

**Published Saturday** 



Staff members of Expert Automotive Solutions are doing their best to recover from the fire that took place on Monday, Jan. 15.

# Expert Automotive Solutions fuels adversity with opportunity following fire damage

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

t's been almost three weeks since Expert Automotive Solutions sustained extensive damage to its building at 106 Pirate Dr. following an accidental fire Monday, Jan 15.

But although the situation is dire, employees have not given up — choosing instead to operate the business out of a back shop located at

2000 Supply Ln. "We had expanded in August and added the building at 2000 Supply Lane and that's where we're do-

ing most of our heavy line," Josiah Nebhut, store manager, told the HCN. "We've got a full list of everything to operate in as a shop, so when we lost (our main shop), we were closed Monday and Tuesday, of course, and then we opened up Wednesday, (Jan. 17), and we've been running and gunning ever since."

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 Expert Automotive Solutions for reports of a structure fire.

Upon arrival, first responders encountered heavy fire and smoke. According to the GFVD, multiple explosions occurred due to flammable materials stored inside the shop.

According to a news PLEASE SEE FIRE | A8

#### SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce's annual Best of Business Awards Banquet is a time for reflections on the accomplishments of the past year, but also an opportunity to gaze ahead into the new year.



Republican Women to host second candidate forum Feb. 21

#### From Staff Reports

Hood County Republican Women will hold a second candidate forum for the 2024 election during its next meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Wiley Center, 420 E. U.S. Highway 377.

The candidate forum will allow Hood County candidates running in the 2024 Republican primary to speak about why they are running. This will be a great opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates running on the Republican ticket to represent Hood County.

Election Day is Tuesday, March 5. Primary early voting will begin Tuesday, Feb. 20, and will continue through Friday, March 5 at the Annex 1 Meeting Room, 1410 W.

# Community airs Bitcoin noise grievances during town hall

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County residents filled the Twin Canyons Ranch venue Monday night to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the constant fan noise emanating from the Bitcoin mining data center — a problem that has been ongoing for the past year.

The center, located near the Wolf Hollow Power Plant, has been the subject of many complaints and criticisms among many residents who live nearby — and even some who live several miles away.

"After taking office last January, probably the very first phone call I got was, 'What is this noise that I'm hearing in my backyard?" Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson ex-

PLEASE SEE **BITCOIN** | A5



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jackie Sawicky, member of the Texas Coalition Against Cryptomining, speaks out against Bitcoin during the town hall meeting last week.

Pearl St. Individuals must be registered to vote by Feb. 5.

The early voting schedule is listed below:

- Tuesday, Feb. 20 through Friday, Feb. 23: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  - Saturday, Feb. 24: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

• Monday, Feb. 26 through Friday, March 1: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Each political party holds its own primary, and the winners of these primary elections will be on the ballot for the Nov. 8 general election. Voters may vote in either party primary, as Texas is an "open primary" state.

## Tax lien mail scam resurfacing across Texas

#### From Staff Reports

Some taxpayers have received fraudulent letters claiming the state of Texas will seize their assets and property for unpaid taxes unless payment is made within seven days. These illegitimate letters did not originate from the Texas Comptroller's office.

For years, criminals have used aggressive and threatening scam faxes, letters and phone calls impersonating state agencies. The criminals demand immediate payment, often via a specific payment method, and threaten to seize assets and property or significantly increase the liability if you fail to pay or provide sensitive personal information.

Be incredibly wary whenever you receive unexpected messages like these, as they can be a trap. The criminals' threats are designed to get you to react by calling the

PLEASE SEE SCAM | A3



138TH YEAR, NO. 5 Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 40 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 40 pages

INSIDE

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### LEADERSHIP \* COMMITMENT **JUSTICE WITH PROVEN INTEGRITY & CHARACTER**

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For Hood County Justice of the Peace Precint 1

A SERVANT'S 

# COMMUNITY BUSINESS 2024 Calendar of Events

#### **FEBRUARY**

5th | 6 pm | Candidate Forum
8th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
9th | 11:30 am | Leaders In Government Luncheon
14th | 9 am | Leadercast Spark
21st | 9 am | Business Development
28th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### MARCH

7th |9 am | Coffee & Connections
19th | 9 am | Maximize Your Membership
20th | 9 am | Business Development
26th | 5:30 pm | WIB/RLG After Hours

#### APRIL

5th | 11:30 am | Leaders in Government Luncheon
11th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
13th | 11 am | RLG Service Day
17th | 9 am | Business Development
19th | All Day | Annual Golf Classic
24th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### MAY

8th |8 am | Leadercast G.H.O.A.T
9th | 9am | Coffee & Connections
14th | 11:30 am | WIB Luncheon
15th | 9 am | Business Development
18th |10 am | Lemonade Day
29th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### JUNE

3rd | TBD | Granbury Night At The Ballpark
13th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
19th | 9 am | Business Development
26th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### JULY

4th | All Day | July 4th
5th | All Day | July 4th
6th | All Day | July 4th
7th | All Day | July 4th
23rd | 5:30 pm | WIB After Hours
26th | 11:30 am | Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

31st | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### AUGUST

3rd | TBA | RLG Service Day
8th | 9am | Coffee & Connections
9th | 11:30 am | Leaders In Government Luncheon
21st | 9 am | Business Development
28th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### SEPTEMBER

5th | 9 am | Maximize Your Membership
12th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
18th | 9 am | Business Development
24th | 8 am | 3rd Annual WIB Summit
25th 15 pm I Wind Down Wednesday

#### OCTOBER

7th | 6 pm | Candidate Forum 10th | 9am | Coffee & Connections 14th | 6 pm | Candidate Forum 16th | 9 am | Business Development 18th | 11:30 am | Leaders In Government Luncheon
23rd | 9 am | Leadercast Teams
29th | 9 am | Rising Leaders Conference
30th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### **NOVEMBER**

12th | 5:30 pm | WIB Fashion Show
14th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
20th | 9 am | Business Development
20th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday

#### DECEMBER

12th | 9 am | Coffee & Connections
13th | 11:30 am | Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
18th | 5 pm | Wind Down Wednesday



1ew Chamber Members & Renewals

Welcome to our New Chamber Members who Joined in December & January!

#### Pinnacle Health & Wealth, LLC Velvet & Verde Bin There Dump That Century 21 Judge Fite Company 7-Eleven Whataburger LLC Tru-Tex Painting & Construction Tell It Like It Is with J Loren Norris The Grape Lady Kathy Cheek Century 21 Judge Fite

#### Mosquito Squad & Pest Control of Fort Worth

Thank You to the following members who renewed their Chamber Membership in December! We appreciate your continued support!

Glenn Aire Company Ideals Design – Louis Speyer Hallmark Real Estate Professionals Open Hearts Sanctuary, LLC Academy Mortgage – Lisa Burkes Team Tri Lakes Tackle Town Scale LLP

#### Harris Aerobic

Lake Pointe Resource Center Grace Classical Christian Academy Air Evac Lifeteam Blushes Salon and Spa Best Value Ron's Pharmacy Traci Odom, Realtor – 321 Real Estate Group Granbury Citizens Police Academy Alumni Willow Mark Therapy PLLC Cheerful Hearts Gifts State Senator Brian Birdwell Kiwanis Club Hood County News, Inc Willsher & Assoc. City of Cresson, TX St. Clair Dental Alliance Tech Medical United Cooperative Services State Farm Insurance – John Mark Davis The UPS Store The Transit System Luminant, Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant Wiley Funeral Home Martin's Funeral Home Pastafina

#### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



granbury Member Spotlight Proteting what matters

COURTESY GRAPHIC **Member Spotlight: Michelle McGhee** Life & Health Insurance. "Protecting families is my goal! I am passionate about helping others find the right life and health coverage that will fit in your budget. The biggest mistake you can make is leaving your family with financial struggles. Let me take that worry away, and help put you in the best position possible."Thank you for joining the **Granbury Chamber** of Commerce!

#### Eagle Rose Property Management

"Our in-depth understanding of our clients needs allows us to provide a quality house for you to call home." personalized approach to property management, tailoring our services to meet the specific needs of your property and your goals." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!



#### Michelle McGhee Life & Health Insurance

"Protecting families is my goal! I am passionate about helping others find the right life and health coverage that will fit in your budget "



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# FROM MY FRONT PORCH Which side of the coin does your candidate fall on?



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

s time has passed, the leaders in education have adjusted and altered curriculums to align with the perceived needs of contemporary society. Two generations ago, a traditional education included a healthy dose of the sciences, civics, mathematics and traditional languages like Latin. As a young man, Latin was available to me as a course in junior high and high school, but even then, the number of students interested in the subject was limited. Not sure if any of our public schools still offer Latin as a class. Is this a good thing or a bad thing?





MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

I am not advocating that teaching Latin is necessary to produce a qualified and well-trained workforce. I am not suggesting studying a variety of science and math courses is essential to hold a job or to succeed in today's world. But it seems schooling should be about education and that involves more than simply creating job skills for a specific trade or task. Education should be about more than knowledge of how to do a job, it should also be about the ability to think and reason about how to make decisions in your life. At least a portion of our formal education should be about learning to discern truth and fact from allegations and untruths. We should embrace free thinking and celebrate growth and change, which new discoveries and information can create. Perhaps the most important discernment is the difference between truth and political spin.

Learning to question and interpret what one hears, reads and is exposed to is essential to having a free and independent society. Occasionally, we must be willing to consider evidence that contradicts our beliefs

and admit the possibility that preconceived notions may be wrong. To be intelligent, one should understand what they do not know and then determine how to inform themselves and become knowledgeable.

As a young boy of the early '60s, in a time prior to the Civil Rights Act and integration, there were ideas I was exposed to which were contradictory to the "knowledge" and information I heard on the street or saw from the behavior of my neighbors. As I grew older, I had to make decisions about what was "right" and what was best. There was discernment, doubt, questioning and a desire to find the truth. I found knowledge was constantly evolving. What may have been accepted 20 years ago was not necessarily right considering knowledge and the changes that came with time. While segregation may have been a "truth" in the 1930s, I would hope few would believe it is appropriate or "right" in today's world. It was something I learned, rather than simply accepting what the world around told me was true. As the election cycle spins

on there are a lot of state-

ments being made by politicians. It would seem no matter what is said — whether it be a misrepresentation or a downright lie — much of the electorate seems to accept assertions at face value. There seems to be a desire to support party rather than hold politicians to standards and make them accountable for their actions and their words. I refer to both major political parties when I say, show me how your political positions will make my life better. Show me how it will improve the future of the world around me, how it will make me safe from foreign aggression, how it will protect the rights granted in a free society. Earn my vote. Stop basing your policy on positions on the requests of your biggest donors. Have a vision!

What a political "party" stands for is even in doubt. Members of the same party cannot agree on their core beliefs. There is infighting, name calling and political posturing, but little discussion about a specific and measured plan. Rather, there is only discussion about the past, its failures and who is to blame.

There appear to be no

consequences for politicians who seek to divide and blame, rather than have a vision for the future. Whoever is elected to political office must lead and govern. Leadership requires leading all the people, not just the ones who donate to you or follow you blindly. How can this be accomplished if when there is a disagreement, those who disagree are the "enemy?"

As the candidates go forward, listen to those who have a plan, who can explain their vision of the future, and are seeking to represent all the electorate. Those are men and woman who are statesmen, and statesmen are what will keep us safe and prosperous. For those who seek only power and control and to divide us, let them be cast aside. The question for all of us is which side of that coin a candidate falls on. That is why we vote.

Thought for the day: Being smart is not knowing everything, it is knowing what you don't know and seeking the truth.

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

# Chisholm Trail 100 Club to add Hood County and Somervell County committees Group honors fallen Somervell County officer Sgt. Stephen Gibson with benevolence fund of 80k

#### Staff Reports

The Chisholm Trail 100 Club is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to standing in the gap when tragedy strikes within the first responder community. The group is in the process of forming committees in both Hood and Somervell counties. On Monday, Jan. 29, the Chisholm Trail 100 Club presented \$80,000 in benevolence funds to the beneficiary of fallen Somervell County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Stephen Gibson in Glen Rose. Gibson was born and raised in Somervell County, married his high school sweetheart, Stephanie, and served with the SCSO for 26 years. He died in an on-duty vehicle crash on Texas State Highway 144 on Dec. 13 in Somervell County. Gibson's death is the first line of duty death ever for the department. The benevolence funds presented to Gibson's widow support the Chisholm Trail 100 Club's mission of honoring the lives of heroes within the organization's

first responder community. The Chisholm Trail 100 Club provides accidental death and serious bodily injury benefits to each of the 1,985 first responders - which includes law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, correctional officers and emergency call-takers/dispatchers in the club's service area of Johnson County, Somervell County, Hood County and the city of Mansfield. The

we are so sorry for the loss of Sgt. Gibson and are honored to be able to present this benevolence in remembrance of his service and sacrifice for his community. We know this check cannot take the place of Sgt. Gibson, but we hope it can help with the financial burdens associated with your tragic loss. We want you to know that the Chisholm Trail 100 Club is so very thankful for Sgt. Gibson's service to Somervell

club to support the 2,000 first responders who serve our community. If a first responder is seriously injured or killed on-duty, 'we've got your six.' We want all of our hometown heroes to know that the entire Chisholm Trail 100 Club's membership is backing each and every one of them."

Both Alford and Erinakes are former first responders and are dedicated to the Chisholm Trail 100 Club's

### Say hello to our neighbor, Reagan Meek!

Reagan Meek is a proud 2023 graduate of Tolar High School, where she thrived as a Tolar Rattler cheerleader. From the time she was a Clover Kid, Reagan represented Tolar with her latest livestock project every year at the Hood County Junior Livestock Show. Reagan was raised by her mother Ashley, alongside her grandparents, Glenda and Danny (or Mimi and Pops!). "I have lived in Tolar for my whole life, 18 years!" Reagan has always loved and continues to treasure our small-town atmosphere and the family-friendly lifestyle we enjoy throughout Hood County. Reagan enjoys spending her free time teaching showmanship lessons to young kids in the FFA and 4-H programs.

Reagan is hitting the ground running with her future plans. "I am attending phlebotomy school at Hill College, and I plan to attend Tarleton State University in the fall to further my nursing career in cardiology." Whether cheering for the mighty Rattlers or exhibiting at the stock show, Reagan has appreciated the Hood County News. "They have always been there to support me and capture great memories that will last a lifetime!"

**STAY CONNECTED AT** 

Chisholm Trail 100 Club realizes these funds can never make up for the loss or disability of a loved one, but it can be helpful in covering the unexpected expenses incurred with a catastrophic event. These benefits are provided at no cost to the first responders and are made possible by the club's membership, annual fundraisers, and small business and corporate donations.

Chisholm Trail 100 Club President Bob Alford said, "On behalf of the Chisholm Trail 100 Club, our board of directors, members and our entire first responder family and Johnson counties for the past 27+ years; and we will continue to honor and remember Sgt. Gibson's legacy in all of our Club's endeavors.'

Chisholm Trail 100 Club's Vice President and **Disbursement Committee** Chairman Mike Frinakes said, "We are proud to now provide \$80,000 in benefits to our first responders. We worked diligently during the fall of 2022 to increase the benefits from \$50,000 to \$80,000 per first responder. This new AD&D policy (which went into effect Jan. 1, 2023) allows the

mission to "Stand in the gap for our first responders and their families in times of tragedy". The club's benefits cover all active first responders in the club's service area. In addition to the on-duty death benefits, the club also provides a \$5,000 benevolence disbursement to the family of any fallen off-duty (active) first responders who serve within the club's service area. In addition to these benefits, the club also provides various scholarship opportunities for the dependents of active first responders within the club's service

PLEASE SEE 100 | A10

#### **SCAM FROM PAGE A1**

criminals' phone number or clicking on a fake link to solve the problem. The consequences can be catastrophic. Not only can you lose your money, but if you click on links in scam emails or texts, you also could become a victim of identity theft or have malware installed on your phone or computer.

If you receive an unexpected message of this

type, do not call the phone number or use the website or link provided in the letter, email or text. Most importantly, do not give the sender personal information or money. Instead, please email stop.spoofing@cpa.texas.gov or call

the Comptroller's Collection Team at 800-252-8880. For more information about how to remain protected from tax fraud, visit comptroller.texas.gov/ fraud-alert/ online.

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**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES** Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

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#### SATURDAY, Feb. 3, 2024

# The Alamo Letter Society names Judge Ron Massingill Hood County Chair

#### Staff Reports

The Alamo Letter Society is honored to announce Judge Ron Massingill as its Hood County Chair. Massingill was nominated for the position by Texas state Sen. Brian Birdwell.

The dedication of the Hood County Alamo Letter Plaque will take place on the Battle of San Jacinto weekend, Saturday April 20, at the Hood County Courthouse.

During the previous Veterans Day, the Alamo Letter Society launched with the following mission statement: "To educate current and future Texans about their forefathers' armed struggle for freedom and liberty through the placement of a large bronze plaque containing Col. William Barrett Travis' Alamo 'Victory or Death' letter in all 254 Texas Courthouses."

The originator of the idea is Slone McNutt, a 13-yearold from Texas. In January last year, McNutt visited the Alamo with her family. They were looking at the historic "Victory or Death" letter when McNutt turned to her father, Lee William "Bill" McNutt, with a question. She asked her father why there aren't plaques with famous letters all over Texas. Her idea sparked the birth of the organization.

<sup>a</sup>The Alamo Letter might be as valuable to Texas today as it was to Sam Houston and his army in 1836," said Bill McNutt, who also serves as chairman of ALS. said. "Ron and I have been friends for 24 years. If anyone can do a terrific and well-attended dedication, it is Judge Massingill."

The ALS is recruiting a single chairperson in each county to serve as a third co-chair with Rosser Newton and Bill McNutt. Each county chair will work with the local county judge and commissioners to secure a site for the plaque, whether inside the courthouse or on the grounds. Each county chair will plan and accomplish a historic dedication ceremony involving local schools, bands, military bases and the Daughters and Sons of the Republic of Texas.

2024 marks 188 years since General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna started marching his army to Texas from Mexico. Three Mexican states, including Texas, were in rebellion. The general soon learned that Texans who value liberty and freedom would defend their family, land and property, and honor their lives.

The Alamo letter was written Feb. 24, 1836, and heroically dispatched through the Mexican army to General Sam Houston by Captain Albert Martin. Only 220 words long, many Texans and other freedom-living people around the world hold it in the same high esteem as the U.S. Constitution and the Magna Carta. The Alamo Letter Society is dedicated to the two leading Tejanos of the Texas Revolution, Jose Antonio Navarro and Juan Seguín.

Sylvia Navarro Tillotson, a direct descendant of Navarro, said, "Jose Navarro,

Navarro, said, "Jose Navarro,

a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, helped create the 1836 and 1845 Constitutions of Texas. He was a patriot, passionate about independence, opportunity and the rights of all Texans."

"Judge Massingill is a proven leader of men and women," Birdwell said. "We are confident he can shepherd this project to success."

Massingill was elected Hood County Judge in 2018. He is a graduate of The University of Dallas and Southern Methodist University Law School. He served six years in the Army Reserves, 26th JAG out of Fort Worth. He and his wife, Brenda, have been married 34 years.

# Interlocal meeting held for Hood County to discuss needs of county and address future growth

#### **BY EMILY NAVA**

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

An interlocal meeting was held at Granbury City Hall to bring together local officials from across the county to discuss several topics on Feb. 1.

The meeting had members from the Granbury City Council, Granbury ISD School Board Trustees, and Hood County Commissioners Court. Cresson Mayor Teena Conway was also present. This meeting gave the opportunity for discussion to be had regarding several pressing issues that affect residents and taxpayers across the county.

"We are responsible for the next generation. It's not about us, it's about the future," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting and recommended all the elected officials work together to make the county better.

First, the meeting kicked off with a presentation from

TxDOT's Lorena Echeverria de Misi, manager of corridor planning branch, who presented findings of the US Highway 377 corridor. This corridor spans from Del Rio to the Texas/Oklahoma state line. According to TxDOT findings, freight tonnage is expected to grow exponentially by 82% in 2030. Hot spots for wrecks mainly fall within the DFW metroplex, but there are also hotspots in Granbury and Stephenville. With an expected increase in traffic due to the growth of the state, more wrecks and fatal crashes are expected across the 377 corridor.

Granbury City Council voted to approve funding to move forward with a thorough study to address the many needed improvements of Old Granbury Road. An engineering service agreement was made with Teague, Nail, and Perkins, INC. (TNP), and the study fee will cost \$228,000 plus additional services fees. This would entail the county funding 60% of the study, whereas the city will fund the remaining 40%. These percentages were calculated based on how much of the current road lies within the city limits. The study on Old Granbury Road is expected to roughly take around six months before designs and construction will take place, which can be expected to begin in roughly two and a half years. The Hood County Commissioners Court did not make a motion to vote on this agreement as they wished to discuss it further in Commissioners Court.

"In no time do we intend to anticipate making an agreement with TxDOT to make Old Granbury Road a detour route for 377 constructions," Coffman said. "The strategic plan for the city is to create access parallel to 377 throughout the city to allow for locals to use those roads and possibly stay around 377."

Ricky Reeves, Executive Director of Texas EMS, spoke during the meeting to inform them of the need for more funding to come into their 501c3. They currently operate out of two stations. According to Reeves, the plan is to add three additional stations throughout the county including a station in Indian Harbor, one out by Nettie Baccus Elementary, and one in the area of Acton Middle School. These stations were made possible from the funding of a grant by the Hood County Commissioners Court. Reeves pointed out that within the past week, they were operating below level zero. Level zero means no ambulances are available for the number of calls being received. Reeves added that they have been at level negative two within the past week meaning people were being put on hold and calls were dropping.

"Our county is growing extremely fast, and the call volumes are picking up," Reeves said during the meeting. "A lot of residents here are at the age in their life where health is an issue."

Reeves also discussed the

need for more equipment as their ambulances are outdated and could use upgrades and replacements. Reeves noted that EMS across the state of Texas are all lacking funding. Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Chief Matt Hohon also spoke to inform the entities of the need of additional funding to continue to operate.

"I put this on the agenda to make people aware of the tightness of funds that the Texas EMS is facing," Coffman said. "The EMS really needs some attention and support from the community. We need to address this."

Granbury ISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn spoke on the continued growth expected within the school district. Glenn noted that though the bond failed by two votes, those needs addressed in the bond are still there. In particular, Glenn noted that with this strategic planning they are still looking at the need for an additional elementary

#### PLEASE SEE GROWTH | A5

### CALENDAR

#### ONGOING

#### **FORWARD TRAINING**

Center "Beginner Typing Skills" class. Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org

#### **TUESDAY, FEB.6**

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr. The Opera Guild is an allvolunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts. 10 a.m.: social/check-in; 11 a.m.: entertainment by Bobby Ray Adams singing country and rock 'n' roll. The short business meeting is at 11:30 a.m. The \$18 optional lunch at noon will be pork medallions, roasted potatoes, broccoli, house salad, apple crisp and coffee/tea/ water. Reservations are required by Friday, Feb. 2 at granburyog@gmail. org or call 817-776-2898. General membership is \$25 for single and \$35 for joint, business membership is \$35.

#### 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. Highway 377, Granbury. Details 254-716-5195.

#### THE NORTH Central Texas

**Civil War Roundtable** will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Program by Kraig McNutt, director of the Center for the Study of the American Civil War in Franklin, Tennessee. Subject will be the Battle of Franklin. Visitors are welcome and there is no charge for first time attendees. For more information visit ncentexcwrt.com or call David Wells 817-579-5769 or Bill

#### Dyess 817-326-8216.

#### TUESDAY, FEB. 13

#### SALVATION ARMY Women's Auxiliary Meeting at its new location at the Acton Methodist Church Youth Building, 3433 Fall Creek Highway 10 a.m. mingle, 10:30 a.m. meeting and program. Guest speaker is Scott Myers, DVM and world class sculptor. Lunch is by The Local on Wheels: roast beef stuffed baked patter calad and "laws

roast beef stuffed baked potato, salad and "I love SAWA" cupcakes with tea/ coffee or water. \$15 cash preferred.

#### 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.



## POLICE BLOTTER Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Jan. 23 – Jan. 29. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

#### JAN. 23

4:53 p.m.: evading arrest reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*One minor accident and 23 traffic stops were reported\*\*

#### JAN. 24

7:27 a.m.: loose livestock on Camp Crucis Court 9:46 a.m.: threat reported on Paluxy Road 1:21 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on W. Pearl Street 2:32 p.m.: evading arrest reported on N. Crook Street 4:40 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on W. Pearl Street

6:36 p.m.: theft reported on Fall Creek Highway \*\*One major accident and 12 traffic stops were reported\*\*

#### JAN. 25

3:29 a.m.: theft reported on Cornerstone Circle 12:26 p.m.: theft over \$2,500 and under \$30,000 reported on Topaz Lane 3:38 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Quiet Cove 5:38 p.m.: harassment reported on Crossland Road 6:58 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Summerhill Court 8:00 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on F. U.S.

pass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 9:26 p.m.: report of shots

fired on Spieth Street \*\*One minor accident, one

warrant service and 12 traffic stops reported\*\*

#### JAN. 26

1:55 a.m.: prowler reported on Captains Court 7:53 a.m.: major traffic accident with injuries reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 10:01 a.m.: theft over \$750 and under \$2,500 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 10:11 a.m.: theft reported on S. Park Drive 12:39 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on Crossland Road 2:53 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on W. U.S. Highway 377 5:41 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 5:57 p.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377 8:01 p.m.: minor in possession of alcohol reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 9:12 p.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377 11:23 p.m.: D.W.I. was reported on Lipan Highway \*\*Five minor traffic accidents and 16 traffic stops reported\*\*

#### JAN. 27

7:07 a.m.: public intoxication reported on Acton Highway 1:26 p.m.: theft over \$2,500 and under \$30,000 reported on Noble Flair Court 3:44 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on N.E. Loop 567 3:56 p.m.: lost property reported on James Road 6:22 p.m.: reckless driver reported on Dean Court 8:18 p.m.: public intoxication reported on S. Morgan Street

\*\*One warrant service and 24 traffic stops reported\*\*

#### JAN. 28

12:41 a.m.: possession of a

reportedcontrolled substance report-377ed on Davis RoadI. was re-12:54 a.m.: public intoxica-

tion reported on Paluxy Road 1:34 a.m.: D.W.I. reported

on S. Morgan Street 9:54 a.m.: reckless driver reported on Dean Court 5:15 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 10:38 a.m.: D.W.I with previous conviction occurred on

Vious conviction occurred or Hannaford Street 11:10 p.m.: burglary re-

ported on N. Travis Street \*\*28 traffic stops reported\*\*

#### JAN. 29

12:14 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on Loop 567 11:14 a.m.: report of fraud

on Seabiscuit Drive 3:11 p.m.: report of reckless driving on E. U.S.

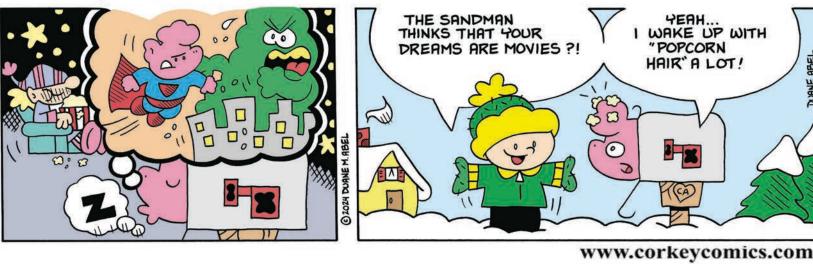
Highway 377 3:43 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on

E. U.S. Highway 377

5:30 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*Two warrants served and 54 traffic stops reported\*\*

### ZED by Duane M. Abel



#### **BITCOIN** FROM PAGE A1

plained during the town hall. "I asked the gentleman to give me some more information and if he had access to a decibel meter, if he could take some readings and send it to me. In the meantime, I reached out to Constable (John) Shirley to find out what could be done."

She explained that by March 29, Shirley had conducted extensive research on the noise levels and had purchased an "industrial strength" decibel meter so he could take several readings all throughout Precinct 2.

Shirley and Samuelson also reached out and met with then-owners of the Bitcoin center, US Bitcoin, on May 4, 2023, to inform the company there had been several complaints about the noise.

Matt Prusak, chief commercial officer for US Bitcoin, attended a Precinct 2 Town Hall meeting June 1, 2023, and explained to the public that a sound barrier wall was in the process of being built around the center. In October 2023, the 24-foot high and almost 2,000-foot-long soundproofing wall was finally completed, with many residents feeling at ease that the issue had been resolved.

Unfortunately, that was not the case.

"End of October, the wall was substantially complete. But the complaints continued," Samuelson said. "I got phone calls, emails, pretty much on a daily basis, plus social media complaints, so we continued our discussion with US Bitcoin, and they were very interested in solving the problem for us, and for the community. We asked them to come out and go around with us to some of these locations where we had been getting complaints, so we did that on December the sixth, and they committed to doing another sound study.

Samuelson said she had asked Prusak if US Bitcoin had been provided with any performance guarantees on the soundproofing wall as it hadn't seemed to mitigate the problem.

However, before US Bitcoin could perform another sound study, Samuelson was made aware that the site was under acquisition by Florida-based miner Marathon Digital, and the company officially took the reins Jan. 12.

Jason Browder, vice presi-



Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley educates the public about current state and federal sound ordinances during the Precinct 2 Community Town Hall on Monday, Jan. 29.



cluded. "We're not going to give up."

Shirley and Samuelson then opened the town hall meeting to allow public comments from residents.

Hood County resident Cheryl Shadden explained that she lives across the street from the Bitcoin plant and said the noise "permeates her home" and her ears ring constantly.

"I have sleep disturbances, it upsets my livestock, I'm nauseated," she said. "This wall isn't helping. If you go to the other side of the wall, those poor folks, I don't know how they live. But this can't go on. I'm miserable. I'm absolutely miserable."

One resident commented that Marathon should be worried about bodily injury liability due to auditory damage from the low sound frequency.

Another resident argued

that he is concerned about his property value.

"It's gonna be hard to sell a home," he said. "I've only been here three years. What the hell did I walk into?"

One resident said she appreciates that representatives from Marathon were present at the meeting, but she has expectations from the company to have a sense of urgency to fix the issue.

Paula McDonald, former Granbury ISD school board member, said that in her research, there was supposedly a paper that was signed by the Hood County Commissioners Court stating that if there was an issue with the power grid, the Bitcoin mining corporation would have to shut down. She asked Samuelson if that paper existed.

"Everything the county has is public information," Samuelson said. "You can

Digital and Kevin Rash, mining systems engineer, were both present during the town hall meeting. According to Rash, who spoke during the meeting, Marathon was not aware of the noise issue and had chosen to attend the town hall to solve the problem.

Shirley took the time to explain to the public how decibels are measured and about the current sound ordinances in the state of Texas.

"First of all, I am not a sound expert. I'm a police officer," he said. "So, when Nannette called me, I knew there were such things as industrial sound meters, because I knew from my time with Houston Police Department that if you were going to enforce the law in Texas with regard to sound, you'd better get yourself a certified sound meter. And of course, when I saw some of the readings that were coming off some of y'all's cellphones, it's very disturbing and upsetting.'

He added that he cannot comment on whether the Bitcoin mining data center is "in violation" of any laws or ordinances, as he is not able to discuss that at this time.

"This is an open investigation right now. It is not over," he said. "There's been no determination of whether someone is absolutely in violation or not. There's been no charges. We're at the center of this investigation. We will Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson speaks to the crowd during a town hall meeting on Monday, Jan. 29, regarding the Bitcoin data center.

not be discussing evidence in detail at this meeting. It's a complex issue involving three industrial plants on one site and a sound issue."

Shirley also explained that when it comes to Texas laws, there are not many protections when it comes to sound violations.

Under the penal code, Title 9, Chapter 42, "a noise is presumed to be unreasonable if the noise exceeds a decibel level of 85 after the person making the noise receives notice from a magistrate or peace officer that the noise is a public nuisance." An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor with a punishable fine of up to \$500.

He said although the Texas law is mainly for "garage bands" and "house parties," federal laws like the Noise Control Act of '72 and the Quiet Communities Act of '78 still exist. However, even though these laws establish a level of 80 decibels as the legal limit, the laws have "not been funded since 1982."

A common misconception is that a decibel is a measurement of loudness, but Shirley explains that it's more complicated than that.

"The actual definition of a decibel is a unit used to measure the intensity of a sound or the power level of an electrical signal by comparing it with a given level on a logarithmic scale," he said. "We can't just report a decibel as a decibel because when you start looking at how decibels are perceived by humans and other animals, different parts of the frequency spectrum affect people and things differently."

Upon investigating his sound meter, Shirley said he realized his meter has two settings: A and C.

According to nti-audio.com, what humans are physically capable of hearing is represented by the A-Weighting curve, while the C-Weighting curve represents what humans hear when the sound is turned up; we become more sensitive to the lower frequencies.

Shirley explained that when he was testing the two power plants, the difference between the "A" signal and the "C" signal was miniscule. However, when he measured noise from the Bitcoin plant itself, he noticed as much as 10 decibel differences between the "A" and "C" rating.

"I can tell you that the A rating does not count low frequency noise," he said. "It doesn't exist, but it does exist. The thing is you can't hear it, but you can feel it, and animals can feel it so your body is perceiving it even when you can't hear it."

He went on to explain that low frequency waves can penetrate barriers and buildings. Many residents, he said, had also complained that the noise from the Bitcoin plant is worse on some days and not others.

"The fans on those boxes in that Bitcoin farm, they run the exact same speed 24/7, 365," he said. "In order to cut them off, they'd have to go to each individual bank and shut them off, because they're like the final line of security for them to keep their computers from melting, so the differences in sound from day to day are not differences in the amount of noise coming from that plant, and that's hard to swallow. I have property about a mile from that plant, and I'll tell you some days I can hear it and some days I can't."

Through his explanation, Shirley revealed to the public that it's not so much that the residents are hearing the noise; rather they are feeling the vibrations. He also added that low frequency sound waves can cause heart problems, anxiety and nausea. "Don't ignore it," he conthat in West Texas, there's another Bitcoin plant, but it's enclosed in a soundproof building and is located in the "middle of nowhere."

Many community members also offered their own solutions to the issue.

One resident brought up the idea of "fighting noise with noise" by using white noise as a solution. However, Shirley explained that noise cancelation is "extremely hard to combat," especially low frequency sounds.

Another resident suggested Marathon shut down its computers around a certain time every night.

Someone asked if anyone had been in contact with other communities who have successfully solved a similar issue. The question spurred another resident to comment that she had spoken with a few other communities that currently have active lawsuits. She said their decibel readings are "well lower than ours."

A multitude of residents also voiced concerns regarding migraines, hearing loss, ringing in their ears, vertigo, nausea and behavioral issues in children. One community member also spoke up and commented that he gives his chihuahua tranquilizers because of the noise.

Tim Harris, who lives in Pecan Plantation, said he has to sleep with a sound machine by the head of his bed to offset the issue and added go back to the minutes. You might need to know exactly when the meeting was. I think it was in 2021. That was before I was on the court. There was a specific request that said we need to know that (they) will shut down when there's peak usage."

Another resident then found out that the meeting in question took place in November 2021.

Jackie Sawicky, member of the Texas Coalition Against Cryptomining, then spoke up and said that in September 2021, China kicked Bitcoin miners out of the country, but then Gov. Greg Abbott said, "Come to Texas. We have a deregulated energy market and cheap energy."

"Boy did they ever," she said. "We are now number one in crypto mining. This is, number one, not mining. They are not running anything. The very simplest way to understand what those computers are doing and all that noise every second, they are guessing and throwing away trillions of numbers hoping to hit the magic lottery number. They're not a plant because they don't produce anything. They are not doing anything but squandering, swallowing, wasting your resources, your energy. They are driving up every single Texan's electricity bill by 5% or \$1.8 billion in 2022. It's even more now, because that was over a year ago. These fa-

PLEASE SEE BITCOIN | A14

#### **GROWTH** FROM PAGE A4

school as well as more buses. The board has accumulated land out in the Cresson area and plans to eventually build in that area to better serve those students in that area. The board plans to continue to further develop the bond and make it something that the entire community can be behind. President of the board, Barbara Townsend added that the board is open to suggestions for creating the new bond.

The Christmas lights around the square were also brought up as there were many complaints from the community regarding the lights from the courthouse not being put up. Coffman noted that this was done after he learned the dangers of what it takes for these lights to come up. City council members and commissioner court members discussed a potential interlocal agreement to provide funding to bring in professionals to put these lights up. No action was taken but further discussion is expected to be had.

Sheriff Roger Deeds also talked about the jail system during the meeting and noted that they are running low on space as there has been a continual increase of inmates. The commissioners court noted that this is something they need to look further into and discuss further. The potential hospital district board tax was also mentioned as this goes hand in hand with jail inmate care. Hood County Hospital District Board CHD President Christy Massey noted that a tax is going to be necessary to keep the board running as well as indigent and inmate care. The board is continuing to look into the potential tax and do what is best for the board as well as taxpayers.

"I think the main thing we can get from this meeting is to talk. Let's keep talking with each other," Mayor Jim Jarratt said.

# Becoming aware and informed on heart health this National Heart Month



COURTESY PHOTO

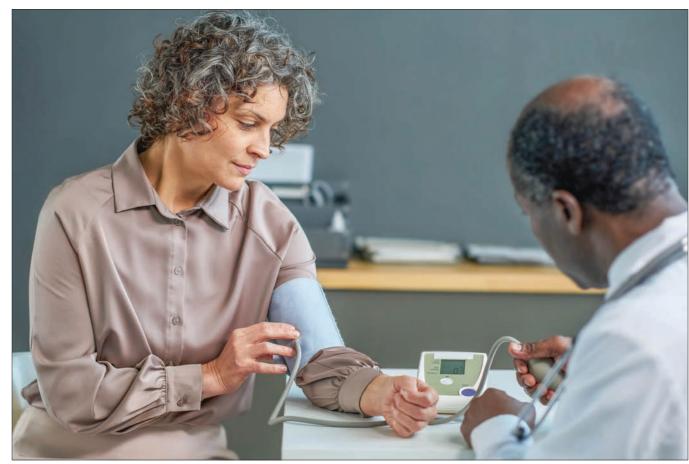
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. The CDC also found that in 2021, about 695,000 people died from heart disease — meaning one of every five deaths. By becoming more educated, one can reduce the risk of heart disease while also improving their overall well-being.

**BY EMILY NAVA** Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

any associate the month of February as a month of love, but February is also National Heart Month. This is a great time to educate oneself on the many different aspects of heart health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that heart disease is the leading cause of death

your heart has an irregular beating pattern. The beating pattern can either be too fast or too slow. Serious



in the United States. The CDC also found that in 2021, about 695,000 people died from heart disease — meaning one of every five deaths. By becoming more educated, one can reduce the risk of heart disease while also improving their overall well-being.

#### **HEART DISEASES**

There are many different types and forms of heart diseases. One of the most common heart diseases is known as coronary artery disease (CAD), where the major blood vessels that supply the heart struggle to send blood, oxygen and nutrients to the heart muscle. This disease typically is a result of cholesterol deposits in the heart arteries along with inflammation. Men are more at risk of CAD but after a woman experiences menopause, her risk increases. The first symptom of CAD is a heart attack. CAD can also cause chest pain and shortness of breath. CAD can weaken the heart muscle, which can lead to heart failure.

Another form of heart disease is known as heart arrhythmias. This is when arrhythmias often develop from other heart problems but can happen on their own. Arrhythmias can lead to stroke, heart failure or cardiac arrest. Luckily, they can be treated with either medicine or procedures to control these irregularities.

There is also a heart disease known as cardiomyopathy. This causes the heart muscle to make it harder for the heart to pump blood to the rest of the body. The main types of cardiomyopathies include dilated, hypertrophic and restrictive cardiomyopathy. Treatment can include medications, surgically implanted devices, heart surgery and, in severe cases, a heart transplant. According to the Mayo Clinic, there may be no signs or symptoms in the early stages. As the condition advances some symptoms can include breathlessness with activity or even at rest, swelling of legs, ankles and feet, bloating of the abdomen, coughing while lying down, heartbeats that feel rapid, pounding or fluttering, chest discomfort or pressure, and dizziness.

Valvular heart disease is

According to the CDC, the leading risk factors for heart disease are those with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, those who smoke or are exposed to smoke, those who are obese and have an unhealthy diet, and those who are physically inactive. The CDC also notes that having a family health history of heart disease makes it more likely a person will develop heart disease. If you are a woman over 55 or a man over 45, you are also more at risk for potential heart diseases.

also something to watch out for. The heart has four valves that open and close to direct blood flow between the lungs and blood vessels. This disease occurs when any valve in the heart has damage to it. The other common type of heart valve condition is called stenosis. This is when the opening of the valve is narrowed and stiff, keeping the valve from opening fully when blood is trying to pass through. Though medicine will not cure stenosis, it can often relieve symptoms such as chest pain, palpitations, fatigue and more.

#### WHO IS AT RISK

According to the CDC, the leading risk factors for heart disease are those with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, those who smoke or are exposed to smoke, those who are obese and have an unhealthy diet, and those who are physically inactive. The CDC also notes that having a family health history of heart disease makes it more likely a person will develop heart disease. If you are a woman over 55 or a man over 45, you are also more at risk for potential heart diseases.

#### HOW TO LIVE A HEART HEALTHY LIFE

The National Heart and Blood Institute has many tips for keeping your heart healthy to reduce the risk of heart disease. First, it is important to get enough quality sleep. The NHBI recommends aiming for seven to nine hours of sleep at night. It also is good to wake up and go to bed at the same times every day and to avoid caffeine and nicotine before bed.

It is also important to have a flexible and balanced eating plan. This will not only help you feel better overall but will lower high blood pressure and improve cholesterol. When watching what you eat, look for foods that are low in fat, sodium and added sugars. It is also helpful to mix lean meat, eat fish once or twice a week, and eat one or two meatless meals throughout the week. Whole and dry fruits, unsalted rice cakes, raw vegetables, fat-free and low-fat yogurt all work well as healthy snacks. Staying hydrated with water as the primary beverage will also help maintain a balanced diet.

To keep your heart healthy, the NHBI recommends adults spend at least 150 minutes a week doing physical activity — something just as simple as walking. If you are short on time for activity throughout the day, do what you can to get that heart beating faster.

One of the best things you can do for your heart is to not smoke. Even if you are not a smoker, it is important to stay away from secondhand smoke. The risk of heart disease starts to drop in just as little as a day after someone quits smoking, according to the Mayo Clinic.

It is also important to regularly see your doctor for health screening tests to check blood pressure, cholesterol levels and to perform diabetes screenings. Certain infections also can lead to heart problems, including gum disease. Other illnesses can make existing heart problems worse, so it is important to maintain yearly vaccines.

This month, take the time to educate loved ones about heart disease as well as how to maintain a healthy heart. To learn more about heart disease, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov or speak with your local healthcare provider.

To keep your heart healthy, the NHBI recommends adults spend at least 150 minutes a week doing physical activity — something just as simple as walking. If you are short on time for activity throughout the day, do what you can to get that heart beating faster.



# TOXIC TIES Cutting the cord for good

Understanding how to navigate turbulent relationships is crucial for our mental and emotional well-being.

COURTESY PHOTO:

#### **BY MICKY SHEARON**

Special to the Hood County News

n our journey through life, we inevitably encounter individuals whose behavior can be draining, negative, and oftentimes downright toxic. These interactions can leave us feeling exhausted, stressed and emotionally depleted. However, understanding how to navigate these turbulent relationships is crucial for our mental and emotional well-being. Here are seven key strategies I am learning to deal with toxic people effectively.

#### RECOGNIZING AND MOVING BEYOND TOXICITY

The first step in dealing with toxic individuals is recognizing their harmful impact on our lives. Toxic people often manipulate emotions, spread negativity and create drama. It's essen tial to assess whether their presence contributes positively or negatively to your life. If their influence is predominantly harmful, it might be time to consider distancing yourself. This doesn't mean you harbor ill will; it's an act of self-care.

right to a peaceful and positive environment.

**THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE** Silence can be interpreted as acceptance. Speaking up against toxicity is not just about confrontation; it's about your inner self-respect



#### THE ILLUSION OF NORMALCY IN TOXIC BEHAVIOR

Often, we normalize toxic behavior to avoid confrontation. However, this only leads to a cycle of negativity. It's important to acknowledge that toxic behavior is not acceptable. Setting clear boundaries and communicating them assertively can help prevent being drawn into their negative spiral. Remember, you have the and asserting your dignity. It's crucial to express how a toxic individual's behavior affects you. This doesn't have to be confrontational but can be a calm and firm expression of your feelings. Your voice is a powerful tool in defining the dynamics of your relationships.

#### STANDING FIRM IN YOUR SELF-RESPECT

Toxic people often test your boundaries. It's vital to stand firm and protect your self-respect. This might mean ending conversations, walking away or even ending relationships. Remember, you are not responsible for their behavior, but you are responsible for how you respond to it. The first step in dealing with toxic individuals is recognizing their harmful impact on our lives. Toxic people often manipulate emotions, spread negativity and create drama.

#### PERSONALIZING TOXIC BEHAVIOR: A MISGUIDED APPROACH

It's easy to internalize the negativity of toxic people and believe it's a reflection of your worth. However, their behavior says more about them than it does about you. Recognizing this can be liberating and can help you detach emotionally from their actions.

#### COMPASSION WITH BOUNDARIES

While some toxic individuals may be going through tough times, it's important to balance compassion with boundaries. You can offer support and understanding, but not at the expense of your emotional well-being. It's okay to step back if their behavior becomes overwhelming.

## SELF-CARE IN THE FACE OF TOXICITY

Dealing with toxic people can be draining. Prioritizing self-care is essential. This means taking time for yourself, engaging in activities that rejuvenate you, and seeking support from positive relationships. Self-care is not selfish; it's necessary for maintaining your emotional health. Dealing with toxic people requires a balance of assertiveness, compassion and self-care. By implementing these strategies, you can protect your emotional well-being and navigate these challenging relationships more effectively.

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#### FIRE **FROM PAGE A1**

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 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 previously told the HCN.

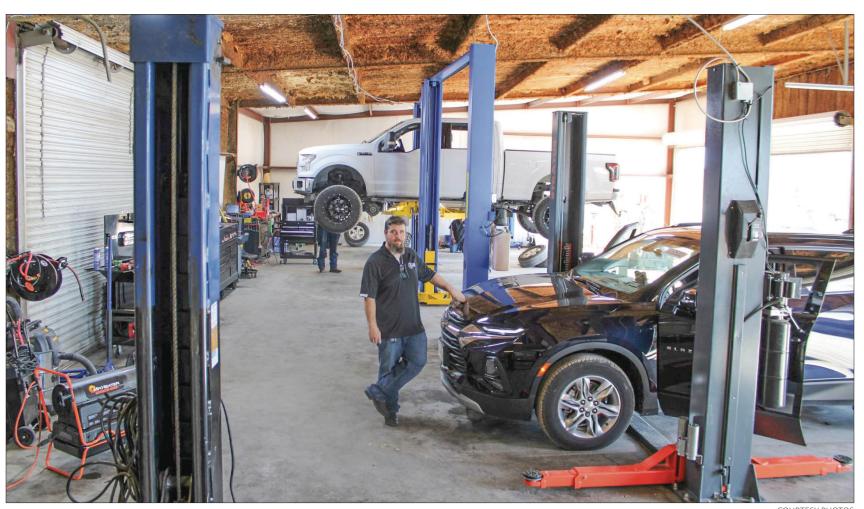
Nebhut said according to investigators, there was no known cause of the fire and that a "fluke" is what set it off.

"It was me and one other coworker in the building and we made it out all right and everything, but we're trying to get our guys' tools recovered," he said. "We had three techs who lost tools and three customers who lost vehicles, so we're trying to get that stuff recovered, and we're hungry for work."

As the "face" of the shop is gone, Nebhut said he is worried that many customers believe that they're closed for good.

"I've noticed a huge difference in my walk-in customers because of that building burning down and I'm just trying to get the word out there because we're trying to recover," he said. "We do have insurance, but it takes a while for insurance to recover (everything). We want the work, we want to get our customers taken care of, and we want to let them know we're still here."

**Expert** Automotive Solutions first opened in August 2022 by owners Dale Prince, Samuel Canes and Justin Knoll, who all previously worked for mobile companies like Aztec Mobile Mechanic and Mobile Elite Auto.



Expert Automotive Solutions has now moved its operation to 2000 Supply Lane following an accidental fire last month.

COURTESY PHOTOS



They originally started their own mobile automobile business in the Dallas/Fort

Worth area before moving their ground zero operation to Granbury.

"They're looking to open up stores all over the state of Texas, but we kind of took a

**Expert Automotive Solutions** is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at its secondary back shop, located at 2000 Supply Ln. Services include everything from electrical diagnostics to maintenance.

hit and right now we're just trying to recover," Nebhut said.

A GoFundMe account has been set up to help the customers recover their vehicles and the technicians recover their tools.

"This is the techs' livelihood," he said. "I mean, some of these guys are out \$20,000 to \$30,000." The GoFundMe link can

be found on the Expert Automotive Solutions Facebook page. The fundraising goal is currently set at \$250,000.

Nebhut added that the

owners and employees are just looking for the opportunity to serve the people in the community and stressed that they are not looking for a handout.

'The more work we get, the happier we are," he said. Expert Automotive

Solutions is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at its secondary back shop, located at 2000 Supply Ln. Services include everything from electrical diagnostics to maintenance.

"I just want to get us out there and just try to get (the news) spread to as many people as I can," Nebhut added. "These owners are good, God-fearing people and they deserve the success. These techs work hard every day, and they deserve success. I just don't want to see that take a step back. It kills my soul."



-EST

### WHAT HAPPENS IN FEBRUARY?

### GRANBURY

ALL DAY FULLEVENT DOWNTOWN GRANBURY FEBRU

BRAD LEALI TEN TET MIKE STEINEL QUINTET RETROPHONICS HELBING JAZZ INITIATIVE CARLOS AVERHOFF JR. SHELLEY CARROL - LE POMPE TEXAS GYPSYS - BLACK POWDER VIPERS JUSTIN PIERCE GROUP TARLETON JAZZ ENSEMBLE GRANBURY JAZZ ORCHESTRA GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE PASCHAL HIGH SCHOOL - CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL MIDLOTHIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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February averages 21 freezing days, according to the National Weather Service.

#### Are you ready?

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# **OBITUARIES**

#### Anne Montgomery Arthur

July 10, 1940 - January 13, 2024

Anne Montgomery (Tomlinson) Arthur died in Granbury, Texas on Jan. 13, 2024. A memorial service will be held at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.

Anne was born to Milton and Beth Tomlinson on July 10, 1940, in Frederick, Oklahoma. She graduated from Frederick High School, class of 1958. In 1962, she received a bachelor's degree in music from Newcomb College at Tulane University in New Orleans. At Newcomb, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, continuing the legacy of her three aunts. Anne also studied abroad in 1960-1961 at the University of Paris. Later. she received a master's degree in French from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Anne married the love of her life, Lynvol Joe Arthur, on Feb. 28, 1965, in Frederick. Anne and



Lynvol lived in Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano, Glen Rose, and Granbury.

Anne is survived by her children Illayna Arthur, Garrett Arthur and his wife Amy; her grandchildren Grayson Miller, Fiona Arthur, and Emmett Arthur; and her brothers Richard Tomlinson, Rawdon Tomlinson and his wife Karen, and Scott Tomlinson and his wife Mary Ann.

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

#### Hollis Bennett Atkinson

March 30, 1929 - January 23, 2024

Hollis Bennett Atkinson, 94, passed away on Jan. 23, 2024 in Arlington, Texas. A service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Granbury, Bedwell Chapel. A visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until service time. A lie in state was held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 from noon until 5 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Acton Cemeterv

Hollis was born March 30, 1929 in Kenedy, Texas to Bennett Hollis Atkinson and Gladys Mae Bingham. Hollis married Virginia Ann Wyckoff in 1950 and had three children. Hollis spent three years in the Air Force supporting the Berlin Airlift. He later spent two years teaching electronics and physics in Austin, Texas. He worked as territorial manager for a medical X-ray equipment company for 33 years. Hollis and Virginia retired in Granbury and shortly af-



Church of Granbury in 2005. He did evangelistic work in Brazilian churches, worked in neighborhood ministries in Granbury, and delivered Sunday morning messages at the Villa Nursing Home. Hollis enjoyed his hobby of traveling throughout the world with family.

Hollis is survived by his three children: Ray Atkinson and wife Charlotte, Paul Atkinson and wife Susan, and Sherri Bielefeld and husband Wendell; grandchildren: Joshua, Alan, Landry, Colby

#### Ralph 'Wendell' Gee

December 12, 1933 - January 23, 2024

Ralph "Wendell" Gee, 90 of Granbury, Texas, was called to be with the Lord on Jan. 23, 2024.

Wendell was born on Dec. 12, 1933, to Ralph Jack and Willie J. Gee in Granbury, Texas. After Wendell graduated from Granbury High School in 1951. he went to study at Tarleton State University. Wendell was a loving

and devoted husband, father of his five children, grandfather, great-pawpaw, and friend and mentor to all who entered his life. He loved his animals, gardening, and going to auctions in his spare time. His kind and loving heart will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Wendell was proceeded in death by Florence Holub Gee to whom he was married to for 25 years until upon her death November 1987. He found love again with Nancy Whitson Gee and they were married for 27 years upon her death October 2019. As well as preceded in death of stepchildren Keith Williams, Denise Johnson, and granddaughter Amber



Sinclair.

children Debbie Gee, Randy Gee, Tana Sinclair, Stepchildren Jeff and Kathy Brothers. Grandchildren Joshua Sinclair, Ryan tal Gee, Kyler and Sheldon Serratt, Zachary Kime, Chelle and Ron Sheets, Eric Brothers and several greatgrandchildren.

Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

Graveside Service was 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 at Acton Cemetery.

ren, Riley, Rory, and Reece;

his brother Robert Fellers

my portion forever"

Psalms 73:26

#### **Roger Dean Fellers**

November 3, 1943 - January 24, 2024

Roger Dean Fellers, 80, of Granbury, Texas passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 24, 2024.

Roger was born on Nov. 3, 1943, to Lt. Col Russell and Betty (Weitz) Fellers. Roger was an antique car enthusiast, history buff and avid fan of all things John Wayne. He was a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and had a long, accomplished career as an executive and coach for a Fortune 500 company. He was an active member at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Granbury.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife of nearly 40 years, Patricia Ann Fellers. He is survived by his sons, Russell and wife Milissa, Rodney and wife Erin, grandchildren; Ryan, Lau-



Visitation was 6-8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at

# away early on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2024, in his

Services celebrating his

Matt was born on Sept. 8, 1979, in Fort Worth, Texas to Mike and Linda Price.

An avid fisherman, Matt could be found most weekends bass fishing on Lake Granbury with his dad. When Matt wasn't fishing, he enjoyed spending time with his niece and nephews. A lifelong Texas Rangers fan, Matt got to see his team win the 2023 World Series.

Matt is survived by his

#### Myra Hart

August 11, 1933 - January 29, 2024

Myra Hart, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, passed away early on Monday morning, Jan. 29, 2024, in Glen Rose, Texas.

Visitation was held at the Wiley Funeral Home, 400 Highway 377 East, in Granbury from 5 until 8 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. Burial will be private at a later date.

Myra was born on Aug. 11, 1933, in Hill City, Texas. She was the youngest of 11 children born to Dave and Fannie Harkins. She married Asa Hart on March 15, 1960, in Liberal, Kansas. Myra enjoyed such recreational activities as dancing, playing BINGO, and traveling with her family in their camper. Additionally, she enjoyed Indian Paint, watermelons, and 'she could make anything grow.' Most of all, Myra will be remembered



for the love she had for her family.

Myra is survived by her husband, Asa, of nearly 64 years; her children, Tom and wife Patti Hart and Terri and husband Ed Peternel; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Myra was preceded in death by her sons, Rusty, Mike and Danny Hart and by her 10 siblings.

#### Matt K. Price

September 8, 1979 - January 10, 2024

Matthew "Matt" K. Price, 44, beloved son, grandson, brother, and uncle, passed Granbury home after an extended illness.

life will be private.

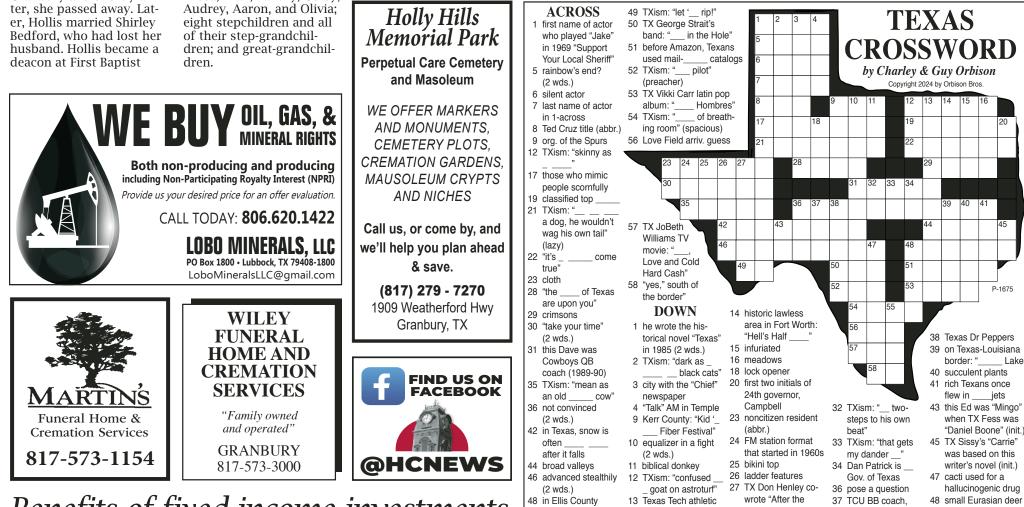


wife Alden Price; his father, Mike Price; niece and nephews Holt, Natalie, and Rhett Price; his grandfather, Bill Price; and by his grandmother Colleen Knapp.

Matt was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Price and by his grandparents, Bert Knapp and Lynn Price.



### **PLEASE SEE OBITS | A10**



# Benefits of fixed-income investments

#### **CHAD CARROLL**

Edward Jones Financial Adviser

When many people think about investing, the first thing that comes to mind is the stock market. And that's not surprising, as the rise and fall of stock prices is constantly in the news. But if you're going to achieve your financial goals, you may well need to look beyond stocks and include fixed-income investments in your portfolio.

Fixed-income investments offer three important benefits:

#### INCOME

When you invest in fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, Treasury securities and certificates of deposit (CDs), you receive regular income in the form of interest payments. And you continue

Chad Carroll to receive this income until your investment matures or you sell it, no matter what's happening in the financial markets. Of course, the income you can receive from fixed-income investments will always depend on the interest rates at which these investments were issued. But if you own a mix of long-term and shortterm fixed-income investments, you can gain some protection against fluctuating rates. When market rates are low, you can get greater

income from your longerterm bonds, which typically although not always — pay higher rates. And when market rates rise, you can benefit by reinvesting the proceeds from your shorter-term bonds.

#### DIVERSIFICATION

If you were only to own stocks, or stock-based mutual funds, your portfolio would be susceptible to higher risks, especially with market downturns. But you may be able to reduce the impact of market volatility by adding fixed-income investments to your holdings. Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks, so if stock prices are falling,

you might find that the value of your bonds is rising. You can also diversify within the fixed-income portion of your portfolio by owning a mix of corporate and Treasury bonds, as well as CDs, just to name a few.

#### **STABILITY**

on I-35

As mentioned, you will always receive interest payments from your bonds if you hold them until maturity. But if you wanted to sell your bonds before they mature, you could get more, or less, than what you originally paid for them. When market interest rates rise, the price of your current bonds will likely fall, as no one will pay you the full price for them when

they get newer ones that pay more — this is what's known as interest-rate risk. Conversely, when market rates fall, the prices of your current bonds will probably rise. But here's the key point to remember: Bond prices generally don't fluctuate as much as stock prices. In other words, bonds are typically less volatile than stocks. Consequently, owning bonds can add diversification to your portfolio. And to maximize the stabilizing effects of bonds, you may want to stick with high-quality bonds rated as "investment grade" by independent bond-rating agencies.

Thrill

teams (2 wds.)

How much of your portfolio should consist of fixedincome investments? There's

no one right answer for everyone. And over time, your interest in these types of investments may well change — for example, as you near retirement, you may want to consider shifting some of your growth-oriented investments into income-producing ones, though you'll still need some growth potential to keep up with inflation. In any case, the combination of income, diversification and stability provided by bonds and similar securities should be compelling enough for you to find a place for them in your investment mix.

55 airport transport

Iba (1987-1994)

#### PAID ADVERTISEMENT

#### SATURDAY, Feb. 3, 2024

# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

#### **EVERY DAY**

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

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

#### **EVERY SATURDAY**

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

#### **EVERY SUNDAY**

#### STARTING A New Life is a

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

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

#### **EVERY MONDAY**

#### **PROMISES AL-ANON**

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

#### **EVERY TUESDAY**

#### **PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S**

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

#### **GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK**

seminar Sept 13.-Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Gran-

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

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

#### **EVERY THURSDAY**

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

#### **GRIEFSHARE RECOVERY**

seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy

Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

**RE ENGAGE** marriage Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige. kitchens@stonewaterchurch. com.

#### **EVERY FRIDAY**

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

#### **FIRST MONDAY**

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

#### **FIRST TUESDAY**

**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIV-**ERS support group, 10:3011:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

#### **SECOND SATURDAY**

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

#### **THIRD MONDAY**

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

#### **THIRD TUESDAY**

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

friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

#### **FOURTH TUESDAY**

#### **PARKINSON'S SUPPORT**

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

#### **FOURTH SATURDAY**

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



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



#### Gayle L. Thompson

February 29, 1936 - January 27, 2024

Gayle L. Thompson, 87, passed into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at her home in Fort Worth. She was born in Fort Worth, Texas to O.G. (Don) and Kathryn Lockhart.

In her earlier years, Gayle worked for the Granbury Dress Factory. Afterwards she was employed at Lockheed Martin (General Dynamics) where she received an award for her ability of improving and streamlining the electrical systems for the aircraft. Gayle was a wonderful and very talented seamstress, making clothes for herself and her husband. She was also known for crocheting blankets, hats, and Afghans for the kids at Cook Children's Hospital as well as for the homeless. She volunteered with her sister Linda Baker at Cook Children's Hospital, Harbor Lakes, and The Waterford. They dispensed and filled the needs of nursing home residents and the homeless. While a resident of Granbury, Gayle was a member of the Granbury Church of Christ and later became a member of the Altamesa Church of Christ in Fort Worth where she has lived for the past several years. Gayle was a very strong-willed woman. She went through a lot of trauma especially physically for the past six months or so of her life. Gayle was preceded in death by her parents, a



### **Ronald Judson Coonrod**

August 26, 1943 - January 7, 2024

Ronald Judson Coonrod, 80, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on Sunday morning, Jan. 7, 2024, at his Granbury

home. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at George's Creek Church, 2320 CR 308 in Nemo, Texas, with Military Rites. Burial will be private.

Ronald was born on Aug. 26, 1943, in Dallas, brother, Robert L. Lockhart Texas. He was the only child born to the late Willard and Dorothy Coonrod. Ronald was a 1960 graduate of Arlington High School. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Air Force. His 20-year career included action in Korea and Vietnam where he worked on the B-52 Bomber. Ronald obtained the rank of chief master sergeant. He went on to obtain his bachelor's degree at Texas State University. Ronald then went to work for Vought and later Lockheed Martin until 2016 as an engineer in aerospace. Ronald married Nelda McPherson Churchill on Aug. 17, 1990. Still later, he enjoyed working on his ranch near Acton, Texas - particularly working with tractors and cattle. He also had a passion for racing and working on



cars. Ronald and his wife were members of the Granbury Church of Christ. He will affectionately be remembered for

#### Mark Randall McDaniel

May 13, 1956 - January 21, 2024

Mark Randall McDaniel, age 67, passed away peacefully Sunday afternoon, Jan. 21, 2024, at Harbor Lakes in Granbury, TX, following a long and arduous fight with several organs. Mark was born May 13,

1956, to Bill and Betty (Stringfield) McDaniel in Duncan, Oklahoma. He graduated from Duncan High School and attended college. On Aug. 29, 1986, Mark Randall and Marsha Ann were united in marriage, at Watertown, South Dakota.

He went to work in the industrial construction



law and father-in-law, Mariorie and Gerald DeClercq. Mark McDaniel is survived by his spouse, Marsha Ann (DeClercq) Mc-

and by her husband Samuel Howard (Hank) Thompson on July 13, 2023, after 57.5 years of marriage.

She is survived by her two sons, Rick Thompson, and Rob Thompson; her three daughters, Sammie Hahn and husband Brad, Terrie McCarthy and husband David, and Jerrie Newman; 17 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, three great-greatgrandchildren; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and extended loving family members.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at Holly Hills Mausoleum Chapel, 1909 Weatherford Hwy. (FM 51) in Granbury. Entombment will follow at Holly Hills Memorial Park Mausoleum under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

his character and integrity.

Ronald is survived by his wife Nelda of 33 years; his children, Ronda and husband Mike August and Judson Coonrod; his stepdaughter, Mallisa and husband Al Rivette; daughterin-law Julie Churchill; grandchildren, Justin Rivette, Scott, James and Brandon Sereika, Edwin Churchill, Colman, Caden, and Anna Katherine August; and by several greatgrandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Ronald was preceded in death by his stepson John Churchill and by his grandparents Arlis and Ninnie Purselley and Willard and Wilma Coonrod.

Donations can be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundations in Ronald Coonrod's honor.

field where he excelled, working his way up, and going into business with his wife, Marsha, owning and operating several companies, one of which was restoring classic and antique cars, finally retiring due to health issues.

He loved to hunt in his off time and take a classic car or six to local car shows. He thrived on challenges and making something work, being able to retain what he read and what he saw. Mark made it all seem simple, when in fact he was gifted.

Mark was preceded in death by his youngest son, Matthew Aaron, whom he never quite got over losing, but now joins him according to God's will. His brother Allan R., his mother Betty Jo, and his father Billy Ray. His mother-in-

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A13

Daniel. His sons Marc B. McDaniel (Haylee), Michael K. McDaniel, and Brandon S. McDaniel.

Two grandchildren who owned his heart, Allison J. McDaniel and Marc R. Mc-Daniel

Two brothers Steve (Stephanie) McDaniel and Richard McDaniel. Numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Wiley's Funeral Home, 400 US Hwy 377 E., Granbury, Texas

Burial for Mark will be at 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at Duncan Municipal Cemetery, 1910 W. Cypress Ave., Duncan, Óklaĥoma, where his body will be laid to rest right next to Matthew's.

#### 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.

#### 100 **FROM PAGE A3**

area. The club is governed by a 24-member board of directors and is comprised of nearly 1,000 members made up of individuals, small businesses and corporations who support the area's hometown heroes.

Alford said the committees formed in Hood and Somervell counties by the

Chisholm Trail 100 Club will help to promote awareness of the club's mission, as well as to help with local fundraising efforts. "If you are interested in getting involved with a proven grassroots organization that supports our local heroes, we would love to have you get involved," said Alford. "Contact Executive Director Cara Ellison to get plugged into the CT100's upcoming

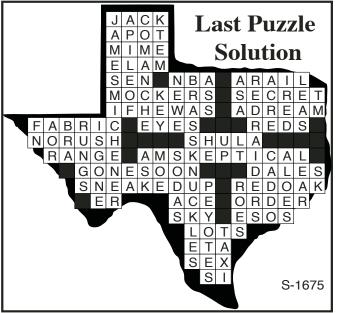
events and activities and learn how you can 'stand in the gap' for those who step out in service daily.'

The Chisholm Trail 100 Club was founded in 2009 and was modeled after the many independent 100 Clubs across the nation. The first 100 Club was founded in Detroit. Michigan in 1952. The Chisholm Trail 100 Club feels it is important to be

prepared in the event of a tragedy, to "stand in the gap" before state or federal benefits come into effect, if there are any

For more information about the Chisholm Trail 100 Club, visit ct100. org or contact Ellison at 866-888-3085.

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#### Deadline: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

### (817) 573-7066

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

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For more information contact Cooper Flinn at 800-654-7864

Equibrand Corporation located in Granbury, Texas has two positions available for production assembly of rope products. No experience required. On-the-job training provided. The position requires mobility, dexterity, and upper body strength. Need to be able to lift 100 lbs. Financial incentives for output. Potential to earn more than \$50,000 annually. Benefits and perks include medical insurance plans, life insurance, 401K plan, vacation pay, and a clean/comfortable work environment. For more information contact Cooper Flinn at 800-654-7864



**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-





ters. Flower beds, shrubs. Brush hogging, tractor work.

Senior discounts. 817-793-2245 Special lawn services including stone flowerbeds. David and Lucy (682)393-3793

#### Masonry

5240

5330

AFFORDABLE ROCK WORK

1114.

#### 1520 **Commercial for Rent**

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

#### 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 nonrefundable dep. (254)386-7387

#### 1550 **Mobiles for Rent**

Several mobiles for lease. \$950/mo to \$1400/mo Call 817-578-9906

### FARM & RANCH

#### 3030 Feed & Pasture

HAY Hay for sell. Delivery available. 817-688-0550 or 817-253-7369

> Find Contractors, Service Technicians, Landscapers, Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Carpenters, Painters, and more...





HARVEY PATTERSON CONCRETE Bonded-References (817) 219-7483 5090

#### **Cleaning Services**

KAREN'S EXPERT CLEANING SER-VICES Residential cleaning. Serving our area since 1994. (817)776-0260 Detailed office and home cleaning services. David and Lucy (682)393-3793

#### 5100 **Computer Services**

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

5110

#### Construction

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

#### 5120 **Clock Repair**

ANTIQUE CLOCK REPAIR Specializing in older clocks Work guaranteed. 20 yrs exp. Call anytime, (817) 559-9123

#### 5140 Electrical

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR** TECL#22551 50+ years Residential/Commercial AZZ-IZZ Enterprizes, LLC NO JOBS TOO SMALL! (817) 613-1465, (817) 266-7239

#### 5170 Fencing

DOUG STULTS CONSTRUCTION Since 1970. Quality cedar fences. Redwood patio pergolas. Licensed & bonded. 817-279-8115

#### 5200 Home Improvement

CONSTRUCTION Trench digging, Bobcat work, Land clearing, Brush Hog mowing, Tree work, Excavating, Gravel driveways, Demo and haul-off. Free estimates. Call Keith 817-559-0100

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THE COWBOY HANDYMAN Home Improvement and Repair Locally owned Brad Stone 806-676-9939 **Dependable**, Affordable Choice!

817-363-7656

RUSTY SPUR CONSTRUCTION Residential and commercial construction. No job too big. or too small. Remodel, new construction, decks, outdoor kitchens and more. Call Charlie Coleman today for a free estimate (817) 905-0983



#### **DEVIN'S HANDYMAN**

SERVICE WINTER SPECIAL 15% OFF \*Remodeling \*Painting \*Tile \*Granite \*Kitchen & Bath \*Decks \*Cement \*Brick \*Rock \*Power Washing \*Sheet Rock Repair \*Seamless Gutters FREE ESTIMATE 817-629-9608

**SNODGRASS PAINTING** AND REMODELING, INC One Stop Shop A-Z Construction & Painting A+ BBB Member Accepting Credit Cards snodgrasspaintingremodeling.com (817) 578-8387 (817) 271-3324

5210

5220

#### **Home Services**

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

#### Landscaping/Tree Service



\*Sidewalks \*Retaining Walls \*Mailboxes \*Fireplaces No job too small. FREE estimates. (817)279-3212

#### Storage

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

#### **Tractor Services**

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

# **MERCHANDISE**

6570

#### Firewood

- FIREWOOD -Split Seasoned Mixed Hardwood Firewood (delivered) Must be able to stack at site within 10 feet of trailer.

\$250 1/2 cord delivered (Plus tax) \$350 1 cord delivered (Plus tax) (817) 279-9085

#### Furniture

6580

Bedroom suite: gueen headboard w/ rails, triple dresser w/winged mirrors & two 2-drawer night stands. Like-new round dropleaf dinging table for small space & 4 chairs with cushioned seats. Call 432-271-6792

#### 6620

#### Miscellaneous

PECANS, SHELLED Fresh pecans, by the pound. \$8.00 (817) 894-4065

Custom picture frames in various sizes. Each with custom mats and glare free glass. Call 432-271-6792

WAGON YARD.COM: We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery Clocks, Elec Lamps. 817-573-5321

WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS. Call 817-559-3131

(817) 408-5288 wilsonjulieanne@gmail.com

JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING

Very Reasonable; Senior Discount

es. National Roper's Supply 817-573-

2750



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

# **EDUCATION**

Computer



When you spend money with your neighbors, you are providing jobs, keeping money circulation in Hood County and helping create even more shopping opportunities as businesses grow.



shopping big for Hood County.

ASSISTANT SELF-STORAGE PROPERTY MANAGER PAY: \$18 PER HOUR

PART TIME position requiring alternating Saturdays with manager. Schedule must be somewhat flexible. Requirements include strong administrative and computer skills including Microsoft Word, Excel and personable phone skills. Daily duties include processing payments, rental agreements, daily reports, record /file processing and property inspection. Light property maintenance duties required which include some light to moderate lifting. Computer skills and math test may be required upon interview. Paid time off after eligibility.

Émail or mail resume to: ACI Shops & Storage 1650 S. Meadows Dr. Granbury, TX 76048 acistorage76048@gmail.com

#### Deliver your ads to thousands twice a week!

Advertise in the **Classifieds!** 

**Hood County News** 817-573-7066

8510

9031

**Public Notices** 

9031

#### 8510 General General **HIRING EVENT** & **TechnipFMC** STAFFING **AVAILABLE POSITIONS** WHEN? MACHINISTS 1st & 2nd shifts available THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm MATERIAL HANDLERS 2<sup>nd</sup> shift available WHERE? Forklift experience required **BEST WESTERN PLUS** ASSEMBLERS 121 S. Lockhart Road 1st & 2nd shifts available Stephenville, Texas High School diploma or GED required Call and reserve your time Seeking mechanically in advance to guarantee inclined applicants. Previous an interview! manufacturing experience preferred. To reserve your time OR for additional information call Personnel Services 893 254-965-7904 or apply online jobs.psstaffing.com

### **NOTICES**

#### 9040 Notices

BASEBALL SEASON IS GETTING CLOSE! A Fantasy Baseball League is forming in Granbury and Hood County. If you are interested in joining a fantasy baseball league for the 2024 season, please contact Mark for details: Email: GBFantasyBaseball@gmail.com

#### 9031 **Public Notices**

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for RFP 2024-23 for Facilities and Maintenance Contracted Services.

Bid proposals are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. The bids are open immediately and will close 02/15/24.

Please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Store House Storage Granbury which is located at 3726 FM 4 in Granbury, TX 76049 will hold a public online auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at www.StorageAuctions.com and will end at 10:00am on 2/16/2024. Tenant Info: Jessica Hallmark, 5x7 unit.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Property

#### 9031 **Public Notices**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Wayne Newton Tipton, Deceased, were issued on January 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10270, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Linda D. Tipton.

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: Linda D. Tipton 916 E Hwy 377 #309 Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 24 day of January, 2024. /s/ E. Mark Piland F. Mark Piland Attorney for Linda D. Tipton State Bar No.: 16008870 1107 W. Pearl St. Ste 101 Granbury, TX 76048 Telephone: (817) 579-0207 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629 E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ferman Delray Smith, Deceased, were issued on January 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10228, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Craig Alan Smith.

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

c/o: Craig Alan Smith 14129 Lapetus Dr Haslet, TX 76052

9031 **Public Notices** 

CITATION BY PUBLICATION TRC 109 & 114 STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. C2023330 MARLON RAY LANKFORD, PLAINTIFF,

VS. BOBBIE MCGOWAN, MARTIN DOU-LANKFORD, JACQUELINE GLAS

BROADWAY, JODI LEIGH LANKFORD, DAWN L. SWANN, DANIEL KENNEDY, JR., AND ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS, DEFENDENTS, IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS TO: THE ESTATE OF DANIEL KENNEDY, SR., THE ESTATE OF BURMA DEAN BURTON, DANIEL KENNEDY, JR., ANY UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS IN THE ESTATE OF DANIEL KENNEDY, SR., DE-CEASED AND IN THE ESTATE OF BUR-MA DEAN BURTON, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PERSONS IN-TERESTED IN THE PROPERTY.

DEFENDANT, Greeting:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued, You may employ an attornev. If you or your attorney do not filea written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written response to the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 4TH day of MARCH 2024, before the Honorable BRYAN T. BUFKIN, 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas, at the Hood County Justice Center of said County in Granbury, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court, on the 27th day of SEPTEMBER,

2023, in the above entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff MARLON RAY LANKFORD, by and through its attorney of record, TRACY BUSH of LAW OFFICE OF TRACY S. BUSH, PLLC, 6108 WEST POLY WEBB RD, ARLINGTON, TX 76016, brought suit under Cause No. C2023330 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for PETITION FOR PARTITION on the following described real property of which Defendants, THE ESTATE OF DANIEL KENNEDY, SR., THE ESTATE OF BURMA DEAN BURTON, DANIEL KENNEDY, JR., ANY UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS IN THE ESTATE OF DANIEL KENNEDY, SR., DECEASED AND IN THE ESTATE OF BURMA DEAN BUR-TON, DECEASED, AND All OTHER UN-KNOWN PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE PROPERTY, are potential

parties ininterest:

All that certain 10.001 acres, more or less in the Ell PHILLIPS SURVEY, Abstract No. 434, Hood County, Texas being a portion of the 15.01 acre tract shown on plat of COMANCHE PEAK NORTH, SECTION ONE, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, recorded in Vol-

**Public Notices** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by Hood County, Texas (the "County") on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT via teleconference, with respect to the issuance by the Issuer of its tax anticipation notes in one or more series (the "Tax Note") pursuant to a plan of financing in an aggregate principal

9031

**Public Notices** 

"Projects"): (1) Acquiring and equipping fire trucks for use by volunteer fire departments within the County to furnish fire protection to the residents of the County;

amount not to exceed \$7,600,000, the

proceeds of which will be used for the

following purposes (collectively, the

(2) Acquiring and equipping an ambulance for use by Texas EMS to provide emergency ambulance service within the County; and

(3) Paying the costs of issuing the Tax Note.

The County will own the Projects and has entered or will enter into contracts with each of the nine volunteer fire departments and Texas EMS for the use of the Projects.

The Tax Note will be secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes levied upon all taxable property within the County, within the limits prescribed by law.

All interested parties are invited to express their views with respect to the Projects and the Tax Note by attending the public hearing to be held via teleconference (audio only), by dialing +1 (312) 584-2401. Meeting extension: 6405480# Passcode: 1776

Any interested persons unable to attend the hearing may submit their views in writing to the County c/o County Judge Ron Massingill, 100 E. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048, prior to the date scheduled for the hearing.

This notice is published and the above-described hearing is to be held in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, regarding the public approval prerequisite to the exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the Tax Note. The public hearing will be held via teleconference in accordance with Revenue Procedure 2022-20 issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Propertv 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 19, 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: Michael Shaw-furniture, Fairy Seayfurniture

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons

#### Notice of Availability of **Electronic Communications**

Chief appraisers of county appraisal districts and appraisal review boards (ARBs) may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notice and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing

How does it work? Certain guidelines must be followed for this local option communication:

- Written agreements with the county appraisal district must be entered first, ensuring what electronic means of delivery are acceptable. If you are interested in receiving communications in electronic format, you should contact your local appraisal district.
- Public notice regarding the availability of agreement forms authorizing electronic communications may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district on or before Feb. 1 each year, or agreement forms may be delivered on or before Feb. 1 each year to property owners shown on the certified appraisal roll for the preceding tax year.
- The chief appraiser may determine the medium, format, content and method to be used for electronic communications other than notices required by Tax Code Section 25.19 which are prescribed by rule.
- A decision by the chief appraiser not to enter into agreements may not be the subject of an ARB protest, a lawsuit or a complaint to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

For more information, contact us at:

#### Hood Central Appraisal District P O Box 819 Granbury, TX 76048 817-573-2471

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of ELVIRA GAYLE NOTGRASS, Cause No.P10296, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Christina Steadman in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of ELVIRA GAYLE NOTGRASS, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 30th day of January

By /s/ Alicia Miller, Deputy

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine- Only Package CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of WILLIAM ELLYSON BURKEHOLDER, Cause No.P10286, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Emily Akins in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of WILLIAM ELLYSON BURKEHOLDER, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 24th day of January 2024

**KATIE LANG** 

Hood County Clerk

P.O. BOX 339

Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Deputy

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct a 120-foot overall height monopole telecommunications struc-

should they desire to do so. 2024 **KATIE LANG** 

Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048

of James J Piersante: Furniture, Firepit, Frig, AC, Misc. items. Being sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to highest cash bidder, 10am, 2/16/24, Mini Max Self Storage, 3713 Weatherford Hwy. Granbury TX 76049. 817-279-6300. MITCHUT@YAHOO.COM

#### LEGAL AD

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

#### SOUTH OAKS ESTATES, LOTS 8R-1 & 10R-1

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 27th, 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

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

#### RANCHO BRAZOS, LOTS 48R & 50R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 27th, 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

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

#### ROLLING CREEK RANCH, PHASE 3, LOT 228R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 27th, 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.

Application has been made with the TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ PERMIT) by PINAK INC dba, PIRATES GRASP N PASS to be located at 1102 W PEARL ST GRANBURY (HOOD COUN-TY), TX 76048. The Principals of said Company are RAJ SHRESTHA, PRES-IDENT/DIRECTOR; ZACH DHUN-GANA, SECRETARY/DIRECTOR.

DATED the 24 day of January, 2024. /s/ E. Mark Piland E. Mark Piland Attorney for Craig Alan Smith State Bar No.: 16008870 1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101 Granbury, TX 76048 Telephone: (817) 579-0207 Facsimile: (866) 406-4629 E-mail: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

#### LEGAL AD

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, at 9 a.m. during the Hood County Commissioners' Court in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. The Commissioners' Court will meet to discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the variance request to Section I, Section 6.4.F.7 & Section II, Section 9.6.1 for SUNSET RIDGE.

#### LEGAL AD

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

#### THE LANDINGS EAST, LOT 4000R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, February 27th, 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.

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on January 24, 2024, letters of administration were issued to TIFFANY FEET by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled In the Estate of Alan Merle Cain, Deceased, under Cause No. P10258, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

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

Dated: January 29, 2024 Tiffany Feet Administrator of the Estate of Alan Merle Cain c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh 922 W. Pearl St. Granbury, TX 76048 /S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart State Bar No. 24045498 Email: marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com 922 W. Pearl St. Granbury, TX 76048 (682) 936-4090 Attorney for Tiffany Feet

ume 3, Page 55 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas and being described my metes and bounds as follows: BEING a tract of land out of the Ell PHILLIPS SURVEY, Abstract No. 434, Hood County, Texas, a portion of the tract of land described in the deed to Joe Evans Real Estate, Inc., recorded in Volume 233, Page 197 of the Deed Records of Hood County, Texas; and being described by metes and bounds as follows: BEGINNING at an iron rod in the east line of said Evans tract for the northeast corner of Tract 76 of CO-MANCHE PEAK NORTH, SECTION ONE, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas the plat thereof being recorded in Volume 3, Page 55 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas; THENCE S 60 degrees 02' W a distance of 586.02 feet to an iron rod for the northwest corner of said Tract 76, said iron rod being in the east line of Tract 75 of said subdivision; THENCE, with said east line, N 33 degrees 10' 30" W a distance of 124.00 feet to an iron rod for corner; THENCE N 35 degrees 23' W, passing at 95.75 feet an iron rod for the northeast corner of said Tract 75 and the southeast corner of a 10.04 acre tract of land out of said Evans tract, a Total distance of 187.75 feet to an iron rod for corner in said east line of said 10.04 acre tract; THENCE, with said east line of said 10.04; acre tract, N 31 degrees 13' W a distance of 397.37 feet to an iron rod for corner; THENCE N 58 degrees 47' E a distance of 624.12 feet to an iron rod for corner in said east line. Thence, with said east line of said Evans tract along a wire fence, S 29 degrees 36' E a distance of 721.63 feet to the point of beginning and containing 10.001 acres of land.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 16TH day of JANUARY 2024.

Attorney for Plaintiff(s):TRACY BUSH LAW OFFICE OF TRACY S. BUSH, PLLC. 6108 WEST POLY WEBB RD ARLINGTON, TX 76016 Telephone: 817-842-2312 Email: Tracy@BushAttorney.com WITNESS: TONNA L. NEWMAN CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS BY Sarah A. Roach

interested in the Estates of Eddie Lou Virginia Rhine, Cause No.P10295, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Kimberly Charisse Rhine in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an

APPLICATION TO DECLARE HEIRSHIP AND FOR AN AGREED INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR WITH POWER TO SELL PROPERTY AND SERVE WITHOUT BOND PURSUANT TO SEC-TIONS 401.003, 401.005 AND 401.006 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE, OR AL-TERNATIVELY, FOR APPOINTMENT OF A DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR of the said Estate of Eddie Lou Virginia Rhine, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 30th day of January 2024

**KATIE LANG** Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Deputy



**Hood County News** 817-573-7066

#### Store Permit by Sargun Sandhu LLC, Dba Sonny's Beer N Wine to be located at 2305 Lipan Hwy, Unit A, Granbury, Hood Co., Texas. Member of said LLC is Guravtar Singh-Member

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZON-ING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, March 5, 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.

1. O-2024-03 Amend select sections of the City of Granbury: Amendments are proposed relating to landscaping and tree requirements in the adopted Zoning Ordinance including proposed amendments to Article 1 General Provisions Section 1.8 New and Unlisted Uses Interpretational and Modification, Section 1.8.c. Administrative Modifications and Regulations; Article 2 Administration, Section 2.1.F. Special Exceptions; Article 4 Permitted Uses; Article 5 Districts, Subsections 5.13.G, Landscaping Requirement; 5.14.F, Landscaping Requirements; 5.15.F, Landscaping Requirements; 5.16.G, Landscaping Requirements; and 5.17.F. Landscaping Requirements; Article 6 Special Districts, Section 6.1 PD - Planned Development Overlay District; Article 8 Landscape Requirements; Article 9 Wireless Antenna Facilities Regulations; Article 11 Supplementary District Regulations; Article 12, General Definitions; Article 13 Tree Preservation Requirements; and Article 14 Drilling Regulations (Oil & Gas Production).

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

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ture located near 2530 Scenic View Court, Granbury, Hood County, Texas (N32 24' 46.9", W97\_47' 12.3"). AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@ecausa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. 24-0000101 DMG

## **PUBLIC SALES**

#### Granbury 76048 Garage Sales 76048

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am-1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.





LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

#### **OBITS** FROM PAGE A10

#### Jimmie Boyd Goza Dockray Edwards Hughes

December 17, 1928 - January 25, 2024

Jimmie Boyd Goza Edwards Dockray Hughes passed from this life into eternal rest on Jan. 25, 2024. She was born Dec. 17, 1928 in Carpenters Gap, Texas to James and Irma Boyd Goza. She moved to Abilene and attended Abilene High School. She married Paul Edwards in 1945 in Anson, Texas.

Jimmie is survived by four children, Jimmy Edwards and wife Susan, Rod Edwards and wife Wendy, Dan Edwards and Brigitte Edwards Eichler and husband Jerry and one sister JoCarol Grizzle of Elfrida, Arizona.

She has 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-greatgrandchildren, numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Paul in 1994. She married Herbert Dockray and moved to Mayhill, New Mexico until his death in 2002. She then moved to Clyde, Texas to be close to her mother and sister and married Bill Hughes.

Also, preceded by three brothers, Gerald, Ronny and Terry Goza and one sister Cherry Cochran.

She later moved to Granbury to be close to her daughter.

Jimmie had a beauty shop in Abilene and had a faithful following of weekly shampoo and set friends. Her backcombing



could last for years. She was very active in the Fireman's Wives Auxiliary and was a faithful member of the Church of Christ wherever she lived.

Jimmie was a wonderful mother who loved her children unconditionally, but they didn't hold a candle to her grandchildren. She was very proud of and loved her family very much. She was always ready and willing to help whenever anyone needed her.

Jimmie had a multitude of friends whom she loved and who loved her dearly. She loved country music, playing cards and dominoes and she spent many fun winters at Citrus Valley RV Park in McAllen as a snowbird.

Memorial service was held at Ellliot-Hamil Funeral Home at 5701 Hwy 277 S in Abilene, Texas on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. followed by graveside service at Elmwood Cemetery.



#### BY LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

"I'm a believer in eating healthy for your heart," mentions Casey Dean, D.O., family medicine physician at Lakeside Physicians. "Focusing on healthy foods daily is key to maintaining good health, including your heart. Below is a great article from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute that provides some excellent advice on what to include in your diet for a healthier heart."

Heart-healthy eating involves choosing certain foods, such as fruits and vegetables, while limiting others, such as saturated fats and added sugars.

Your doctor may recommend the heart-healthy Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan because it has been proven to lower high blood pressure and "bad" LDL cholesterol in the blood. See Delicious Heart-Healthy Eating for recipes, cooking tips and more information.

#### **FOODS TO EAT**

These foods are the foundation of a heart-healthy eating plan.

• Vegetables such as leafy greens (spinach, collard greens, kale, cabbage), broccoli and carrots

• Fruits such as apples, bananas, oranges, pears, grapes and prunes

• Whole grains such as plain oatmeal, brown rice and whole-grain bread or tortillas

• Fat-free or low-fat dairy foods such as milk, cheese or yogurt

• Protein-rich foods:

• Fish high in omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, tuna and trout)

• Lean meats such as 95% lean ground beef or pork tenderloin or skinless chicken or turkey • Eggs • Nuts, seeds and soy products (tofu)

• Legumes such as kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas, black-eyed peas and lima beans

Oils and foods high in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats:

• Canola, corn, olive, safflower, sesame, sunflower and soybean oils (not coconut or palm oil)

- Nuts such as walnuts, almonds and pine nuts
- Nut and seed butterSalmon and trout
- Seeds (sesame, sunflow-
- er, pumpkin or flax)
- Avocados
  - Tofu

#### **FOODS TO LIMIT**

A heart-healthy eating plan limits sodium (salt), saturated fat, added sugars and alcohol. Understanding nutrition labels can help you choose healthier foods.

#### Limit sodium

Adults and children over age 14 should eat less than 2,300 milligrams of sodium a day. Children younger than age 14 may need to eat even less sodium each day based on their sex and age. If you have high blood pressure, you may need to limit sodium even more. Talk to your healthcare provider about the amount of sodium that is right for you or your child. Try these shopping and cooking tips to help you choose and prepare foods that are lower in sodium: • Read food labels and choose products that have less sodium for the same

serving size. • Choose low-sodium, reduced-sodium or no-salt-

added products. • Choose fresh, frozen or no-salt-added foods instead of pre-seasoned, saucemarinated, brined or processed meats, poultry and vegetables.

• Eat at home more often so you can cook food from scratch, which will allow you to control the amount of sodium in your meals.

Eating healthy for your heart

• Flavor foods with herbs and spices instead of salt.

• When cooking, limit your use of premade sauces, mixes and instant products such as rice, noodles and readymade pasta.

#### Limit saturated fats

Saturated or "bad" fats come from animal sources such as butter, cheese and fatty meats. They should make up less than 10% of your daily calories. Unsaturated fats are also known as "good" fats and are found in vegetable oils and nuts.

Read food labels and choose foods that are lower in saturated fats and higher in unsaturated fats.

• Eat leaner, lower-fat and skinless meats instead of fatty cuts of meat and chicken with skin.

• Consume lower-fat dairy products instead of whole milk.

• Use certain vegetable oils (such as olive and canola oil) instead of butter, lard and coconut and palm oils.

#### Limit added sugars

You should limit the amount of calories you get each day from added sugars. This will help you choose nutrient-rich foods and stay within your daily calorie limit. Some foods. such as fruit, contain natural sugars. Added sugars do not occur naturally in foods but instead are used to sweeten foods and drinks. They include brown sugar, corn syrup, dextrose, fructose, glucose, high-fructose corn syrup, raw sugar and sucrose.

In the United States, sweetened drinks, snacks and sweets are the major sources of added sugars.

• Sweetened drinks include soft drinks or sodas, fruit drinks, sweetened coffee and tea, energy drinks, alcoholic drinks and favored waters. Sweetened drinks account for about half of all added sugars consumed.

• Snacks and sweets include grain-based desserts such as cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, doughnuts; dairy desserts such as ice cream, frozen desserts, pudding, candies, sugars, jams, syrups and sweet toppings.

Lower how much sugar you eat or drink

• Choose drinks without added sugar such as water, low-fat or fat-free milk or 100% vegetable juice.

• Choose unsweetened foods for snacks or dessert.

• Eat sweetened drinks, snacks and desserts less often and in smaller amounts.

#### Limit alcohol

Talk to your healthcare provider about how much alcohol you drink. They may recommend that you reduce the amount of alcohol you drink or that you stop drinking alcohol.

Alcohol can:

• Add calories to your daily diet and possibly cause you to gain weight

• Raise your blood pressure and levels of triglyceride fats in your blood

• Contribute to or worsen heart failure in some people, such as some people who have cardiomyopathy

• Raise your risk of other diseases such as cancer

If you do not drink, you should not start. You should not drink if you are pregnant, are under the age of 21, take certain medicines, or if you have certain medical conditions, including heart failure.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Dean or any Lakeside Physicians provider, call (817) 573-3627 or visit https://www.lakesidephysicians.com,

February is American Heart Month. Sign up to receive Lake Granbury Medical Center's Leap Into Heart Health fact-packed email series.

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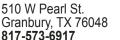
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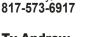
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### GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ® Lower mortgage rates prompt home buyers back into the market

#### **BY JACQUE GORDON**

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

he Housing market is "looking up" as we begin the 2024 year. Mortgage rates have settled in the 6% range giving potential homebuyers more confidence to shop for real estate. Despite inventory challenges, Freddie Mac anticipates a busier spring homebuying season than in 2023, with home prices continuing to increase at a steady pace.

Buyers are reemerging in the market. Mortgage appli-

cations to purchase a home, a gauge of future homebuy-



The Housing market is "looking up" as we begin the 2024 year. Mortgage rates have settled in the 6% range giving potential homebuyers more confidence to shop for real estate.

ing activity, are up nearly 8% according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Sales of newly-built

homes also are on the rise, surging 8% month-overmonth and 4.4% year-overyear in December. The construction increases coincided with drops in mortgage rates at the end of last year.

2023 was a rough year in the housing market, but there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic in 2024. Realtor.com forecasts that mortgage rates will average about 6.8% during 2024 and end the year closer to 6.5%. Lawrence Yun, chief economist at the National Association of REALTORS®, said he expects the 30-year fixed mortgage rate to average lower, at 6.3% in 2024, and that the Fed will cut rates four times. The National Association

of Realtors predicts that when August 2024 rolls around, existing home prices will be 2.6% higher than the year before.

Real estate experts predict a continued inventory shortage, and because they expect high buyer demand to keep pushing home prices up, 2024 may be an ideal time to sell.

If you are ready to enter the housing market and need assistance selling or buying a home, Granbury has a number of experienced and knowledgeable REALTORS® ready to work with you. For a full list of real estate agents, visit the Granbury Association of Realtors® website at www. Granburyrealtors.com.

#### **BITCOIN** FROM PAGE A5

cilities get paid to shut down by ERCOT and then they take their deeply discounted energy, and they turn around and they sell it back to the grid at a spot price meaning they are gouging us, and they are driving up our energy costs."

Sawicky said on Sept. 6, Riot Platforms announced they made \$31.7 million from power credits during the August heat wave — the same day that we were 15 minutes away from another Winter Storm Uri incident.

"They will tell you they saved the grid. I will tell you that it is proof positive that they are destabilizing it," she said. "But they're putting such a massive burden on our grid that we know it has not been fixed since Uri, that they're actually causing the problem they get paid to solve."

Another resident then turned the tables back on Shirley and Samuelson and asked what they were willing to do as elected officials to mitigate the issue.

"What I'm telling you is we're not going to walk away and make excuses for why we're not continuing to fight," Shirley said. "The state law is inadequate and I'm working with the county attorney, and when it's determined they're in violation, we will take an enforcement action and we'll keep enforcing. But as law enforcement, all I can do, because of the way the law is written, I can write a ticket. And I'm telling you right now, to a Bitcoin plant, who's making millions of dollars, a \$500 ticket, even if it's every day, is not a big enough dissuasion from doing their business. So that's why I'm saying this is a community problem. The time to stop this or to say something or influence people to have a real impact was before it came in, and we missed that. But what we can do now is lobby as hard as we can with our commissioners where we can come together as a community. We're not going to turn our backs on you."

Samuelson then posed another question to Marathon, asking the company if they plan to go from a 300-megawatt facility to a 600-megawatt facility, as that is another concern posed by the public.

"We've had the site for two weeks," Browder said. "We were not expecting this, but I will say that something that differentiates ourselves from our predecessors is generic capitalism. So obviously, they bought to make a profit and we're operating, so for us it's a long-term investment into the community; that's why we're here now."

He also added that Marathon has owned the site for two weeks but that it's still operated by US Bitcoin. He said they are in conversation now to take over that contract soon.

A resident then brought up the question of how the Bitcoin operation benefits the community, which Samuelson also posed to Marathon. "This isn't the place," Rash said. "People's lives are hurting. This isn't the place to talk about any good we've done."

Samuelson thanked the community for being civil during the town hall as she said she understands how it's impacting everyone's lives. She added she will do everything within the law to help improve the situation.

"We're gonna fight this battle with you," Shirley said. "We're not going away. Again, I own property close to this plant; it affects my life, too." Samuelson said if anyone still wishes to voice any com-

plaints or concerns, they are welcome to call Rep. Shelby Slawson, Sen. Brian Birdwell, Shirley or herself. "I hope you're all ears

because there were some

very passionate issues," Samuelson said, addressing Marathon. "It's impacting their lives. They can't live like this. Even if the state law's 85, and let's say it's 83, but it's constant, that doesn't help. There has to be restoration as a quality of life for all of us that live near here. I'm hoping that you're listening, and we'll hear from you really soon on what your plans are, because I need to communicate with all of these people."

Samuelson added she will be posting Bitcoin updates on her Facebook page Nannette Samuelson for Hood County Commissioner.

For more information or to voice a concern, email Shirley at JShirley@co.hood. tx.us or Samuelson at nsamuelson@co.hood.tx.us.



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# Like older sister, Garner left her mark

**BY RICK MAUCH** Special to the Hood County News

Ella Garner watched her older sister Gentry as they played alongside each other on the Granbury Lady Pirates varsity basketball in the 2020-21 season, Ella a freshman and Gentry a senior.

Ella knew her time was coming to lead the program, just as Gentry was doing that season. Now that time is here, as Ella is a senior solidifying her own place in the annals of Lady Pirate lore, having recently passed the 1,000-point scoring mark in her career.

And, just like Gentry, she is on the verge of leading the Lady Pirates to the postseason — a fourth consecutive year for Ella, in fact.

"I always looked up to her. She was a great role model," Ella said. "We're very competitive.

"We'd talk on the court, and we just knew (each other's moves). We had the sister brain."

#### **STAUNCH DEFENSE**

Ella watched Gentry closely in practice and during games, though they had different styles. Gentry was

Ella Garner plays some defense at the Pirates vs Buldoogs game Dec. 8 2023.

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

ple riled up."

more of a shooter while Ella was — and still is — a tenacious defender. But this year Ella has been called upon by Lady Pirates Alan Thorpe to take on the bulk of the scoring. She has responded in a fashion her old sister would be proud of — all the while remaining one of the top defensive forces in District 5-5A.

"She's pretty much a gnat in front of that press," Thorpe said of Ella. "She's very physical, she gets peo-

PLEASE SEE **SISTER** | B2

# Granbury ISD School Board approves new GPA calculation

### BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

During a regularly scheduled Granbury ISD board of trustees meeting, the board voted to adopt a new grade point average calculation that will go into effect for current eighth graders who ing," Robinson read from the presentation. "We evaluated the policies of 10 similar districts and created this draft to fulfill goals of our district and campus strategic planning and TEA's A-F accountability system to produce a more appropriate and aligned GPA policy."

The team looked at dif-

three and four courses will be non-calculated for athletics and fine arts to encourage continued participation, more focus will be put on SAT/ACT preparedness, the school will be more aligned to other districts in state, and transfer students will have an easier transition.

"One of the things that



will soon begin their freshman year.

A presentation was made by Granbury High School Principal Jamie Robinson during the meeting, who put together a team to look further into GHS' current GPA system.

"After careful analysis of our current GPA policy, it was determined that our current policy is outdated and limits opportunities for students to participate in CCMR, CTE, dual credit, and advanced placement courses that may affect rankferent GPA policies from around the region to determine what would be the best fit for GHS students. Instead of the previous 6.0 scale, the new GPA system will work based on a tier system with a 5.0 scale. The four tiers are broken down by difficulty of class, meaning more difficult classes will carry more weight.

"This will allow for those students who are wanting to take those AP and dual credit classes to be rewarded for their hard work," Robinson said during the meeting. With the new system, level was happening is that if a student moved in (to the district) they were kind of penalized (academically) for just moving in," Robinson said during the meeting. "Now with this new system when a student transfers and if they had the same course we did, we will be able to give them credit."

Transfer grades for Tier 1 courses will receive Tier 1 weight. When a student transfers semester grades for courses that are not offered by the district, students will receive Tier 1 weight and the district will



PHOTO BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School Principal Jamie Robinson presents a new propped GPA system during a school board meeting on Jan. 29.

include the grades in the calculation of class rank. GISD Superintentendent

Jeremy Glenn spoke on behalf of his son and the difficulties of being a transfer student with the old GPA system.

"One of the huge advan-

tages of this new system is that it puts everybody at a level playing field. It helps with honor classes in the area, too, from school to school," Glenn said during the meeting.

An email was sent out to parents Jan. 29 discuss-

ing the new system, and Robinson will present the new system during different CTE and middle school nights.

The board adopted the new system in a 6-0 vote; Board Secretary Billy Wimberly was absent.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury High School's UIL spelling and vocabulary team placed first at Joshua High School's UIL Academic Invitational Meet on Saturday, Jan. 20. Team members include Mann Vagashia, Preston Kirkland, Kensington Loving, and Jocelyn Berry.



# GHS UIL Academics places second at invitational meet

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury High School students showed off their scholarly abilities, placing second at Joshua High School's UIL Academic Invitational Meet Saturday, Jan. 20.

The University Interscholastic League was created by The University of Texas at Austin to provide leadership and guidance to public school debate and athletic teachers. Since 1910, the UIL has grown into the largest interschool organization of its kind in the world, according to uiltexas.org.

"UIL, of course, governs sports and fine arts, and they have multiple competitions," Cindy Leatherman, GHS UIL academics coordinator and social studies coach said. "UIL also created the field of academics, so it's separated into different types of contests." Sixty—one GHS students competed as both teams and individuals in a variety of different academic events during the invitational meet including: accounting, calculator, computer applications, computer science, copy editing, current events, journalism, literary criticism, mathematics, number sense, ready writing, science, spelling and vocabulary, and social studies.

#### THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS PLACED IN THEIR EVENTS:

• SPELLING — 1st Place Team: Mann Vagashia, Preston Kirkland, Kensington Loving and Jocelyn Berry; 2nd Place Individual: Mann Vagashia

• COMPUTER APPLICATIONS — 4th Place Individual: Collin Yarbrough

• ACCOUNTING — 4th Place Individual: Taylor Dawley

• SOCIAL STUDIES — 1st Place Team: Quinn King, Cameron Ward and Pete O'Carroll; 1st place Individual: Mann Vagashia; 5th place Individual: Cameron Ward.

• SCIENCE — 3rd Place Team: Konner Babiash, Lucas Hyde and Riley Morris. Top Score Chemistry and 6th Place Individual: Konner Babiash.

All students did well in their categories, resulting in Granbury High School placing second overall behind 6A Highland Park High School.

"When we compete, each placement gets a certain amount of points," Tammy Bodine, UIL co-coordinator and accounting coach said. "In social studies, we had a first and a fifth and they got points there, and then as a team, if you're a firstplace team or second-place team, you get points. Each

PLEASE SEE UIL | B3

# GHS debate students qualify for UIL state

**BY ASHLEY TERRY** Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

There's no "debate" that Granbury High School students are talented — and that's especially true for sophomore Maddie Neal and freshman Carmen Wright.

After placing second in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Cross-Examination (CX) district meet Friday, Jan. 19, the pair officially qualified for the UIL state meet set for March 11-16 at the University of Texas at Austin.

"It wasn't expected," Wright said. "I 100% thought we were going to crash and burn and make up for it next year."

"I knew going in that this was going to be a practice vear and that as our first year, it was going to be a learning experience and something new, so when we made state, my jaw dropped," Neal said.

UIL Academic Speech and Debate coach Shyller Byrom told the HCN that although their success suggests otherwise, both Neal and Wright are new to the team.

"They're both what I still would consider novices," Byrom said. "But they obviously have some talent."

Not only did the duo succeed in the UIL CX district meet, they also finished second place in Joshua High School's UIL Academic Invitational meet the following day, Saturday, Jan. 20.

"They got state qualified and the very next day, we went to just a practice tournament, and so they're like, 'We got this' and then they just went in there and kicked booty all day long," Byrom said.

"Yeah, we were a lot more confident walking into that one, like, 'Well, we already have state under our belt so we can't really do that bad." Wright said, chuckling.

Both Neal and Wright said they chose to join the debate team after realizing



Several debate students placed in the Joshua UIL Debate Tournament held on Saturday, Jan. 20.

know, (Abraham) Lincoln

a close family member had also been a part of the debate team when they were in high school.

Wright said she prefers to debate on political ideologies, as they're "very fact based."

"There's a lot of evidence to support or go against it, so it isn't an easy topic to debate on because you can only really have one stance," she explained.

As the duo started out on the team, Byrom said they first started learning LD — Lincoln-Douglas debate — which traditionally places a heavy emphasis on logic, ethical values and philosophy.

"LD debate is also known as gossipy debate," she explained. "The LD stands for Lincoln Douglas. As you and (Stephen) Douglas had a debate about civil rights and that was a very philosophical debate, so we kind of copy that. LD has different topics throughout the year; it changes every two months, but they both decided that they didn't like the gray area of LD because it's super philosophical." Cross examination debate - the type of debate Neal and Wright excelled in last

month — is also known as policy debate and typically features a political topic. "This year, it's basically the federal govern-

ment giving Americans a basic income, and there's some specific wording and that resolution stays the same all year long," Byrom explained.

"UIL debate competition motivates students and provides them with practical application for the skills they are developing,' said Jana Riggins, UIL state debate director, in a news release. "This year's debate topic prompted students to research and form their own thoughts and opinions on the real-world issue our government is challenged with: **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding social security, and/or providing a basic income."

Next month, the girls will spend their spring break in Austin at the state tournament — even if it means cutting their New York trip

COURTESY PHOTO

short.

Results from the Jan. 20 UIL Debate Tournament in Joshua are listed below:

Kierra Black — First place poetry interpretation, eighth place persuasive speaking

Shanice Gibson — third place poetry interpretation Misty Meyes — seventh

place poetry interpretation Taylor Liffner — fifth

place prose interpretation Lexi Scarpello — fifth place persuasive speaking

Maddie Neal and Carmen Wright — 3-0 undefeated CX Debate

Katie Morrison — 3-0 undefeated LD Debate

Scarlett Farner — 2-0 undefeated LD debate

# GISD Child Nutrition awarded highest honor in TDA's Farm Fresh Challenge



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COURTESY PHOTO

Freshman Carmen Wright, left, and sophomore Maddie Neal, right, qualified for the UIL State Cross-Examination Meet set for March 11-16 at the University of Texas at Austin.

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY** Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District's Child Nutrition department is unbeet-able following its recent Best of the Bunch Award in the Texas Department of Agriculture's Farm Fresh Challenge.

Last October, GISD chose to participate in the challenge, which requires Texas school districts to put farmfresh products on the school menu and educate students about where certain foods come from.

Director of Child Nutrition Amy Whiteley explained that last year, GISD only did the challenge for one week and received the Prime

Award. This year, however, Whiteley decided to participate in the challenge for the whole month of October.

Particinant Recognition

"We just wanted to see if it was something that we could do, and we were successful with it, so then we decided we're gonna go ahead and do Best of the Bunch, which is the four weeks," she said. "We do try to incorporate local grown foods as much as we can through our regular distributor depending on what's available and what the cost is.'

Whiteley explained that GISD had to put one Texasgrown product on the school menu every day for those four weeks in October to be eligible for the award. Takehome flyers were also created for the students as well

contained information about each product.

GISD was the recipient of the Best of the Bunch Award for serving Texas grown items including milk, hydroponic lettuce, watermelon and whole grain gingerbread cookies.

"I think it's really cool what Texas Department of Agriculture is doing with Farm Fresh, because there's so many children that don't understand where their food comes from," Whiteley said. "It's important for them to learn, for instance, green beans don't come from a can; they actually come from the ground and farmers have to really work hard to get them that food. I think it's kind of just been a lost concept of where our food comes from

as social media posts that with these generations Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller recognized 107

Contracting Entities (CEs) for achievements in the 2023 Farm Fresh Challenge. Participants purchased \$13.86 million of Texas grown and produced menu items and gave 2.67 million children the opportunity to learn more about Texas agriculture, according to squaremeals.org.

#### **FOR ACHIEVING BEST OF THE BUNCH STATUS, GISD WILL RECEIVE:**

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post suggestions, a template

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badge • A Farm Fresh lapel pin

· A physical award For more information about the Farm Fresh Challenge, visit squaremeals. org

#### SISTER FROM PAGE B1

Ella said the goal of her defensive style is to "get into a girl's head." She said they have a look that tells her when that has happened.

"They start getting physical and out of their game," she said, noting that "defense is a bunch of hustling."

#### **ADJUSTING GAME/REACHING** MILESTONE

With Ella Hamlin graduating last season, Thorpe realized he needed a new top scorer. He turned to Ella Garner, whom he said already was a good shooter — when she took the opportunity.

'We knew she could do it. She had a great shot last year, she just didn't use it much," he said. "It's one of those things, you know they can do it, it's just a matter

of them doing it. She's done it great this season." So well, in fact, that she

passed a milestone. She recently reached 1,000 points in her high school career.

"My dad looked at my stats one day and told me I was close," she said. "I actually didn't realize when it happened, but it was cool.

"It's a cool milestone, very unexpected," she continued with a chuckle. "After losing Ella Hamlin I had to step up."

As for how she became a "shooter," Ella Garner said, "I just started shooting more and told myself not to be afraid to shoot."

While her shooting moved to a new level, the rest of her game remained rock solid. Along with still playing strong defense, she passes well and knows how to battle in the paint for a rebound.

#### **COMPETITIVE FROM THE START**

Ella grew up competitive, being the youngest of four sisters — each of whom loved playing, though only she and Gentry continued playing beyond middle school. Ella began her love of basketball at age 5.

"We could pass as guys when we were young. We were Tomboys," she said.

"If we're in the weight room, she wants to be the strongest in there," Thorpe said of Ella. "She loves to compete and loves to win."

#### HOBBIES

When she's not making life hard defensively for an opponent or putting up a basket in their face — or studying, of course - Ella has several hobbies. She loves being active in church and reads.

And she referees the game she loves so much. She calls youth games.

"I like kids and I like to help them develop their skills," she said.

"She refs like she plays," Thorpe said with a laugh, noting that while she wants everyone to have fun, she doesn't let much get by her.

#### COLLEGE

Ella said she realizes her days as a Lady Pirate basketball player will come to an end soon. She will likely go on to compete in track she was second in District 5-5A in the shot put last season and also ran on the third-place 400-meter relay. "Being in basketball has

helped me with shot put, strength-wise," she said.

She plans to follow in Gentry's footsteps and attend Texas A&M, majoring in business. She does not plan to play basketball.

However, neither did Hamlin. Then, after TCU lost several players to illness, Hamlin answered the

COURTESY OF DAWN BRADLEY

Granbury Lady Pirate senior Ella Garner (11), known more for her defense - which is still strong as ever - in the past, recently surpassed 1,000 points in her high school career.

call for an open tryout and was offered preferred walkon status.

"After Ella walked on at TCU, my parents had a conversation with me," Ella Garner said. "I suppose if a chance came up, we'll see what happens."

Thorpe said he believes

she has the talent to make a college roster.

"I think so. At that level it's so hard, but I think she'd have a real chance," he said. "I'd like to see her give it a shot."

No pun intended, of course.



#### **UIL** FROM PAGE B1

school accumulates points in all the different events that they compete in, and so after all the events had been held, and we scored it all, Granbury scored the second highest points behind Highland Park."

Although, Bodine said, GHS almost didn't place in second due to an accidental scoring issue.

"I doublecheck everything and I looked, and they had inadvertently put (Leatherman's) social studies points in Grandview instead of Granbury," she said. "I'm sure they would have caught it, but when those points moved over, we edged out Mansfield for second place, so it felt really good."

Leatherman added "it always feels great to beat Aledo," as the school is a commonly-known rival of Granbury.

"Aledo has a very strong current events team and social studies, and then a few other areas too," she said. "We have our areas where we really focus hard, so that we can compete even more, but typically, we're rivals of Aledo."

While GHS succeeded in

UIL academics, the speech and debate team coached by Shyller Byrom also fared well in the competition, with students Carmen Wright and Maddie Neal qualifying for UIL state.

"We did really well in Joshua with our speech and debate students," Leatherman said. "We were all there together at the same competition. Sometimes the speech and debate students also compete in forensic debate, which is governed by a different organization than UIL, so our debate coach is very busy."

Bodine said Granbury normally excels in the UIL competitions — especially district — but its success boils down to the students' determination and having the right coaches who work hard to ensure their students perform well.

"We have a lot of coaches who specialize in their events because obviously I could not coach science; I'm a social studies teacher," Leatherman said. "And even though I think that I could coach UIL maybe in another area if I worked really hard at it, we have a science teacher who is a great coach. We have a lot of different coaches who specialize in those particular areas, so that they can encourage the students."

#### GHS UIL ACADEMIC COACHES INCLUDE:

 Accounting — Tammy Bodine
 Social Studies — Cindy

Leatherman

Science — Cindy Jackson
Spelling and Vocabulary

— Melissa Knight

• Journalism — Margarite Anderson

• Speech and Debate — Shyller Byrom

- Math and Number Sense — Cody Watkins
- Calculator Holly Parker

• Literary Criticism — Sheryl Robinson

• Current Issues and Events — Amy Hattox—Hoag

• Computer Science and Computer Apps — Bethany Smith

As students are not able to use classroom time to practice in their respective UIL areas, many wake up early and stay after school to ensure they are prepared for the next competition.

COURTESY PHOTO



Granbury High School students showed off their scholarly abilities when they placed second during Joshua High School's UIL Academic Invitational Meet on Saturday, Jan. 20.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tammy Bodine, UIL co-coordinator and accounting coach, poses with her team members at the UIL invitational meet on Jan. 20. Granbury High School student Taylor Dawley placed fourth as an individual.

"The science team, I think, is up to three days a week now," Leatherman said. "Sometimes it's just when I can grab a kid during quest period, which is kind of like our homeroom. It's a bit of a struggle because they are stretched. They have work, they have church, they have other school events, but when they come, they're competitive too, and so they work hard."

"A lot of the kids that compete in UIL compete in everything," Bodine explained. "On my accounting team, I have a powerlifter, I have a golfer, I have five that are in band, and one has a job, so trying to get them all together is difficult. But we stay in contact and communicate. I just encourage them to come when they can, stay in contact and work on their own."

While some students are constantly putting in the work, Bodine said she's had to make sure they achieve some semblance of balance so they're not overworking themselves.

"I think it says a lot for our kids because in UIL academics, our competitions are on Saturdays," Bodine said. "A lot of our kids compete during the weekday. It takes a special kid to get up at 6 a.m. or be at school at 6 a.m. on Saturday morning — particularly when it's cold — to go and compete for us when they could be staying in bed sleeping or what have you."

Leatherman added that with the increase in team sizes — four members to six members — GISD has started to recruit students as young as freshman to join academic UIL, which has led to an increase in student participation.

"Our numbers have grown in general, but also with the addition of adding more to compete on the district level, it has really increased our numbers," Bodine said. "So, we have about 85 kids, but we took 61 to Joshua. On the roster, between both speech and debate and then our academics, (we have) between 80 and 85. I work in CTE and we have a volleyball coach that works there and I asked how many they take to compete. They take a little around 40, so we're taking more than some of our athletic teams — probably not football — but I think we're comparable on some of the other sports, whether it be

basketball or volleyball."

As this was an "A" invitational meet, the next step for the district is the "B" invitational meet scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10 in Grandview, followed by the district meet Friday, April 5 at Granbury High School.

Once students advance to the state competition, they are then eligible to apply for a Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarship. More information can be found at tilfoundation. org/scholarships/list/.

"UIL academics has become very competitive across the state because there's so many scholarships involved," Leatherman said. "And it really, in our opinion, definitely prepares students to be successful in college."

"I'm on year 29 (in education) and I'd say with the exception of probably three or four years, I've been in UIL academics, so I really believe in it," Bodine said.

For more information on UIL academics, visit uiltexas. org/academics online.

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GHS presents Grease

PHOTOS BY **EMILY NAVA** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS The Granbury High School Theater put on the classic story of "Grease: The Musical". The story is set at Rydell High School in the 1950s where the heart of the story focuses on the romance between hotshot Danny Zuko and a new girl in town Sandy Dumbrowski. After previously meeting in the summer, the two meet again at Rydell High. The story follows the two and their friends as they navigate the complicated worlds of cliques and outside pressure.





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#### Hood County News **B5**

# **Pirate Basketball**

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Both Pirates and Lady Pirates hosted the Rider Riders in Granbury Jan. 26, with the Pirates coming out on top with a score of 77-61, and the Lady Pirates coming out on top as well with a score of 50-32.

















The Pirates hosted the Rider Riders in Granbury Jan. 26, with the Pirates coming out on top with a score of 77-61.

#### PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR HOOD COUNTY NEWS

# GHS qualifies 23 for regional swimming *Heffernan sets school record*

#### **BY RICK MAUCH** Special to the

#### Hood County News

Granbury will once again be well-represented at regional swimming. The Pirates qualified 12 swimmers and the Lady Pirates advanced 11 from the District 5-5A Meet at the Northwest ISD Natatorium in Justin Jan. 26.

The top six swimmers in each event qualified for the Region 2 Meet Feb. 9-10 in Mansfield. From there, the top two finishers in each event qualify for state Feb. 23-24 in Austin, along with the next eight in each event from across all regions.

Leading Granbury qualifiers was Braxton Heffernan, who won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.96 seconds, breaking the previous mark of 22 seconds flat.

Joining him among the boys are Luke Basil, Colin Lindsey, Noah Brown, Cameron Ward, Bodie Chastain, Colton Jernigan, Drew Haynes, Michael Kracy, Sean Kim, Hunter Jones and Lee Stuart.

Girls who will be competing at regionals are sisters Mylie and Madison Erezo, Avery Young, Kensington Loving, Remi Chastain, Brenna Charles Overton. Granbury swimmers posted 32 season-best times, including 26 personal records. Top finishers for Granbury were:

#### GIRLS

200 Medley Relay: 2. Loving, J. Kim, Young, Haynes. 200 Freestyle: 2.

McDermott, 4. Ma. Erezo, 8. Eva Huckaby.

200 Individual Medley: 4. Petretto, 6. J. Kim.

50 Freestyle: 2. My. Erezo, 5. Young, 6. Loving, 7. Haynes. 100 Butterfly: 4. Young, 5. Larsen.

100 Freestyle: 1. My. Erezo, 3. Ma. Erezo, 5. Chastain, 6. Citzler.

500 Freestyle: 3. Petretto, 4. McDermott, 7. Eva Huckaby.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Young, Haynes, My. Erezo, McDermott.

100 Backstroke: 4. Loving, 5. Citzler, 8. Chastain.

100 Breaststroke: 3. Kim, 4. Larsen, 8. Ella Redwine.

400 Freestyle Relay: 1. McDermott, Ma. Erezo, My. Erezo, Haynes.

#### BOYS

- 200 Medley Relay: 2. Basil, Chastain, Lindsey, Heffernan. 200 Freestyle: 3. Kracy, 4.
- Brown 200 IM: 4. Stuart, 7. Ward.

#### **TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL**

The Lady Rattlers (20-11, 8-1 in District 11-2A) clinched a playoff berth with their 52-21 win at DeLeon on Jan. 30. That was preceded by an 81-31 home win over Ranger on Jan. 26.

The Lady Rattlers also celebrated junior Senne Imel reaching a career milestone as she scored the 1,000th point of her career recently. Her brother, Merritt, a senior, accomplished the feat earlier this season.

"Senne is such a competitor and is always looking to get better in everything she does. She leads behind the scenes showing up to open gym and encouraging her teammates in practice and games," coach Ericka Halfmann said. "Our Tolar Lady Rattlers are such a tight-knit team and want everyone to succeed. When they found out Senne was close to 1,000 points, they all started jumping up and down with her, smiling, and laughing.

"These girls are a fun group and they are just happy they could help Senne obtain this goal."

Imel posted a doubledouble against Ranger with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Trinity Rousseau scored 17 and Jaycee Jones scored 14. berth as they defeated visiting Wichita Falls Rider 77-61 Jan. 26, followed by a 61-54 win at Northwest Jan. 30.

The Pirates were hosting district runner-up Saginaw at press time and a win would clinch a postseason spot. The Rough Riders won a 49-46 thriller at home Jan. 9. Granbury also has an upcoming game at leagueleading Brewer. A win in that game, along with defeating Saginaw, keeps them in the race for at least a share of the district championship. In the win over the Raiders, Dylan Couto scored 16 points and Kensington Colston added 11, while Murphy Page had eight points and was praised for his rebounding. Payton Thompson and Miller Schenewark also had clutch 3-pointers.

won 40-23. The JV topped Northwest 27-23 and the freshmen won 55-8. The Lady Pirates end the regular season at Aledo Feb. 6 with a 6:15 p.m. start.

Granbury's Braxton Heffernan (center) set a school record of 21.96 seconds in the 50-yard free.

#### SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT

Granbury Lady Pirates basketball coach Alan Thorpe and members of his team made a trip to TCU to see former Lady Pirate Ella Hamlin, showing their support for one of the newest members of the Lady Frogs. Hamlin recently received preferred walk-on status as she joined the team after the program lost several players to injury and illness. "She looked great in warmups. She didn't get into the game, but it was great to see her in a uniform again," Thorpe said.

(16 points, 14 rebounds) each posted a double-double. Briton Rice added nine points.

The Rattlers, No. 23 in the state in Class 2A, traveled to DeLeon Jan. 30 and won 57-26. Imel scored 15 with seven rebounds and three blocks, with Abrego scoring 14 with six rebounds. Matthew



Jina Kim, Grace Larsen, Michela Petretto and Bailey McDermott.

The Lady Pirates won the team title at district with 153 points to runner-up Northwest's 138. The Pirates placed second with 121 points, behind Northwest with 192.

"Fun fact, the girls pulled off the team district win despite Northwest High School having 22 free points in diving. It was a huge victory for those girls!" exclaimed coach

50 Freestyle: 1. Heffernan, 2. Jones, 5. Jernigan, 7. Haynes. 100 Butterfly: 4. Lindsey, 5. S. Kim. 100 Freestyle: 2. Ward, 3. Brown, 6. Haynes. 500 Freestyle: 5. Kracy. 200 Freestyle Relay: 2. Ward, Lindsey, Basil, Jones. 100 Backstroke: 5. Basil, 8. Linsdey. 100 Breaststroke: 4. Chastain 400 Freestyle Relay: 1. Ward, Jones, Heffernan, Brown.

Against DeLeon, Imel had another double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds, adding 6 assists and 5 steals. Jones scored 10 and Kamryn Kolb posted 8.

The Lady Rattlers play at district-leading Lipan, No. 1 in the state on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6:15 p.m. to end the regular season.

#### GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (19-8, 6-2 in District 5-5A) moved closer to a second consecutive playoff



Tolar Lady Rattlers and fans celebrate Senne Imel's scoring the 1,000th point of her high school career.

The game was tied 31-31 at the half before Granbury pulled away in the second half.

Against Northwest, the Granbury scoring was spread around, with Colston leading with 14 and Daylon Webb producing 12. Jenaro Reyes scored nine, Murphy Page and Isaiah Trejo each had eight and Couto added seven.

"Northwest has been playing better. They kept hitting tough shots and we couldn't bury them," Pirates coach David Breazeale said. "But we were clutch from the (free throw) line late and scored enough to hold them off. This was a good, hard-fought win."

The Pirates visit fourthplace Aledo Tuesday, Feb. 6 and travel to first-place Brewer Feb. 9, both games tipping off at 7:30 p.m.

#### GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates (19-11, 7-3) clinched a playoff berth with a 54-21 win at Northwest Jan. 30. They secured no worse than a third-place finish in the league.

Ella Garner led the win with 28 points and Kate Hamlin scored eight.

On Jan. 26 they defeated Wichita Falls Rider 50-32 as Garner scored 14 points and Jayla Hayes contributed 10.

The Granbury JV defeated Rider 43-32 and the freshmen

#### **GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER**

The Pirates (8-3 overall, 1-1 in District 5-5A) dropped a 2-1 match at Brewer Jan. 26 to begin district play. Weston Cantrell scored Granbury's goal off an assist from Ryan Davila.

Goalkeeper Omar Oviedo had nine saves.

The Pirates then defeated visiting Azle 3-1 Jan. 30. Cantrell. Kyle Stahl and Trevor Granger each had goals, with Abel and Kevin Aguardo each registering an assist. Goalkeeper Noah Robinson had four saves. Granbury visits Wichita

Falls Rider Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m., then hosts Northwest Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

#### **GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER**

The Lady Pirates (5-5, 0-2 in District 5-5A) opened league play with a 3-0 loss at Brewer Jan. 26. They followed with a 2-1 loss at home against Azle. Braelyn Desormeaux scored

the goal for Granbury with an assist from Emery Kirby.

The Lady Pirates play at Wichita Falls Rider at 4 p.m. Feb. 5 and host Northwest at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

#### **TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL**

The Rattlers (14-14, 6-2 in District 11-2A) got little more than a workout in routing visiting Ranger 81-5 Jan. 26 as Merritt Imel (16 points, 12 rebounds) and Cayden Abrego Behrens scored nine with four steals.

Tolar, tied with Poolville for second in district, hosts league-leading Lipan at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6 and visits Santo at 6:15 p.m. Feb. 9.

The Rattlers were hosting Poolville at press time. The Monarchs won the first meeting in Poolville Jan. 9.

#### **LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL**

The Indians (24-4, 8-0 in 11-2A), ranked No. 1 in the state, defeated Santo 79-42 at home Jan. 30.

Court Gaylor led the scoring with 17 points and four steals, while Alberto Andreatta had a double-double with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Also, Tyson Tarpley scored 14, Colby Scott and Darius Steed had eight points each and Kolt Larson grabbed eight rebounds.

After hosting Tolar, the Indians host Ranger Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

#### LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Indians (27-3, 7-0) had no difficulty with visiting Santo, winning 59-6 Jan. 30. Leading the scoring was Alisha Green with 11 points, followed by Taylor Branson with 10, Hanna Gaylor with nine and Jacy Bolton with seven.

The playoffs await Lipan following their regular-season final at home against Tolar.

#### GRANBURY BOYS POWERLIFTING

The Pirates placed second in the Azle Invitational Jan. 25. Winning first place were Gavin Osko, Davin Jones, Rylan Brenish, Enrique Sanches and Alan Orocio.

Second-place finishers were Lucas Dimas and Chase Cantrell, and Moses Meis placed third.

Next up, the Pirates will compete at the Boswell Invitational Feb. 8.

Hood County News **B7** 

# TARLETON State University<sup>TM</sup>

# Texans roll Thunderbirds in annual "White Out Wisdom" game

#### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men's Basketball coasted to a 86-68 victory over the Utah Tech Trailblazers Saturday, Jan. 27 in Tarleton's annual "White Out Wisdom" game in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (13-7 overall, 6-3 WAC) split the week with the win over the Trailblazers (7-13, 3-6). After California Baptist knocked off Stephen F. Austin earlier in the day, the Texans are tied with the Lancers for second in the WAC conference standings.

In an effort to "White Out Wisdom," early-arriving fans received a free white T-shirt. Fans filled the lower bowl in white in support of Texan basketball. Baseball and softball were also on hand for a pregame poster signing to highlight their upcoming season.

Jakorie Smith racked up 28 points, tying Lue Williams for the most points by a Texan in a WAC game this season. Williams found himself back in double figures for the 14th time this season posting 18. Adam Moussa helped navigate the offense, dishing out a game-high seven assists, his most as a Texan. Emmanuel Innocenti led the Texans with seven boards with six on the defensive glass. He was the third Texan to score in double-digits with 11.

In the early minutes of the first half, the Trailblazers controlled pace, leading by as much as seven, 19-12, eight minutes into the game. The Texans started to take the momentum of the game after a fast break dunk in open court by Bubu Benjamin. Tarleton kept up the momentum with a Williams triple and seven straight points by Smith. Gaddy capped the 14-0 run with a pair of free throws, giving the Texans a 26-19 lead at the 7:42 mark.

Tarleton never looked back, taking a 46-34 lead at the break. Smith led all scorers with 16 including a trio of triples. Williams added 14 with the duo combining for 30 in the first 20 minutes. The Texans were feeling it from the floor, sinking 15 of their 30 shots, a 50% rate. Tarleton was nearly perfect at the line shooting 13-for-14 (92.9%).

The Purple and White kept the hype train rolling with a pair of triples by Innocenti and Smith to open the second half pushing the lead to 18. Tanner Christensen, who entered the game as the Trailblazers' leading scorer, picked up two quick fouls in the beginning of each half forcing him to the bench with 16 minutes on the clock in the second half.

Smith picked up his 28th point of the game off an alley-oop from Izzy Miles to put a comfortable seal on the game, giving the Texans a 72-48 lead, their biggest of the night.

The Texans' lead never dropped below 13 in the second half, as the Purple and White closed out the victory. In the final 10 minutes, Tarleton executed a halfcourt offense, waiting util the final few seconds on the shot clock in every possession. The Purple and White scored 40 in the second 20 minutes and held the Trailblazers to 34 for the second straight half.

Tarleton improved to 29-0, shooting over 50% in D1 game shooting 29-for-57, 50.9%. The Texans sunk seven triples and were nearly perfect at the line, shooting 21-for-22 a 95.5% rate. The Purple and White won the turnover battle, 22-13. Utah Tech won the battle of the boards, 34-29.

# Texans break 4 school records, multiple other top-10 performances at New Mexico Team Open

Tarleton State University

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Tarleton State once again had a record-setting weekend with four student-athletes breaking school records, this time at the New Mexico Team Open Friday, Jan. 26-Saturday, Jan. 27 in Albuquerque.

"These young men and women had a great weekend of competition," said interim head coach Chase Rathke. "They not only competed at high level, but they pushed their teammates and supported them throughout. It was a joy to watch them compete and to take down four school records is amazing. We are just scratching the surface and I truly believe this team has a lot more room for growth.' David Mvundura got the school record breaking started for the Texans at the New Mexico Team Open when he broke the school record for the indoor Men's 200 meter. Mvundura ran a time of 21.42 topping Justin Raines' time of 21.57 last season. Not long after Mvundura broke the first school record of the weekend, Hanna Dudley broke another school record. Dudley broke the indoor women's 200-meter record after posting a time of 24.41, beating the previous record of Nyla Barlow (24.53) set in 2022.

a school record set just one week ago by teammate Sage Barmettler. Cade set the new mark to beat in the indoor women's pole vault at 3.85 meters after Barmettler set the mark at 3.75 just a week ago.

Gabriele Tosti came out hot, breaking the indoor men's triple jump school record by almost an entire meter. Tosti jumped 15.76 meters, locking himself into the top spot, previously held by Jaden Hall (2023) with a jump of 14.94.

#### FIELD

Jacob Thomas moved into

to fourth place following Hannah Cades' school record.

Sofia DeGroot now sits third in school history in the indoor women's long jump after posting a jump of 5.77 meters. She is only surpassed by Jasmine McQuirter (2020, 6.00 meters) and Euphemia Eden (2015, 6.05 meters).

Ashonti Idlebird moved into fifth all-time in school history in the indoor women's triple jump after posting a jump of 11.21 meters.

Kassidy Kirkpatrick is tied for seventh all-time in the indoor women's high jump after jumping 1.65 meters. She is tied with current teammate



Hannah Cade got things going on day two, breaking

second all-time in school history in the indoor men's pole vault after a vault of 4.76 meters this past weekend. He now only sits behind William Carlton (2015) who posted the school record at 4.86 meters.

Rylee Hennig is now just one spot out of holding the school record for the indoor women's high jump after clearing 1.73 meters in Albuquerque. She now has her sights set to beat the school record of 1.74 meters held by teammate Jordan Rae who set the record in 2023.

Chandler Wilson posted a vault of 3.40 meters in the indoor women's pole vault, moving her into fourth alltime in school history. At the time of her vault, she secured third place in school history before moving down Jourdaine Cerenil who also jumped 1.65 meters.

Jordan Flores now sits seventh all-time in school history in the men's long jump after a jump of 6.74 meters.

Max Newell moved up to eighth all-time in school history in the men's high jump with a jump of 1.97 meters.

#### TRACK

After a successful weekend out west, Morgan Lamberson now sits second all-time in school history in the indoor women's 3K with a time of 10:28.31. Aly Coughlin (2016) holds the school record with a time of 09:54.1

Amandine Estival moved into second all-time in school history in the indoor women's 60-meter with a time of 7.56. Sitting ahead of her and holding the school record is curTarleton State once again had a record-setting weekend with four student-athletes breaking school records, this time at the New Mexico Team Open Friday, Jan. 26-Saturday, Jan. 27 in Albuquerque.

rent teammate Dudley (2023) who set the record at 7.48 seconds.

Konnor Hoerman now sits fourth all-time in school history in the indoor men's 60-meter hurdles after turning in a time 8.03 seconds.

Angel Contreras is now fifth all-time in school history in the indoor men's mile after crossing the finish line with a time of 4:20.32.

Aaliyah Rifort-Delem turned in a time of 57.52 seconds to move herself into fifth all-time in school history in the indoor women's 400 meter.

Lamberson notched her second top-10 finish in school history over the weekend in the indoor women's mile, moving into sixth all-time with a time of 5:17.95.

After turning in a time of 21.80, Hugo Menin has now tied for seventh all-time in school history in the indoor men's 200-meter.

Mikayla Watson moved into seventh all-time in school history in the indoor women's 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.05.

Sage Lancaster earned her first of two top-10 finishes in school history over the weekend, turning in a time of 10:49.58 to move into eighth all-time in school history in the indoor women's 3K. Lancaster's second top-10 finish came when she turned in a time of 5:23.54 to move into ninth all-time in school history in the indoor women's mile.

Nathan Franco moved himself into ninth all-time in school history in the indoor men's 60-meter hurdles after posting a time of 8.27 seconds.

Omar Mahmoud tied the Egyptian National Record for the indoor men's 60-meter hurdles after posting a time of 8.09 seconds.

The Texans will travel out west again, but this time a little closer to home as they compete in the Texas Tech Javis Scoot Invitational in Lubbock Feb. 9-10.

## Texans return to Lone Star State boasting 2-0 start after sweep of C-USA teams

#### Tarleton State University

LAS CRUCES, N.M. – Tarleton State picked up right where they left off in El Paso beating the Aggies for the fifth straight time.

The Purple and White never ended up on the wrong side of things when facing the Aggies in WAC play going a perfect 4-0. With New Mexico State making the move to Conference USA this past July, the Texans' meetings with the Aggies will no longer be conference matchups. The move didn't faze the Texans one bit, with the Purple and White walking away with a 5-2 victory in Las Cruces on Saturday, Jan. 27.

"It was another great win for our team today against another strong Conference USA team," said head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron. "We knew New Mexico State was going to fight until the end and I thought we kept our calm, played smart and used momentum to our advantage. We are excited for what's to come and can't wait to play at home next Friday."

#### DOUBLES

The Texans took the doubles point for the second straight match with a 2-1 win over the Aggies.

Martha Makantasi and Maretha Burger came out hot once again cruising to a 6-2 win over Natsuki Nishimura and Anna Pinaieva of NMSU to earn the Texans' first doubles win. This is the pair's second doubles win of the season after earning a 6-1 win over UTEP.

"Maretha and Martha played a great set of doubles and really set the tone for the day," said Douglas-Miron.

The Purple and White clinched the doubles point with a win on court three from doubles partners Emma Persson and Clara Sobius. The pair earned the 6-3 win over Whitney Moon and Dora Kurdi putting the Texans only three singles wins away from opening their season 2-0.

Noelia Lorca and Adeliya Mukhutdinova were defeated by Valeriia Ivanovskaia and Lisa Zhu 6-1.

#### SINGLES

Burger's hot streak from the doubles side of action carried over nicely to singles action with her earning the Texans' second point of the day. She earned a 6-1, 6-1 win over Kurdi on Court 6. This is Burger's first singles win in the Purple and White.

The next Texan put the team just one point away from earning their fifth straight win over the Aggies. Noelia Lorca put away Moon 6-3 in the first set but had to fight a little more in the second set, coming out victorious with a 7-6(3) win on Court 5.

Persson clinched for the Texans on Court 1 winning the fourth point of the day 6-4, 6-4 over Pinaieva. She is now 2-0 on the season after earning a 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Carlotta Mencaglia of UTEP.

The fifth and final point was earned by Makantasi, a senior for the Purple and White who is off to a great start for her final campaign for the Texans. Makantasi notched her second win of the season with a 6-4, 4-6, 1-0(10-7) win over Nishimura on Court 3. She started off her season with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Zuzanna Szczepanska of UTEP.

Elsa Boisson ended up on the wrong side of things falling to Zhu 6-4, 7-6(4). Sobius ultimately fell to

Ivanovskaia 7-5, 5-7, 1-0 (10-4).



COURTESY PHOTO

"It was another great win for our team today against another strong Conference USA team," said head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron. "We knew New Mexico State was going to fight until the end and I thought we kept Our calm, played smart and used momentum to our advantage. We are excited for what's to come and can't wait to play at home next Friday."

> FOR THE LATEST TARLETON SPORTS ACTION OR TO BUY GAME TICKETS, VISIT TARLETONSPORTS.COM

COURTESY PHOTO

# Premier receives perfect score at unannounced intruder audit

#### BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

eden@hcnews.com

Premier High School of Granbury received a perfect score when the Texas Education Agency conducted an unannounced intruder audit at the campus Thursday, Jan. 25. This is the first time the school has been audited. The current TEA code requires audits at least once in a three-year period, though the audit process should be ongoing and continuous.

The surprise audit requires that all four parts of a facility are audited: interior, exterior, climate and culture and operations of documents. The aim of the audit is to identify threats, hazards and weak areas that might pose a danger to persons or property. Anything that can interfere with a safe, secure and healthy learning environment should be addressed.

Though the term "audit" is employed, the process was developed by the Texas School Safety Center to selfassess a district's safety and security and provide a system to record improvement.

According to the School Safety and Security Audit Toolkit produced by the TxSSC, authorization should be sought from district administration and it is recommended that local law enforcement be notified as well. School-based security is not notified of the impending audit. The toolkit recommends developing a plausible story to access the facility without panic.

Once auditors are on-site, they inspect the facilities both indoor and out and review the day-to-day safety and security operations and policies. The campus discipline data, student and staff handbooks and other documents are part of the document review portion of the safety audit. In the case of schools that need improvement, documents from past audits and the progress plan are also examined.

"We have anticipated this audit for the past year and a half. It was a relief and a happy feeling when we passed with flying colors... as we knew we would. Our entire staff is so dedicated to our number one goal of offering a safe learning environment for our students," said Marsha Grissom, campus director.

Premier High School is a charter school, and attendance is free. Premier must abide by the same state regulations as all public schools. For information about Premier High School, see its website at premiergranbury. com or call 817-573-0435.

# Hood County high school athletes compete for scholarships in Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

#### Staff Reports

Local athletes will compete Saturday, Feb. 3, in the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Rodeo beginning at 1 p.m. in Will Rogers Coliseum. The champion in each event will receive a \$2,000 scholarship with a total of \$24,000 awarded.

Granbury High School student Grace Burdick will compete in walk-up goat tying. Levi Johnson from Granbury High will compete in the saddle bronc riding and chute dogging events.

Lipan resident and Gordon High School student Cara Crider will compete in breakaway and team roping.

Tolar High School student Kyley Kenley will compete in breakaway and her brother, Takota Kenley, will compete in team roping. Also from Tolar High, competing in goat tying is Rylee Rickabaugh. Her brother, J.W. Rickabaugh, will compete in chute dogging.



PHOTOS BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Young Granbury Rodeo Team athlete Levi Johnson in the saddle brocnc event. Competed at the first annual Granbury High School Rodeo. The rodeo took place at the Granbury Reunion Grounds Nov. 3-4. 2023

#### BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

# Cold water recreation is great but can be deadly



Council, a person who falls into the water experiences increased danger when water temps are below their of cold-weather recreation. Here are a few suggestions from the Safe Boating Campaign:



#### **BY KYLE LEWIS**

Kyle Lewis is the project manager/program coordinator at Brazos River Authority's Lake Granbury.

Sure it's February, but that doesn't mean fishing has to be on hold. Or, on those warmer days, you may just decide to take your boat out for a spin on the lake.

But remember, colder weather has particular issues when it comes to being out on the water.

Specifically, if you take a spill when you're out fishing, cold water can kill you very quickly. According to the National Safe Boating "You have one minute to

adjust to the cold shock of being in the water, 10 minutes of meaningful movement to get help and get out of the water, and one hour before he/she becomes unconscious from hypothermia," according to the NSBC website.

It further explain that a sudden, unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp reflex. Since it takes less than ½ cup of water in the lungs to drown, you MUST wear a life jacket — to get you past that initial shock of cold water.

With this info in mind, consider what you can do to ensure you and your passengers are able to return home after a successful day • Before you head out, invest in a cell phone dry bag and plan to keep it on you at all times. You'll have it, even in the water, if you are in trouble. Calling 911 will get you help when needed.

• File a float plan with someone who knows when you expect to return. You can find a free form available from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at https:// floatplancentral.cgaux.org/.

• Check the weather conditions and dress in layers. Bring an extra set of clothing in case you get wet.

• Don't go out alone. Any recreation is more fun with a friend, but having help if an emergency occurs can save your life.

• If you do fall into the water, try to remember not

COURTESY PHOTC

Sure it's February, but that doesn't mean fishing has to be on hold. Or, on those warmer days, you may just decide to take your boat out for a spin on the lake. zBut remember, colder weather has particular issues when it comes to being out on the water.

to panic. Regain control of your breathing and stay with the boat. • Most importantly, be

• Most importantiy, be

sure to wear a life jacket. Just having it in the boat won't help you if you fall overboard. Cold weather doesn't have to mean an end to fishing or water recreation as long as you plan ahead and make smart decisions.



# HOOD COUNTY OUTDOORS Swimbait — A good choice for warmer winter days



#### **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.

his week, the temperatures are warming and the water temperatures will be getting close to the 50 degree mark. With the warming water, it may be prudent to start imparting a little more action on your presentation. On those warmer days, the swimbait may be a good option. If a cold front moves back in and cools everything back down again, going back to the dead sticking may still be on order as well. Regardless, be prepared for either option. Swimbaits have been around for a long time, and they have reemerged as a popular bait option. Even the black bass anglers are using them more.

With water temperatures in the 40s and the baitfish huddled in those deeper holes, a slow presentation is preferred; it's typically called "dead sticking." When the water warms and a little more action is needed, a swimbait may be a great choice. You can "dead stick" a swimbait using the trolling motor and the tail will move back and forth as you slowly move the bait through the area you wish to fish (also called strolling). The swimbait is also a great option when the fish start surfacing. The swimbait can be tossed and retrieved through the feeding fish

mimicking a fleeing shad. Many years back Paul Elias used an Alabama rig with several swimbaits on his umbrella rig to catch over 100 pounds of fish to win a major tournament in the southeast. Another example of swimbaits used for black bass angling that comes to mind are the California anglers fishing for trophy fish using extremely large swimbaits.

There are many options

when it comes to swimbaits, whether you use them individually or on an umbrella rig to mimic a school of baitfish. There are premade baits like the Storm Wildeye that has the plastic bait molded on a weighted jig head, or you can use a soft plastic body and thread it on a jig head of your choice.

Popular colors are glow, pearl and/or chartreuse or a combination of all three. These type swimbaits are good to use on a variety of species including sand bass, striped bass and largemouth bass.

Present your bait at the depth where most of the baitfish are located and hold on. If the fish are pushing bait to the surface and you are trying to catch fish "under the birds," a good winter method is to cast into the schooling fish and let your bait fall through the feeding fish. Each day is a new adventure and you might have to experiment on how the fish want it. Some days a slow steady retrieve is desired. Other days they may want it moving fast.



COURTESY PHOTO

Swimbaits have been around for a long time, and they have reemerged as a popular bait option. Even the black bass anglers are using them more.



Crappie catches are good on small jigs worked around submerged timber mid lake (Waters Edge to Bentwater).

### **HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Lake Granbury is full and the water temperatures are in the middle 40s and warming. The best action reported is the big catfish (blues and yellows) biting on cut shad on the upper ends. Crappie catches are good on small jigs worked around submerged timber mid lake (Waters Edge to Bentwater). Striped and white bass are slow to fair on the upper ends close to the river channel. Best reports continue to come from in town to the Peninsula. Largemouth bass are slow to fair to 7 pounds on soft plastics worked near main lake points and deeper docks. Some good reports continue to come from the river above Granbury.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) black bass continue to be good to excellent in numbers with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds. Drop shot or Texas-rigged soft plastics are popular. Bass anglers continue to flock to this warm water fishery this winter. Limits of eater-sized channel catfish continue to be caught on prepared baits. I do not have a Tilapia report.





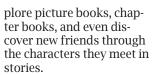




National Take Your Child to the Library Day, observed on February 3rd, is a fantastic celebration that invites families to embark on literary adventures together. Libraries are magical places filled with endless stories, exciting worlds, and the promise of discovery.

On this special day, parents and caregivers can create lasting memories with their children by taking them to the library. Libraries are like treasure troves, offering a diverse collection of books that cater to every interest and imagination. Kids can ex-

ime



Libraries often host special events on this day, such as storytime sessions, puppet shows, or interactive activities. It's an opportunity for kids to engage with literature in a fun and interactive way, fostering a love for reading and learning. Many libraries also provide craft stations, allowing February 3rd 2024

children to unleash their creativity and make bookmarks or crafts related to their favorite books.

Parents can use this day to instill the habit of reading in their children. By introducing kids to the joy of reading, they not only enhance their literacy skills but also open doors to new worlds, ideas, and possibilities.

Teachers can en-

courage their students and their families to participate in National Take Your Child to the Library Day. It's a chance to reinforce the importance of literacy outside the classroom and inspire a lifelong love for books.

In the digital age, libraries are evolving, offering e-books, audiobooks, and online resources. National Take Your Child to the Library Day is a reminder that libraries remain vibrant, exciting places that cater to the interests and needs of children and families. So, on February 3rd, grab your child's hand, head to the library, and let the magic of books unfold! GETTING A LIBRARY CARD OPENS PEOPLE UP TO A WORLD OF BOOKS, MOVIES, MUSIC, AND OTHER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THEIR LOCAL LIBRARIES.

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.														
G	Y	М	L	А	М	Ρ	Т	А	В	L	Е	S	В	Е
G	Ν	Ι	D	А	Е	R	S	Н	Е	Ν	V	А	V	J
I	Y	Ι	А	J	S	R	L	А	Υ	Κ	V	Х	Т	Е
S	М	Ρ	А	G	Е	S	Κ	U	Н	L	W	F	Q	С
Т	Е	L	Ι	В	R	А	R	Ι	А	Ν	F	L	U	Ν
Y	С	0	М	Ρ	U	Т	Е	R	R	Ρ	Х	Е	Ι	Е
Y	Ν	G	Ρ	С	U	D	J	Ζ	Ρ	W	Ν	Н	Е	R
Н	Y	А	D	Н	Ν	В	Q	0	S	В	Q	S	Т	Е
В	V	J	J	А	А	Т	Т	С	Υ	R	L	Κ	0	F
F	Q	Υ	J	W	М	Κ	Κ	Т	D	Н	W	0	R	Е
М	S	Р	Ζ	Ζ	S	Х	Х	К	А	В	Υ	0	L	R
0	V	В	L	Е	Q	В	V	Н	Е	Κ	F	В	F	Ν
U	А	Ζ	D	В	Q		Т	G	R	Е	А	Т	L	Т
Κ	G	С	G	J	А	U	F	U	Ν	S	F	0	R	0
С	0	Q	J	W	Κ	W	Η	A	W	С	Т	А	V	Ζ
Word Bank														

pages	2. reference
quiet	6. read
computer	10. lamptab

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# **A NIGHT OF PIANO PLAYING**



Pete's Dueling Piano Bar will be making a special trip to support the efforts of the nonprofit, United Way of Hood County.

#### Staff Reports

nited Way of Hood County is preparing for a night of piano playing March 24 at the Granbury Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St., to raise money for the nonprofit through Pete's Dueling Piano Bar.

For the second time, United Way of Hodd County will host Pete's to raise funds to support its efforts to steer Hood County residents toward a better tomorrow through empowering academic excellence, fueling financial stability, nurturing holistic well-being, building resilience and strengthening capacity.

Texas' top entertainers will take the stage and perform on two baby grand pianos in two-person rotations every hour. All four performers will join together on stage throughout the evening to bring more songs with more instruments and entertainment. The players take requests and perform the latest and greatest music to make it a performance for everyone

to enjoy. Pete's originated as a one-man band in Austin on 6th Street back in 1992. Now, after 30 years in the business, SAVE Pete is a **THE DATE!** seasoned **MARCH 23** party-6:00 PM starter whose **LAKE GRANBURY** sing-CONFERENCE along CENTER experience



couraged to sing, scream and dance their heart out.

out."

The event will also feature bar-type food and a cash bar. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with piano performances happening from 7 to 10 p.m. Individual tickets will go on sale Feb. 12. Table sponsorships are available via United Way of Hood County's website at unitedwayofhoodcounty. kinsta.cloud/petes-piano/. Open seating tickets will be \$100 until sold out and can be found on the website.



Jared Hickey of Granbury, TX.

COURTESY OF JARED HICKEY

From hay bales to Hollywood: The unlikely journey of Jared Hickey

#### **BY MICKY SHEARON**

Special to the Hood County News

In the heart of Hood County, where the fields stretch as far as the eye can see and the community ties are as strong as the Texas sun, lives Jared Hickey, a 32-year-old Granbury native whose life story reads like a script from a feel-good Hollywood movie.

Jared's roots in Granbury run deep. Born in Fort Worth but raised his entire life in Granbury, he embodies the spirit of this close-knit community. A graduate of Granbury High School in 2010, Jared's early life was marked by the familiar rhythms of small-town Texas life — playing baseball, riding horses, hunting and fishing. "Growing up in Granbury was like living in a world where everyone's your neighbor. It's a place where the days are long, but the years are short," Jared recalls. His journey took an unexpected turn after a year playing baseball at Ranger Junior College. An injury cut short his athletic aspirations, leading him to work as an insurance adjuster and assist in his family's land surveying business. But Jared's

into a national phenomenon known for getting fired up night after night.

has grown

Pete is known as an "entertainment enigma" who prefers to keep a low profile. What's most important to him is that evervone feels 100% themselves when listening to the music. Guests are en-

"We are most looking forward to bringing to light what we are currently doing and encouraging our community to get involved," United Way Executive Director Crystal Moore said. "It's always good to see the community come and support our agency. We do anticipate selling

PLEASE SEE HICKEY | C3



# Texas Democratic Women of Hood County donate items to commemorate MLK Day

#### Staff Reports

This year, members of the Texas Democratic Women of Hood County delivered donations to New Beginnings Resale Shop to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, which was recognized Monday, Jan. 15. The sale of items at New Beginnings helps to fund Mission Granbury's Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children, the only shelter of its kind in the area.

The Texas Democratic Women of Hood County continuously support the Ada Carey Shelter by bringing monthly donations of toiletries and sanitary needs for women in need. Last year they decided to bring clothing and small appliances to New Beginnings, as well. This year is the second year the TDW has visited the resale

shop with donations for the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

MLK Day honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who wanted to be remembered for what he had done in his lifetime to help others rather than his degrees, his honors or his speeches. In keeping with King's desire, the members of TDW decided to honor King's memory by contributing to an organization which supports other women.

"We, the members of Texas Democratic Women of Hood County, will continue to reach out and help other women by sharing resources with them. Like Dr. King, we take pride in giving our time and sharing our resources to help make our community a better place to live," said Rose Simpson, a member of the TDW Hood County.

#### COURTESY PHOTC

Pictured from left are Rose Simpson, Irene Smith, Ann Schuessler, Bernie Mull, Hannah Bohm and Sherry Johnson, President.



In 2020, the top five most common cancer areas in the body for adults ages 50 or older in Texas were the breast, prostate, lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, and kidney and renal pelvis, according to the TCR.

# Texas Health and Human Services highlights World Cancer Day Feb. 4

Staff Reports

exas Health and Human Services recognizes World Cancer Day Sunday, Feb. 4. World Cancer Day is a day to raise awareness and encourage the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer.

The Paris Charter established World Cancer Day in 2000 to promote research for cures and prevention, improve patient services and mobilize the global community against cancer. One of every five deaths in the U.S. is due to cancer, making it the second-leading cause of death, exceeded only by heart disease. According to the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR), 99,642 adults aged 50 and older were diagnosed with cancer in 2020. This is a decrease from the 108,726 adults in that age group who were diagnosed in 2019. Among those older adults diagnosed with cancer in 2020, 46,433 were female and 53,209 were male. In 2020, the top five most common cancer areas in the body for adults ages 50 or older in Texas were the breast, prostate, lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, and kidney and renal pelvis, according to the TCR.

tant risk factor for cancer," Ramona Magid, chief prevention officer with the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, said. "Healthy lifestyle choices can possibly reduce the chances of getting cancer. Higher risk lifestyle choices include smoking, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, obesity and eating an unhealthy diet. It's important to consult with a health care provider to determine the appropriate cancer screening tests based on individual health history and risk factors." The most important can-



"Age is the most impor-

cer risk factors that can be changed are body weight, diet and physical activity. At least 18% of all cancers diagnosed in the U.S. are related to preventable conditions like excess body weight, physical inactivity, excess alcohol consumption and poor nutrition.

Avoiding tobacco products, staying at a recommended weight, being active throughout life and eating

The most important cancer risk factors that can be changed are body weight, diet and physical activity.

a nutritious diet can greatly reduce the risk of developing or dying from cancer. These same behaviors are also linked with a lower risk of heart disease and diabetes.

The Texas Health and Human Services Texercise statewide health and wellness initiative encourages people and communities to adopt healthy lifestyle habits. People are encouraged to download the "Texercise" Health Chart using the Aging Well Resources Order Form to track their health information.

The Texas Department of State Health Services also provides cancer resources for patients, caregivers and families.

Texas Health and Human Services provides a variety of social services to millions of people throughout the state. Once a month, Texas Health and Human Services writes and distributes articles focusing on topics about aging with the intent to prepare aging Texans for systems and issues they may encounter.



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#### Argylle (PG13)

Fri: 3:40PM, 6:45PM, 9:50PM. Sat: 10:05AM, 1:10PM, 4:15PM, 7:20PM, 10:25PM. Sun: 10:05AM, 1:10PM, 4:15PM, 7:20PM Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:45PM

Lisa Frankenstein (PG13)

#### Migration (PG)

Fri: 3:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:25PM, 10:00PM Sat: 10:30AM, 2:20PM, 4:30PM, 6:40PM, 8:50PM. Sun: 10:30AM, 2:20PM, 4:30PM, 6:40PM. Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 4:45PM, 7:00PM

#### The Beekeeper (R)

Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 10:35PM. Sat: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, 4:25PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM. Sup: 11:15AM 1:50PM 4:25PM 7:00PM Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM

#### The Boys in the Boat (PG13)

Fri: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:45PM, 10:35PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM, 9:20PM. Sun: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM

#### The Chosen: Season 4 Episodes 1-3 (NR) Fri: 2:00PM, 5:30PM, 9:55PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 5:30PM, 9:55PM. Sun: 10:00AM, 1:05PM, 5:30PM

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:30PM Wonka (PG)

Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 7:20PM, 9:45PM. Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM. Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, 5:10PM, 7:50PM. Thurs: 2:10PM, 4:50PM



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### Habitat Housing Program

Habitat for Humanity of Hood County will accept applications for the Habitat Housing Program at:

Rancho Brazos Community Center (RBCC) 3701 Sundown Trail Granbury, TX 76049

**ONLY** on the following dates and times:

Saturday, February 10th & 17th, 2024 Doors open at 9:00-9:30 & 1:00 -1:30 Sundays, February 11th & 18th , 2024 Doors open 1:00-1:30

To apply, you must attend one of the sessions listed above, and complete an application at that time.

For a complete list of requirements that applicants must meet, and a list of documents you will need to bring, please visit our web site at habitatofhoodcounty.org



# Habitat for Humanity accepting housing program applications

#### Staff Reports

Habitat for Humanity Hood County will accept applications for the Habitat Housing Program at its application sessions this

month. Applicants interested in being considered for the program must attend one of the sessions. The sessions will be Saturdays, Feb. 10 and 17: doors open 9-9:30 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m.;

or Sundays, Feb. 11 and 18: doors open 1-1:30 p.m. To apply, applicants will attend a session and complete an application at that time. The location is

Rancho Brazos Community

Center, 3701 Sundown Trl., Granbury. For a complete list of the requirements applicants must meet and a list of documents needed, please visit habitatofhoodcounty.org.

#### HICKEY **FROM PAGE C1**

story was far from over. It was about to take a dramatic twist, reminiscent of the plot twists in the movies he would soon be a part of.

About two years ago, while baling hay for his uncle, Jared's life intersected with a family new to Granbury — a family that would unknowingly catapult him into an adventure beyond his wildest dreams. "I was on the hay baler, and I saw this family — a man, woman, and two kids just watching the hay bales come out of the baler. They were from California and had obviously never seen a hay baler before. I got off the tractor and introduced myself, and we hit it off right away," Jared recounts, his eyes lighting up at the memory.

This chance encounter was the beginning of a friendship that bridged two vastly different worlds. The family, who worked in the film industry as stunt professionals, had moved to Granbury after falling in love with the area during the filming of the series "Yellowstone." One evening, they casually suggested Jared join them on a show in Austin. "I thought they were joking," Jared chuckles, "but next thing I knew, I was packing for Austin to work on 'Walker.'"

This serendipitous twist marked Jared's foray into the world of television, a stark contrast to his life in Granbury. "I went from baling hay to dodging punches and falling off horses on location sets. It's been a whirlwind, to say the least!" he

After "Walker," opportunities continued to roll in. Jared soon found himself working on the Netflix series "Bass Reeves" and another show in New Mexico, which has yet to be released. "I never imagined my life taking this turn. It's like living in a dream where each day brings a new adventure," he says, still in disbelief.

exclaims.

In the midst of his newfound career, Jared often finds himself reflecting on the contrasts between his life in Granbury and the bustling sets of television shows. "One day, I'm in the quiet fields of Hood County; the next, I'm on a film set with cameras rolling and directors shouting 'Action!'" Jared says with a laugh.

Jared's story is more than just a tale of unexpected fame. It's a testament to the power of community, chance encounters and the surprising twists life can take. In Granbury, where everyone knows your name and the pace of life is a gentle, steady rhythm, Jared Hickey stands as a living reminder that sometimes, the most extraordinary journeys begin in the most ordinary of places.

As he reflects on his journey, Jared's thoughts turn to his hometown. "No matter where this path takes me, Granbury will always be home. It's where my story began, and it's where my heart will always be," he says, his voice tinged with a mix of pride and nostalgia.

Jared Hickey's story is not just about the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. It's about the enduring spirit of a small-town boy who found himself in the world



COLIRTESY OF IARED HICKEY

Jared Hickey on the location set for "Lawmen: Bass Reeves."

of stunt work, all while keeping his roots firmly planted in the Texan soil. It's a story that reminds us that sometimes, life's most remarkable adventures can start with something as simple as a hay bale and a friendly hello.



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#### 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 Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information 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-

#### **GRANBURY CIVIC** Chorus

rehearsals, 7 p.m. at Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. 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

GO PLAY

only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 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.
- **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 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 Street. 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.

#### **MELODY BELLES SING-**

ERS, women's choral group, weekly rehearsals for spring concert season. New members who sing first or second soprano welcome. 10:00 a.m. - noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge Street. For details, please call 817-999-1364.

#### 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., meets 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

PLEASE SEE PLAY | C4

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.

6498. GENERAC

# A year of musical nostalgia Granbury Theatre Company set to kick off 2024 Tribute Concert Series

#### **BY MICKY SHEARON**

Special to the Hood County News

he Granbury Theatre Company at the Historic Granbury Opera House is set to host an electrifying 2024 Tribute Concert Series, offering a journey through the golden eras of classic rock and pop music. This year's lineup features eight tribute bands, each dedicated to recreating the magic of legendary music icons. From the soulful rock of Creedence Clearwater Revival to the iconic bluesrock of ZZ Top, these concerts promise to be a highlight for music lovers in Hood County.

#### FORTUNATE SON TRIBUTE TO CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL (FEB. 9-10)

Kicking off the series is "Fortunate Son," a tribute to the Americana roots rock of Creedence Clearwater Revival. Known for its authentic sound and energy, Fortunate Son captures the essence of CCR with classics like "Bad Moon Rising" and "Proud Mary." This concert is a must-see for fans of timeless rock 'n' roll.

#### GYPSY DREAMS TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC (FEB. 16-17)

Next up, "Gypsy Dreams" brings the mystical and ethereal sound of Fleetwood Mac to Granbury. Its performance is a deep dive into the band's rich catalog, from the haunting "Rhiannon" to the iconic "Go Your Own Way." Gypsy Dreams' attention to detail in both music and presentation will transport you back to Fleetwood

#### Mac's heyday.

#### LIVERPOOL LEGENDS TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES (MARCH 29-30)

March brings "Liverpool Legends," a tribute to the most influential band of all time, The Beatles. From the early days of "Love Me Do" to the psychedelic era of "Sgt. Pepper," this group's performance is a comprehensive Beatles experience, celebrating the band that changed music forever.

#### DANCING DREAM TRIBUTE TO ABBA (MAY 31-JUNE 1)

As summer approaches, "Dancing Dream" will take the stage with its tribute to ABBA. Known for its vibrant costumes and infectious energy, this group brings the Swedish pop sensation's biggest hits to life. Get ready to dance along to "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia" and more.

#### INFINITE JOURNEY TRIBUTE TO JOURNEY (AUG. 1-3)

In August, "Infinite

Journey" pays homage to the anthemic rock of Journey. This tribute band is renowned for its spot-on renditions of classics like "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Open Arms." Its dynamic performance is a journey through one of rock's most beloved catalogs.

#### **BEGINNINGS TRIBUTE TO CHICAGO (SEPT. 13-14)** As autumn arrives,

"Beginnings" will celebrate the diverse sounds of Chicago. Known for its powerful horns and rich vocals, this tribute band captures the spirit of Chicago's hits, from the jazzy "Saturday in the Park" to the soulful "You're the Inspiration."

#### THE LONG RUN BAND FROM COLORADO'S TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES (OCT. 17-19)

In October, Opera House favorite "The Long Run Band from Colorado" returns to Granbury, bringing the smooth, country-tinged rock of The Eagles to the Opera House stage. The band's

faithful renditions of "Hotel California," "Take It Easy," and other hits showcase the timeless appeal of one of America's greatest bands.

#### EL LOCO FANDANGO TRIBUTE TO ZZ TOP (NOV. 15-16)

Closing the series is "El Loco Fandango," a tribute to the Texas blues-rock of ZZ Top. With their signature beards and gritty guitar riffs, band members capture the essence of ZZ Top classics like "La Grange" and "Sharp Dressed Man."

Tickets for these unforgettable nights of music are available online at www. granburytheatrecompany. org or by calling the Opera House Box Office at 817-579-0952. Don't miss the chance to relive the magic of these legendary bands through the Granbury Theatre Company's 2024 Tribute Concert Series — a celebration of music that transcends generations.

#### **PLAY** FROM PAGE C3

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 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:

SECOND THURSDAYS

#### HOOD COUNTY CERT

bskaggs8@aol.com.

meets 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.

# Break out the bling for Handsome Hunks fundraiser Feb. 15

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury might not be the Music City you would prefer, but it will still have some of that Nashville charm during the Handsome Hunks of Hood County event from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St.

Featuring a theme of Nashville Nights, the highenergy event will allow 10 local hunks to sing, dance, and strut their stuff while competing for the ultimate title — all the while raising money for a great cause: Ruth's Place.

The following men are competing for the title:

• Darren Rape — cattle rancher, physician associate, IM, cardiology, pain manage-



ment, married to Wendy.

• Chris Hammer — golfer and family man, general manager of Newscope Marketing, married and dad to Finn.

621 E. Pearl St.

bit more then they'll come

back out on stage and do

they'll exit and then each

hunk will get two min-

personality."

good time."

utes solo to show their

their dance together. Then

Following a live auction

will come back onstage and

perform a talent. Billington

clarified, however, that the

hunks don't have to show-

"It can be a skit, they can

"We tell them 'talent' so that

maybe it'll be entertaining to

the crowd. We just want to

make sure that they have a

former Hunks have per-

She said in previous years,

formed a gymnastics routine

and a glow stick routine (in

place of flaming batons).

"It should be a lot of

fun. I don't know what all

they have up their sleeve,"

While the judges will de-

termine the Hunk of the

People's Choice Award.

whoever raises the most

money individually for

Year, the community will

determine who will win the

"The People's Choice is

Ruth's Place," Billington said.

"We will also have the QR

code on the tables (with a

direct link to their fundrais-

ing page) and a five-gallon

bucket and people will put

on them as the People's

will receive a TV donated

participants can bid on a

by Kroger while live auction

stay in a condo in Galveston,

Choice."

money in the bucket to vote

The winner of the dot race

Billington said.

bribe the judges," she said.

case a specific talent.

and a dot race, the Hunks

• Josh Winters — outdoorsman, co-owner of D'Vine Wine of Granbury and karaoke king.

• Adam Logston — hunting and lake life, employee at Lotus, LLC, husband and dad of two.

• Trenton Mooney — Lions Club vice president, seniors' real estate specialist at Vybe Realty, and a married dad of two.

• Kevin Heredia — shy and hilarious, reception, IT, translator and more at Ruth's Place, and happily in a relationship.

• Jason Lanzara — Operation Support a Hero, owner of MDM Landscapes, Christ follower, husband and father.

• Dr. Romeo Bachand — shuffleboard and wine connoisseur, medical director and board president at Ruth's Place, physician and Rotary Club member.

• Tom Jensen — marketing professor, marketing director at Lake Granbury Medical Center, and a married dad of two.

• Chris Maunder — Knights of Columbus member, real estate agent with Mills Real Estate Group, and happily engaged.

Kristin Billington, executive director of Ruth's Place, explained that the "Handsome Hunks" are chosen by volunteers and Billington herself.

"It's basically someone who could use exposure or has a business to promote or knows a lot of people in the community," she said.

As the event begins, each Hunk will have the chance to make an entrance in what Billington calls the "parade of hunks."

"Once we kind of talk to the crowd for a minute, they will come from one side of the room and walk through the crowd and hype everybody up," she said. "Then they'll exit, we'll do a little
a condo in South Padre, and a condo in Angel Fire, New Mexico. The event will also include a stretch raffle (where a per-

a stretch raffle (where a person stretches the raffle tickets the length of their arms to determine how many tickets they will receive) and a champagne and vodka pull featuring a bottle of Blanton bourbon whiskey.

There will be six judges including Brenda Coffman, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Joni Berry and Lydia Rybeck. One spot is currently unfilled, and the last judge will be chosen through a raffle drawing.

"If you come to the event, you can pay \$20 for a raffle ticket, and then you might get to be a judge for the night," Billington said. "That is a really sought-after position, because you get to choose the Hunk of the Year, and also, they like to bribe the judges. We've had guys bring champagne, roses and chocolates."

Local financial advisor Tony Mobly and Tim Bubel, the 2022 Handsome Hunk of Hood County, will serve as emcees during the event.

While there wasn't a Handsome Hunks event in 2023 due to a search for the next executive director, 2022's event raised a total of \$97,197.

"It's a significant portion of our budget, so it's a really important event for us to be successful," Billington said.

#### **RUTH'S PLACE**

Handsome Hunks was created in 2010 to serve as a fundraiser for Ruth's Place, a nonprofit organization that provides high quality health care and social services to uninsured Hood County residents.

"All of the proceeds go to

Ruth's Place," Billington said. "Any Hood County resident that does not have health insurance can come to Ruth's Place. All you have to do is fill out an application, show proof of residency — which is any piece of mail with your name and address on it proving that you live in Hood County — and then we need a copy of your driver's license. That's it. We do ask for donations from our patients. If they can donate for the services they receive, great. We don't put a number on it. If you can donate,

please do. If not, we get it." The Ruth's Place Clinic is located at 1411 Crawford Ave., while the Ruth's Place Community Outreach Center is in Oak Trail Shores at 2723 Maplewood St.

Billington explained the outreach center currently provides a weekday literacy program from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for Baccus Elementary School students who are testing below their grade level in reading.

"We are working on a lot of different programs for 2024," she said. "For the Outreach Center, we have the GED program in place and then we're working on a couple of things with (Hood County) YMCA and with Pecan Valley (Centers for Behavioral and Developmental Healthcare). We do a lot with Cook Children's (Medical Center). They do the Parent Cafe training, so two of our staff members were just trained in the Parent Cafe classes, so those are going to be implemented this year."

Billington said in 2023, the number of new patients seen at Ruth's Place increased by 128% from 2022. Additionally, there were 1,837 patient encounters — an 11% increase from 2022.

"In 2023 we spent an average of \$4,917 per month on lab tests, imaging, pathology, etc. needed to treat our patients," Billington said. "We have a lot going on, but this money is super important for us to continue what we do."

Since Billington is the new executive director, this will be her first time attending a Handsome Hunks event. She said she is excited to see the high energy of the crowd and see everyone dressed in their boots, hats and sparkles throughout the night.

"I think it's going to be really fun to see the guys all dancing together on stage because they've had two dance practices so far, and it's been fun to watch the growth from just the first practice to the second practice," she said. "I can't wait to see what they look like in three weeks. It's gonna be really fun."

While tickets were not sold out for the event yet at the time of the interview, Billington encourages aspiring attendees to call Ruth's Place at 817-573-6800 to check for availability of tickets.

#### **MORE INFO**

For more information, visit ruthsplace.wixsite.com/ ruthsplace.



#### THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Sommerville

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

#### **SECOND SATURDAYS**

#### **SECOND SATURDAY**

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

#### **THIRD MONDAYS**

#### **GRANBURY QUILTERS**

Guild meets 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.

#### DAYDREAM ACHIEVER



The Rhine River is a first-time river cruiser's perfect experience. Sailing through France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland, the Rhine River is filled with beauty and old-world locations. In Berlin, Germany The Rhine River flowes past the Bode Museum which houses masterpieces such as Donatello's 'Pazzi Madonna' and Antonio Canova's 'Dancer'.



#### **BY ZAC WILSON**

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

iver cruising takes you through the heart of your destination. It is truly one of the best ways to explore and experience everything your destination has to offer. You will find yourself immersed in the local culture, cuisine and natural beauty. It's a hasslefree experience from start to finish. And it's relaxing and luxurious. I can't think of a better way to travel. You unpack once, the accommodations are 5-star luxury, the sommelier pairs the wine with the chef's cuisine, the menu is locally sourced celebrating the tastes of the local culture, the tours and activities bring the region to life, and you sail through the most beautiful landscapes. The only questions you need to ask are "where do river cruises sail" and "when should I go"? is filled with beauty and old-The Rhine River is a world locations. There is a first-time river cruissense of going back in time er's perfect experience. Sailing through France, as you stop in small towns, Germany, Netherlands and and awe and wonder as you sail through the Rhine River Switzerland, the Rhine River

Gorge filled with castles, old keeps and ruins.

The Danube River is perfect for lovers of history, culture and art. Sailing through Budapest, Slovakia, Vienna, and more, you will experience UNESCO Heritage sites, St. Stephens Cathedral, Vienna Opera House, the Castle District and St. Matthias Church in Budapest, an excursion to Salzburg, and incredible local wines from the famous Wachau valley.

Wine lovers will celebrate sailing through the famous regions of France. Experience Bordeaux, Champagne and vineyard tours. Explore a truffle farm, enjoy a Van Gogh walking tour, and experience a tasting tour in France's culinary capitol city of Lyon. Explore Avignon, Vienne, Lyon, Macon, Tournus, Chalon-sur-Saône and Diion. You can also find river cruise adventures in Portugal on the Douro, Egypt on the Nile, African safaris and wildlife cruises on the Chobe, Columbia on the Magdalena, and Cambodia Vietnam on the Mekong.

There are several river cruises in the United States as well. You will find many historical cruises on the Mississippi river and its tributaries. The river cruises on the Columbia and Snake rivers in the Pacific Northwest are filled with beauty as you follow the path of Lewis and Clark.

The river cruising season in Europe begins in late March and goes into early December. The best weather and experience overall is often between May and September.

There are two special times to experience a river cruise in Europe. The first is tulip season. Tulip sailings sell out a year or more in advance due to popularity and a limited time frame. Arrive a few days before your sailing and fully experience Amsterdam, and then enjoy an itinerary exploring the Netherlands and Belgium. Late November through early December hosts the famous Christmas Markets Cruises. Experience the deep-rooted holiday traditions of Europe and be overwhelmed by the magic of

### DAYDREAM VACATIONS

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a mug of steamy gluhwein,

est advent calendar. Dress

warmly for this special win-

and see the world's larg-

in Strasbourg, warm up with

All the fun of planning your daydream vacation, with none of the stress



ter sailing.

There are many details involved in planning and booking your perfect river cruise. Be sure to use a professional travel advisor who specializes in river cruising!

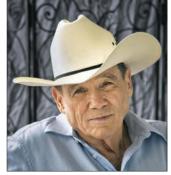
#### **BOOK REVIEW**

# *Living in the underbelly of society is a struggle*

#### **BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEEYER**

It's a hand-to-mouth existence; you never know where your next meal will come from, unless it's from a warden or a trusty. You never truly know who you're sleeping against or where your next ten bucks'll come from. There's no privacy living in the underbelly. You can lose your soul there. And in "Harbor Lights," a new short-story collection by James Lee Burke, you could also lose your life.

No matter what the chore, Aaron Broussard loved doing things with his father: fishing, boating, traveling, lunching, spotting dead men in the water along the Louisiana coast. James Broussard knew why those men were floating: it was 1942, and a German submarine was nearby. He knew it. In the first story, that which gives this book its title, the FBI knew it, too, and they



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK VERONSKY **Author James Lee Burke** 

#### aimed to keep Broussard quiet.

Beneath Montana's Flathead Lake lies an ancient highway that folks say you can see if you look hard. Running from the law, R.B Ruger stood on the banks of the lake and saw the road dotted with headlights like stars in a dark Western sky. In "Going Across Jordan," he never thought anyone'd need to dive down and follow it.

Mind yourself and don't go anywhere near the Red Hat House out near Camp

A, where men suffer horribly. Lead Belly was out there once, and Arlen thinks about that, and about how he just wants to be left alone with his Gibson to serve his time. But in "Big Midnight Special," there'll be a prison boxing match soon, and Arlen will put on gloves - or else.

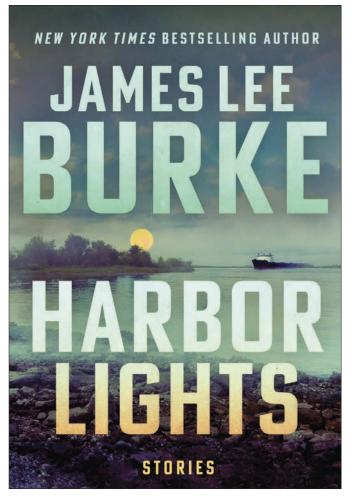
All Francis wanted to do was go home. Home from Vietnam, home and away from his memories, home in the middle of a storm with his son, but his truck broke down outside a two-bit bar in the middle of nowhere. He'd seen some things in battle that he'd sooner forget, but in "A Distant War," nothing compared to the fight with his past.

No matter what the season, it often feels like you don't have a spare minute to enjoy a book. But twenty minutes now, an hour later, and you'll finish "Harbor Lights" in no time.

You'll have no problem at all entering the tattered world inside this book, or diving into the addicting tales. Author James Lee Burke encapsulates his storytelling prowess in smaller bites that can be taken alone or as a whole. Put them endto-end, though, and you'll see that the tales are linked, subtly and loudly, with turns of phrase, names and places that wink at readers and keep the stories tied. You'll have fun finding those little breadcrumbs, even as you're busy turning pages and trying to keep your hair from standing on end.

This short-story collection is a great introduction to Burke's work, if you're new. If you're a fan already, what are you waiting for? "Harbor Lights" is waiting. Missing it is something you won't be able to stomach.

COURTESY PHOTO "Harbor Lights: Stories" by James Lee Burke C.2024, ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS, \$27,00, 358 PAGES







#### VETERANS VOICE



COURTESY PHOTO

Creating a binder of important papers such as marriage license, divorce decrees, birth certificates, military discharge, life insurance policies, passwords, bank account information, list of assets, the name and contact information for accountants, attorneys and physicians, a list of medications, a copy of the will, the name of the individual they will appoint as fiduciary if they are unable to handle their affairs, plans for burial, a copy of the most recent annual VA Tax Abatement letter if already receiving VA benefits, most recent bank statements, investment statements, and yearly social security statement will save a family a lot of time when trying to get benefits for the veteran/surviving spouse if something should happen.

#### **BY LINDA MALLON**

Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years. linda.mallon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-579-3292.

've written several articles on Pension Aid and Attendance benefits and the documents we need in order to determine eligibility, but we have so many newcomers to our community, I feel the need to put some important information out there as an introduction and reminder.

When wartime veterans or surviving spouses need the assistance of a home care agent or assisted living facility, there are specific supporting documents needed in order to file a claim for Pension Aid and Attendance benefits to help with those expenses. Children of ill or aging parents often find themselves scrambling around at the last minute trying to find information to get benefits help and are unable to gather

everything they need. If we have to request the DD 214 or equivalent discharge papers, it could take National Archives up to 90 days or more to get that information to the Veteran if they are not already enrolled in the VA Health Care System.

Creating a binder of important papers such as marriage license, divorce decrees, birth certificates, military discharge, life insurance policies, passwords, bank account information, list of assets, the name and contact information for accountants, attorneys and physicians, a list of medications, a copy of the will, the name of the individual they will appoint as fiduciary if they are unable to handle their affairs, plans for burial, a copy of the most recent annual VA Tax Abatement

letter if already receiving VA benefits, most recent bank statements, investment statements, and yearly social security statement will save a family a lot of time when trying to get benefits for the veteran/surviving spouse if something should happen. Updating this binder monthly as new information comes in will help with evaluating whether a claimant is qualified for VA Pension benefits. Safeguarding that information will ensure only the individuals who are entrusted to handle their affairs know where to find it.

Veterans should talk to their family about where they want to live if they are unable to manage their home or live alone and start looking at places and resources before they need it. If living with family members is

an option, arrange family meetings often to discuss options and challenges. Understanding that unforeseen things happen and lastminute decisions have to be made, preparing a binder is very helpful in ensuring that things happen in an expeditious manner. Those without family should start thinking about who they trust to assist them with managing their affairs if they are hospitalized or in a rehab facility, and who will handle their final arrangements. These are sometimes difficult conversations but the most significant result is often peace of mind.

January is usually a time for New Year's resolutions. so in addition to planning for the future, joining one of our local service organizations — The Veterans

of Foreign Wars VFW Post 7835, Disabled American Veterans DAV Chapter 238, American Legion Posts 278 and 491, The Marine Corp League, Blue Star Mothers or Granbury Military Officers Association of America — is great way to stay connected with the community for support and stay up-to-date on resources and benefits available to veterans and their families. For more information on these organizations or to apply for membership, contact the Hood and Somervell County Veterans Service office here in the Hood County Courthouse on the Square in beautiful downtown Granbury. Happy New Year y'all! Let's start the year prepared and connected.

### PECAN PLANTATION BITS New member orientation welcomes new residents to Pecan Plantation



#### **BY DIANE LONG**

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Pecan's next new member orientation happens today, Saturday, Feb. 3, at

of the clubhouse. New residents, as well as long time Pecaners, who would like to learn more concerning the

amenities of our neighborhood are invited to attend.

#### **PAINT PARTY**

Today, Saturday, Feb. 3 brings a paint party for little artists ages 5 to 14 at the PAC. "Hearts, Highlanders, and Painting" will be the theme for the day when Pecan resident and artist Heidi Easily leads participants to complete their work on canvas.

#### **ACTIVE AUXILIARY**

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/ **Emergency Medical** Service Auxiliary is seeking raffle prize donations for the 2024 Auxiliary Golf Tournament slated for Saturday, April 20 on Pecan's golf course.

Because of the earlier tournament date this year, Auxiliary members would like to have commitments

from raffle prize donors by Wednesday, Feb. 28 so raffle ticket sales may commence Friday, March 1. A significant part of the funds raised in connection with the golf tournament each year comes from raffle ticket sales.

For more information about the golf tournament or donating a prize, call or text Julie Logan (727-252-3702) or Seleta Webster

4640 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury, TX

AUTO-HOUS

(806-646-0656), and to volunteer for any of these events, email Seleta at seleta.chere@gmail.com.

The Auxiliary meets collectively again Monday, Feb. 5 with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7 in the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS Building on Monticello Drive. All ladies and gentlemen interested in

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C8

10 a.m. in the Terrace Room



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#### PECAN FROM PAGE C7

this group that fundraises for our emergency service personnel are invited to attend.

#### SING SONG

The very popular "Let's Karaoke Pecan" returns with two different group offerings. "Let's Karaoke Pecan I" begins Tuesday, Feb. 6 with meetings each following Tuesday through March 5 and graduation Saturday, March 9. This class is for beginners and will teach proper vocal techniques, warm-ups and the art of finding vocal range.

"Let's Karaoke Pecan II" is a continuation of the first class with more intense instruction, one-on-one time of training and more difficult material for singing.

## **GOOD FOR HOOD**

Participants should complete the first class before beginning the second part, which begins Tuesday, April 9, holds its last class May 7, and graduation comes May 11.

Professional singer and vocal instructor (and Pecan resident!) Rebecca Faiola will lead both classes, and they will meet at the PAC from 7 to 8 p.m. Call Rebecca with questions (510-326-3553) or the PAC to sign up: 817-573-7952.

#### **HOLIDAY GAME**

Valentine's Day Bingo is on the calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 6 with an Italian buffet dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. and bingo play beginning at 6:30. The reservation line is now open: 817-573-2641.

#### **GAME TIME**

First Wednesday Bridge

looks forward to its next gathering Wednesday, Feb. 7. Annual dues for members are \$20, and guests are welcome. Contact Vicki Leggett for complete information on the group: vleggett19@ gmail.com.

#### SWEET OUTING

Pecan's annual "Daddy Daughter Ball" returns Saturday, Feb. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAC. The event promises to be a special time for fathers and daughters filled with music, ballroom dance instruction, refreshments and a photo opportunity. Formal attire is welcome but not required. RSVP to secure a spot: 817-573-7952.

#### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Pecan's Breakfast Club will gather again Wednesday, Feb. 14 with breakfast service beginning at 8 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m. Attendees are in for a real treat when Lance Tahmahkera, the greatgreat-grandson of Quanah Parker, the "Last Comanche Chief," will address the crowd. Reservations are necessary and are due by 12 noon Tuesday, Feb. 12: 817-573-2641.

#### **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 are also welcome. Donors will receive a free round of golf at the Nutcracker (with the purchase of one round) as well as a free cup of coffee at Deja Brew.

#### **SWEETEST DAY**

Pecaners will enjoy an evening with a Jazz Age theme and Roaring 1920s ambiance for Valentine's Day Wednesday, Feb. 14. Folks who would like to attend should make reservations as attendance is limited to 75 couples: 817-573-2641.

The night promises to be one revolving around flappers, Jay Gatsby and prohibition, but partygoers need not worry: folks who know the password to "Daisy Fay's Speakeasy" will enjoy music, dancing, and of course, bathtub gin.

The entertainment committee and clubhouse staff are preparing a fabulous night of food and entertainment, and attendees are encouraged to don flapper

dresses and fedoras for the event. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour and jazz followed by dinner at 6:30.

#### **TOWN HALL**

Pecan's board of directors and management team will host a joint town hall gathering Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse ballroom. Topics on the agenda are ballot items for the March election.

#### **REMODEL WORK**

The PAC gymnasium has received a new and much needed floor for all the activities that room hosts, and the gym's grand "reopening" came last week. Pecaners are welcome to stop by and see the newly finished work.

#### **RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PRESSURE WASHING SERVICES.** Building Creative pools in Granbury since 1990 FTERAN OWNED FAMILY BUSINESS Doug's oors Plus Besto e & Roof washing HoodCount vewav & Gutter cl Boat dock cle e cleaning and restoration ne and Rock cleaning and ebrity Pools Shower Experts | Backsplashes | Porches | Floors | Tub Surrounds restoration CARPET | TILE | WOOD | VINYL PLANK | LAMINATE Licensed and Insured Located in the Home Source Showroom Center 682-258-0718 817-910-2213 | 5353 Acton Hwy. Suite B | Granbury 6-1468 • celebritypools.com **YOUR AD Know Your Medicare COULD BE HERE Benefits** MAMA'S 817-573-7066 Join Mama's mobile Medicare **COUPON CLUB** Call Roy Cooper Text mamas to 21333 for Menu CALL TODAY TO specials and information (817) 578-4744 ADVERTISE IN THE 817-964-3333 Independent Benefits Consultant granburyinsure@aol.com HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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# С Н А М В Е R

he Granbury Chamber of Commerce's annual Best of Business Awards Banquet is a time for reflections on the accomplishments of the past year, but also an opportunity to gaze ahead into the new year. It's a chance to say 'thank you' to our previous board chair, Dr. Jeremy Glenn, Superintendent of Granbury Independent School District, as well as set the course for new leadership with incoming chair, Steven Kuban. Throughout 2023, Dr. Glenn has provided exceptional leadership and vision while guiding the chamber through new programming, annual special events and ongoing luncheons, breakfasts and business development seminars. His commitment to the chamber and community has been nothing short of amazing, and the banquet is our way of thanking him for his tireless efforts.

Steven Kuban takes the helm at a time when the chamber has worked very hard to preplan and anticipate growth opportunities. The chamber's annual 4th of July festivities will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024 and plans are already underway to make this year a special salute... as only Granbury can! The chamber's committee chairs from Ambas-



**Brian Bondy, IOM** President and CEO Granbury Chamber of Commerce

sadors and Women in Business to Rising Leaders and Best of Business Awards Banquet are ready to provide leadership, energy, enthusiasm and direction for the coming year. At its annual board plan-

ning session in October, the board identified and agreed to champion several goals for the coming year. These represent areas from operations to marketing and are designed to engage the board and membership of the chamber. All are set up to constantly be updated throughout the coming year. From studying the impact of providing employee benefits and creating a testimonial campaign to promote chamber membership, to studying the long-term office needs for the chamber and focusing on membership retention and growth, the board has taken a huge step to elevate the chamber... not only here in Granbury and Hood County, but also across the DFW Metroplex.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce continues to refine and improve member benefits and services. Together with several assisting ven-

dors, the chamber's advertising opportunities for members continue to expand whether on the website, Area Guide, or annual map of Granbury and Hood County. Member businesses and organizations have a wide array of options to help their businesses grow and get better.

Finally, the chamber has an excellent, professional staff that is committed to providing the best member and 'not yet member' services. Brian, Holly, Maegan and Tisa are as much a part of the community as our board and committee members. If you've never been a member of your local chamber of commerce, now is a great time to invest in yourself and your business. If you've previously been a member, maybe now is the time to give us another opportunity. Thank you to all of our current members for your membership and support of the chamber... it's going to be a great year!

# The Granbury Chamber of Commerce Leading through serving local businesses and the community

#### **BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**

Special to the Hood County News eden@hcnews.com

The chamber of commerce can trace its history back to 1599 when the first organization of businesses was recorded. Originally the idea was to join forces for businesses to protect themselves from marauders and common enemies.

Spreading across Germany and the rest of Europe, the chamber as an organized group was more fully realized in the United States.

In the United States, the oldest chamber is the New York State Chamber formed in 1768 and chartered by King George III in 1770, making the chamber on this continent older than the nation itself.

Since its birth in 1952 the Granbury Chamber of Commerce has grown to boast over 2,000 members and is one of the most robust chambers within the larger Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is committed to the strength of Granbury business and healthy growth for the area. Through partnerships with the city of Granbury and various Hood County groups the Granbury Chamber of Commerce works actively to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Community pride is increased through chamber involvement in local programs, charities, events and education. Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Festival is a prime example of this. The chamber-sponsored event has become one of the best known in the state of Texas for Independence Day festivities. Not only are the 4th of July festivities important to build community but they naturally benefit businesses in Hood County with added revenue.

Chamber membership aids businesses in many tangible ways. First is the network of people who have similar goals and concerns. Membership allows businesses to partner with one another to increase engagement with citizens concerning all matters of commerce.

Granbury chamber events number over 50 a year. At the most popular member event — Coffee and Connections — members fraternize with others in a relaxed atmosphere over a cup of joe, trading tips and business cards as they visit. The Women in Business events are wellattended functions where women leaders give presentations to local businesswomen on subjects like increased sales, developing new marketing strategies and learning new ways of personal development as they network and support other women in business.

Business development events vary in topics as both local and regional experts bring educational opportunities to business leaders in every field. The Young Professionals Program specifically endeavors to meet the needs of those under age 30, with monthly events for this purpose.

Leaders in government luncheons and candidate forums allow members time to connect with leaders and elected officials at the city, county, state and national level.

Ribbon cutting events not only celebrate membership in the chamber, but serve as an announcement to the community as well as another chance for businesses to support one another.

Often citizens — when looking for reputable companies — will trust the recommendation of the chamber. Only chamber members are included in the print and online directories; this benefits members with referrals both by the chamber and by other chamber businesses as well.

Annually, members celebrate another successful year with the Awards Gala, where awards are given for the Small Business of the Year and the Large Business of the Year, in addition to the Women in Business award, the Rising Leader award, the Ambassador of the Year award and the Howard Clemmons Distinguished Service award.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continued growth both in terms of membership and involvement in the community.

"The Granbury Chamber continues to be a dynamic, member-centric organization, and our program work for 2024 approved by the board of directors will bear this out!" said Brian Bondy, president and CEO of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

For information on how to join the Granbury Chamber of Commerce call 817-573-1622 or email info@granburychamber.com. Or visit the chamber offices at 3408 E. U.S. Hwy. 377, Granbury.



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Ribbon cutting events not only celebrate membership in the chamber, but serve as an announcement to the community as well as another chance for businesses to support one another. The Granbury Regional Airport (above) and Radiance Wellness Medi-Spa (below) celebrated ribbon cuttings in 2023.



#### AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

# Stan Wasielewski named Ambassador of the Year a second time 'It's the highest honor an ambassador can hope to achieve'

#### EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce named Stan Wasielewski the Ambassador of the Year for 2023. Wasielewski has made a tremendous impact on the community and has been an integral part.

It was Wasielewski and his wife's dream to open a bed and breakfast, and in 2009 the dream came to life after the couple bought Granbury Gardens Bed and Breakfast located on Doyle Street. The couple owned the property for six years before selling it.

Wasielewski then became employed by Waterview Community as a chauffeur and is still with them today as a representative. He also served as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission for 12 years.

He later served as the vice president of the Ambassadors program through the Granbury Chamber before serving as chairman for a year.

In 2014, Wasielewski was named Ambassador of the Year, which came as a surprise to him.

"I was honored to have been chosen and I was really surprised because I wasn't highly involved in the chamber," Wasielewski said.

For ambassadors, the goal is to help local businesses and support them through their growth by holding monthly meetings, attending ribbon cuttings and being there to answer business-related questions.

"Last year I was even more honored to receive the Howard Clemmons Person of the Year Award. That came out of nowhere," Wasielewski expressed.

He said he is passionate about small businesses and has loved the opportunity of meeting new people while serving the community. He noted that being named the Ambassador of the Year back in 2014 and now again for 2023, is "the highest honor an ambassador can receive."

"I have never been prouder to be an ambassador for the city of Granbury," he said. "When you realize our chamber is the fourth largest in North Texas, that just shows the magnitude of participation by the community, the businesses and ambassadors."

He added that his favorite aspects of the community are the people and the spirit. He added it is just plain fun to be in this town.

"We just feel so passionate about Granbury. We have lived 52 different places in our 56 years of married life," Wasielewski said. "Granbury is where home really is. When you are proud of your community and you are grateful to be able to live in it, then there is a responsibility to try and pay it back. What an honor it is to be able to be part of this community."

Wasielewski plans to continue to serve as an ambassador for as long as he can and looks forward to continuing to make an impact.

For those interested in becoming an ambassador with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, an application is required and is available on the chamber's website at granburychamber.com.



**Stan Wasielewski** Ambassador of the Year Granbury Gardens Bed and Breakfast

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

## SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Randy's restaurants named 'Small Business of the Year'



**Randy's Shrimp and Oyster Bar and Randy's Bar & Grill** Small Business of the Year

it's nice to be recognized, but it's really for my team."

like this, but it is definitely an honor and so

Crawford is currently in the works of opening another restaurant by the name of Vito's Italian Kitchen (remodeling the old Mi Familia building). He hopes to have the restaurant open at the beginning of April. He said the only way he would have even thought about opening up a third restaurant was if he could partner up with someone that shares his focus on developing a team while also serving "killer food."

This led to the hiring of Richard Williams, who has joined the team as a partner in all concepts as well as operating as director of operations. Crawford has worked with Williams in some capacity for over 30 years.

Crawford credited the success of both restaurants to his leadership team including, "Lauri, Brooklyn, Ben, Rodrigo, Courtney and of course our amazing staff at both locations," he said. "Once we get Vito's up and running and can prove it can make money, we'll have three proven concepts. Once that is done, then the plan is to start looking into Stephenville, Cleburne or Weatherford to see what type of venue the town needs and really find a niche in these smaller markets. It's about finding the right location and building a great team."

Randy's Bar and Grill is located at 1454 E. U.S. Highway 377 and Randy's Shrimp and Oyster Bar is located at 1300 S. Morgan St.



#### **EMILY NAVA**

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Randy Crawford, owner of Randy's Bar and Grill and Randy's Shrimp and Oyster Bar, was named Small Business of the Year by the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Crawford previously owned Joe's Pasta and Pizza and ran the Italian restaurant for 10 years before deciding to make a change and opened Randy's Shrimp and Oyster Bar.

The remarkable strides Crawford made to reach this success did not come on a whim but started at the age of 15. Crawford started off his career in the restaurant industry working at Chili's. He worked there throughout high school and pursued restaurant and hotel management at Texas Tech University. All in all, he worked at 10 different Chili's locations over 14 years.

"Before I was able to graduate college, I was working at Chili's in Lubbock and had just gotten married and they offered me a position in management. At the time it was a lot of money, so I decided to not finish college and start my career in the restaurant world," Crawford said.

Crawford and his wife of 34 years, Elizabeth, lived in Highland Village before making the move to Granbury. He had made a down payment on a restaurant in downtown McKinney when his real estate agent urged him to look around Granbury before signing the deal. While taking a look at Joe's Pasta and Pizza, he fell in love with the town and the restaurant.

"I rolled in, had lunch, really loved the staff and the food was fantastic. I called my wife and told her I was going to stay the night to check out the town. I had lunch and dinner that next day and went around town and spent some time at a couple of businesses and restaurants in town. I called my wife and told her 'You need to come down and spend a couple of days out here.' Four days later we bought the restaurant," Crawford said.

With so many years in the restaurant industry, Crawford has been all over the country and lived in many different places, but he says nothing compares to Granbury.

"Granbury is probably the easiest town just to connect with people. They just embrace you and make you feel welcome," he said.

He shared about a time after he bought Joe's when a couple of guests — Lance Terry and Jim Ducato — called Crawford and told him they were coming to pick him up to show him around the town.

He was told about Leadership Granbury, and met with Diane Hedges, who was leading the

next class, before he signed up. He now says that was the best thing he did.

**EMILY NAVA I** HOOD COUNTY NEWS

"If you are moving here or especially if you are starting a business in Granbury, you need to take the class," Crawford noted. "They will show you everything you need to know to learn how to embrace Granbury."

Crawford has loved the many interactions and relationships he has been able to build within the restaurant industry with both customers and his staff.

"I've been really fortunate. You know I kind of grew up in the golden age of restaurants," Crawford said. Crawford named many people he was able to spend a little time with including Larry Levine, Norman Brinker, Stan Fletcher, Norman Abdallah, Creed Ford and Kent Taylor — all icons in the restaurant industry.

"The blessing for me is having the ability to work not only with all these people but able to see and learn from them on how to be successful in this industry. I have made many mistakes along the way, but I have also learned a ton and these experiences are what has helped me get to where I am today," Crawford said.

The lessons he learned from those mentors are funneled into his teaching and helping his co-workers today.

"I've got a good circle of people that if any of us have a problem we can call each other whether it's an HR issue, a profitability issue, a food quality issue, I can call them and walk through my thoughts and they take the time to coach me or just plain tell me I am being stupid at times and help me stay focused," Crawford said. "(My staff) does a really good job helping me out and I'm part of their circle. Everybody helps each other."

Crawford stresses the importance of patience and being a good coach in the restaurant industry.

"You've got to take the time to coach and teach (your team) and spend the time with them. They're going to screw up. You have to give them a chance to figure out how to win."

With the success of both of his restaurants, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce announced Randy's as the Small Business of the Year.

Brian Bondy called Crawford's wife, who had previously served in the chamber, and told her the news of the award.

"She didn't realize he said we had won. She thought he just said we were nominated, so my wife is like 'Oh, that's great' and then I go 'I was kind of listening and it sounded like he said we won'," Crawford said. "We called him back and then we officially learned we won. I was very grateful. You don't expect something A full service law firm delivering the highest level of client service through our dedication to honesty, integrity, and results.

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# Henson Lumber: Providing decades of quality building materials since 1973

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

ashley@hcnews.com

Henson Lumber is no stranger to Hood County.

The building material enterprise located in Cresson has provided decades of service to commercial builders and do-it-yourself enthusiasts since it was established in 1973 by previous owner and founder Jerry Henson.

But after more than 50 years, Henson Lumber is officially being recognized in the most honorable way by the Granbury Chamber of Commerce as the company received the Large Business of the Year Award during the chamber banquet on Jan. 25.

Originally, the enterprise was known as Henson Lake and Ranch Supply, but later came to be known as Henson Building Materials. In the early 2000s, the company split into two divisions: Henson Metal and Henson Lumber.

"There was a single location on (U.S) Highway 377 where Henson Building Materials is currently. We relocated to 11900 CR 917 in Cresson before Mr. Henson passed," said Casey Wallace, chief operating officer of Henson Lumber. "It was just a great situation for us and it's a bigger location with rail that comes in the yard."

Henson Enterprises — which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 — services the counties of Hood, Johnson, Parker and Tarrant, and operates under the three divisions of lumber, metal and millwork. Henson Lumber and Henson Millwork are both located at 11900 County Road 917 while Henson Metal can be found at 9200 E. U.S. Highway 377.

"We kind of have three different departments and that's not counting the building materials on the highway," Wallace said. "Here in our location, we have a lumber division, we have a millwork — which we build door units out back — and then we have a reload.

All three of those businesses are in our location here."

The Henson brand also owns 80 acres of land at its Henson Lumber location with Wallace adding that the company doesn't utilize all 80, but that they have plenty of room to grow — which they have.

Since Wallace joined Henson Lumber almost 40 years ago, he has witnessed the company expand exponentially — starting with only 20 employees around the 1990s to now employing more than 80.

One reason the Henson brand continues to grow, Wallace said, is through its loyal employees.

"We have a lot of seasoned employees here," said Todd Garner, executive vice president of Henson Enterprises. "I remember one time I did an analysis of how much tenure our average employee had, and our average tenure is over 10 years of employment at Henson's across the board. That just speaks to how we take care of people. People want to stay here a long time and we want to be a place where people can work, have fun and retire eventually someday."

Wallace explained that the company provides a food truck every quarter for its employees and added that the benefit package is "comparable, if not better, than some bigger companies."

"Just having a family atmosphere is our thing and that's the reason we're able to have many long-tenured employees," he said. "We try to take care of our employees and our customers alike because in today's world, it's hard to get good employees, so we try our best to retain them and do good things for them."

"I think the important part is that it's like an extenuation of our family," Garner added. "We take care of our employees, and we take care of our customers."

Wallace said the company also hangs a plaque on the wall to rec-



Henson Lumber Large Business of the Year Todd Garner, Executive Vice President

ognize employees as they hit yearly milestones in working within Henson Enterprises.

"The names on the plaque keeps growing," he said. "We have a lot of long-tenured employees on that plaque."

Henson Lumber is still reeling from its most recent accomplishment of acquiring Decatur Lumber, a respected family-owned

lumberyard based in Decatur. "(Decatur

Lumber) is a company very similar to ours, so it's fun for us to acquire a company that we're working with to expand our market inside the Fort Worth area," he said.

While the Henson brand continues to foster its own growth, the brand's employees have also immersed themselves in many community activities as they work to shape and develop Hood County.

Over the past decade, Henson's has been a steadfast supporter of numerous school-related activities, ranging from sports and arts to special events. Notable contributions include support for the Pirate Football Booster Club, basketball booster clubs, the Granbury High School swim team, GHS cheerleaders, Atlas Racing (F1 cars), FCCLA, Project Graduation, GHS Pirate color guard, GHS band and many others.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Henson's commitment also extends beyond monetary donations, as evidenced by the donation of the metal fence around the gates at Pirate Stadium and consistent support for the Hood County Junior Livestock Show.

However, the company's community involvement is not limited to educational initiatives, as Henson managers, directors and employees actively participate in a plethora of community groups, like Christmas for Children, the Lake Granbury Water Coalition, Meals on Wheels, and foot and bike races in Granbury (Granbury Road Race, Acton Nature Center 5K, and Blazin' Saddles Bike Race).

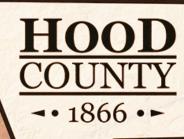
Beyond the past decade, Henson's has also consistently contributed to various community orga-

nizations, such as Granbury Seals, Granbury Soccer Association, Friends of Memorial Lane and Rotary Club.





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As Henson Lumber accepts the award of Best Large Business of the Year from Granbury Chamber of Commerce, both Garner and Wallace are looking ahead to the future of the Henson brand.

"There's a lot of big companies in Hood County, and I think we're very grateful but I think it also represents the things that our people do for the community," Garner said. "It's exciting that we've hit that 50-year milestone, but we're looking forward to quite a few more."



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### HOWARD CLEMMONS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

# James Brock — the answer is always love





Howard Clemmons Distinguished Service Brock's Food and Drink

#### **BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH**

Special to the Hood County News eden@hcnews.com

COVID-19 lockdowns didn't seem the most prudent time to open a new business. At least James Brock didn't think it was — but he did so anyway.

Brock and his wife Jan are business partners who moved here from North Richland Hills in 2000 to be closer to family. When their two children were young the family went to Santa Fe. New Mexico, each summer where Brock took cooking lessons while the children played all day.

Brock spent his early working years running a furniture manufacturing company with his dad and brother. Later, he worked in the construction and pipeline industry. But his dream was always to open a restaurant.

Boredom set in during the lockdowns, and Brock decided to make this lifelong dream a reality. The restaurant bears the family name, and no one is more surprised at the level of its success than the Brock family.

The vision was of a place where Brock could share his culinary skills and

where musicians and vocalists could share their talents as well. The reality of Brock's Food and Drink is all that and more. In just a few short years Brock's has become a famous local hang-out where good tunes and good

times go with good grub. No one can claim success for the establishment more than Brock himself. His gregarious nature and quick wit enlivens the place. Employees and patrons alike sing his praises. But Brock isn't arrogant concerning his success - he's grateful.

"I have just been very, very blessed," he said.

Brock's Food and Drink gives away over 1,000 meals at Thanksgiving alone, in addition to giving away free food throughout the year. When the summer food program for school-aged children was not operating, Brock himself got up at 4 a.m. in the summer to cook eggs to provide free breakfast.

"I hate eggs," he said with a laugh. Serving the community is a core value of Brock and his establishment, "Two things about what we do. We don't do it for recognition, we do it because it's the right thing to do. These are our friends and neighbors. We do our best to project love and kindness," he shared.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Brock cracks one joke after another. He insists he is the last person the chamber of commerce should give an award to.

"I think they made a horrible mistake. I don't know about me. I opened a new business during 2020. And then I give food away for free every week. That doesn't sound like a very good businessperson to me," he added. He jests further, "If they want the

award back, I won't cause a fuss, there will be no problems, no fuss at all. They made a horrendous mistake; they will want it back. I know it's coming. I won't even buy a sports coat. Rent, I will rent one."

Brock insists they sent someone out personally to tell him of his award so they could make sure he understood attending the event meant shunning his customary shorts in favor of pants.

But then Brock gets serious, "Really, do tell them that I am greatly honored that they selected me."

Brock has some words of wisdom to go with his wit, "I am getting old and sick and sometimes I forget the question," he chides with a twinge of truth, "but I always know the answer and the answer is always love."





#### **RISING STAR AWARD**

# Empire Realty Group named Rising Star

#### **BY EMILY NAVA**

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Empire Realty Group is a real estate agency in Granbury that opened its doors in March 2022 and has already made a name for itself by earning the "Rising Star" award from the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Kevin Watson, owner and broker of the agency, worked as a title examiner in the title insurance industry for 23 years. Watson works alongside his wife Kara, who previously worked in the mortgage lending industry. The two are Granbury High School sweethearts and are now coming up on their 34th anniversary.

Watson, a Tarleton State University alum, decided to obtain his broker's license in 2021 after talking with Kara. Watson told the HCN the hardest part of opening the agency was coming up with the name. One day when Watson was driving, the word "empire" popped into his head. An avid Star Wars fan, he felt the connection to the Star Wars franchise seemed like a perfect fit and thus



the the Empire Realty Group was born.

The brokerage currently has seven real estate agents, including Watson and Kara, with a wide range of experience and clientele. Kara was the most recent agent to come on board after she obtained her license in June. The agency covers residential, commercial and land listings.

"What makes us different from most other brokerages in town is that they have a brickand-mortar office. What made it easy for me was that we decided to do a virtual brokerage," Waston said. "We do all our work from home. It gives us all that freedom while saving costs on renting a space."

Watson describes his agency as "an agency for agents" because of the familylike mentality and

relationships among the agents. One agent in the office, Crystal Wilson, is even a broker herself but has loved getting to work alongside Waston and being that second opinion.

**Empire Realty Group** 

Kevin Watson, Owner/Broker

Rising Star Award

"I like having someone to be able to connect with and say, 'hey this is what I'm thinking, are we going down the right path?" Wilson said. "I think that as real estate agents, we are subject to a lot of scrutiny and it's good to have someone you can bounce feedback off of to make sure that we are on the right path."

Watson likes the tightknit group they have and wants it to remain similar in size to keep those close bonds and relationships.

"I want to be there to help agents to do their job, but at the same time I want to give them the freedom to do their marketing how they see fit, but still not have that interoffice competition," Watson said. "We help each other out. We're a family, absolutely." Watson notes his success comes from his

knowledge of the town of Granbury. He added that the growth of the town is something the agency continues to monitor and stay on top of.

"I think from a real estate standpoint, it's exciting to be part of a town that's growing," real estate agent Erienne Higgins said.

When it comes to working with clients, the agency focuses on prioritizing each client's needs and working around what is best for them.

"Our goal is to make sure the clients are served to the best of our ability," Watson

PHOTOS BY EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

said. "Whenever people work within our agency, I want them to leave with a good feeling."

Waston described the agency being named as "Rising Star" as an honor and thanked the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

"We really appreciate everybody that nominated us and voted for us, and we're very excited for what is to come," Waston expressed.

To learn more about Empire Realty Group visit its website at empirerealtytexas.com, call 254-396-5056 or shoot them an email at info@EmpireRealtyTexas.com.



**Henson Lumber** Large Business of the Year Todd Garner, Executive Vice President

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**C.J. Prater** Rising Leader of Granbury Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation





**James Brock** Howard Clemmons Distinguished Service Brock's Food and Drink



**Empire Realty Group** Rising Star Award Kevin Watson, Owner/Broker



**Stan Wasielewski** Ambassador of the Year Granbury Gardens Bed and Breakfast

**Randy's Shrimp and Oyster Bar and Randy's Bar & Grill** Small Business of the Year Randy Crawford, owner



**Tracie Harper** Women in Business Award Daffan Cooling & Heating

# WOMEN IN BUSINESS **Tracie Harper: Living a life of purpose at Daffan**

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY** Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

Never in a million years did Tracie Harper

believe she would find herself in a sales career at Daffan Cooling and Heating. In fact, she was just as surprised to learn

she'd won the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Award Jan. 25. But 15 years later, that one job has filled

her life with purpose — allowing her to form lasting bonds and connections with many Hood County residents.

Harper, who grew up in Watauga, married her high school sweetheart, Ty, and gave birth to two sons — Nic and Dillon — before making the move to Granbury in 1995.

"We didn't know a single soul when we moved here," she said. "We just knew (Ty) needed to be close enough to commute to Fort Worth. We looked at little towns all around Fort Worth and we just said, 'We love Granbury,' and 'We love that house.' We took a leap of faith and made the move, and it was the best thing we ever did."

After residing in Granbury for a few years, Harper said she knew she needed to go back to work as she has always been "career-minded," so she decided to start volunteering at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce — a move that eventually led to a full-time job.

From there, Harper had a few jobs selling radio advertising and it was then she learned a career in sales was the right move for her future.

"I found that sales was what I was born to do and my passion," she said. "I absolutely love sales."

But it wasn't until she was approached by the owners of Daffan Cooling and Heating in 2008 when she truly found her calling.

"They told me they had gotten to the point where they really needed to find a full-time salesperson," Harper told the HCN. "I was like 'I don't know anything about air conditioning. You fix it when I tell you to come and fix it, but I don't even know where my filter goes."

However, after a little convincing, Harper came on board with Daffan when she was 45 years old. She said she recalls studying harder than she had in years — even harder than her son, Dillon, who was in his senior year in high school at the time.

"I just studied all the technical standpoints of, 'How does the air conditioner work?' 'What are all of the parts?' and 'What does the heater do?' I'd have books, charts and graphs all over the place," she said. "But I started as a full-time salesperson there and just fell in love with it."

She explained she doesn't like the technical parts of her job, but she likes the relationship aspect where she gets to connect with her customers.

"What I love about it is, now, this many years later, we have a very large coverage area and I deal with all kinds of people in all kinds of different stages of their life: economic situations, family situations — and I just love trying to help them find a solution that they're comfortable with for a purchase that they aren't really that excited to make," she said. "It's very rewarding when they hug you and say, 'Thank you, Tracy.'"

An experience with one customer stands out to her vividly, during which the customer's husband was on hospice and she confided in Harper about their current situation.

"As a woman in the heating and air conditioning business, I've found that people are sometimes comforted by that," she explained. "HVAC is not a ministry, but I've had an opportunity to pray with customers, cry with customers — people that just recently become a widow and they're overcome by this idea and so afraid somebody is going to take advantage of them that they just break down crying and saying, 'I don't know what to do. He always took care of this.""

Currently Harper is in her fifth year as sales manager at Daffan, but explained she still meets with customers as it's her favorite part of the job.

"I know it sounds like a very blue-collar technical job but to me it's not; it's a relationship job, and it's a people job," she said. "I just happen to provide heating and air conditioning (service)."

While Harper's main duty is to manage two "outstanding" sales assistants, she said she still has the freedom to work out in the field.

"I have the opportunity to try to grow the sales department for Daffan and try to leave a legacy of caring, relationship-building and integrity that we're known for," Harper said.

Not only does Harper keep busy on the sales end of things, she also serves as a speaker and coach for other individuals employed in the HVAC business.

"I love working with people and trying to add value to their life and trying to mentor them and learn," she said. "At this stage of my life, it's real fun and important to me to pour into the next generation that's behind me."

She added that her personal mission statement is to be "intentional about living a life of purpose, loving people and leaving a legacy of influence."

"I want to be purposeful; I want to love people in everything I do — whether it's work, volunteer, family friends or ministry — I would like to think I left some positive influence in someone's life," Harper said.

Although she stressed that she has no plans to leave Daffan anytime soon, her future goals involve more coaching, speaking and training, as she loves educating the younger generation.

"I just love helping people in sales or leadership because I think there's lots of opportunity in today's culture for people to step up, be exceptional and take a leadership stance," Harper said. "But I will tell you what. Whatever I do (in the future), I'm open to challenges and opportunities."

While Harper was shocked with her recent chamber award, she said she is humbled and honored to have worked with other excep-

tional women in the community. "There's multiple women in this town that



TRACIE HARPER 2024 WOMEN IN

BUSINESS AWARD We'd like to think Tracie is our secret weapon at Daffan. She strives to encourage, mentor and train our team members whether they are in her department or not.

She brought this same deeply held desire for helping others to the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Group. We couldn't be more proud of her for this highly deserved recognition.

really inspired me to make an impact and how to be successful in doing that," she added. "So, I'm just humbled, grateful and honored (to accept the award). I love living here and I love serving the community."



**Tracie Harper** Women in Business Award Daffan Cooling & Heating

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Thank you for all you do for our team and our community! We love you!

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#### **RISING LEADER OF GRANBURY**

# C.J. Prater: Setting a precedent in community leadership



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

#### **BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

C.J. Prater was only a nursing home administrator at Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation for a short while, but he has already made his mark as a leader — not only as an employee, but in the community as well.

Prater was recently honored with the Rising Leader of Granbury Award from the Granbury Chamber of Commerce for being instrumental in growing leadership in Granbury, Hood County and the chamber itself.

"I was not expecting to win it," he told the HCN. "In all honesty, I can count about three or four people who were on that list that we were voting for who deserved it more than I did."

While modest, Prater has been known to attend several events around town for the chamber and he is also vice president and head of youth services for the Rotary Club of Granbury.

Originally from Grandview, Prater took a "scenic route through college," and attended three different colleges before ending up at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. He graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology

Following graduation, Prater landed a job as an activity director at a nursing home and was later persuaded into taking more schooling to become an administrator — a role he was in from 2016 to 2023.

After he obtained his schooling, he took an open position as a starting administrator in Eastland, but his main goal was to land a job around the Hood County area to be closer to family.

"They finally came and headhunted

me for Trinity (Nursing and Rehabilitation of Granbury), which is just north of the square, so I was there for four years," Prater said. "And then this spot opened up (at Harbor Lakes) and I was like, 'You know what, if anything, I might as well move up to try to get bigger things,' and it worked out. They accepted me and I've been over here for the last year."

As a nursing home administrator, Prater was essentially the "CEO of the building." He oversaw finances and the hiring of all future job candidates.

Although Prater said he wasn't able to have many one-on-one conversations with the residents as an administrator, he loved getting any time he could spare with them.

"The people you deal with (is what I love the most)" he said. "My coworkers (were) probably some of the brightest things about the job."

While Prater said he wouldn't change anything about his experience at Harbor Lakes, his last day as a nursing home administrator was Wednesday, Jan. 24.

"I am going to go into financing through Edward Jones," he said. "It's a completely different career choice, but it's been something I've been working on since 2019. My brother has been an Edward Jones financial advisor for 10 vears now and he's been slowly trying to get me into the spot. It was finally time because everything fell into place."

When he is not busy serving as a leader, Prater enjoys spending time with family and his 4-year-old daughter, Linlee.

Rising Leader of Granbury Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation

C.J. Prater





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SATURDAY, Feb. 3, 2024





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