



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County NEWS

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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 Hood County Sheriff
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[SATURDAY, January 20, 2024]

Published Saturday

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Shirley Hooks, left, poses with best friend Carol Sue "Sister" McRae.

COURTESY PHOTO

SHIRLEY HOOKS

Community mourns the passing of local realtor and 'legend'

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

This week, Hood County is shining a little less brightly as the news continues to spread regarding the passing of a beloved community member.

Shirley Hooks, a prominent Granbury resident and former Century 21 real estate agent, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 14 at the age of

80. Originally from Houston, Hooks moved to Granbury around 1974, after she took a weekend trip to the city

and fell in love with the small town.

A year later, the single mother of two girls became a licensed real estate agent and embarked on what would become a decades-long successful career.

A REAL ESTATE EMPIRE

While other women in the '70s continued to hit the glass ceiling and were unable to climb up the ladder to a management position,

Hooks was selling rooftop after rooftop in Hood County — eventually heading up one of the most successful real estate franchises in the area and becoming one of the first women to do so.

"She built an empire for herself," said close friend Lula Pope Tidwell. "She got everything going for our Granbury. She's like Mrs. Real Estate."

PLEASE SEE **HOOKS** | A2

First Hospital Board District meeting held discussing potential hospital district tax

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
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On Jan. 12, the Hood County Hospital District Board (HCHD) held a three-hour meeting where the possibility of a hospital district tax was presented to Hood County residents. These community members were able to learn more about the potential tax as well as share their input.

Hood County residents have not paid a hospital district tax since 1996. At that time the tax rate was 15 cents per \$100 of valuation according to the Hood County Appraisal District. Residents have not had to pay this tax due to a lease agreement negotiated with Hospital Corporations of America in 1996. The agreement called for HCA to pay \$15 million to the HCHD to lease the hospital from 1996-2026 with an option to renew the lease for an additional 10 years for \$1,000. Community Health Systems, Inc. is now the lease agreement owner.

"By reducing the tax back then, it put us in a bad situation now," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said during the meeting.

The HCHD is responsible for paying for indigent care as well as jail inmate care as required by Texas law. Indigent Care is a program that helps low-income Texans who don't qualify for other state or federal health care programs get free access to health care services. Some services include immunizations, medical screening services, annual physicals, inpatient and outpatient hospital visits, laboratory and radiology, and more. According to HCHD President Christy Massey, the program costs roughly \$1 million a year. Massey added the population of Granbury is growing, meaning indigent care and jail inmate care numbers will rise.

"The board has no choice but to introduce a tax. State law requires these things to be paid for and that takes money. You've got to get that money somewhere, and the only place for us to get it, unfortunately, is taxing Hood County," Massey said during the meeting. "I am for taxing the least amount of money that we can get by with."

Massey told meeting attendees she has spoken with the Hood County Appraisal District and learned the only three options are to tax a penny, a penny-and-a-half or two pennies. One penny would result in residents paying \$10 dollars per \$100,000, a penny-and-a-half would result in \$15 dollars per \$100,000 and two pennies would equal \$20 dollars per \$100,000. A one-cent tax would bring \$1 million into the hospital district while a two-cent tax would bring in \$2 million.

Texas EMS Director Ricky Reeves spoke during the meeting, informing the board his agency is running extremely low on funds and would appreciate the board providing some funding for them.

"Most EMS is funded by taxing either through government, hospital districts or cities," Reeves said. Reeves noted it costs \$4 million a year for his agency to run with four ambulances, but last year, they were only able to operate three due to low funds.

"We cannot continue to operate without a subsidiary from somewhere. The community has become accustomed to us being here," Reeves said during the meeting. "With the growth that is predicted here, without funding we are not going to be able to meet that need."

He also noted Texas EMS has had a hard time keeping personnel due to its low pay structure — which is due to lack of funds.

PLEASE SEE **HCHD** | A4

Two men escape unharmed from Expert Automotive Solutions fire

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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No injuries were reported following a flash fire at local mechanic shop, Expert Automotive Solutions at 106 Pirate Dr. Monday morning, as two men reportedly escaped unharmed.

At approximately 11 a.m. Jan. 15, Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, Tolar Volunteer Fire Department, North Hood County Fire Department and Hood County Station 70 were dispatched to the location for reports of a structure fire.

Upon arrival, first responders encountered heavy fire and smoke from

PLEASE SEE **FIRE** | A3



COURTESY GRANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

According to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, multiple explosions occurred due to flammable materials stored inside the shop. No injuries were reported at the location. However, three vehicles inside were lost in the flames.



138TH YEAR, NO. 3

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 30 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 30 pages

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Clint HEAD

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For Hood County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1

POL. ADV. PD. DANNY SHANE FLIPPIN TREASURER FOR THE HEAD CAMPAIGN

A SERVANT'S HEART

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Empowering Connections

Granbury Chamber of Commerce hosts first Women in Business Speed Networking Luncheon

In a dynamic kickoff to the year, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce invites you to join the Women In Business Speed Networking Luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 23. This eagerly anticipated event, presented by First Financial Bank, marks the first Women in Business gathering of 2024 and promises an array of benefits for attendees seeking to connect, collaborate and catalyze their careers in the Granbury/Hood County area.

EVENT DETAILS:

WIB Speed Networking Luncheon
Date: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024
Time: 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Location: Lake Granbury Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St.

Presenting Sponsor: First Financial Bank
Lunch Provided by: GISD Culinary Students
Ticket Information:
 \$30 for Members
 \$40 for General Admission

This annual Speed Networking Event is a golden opportunity to meet more business professionals in the community. The popularity of this event ensures a quick sell-out, so be sure to secure your ticket soon. Limited tickets are still available.

What to Expect:

Upon arrival, participants will receive a card with three table numbers on it. Throughout the event, attendees will rotate to different tables, engaging with various professionals. Table captains will guide discussions by posing questions and prompting participants to share insights, creating a dynamic and interactive networking experience.

Don't forget to bring at least 30 business cards, as you'll be asked to share them at each table, fostering lasting connections.

THE EVENT TIMELINE IS AS FOLLOWS:

11 a.m.: Doors open/registration begins
 11:30 a.m.: First Rotation
 12 p.m.: Second Rotation
 12:30 p.m.: Final Rotation
 12:55 p.m.: Exciting door prizes

This luncheon is not just about networking; it's about building a supportive community of women in business. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce's commitment to providing an inclusive platform for professional growth is evident in every aspect of this event.

As an additional treat, GISD Culinary Students will be catering the lunch, ensuring a delightful and satisfying culinary experience for all attendees. This collaboration adds a flavorful touch to the event, making it a true collaboration of empowerment, connections and gastronomic delights.

As the business landscape continues to evolve, events like the Women in Business Speed Networking Luncheon become invaluable for professional women seeking to stay ahead in their respective fields. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce's dedication to empowering women through this event exemplifies the organization's commitment to fostering a thriving and inclusive business community.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to elevate your career and network with inspiring women at this inaugural event for 2024. Secure your spot now, and let the empowering connections begin. For more information about 2024 Women In Business events or to purchase a ticket, please visit the website at www.granburychamber.com or email Maegan Derryberry at maegan@granburychamber.com.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Purefoy Electric, LLC. "Our Mission at Purefoy Electric is and always has been to provide a world-class product to our clients built on a foundation of core values and innovation. Purefoy Electric, LLC knows what it takes to succeed in the electrical business. While providing quality work, of course, you must also be sure to practice quality customer service. Our goal is to turn each of our customers into lifelong customers." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: METROGEEK. "METROGEEK specializes in a wide range of services, including tailored IT services and solutions for small and medium businesses and their owners in Granbury, Glen Rose and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We are committed to providing each and every one of our clients with high-quality service and support." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Chamber Superstar: The FIT Lounge. "Reformer Pilates, Barre, Yoga fusion. Coming Soon: Bungee!! All level classes and charm that are sure to meet your fitness needs."

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Ambassador Spotlight: Kathy Cheek. We are thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Kathy Cheek with Century 21 Judge Fite Company- Granbury! Kathy has been an Ambassador for one year! When asked why she loves being an Ambassador, she said "I wanted to be an Ambassador because I love being a part of this community. Getting to know all of the new or reestablished businesses is so important for the growth of our community. I am meeting so many wonderful and generous people that are chamber ambassadors, chamber members, and chamber employees. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce does so many great things for our community and I am so proud to be a part of all of this!" Fun Fact: "I have lived in Granbury for over 30 years!" Thank you, Kathy for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: US Wound. "Our experienced in-home nurse practitioners possess extensive knowledge and expertise in the field of wound healing, with a particular focus on providing compassionate care. At U.S. Wound, our commitment extends beyond providing proficient wound care; we strive to instill a sense of optimism in our patients." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS ARCHIVE PHOTO

Shirley Hooks, sitting down, is pictured with her sisters, Charla Anderson, Marsha Hutsell, and Joyce Navarro when they went shopping one afternoon.

HOOKS

FROM PAGE A1

Tidwell reminisced about the time she was trying to sell her home in DeCordova to a potential buyer, but Hooks convinced her not to, as it was a bad deal.

"She told me, 'I wouldn't do this deal,' because they were wanting me to give them everything. Shirley said, 'I'm gonna be honest with you. I would not sell them this house,'" Tidwell said. "So, I didn't. I backed off and eventually I sold it to somebody who lived two houses down. She's honest. What can I say?"

Tidwell also commented about how several real estate agents trained under Hooks and went on to be extremely successful in their careers — including local realtor Jerry Allen.

"We never became really closely intimate until the last couple of years," Allen told the HCN. "We would talk to each other in passing, but when I became a (real estate agent), she said, 'Well, okay,

come on over here, young man.' She kind of gave me a few pointers — most of them I already knew, because I've done a lot of sales and stuff — but there were some jewels in there that I couldn't have gotten from anybody else. It was very matter of fact; I mean I could see why she was such a good (real estate agent)."

There was a time though, when Hooks was forced to juggle her job as a real estate agent with a new role she never asked for or wanted: the role of a detective.

A FEARLESS MOTHER

On Easter weekend in 1979, Hooks drove her daughter, Emily, to DFW Airport and waved goodbye as the 7-year-old boarded a plane to Boston for a short visit with her father, Steven Walton — Hooks' ex-husband.

Unbeknownst to her at the time, more than three traumatic years would pass before mother and daughter would be reunited.

In a 2020 HCN article,

Hooks details the harrowing drama that unfolded as soon as she realized her now-deceased ex had kidnapped her daughter and gone into hiding.

Setting out on a mission, the fearless mother hired three private detectives and chased leads in places such as Austin, Washington D.C., Connecticut, and Toronto.

"It was a very, very terrible time," Hooks recalled in a previous interview with the HCN. "It was like living in suspended animation at all times."

Then-Hood County District Attorney Randy Chandler presented Hooks' case to the grand jury, resulting in what was considered a landmark decision. The grand jury indicted Walton on felony kidnapping charges.

On June 9, 1982, Emily's 11th birthday, Hooks received a telegram from the American Embassy in London confirming that an investigator's hunch was correct; Walton had fled with

PLEASE SEE HOOKS | A6

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Don't warranties last forever?



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.
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Perhaps it is the times we live in or maybe it is people in general, but folks seem to be more demanding than they once were. There is a time to make reasonable requests or to insist on getting what you paid for. It is not unfair to ask that your salad be delivered a reasonable time prior to the entrée, and not at the same time. One is entitled to ask the repairman to clean up the mess he created in performing the repair, but it is not reasonable to ask the same repairman to clean the whole house. It is not out of the question to anticipate the Amazon delivery driver will place your package near your front door, rather than

driving by your address at a high rate of speed, throwing the package out the window and hoping you find it somewhere on the block where you reside. No one is saying sticking up for yourself is inappropriate.

On the other hand, it is not always about "me."

Not long ago, I had the need to go to my neighborhood John Deere dealership and get an oil filter. The tractor needed to have the oil change, and I hoped to purchase the necessary item so I could get the task at hand accomplished.

When I arrived at the dealership, I walked up to the parts counter to find an older man in the line ahead of

me. He was engaged in an animated conversation with the service manager so I backed up a little bit giving them some room, hoping calm would soon be restored.

As the conversation continued, I could hear the old man speak in a very agitated and loud manner: "If this is not covered by warranty your tractors are not worth a flip." He continued to rant: "I will never buy another tractor from you again. This is ridiculous. You are doing nothing but trying to cheat me!"

As I listened, I was very shocked by the old man's rant. John Deere products are noteworthy for their reliability, and I dealt with this dealership through the purchase of two different tractors, service issues and regular maintenance. My experiences had always been very positive, and I had endorsed the dealership to my friends and neighbors. It

was hard for me to imagine what the old man was saying could be true.

Finally, the old man exclaimed, "I am leaving, and you will never have my business again." He shouted something which is not appropriate to put into a public newspaper. As he left, I meekly approached the counter and the store employee. The man was red-faced and it was easy to determine he was agitated by his conversation with the mad customer. I hoped to inject some levity into the situation so I jokingly said, "Would now be a bad time to ask to borrow some money?" and then I smiled.

The man behind the counter let out a sheepish grin and said, "As good as any," and then giggled a little bit. I responded by saying, "That conversation did not seem to go well," and the service rep responded by saying, "You do not know half of it. I have

talked to that man on the phone twice, the store manager had talked to him once and we all told him the same thing, but he still will not accept that his tractor problem is not covered by the factory warranty."

I could not help but ask, "what was the problem with the tractor" to which the service man said, "He has got a problem with one of the pistons and the engine rings."

At first hearing this information I could not help but ask myself, "I wonder why the piston and rings would not be covered by the man's warranty." I guess the thought running through my head was written on my face, so the employee looked at me and exclaimed, "It is sort of easy to understand he bought his tractor 22 years ago!" It turns out the old man wanted John Deere to repair an engine which he had owned and used for 22 years and expected it to be

covered by his original factory warranty!

I assured the clerk my experiences with the dealership had always been positive, and I was sorry the man had acted so out of line. He smiled and thanked me for my pleasantness, and I headed out the door to get home and change the oil. On the way home I started to giggle, thinking about the old man who made such a disruption. I wonder if he thinks the same way about everything he ever bought. Is there a "lifetime" warranty on cars, appliances and electronics? Heck, I am pretty sure there is not even a lifetime warranty on life!

Thought for the day: A warranty is a notice telling the buyer when the product they just purchased will no longer be functional.

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lisa Deaver

Say hello to our neighbor, Lisa Deaver!

Lisa Deaver has lived in Granbury since 1994 after she moved here from Grand Prairie with her three children. She recalled the Nut Shell on the square as her first job, and Lisa is proud to proclaim she was the first lady mechanic for Rhyder Transmissions. Deaver obtained her real estate license back in 2003. Content in a profession that she truly loves, she eventually realized she's the happiest in a supporting role for her wonderful colleagues and loves her job as the Granbury Association of Realtors membership and marketing coordinator. When Lisa isn't busy working she's out having fun fishing and traveling and living lake life with her family. She adores spending as much time as she can with her three kids, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She absolutely loves everything about living in Granbury and depends on the Hood County News to keep her up with what's happening in the schools and all around the county.

Strong winds strip off parts of roof on portable building at Acton Elementary

BY EMILY NAVA
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On Jan. 8, Granbury faced strong winds with big gusts resulting in part of the roof on a portable building at

Acton Elementary School being ripped off.

The strongest wind speed was recorded around 9 p.m. at 35 mph with the strongest gust reaching 59 mph.

"The roof damage does not interrupt instructional

learning or the use of the facility," Ryan Cox Granbury ISD director of communication said. "Facility staff are working to repair the roof as quickly as possible. The strategic planning committee has long-term goals

to address eliminating the need for portables on our campuses."

Acton Elementary School has a total of four portable buildings that were made by Putnam Builders and put on the campus back in 2019.



COURTESY GRANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Local mechanic shop Expert Automotive Solutions suffered heavy fire damage after multiple explosions occurred inside the building on Monday, Jan. 15

FIRE FROM PAGE A1

an automobile repair shop.

According to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, multiple explosions occurred due to flammable materials stored inside the shop.

In a news release from

the City of Granbury, the fire destroyed the building along with three cars inside. Additionally, the quick response and coordinated efforts of the local fire departments — along with the City of Granbury electric crews — resulted in the containment of the blaze about an hour after it began.

"This was a well-advanced

and technical structure fire. I appreciate the fast response by all departments and their solid work on scene," Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Chief Matt Hohon told the HCN via email. "Considering the type of work conducted by the business, all firefighters did prompt, solid work and the fire was contained to the

original source in the mechanic shop."

Hohon added he also appreciates city electric employees making a "fast response" and getting the electrical hazards secured promptly.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by Granbury Fire Marshal Kevin Jones.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Jan. 9 - Jan. 15. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

JAN. 9 12:28 p.m.: burglary reported on Shady Grove Drive 6:04 p.m.: fraud reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 **A minor traffic accident and 17 traffic stops were reported on this day**

JAN. 10 11:22 a.m.: suspicious ac-

tivity reported on E. Bridge Street 4:21 p.m.: theft of property over \$100 and under \$750 reported on Torrey Street 4:34 p.m.: credit card abuse reported on Preston Trail Court 5:38 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 **There were 23 traffic stops reported on this day**

JAN. 11 12:52 p.m.: fraud reported on W. Pearl Street 5:21 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on Weatherford Highway 7:09 p.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 **There were two minor accidents, three warrant services and 54 traffic stops on this day**

JAN. 12 12:20 a.m.: D.W.I. reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 8:17 a.m.: property damage reported on E. Pearl Street 10:57 a.m.: credit card abuse reported on S. Morgan Street 12:44 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 2:18 p.m.: child abuse reported on Loop 567 3:14 p.m.: public intoxica-

tion reported on S. Morgan Street 9:14 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 ** One minor traffic accident and 24 traffic stops were reported on this day**

JAN. 13 9:34 a.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 1:34 p.m.: property damage reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 2:54 p.m.: D.W.I. w/child passenger under age 15 reported on N. Houston Street **There were 54 traffic stops reported this day**

JAN. 14 12:55 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on N. Plaza Drive 2:11 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Hwy. 377 4:29 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on E. U.S. Hwy 377 10:22 p.m.: assault reported on Quarry Court **One minor accident and three traffic stops were reported on this day**

JAN. 15 12:32 a.m.: D.W.I. was reported on E. Hwy. 377 **There were 21 traffic stops reported on this day.**



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Pictured from left is Hood County Commissioner Jack Wilson, Vice President Terry Stamper, Secretary David Cuban D.O., Hood County Judge and Treasurer Ron Massingill, President of the board Christy Massey, Krista Lash, Commissioner Kevin Andrews, Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, and Commissioner Dave Eagle.

HCHD FROM PAGE A1

Parker County EMS Director Jim Backus was present in support of Reeves and told the board Reeves is doing a great job with the funds available. He warned if Texas EMS cannot get additional funding, the Hood County

community is in trouble. "I hate taxes, that's the worst thing in the world, but we have to do something to help out EMS," Backus said during the meeting. "They are making so many calls and I know they are struggling. We really need to look at that and help them out. Taxes are bad but I think it will really help the com-

munity and make it a safer place." Many community members spoke out on this potential tax as many don't want to add to their taxes nor do they want Texas EMS to struggle. "You guys (the board) are in strategic positions. You really have to sit down and think about how we can provide this

service but also maintain taxes," Hood County resident Mark Lowery said. "You guys have got to work together. If you nickel-and-dime us every time we turn around and we get a new tax at the voter's booth, you're going to wear us all out, and that's not good for us." The board talked about potentially creating a

group of community members to come up with ideas for how to deal with this important issue. The conversation will continue for several months as the board figures out the best course of action for Hood County residents. The next HCHD meeting will take place Feb. 24 at the Hood County Courthouse.

CALENDAR

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.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

OPEN HEARTS Sanctuary offers a free Holistic Fair from noon-6 p.m. located at 616 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury. There will be psychic readings, energetic clearing and protection, psychic gift activations, crystals, candles, potions, amulets, spiritual guidance, life coaching and Reiki sessions.

MONDAY, FEB 12

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Hannah Bohm, democratic candidate for state representative, District 59. 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Hwy. 377, Granbury. Details 254-716-5195.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

MEETING OF the Hood County Hospital District Board. Meeting is at noon at the Hood County Courthouse, second floor courtroom at 100 E. Pearl St., Granbury. The discussion will include adding a hospital tax for Hood County residents. For more information call 817-579-3200.

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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Granbury Association of Realtors Awards Banquet

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



Granbury Association of Realtors held the 2024 Installation and Awards Banquet on Friday, Jan. 12, at the Pecan Plantation Clubhouse. Congratulations to GAR members for going above and beyond by volunteering their time and efforts to serve our community. Meet GAR's 2024 Board of Officers and Directors. From left, President-Elect (VP) Kevin Watson – Empire Realty Group, Treasurer/Secretary Eliza Knapp - Oz Realty, Past President Whitney Knieper - Knieper Realty, President Jacque Gordon - Keller Williams Brazos West, Director Erienne Higgins – Empire Realty Group, Director Wendy Rape – Magnolia Realty, and Director Steve Berry – Keller Williams Brazos West. Directors Paula McDonald - Beam & Branch Realty, Erin Drummer - Elevate Realty Group, and Kyle Rose - Winston Properties could not attend.



Kevin Watson had the honor of presenting Terri Harmon (Town Square Title Co, LLC) with the Affiliate of the Year Award.



Past President Whitney Knieper presents Empire Realty Group's Erienne Higgins with the esteemed Realtor of the Year Award.



It was Eliza Knapp's honor and privilege to present the Service Award to her dear friend Kathy Cheek of Century 21.



Tracy Sullivan (left) was delighted to hit the podium to officially install her bestie as Granbury Association of Realtors' president.



Pecan Plantation's Executive Chef Jordan Tyler Ray drew a rousing round of applause and raving reviews for a fabulous meal, and this delicious Baked Alaska fed the entire crowd.



Adam Stout (left) and his wife Chandra Stout enjoy the formal gathering with friends and colleagues.



Terri Harmon and team Town Square Title take a pause from banquet festivities to pose for a photo. Pictured are Kristine Maldonado, Mandy Pruitt, Terri Harmon, Jean Jones, and Jennifer Riley.

HOOKS

FROM PAGE A2

Emily to his birthplace in England. But despite Walton having clearly taken the child when he had no legal right to do so, Hooks was told by the American Embassy, Interpol, state department officials and lawyers that reclaiming Emily would be next to impossible.

Feeling she had no choice but to take matters into her own hands, Hooks boarded a plane to England with her sister, Charla Wolf, and a private detective.

After arriving there, she phoned Walton but led him to believe she was calling from Texas. He gave her a phone number for one of Emily's friends with whom she was staying for the July 4th weekend.

Hooks, Wolf and the private detective divided up a 600-page phone book at their hotel and searched for that phone number so they could locate the girl's address. Her family's residence turned out to be just a half-mile away.

Once the three knew Emily's exact location, they hatched a plan.

"They came up with this caper," said daughter Emily Hooks, who, at the time of the 2020 article lived in Austin. "All of this was planned and executed in true magnificent style."

Hooks sketched out an escape route, which Emily still has today. Then Hooks phoned the home of Emily's friend, Elaine, and Elaine's mother called Emily to the phone.

"Before I answered the phone, I knew it was (my mom)," Emily said.

Hooks gave her daughter detailed instructions, telling her she was going to hand the phone to Wolf, Emily's aunt, but that she was not to let on about the switch. She told her that when she heard a knock on the front door, it would be Hooks coming to pick her up.

With Wolf on the phone, Hooks and the private detective headed to Elaine's house.

"I was so overwhelmed with excitement and joy," Emily said, in the previous



Shirley Hooks and Leta Andrews enjoy a night of entertainment at the Voice of Granbury competition at Granbury Live in 2021.

interview. "I literally ran and jumped in her arms. She was so beautiful. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen."

Although Emily couldn't go home with Hooks after the rescue, she was finally allowed to fly home with her mother after a court appearance on a later date.

An HCN article featuring photos of their joyful arrival at DFW Airport called Hooks' reclaiming of her daughter "a saga to rival any adventure movie."

Emily previously told the HCN: "I was literally back within the United States within four days of the plan coming to life, and that really speaks to my mom's character. When she puts her mind to something, you can count on that happening."

"She's had some things

happen in her life," Tidwell said. "Her daughter was kidnapped, and I mean, to have gone through something like that and have the spirit of life that she has, you know, is just amazing."

AN ETERNAL LOVE AFFAIR

Although Hooks experienced two failed marriages, she eventually found a man who loved her deeply and completely: Bill Hooks, who died in May 2020 at the age of 77.

In 1985, Hooks married Bill. His father owned the Hooks Ford dealership and Bill helped him run it until he eventually took over the business in 2000.

Hooks first met Bill when she sold him and his then-wife a house.

She revealed in a previous interview with the HCN that one day she was driving the couple to look at houses. Bill was in the backseat and his then-wife was in the front passenger seat.

The real estate agent was talking to her clients about what they were looking for in a home when she looked into her rear-view mirror and her eyes locked with Bill's.

"It was just an actual physical jolt," Hooks said of what she felt at that moment. She said Bill later told her that he felt the same sensation.

Time passed and a day came when Hooks encountered Bill again. He and his wife had since divorced.

"We kept running into each other and seeing each other at chamber and community

functions," Hooks said.

At one particular event, Bill asked her to dance even though he didn't particularly enjoy dancing. Hooks called him at the dealership the next morning to ask him, "What the hell's going on?" He said, "I'll be there in 10 minutes."

The couple went for a drive and thus began a love affair that continued until Bill's death in 2020.

During their years together, Hooks sponsored her husband as he worked toward becoming a licensed real estate agent. He joined her at Century 21.

Both their names are still imprinted on the glass panes of the office they shared at the building at Crockett and Bridge Streets on the square.

A GENEROUS HEART

Many people donate to charitable causes, but Hooks has consistently given generously to virtually every local initiative, according to the 2020 HCN article. Her business success gave her the means, but her character gave her the heart.

Hooks was a leader in the formation of Mission Granbury, turning the 1997 rape and murder of 11-year-old Sarah Patterson into a community-wide call to action.

The creation of Mission Granbury eventually led to the opening of the Ada Carey Center, a shelter for abused women and children, and the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center.

"She was involved in everything," Tidwell said. "And she's a service person. She was like, the founder of Mission Granbury, you know, she's just amazing."

'A BEAUTIFUL SOUL'

Tidwell expressed that to her, Hooks is more than just a friend — she's family.

"She's a beautiful soul. I have never heard her say a bad thing about anybody," she said. "She's just the most remarkable woman."

Allen commented that the quality he loved the most about Hooks is the way she could make anybody feel special, including his wife, Mickey.

"My wife, she kind of needs a little extra special warming up to, and folks don't always warm up to her — not because of her personality, but just because I think she needs it a lot — but Shirley is one that always did and she always made Mickey feel like she was queen of the world," he said. "No matter what, she always made you feel like you were one of her old friends, even if you just met her, and she would always remember everything about you. She would say, 'Well, how was your son?' or 'Didn't I hear your mother had something going on?' It's like, 'Dang, how does she know everything about everybody all the time?' and that's why she was such a good (real estate agent), but she just was a good person."

FOREVER MEMORIALIZED

In 2022, Hooks was also forever memorialized when a room in N on the Square, a building that was then purchased and restored to an inn by Paula and Mark McDonald, was named for her. In fact, N on the Square was once Shirley Hooks's real estate business and is located at 122 N. Crockett.

"When Mark started working on the building, they told me they wanted to name the first suite after me and wanted to know what my middle name was; that's how it came to be the Shirley Ann," Hooks said, in a previous interview with HCN.

The Shirley Ann Suite features a pop of lavender, as it was Hooks' signature — and favorite — color. The room also features "one of the best views" as it looks directly over the historic downtown Granbury square.

"Shirley, she just came up here, and we were showing her (the room) and she just started crying," Mark said, in the previous HCN interview. "It was really neat to show it to her. This has been her life for so long with Bill (her late husband), I thought it would be a nice tribute to her. She's done so much in the community that we wanted to honor her as well."

"It was just so touching. I'm just so honored that she and Mark did that — especially to be up there with Leta (Andrews)," Hooks added. "They don't do anything that's not first class. They're such amazing great people."

A LEGEND

Hooks was so well-loved around the community that upon hearing of her passing, many Hood County residents took to social media on Sunday evening, expressing their love for a great friend and "legend."

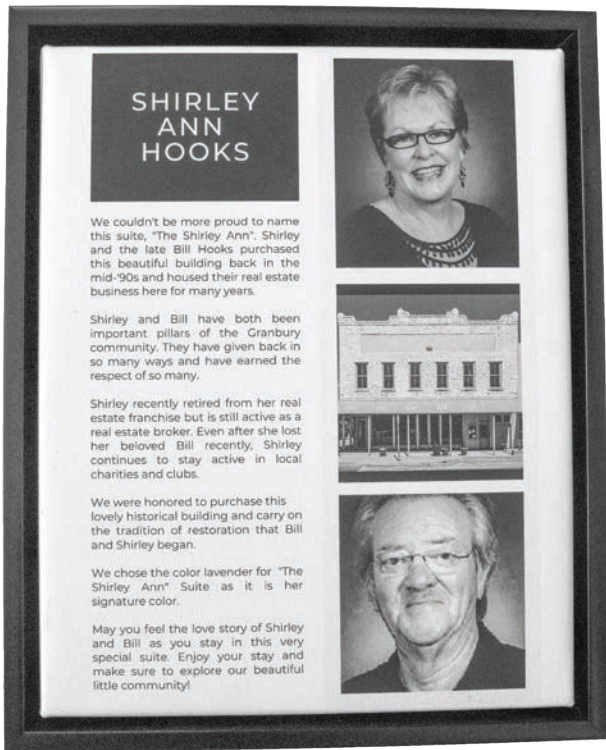
"With a sad heart I say goodbye to a dear friend... Shirley Hooks," wrote Hood County resident Julia Pannell. "She and Bill are dancing before God tonight! We will miss you, my friend!"

"Ms. Shirley Hooks, you have been such a great friend and mentor," City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle posted on Facebook. "I cannot believe the news received. You will be missed!"

"We just learned about the passing of a legend, Shirley Hooks," said Granbury resident Paula McDonald. "What an amazing woman who holds a special place with the entire community of Granbury! We were so honored to carry on her legacy with the building she and Bill lovingly brought to life."

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce also released a statement reading: "Our hearts are heavy today as we say goodbye to a true legendary business icon and to someone who touched our lives in so many ways. We will miss her warmth, her kindness and her unwavering spirit. But we take

PLEASE SEE **HOOKS** | A10



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS ARCHIVE PHOTO

In 2022, Hooks was also forever memorialized when a room in N on the Square, a building that was then purchased and restored to an inn by Paula and Mark McDonald, was named for her.

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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS ARCHIVE PHOTO

Mr. and Mrs. Claus have now packed up their sleigh and closed Santa House for the holiday season, with the festive duo spreading joy to a total of 6,445 guests this Christmas season alone. Santa Claus is pictured in front of the Santa House during the Rancho Brazos Community Centers' field trip last month.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Mr. and Mrs. Claus have packed up their sleigh and closed Santa House for the holiday season, with the festive duo spreading joy to a total of 6,445 guests

this Christmas season alone.

Ken and Arlis Holland — better known as Santa and Mrs. Claus — started the Santa House tradition in 2016 to provide a free place for the public to have a moment of magic with Santa. “We’re not asking any-

thing from anybody except to come and just have a moment of joy. That’s it,” Arlis said, in a previous interview with the HCN. “We just want to bring the magic. That’s what we’re all about.”

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in Granbury during the annual Nights of Lights Parade

in November and hop off their sleigh to go to Santa’s House — eager to spread the Christmas joy to adults and children alike.

During a regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court Jan. 9, Arlis commented that since she and her husband started the holiday tradition, they have seen a total of 32,569 visitors in Santa House.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus also had visitors this past holiday season who were not only from out of town but were also from out of state — and even some from out of the country.

“We had guests from

Belgium, China, all over the place,” Arlis said.

“I’ll tell you one thing, they take the time to give individual treatment to each one of the children that comes through there,” Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said during the meeting. “You talk about the patience of Job to sit there and talk to them. Really, you do a fabulous job and that makes a difference.”

Massingill added that Santa House is a “tremendous benefit” to the community and that Arlis and Ken do “such good community

PLEASE SEE **SANTA** | A14

Free tax assistance program returns to Hood County Feb. 5

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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A free program that can assist Hood County residents with tax preparation officially returns Monday, Feb. 5.

Tax-Aide — sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons and the Internal Revenue Service — is the nation’s largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service that provides free tax return preparation for people with basic, uncomplicated returns. Individuals with low-to-moderate incomes, seniors, people with disabilities and those with limited English skills usually qualify for this free service.

“Basically, what Tax-Aide is, we work through the VITA, Voluntary Income Tax Assistance, which is an IRS program,” Sharay Boynton, coordinator for the AARP Tax-Aide program, previously told the HCN. “All counselors are VITA-certified, and we provide tax preparation, not just to those over 65, but really anybody who needs assistance, who has a tax return within our scope of abilities.”

The tax preparation assistance will be housed at the Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays beginning Monday, Feb. 5 through Wednesday, April 10 — excluding Monday, Feb. 19. A few Saturdays will also be available on select dates: Feb. 17, March 2 and March 23.

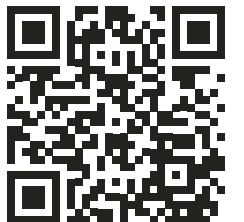
Boynton said volunteers have now finished up a week of training and are planning for the upcoming tax season.

“The Tax-Aide volunteers have been serving residents of Hood County for many years and we are looking forward to providing this service again this year,” she said.

Appointment requests will be accepted via phone and online. To schedule an appointment, call 817-382-1005 or visit the online link at: <https://tinyurl.com/39txdrtr> or by scanning the QR code.

Boynton added that if individuals call the number and don’t get a response, they should expect a callback number from 817-382-1005 — a Springtown caller ID.

For more information, contact Boynton at sharayboynton@gmail.com.



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Wake-Up call: The iPhone alarms that could change your mornings

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

Have you ever wondered why some mornings you wake up feeling like a Disney princess, ready to burst into song, while on other days, crawling out of bed feels like an epic journey to Mordor? Well, it turns out the secret to a good or bad morning could be your iPhone alarm tone.

A fascinating study by music and behavioral science experts at Startle delved into this melodious mystery. They examined how melody and rhythm counter the effects of sleep inertia — the groggy, confused state we often find ourselves in upon waking.

THE MAGICAL MELODY OF WAKING UP RIGHT

Imagine being gently nudged awake by a soothing melody, as opposed to being jolted out of sleep by a jarring tone. Research shows the type of alarm you choose can significantly influence how groggy you feel in the morning.

The team at Startle used science to rank the 28 stock iPhone alarms, and the results are music to our ears.

TOP OF THE CHARTS: THE BEST IPHONE ALARMS

Leading the pack is “Sencha,” followed by “By the Seaside,” “Uplift,” “Constellation,” and “Slow Rise.” These tunes share a common thread: they all have an easy melody, are played in the key of C, and resonate at a low frequency (400 or 500 Hz). Such characteristics gently awaken the mind and body, making you feel more alert and ready to tackle the day.



COURTESY PHOTO

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THE NO-NOS: ALARMS TO AVOID

On the flip side, some alarms are akin to having a bucket of cold water thrown over your peaceful slumber. The worst offenders? “Chimes,” “Beacon,” “Radar,” “Signal,” and “Presto.” These alarms lack melody and operate at higher frequencies (1.5k to 5k), effectively shattering your

dreams and any hope of a serene awakening.

WHY MELODY MATTERS

Melody plays a crucial role in our wake-up experience. A gentle, melodic alarm can make waking up a more pleasant experience, reducing grogginess and making the transition from sleep to wakefulness smoother. This can have a significant impact on your mood and productivity

throughout the day.

EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR ALARMS

Why not turn your mornings into a science experiment? Try different iPhone alarms for a week and note how each one affects your mood and energy levels. You might just find the perfect tune to start your day on the right note.

THE TAKEAWAY

Your choice of alarm can be more than just a functional tool; it can set the tone for your entire day. So, next time you're setting your alarm, remember: the right melody could be the key to waking up on the right side of the bed.

Your choice of alarm can be more than just a functional tool; it can set the tone for your entire day.

COURTESY PHOTO

Imagine being gently nudged awake by a soothing melody, as opposed to being jolted out of sleep by a jarring tone. Research shows the type of alarm you choose can significantly influence how groggy you feel in the morning.

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OBITUARIES

Shirley Ann Anderson Hooks

October 19, 1943 - January 14, 2024

Shirley Ann Anderson Hooks, 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on Jan. 14, 2024. Born in Houston, Texas, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Shirley's zest for life was evident from the start. A graduate of Spring Branch Senior High School in 1961, she furthered her education at Texas Tech University and pursued real estate studies in Colorado and Texas.

Shirley launched her career in real estate when she moved to Granbury, Texas, in 1973 with her daughters, Kathy and Emily. Her professional journey was marked by dedication and excellence, culminating in a lifelong vocation in real estate that she cherished deeply.

In 1985, Shirley married the love of her life, Bill Hooks. Their union added a third daughter, Tami, to the family tree. In 1995, Shirley opened the local Century 21 office. She and Bill restored the Historic Masonic Lodge building on the Historic Town Square.

Shirley's professional life was woven into the fabric of the community. In addition to serving as past state director at Granbury Association of Realtors, she was honored by the local real estate board as Realtor of the Year in 1993 and 1996, and Citizen of the Year in 1999. Shirley also acted as past president at the Dallas/Fort Worth Century 21 Broker's Council. She received countless honors and awards through her career with Century 21 and other professional organizations.

Shirley's civic leadership was extensive, including recent leadership roles at the Granbury Rotary Club and Ruth's Place. Throughout the years, she also served on the Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, the Lake Granbury Medical Center Board and many others. Shirley co-founded the local Relay for Life and the Hood and Somervell Counties Children's Advocacy Center. She was a charter member with Leadership Granbury. Most notably, she co-founded Mission Granbury 25 years ago and served as its inaugural president.

Shirley's interests reflected her unwavering passion for life. Most recently retaking piano lessons on a piano she found decades earlier and personally refurbished into a beautiful musical instrument. A lover of games and family, Shirley was either beating everyone at Skip-bo, backgammon, Chickenfoot, cards, Dominos, or planning the next big adventure. Forever ready for the next escape, Shirley and Bill en-



joyed many road trips with her sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Wayne. She and her daughters, Kathy and Emily went on a train trip to the Grand Canyon just a few months ago. She was already planning on a riverboat cruise with her family for next fall.

Shirley's legacy is one of service, resilience, laughter, and an unwavering commitment to living life to the fullest. Her infectious, heartfelt laughter—distinctive and contagious—echoed wherever she went. As we say goodbye to this remarkable woman, we take comfort in the indelible mark she has left on our hearts and the community of Granbury.

Shirley was preceded in death by her spouse, Billy Hooks and her parents, Hays Chronister Anderson and Mary Walden Jones.

Survived by her daughters Katherine Kauffman (Nina), Emily Hooks, and Tami Rasmussen (David), along with grandchildren Zachary Hooks, Kasey Gruener (Eric), Hayley Kauffman, and great-granddaughter Ada Gruener and one more on the way. Shirley is also survived by her sisters Joyce Navarro (Wayne), Charla Anderson, Marsha Hutsell. Finally she is survived by Nina's children, Jackson, Allyson, and Emily Strenk, brother-in-law, Dennis Hooks (Laura), numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, a multitude of friends, and the entire community of Granbury, Texas, which she loved so dearly.

A celebration of Shirley's life is being held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 at First Christian Church of Granbury with burial to follow at Holly Hills Memorial Park. Shirley laid in state on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Visitation was held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 19, 2024 at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Mission Granbury or Ruth's Place reflecting Shirley's lifelong commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others. May her memory be a source of strength and inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Gerald Dwight Troxel

February 7, 1943 - January 14, 2024

Gerald Dwight Troxel (Jerry), 80, born in Cozad, Nebraska, passed away on Jan. 14, 2024, in Granbury, Texas. Born on Feb. 7, 1943, Jerry was a beloved husband, father, and respected member of the community. He is survived by his wife Cheryl Troxel, daughters Angela Hill and Raechelle Stover, sons-in-law Scott Hill and Phillip Stover, grandchildren Lauren Stover, Noelle Stover, Ashton Burley, Corbin Burley, Scotty Hill, Alannah Lyon and her husband Blake, Joshua Hill, Jordan Hill, and Isaac Hill, siblings Karon Troxel Anderson and Mike Troxel and his wife Bev, and multiple nieces and nephews.

Jerry had an impressive educational background, earning a B.A. in education from the University of Northern Colorado, a Master's in psychology from Ball State University, and an MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Jerry proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for nine years. Following his military service, he embarked on a successful career. He began as a budget analyst in the Air Force until 1975 and then joined LTV Corporation as an internal auditor. In 1980, he became a financial analyst for Vought. The following year, he moved to Arkansas as the first finance leader of the Camden plant, where he played a crucial role in contract negotiations worth \$2 billion. After five years, he returned to Texas as vice president of finance for the LTV Missiles Division. Under his leadership, the division grew from a Chapter 11 business into a \$700 million per year operation. He also spearheaded the transition from Loral to Lockheed Martin, leading to the creation of the Missiles and Fire Control division, which represents over 10 percent of Lockheed Martin Corporation, where Jerry became senior



vice president and chief financial officer. Sales grew from \$700 million to \$3.3 billion, and profits increased from \$44 million to \$352 million during his tenure. Jerry retired from Lockheed Martin in 2004. Jerry was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Granbury, TX, where he found solace and community. He was a skilled handyman and had the ability to repair and build anything he set his mind to. He built playhouses, rooms in homes, furniture, toy boxes for his grandchildren and even built his own car TWICE! He was also an avid hunter, something he enjoyed doing with his two daughters. While his daughters may not have been on every hunting trip, his menagerie of hunting dogs never missed a single one.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Granbury, Texas.

The visitation will be held 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home.

The service will be at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 22, 2024. Committal services will be at Holly Hills Memorial Park.

The funeral arrangements are being handled by Wiley's Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.

Jerry Troxel will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. May he rest in peace.

Mary Nell Hise

August 9, 1930 - December 31, 2023

Mary Nell Hise, age 93, passed away peacefully at her home at the Christian Care Center in Fort Worth, Texas, on the morning of Dec. 31, 2023.

Mary Nell was born Aug. 9, 1930, to Allie Bland Gates and Ruth (Ferguson) Gates in Houston, Texas. Her older brother, Allie Bland Gates Jr., was 3. When she was 6 years old, the family moved to Sanderson, Texas, where she graduated from high school as salutatorian in 1947. She then enrolled at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. She graduated in 1952 with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a teaching certificate. She met her future husband, Lynn C. Hise, at Sul Ross in her junior year.

They started their family in Van Horn, Texas, and had three children, Gary Luther Hise (1954), Ronnie Gates Hise (1955), and Cary Lynn Hise (1958).

Mary Nell had a deeply personal relationship with Jesus Christ her entire life. Her three or four "main" Bibles are well-worn, heavily annotated, underlined, and highlighted! Her love of the Lord and her strong personal faith formed a lifetime core strength which sustained her through difficult seasons.

Mary Nell was preceded in death by her parents,



her older brother Allie B. Gates Jr., her husband Lynn, and son Gary. She is survived by her two sons Ronnie (and Barbara) and Cary (and Kathy), two grandchildren Rachel (and Michael Alderton) and Adam (and Natalie Hise), and by four great-grandchildren (Finley and Liam Alderton, Bridger and Teamagan Hise).

A memorial service for Mary Nell was held at 1:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, in the chapel at the Christian Care Center, 5100 Randol Mill Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. Reception followed in the multipurpose room. A graveside service was held at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at Trinity Memorial Park, in Big Spring, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Christian Care Center of Fort Worth.

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.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A10

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ACROSS

- TXism: "if he's _ he'll bark"
- TX Keyes' " _ With the Wind"
- former Cowboy fullback, Tommie
- TXism: "feel like _ _ _ chewed up and spit out"
- not needed
- TXism: " _ _ _ buster" (farmer)
- TX Gail Borden invented process for _ _ _ milk
- ex-Cowboy Tony (init.)
- TXism: "playing with a _ _ _ deck" (unlucky)
- TXism: "chief cook and bottle washer"
- LBJ was 1st in U.S. House to _ _ _ after Pearl Harbor
- Lady _ _ _ Johnson
- dinosaur tracks town: _ _ _ Rose
- Stephen F. Austin's home state (abbr.)
- TXism: "smart as _ _ _ rat"
- pigeon- _ _ _
- TXism: " _ _ _ wit"
- TXism: " _ _ _ _ _ wolves clothes"
- wedding cake layer
- Gulf steering wheel
- coyote cry
- in Gray County, near Pampa
- cracker craver
- "Texas _ _ _" (oil)
- NAFTA is a free _ _ _ agreement
- many Texas roads were early stagecoach
- ex-Cowboy White (init.)
- TX Robby Benson film: " _ _ _ to Billie Joe"
- holiest city in Islam
- city on north side of Galveston Bay
- TX Harper of "Silkwood"
- TX Bush: "The liberation of Kuwait _ _ _ begun"
- TXism: "call _ _ _ day"
- TX Sam Johnson was a POW here, for short
- driving without a seat belt is _ _ _ in Texas
- in Palestine: " _ _ _ Trails Celebration"
- pledge part: "Texas, _ _ _ indivisible"
- guests of Gambill Goose Refuge
- in Super Bowl XXX it was 27-17
- TXism: " _ _ _ me a bill of goods"
- TXism: "blister _ _ _" (handle)
- "Fighting Irish" school (abbr.)
- honor. TX Ranger: Dr. Edward _ _ _ (father of H-bomb)
- TXism: " _ _ _ that like a duck needs an umbrella"
- TXism: "mean _ _ _ old range cow"
- slang for a Stetson
- actor Brand who was TX Ranger Reese Bennett on "Laredo"
- TX Roger Miller awards
- TX Henry in the Bill Clinton administration
- this Ames was "Mingo" (init.)
- Spurs & Mavs org.
- TXism: "quick to pull a cork"
- TXism: " _ _ _ water" (trouble)
- shish kebab prong
- TXism: "get your nest _ _ _" (be still)
- TX actress Vinson Houston House" in "Home" (1945)
- noted film director, Otto (init.)
- pickup rubber
- between Lamar & Hopkins Counties
- TXism: "he'd walk himself _ _ _ a revolving door"
- ex-Cowboy offensive coach Hudson
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Not _ _ _ Away"
- "little" in Mexico
- antique autos
- historic " _ _ _ Houston House" in Independence, TX
- TXism: "couldn't _ _ _ drum" (loser)

Treasury bonds: Still safe for investors

TY ANDREW
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

You may have read reports about an impending "debt crisis" in the U.S. Should you be worried about investing in Treasury securities?

Part of the concern over debt has been driven by the cost of government borrowing, which has risen because of higher interest rates. But it's worth noting that while interest expenses have risen to nearly 2% of gross domestic product (GDP), this measure had exceeded 3% in the early 1990s. So, while the upward trend of federal debt could prove problematic down the

road, the claims of a current crisis may be overblown. And Treasury securities are still considered among the safest investments in the world, as they are secured by the full faith and credit — that is, the ability to borrow and tax — of the United States.

In any case, if you haven't invested in Treasury securities, you'll want to know the basics. First of all, when you purchase a Treasury security, you're lending money to the federal government for a specific period of time.

Here are your purchase options:

- Treasury bill - Typically matures in four, 13 or 26 weeks, although some have maturities of up to a year.
- Treasury note - Matures between one and 10 years.
- Treasury bond - Typically matures in 10 to 30 years.

When you buy Treasury notes or bonds, you receive semiannual interest payments, but when you purchase a Treasury bill — a T-bill — you generally buy it at a discount, and when the bill matures, you receive its face value. So, for instance, you might pay \$4,700 for a 13-week T-bill and get \$5,000

back at the end of the three months.

When investing in Treasury securities, you'll want to keep these features in mind:

- Price fluctuation - While your interest payments will always remain the same, the market value of your Treasury security can change. So, you might not get face value for a Treasury bond if you sell it before it matures, particularly if market interest rates are higher than the rate you've been receiving. Because longer-term bonds have more payments left to make than shorter-term ones, they are more sensitive to interest rate changes and market price fluctuations.

Taxes - Interest income from Treasury securities is subject to federal income tax but exempt from state and local taxes.

In addition to the traditional Treasury bonds, bills and notes, another option is available: Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS). Unlike other Treasury securities, in which the principal is fixed, the principal of a TIPS can move up or down, based on movements in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Once your TIPS matures, if the principal is higher than the original amount, you'll get the increased amount; if

the principal is equal to or less than the original amount, you'll get the original amount. TIPS pay a fixed interest rate semiannually until maturity, but because interest is paid on the adjusted principal, the amount of your interest payments can vary. As with other Treasury securities, you can hold a TIPS until maturity or sell it before it matures.

Don't let scary or gloomy predictions discourage you from considering Treasuries — they remain a good option as part of the fixed-income portion of your investment portfolio.

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Holly Hills Lawn Crypt. Double depth next to chapel #326. Valued at \$5,500 asking \$4,200. (817)243-7321

1070
Lots for Sale
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

1080
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FREE singlewide mobile homes to be moved. Purple K Ct. Granbury, Texas. 817-219-0122.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1510
Apartments for Rent
Nice, clean 1 room efficiency apartment with washer/dryer hookups. 1 person only. Next to lake with dock. \$850/mo. \$450 deposit. Water paid. Leave message, 469-781-1114.

1520
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Warehouse/Office/Retail space for lease. 1200 + sf. Hwy 377 W from \$650/mo. 817-349-2535

1530
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DUPLEX - GRANBURY 1431 & 1433 Walters, 2-1-2CP, fenced yard, \$1,000/mo, \$1000 security. Text to 817-692-6673.

1540
Homes for Rent
1/1 CABIN in Glen Rose. W/D hookups. Vaulted ceilings in den. 960 Sq. ft. \$1,000/mo, \$500 dep. Water/sewer furnished. 1 pet limit with \$200 non-refundable dep. (254)386-7387

Cute 3-2-2, close to school bus stop and fishing dock. No smoking. No pets. \$1,700/mo. \$800 deposit. 817-781-2311.

1550
Mobiles for Rent
Several refurbished mobiles for lease. \$1050/mo to \$1450/mo Call 817-578-9906

1560
Rooms for Rent
Clean furnished bedroom in Tolar, \$120/week. \$150 deposit. 817-964-0933. Available now.

Furnished room for rent with TV & wifi. All bills paid. Use of kitchen & w/d. Must be employed or retired & have own vehicle. \$500/mo. \$100 dep. Avail 2/1/2024. 817-736-6511.

3030
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5210
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5330
Storage
For lease: 2-car garage, 24x24, no utilities, Brandi Ln, Granbury. \$250/mo, 1 month deposit. John 817-578-1045.

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8030
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LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT! Call or visit **Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048 817-573-4277**

8040
Pets Lost & Found

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

EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

Busy cleaning business needs responsible people to help clean residential/commercial some nites/weekends. Must speak English. Must have clean driving record - pass background. 254-396-3417

8520
Construction

General construction work-farm, ranch or home. (408)595-2146

Tractor work-Excavation, clearing, grubbing, shredding and mowing. Including driveways, roads and concrete work. (408)595-2146

8550
Office Employment

ALL - SEASONAL ASSISTANT Applicant needs the ability to work a flexible schedule during the tax season from February to April.

DUTIES/DESCRIPTION:
-Answers and directs calls.
-Greet clients in a personalized, friendly, and inviting manner.
-Maintain office cleanliness and organization of resources with team members.
-Operates standard office equipment such as a multi-function print/copy/scan machine on a regular basis.
-Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:
-High school diploma or equivalent.
-Must be able to read, write, speak and understand English.
-Must have excellent verbal and written communication and customer service skills.
-Strong typing and phone skills.
-Strong computer skills required, including proficiency with Google and Outlook
-Must be able to work independently and be team oriented, organized, detailed, goal, and results driven.
-Comfortable with routinely shifting demands.
-High degree of attention to detail.
-Working knowledge of general office equipment such as computer and multi-function print/copy/scan machine.
-Occasional/intermittent lifting and carrying objects/equipment weighing up to 25 pounds.
-Continuous use of bilateral upper extremities in fine motor activities requiring fingering, grasping, and forward reaching between waist and chest level.
Applications accepted via e-mail: granburyresumes@yahoo.com

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NOTICES

Public Notices

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Lancrow Self Storage 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 an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 1/30/2024 at 11:00AM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Shena Kiser, Jason (Hvac) S. Bates. 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 details.

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.

LEGAL AD
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a package store permit by Sargun Sandhu, LLC to be located at 2305 Lipan Hwy, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Gurdatar Sandhu, Member.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.StorageTreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on February 5, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Claude Tackitt-TV, tools
Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Shawn Ebling, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2024 in Cause No. P10242, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Thomas Ebling.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Tracy S. Bush
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT
Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Primary Election held on March 5, 2024, will be tested on January 24, 2024 through January 26, 2024 beginning at 9:30am. The test will be conducted at the Hood County Annex 1 meeting room located at 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76049, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Stephanie Cooper
Hood County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATIZACION

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion general que se llevara a cabo el 5 de marzo, 2024 se probara el 24 - 26 de enero 2024

a las 9:30 am en el Anexo 1, 1410 W. Pearl St para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Stephanie Cooper
Firma dela Oficial

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, DONE Storage, located at 4508 Old Granbury Road, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction at www.LockerFox.com of contents to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on February 3, 2024.

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

Public Notices

Docket No. 54698
Notice for Publication
NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF CRESSON MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (MUD) NO. 1 OF HOOD COUNTY TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE(S) OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE WATER UTILITY SERVICE IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County has filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to obtain a water certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) for the provision of retail water utility service in Hood County, Texas.

The requested area overlaps the district boundaries of Brazos River Authority. If this district does not request a public hearing, the Commission shall determine that the district is consenting to the Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County's request to provide retail water utility service in the requested area.

The requested area includes 0 customer connections, is located approximately 1 mile(s) southwest of downtown Cresson, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by the intersection of United States Highway 377 and Old Granbury Road; on the east by the intersection of United States Highway 377 and Old Granbury Road; on the south by the intersection of United States Highway 377 and Putteet Hill Boulevard; and on the west by the intersection of United States Highway 377 and Putteet Hill Boulevard.

The requested area includes approximately 568 acres, comprised of uncertificated area to amend (add) to Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County and the issuance of water CCN number.

The application proposes the addition of approximately 568 acres and the issuance of water CCN number to Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County.

A copy of the maps showing the requested area are available at: 14755 Preston Rd., Suite 600, Dallas, TX 75254

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is (30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer). You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date. The letter must include the person's name, address, email address and fax number if applicable.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for a final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

A landowner with a tract of land at least 25 acres or more, that is partially or wholly located within the requested area, may file a written request with the Commission to be excluded from the requested area ("opt out") within (30) days from the date that notice was provided by the Utility.

All opt out requests must include a large-scale map, a metes and bounds description of the landowner's tract of land, landowner's name, address, email address and fax number, if applicable.

A landowner that opts out from the requested area releases the applicant's obligation to provide retail water or sewer utility service to the removed land for any reason.

Persons who wish to request this option should file the required documents with the: Public Utility Commission of Texas Central Records
1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711-3326
In addition, the landowner must also send a copy of the opt out request to the Utility. Staff may request additional information regarding your request. Si desea informacion en espanol, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Tolar ISD will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, Jan 25 at the Tolar ISD Board Room (305 S. Oak Lane, Tolar, TX 76476) beginning at 6:30 to release the 2022-2023 Texas Academic Performance Report (TARP). Anyone wishing to review these reports may do so at the Tolar ISD Administration Office, 305 S. Oak Lane, Tolar, TX 76476.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Deborah Lynn Maycheck, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2024, in Cause No. P10255, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to Andrea R. King.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Tracy S. Bush, attorney for Andrea R. King
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

Public Notices

NOTICE OF BID OPENING FOR REAL PROPERTY
Granbury Independent School District is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the following real property (the "Property") as described in this Notice of Bid Opening:

All of Lot 2, Block 1, consisting of 7 acres, more or less, on Acton School Road Hood County, Texas according to the Replat thereof recorded in Slide P-959 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas and described by metes and bounds; available upon request at Granbury ISD Admin. 217 N Jones St.

It is the intention of Granbury ISD to sell all of the Property based on the best value bid that is submitted. If in the judgment of the Granbury ISD bids submitted do not represent the fair value of the Property, Granbury ISD will reject all bids. Should any bid be accepted, a contract for sale of the Property shall be executed upon a form acceptable to the GISD Board of trustees.

Bids shall be delivered in writing, signed by the bidder or an authorized representative, and enclosed in a sealed envelope to the Granbury ISD-Purchasing Office, 217 N Jones St. Granbury, TX 76048. All proposals shall be plainly marked "BID TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY -- ATTN: Houcine Chraibi, Purchasing Manager." Bids must be received before 2:00 p.m. on Thursday February 8th, 2024, and any bid received after that time will not be considered.

Bidders may contact the Granbury ISD, Purchasing Manager, Houcine Chraibi 817-408-4029 or by email houcine.chraibi@granburysd.org for clarifications and questions.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for RFP-1003 for Real Estate & Broker Services. Bid proposals are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. The bids are open immediately and will close 1/26/24. Please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The following Public Hearings will be considered by the City Council of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

- 0-2023-02 Amend select sections of the City of Granbury Zoning Ordinance Amendments are to Article 1, General Provisions Section 1.7 Creation of Building Site; and Amend select sections of the City of Granbury Subdivision Regulations Section 1 - General Provisions 1.5. Jurisdiction, 1.12 Variances; Section 2 - Procedures 2.1 Requirements for Completeness Determination, 2.2 Pre-Application and Development Review Committee, 2.3 Plat Submission, 2.4 Procedure for Approval of a Preliminary Plat and Subdivision Requirements, 2.5 Procedure for Approval of Final Plat, 2.6 Amending Plat, 2.7 Minor Plat, and 2.10 Replatting. The general purpose of the amendments is to ease the use limitations for certain uses; shorten review timeframes; and offer administrative actions.

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

PUBLIC SALES

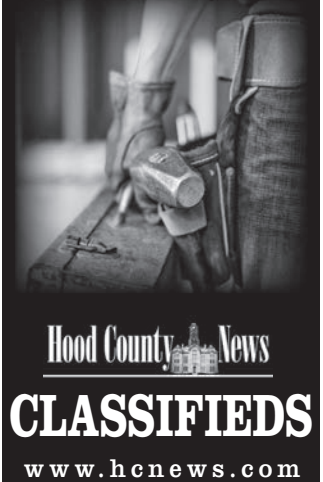
Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

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Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL
PERMIT NO. WQ0005099000

APPLICATION. City of Granbury, P.O. Box 969, Granbury, Texas 76048, which owns a reverse osmosis water treatment plant, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005099000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0134953) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 3,750,000 gallons per day. The water treatment facility is located at 1440 East Pearl Street, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The discharge route is from the plant site via pipe directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on December 5, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Granbury City Hall, Front Desk, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.764365,32.440668&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea informacion en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Granbury at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Chester Nolen, Public Works Director, at 817-573-7030.

Issuance Date: January 12, 2024

Request for Proposal

The City of Granbury is accepting proposals from Firms/Individuals to conduct a Real Estate Market Analysis for the City.

The RFP is available from the City of Granbury upon request, or by downloading a copy from the City's website at www.granbury.org/purchasing under "Current Bids & Requests". Eight (8) copies of proposal and one (1) electronic copy of proposal on a flash drive should be submitted by 2:00 P.M. (Local Time) on February 22,2024, to the following address and clearly labeled accordingly:

Request of Proposals RFP 23-24-01 Real Estate Market Analysis

Mailing Address: City of Granbury Attn: Purchasing Department P.O. Box 969 Granbury, TX 76048	Physical Address for drop-off: City of Granbury Attn: Purchasing Department 116 West Bridge Street Granbury, TX 76048
--	--

Any proposals received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. Proposals for Real Estate Market Analysis services will be reviewed separately, ranked, and a recommendation made to the City Council at regular council meeting. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. All questions regarding this proposal should be emailed to crussell@granbury.org.

Subscribe Today!
817-573-7066

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

High blood pressure among seniors

Lake Granbury Medical Center

“Obviously, I’m a big proponent of knowing your blood pressure, checking it regularly, and keeping it at healthy levels,” states Julian Jimenez, M.D., family medicine physician at Lakeside Primary Care in Stephenville.

“As we have heard, high blood pressure is called ‘the silent killer’ because it doesn’t always come with noticeable symptoms. I recommend you read the following information in our Living Healthy Newsletter. It provides some great insights.”

Getting older has many benefits — you can retire, travel more frequently or even increase time spent with the grandkids. However, things can also get more confusing. For example, some organizations, like the AARP, consider “senior citizens” to be 50 or older, while others think being over 65 better fits that

title since it’s often when Medicare benefits become available.

What’s not a benefit, however, is that seniors are especially vulnerable to high blood pressure, also known as hypertension. High blood pressure is a serious medical condition that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the walls of arteries as the heart pumps blood. Blood pressure readings have two numbers — systolic and diastolic. Blood pressure levels are classified as follows:

- Normal blood pressure for most adults is a systolic pressure of less than 120 and a diastolic pressure of less than 80.

- Elevated blood pressure is a systolic



COURTESY PHOTOS

Seniors are especially vulnerable to high blood pressure, also known as hypertension.

pressure between 120 and 129 with a diastolic pressure of less than 80.

- High blood pressure is a systolic pressure of 130 or higher or a diastolic pressure of 80 or higher.

According to the American Heart Association, approximately 65% of people over 60 have high blood pressure. While men are more likely to develop high blood pressure

before age 55, women tend to experience it after menopause. This is because our blood vessel walls stiffen as we age, making us more prone to hypertension.

Several factors can contribute to high blood pressure, including age, gender, family history and race. Pre-existing medical conditions, such as chronic kidney disease and diabetes, also can be a factor. According to the CDC, six out of 10 people with diabetes also have high blood pressure.

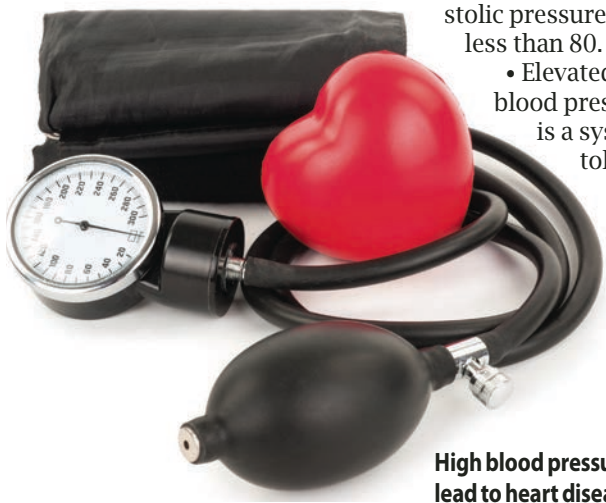
While some risk factors

are beyond our control, there are things we can do to help prevent or manage high blood pressure, such as maintaining a healthy weight, quitting smoking, drinking alcohol in moderation (no more than one drink per day for women and two for men) and getting at least 30 minutes of moderately-intense exercise most days of the week. Cutting back on salt also can help, so limit sodium intake to no more than 2,300 mg (or one teaspoon) per day.

Now’s the time to live it up, but let’s make sure your heart’s not under pressure while doing it!

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Jimenez, please call (254) 459-7129 or visit <https://lakegranburymedical.com/DrJimenez>

Sign up for our special series of heart health tips and challenges starting in February (Heart Health Month). Visit <https://www.lakegranburymedicalcenter.com/heart-challenge>



High blood pressure is a serious medical condition that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

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In Fiscal Year **2022-2023**:
Mission Granbury served **24,264 individuals**

56%

of those served were children.

The number of people seeking help has increased by

223%

And we expect the trend to continue.

YOU CAN HELP

Ways to Give

- **SECURITIES** – Contributing securities may provide tax deductions to donors. Ask your broker about the tax benefits of donating stock to a non-profit. Mission Granbury gets the cash value of the donated stock and you get the full value deduction – it’s a win-win.
- **WILLS AND BEQUESTS** – Bequests as part of an estate that designate Mission Granbury may reduce estate taxes.
- **Itemizers** may deduct cash gifts up to 60 percent of their adjusted gross income in 2023. Gifts to donor-advised funds, supporting organizations and most private foundations are not eligible.
- **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.

Wishing you joy and peace in the New Year

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Don't forget about the carrying costs...



BY PAM KNIEPER

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

Carrying costs are the fees associated with owning a property, such as mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance.

A \$350,000 home in Pecan Plantation sitting vacant can potentially accrue between \$2,000-\$2,300 per month or \$76.00 per day in carrying costs. Home Owners Association fees are approximately \$200 per month. Utilities will average \$325 per month for water, sewer and power. Hazard Insurance is another \$200. Lawn maintenance can run anywhere from \$100-\$300 per month depending on the time of year. Your pro-rated share of the property taxes will grow by approximately \$250 per month.

But here is the really substantial number so many sellers forget to consider. Let's say you purchased the house for \$350,000 seven years ago with a conventional mortgage. If you put down 20% and financed \$280,000 at 5% interest, in year seven of your mortgage, you would still be paying just over \$1,000 a month in interest; by itself that is \$33.33 dol-

lars a day.

So, what exactly is my point? It's simple: every day your home is on the market, your carrying costs are eating into your profit margin. These costs can have a significant impact on the profitability of selling your home, especially if it takes a long time to find a buyer. Overpricing your home, causing it to stay on the market for an extended period, or walking away from an offer that is just a few thousand dollars less than what you were hoping for can cost you much more than you realize.

Obviously, if you are living in the home the cost of utilities and lawn maintenance are not as critical a factor — you would have those costs anywhere you live. And if you paid cash for your home, the interest will not be a factor. But no one gets away with zero and that is why it is so important to know what your individual costs are go-



COURTESY PHOTO

Carrying costs are the fees associated with owning a property, such as mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance.

ing to be and to factor that into your pricing decisions. Market times have changed drastically in the last year. The average time on the market for Hood County from list date to closing date is currently 90 days. That is potentially \$6,840 you will spend maintaining

your home while waiting for a buyer. And of course, these expenses rise proportionally with the value of the home. The more expensive the house, the higher the costs for insurance, taxes and interest if there is a mortgage. The owner of a \$500,000 home could spend as much

\$200 per day for that same 90 days.

So, when you are making that critical pricing decision, be sure to ask your Realtor® about the expected time on market. Then do the math and make sure you are taking into consideration this important variable. If you

have questions about this article, please give us a call at 817-219-0456. We love talking about real estate, and we would love an opportunity to answer your questions. You can also find us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

SANTA

FROM PAGE A7

work."

"It really does make Hood County, Granbury and all the surrounding areas, a much, much better place and a really

good destination to come through for the holidays," he said. "Y'all do a wonderful job."

Arlis thanked the volunteers who helped run Santa House each year, adding that this would not be possible without all the individuals, as they are a

"huge family."

She also told a story about how on closing night, Dec. 23, it started pouring rain outside when the line filled with Santa House guests looped all the way in front of the courthouse.

"Some of them left but

the rest of them we herded into Santa House as much as we could and those that we couldn't get in there stood in the rain," Arlis said. "Umbrellas popped up out of nowhere, and what was so amazing to us is that when somebody walked through the door,

they turned around and handed their umbrella out. Some of them never got their umbrellas back. That just shows how wonderful people are and just how great everybody felt about being out there, so that meant a lot to us."

Massingill then made a

motion to approve the use of the Historic Courthouse Gazebo for the Santa House starting on Nov. 23, 2024, until takedown on Jan. 4, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Look at all that Waterfront!

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\$1,700,000

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LAKE HOUSE WITH A POOL



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\$600,000

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LAKE HOUSE ON TWO LOTS



UNDER CONTRACT

\$379,000

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Livestock show providing lifelong skills and family fun



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Patricia, Samuel and Hunter Campbell. Some competitors have close connections like the Campbell family, where the three siblings compete and attend Lipan ISD.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Every year, Hood County has a junior livestock show that allows students from across the county to compete in a variety of events. These students work hard to perfect their skills and hope to take home a win at the end of the week-long event. With hundreds of kids competing, there are hundreds of stories that lie within.

Some competitors have close connections like the Campbell family, where three siblings compete and attend Lipan ISD. Patricia is a 15-year-old who shows Duroc swine and cross swine. Samuel, 13, shows a Duroc swine, and Hunter, 9, shows a Hampshire swine.

Patricia became interested in livestock from her grandfather who had a pig farm. She told the HCN she wanted to follow in his footsteps. Though he is no longer living, she said "I

wanted to make papa and grandad proud," she said. "We don't have a whole lot of family and the friends we have made become our 'pig' family."

Hunter decided to show after wanting to learn more about raising pigs as well as having fun.

"He learned super quick that (pigs) can get sick super easy and fast," mom Destiny Campbell said. "He made it his mission to take extra good care of them to prevent anymore illnesses."

Hunter described the process as "fun and easy with some challenging parts. Also, funky because pigs are like toddlers."

Samuel got involved after having friends offer to help him get into the realm and so he jumped into the ring. He described the process as "nice but challenging" and says he loves getting to love on his pig.

The siblings have learned they have each other to lean on and

PLEASE SEE **FAMILY** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury High School DECA chapter competed at their district competition where 42 students competed and 16 advanced to the State competition.

Granbury High School DECA Chapter earns multiple spots at state competition

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

The Granbury High School DECA Chapter made its mark at the district competition in Round Rock with 16 students qualifying for the state competition out of 2,300 competitors.

DECA is an international business organization that prepares emerging student leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Granbury High School has a group of participating students in the program working to better and

further develop themselves.

The Granbury HS chapter became active back in 2021 when Kylee Peterson, a business/marketing CTE teacher at GISD, revitalized the school's status. Peterson is also a chapter advisor for the club.

The chapter now has over 90 members, and 42 students competed at the recent district competition. This was the highest number of students to compete since the chapter's revitalization. It's also the first time GHS students ranging from freshmen to seniors will compete at the state level.

"In my first year, we took seven students to compete in

district with five advancing to state and one advancing to the international competition," said Peterson. "Last year, we took 28 to district and six advanced. Seeing how our numbers are almost doubling each year shows how competitive our program is."

The annual district competition is for students to test their skills in 50 different events. All events are completed in two parts — a test or project submission in December followed by a presentation or role-play scenario at the district competition. The presentation-based events require students to write a 10-to-20-page busi-

ness plan about a business they have created or a project they coordinated, and then present their findings. The role-play style events require the students to take a 100-question exam and then at district, they are handed a scenario where they have 10 minutes to prepare a response and present it to a judge. Those who successfully advance make their way to the state competition and then have the potential to compete at the international competition.

The GHS chapter as a whole earned several na-

PLEASE SEE **DECA** | B3

FOR THE HOOD COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW TOP WINNERS FOR THE 2024 SHOW, PLEASE SEE BELOW.

LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON (AGES 8-13)

- Grand Champion - Caiman Cody - Tolar FFA
- Reserve Champion - Landon G Ervin - Lipan 4H
- 3rd Place - Maverick Cody - Tolar FFA

SENIOR SKILL-A-THON (AGES 14-19)

- Grand Champion - Dakota Becker - Lake Granbury 4H
- Reserve Champion - Leddi Tuggle - Lipan 4H
- 3rd Place - Bella Parker - Tolar FFA

BROILER

POULTRY - PULLETS

- 1st Place - Landree Harrington - Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place - May London - Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place - Garrett Neal - Granbury Jr FFA

ROOSTERS

- Grand Champion - Braden Neal - Granbury Jr FFA
- Reserve Champion - Daisi Nech - Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place - Garrett Neal - Granbury Jr FFA

RABBIT SHOW

MEAT PEN (PEN OF 3) RABBITS

CLASS 1

- 1st Place - Paisley Walker - Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place - Kyndell Hooser - Tolar 4H
- 3rd Place - Charlie Kuhn - Lipan 4H

CLASS 2

- 1st Place - Dallan Taylor - Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place - Patricia Collett - Sharp Shooters 4H
- 3rd Place - Harley Glover - Lipan FFA

CLASS 3

- 1st Place - Steven Cook - Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place - Kaedyn Wilkinson - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Presley Harris - Tolar FFA

CLASS 4

- 1st Place - Sierra Morissette - Lake Granbury 4H
- 2nd Place - Emma Carey - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Alisha Green - Lipan FFA

CLASS 5

- Reserve Champion - Finley Shockley - Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place - Brooks Goodson - Tolar FFA
- Senior Showmanship/3rd Place - Cadence Morissette - Granbury FFA

CLASS 6

- Grand Champion - Blake Parker - Lake Granbury 4H
- 2nd Place - Alexis Taylor - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Harley Glover - Lipan FFA

CLASS 1

- 1st Place - Lillian Brooks - Lipan Jr FFA
- 2nd Place - Olivia Boys - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Kennedy Romada - Cornerstone 4H

CLASS 2

- 1st Place - Ryder Benthall - Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place - Ryder Benthall - Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place - Molly Ward - Lipan 4H

CLASS 3

- 1st Place - Erika Fron - Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place - Reese Hankins - Tolar 4H
- 3rd Place - Allison Periman - Tolar Jr FFA

CLASS 4

- 1st Place - Carson Jones - Cornerstone 4H
- 2nd Place - Hunter Roy - Granbury Jr FFA
- 3rd Place - Willow Carter - Granbury FFA

CLASS 5

- 1st Place - Kallie Moore - Tolar 4H
- 2nd Place - Lydia Ervin - Lipan 4H
- 3rd Place - Gracie Caviness - Lipan FFA

CLASS 6

- 1st Place - Emma Carey - Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place - Kaedyn Wilkinson - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Vega Colas - Lipan FFA

CLASS 7

- 1st Place - Lilly B Barber - Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place - Maci Griffith - Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place - Audrey Dunstan - Granbury FFA

CLASS 8

- 1st Place - Alayna Nation - Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place - Brady Yanish - Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place - Carson Jones - Cornerstone 4H



PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Feathers fly as contestants experience the trials and tribulations of the Broiler Show.

PLEASE SEE PAGE B2 FOR THE RESULTS

Hood County Stockshow results

CLASS 9
 • 1st Place – Ryder Benthall – Lipan FFA
 • 2nd Place – Landon G Ervin – Lipan 4H
 • 3rd Place – Layla Henderson – Tolar FFA

CLASS 10
 • 1st Place – Breana Caballero – Lipan FFA
 • Jr Showmanship/2nd Place – Caden Campbell – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Tatum Pierce – Cornerstone 4H

CLASS 11
 • 1st Place – Grace Burdick/Clay Gunners
 • 2nd Place – Emma Farrell – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Hunter Campbell – Granbury Jr FFA

CLASS 12
 • 1st Place – Anastasia Traylor – Granbury FFA
 • 2nd Place – Wade Allen Jean – Cornerstone 4H
 • 3rd Place – Anastasia Traylor – Granbury FFA

CLASS 13
 • Reserve Champion – Carter Jones – Cornerstone 4H
 • 2nd Place – Allison Pixler – Cornerstone 4H
 • 3rd Place – Remington Seymour – Lipan Jr FFA

CLASS 14
 • 1st Place – Kaylee Clark – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Zeke Reynolds – Lipan Jr FFA
 • 3rd Place – Slade Moore – Cornerstone FFA

CLASS 15
 • 1st Place – Hunter Campbell – Granbury Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Rylee Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Walker Flynt – Tolar Jr FFA

CLASS 16
 • 1st Place – Maidson Werner – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Blake Parker – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 3rd Place – Elia Vasquez – Lipan FFA

CLASS 17
 • 1st Place – Paisley Walker – Granbury FFA
 • 2nd Place – Jw Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Allyson Matsinger – Granbury FFA

CLASS 18
 • 1st Place – Griffin Thorne – Granbury Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Conley Castillo – Lipan FFA
 • 3rd Place – Maya Bolfiging – Lipan Jr FFA

LAMBS
MARKET — FINE WOOL AND FINE WOOL CROSS
 • Champion Finewool/Finewool Senior Showman Cross Reserve Finewool/Finewool Cross – Kylee Jo Lane – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Colton Lane – Tolar 4H
 • 3rd Place – Mikayla Jones – Tolar FFA

DORPER 01
 • Champion Dorper – Paxtyn Smith – Tolar Jr FFA
 • Reserve Dorper – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA

SOUTHDOWN 01
 • Reserve Southdown – Eli Erwin – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Collin Jennings – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 3rd Place – Kynlee Greene – Granbury FFA

SOUTHDOWN 02
 • 1st Place – Eli Erwin – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Lilly Stemberge – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Abigail Johnson – Granbury FFA

SOUTHDOWN 03
 • Grand Southdown/Reserve Champion – Vivian Jennings – Cornerstone 4H
 • 2nd Place – Kelley Sanders – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 3rd Place – Kuli Meyer – Tolar Jr FFA

MEDIUM WOOL 01
 • 1st Place – Shaylee Asher – Granbury FFA
 • 2nd Place – Zane Donaghey – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 3rd Place – Caiman Cody – Tolar FFA

MEDIUM WOOL 02
 • First Place – Kash Rogers – Tolar FFA
 • Second Place/Junior Showmanship – Scarlett Marciniak – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 3rd Place – Kynlee Greene – Granbury FFA

MEDIUM WOOL 04
 • Champion Medium Wool/Grand Champion – Ethan Erwin – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Breck Boyce – Lipan FFA
 • 3rd Place – Lilly Stemberge – Tolar FFA

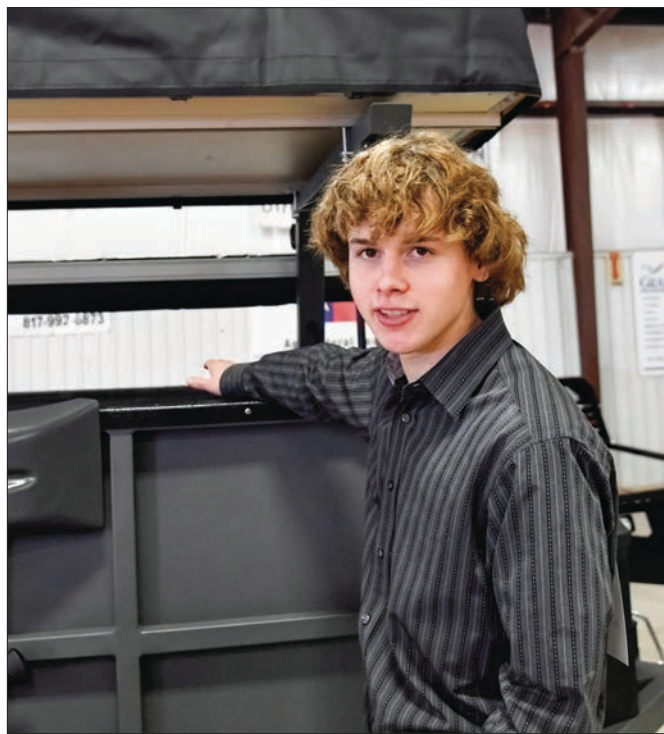
MEDIUM WOOL 06
 • Reserve Medium Wool – Molly Grossman – Granbury FFA
 • 2nd Place – Kash Rogers – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Braelynn Westbrook – Tolar FFA

Matthew Franklin – Granbury FFA
 • Reserve Trailers/Showmanship – Landree Harrington – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Wyatt Oldham

EQUIPMENT
 • Champion Equipment – Samuel Stewart – Tolar FFA
 • Reserve Equipment – Gunnar Reid – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Dylan Reed – Tolar FFA

RECREATIONAL
 • Champion Recreational/Grand Champion – Bryson Wann – Granbury FFA
 • Reserve Recreational – Kash Rogers – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Alexander Gould – Tolar FFA

COOKERS/SMOKERS
 • Champion Cooker/Reserve Champion – Reid Harrington – Granbury FFA
 • Reserve Cooker – Hayden Collins – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Gage Archer – Granbury FFA



Granbury FFA's Bryson Wann pictured with his Overall Grand Champion Recreational project

YARD & HOME CONVENIENCE
 • Champion Yard & Home – Dalton Ogle – Cornerstone 4h
 • Reserve Yard & Home – Ty McClure – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Zane Graham – Tolar FFA

FAMILY LIVING
JUNIOR ART
ART DRAWING – PEN&INK, CHARCOAL, PASTELS, PENCIL
 • 1st Place – Abbey Enckhausen
 • 2nd Place – Camryn Thompson – Tolar 4H



Ethan Erwin took home the Grand Champion Lamb honors for the Lake Granbury 4-H club.

GLASSWORK-CLAY SCULPTING, GLAZED CERAMICS, STAINED CERAMICS, MOSAIC ART, GLASS WORK
 • 1st Place – Kylie Meyer – Tolar 4H

SPECIALTY ITEMS
 • Champion Jr Food – Brynn Combs – Tolar 4H
 • 2nd Place – Abbey Enckhausen
 • 3rd Place – Ally Vann – Tolar 4H

JUNIOR CRAFTS
BEDDING-QUILTS, PILLOW CASE/SHAM, BLANKETS, BABY BEDDING
 • 1st Place – Erin Huebinger
 • 2nd Place – Travis Huebinger
 • 3rd Place – Travis Huebinger

CLOTHING-DRESS, JUMPER, TOP/SHIRT, SKIRT, PANT/SHORTS, JACKET, VEST, FORMAL WEAR, SLEEPWEAR, ATHLETIC WEAR, COSTUME
 • Grand Champion/Champion Jr Craft – Erin Huebinger

CRAFT SEWING-STUFFED TOY, DECORATED PILLOW, BAG, ACCESSORIES
 • 1st Place – Claire Dieterichs

CREATIVE HAND STITCHERY-CROCHET, KNITTING, CROSS STITCH, NEEDLE PUNCH, PLASTIC CANVAS NEEDLE WORK, EMBROIDERY, LATCH HOOK
 • 1st Place – Rayven Davis

HOME DÉCOR
 • 1st Place – Brynn Combs – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Claire Dieterichs
 • 3rd Place – Gus Reid – Tolar FFA

JEWELRY
 • 1st Place – Scarlett Marciniak – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Kyli Meyer – Tolar Jr FFA

MISC CRAFTS
 • Reserve Jr Craft – Kylie Meyer – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 2nd Place – Leslee Ashmore – K-9 & Kids

SENIOR ART (AGES 14-19)
ART DRAWING-PEN&INK, CHARCOAL, PASTELS, PENCIL
 • Champion Senior Art – Emma Traber – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Landree Harrington – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Cadence Pritchett – Tolar FFA

ART-PAINTING-ACRYLIC, OIL, PASTELS, WATERCOLOR, TOLLE
 • 1st Place – Abigail Beatty

– Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Coco Donegan – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Julian Maxwell

PHOTOGRAPHY-BLACK/WHITE, COLOR, COLLAGE, TRANSFERS (NOT ON CLOTHING), DECOUPAGE
 • Reserve Senior Art – Allison Gray – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Allison Gray – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 3rd Place – Allyson Matsinger – Granbury FFA

GLASSWORK-CLAY SCULPTING, GLAZED CERAMICS, STAINED CERAMICS, MOSAIC ART, GLASS WORK
 • First Place – Dakota Becker – Lake Granbury 4H

SENIOR FOOD (AGES 14-19)
PIES
 • 1st Place – Maximus Davis – Sharp Shooters 4H
 • 2nd Place – Cailyn Pickens – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Tillye Burgess – Tolar FFA

CAKES
 • 1st Place – Finley Shockley – Lipan FFA
 • 2nd Place – Shaylee Asher – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Blake Parker – Lake Granbury 4H

COOKIES
 • Champion Senior Food – Braelynn Westbrook – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Kolten Smith – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Ava Enckhausen – Sharp Shooters 4H

BREADS
 • Reserve Senior Food – Harley Glover – Lipan FFA
 • 2nd Place – Harley Glover – Lipan FFA
 • 3rd Place – Hadley Vann – Tolar 4H

CANDY
 • First Place – Kanyin Deaver – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Grace Burdick – Clay Gunners
 • 3rd Place – Relic Buckley – Tolar FFA

SPECIALTY TEAMS
 • 1st Place – Julian Maxwell – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Landree Harrington – Granbury FFA
 • 3rd Place – Hadley Vann – Tolar 4H



Lake Granbury 4-H's Blake Parker brought home the Pen of Three Grand Champion honors.

CLASS 19
 • Grand Champion – Rylee Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Brendan Thorne – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 3rd Place – Zain Reynolds – Lipan Jr FFA

CLASS 20
 • 1st Place – Madison Werner – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Sarah Marcantonio – Lipan 4H
 • 3rd Place – Kash Rogers – Tolar FFA

CLASS 21
 • 1st Place – Kallen Rogers – Tolar FFA
 • 2nd Place – Macy Castillo – Lipan FFA
 • 3rd Place – Sonya Abner – Granbury FFA

MEDIUM WOOL 07
 • 1st Place – Breck Boyce – Lipan FFA
 • 2nd Place – Braelynn Westbrook – Tolar FFA
 • 3rd Place – Jaelee Galindo – Tolar FFA

BREEDING SHEEP
BREEDING SHEEP 01
 • Grand Champion/Reserve Champion – Braelynn Westbrook – Tolar FFA

BREEDING SHEEP 02
 • 1st Place – Eli Erwin – Lake Granbury 4H
 • 2nd Place – Averi Taylor – Granbury FFA

ART-PAINTING-ACRYLIC, OIL, PASTELS, WATERCOLOR, TOLLE
 • Reserve Jr Art – Camryn Thompson – Tolar 4H
 • 2nd Place – Kylie Meyer – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 3rd Place – Kylie Meyer – Tolar FFA

PHOTOGRAPHY-BLACK/WHITE, COLOR, COLLAGE, TRANSFERS (NOT ON CLOTHING), DECOUPAGE
 • Champion Jr Art/Reserve Champion – Baylor Ashmore – K-9 & Kids
 • 2nd Place – Walker Flynt – Tolar Jr FFA
 • 3rd Place – Kallen Rogers – Tolar FFA

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS
TRAILERS
 • Champion Trailers –



Intense competition is in the air Courts Cleveland Show Barn ring as the Market Goat Show draws to a close.

HOOD OUTDOORS

It's about time to talk spawning white bass



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

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

It will soon be time for the spawning run that draws anglers out in numbers typically between February and April. In Texas many of these sand bass may start their trek in January depending on the weather. This year, the warmer weather may have the fish spawning a little earlier. With good water levels and good releases from Possum Kingdom, the flow will have these fish moving upstream and many are staging already.

These fish can be caught in most every reservoir in the state, so you don't have to travel far to find these tasty fish. Lake Granbury is no different and there is an abundance of sand bass.

Many of these fish will move up to or close to their spawning areas at the first cold snap in November, others will stay in the main lake. These fish may travel back to the main lake and back to the river several times before actually spawning. Eventually however, the spawning ritual takes place in these same areas year after year. These fish like to congregate in numbers making it relatively easy to sack up a limit.

Typically, with the water temperatures around the low to middle 50's and if there is sufficient water flow, the sand bass will make their

trek. This recent cold snap probably set that back a bit, but the water temperatures will be back in the 50s fairly quickly. As I mentioned earlier, this spawning evolution usually starts around the first part of February and may run through March and April. Sand bass and striped bass require moving water to spawn. The males tend to move up first and then the larger females usually follow with rising temperatures.

The official name for a sand bass is "white bass" but here in Texas "sand bass" is generally used by most. These fish are relatively easy to catch and are excellent table fare. You can catch them anytime of the year, but in the early spring/late winter they concentrate for the spawn on the upper portions of reservoirs or rivers making them easier to locate.

Large majorities of sand bass on Granbury migrate up the Brazos to around the Tin Top area. With all the water we have and flow, they will be there this year. Some sand bass may not make the trek upstream and may spawn in other creeks; some may spawn on wind-blown banks in the main reservoir. On Lake Whitney, the best-known areas in my opinion are on the Brazos River above Kimball Bend and on the Nolan River

near the Hwy 174 bridge (the Nolan runs into the Brazos River below Kimball Bend). Other tributaries may contain spawning fish as well. Tres Rios in Glen Rose is known as a spawning ground if water exists. Tres Rios is where the Paluxy, the Brazos and Squaw Creek merge together.

Sand bass grow very fast in Texas waters and have a relatively short life span. These fish will reach 9 to 10 inches their first year and get to 12-13 inches their second year. These fish rarely live beyond five years. The legal size for sand bass has been standardized to 10 inches on all Texas lakes to make enforcement easier. Years back there were some differences in the limit size.

Don't confuse sand bass with small hybrid striped bass or striped bass. The easiest way to identify these fish is to look at their tooth patch. The sand bass will have only one, where the Striper and Hybrid Striper will have two distinct patches. Pick up a TPWD rulebook where fishing licenses are sold and read the details. You don't want to be caught with an illegal fish.

Sand bass can be caught on a variety of artificial and live bait. Small minnows/shad placed below a bobber or the use of a small 1/16th to 1/4-ounce jig head with rubber tails in chartreuse, white and yellow can be used. Small roadrunner jigs are one of my favorites. Slabs and spoons can be effective as well. Try some Berkley power bait grubs on your jig heads.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kyle Townsend caught the limit of big striped bass up to 12lbs on the upper ends of Granbury Saturday, Jan.13

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are currently in the 40s and will be rebounding some from this last cold spell. Water is relatively clear and is close to full pool. Striped bass and sand bass are good midlake and upstream from western Hills to Mallard Pointe fished near the river channel above clouds of baitfish (about 20 feet down). Some really big sand bass and striped bass are being caught on 3- to 5-inch soft plastics near

channel breaks. Largemouth bass are good near main lake points and deeper docks on Texas-rigged soft plastics worked slowly. Some good largemouth reports are coming from the river around Tin Top. Big blue and yellow cats are possible on cut bait fished near Hunter Park. Crappie limits are common near structure and deeper docks on small jigs on light line. Best crappie reports are coming from around the Water's Edge, Peninsula and Bentwater areas on submerged trees.

The power plant black bass fishing at Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) is probably the biggest draw to anglers in the county and the state in the winter. Limits of eater sized channel catfish continue to be taken on prepared baits. Largemouth bass are being taken in numbers with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds possible on the warm water at this power plant lake. This power plant lake also continues to be a breeding ground for Tilapia (invasive species). There are no limits on Tilapia.

DECA

FROM PAGE B1

tional recognitions highlighted at the event. The national DECA office issues challenges for chapters to compete in to earn seats at prestigious academies held at the international conference. Granbury completed three challenges including the membership, promotion, and community service campaigns. For the first time in school history, the chapter was recognized as one of nine chapters in its district as a "Century Chapter," turning in a membership of over 100 students, alumni and community members.

The Anchor Store located within Granbury High School is awaiting its recertification as a Gold-Level School Based Enterprise from the national DECA office. A school can apply for this prestigious designation by submitting a 25-page paper covering how its enterprise is managed and operated. Granbury first

earned its designation last year and looks forward to competing in the SBE event at the international level in April. The Anchor Store is the only primary source of funding for the DECA chapter, raising money through daily sales of food, drinks and apparel on campus. Peterson says something transforms in the students when they put on their business suits and walk into the competition.

"For most of the students, this is their first time wearing a business suit and you can see their whole demeanor change. This confidence comes over them and they lock into their event. We call it our 'Pirate Swagger'."

The 16 qualifying students include:

- Peyton Mitchell — Apparel and Accessories Marketing category
- Warner Phillips — Business Finance Series
- Sierra Couden and Bodie Chastain — Community Giving

- Kaylee Connor and Gracie Colvin — Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Alison Galindo — Food Marketing Series
- Anna Quinn, Maddie Cutler and Ryli Lewis — Franchise Business Plan
- Rayleigh Langdon and Sierra Morissette — Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Braeden Hunt, Kylee Upchurch and Austin Pruett — Sales Project
- Anahi Medrano — Start Up Business Plan Category

Last year, 28 students competed at the district level and six qualified for state in the finance series, retail marketing, finance professional selling, and the sales project team. The sales project team and William Lillagore from finance professional selling were named alternates to the international competition.

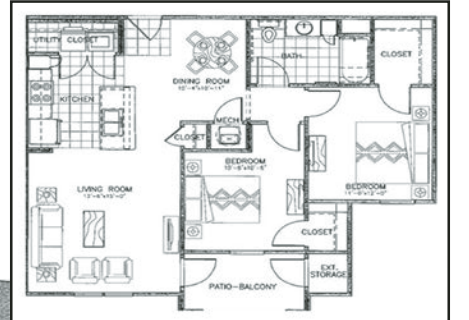
Chapter advisors also include Tammy Bodine and Austen Graham.

The state competition will take place Feb. 15-17 in Houston.

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Fish Day!

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TUESDAY, JAN. 30
Mineral Wells: 11:45am-12:30pm at MINERAL WELLS FEED & FARM SUPPLY
Stephenville: 1:30-2:15pm at HAY & FEED RANCH
Granbury: 3:00-3:45pm at RUSSELL FEED
Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31
Cleburne: 7:30-8:15am at ROWLETTE HARDWARE

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on Jan. 13 (Puzzle 65).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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RESULTS

FROM PAGE B2

SENIOR CRAFTS

CREATIVE HAND STITCHERY-CROCHET, KNITTING, CROSS STITCH, NEEDLE PUNCH, PLASTIC CANVAS NEEDLE WORK, EMBROIDERY, LATCH HOOK

- Grand Champion/Champion Senior Craft – Sarh Boyd – Granbury FFA
- Second Place – Mikayla Noles – Tolar FFA

HOME DÉCOR

- Reserve Champion/Reserve Senior Craft – Cadence Morisette – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Landree Harrington – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Kash Rogers – Tolar FFA

TOOLING

- 1st Place – Dylan Reed – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Khloey Grandfield – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Khloey Grandfield – Tolar Jr FFA

JEWELRY

- 1st Place – Julian Maxwell – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Khloey Grandfield – Tolar Jr FFA

YARD ART

- 1st Place – Bonner Kissel – Tolar FFA

MISC CRAFTS

- 1st Place – Landree Harrington – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Cadence Pritchett – Tolar FFA

- Cody – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Brayden White – Tolar Jr FFA

BLACK OPB 01

- 1st Place – Grant Boulanger – Tolar Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Jalysha Coaster – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Ashely Veron – Granbury FFA

BLACK OPB 02

- 1st Place – Hailey Oldham – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Larry Trey Wilkins – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Carson Looper – Lipan Jr FFA

BLACK OPB 03

- 1st Place – Travis Huebinger – Lake Granbury 4H
- 2nd Place – Paxtyn Smith – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Erin Huebinger – Lake Granbury 4H

BLACK OPB 04

- Champion Black OPB – Derek Petty – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Cutter Looper – Lipan Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Olivia Richards – Granbury FFA

BLACK OPB 5

- Reserve Black OPB – Bella Parker – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Trevin Coker – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Bailey Caballero – Lipan FFA

WHITE OPB 01

- Champion White OPB – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA
- Reserve White OPB – Blythe Ogburn – Granbury

- Shockley – Lipan FFA

HAMPSHIRE 01

- 1st Place – Caiman Cody – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Derek Petty – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Carlee Crawford – Granbury FFA

HAMPSHIRE 02

- 1st Place – Rylie Cudd – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Carson Cherry – Tolar 4H
- 3rd Place – Ryan Skiles – Lipan Jr FFA

HAMPSHIRE 03

- 1st Place – Marissa Holbrook – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Mikayla Blake – Granbury Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Caylie Hannah – Lipan Jr FFA

HAMPSHIRE 04

- Reserve Champion/Reserve Hampshire – Tobias Morales – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Landrey Grove – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Colt Cason – Tolar FFA

HAMPSHIRE 05

- 1st Place – Braidyn Creecy – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Emma Johnson – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Paxtyn Smith – Tolar Jr FFA

HAMPSHIRE 06

- Grand Champion/Champion Hampshire – Maverick Cody – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Addison Tarpley – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Tobias Morales – Lipan Jr FFA

HAMPSHIRE 07

- 1st Place – Brayden White – Tolar Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Makenze Boyce – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Lucas Morales – Lipan FFA

CROSS 01

- 1st Place – Cole Cherry – Tolar 4H
- 2nd Place – Coco Donegan – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Rylei Cudd – Lipan FFA

CROSS 02

- 1st Place – Delaney Boyce – Granbury Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Tripp Donegan – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Savanna Seeton – Granbury FFA

CROSS 03

- 1st Place – Blake Tarpley – Lipan Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Caiman Cody – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Lucas Morales – Lipan FFA

CROSS 04

- Reserve Cross – Delaney Boyce – Granbury Jr FFA
- Second Place/Jr Showmanship – Wyatt Oldham – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Braxton Petty – Granbury FFA

CROSS 05

- Champion Cross – Levi Morales – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Brighton Cudd – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Carson Cherry – Tolar 4H

CROSS 06

- 1st Place – Mylee Hunt – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Stockton Reuther – Tolar 4H
- 3rd Place – Stockton Reuther – Tolar 4H

CROSS 07

- 1st Place – Cole Cherry – Tolar 4H
- 2nd Place – Brynn Combs – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Kylee Jo Lane



PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The 69th Annual Hood County Junior Livestock Show winds up with the highly anticipated Market Steer Show.

BREEDING SWINE

BREEDING SWINE 01

- 1st Place – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Laynie Vaughn – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Coco Donegan – Tolar FFA

BREEDING SWINE 02

- Reserve Champion – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Tobias Morales – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Erin Huebinger – Lake Granbury 4H

BREEDING SWINE 03

- Grand Champion – Cole Cherry – Tolar 4H
- 2nd Place – Coco Donegan – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Samuel Campbell – Lipan Jr FFA

BEEF CATTLE MARKET STEER

STEER AMERICAN

- Reserve American – Callan Nix – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Callan Nix – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Chylen Wimberley – Lipan FFA

STEER AMERICAN 02

- Reserve Champion/Champion American/Jr Showmanship – Caiman Cody – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Audrey Ann Mckee – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Karli Candella – Lipan Jr FFA

STEER BRITISH 01

- Reserve British – Trevor Swaim – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Alton Knox Price – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Kolten Smith – Tolar FFA

STEER BRITISH 02

- 1st Place – Rylee Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Blythe Ogburn – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Kinley Smith – Tolar Jr FFA



PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Buyers came through in support of Hood County youth, with over 580 thousand dollars raised on Premium Auction day.

STEER BRITISH 03

- Champion British – Kyndell Hooser – Tolar 4H
- 2nd Place – Rylee Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Chylen Wimberley – Lipan FFA

STEER EUROPEAN 01

- 1st Place – Trevor Swaim – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Zane Donaghey – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Colton Lane – Tolar 4H

STEER EUROPEAN 02

- 1st Place – Caiman Cody – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Joseph Rickabaugh – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Bella Parker – Tolar FFA

STEER EUROPEAN – 03

- 1st Place – Macy Price – Tolar Jr FFA

- 2nd Place – Slade Moore – Cornerstone 4H
- 3rd Place – Peyton Roberston

STEER EUROPEAN 04

- 1st Place – Maverick Cody – Tolar FFA
- Senior Showmanship/Second Place – Loryn K Wienecke – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA

STEER EUROPEAN 05

- 1st Place – Wyatt Oldham – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Cooper Swaim – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Araceli Valverde – Granbury FFA

STEER EUROPEAN 06

- Grand Champion/Champion European – Maverick Cody – Tolar FFA
- Reserve European/2nd Place – Loryn K Wienecke – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Cooper Swaim – Tolar FFA

BEEF HEIFER

BREEDING AMERICAN 01

- 1st Place – Hunter Cole Mills – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Kinley Smith – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Kolten Smith – Tolar FFA

BREEDING AMERICAN 03

- Champion American – Kelin Boyce – Lipan Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Audrey Ann Mckee – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Dawson Oliver – Lipan FFA

BREEDING AMERICAN 04

- 1st Place – Landrey Grove – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Larry Trey Wilkins – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Larry Trey Wilkins – Granbury FFA

BREEDING AMERICAN 05

- Reserve American – Kolten Smith – Tolar FFA

BREEDING BRITISH 01

- Reserve British – Winston Dryer – Tolar Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Kayla Cardwell – Granbury FFA

GOATS

MARKET GOATS

LIGHTWEIGHT 01

- 1st Place – Garrett Neal – Granbury Jr FFA
- 2nd Place – Mikayla Noles – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Ava Stanley – Lipan FFA

LIGHTWEIGHT 02

- Champion Light Weight – Braden Neal – Granbury Jr FFA
- Reserve Light Weight/Second Place – Mikayla Noles – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Ryan Skiles – Lipan Jr FFA

MEDIUM WEIGHT 01

- Reserve Medium Weight – Brody Wilkins – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Ava Stanley – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Molly Ward – Lipan 4H

MEDIUM WEIGHT 02

- Reserve Champion/Champion Medium Weight – Kelin Boyce – Lipan Jr FFA
- Senior Showmanship/2nd Place – Cadence Morisette – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Raeleigh Donaghey – Tolar Jr FFA

LIGHT HEAVY WEIGHT 01

- First Place – Kelley Sanders – Lake Granbury 4H
- 2nd Place – Asher Middleton – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Molly Ward – Lipan 4H

LIGHT HEAVY WEIGHT 02

- Grand Champion/Champion Light Heavy Weight – Leddi Tuggle – Lipan 4H
- Reserve Light Heavy Weight/Second Place – Molly Grossman – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Carson Cherry – Tolar 4H

HEAVY WEIGHT 01

- Champion Heavy Weight/Jr Showmanship – Maverick Cody – Tolar FFA
- Reserve Heavy Weight/2nd Place – Cadence



PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Enter the Clover Kids! Swine Show activities began with the Clover Kids! Kindergarteners through second grade are eligible to join the 4-H Clover Kids program. The program's goal is to provide children with hands-on activities designed to build a wide variety of life skills.

- 3rd Place – Bonner Kissel – Tolar FFA

MARKET SWINE

DUROC

- Reserve Duroc – Wyatt Oldham – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Colt Cason – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Lakynn Martinez

DUROC 02

- Champion Duroc – Patricia Campbell – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Lucyellen Warner – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Lillian Brooks

- FFA
- 3rd Place – Briley Broumley – Lipan FFA

YORK 01

- Reserve York – Cutter Looper – Lipan Jr FFA
- Jr Showmanship/2nd Place – Braylee Kirkpatrick – Tolar FFA
- 3rd Place – Larry Trey Wilkins – Granbury FFA

YORK 02

- 1st Place – Coco Donegan – Tolar FFA
- 2nd Place – Kylie Bruncati – Granbury FFA
- 3rd Place – Marby Martinez – Tolar Jr FFA



PHOTO BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Grand Champion Market Steer winner Maverick Cody was the first to hit the Auction ring at Saturday's Premium Auction Sale.

- Lipan Jr FFA

DUROC 03

- 1st Place – Landrey Grove – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Bailey Caballero – Lipan FFA
- 3rd Place – Tidy Reuther – Tolar 4H

DUROC 04

- 1st Place – Hadley Shockley – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Maverick

YORK 03

- Champion York – Levi Morales – Lipan FFA
- 2nd Place – Blake Tarpley – Lipan Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Jason Fron – Tolar Jr FFA

YORK 04

- 1st Place – Carleigh Kohls – Granbury FFA
- 2nd Place – Rhiyann Wood – Tolar Jr FFA
- 3rd Place – Finley



Granbury player during the game on Jan 9. at Pirate stadium.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

SPORTS Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

In the continuing effort to restore the Granbury Pirates soccer program to a status it knew not too long ago, coach Drew McKinnie's team finished second in a tournament for a second consecutive week to open the 2024 season.

The Pirates were the runners-up this past weekend in the Crowley Tournament. They were previously second in the Castleberry Tournament.

McKinnie's squad, in his second season at the helm, is 6-2. They won four games the entirety of the 2023 season.

"We're finally putting the pieces together. This group of guys made a big shift through the offseason, creating a bond, and that has made a big impact on their play thus far," McKinnie said. "We've been missing key players in every game we've played this season, but each guy on the roster has had the 'next guy up' mentality and done what was needed. We're excited to see what we can do when district comes."

The Pirates opened the Crowley Tournament with a 3-1 win over Carter Riverside as Weston Cantrell had a goal and assist. Mauricio Lopez and Ryan Davilla each scored a goal and Pedro Castaneda each had an assist.

Omar Oviedo was the goalkeeper for Granbury.

They then defeated Burleson 2-0 as Cantrell had a goal and assist, Drake Montoya scored a goal and Lopez contributed an assist. Noah Robinson was in goal.

Centennial bested the Pirates in their final tourney game, 1-0.

The Pirates' game at Fort Worth O.D. Wyatt Tuesday, Jan. 16, was canceled because of the frigid weather that hit North Texas. They

travel to White Settlement Brewer to open District 5-5A play Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

Behind four players scoring in double figures, the Pirates defeated visiting Aledo 70-63 Jan. 12 to improve to 3-1 in District 5-5A (16-7 overall). Kensington Colston led the way with 21 points, followed by Daylon Webb with 15, Dylan Couoto with 13 and Isaiah Trejo added 10.

"I've coached right about 1,000 varsity games. This one was unlike any I've been in due to the nature of how fast it turned," Pirates coach David Breazeale said.

The Pirates overcame four players in foul trouble to come away with the victory.

"We ran into a buzz saw in the first half," Breazeale said. "But the entirety of the team played as good a half as I've seen from a Pirate team."

"The scorers are only part of it. The intensity of play and defensive swarming was where the win was forged."

The win left the Pirates tied with Brewer for second place in district behind Saginaw. Granbury and Brewer were playing at press time in Granbury.

The Pirates are back in action Friday, Jan. 26 when they host Wichita Falls Rider at 7:30 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates dropped a 41-33 home contest to Aledo Jan. 12, slipping to 4-2 in District 5-5A and 16-10 overall. Ella Garner scored 13 to lead Granbury, while Fayth Fry added six.

At the midpoint of league play, the Lady Pirates are in third place, behind Brewer and Aledo, to whom both of their losses have come. They were hosting Brewer at press time.

In subvarsity action, the

Lady Pirates freshmen won 30-23 and the junior varsity lost 44-19.

The Lady Pirates will host Wichita Falls Rider Jan. 26 at 6:15 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates (4-3) rebounded from a rough first couple of games in the Waco Midway Tournament to defeat Cy-Fair 3-2 on Saturday, Jan. 13. Emery Kirby scored the game-winning goal off of an assist from Tessa Rholeder with 11.4 seconds left in the game. Kirby ended the day with 2 goals and Dominique Callahan also scored a goal. Callahan and Angela Crabtree also registered assists. CJ Burnfield was noted for her defensive play.

Granbury began the tournament with a 6-0 loss to Midway, followed by a 4-0 loss to Cedar Park Vista Ridge.

The Lady Pirates were scheduled to host Crowley Tuesday, Jan. 16, but the game was postponed until during press time because of the cold weather that hit the area. They begin District 5-5A play at Brewer on Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m..

LIPAN/TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

In the first of two District 11-2A clashes between the Indians and Rattlers, Lipan prevailed in Tolar, 33-30, Jan. 12.

Court Gaylor led Lipan (21-4, 5-0 in district) with nine points and three assists, while Alberto Andreatta scored eight and Payton Cornelius had three steals to lead a defense that forced 13 turnovers to only six for the Indians.

Tolar (11-14, 2-2) was paced by 19 points from Merritt Imel, while Isaac Blessing pulled down 13 rebounds and freshman

Cayden Abrego grabbed five boards.

Tolar had a 29-10 rebound advantage, including 11-4 on the offensive side. The Rattlers also led in 2-point baskets (9-6) and free throws (12-9), but the Indians had a 4-0 advantage from 3-point range.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, Lipan defeated Ranger 96-26 on the road. Tolar defeated Santo at home 80-36.

All 10 Lipan players scored, led by Andreatta with 22 and Gaylor with 20, while Wyatt Yates and Darius Steed each scored 12, Kolt Larsen scored nine and Tyson Tarpley added seven. The Indians attempted no free throws in the game, hitting 33 shots from 2-point range and 10 from 3-point distance.

Leading Tolar were Matthew Behrens with 25 points and Abrego with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

The Indians travel to Poolville Jan. 23 for a 7:30 p.m. contest. Tolar will host Ranger Jan. 26 at the same time.

LIPAN/TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

In a battle of undefeated teams in District 11-2A, the Lipan Lady Indians came away with a 47-28 win at the Tolar Lady Rattlers Jan. 12.

Hanna Gaylor of Lipan (24-3, 5-0 in district) led all scorers with 21 points, while Taylor Branson, Olivia Benitez and Alisha Green each added seven. Senne Imel and Trinity Rousseau led Tolar (17-11, 6-1) with eight points each.

The Lady Rattlers had a 14-13 advantage at the free throw line, but the Lady Indians hit 11 shots from 2-point range and four from 3-point distance, compared to four 2-pointers and two 3-pointers for Tolar.

The Lady Indians disposed of Ranger on the road 62-11 Jan. 16, with the Lady Rattlers bested visiting Santo

67-26.

Ashlyn Clark scored 15 to lead Lipan, while Gaylor scored 12, Finley Shockley scored 10 and Kynzi Callaway registered seven. Imel paced Tolar with 19 points, eight rebounds and eight steals, along with Jaycee Jones scoring 16 and Rousseau 11.

Lipan visits Poolville Jan. 23, tipping off at 6:15 p.m. Tolar hosts Ranger Jan. 26, also at 6:15 p.m.

MORE THAN A SPORT

The Tolar Rattlers and Lady Rattlers hosted Hoops For Hope as part of their cancer awareness night Jan. 16. Proceeds from the event, which included funds raised from a Coins for Class War, will go to the Scott family from Santo.

Taylor Scott from Santo is battling cancer. Her daughters, Kamden and Allie, play junior high basketball at Santo. The Scott family was presented with a game ball and a check for all the proceeds raised.

The Coins for Class War featured each high school class, freshmen through seniors, bringing a jar in which folks made donations. The winning class gets a prize party.

GRANBURY SWIMMING

In a final competition before district, both the Pirates and Lady Pirates were victorious in the New Year's Classic Jan. 6 at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Natatorium. The Lady Pirates scored 437 points to runner-up Boswell's 308, while the Pirates tallied 361 points to second-place Lake Highlands' 244.

Top individual results for Granbury (distances in yards) were:

Girls
200 freestyle: 1. Madison Erez, 2:16.46.

200 individual medley: 2. Michaela Petretto, 2:35.33.

50 freestyle: 1. Mylie Erez,

26.06; 3. Avery Young, 27.61.
100 butterfly: 3. Young, 1:08.40.

100 freestyle: 1. My. Erez, 57.22.

500 freestyle: 1. Petretto, 5:58.20.

100 breaststroke: 1. Kim, 1:17.12.

200 medley relay: 1. Loving, Kim, Young, Haynes,

2:06.03; 2. Remi Chastain, Carmen Citzler, Petretto, Madison Erez, 2:10.79.

200 free relay: 1. My. Erez, Bailey McDermott, Ma. Erez, Haynes, 1:49.98;

2. Loving, Chastain, Citzler, Petretto, 1:58.23.

400 free relay: 1. My. Erez, Haynes, Young, McDermott, 4:02.68.

Boys
50 freestyle: 1. Braxton Heffernan, 23.12; 3. Luke Basil, 24.68.

500 freestyle: 2. Lee Stuart, 5:35.01.

200 free relay: 1. Heffernan, Hunter Jones, Noah Brown, Luke Basil, 1:34.70.

400 free relay: 2. Heffernan, Brown, Cameron Ward, Jones, 3:44.43.

The Pirates and Lady Pirates will next compete at the District 5-5A Championships Jan. 26 at Northwest ISD Natatorium.

GRANBURY GIRLS POWERLIFTING

The Lady Pirates competed in the Brock Invitational Jan. 10, tying with the Lady Eagles for first place, but finishing second because of a tiebreaker.

Estrella Diaz was named most outstanding lifter in her division. She was also one of several first-place finishers, along with Deysi Villegas and Kathryn Goodner.

Second-place finishers were Jessica Aguado, Jazmynn Torres, Taylor Dawley and Sharai Rosas. Third place went to Angelica Perez, Kambry Zschiesche, Preslee Carnes, Fiona Doss and Chasity Foster.



Tolar Rattlers hosted the Lipan Indians in both girls and boys basketball Friday Jan. 12, with Lipan Taking the win in both games. Lady Rattlers and Lady Indians Battled it out first with a score of 47-28.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Lopes cruise past Texans Saturday in Stephenville

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State fell Saturday, Jan. 13 for the first time this season, dropping to 3-1 on the day with a 79-47 loss against Grand Canyon at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (4-10, 1-4 WAC), dropped their third straight overall, and their fifth straight at home, while the Lopes (14-3, 6-0 WAC) won their sixth straight and their 12th in the last 13 games. Grand Canyon entered as the No. 2 ranked team in the WAC, two days after Tarleton hosted the No. 1 ranked team in the conference.

GCU jumped out to an 18-1 lead and commanded the game, leading by as many as 38 points. The Lopes outshot the Texans 25-of-52 (.481) to 12-of-50 (.240) and didn't allow Tarleton to make a

two-point basket in the first half. The Lopes outscored the Texans 30-8 in the paint and outrebounded them 40-31. The Texans won the turnover battle 19-21, and seven different Texans were credited a steal.

Jakoriah Long led Tarleton in scoring once again, this time with nine points to go with two assists. Teresa Da Silva added eight points and five rebounds, and Tyler Jackson chipped in eight points as well.

GCU held an 18-1 lead more than six minutes in, as the Texans missed their first eight shots and had four turnovers before their first field goal make at the 3:23 mark, a Nykesha Sanders three-ball. The Lopes led 28-7 after one, forcing Tarleton to shoot 1-of-12 (.083) in the frame.

GCU built a 29-point lead in the second quarter before

leading at the break 46-20. Tarleton's four field goal makes in the first half were all three-pointers, and they added eight free throws.

The third quarter was seemingly whistle-free and had good pace, a low scoring frame knotted at 11 as GCU maintained the same 26-point lead headed to the fourth, 57-31. The fourth quarter was flooded with whistles as GCU built a 38-point lead and won by 32.

The Lopes were led by Sydney Erikstrup's 21 points on 6-of-9 shooting, including 4-of-7 from distance, to go with four rebounds. Jada Holland tallied 15 points (5-of-7 FG), five rebounds, six assists and two steals. Laura Erikstrup powered the bench with 11 points (7-8 FT) and four rebounds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State fell Saturday, Jan. 13 for the first time this season, dropping to 3-1 on the day with a 79-47 loss against Grand Canyon at Wisdom Gym. The Lopes outscored the Texans 30-8 in the paint and outrebounded them 40-31.

Texans fall to Lancers in return to Wisdom Gym



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State's return home Thursday, Jan. 4 was soured by the WAC's top ranked team, California Baptist University. The Texans (4-9, 1-3 WAC) fell to the Lancers (13-1, 5-0 WAC) 89-59 at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville.

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's return home Thursday, Jan. 4 was soured by the WAC's top ranked team, California Baptist University. The Texans (4-9, 1-3 WAC) fell to the Lancers (13-1, 5-0 WAC) 89-59 at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville.

On the same day Tarleton State's students returned to campus for the spring semester, the Texans returned to Wisdom Gym, their first home game since Dec. 10 and just their second since the end of November. After a 6-0 start by Tarleton and a 12-11 score late in the first, CBU used a 19-0 run from there to take a commanding lead they did not relinquish.

CBU made 15 three-pointers on the night, finishing 15-of-41 (.366) and outscored the Texans in the paint 24-10.

The Lancers outshot Tarleton 30-of-72 (.417) to 19-of-59 (.322) and outrebounded them 48-37.

Jakoriah Long led the Texans with a game-high 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting, adding five rebounds and three assists. Karyn Sanford earned her first career collegiate start and tallied 10 points and four rebounds. Faith Acker had seven points and five rebounds, and Elise Turrubiates led the bench with seven points and five boards.

On a Purple Out night with Texan fans receiving free shirts and donning the school's signature color, Long had the gym in a frenzy early with a deep shot on the Texans' opening possession, then an and-one on the next to put Tarleton ahead 6-0. CBU responded with a 9-0 run

to take a 9-6 lead. When it was 12-11 CBU, they scored seven straight to end the first quarter up 19-11, then the second quarter's first 12 points to lead 31-11 with eight minutes to play. Tarleton kept it about that same deficit the rest of the quarter, cutting it down to 15 before CBU hit a buzzer-beating three to end the half, putting the Lancers into the locker room with a 45-27 lead.

CBU held about a 25-30-point lead most of the second half, going up by as many as 31. They led 70-44 after three before winning 89-59.

CBU's Chloe Webb flirted with a triple-double, tallying 11 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists, and two steals. Six different Lancers scored in double figures of the eight who played.

Texans fall to WAC-leader Grand Canyon to cap west coast trip

Tarleton State University

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Tarleton State was unable to maintain its hot first-half start and dropped the second game of its west coast trip to Grand Canyon, 74-48 Saturday night at GCU Arena.

With the win, the Lopes (16-1 overall, 6-0 WAC) improve their NCAA Division I-leading winning percentage to .941. The Texans (10-6, 3-2) are now tied for second place in the WAC with Stephen F. Austin and Utah Tech, all touting the same record in the league.

Devon Barnes led the Texans in scoring for the second consecutive game as the only player in double-figures with 11. He also led the Texans with two steals, three made triples and co-lead with two assists.

KiAndre Gaddy pulled down a team-best five boards and two blocks in addition to his six

points. Jakorie Smith and Emmanuel Innocenti each added seven to the Texans' scoring effort.

The Texans started out with a punch that was needed to deflate the havoc crowd. Trailing 4-2, Tarleton broke out on a run to change the narrative of the game early on. The Purple and White then broke out on a 16-0 run to take a commanding 18-4 lead at the 13:51 mark and force GCU to call a timeout. The Texans downed a pair of triples by Innocenti and Barnes who each contributed five points during the run.

Innocenti's triple to cap the 16-0 run initiated a flurry of three-pointers with the next five made baskets coming from deep. Both Texans' next triples came from Barnes with GCU's Tyon Grant-Foster responsible for two of his own. Leading 24-10, Tarleton's biggest lead of the night, the Lopes took

control and showed they are at the top of the WAC for a reason.

GCU broke out on a 7-0 run before a shot clock buzzer beating three from Smith fell for the Texans. Gaddy converted on a layup in the paint with 6:41 to go which wound up being the Texans final point of the half. GCU closed the half on a 16-0 run to drastically switch the momentum and get the crowd back on their side heading into the break. The Lopes owned a 36-29 advantage at the half.

Coming out of the half, it was all GCU. The Lopes picked up right where they left off, extending their 16-0 run to close the first half to 21-0, scoring the first five points of the second. Made baskets were few and far between for the Texans in the second half as the Lopes pulled away and took the game out of reach early in the second half.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State was unable to maintain its hot first-half start and dropped the second game of its west coast trip to Grand Canyon, 74-48 Saturday night at GCU Arena.

The Lopes outscored the Texans by 40 in the final 30 minutes of play. GCU shot 50.9 percent from the floor and 53.5 percent from three-point range (8-for-15). The Lopes won the

battle of the boards, 47-28. Once again, the Texans won the turnover battle forcing 12 GCU turnovers compared to only committing eight.

Tarleton did not make

a three-pointer in the second half and shot 5-for-18 from deep (27.8 percent). The Texans attempted 10 more shots than the Lopes with them falling at a 37.1 percent rate (20-for-63).



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Battle for Hood County

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Tolar Rattlers hosted the Lipan Indians in both girls and boys basketball Friday Jan. 12, with Lipan Taking the win in both games. The Rattlers and Indians battled it out with a score of 33-30.



North and East Texas Press Association scholarships available

Staff Reports

The North and East Texas Press Association, in conjunction with the Texas Press Association, will once again award two \$1,500 scholarships to eligible candidates at its April 25-27 convention in Granbury.

Over the years, NETPA has helped college-bound journalism students with tuition and books through this scholarship program

which is funded by private donations and through the annual auction held at the convention.

Scholarships will be payable to the registrar of the college/university upon proof of enrollment as a full-time student majoring in journalism and the deadline to apply is no later than March 18.

Applicants must be from the geographic area served by NETPA and have a de-

clared major in journalism/communications/photojournalism. Preference is given to print majors. Applications may be downloaded from the NETPA website: www.netpa.org.

High school applicants should submit the following materials in the scholarship application submission, while college applicants should submit only (b) and (c).

1. Complete the attached

application and include a resume that includes scholastic, athletic and community activities.

2. Provide a current official transcript certified by school or college registrar.

3. High school applicants should submit letters of recommendation from two of the following:

- a) senior, junior or dual credit college English instructor
- b) publication adviser or

local newspaper supervisor where student has been employed

c) from a person of the applicant's choice

4. All applicants should submit digital or print clips of published work. Include publication dates.

May send photocopies of work as published in yearbook or magazine. Please mount all photocopies and newspaper clippings on paper and place in folder or

binder IF submitting hard-copy. Also, please include a cover sheet with the following information:

Student's Name, Address, Phone number and email

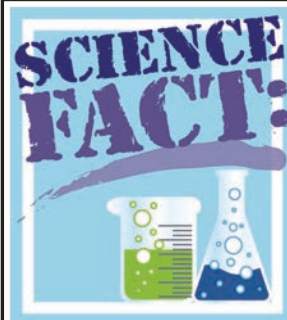
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Please call Jim Bardwell at 903-845-2235 with any questions.

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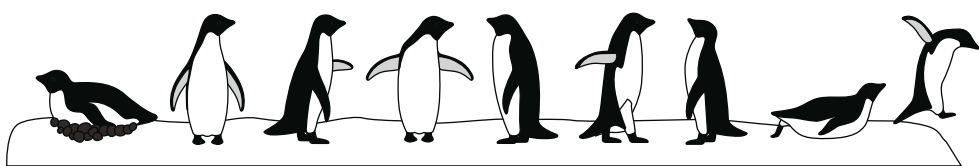
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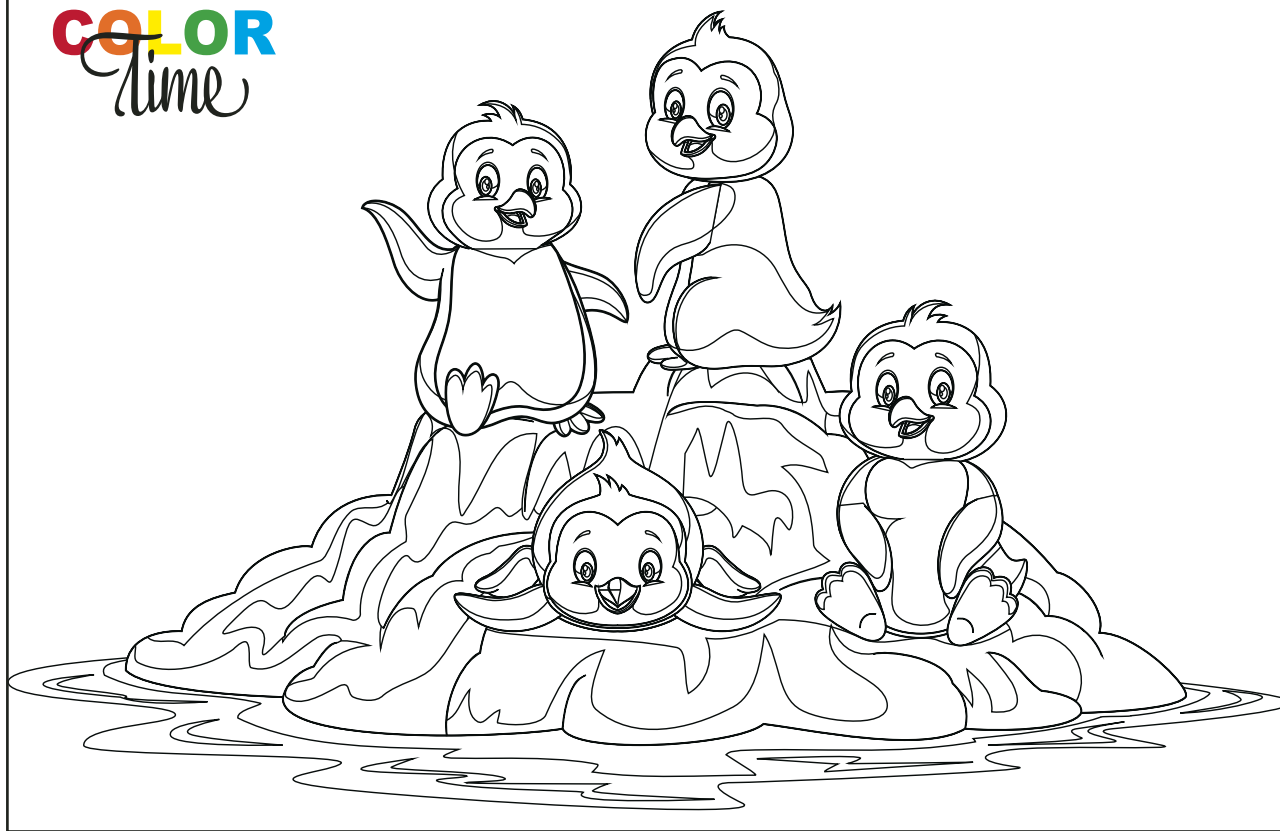
A PENGUIN'S BLACK AND WHITE COLOURING IS CALLED COUNTER-SHADING.



All penguin species share counter-shading camouflage. This means they have a lighter belly and a darker back, and helps them camouflage from predators above and below them.



COLOR
time



Did You Know?

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 18 RECOGNIZED SPECIES OF PENGUINS AROUND THE WORLD, AS DETERMINED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES, SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

National Penguin Day, celebrated on January 20th, is a day dedicated to these adorable, waddling wonders of the animal kingdom - penguins! These black-and-white birds are not just super cute; they're also fan-

tastic swimmers and have some cool tricks up their flipper sleeves.

On this special day, kids can dive into the fascinating world of penguins. Penguins are known for their unique tuxedo-like

feathers that help them blend in while swimming and keep them warm in chilly climates. Imagine having a built-in suit like penguins do!

To celebrate National Penguin Day, kids can en-

gage in penguin-themed activities. From drawing their own penguin pals to learning the penguin dance, there are endless ways to join the waddle party. Teachers might organize educational activities about

different penguin species and their habitats, making learning about these flightless birds a real hoot!

Parents can also share fun penguin facts with their little ones, like how penguins mate for life or

how high they can jump out of the water. So, on January 20th, let's give a big shoutout to our feathered friends and celebrate the quirky, charming world of penguins!

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GISD's Customer Care Team presents awards at GMS

From Staff Reports

Granbury ISD's Customer Care Team presented recognition awards at Granbury Middle School during a staff meeting Wednesday, Jan. 10. Angela Leisure was awarded the Customer Care Award for her dedication and true servant leadership of her students. Leisure was described as consistently helping students see their greatest possibilities and providing guid-

ance and support to help them reach their goals. Christi Schreiber was awarded the Super Fan Award. Customer Care Team notes says she goes above and beyond to help GMS students, staff and volunteers to feel valued and supported. Most days she can be found on campus working on upcoming student activities, selling at the Pirate Store, setting up goodies in

the teacher's lounge, or just checking in to make sure everyone feels seen. Granbury ISD thanks Christian Brothers Automotive and Spring Creek BBQ for their partnership and gift cards that were presented to the recognition award recipients.



Granbury ISD's Customer Care Team presented recognition awards at Granbury Middle School during a staff meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

COURTESY GRANBURY ISD

FAMILY FROM PAGE B1

support one another. They have built each other up and have learned that no matter what, they have each other. Livestock is also a very important aspect of the Ashmore family. Leslee, a 10-year-old Granbury ISD student, has shown rabbits the past couple of years. Both her mother and father as well as her aunt showed animals and

competed when they were in school. This year, Leslee decided to switch to showing goats. This past summer she spent her break learning about goats while watching her brother's showmanship skills. Last year, the Ashmores decided to start their own family goat business that now has a total of 20 goats. The idea behind this was to produce quality show goats for the grandkids of the family. The

family built a fence, cleaned out their barn and began to build a herd. The animals come from Oklahoma and Kentucky. "The kids have been working on learning everything about goats: how to feed it, showmanship, fitting, grooming and genetics. It's not only something we are all passionate about, but also has brought us closer as a family," Angel, the mom of the family, said. "We would rather

watch our kids grow up playing outside, cultivating a love for agriculture, learning by doing and hopefully becoming responsible individuals in the community and agricultural industry." The family expects to have its first baby goats in late spring. To see results for the 2024 Junior Livestock Show as well as photos, please visit the Hood County News website at hcnews.com.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Justin, Leslee and Angel Ashmore. Last year, the Ashmores decided to start their own family goat business that now has a total of 20 goats. The idea behind this was to produce quality show goats for the grandkids of the family.



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Granbury Care Center brings heat in chili cookoff

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury Care Center spiced up the lives of its residents Friday, Jan. 12, as it was awarded first place during the nursing home's first-ever chili cookoff event.

The spicy and delicious event was created by Fanci Hawkins, Granbury Care Center's new activities director, whose goal was to create an event where senior living facilities from the surrounding areas could come together and collaborate.

"This is the first one, that way we get to know each other," Hawkins told the HCN. "I just want people to get to know each other and love each other. If this resident doesn't work out here, maybe this nursing home might fit

them better? You know, it's more communication."

During the inaugural event, Granbury Care Center was joined by Hood County nursing homes AVIVA Granbury and Harbor Lakes Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, plus Fort Worth-based Lake Lodge Nursing & Rehabilitation and Marine Creek Nursing & Rehabilitation.

As an entry donation, each nursing home was asked to submit a gift basket to be

PLEASE SEE **CHILI** | C5

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Andrew Cokenhour, supervisor at Granbury Care Center, won first place in the nursing home's first-ever chili cookoff on Friday, Jan. 12.



LET IT SNOW!

Cold temperatures arrived last weekend across North Texas. Wind chills fell below zero at times and a light blanket of snow covered Hood County Monday morning.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Disabled veterans hold event to raise money for other vets

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

A group of disabled veterans are hoping to reach more veterans in need of assistance and raise funds to help those in need.

Five years ago, some disabled veterans of Granbury came together to create a community of compassion and charitable acts under the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) under chapter 238. Though they are a small group they are making a big impact with the amount of service they are doing for veterans in and

around the county.

Chapter members Don Caldwell, CDR., disabled Army Veteran, and Gary D. Keel, Adjutant, have loved being able to help those in need. They have helped veterans apply for disability compensation, supplied gas cards, added steps to a needed trailer, supplied money for a hot water heater for one veteran and so much more.

The group meets the second Monday of every month at the Church of the Good Shepherd. At the meetings, the group will go through their agenda and learn about situations where they

can potentially provide services.

The goal of the chapter is to "get the disabled veterans the help that they need in any type of need that they might have," Caldwell said. "There's a lot of veterans in this county that don't even know that disabled veteran assistance exists. There's also a lot of vets that don't even know they qualify. We want to spread the word and let people know we're here."

The chapter has built a relationship with the American Legion here in Granbury to raise money for members of the Disabled

American Veterans (DAV). They are looking forward to a "Turkey Shoot" event that will take place on Jan. 27.

This event will allow for people to shoot at a target in hopes of winning a frozen turkey, ham, pork loin and more. The cost is \$5 per shot with shotguns and ammo provided. There will also be breakfast served from 8 to 10 a.m. with a \$7 minimum donation. The breakfast will include two eggs, bacon or sausage, hashbrowns, a biscuit and gravy and fruit. The event will take place at the American Legion Post 491 located at 3409 Davis

TURKEY SHOOT

Saturday, Jan. 27 @ 10 a.m.
American Legion Post 491
3409 Davis Rd.

\$5
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SHOT

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HAM, TURKEY,
PORK LOIN,
& MORE!

Legion Breakfast served from 8-10 a.m.
SHOTGUNS AND AMMO WILL BE PROVIDED

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) under chapter 238 are hosting a "Turkey Shoot" event that will take place on Jan. 27

Road. All proceeds will go to the DAV. For more information, contact Tim Quast

682-202.4063 or email shores1948@gmail.com.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Granbury Theatre Academy students won the award for Excellence in Dance for their performance at the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) In Atlanta, Georgia this past weekend.

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

Students from the Granbury Theatre Academy attended and performed at the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) In Atlanta, Georgia this past weekend. 29 students ages 13-18, and 30 parent/adult chaperones made the annual trip to Atlanta for what can best be described as Comic-Con for musical theatre kids.

JTF brings together student musical theater troupes from all over the world for a weekend of musical theater mayhem and madness. This year's festival drew over 6,500 attendees from 30 states and the District of Columbia. There were also five different countries represented.

Each troupe performs a 15-minute cut from a Broadway Junior® show for adjudication by a panel of musical theater experts. The weekend also features professional development for teachers, workshops for students and parents, a New Works Showcase featuring new musical adaptations soon to be released and concludes with a

grand finale concert headlined by Broadway's best!

Granbury Theatre Academy students performed their JTF cut of Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr. on Saturday morning and won the award for Excellence in Dance for their performance. Senior troupe member Julia Huggins was awarded the prestigious All Festival Individual Performance award for her performance. This award is given to only three students from the entire festival. Senior Sandy Strittmatter and Junior Dani Browning were also named to the festival's All-Star Cast. "This was our fifth trip to JTF Atlanta, and I couldn't be prouder of our students," said Matt Beutner, Granbury Theatre Academy Director. "We had great leadership from our senior and junior students, but we also had some very young students in leading roles this year. They all performed so well! What I love most about JTF is seeing the way the students selflessly support each other!"

In addition to Beutner, JTF Coordinator, Whitney Shearon and



Senior troupe member Julia Huggins was awarded the prestigious All Festival Individual Performance award for her performance in their JTF cut of Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr.

Below, from left, Dani Browning and Sandy Strittmatter were awarded All Star Cast.



Choreographer, Lena Moralez led the group to Atlanta. Ashley Green was the group's music director but did not make the trip. Granbury

Theatre Academy students ages 8-12 will attend their JTF in Sacramento, CA next month.

"This was our fifth trip to JTF Atlanta, and I couldn't be prouder of our students. We had great leadership from our senior and junior students, but we also had some very young students in leading roles this year. They all performed so well! What I love most about JTF is seeing the way the students selflessly support each other!"

MATT BEUTNER
Granbury Theatre Academy Director.

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CINERGY
ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 19 January 2024 - Thursday, 25 January 2024

Anyone But You (R)
Fri: 4:55PM, 10:20PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 4:40PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 4:25PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 5:00PM

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 7:30PM.
Sat: 1:50PM, 7:10PM.
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:30PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:10PM, 7:30PM

Mean Girls (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM

Migration (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:05PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 1:50PM, 3:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM.
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:20PM, 3:50PM, 6:35PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM

Migration - Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 11:30AM

The Beekeeper (R)
Fri: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM


The Boys in the Boat (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, 9:20PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 4:05PM, 6:00PM, 8:50PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM

Wonka (PG)
Fri: 2:05PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM, 10:05PM.
Sat: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 3:50PM, 6:30PM, 9:10PM.
Sun: 10:50AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:50PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

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Donations received November 15, 2023 - January 31, 2024 will be matched up to the amount of the fund.

Please mail your donations to:
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PO Box 1866, Granbury, TX 76048
or give at habitatofhoodcounty.org

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Homebuilder's Association, along with several businesses and dedicated volunteers, partnered with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce to coordinate an effort to deliver Meals on Wheels clients a Christmas-sized meal.

Granbury Chamber and businesses partner to boost holiday spirit for local Hood County Meals on Wheels clients

Submitted Item

The Hood County Senior Center, the local nonprofit organization that provides meal delivery to homebound residents over the age of 60, had some extra angels on the delivery routes this holiday season. The Homebuilder's Association, along with several businesses and dedi-

cated volunteers, partnered with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce to coordinate an effort to deliver Meals on Wheels clients a Christmas-sized meal. The center offers delivery of boxed, shelf-stable meals in lieu of traditional meal delivery when the center is closed for holidays.

The large meal was a big boost to those who

needed a little extra holiday cheer and a friendly smile. The Homebuilder's Association, who has delivered Thanksgiving meals to homebound seniors in the past, realized there was an additional need for a Christmas delivery, and the group jumped on the opportunity with both feet.

"Thanks to the lead of the Homebuilders Association at Thanksgiving, the chamber and many volunteers from both organizations were, hopefully, able to make their Christmas a little brighter," commented Brian Bondy, CEO of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

PLEASE SEE **MEALS** | C5

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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.

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

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 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

10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somerville 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.

Childhood curiosity led to safe gun creativity

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Contrary to the old children's nursery rhyme that says "sticks and stones may break bones," Ethan Gonzalez has created a way for sticks to actually save lives.

As in GunStiXX, the product created by the Granbury High graduate for Winchester Safes.

"Having been a mischievous child and now having a baby of my own, I would not say anything is 100% childproof. However, the GunStiXX are designed and sized to work universally with rifles and shotguns down to .20 caliber," Gonzalez said. "Each rod is made of sturdy, damage-free plastic material to prevent scratching your gun's surface or barrel and can be trimmed to your preferred length.

"However, firearms and unsupervised children aren't a good mixture, so firearm safety should always be used when interacting with the GunStiXX."

GunStiXX are exactly what the name says: hard plastic sticks that are inserted into the barrel of a gun. Then, when the gun is put into the safe, the top of the GunStiXX goes through a hole, after which a cap is placed on it to secure the firearm in place.

GunStiXX are compatible with most rifle types. They work with all styles, from an old-school all-wooden rifle, to a modern tricked-out rifle.

GunStiXX are available through Winchester Safes or come standard in their 2023 and newer safes sold at local dealers. However, the easiest way to get GunStiXX is direct through Winchester Safes.

INVENTING GUNSTIXX

When Gonzalez, 25, was hired to be the design engineer at Winchester Safes in Mansfield, it was known that being fresh out of college, he didn't come with the most real-world experience. Despite that, his bosses believed in his collegiate accolades and creative ability enough to give him a chance to make a splash in the gun safe industry.

"As I became more comfortable with these fancy metal boxes, I was set free," Gonzalez said. "And so it began. I was fully immersed in the gun safe world, looking into each angle of how to better innovate a steel box, doing so by thinking outside the box and looking at the product as a consumer, taking the very issues I face as a user and attempting to solve them."

That path ultimately led to the creation of GunStiXX, a path Gonzalez said began from an idea that was nothing more than a headache and a family argument. He calls it a byproduct of joining two divided views on an existing product to create something better and safer. The final product,

Gonzalez said, was created through methodical thinking and the creative approach of tilting the firearm upright, to eliminate wasted/unused space pockets that traditional gun racks have.

INSPIRATION

Ever since he was a boy, Gonzalez has always been intrigued by how things work.

"I was that kid who took all my dad's stuff apart and attempted to put it back together, just to end up creating something completely different out of the abundance of leftover parts," he said. "Something that, in my imagination, was the next new awesome gadget or gizmo for my outlandish and wild adventures.

"So, creating new things, or more like disassembling or breaking my dad's stuff has always been something I have loved to do."

Fast forward to today, and now he gets to design new products with that same creative imagination.

"Just with a little less breaking involved — sometimes," he said with a chuckle.

"As a child, Ethan was always making something using whatever he could find lying around our house. He would spend hours creating toys for him and his best friend Aaron to play with," Gonzalez's father, Ricky Gonzalez, said. "His mother



Ethan Gonzalez, a 2016 Granbury High graduate, has invented GunStiXX, a safer and more secure way to store firearms while also making best use of the space in a gun safe.

consumers were concerned about two potential issues: dissimilar metals and scratching the inside of the rifle's barrel.

Thus, it was back to the design board; later that year a new and even more popular plastic version was released.

"Since the change there has been basically nothing but an abundance of praise for the new product and an ever-growing number of orders for the GunStiXX," he said.

In being transparent,

sons of 'Treat every firearm as if it's loaded. Every firearm is loaded until you've proven it's unloaded. There is no second chance with firearms,' and 'Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire' are forever engraved into my mind," he said. "As someone who is constantly around firearms, those lessons keep me and those around me safe day-in and day-out, lessons I plan to teach my kids and anyone I am around while interacting with guns."

then obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Texas Tech University.

"Looking back, all my teachers (at GHS) had to deal with young, teenage me, and that took a special, strong person. I am very grateful for all the things they taught me," he said. "However, there were a couple of special GHS teachers that guided me to becoming the man I am today. I can't thank them enough for their time, their patience and for teaching me

"Having been a mischievous child and now having a baby of my own, I would not say anything is 100% childproof. However, the GunStiXX are designed and sized to work universally with rifles and shotguns down to .20 caliber. Each rod is made of sturdy, damage-free plastic material to prevent scratching your gun's surface or barrel and can be trimmed to your preferred length."

ETHAN GONZALEZ

Creator of GunStiXX

and I did not want to limit his creative imagination. Therefore, we did not make many issues with all the broken or missing work tools.

"Ethan worked very hard to become a design engineer and now has a dream job which allows him to put his creative energy to good use. His mom and I are very proud of what he has achieved and look forward to seeing what his future holds."

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Gonzalez said at Shot Show 2023 in Las Vegas, the GunStiXX official release to the public was well received. However, the first design was constructed of aluminum, so some interested

Gonzalez noted there is another similar product on the market, made by Gun Storage Solutions, called the Rifle Rod. In fact, studies of how to better that product were involved in GunStiXX coming to be, he said.

"They make a good product and it was a part of our process in creating the GunStiXX," he said. "By taking the product's existing pros and cons we created what we believe to be a superior product," he said.

HUNTING FAMILY

Gonzalez comes from a hunting family. Gun safety was a top priority, he said.

"Gun safety is the most important and first thing I learned when first introduced to firearms. The les-

sons of 'Treat every firearm as if it's loaded. Every firearm is loaded until you've proven it's unloaded. There is no second chance with firearms,' and 'Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire' are forever engraved into my mind," he said.

"As a hunter, I have numerous long rifles, but my gun case was old and would only hold part of them. Ethan would always complain that we needed to fix the mess, especially when they would tumble out when trying to retrieve a certain one," Ricky said. "Ethan described what he was creating and how our own problems with space and organization prompted his idea.

"After Ethan designed the GunStiXX, we proudly purchased a new safe equipped with them already installed."

EDUCATION

Gonzalez graduated from Granbury High in 2016. He

very valuable material and life lessons. They are John Morgan, Todd Gibson and Jacqueline Bradshaw."

Gibson taught Gonzalez in his pre-engineering class in eighth grade and in his engineering design and development class as a senior. He said Gonzalez always had a knack for engineering and it was evident in the projects and activities he did in middle school.

"It is no surprise to me that Ethan is already making waves in the professional world as he always had a creative mind and great ambition," Gibson said. "I used his senior project and sketches for years to use as examples when introducing new topics.

"One of the best feelings

we get as educators is watching our former students succeed, whether that be professionally, spiritually or in their family life. I am hoping he has already shipped me a signed package of GunStiXX."

Bradshaw said Gonzalez possessed ideas, determination and grit the first day he walked into her language and composition classroom.

"While I provided the freedom and space to formulate, develop and support his own ideas, Ethan's resolve to grow and succeed at whatever task he encountered in class came naturally to him, and, as a result, bore confidence," she said. "Backed with a strong faith, a loving and supportive family, and a curious and sharp mind, it was inevitable, Ethan was designed to accomplish great things. I simply pushed him to the full potential I easily recognized — and push I did.

"Besides impacting the world through his entrepreneurial endeavors, more importantly, I am certain he is loving his family and community and leaving a lasting legacy."

Gonzalez said during his time at Texas Tech, the course that ultimately ignited the fire within him to strive for designing was his senior level design 1 and 2 classes.

"During two semesters my group and I went through the whole design process and created a new STEM-driven project that helps high school students bridge the gap to college," he said. "We ultimately got first place for best overall design versus all the other design projects."

AND THERE'S MORE

Also in 2023 Gonzalez designed a new safe called the Defender Double Door. The safe integrates the GunStiXX storage method to hold firearms, while also integrating a patent-pending design, achieved by adding a ball slide to the safe, allowing for components of the safe to slide in/out of the safe body.

The user can access all the contents of the safe without having to remove the product in the front like traditional safes.

"This has been a game-changing design that many people, including competitors, have raved about," Gonzalez said. "We will have a single-door version coming in 2024 per customer request."

Also coming in 2024 are two more safes he designed, a bow safe and a hybrid safe, that will be released at Shot Show 2024 in late January.

"We are very excited for potential customers to see the new products and await their feedback," he said. "Only being 25, I am very excited to see where my career goes and am looking forward to it."

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FANCI HAWKINS
Activities Director at Granbury Care Center

CHILI

FROM PAGE C1

raffled off close to the end of the event.

Originally, the chili cook-off was created as a "thank you" toward first responders who were invited to serve as the judges for the chili. However, as the event neared its end with no first responders in sight, Hawkins took matters into her own hands, allowing Granbury Care Center residents and the public to serve as the main judges.

After everyone had gotten the chance to sample chili from all six nursing homes and had cast their votes, the winners were announced: Marine Creek in third, Harbor Lakes in second, and Granbury Care Center ranking as the official chili cook-off winner.

"We just wanted to give back," Hawkins said — adding she hopes the chili cook-off will become an annual event. "I'd like to do it once a year. I've never been activity director before, so this is all new to me, but I thought it would be fun. Who doesn't like a competition?"

Winners Denisse Santamaria, Micah Williams and Andrew Cokenour



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Care Center's inaugural chili cookoff resulted in these top three finishers: Third place, Denisse Santamaria, director of food and nutrition at Marine Creek Nursing & Rehabilitation; Second place, Micah Williams, Harbor Lakes maintenance director; and First place, Andrew Cokenour, supervisor at Granbury Care Center.

received a "Chili Cook-Off" apron and a medal to signify their place in the

competition. "This is our first one, but next year, I want to add, like,

big trophies for the winners and then maybe next year, our gift raffles can go to the

fire department of the winner's choice," Hawkins added. "We're hoping it'll just

get bigger and bigger."



Employees from AVIVA Granbury prepare to dish out their hot and spicy chili recipe during Granbury Care Center's chili cookoff on Friday, Jan. 12.



Rachel White, AVIVA Granbury activity director, dishes out some chili to the Granbury Care Center residents during the chili cookoff on Jan. 12.

MEALS

FROM PAGE C3

"How better to offer extra love to our local seniors than to show up at the door with a wonderful Christmas meal, donated

and delivered by our community businesses," said Trish Burwell, the center's executive director. "Watching these folks put in extra time during one of the busiest seasons of the year to ensure our clients had a great Christmas made my heart feel good. We have

a great deal of generous people in our community."

Bondy gives credit where credit is due. "Knowing we had amazing volunteers helped to spread Christmas cheer, this meal wouldn't have been possible without the help of Kara

Watson, Empire Realty Group and Brookshire's here in Granbury."

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Psalms 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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Romans 8:28

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BOOK REVIEW

You'll remember it for as long as you live

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The screech of tires. The hollow “kunk” of vehicle-on-vehicle, then vertigo. Or maybe it was a bang and a gasp that still haunts you at night. In the end, though you didn't mean it, someone has died and you were the indirect cause. You'll remember that as long as you live, and in the new book “Accidental” by David W. Peters, you'll learn to live with yourself again.

He was just 19. Recently home from boot camp and beginning his freshman year at Bible college, David Peters was driving a friend to Sunday night services when tragedy struck. The sun was glaring, and Peters tried to switch lanes. It happened so fast: he swerved, hit concrete, and when it was over, a young woman lay dead on the side of the road.

To a young man who was injured, “I

said I was sorry,” Peters writes. “I must have said it a thousand times...”

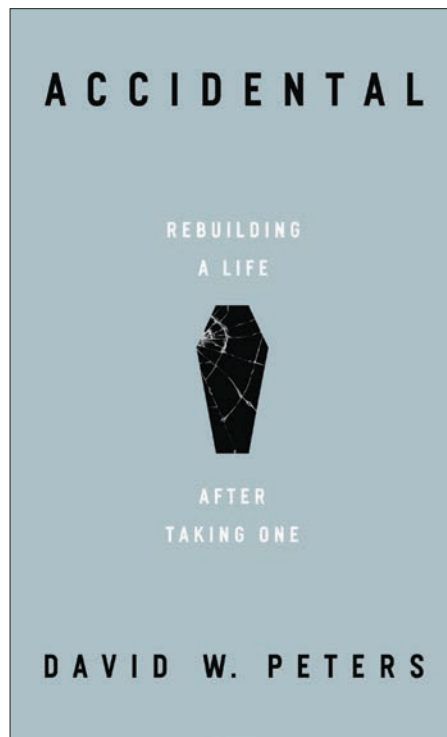
Peters says he felt like he was the only person who'd done something like this, but he wasn't. There are 40,000 vehicular fatalities in the U.S. annually, plus accidental firearm deaths, wars and work accidents. Even famous people can call themselves “CADIs,” which stands for “Causing Accidental Death or Injury.”

CADI, Peters says, is softer, more acceptable than “killer,” because an accident is an accident.

As a “professional Christian,” Peters has leaned on God since his accident, reading the Biblical tale about “cities of refuge” for CADIs. He explores the ways that, for instance, a drunk driver might deal with tragedy versus what an accidental shooter might feel. One's own profession might lead to guilt and grief. He writes about mercy, and about “moral injury” for witnesses of tragedy.

“All of us will have different memories... based on what kind of accident we experienced,” he says, so don't use this book as a one-size-fits-all.

“Your journey is your journey, but you are not alone on it. We are all with you.” Whether you need



COURTESY PHOTO

“Accidental: Rebuilding a Life After Taking One” by David W. Peters ©2023, BROADLEAF BOOKS, \$26.99, 182 PAGES

this book or you hope you never will, “Accidental” is absolutely one squirmy read. That, surprisingly, may be an accident in itself.

Author David W. Peters, who is an Episcopal Church vicar, writes with a tone that's soothing and calming, but he doesn't preach and he doesn't push. Even if you're a nonbeliever, he has mercy for you and there's no judgment here; he's been in your shoes, and his father showed him what true forgiveness looks like. Reading this book, then, is like meeting with someone trained to help untangled the complicated feelings of being on the blame-end of a tragedy. The squirm comes in the honesty that readers will see is absolutely necessary, but difficult nonetheless. You won't want to go there, need to or not – but with Peters' comforting words, you know you'll be okay doing so.

For CADIs and those who love them, for victims, and for counselors and pastors, here's what you want on your shelf. “Accidental” is a book you can truly live with.



COURTESY PHOTO

Author David W. Peters

THE IDLE AMERICAN

L.O.P.—A modest proposal...

BY DON NEWBURY



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

Several years ago, a wise guy — or perhaps a wise gal — sent an email that latched on and won't let go. It read: “In your column today, I discovered several dozen well-chosen words.”

Oh, that it could have been left at that, without a second sentence: “Unfortunately, they were intermingled among 600 that weren't.”

Ouch! Such could be said of most of my weekly meanderings that will have spanned 21 years come February. It's an ongoing challenge to write “well-chosen words.”

Most of the time, I have sought high roads, hoping to produce a few grins that soften the impact of hurtful news.

Recent news in the world of higher education — a career I chose to follow 63 years ago — is causing sleep deprivation, so I'm going to write about it.

Too much news involves dollar marks followed by too many zeroes. Sadly, at the center of it all is what we have always called “intercollegiate athletics,” usually with an addendum claiming the NCAA to be a national association of “student athletes.” In a few programs around the nation, it's a stretch to conclude that some vaunted athletes deserve to have “student” in front of their

names.

Now, finally in the fourth paragraph, today's headline makes sense. The “L.O.P.” I suggest that 15 or 20 major universities be “lopped off” to go their own way. Then, there might yet be a healthy future for true “student athletes” in the remaining institutions.

Yep, this would mean most universities could resume their initial objectives. For these, the tails no longer would wag the dog.

I won't attempt to name universities suggested for the L.O.P. — but you I and they know who they are. Clearly, they belong in the new L.O.P. — the League of Plenty.

Currently, there are 100 or so institutions galloping along as fast as they can, trying to keep up, believing their success, prestige, enrollment — and fundraising, of course — hinge on big time sports.

There are many problems with such thinking. A comic strip featured more than 100 years ago in the defunct New York Globe provided an observation repeated across the years.

“Just when we think we've caught up with the Joneses, they refinance.” The point applies here: The “almosts” who continue to seek the holy grail will fail. The golden rule still applies — them with the gold rule.

My head was reeling with numbers recently during a drive to Waco as I listened to sports radio. I learned that Texas A&M was writing a \$76 million check(s) to deposed football coach

Jimbo Fisher, and at least one football player at a major university was paid MILLIONS this year under the guise of the new NCAA N.I.L. program (name-identification-likeness).

I found both bits of news sickening. While in Waco, I called Grant Teaff — a friend of 67 years — to wish him a happy 90th birthday. He confirmed a figure he shared with me years ago. When he arrived in Waco to SUCCESSFULLY revive Baylor's football program in 1972, he signed on for an annual salary of \$25,000, one that had reached \$50,000 when he retired 21 seasons later. (BTW, he compiled a record of 170-151-8 and two Southwest Conference championships.) And, he didn't even have an agent!

I dream of the “good old days,” when playing fields were more level, and competing for league championships was enough. We need more coaches like Grant Teaff, R. C. Slocum, Jess Neely and Rusty Russell, among a short list of others. Remember Rusty? He left Temple High School to coach at Fort Worth's Masonic Home, finding out they didn't have a football stadium, or even a football!

For my proposal to gain traction — and I know the odds are miniscule — trustees and regents must re-examine why their institutions were founded and assume their duties to develop and defend policies.

Or, they can trudge on, allowing television to orchestrate major decisions to be carried out by its NCAA lap dog.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Milton Meyer

BY RALPH WALTON



Ralph H. Walton, Jr. and his wife, Patsy, have resided in Hood County since 1974. He is a retired Senior District Judge of the 355th District Court of Hood County. He served as judge of that court for over 27 years. He continues to serve as a visiting judge when needed.

To those who dealt with him concerning the business of Hood County, he was “the Judge.” To those who had known him for many years on a personal level, he was “Milt.” When my wife, Patsy, and I moved to Hood County in March 1974, he was one of the first persons I met in the legal community and to me, he was Judge Meyer. That is who he was and that is who he forever will be.

From the time I first met the Judge in March 1974, I liked him and had great respect for him. We developed a bond, and I viewed him as a mentor for a young lawyer. I often discussed career choices with him and relied on his wise counsel.

It brings a smile to my face when I think of the Judge because of his wit. He enjoyed life and though he had a serious job and took it very seriously, he never took himself too seriously. I remember him telling me on one occasion just to do my job, don't worry about being recognized, just do it right and recognition would take care of itself.

The Judge was a sixth generation Hood Countian, having been born here in August 1926. After graduating from Granbury High School, he joined the Army Air Corps and served during World War II. After the war ended, he returned to Granbury and in 1948, married Hood County native Jean Denny. In 1951, he and Jean opened Meyer Food Store on the town square where, in those days, Hood Countians did most of their shopping and business; he also was a rancher for many years. In 1970, the Judge decided to pursue a new career, and he ran for and was elected Hood County Judge; he was re-elected four times.

Judge Meyer rode the crest of a population boom that began with the creation of Lake Granbury which helped transform Hood County from a rural dominated county into a sprawling suburban retirement and resort community. As a result, Hood County became one of America's fastest growing counties and continues to grow at a rapid pace. On one occasion, near the end of his tenure, he made the prediction that “Someday, we'll have 100,000 people in this county.” That prescient observation will likely come true in the not-too-distant future. During his tenure as County Judge, he spearheaded a drive to move the Hood General Hospital from just off the town square to a new hospital at its present location on the Paluxy Highway. He served as a founding director of what was then Granbury State Bank and was instrumental in the construction of a desperately needed new jail, which became the Hood County Law Enforcement Center. Because of his conservatism, he was able to maintain the lowest tax rate in our 10-county area and also sought to improve and pave over 85% of county roads. His office door was always open to any who needed his help.

Not only was the Judge a serious businessman and fair-minded Judge, he also had a great sense of humor. As those who worked with him and knew him best observed, there were some things he said in jest that were not subject to being repeated! Those who worked closely with him admired him as a man who was nice to all he dealt with and was very patient in his dealings. He was always available to answer questions concerning county business and was, as one commissioner stated, “the most conservative man I've ever met.” I recall an occasion when I was working late in the courthouse and left the lights on in my office. The next day, the Judge made it a point to come to my office and admonish me about wasting the taxpayers' dollars. On one occasion he complained to me about increasing court-appointed attorney fees. I explained to him that indigent persons are entitled to have counsel appointed whether he liked it or not. I don't think that satisfied him. The Judge kept that wit about him his entire career as County Judge, even up to his last election which he lost by less than 50 votes. With the same wit he always displayed, he told me he could have won “if I could have convinced my relatives to vote for me!”

To be a good judge a person must be fair, willing to listen open-mindedly to all sides, compassionate and understanding. In short, he or she must be a good person. Judge Meyer embodied all those attributes.

On April 24, 2001, Judge Meyer passed away in his native county, where he was born, raised and served the people well. We were blessed to have a visionary politician in office as County Judge for over 20 years; this county is a better place to live, work and play because of Judge Milton Meyer.



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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Woman's Club members don blue attire in honor of sapphire anniversary

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

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club gathered collectively last week for the first time in 2024, and the day was a special occasion as the ladies marked the 45th birthday of the PPWC. "Celebrating Friendship" is the club's theme for the year, and following the business meeting, ladies enjoyed an "anniversary extravaganza" consisting of fashions, headlines, music and more from 1978 through today. The day was truly a "blast from the past," and attendees wore blue clothing in honor of the club's "sapphire" anniversary. In addition, the ladies enjoyed lunch prepared by the clubhouse staff and collected donations for the tabletop charity of the day which was Bikers Against Child Abuse.

The PPWC, whose tenets are friendship, fellowship, philanthropy and a pursuit of the arts, welcomes all female residents of Pecan to join.

REMODEL WORK

The PAC gymnasium is receiving a new and much-needed floor for all the activities that room hosts, and while the work is underway, the gym is closed to activities. If everything stays on schedule, the gym will reopen Monday, Jan. 22. Pecaners will receive email updates as the work progresses while members look forward to the completion of the new floor.

DINNER EVENT

Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club reorganized in 2023 and saw attendance increase as participants

enjoyed numerous themed dinners and programs. Now that 2024 has arrived, the club is still gathering strong and has its next event on the calendar for Tuesday, Jan. 23. Social time begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room, and dinner service comes at 6 p.m. Folks will enjoy hearing from Tammy Smith, physical therapist and owner of Freedom Physical Therapy and Fitness Center in Acton, when she enlightens folks on how they may keep their bodies in tune at any age. The club welcomes all widows and widowers in Pecan, and folks desiring more information may contact Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The next meeting of Pecan's Breakfast Club comes Wednesday, Jan. 24 when the three candi-



The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club celebrated its 45th anniversary with ladies dressed in blue in honor of the sapphire themed event. Pictured are PPWC board members (bottom left to right): President, Sandy Hoelting; Treasurer, Kim McIntire; Assistant Treasurer, Kathie Schoepf; (top left to right): Secretary, Judy Scott; Parliamentarian, Cherry Redwine; Historian, Oneta Bergman; and Vice President, Gerta Howell.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PPWC PUBLICITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pecan is seeking volunteers to assist with balloting at our community's annual meeting in March. Folks who are interested in serving as an election clerk or judge may sign up via a link mailed to membership last week or by contacting Marilyn Amos: marilynamos@ppoaweb.com.

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. Walkins will also be welcome.

NEW NUMBERS

Pecan's security department has added two mobile numbers members may call when patrol officers are needed. Residents may dial 682-936-9092 or 682-205-5818 when assistance is warranted; however, these numbers are for mobile security patrol

dates for Pecan's Board of Directors will address members as well as answer questions from attendees. Folks will be able to hear from Mike Hill, Mark Massey and Dee Dee Urbano. Breakfast service begins at 8 a.m. with the program following at 9 a.m. Reservations are due by noon Tuesday, Jan. 23. Call the clubhouse front desk to reserve a spot: 817-573-2641.

TOWN HALL

A town hall meeting hosted by Pecan's infrastructure committee will happen immediately following the regular board of directors

meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 in the clubhouse ballroom where the main topic will center around a road assessment placed on Pecan's spring election ballot. The proposed assessment is not an increase but instead an extension of the current assessment.

BOOK TIME

The Hood County Bookmobile will be at the PAC Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return books at the bookmobile.

only and should not be used to call guests into the gate or in the event of an emergency. Pecaners should continue to use the ABDI gate access app for guest admittance and 911 for emergencies.

HELPING HANDS

Many thanks go to everyone who helped cover the golf greens prior to the recent frigid weather and then uncover them when golf play resumed.

SWEETEST DAY

Pecaners will enjoy an evening with a Jazz Age theme and Roaring '20s ambience for Valentine's Day Wednesday, Feb. 14. More details are forthcoming, but for now, folks who would like to attend should make reservations as attendance is limited to 75 couples: 817-573-2641.

PIZZA PIE

A reminder to Pecaners: "Wednesdays at the Brazos Room" features a pizza offer of "buy one pie get a second for half price." Dine in only.

RECYCLING STATIONS

Pecan's collection station off Ravenswood Road and near the stables holds a regular drop-off day for recyclable items, branches, and bulk trash on the final Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon, meaning the next operating date will be Saturday, Jan. 27. In addition, the station is open Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to receive branches and recyclables only. Finally, Pecan's tennis shop recycles aluminum cans with proceeds from the effort benefitting our community's tennis facilities. Cans should be rinsed and free from residue when delivered.

100% CHANCE OF SNOW!

LAKE GRANBURY

GOOSEBUMP JUMP

2024

PRIZES + AWARDS
(MUST BE PRESENT TO BE COUNTED)

- BEST ADULT COSTUME
- BEST KIDS COSTUME
- BEST GROUP COSTUME
- OLDEST COMPETITOR
- ORGANIZATION (501C3) WITH THE MOST JUMPERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH
CITY BEACH PARK

10:00 AM
REGISTRATION & SIGN-IN

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
"CHILLY ON THE BEACH"
Chili Cookoff (by HGMA)

11:00 AM
COSTUME JUDGING & AWARDS

12:00 NOON
JUMP INTO LAKE GRANBURY!
JR Spas Hot Tub Fun

\$10 REGISTRATION FEE

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

www.VISITGRANBURY.com/GOOSEBUMPJUMP

MINIMUM \$1000

AWARDED TO THE CHARITY REPRESENTED BY THE MOST JUMPERS

The Granbury Lodging Association

#GOOSEBUMPJUMP2024