023 in Willow Park, Texas. Nancy was born on November 17, 1927 in Waco, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Edith (Kleypas) Durie, her husband, Glenn Wallace Duncan and her sister, Mary Nell SoRelle. She leaves behind three children: Glenn Duncan (Suzanne), Nanette Nadeau, Susan Clemens (Bill); six grandchildren: Scott Duncan (Jennifer), Lindsey Flowers (Brandon), Philip Duncan (Monica), Cameron Kelman (Chip), Cole Thompson (Niki), Brian Felker; and fourteen great-grandchildren: Tanner Ward, Elliana, Evan, Adelaide and Alexis Duncan, Coy and Charley Flowers, Jace, Juliette, Athan and Kai Duncan, Hadyn Felker, Tagg and Troop Thompson.

Nancy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great- grandmother. Throughout her life, she showed an overwhelmingly selfless and sacrificial love for her family. It was only fitting that she

was surrounded by family at her passing.

Visitation with family will begin at 10 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Aledo, Texas. A reception will follow. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. at the DFW National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Nancy's name to:

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur

909 W. Shaw St. Fort Worth, TX. 76110 817-923-8393 www.ssmnwestern.org See full obituary at brownowensbrumley.com.





Time: A key element of investing

CHAD CARROLL

Edward Jones Financial Adviser

Who knows where the time goes? We've reached the end of another year, so it's appropriate to reflect on the nature of time and how it affects us. And time certainly is a key element in the pursuit of your financial goals.

As an investor, time can be your greatest ally. If you hold some investments for the long term, you could achieve an impressive cumulative growth in value. Furthermore, if you keep adding shares to these investments, possibly through a dividend reinvestment plan, you could attain "growth on growth" through



Chad Carroll fluctuations, but in general, the longer you hold these investments, the more you can reduce the effects of market volatility.

But you also need to consider aspects of time in these contexts:

CHECKING PROGRESS ON ACHIEVING GOALS

When you establish a goal, such as saving for a child's education or your own retirement, you know the end date

of when you'll need the money, but it's also important to mark your progress along the way. So, each year, see how far along you are in meeting your goal. If you're falling behind, you may need to adjust your investment mix.

@HCNEWS

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY

The time needed to achieve a goal should drive your investment strategy for that goal. For example, when you are saving for a retirement that won't happen for three or four decades, you will need to invest for growth by placing a reasonable percentage of equities and equitybased investments in your portfolio, based on your comfort with the various types of risk, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. You will experience some bumps along the way keep in mind that the value of investments will fluctuate and the loss of some or all principal is possible — but you likely have time to overcome the "down" periods. On the other hand, when you are saving for a short-term goal, such as a vacation or a new car or a wedding, you'll want a set amount of money available precisely when you need it. In this case, you may need to sacrifice some growth potential for investments whose

principal value won't fluctuate, such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and bonds.

Keep in mind, though, that when you're investing for long- and short-term goals, it doesn't have to be just one strategy or the other. You can save for retirement with primarily growth vehicles but still have room in your portfolio for shorter-term instruments. And even when you're specifically investing for some short-term goal, you can't forget about your need to save and invest for retirement.

And here's one final point about the relationship between time and investing:

Your risk tolerance can, and probably will, change over the years. As you near retirement, you may feel the need to adjust your portfolio toward a more conservative approach. That's because you may want to consolidate any gains you might have achieved while also recognizing that you simply have less time to bounce back from down markets. Still, even in retirement, you'll need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

When you invest, one of your biggest considerations is time — so use it wisely.

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

ACTON 12-STEP Group. Meeting daily at 7 p.m. 3609

Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

PROMISES AL-ANON

group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

EVERY TUESDAY

PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S in Granbury. 12:30-1:30 p.m.

A non-contact boxing and fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. First Christian Church, 2109 W. U.S. Highway 377 (next door to Tractor Supply).

GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK

seminar Sept 13. to Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by

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

PEDALING FOR Parkinson's

hosted by the Hood County YMCA will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45-minute spin/cycling session. Program will last 12 weeks. For more information call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEFSHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recov-

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

ment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email paige. kitchens@stonewaterchurch. com

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

RE ENGAGE marriage enrich-

FIRST MONDAY

FIRST TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIV-ERS 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 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 at 817-894-2449 or Danny Dwight at 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.

THIRD TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIV-ERS support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

FOURTH TUESDAY

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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



year's Match fund for Habitat for Humanity of Hood County. Habitat believes affordable

POLICE BLOTTER Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report



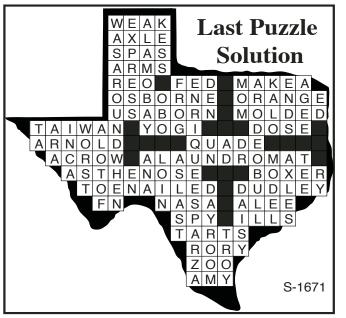
homeownership *changes lives*. You can help "build" that change with a donation to the Match.

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



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO





The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Dec. 26 – Jan 1. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

DEC 26

9:15 a.m. a hit and run was reported on Liberty Rd.

9:26 a.m. lost property was reported on Morgan St.

5:38 p.m. a theft was reported on E US Hwy 377.

6:02 p.m. a missing person was reported on E US Hwy 377.

There were also two minor accidents, a warrant service and 31 traffic stops reported on this day

DEC 27

9:27 a.m. theft over \$100 under \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377.

10:08 a.m. a mental person was reported on Lipan Hwy.

10:53 a.m. theft over \$100 under \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377. 11:18 a.m. theft was reported on W Pearl St.

7:06 p.m. criminal trespassing was reported on E US Hwy 377.

8:17 p.m. an open container alcohol offense was reported on E US Hwy 377. **There was also one major accident

reported, one minor accident reported, a warrant service and 27 traffic stops on this day**

DEC 28

11:20 a.m. a hit and run was reported on E US Hwy 377.

12:27 p.m. road rage was reported on E US Hwy 377.

1:28 p.m. property damage was reported on Hannaford St.

5:20 p.m. a missing person was reported on E Pearl St.

There were also two minor accidents, one warrant service, and 37 traffic stops reported on this day

DEC 29

2:34 a.m. a suicide threat was reported on Torrey St. 9:39 a.m. runaway of a juvenile was reported on W Pearl St.

11:15 a.m. theft over \$100 under \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377.

2:20 p.m. criminal mischief was reported on E US Hwy 377.

2:58 p.m. drug possession was reported on E US Hwy 377.

9:31 p.m. criminal trespassing was reported on W Pearl St.

** There was also one minor accident reported and 36 traffic stops reported this day**

DEC 30

2:13 p.m. a theft over \$100 and under \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377.

2:39 p.m. a found child was reported on W Pearl St.

6:27 p.m. criminal mischief was reported on W Pearl St.

** There was also a warrant service, and 38 traffic stops reported this day**

DEC 31

1:16 a.m. possession of a controlled substance was reported on W US Hwy 377.

4:02 p.m. theft over \$100 and under \$750 was reported on E US Hwy 377.

4:33 p.m. shots fired reported on Camp Crucis Ct.

There were also two minor accidents, one major accident reported, a warrant service and 33 traffic stops

JAN 1

2:00 a.m. a DWI was reported on W US Hwy 377.

10:23 p.m. a DWI was reported on E US Hwy 377.

There was also a major accident reported this day and 34 traffic stops

Hood County News A11



Deadlines: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

(817) 573-7066

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

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Real Estate for Sale1010Acreage for Sale1020Cemetery Lots1030Commercial for Sale1040Duplexes for Sale1050Homes for Sale1050Homes for Sale1060Waterfront Homes1070Lots for Sale1080Mobiles for Sale1090Waterfront Mobiles1100Real Estate Notes1110Townhomes & Condos1120Property For Trade1130Want To BuyReal Estate for Rent1510Apartments for Rent1520Commercial for Rent1530Duplexes for Rent1540Homes for Rent1550Mobiles for Rent1570Rooms for Rent1580Spaces & Lots1590Townhomes & Condos1600Want to Rent1520Automobiles2010Automobiles2020Parts & Accessories2030Big Trucks & Trailers	2050 Four-Wheel Drive 511 2060 Motorcycles 512 2070 Pickups & SUVs 513 2080 Vans & Campers 514 2090 Trailers 515 2095 Heavy Equipment 516 2010 Corrals & Fencing 519 3010 Corrals & Fencing 520 3020 Farm & Ranch 518 3010 Corrals & Fencing 520 3040 Stock Trailers 523 3040 Stock Trailers 523 3050 Related Items 526 Finance 526 525 Finance 526 525 4010 Business Opportunities 526 4020 Insurance 529 4030 Investments 529 5010 Adult/Elderly Care 533 5020 A/C Heating Repair 534 5040 Automotive Services 505 5040 Automotive Services	0 Clock Repair 6080 0 Dock repair/Rebuild 0 0 Electrical 6510 0 Electronics Repair 6520 0 Floor Coverings 6530 0 Floor Coverings 6530 0 Home Improvement 6550 0 Home Services 6560 0 Home Services 6570 0 Interior Design 6580 0 Masonry 6590 0 Mobile Home Service 6600 0 Moving/Hauling 6610 5 Plumbing 6620 0 Sand/Gravel/Soil 6633 0 Roofing 6640 0 Spetic/Sewer 6660 0 Secretarial/Office 5 0 Storage 7010 0 Tractor Service 7010 0 Boats & Water Sports 7040 0 Boats & Water Sports 0 0 Guins 8010 0 Hunting/Eishing 8020 </td <td>Merchandise Antiques Appliances Arts & Crafts Building Materials Computers Electronics Firewood Furniture Health Air Conditioners Lawn Equipment Miscellaneous Musical Instruments Pocket Stuffers Portable Buildings Tools Trees Wanted Education Tutor/Instruction Music Computer Art Instruction Livestock Lost & Found</td> <td>Employment 8510 General 8520 Construction 8530 Food Services 8540 Medical/Dental 8550 Office Employment 8560 Professional 8570 Sales 8580 Salon Personnel 8590 Employment Unformation 8610 Carpool Information 8610 Carpool Information 8610 Carpool Information 8010 Happy Notes 9020 Free 9030 Public Notices 9040 Notices 9040 Notices 9050 Personal Lost & Found 9070 Card of Thanks Public Sales 9570 Auctions 9580 Flea Markets 9580 Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76476</td> <td>Business Hours Monday - Thursday, 8am-5pm Friday, 8am-1pm Deadlines Saturday issue, 10am Wednesday Special Offers Pocket Stuffers Free classified ads. Miscellaneous items up to \$100. Some restrictions apply. Wheels & Deals Place your ad with photo of your vehicle for only \$65.95. the ad will run until it sells or up to 2 months. Place your ad online at www.hcnews.com, call 817-573-7066, or visit us at 1501 S. Morgan St.</td> <td>Classified Advertising Cost Classified ads for the Saturday edition are \$17.60 per week for 4 lines or less. Your ad will also appear on www.hcnews.com during the ad run. Crror Responsibility Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after it appears in the paper and report at once any error found. Claims for adjustment should be made at that time. The Hood County News is responsible for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs, so check your ads carefully</td>	Merchandise Antiques Appliances Arts & Crafts Building Materials Computers Electronics Firewood Furniture Health Air Conditioners Lawn Equipment Miscellaneous Musical Instruments Pocket Stuffers Portable Buildings Tools Trees Wanted Education Tutor/Instruction Music Computer Art Instruction Livestock Lost & Found	Employment 8510 General 8520 Construction 8530 Food Services 8540 Medical/Dental 8550 Office Employment 8560 Professional 8570 Sales 8580 Salon Personnel 8590 Employment Unformation 8610 Carpool Information 8610 Carpool Information 8610 Carpool Information 8010 Happy Notes 9020 Free 9030 Public Notices 9040 Notices 9040 Notices 9050 Personal Lost & Found 9070 Card of Thanks Public Sales 9570 Auctions 9580 Flea Markets 9580 Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76048 Granbury Garage Sales 76476	Business Hours Monday - Thursday, 8am-5pm Friday, 8am-1pm Deadlines Saturday issue, 10am Wednesday Special Offers Pocket Stuffers Free classified ads. 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2030 Big Trucks & Trailers	5080 Child Care . 604	0 Gulls 8020	Livestock Lost & Found			VISA OSC VER
2040 Classic Automobiles		0 Boold & Char 0030	Pets Pets Lost & Found			VISA
CAL	L 817-573-7066 AND GET	RESULTS • HCN CLAS	SSIFIEDS ON TH	E WEB: WWW.HCNEW	S.COM/CLASSIFIED	S
REALESTAT FOR SALE Join Acreage for Sale Soft Sale BY OWNER 100 ACRI Haskel Co, TX 50% undivided int est, currently in CRP, 81 acres gra land, 19 acres cotton, recreatio hunting, \$4,000 and acre, serious quiries only, priced to sell \$400K 20% down, owner financed on 10-yr note. Payments at \$3,000 a month. so .04% mineral interest. Active p ducing mineral lease for 89 more ye for sale separately for \$200K firm. C Mike Crouch at 817-559-41 texas4woody@gmail.com or 254-24 2380; crouchsyndicatedangus@out k.com.	soro coment/Concrete boro coment/Concrete boro coment/Concrete boro concrete C	Rumneyhomeimprovements.cc (817) 559-9802 DEVIN'S HANDYMAN SERVICE WINTER SPECIAL 15% OFF	Service Service Service Male University Male Constant Male Con	CHOTCO B LANDSCAPING	<text></text>	TEXAS TEXAS
Lots for Sale	Cleaning Services	*Remodeling *Painting *Tile *Granite *Kitchen & Bath *Decks *Cement *Brick *Roc			MORE THAN A NEWSTRATE	bunny Jegeno since 1886 bunnum \$1.00

LOT - DECORDOVA BEND ESTATES Nice lot for sale by owner, 6114 Laredo Ct. Listed below appraisal. Leave message at number. \$37,500 dcapra@st-tel.net (970) 846-2674



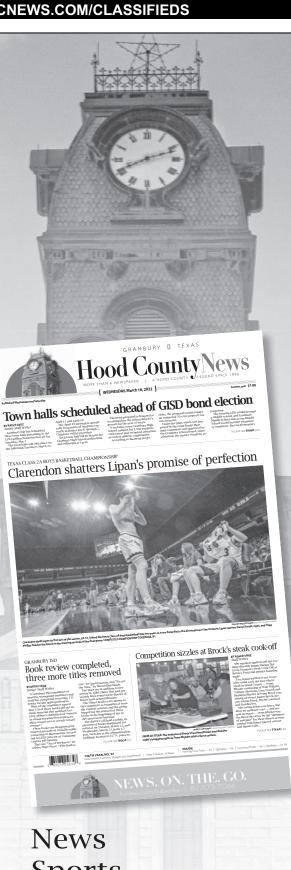
ferences available

*Power Washing *Sheet Rock Repair *Seamless Gutters FREE ESTIMATE 817-629-9608

HANDYMAN OF GRANBURY No job too small! Light fixtures, ceiling fans, faucets, new furniture assembly, blinds, repairs, odd jobs. Barry Hazel 817-891-2779

MERCHANDISE 6620 Miscellaneous

WAGON YARD.COM: We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery



Used singlewide mobile moved. Purple K Ct. Granbury, Texas. 817-219-0122.

Mobiles for Sale

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1510

Apartments for Rent

RENT NOW, AVAILABLE JAN. 1. Furnished, washer and dryer. No pets, No smoking. Inspection required. Maximum 2 people. \$225 weekly, plus deposit. Contact Bob King, (817) 279-3768

1520

Commercial for Rent

Warehouse/Office/Retail space for lease. 1200 + sf. Hwy 377 W from \$650/mo. 817-349-2535

For lease: 2-car garage, 24x24, no utilities, Brandi Ln, Granbury. \$250/mo, 1 month deposit. John 817-578-1045.

1530 **Duplexes for Rent**

1431 & 1433 Walters, 5739 Walnut Creek, 2-1-2CP, fenced yard, \$1,000/ mo, \$1000 security. 817-692-6673.

1540 **Homes for Rent**

2-1, near square, carport, fenced backyard, newly remodeled, \$1,900/mo. 3-2-2, large corner lot, Acton side of town, lake access in community, \$2,300/mo. 3-2-2, Acton side of town, large corner lots, newly remodeled, \$2,400/mo. 254-396-5188.

2-bedroom, 1 bath, no smoking absolutely no pets. \$900/mo, \$500 deposit. 707 E Moore St. 682-500-5543.

1560

Rooms for Rent

Clean furnished bedroom in Tolar, \$120/week. \$150 deposit. 817-964-0933. Available now.

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5100

NEED COMPUTER HELP? Virus Removal/Repairs/Networks/ Upgrades/Programming/Training and more. Over 25 years exp, **Residential and Commercial** (817) 579-8450

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Sports Culture Lifestyle Entertainment Dining Arts Outdoors Recreation Community Local Government



MDDM DESIGN & MANAGEMENT **GROUP LLC** Residential plans for custom homes, additions & remodels. mdixon@mddmgroup.com Mike Dixon, 817-559-1686 5220

5210

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TRUJILLOS SPEEDY LAWN CARE Lawn Mowing & Edging Tree Trimming & Removal 817-559-5152 also clean

SHORT CUT Lawn Care Service

SHORT CUT LAWN CARE Tree and Bush trimming. Flowerbed Maintenance. Brush hauling, weedeat,

blowing, mowing, leaf cleanup. Call or text for free estimate. 817-736-5671

8510

General

ATTENTION

HERITAGE CLEANERS

is now hiring pressers and front

counter. Must apply in person. Her

itage Cleaners esta ahora plan-

817-579-9274

ASSISTANT SELF-STORAGE

PROPERTY MANAGER

PAY: \$18 PER HOUR

PART TIME position requiring alternat-

ing Saturdays with manager. Schedule

must be somewhat flexible. Require-

ments include strong administrative

and computer skills including Mi-

crosoft Word, Excel and personable

phone skills. Daily duties include pro-

cessing payments, rental agreements,

daily reports, record /file processing

and property inspection. Light proper-

ty maintenance duties required which

include some light to moderate lifting.

Computer skills and math test may be

required upon interview. Paid time off

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Lancrow Self Stor-

age located at 1409 N Plaza Dr - 1301

N Plaza Dr / 2721 Fall Creek Hwy

4071 Acton Hwy Granbury TX 76048/

76049 intends to hold a public sale to

the highest bidder of the property

stored by the following tenants at the

storage facility. The sale will occur as

www.storageauctions.com on 1/16/

2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated other-

wise, the description of the contents

are household goods and furnishings.

Aimee L Watkins; Balie A. Ashmore;

Shawn L. Krepinevich; John Wright; Al-

meta D Noe; Gayle Notgrass; Kacey

Cannon; Jennifer Salinas; Jaden L. Ed-

wards; Jennifer Ralston. All property is

being stored at the above self-storage

facility. This sale may be withdrawn at

any time without notice. Certain terms

and conditions apply. See manager for

LEGAL AD

Hood County Commissioners' Court

has received an application to consid-

SUMMERLIN, PHASE ONE, Lots 24R-1R

er a revision of the plat for:

auction

via

NOTICES

Public Notices

online

after eligibility.

9031

an

details.

& 26-R-1R.

chadoras. 600 S. Morgan St.

9031 **EMPLOYMENT** Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 24-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDI-NANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING OR-DINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY. TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PFRMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCOR-DANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULA-TIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PRO-VIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OF-FICIAL NEWSPAPER: AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP) on the property located on a .95-acre tract of land described more fully as:

Lot 2, Block 5 Eastwood Village, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, addressed as 4325 US Hwy 377, located within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located within the Heavy Commercial [HC] zoned district with the following conditions:

1. One (1) year SUP term in which the applicant must apply for another SUP once the one (1) year term is complete

operations and site improve-2. All ments shall conform with the site plan (Exhibit A).

3. This SUP is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the SUP may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 24-03

AN ORDINANCE, AMENDING ORDI-NANCE NO. 01-819, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY AMENDING AR-TICLE 4 - PERMITTED USES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CU-MULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PRO-VIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PRO-VIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF: PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR PUBLICA-TION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 5.

Any person, firm or corporation, who The Hood County Commissioners' violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or Court will meet to consider the applirefuses to comply with or who resists cation and to hear any protest to the the enforcement of any of the provirevision on Tuesday, January 23rd, sions of this ordinance shall be fined not more the Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on January 2, 2024, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.



TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

ACREAGE

LAND FOR SALE. Hunting, recreational, retirement. Hill Country, Trans Pecos Region, South Texas. 30-year fixed rate, owner financing, 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com. 800-876-9720.

ALMANAC

The gift that keeps you learning – the Texas Almanac 2024-2025 is the premier reference for everything Texas. The entire book is revised with the latest information, including the 254 county maps and population estimates for every Texas town. https://www.legacyoftexas.com/product/ texas-almanac-2024-2025.

BASEBALL

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

ENERGY

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)

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OIL & GAS RIGHTS

We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

LOG HOMES

Estate Sale Log Homes - Log Home kits selling for balance owed, free delivery. Model #101 Carolina, bal. \$17,000; Model #203 Georgia, bal. \$19,950; Model #305 Biloxi, bal. \$14,500; Model #403 Augusta, bal. \$16,500. View plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com, 704-368-4528.

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/txpress #6258

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027.

WANTED

Need Extra Cash – I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes -Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition – Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CA\$H. No Title – No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

REQUEST FOR TRADE CONTRACTOR PROPOSALS Glen Rose ISD Multi-Purpose Indoor Turf Facility

Teinert Construction. (Construction Manager at-Risk) is seeking proposals from qualified trade contractors for the above referenced project. Access to the contract documents can be obtained from the Construction Manager via email request to Ms. Charity Holder at estimating@teinert.com or via telephone at 325-704-1211. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on site on January 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM CST. Proposals are due to Teinert on Friday January 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM CST. Specific instructions on submission requirements are given in the contract documents.

TEINERT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNI-TY EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES ALL HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED **BUSINESSES (HUB's) TO PARTICI-**PATE IN THIS REQUEST FOR PRO-POSALS.

WAIVER OF CLAIMS: BY TENDERING A RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR **PROPOSAL, THE PROPOSER AC-KNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAS READ** AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE RE-QUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A **RESPONSE, AND THE PROCESS** USED BY THE CONSTRUCTION MAN-AGER FOR OBTAINING DESIGN-AS-SIST SERVICES. FURTHER, BY SUB-**MITTING A RESPONSE, THE PRO-**POSER FULLY, VOLUNTARILY AND UNDERSTANDINGLY WAIVES AND **RELEASES ANY AND ALL CLAIMS** AGAINST OWNER, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER, ARCHITECT OR ANY OF THEIR TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND/OR EMPLOYEES THAT **COULD ARISE OUT OF THE ADMINIS-**TRATION, EVALUATION, OR RECOM-**MENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL** SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

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

BLUE BRANCH RANCH, LOTS 76 - 79

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS:

To all persons interested in the Estate of: DIANA SUE BRUMBALOW-MANIER, Deceased, Docket No. P10178.

Bridgette Sue Peleberg filed in the County Court of Hood County, Texas on the 22nd day of December 2023 an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Administration - Intestate of said DIANA SUE BRUMBALOW-MANIER Deceased

Said Application can be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the Hood County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas. All persons interested in said Estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such Application should they desire to do so. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL of said Court at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 27th day of December 2023.

Katie Lang Hood County Clerk

By /s/DEAN ARMSTRONG, Chief Deputy Clerk



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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER Sugar and spice: Seven tips to prevent prediabetes

By Lakeside Physicians

Sometimes, we refer to people as made of sugar, spice, and everything nice, or so sweet they might melt if it rains. But saccharine jokes aside, you may want to check your blood sugar.

Approximately 1 in 10 Americans have diabetes, and as many as 95% of those people suffer from Type 2 diabetes. The CDC also reports there's a rising trend in diabetes among young people, which could lead to a 700% spike in Type 2 and a 65% increase in type 1 cases by 2060.

When your blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be considered diabetes, as is the case with prediabetes, your body may become resistant to insulin or not produce enough of it.

Researchers don't understand what causes cells to become insulin resistant, but some risk factors include genetics, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity and physical inactivity. Some people, particularly those of Black, Hispanic, Native and Asian American descent, are also at a higher risk of developing prediabetes.

People with prediabetes have up to a 50% chance of developing diabetes within five to 10 years. Prediabetes also can cause long-term damage to your blood vessels, nerves and organs, increasing the risk



Prediabetes can often be prevented or reversed through healthy lifestyle choices and getting tested. More than 80% of people with prediabetes don't know they have it because they have no symptoms.

of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease if left untreated.

The good news is predia-

betes can often be prevented or reversed through healthy lifestyle choices, such as:

BEING TESTED

More than 80% of people with prediabetes don't know they have it because

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

they have no symptoms and haven't been tested.

CHOOSING HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS

Incorporate more whole foods, fruits and vegetables into your diet. Reduce your intake of sugary

and processed foods and limit your consumption of alcohol.

EXERCISING MORE

Exercise improves insulin sensitivity and lower blood sugar levels. Start with a simple daily walk or

GET PLENTY OF SLEEP The CDC reports that frequently getting less

than seven hours of sleep makes it harder to manage blood sugar because it increases insulin resistance. It also can make you hungrier or feel less full after

bike ride and

work up to

more vigor-

swimming.

ous activities

eating the next day.

LOSING WEIGHT

A small amount of weight loss, typically 5-7% of your body weight, can make a big difference and prevent prediabetes from progressing to Type 2 diabetes by nearly 60%. (That's 10-14 pounds if you weigh 200 pounds.)

MANAGE YOUR STRESS

Chronic stress causes rising blood sugar levels and contributes to insulin resistance. Find ways to relax, like meditation, yoga or reading a good book.

QUIT SMOKING

There are a million reasons to stop smoking, but if you quit now, your insulin levels can become better at lowering your blood sugar in as little as eight weeks.

While prediabetes often doesn't have symptoms, let your doctor know if you have experienced any of the following indications:

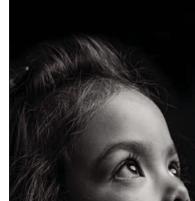
- Blurred vision
- Fatigue
- Frequent infections • Frequent urination
- like jogging or
 - Increased hunger Increased thirst
 - Numbness or tingling
 - in the feet or hands
 - Slow-healing sores
 - Unintended weight loss For more information

or to schedule an appointment with a Lakeside Physicians practitioner, please call (817) 573-3627 or visit www.lakesidephysicians.com.

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- WILLS AND BEQUESTS Bequests as part of an estate that designate Mission Granbury may reduce estate taxes.
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- Individuals can make a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs. It must go directly from the IRA account to the charitable organization. The direct distribution to charity would not be included in taxable income.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS *Christmas dinner buffet and bingo made festive with sweater attire*

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. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

ecan's December buffet and bingo night became filled with holiday spirit when attendees donned ugly Christmas attire, and approximately 75 of the "ugliest sweaters ever made" were on full display. In addition, folks enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner of Chinese food followed by prizes for their spirited clothing. Winners of the sweater contest were Lisa Rackley, first place, who received dinner for two in Pecan, and Vicki Long and David Bessler, who tied for second and each received gift cards from Pecan's Ace Hardware. The next bingo night comes on Monday, Jan. 8.

MARINA MUSIC

The "Marina Trio" will be at Pecan's marina today, Saturday, Jan. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. weather permitting. Folks may enjoy food from the marina grill, a lake view and live music.

MUSIC CLASS

For Pecaners whose New Year's resolution involves learning to play the guitar. the PAC has just what they need. Beginner guitar lessons will commence Thursday, Jan. 11 with Carolyn Troland leading students, teaching them how to play the guitar in six to eight weeks without reading music. Lessons happen each Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m., and participants should bring a guitar with newer strings already in place. This offering is for adult students only, and participants should plan to attend all lessons (each with a \$25 fee). Sign up at the PAC

(817-573-7952), and contact instructor Carolyn for more information (580-369-8485).

BRIGHT LIGHTS

Congratulations to Pecan's holiday light contest winners: Kenneth and Holly Coppock, first place; Chad and Meredith Brummer, second place; and Toby Pechanek, third place. Winners received gift certificates to Pecan facilities.

FISHING SUCCESS

The Dr. Barna Memorial Kids' Fishing Tournament was a swimming success with 36 little fisher boys and girls participating. In the group of young anglers, 23 successfully landed at least one fish, with trout, blue gill, and bass being in the offerings. Congratulations to the successful participants, and many thanks to the volunteers who facilitated the day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PECAN PUBLICITY

Pecan's Dec. bingo and dinner night proved especially festive when attendees donned ugly Christmas sweaters to make the evening filled with holiday spirit. Taking honors in the contest were Vicki Long, Lisa Rackley, and David Bessler.

BOARD CANDIDATES

Three Pecaners have applied for board of director posts in our community's March 2024 election. Candidates Mike Hill, Mark Massey and DeeDee Urbano will serve three-year terms. Details about the annual meeting and election are forthcoming.

ONLINE VOTING

Residents may now begin signing up for electronic balloting in Pecan's 2024 election. The form is available on the PPOA website and needs to be entered once per address by the primary account holder. Folks who registered last year are not required to reregister.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club invites ladies to an evening social Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. The

event will include dinner and a candlemaking workshop, in addition to fellowship and fun. Reservation deadline is Thursday, Jan. 4: ppwceveningsocial@gmail.com. Ladies should include their name, PPOA number and number of guests attending. In addition, reserva-

tions for the PPWC meeting Thursday, Jan. 18 are due by 12 noon Thursday, Jan. 11: ppwcres@gmail.com or (361) 215-4599.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will hold its inaugural meeting of 2024 Wednesday, Jan. 10 with breakfast service beginning at 8 a.m. and the program following at 9. Attendees will hear from author Dan Vanderburg, a sixth-generation Texan novelist, poet, lecturer, trainer and history ambassador. Dan grew up hearing how his ancestors worked to build their farms and ranches while finding success in their way of life on the Texas frontier. A book signing will be included in the day. Reservations are necessary and due by noon Tuesday, Jan. 9: 817-573-2641

LIBRARY DAY

The Hood County Library's bookmobile will visit the PAC Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return library materials at the bookmobile.

GIVE LIFE

Pecaners will want to save the date: the American Red Cross will be in our community for a blood drive Wednesday, Feb. 14. The PAC gym will find the Red Cross set up for the day accepting donors from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Folks may visit

RedCrossBlood.org and enter "Pecanplantation" to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

REMODELED REOPENED

The marina of Pecan has officially reopened after its recent remodel, and residents are enjoying the new amenities this venue in our community affords. The new configuration not only allows diners the opportunity to eat indoors while enjoy ing a view of lovely Lake Granbury, but it also boasts a redesigned menu that includes breakfast as well as some new items from the grill. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and scrumptious new barbecue fare is available from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TOY DRIVE

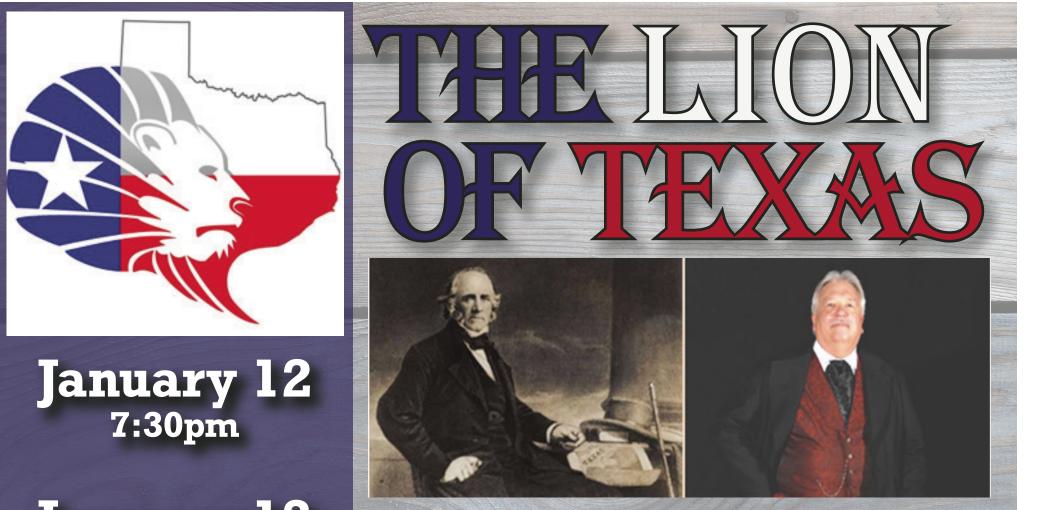
Even after the Men's Golf Association's 2023 Toys for Tots golf tournament ended, the group received additional donations increasing the year's proceeds to an incredible \$19,000, making the year a record-setting one. These funds enabled Toys for Tots to purchase toys, clothes, and other necessities for children in our area. Congratulations to the MGA on such a successful event and thank you to everyone who contributed.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Donna McDaniel, who passed away Dec. 15.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happiest of new years to the readers of Pecan Bits! May 2024 bring good health and abundant blessings to our community and its families.



January 13 2:00pm

The Historic Granbury Opera House



THE LION OF TEXAS **RETURNS TO THE GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE FOR TWO SHOWS!** A one man show about Sam Houston, the most iconic character in Texas history! Tickets now available at granburytheatrecompany.org.





Merry Gay Mesker: Bringing merriment through her art

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News eden@hcnews.com

The Courtyards of Lake Granbury enjoyed a night of culture Saturday, Nov. 25 when residents were treated to a Pop-up Gallery of the work of resident Merry Gay Mesker, age 86.

The attendees were delighted, but none quite so much as the artist herself. The Pop-Up Gallery was a surprise to Mesker. Mesker was looking forward to seeing the art to be displayed at the Courtyards but she had no idea the work displayed would be her own.

Equally exciting, her family and friends were in the "gallery" waiting to surprise Mesker. They had traveled from all over, bringing their Mesker paintings with them. There were over 37 paintings in the gallery. Paintings came from homes of daughters, grandchildren, and friends in Granbury, Houston, Galveston, Lubbock and Greenville.

"The art gallery for mom was amazing! My mother gives of herself so freely and generously it was an honor to have her artwork displayed for others to enjoy. Rebecca Stewart did a wonderful job bringing it together," shared Bridgette Bednarz, Mesker's daughter.

Rebecca Stuart is the lifestyle director for the Courtyards. It is her responsibility to offer several activities to the residents each day. Stuart had asked for Mesker's help in teaching the residents in a paint-a-long, a role Mesker



Merry Gay Mesker enjoys the Surprise Pop-Up Gallery arranged by the staff of the Courtyards Granbury and Mesker's family and friends.

joyfully filled while adding her expertise.

The two women collaborate in planning so all residents can participate. Q-tips, bubble wrap and various materials are used to lessen the need to hold a paintbrush, which is difficult for some.

Stuart got the idea to surprise Mesker with a Popup Gallery when planning these one-day paintings. A national program called Second Wind Dreams (registered trademark) inspires assisted living and other groups working with elder care to make elder dreams come true. Mesker majored in education and minored in art at Sam Houston State University, taking summer classes to graduate in three years. It was during that time she met her future husband in February 1958.

Mesker recalls a conversation on their second date. "He said he didn't want to get married. And I thought, 'Well you little twerp, what makes you think I want to marry you? I don't want to get married; I want to have a career.'" They married Nov. 28 of that same year.

Both Meskers enjoyed a long career in education; the

first couple of years in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district, followed by over three decades in Odessa where the Meskers raised their three daughters. Debra born in 1961, Melissa in

1965 and Bridgette in 1968. Besides an early dalliance in oil painting at Sam Houston, Mesker did not paint again until moving to Odessa, where she took oil painting lessons from Lela Wilson. Working full time as a teacher, serving at church, and raising the Mesker girls while supporting all their sports and activities left little time for art.

That all changed when

Mesker retired at age 56. She joked that she knew it was time to do something more when she looked forward to the arrival of the mail and the newspaper. Her best friend Christie Rav talked her into taking watercolor lessons. Most people find watercolor to be a challenging media; Mesker was no different in this regard. "I enjoyed watercolor, but it was more difficult because you have to think in reverse and make sure there was white

in your painting (by leaving

some areas of white paper).

You couldn't add white

afterward. I remember the first watercolor I did, there wasn't a lick of white on that paper!"

Many of her works, especially earlier works, are floral as Mesker says that is a subject where many hone their skills. But her favorite subjects are seashore scenes and tropical fish inspired by the many trips the Mesker family took to the beach as their girls were growing up. Mesker was additionally inspired by husband Clinton's photography, a hobby he took up after Mesker began

PLEASE SEE ART | B2

Granbury community ready to make a splash



BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer

emily@hcnews.com

The Granbury community is getting ready for its fourth annual "Goosebump Jump" Jan. 20 at Granbury City Beach to kick off the winter guest tourism season.

Goosebump Jump is an event put on by Visit Granbury where community members take a plunge into Lake Granbury. This event not only kicks off the winter guest tourism season, but it is also a way for the community, civic and charitable organizations to raise money for a charity of their choice.

The typical high temperature in Granbury in January is 57 degrees and the water temperature is expected to be around the mid-to-lower 40s. The organization with the most participants in the jump will name a charity of their choice to accept the raised funds. The raised funds include each registration fee at \$10 per person as well as \$1,000 prize provided by the lodging association. At the last jump in January 2023, \$3,204 was raised for Lake Granbury Kiwanis which serves the youth of Hood County.

"(Winter guest tourism season) is a time when hotels, restaurants and attractions offer special packages and increase guest benefits to incentivize visitors to come to Granbury in January and February," Tammy Dooley, director of Granbury Convention and Visit Granbury said. "And

PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

the forecast? One hundred Co percent chance of snow." Grudges will also Co

award prizes to the

winning participants

for Best Costume, Best

Photo from the last Goosebump Jump in 2022.

Couple Costume, Best Group Costume, Oldest Competitor and Farthest Traveled. Following the jump, participants will be able to warm up at the Hilton Garden Inn with hot tubbing, coffee, cocoa and cookies. There will also be a chili cookoff that will take place on the beach. "Last year the temperature at the jump time was in the low 30s and the winds were over 20 mph — perfect goosebump

PLEASE SEE JUMP B4



Photo from the 2022 Hood County Junior Livestock Show.

PHOTO BY **MARY VINSON |** HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Junior Livestock Show nearly underway

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Hood County is gearing up for its 69th annual Junior Livestock Show that will take place Jan. 9 through the 13, put on by the Hood County Junior Livestock Raisers Association. The free fiveday event at the Reunion Grounds gives students from around the county the chance to show off their skills from working directly with animals to all kinds of knowledge of livestock identification and much more.

The last show in 2023 had a total of 909 show entries and a recordbreaking amount of funds raised in the premium auction sale with over \$500,000 generated. The Grand Champion steer led by Caiman Cody sold for \$17,000 dollars. The HCJLRA is looking forward to another successful show.

FOR THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS PLEASE SEE BELOW:

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

• 6:30 a.m. – Fairgrounds Open

• 7 – 10 a.m. – Rabbit Weigh-In

• 8 a.m. – Livestock Skill-athon Check-In

• 8:30 a.m. – Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest

• 10 - 10:30 a.m. - Broiler Check-in

- 11:30 a.m. Broiler Show
- 1:30 p.m. Livestock Skill-

a-thon Buckle Presentation • 2 p.m. - Rabbit Show

PLEASE SEE **SHOW** | B5



Merry Gay Mesker and friends enjoy her Pop-Up Art Gallery at the Courtyards at Lake Granbury.

ART FROM PAGE B1

painting in earnest.

Mesker became very involved in the Odessa Art Association, where she wrote the newsletter for four years, writing and reading being additional loves for the artist. She also became serious about furthering her art skills, taking drawing at Odessa College in its continuing education classes. She attended workshops with national artists like Ken Hosmer, Tony Couch, Judi Betts, Marvin Steenson and Ken Roland.

The artist has shown in group shows at the Ellen Noel Museum in Odessa with a watercolor group called Watercolor Horizons. Mesker even took the position of chair of the show committee for one year. Mesker never cared to sell her work. She explains, "I was not interested in selling or having another job. I painted for the love of color and the love of painting."

Mesker had been looking forward to the art show, not knowing it was a solo exhibit of her own work. "I was coming to the art show that Saturday, to not only see the art but to support the artist! I felt very

honored," she said. Never had Mesker had a solo exhibit until the Pop-up Art Gallery at the Courtyards on Nov. 25. Mesker and her husband, who passed away several years ago, moved to Granbury and the Courtyards after Clint Mesker broke his hip. Daughter Bridgette lives nearby.

"I was so proud and happy to see her talent displayed, it was a moving moment to see her beautiful artwork shared at the Courtyards. I know Daddy would have been so proud," daughter Melissa Robinson said. Daughter Debbie Mesker agreed, "This event celebrating my mother's art, what she has enjoyed sharing all her life, was a wonderful tribute to her talent. She was so honored, and it made me grateful to be one of her children. Dad would have loved to see her art displayed. He was always so proud of his beautiful bride."

Equally proud was best friend, Christie Ray, who had traveled to Granbury for the show with her husband, Bob. "The art show/gallery displaying the talents of Merry Gay Mesker was outstanding in all the medias she has pursued through the years. She continues to paint and inspire others. There was a large variety of paintings beautifully displayed."

Ray continued, "We came from Greenville to share the joy of seeing her artwork and reminiscing about our shared days in Odessa in the Watercolor Horizons Group and the Odessa Art Association."

The Mesker paintings hung just one day in the dining hall/commons area of the Courtyards where black fabric drapes and easels brought by Ray transformed the space. Stuart was assisted in setting up the gallery by Kaleigh Helms, Baylor Occupational Therapy doctoral student, in addition to staff of the Courtyards and Mesker's family and friends.

In attendance besides the Rays and Mesker's daughters were grandchildren Sherree Gillen-Cooner, Brynn Bednarz, Rayna Gillen, Megan Bednarz and Ashlyn Bednarz. Mesker has 11 grandchildren in total. Friends Julie and Scott Yater were also in attendance. Refreshments were provided by Cornerstone Caregivers who provide senior home care services.



Merry Gay Mesker's Pop-Up Art Gallery at the Courtyards at Lake Granbury.

JURTESY PHOT





Merry Gay Mesker's watercolor that was used for a fundraiser calendar for the West Texas Food Bank. Seaside scenes and tropical fish are her favorite subject matter. Kaleigh Helms, Merry Gay Mesker and Rebecca Stuart enjoy Meskers Pop-Up Art Gallery at the Courtyards at Lake Granbury.



COURTESY PHOTO



Hartgraves, who moved to Granbury in 2021, just published his third children's book "Gail the Tattle-Tale Snail" last summer — the first book in an estimated 16-book series

Granbury children's author publishes first book in new series

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com



children's author may not have been Pete Hartgrave's first career, but it has certainly become one he cherishes deeply.

Hartgraves, who moved to Granbury in 2021, just published his third children's book "Gail the Tattle-Tale Snail" last summer — the first book in an estimated 16-book series.

"All my adult life I've been an educator, and I spent the last 25 years of my career as a school counselor," Hartgraves said. "The last few years I've been thinking about doing books to help counselors, which can also help teachers, and one of the situations I was in was a teacher asked me to talk to her class about tattling. During the lesson on tattling, I was struck by the idea of having a character named Gail, the tattletale snail." In the book, Gail the snail inadvertently becomes a tattletale in her eagerness to follow the rules and get her teacher's attention. Unfortunately, this leads to her having trouble making

friends and connecting with her classmates.

"Through that book, I'm able to teach kids the difference between tattling and reporting," Hartgraves said. "Tattling is (about) things that are nonsense, and reporting is (about) things that need to be told to protect yourself or others, so I came up with the idea, wrote the book, and I got it published. Since then, I've got about (15 other) ideas to turn into books."

Using the same characters in "Gail the Tattle-Tale Snail," Hartgraves will

characters in his books, like his daughter, Jennifer, his son, Brandon, and his wife, Sheri.

"My daughter's name is Jennifer, and she got Type 1 diabetes at a young age, so (her character is a giraffe)," he explained. "The tall giraffe gets weak on the playground and falls down, and the teacher knows what's going on because she's just been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. The teacher, of course, is a hippo, and she has Type 2 diabetes, so she has to come across and explain to the class what happened to Jinny, and what to look for whenever you see Jinny doing these things that may be something to be concerned about.'

He also stressed the importance of ensuring his stories are accurate, which is why he plans to talk to a doctor regarding diabetes for Jinny's story something he did previously for another children's story about COVID-19. Written in 2020 and published in February 2023, "I've Got COVID-19," is an educational children's book that discusses COVID-19 in a straightforward and easyto-understand way. In the story, Hartgrave's character Rodney contracts

COVID-19 and talks about what the illness is, what the symptoms are, and the current treatment options.

"All my information came from the Mayo Clinic website because my books are going to be accurate," he said. "I'm not going to (publish) information for kids that's not true. That's one of my big things, and that's why I'm being so careful with diabetes. I want to make sure it's accurate."

Hartgraves' first novel originally written in 1993 and published in February of last year — is called "ADVENTURES IN TIME: My Only Regret," in which three young teens travel through time and witness historical events like the Revolutionary War.

Although only the first book is currently released, Hartgraves revealed he has plans for three more books, where the teens experience the Underground Railroad, the Alamo and the Titanic.

Brandon, Hartgraves' son, is also helping him write a novel — using an idea Brandon came up with in college for a screenplay.

"The professor was like, 'You got to do something with this; this is good.' I heard it, and I was just like, blown away, so for all these years, I've been saying, 'Brandon, you got to do something." Hartgraves said. "After I got settled into Granbury,' I thought, Well, I'll start it then.' I'm using his initial idea, and he'll come in, he'll read it and he'll say, 'You need to change this, you need to change that,' so he's helping me right now. I revamp it to make it fit his storyline because it is. I want him to be a part of the book with me."

Hartgraves said his goal for the next few years is to continue releasing more stories in the "Gail the Tattle-Tale Snail" unive and to eventually become a ghostwriter. "I don't want to write my stories. I want to write their story and, in my opinion, that's what being a ghostwriter is all about," he said. "I'd love to be able to start doing that. That'd be a lot of fun, helping people out with their stories." Hartgraves first began his career as a band director after getting a degree in music education from **Texas Christian University** in Fort Worth. According to a former press release, he completed his master's degree in counseling and guidance from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and became a school counselor.

After almost 30 years of serving in the Texas public schools, he is now retired and enjoys writing children's stories, selling real estate, fishing and looking at old cars and trucks.

"I retired in 2017 and I started writing children's books," he added. "Then I got into real estate, but I don't have time for real estate anymore because I'm always kind of slowing down on that end and kind of picking up on this end because this is what I love to do It's not making me rich. But I do what I love to do - and that's what it's all about." Hartgraves' published books, "Gail the Tattle-Tale Snail," "I've Got COVID-19," and "ADVENTURES IN TIME: My Only Regret," can all be purchased on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

publish 15 more children's books with similar storylines and situations, like "Betsy the Bossy Bovine," "Mrs. Grippo, the Very Smart Hippo," "Roth the Sloth Needs to Contribute," and "Nat the Bat is Asleep Again."

Hartgraves will also use family members from his personal life to serve as

"My purpose is to give kids an idea of what was going on at the time and how the moods were in society," he explained. "I want to make my books where you just can't put them down. I want to make history exciting for kids; that's the whole purpose of it."

THE IDLE AMERICAN Little engines that can...



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

Compared to the glamour and glitz of Broadway's "Great White Way" in New York City, two Texas venues fall a bit short. Yet, by many standards, they stand equally tall.

I'm referencing Waxahachie and Brownwood, where the Texas and Lyric Theaters, respectively, have been successfully resurrected. Each has scheduled plays early this year that are "must see" for my wife, Brenda, and me. In a world where headlines scream of violence, starvation, fractured budgets, wars and threats of immigration overrun, we visit community theaters for the same reasons folks attended movies during World War II.

At least we can retreat from reality for a couple of hours

First up is the Texas Theater offer "Amon: The Ultimate Texan," with 8 p.m. productions scheduled Jan. 19-20 and Feb. 23-24. Tickets are now on sale for the grand one-man show that is reflective of the keen insight, meticulous research and humorous persona of Dave Lieber. He is an author and certified public speaker who is best known for his twice-weekly "Watchdog" columns in the Dallas Morning News. The play's first major run was at the Scott Theater in Fort Worth, where most performances were sold out.

It has played in several West Texas cities and has been a smash hit for all 52 performances. The life of the late Amon Carter longtime publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and owner of Texas' first TV station and radio station WBAP — is brilliantly portrayed by Kelvin Dilks. He was formerly a Birdville ISD trustee and is a retired

teacher.

It is directed by Connie Sanchez, also a retired teacher. She maintains a sparkling narrative that is caring, accurate and "gollee

funny," continually emphasizing Amon's love of his hometown and disdain for Dallas. When "Big D" was chosen for the 1936 Texas Centennial, Amon was furious as he staged a competing extravaganza in Cowtown, hoping visitors would "choose Dallas for culture and Fort Worth for fun." We've ordered 40 tickets for senior adults at our church, anticipating "sold out" status for all performances. Word has gotten around this is a "must see" play about a man well known throughout Texas and the Southwest, and perhaps the late Will Rogers' best friend.

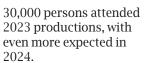
Like the Lyric, the Texas opened over a century ago as a vaudeville venue. It was darkened several times by fires and the impact of TV. Its current vitality is largely attributed to Jon and Alyssa Garrett of Waxahachie.

Early in the 2000s, three



Waxahachie, Texas is home to the Texas Theater.

Brownwood citizens began a campaign to restore the Lyric to its original opulence. Mostly through modest donations, they've raised more than \$4,000,000, an unprecedented Texas response. The 367-seat house is beyond regal, probably more so than when it opened in 1920. Managing Director Eric Evans confirms more than



COURTESY PHOTO

Brenda and I — along with a small army of senior adults from our church — will be on hand for the matinee performance of All Shook Up on April 13. Labeled a "juke box

musical" of favorite Elvis Presley hits, the play will be directed by Dr. Nancy Jo

COURTESY PHOTO

A RIGHT TO REMEMBER APR

APR II

Humfeld, veteran educator who served 34 years at Howard Payne University before retiring there in 2020. I hired her in 1986, and naturally believe she's the best. (Thousands of others likewise agree, thankful that she continues to pour herself into the local theater scene.)

PLEASE SEE IDLE | B4

Brownwood, Texas is home to the Lyric Theater.

HOOD OUTDOORS Strolling and Dead Sticking



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.

ater temperatures have fallen sufficiently in the 50's where the winter patterns will be the primary mode for catching fish. There will still be some warmer days that may require a back step or two, but in general the winter season is here.

I fish year-round and I enjoy each season, but I have to say I look forward to this season more so than others. Every December, I write about the good fishing when it gets cold. Winter is the season where stripers and hybrids can be caught on a variety of artificial presentations. These presentations usually involve very little movement or really slow movement of your bait to draw a strike. The slow movement I use more than most is called

"Dead Sticking". The "Dead Sticking" pattern I am talking about is basically using a jig head with a soft plastic bait of some type that is lowered where baitfish are congregated. You can essentially hold the bait still with very little movement and eventually it will get hit. The colder it gets the less movement you impart on the bait. This is similar to crappie fishing with small jigs; it's just that the jigs are bigger and the predators are

bigger.

your trolling motor and slowly drag your bait at the desired depth through the fish. This is called strolling and is typically done using swim baits like sassy shad type baits. You can work more water with this option.

sticking baits include shad or chartreuse-colored, 5-inch Bass Assassins. A wide variety of colors will work. I like dying the tail of a Crystal Shad Bass Assassin with Chartreuse dye and threading this bait on a ¾-oz jig head. Chartreuse is always a good color to use. Swim baits or sassy shad type tails work well also. The "glow" color swim bait is a favorite among many.

fish with this method, you will be hooked. The more fish vou catch the better you will build confidence in this pattern. As with any fishing, there are times you have to be patient. When the bite does come on, look out. Dead sticking works



Left to Right Kevin Roberts, Wesley Ferguson and Shannon McNrayer with their catch of Granbury Striped bass and big sandbass caught this past week.

by an adult. The first 200

Another option is to use

My most favorite dead

Once you start catching



Chad Parsons with his catch of Granbury big striped bass and huge sandbass caught this past week.

best when the bait fish are huddled together on those colder days. You are looking for active feeding fish mixed in with the baitfish. Typically, the baitfish are relatively lethargic this time of the year, hence the slow presentation. When a predator does swim through a school of baitfish, the baitfish will scatter, and your artificial bait will be the easy target left.

All fish are cold-blooded, as we know, and they don't have to eat as often in the winter as they do in other seasons. This can be true, but, when they do feed, they tend to gorge themselves. The fish that you catch during the winter will be extremely healthy and obese. This is also the best time of the year to catch and release. Survival rates in the cold water are much higher than in the summer.

If the fish are really active and the birds are pointing you right to the fish, try hanging these jigs with soft plastics under the surfacing fish to get those bigger fish to bite. You can also pull out the swim baits or top water baits to get into some of that top water action as well.

Many times, stripers will move in the backs of coves

that may be slightly warmer (if the baitfish are there). One winter technique for stripers is to use a large ½-oz or bigger ponyhead or bucktail jig with a curly tail trailer. Again, any combination of chartreuse and white are the most favorite options. In this option, the jig is casted typically off of rocks or structures and is reeled back slowly bouncing off the bottom. This is also a good option on schooling fish in open water.

Spoons or slabs are also effective in the winter. The key here is to move it slow or move it only once in a while to draw attention to it. Just holding it down there and allowing it to flutter while you move the boat with the trolling motor is effective as well.

These winter techniques are extremely effective. In fact, they will out-catch live bait most of the time. You might not believe that initially, but, once you have seen it work, you will forget about that live bait option for stripers and/or hybrids in the winter.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT Water temperatures have

and winter strategies are in full force. Lake levels are close to full. Striped bass are good to 10lbs on swimbaits fished from Western Hills to Hunter Park. Some striped bass are being caught under the birds near Decordova. Sandbass are fair to good to 3lbs on 3-inch soft plastics fished in the same areas as the striped bass. Largemouth bass are good in numbers near main lake points and in the river working laydowns near channel bends. Big blue and vellow catfish are good on the upper ends on cut-bait fished on shallow flats off the main channel. Crappies are also good on small jigs worked on submerged structure from Holiday Estates to Water's Edge.

fallen into the lower 50's,

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) continues to produce limits of eater-sized channel catfish on prepared baits. Largemouth bass numbers and occasional bigger fish are good on Carolina Rigs and drop shot rigs. I do not have a Tilapia report. Bass anglers are lining up to get on this warm power plant lake this season.

\mathbf{H}

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2 Bedrooms \$1013 - \$1081

participants to register online or in person at the event will receive a Lake weather," Dooley added. Granbury Goosebump

event. Spectators do not have to register and are more than welcome to come to watch the plunge. For questions or to enter

1 Bedroom \$850 - \$931

Hill Court Villas offers spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes for adults over 55. Enjoy a cardio fitness center, computer center, outdoor picnic areas, on site management staff

Registration is open now via the Visit Granbury website or in person at the gate with either cash or check. Children are also welcome to register but must be accompanied

Jump 2024 medal. Online registration will close Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. After registration closes, community members can turn in their form and cash or check at Visit Granbury or sign up on the day of the

the jump, contact Rhiannon Crump, event coordinator, at 817-573-5548.

IDLE FROM PAGE B3

JUMP

FROM PAGE B1

We saw Elvis during a Fort Worth concert in the early 1970s.

Sitting near the stage, Brenda caught a few drops of sweat, and didn't bathe

for a week!. Other theater efforts, such as those in Granbury and Cleburne, are likewise successful, thanks to continued commitment and hard work.

I salute everyone involved in community theater throughout Texas. They

HCNEWS.COM

Solution for the puzzle on

SUDOKU

3

Dec. 30 (Puzzle 63).

are genuine heroes in this "labor of love."

We who attend are beneficiaries of productions that are often comparable to Broadway, and at prices little more than the tax on Big Apple tickets.

Find us on Facebook.

anbury. - May's record in years they don't he dodged majo



Keep up with up-to-the-minute happenings in Hood County using one of today's greatest social media sites.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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PER MONTH a 111



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Thurs: 3:10PM, 9:50PM Mean Girls (PG13) Thurs: 4:15PM, 7:15PM, 10:10PM

Mean Girls - Girls' Night Out (PG13) Thurs: 7:00PM

moment, or cost you more

Among the top reasons to use a professional Travel Advisor (aka Travel Agent) is your Travel Advisor will read the fine print while you typically will not. Let's be honest, most people don't read the fine print on anything. Do you own an Apple product? Did you read the entire Apple Terms and Conditions? Or did you just scroll as fast as you could to the bottom and

click agree?

I have yet to meet a traveler who has read the terms and conditions before booking airline tickets, or the passenger contract before booking a cruise, or read the travel insurance policy to see what it actually covers.

Here are a few examples of reading the fine print that can save your vacation: Most travel packages

PLEASE SEE DREAM | B9

• 6:30 a.m. - Family Living

• 12 p.m. - Family Living Division Judging (Exhibit Building Closed)

• 1 p.m. - Breeding Gilt

• 2 p.m. - Market Swine

• 6 p.m. - Family Living

Auction Begins • 7 p.m. - Non-Silent

Division Items Removal

• 10 p.m. - Gates Close

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

• 6 a.m. - Fairgrounds Open

• 11 a.m. - Heifer Show • 1 p.m. - Market Steer Show • 10 p.m. - Gates Close

Division Silent Auction

Continues

*** Release of All Projects Not Making Premium Sale***

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

• 6 a.m. - Fairgrounds Open

- 11 a.m. Buyer Meal
- 1 p.m. Family Living **Division Silent Auction**
- Closes

• 1 p.m. - Premium Auction Sale

GO PLAY

Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints! Info and reserva-

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:

10:30 a.m. yoga. 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.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has Mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets on the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol. com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY CERT meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@ amail.com.

Migration (PG)

Fri, Sat: 10:05AM, 12:20PM, 2:35PM, 4:50PM, 7:05PM, 9:20PM.

Sun, Mon: 10:05AM, 12:20PM, 2:35PM, 4:50PM, 7:05PM. Tues, Wed: 2:50PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 2:05PM, 7:40PM

The Beekeeper (R) Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM

The Boys in the Boat (PG13) Fri, Sat: 10:40AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:20PM, 9:10PM. Sun, Mon: 10:40AM, 1:30PM, 3:20PM, 6:10PM. Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM

The Color Purple (PG13) Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon: 11:00AM. Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM

The Iron Claw (R)

Fri, Sat: 10:20AM, 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:50PM, 9:50PM. Sun, Mon: 10:20AM, 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:50PM. Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:50PM. Thurs: 5:15PM, 8:15PM

Wonka (PG)

Fri, Sat: 10:10AM, 12:50PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM. Sun, Mon: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM. Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM

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tions: 225-933-40/4.

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

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 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

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

THURSDAYS

us.

needed. Just come build with

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:

10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 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.

FRIDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters

Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meet every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or

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 needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Histori-

cal 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 817-279-2995 for additional details.

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Sommerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 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 Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs 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. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

LAST THURSDAYS

MEETING MONTHLY the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd., Granbury.

Chow is at 6 p.m. meeting at

7 p.m.

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.



Ella garner making her way to the basket during the game against the Everman Bulldogs Dec. 8.

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lady Pirates' Garner surpasses milestone; Lipan teams both No. 1 in state

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

*E*lla Garner surpassed a milestone in her already illustrious Granbury Lady Pirates basketball career. The senior guard scored her 1,000th point during play in the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock over the holiday break.

Garner scored 65 points in the tourney's four games between Dec. 28-30. That, combined with the 13 she scored Tuesday, Jan. 2 in a 47-36 win at Wichita Falls Rider gives her 1,153 in her Granbury High School career.

"She is a very tenacious player. She creates a lot of offense with her pressure defense," Granbury coach Alan Thorpe said of Garner. "She has also developed a very good 3-point shot. If you try to defend the 3 she'll go by you for the layup." Vs. Estacado: Garner 17, Fry 12.

Against Rider, the Lady Pirates were led by Garner, who also had six rebounds and four assists, followed by Kate Hamlin with 12 points. Hannah Dafoe had five rebounds and three steals and Fayth Fry had three steals.

Granbury, now 2-1 in District 5-5A, will play at Saginaw Jan. 9 and host Aledo Jan. 12, both games at 6:15 p.m.

LADY INDIANS WIN HOLIDAY HOOPS

The Lipan Lady Indians welcomed the new year by winning the elite Tenaha Holiday Hoops tournament Dec. 27-29. Subsequently, they found themselves ranked No. 1 this week in the Texas Association of Basketball (TABC) Class 2A girls rankings. Tenaha on 3-point baskets with a 16-6 advantage on 2-pointers.

Lipan advanced to the championship game by winning another thriller against a ranked opponent, defeating No. 4 Martins Mill 46-43. Gaylor bucketed 22 points, which included going 9-for-9 at the freethrow line and hitting a trio of 3-pointers. Ashlyn Clark scored 13, including a pair of treys and a 5-for-6 performance at the freethrow line.

The Lady Indians were 19of-21 at the foul line in the game, compared to Martins Mill going 4-of-6.

In all, Lipan was 46-of-57 (81%) shooting free throws in the tournament. They also made 18 baskets from 3-point range.

The Lady Indians opened the tournament with a 68-37 victory against Timpson, a game they led 32-10 after the first quarter. Gaylor scored 28 points, including five 3-pointers, and Alisha Green added 13. player, while Gaylor and Branson were selected for the all-tournament team.

"It's always a great tournament. Great people, fun, entertainment and amazing competition," Lady Indians coach Amber Branson said. "We always enjoy coming. It helps us come out of the holiday break.

"We had three close games where the girls were tested. Martins Mill and Tenaha are both in our classification and it was good to play both of them to see where we are at during this time of year.

"We got behind in both of those games, multiple times, and the girls battled. Never gave up. So stinking proud of them."

Lipan is 3-0 in 11-2A and will host Hico Tuesday, Jan. 9, before traveling to rival Tolar Friday, Jan. 12. Both games tip off at 6:15 p.m.

contributed 8.

The Indians opened the tournament with a 55-35 win over Tenaha, followed by a 69-50 loss to Hooks, ranked sixth in 3A. They bounced back to defeat Sabine 55-31.

Leading Lipan in those games were:

Vs. Tenaha: Gaylor 18 points; Steed 14 points, 10 rebounds; Alberto Andreatta 13 points, 11 rebounds; Tyson Tarpley 7 rebounds.

Vs. Hooks: Gaylor 19 points, 6 rebounds; Andreatta 13 points; Steed 7 rebounds.

Vs. Sabine: Gaylor 24 points, 4 assists; Steed 12 points, 7 rebounds; Andreatta 8 points, 8 rebounds, 2 blocks.

Steed was named alltournament from Lipan. the tourney with a 60-53 loss to Little Elm.

Kensington Colston and Daylon Webb were named all-tournament.

The Pirates led the Colony by five at the half before the Cougars pulled away in the second. Granbury trailed Centennial by a point at the half, but came roaring back in the final two quarters.

Granbury scoring leaders in the tournament were:

Vs. The Colony: Colston 12, Dylan Couto 7, Murphy Page 7.

Vs. Centennial: Webb 21, Colston 16, Page 11.

Vs. Leander: Page 13, Colston 11, Webb 11, Couto 8, Isaiah Trejo 8.

Vs. Little Elm: Webb 17, Couto 12, Colston 11.

The Pirates were back on

The Lady Pirates (14-9) went 2-2 in the tournament. They dropped their opener 59-45 to Plainview, defeated San Angelo Lake View 58-16 and Abernathy 46-42 before falling to Lubbock Estacado 51-41.

Granbury leading scorers were:

Vs. Plainview: Ella Garner 20, Brionna Johnson 12.

Vs. Lake View: Jillian Williams 10, Garner 8, Fayth Fry 8, Baylee Goodman 8.

Vs. Abernathy: Garner 20, Fry 8.

The tournament features some of the top small schools from around the state. The championship game matched the Lady Indians (20-3), then No. 3, against then top-ranked Tenaha (now No. 2).

As one might expect, the game was back-and-forth before the Lady Indians went on an 8-3 run in the fourth quarter en route to a 42-39 victory.

Hanna Gaylor led Lipan with 17 points, while Madison Cornelius added 8.

The Lady Indians overcame an 8-2 advantage by That was followed with a 38-32 win over Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill. The game was tied at 25 at the half and Lipan led 34-32 entering the final quarter. Gaylor scored 14 and Taylor Branson scored 11.

Again, a big difference in the game was at the freethrow line. Lipan was 15of-18 and Chapel Hill was 4-of-8.

Cornelius was named the tournament's most valuable

INDIANS FIFTH IN TENAHA

After defeating the state's top in Class 2A, that's exactly where the Lipan Indians find themselves this week. In the latest Texas Association of Basketball rankings, Lipan is No. 1 among 2A boys.

This comes on the heels of a fifth-place finish in the Tenaha Holiday Hoops tournament, in which they downed former No. 1 (now No. 2) Martins Mill 41-38. Lipan (17-4) was led by Court Gaylor with 17 points, while Darius Steed added 9 and Payton Cornelius Lipan returned home to host Gordon, No. 6 in Class 1A, Tuesday, Jan. 2. They won 32-31 as Gaylor led with 17 points.

The Indians host Hico Tuesday, Jan. 9 and travel to No. 4 Tolar Jan. 12, both games beginning at 7:30 p.m.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (14-6) split four games in The Colony Tournament Dec. 28-30. They lost 60-53 to The Colony, ranked No. 11 in the state in Class 5A, defeated Frisco Centennial 75-58 and Leander 75-39, and ended

A

GRANBURY

the road Tuesday, Jan. 2, as they traveled to Wichita Falls Rider to open District 5-5A. Granbury won 69-51 as Colston led with 23, Webb added 16 and Couto tallied 12. Also, Payton Thomason came off the bench and hit back-to-back 3-pointers to break Rider's zone defense.

The Pirates were 14-of-16 at the free-throw line in the win.

Granbury travels to Saginaw Jan. 9 and hosts Aledo Jan. 12. Tipoff at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE SEE **SPORTS** | B9

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Hood County News **B7**

TARLETON State university TM

Acker's big day leads Tarleton State to road win at Texas Southern

Tarleton State University

HOUSTON — Faith Acker is a true freshman, but she's not playing like one.

The Texan freshman center recorded a monster double-double on Saturday in Houston to lead Tarleton State to a 52-40 road win to end 2023. Acker tallied 23 points on 10-of-21 shooting and 12 rebounds to secure her first doubledouble in her seventh career game. Acker now leads the team in scoring (12.3 PPG), rebounding (7.3 RPG) and blocks (1.3 BPG).

The Texans (4-7, 1-1 WAC) won their second over the past three games and improved to 2-1 on their active four-game road trip, and 3-4 away from Stephenville overall. The Tigers (1-10, 0-0 SWAC) lost their ninth straight game, falling at H&PE Arena in Houston Saturday, Dec. 30.

"I'm really proud of our team's effort today on the road and bringing home the victory," head coach Bill Brock said. "We had a four-point lead heading into the fourth quarter and did an outstanding job of rebounding and shot selection to close out the game. Now it's time to return home and get ready for our trip to UTA on Thursday."



of the game in the third to get within three at 34-31.

COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton led 35-31 entering the fourth quarter and used a 7-0 run to go back up by double figures and never looked back.

Hailev (March 9, 2019, at

is just the second Texan

Angelo State). Finally, Acker

freshman in their D1 era to

Acker didn't do it alone

on Saturday though, joined

others. Jakoriah Long tallied

three steals. Da Silva chipped

Turrubiates finished with six

points, six rebounds and two

The Texans built as large

as a 14-point lead shortly

after their impressive first

quarter, going up 18-4, 25-

11 and 52-38. The Tigers cut

it to nine at halftime 25-16,

then used their best quarter

by solid outings by a few

10 points, five assists and

in eight points, and Elise

score 20 points in a game

(Iyana Dorsey twice in

2020-21).

steals.

No Tiger scored in double figures, led by eight points apiece from reserves Anela Thomas (four rebounds, two steals, two blocks) and Maci Quiller (four rebounds). Jaida Belton tallied four points, nine rebounds, three blocks and eight turnovers for Texas Southern.

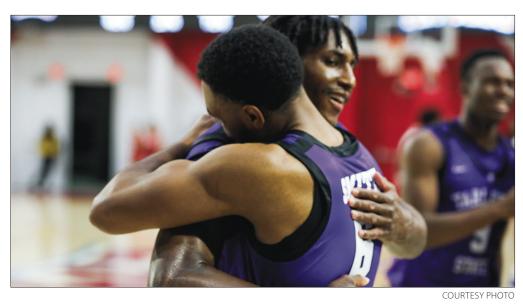
Faith Acker is a true freshman, but she's not playing like one. The Texan freshman center recorded a monster double-double on Saturday in Houston to lead Tarleton State to a 52-40 road win to end 2023.

This was Tarleton's first game in 12 days due to the holiday break, and their energy was renewed to start, which showed in their smothering defense. The team allowed just four points in the first quarter to take a 14-4 lead after one, forcing nine turnovers in the opening frame, along with a Tiger 1-of-13 (.077) clip from the field, 0-of-7 from the three-point line.

Overall, the Texans forced 25 Tiger turnovers, tied for Tarleton's most takeaways in a game this season. They also forced a 15-of-54 (.278) mark from the floor, a 3-of-22 (.136) performance from distance, and 40 overall points, the lowest totals by an opposing NCAA Division I team all year.

As impressive as the defense was, the individual star on the day was Acker. She is the first Texan freshman to achieve a double-double since Ikpeaku Iwobi notched two in her true freshman season of 2013-14. Acker is the first Texan freshman to post a 20-10 game in at least the last 10 years. She is also the third Texan in their D1 era to post a 20-10 game (Teresa Da Silva in 2022-23, Marissa Escamilla in 2020-21), and is the first Texan to finish with at least 23 points and 12 rebounds since Mackenzie

Texans late rally not enough in Knoxville against #8 Tennessee



Tarleton State University

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tarleton State was within six with just over four minutes to go but was unable to shorten the deficit any more as the Texans fell 65-46 to No. 8 Tennessee Thursday, Dec. 21 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Texans (8-4 overall, 2-0 WAC) battled their fifth AP Top 25 opponent in program history, the nationally ranked No. 8 Tennessee Volunteers (9-3, 0-0 SEC).

"We want to come out and be the toughest team every time we step out on the court, that's the way we approach each and every game," said acting head coach Joseph Jones after the game. "We came out being physical against a team of Tennessee's caliber and that is a great takeaway for us tonight."

Devon Barnes produced a team-high 12 points as one of three Texans to score in double-figures. KiAndre Gaddy and Lue Williams added 10 apiece. Gaddy also added a teambest four blocks along with seven rebounds. Jakorie Smith led Tarleton with eight boards and two steals.

In the second half, the Texans made Tennessee fans very nervous of an upset. The Volunteers started out shooting 2-for-17 from the floor. Tennessee's shooting turned cold with the Vols only scoring eight points in the first 12 minutes of the second half. With eight minutes remaining, the Texans found themselves within striking distance, trailing 47-38. In a moment where

the momentum felt switched in Rocky Top to the Texans' favor, the Tennessee fans made their presence known with a load roar in an attempt to disrupt the Texans. Despite a backcourt violation, the Texans cut their deficit to six after a crucial layup at the basket by Williams, to cut the difference to 50-44.

The Vols held their ground, earning a foul on the very next possession and converting on both free throws. A brief 8-0 run weakened the Purple and White's comeback chances, ultimately ending in a 65-46 defeat at the final horn.

The Texans were unable to score the first bucket of the game against an AP Top 25 opponent for the first time in program history, but Gaddy battled through traffic to lay-in the Texans first points in Knoxville.

Unfazed when the Vols took a 9-4 lead, the Texans overcame the deficit to take a 10-9 lead for the first time in the game. A three-point play for Barnes followed by another Gaddy bucket gave the Texans the lead. Tennessee responded to tie the game at 10. Once again, the Texans showed their fight with a layup by Dario Domingos to regain the lead.

Tennessee used a 7-0 run to regain the lead and hold a 14-point advantage heading into the first half. The Volunteers were red hot from behind the arc, shooting 6-for-11, a 54.5% rate. The Vols had six players with at least five points each in the half; Barnes led the Texans with seven.

Both teams shot cold in the second half with neither team scoring until a Gaddy hookover three-and-a-half minutes into the second half. The Volunteers missed 22 shots in the second half shooting at a 21.4% rate from the floor. The 21.4 clip was over 30% less than their 51.9 mark in the first half. After making six threes in the first half, the deep ball was not falling for the Vols resulting in a 2-for-14 showing in the second.

Tarleton suffered the same drought from beyond the arc shooting 1-for-15 (6.7%) in the second half. The Texans' 21 second half points were just four less than their first half mark, while making nine shots in each period of play.

Overall, the Texans held Tennessee lower than their season average in shooting from the floor and behind the arc. As a unit, the Vols shot a 36.4 rate from the floor, 7% lower than their season average. The Vols made eight of its 25 shots from deep, a 32.0% clip.

Tennessee won the battle of the boards, 39-37 and the turnover battle, 11-8. The Texans made seven steals while holding the Vols to one of their own. The Texans took care of the ball to coast to the 79-66 win for their ninth victory of the year

Gaddy sets program record with 5th double-double in comeback win

Tarleton State University

LOS ANGELES, CA. — Tarleton State rounded out the 2023 calendar year and its non-conference slate with a 79-66 comeback win Friday, Dec. 29 against Loyola Marymount at the Gersten Pavilion.

The Texans improve to 9-4 overall and 2-0 in the WAC, the most wins before the new year as a Division I institution and the most since the 2018-19 season. The Lions round out 2023 at .500, 7-7 overall.

For the first time this season, a Texan duo each posted a 20-piece. KiAndre Gaddy notched his fifth double-double of the season with 24 points and 12 boards. Gaddy now owns the program record for most double-doubles in a single season in the Division I era for the Texans.

Jakorie Smith tallied 21 points, powered by a gamehigh three triples. He added five assists. Four Texans scored in double-figures. Devon Barnes contributed 13 points and Lue Williams notched 11.

Emmanuel Innocenti had one of the most wellrounded nights by a Texan this season, in one of his best games all year. He tallied a Tarleton season-best eight assists along with six points and six boards.

LMU was quick out of the gate opening on an 11-2 run in the first three minutes of the game. The next 17 minutes, the Texans took over. Trailing 21-12, Tarleton executed an 11-2 run to tie the game at 23. Seven straight Texan points by Barnes brought the Purple and White within two before an Innocenti layup tied the game at 23.

The Texans extended their run to 19-4 to take their largest lead of the half, seven, 32-25. During the run, the Texan defense forced the Lions to miss 10 shots while shooting at a 16.7 rate. The Texans were hot during their run, shooting 66.7 percent from the floor and were perfect at the charity stripe.

After a Lions' timeout, LMU scrapped back to close the Texan lead to just three. At the break, the Texans led, 34-31. The Texans shot a season-best 51.7 percent in the first half. Gaddy led the squad with 10 points. The Texan defense held the Lions to shoot just 13-for-37 in the half, 35.1 percent.

The Texans held the lead

for the entire second half. Williams and Gaddy both converted a three-point play which drew the bench off their feet on both occasions.

With the Texans leading 58-50, Smith took control scoring seven straight Texan points ending with the Purple and White leading, 65-56. The Lions showed they still had fight in them closing the Tarleton advantage. LMU converted an and-one and a mini 5-0 run to bring them within three, 64-61. The Texans responded quickly with a Williams' mid-range jumper, followed by a Gaddy dunk-in transition. Barnes capped the 6-0 run and forced a Lions timeout with Tarleton in front, 73-64.

The Texans took care of the ball to coast to the 79-66 win for their ninth victory of the year. Tarleton shot a season-best 65.4 percent from the floor in the second half. The mark was the highest in the second half since Feb. 6, 2023, at UT Arlington.

The Purple and White shot 32-for-55 from the field, 58.2 percent. Tarleton limited their turnovers to eight but lost the turnover battle, 8-6. LMU won the battle of the boards, 32-31.







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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, openworld, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

Metamorphabet is an alphabet game with simple animations. Each letter transforms into an animation that morphs into another with the click of a mouse. The animations are whimsical and really help to engage the child's imagination.

I purchased this game five years ago when my son was three, and he loved it. He would sit in my lap and use the mouse to click on the lie. letters. He figured out very

quickly which animations he liked the best, and what letter they were linked to.

Each letter has four or five different words it morphs into. A "U," for example, grows eyes and teeth, and starts crying. It becomes "upset." A "P" turns into a pinwheel. A "J" starts to juggle. With the letter to word association, it will help your child learn their alphabet, and it's a welcome break from the ABC song.

The game is great if you want your child to have a broad vocabulary. It's the first game I felt comfortable letting my child play alone without supervision, and it kept him entertained without being frustrated.

Vectorpark Metamorphabet is produced by Vectorpark, an animation company founded by Patrick Smith. He started as a student in college with an abstract animation. He was just learning to animate, so kept it simple. He ended up selling the animation to MTV, and it won two awards in 1995. Check it out at this link: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=oxVgwLj1ewI

MTV offered Smith a job on Beavis and Butthead, and he moved to New York City. He went on to animate Down-Town and directed the animated series Daria. Since then he's created many short films and commercials. Vectorpark.com is a collection of his playable animations. Since Adobe Flash is no longer supported, the games (except for Sandcastles) have to be downloaded, but they are available for free. They use simple colors and shapes and rely on an abstract aesthetic.

They're appealing not just because they're simple, but

because the movement of the animation is so organic. Each element has a satisfying drag and pull action which unlocks the morphing of the element into other shapes.

Windosill, a simple logic puzzle game, features eleven rooms with different scenes. all of which have objects that can be manipulated. The objective is to find the hidden cube to unlock the door to the next scene. Solutions are not obvious. One puzzle features three monsters, and the objective is to distract one monster while you take the hat off another to retrieve the cube. Meanwhile the third monster is trying to grab your little vehicle and return it to

the middle of the room. You'll find yourself just grabbing and clicking on elements because they're fun to watch.

Other minigames include Feed the Head and Sandcastles, very simple stress relievers. Check them out at https://vectorpark. itch.io/.

If you're looking for great games for your children, especially the under-5 set, these are perfect. They teach essential skills like using a mouse to grab and move objects, and simple problem-solving. They're currently free to download and install, although tipping is encouraged.

DREAM FROM PAGE B6

or resort. The fine print may require you call the shuttle company 24 hours prior to arrival to confirm your flight details and arrange your pickup location at the airport. If you fail to do this, you won't have a shuttle waiting for you when you arrive. In Cancun the fine print includes instructions like "when you arrive go to baggage claim, collect your bags, walk outside to ground transportation, and look for your shuttle driver wearing a bright floral blue shirt with our logo on it." Meanwhile, as you're walking to that location, you will have several people welcoming you and telling you they are your driver. Many travelers get duped by these taxi drivers and end up paying for that ride while missing their actual transfer.

Many Hawaii vacation packages include prepaid reservations for activities like visiting Pearl Harbor, Whale Watching, Scuba, Dinner Cruises, or Luaus. The fine print provides a phone number for WordStar, the tour company providing these tours, and requires you call 72 hours prior to each reservation to confirm. Without this confirmation you lose your reservation!

Cruise lines have fine print for each port of call. Watch out for Tendering. Tendering is when the ship will not dock at the port but drop anchor offshore. A small boat will come and ferry passengers to shore and back. Tendering is not wheelchair or mobility impaired accessible. It's possible you may not be able to enjoy that port! Recently, I had a friend who booked their flights directly with the airline website. They selected their flights and seats and proceeded to pay with their credit card. Unfortunately, they missed an email they received a few minutes later telling them the payment didn't go through. They waited to confirm their flights during check-in only a week before their travel dates discovering they did not have any airline tickets! Always confirm your flights immediately in the app or on their website; don't wait to do your online check-in.

There is a lot of fine print in the travel industry. I highly recommend using a professional Travel Advisor (aka Travel Agent) for all your vacations.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE B6

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (9-12), No. 19 in 2A, faced two other stateranked opponents in the Eula Tournament, splitting their four games Dec. 28-30. They opened the tournament with a 37-31 victory against Eula, No. 15 in Class 1A; defeated Whiteface 48-29; fell 49-39 to Graford, No. 1 in 1A; and dropped a 51-36 contest to Jim Ned.

Pacing Tolar in the tournament were:

Vs. Eula: Merritt Imel 10 points, 12 rebounds; Matthew Behrens 12 points.

Vs. Whiteface: Tyson Ellis 7 points, Cayden Abrego 7 points, Zane Terrill 7 points.

Vs. Graford: Imel 16 points, Behrens 12 points, Isaac Blessing 8 points.

Vs. Jim Ned: Abrego 11 points, 11 rebounds.

Imel was named to the alltournament team.

Following the tournament, the Rattlers began District 11-2A play with a victory as Ranger forfeited its home contest.

Tolar travels to Poolville Jan. 9 and hosts Lipan Jan. 12, both at 7:30 p.m.

TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (14-10) went 2-2 in four games in the Eula Tournament Dec. 28-30, facing three state-ranked teams. They began with a 69-48 win over Rocksprings, No. 3 in Class 1A, as Senne Imel posted a triple-double with 25 points, 18 rebounds and 11 steals.

Jaycee Jones added 13 points

in the win.

Imel also had a double-double in their tourney-ending 51-43 win over Hermleigh, No. 24 in 1A, scoring 11 points with 10 steals. Jones led with 18 points and Trinity Rousseau scored 17.

Tolar lost 51-41 to Eula, No. 4 in 1A, as Rousseau scored 10, Callan Nix 8 and Imel 8. They also dropped a 53-30 contest to Canadian, with Jones scoring 13.

The Lady Rattlers improved to 3-0 in District 11-2A with a 75-17 win at Ranger Jan. 2 as Imel scored 24 points with 6 assists and Jones had a double-double with 13 points and 12 steals. They have 6:15 p.m. contests at Poolville Jan. 9 and at home against Lipan Jan. 12.

TGCA ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Several area female athletes earned academic all-state honors from the Texas Girls Coaches Association. To qualify, an athlete must be a senior, have an overall grade point average of 94 or above for grades 9-11, be a varsity participant or a member of the support staff for that sport in good standing, and be of good moral character.

Granbury honorees are:

Volleyball: Bailey Blum, Peyton Johnson, Brooke Marak, Kylie Moody, Maddix Owens, Lauren Franco Shahan.

Team tennis: Katie Childs.

Lipan honorees are:

Cross country: Taylor Branson, Ashlyn Clark, Harley Glover.

Tolar honorees are:

Volleyball: Maddie Rue, Trinity Rousseau.



NATIONAL





It's a reminder that patience and care are essential elements in cultivating both nature and our own lives.

Apple Tree Day also serves as a platform for education, promoting awareness about the role of apple trees in maintaining biodiversity and providing habitat for various species. Ultimately, this celebration encourages individuals to embrace a harmonious coexistence with nature, recognizing the invaluable gifts that apple trees bestow upon us.

Apple Tree Day, celebrated on January 6th, is a time to appreciate the significance of apple trees in our lives and ecosystems. This day symbolizes the connection between nature and

APPLES ARE 25 PERCENT AIR, WHICH IS WHY THEY WILL FLOAT IN WATER.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF A

HEALTHY, WELL-BALANCED

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human well-being. Apple trees, with their blossoms and fruits, represent the cycle of life and the bounties of the Earth.

On this special day, people gather to plant new apple trees, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. The act of planting a tree is a metaphor for nurturing the future, as apple trees take time to grow and bear fruit.

are are essens in cultivating and our own e Day also are are essenawareness abo apple trees in r biodiversity an habitat for vari Ultimately, this encourages inc to embrace a h

ENGLISH: Apple SPANISH: Manzana ITALIAN: Mela FRENCH: Pomme GERMAN: Apfel APPLE TREES ARE LIKE MAGICIANS, GROWING DIFFER-ENT FLAVORS OF APPLES ON THE SAME TREE!

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COURTESY PHOTO

BOOK REVIEW New year, new you: Books for making resolutions with the best of intentions

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Each year, you make resolutions with the best of intentions.

But then there are leftover holiday cookies that beg to be eaten, a sofa that needs to be held down, and words you shouldn't say right there on the edge of your lips. Your resolutions can hardly compete with real life, so maybe you need help through one of these great books...

Be a Healthier You: Is it possible to grow younger? Not exactly, but why would you want to feel your actual years when you can read "How Not to Age" by Michael Gregor, M.D., FACLM (Flatiron Books, \$39.99) and enjoy life?

Aging is not a disease. It's something we all do, if we're lucky, but Gregor says that changing your diet, exercise,

altering your lifestyle, and paying attention to your body can help you get older in a healthy way. Based on the lives of some people living in a "Blue Zone" like the one that's been in the news lately, you can use real science to live longer and love it.

Even if you're already over a certain age, there are plenty of sidebars and short chapters that are perfect for browsing and making small changes.

Be a Better Parent: You love your kids. You do. But why do you sometimes feel so trapped and angry? You feel awful about it. too, and in "Mom Rage: The Everyday Crisis of Modern Motherhood" by Minna Dubin (Seal Press, \$29.00), you'll read a provocative, possibly controversial book about mothering, childcare, and expectations, and ways

to stop your feelings. This book addresses all the myths you've heard and destroys them, it helps you ask for the things you really need, and it breaks any cycle you may have inherited. This is a feelbetter book for any mother who needs it now or might in the future.

Be a Better Person: Chances are, you just spent a season opening your heart, your calendar, and your wallet. Do you know where your dollars and your time went? In "The Price of Humanity: How Philanthropy Went Wrong and How to Fix It" by Amy Schiller (Melville House, \$29.99), you'll see, and you might not like it.

In order to shed light on this subject, author Schiller first needed to take a deep look at what's wrong with philanthropy

today and why its downfalls have happened over time. She looks at various kinds of giving and their effectiveness and why this new year is the time for us to look into philanthropy to make it better. This book isn't just for foundation chairpeople or leaders: It's also for anyone who fundraises, for philanthropists, and for the generous person who wants to do better, effectively.

If these great books don't address the ways you want to have a new you this New Year, head to your favorite bookstore or library. The staffs there can help vou decide what's do-able, what's challenging, and what's change-able. Diet books, break-that-habit books, stop smoking books, they've got what you need. You bring the intentions.



Various books by Various authors that help make your resolutions a reality.



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