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Hood County NEWS

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886



[SATURDAY, February 17, 2024]

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'We need to get back to being American'

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Congressman Roger Williams met with local business leaders in Granbury at an event on Feb. 9 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

U.S. Rep. Roger Williams speaks at chamber luncheon

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce welcomed special guest speaker, U.S. Rep. Roger Williams, to the Lake Granbury Conference Center for its Leaders in Government luncheon Feb. 9.

Williams represents the 25th Congressional District of Texas, which stretches from Tarrant County in the east to Callahan County in the west. Williams was raised in the Fort Worth area and attended Texas Christian

University, where he was an All-Southwest Conference baseball player and named to TCU's All-Decade Team for the 1960s.

According to the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Williams is one of the few

business owners in Congress and understands first-hand the effects of increased taxes, government regulation and bureaucracy that hurt small businesses and economic growth. He stays focused on issues ranging from government deregulation, fiscal conservatism, helping struggling businesses recover from the government-mandated COVID-19 lockdowns and more. As a legislator, he continues to prioritize his seven pillars: lower taxes, less governance, cutting spending, defending our borders, listening to your generals, understand-

ing the 10th Amendment and always standing with Israel.

Moderated by Granbury Chamber of Commerce President Brian Bondy, Williams was asked to delve deep into pressing topics that are currently affecting the nation.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

To kick off the Q&A, Bondy first asked Williams to give the public his "30,000-foot view" of what's currently going on in Washington, D.C.

"Let me start out by saying,

PLEASE SEE **WILLIAMS** | A6

Cresson Mayor Teena Conway announces resignation

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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After serving four years as mayor of the City of Cresson, Teena Conway officially announced her resignation during the Cresson City Council meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13.

"It was time. Life is short," Conway told the HCN. "At this time, I want to enjoy a more stress-free life that includes traveling."

A Cresson native, Conway originally decided to run for mayor following a suggestion from her mom after she moved back to her hometown.

"Mayor Bob (Cornett) was getting close to retirement age after serving as mayor for 18 years," she said.

In May 2020, Conway officially took the helm as Cresson mayor — all the while being a part of many important projects for the city, like the upcoming park and the bypass.

"We were proud to incorporate an interlocal agreement with a shared sheriff's plan where we got to add some additional sheriff support," she said. "We're proud that we still don't have property taxes — they will someday, but not under me. And the bypass is huge. That's my number one question is the bypass and the train."

Conway said the council has also made some progress regarding the cleanup of residents' lots in town, even though some residents pushed back on the issue.

"Some people were very prompt when reminded about our junked car ordinance and took care of removing the vehicles," she said. "Other citizens have never responded to the city's request for them to clean up lumber, piles of tree limbs, junked vehicles and high grass. We have helped some citizens with mowing to give them a head start, but we still have repeat offenders. There are guidelines that the city must follow, and we worked closely with our city attorneys to ensure we were within our rights. We never collected fines, but they are part of the ordinances which were voted in previous to me serving as mayor."

Although it hasn't always been smooth sailing, Conway said her time as mayor has been a rewarding experience.

"The Granbury Chamber of Commerce has always extended a welcoming hand to Cresson," she said. "The float that we did in the Fourth of July parade where we dressed up the city's truck as the Cresson Train was a highlight. The look on the parade crowd's faces was priceless. Some were smiling and (some) were not smiling!"

She also expressed gratitude for United Way of Hood County and the Hood County Library for giving back to the residents at the Cresson PODS.

"The Hood County Library has worked so hard to bring the books to the children at the Cresson PODS," Conway said. "They loaded up books in their cars and brought them to Cresson and did not get a good turnout from the kiddos. But, now with the Mobile Library, it is allowing many opportunities to both kiddos and grownups!"

She added she personally loves the tradition of the lighting of the Christmas tree and the singing of the carols by the Cresson Community Church. She said being a part of the Granbury Education



COURTESY PHOTO

Teena Conway

Granbury ISD school board votes to hold special election for \$161M bond

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

During a regularly scheduled Granbury ISD board of trustees meeting, the board voted 5-2 to call a special election May 4 to allow voters to consider a bond proposal totaling \$161,500,000. Trustees Melanie Graft and Karen Lowery voted in opposition.

If it is approved by voters, the bond will fund construction of a new elementary school off Granbury and Peck Roads, renovations across nine of GUSD's 10 campuses, a new transportation center, the purchase of 30 new school buses, and implemen-

tation of additional instruction, technology, and safety and security measures.

Some specifically needed renovations, according to GUSD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn, include replacing air conditioning units at Granbury High School as well as adding a sidewalk and crosswalk in front of the school. The roof may need repairs, as well, since major roof leaks have occurred at times in the fine arts facility.

Some community members voiced their opinions about the bond proposal before the board made its final decision, including former board president Barbara Herrington

and community members Jim Brown, Sharee Westlund and Beverly Cheney.

Herrington praised the staff and faculty around the district for their work and praised the board members who attended a bond planning meeting that was open to the public. Herrington noted that two members were not there (Graft and Lowery) and said if they voted against the bond, "shame on you," Herrington said.

Brown voiced his concerns with the bond and alluded to the possibility of a new jail, a potential hospital district tax, and the costs of the growth and infrastructure coming

to the county, all pointing to potential tax increases for residents.

"In time, we will be the ones paying for this at some point in time," Brown said. "I just want to make sure that I feel comfortable that you, the board, represents these students, and your community are fiscally responsible and not grabbing for too much money."

Westlund shared her support for the bond calling it an "investment in our community," and noted it will shape the future of the children within the community as well as generations to come.

PLEASE SEE **GUSD** | A8



138TH YEAR, NO. 7

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 32 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 32 pages

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Unlocking business potential

The power of data analytics for small businesses

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

In the ever-evolving landscape of business, staying ahead of the curve is essential for success. Fortunately, Chamber of Commerce organizations across the world understand this need and regularly organize business development events to empower their members and local businesses. These events are more than just gatherings; they are invaluable opportunities for networking, learning and growth.

We invite you to join us Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 9-10:30 a.m. for a transformative event aimed at empowering small businesses through the lens of data analytics. Titled "Unlocking Business Potential: The Power of Data Analytics for Small Businesses," this event promises to be a game changer for entrepreneurs looking to harness the full potential of their enterprises. Presenter Allan Paddack will explain how small businesses can affordably use advanced data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to improve decision making, increase business efficiency, engage with customers and gain market advantage. Paddack is an economic and data scientist with a diverse background in education, finance and technology. He and his wife, Ginger, own Fair Oaks Ranch in Acton and have a son who is a senior at Granbury High School. Mr. Paddack consults with businesses of all sizes in the area of data analytics and business strategy.

In today's digital age, data has become a priceless asset for businesses of all sizes. However, many small businesses struggle to fully grasp the significance of data analytics and how it can be applied to their operations. This event aims to bridge that gap by demystifying the world of data analytics and showcasing its tangible benefits for small businesses.

Participation in events like these is crucial for small business owners for several reasons. Firstly, it provides them with access to expert knowledge and insights they may not have otherwise. Paddack's expertise in data analytics can offer invaluable guidance on how businesses can optimize their processes, identify growth opportunities and make informed decisions.

Secondly, events like this foster networking opportunities, allowing small business owners to connect with peers, industry professionals and potential collaborators. These connections can lead to partnerships, collaborations and valuable referrals, all of which can contribute to the growth and success of a small business.

Moreover, participating in events organized by the Granbury Chamber of Commerce demonstrates a commitment to professional development and community engagement. It showcases a willingness to invest in one's own growth and contribute to the prosperity of the local business community.

Furthermore, Granbury Chamber events of-

PLEASE SEE CHAMBER | A7



COURTESY PHOTO
Wholesale Granite Direct and Hiltons Flooring: Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Relocation of Wholesale Granite Direct and Grand Opening of Hiltons Flooring. Located at 230 Temple Hall Hwy.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Member Spotlight

Bin There Dump That
"Bin There Dump That is a well-established, reputable North American franchise. Our franchise organization was founded in 2001 and 'Bin There Dump That' has operated as a franchise since 2004."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Bin There Dump That: "When it comes to efficient and reliable dumpster rental services in North Central Texas, Bin There Dump That stands out as the go-to-solution for all your waste disposal needs. With a commitment to exceptional customer service, competitive pricing, and a wide range of bin sizes, we make the process of decluttering or renovating your space a breeze. Bin There Dump That is a well-established, reputable North American franchise. Our franchise organization was founded in 2001 and 'Bin There Dump That' has operated as a franchise since 2004." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!



Member Spotlight

Velvet & Verde
"Experience something outside of the boutique 'norm' and shop with us!"

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Velvet & Verde: "Velvet & Verde strives to bring you a curated collection of apparel, home decor, and gifts that offer a funky, vintage vibe. Experience something outside of the boutique 'norm' and shop with us!" Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce! customer service, competitive pricing, and a wide range of bin sizes, we make the process of decluttering or renovating your space a breeze. Bin There Dump That is a well-established, reputable North American franchise. Our franchise organization was founded in 2001 and 'Bin There Dump That' has operated as a franchise since 2004." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

PLEASE SEE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | A7

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

'Do not ever take another man's bet'



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.
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This past weekend was Super Bowl Sunday. For those of us who can remember the half-empty stadium for the first Super Bowl, it is hard to comprehend how the game has become a truly global event. The game was viewed on television by over 115 million people in the U.S. alone, making it the most viewed television event of all time. More than 50 million people bet on the Super Bowl, and it is estimated the total value of the wagers was \$16 billion.

As a young boy, the neighborhood kids and I would

gamble. Oh, we had the usual childhood bets like, "I bet

you a nickel you can't beat me in a race" or "I bet I can hold my breath longer than you can," but as we got older, we did expand our wagering. When we were about 9 or 10, we would get a bunch of poker chips together, divide them evenly amongst us, and "pretend gamble" on a variety of games. Whoever ended up with the most chips was declared the "winner." We would play blackjack, craps, and roulette. It was a lot of fun, and come to think of it, it was probably a good way to learn arithmetic as we figured the odds on a craps table and the payout on roulette. We guys had a lot of fun and as I recall, the competition was very intense.

In the mid '60s, there was

no internet or cable television. There was no ESPN or internet to learn the outcome of a sporting event. The newspaper was the best source, and it was always at least half a day behind. Sporting events were rarely available for viewing via television, and so when a contest was on, it was something my dad and I would watch together. During the mid-'60s, the Big 8 basketball schools played their games on Saturday afternoon or evening, and one of the games would be rebroadcast on local television on Sunday.

Watching those games was one of the highlights of the week for a couple of reasons. I loved basketball and it was cool to simply see major

college players perform. Perhaps even more importantly, it was a time when my dad and I could be together and interact. He would ask me which players I liked best and why, talk about the coaches and their strategies, and point things out about the game I did not yet understand. Mom would make us lunch, and we would eat in the living room which is something we were ordinarily not allowed to do. It was a special time.

Before the start of one game, Dad looked at me and asked if I wanted to bet. As I recall, Kansas was playing Missouri. He asked me which team I liked, and I told him Missouri. He responded by telling me he would take the

Kansas team, plus he would give me six points. He explained this meant Kansas not only had to win the game, but they also had to win by more than 6 points. I felt like I was stealing money from my very own father! There was no way Kansas would win, much less win by more than the allotted points.

We watched the game, and it was a good contest with the score rocking back and forth. I was nervous as the game came down to the wire, praying Missouri could hold on, but in the last minute Kansas exploded and blew the game open. When a Kansas player hit a shot with about five seconds left, it

PLEASE SEE **PORCH** | A13

Folks around town



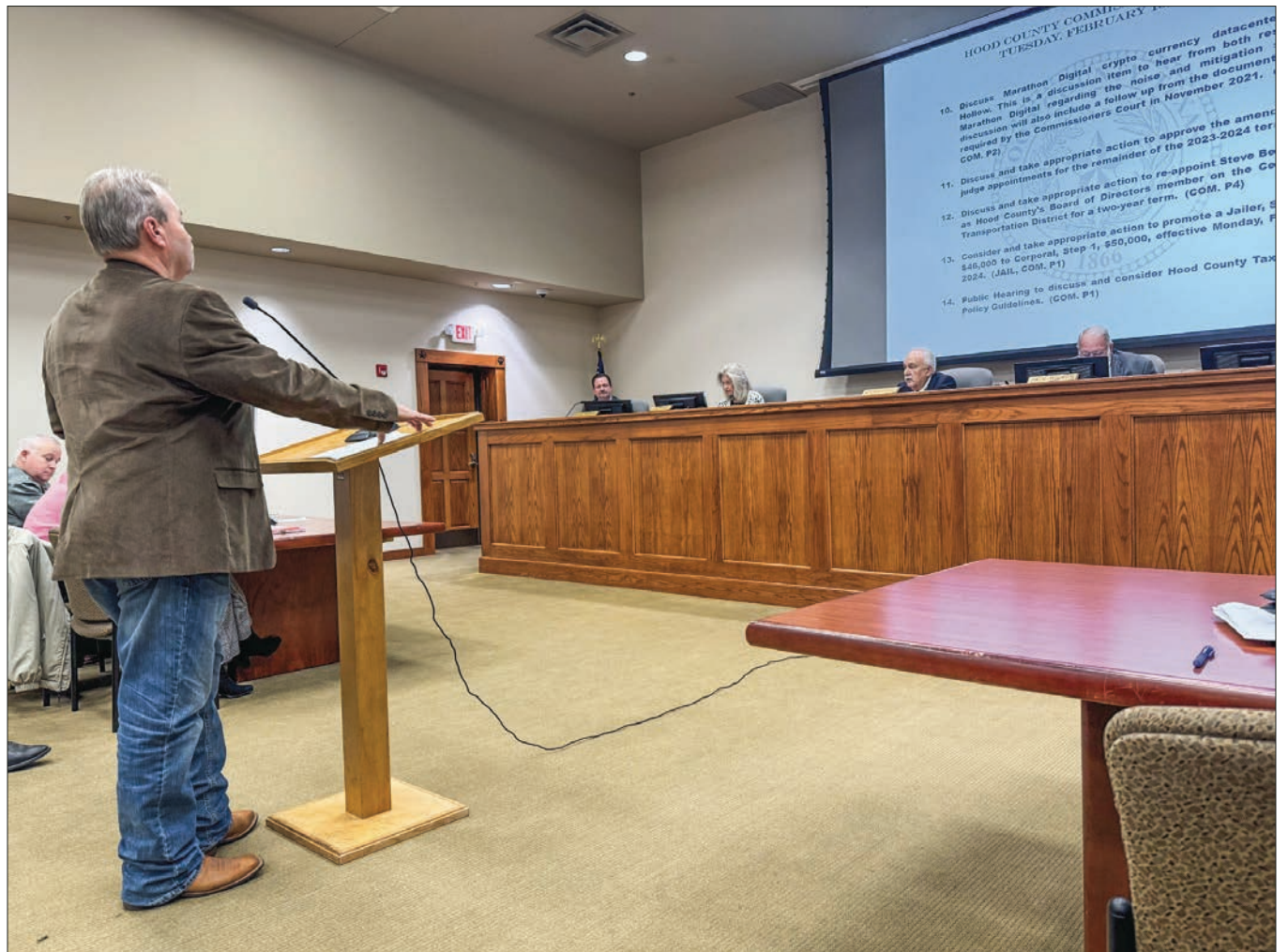
Karissa Sorrells

Say hello to our neighbor, Karissa Sorrells!

Hood County has always been a special place for Karissa Sorrells. "I've lived here my entire life! I like our community." She also likes how we are still so small we can go to the grocery store and always see someone we know. Karissa and her husband Chase, who is her high school sweetheart, enjoy life in the Acton area with their two sons, Cole (8 years old) and Cooper (5 years old). "Since we were both raised here, we love seeing our kids grow up with the children of parents they went to school with." Family and friends occupy much of the family's spare time, while their social life revolves around the Hood County YMCA, where Karissa flourishes as the director of wellness and sports. She thinks it's so cool to witness her children develop their own community of friends through the variety of YMCA programs they have to choose from. One program that is near and dear to her heart is the Pedaling for Parkinson's Program, and she is grateful for the support the Hood County News has given in the YMCA's fight against Parkinson's disease.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

County reappoints Steve Berry to Cen-Tex Rural Transportation District board



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously reappointed Steve Berry to serve as Hood County's Board of Directors member on the Cen-Tex Rural Transportation District for a two-year term, during a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously reappointed Steve Berry to serve as Hood County's representative on the Cen-Tex Rural Transportation District board of directors for a two-year term during a regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Berry said this will be the seventh time he's been appointed to the board, and he wanted to take some

time to educate the public on what a rural rail district does.

He explained that Hood County is not going to stop growing, and that it was the growth of the gas and oil business that first spurred him into serving on the rural rail district board.

Berry said in 1981, the 67th Texas legislature put rural rail districts in place to protect rail lines that were being dumped across the west, in the panhandle and in west Texas areas, as well.

"Our Central Texas Rail District is made up of five counties: Johnson, Hood, Erath, Comanche and Brown," he said. "We meet about three to four times a year. Basically, what we do is deal with private crossings. I just talked to City Manager (Chris) Coffman about North Houston (Street). There's concern about North Houston (Street), how rough it is when you've crossed that area, and the fact is inside the rails itself is a concrete pad. It seems to be a TxDOT

issue because it's coming up to that."

He explained that the rural rail districts serve and protect the local community — especially when someone complains about a railroad coming across their private property. He also revealed they take up easements when someone is putting in a pipeline, and that they have the authority by the legislator to create bonds.

"I've enjoyed my time, mainly the five individu-

PLEASE SEE **BERRY** | A4

STAY CONNECTED AT HCNEWS.COM

CORRECTION

In the Saturday, Feb. 10 issue of the Hood County News, an article about Lipan author Elsie Harrell contained an incorrect website link. Elsie Harrell's website can be found online at elsievharrell.com. The HCN regrets the error.

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10 a.m. Wednesday

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POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Feb. 6 - Feb. 12. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

FEB. 6
6:56 a.m.: reckless driving reported on Crossland Road
11:59 p.m. possession of a controlled substance reported on W. Pearl Street
3:32 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:53 p.m.: theft reported on Oak Wood Drive
11:50 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
** One warrant was served and 25 traffic stops were reported on this day**

FEB. 7
8:37 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on S. Morgan Street
9:31 a.m.: report of livestock out on Davis Road
10:21 a.m.: hit-and-run reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:25 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:28 p.m.: vicious animal reported on Rolling Terrace Circle
4:27 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on Lipan Highway
5:59 p.m.: assault reported on Loop 567
There were 33 traffic stops reported on this day

FEB. 8
8:16 a.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported at an undisclosed location
12:10 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Stone

Street
1:58 p.m.: assault reported on Crossland Road
4:41 p.m.: theft over \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:49 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on Lipan Highway
10:07 p.m.: public intoxication reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
Two minor accidents, one major accident and nine traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 9
2:07 p.m.: lost property reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:11 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:51 p.m.: theft reported on S. Morgan Street
7:09 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
**Three minor accidents

and 26 traffic stops were reported on this day**

FEB. 10
8:27 p.m.: theft of a motor vehicle reported on S. Morgan Street
9:13 p.m.: juvenile problem reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:30 p.m.: reckless driving reported on W. Pearl Street
11:41 p.m.: intoxicated driver reported on N. Houston Street
One major accident, a minor accident and 35 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 11
1:48 a.m.: intoxicated driver reported on W. Bridge Street
11:45 a.m.: reckless driving reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:29 p.m.: found prop-

erty reported on S. Morgan Street
2:02 p.m.: theft of a motor vehicle reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:21 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on N. Crockett Street
There were 15 traffic stops reported on this day

FEB. 12
8:53 a.m.: a stolen vehicle was recovered on Fall Creek Highway
1:47 p.m.: harassment reported on S. Morgan Street
3:01 p.m.: livestock reported out on Loop 567
3:37 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on S. Morgan Street
9:36 p.m.: assault reported on Harbor Lakes Drive
One major accident, one minor accident and 19 traffic stops were reported on this day

BERRY

FROM PAGE A4

als that serve, we've gotten to know each other, and I learned a lot about railroads," Berry said. "If someone else wants to serve, I'd be glad to pass that torch, but I'd be glad to serve another two years if it's your desire."

Hood County resident

Harold Granek then came up to the podium to give his opinion about Berry. "Although I frequently didn't agree with Steve, he has been with Hood County for a long time," Granek said. "He's done a good job and I support his reappointment if he accepts it." Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle joked that now Dr. Granek had given

his "OK," he would like to make the motion to reappoint Berry to serve as Hood County's representative on the Cent-Tax Rural Transportation District board of directors for another two-year term. The motion passed unanimously. "Mr. Berry, I want to thank you for your service, and thank you for explain-

ing to me and being willing to be of service to the county," Eagle told Berry. "I really appreciate it, and I wanted you to be able to let the people know what this organization does, so thank you very much." "At the end of the day, we need to treat each other with respect and the opportunity to work together because we need to unite

our community and grow back together," Berry said. "Fort Worth Western is always willing to come down and give us a presentation on how many cars pass through our county. In my profession today, we are not going to get smaller. Land is going to sell before cattle and hay, I can promise you. We're gonna get nothing but bigger."

MAYOR

FROM PAGE A1

Foundation has brought an awareness to just how "strong Granbury ISD is to our students."

"Their work to fulfill grants to the teachers is a tedious process but backed by their biggest fundraiser, 50 Fellas Foodfest," she said. "There is so much offered through the various GISD programs, I've been amazed that you can learn a skill, take dual college credit classes, and learn to be-

come an award-winning rifle team, just to name a few. Thank you to our leadership on the school board as well as our Superintendent Dr. (Jeremy) Glenn." She said she also enjoyed getting to work alongside the Hood County Commissioners Court and Judge Ron Massingill as she was able to learn more about how a county works. As Conway prepares to start traveling — namely to Greece — and spend more time with family and friends, she said she will

look back on her time as mayor fondly. "My time serving the city has been successful and memorable," she added. "I have rekindled friendships and made new friends at a fast pace while serving Cresson as mayor. I'm glad my mom gave me the gentle nudge when she did." She said she especially wanted to give Cornett credit for allowing her to be appointed to his council and then serve as mayor herself, while he provided "insight and historical

data" along the way. As for the next mayor of Cresson, Teena said no one had filed to run at the time of the HCN interview. The deadline to file closed Friday, Feb. 16. After the vote in May, the new mayor will be sworn into office. Conway said as she moves on to the next chapter in her life, she hopes to continue public speaking and will challenge herself to finally publish a book about Cresson. "(It will start) inside the classroom at the Cresson

Historic School all the way through the journey serving as mayor to my hometown," she said. "It could be a very enlightening story to many." Conway said she does anticipate growth in Cresson and added she looks forward to seeing "sweet, beautiful families" moving to town. "To me, that's exciting," she added. "Cresson is truly the crossroads and will continue to grow. I look forward to welcoming new families into our town."

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

BOOK SIGNING for the 200-page book Texas Art Connection will be celebrated from 2-5 p.m. at the Langdon House Art Gallery. The book includes color photos of the work of 70 Texas artists, links to their websites and biographical information. Author/artist Gloria Hood and artists featured in the book will be available to sign the books. Books are also available to purchase on amazon.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

FORWARD TRAINING Center "Quickbooks Basic" class begins, meeting Feb. 20, 22, 27, 29 from 6-8 p.m. email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org or call 817-573-6677 to sign up.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

luncheon, noon at Southside Baptist Church, 910 Paluxy Highway. Speaker will be Don Smarto, senior pastor at Southside Baptist Church, speaking on "God can change a heart" with a special emphasis on gang influence. Smarto has shared the gospel with gang members for 44 years. RSVP by Friday, Feb. 16. at Luncheon/Banquet Registration Reply - Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance (granburyministries.org).

HOOD COUNTY Republican Club hosts Pastor Rafael Cruz and celebrates the lifelong dedication of service of Don and Rene Poe. Location is Brazos Covenant Ministries, 1950 Acton Highway, Granbury. Social with light meal begins at 5:30 p.m. Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

THE HOOD County Republican Women will meet at 10 a.m. at the Wiley Center, 400 W. U.S. Highway 377. The program will be a candidate forum for Hood County candidates running in the 2024 Republican primary.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A10

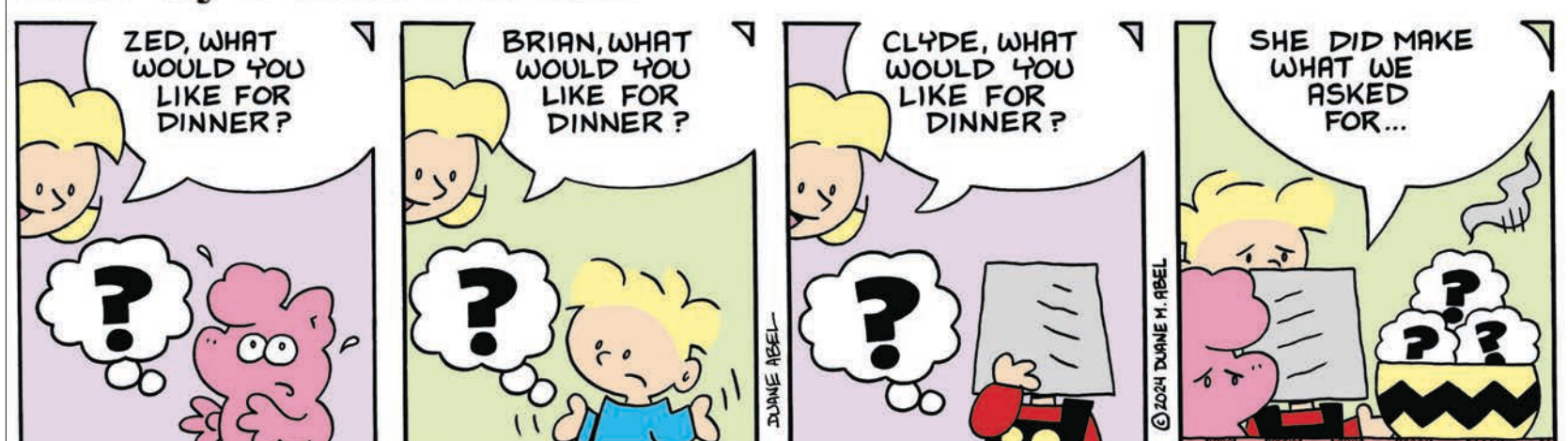
TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



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Brazos River Authority board reelects Granbury director to officer position

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury resident Rick Huber was recently honored at a Brazos River Authority (BRA) board of directors meeting when he was reelected to serve as the assistant presiding officer.

The mission of the BRA is to develop, manage and protect the water resources of the Brazos River basin to meet the needs of Texas. The BRA provides water for such beneficial uses as municipal use, agriculture, irrigation, electric generation, mining and industry, according to brazos.org.

The BRA board of directors is the exclusive policymaking body for the BRA, setting all major policies that guide the overall operations of the organization. The board consists of 21 members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the Texas Senate. Directors serve a six-year staggered term, with one-third being replaced each odd-numbered year.

Huber has been a board member since 2015, when he was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott. He is currently in the third year of his second six-year term.

In 2022, Huber was elected as the BRA's assistant presiding officer, in which he presided over the board in the absence of the presiding officer. When Huber's two-year term expired, he was reelected in November to serve another two-year term as the assistant presiding officer for 2024 and 2025.

He explained that three officers — the presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, and secretary — are voting members of each of the board committees.

"It's good to be a member of each committee because you attend every committee meeting as well as board meetings," Huber told the HCN. "I like that because it

keeps me up-to-date on everything that we're doing as an organization and everything that each committee is doing. I like to be informed of everything so I'm knowledgeable about it and can communicate about it when things come before the board."

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Huber received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering — which is part of the reason why he has enjoyed getting to see the innerworkings of the BRA.

"I have a natural curiosity

about how complex things work, so it's been very really fascinating to me to learn the workings of the Brazos River Basin," he said. "It's a giant system that covers about 43,000 square miles. The Brazos is the longest river that's contained within the state of Texas' borders. It goes from right near the New Mexico State line all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, so it's about over 900 miles long, and it encompasses about 70 different counties in Texas — either all or part of them — so that's how big the Brazos River Basin is."

Huber said one aspect about the BRA that many people don't know is that it's a political subdivision of the state of Texas, but it doesn't



COURTESY OF BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

The Brazos River Authority Board of Directors reelected Rick Huber of Granbury to serve as assistant presiding officer at its November 2023 meeting.

receive or levy taxes. "The BRA doesn't collect any taxes and it doesn't receive any funding through the legislative budget process," he said. "It's self-sustaining and that comes from

comes down the river and then as it gets here, they open the gates here and let that same amount of water out to keep the levels at a full level," he explained.

Similarly, during drought conditions, if not much water is flowing down the main stem of the river, the BRA will release water from the 11 reservoirs to help augment the water.

"We try to release from the downstream reservoirs as much as possible but when they get too low — which has happened a few times — then we have to start releasing some water from Lake Granbury and from Possum Kingdom to supplement that water, which we don't like to do, but we have to when it would get to the point where we have to do it to serve our customers."

Huber also explained how three of the man-made lakes are owned and operated

said. "Where's the water gonna come from? Because there's a finite amount of water now. The last couple of years we've kind of struggled to keep our water supply up. We have several reservoirs right now downstream that are in various stages of drought, so we're hoping to get some winter rain, or at least when we get to springtime, we can get our regular spring rains."

One of the upcoming projects that will provide more water for Texas is a little unconventional, according to Huber. He said another state-permitted water storage reservoir called Allen's Creek is currently planned for construction in the lower portion of the Brazos basin.

"It's in the permitting stage right now, which takes about five to seven years to get the federal government to finally permit it so that you can start milking it," Huber said.

"The Trinity Aquifer is where most of the water in Central Texas comes from, so when water is plentiful in the Brazos River, we will inject water back into the aquifer for storage," Huber said. "When we have drought conditions, we can then recover that water up out of the aquifer for use so it's just a great way to store water because there's no evaporation there. In our reservoirs, we have a huge amount of evaporation, especially during the summertime because of the heat. ASR is a very promising project that we're battling with."

In addition, the BRA is also going to start a desalination plant to study desalination of seawater. The process is expensive, but Huber said the BRA believes at some point, it's going to be cost-effective when water becomes even more scarce.

"It excites me to see how much research and development is being done with all these projects that we're doing to produce more water," he said.

Huber is a former U.S. Air Force pilot and a retired American Airlines captain. He is a member of the Fort Worth Air Power Council and the Grey Eagles. He also serves on the Granbury Regional Airport Advisory Board and is vice president of the Mesa Grande Water Supply Corporation.

He is the former chairman of the Hood County Appraisal Review Board and former member of the Leadership Granbury board of directors, where he was named Board Member of the Year in 2014-2015.

Huber will serve for two years as the assistant presiding officer or until a successor is selected. He will continue to serve on the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors until his term expires in 2027.

For more information about the Brazos River Authority, visit brazos.org.

"I have a natural curiosity about how complex things work, so it's been very really fascinating to me to learn the workings of the Brazos River Basin."

RICK HUBER
BRA Assistant Presiding Officer

the sale of water. We also operate several freshwater treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants for several municipalities under contract."

During extreme weather conditions like a drought or flooding, Huber said the BRA works together with its 11 reservoirs in a "delicate dance" to resolve the issue.

He said during times of flooding — especially in Lake Granbury and Possum Kingdom Lake — the BRA releases water by opening the flood gates and letting the water flow down to Lake Whitney, which is a flood storage lake.

"That's why you see when there's lots and lots of rain, they'll be opening the gates up at PK and lots of water

by the BRA reservoir system: Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Granbury and Lake Limestone. The other eight reservoirs are owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

What really excites Huber about working for the BRA, he said, is all the projects he is involved in that will help provide more water for Texas — projects that are desperately needed due to the expected growth.

"The Texas demographers down in Austin say that the population of Texas right now is around 31 million. They estimate by 2050 it's going to be more than a 50% increase and we'll have around 47 million people in the state, which is 16 million more than we have now by 2050," Huber

"We're about a year into the permitting, so that's gonna be a while before that one's online. But that's one way we're gonna supply a great amount of water — especially the customers downstream — which will relieve some of the load on Lake Granbury and Possum Kingdom because we'll have more water downstream to use in drought conditions without having to call on our lake up here to release water."

Huber said the BRA has had success in Williamson County by mixing groundwater with surface water from reservoirs to get more water.

He said the BRA is also waiting for the senate to approve a bill for something called an aquifer storage recovery (ASR).

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THE Best of Hood County HCN News 2023

WILLIAMS

FROM PAGE A1

Washington's a mess — and I don't have to hide that from you," Williams said.

He explained he has now been in Congress for almost 14 years and had never thought about running for election. However, as a businessman, he realized many people weren't keeping their word when they got elected, which spurred him to run for Congress in 2010.

"I jumped in with 13 people and had a pro-business message," he said. "I was the only businessperson out of the 13. I had a pro-business entrepreneurial message. I had a smile on my face. I had solutions. I didn't bash anybody, and I'll be doggone if I didn't win, so it's been a heck of a journey for the last 13 years."

Williams is chairman of the small business committee, has been on the banking committee and is the senior Texan on the financial services committee.

He argued that the problem with Washington, D.C. is that the city is "driven by anger," because there aren't any "business people," as they are the ones who are going to "win the communities back."

"That's what we do," he said. "The status of Washington is not going to change until we have an election, and we're very much divided, and both parties are divided within themselves... I'll just tell you this, we have got to remember this always: If America is not the strongest country in the world, spiritually, economically and militarily, this world will implode, and I'm here to tell you the world's imploding right now because our enemies don't fear us, our friends don't trust us, and we have an attack on Main Street America like we've never seen before."

Williams said in order to bring the economy back to how it was, taxes and regulations need to be cut and competition needs to be created.

He added that the "government has had their chance," and we need to "give people a chance."

"We have got to strengthen our military, we have got to have the presence to tell people, 'If you mess with us, you got a problem,' and we need to get back to being American," Williams said.

BORDER SECURITY

On the topic of border security and illegal drugs, Williams said the border is the "single biggest issue" we have in America.

He said when he served as secretary of state under Gov. Rick Perry, one of his charges was overseeing the border. He explained that the border is "worse today than it was yesterday," and that the border "is going to be worse tomorrow than it is today."



The Lake Granbury Conference Center was filled with business leaders from the community to hear Congressman Roger Williams speak at an event on Feb. 9.



Congressman Roger Williams answered questions from Granbury Chamber of Commerce CEO Brian Bondy at an event on Feb. 9.

"If you go down there, it'll make you so mad, you can spit," Williams said. "You can't see it on TV, but the wall is broken down. People are running by you. It's like a movie or something that has no intermission."

Williams argued that the borders need to be defended and the United States military needs to make the drug dealers "go away." He also said the number of illegal immigrants who are coming into the U.S. totals not 10 million, but 20 million.

"They're sick, they're hungry, they don't know the language and they're not here to help America. That's just the bottom line," he said. "The drug dealers are running the whole show. They get their fentanyl from China, China sells to Mexico, Mexico sells to (the U.S.) and we go kill generations of kids, and we're just letting this happen. The military needs to go down and take care of the drug dealers, and we need to build a wall because it works."

Williams explained that the U.S. previously had a

"remain in Mexico" policy that required migrants seeking asylum to remain in Mexico until their U.S. immigration court date. The policy was originally implemented in January 2019 by former President Donald Trump but was later ended by the Biden administration.

He added he has a "real problem" with people who try to come to America illegally, adding that it's the most "serious crisis we have."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Bondy asked Williams his opinion about the federal government enforcing orders that remove Congress from its lawmaking abilities.

Williams said there are currently more than 100 executive orders, adding that this means presidents "just make up laws." He added that Republicans have only

a one-vote margin in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"It's hard to get things passed, but Congress needs to take a look at these presidential orders and pass legislation to do away with them as opposed to signing things that are not in the best benefit for our country," he said.

COVID-19 EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT

Bondy explained that Congress passed the Employee Retention Credit, where many eligible businesses and tax-exempt organizations had been applying for the refundable tax credit following the impact from COVID-19. However, the Internal Revenue Service placed a hold on the funds last year following concerns about aggressive ERC marketing from tax professionals. He asked Williams what Congress can do to remove the IRS from this situation.

Williams responded he isn't sure Congress can do a lot, but that the easiest way is to pass and make sure the Trump tax cuts "con-

tinue to pass for 2025." He added there are two tax cuts Congress needs to keep: 100% expensing and interest deductibility.

"The argument you run across on both sides is COVID's over with, so I want to focus on tax cuts and keeping the tax cuts out there that came in with Trump and just open up the opportunity for more money, more availability in real dollars for mainstream America," he said. "That may not be the answer you want to hear, but it's the real answer. I'm just one guy. But I think the way to do it long term and get back on is to cut taxes and cut regulations."

STRENGTHENING MILITARY

Regarding the topic of military strengthening, Williams argued that veterans are the ones who need "free stuff, not these illegals coming in." He said the U.S. has the "greatest military in the world," and the "greatest generation" is currently at Fort Hood (recently renamed Fort Cavazos). Williams argued we need to "pay these young men and women what they need to be paid," while also ensuring they have enough weapons.

Another interesting aspect, Williams added, is how young men and women are not wanting to enlist in the military now. He said 50% of enlisted soldiers do not have a driver's license or have social skills, like writing a letter or pulling a chair out for a lady. He added that 75% of enlisted soldiers do not have any responsibility or discipline.

"What they're saying is, now we have a different soldier, where instead of six months being ready, it's gonna take longer, like a year," Williams said. "That's kind of what we've done when we created this woke

world that we want to live in, and the world's not going to make that strong America. So our military, we need to pray for these people every single day. We need more money in the military, we need to have the greatest weapons in the military, and we just need to be the superpower in the world."

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Bondy asked Williams to explain how Texas is an oil and gas country, and yet the U.S. is being told electric vehicles may be a requirement in the future.

Williams said he has been a car dealer for 52 years and his family has been in the business since 1939. He said he is an expert when it comes to the car business and explained that electric vehicles are the "biggest rip-off of the American people since COVID."

"Electric vehicles (EVs) are not a market. It's a phony market. It's a lie that's being perpetrated by a small group of people," he said. "Back in 2015, the three: Ford, Chrysler, GM, they got woke, and they got scared, and they went and bought into this — and that's the worst thing they can do."

He explained he is not against EVs, but he's against the government telling the citizens what to buy. Williams said in the future, the electric vehicle charging stations will be covered in graffiti and won't work anymore.

"EV vehicles are phony. They're not real. You can't get them insured. Have you seen if the battery goes haywire, the whole car is totaled out? So insurance companies don't want to insure them," he said. "Let's have electric vehicles, but let's compete for them and let you decide rather than having the government tell us what to do."

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS



Finally, Bondy opened the forum to allow audience members to ask questions. One resident heard a large percentage of military-aged Chinese and Russians are coming across the border. She asked Williams if Congress has investigated that issue.

Williams responded by saying the audience member was correct, but that Congress has "no clue" who's coming across the border. He said people have been coming from Russia, China, Yemen and Iran.

"They're not coming over here for seasonal work. They're coming over here to kill this country," he said. "And all these people that are coming in there — in the 20 million I talked about — you think they're leaving here? They're not leaving here. Every time you see a train derailed, I'm telling you, that's their practicing for one day in this country

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS | A14

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Bitcoin noise leads to multiple citations issued

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Following a flood of complaints from Hood County residents regarding noise from a bitcoin mining facility now owned by Marathon Digital Holdings, Hood County Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley has issued several disorderly conduct citations.

The citations issued to the facility stem from the Texas Penal Code under disorderly conduct Section 42.01 (c)(2) which reads, "a noise is presumed to be unreasonable if the decibel level exceeds 85 after the person making the noise receives notice from a magistrate or peace officer that the noise is a public nuisance." Such a violation is a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500 per occurrence. Shirley issued four citations referencing four different readings but did not share the decibel numbers because the matter could end up in court later. He plans to issue more citations as needed.

The citations come nearly 10 months after Hood County Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson contacted Shirley

about the noise complaints and are the result of his ongoing investigation.

In Shirley's previous experience with the Houston Police Department, he dealt with sound investigations and noise complaints. These investigations and complaints resulted in quickly resolved solutions as Shirley said, "a \$500 ticket is going to hurt the average person."

With the size and scope of the multi-million-dollar bitcoin facility, the \$500 citations don't have much impact, but Shirley is attempting to do what he can for his constituents and residents.

"I want to help the community. Their needs are my needs," Shirley shared with the HCN. "If this gets into court, I hope we get lots of (sound) experts talking about this."

The bitcoin plant was sold by US Bitcoin to Marathon Digital Holdings Jan. 12. US Bitcoin built a sound barrier wall in October 2023 to help alleviate the high levels of noise coming from the site. The wall hasn't made much difference, if any, according to several residents.

Shirley shared that gathering sound readings over time will help him learn more about the sound. For instance, he hopes to learn whether high-level decibel readings are a regular problem or only occur on occasion.

On Jan. 29, Shirley and Samuelson hosted a community town hall at the Twin Canyons Ranch venue where residents voiced their concerns with the noise coming from the site. Representatives from Marathon Digital including Jason Browder, vice president of policy, and Kevin Rash, mining systems engineer, were present to answer questions. Rash told attendees at the meeting that Marathon was unaware of the noise issue and had chosen to attend the town hall to try to solve the problem.

"It's been very nice over the last three or four months

to see the community come on board, and not only those who have been directly affected, but by people who are not necessarily directly affected," Shirley shared. "This really affects our entire county because this is affecting property values in that part of the county."

He hopes by continuing to issue citations, Marathon will either self-regulate or come up with a plan that will satisfy both the community and the law.

"Or we're going to build a case to figure out a way to shut them down, because if you cannot come into compliance in our county and you're continually violating the law, there needs to be repercussions," Shirley added. "I'm going to continue to work with every elected official in this county through the legal process as best I can to solve this problem for my constituents... This is an ongoing investigation."

During a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Feb. 13, the bitcoin site was addressed, and many residents directed their concerns to the court hoping to see a plan of action created. Some residents reported

medical issues related to the noise that stems from the plant, such as ringing in the ears, headaches, nausea, sleep-related issues and even livestock and pets being affected.

"I can testify to you today that (the noise) is worse today than it was then (before the wall)," Ron Roberts, who lives a few miles away from the site, said. He shared that he previously used to only hear the noise at night but now hears it during the day as well.

Residents even brought ideas to the court about how to go about solving this issue, such as having the site only operate at night, having an entire building be put around the site to cover it, or making the wall even higher.

Another resident asked the court to seek advice from the county attorney as to whether or not the issue could be considered a public health emergency.

"I sympathize with anybody that hears a noise, no matter what kind it is," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said during the meeting. "Let me make one thing clear. Texas counties have no authority to regulate noise... To date the legislature has

not conferred upon counties the authority to regulate noise in their unincorporated areas... until the Texas legislature grants the state's counties authority to adopt noise ordinances, all Texas counties will remain unable to regulate noise. That unfortunately is the law. I wish there was something we could do for you guys. We are powerless."

Massingill suggested attendees contact their state senator and representative in hopes of them taking it to the Texas legislature. Samuelson told attendees she has been in contact with Sen. Brian Birdwell and Rep. Shelby Slawson to make them aware of the situation. She added she hopes to meet with Slawson soon to discuss the matter further. Commissioner Kevin Andrews said he is available to help anyone with what he can in regard to the issue.

"Our hands are tied," Commissioner Jack Wilson said.

Samuelson said she invited Digital Marathon to attend the meeting, but was told they would not be able to attend.

CHAMBER

FROM PAGE A2

ten provide sponsorship and speaking opportunities. This exposure can help position your business as an industry leader and authority in your field, boosting credibility and trust among potential clients and partners.

In essence, "Unlocking Business Potential: The Power of Data Analytics for Small Businesses" represents a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to gain knowledge, insights and connections needed to take their business to new heights. By embracing data analytics, small businesses can unlock untapped potential, drive innovation and stay ahead in today's competitive market landscape.

This business development event will be held in the First National Bank Training Room located at 4062 E. U.S. Highway 377 near H-E-B. Tickets are \$10 for chamber members and \$20 for general admission. For more information about this event and to register, please visit the event calendar on the chamber website at www.granburychamber.com or call us at 817-573-1622. Plus, if you would like more information about how to be a presenter for a 2024 business development event, please email Holly Martin at holly@granburychamber.com. We can't wait to bring more opportunities for chamber members and the business community to grow, learn and thrive!

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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**WOMEN IN BUSINESS
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR SPOTLIGHT
TERRI HARMON**

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**Time as WIB
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3 years

Town Square Title

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Women In Business Committee Co-Chair: Terri Harmon. We are so very thankful for our amazing Women In Business Committee Co-Chair, Terri Harmon, with Town Square Title. When asked why she loves being the WIB Committee Co-Chair, she said "I love that we are vibrant and fun, yet are very focused on the mission of our committee: to inspire, influence and champion women enhancing their roles as business leaders in our community." A fun fact about Terri is she has always wanted to be a Mascot! She thinks it would be awesome to get to do crazy, silly things and be anonymous doing it. No one knows who is inside those costumes! Plus, she feels like Mascots always make people happy. Thank you Terri for being our WIB Committee Co-Chair of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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GISD

FROM PAGE A1

Cheney thanked the board members who attended the bond planning meeting as well as the strategic planning meetings. She also wanted those in attendance to remember to not believe everything they read online, as she claimed misinformation has been spread on social media by members of the community.

Glenn presented details of the bond proposal to the public and shared that the board wants the entire community to get behind this bond — rather than be split down the middle like the previous bond proposal.

He said the biggest concern heard from the community during the reevaluation of a new bond proposal is the possibility of a tax increase. Glenn said the bond will not increase the property tax rate of 0.9996 per \$100 in valuation and will only cost more if the bond keeps being pushed into the future. Trustee Lowery pointed out that, on the ballot, the bond will be listed as a property tax increase.

Glenn agreed but pointed out the rate will remain the same, but the district would take on more debt that is scheduled to be paid off in 2039, but this bond will extend that by 15 years.

Trustee Courtney Gore asked those who weren't in attendance at the strategic planning meetings to voice their opinions and thoughts on the bond proposal. Trustee Billy Wimberly said he was not in attendance at the meeting because he was out of the country but is in favor of the bond.

Graft shared that her family was sick and she was unable to attend; she said she would let Gore know her thoughts on the bond when they voted.

Lowery pointed out that a large portion of the popula-



The Granbury ISD School Board met on Feb. 12 for a regularly scheduled school board meeting.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

tion in Granbury is economically disadvantaged and shared that raising taxes throughout the county would hurt those residents and families.

Glenn said the special election will allow the community to make a decision about whether or not they are in favor of the bond.

Board President Barbara Townsend said it is the board's responsibility to give the children in the district and those who move in the best education possible.

"That can't be done in buildings that are falling apart and in crowded classrooms," Townsend said. "Crowded classrooms mean you don't have as much

teacher interaction; more discipline problems and people can fall through the cracks. That's why I believe we need to put this bond on the map."

Trustee Nancy Alana agreed, referencing her time working in the school district, and shared the need for this bond. Alana said that at Brawner and Acton Elementary schools, some small group instruction has been moved to janitorial closets due to tight space.

"This is a not a want list or wish list. This is a need list," trustee Mike Moore said during the meeting. "This is a necessity and I'm 100% behind it."

Alana entered a motion

to call the special election; Moore seconded the motion. The measure was approved by a vote of 5-2 with Graft and Lowery voting their opposition. Gore made a motion to reconsider, which passed 5-2 with Graft and Lowery opposing.

Gore asked Graft and Lowery their reasons for voting against calling the election.

"I've talked to constituents and what I'm hearing is they don't want to be taxed out of their homes," Graft said. "I hear this again and again."

Gore told Graft the bond proposal would not increase the tax rate before Graft asked why the words

"tax increase" will be on the ballot. Gore explained the wording is required per state law.

"We're adding more debt and extending our debt. It's not a tax rate increase, but people will pay more in property taxes," Gore explained.

Glenn then shared that in the general area, residents will not find many places with a lower tax rate than Granbury.

Lowery then shared that from her constituents, she has heard concerns of parents not wanting to have school debt put on their kids. She noted that she and Graft are allowed to have their own opinions and are

not obligated to share the reason why they are in opposition of the bond.

"We have been communicating with the community, and they have said 'we don't want this,' and that is the way we are voting," Lowery said.

"The only way we can fund big projects like this is through a bond election," Gore said. "It's either we continue to put these kids in closets and hallways or hold the election."

Gore talked about things she's seen firsthand at her son's school. "He has had to ask to go use the restroom so that he could grab his

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

come 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).

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept 13.-Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.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.

GRIEF SHARE 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 Grief-share 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 CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND SATURDAY
GRIEF SUPPORT 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 CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. For

caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

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

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

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

For Immediate Release
February 17, 2024
Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

(Granbury, TX) — New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Hood Central Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning property tax laws" said Jeff Law Chief Appraiser of the Hood Central Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** – The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.
- **Property Tax Exemptions** – Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Child-care facilities; medical or biomedical property; businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** – If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** – Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet** – This Comptroller publication explains in detail the functions of a taxpayer liaison officer, how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or regular binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** – A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the home's appraised value and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** – Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural special appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.
- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** – Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** – Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** – Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to their county's ARB.
- **Informal Meetings** – Property owners can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information about these programs, contact Hood Central Appraisal District at 817-573-2471 or visit our new website at www.hoodcad.net. Information is also

available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4

MASTER GARDENERS

meeting at 1 p.m. at the Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Ct., Granbury. Mariah Mercer of Cherokee Lakes Farm presents sustainable farming practices to grow nutrient dense produce. For more information contact the Hood County Extensions Office 817-579-3280.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

MID-CITIES STAMP Club Granbury branch meets at 7 p.m. at the Bentwater Activity Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Ct., Granbury. Graham Beck of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee will present with special videos: Singapore Settlement Stamps and Operation Cornflakes.

THURSDAY, FEB. 29

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS hosts a job fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1030 E. U.S. Highway 377, Suite 202, Granbury. For

questions, to attend or if you are a business hiring call 817-776-8033.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE Celebration at the Historic Granbury Courthouse presented by the David Crockett Chapter of the Sons of The Republic of Texas. Doors open at 10 a.m. to see the exhibits, the celebration begins at 11 a.m. The event concludes at noon. Includes a presentation of the events leading to Texas Independence in 1836 as well as multiple exhibits about the Texas Revolutionary period. A great way to learn Texas history and share with the family.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

FORWARD TRAINING Center class "MS Word" runs through April 25 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. email info@forwardtraining-center or call 817-573-6677 to sign up.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC

Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: Rodger Isom, local political analyst and writer. 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S Highway 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

THE FRIENDSHIP

Cemetery Association will be conducting cemetery maintenance 9 a.m. to noon, with lunch for participants to follow at the Tolar Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. We will be cleaning and leveling headstones and cleaning up limbs and brush as needed. Friendship Cemetery is a small family and/or community cemetery about halfway between Granbury and Tolar on Friendship Road just off U.S. Highway 377. Check our Facebook page "Friendship Cemetery of Hood County." Email if more info is needed friendship-cemeteryhoodcounty@gmail.com.



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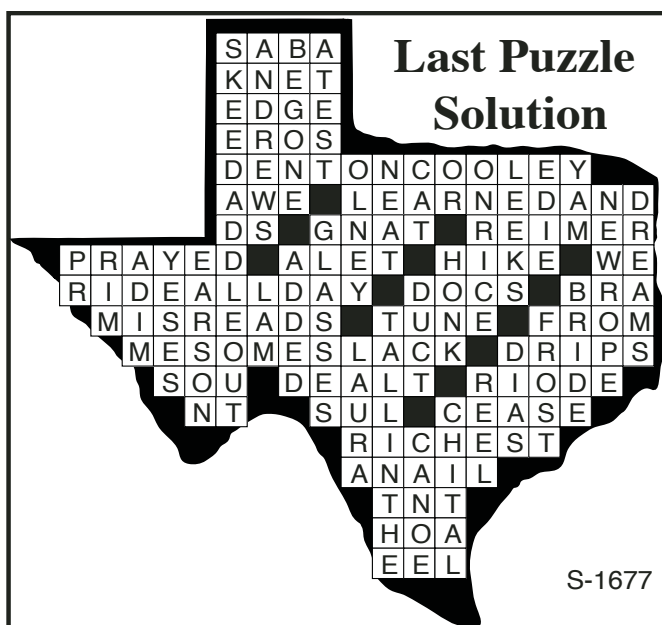
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Classifieds

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NOTICES

Public Notices

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 OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION
Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, 1st Source Storage Center now Granbury Self Storage, which is located at 212 Temple Hall Highway, Granbury, TX 76049 and 409 Western Hills Trail, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction with storageauctions.com of contents to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will begin online FEBRUARY 10, 2024 ending MARCH 7, 2024 as posted. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only! The contents must be removed from the property within 48 hours of the winning bid. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw from the auction. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Matthew Steitz and Brent Merriman.

Application has been made for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On Premise Permit Food and Beverage Certificate for:
Maria Fatima Nares- Owner
DBA: Los Nares Mexican Restaurant
2200 US Highway 377 E
Granbury, Texas 76049
Hood County

Said application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

LEGAL AD
A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Hood County Justice Center, 1200 W. Pearl St., Granbury, Texas 76048, for the discussion and input into the following proposed traffic regulation and take appropriate action:
a. Establish a STOP Sign on Arkansas River Drive at Brazos River Drive
b. Establish a STOP Sign on Colorado River Drive at Brazos River Drive
c. Establish a STOP Sign on Colorado River Drive at Canadian River Drive
d. Establish a STOP Sign on Devils River Drive at Brazos River Drive

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2024-01, Request of APC Towers, Inc. on behalf of SJ Bryant Irvin Commercial for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.2.G to allow a wireless antenna facility with additional height. The property is addressed as 1313 W Hwy 377.

2. ZBA-2024-02, Request of Steven Binkley on behalf of Van Griffith for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 11.7.1.1.C.9 to not provide the roof design architectural features required for a flat roof. The property is addressed as 4301 E Hwy 377.

3. ZBA-2024-03, Request of Timothy H. Dobs for a Variance to Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.2.C to reduce the front and side setback for a new residence an Interim Holding zoning district. The property is addressed as 1020 Valley View St.

A. § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Zoning Board of Adjustment seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Public Hearing will 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. Annex - Ordinance to annex 0.913-acres of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abst #348, located at 3210 Loop 567 per voluntary annexation Development Agreement (LGC Chapter 43 Subchapter C-3 Sec. 43.0671) Granbury Texas.

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

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Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
TRC 109 & 114
STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. C2023330

MARLON RAY LANKFORD, PLAINTIFF, VS.

BOBBIE MCGOWAN, MARTIN DOUGLAS LANKFORD, JACQUELINE 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., DECEASED AND IN THE ESTATE OF BURMA DEAN BURTON, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE PROPERTY.

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

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written response to the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 4TH DAY of 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 BURTON, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE PROPERTY, are potential parties in interest:

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 Volume 3, Page 55 of the Plat Records of Hood County, Texas and being described by 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 COMANCHE 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 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 Deputy

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Public Notices

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Public Notices

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0013786001

APPLICATION. Aqua Texas, Inc., 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 400W, Austin, Texas 78723, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0013786001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0089338) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 42,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located adjacent to Lake Granbury, approximately 2.0 miles north of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 2425 and Farm-to-Market Road 3210, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on November 27, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Hood County Clerk's Office, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.731027,32.400044&level=18>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information may also be obtained from Aqua Texas, Inc. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Scot Foltz, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 512-990-4400 extension 56101.

Issuance Date: February 14, 2024



Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency

Request for Proposals

February 7, 2024

RFP No. DL-01-2024

Dear Prospective Proposer:

Sealed Request for Proposals will be received in the office of Administrative Services, Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency (Agency), 5912 Matlock Road, Granbury Texas 76049 until **2:00 PM, Thursday, March 7, 2024 for the Brine Discharge Line Repair for the SWATS Facility, Granbury, Texas.**

Proposals must be submitted and received no later than the opening date and time specified above. Any Proposals received later than the specified time, whether delivered in person or mailed, shall not be considered. It is the standard practice of the Agency to collect mail once daily from the U S Post Office. Our daily mail pickup is at approximately 2:00 PM, Monday thru Friday, excluding holidays. The Agency is **NOT** responsible for ensuring the delivery of proposals to our offices. The Proposer is solely responsible for the timely delivery of their proposal.

Mail or Deliver Proposals to:

Administrative Services
Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency
5912 Matlock Road
Granbury, Texas 76049

Proposal envelopes must be plainly marked on the outside as follow:

SEALED PROPOSAL – DO NOT OPEN	
Proposal:	Brine Discharge Line Repair for the SWATS Facility, Granbury, Texas
Proposal No.	DL-01-2024
Proposal DUE DATE:	2:00 PM, Thursday, March 7, 2024

The Brazos Regional Public Utility Agency hereafter referred to as the "Agency" shall have the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, or any part thereof; to waive any technicalities in the interest of the Agency.

Sincerely,

Stefan Dollins, CPM
General Manager

5912 Matlock Road • Granbury, Texas 76049
817-326-3484 • Fax 817-326-3716

**NOTICE OF SALE
CRESSON CROSSROADS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Hood, Johnson and Parker Counties)**

**\$3,240,000
Defined Area #2 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024**

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Cresson Crossroads Municipal Utility District No. 2 (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids on its \$3,240,000 Defined Area #2 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024 (the "Bonds"), on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 9:00 A.M., Central Time, at the District's Financial Advisor office, Hilltop Securities, Inc., 717 N. Harwood Street, Suite 3400, Dallas, Texas 75201, ATTN: Andre Ayala. The Board will take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District, on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Central Time at the District's regular meeting place located outside the boundaries of the District, 5189 E. I-20 Service Rd. N., Suite 104, Willow Park, Texas 76087.

A bid for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the Financial Advisor of the District at the above address of the District's Financial Advisor. Bidders, other than bidders submitting an electronic bid, must submit signed Official Bid Forms on the date of and before the time of the sale. All bidders must submit a bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$64,800.00 payable to the order of the District as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the "Official Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions."

The Bonds will mature serially on September 15, 2026 through 2054 (inclusive) and will be dated March 1, 2024. The "Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions," the "Preliminary Official Statement" and the "Official Bid Form" may be obtained from the District's Financial Advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., 717 N. Harwood Street, Suite 3400, Dallas, Texas 75201. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the "Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions," the "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."

Mr. Bill Cherry
President, Board of Directors
Cresson Crossroads Municipal Utility District No. 2

LEGAL NOTICE

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL
CITY OF TOLAR**

The City of Tolar (Owner) is accepting proposals for a Public Works Shop. Proposals shall be delivered to the Engineer in digital PDF format, by email at colden.rich@e-ht.com, no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday March 19, 2024**. Proposer shall call to confirm receipt verbally at 325-698-5560.

SCOPE OF PROJECT: Metal building construction to include a new 50-ft x 100-ft building with a 25-ft x 50-ft covered area. Project includes a new concrete slab for the new metal building. The building shall contain a shop approximately 75-ft x 50-ft with three 12-ft x 14-ft roll-up doors and an office area approximately 25-ft x 50-ft with four windows and one 3-ft wide exterior door. Project shall include all labor, equipment, materials, electrical, and associated appurtenances.

PROPOSAL PROCESS:

1. A pre-proposal conference will not be held for this RFP.
2. Requests for Information (RFI's) shall be submitted to the Engineer, in writing, no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 1, 2024**. The Engineer's contact information is:

Colden Rich, P.E.
Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc.
colden.rich@e-ht.com
325-698-5560
402 Cedar, Abilene, TX 79601

3. Proposal packages shall be submitted to the Engineer at the email address listed at the top of this proposal. Proposer shall call to confirm receipt verbally.
4. Proposals will be opened after the closing hour of the due date. Proposal contents and cost tabulations will not be disclosed until the evaluation process is completed.
5. Proposals shall be subject to acceptance for a period of **90** days from the proposal closing date.

Proposal documents Drawings and Technical Specifications are available from the engineer via CivCast. Please visit www.civcastusa.com

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am-1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.

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Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 8600 Westover Dr.- 2/15-17 Fabulous home on the Brazos filled with contemporary furniture, art and decor; outdoor statues and furniture; books; LP records; costume jewelry. Photos at estatesales.net. 12p-5p THR 9a-4p FRI 9a-1p SAT.

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Hood County News

Hood County Central Appraisal District creates new website

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

The Hood County Central Appraisal District (HCAD) has created a new website for ease of access and information to better serve its residents.

Though the URL only slightly changed from

www.hood-cad.org to now www.hoodcad.net, Chief Appraiser Jeff Law said the site is not only more informative but also more organized.

"We had two main goals when developing the site content. The first goal is to provide the public with easily accessed information and data, along with reports

and various forms for Hood County property owners and others," Law told the HCN. "Our previous website was not easy to navigate and wasn't presented in a logical manner. Now it is much easier to find certain forms and for residents to navigate their way through the website."

Another enhancement to

the website is to its maps. When looking now at the property search, the performance capability is better, including interactive maps that enable residents to obtain more information on properties. Also, property owners can now easily pay their taxes through the website under the property search feature with a credit

card for a small fee.

"There's way more information now that you can get just by using the map," Law shared. "This will be very useful and helpful to citizens."

Law said an area for in-depth information regarding homesteads, including their benefits, was added. There is also an entire page dedicated

to the 10% appraisal cap in Texas.

"We're trying to make a big push there for people who don't have a homestead exemption in place to learn more about it," Law added.

For any questions, comments or recommendations regarding the new site, send an email to hoodapp@hoodcad.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

Two matched teams with similar past results in a showdown game. It's with little hope that I think we'll take a more serious look at our contestants and facts in this sporting event. Yes, I'm referring to our presidential choices. Neither candidate seems to be a young Mr. Clinton or G.W. Bush (age 46 and 54 — born in 1946), and the current differences don't stop with age. Apparently, it's only during elections politicians can fix the problems that have faced us for 40-

plus years. Meanwhile, the rest of the time they work for the party to raise money to run again. Who can blame them, for it as we get ready to support our "team" with another party-line vote that hasn't produced changes to current problems? When will they return to working together? Yes, results have been delivered but forgotten by election time. Some tend to call the past "good ole days" while we live in fact, in good ole days, and will refer to them later. We are extremely lucky. Crime

is down, health is up, there are jobs to be had, and wars are fought with drones, not soldiers.

If we want true change, we should send all politicians home to send the message that we're important and must be listened to FIRST. We can still love our party and vote for another in the same party or not vote. The next person up-to-bat will not expect a slow pitch again. So much of what needs to be done is reflected in the non-political polls and popular vote results. Polls

are good estimates.... sometimes. Neither federal nor state politicians need to dictate behavior. Religion and life are protected freedoms and should not be dictated.

We receive news constantly but tend to ignore the good or at least not remember it. Sensational news provides something to talk about and vote for. That used to be called talking across the back fence. Much of the news is centered around our addiction to real time media and we've focused them on their bottom

line versus good and bad news. We could fix that by not supporting or watching. Freedom of the press is an item that makes us unique, but it also must be preserved for legitimate journalism.

Ken Kunzman
Pecan Plantation

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/letters. Letters must include author's first and last

name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

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

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

PORCH

FROM PAGE A3

went ahead by seven, and I had lost the bet. I was crestfallen and could not believe I had the bet "won" the whole game only to lose in the last few seconds. My dad, in a good-natured way, kidded me about losing the wager and all I could do was take it.

After a couple of minutes of cajoling, dad told me to go and get the sports page out of the newspaper. I ran and got it, handed it to him, and he showed me the results from

the games played the night before. There it was: Kansas beat Missouri by seven points. I did not know the game we had bet on had already been played and Dad knew the result before we wagered!

At first, I thought "what the heck was going on here? Did my own father cheat when he made the bet with me?" I had never, ever, seen my dad do something dishonest or unfair, and I simply could not believe what had happened. I was bumfuzzled!

Before I could speak, dad looked at me and said, "Son, I know you have been gam-

bling with the neighborhood kids for fun, and that is OK. What I want you to know is there are a thousand different ways to cheat in gambling and in life, so do not ever take another man's bet. If, out of the clear blue sky, he wants to make a wager with you, he knows something you do not know."

Pretty sage advice, whether when gambling or in life itself.

Thought for the day: No one has ever bet enough on a winning horse...

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

GISD

FROM PAGE A8

lunch from his backpack to go finish eating in the bathroom because that lunchroom was never designed to hold and feed that many kids," Gore said. "This is what our kids in our district are facing every day. What do you say to those kids? What do you say to my son who has to do

that just to be able to eat a meal?" She asked Graft what her solution was to this issue and sought input, but Graft did not respond.

Glenn reiterated the overcrowding seen across the district and mentioned the portable buildings being used are not the safest environment.

Townsend thanked Graft and Lowery for the feedback from their constitu-

ents before calling for a vote. The measure was again approved by a vote of 5-2 with Graft and Lowery opposed.

A \$151.7 million bond proposal failed by two votes in the November election with a historic voter turnout; more than 12,000 votes were cast.

Early voting in the special election takes place April 22-30. Election Day is May 4.

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Decoding a cough

What does all that hacking mean—and what helps?

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

Respiratory illnesses continue to rise with coughs being a common overlapping symptom among them all. Decoding the characteristics of a cough, including its duration, sound and accompanying symptoms, can help patients understand what is going on and how to treat it.

Most people are typically contagious the first three to five days after the initial respiratory infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, a cough can linger around longer. A temporary, acute cough typically lasts less than three weeks and is often associated with short-lived illnesses like the common cold or the flu. But a cough that lasts longer — anywhere from four to eight weeks — is typically a sign

of unresolved inflammation from illnesses like bronchitis, long COVID or other serious conditions.

In addition to the length of a cough, it is important to monitor a dry versus wet-sounding cough. A dry cough, or an unproductive cough, is more commonly associated with the flu or COVID, it doesn't produce phlegm or mucus and it leaves a tickling sensation in the throat. A wet cough is more commonly associated with a cold, RSV or pneumonia, and may feel like mucus is stuck in the chest or back of the throat.

"While bothersome, a cough is the body's defense mechanism for getting rid of irritants from your lungs," says Julian Jimenez, M.D., family medicine physician at Lakeside Physicians Primary Care in Stephenville. "However, if you develop

other symptoms, such as a high fever, chills or wheezing, it's time to call your doctor."

Jimenez suggests these remedies to alleviate discomfort:

- Drink tea with local honey: Honey acts as a natural suppressant and contains antioxidants to help lower inflammation in your throat.
- Try a saline rinse or steam shower: Moisture and warmth can open breathing passages and thin mucus to help expel it.
- Sleep with the head elevated: Propping the head up at a higher angle can help drain mucus and relieve sinus pressure.
- Stay hydrated: Drinking plenty of water can thin mucus and flush out irritants.
- Take over-the-counter medication: Cough suppressants can help by controlling the reflex that makes



COURTESY PHOTO

Respiratory illnesses continue to rise with coughs being a common overlapping symptom among them all.

someone cough and provide temporary relief.

"We're still in the thick of a contagious cold and flu season, so now is the time to take extra precautions," adds Dr. Jimenez. "Wash your hands, avoid touching your face, cover your nose and mouth when you cough, frequently clean surfaces and, most importantly, stay home if you are feeling unwell to help stop the spread."

If your cough is persistent and lasts more than eight weeks, talk to your primary care provider about any underlying issues, such as asthma or allergies, that may be preventing you from healing.

Seek emergency care if your cough is accompanied by blood or pink phlegm, difficulty breathing or tightening in the chest.

For more information or to schedule an appoint-

ment with one of our primary care providers, please visit: <https://www.lakesidephysicians.com/doctors-providers>.

February is American Heart Month! Sign up to receive Lake Granbury Medical Center's Leap Into Heart Health fact-packed email series. [LakeGranburyMedicalCenter.com/Heart-Challenge](https://www.LakeGranburyMedicalCenter.com/Heart-Challenge).

WILLIAMS

FROM PAGE A6

when our guard is down."

He added one situation that is heartbreaking is when kids between the ages of 4 and 13 are near the border and are only given an apple, a bottle of water and cellophane to sleep on. He added that when you talk to the kids, they have two phone numbers in their pockets — one for a drug dealer and one for a sex trafficker. He explained that when they get to America, they are told to call these numbers.

"We have now been pended in America as the largest sex trafficking country in the world, all because we're not defending borders, all

because we're not defending sovereignty, because the world still relies on us," Williams said. "I believe the world is begging for America to get our house in order, and that's what we have to do."

The last question focused on voter integrity to ensure that every American's vote counts and Williams was asked if he could address the issue.

Williams responded by saying the audience member had a legitimate concern. He said when he was secretary of state under Perry, he handled all the election laws in Texas. He said in doing that, he learned how cheating is possible and added that "there's a lot of that going on."

"This election is going to be pretty wild, and we've got to make sure that every vote counts," he said. "The problem is that when the Founding Fathers decided they were gonna set up elections, they gave the power to the states. I would say we don't have a problem here in Texas, but I voted against — and got a lot of grief over — accepting the Electoral College on this 2020 election, because in Pennsylvania, they cheated so both sides are going to have to be aware. We got to make sure every vote counts."

He added that locally, the public will have to elect people in the state government who will do what the law of the land says.

"One of the fallouts from this part of the political world we live in is nobody wants to get into politics, so what you get is bad people in politics, not good people in politics," Williams said. "But in Texas, there is no worry, and if you remember, I think the vote was in by 10 o'clock. We knew who won Texas. But we didn't have pipes breaking. It's a real concern. Everybody's on top of it. But the people have to make sure they elect people to do what they're told to do. No question about it. Every vote needs to count."

VOTING

Early voting for the March primary will begin Tuesday, Feb. 20 and will continue

through Friday, March 5 at the Annex 1 Meeting Room, 1410 W. Pearl St.

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.
- Election Day is Tuesday, March 5 and the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Ten voting center locations will be open on Election Day:
- Hood County Annex 1 — 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury
 - Acton Methodist Church — 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury
 - Calvary Church — 4800 Glen Rose Highway,

- Granbury
- First Baptist Church — 1851 Weatherford Highway, Granbury
- Generations Church — 5718 E. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury
- Good Shepherd Episcopal Church — 4530 Acton Highway, Granbury
- Lipan Church of Christ Fellowship Hall — 119 N. Caddo St., Lipan
- St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church — 2301 Acton Highway, Granbury
- Pecan Activity Center — 9145 Plantation Dr., Granbury
- Tolar Community Center — 120 Tolar Cemetery Rd., Tolar

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For Hood County

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1

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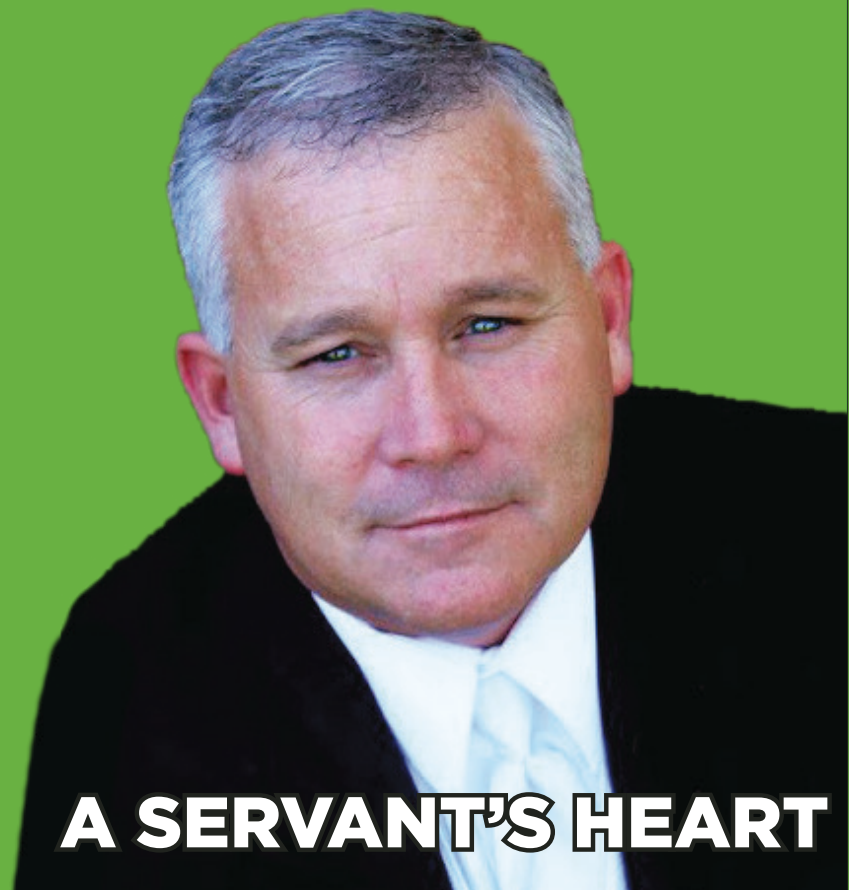
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Terry Johnson-Retired Mayor of Tolar
Ron Cotton-Former Hood County Commissioner
Ronnie & Stephanie Daffan-Business Owner
Lisa Pence-Erath County Attorney
Brooks Goodson-Business Owner
Rodney Leach-Business Owner
Shane Flippin-Business Owner
Mildred Hickey-Business Owner
Jeremy Sorelle-Attorney at Law
Micheal Edwards-Pastor
James & Darena Garlick
Carl & Patsy Parr
Bobby Davis
Kevin & Linda Moore
Tom & Glenda Casey



A SERVANT'S HEART



Worth every penny

AES student, grandfather generously donate 40-year-old coin collection during fundraiser

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

One Acton Elementary student is proving that every penny really does count after she donated 31,000 pennies to the three-week campus-wide Penny War that ended Friday, Feb. 2.

PENNY WAR

In the Penny War, students at AES, Brawner Elementary School and STEAM Academy at Mambrino dug through couch cushions and piggy banks as they searched for pennies to donate to the second-annual event.

"Last year we raised about \$6,100," AES Principal Maggie Walton told the HCN. "Honestly, I'd looked into different kinds of penny drives or coin drives and found the idea for the Penny War, which I thought our students would take an interest in just because it's competitive and kind of puts a twist on a normal coin drive. We did it last year and had such incredible success that we were like, 'Well, we'll do that again.'"

Unlike a coin drive, a penny war focuses primarily on pennies, where one penny equals one point, \$1 equals 100 points and \$5 equals

500 points. Additionally, silver coins count against each class, as a nickel would subtract five points from the class total, a dime would subtract 10 points and a quarter would subtract 25.

"It's so funny how it works because it's like an adding and subtracting game," AES kindergarten teacher Serena Rivera said. "The silver coins count against you, but then the bottom line is you raise a lot of money because kids are bringing in silver coins from other classes to try to help your class go down and their class to win. They really get into it."

While the students were excited to participate in the Penny War — especially because the class with the most points earned a pizza party — the activity also allowed them to raise money for a great cause: The Beau Bear Foundation.

BEAU BEAR FOUNDATION

The Beau Bear Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reach and bless grieving families after the tragic and sudden loss of a child, according to beaubearfoundation.com. Founded by a family that has walked through its own loss, the foundation was

born out of compassion and the conviction to help others who are dealing with emotional trauma. The Beau Bear Foundation provides financial aid, household essentials and additional emotional support and resources.

Founder Alicia Mills explained that she lost her son in 2020. Feeling compelled by God, her husband voiced his idea about starting a foundation for families who have also been affected by the loss of a child.

"We were just blown away by the church, school and community," Alicia said. "I mean, they just showed up for us. We were still new to the Granbury area and so I think we were just blown away by people just showing up and being the hand of Jesus. (My husband) said, 'We need to do this. We need to duplicate this to families who maybe might not have this same support, or the financial help or the resources.' It's been slow because this is brand new for us, but we find families that need help in these situations. It's probably two or three families at least a week from all over the nation."

Alicia said she provides

PLEASE SEE **PENNY** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

Acton Elementary School kindergartener Mallory Barker (right) told her grandfather, Keith Hurlburt, middle, about the multi-campus Penny War. Unbeknownst to her, "Pappy" had been collecting coins for more than 40 years and chose to donate his entire collection to the cause. Pictured in the photo is Mallory's younger sister, Shelby.

GHS MCJROTC robotics team takes second at state competition

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Granbury High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps robotics team fought its way to the top at the state University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition Feb. 6 and brought home second place.

The team is comprised of two seniors, one sophomore and one freshman including Cadet Capt. Zachary Layland, Cadet Cpl. Marcus Hadaway, Cadet 1st Lt. Rhyann Obina, and Cadet Pfc. Renee Sermarini. This group of students is the first team from GHS to qualify for the prestigious state competition.

"The cadets have worked hard to qualify for the UIL state competition by competing in other robotics matches and perfecting their robotic skills throughout the school year," 1st Sgt. Johnny

Rositas said. "All their hard work and dedication led to their success in earning second place at the state UIL competition."

The MCJROTC robotics team was first established four years ago and was the first MCJROTC team in the nation.

According to Rositas, the robot used in the competition is handcrafted and programmed by the students. Each team member has a job, including an operator of the robot, two members to keep the robot on time and aware of the clock as well as opponents' actions/positions, and the fourth member is responsible for maintaining an engineer notebook that contains vital information regarding the robot's construction and programming.

During competition, the robot must attempt to out-climb its opponents, reaching higher elevation tiers. At the end of the match, the robot that climbed the highest

will receive 20 points. The second place robot earns 15 points, third place earns 10 points and fourth place earns five points. The main goal of the match is to get as many triballs into the goal or offensive zone as possible in a time limit of one minute, forty-five seconds while defending the goal also. The team achieves points for the number of triballs it gets in its goal or offensive zone. The winner of the match is the team that scores the most points.

The competition is a series of matches composed of two randomly selected alliance teams and two opposing teams trying to score the highest number of balls into their goal. To move forward, teams must compete in qualifying matches to determine their placement before choosing an alliance partner for the elimination bracket. The round begins at 16 teams and dwindles down to the final two.



COURTESY PHOTO

The team is comprised of two seniors, one sophomore and one freshman including Cadet Capt. Zachary Layland, Cadet Cpl. Marcus Hadaway, Cadet 1st Lt. Rhyann Obina, and Cadet Pfc. Renee Sermarini.

The GHS team has been preparing for this competition since the beginning of the school year and previously brought home second place Dec. 2 in Fort Worth, qualifying for the

state tournament. After its second-place win at state, the team has qualified for the Robotics World and Nationals Competition in Dallas April 25-May 3. "I'm extremely proud

of what this team has achieved," Layland said. "They have excelled in every aspect, and I am excited to see where they end up in the future."

GHS Rifle Team is 'on point' and takes home another Service Championship



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury High School MCJROTC took home their seventh consecutive National Service Championship.

Staff Reports

The Granbury High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Rifle Team accomplished an incredible feat at the 2024 National Marine Corps Service National Championships in Sandy, Utah. The team won its seventh consecutive Service Championship with exceptional teamwork and skill and brought home the Director's Trophy.

On day 1, the team showed its determination and perseverance by taking an early lead over the competition with an impressive aggregate score of 2,351. Team 1 was on fire, with each member displaying their exceptional marksmanship skills. Meanwhile, Team 2 also showed great promise, scoring 2,311 and ranking third. The freshmen shooters on Team 3 also displayed remarkable determination in their first na-

tional match, ranking 10th on the first day. The team's focus and determination were evident from the beginning, setting the tone for the rest of the competition.

On day 2, the team was more focused than ever on winning. And that's exactly what happened. Granbury MCJROTC swept the podium in the individual category, with Kameron Wells taking first place, Viola Allen in second place and Julia Czernik in third place after a very close final by all three Pirates. In the team category, Team 1 remained in the top post, taking first place on the podium, and receiving the Director's Cup with a score of 4,688. Team 2 also showed its skills, moving up to take silver on the podium with a score of 4,621. Meanwhile, Team 3 moved up to take ninth place in the final rankings.

Their outstanding per-

PLEASE SEE **RIFLE** | B3

GHS students run nationally recognized store



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is students that work in Granbury High School's Anchor Store.

Staff Reports

The Anchor Store, the school-based enterprise at Granbury High School, was among 728 school-based enterprises achieving gold-level recertification for the 2023-2024 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference April 27-30, in Anaheim, California.

A school-based enterprise (SBE) is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet the needs of the market. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate national curriculum standards in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA advisors have utilized this effective educational tool for over four decades to provide their students with realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, enhance 21st century skill

development, and prepare students for college and careers. Anchor crew members completed a 25-page recertification paper over topics like finance, promotion, and product management. They also had to submit financial reports and budgets highlighting the store operations.

The Anchor Store is operated and managed by 26 seniors who are in their fourth year of business courses at GHS. To be considered for the store, crew members had to interview and qualify through an interview. Students are responsible for creating food orders, inventory management and promotions. The Anchor Store was created in 2016 by Assistant Principal Danny Guidry and now DECA Advisor Kylee Peterson oversees the program.

"DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program is a rigorous process designed to help DECA members demonstrate their classroom learning in a practical, learning labora-

tory, and then translate that into meaningful outcomes," said Christopher Young, CAE, chief program officer at DECA Inc. "These DECA members are practicing important workplace readiness skills while preparing for college and careers."

DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program provides recognition for outstanding achievement by school-based enterprises and motivates SBEs to strive for excellence and growth. SBEs can be certified at three levels: bronze, silver or gold. In order to apply for the certification, SBEs must submit extensive documentation that explains how the SBE demonstrates the practice of various marketing and retail standards. A review committee evaluates the documentation to determine which level of certification has been achieved. DECA's School-based Enterprise program is sponsored by Otis Spunkmeyer Inc. and Pop Chips/You Need This.

Granbury High School DECA Chapter ready for state competition

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

The Granbury High School DECA Chapter is seeking success at the upcoming state competition after 16 students qualified at the district level.

DECA is an international business organization that prepares emerging student leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. The Granbury HS chapter is run by Kylee Peterson, a business/marketing teacher in the Career and Technical Education program at GISD. Peterson is also a chapter advisor for the club alongside Tammy Bodine and Austen Graham.

The annual district competition is for students to test their skills within 50 different events. All events are competed in two parts — a test or project submission in December followed

by a presentation or role-play scenario at the district competition. The presentation-based events require students to write a 10-to-20-page business plan about a business they have created or a project they coordinated, and then present their findings. The role-play style events require the students to take a 100-question exam; then, at district competition, they receive a scenario and have 10 minutes to prepare a response and present it to a judge. Those students who advance make their way to state competition and then have the potential to compete at the international competition.

The 16 students who qualified will compete in the state competition Feb. 15-17 in Houston. This will also be the first time there are students ranging from freshmen to seniors at the state level. This will be the largest state competition yet with over 7,000 attendees set to

be there.

THE 16 QUALIFYING STUDENTS INCLUDE:

- Peyton Mitchell — Apparel and Accessories Marketing category
 - Warner Phillips — Business Finance Series
 - Sierra Couden and Bodie Chastain — Community giving
 - Kaylee Connor and Gracie Colvin — Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
 - Alison Galindo — Food Marketing Series
 - Anna Quinn, Maddie Cutler and Ryli Lewis — Franchise Business Plan
 - Rayleigh Langdon and Sierra Morisette — Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
 - Braeden Hunt, Kylee Upchurch and Austin Pruet — Sales Project
 - Anahi Medrano — Start Up Business Plan category
- Last year, 28 students competed at the district level



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury High School DECA Club had 16 students qualify for the the state competition that will take place in Houston Feb. 15 to Feb. 17.

el and six qualified for state in the finance series, retail marketing, finance professional selling and the sales

project team. The sales project team and William Lillagore from finance professional selling were

named alternates to the international competition.

GISD opens nominations for Academic Hall of Fame

Staff Reports

Granbury Independent School District is now accepting student, staff, and community nominations for the 2024 Academic Hall of Fame.

STUDENTS

Students must have graduated from Granbury High School or STARS Accelerated High School and have accomplished notable academic achievements after graduation. Students will not be considered for induction until the fifth year after graduation. Students will be judged on academic honors with a college or university, aca-

demical achievements with a college or university, or professional achievements in which academics played a major role.

STAFF

Former teachers, administrators or staff who are eligible for induction must have been employed in GISD for 10 or more years and have influenced or inspired academic achievement in the students in GISD.

COMMUNITY

Community members who are eligible for induction may be individuals, businesses or community groups that have supported

and encouraged academic achievement through donations, scholarships or other meaningful ways.

Nominations for the 2024 Academic Hall of Fame will be accepted from now until Friday, March 8. All nominations must be sent to pio@granburyisd.org or submitted to the Granbury ISD Administration Building, 217 N. Jones St., by the deadline.

The 2024 Granbury ISD Academic Hall of Fame recipients will be honored at the GISD Employee Awards Banquet Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m. at Granbury Middle School.

To view the nomination form, visit granburyisd.org/AcademicHOF.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tolar High School UIL team took home several wins during a recent competition on Feb. 10.

Tolar High School finds success at UIL competition

Staff Reports

Tolar High School had success across the board in its latest University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition Feb. 10.

The social studies team brought home first place while the number sense team placed second. There were also several students

who brought home individual wins in social studies, number sense, spelling and journalism.

A LIST OF THE STUDENTS CAN BE FOUND BELOW:

- Merrick Warren: social studies, individual 1st place
- Nick Florea: social studies, individual 2nd place

- Hunter Keith: social studies, individual 3rd place
- Jaxon Boisjolie: social studies, individual 4th place
- Merrick Warren: 3rd place
- Bentley Swaim: 4th place
- Payton Solomon: spelling/vocabulary, 1st place
- Julz Maxwell: Feature writing in journalism, 1st place



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PENNY

FROM PAGE B1

one-on-one phone calls with parents or grandparents who need that emotional support during the grieving process.

"Really, I get to cry with parents, walk them through, pray with them, and I think that's one of the things that surprised me," she said. "I didn't grieve where I wanted to talk to anybody, but I'm finding that a lot of people do and now being on the other side of it, and now we're about four years out, I've been able to walk this grieving process. I'm still fairly new to it, but I made it to the other side, and I'm OK, so I think for people to hear that gives them some hope."

The Beau Bear Foundation also provides families with resources like counseling options and collaborates with funeral homes to help pay bills following a funeral. The foundation also assists families with hospital, electricity and grocery bills, as well as car payments.

"(We help with) a little bit of everything," Alicia said. "What they need to make it through is what we try to help with."

As Alicia's son was also an AES student, the Beau Bear Foundation meant even more to Walton, which is why she chose their organization to be the Penny War beneficiary.

"Our family knows them from church, but they are also a GISD (Granbury Independent School District) family, so in addition to it being just an incredible cause, they also are an Acton Elementary and GISD family, so they're extra important to us," Walton said. "The Beau Bear Foundation has been able to help over 15 families

enlist the help of her grandfather who — unbeknownst to her — had been collecting coins for more than 40 years.

Mallory Barker was excitedly telling her great-grandparents about the fundraiser during her great-grandfather's 85th birthday, when her grandpa, Keith Hurlburt, overheard and revealed he had a huge jar full of coins he had been collecting for decades.

"As a small child, my dad always had this little five-gallon water jug in his bedroom or in his closet, and it's something that I still have memories of," Kristie Barker, Mallory's mom, told the HCN. "He would just come home and empty out his pockets because back then everyone paid with cash and he would just take his loose change and dump it into this little five-gallon jug and as a little girl, I used to sneak quarters out of it to get ice cream."

Kristie said once they got to her dad's house in Saginaw, Mallory and sister Shelby had fun dumping out the coins to search for the pennies — finding old putt-putt coins and Chuck E. Cheese coins in the process.

"I told my dad, 'Dad, you've had this jug of coins literally since before I was born. Are you sure you don't want to keep it and take it to the bank?'" Kristie Barker told the HCN. "And he's like, 'No, absolutely not. It's for a good cause. I'm not doing anything with it anyway. It's just sitting in my room all these years and it's almost too full for me to add any more change to it, so I'd rather you guys take it and use it for the fundraiser.'"

After the sorting was finally completed, Kristie Barker and her husband, Michael,

and it's funny because that was all on a Saturday, and she did not want to take the jug to school. The Penny War ended the following Friday, and she wanted to wait to take the jug of pennies to school until Friday at lunchtime. She wanted it to be a secret."

Little by little, Mallory would take small bags of pennies every day during the week provided by her great-grandparents, Memaw and Papaw, all the while knowing the big donation would be revealed at the end of the week.

"On Friday she was like, 'Will you please bring the jug of pennies up during my lunch break?' so we wheeled it in on a dolly in the middle of lunch and everyone's jaws dropped and it was a really fun experience for her to be able to show off what my dad had donated," Kristie said.

"You have those moments when you're principal where you're just kind of overcome by how incredible your kids are and how incredible your families are," Walton said. "It's just an amazing story and for Mallory, at her age in kindergarten, too, for it to be important to her and for her to share that with her family and for it to touch them, was one of those moments where it's like, 'That is so cool,' just the reach that we get to have as a school."

"When they were wheeling in the giant jug full of pennies, Mallory was like, 'I'm gonna save the day,'" Mrs. Rivera, Mallory's teacher, said. "She wanted her class to win the pizza party. The enthusiasm is unmatched in kindergarten. The competition had been neck and neck like all week, and everybody kind of thought they knew who was gonna win, and then they came in with that at the last minute and pushed our class over the edge, so we won. I love that the grandparents were involved and that it was something special."

Alicia said the generosity of Mallory's grandfather speaks volumes to his character and his heart, as he chose to donate his entire coin collection to the Beau Bear Foundation.

"Just the generosity, I mean, 40 years is a long time to collect something, so for him to be an example to his grandchild and say, 'You know what? This matters and what they're doing matters, and this is where I want to choose to give this money,' like it was just a really neat example of generosity, and leaving a legacy about what it looks like to give something that means something to you, but to be generous and offer it to somebody else," she said. "It's really amazing when a group of people come here and give a little bit each and see what an impact you can make. We didn't ask someone to give a giant amount, but everyone just brought what they could, and we're going to be able to help multiple families with what they've given. It's a really great example of teamwork when you come together as a community and pitch in to learn what an impact you can make, not just for us, but just in any situation like that."

With Mallory's last-minute donation, her class officially won the pizza party with a total of 32,632 points in the Penny War.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mallory Barker poses with Alicia and Beau Mills, the founders of the Beau Bear Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reach and bless grieving families after the tragic and sudden loss of a child. All of the proceeds from the Penny War will be donated to the Beau Bear Foundation.

"Mallory knows that it's a lot of pennies, but I don't think she truly understands the impact of what she did, or you know, just how thoughtful that was," Kristie Barker said. "It's funny because I told my dad, 'Now, this isn't just like a one-time thing. This is like an every year thing, so how are you going to top this next year?' He's like, 'Well, I guess I need to start going and getting like \$20 worth of pennies every Friday now.'"

AES officially raised \$5,180 just through the Penny War alone. However, Walton added that students will also raise funds through Valograms, Valentine's Day candygrams. Both donation totals will be presented in a large check to the Beau Bear Foundation Friday, March 1.

"One of my biggest goals, obviously, is for our kids to leave here and to have a strong academic founda-

tion, but it's so much more than that," Walton said. "It really is teaching them how to be good humans and have empathy for one another, so we're constantly doing different kinds of fundraisers. It's typically not money. Right now, we just transitioned out of the Penny War, and we are now collecting pop tabs that will go to the Ronald McDonald House. One of our kindergarten teachers, she's actually been out on maternity leave because her son is in the NICU, and he probably will be for a long period of time. We're always looking for ways to kind of create awareness with our kids, and when it goes to a cause that hits close to home or that is addressing a need that there is locally, it just makes it extra special."

Rivera said Mallory's donation added a special touch to a situation that is near and

dear to everyone's heart. "We've had losses here at AES And it's just really sweet when kids go all out like that, and their families get involved because that's what it's all about," she said. "That unites everybody, and I've had so many kids come by and ask me, 'Do you still have the jug?' They're small but mighty. They don't even know the influence that they have. It's amazing."

Rivera added that even now, her students are continuing to save pennies — even though the Penny War is over.

"It'll probably forever change how they see things," she added. "That even the smallest things can make the biggest difference to somebody when we all come together."

To learn more about the Beau Bear Foundation, visit beaubearfoundation.com online.



COURTESY PHOTO

Acton Elementary School raised a whopping \$5,180 total in the Penny War this month.

in Hood County, families who've lost a child to an accidental death of some sort, so we just kind of feel like it's a really cool way to support a foundation that's obviously close to one of our families, but also that serves families in our community."

ABOVE AND BEYOND

While many students took part in the Penny War, one student went above and beyond the work of a kindergarten, as she chose to

realized that Mallory's grandfather had collected approximately 31,000 pennies over the years, with the jar weighing a whopping 130.6 pounds and holding over \$300 worth of pennies.

"Once we had sorted everything, we Googled what the average weight of a penny was to try to see how many there were, and we guesstimated there was probably about 31,000 pennies in the container which is roughly \$310," Kristie Barker said. "Mallory was really excited



COURTESY PHOTO

The class of Acton Elementary School teacher Serena Rivera won the Penny War, thanks to Mallory Barker and her grandfather, with a total of 32,632 points — earning them a pizza party.

RIFLE

FROM PAGE B1

formance has earned two teams a spot at the JROTC National Championships, where they will defend their national title and aim to make history by becoming the only school to achieve seven National Championships. This is a testament to the hard work,

dedication and teamwork of the Granbury MCJROTC Rifle Team.

Cadince McGrath earned enough points during the two matches to be presented with her Junior Distinguished Marksman Badge. Viola Allen and Kennedy Wells were also presented with their previously earned Distinguished Marksman Badges at the

awards ceremony. The Junior Distinguished Marksman Badge is awarded to school-age junior three-position air rifle shooters who distinguish themselves by achieving high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships. The badge is serialized and authorized by all branches to be worn on the cadet uniform. In the

20-plus year history of the program, there have been 1,742 badges awarded, with 24 earned by GHS MCJROTC cadets. Past recipients have gone on to become collegiate rifle athletes, members of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and even a few Olympians.

"I'm very proud of this team and how they performed on the national

stage this past weekend. All their daily hard work has paid off. We have been preparing for this since August," said Senior Marine Instructor and Rifle Coach Scott Casey. "Also, this is the first time in the history of the program that Granbury has fielded three teams, with that third team being all freshmen. That is a huge advantage next year,

having that much experience on the team."

Pirate Rifle team members include seniors Julia Czernik, Cadince McGrath and Kameron Wells; juniors Caylynn Price and Kennedy Wells; sophomores Viola Allan, Ainsley Milligan and Mataya Turner; and freshmen Ethan Erwin, Renee Sermarini, Lilly Sojourner and Emma Wipff.



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PIRATES CLOSE OUT THE REGULAR SEASON

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Granbury High School Pirate varsity basketball team took on the Azle High School varsity Hornets for the last game of the regular season.



Pirate Basketball Cont.

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Pirates came away with a victory over the Hornets, with a score of 61-38. The Pirates came away with a 18-10 record for the regular season.




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Kyler Shankles Passing the ball during the Granbury versus Azle game Tuesday Feb. 13.

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

GHS swimming qualifies 11 for state

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Calling it a historic day for the Granbury High School swim program, coach Charles Overton was beaming after the Class 5A Region II Swimming and Diving Meet at Mansfield Natatorium this past weekend.

Granbury qualified 11 swimmers (6 boys, 5 girls) for the University Interscholastic State Meet at the University of Texas Feb. 23-24. This matches the number the program sent in 2019.

Leading the qualifiers was Braxton Heffernan, with a school-record time of 21.60 seconds in winning the boys 50-yard freestyle. It's one of three events Heffernan qualified in, along with the first-place 200 medley relay (with Luke Basil, Bodie Chastain and Colin Lindsey) and the 200 free relay (with Cameron Ward, Basil and Hunter Jones).

For the Lady Pirates, Mylie Erez qualified in four events. Individually, she had runner-up finishes in the 50 free and 100 free, along with being on the second-place 200 free relay (with Avery Young, Brenna Haynes and Bailey McDermott) and second-place 400 free relay (with McDermott, her sister Madison Erez and Haynes). This will be a third consecutive season for Heffernan to reach state. It will be Mylie Erez's second.

In all, Pirate and Lady Pirate swimmers posted 26 season-best times and 19 personal-best swims at regionals.

As a team, the Lady Pirates finished second with 274 points, behind Colleyville Heritage with 296. The Pirates were also second with 236.5 points behind Northwest with 361.

Class 5A Region II Swimming and Diving Meet at Mansfield Natatorium, Feb. 9-10

Top 2 in each event qualified for state

Top Granbury results

GIRLS

200 Individual Medley: 12. Michela Petretto, 15. Jina Kim.

50 Freestyle: 2. Mylie Erez, 25.10; 6. Avery Young; 12. Kensington Loving.

200 Medley Relay: 4. Loving, Kim, Young, Brenna Haynes.

200 Freestyle: 4. Bailey McDermott, 5. Madison Erez.

100 Butterfly: 7. Grace Larsen, 8. Young.

100 Freestyle: 2. My. Erez, 55.06; 11. Ma. Erez; 14. Carmen Citzler.

500 Freestyle: 6. Petretto, 7. McDermott.

200 Freestyle Relay: 2. Young, Haynes, My. Erez, McDermott, 1:44.94.

100 Backstroke: 8. Citzler, 11. Loving.

100 Breaststroke: 9. Larsen, 11. Kim.

400 Freestyle Relay: 2. McDermott, Ma. Erez, My. Erez, Haynes, 3:52.99.

BOYS

200 Medley Relay: 1. Luke Basil, Bodie Chastain, Colin Lindsey, Braxton Heffernan, 1:41.

200 Freestyle: 7. Michael Kracy, 11. Noah Brown.

50 Freestyle: 1. Heffernan, 21.60 (school record); 7. Hunter Jones; 11. Colton Jernigan.

100 Butterfly: 6. Lindsey, 11. Sean Kim.

100 Freestyle: 7. Brown, 10. Cameron Ward, 15. Andrew Haynes.

500 Freestyle: 7. Kracy.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Heffernan, Ward, Basil, Jones, 1:31.13.

100 Backstroke: 10. Basil.

100 Breaststroke: 5. Chastain.

400 Freestyle Relay: 5. Ward, Jones, Heffernan, Brown.

GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates (21-12) advanced to the second round of the playoffs for a fourth consecutive season with a 48-31 bidistrict vic-

tory against Everman Feb. 12. Ella Garner (20) and Jayla Hayes (10) combined to almost match the Lady Bulldogs point-for-point.

"The girls did a nice job of handling the pressure. Good team win and excited about advancing in the playoffs," coach Alan Thorpe said.

Granbury was playing Denton Ryan (29-7) at press time.

TOLAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Rattlers (22-12) advanced to the second round and gave coach Ericka Halfmann her first postseason victory with a 62-14 rout of Itasca in their Class 2A bidistrict contest Feb. 12.

Tolar was led by Senne Imel with 15 points, while Jaycee Jones scored 13 and Trinity Rousseau added 11.

Halfmann called the win special and amazing, noting, "The girls were ready to compete and it showed. They were locked in and you could tell they understood it was playoff time. This group is a really fun group that has taken on their roles in this team. It was great to see them celebrating the win, knowing each one had a role."

The Lady Rattlers were playing Cisco (26-4) at press time.

LIPAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The top-ranked Lady Indians (30-3) began defense of their Class 2A state championship with a 71-21 bidistrict victory against Italy Feb. 13. The Lady Indians were led by Hanna Gaylor with 14 points. Taylor Branson and Kynzi Callaway scored 10 each and Ashlyn Clark contributed eight as 11 players scored.

Lipan was playing Haskell in the area round at press time.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Pirates (21-10, 8-4 in District 5-5A) finished tied for third place in league play with Aledo following a 61-38 win at Azle Feb. 13, preceded by a 44-35 loss at district champion Brewer Feb. 9.



COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY

The Tolar Rattlers celebrated senior night on Tuesday, Feb. 13 as (from left) seniors Matthew Behrens, Merritt Imel, Isaac Blessing and Tyson Ellis played their final home game, an 83-16 win over Hico. In the middle is Rattlers head coach Scott Richardson.

Leaders for Granbury were: Vs. Brewer — Dylan Couto 10 points.

Vs. Azle — Jenario Reyes 15 points, Isaiah Trejo 12 points. In all, 11 players scored.

Granbury and Aledo were playing at press time to determine the No. 3 and 4 seeds from district for the postseason. The winner will face Everman in bidistrict, while the loser will meet Arlington Heights in the opening round.

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (16-16, 8-4 in 11-2A) wrapped up third in their league with a pair of victories, 67-24 at Santo and 83-16 at home against Hico Feb. 9 and 13. Cayden Abrego had a double-double against Santo with 15 points and 11 rebounds, while Merritt Imel had 23 points and nine boards.

Against Hico, Imel scored 22 with nine rebounds and Isaac Blessing tallied 15 with eight rebounds.

The Rattlers will open the playoffs against Itasca Monday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Glen Rose.

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (28-4, 12-0 in 11-2A) completed a perfect run through district with a 56-24 win at DeLeon to

end the regular season Feb. 13. Darius Steed led Lipan with 14 points, followed by Court Gaylor and Alberto Andreatta with 13 each.

The Indians' home final against Ranger was not played as Ranger forfeited.

The Indians now begin defense of their state championship as they will play Hamilton or Italy early next week in bidistrict.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

The Pirates (8-6, 1-4 in 5-5A) dropped a 5-1 home contest to Northwest Feb. 9, followed by a 6-1 loss at Saginaw Feb. 13.

Weston Cantrell scored the goal against Northwest, with an assist from Kevin Aguado. Scoring details against Saginaw were not available at press time.

The Pirates and Lady Pirates host Brewer Feb. 20 and travel to Azle Feb. 23. The girls begin at 5:30 p.m. and the boys at 7:30 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates dropped a 4-3 contest at Northwest Feb. 9. They bounced back with a 3-0 win at Saginaw.

Dominique Callahan had two goals, Tessa Rohleder had a goal and assist and Emery Kirby registered two assists against Northwest. Kirby scored a pair of goals against Saginaw and Angela Crabtree added another, with assists from Braelyn Desormeaux and Rohleder. Sharai Rosas was the goalkeeper in the shutout.

The Lady Pirates overcame a 2-0 deficit against Northwest when Rohleder scored on a penalty kick. They tied it again at 3-3 on Callahan's second goal before Northwest scored the game-winner two minutes later.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates began the season with a 4-2 home victory over Decatur Feb. 13 as pitcher Allison Dafoe struck out 13 batters. She surrendered four hits, two earned runs and walked five in seven innings.

Hitting leaders for Granbury were Preslee Carnes, Carli Carlton, Rachel Venable and Brenna Haynes with two hits each. Venable also drove in a run and Carnes stole two bases. Karmyn Williams had a double, a walk and two RBI and Dafoe also drove in a run.

The Lady Pirates host Blooming Grove Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. and are in the Mansfield Tournament Feb. 22-24.

TOLAR SOFTBALL

Despite outhitting the visitors 6-2, the Lady Rattlers lost their season opener to Paradise, 4-3 Feb. 13. The Lady Rattlers were undone by a half dozen errors.

Tolar pitcher Reese Tryon pitched six innings, surrendered two hits, had no earned runs, struck out nine and walked three. She also had a pair of hits offensively with an RBI.

Jaylyn Miller also had two hits for Tolar and Jorgia Reed had a hit and RBI.

The Lady Rattlers host Blum Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. and play in the Fort Worth Country Day Tournament Feb. 23.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates finished third in the Mansfield Tiger Invitational with a team score of 331 Feb. 13. They were led by Brayden Thackerson with a 78, followed by Will Webb's 79, Braxton Pugh's 85, with Jacob Reagan and Aiden Matherne posting 89 each.

The four lowest scores comprise the team score.

Playing as a medalist, Andrew Haynes shot 94.

The Pirates will next compete in the Bearcat Brawl Invitational, hosted by Aledo Feb. 23-24.

GRANBURY BOYS POWERLIFTING

The Pirates placed second in the Boswell Invitational Feb. 8, led by Davin Jones and Rylan Brenish, who were named best lifters in the 114-181 pounds and 198-super heavyweight classes, respectively.

Also taking first place were Nhat Hoang and Enriquez Sanchez. Second place finishes were by Gavin Osko, Noe Puenta, Moses Meis and Alan Orocio. Taking third place were Luiz Ramirez, Cameron James and Jose Hernandez.

The boys district meet is Feb. 20 in Aledo.

GRANBURY GIRLS POWERLIFTING

The Lady Pirates also placed second at Boswell. Jazmynn Torres, Estrella Diaz and Kathryn Goodner each won first place.

Placing second were Angelica Perez, Preslee Carnes, Taylor Dawley, Sharai Rosas and Bella Garcia. Third place were Kamryn Williams and Madison Crawford.

Girls district was being held at press time in Aledo.



COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

The Granbury Pirates golf team finished third in the Mansfield Tiger Invitational played at Rockwood Golf Course on Feb. 13. Team members are Brayden Thackerson, Will Webb, Braxton Pugh, Jacob Reagan, Aiden Matherne and Andrew Haynes.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texan Women's Golf takes top five finish in spring campaign opener at Texas State Invitational

Tarleton State University

NEW BRAUNFELS — Tarleton State Women's Golf kicked off its first event of the spring at the Texas State Invitational at the Landa Park Golf Course Feb. 5 and 6, tying for fifth place.

In a field of 15, the Texans finished tied for fifth with fellow WAC member UT Arlington, each shooting a plus-70 (922). The duo finished 13 strokes behind Abilene Christian, whose second place overall finish was the only WAC school better than Tarleton. Utah Valley and UTRGV both finished behind the Texans and Mavericks.

"First spring tournament is in the books. Our performance this week showed us what we need to work on to keep on improving during the season," said head coach Isabel Jimenez after the tournament. "I am excited for what's ahead and all the potential we have as a team."

Four Texans finished in the top 30 in the first event of the spring. Sofia Rodriguez led the Texans with a top 20 finish, tying for 19th place and carding a 79-72-78, 16 over-par. After ending the first round in the top 10, Lou Deltombe finished in a tie



Tarleton State Women's Golf kicked off its first event of the spring at the Texas State Invitational at the Landa Park Golf Course Feb. 5 and 6, tying for fifth place.

for 24th place with 73-81-76. Mathilde Brogens finished a stroke behind Deltombe in a tie for 27th place with a 231.

Elle Fox tied for 29th, shooting one stroke behind Brogens with a 232. In her first collegiate tournament, Quedesha Gollledge shot a

249 tying for 67th place.

In total, the Texans featured 18 birdies across the three rounds. Fox and Gollledge each made five birdies.

The host school, Texas State, took home the team title by 48 strokes, shooting

a nine over-par across three rounds of the invitational. Abilene Christian (+57) and Sacred Heart (+57) rounded out the top three team finishers.

On the individual side, Texas State's Hailey Jones won the title as the only

under-par 54-holes in the tournament with a two-under par. She carded a 70-69-72 on the par 71 course to win the crown. Texas State's Yvonne Chamness took home second place turning in 72-71-73. Central Michigan's Ashley Goh and

Abilene Christian's Delaney Martin tied for third, shooting five-over par, 218. Goh carded a 68 on her second round of play, the lowest among all 80 competitors in any of the three rounds.

Tarleton will compete in six tournaments in the spring season including the 2024 WAC Champions at the Rim Golf Club in Payson, Arizona. The Texans return to three events they participated in last season and adventure to two new courses this spring. The Texas State Invitational and the UAB Spring Bash are two events new to the Texan schedule this go around. Returning to the slate from last season are the GCU Invitational, HCU Women's Intercollegiate and the Oral Roberts Spring Invitational.

The Texans will have a two week break in competition, returning to action at the end of the month on Feb. 27 and 28. The Purple and White will travel west to Phoenix, Arizona for the two-day GCU Invitational at the GCU Golf Course. Last year, Tarleton finished 11th of 17 and returner Sofia Rodriguez broke the top 20 individuals with a tied for 19th place finish.

Texans use 26-point swing to erase 15-point deficit at Utah Valley Williams scores 20-plus in third consecutive game

Tarleton State University

OREM, Utah — Tarleton State Men's Basketball erased a 15-point deficit for the second time this season, to come from behind and knock off Utah Valley, 72-61 at the UCCU Center Thursday, Feb. 8.

The Texans (16-7 overall, 9-3 WAC) matched their WAC record in wins, earning their ninth conference victory over the Wolverines (9-14 overall, 4-8 WAC). Tarleton also clinched its first over .500 overall winning percentage in its D1 era.

"Tonight was a big-time road win for the Texans," said acting head coach Joseph Jones after the game. "Our guys fought extremely hard and played their hearts out. It shows us that this team is never going to give up and never quit for Tarleton and their teammates."

Lue Williams led the team in scoring for the third-straight game, posting his third consecutive 20-plus game, posting 21 with 15 coming in the second half. He also brought down six boards and dished out three assists.

Jakorie Smith and KiAndre Gaddy also scored in double-digits posting 13 and 10, respectively. Emmanuel Innocenti pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds while scoring seven points.

Tarleton trailed at the half by 15, in a half that was seemingly dominated by Utah Valley. However, the second half was a completely different story. The Purple and White outscored the Wolverines, 49-23, a 26-point swing from the first half.

Barnes got the Texans started in the second 20 minutes, draining a triple and a mid-range jumper just outside the paint to shorten the deficit to 10 on a 5-0 run in the first two minutes. After his jumper, his excitement warranted a technical foul according to the official, where Utah Valley converted on one-of-two. On the very next possession, Barnes was called for another foul which sparked the bench and seemed to shift the momentum in the Texans favor. Barnes made the Texans' seventh straight point on the other end, the begin-

ning of a 7-0 run to bring Tarleton within six, 41-35 with 15:22 to go.

After the Wolverines made a bucket, it was Gaddy's turn to spark a run. The senior missed the last 17:07 of the first half after drawing two quick fouls. In a span of 1:33 Gaddy made a trio of buckets and his and-one free throw for a 7-0 run of his own, bringing the Texans within a point, 43-42.

With the Purple and White outscoring the hometown team 19-5 in the first eight minutes of the second half, UCCU Center fell mainly silent except for the contingent of Tarleton fans located right behind the squad's bench.

Williams tied the game for the first time since it was 7-7, draining a contested shot from downtown to deadlock it at 45. After a UVU missed three-pointer, the ball found Innocenti at the top of the arc where he wished his first three of the night to give the Texans a 48-45 lead and seemingly deaden the crowd.

The two teams would trade baskets before being tied for the final time at 55.



Lue Williams led the team in scoring for the third-straight game, posting his third consecutive 20-plus game, posting 21 with 15 coming in the second half.

With 5:57 to go, Williams made a hook shot in the lane to tie the two squads at 55 and break the tie converting his and-one free throw. The Texans shot out to a five-point lead when Smith and Gaddy made buckets on back-to-back possessions. Smith knocked down a pair of triples with the latter giving Tarleton a 66-58 lead with 1:09 to go. The Wolverines would

make one more triple but after a few shots in the paint that didn't fall and a TSU rebound, the game was out of reach for UVU. The Texans closed the game on a 6-0 run with two pairs on two pairs of free throws and a fast break wide open dunk by Williams to put the exclamation point on the 72-61 victory.

Tarleton State shot 27-for-60, 45% from the floor. The

Texans shot an impressive 56.3% in the second half after shooting 32.1% in the first half. The Purple and White shot over 50% from deep for the third time this season resulting in their third win. TSU shot 53.3% from downtown in the game and 62.5% in the second half. Utah Valley shot 23.3% in the second half after shooting 46.7% in the first 20 minutes.

Tarleton State extends priority date for need-based financial aid

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University has extended its priority consideration date for institutional, need-based aid, including need-based scholarships, to May 1.

The move comes as a response to Department of Education delays in delivering Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicant data to institutions, as well as problems

with the rollout of federally mandated changes in the application itself.

While technical glitches and lack of updated data have caused frustration for students, parents and financial aid offices across the country, Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley says the university is monitoring the situation and reacting accordingly.

"We are adjusting our processes to compensate

for the challenges presented by the Department of Education's changes to FAFSA," Dr. Hurley said. "This is part of our commitment to make transformative postsecondary opportunities accessible to all students. We want our students to feel supported and know that we are in this with them."

According to Undersecretary of Education James Kvaal, stu-

dents' FAFSA information, contained in Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), will be sent to colleges beginning in March, almost two months later than the original late-January date the department indicated when the overhauled FAFSA software launched in December. Tarleton is committed to sending award letters to students as soon as possible after receipt of ISIRs

from the Department of Education.

Tarleton State's priority date for 2024-25 merit-based scholarships remains Feb. 15. Students are encouraged to apply by then for the best chance at receiving funding.

"It's in our students' best interest to submit the FAFSA and scholarship as early as possible and before the respective priority dates since we begin allocating

awards soon after the priority dates. However, if for some reason, a student is unable to meet the priority date, the university continues to accept applications for scholarships and financial aid through the beginning of the semester," said Dr. Javier Garza, vice president for enrollment management.

For more information, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/financial/>.

GAME ON

We Happy Few

A trippy look at an alternative Britain

We Happy Few is set in 1964 Britain, in an alternate timeline in which the nation lost the war with Germany. The citizens take a drug they call Joy that keeps them happy and causes memory loss, which is a bonus for many of these people. They have a lot of memories they'd like to suppress. But the drugs just aren't working as well as they used to.

The developers of the game describe it as "the tale of a plucky bunch of moderately terrible people trying to escape from a lifetime of cheerful denial in the city of Wellington Wells. In this alternative 1960s England, conformity is key. You'll have to fight or blend in with the drug-addled inhabitants, most of whom don't take kindly to people who won't abide by their not-so-normal rules."

Everybody wears a white silicon mask while in town, because it hides any negative expressions. All good citizens must put on their "happy face" to conform to society. Everybody that stays in a city is expected to be a good citizen and take their Joy. Propaganda is broadcast through televisions throughout the city to encourage citizens to take their Joy, with the voice of "Uncle" Jack Worthing. Joy is also in the city water supply.

This game relies a lot on stealth. When you're in the city, people will attack you if you haven't been taking your Joy. Many of these citizens can't tolerate taking Joy anymore because of a bad reaction, so they live outside the city limits in the ruins, haunted by their memories.

The game tells the story of three people trying to escape Wellington Wells. We

start with our first protagonist, Arthur Hastings, who works at the Department of Archives, Printing, and Recycling in Wellington Wells. His job is to censor bad news and approve positive stories. He sees an article about him and his brother, and it brings up bad memories. He's determined to go find what happened to his brother. At this point you have the choice of taking more Joy or choosing to remember. If you take your Joy, it's a pretty short game.

If you don't take your Joy, things get dark in a hurry. Arthur attends the office party and finds his coworkers smacking a pinata. When the Joy wears off, he realizes they're beating a dead rat. (Told you!) As you recoil in horror, one of your coworkers notices you're off your Joy and offers you one. You refuse, your coworkers ac-



SCREENSHOT COURTESY COMPULSION GAMES

Arthur's Redactor at the beginning of the game. We Happy Few (2018) is available on SteamOS for \$14.99.

cuse you of being a Downer and attack you, and you escape via a service tunnel.

There's a lot of stuff going on in this game. It has the feel of a first-person adventure, with some fighting, some stealth, item collecting and crafting, and quests to discover and solve. Quests mostly test your agility and stealth rather than puzzle-solving abilities.

You need to get across

the bridge and escape Wellington Wells, but you'll soon discover it's more complicated than it seems. The town is falling apart. Some of it is just damage from the war that was never repaired. Many of the houses outside the town are ruined. But the systems that keep the town running are also falling apart. Apparently keeping your citizens high on drugs is bad for maintenance.

Several of the quests in story mode will be to fix various systems.

At first I played the game very conventionally, going from suggested quest to suggested quest. But when I went exploring to find more ingredients for healing potions, I realized there are lots of mini-quests scattered throughout Wellington Wells. Each gives you experience points to boost your attributes. There are various combat and stealth attributes that can be acquired when you've gained experience points. You'll pick up recipes to craft items, chemicals and healing items. Some quests are mandatory to finish the game, while others are optional and are there to expand the storyline and give you a chance to earn experience points.

Arthur's mission is to get across the bridge and escape Wellington Wells, but there are two other stories — Sally Boyd and Ollie have their own quests.

I really enjoyed this game. Sure, it's dark, and because I'm not good at stealth, probably a little more violent than it needed to be. If you use your fists only, your battles will end in unconsciousness, not death.

Some of the quests can be blocked off if you make the wrong move, but the solutions are relatively simple. The story is compelling and will keep you playing to find more notes — various pieces of paper you find scattered around in your explorations.

This is a complex game with an extended map and lots of side quests. It also has quite a lot of replayability, because each time a new game is started, it generates a new map.

We Happy Few is rated for mature audiences only due to blood, strong language, suggestive themes, use of drugs and alcohol and violence.

There are three DLCs created for this game — We All Fall Down, We Happy Few — Nick Lightbearer, and They Came From Below.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY COMPULSION GAMES

The citizens are expected to wear their mask while in town, which hides their facial expressions but is decidedly creepy.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY COMPULSION GAMES

Arthur's coworkers gathered around the 'pinata' at the party.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 10 (Puzzle 69).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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HOOD OUTDOORS

Fishing in the Shade



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.

Who would think that fish this time of the year would be hanging out in the shade on a sunny day? Water temperatures are still cold (low 50s) and many would expect the warming sunny areas would produce more bites. For some species the shaded areas may surprise you.

I do believe this time of the year the fish will be moving toward warmer water, especially as cold as the water is. As always, there are exceptions to the rules. I have seen this during the winter many times before and I can only make some educated guesses why these fish hold in this pattern. The main point here is that you shouldn't eliminate the shaded areas, even in winter.

I typically do not spend much time looking in shaded areas this time of the year. Many winter seasons fishing

the river above Whitney, I ran into a repeatable pattern near the old railroad bridge south of the Kimball Bend launch. The shade of the railroad bridge was the prime location to work my winter jig pattern. Many other anglers fishing these same waters were following this same pattern. For whatever reason, fishing the shade would put more fish in the boat.

This can be the case near bridges and cliffs (early and late). The shady area on a sunny day may be a bit cooler without the sun on your back, but don't rule out that area.

So why does the shade hold fish this time of the year? Here are some of my guesses. 1. The activity in the area pushed the fish and bait into hiding? 2. The predators stage in the shade to ambush the baitfish? 3. The strong sunlight affected the

fish such that the shade was favorable?

Number 3 above has some justification for hybrids and striped bass as they are known to be sensitive to the sun and tend to move deeper after day break. Numbers 1 and 2 above are probably the most likely candidates, however I still don't know for sure. Many species use the shade as an ambush spot and many fish will hold in the shade in the summer where it is cooler. Whatever the reason, the fish are there at times.

We all know overcast days can be good for fishing especially topwater. In addition, sometimes when the sun comes out the bite can turn on for many species. Point here is not to eliminate the shady area.

Another insight given to me by a local black bass angler is that the fish are slow to adapt to a strong sun when moving up from deeper water and will tend to hang in the shade even if the water is cooler. This is due to some adjustment when the fish moves up from where the sunlight



COURTESY PHOTO

Water temperatures are still cold (low 50s) and many would expect the warming sunny areas would produce more bites. For some species the shaded areas may surprise you.

is minimal. This makes some sense; however how would that apply in the river where there is not a whole lot of deeper water? I am not sure, but this is definitely something to consider when the deeper largemouths first start moving up from the depths as they are in process of doing right now. I am told the shady side of docks near deep water can be a good bet right now.

One last point here is to trust your electronics. If you are graphing fish in the shade even if it does not make a lot of sense, give it a try. You might be surprised.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the lower to mid 50s. The lake is full and due to the recent rain and there is a lot of floating debris. Largemouth bass action is improving with a lot of numbers with an occasional bigger fish especially on the warmer afternoons. Some sand bass catches have been reported near Hunter Park and the river above Hunter Park. Striped bass are slow to fair to 10 pounds on swim-baits and jigs worked near the river channel near Bentwater and near Indian Harbor. Big yellow and blue catfish to 30

pounds are possible on the upper ends on large cut shad fished on the flats adjacent to the river channel. Crappie action continues to be good on small jigs and minnows fished on deeper structure. The crappie are moving into the shallows on those warmer days.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) power plant lake continues to draw wintertime bass and catfish anglers. Numbers of largemouth bass to 7 pounds are possible on soft plastics. Eater-sized channel catfish limits are common on prepared baits. I do not have a Tilapia report.



NCTA Volleyball

COURTESY PHOTO

The North Central Texas Academy (NCTA) volleyball girls competed in the Winter Classic/Richardson Feb. 10 and Feb. 11.

HcN Junior



February 17-24, 2024

National FFA Week, celebrated from February 17th to 24th, is an exciting time for kids to learn about agriculture, leadership, and the incredible opportunities that the Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization offers. FFA is not just about farming; it's about fostering leadership skills, personal growth, and a love for agriculture.

During this special week, FFA chapters across the country engage in various activities to celebrate and

educate. Kids can expect fun events like farm tours, workshops, and even petting zoos to discover the wonders of agriculture firsthand. The blue and gold FFA colors symbolize the organization's commitment to tradition and progress.

For those interested in plants, animals, or technology, National FFA Week is a perfect time to explore these fields. Kids can learn about sustainable farming, technology in agriculture,

and the importance of caring for the environment.

Teachers may incorporate FFA Week into their lesson plans, introducing students to the significance of agriculture in our lives. FFA members often share their experiences, inspiring kids to consider the diverse career paths within the agriculture industry.

National FFA Week is an opportunity for kids to appreciate the hard work of farmers, under-

stand where their food comes from, and explore the countless possibilities within agriculture. It's not just a week; it's an invitation to explore, learn, and appreciate the vital role that agriculture plays in our world. So, from February 17th to 24th, let's celebrate the spirit of FFA and the bright future it holds for the leaders and innovators of tomorrow!



FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1950, Congress granted FFA a federal charter, making it an integral part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Act.

COLOR Time

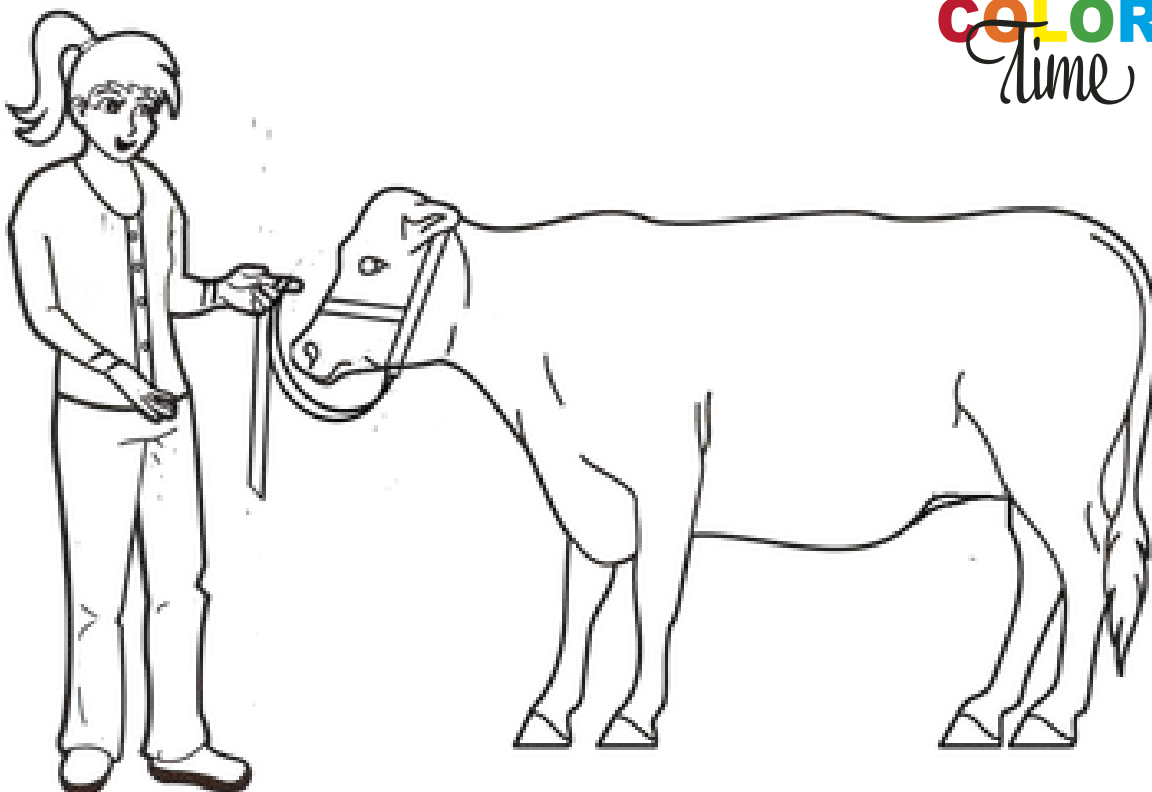
FFA WEEK

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

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

Word Bank

- 1. community
- 2. scholarship
- 3. members
- 4. ffa
- 5. blueandgold
- 6. farmingeducation
- 7. leadership
- 8. students
- 9. agriculture
- 10. careerdevelopment



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VAN GRIFFITH KIA



Teacher of the Month

January



Crystal Tarpley
Tolar High School Teacher

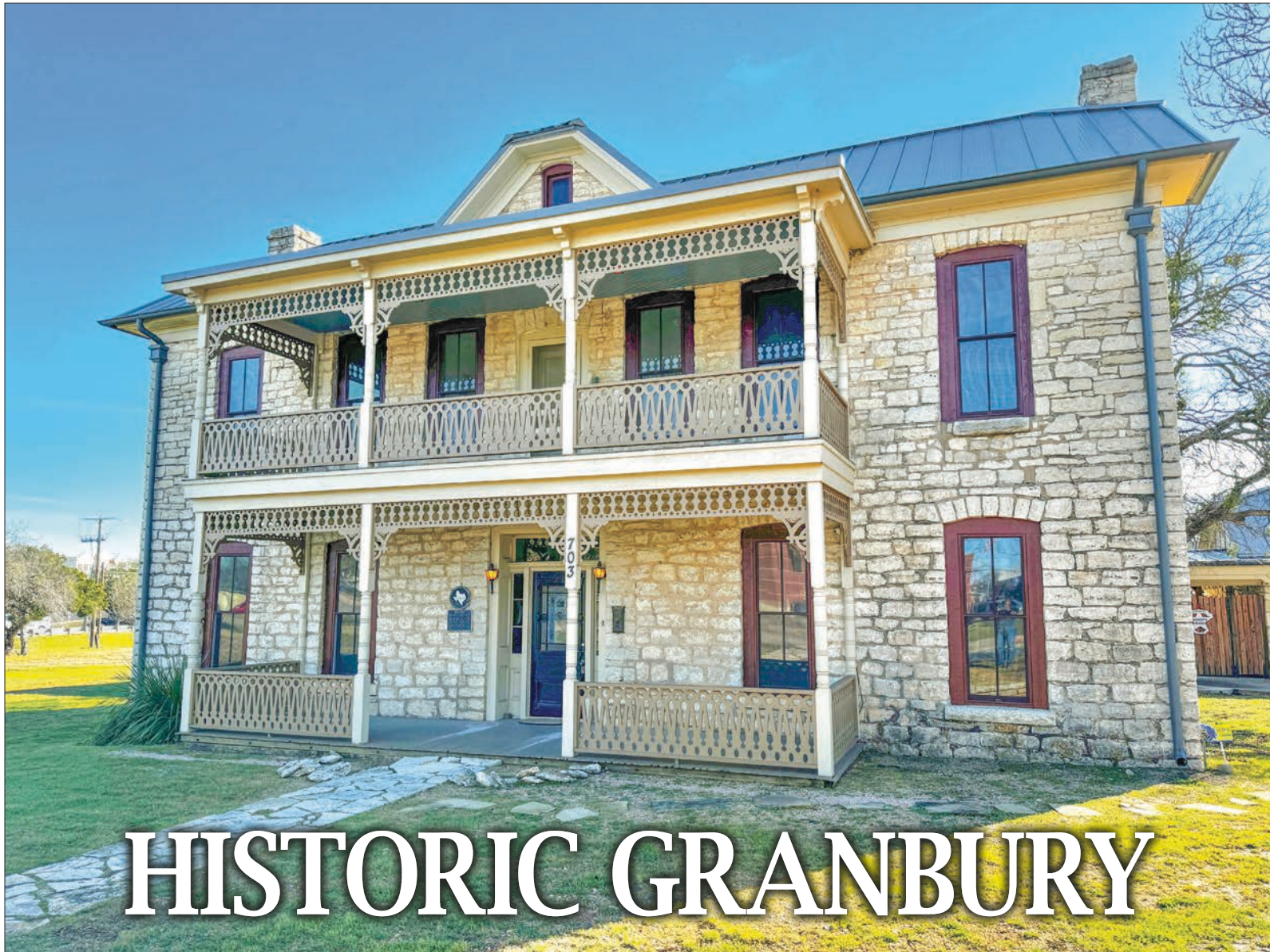


Misty Higgins
Tolar Junior High Teacher



Melissa Davis
Tolar Elementary Teacher





HISTORIC GRANBURY

COURTESY PHOTO

The Wright-Henderson-Duncan House is a 19th-century house with Queen Anne-style architecture. It features a distinctive symmetrical façade, bay windows and a spacious porch.

A look at the local properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

Each landmark in Granbury is a chapter in the town's narrative, from its early days as a simple town square to its present status as a historical icon. They are not just structures but storytellers of the past, echoing the lives and events that shaped Granbury, Hood County, and, by extension, Texas.

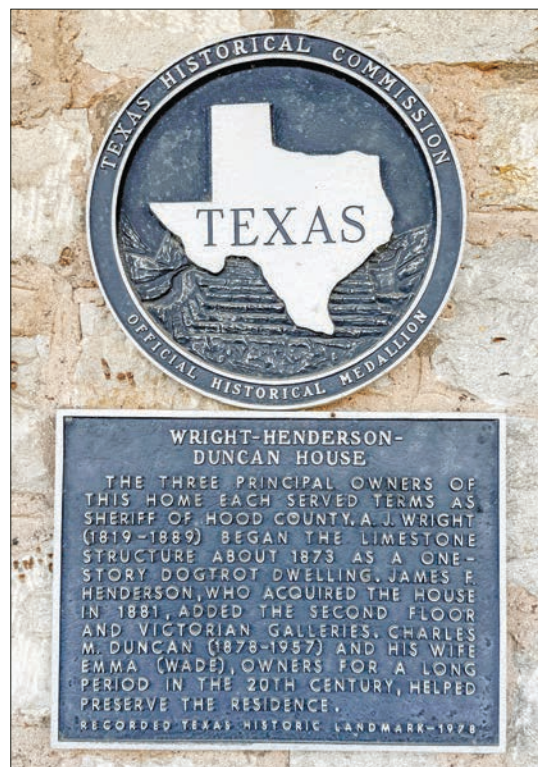
You need not spend much time in Granbury and Hood County to learn this is an area where history is not just remembered but is vividly alive! Granbury is a town that epitomizes the preservation of American heritage. Known as "Where Texas History Lives," Granbury, with its rich past and enduring charm, offers a unique glimpse into the annals of Texas history. This article invites you on an enlightening journey through Granbury's historical landmarks listed in the National Register of Historic Places and explores the intricate process of how a property is honored with this prestigious recognition.

GRANBURY A historical tapestry

Founded in 1860, Granbury began its journey as a humble town square centered around a log cabin courthouse. From these modest beginnings, Granbury has grown into a charming town of around 10,000 residents, proudly serving as the seat of Hood County. Its historical significance is further highlighted as it is home to the first town square in Texas to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This distinction underscores Granbury's commitment to preserving its rich historical legacy.

THE ROAD TO RECOGNITION Listing on the National Register

The process of listing a property on the National Register of Historic Places is a meticulous journey through history, assessment and preservation. It begins with a detailed nomination process, often initiated by property owners, historians or local preservation organizations. The



COURTESY PHOTO

The historical medallion and plaque mounted on the exterior of the Wright-Henderson-Duncan House reads: "The three principal owners of this home each served terms as sheriff of Hood County. A.J. Wright (1819-1889) began the limestone structure about 1873 as a one-story dogtrot dwelling. James F. Henderson, who acquired the house in 1881, added the second floor and Victorian galleries. Charles M. Duncan (1878-1957) and his wife Emma (Wade), owners for a long period in the 20th century, helped preserve the residence. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1978."

key steps include:

Research and documentation: This involves a thorough investigation of the property's history, architectural details and its significance in the context of local, state or national history.

State Historic Preservation Office review: The completed nomination form, along with supporting documents, is submitted to the SHPO. The office reviews the application for completeness and accuracy, ensuring it meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Public input and SHPO recommendation: The SHPO seeks public comments and may hold a public meeting. Based on the findings and public input, the SHPO makes a recommendation on the property's eligibility.

National Park Service review: The nomination,

PLEASE SEE PLACES | C2

The introvert's playbook

Winning strategies for a loud world

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

In my role as director of the Granbury Theatre Company at the Granbury Opera House, I am blessed to spend much of my time around some very talented and very creative artistic types. Casual observers see us theater types get up on stage and perform in front of hundreds of people, and they automatically assume that we are these very gregarious, outgoing, Type A personalities.

While we can be loud and rowdy when we are together, when you get many of us outside our little safe world of the theater and our theater family, we have a tendency to shut down. In fact, going to a social gathering outside our safe theater world makes most of us break out in cold sweat — figuratively, if not literally. It's a paradox that nonetheless applies to so many with artistic minds.

However, when you dig a little deeper, you will find that fully half of the U.S. population is known to be introverted. Some signs that indicate a person may be an introvert are:

- They need their surroundings to be quiet to concentrate.
- They are reflective.
- They are self-aware.
- They take time to make decisions and often make decisions themselves without requiring help or opinions from others.
- They are comfortable being by themselves.
- They prefer spending time with two to three people over a large group.
- They prefer having a few close friends rather than having a big social group.
- They prefer working alone over working in a team.
- They prefer writing or texting over talking.
- Being in a crowd feels exhausting for them.
- They often daydream or get lost in their thoughts.
- They tend to use their imagination to solve problems.
- They usually turn to themselves and their mind to energize and recharge.

Indeed, I consider myself to be a high-functioning introvert. Like many of my fellow introverts, we have figured out through years of training and practice to adapt and function in a world that often celebrates the loud and the bold. At the same time, the power of introversion is frequently overlooked. However, just as in the world of theater, where introverted performers shine with a unique brilliance, in everyday life too, introverts possess a quiet strength that can lead to profound success and fulfillment.

THE INTROVERT'S CHALLENGE IN A LOUD WORLD

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, introverts face a paradox. Society often rewards extroverted

PLEASE SEE INTROVERT | C4

All that jazz...!

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Granbury is getting ready to kick off its annual jazz festival that will take place Feb. 24.

The event started in 2022 with the hope of bringing jazz music to the Granbury community. This year, the event will feature 16 bands across three different stages, including the Granbury Square Plaza, Langon Center and Hewlett Park.

Look for everything from gypsy jazz to western swing, to straight-ahead to big band jazz alongside 40 different vendors with a variety of items for sale. There will also be food trucks in Hewlett Park.

"We showcase the variety of styles that exist within jazz so there's a little something for everyone" Andrew Stonerock with the Jazz Fest said. "All in all, this will be a great experience for the entire family."

The festival will be an all-day event taking place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Following the festival, the party will continue at Brew Drinkery, featuring the Retrophonics from 9 to 11 p.m.

For those who are interested in more nights filled with music, there will also be opportunities Feb. 22 and 23. On Feb. 22, Restaurant Anise will feature music from Chris Pits along with music from Stonerock on Feb. 23 at Oz Coffee Bar from 6-9 p.m.



The Granbury Jazz Festival in 2023.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Baker-Carmichael House is an example of Victorian architecture, a style that was prevalent in the late 19th century. This house, with its intricate woodwork and elegant design, reflects the prosperity and architectural trends of its era.



COURTESY PHOTO

The historical medallion and plaque mounted on a pole in the yard of the Baker-Carmichael House reads: "Jess Baker, prominent local businessman, banker, and member of the Texas House of Representatives, and his wife Alice built this house in 1905. Following Jess Baker's death in 1921 and Alice Baker's death in 1922, the house was purchased by Dr. Arch Carmichael, a prominent local physician, and his wife Dora. This house is a fine example of a Queen Anne residence with some Classical Revival elements. It features a corner turret, formal portico with two-story columns, and a wraparound porch. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark — 1996."

PLACES

FROM PAGE C1

along with the SHPO's recommendation, is sent to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. Here, it undergoes a final review to ensure it meets the national criteria for historic significance.

Official listing: Upon approval, the property is officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places, granting it recognition and certain protections under federal law.

GRANBURY'S HISTORICAL GEMS

A closer look

Baker-Carmichael House

(226 E. Pearl St.)

Listed: Dec. 6, 2005

The Baker-Carmichael House is a remarkable example of Victorian architecture, a style that was prevalent in the late 19th century. This house, with its intricate woodwork and elegant design, reflects the prosperity and architectural trends of its era. The house not only showcases the architectural beauty of the past but also tells the story of Granbury's social and cultural evolution.

Granbury Elementary School

(126 N. Morgan St.)

Listed: Jan. 13, 2022

The Granbury Elementary School, now the Forward Training Center, is a symbol of the town's educational heritage. Built in 1935, this structure has been a cornerstone of learning in the area for generations. It served as Granbury Elementary School from 1935-1962. Interestingly enough, before Granbury Elementary School was

built, this same location was home to a two-story frame school built in 1891 along North Hannaford Street. A three-story brick school built in 1917 on the north side of the lot along West Bridge Street followed the frame school. Each of these multi-floor schools served as Granbury's only school building and housed all student grade levels from first through high school. The multi-story buildings were demolished, and most of that area is now a large asphalt parking lot. The old Granbury Elementary School faces east on the site. In the years since its use as an elementary school, the building has served as a vocational training center and the Granbury ISD administrative offices. A few years ago, the building became home to the Forward Training Center. The school's transformation into a training center signifies Granbury's commitment to education and community development, bridging its historical roots with modern needs.

Hood County Courthouse District

(Granbury Square)

Listed: June 5, 1974

The Hood County Courthouse District, with the iconic courthouse at its center, is a vibrant encapsulation of Granbury's history. The courthouse, built in 1890-91, is an outstanding example of Second Empire architecture, characterized by its mansard roof and ornate detailing. The surrounding district comprises buildings that are themselves rich in history and that have served various purposes over the years. From stores to offices, each building has contributed to the narrative of Granbury's commercial and civic life. Most notable among these is the Granbury Opera House, which was built in 1886. Since the mid-1970s, the

Opera House has served as the cornerstone of the area's economy. This district is not just a collection of buildings but a living museum showcasing the evolution of a Texas town from its frontier days to the present.

Wright-Henderson-Duncan House

(703 Spring St.)

Listed: Dec. 19, 1978

The Wright-Henderson-Duncan House is a splendid representation of residential life in late 19th-century Granbury. This house, with its Queen Anne-style architecture, features a distinctive symmetrical façade, bay windows and a spacious porch. The house not only exemplifies architectural beauty but also serves as a testament to the personal histories of those who shaped the town.

WHY GRANBURY'S LANDMARKS MATTER

Each landmark in Granbury is a chapter in the town's narrative, from its early days as a simple town square to its present status as a historical icon. They are not just structures but storytellers of the past, echoing the lives and events that shaped Granbury, Hood County, and, by extension, Texas.

Granbury, with its rich tapestry of historical landmarks, stands proudly in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings are more than just walls and windows; they are the keepers of stories, the guardians of history, and the symbols of Granbury's enduring heritage. As we walk through the streets of Granbury, we are not just passing buildings; we are traversing through the pages of a rich and vibrant history.

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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 16 February 2024 - Thursday, 22 February 2024

Argyle - 139 min (PG13)
Fri: 12:30PM, 3:40PM, 6:50PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 12:45PM, 3:50PM, 6:55PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:45PM, 7:25PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:00PM, 7:20PM.
Tues: 2:05PM, 6:40PM, 8:00PM

Bob Marley: One Love - 107 min (PG13)
Fri: 12:00PM, 2:40PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 10:10AM, 12:00PM, 2:40PM, 6:40PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 11:50AM, 2:40PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:35PM, 5:05PM, 7:05PM.
Tues: 2:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM

Land of Bad - 110 min (R)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:55PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:05PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM.
Tues: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 2:05PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM

Lisa Frankenstein - 101 min (PG13)
Fri: 2:40PM, 5:10PM.
Sat: 11:55AM, 5:00PM.
Sun: 2:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:50PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM

Madame Web - 116 min (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM, 9:55PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 2:20PM, 4:30PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM

Ordinary Angels: With Bonus Content - 130 min (PG)
Thurs: 6:00PM, 9:00PM

The Beekeeper - 105 min (R)
Fri: 12:00PM, 7:40PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 2:25PM, 7:30PM, 10:05PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:15PM, 7:40PM.
Tues: 2:15PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 9:55PM

The Chosen: Season 4 Episodes 4-6 - 205 min (NR)
Fri: 12:00PM, 5:30PM, 9:35PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 2:25PM, 5:30PM.
Sun: 10:40AM, 3:10PM, 5:30PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:50PM, 5:30PM.
Tues: 2:25PM, 5:30PM.
Thurs: 5:30PM

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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

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

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BY DON NEWBURY

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

In our mind's eye, most of us old-timers recall taking on life in slow motion when contrasted with today's starts, stops and swerves now endured by the masses by day and by night. If identified with a fable, we were the turtles, and jet-setters of today are the hares.

Or so it seems. In bygone days, it was common to hear the same question posed repeatedly: "Have you heard the one about?"... Then, jokes of the day were exchanged; hearty laughter followed. Now, with the Super Bowl in our rearview mirror, the question most often heard is likely to be, "Did you see the commercial about?"... After all, 30-second pitches going for \$7 million for a single Super Bowl TV spot is way north of "chump change." For those keeping score, this is 55% more than Super Bowl ads just five years ago.

Blame it on inflation; everyone else does. About 75 years ago, for example, new-fangled vending machines

were geared to accept nickels. (Mentioning a nickel to youngsters now may draw quizzical looks. These are the same kids who understandably question what we mean by "hanging up" telephones.)

Anyway, we could buy candy bars, sodas, gum, jaw-breakers and other confectionery items for one nickel. (Aside: The big boys at the pool hall said 5 cents would also buy one game on a pinball machine, with the promise of free games for players who could run up high scores without "tilting" the machine.)

In the mid-1940s, my late uncle Jimmie Newbury returned from World War II naval service to enroll in college. He visited one day, bragging about winning a dozen free pinball games with a single nickel. My dad, keenly remembering Great Depression deprivation, answered, "Congratulations, Jimmie, but when was it all said and done, who had the nickel?"

When soda pop went up to six cents a bottle, vending

machines had it tough. They became evil machines, even pounded upon.

There was national unrest — with revolts alleged in some regions — at the thought of a 20% increase. Some merchants tried to soften the blow of the price hike with clever signage. One read: "Our cold drinks are all sick scents."

This furor seems unbelievably quaint, right?

Clever ad and PR people now find ways to have their cake and munch away on it, too.

A decade ago, WestJet, a Canadian airline, unveiled a masterful promotion that gained millions of inches of newspaper coverage throughout the free world. Additionally, radio/TV and social media exploded with accounts of the airline's "Christmas surprise."

At a Canadian airport, passengers stopped at a Christmas display to respond to what they thought was a Santa Claus mannequin. They were asked to show boarding passes and what they wanted for Christmas.

There were soup-to-nuts requests for socks, diamond rings, big screen TVs, and numerous other items. (There'd have been requests for all things Taylor Swift, but she

wasn't famous at the time.)

What passengers didn't know was that their requests were being heard by WestJet employees at the arrival airport. The employees had three hours to purchase, wrap and write names on gifts that were given to deplaning passengers!

The airline sprung for cost of gifts, but this initiative avoided what would have cost millions of dollars if they'd purchased ads trumpeting "Merry Christmas." The good will generated was inestimable.

Social media is at center stage currently for what is being called "The Consumer Chex Index." Kylie Brakeman, a NYC comedian, loves the snack, usually buying 8.75-ounce bags. The price, it turns out, is all over the charts in airports, ranging from \$3.49 in New Orleans to \$13.29 in Las Vegas.

She is revolting, and the brouhaha — like the \$18 Big Mac combo at McDonald's — has gone viral.

Check it out online with search words like "Chex Mix furor." The snack's moguls may be scratching their heads, unsure if they should praise Kylie or refuse to laugh at her jokes.

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

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

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek 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: 515-554-6498.

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.

FORWARD TRAINING Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org or call 817-573-6677.

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 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 SINGERS, women's choral group, weekly rehearsals for spring concert season. New members who sing first or second soprano welcome. 10 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 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 Barbecue, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY CERT 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.

THE GRANBURY EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbecue 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is 6 p.m. informal meeting at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2 and 3 wheel, any and all riders are welcome.

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. 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

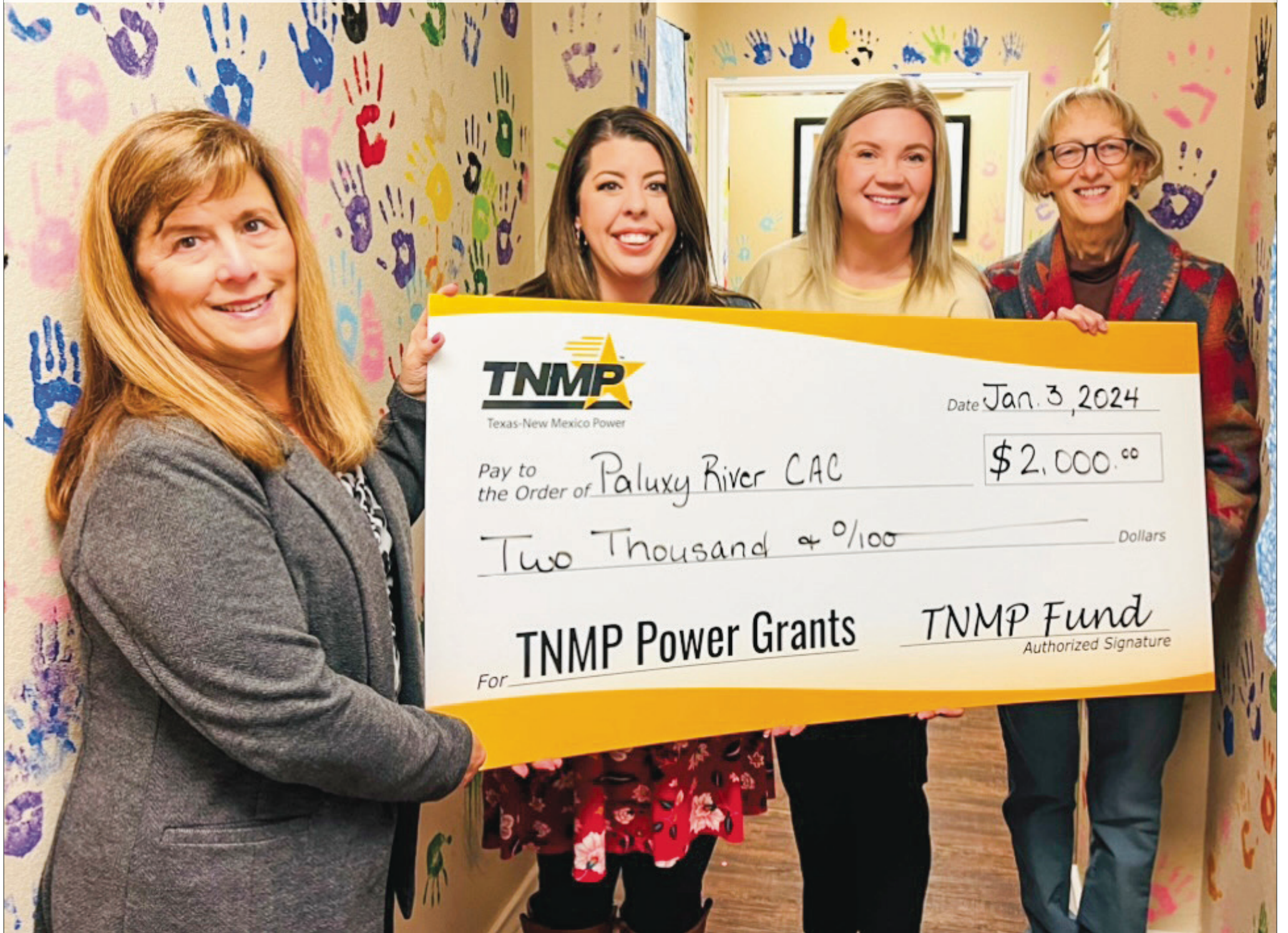
LAST THURSDAYS

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.

CHECK IN and social at 10 - 11 a.m. Entertainment by Bobby Ray Adams. The short business meeting is at 11:30 a.m. The \$18 optional lunch will be pork medallions, roasted potatoes, broccoli, house salad, break, apple crisp and coffee/tea/water. General membership is \$25 for single and \$35 for joint, business membership is \$35. Reservations are required no later than Friday, Feb. 2. Contact granburyyog@gmail.com or call 817-776-2898.

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.

The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center receives power grant



COURTESY PHOTO

The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center was awarded a \$2,000 power grant from Texas-New Mexico Power. The funds will allow the PRCAC to provide a community-wide event in Glen Rose where the center can educate the community on internet safety, grooming, and recognizing and reporting child abuse.

INTROVERT FROM PAGE C1

traits such as assertiveness and gregariousness, yet many of us find strength in introspection and solitude. This dichotomy can make everyday situations, like networking events or team meetings, challenging for introverts.

HARNESSING THE QUIET POWER

Drawing inspiration from the world of theater, let's explore how introverts can apply these strategies to thrive in various aspects of life.

Visualize to Gain Momentum: Just as actors visualize their blocking and their choreography prior to a performance, introverts can use visualization to prepare for challenging situations.

Before a big meeting or social event, envision yourself succeeding. This mental rehearsal can boost confidence and reduce anxiety.

Preparation is Key: In social settings, having a few conversation starters ready can ease the stress of small talk. Prepare questions or topics related to current events, hobbies or mutual interests. This strategy helps initiate conversations and makes social interactions more manageable. The key to all great icebreaker questions, really, is to have a question with no right or wrong answer. It provides individuals with the freedom to share something unique and personal without feeling pressured to be overly clever.

Recharge Your Batteries: People often mistake intro-

version for shyness. However, one of the key characteristics of introverts is not necessarily shyness but rather the fact that socializing requires more energy for them. Recognize the importance of downtime. Introverts recharge by spending time alone. After a day of socializing or work, engage in activities that help you relax and rejuvenate, like reading, listening to music, gardening or a quiet walk.

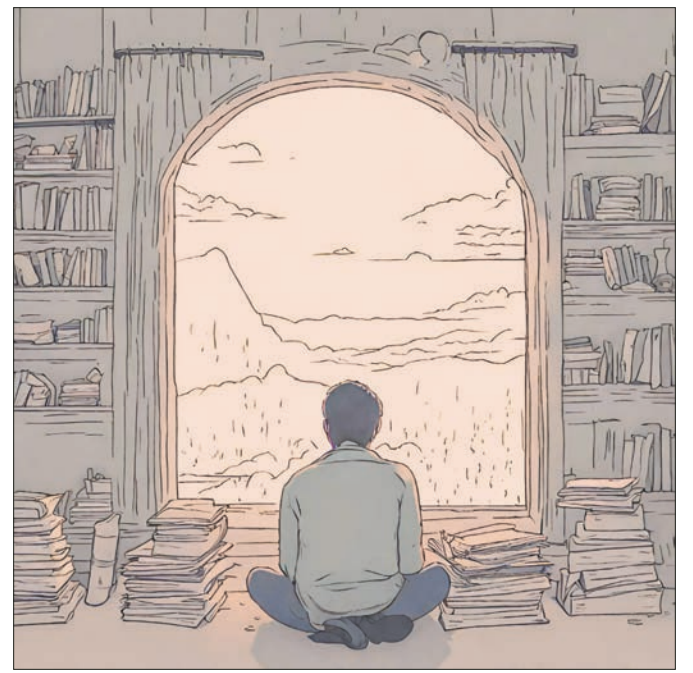
Redefine Small Talk: Shift your perspective on casual conversations. See them as opportunities to learn something new or share your insights. This approach makes interactions more meaningful and less superficial.

THE INTROVERT'S EDGE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Introverts bring depth,

thoughtfulness and a unique perspective to their interactions and decisions. Our reflective nature allows for a deeper understanding of situations and often leads to more considered and creative solutions. In a world that moves quickly and often superficially, the introvert's ability to pause and ponder is invaluable.

Being an introvert in a loud world is not a disadvantage; it's a distinct advantage. By embracing our introspective nature and using strategies to manage social and professional situations, we can navigate life with confidence and grace. So, to all the introverts out there, remember: your quiet power is a tremendous asset. Let's use it to make our mark in the world quietly but impactfully.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fully half of the U.S. population is known to be introverted.



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BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER



Henry Robertson was sheriff from 1973-80.

COURTESY PHOTO

A look back at Sheriff Henry Robertson

BY ROGER ENLOW



Roger Enlow grew up in Granbury, graduated from Granbury High School in 1973, and worked at the Hood County News from 1976-2021. He is a member of the Bridge Street History Center Museum's Board of Directors.

BY ROGER ENLOW

Lawmen circled the murder suspect and moved in for the arrest. The man, a Mexican national accused of a fatal stabbing, was standing in front of the bunkhouse at the ranch where he worked.

Hood County Sheriff Henry Robertson suddenly appeared, stuck his gun under the man's chin and yelled "Mucho!" The terrified man immediately raised his arms.

Authorities began discussing the arrest after bringing the suspect to jail. One curious officer asked the sheriff, "Henry, what does 'mucho' mean?"

"I don't know," the sheriff replied. "It's the only word I knew."

SOFT AS SOAP

Henry Robertson was the typical Texas sheriff of the day, leaning on the portly side, cowboy hat and boots, plug of tobacco in his jaw.

PLEASE SEE **HISTORY** | C8

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Guide to broker commissions in real estate transactions

BY JACQUE GORDON



Jacquie 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. jacquiegordon@kw.com | 817-243-4324

Many people hire a real estate professional to represent them through the complicated process of buying or selling a home. This guide will help you understand how real estate brokers get paid.

Is there a standard commission for real estate brokers?

- No. The amount of commission you agree to pay your broker is negotiable. There are no rules or policies that set the amount brokers charge.
- There are many different compensation models brokers may use, including commission, flat fee, hourly fee and fees for specific tasks. The term commission is used here for simplicity.
- Consumers can shop for various compensation mod-

els and services when choosing their broker.

What controls the amount of commission brokers charge for their services?

- Each broker independently determines the services it will provide and the commission it will charge for those services based on their own business decisions and market forces such as supply and demand.
- Commission amounts have fluctuated over the years due to changes in market conditions.

What is cooperative compensation?

- When a home seller hires a listing broker, the listing broker will typically include the property on a multiple listing service (MLS). An MLS

is a database of homes for sale in an area.

- Brokers that represent buyers can search the MLS for homes that meet the buyers' criteria.

- This cooperation between the listing broker and buyer's broker helps to market the seller's property to as wide an audience as possible.

- The listing broker has the option to share a portion of the listing broker's commission with the buyer's broker in exchange for bringing a buyer who ultimately buys the home.

Is cooperative compensation required?

- No. Listing brokers are not required to share their commission with the buyer's broker.
- The seller and listing broker work together to decide if cooperative compensation will be offered and how much that compensation will be.

Why would the listing broker consider paying the buyer's broker?

- The cooperative com-

penensation arrangement has proven to be an efficient method for brokers to be paid in a way that benefits both buyers and sellers.

- Most mortgage lenders do not allow commissions to be added to home loans, and many buyers do not have the financial ability to pay real estate compensation out-of-pocket on top of the down payment and other closing costs.

- When the listing broker pays the buyer's broker, more homebuyers can afford a home.

- Sellers benefit because their property will be more attractive to a wider pool of potential buyers, often resulting in the seller's home being sold for a higher price.

Talk to your REALTOR® about how to make your move as smooth as possible. Your REALTOR® has the knowledge and skills to help you make informed decisions. For a full list of real estate agents, visit the Granbury Association of Realtors® website at www.Granburyrealtors.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Look over here and say "Cheeeeeeeese!"

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Let's see those chompers, those pearly-whites. How 'bout a big grin, ear to ear. You've got a full set of gorgeous teeth, why not show them off? Smile - especially if, as in the new book

"Big Meg" by Tim Flannery and Emma Flannery, one tooth is as big as a toddler's hand.

Growing up in Victoria, Australia, Tim Flannery enjoyed fossil hunting on both land and just off the coast. It was more than a

hobby for him — it was an obsession, a way to make money and to learn about that branch of science. He still recalls a large fossil he found in 1973, the tooth of Otodus megalodon, a shark that had gone extinct millions of years ago.

At a possible 101,600 kilograms (around 112 tons), a theoretical 20 meters long (nearly 22 yards or almost 66 feet), and a bite force roughly twice that of a Tyrannosaurus rex, the

PLEASE SEE **BOOK** | C8

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For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Isaiah 41:13

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
 1 John 4:12

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Elm Grove Assembly Of God
 3630 Hill City Hwy., Tolar
 254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
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 817-326-2270

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Allison Baptist
 9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
 254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
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 817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
 2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
 817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
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 817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
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 817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
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 817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
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 254-965-3840

First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-613-2322

First Baptist
 214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
 254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
 2815 Lipan Hwy.
 817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
 Glen Rose
 254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
 1851 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 Granbury

Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.
 817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
 4501 Peppertree Rd.
 817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
 1844 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
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 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
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 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
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Waples Baptist
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The Evangelical Christian
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Granbury Church Of Christ
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Lipan Church Of Christ
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Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
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Hood Pentecostal
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Bear Creek Community
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Brazos Covenant Ministries
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 817-579-0968

Calvary Family
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 314-606-1211

Center Point
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 817-544-3432

Christian Science Society
 528 N. Crockett
 817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 917-326-5501

Crossroads
 200 S. Crook St., Cresson
 817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood
 County
 2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,
 817-579-9332

Generations Church Of
 Granbury
 5718 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-326-5378

Granbury Chapel Bible Church
 5150 N. Gate Rd.
 817-736-9647

Hope Community
 3206 W. Hwy. 377
 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
 205 West Lipan Dr., Lipan
 254-396-3162

New Season Global Ministries
 3755 Acton Hwy.
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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan's Community Gardens members prepare for spring growing season



BY DIANE LONG

A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read.
dianelong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club does not cease work just because winter is present. In fact, this time of year finds members looking toward spring as they are currently getting potatoes in the ground now through early March. Furthermore, peas, beets, carrots and a variety of greens are also being planted by gardens club members, all of whom possess a variety of gardening backgrounds as well as diverse levels of gardening expertise. The group focuses on growing organic vegetables as well as building friendships, and interested folks are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$25 per family, and applications may be found on Pecan's website under the heading "Clubs, Groups and Hobbies." The garden is located off Plantation Boulevard close to the PAC walking track.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation comes Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Folks new to our community are welcome, as are longtime residents who desire an update on the amenities and opportunities of our neighborhood. RSVP to Sarah Lord at sarahlord@ppoaweb.com.

GOLF GAME

The Men's Golf Association will enjoy par 3 individual (pick your own foursome) Thursday, Feb. 22, and the Ladies' Golf Association continues 1 p.m. starts for the month of February when temperatures are cooler.

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.

Donors receive advance publicity and recognition for their contribution, as well as visibility on tournament day. Last year, several Pecan residents and organizations put together themed baskets as raffle prizes, and these items were very popular and greatly appreciated.



COURTESY PHOTO BY AMY HERRING

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens members are busily anticipating spring by getting plants in the ground now. Pictured is Bernadette Gutilla preparing beds for carrots. The members of the club boast various levels of gardening expertise, and new folks are welcome to join.

The auxiliary has a full calendar for 2024 with fundraising activities galore including a volunteer brunch, boot drive, community garage sales, golf tournament, pancake breakfast, craft bazaar and first responder appreciation month.

For more information about the golf tournament or about donating a prize, call or text Julie Logan at 727-252-3702 or Seleta Webster at 806-646-0656, and to volunteer for any of these events, email Seleta at seleta.chere@gmail.com.

completion on holes 10 through 12, and trenching taking place on the southeastern side of the course. The area around hole 1 is currently receiving attention, and is thus closed as waterlines are installed. While work takes place around the practice area adjacent to the golf pro shop, the entrances and exits to the nature trail behind the clubhouse will be inaccessible. Different areas of the course will be closed during the project's duration, and golfers may receive updated information on unavailable areas from the pro shop, whose staff reminds all Pecaners to exercise caution when encountering areas of course construction.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The month of February marks the one-year reorganization of Pecan's Widows' and Widowers' Club, and a celebration is planned for the group's upcoming meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27. When the group reassembled last year, 23 people partook, and at the January gathering, the crowd boasted 50 attendees. The fete will include a special menu prepared by Chef Jordan as well as an anniversary cake. Special music from Ray Scott, Lois Akers and Stan McBroom will enhance the event.

As Caryl Mahaffey writes, "The group is getting to know everyone so well and enjoys visiting with their new friends." Reservations for the Feb. 27 gathering (which begins at 5:30 p.m. and location in Pecan will be decided depending on number of participants) are

due by Tuesday, Feb. 20: caryl.mahaffey@charter.net. Dues for 2024 will also be received at the gathering.

The Widows' and Widowers' Club looks forward to a full year of meetings as well as some field trips and outings. Any widow or widower in Pecan is invited to attend.

GOOD READ

The Hood County Bookmobile will visit the PAC Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return materials at that time. For complete information on the bookmobile and its presence in Pecan, contact Robin Scanlon at the Hood County Library at 817-573-3569.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again Wednesday, Feb. 28 when author Martin Brown will address the crowd. Reservations are due by noon Tuesday, Feb. 27: 817-573-2641.

BON APPETIT

Pecan's Executive Chef Jordan Ray reminds residents that "Wednesdays at the Brazos" features a pizza deal of "buy one pie get a second for half price" for dine-in purchases. In addition, The Pit at Pecan's marina now features daily specials, and folks may call 817-573-3201 to learn of each day's offerings.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Don Campbell, who passed away Feb. 5.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pecan is seeking volunteers to assist with balloting at our community's annual meeting Saturday, March 2. Folks who are interested in serving as an election clerk or judge may sign up via a link mailed to membership last week or by contacting Marilyn Amos: marilynamos@ppoaweb.com.

PROJECT PROGRESS

The irrigation project currently underway on Pecan's golf course is progressing and has entered its second phase with work nearing

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BOOK
FROM PAGE C5

Otodus megalodon was no shrinking violet. Informally known as “Meg,” it was the largest predator the Earth had ever seen. Ever.

Flannery wasn’t the only one who was fascinated by the gigantic predator.

It’s thought that ancient societies used megalodon teeth in rituals and as tools. Fossil hunters avidly look for them in known spots. Museums love having Meg’s teeth and dealers sell them to private collectors online. Flannery says there are likely millions of teeth not yet discovered, mostly because each Meg had “tooth stacks”

and hundreds of razor-sharp, killing-machine teeth in its mouth at any one time.

And yet, despite that humans’ evolutionary lineage and Meg’s overlapped a bit, our knowledge about the megalodon is really quite limited. Little can be learned from its bones, since Meg had a cartilaginous skeleton and cartilage doesn’t fossilize well. We can extrapolate information from any of the 15 species of its cousins that live. And maybe, says Flannery, we’ll know first-hand: some people believe that the megalodon still exists...

If you’ve read this far, it’s pretty safe to say that deep, deep inside you lies the heart

of a 5-year-old who thinks sharks are the coolest creatures alive. They’re the coolest creatures dead, too, as you’ll see inside “Big Meg.”

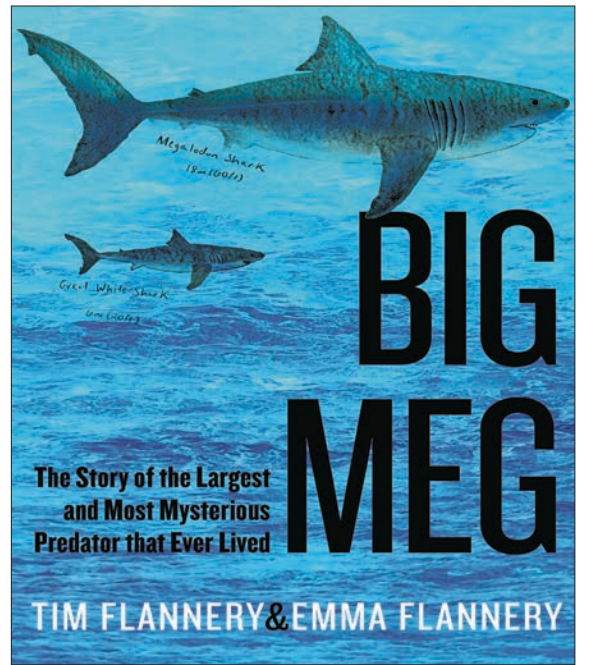
It’s unfortunate, actually, that most kids are too young to read a book like this. Authors Tim Flannery and Emma Flannery, a father-daughter team, write in great detail about creatures that can hold a lot of fascination for all ages: longer than an average ranch-style home, Meg didn’t live in a vacuum, so the authors include facts about other marine animals, both ancient and current, in their narrative, as a touchstone. This may irritate some readers — it means a lot of subject-bounc-

ing and an overabundance of seemingly-irrelevant, seemingly-superfluous info — but stay with it. The mind-boggling is ultimately worth it.

This is the kind of book that makes you want to drop “Did you know?” at the dinner table tonight. It’s a shark-lover’s dream read. Share it with a kid, if you can; “Big Meg” will make you both smile.

COURTESY PHOTO

“Big Meg: The Story of the Largest and Most Mysterious Predator that Ever Lived” by Tim Flannery and Emma Flannery © 2024, ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS, \$27.00, 208 PAGES



HISTORY
FROM PAGE C5

He was sheriff from 1973-80, witnessing the transformation of a sleepy Texas county seat to one bulging with tourists and newcomers, spurred by the creation of Lake Granbury in 1969 and restoration of the Granbury square in the mid-1970s.

The sheriff’s office had only two law officers in the early ‘70s. Henry added deputies and radio communications to combat the uptick in crime, mainly burglaries and illegal drugs.

Henry was something of a gentle giant, but tough when needed.

He once learned of a man who was struggling financial-

ly. He told him to go down to the locker plant and pick out a side of beef. The man hesitated, saying he didn’t have any money, but Robertson told him to go ahead and not worry about it.

“Henry tried to act like nails, but inside he’s as soft as soap,” a friend once observed.

YOU’RE IN MY COUNTY

John Hurley worked as a deputy under Henry. He told this story years ago: “Henry went with me to a house he said had been ‘hit’ at Long Creek. I thought it had been hit by a car!”

Hurley explained that once they arrived, Henry sent Hurley to the back of the house while he went to the front. Hurley didn’t think the house was being burglarized

because the men inside were loud and laughing.

The laughter stopped when Robertson banged on the door and yelled, “Open up, Hood County Sheriff’s Department.”

“They came running out the back door,” Hurley said, “and Henry came around and cuffed them. Then he stood them up and circled the prisoners. All I could think of, seeing him circle them with a big chaw of tobacco in his mouth, was Jackie Gleason in ‘Smokey and the Bandit.’ Sure ‘nough, Henry said it — ‘You’re in my county now, boys!’”

FINDER OF TRUTH

Maurice Walton, a young attorney in the late 1970s, was appointed to represent a burglary and arson suspect.

The man was accused of stealing a coin collection and setting the house on fire to cover up the theft.

Walton visited his client in the ancient jail. “He said he stole the money but didn’t set the house on fire,” Walton said. The lawyer, still a bit naive, believed his client. “I really thought I had something,” he said.

Walton laughs when recalling Robertson’s phone call. “Maurice,” he announced, “your boy wants to talk to you.”

When Walton revisited his client he admitted torching the house.

BRICK AND MORTAR

Henry was the last sheriff to conduct business in the old jail, a house-of-horrors two-story rock structure

built in 1885. The mortar became so brittle that inmates were able to dig out with plastic spoons and escape.

“Man,” said Walton, “I would have dug out if I could. Talk about depressing. That place was bad.”

Famous Dallas Judge Sarah T. Hughes (who gave the oath of office to LBJ after Kennedy’s assassination) once visited the jail. She was left speechless after the tour, deputies reported.

YOU AND ME A-TALKIN’

I was at the paper when Henry was sheriff. I visited him often for stories. That was back when I could walk inside and talk with officers at their desks. When I stopped to visit, Henry would lean back in his high-rise chair, take a plug of

Beech-Nut chewing tobacco and talk candidly. At points during the discussion he would say, “Now don’t put that in the paper, that’s just you and me a-talkin.’”

A SERVANT’S HEART

Henry Robertson died on Sept. 8, 2017 in Tolar, where he lived. He was 91. The World War II veteran was a lifelong Hood Countian, born in 1926 in Granbury. He is buried in Powell Cemetery, outside Tolar.

Henry once said about sheriffing, “Actually all you do is serve the people. That’s where a lot of people in law enforcement come up short — they think people ought to serve them. You don’t give nothin’ in the world up here but service.”

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