



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886



[SATURDAY, March 2, 2024]

Published Saturday

hcnews.com \$1.00

Marathon Digital addresses Bitcoin noise complaints, announces plans for mitigation

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Marathon Digital Holdings has only been the owner of Granbury's Bitcoin data center for about six weeks now, but the Florida-based company has already started to plan its mitigation efforts to address the countless noise complaints from city residents.

For more than a year, several community members have voiced their concerns

regarding the loud fan noise emanating near the Wolf Hollow Power Plant.

During a community town hall hosted by Hood County Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson and Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley Jan. 29, Granbury residents filled the Twin Canyons Ranch venue to air their grievances. A multitude of residents voiced concerns regarding migraines, hearing loss, ringing in their ears, vertigo,

nausea, and behavioral issues in children that they felt were all caused by the low-frequency hum coming from the Bitcoin data center.

While former owners US Bitcoin constructed a 24-foot high and almost 2,000-foot-long sound-proofing wall in October 2023 to alleviate the issue, the problem continues.

Granbury resident Cheryl Shadden explained during the town hall that she

lives across the street from the Bitcoin plant and said the noise "permeates her home" and her ears ring constantly.

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

Jason Browder, vice presi-

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

"We only took possession of the site in January, so we are only about 45 days into this," Marathon Digital Holdings CEO Fred

Thiel told the Hood County News. "To be fair, we were not aware of the extent of the noise complaints when we took it over, but we have reacted very quickly."

Thiel explained that the company has taken steps to hire a community manager — someone who has lived in Granbury for many years. He said the new community manager will come on board this month and will hear

PLEASE SEE
MARATHON | A4

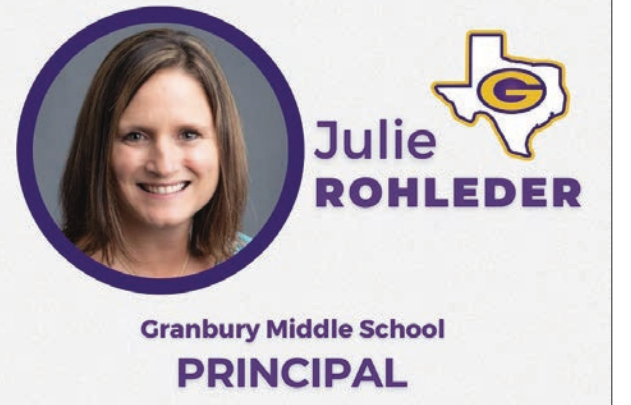


Jazz Fest 2024

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Attendees immersed themselves in the heart-thumping world of jazz with over 15 talented bands spanning various genres.

PLEASE SEE MORE PHOTOS
C5

'A champion for public education'



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Middle School names Julie Rohleder as principal

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Granbury ISD announced the appointment and promotion of Julie Rohleder as the new principal of Granbury Middle School. Rohleder has served as the principal of Nettie Baccus Elementary since 2020.

Rohleder will take over for Dr. Andy Smith, who served as principal at GMS for three years. Smith resigned from the district Dec. 7 to pursue new career opportunities. Both Smith and Rohleder will finish out the remainder of the school year at their current campuses before the official transition of leadership at GMS. Rohleder will soon meet with GMS students, staff and families to begin preparation for the next school year.

"We are excited to have Julie Rohleder's leadership at GMS," GISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn said in a press release that announced Rohleder's new role. "She is a champion for public education and a dedicated, proven leader (who) will be a tremendous asset to GMS. I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish with the students, staff and families at GMS. I would also like to thank Dr. Andy Smith for his three years of leadership and dedication to Granbury ISD, serving as principal of GMS. We wish him the very best in his next professional chapter."

Rohleder has 26 years of experience in public education, starting in Joshua ISD as an elementary math spe-

PLEASE SEE ROHLEDER | A3



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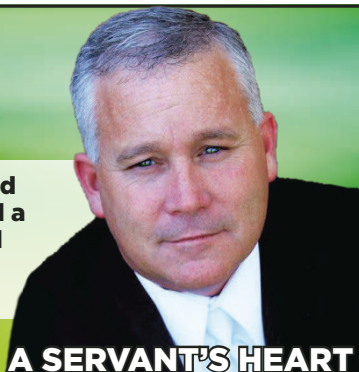
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A SERVANT'S HEART

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS



Celebrating milestones

The Value of ribbon cuttings for Granbury Chamber of Commerce members

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

In a world of business, every milestone deserves recognition. Whether it's a grand opening, a special anniversary, a relocation, a rebranding, a renovation or an expansion, these moments mark significant achievements worthy of celebration. For members of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, one of the most impactful ways to commemorate such milestones is through a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Here's why these events hold immense value for chamber members, regardless of whether they have a physical storefront.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies provide chamber members with a platform to connect with the local community in a meaningful way. By inviting fellow business owners, community leaders and residents to participate, these events create opportunities for networking, relationship-building and brand exposure. Whether it's showcasing a new product line or unveiling a renovated space, ribbon cuttings serve as a catalyst for strengthening ties within the community.

GENERATING PUBLICITY AND VISIBILITY

For businesses, visibility is key to attracting customers and driving growth. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies offer a prime opportunity to generate publicity and increase brand awareness. Local media outlets often cover these events, providing chamber members with valuable exposure through news coverage, photographs and social media mentions. Additionally, the chamber itself promotes ribbon cuttings through its communication channels, further amplifying the reach and impact of the event.

ENHANCING CREDIBILITY AND TRUST

Participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony sends a powerful message to customers, partners and stakeholders. It signals that the business is invested in its success and committed to serving the community. By aligning with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, members gain credibility and trust, which can translate into increased customer loyalty and goodwill. Moreover, being associated with a respected business organization like the chamber reinforces the professionalism and reliability of the member business.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS, BIG OR SMALL

One of the unique aspects of ribbon-cutting ceremonies is their versatility. Whether it's a major milestone like a grand opening or a smaller achievement like a rebranding effort, all successes are worthy of celebration. These events provide an opportunity to share achievements with the community and express gratitude to supporters and patrons.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are more than just ceremonial gestures; they are powerful tools for community engagement, publicity and brand building. Whether marking a new chapter or honoring a milestone, ribbon cuttings serve as a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of the local business community.

As a valued member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, you have the opportunity to showcase your business' success and celebrate your accomplishments with the community. Contact us today at 817-573-1622 to schedule your ribbon-cutting ceremony and let's create an event that not only highlights your business but also strengthens our local business community. Together, we can make this momentous occasion one to remember.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



First National Bank's Branch at Lakestone Terrace Senior Living, located at 916 E. US Hwy 377.

COURTESY PHOTO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Whataburger LLC

"No matter how big we grow -- and we are growing! -- Whataburger will always be a place where goodness lives."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Whataburger. On Aug. 8, 1950, an adventurous and determined entrepreneur named Harmon Dobson opened up the world's first Whataburger on Ayers Street in Corpus Christi, Texas. He had a simple goal: to serve a burger so big it took two hands to hold and so good that with one bite customers would say, "What a burger!" He succeeded on both accounts and turned that one little burger stand into a legend loved throughout Texas and the South. No matter how big we grow—and we are growing!—Whataburger will always be a place where goodness lives. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

Member Spotlight

Tru-TEX Painting and Construction

"Why settle for poor workmanship, messy job sites, rude workers, or contractors who won't return calls during a project? With Tru-TEX Painting you'll get a friendly team that respects your property and your people."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Tru-TEX Painting and Construction. We will earn our reputation in Northern Texas by meeting or exceeding expectations for diligent performance, enthusiasm, and fair dealing. While we're proud of what we've achieved, we also believe we have to go on earning it at every job site, every day. Why settle for poor workmanship, messy job sites, rude workers, or contractors who won't return calls during a project? With Tru-TEX Painting you'll get a friendly team that respects your property and your people. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

RISING LEADERS OF GRANBURY (RLG) COMMITTEE MEMBER

KARA DINGMAN

Business: Mission Granbury

Time as a RLG Committee Member: 8 Months

RISING LEADERS

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Rising Leaders of Granbury (RLG) Committee Member Spotlight: Kara Dingman. We are so very thankful for our amazing Rising Leaders Granbury Committee Member, Kara Dingman with Mission Granbury!! Kara has been a part of our RLG program for eight months! When asked why she loves being on the RLG Committee, she said, "What I love most is being surrounded by so many distinct individuals. Getting together and hearing what everyone does in the community makes you expand your mind to new possibilities. It's inspiring to be around individuals who have the passion to want to learn and grow. This group is full of ambitious, talented, innovative and smart individuals and I am so excited to see what we can accomplish as a group in 2024!" A fun fact about Kara: "When I was born, I was not born in a normal hospital room... but in a storage closet at the hospital. So, while my mom was giving birth, people were coming in and out to get cleaning supplies." Thank you Kara for being a RLG Committee Member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5 2024

RE-ELECT JACK WILSON

HOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT #3

IN GOD WE TRUST

INTEGRITY MATTERS

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Kevin Andrews

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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Precinct 1

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Remember the Alamo!



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter. sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

By its very nature, Texas history is exciting, dramatic and can be as overwhelming as a West Texas tornado. With the name Sam Houston, it was destined for me to be a fan of Texas history from my conception and this time of the year is filled with the remembrance of a generous portion of the events that shaped our great state.

COURTESY PHOTO

William B. Travis was a 19th-century American lawyer and soldier. He is known for helping set the Texas Revolution in motion during the Anahuac disturbances and commanding the Misión San Antonio de Valero (aka "The Alamo") as a lieutenant colonel in the Texian Army. During the Alamo siege, Travis wrote a letter pleading for reinforcements that became known as the "Victory or Death" letter.

The last few days marked the 188th anniversary of the start of the battle of the Alamo. On Feb. 23, 1836, a small group of volunteers who held the Alamo were met with the arrival of Gen. Santa Anna of Mexico and his lead force of nearly 1,500 men. The men inside the Alamo were few, less than 200, and as the Mexican forces continued to arrive the enemy's number would eventually swell to over 4,000. The battle went on for 13 days, ending with the utter destruction of the Texian forces. Santa Anna instructed the bodies of the defenders to be burned and to remain unburied as a demonstration of his absolute disdain for the Texas patriots.

Perhaps the most famous letter in Texas history was written by the commander of the forces of the Alamo, William Barrett Travis. Originally from South

Carolina, Travis was a man who was true to his word and committed to fulfill his duty to defend the Alamo. Written on Feb. 24, the day after the arrival of Mexican forces, it was sent to the delegates of the convention at Washington on the Brazos and was addressed to "The People of Texas and All Americans in the World." The letter ended with the immortal words, "Victory or death," which was truly the only outcome the battle could have.

For me, and I think a great many Texans, it is hard to read the words of Travis and not feel a swelling in our chest and have a tear come to our eyes. Those powerful words instill a sense of what the men of the Alamo must have felt in those final desperate days; how they were willing to sacrifice their lives for the idea that Texas might someday be a sanctuary of freedom and liberty. It is clear in my heart, that every single person who has immigrated to Texas since the Travis letter was written has a duty and obligation to work and to live in such a way as to endorse the commitment of the defenders of the Alamo.

We must put aside petty disagreements and political rhetoric which divides, and in exchange, replace it with deeds and words which compel our fellow Texans to work together for the greater good. We must ensure that all our people have opportunities, that we remain free and indepen-

dent, and that we never waver from those things which make us Texas: hard work, helping our neighbor and keeping our word.

Our times are not as desperate as those final days of the men of the Alamo, but difficult political decisions stand before us and decisions must be made. Our world is changing and doing so rapidly. We must seek leadership from those who can embrace the future while maintaining the very character and essence of the history of Texas. It is who we are and what we should fight to maintain. It is why Texas is Texas!

As you go to vote this upcoming week, remember the blessed souls of those who gave their lives at the Alamo. Remember the great men of Texas history, men such as Austin, Crockett, Bowie, Travis, Rusk, Lamar, Houston and many others. Vote for the men and women on the ballot who will put Texas and the well-being of her citizens first, and not their own selfish personal political agendas. The future of our Texas depends upon it.

Thought for the day: "Do your duty so that every son and daughter of Texas will praise your work this day and remember the Alamo, remember Goliad, remember the Alamo!" *Sam Houston speaking to his troops just prior to the commencement of the Battle of San Jacinto.*

Until next time...I remain a Texan, ridin' the storm out.

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Diesel Dooley

Say hello to our neighbor, Diesel Dooley!

Diesel Dooley is an 18-year-old senior at Granbury High School who has spent his entire life in Hood County. His mom, Lori Dooley, and Grandpa, Jessie Dempsey, have also lived in the area for most of their lives. They have shared many stories about the old Granbury. Diesel has been working at Silver Saddle Saloon on the Square since he was 15, where he can enjoy the unique atmosphere of Granbury that he loves so much. He has also played football for Granbury and enjoys fishing and swimming in Lake Granbury during the warmer months. Diesel appreciates how the Hood County News covers GHHS events, as it helps spread the word beyond social media.

Chief: Man dies in police custody following traffic stop

Staff Report

The Granbury Police Department is investigating an incident after a Decatur resident died while in police custody Friday, Feb. 23.

According to a media release from the GPD, at approximately 2:29 a.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the

2200 block of Old Granbury Road. The driver was identified as a 35-year-old male resident of Decatur.

During the stop, the driver attempted to walk away from the officer and as a result, he was temporarily detained in handcuffs. While officers continued speaking to the driver — who exhibited signs consistent

with intoxication — he began experiencing what was believed to be some type of medical event.

Officers called for an ambulance and upon their arrival, medical personnel began evaluating the driver. The driver was then transported by ambulance to Lake Granbury Medical Center, where he was later

pronounced deceased.

According to Chief Mitch Galvan, Granbury Police Department detectives are still investigating the incident with the assistance of the Texas Rangers. Further information will be released when the investigation is concluded.

ROHLEDER FROM PAGE A1

cialist. After serving as an assistant principal in Keene ISD, she returned to Joshua ISD where she was named an assistant principal, curriculum coordinator, and later principal of Caddo Grove Elementary before coming to Baccus Elementary.

She shared with the HCN that she never planned to be a principal as she had always wanted to be a teacher in the classroom adding that "one day it just happened."

Since arriving at Baccus, Rohleder has helped lead the campus, turning it around from being TEA-targeted to elevating the

status from an F rating to a high B and narrowly missing an A rating in just two years. She also highlighted other accomplishments while serving at Baccus including Science Night at the Fort Worth Museum, to Christmas Village and Stargazing Parties to Family Bingo Nights.

"Baccus has become a beloved family that is working together to connect with families and community to strengthen student growth and achievement. I'm so thrilled I got to be a part of that," Rohleder expressed.

Rohleder plans to observe the GMS campus to see where it can continue to move forward in doing what is best for the students. After attending

a training last year, her interest in middle school sparked.

"This transition will give me fresh perspective and new experiences as an administrator. I'm excited to make an impact with students at different age levels and work with more amazing parents and educators in Granbury ISD," Rohleder told the HCN. "My goal will be to bridge the gap between elementary and middle school as well as tighten systems and procedures in order to continue creating a positive learning environment at GMS."

She shared with the HCN she most looks forward to seeing students grow at different levels while also getting to enjoy different

experiences with them. "Middle school is a critical time for students as they undergo significant physical, emotional and cognitive changes," Rohleder added. "I am looking forward to playing a vital role in supporting them in developing as a whole by providing resources and tools to meet their unique needs. I'm also excited for the opportunity to support the amazing staff at GMS."

Rohleder holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Wesleyan University and a master's degree in education administration from Tarleton State University.

Granbury ISD is currently in the process of identifying a new principal for Baccus Elementary.

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136 YEARS IN HOOD COUNTY
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THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS is published at 1501 S. Morgan St., Granbury, TX 76048 weekly on Saturdays. Periodicals postage paid at Granbury, TX 76048.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the HOOD COUNTY NEWS, P.O. Box 879, Granbury, TX 76048. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may occur in the HOOD COUNTY NEWS will be gladly corrected once brought to the attention of publisher or editor. The publisher is not responsible for copy omissions or typographical errors that may occur other than to correct them in the nearest issue after it is brought to his attention and in no case does the publisher hold himself liable for damages further than the amount received by him for actual space covering the error. The HOOD COUNTY NEWS is an award-winning member of the Texas Press Association, North & East Texas Press, West Texas Press and National Newspaper Association.

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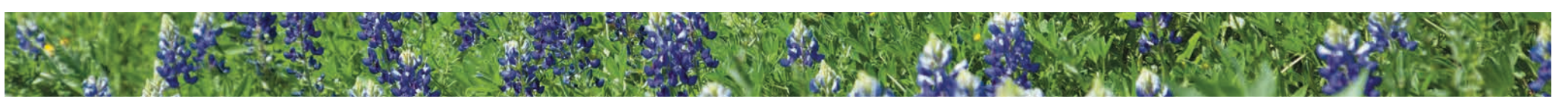
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POLICE BLOTTER

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. 20 — Feb. 26. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

FEB. 20

7:03 a.m.: theft of property reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 1:22 p.m.: credit card abuse reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 1:24 p.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 2:18 p.m.: animal bite reported on Crawford Court
 3:13 p.m.: theft reported on W. Pearl Street
 3:57 p.m.: trespassing reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 8:53 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 One major accident, one warrant service and 27 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 21

6:01 a.m.: suspicious ac-

tivity reported on Saphire Lane
 9:58 a.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:51 a.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:59 a.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 10:21 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on N. Meadows Drive
 1:15 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 10:34 p.m.: indecent exposure reported on E. Pearl Street
 One major accident, two warrant services and 41 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 22

12:34 a.m.: theft over \$100 reported on S. Morgan Street
 12:14 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on W. Pearl Street
 3:23 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on W. Pearl Street
 3:57 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S.

Highway 377
 4:30 p.m.: assault reported on S. Park Drive
 6:41 p.m.: assault reported on N. Park Drive
 8:43 p.m.: report of public intoxication on E. U.S. Highway 377
 9:02 p.m.: criminal trespassing reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 One major accident, two minor accidents, two warrant services and 20 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 23

8:05 a.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on Loop 567.
 6:51 p.m.: theft of property reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 8:17 p.m.: evading arrest reported on W. Pearl Street
 8:55 p.m.: alcohol offense reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:18 p.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 23 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 24

12:47 a.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 3:02 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on N. Plaza Drive
 10:16 a.m.: sale of alcohol to a minor reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:14 a.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 12:59 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on S. Ables Street
 5:18 p.m.: trespassing reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 7:40 p.m.: found child reported on Switzer Street
 One major accident and 14 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 25

2:17 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 2:50 a.m.: driving while intoxicated reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 3:39 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on N. Plaza Drive

6:34 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. Pearl Street
 7:05 p.m.: harassment reported on S. Morgan Street
 Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 12 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 26

1:24 a.m.: abandoned vehicle reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 5:13 a.m.: assault reported on W. Pearl Street
 10:47 a.m.: abandoned vehicle reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 2:20 p.m.: racing on the highway reported on Main Street
 3:35 p.m.: forgery reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
 4:17 p.m.: fraud reported on Swale Lane
 11:11 p.m.: suspicious person or circumstance reported on Crossland Road
 One major accident, a minor accident, a warrant service and 23 accidents were reported on this day

MARATHON

FROM PAGE A1
 and address local concerns, as well as support community development projects. Regarding sound mitigation, Thiel said Marathon has conducted two independent sound studies. While the studies showed that the sites operate “well within compliance of the state’s legal limits,” Thiel said his team is also researching noise reduction strategies like noise abatement and immersion cooling technology — both of which will be implemented sometime in March.
 “We have a technology division which is building some of the most exciting state-of-the-art technologies around immersion cooling technology,” Thiel

said. “How that relates to Bitcoin mining is if we can put our miners in emergency systems, they become extremely quiet to the point where you just don’t hear it because they’re sitting in containers of bubbling fluid basically. It’s kind of like if you were to walk by a stove with spaghetti boiling, as opposed to lots of fans and noise. It’s our objective that over time, all of our mining sites will migrate to some form of immersion technology.”
 Marathon Digital is currently the owner of Bitcoin sites in Texas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, United Arab Emirates and Paraguay. Each site uses a different cooling method like wind, immersion and even a hydroelectric dam.
 “We’re very focused on

renewable energy,” Thiel said. “We have kind of evolved as a company so that we focus on working with large utility operators to stabilize grids. We’re partnered with Constellation in Granbury as an example, to help them be able to provide balanced load to the grid. Whenever they need us to shed load, we’re able to shut down our systems and provide energy to the grid, so that additional generation capacity does not need to be turned on somewhere else. This essentially saves the consumers from paying for spot market electricity, and we do that across our portfolio globally.”
 Thiel said a new part of business for Marathon is energy harvesting, the process in which energy is

captured from a system’s environment and converted into usable electric power.
 “Bitcoin miners have a very unique aspect to them, where 95% of the energy you put in, you take out as heat, and we take that heat and feed it back into the industrial process,” he explained. “This is going to be a very focused area of our growth going forward globally, where we believe it provides us the ability to do two things. One is use wasted energy, but most importantly, we’re able to take heat that otherwise companies would have to pay to generate, and they generate it by mining Bitcoin. It’s a very symbiotic relationship with companies and energy providers.”
 Thiel also said with the technology for capturing

heat, he believes Marathon could eventually provide homes with heaters.
 “We even have some prototype heaters that we can show where you can basically plug it in and instead of you burning electrons to generate hot water, you can use electrons but also be mining Bitcoin at the same time,” he said. “Not that it will 100% offset your electrical costs, but it certainly could subsidize it.”
 According to Thiel, there are several uses for the technologies that Marathon provides that will help consumers, help business industries, and have a big — and positive — environmental impact.
 “We are obviously providing a very big financial

PLEASE SEE
MARATHON | A5

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

FRIENDS OF the Library \$1 book sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 224 N. Travis St., Granbury. Proceeds support the Hood County Library. Questions, call 817-408-2570

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@forwardtrainingcenter or call 817-573-6677 to sign up.

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting and luncheon Tuesday, March 5, at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. Come join us: 10 a.m.: social/check-in; 11 a.m. entertainment: Jackie Moore, country/pop/gospel; 11:30 a.m.: short business meeting; noon: optional lunch (\$18) house salad, bread and butter, beer-battered chicken tenders w/gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, chocolate brownies, water, tea or coffee. Reservations required no later than Friday, March 1. Contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898. General membership: single \$25, joint \$35, business membership \$35. The Opera Guild is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

PLEASE SEE
CALENDAR | A14

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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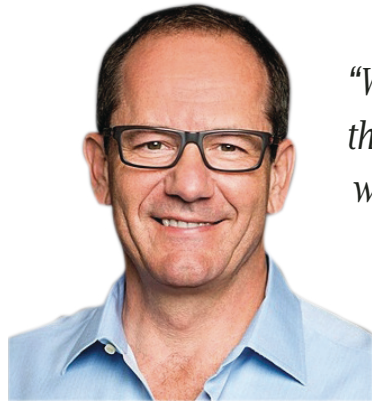


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Second Sonic coming to Granbury

Staff Reports

A second Sonic is expected to come to Granbury and will be inside a Valero gas station. There will also be a Fresh 377 Honey Ham inside the building. The site will be located at the corner of Loop 567 and U.S. Highway 377. The owners are local and are looking forward to serving Hood County while also supporting the school district. Currently in Granbury there is a Sonic located at 1155 E. U.S. Highway 377. There are two Valeros currently with one located at 902 E. U.S. Highway 377 and the other located at 511 West Pearl St. An expected date for construction to begin has not been released.



"We are obviously providing a very big financial and economic impact in the community, and we want to continue to do that. We work very closely with Constellation Energy, who operates the generation facility where we are located, so there are a group of us together working to address these issues, and we just ask that the community gives us time."

FRED THIEL
Marathon Digital Holdings CEO

County approves new stop signs in Comanche Cove

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court approved the installation of four new stop signs in Comanche Cove during a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27. Road Operations Director Donald Linney spoke to the court and explained that a request was submitted by the HOA to install stop signs on Arkansas River Drive at Brazos River Drive, on Colorado River Drive at Brazos River Drive, on Colorado River Drive at Canadian River Drive, and on Devils River Drive at Brazos River Drive. "Each one of these locations is at a T-intersection, and by the rules of the road in the transportation code, these all do match up with what the state recommends," Linney said. A motion was made to approve the request and it passed unanimously.

MARATHON FROM PAGE A4

and economic impact in the community, and we want to continue to do that," he explained. "We work very closely with Constellation Energy, who operates the generation facility where we are located, so there are a group of us together working to address these issues, and we just ask that the community gives us time." He said to help decrease the fan noise, Marathon has already started relocating miners away from the closest areas of the community and has started the process of immersion technology. "We hope to continue to be a great member of the community and develop the site again, as we add capacity using immersion technology. Immersion technology minimizes noise, so that you don't have these big fans blowing," Thiel said. "Our intention is to bring even more

economic value to the community by doing that because as we grow our footprint in Granbury over time, we are going to be adding jobs, we are going to be adding more potential incentives to the community, and we'll be paying more taxes, so we think that this is only good for the community — and we plan to be a great partner with Constellation Energy to do it." Thiel said he recognizes that the past unintended noise disturbances were under previous ownership, but that Marathon is committed to "abating those and being transparent in the process." In fact, Thiel said one of the reasons why the company is choosing to manage the Granbury Bitcoin plant itself rather than pay someone to operate it is largely due to the difference in agendas. "When you pay somebody to do something for you, they're focused on maximizing their profit, which doesn't mean they're focused on de-

living fully on your intentions," he explained. "We discovered over the years that working with third parties to manage our sites was neither the most efficient, nor the most effective, because they didn't have an incentive to optimize our productivity, and they also really didn't have an incentive to maximize the relationships with the communities." Thiel said as a company, Marathon is focused on serving its communities — which includes addressing concerns. "We have a team on the ground very actively involved in doing this and it's very important," Thiel said. "It's critical for us that we have a good and a mutually beneficial relationship with the community because when you think about it, we are going to be spending over \$650 million over the next five years and contributing over \$2 million in annual tax contributions to support local services. We're going to be hiring 20-plus

employees out of the local community. We don't want to have a situation where our employees' families are being negatively impacted by what we're doing, and obviously, we're very considerate about that." He advises residents to reach out to Marathon and voice their concerns to "build a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship." "We want to be a really good member of the community and collaborate with the community on providing great economic benefits to Granbury and its residents," Thiel added. "Please work with us. Don't work against us. Work with us." Residents can send an email to Granbury@marathon.com with any inquiries, comments or concerns. "Over time, we're more than happy to be able to provide site tours to people," Thiel added. "Just reach out at that email address, and we'd be happy to address any questions or concerns."

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Election Day is Tuesday March 5

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County opens courthouse office for Rep. Shelby Slawson



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Texas State Rep. Shelby Slawson addresses the Hood County Commissioners Court during a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to allow Texas State Rep. Shelby Slawson to use the office on the third floor of the Historical Courthouse without charge, during a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27. "I think that you need to have an office here in Hood County," Hood County Judge

Ron Massingill said during the meeting.

Slawson said she has the distinct pleasure of serving about 195,000 central Texans, as House District 59 covers the counties of Hood, Erath, Hamilton and Coryell — covering a little over 4,000 square miles.

"That's a lot of territory to cover to serve our people, so unlike some of my counterparts in the city, we have a lot of asphalt that we burn up getting to our people,"

she said. "We have — for the last several years — taken an approach to public meetings and mobile office hours in lieu of planning routes in any particular location.

"But after this last year, when we had about 1,900 constituent cases that we handled, we think it's time to try and have a fixed location and see how our constituents might utilize that, in addition to mobile office hours. We're very grateful for the opportunity to partner with

you and have a physical space at your gorgeous historical courthouse here in Granbury."

She added that geography is only part of it and stated that HD59 wants to be "accessible to the people we serve."

"We think this would be a great opportunity to do that," Slawson said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle pointed out to the public that it is not an unusual circumstance for a

government entity to "allow this to happen."

"Our state representatives only get a certain allowance for office space, which my understanding is you probably have already used that for any state funding," Eagle said, addressing Slawson. "We have the space and they're really nice offices. This is not unusual. It's not out of the ordinary. I just want to let people know that it's not like some kind of inside deal or anything


like that. It's not an unusual situation."

"Correct," Slawson agreed. "There are other state offices that do the exact same thing."

The motion to allow Slawson the use of the office on the third floor of the Historical Courthouse without charge passed unanimously.

"Welcome to Hood County," Massingill said to Slawson.

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First town hall-style school board meeting met with effective communication

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

The Granbury ISD school board held its first town hall-style meeting, allowing members of the public to speak on any topic of their choosing, followed by discussion directly with the board Feb. 26.

This style of meeting came after a change to the procedure on public comments was adopted in a Nov. 13 meeting. From that meeting, the board agreed to hold four meetings throughout the year to allow the public to speak on any topic. School board meetings since then have not allowed for public comments on non-agenda items.

The town hall-style meeting allowed for the trustees and GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn to sit on the same level as those who wished to comment. Members of the public were allowed to speak for three minutes followed by a board response, whereas in previous proceedings, board members could not respond. The new style allowed for back-and-forth discussion where concerns and questions could be answered right away or taken into account for further consideration. No action can be taken at these meetings.

The meeting took place in the GISD administration building, instead of the board room as Barbara Townsend, board president,



The Granbury ISD School Board held its first town hall style meeting allowing for members of the public to speak on any topic of their choosing.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

noted one trustee had the idea of moving into a larger room.

The hour-and-a-half long meeting was met with a majority of comments about the recent calling of a May special election to decide a \$161.5 million bond proposal.

Many people had questions regarding the bond, concerns about the added debt, and some praised the push for the bond to be passed.

Trustee Karen Lowery reiterated her opposing view about the bond noting that

people have informed her they cannot take on more debt.

"If this bond passes, the total debt of county citizens would be \$419 million," Lowery noted. She also shared her concern that the district is looking at the same demographic study used from the previous bond rather than conducting a second study.

Lowery reiterated that 56% of families within the student population are economically disadvantaged, and that these families don't want the burden of

paying for another bond for many years to come.

"There are people that are hurting. I don't think you're really mad at me; I think you're mad at all the voters that voted no, and they're voting no because one, they don't understand (the bond) and two, they're hurting in economic times like this."

Some community members requested an itemized list about the bond be available for the public, and Townsend shared that would cost roughly \$1 million dollars that the board does not have. The board

shared that a 13-page report regarding the bond will soon be available on the GISD website that goes into further detail about the bond.

Some public comments stressed the importance of better communication within the board, something Glenn agreed needs to happen.

"I think I can speak for all the trustees up here that they care about kids," Glenn shared during the meeting. "We do not always agree, but at the end of the day we all try and do our best

to fight for our community and our kids."

"I hope this has been helpful, and I hope that you have appreciated the fact that we could talk back and forth," Townsend said before adjourning the meeting.

The next school board meeting will take place March 25, with the next special meeting scheduled for May 28. The Feb. 26 meeting is available for viewing on the Granbury ISD YouTube channel at granburyisd.

Trustee Melanie Graft was not in attendance at the meeting.

Goosebump Jump sees another year of success



The Goosebump Jump event raised a total of \$4,758 and Happy Hill Farm, also known as North Texas Central Academy, took the prize with 88 jumpers.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Staff Reports

The community of Granbury came together to help raise money for charity when more than 300 participants jumped into the frigid waters of Lake Granbury Jan. 20.

The City of Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau sought community, civic organizations,

charitable organizations, and anyone brave enough to bear the cold to kick off the Winter Guest Tourism Season. The 501(c)(3) organization with the largest number of participants to jump is awarded the funds raised along with a \$1,000 prize provided by the Granbury Area Lodging Association.

"What a great way to kick

off any nonprofit organizations' budget than to start the new year with an instant donation," Tammy Dooley, director of the Granbury CVB said.

The morning kicked off with a temperature of 20 degrees but reached 31 degrees by the time of the jump. Participants walked down the "blue carpet" upon arrival

with snow falling and a new Goosebump Jump-branded arch along with a blow-up goose and 15-foot-tall water slide.

The event raised a total of \$4,758 and Happy Hill Farm, also known as North Texas Central Academy, took the prize with 88 jumpers. NCTA is a boarding and international Christian school located

in Granbury. The school allows international students to live in Granbury while getting both an education and an opportunity to participate in numerous extracurricular activities.

The check presentation was made Feb. 20 at the Lodging Association Meeting. Mission Granbury took home second place with 42 participants and

Rotary Club placed third with 38 jumpers.

To date, the event has brought in over \$13,000 to local charitable organizations. The Goosebump Jump is sponsored by the Granbury Area Lodging Association, City of Granbury — Visit Granbury, KHITS 95.5, JR Spas, Texas EMS and the Hood County News.



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Precision Diesel and Automotive is hiring for pickup truck and class 8 diesel mechanics. Pay is 20-45 per hour depending on experience, and you must have your own hand tools, and toolbox. Hours are Monday through Friday 7:45am - 6:00 pm, major holidays off. All specialty tools are provided. (682) 217-5949 precisiondieselauto@outlook.com 9151 Colony Rd, Tolar, TX, 76476

Stables Master 3 or more yrs experience in horse care and boarding, excellent people skills, repairs, plumbing, electrical, heavy equipment, carpenter and welding. Contact daniel@ppoaweb.com for more information. Ext 342.

Associate Golf Professional Golf experience needed, in charge of tournaments, private or group lessons, retail operations, conduct oneself with professional manner and professional image. Must have knowledge of total golf operations. Complete the requirements for the PGA membership and active classification of PGA America. Contact duff@ppoaweb.com. Ext 330.

Job descriptions available at ppoaweb.com under about us, then careers.
Great Benefits, Fulltime (40 hour) week, includes weekends.
(817) 573-2641

OTHER/NOT CLASSIFIED - WORKERS NEEDED Landscape company looking for general laborers. Pay dependent upon experience. DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED. (817) 326-2321 or (817) 243-5455

8510

General

CLASS A CDL DRIVER FOR EXPERIENTIAL MARKETING AGENCY Responsibilities: Travel alongside our tour assistants to some of the most thrilling events across the country, including fairs, rodeos, sporting events, and car shows. Your primary role will be to promote a leading automobile manufacturer by showcasing their products and engaging with consumers. Qualifications: Valid Class A CDL license with a clean driving record. How to Apply: Please send your resume, cover letter, and any relevant driving certifications to [bethanyh@newscope.net]. Please include "CDL Driver - Experiential Marketing" in the subject line. (817) 326-4277 bethanyh@newscope.net

BRAND AMBASSADORS/ON-TOUR ASSISTANTS NewScope Marketing is on the lookout for enthusiastic individuals to join us as Brand Ambassadors/On-Tour Assistants for our nationwide branded tour. This entry-level position offers you the chance to immerse yourself in the world of marketing and event management. Your responsibilities will include: Day-to-day project management, Event coordination, Event recapping and Staff management. Please apply in person: 5845 Acton Circle, Granbury Phone: (817) 362-4277 or send your resume, to {bethanyh@newscope.net}. Include "Tour Assistant" in the subject line. (817) 326-4277 bethanyh@newscope.net

- **EXPERIENCED POOL CLEANING TECH C & C Pool Service** is currently looking for an experienced pool cleaning tech. Will consider training the right person but prefer experienced. 4 day work week, 12 pools per day. Top pay for right individual. Must have own transportation. If interested please call Holli at 432-288-5574 (432) 288-5574



The Hood County News is hiring responsible, committed part time help in our insert room.

Competitive pay and great work environment.

Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.

Come join the Hood County News team!

8530

Food Services

Hiring at Granbury donut shop. Part time or Full time. Please call 512-297-5217

8550

Office Employment

Administrative Assistant, part time, minimum 20 hours up to full time if desired. Duties include accounting, bookkeeping, bank and mail errands, scheduling and calendar, \$20 per hour, Fridays are optional. Email resume to joe@eagle-resources.com

8560

Professional

HOOD COUNTY IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF DISTRICT CLERK

Duties of an Elected Official:

Specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by a district clerk. Duties are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the office. Please see TX Government Code Chapter 51, Subchapter D, Section 51.301-51.304.

The clerk of a district court shall be a resident of Texas for at least 12 months and Hood County for at least 6 months.

The clerk of a district court shall be over the age of 18.

The clerk of a district shall be registered to vote in area of office.

Serves as clerk and custodian of all records for the District Courts.

Indexes and secures all court records, collects filing fees, and handles funds held in litigation and money awarded to minors.

Coordinates the jury panel selection process.

May process passport applications.

Manages court registry funds.

Please send all resumes c/o Penny Weisend at pweisend@co.hood.tx.us

MARINE TECHNICIAN NEEDED Must have experience in boat repair/backing trailers good public relations (817)880-1883 macsmarinegrabury@gmail.com

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NOTICES

9031

Public Notices

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ACI Shops & Storage, Ltd. located at 1650 South Meadow Drive Granbury, Texas 76048 will have a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 10:30 am. Sign-in at the office. Property will be sold by the unit to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with a brief description of contents in each space. TONY LAMONT WILLIAMS, JR., microwave, mirror, clothes; SUSAN A. BINGHAM, glass cabinet, wooden shelving, tv tray, decor; JODY WILLIAM SMITH, truck and garage tool boxes, 55 gallon drum, fishing tackle, gun safe, tools, flags; STACY NICHOLE NEAL, trunk, shop vac, computer, toys, furn.; NORBERTO DEWAYNE WEBB, dolly, ladders, quickrete, oil lamps, piano, chiminea, antique typewriter.

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held for Honeycrisp Self Storage - Tolar at 205 Tolar Cemetery Rd., Tolar, TX 76476 on storageauctions.com starting on February 24, 2024 at 9:00am CST and ending on, March 6, 2024 at 10am CST. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture. BRAD DIAL TINA WOOD

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

LEGAL AD

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

BLUE BRANCH RANCH, LOT 59R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LEGAL AD

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

THE LANDINGS, LOT 3292R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, March 26th, 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.

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 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 YIELD Sign on Cripple Creek Court at Pear Orchard Road
b. Establish a STOP Sign on Arkansas River Drive at Sabine River Trail
c. Establish a STOP Sign on Devils River Drive at Sabine River Trail

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Tonna Lynne Newman, Cause No.P10326, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Billy Reese Newman in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Tonna Lynne Newman, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 27th day of February 2024

KATIE LANG
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

9031

Public Notices

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for RFP 2024-1 for Silent Panic Alert System.

Bid proposals are available online at <https://granbury.ionwave.net>.

The bids are open immediately and will close 3/12/24.

Please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087.

Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10:00 a.m., April 2, 2024. Proposals will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

Request for Proposal
Fire Extinguisher &
Suppression Services
RFP2024-01

Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at <http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1 Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing Web link: <http://www.co.hood.tx.us/purchasing.htm>.

Hood County reserves the right to award by unit cost or lump sum discount and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.

For additional Information, contact Hood County Purchasing Agent at 817-408-3440.

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9031

Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PERMIT NO. WQ0002678000

APPLICATION. Texas Water Utilities, L.P., 1620 Grand Avenue Parkway, Suite 140, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, which owns a reverse osmosis surface water treatment facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0002678000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0094412) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 160,000 gallons per day. The facility is located at 3227 Oak Hill Drive, Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The discharge route is from the plant site via pipe directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on December 7, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Hood County Library, Information Desk, 222 North Travis 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=-97.839166,32.487777&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 Texas Water Utilities, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Chuck Barry, Environmental Health & Safety Manager, at 512-531-6271.

Issuance Date: February 12, 2024



Governments are required to publish their decisions in the newspaper - including their intent to build a structure nearby that you might not want. But some officials want to bury public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

A CELL TOWER'S GOING UP NEXT DOOR OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

If it is not in the newspaper, how will you know?



9031 Public Notices

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

OWNER: Bluffdale Water Supply Corporation
P.O. Box 232
Bluff Dale, Texas 76433

Sealed bids for the construction of the BLUFFDALE STANDBY WELL, complete will be received by the Engineer's Office, 211 N. Ridgeway Drive, Cleburne, Texas 76033, until 2 o'clock P.M. CST, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The information for bidders, bid forms, form of contract, plans, specifications, forms of bonds, and all other contract documents, if any, may be examined at the offices of:

CHILDRESS ENGINEERS, INC.
Engineers and Consultants
211 North Ridgeway Drive
Cleburne, Texas 76033
817-645-1118

Copies of the plans and specifications and other contract documents may be obtained at the above location upon payment of \$ 50.00 per set. No refund will be made.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. A 5% bid bond, payment, and performance bond will be required.

American Iron and Steel (AIS) - The TWDB and all DWSRF financial assistance recipients will comply with the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirement in applicable federal law, including federal appropriation acts. Federal law requires DWSRF assistance recipients to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works.

This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information.

The contract is contingent upon the release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board and that the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder (or other approved method).

BLUFFDALE WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION
/s/ Dennis McNaughton
President

February 19, 2024
Date

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI)

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 175173, GHGSPDTX238, AND PSDTX1636

APPLICATION Wolf Hollow II Power, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 175173, Issuance of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit PSDTX1636, Issuance of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit GHGSPDTX238

This application would authorize construction of an Electric Generating Plant located at 8787 Wolf Hollow Court, Granbury, Hood County, Texas 76048 AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsroom/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on January 25, 2024. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the Hood County Library, 222 North Travis Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments.

PUBLIC MEETING. You may request a public meeting to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about 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. If a draft Air Quality Permit is prepared, a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision is required and it will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application and will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing regarding the portions of the application for Air Permit Number 175173 and PSD Air Quality Permit Number PSDTX1636 if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility.

A contested case hearing may currently be requested until 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments for this application. Note, if the applicant makes changes to its representations prior to the application being deemed technically complete that result in emission levels that are less than PSD thresholds, then the deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing will be 30 days after the last publication of the NORI.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the applicable portion of the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at 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.

Further information may also be obtained from Wolf Hollow II Power, LLC, 8787 Wolf Hollow Court, Granbury, Texas 76048-7736 or by calling Mr. Albert Hutton III, Manager, Environmental Programs at (610) 765-5316.

Notice Issuance Date: February 1, 2024

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

2040 Brandi Lane, Granbury, Texas.
Fri., March 8 and Sat., March 9. 8am-5pm both days. Something for everybody!

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Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

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Hood County News

Bite into a healthy lifestyle this National Nutrition Month®

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

As the temperatures rise and the days start getting longer, it's evident that spring is on the horizon — and what better way to celebrate the warmer weather than with a lifestyle check?

March is National Nutrition Month® — an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics where everyone is invited to learn more about making informed food choices, developing healthful eating and increasing physical activity habits.

According to eatright.org, National Nutrition Month® started in 1973 as National Nutrition Week, and it became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition.

While there are many ways to eat healthier this month, staying hydrated is undoubtedly one of the most important.

"What people don't realize is that 70-plus percent of people go to the emergency room thinking they're having a heart attack when they're dehydrated," Kevin Kiechler, president/CEO of eH8 Sports Inc. and Fuel Up Hydration, told the Hood County News. "Dehydration is a serious, serious problem. Dehydration brings about inflammation and inflammation brings about all kinds of degenerative diseases, like cancers, lupus and arthritis."

While drinking the recommended amount of water every day can be tough, electrolyte additives offer the same, if not better, benefits than drinking six or more glasses of water a day, according to

NationalToday.com.

Kiechler said surprisingly, the top hydration drink is milk. He added that his product, Wake, is a flavored hydration drink designed to promote jitter-free motivation.

"We have three products and all three of our products have a proprietary blend throughout," he said. "Wake has 100 milligrams of good caffeine. We have two grams of sugar and six grams of carbs, and you're gonna feel this feeling of well-being and no jitters or crash. What we've done is we've taken this formula that goes straight to cellular level."

Kiechler explained that everyone's body is made up of thousands of cells and 65% water. He said if you don't have good cellular health, "you have nothing."

"Your cellular structure is really what makes up your whole body," he said. "Cellular hydration is the key to great health. You've got to hydrate your system and you need to get it down to the cellular level because your cellular structure is the foundation of your body, your health, your mind, everything."

While Kiechler's Fuel Up product, Wake, focuses on motivation, the hydration drink Play supports cognitive function and concentration, while Rest pro-

motes restful sleep and rejuvenation.

Although staying hydrated is one of the most important ways to stay healthy, NationalToday.com also lists four other ways, like: choosing food over supplements, shopping the outside aisles in a supermarket, opting for vibrant colors like green or red vegetables, and packing your lunch.

"Cooking your own food is important. You want to stay away from sugars," Kiechler said. "Fast food is processed food, and you want to stay away from processed foods. Everything has to be in moderation."

Additionally, as food prices have skyrocketed, Kiechler said making your food at home is also more cost-efficient.

"If you think about it from a monetary standpoint, you can eat at home with fresh food, fix it yourself, and save a lot of money and eat healthy — and that's what makes a difference," he said. "I mean, my wife makes a chicken salad, which is so healthy. At any given moment, within 30 minutes, she can whip out one of the healthiest meals you will ever eat, and it's changed my life. I've lost 31 pounds in the last six months. It's amazing what people can do when they take the time (to eat healthy)."

He also added that eating the right foods is not just dieting — it's a lifestyle change.

"People need to change their lifestyle. They need to change their eating habits, drinking habits, and their intake habits — and if they really pay attention and watch what's going in their mouth,

they can change their lives," Kiechler said.

While nutrition is important, it doesn't stop at what we eat. Exercise is just as important. In fact, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics encourages making exercise an integral part of our lives.

"Something as simple as a two-to-three-mile walk does wonders for people," Kiechler said. "Exercise is always good for you. A lot of people see all these diet fads and think 'Oh, you don't need to exercise.' Well, that's true. If you eat healthy and you do the right things, you don't necessarily need to, but from a cardiovascular standpoint, and our overall health and wellness standpoint, exercise is a good thing."

Kiechler added there are three important steps people need to keep in mind to stay on top of their health: take preventative measures, take care of your body's cellular structure, and hydrate your system.

"If you take the time just to educate yourself on what's good or bad, and what you



COURTESY PHOTO

March is National Nutrition Month® — an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics where everyone is invited to learn more about making informed food choices, developing healthful eating and increasing physical activity habits.

can do to expedite that process, you'll be much better off," he said.

FuelUp can be purchased at fuelup.gg/hcn — a special link Kiechler created for Hood County News readers.

"Feel the difference," he said. "Money back guaranteed."

For more information on his products, Kiechler can be reached by email at Kevin@fuelup.gg.

While National Nutrition Month® is important, it's

also an excuse to reset, it gives individuals an opportunity to look and feel better, and it fosters a community, according to NationalToday.com.

This March, bite into a healthy lifestyle for National Nutrition Month®.

The statements in this article have not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

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Granbury, TX 76048
817-573-6917

Taylor A. Mobly
Financial Advisor
401 Temple Hall Hwy Ste3
Granbury, TX 76049
817-268-9137

Ty Andrew
Financial Advisor
716 E Hwy 377
Granbury, TX 76048
817-573-0488

Chad C. Carroll, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
2007 Rockview Dr.
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North Hood County VFD Pancake Breakfast



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Saturday morning, Feb. 24, a large crowd gathered at Warren's Backyard to enjoy a tasty Pancake Breakfast and support the North Hood County Volunteer Fire Department. The breakfast feast, which included pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, juice, and coffee, was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Pancake Breakfast raises a whopping \$8,000, which will go a long way in supporting the North Hood County VFD's mission to better serve our community.



OBITUARIES

Tamela Toniann Jenkins Foley

November 12, 1945 - February 23, 2024

Tamela Jenkins Foley, 78, passed away on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024. She was born Nov. 12, 1945 as Tamela Toniann Jenkins in Vernal, Utah. She was adopted by her paternal grandparents and then known as Tamela Ann or Tammy. She grew up in Oklahoma City. Throughout her life she primarily lived in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and the gulf coast area near Houston. Her last several years were spent in the Granbury and Stephenville area to be near her son.

Tamela lived the full spectrum of a complicated life. From affluence and privilege to lack and loss. From the greatest of opportunities to tribulations of choice. From highly educated to mindless decisions. She struggled, as so many do, with a lifetime of alcoholism. She also rose above it to sobriety for well over a decade. Late in life she returned to school to get a degree in mental health, and worked as a counselor to help others with addiction. She died sober and in a state of contentment.

Tamela made friends easily and enjoyed being around people. She loved to participate in any type



of game, especially Scrabble. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, and working crosswords and word searches. She also was very proficient in knitting and crocheting. She loved good food, especially steak, seafood and her daily chocolate.

Tamela was preceded in death by all her parents and was particularly close to her biological mother. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, son, Blayde Choate and wife Christi; grandsons, Stone Choate and Brix Choate. Sister, Candy and brother, Greg. Her sweet friend and caregiver, Cindy Cotten. The family would like to thank the staff of Granbury Villa Rehab and Nursing for providing a home of care and kindness.

Douglas Dewain Hutto

October 14, 1935 - February 24, 2024

Douglas Dewain Hutto, 88, passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2024, in Granbury, Texas.

He was born October 14, 1935, in Silsbee, Texas to Roy and Ruth Martin Hutto.

Doug married Janice Peoples Hutto of Leland, Mississippi on June 29, 1956. Their meeting was all in Gods plan, and He blessed them with an incredible gift of a lifetime love.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Robert Hutto, three sisters, Yvonne Davis, Margaret Jean Smart, and Martha Gore.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Peoples Hutto; his daughter, Darlene Copeland, and her husband Randy; his daughter Tammy Isom and her husband David; his son Kevin Hutto and his wife Teri; six grandchildren, Aimee Bleeker (Brandon), Nathan Copeland (Cameron), Doug Isom (Elizabeth), Drew



Isom (Lauren), Kyle Hutto, Brandon Hutto; and seven great-grandchildren, Blakey, Easton, Bowen, Cooper, Chloe, Harper, and Everett.

Arrangements are being handled by Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11am, Monday, March 4, 2024, at Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Hwy, in Granbury. The family requests guests wear cheerful colors in celebration of Dougs blessed and happy life on earth and his new life in Heaven.

Shirley Lee Ludwick

January 12, 1939 - February 13, 2024

Shirley Lee (Rainbolt) Ludwick from Granbury, Texas passed away Feb. 13, 2024, and is now walking with the angels. She was 85.

Shirley was born in Tolar, Texas to Harvie and Helen Rainbolt, Jan. 12, 1939. She had an older sister Faye (Beth) Hobbs and older brother Richard Rainbolt. After graduating from Tolar High School, she moved to Dallas and married, having two sons, Michael (Pflugerville, Texas) and Robert (Yorktown, Texas). She lived in Farmers Branch and Carrollton until retiring to Granbury.

Shirley worked 50 plus years in Richardson, Texas in the heart of the telecommunications corridor building secure switches for military and space systems with the following companies-Collins Radio (Rockwell International), Omega-T Systems, Electro space Systems (Chrysler Corporation) and finished with General Dynamics. She traveled the world for installations at military bases and NASAs space shuttle program.

After moving to Granbury, Shirley was very active in the community. She was Director of Programs with the Granbury Opera Guild, member of the Granbury Gardeners Club and a board member at the Tolar Cemetery. She loved attending Granbury Live and listening to music with her dear friends.

Shirley loved to garden, and her flower beds were always overflowing with blooms. At Christmas time, there was always plenty of cookies, pie, cake, and fudge to be had



by all. She tended her garden, she set the sun

This is the only place on Earth blue bonnets grow And once a year they come and go

She said that when I die, I'll catch some blackbird's wing

And I will fly away to heaven Come some sweet blue bonnet spring.

Her children, grandchildren, extended family, and friends were so fortunate to receive her love. Those already missing her so much Daughter-in-law Daphne Ludwick (Pflugerville, Texas), grandson Preston Ludwick (Shreveport, Louisiana), Granddaughter Whitney Ludwick Cathey (Victoria, Texas), Granddaughter Courtney Ludwick (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), Linda Coleman (Alpine, Texas) and her children, Peggy McFerrin (Decatur, TX) and her children.

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Proverbs 31:31 A Celebration of Life for Shirley Lee Ludwick is planned for later this summer at the Tolar Community Center.

Allen Roy Wammack

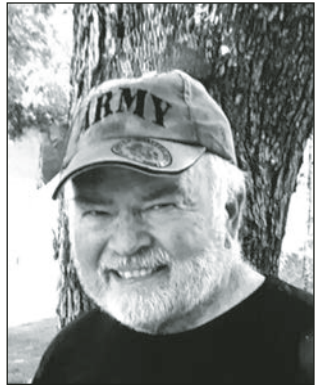
September 1, 1945 - February 23, 2024

Allen Roy "Fuzzy Face" Wammack, was 78 when he passed with his loving daughters by his side. Allen lived a rich and fulfilling life that touched many.

Known for his love of water and land, good food and adventures, Allen spent his free time sailing with his wife in his earlier years and riding his motorcycle with his beloved dog in his later years.

Allen was an active member of the American Legion, where he formed bonds with patriots who shared in his passion of Veteran Affairs. Allen will always be remembered as a kind and spirited storyteller, painting vivid stories with each adventure. His legacy will live on in each life he touched, story he told and each act of kindness he bestowed. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

A loving father, grandfather and great grandfather, Allen is survived by his daughters, Katherine Filbeck and Karen Stephen and spouse Martin. His grandsons, Michael Allen and wife Tess, Justin Allen and Christopher Andrew.



Great-grandchildren, Cielo and Ryan. Allen was predeceased in death by his beloved wife, Sandra Tupper Wammack and his father and mother, Roy and Jewel Wammack.

A memorial service was held on March 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, www.cure the kids.org, or to the Veterans Affairs, VA.org.

All were welcome to attend and celebrate Allen's life with a reception following. His spirit will continue to live in our hearts forever.

Ride on dad, we love you. Until we meet again.

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SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1 slightly wet
- 5 TXism: "went to the well ___ too often"
- 6 "don't put all your ___ in one basket"
- 7 "I will do nothing of the ___"
- 8 TX Willie & Kenny sang "We ___ the World" in 1985
- 9 moon to Houston on 7/20/1969: "The Eagle ___ Landed"
- 12 Beaumont University
- 17 TX Ellie Breaux was 1st Runner-Up of 2024 Miss America
- 19 TXism: "panting like a lizard ___ ___ rock"
- 21 "she ___ of the world" (happy)
- 22 in Palo Pinto County on highway 16
- 23 "___ a leak"
- 28 "___ areas" on Texas highways groupings of dominos
- 30 TXism: "happy ___ with two tails"
- 31 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- 35 Rio Grande City is seat of this county
- 36 TXism: "mean as a ___"
- 42 Lone Star Museum has a NASA Motion Base
- 44 "Texas Goes ___" (about WWII)
- 46 "she ___ on him" (unfaithful)
- 48 a tater
- 49 follows OT in the Bible
- 50 Haing S. ___ was in "Vietnam, Texas"
- 51 TXism: "___ piece" (distant)
- 52 Hobby arrival est.
- 53 Texas beach substance that's easy on the feet
- 54 TXism: "tax wranglers"
- 56 TX Strait's "She Let ___ self Go"
- 57 anger
- 58 U.S. intelligence agcy.

DOWN

- 1 TXism for "yes" (4 wds.)
- 2 Texas has the most of these mohair goats in the U.S.
- 3 in McLennan County on U.S. 84
- 4 Texas fire ant, e.g.
- 9 ten-gallon lids
- 10 TXism: "that's ___ his belt" (success)
- 11 oil or gas additive
- 12 "___ Ebanos Ferry" crosses Rio Grande
- 13 TXism: "ran like ___ burning stump"
- 14 TXism: "so broke I couldn't buy hay for a night ___"
- 15 what a cowboy has on his head (2 wds.)
- 16 lines of seats at Globe Life Field
- 18 dir. from Vega to Pampa
- 20 Davy's home st.
- 23 Alamo City (abbr.)
- 24 longest book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 25 stool pigeons
- 26 TX "Red" who was an oil well firefighter
- 27 this Bates was a momma's boy in 1960 film "Psycho"
- 32 TX George Strait's "___ Like to Have That One Back"
- 33 Texas-based "Lone Wolf ___ Quade" (unable)
- 34 "___ can do"
- 36 sedan or coupe
- 37 2,000 pounds (2 wds.)
- 38 make a hole with a chisel
- 39 TXism: "I've ___ overdose of woe" (sad)
- 40 TX Jamie Foxx won an Academy ___ for 2004 film "Ray"
- 41 one of 25-down
- 43 ___ Salle County
- 45 Texas singer, Orbison (init.)
- 47 cloth sellers
- 48 Dak Prescott aerial
- 55 "Hill Country State Natural ___"

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How can women bridge the retirement gap?

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Carroll

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day for celebrating all the accomplishments of women around the globe. But many women still need to make up ground in one key area: retirement security.

Women's challenges in achieving a secure retirement are due to several factors, including these:

- Pay gap - It's smaller than it once was, but a wage gap still exists between men and women. In fact, women earn, on average, about 82 cents for every dollar that men earn, according to the Census

Bureau. And even though this gap narrows considerably at higher educational levels, it's still a source of concern. Women who earn less than men will likely contribute less to 401(k) plans and will ultimately see smaller Social Security checks.

- Longer lives - At age 65, women live, on average, about 20 more years, compared to almost 17 for men, according to the Social Security Administration. Those extra years mean extra expenses.
- Caregiving responsibilities - Traditionally, women

have done much of the caregiving for young children and older parents. And while this caregiving is done with love, it also comes with financial sacrifice. Consider this: The average employment-related costs for mothers providing unpaid care is nearly \$300,000 over a lifetime, according to the U.S. Department of Labor — which translates to a reduction of 15% of lifetime earnings. Furthermore, time away from the work-force results in fewer contributions to 401(k) and other employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Ultimately, these issues can leave women with a retirement security deficit. Here are some moves that can help

close this gap:

- Contribute as much as possible to retirement plans. Try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. Your earnings can grow tax deferred and your contributions can lower your taxable income. (With a Roth 401(k), contributions aren't deductible, but earnings and withdrawals are tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.)
- At a minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered, and try to boost your contributions whenever your salary goes up. If you don't have access to a 401(k), but you have

earned income, you can contribute to an IRA. Even if you don't have earned income, but you have a spouse who does, you might be eligible to contribute to a spousal IRA.

- Maximize Social Security benefits. You can start taking Social Security at 62, but your monthly checks will be much bigger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, which will be around 66½. If you are married, you may want to coordinate your benefits with those of your spouse — in some cases, it makes sense for the spouse with the lower benefits to claim first, based on their earnings record, and apply for spousal benefits later, when the spouse with higher

benefits begins to collect.

- Build an emergency fund. Try to build an emergency fund containing up to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Having this fund available will help protect you from having to dip into your retirement accounts for large, unexpected costs, such as a major home or car repair. It's unfortunate, but women still must travel a more difficult road than men to reach retirement security. But making the right moves can help ease the journey.

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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 pro-

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

EVERY MONDAY PROMISES AL-ANON group meets every Monday at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, fellowship hall, west entrance, 303 W. Bridge St.

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

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 Griefshare workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

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

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

FIRST MONDAY ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT Group, join others to share concerns, 10 a.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall

Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

FIRST TUESDAY ALZHEIMER'S 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.

OBITS

FROM PAGE A13

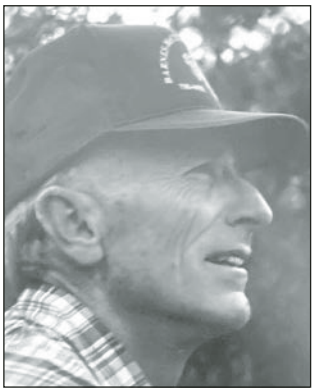
Richard Judson Conner

May 31, 1949 - February 25, 2024

Richard Judson Conner, 74, beloved father and grandfather, of Granbury, passed away on Sunday evening, Feb. 25, 2024, in Fort Worth.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., on Saturday evening, March 2, 2024, at the Wiley Funeral Home, 400 Highway 377 East, in Granbury. A graveside committal service will be held at 2 p.m., on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at Rough Creek Cemetery, in Granbury.

Richard was born on May 31, 1949, in Seymour, Texas to the late Jud and Emma Conner. He was a longtime member of the Granbury Church of Christ. He attended Tarleton State University obtaining a bachelor's degree in business in 1971. Rick, as he was known around the softball field, was an all-around athlete who excelled in many sports including softball and basketball. He was known for his hard work ethic all of his life and is probably best known for being the hardware man for many years at Barnes and McCollough in Stephenville, Handyman Hardware in Granbury and Ogle Brothers Service Station in Hico while attending Tarleton State. Richard will be remembered for his keen



sense of humor and for always being a 'jokester.' Most of all, Richard will be remembered for the love he had for his family and friends.

Richard is survived by his daughters, Cindy and husband Chad Chase and Janet and husband Steven Blake; his grandchildren, Conner, Cooper, Dylan, and Morgan; sisters Linda Slough, Janie Stalling and Patsy and husband Nicky Reynolds; his brother, David and wife Debbie Conner; the mother of his daughters, Linda Conner; his nieces and nephews, Jason, Jarrod, Joree, Ryan, Brad, Cliff, and Kent; and by many friends and family.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by several aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and his favorite dog, Dingo.

Wynn Garrison Stanton

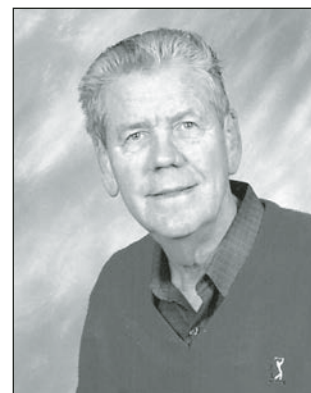
October 6, 1935 - February 6, 2024

Wynn Garrison Stanton, age 88, passed away on Feb. 6, 2024, in Dallas, Texas. He was born in Crowley, Louisiana on Oct. 6, 1935, to Dr. Albert Edgar Stanton and Averill Wynn Stanton. Wynn was raised in Crowley, Louisiana and graduated from Crowley High School in 1953. He received his local preacher's license from the Methodist Church while in high school and served as pastor of several churches in Louisiana while he was attending Centenary College. While at Centenary, he met and married Betty ("Jimmie") Earlene Brown from Hathaway, Louisiana on Aug. 10, 1955. Over the next six decades, they lived life to the fullest.

Wynn graduated from Centenary College in 1956 and received a BA degree, served on the honor court, and was a member of ODK Honorary Society. He attended one year at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU) before entering SMU Law School, where he received his law degree and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1960. He was a member of the Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity, served on the Law Journal, and was a barrister.

Wynn lived in Oak Cliff where he practiced law for over 30 years. He was appointed in 1970 to serve on the 15-member Tri-Ethnic Committee to oversee the desegregation of the Dallas Independent School District, including serving as chairman. Wynn was a devoted member of Glen Oaks United Methodist Church in Oak Cliff. He taught the Senior High Sunday School. He and Jimmie loved their time serving as Methodist Youth Foundation (MYF) sponsors where they educated, encouraged, and inspired young adults leading fun activities like snow skiing in Colorado, water skiing at their East Texas lake house, and hosting countless dinners.

After his retirement in 1992, Wynn and Jimmie moved to Granbury, Texas where he continued working providing legal pro bono services for those in need. He served on numerous committees including a three-year period on the



Board of Directors of De Cordova Bend Owners Association. He continued to donate his time and talents to teaching Sunday school classes and serving on various committees at the Acton United Methodist Church. In 2019, Wynn and Jimmie returned to Dallas and found home again within the community at the Belmont Village Senior Living Turtle Creek.

Wynn enjoyed playing golf, reading, playing bridge, music, dancing, and traveling. Wynn and Jimmie loved traveling including cruises that took them through six different continents. Wynn was fun-loving, had a great sense of humor, and loved writing poems memorializing special occasions. He will be remembered most for his compassion and countless acts of kindness. He had a heart for the disadvantaged and the underdog and never passed up an opportunity to lend a helping hand.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Albert and Averill Stanton; his sister, Sally Crawford; his two brothers; Bill Stanton and Albert "Bert" Stanton. He is survived by his wife Betty "Jimmie" Stanton; their son, Darrin Stanton; their daughter, Debbie Wilson; their two grandchildren; Chase Wilson Jr.; and Rachael Stanton Fowler and son-in-law Adam Fowler and their three great-grandchildren; Aiden Fowler, Kaylee Fowler and Kenna Fowler.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held this summer during the family's annual reunion in Louisiana.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared with the Stanton family at www.teddickeywestfuneral.com

CALENDAR from A4

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.

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. The program will be presented by Charles Pendleton, owner and curator of the Vicksburg Civil War Museum. Pendleton, the first African American owner of a Civil War Museum, will highlight Black history during the Civil War. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first-time attendees. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncentex-cwrt.com>, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

WORKFORCE SOLUTION Job Fair noon to 4 p.m. at Workforce Solutions 1030 E. U.S. Highway 377, Ste. 202, Granbury. For questions call 817-776-8046.

SALVATION ARMY Women's Auxiliary meeting, Acton Methodist Church youth building, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. 10 a.m. mingle; 10:30 a.m. meeting and program with guest speaker Robin Blood, owner B. Blumen Flower Farm in Godley. Farming florist gives all the dirt on sustainable gardening and flowers to grow in Texas. Lunch by Cotton Patch, potato soup / BBQ chicken salad, Dr. Pepper chocolate cake coffee, iced tea, water \$15 (gratuity included, cash preferred). Make checks payable to SAWA. RSVP to Linda 817-964-5166.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

OPEN HEARTS Holistic Fair 12-6 p.m. Psychic readings, reiki sessions, spiritual guidance and life coaching, psychic gift activation, energetic clearings. 817-559-3333. 616 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury. Questions call 817-559-3333.

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 friendshipcemeteryhoodcounty@gmail.com.

Going on a **Cruise?** Call our office to temporarily stop and start your paper 817-573-7066

Last Puzzle Solution

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S-1679

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
 Wolf Hollow II Power, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for:
 Issuance of Permit 175173
 Issuance of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit PSDTX1636
 Issuance of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit GHGPSDTX238
 This application would authorize construction of an Electric Generating Plant located at 8787 Wolf Hollow Court, Granbury, Hood County, Texas 76048. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



CITY MANAGER MEETING



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

This last week city managers from around the state of Texas met at the Granbury Civic Center to exchange ideas and experiences in the hope of increasing awareness and understanding of mutually shared problems. Granbury City Manager Chris Coffman was a participant in this convention.

Upcoming Business Trip? **Call our office to temporarily stop and start your paper 817-573-7066**

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Annual blood tests give a picture of your health

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

Blood work is a standard part of an annual primary care wellness visit because it gives a global picture of your health. The lab results help your provider check for certain diseases and conditions, see indicators of your heart and organ functioning, and track how medications are working. Nancy Wagner, MSN, A-GNP-C, nurse practitioner at Lakeside Physicians Family Medicine in Granbury, says annual blood tests are important for the long term health and well-being of their patients, even when they seem to be in good health.

“Annual blood work measures naturally occurring chemicals in the blood to screen for abnormalities that could signal an underlying disorder which may not show any other signs or symptoms,” said Wagner. “As your results are tracked over time, we can see whether the numbers are trending in the right direction or if there is a disease such as diabetes or cholesterol that could benefit from treatment to prevent bigger issues later.”

A basic metabolic blood panel measures the amounts of eight substances in the blood and a comprehensive metabolic panel adds six more measures. The lab results give indications of the function and health of your organs,

including liver and kidney, blood sugar levels, acid and base balance, fluid and electrolyte balance and nutritional deficiencies.

Glucose or blood sugar levels when elevated after fasting can be a sign of Type 2 diabetes, and very high levels whether fasting or not usually indicate Type 1 diabetes.

Calcium is essential in your blood for proper functioning of your nerves, muscles and heart.

Billirubin levels are an indication of how well your liver is removing the waste product from the breakdown of your red blood cells.

Total protein in your blood helps you build muscle, heal, fight infection and stay healthy.

BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and creatinine levels indicate how well your kidneys are removing these waste products from the blood.

Albumin is a protein made by your liver that transports substances through your bloodstream and keeps fluid from leaking out of your blood vessels.

Sodium, potassium, bicarbonate and chloride are electrolytes in your blood that control nerve and muscle function and maintain the pH balance of your blood and your water balance.

Three liver enzymes — alkaline phosphatase, alanine transaminase and aspartate amino transferase — are substances that allow

certain bodily processes to happen.

A lipoprotein panel measures the levels of cholesterol in your blood. LDL “bad” cholesterol is the main source of buildup and blockages in the arteries and HDL “good” cholesterol helps decrease cholesterol blockages in the arteries. Triglycerides are a type of fat in your blood. If your cholesterol or triglyceride levels are outside the range of normal for your gender, ethnic group and age, you may be at higher risk of heart disease.

Wagner says, “Maintaining your best health takes active work and attention as you go through life. Keeping a schedule of regular checkups and blood work can help identify any shifts in status that may call for lifestyle changes, medication or both to reverse a problem or prevent it from progressing.”

Even if you have never been diagnosed with a chronic illness or experienced a major medical issue, an annual checkup with your doctor supports your current health and the best actions to maintain and improve your health. Family history, lifestyle, age, diet and activity level are all factors that affect your health and your primary care provider can take all that information and their knowledge to help get and keep you on track.

MORE INFO

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a primary care provider, please visit: <https://www.lakesidephysicians.com/doctors-providers> or scan the QR code.



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Dear Residents of Precinct 2 in Hood County, TX,

My name is Fred Thiel, and I am the chairman and CEO of Marathon Digital Holdings, Inc. I write to you today with a vision of progress in regard to Marathon's recent acquisition of a data center in your community.

We approach this decision with both a strong sense of responsibility and optimism for the future.

We understand that while the site has previously been operated by US Bitcoin (aka Hut8), this data center has had unintended disturbances for nearby residents.

We acknowledge the past inconveniences as we prepare to assume full operational control by April 30. As the new owners and soon to be operators, we assure you that we are committed to being thoughtful and considerate neighbors - a commitment that we look forward to proving to you through our actions in the coming days and weeks.

The feedback we received during the town hall meeting facilitated by County Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, has been invaluable. We are grateful for the opportunity to listen and learn from you. In response to your concerns, we have initiated an independent sound study to better understand our operations and their impact on the community.

This study will help inform our efforts going forward and is an important first step in ensuring that our presence in Precinct 2 reflects the best interests of the community.

In addition, I want to reiterate the way in which we can add value to Hood County's energy infrastructure. We reduce or power down our operations during periods of high energy grid demand, which means that we will never negatively impact the grid's ability to provide power to the community. In this way, we aim to provide a valuable service to the local utility company.

In our efforts to maintain ongoing dialogue, we are hiring a local community member to serve as our full-time community liaison. This role is crucial to ensure that your voices are heard and that your concerns are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

We view our presence in Precinct 2 not just as a business endeavor, but as an opportunity to invest in and contribute positively to a thriving community. We currently anticipate adding 25-30 new jobs and generating approximately \$2 million in annual tax contributions to fund essential services in the community.

We stand ready to listen, engage, and collaborate on solutions that benefit everyone and enrich the ongoing story of this community.

Our team has set up a dedicated email address, granbury@mara.com, where we welcome your thoughts and feedback as we embark on this journey together.

We look forward to building a long and mutually beneficial relationship with all of you.

Kind regards,


Fred Thiel
CHAIRMAN & CEO
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GISD Unified Robotics teams qualify for state at Special Olympics Texas Winter Games

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Two Granbury Independent School District Unified Robotics teams qualified for the state championship during the Special Olympics Texas Winter Games held in Bee Cave Feb. 16.

Students from STEAM Academy at Mambrino, Acton Middle School, Granbury Middle School and Granbury High School participated in the competition, with two teams set to compete in the championship this weekend in the Dallas area.

The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change in K-12 schools and across college campuses. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports,



COURTESY PHOTOS

Students from STEAM Academy at Mambrino, Acton Middle School, Granbury Middle School and Granbury High School participated in the Unified Robotics competition.

classroom and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions,

according to specialolympics.org.

“Unified Robotics is like a division within our Unified Champion Schools, and we currently have five campuses in the district that are considered Unified

Champion Schools,” Sandie Sermarini, GISD occupational therapist, told the Hood County News. “One of the programs that they assist with is Unified Robotics.”

Sermarini explained that last year, GISD conducted

a practice meet to see if a Unified Robotics competition would be feasible, with Special Olympics providing all the equipment for the robots. However, by the time the parts were distributed to the students, the compe-

tion season was already over.

“What our high school teams did for us was amazing,” she said. “They held a showcase tournament for us, so all of our teams were still able to compete. We also paired with our Gifted and Talented program, so we were able to do the competition with the GT kids that were in seventh grade, both in AMS and GMS, so it wasn’t just our unified kids.”

Sermarini said after competing in the practice meet last year, there was a better understanding of how to get the program up and running this year.

“We actually had six teams this year. We had two over at Mambrino, one at Acton Middle School, two at Granbury Middle School and then we had one at Granbury High School,” she said. “Our team is varied from two team members up to four per team. The way that the teams are focused is we have to have a one-to-one ratio for a student with special needs, which instead

PLEASE SEE **ROBOT** | B3

Granbury law enforcement students headed to state conference

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Two of Granbury High School’s Law Enforcement and Forensics Student Association (LEFSA) students are headed to the state competition at the end of March.

Through GHS’ career and technical education program, several law, public safety, corrections and security career courses are offered for students to take. The courses focus on planning, managing and providing legal services, public safety, protective services and homeland security. Students on this pathway are encouraged to join LEFSA to gain additional experience and offer the students a chance to compete. LEFSA has been at GHS since 2016.

The students compete at Texas Public Safety Association-sponsored events, where each region within Texas hosts a conference comprised of different law enforcement clubs from each school within that region. GISD is in Region 1,

which typically has around 150 to 200 students who participate. Three of GHS’ students competed in the TSPA Region 1 and Region 7 competition, including seniors Travis Campbell and Skylar Rodriguez and junior Lily Wong.

Within the competition, there are five different categories including law enforcement, fire services, forensic science, legal studies and correctional serves. Students are judged based on the predetermined rubrics provided by TSPA. Students are ranked based on the number of points they earn out of 100 and must have one of the top three scores to advance to the state competition.

To prepare for competition, advisors will review the rubric and determine the needed materials and expectations to help their students earn the highest number of points possible. Students choose the top events they are interested in and are allowed to compete in no more than two events. The students practice frequently and often get advice from ex-

perts currently in the field.

Rodriguez brought home first place in fingerprint collection and analysis, earning a spot at the state competition. In this event, the student must complete two tasks while being timed. The student must locate and lift a latent print from a provided object and complete a fingerprint backing card within five minutes. The student then has 30 minutes to match an unknown print to a known standard using the overall fingerprint pattern and minutiae.

Wong will also attend the state conference representing Region 1 as a student board member, a position to which she was elected. Student board members are expected to organize and carry out region-wide service projects, help the Executive Council carry out its duties, and assist and support the regional representative at regional and state competitions.

“LEFSA students have consistently placed in both regional and state competitions each year students have competed,” Alicia



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Granbury High School Law Enforcement and Forensics Student Association students, Travis Campbell, Lily Wong and Skylar Rodriguez.

Gabrielson, a forensic science teacher at GHS and LEFSA sponsor shared with the HCN.

In April 2023, three students placed at the regional conference in four events and advanced to state — one

placed third in the Traffic Stop competition at the State Conference.

“We have several plaques, trophies and medals from the various event categories over the years that are proudly displayed in the pri-

mary law enforcement classroom,” Gabrielson said. “Mr. Payne, Mr. Turner and I love supporting our students. It is amazing getting to see them grow and the effort they put into training for different events.”

Granbury High School Student Council provides support for local nonprofit



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury High School Student Council donated two baskets filled with coloring books and crayons to the Ada Carey Shelter.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

As part of the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) State Service Project “See A Need,” the GHS student council is working to make a positive impact within the community.

The council has five committees, including DASH (drugs, alcohol, safety, health), energy and environment, pride and patriotism, outstanding student council and community service.

“All of these committees serve our community through projects that reflect each committee, such as highway cleanups, blood drives, sock drives, etc.,” Mann Vaghashia, student

body president and chair of the community service committee shared.

The students recently donated two gift baskets, including coloring books and crayons, to the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children.

“The children who come to the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children will love the crayons and coloring books the student council at Granbury High School collected,” Rebecca Freeman, program director of Mission Granbury shared. “We are most grateful and appreciate their support.”

According to Lauren Bednar, GHS student council advisor, as part of the TASC, the students are required to complete a certain number of projects each year following documentation and

submission. They also must attend conferences throughout the year where they meet with other student councils to undergo leadership training and project sharing.

“Not only are they graded on these projects and services, but they are also verified by TASC and awards are given to schools who excel in each area,” Bednar said. “GHS has won the highest award given, Sweepstakes — Outstanding Student Council in all categories, for the last six years!”

The GHS student council plans to continue to look for ways to help the community and continue to serve to make a positive impact.

Making music history

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
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Over the course of three months, three Lipan High School band students have made history for the district. Kerstin Hill, Rhett Paskett and Max Robinson made a name for themselves.

Hill and Robinson are se-

niors who play the flute and trombone, while Paskett is a junior who plays the bass clarinet. All three students have been involved in band since they were in fifth grade.

In December 2023, both Hill and Robinson competed in the All-Region band auditions and earned placement leading to a performance at Tarleton State University. Robinson also placed high

enough to further advance to All-Area and ended up finishing seventh chair – making Lipan history.

“It was very, nerve-wracking, but making history for Lipan felt like I was trail-blazing for the future of Lipan,” Robinson expressed.

On Feb. 24, Hill and Paskett competed at the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest in Stephenville. In this contest, students can perform a solo, or in a small group or ensemble.

“It not only involves hours of individual practice, but also scheduled time to rehearse with an accompanist, or with the rest of the ensemble,” Jameson Ash, Lipan High School band director noted.

The students choose the piece they will perform from a prescribed music list on the UIL website. These pieces are divided into three classes by difficulty.

“Unlike the All-Region band auditions, the students don’t compete against

each other, but rather against a rubric,” Ash explained. “They receive a score of division 1 (superior), division 2 (excellent), division 3 (average), division 4 (below average), or division 5 (poor), for their performance.

Both Hill and Paskett earned division 1 ratings and with this being the first time Lipan has competed, they are the first to earn gold medals.

“I didn’t expect to get a division 1 to be honest, but it feels good to be one of the first two to earn a division 1 for Lipan HS!” Paskett shared.

Hill said he finds the accomplishment empowering. “Coming from a small school, students are only offered so many opportunities, and I am so proud I was able to help pave the way for future students to have more opportunities.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Kerstin Hill and Rhett Paskett at a UIL Solo and Ensemble contest in Stephenville on Feb. 24



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Lipan High School Seniors Max Robinson and Kerstin Hill at the All-Region band auditions in December of 2023.



March marks National Save Your Vision Month

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

The month of March is here marking the start of Save Your Vision month to bring awareness to eye health and instill good habits around eye care.

The month traces back to 1927 by members of the American Optometric Association (AOA). In the beginning it was just reserved for a week of celebration before President Lyndon B. Johnson made it a national observance in 1963. Later, in 2005, the AOA house of delegates voted to turn the observance into a month.

The AOA performed a

study on eyes and how the workplace effects them and found that 104 million Americans are exposed to excessive screen time; among that number, 32 million did not see an optometrist.

According to the study, the AOA defined excessive screen time exposure as seven or more hours of screen time per day.

According to the AOA, “Those who spend greater time on screens are more likely to experience eye-related issues, including dry eyes, blurred vision, headaches, back and neck pain — this collection of symptoms is also known as digital eye strain. Even as little as two hours of screen exposure per day can induce digital eye

strain symptoms, which can range from mild discomfort to impacting a person’s quality of life.”

This excessive use of screen time has given rise to issues such as Myopia (nearsightedness), digital eye strain (DES) and computer vision syndrome (CVS). As little as two hours of screen exposure per day can include DES symptoms which can cause discomfort. If DES is unmanaged, it can lead to decreased productivity, exacerbate other undiagnosed eye conditions and may affect an individual’s sleep quality and mental health.

Screen usage was slightly elevated in 2023; as remote working and study conditions increased due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, daily screen time averaged six hours, 52 minutes.

The highest exposure to excessive screen time falls within the 30- to 39-year-old age group for both male and females, with the next highest being those ages 50 to 59.

PROTECTING YOUR EYES

Some ways to protect yourself from digital eye strain include putting your computer 15 to 20 degrees below eye level as measured from the center of the screen, and 20 to 28 inches from the eyes so that you’re viewing downward.

One can also take a pause from the screen for 15 minutes after two hours of de-

vice use. It is also important to keep in mind the 20-20-20 rule, meaning for every 20 minutes of computer viewing, gaze at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

It is also important to blink as much as needed to help prevent dry eyes, keeping the front surface of the eye moist.

For those who wear makeup, it is important to keep in mind the amount of makeup being used around the eye. The skin on the eyelid is both thin and susceptible to irritation and infection. Therefore, makeup wearers need to clean and sanitize brushes often and use clean hands for application.

Some other ways to maintain healthy eyes include

eating a balanced diet, maintaining a healthy weight, getting regular exercise, wearing sunglasses and avoid smoking.

One of the easiest ways to take control of your eye health is with regular eye exams — get a checkup at least once a year. It is especially important to see an eye doctor if your eyes are red, itchy, or you are seeing spots or flashes of light, have trouble seeing at night while driving, or get headaches after spending an extended period in front of a screen.

To learn more about eye care, speak with your local eye doctor or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at cdc.gov.

ROBOT

FROM PAGE B1

of using special needs, we call them athletes, and then with a gen-ed student, which is their partner. It’s really a program for inclusion to just make sure that our kids are having opportunities to be working alongside with their general education peers.”

Sermarini explained that the elementary and middle school teams had a different game than the high school teams, as they were competing with VEX IQ, which are plastic pieces similar to Legos.

“They snap together to build their robots, which is pretty quick and fast compared to the high school kids because they are actually using metal, so you have to use screws and bolts,” she said. “It takes a lot longer to build their robots and a lot more fine motor skills, so it’s a little bit of a different challenge.”

She also talked about how every year there is a new game, and each team goes through the design process to build their robot using different ideas and strategies.

“When working with each team on their challenge for the year, the most impor-

tant theme that I noticed is the friendships that were formed at each practice between the athletes and their partners and then working together as a team for the building, driving and working on the notebook to meet the robotics challenge for the year,” Sermarini said. “It’s always fun to see each student’s talents shine as a team member and find out what they love to do and how they can contribute to the team for their specific area, and also see how that changes throughout the season. When you hear the students yell ‘yes’ and jump up and down with excitement, it’s just priceless.”

She added that seeing the “kids being kids” in the overnight hotel stay was amazing, as they hung out with their teammates and families in a relaxed and non-stressed environment.

The following students and coaches were involved in the Special Olympics Texas Winter Games:

MAMBRINO ELEMENTARY — COACHES JUSTIN BURTON, DEB MILLER AND SANDIE SERMARINI

The Eels — 3707A
(Advancing to elementary state competition March 2)
• Brantley Kelly

- Alem Webb
- Finn Burton
- Harrison Ochoa
- The Super Stars — 3707B**
- Kyndall Huggins
- Karter Enix
- Ava Downs
- Natalie Balatti

ACTON MIDDLE SCHOOL — COACHES DANIEL SIFUENTES, AARON WRIGHT AND SANDIE SERMARINI

Taco Chacos — 76048A
(Advancing to middle school state competition March 2)
• Gavin Hutchison
• Bryan Valerio
• Layla Kowalewski
• Erin Huebinger

GRANBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL — COACHES ASHLEY GOMEZ AND SANDIE SERMARINI

Taki’s Dragon Bro — 76049A
• James Sherouse
• Jaime Rosas
• Hendrix Harvey
• Caden McCarthy
Bot Men — 76049B
• Alex Webb
• Konan Dagley

GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL — COACHES MICHELLE HUNSINGER AND SANDIE SERMARINI

The Spurs — 76047A
• Madison Crawford

- Alexander Pojas

Sermarini said Special Olympics covered hotels for all the families and coaches for the Winter Games.

“Many contributing sponsors have helped us to receive the materials for this program, educate our coaches, and register our teams for competitions,” she said. “We have been blessed with Tammy Hortenstine from Special Olympics Texas to assist all of our teams with VEX kits and with providing the lodging and transportation to the SOTX Winter Games events. Diana Fultz with REC has assisted our district with applying for a grant with Google to cover registration fees for our teams and event costs. Megan Gonzales and Wade Wilcox with Unified Champion Schools have been

our UCS representatives who have given us all of the support we have requested and needed throughout the year. Crystal Cote of the Silver Needle Design Company assisted with the design and fabrication of all of the team shirts.”

She added that none of this would be possible without Special Education Director Shelly Curtsinger, who worked with the team to make sure there was space and staff available to offer this program to the students at GUSD.

“We have embraced inclusion for a long time, bringing our students with disabilities into classrooms to learn in the same spaces as their peers,” Curtsinger said. “The next step, which we are learning through the Unified Champion Schools model, is

understanding how unified sports invites us to rethink the possibilities for all students to work/learn/play side-by-side.”

Curtsinger also thanked Sermarini for being “the catalyst” in contributing to the effort by “bringing us all together and moving in the unified direction.”

The Mambrino Eels team and AMS Tacos Chacos team are now set to compete in the state competition Saturday, March 2, in both Dallas and Garland for the elementary and middle school championships.

For more information about Special Olympics, visit specialolympics.org online.



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29	Natl. Vietnam Veterans Day
APRIL	
5-7	Oink! Oink! Fest - Authentic German-Style Pig Roast
8	On the Edge TOTAL ECLIPSE 2024 – see website for list of events
20	Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale
25-27	Granbury Wine Walk
MAY	
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Lady Indians' bid for repeat title falls short in regional final

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Lipan Lady Indians' quest for back-to-back state championships came to an end Saturday, Feb. 24 with a 50-41 loss to Nocona in the Class 2A Region II final at McKinney North High School.

Lipan, which entered the game ranked No. 1 in the state, ended the season with a 34-4 record and saw its 21-game winning streak come to an end. Nocona, No. 9, improved to 34-3 and advanced to its first state tournament since 1953.

The Lady Indians found themselves in a 16-8 hole at the end of the first quarter

and 34-21 at the half.

Ashlyn Clark led Lipan with 14 points, Finley Shockley scored 12 and Taylor Branson contributed 10.

The ultimate difference in the game was at the free-throw line. Nocona hit 14 of its 23 attempts and Lipan was 5-of-9. Nocona hit as many free throws as they did

2-pointers (6) and 3-pointers (8) combined, whereas Lipan hit six treys and nine 2s.

In the regional semifinals, the Lady Indians defeated Collinsville 60-37. Lipan built a 38-16 halftime lead and never looked back.

Hanna Gaylor led Lipan with 16 points, Olivia Benitez added 11 and Shockley scored nine.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Ashley Clark from game Against Tolar Jan. 12



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Taylor Shockley from the game Against Tolar Feb 6.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Finley Shockley from game Against Priddy Nov. 11.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hanna Gaylor from the game Against Tolar Jan. 12.



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Olivia Benitez from the game Against Tolar Feb 6.

Granbury swimmers look to build on special season

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Granbury High swim coach Charles Overton summed up the 2023-24 season that has now passed by simply saying, "Wow! What a season!"

The season, of course, featured 11 swimmers qualifying for the Class 5A State Swimming and Diving Meet this past weekend at the University of Texas in Austin. It matched the team record originally set in 2019.

"We graduated eight seniors from the class of 2023, and of those athletes, seven were regional A finalists who were big contributors to our 2022-23 season. So for us to come day-in and day-out and work hard to make up that ground was a thrill to watch every day," Overton said.

"Every meet was a growing experience and it obviously culminated in something really special. We could not be more proud of what we achieved this year. And while we will miss our outgoing

seniors a ton, the program as a whole took huge strides and we are thrilled about the potential going forward for whatever comes next."

PLENTY RETURNING

Sending swimmers to state is nothing new for the Granbury program. They were doing it long before they even had a regulation pool in which to practice.

But sending 11, well, that's something most programs would envy. It's twice as many as GHS qualified last season.

And, of the 11 who qualified, five are returning next season. Four of the five girls are coming back, with only Brenna Haynes graduating. The lone boy returning is Cameron Ward.

Also, four of the six state alternates will be returning. "The first big takeaway is that it shows everyone in our program that if you set goals, stick to the plan and put the work in, you will see the results. This momentum is great going forward so

that we can use this incredible group of athletes as an example to future teams," Overton said. "As for the athletes coming back next year, it is invaluable to get that first-hand experience in Austin.

"There isn't anything that can really prepare you for the state championship swim meet like getting that first-hand experience of being there, either as a swimmer or an alternate."

Overton said he and the team can use that experience to fine tune the plan going forward to see continued success and hopefully take the next step.

"Our goal is to continue to add to that number each season. This experience definitely helped make some of our returners hungry for another chance next year and taught them what we need to do to achieve more at the state meet," he said.

MORE THAN END RESULT

While the season may not have ended like Overton and

his swimmers wanted, he said sometimes it's about more than the end result. He said the journey tells more of the story concerning all the hard work and dedication.

Recapping the Pirates and Lady Pirates at state:

Boys 200 medley relay (Braxton Heffernan, Luke Basil, Bodie Chastain, Colin Lindsey), 22nd, 1:44.17.

Boys 200 free relay (Heffernan, Ward, Basil, Hunter Jones), 22nd, 1:33.69

Mylie Erez, 22nd in girls 50 free, 25.40; 24th in 100 free, 56.19

Heffernan, 23rd in boys 50-yard freestyle, 22.66

Girls 200 free relay (My. Erez, Avery Young, Haynes, Bailey McDermott), 24th, 1:46.33

Girls 400 free relay (My. Erez, Madison Erez, McDermott, Haynes), 24th, 3:59.06

Highlights of the final six weeks of the season included:

Winning the Carrollton New Years Classic in boys and girls divisions.

Taking back the district championship on the girls, despite not having any diving points (GHS has no diving team).

Qualifying every swimmer who advanced to the regional meet back to finals on the second day.

Winning two relays on the boys side at regionals. Before last season GHS had only ever won one relay.

Taking girls to the state meet in relays for the first time since 2020.

Qualifying a boy (Heffernan) and a girl (My. Erez) individually for state.

"This team had an incredible year, and nothing can take that away from them," Overton said.

LOOKING AHEAD

The team will be graduating nine seniors, including six who were on relays that reached state. Eight were regional finalists.

"The first thing that comes to mind is taking a step back, evaluating what worked, what didn't work as well and

what we need to adjust for the athletes coming back," Overton said. "Each team is different, and while we are losing a number of really great swimmers, this is an opportunity to see what we can do to reload with the talent that we have coming back."

"It definitely gives these returning swimmers a chance to show what they have learned from previous graduates of the program and let them finally have their chance to shine."

Overton said he and the swimmers are excited to continue the tradition of excellence set before them. He praised this season's squad for taking some huge steps forward to set a new bar for the program.

"It's been a blessing getting to work with such a great group of student-athletes," he said. "The future journey of this program looks bright, I am very excited to help see it through to its potential and keep the continued success going."

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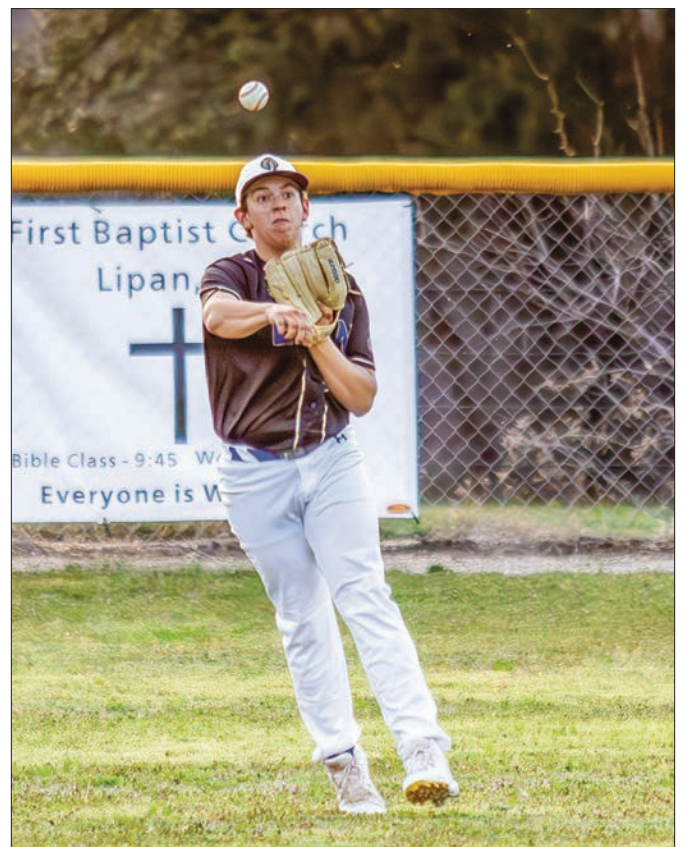
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Lipan Baseball



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Lipan Idians took on the Weatherford Christian Lions in a pre-district Game Monday Feb. 26.



Tolar Basketball

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Rattlers traveled to Weatherford High School and took on the Poolville Monarchs in their third round of playoffs. Ultimately the Rattlers season came to a end with a hard fought 47-36 loss.





PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar's state run comes to end in Weatherford Feb. 27.

Lady Indians' repeat bid ends in regional final, Indians advance to regional tourney

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The Lipan Lady Indians came up short of returning to state with a 50-41 loss to Nocona in the Class 2A Region II Tournament final in McKinney Saturday, Feb. 24.

The Lady Indians (34-4) were led by Ashlyn Clark with 14, Finley Shockley scored a dozen and Taylor Branson added 10.

In the regional semifinals, Lipan disposed of Collinsville 60-37 behind 16 points from Gaylor, while Olivia Benitez scored 11 and Shockley posted nine. "I'm proud of the way this group of kids came together. We graduated some big players last year, and these girls worked hard this summer and fall to get back to where they were able to compete for a trip to the state tournament," coach Amber Branson said. "They battled some larger classification teams early on, then beat Martins Mill twice and Tenaha in their own tournament. They were both highly ranked all season, and Martins Mill is now in San Antonio.

"We won district, and had a phenomenal playoff run. "We have high expectations, and even though we had a great season, the goal is always to win the last one. Unfortunately, only one team is able to do that, so when that team isn't you, it's heartbreaking, no matter what game of the season it is."

Branson admitted this loss stung a little more for her, with this being her daughter Taylor's senior year.

"She's had an outstanding career as a Lady Indian. I'm just going to miss having her on the court, leading our team, and sharing in those experiences with her," coach Branson said. "Again, I'm incredibly proud of these girls. I'm thankful I get to play a small role in their lives. They are ready to get back to work, and make another run

next year.

"Thank you to our school, community and fans. We are so blessed to live in a place that supports us, travels with us and loves us like they do. We are forever grateful."

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Indians (31-4) advanced to the third round with a 51-42 victory against Albany Feb. 22. Court Gaylor led Lipan with 26 points, with Alberto Andreatta scoring 10 and Darius Steed eight.

Lipán hit 12 of 13 free throws compared to Albany's 3-of-4 performance. The Indians then needed double overtime against Seymour before winning 69-63.

Gaylor again paced Lipan with 32 points, with Steed and Payton Cornelius each scoring 12 and Andreatta posting 10.

The Indians are playing in the Class 2A Region II Tournament this weekend in McKinney. At press time they were playing North Hopkins (28-7), with the winner advancing to meet Poolville (30-5) or Muenster (25-6) Saturday at 1 p.m. for the right to advance to state.

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rattlers (18-17) moved to the third round by downing Nocona 57-51 Feb. 22. Cayden Abrego recorded a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Matthew Behrens led with 17 points, while Tyson Ellis and Briton Rice each scored eight.

Tolar then met District 11-2A foe Poolville and saw their season end with a 47-37 loss. Behrens led with 14 points.

"Our kids had a lot to overcome," coach Scott Richardson said. "Deep football run (Rattlers reached state final), really late start, injuries coming out of that. They were so tough and kept showing up and fighting for each other. That's who we became.

"We erased a nine-point

deficit in the fourth quarter of Round 1, erased a 13-point deficit in the second half of Round 2 against a top-10 team. That's who they are, tough kids that love each other. Proud coach."

TOLAR SOFTBALL

Pitcher Reese Tryon of the Lady Rattlers (5-3) reached a career milestone with the 500th strikeout of her high school career in a home win against Fort Worth Country Day Feb. 23, part of a round-robin tournament played at Tolar and FWCD.

Tolar 15, FWCD 4: Allyson Dobbs three hits, home run, walk, two RBIs; Tryon three hits, double, walk, two RBIs; Senne Imel two hits; Jorgia Reed two hits, double, walk, five RBIs; Jaylyn Miller double. Pitching: Tryon five innings, two hits, three earned runs, 10 strikeouts, five walks.

Cisco 6, Tolar 4: Imel one hit, RBI.

Springtown 8, Tolar 7: Imel two hits, RBI; Milly Taylor two hits, double; Dobbs home run, walk, four RBIs.

Tolar hosts Glen Rose March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates (7-9, 2-6 in 5-5A) fell 3-0 at Azle Feb. 23.

The Lady Pirates and Pirates travel to Northwest March 5, girls start at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:30 p.m.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

The Pirates (9-8, 2-6 in 5-5A) blanked host Azle 6-0 Feb. 23 as Able Espinosa had a hat trick (three goals), while Weston Cantrell scored two goals and Pete Carroll scored one. Assists were by Kevin Espinosa (two), Robby Castaneda and Ethan Townsend.

Noah Robinson was the goalkeeper.

GRANBURY TRACK

The Pirates and Lady Pirates competed in the Brock Relays Feb. 22.

Varsity girls Team score: 49 points, 6th

Top individuals

200: 1. Baylee Goodman, 26.25
Pole vault: 1. Julia Crum, 8-0

High jump: 3. Goodman
4x100 relay: 3. (Tamea Busby, Crum, Jayla Hayes, Goodman)

Varsity boys Team score: 147, 2nd 3200: 1. Jaxon Glenn, 10:04.16

1600: 1. Glenn, 4:44.64
800: 1. Alec Wilkinson, 2:07.01; 3. Aiden Lemmens

400: 1. Caden Davis, 53.73; 2. Matthew Pitts
4X100 relay: 1. (Davis, Elijah Johnston, Jadon Rogers, Kaleb Johnston), 43.02

4X200 relay: 1. (Michael Grant, Rogers, K. Johnston, E. Johnston), 1:30.62

100: 2. Rogers
High jump: 2. Miller Schenewark, 3. E. Johnston, 6. Meyer

Pole vault: 3. Bryce Hager

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates (4-9) competed in the Mansfield Tournament this past weekend.

Abilene Wylie 2, Granbury 0

Granbury 9, Irving Nimitz 4: Hannah Dafoe three hits, three RBIs; Rachel Venable two hits, triple, two RBIs; Amanda Periman two hits, double, RBI; Allison Dafoe two hits, RBI. Pitching: A. Dafoe three innings, four hits, four earned runs, five strikeouts, three walks.

Corsicana 5, Granbury 4: Preslee Carnes two hits; H. Dafoe double, walk, two RBIs.

Keller 6, Granbury 1: H. Dafoe double, RBI.

Waxahachie 15, Granbury 7: A. Dafoe double, two RBIs. Mansfield Lake Ridge 5, Granbury 0.

Granbury begins District 5-5A play March 5 at Brewer at 6:30 p.m.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates (5-1) hosted their own tournament at Tidwell Field this past weekend.

Chisholm Trail 7, Granbury 6: Levi Martinez three hits, two doubles; Easton Bleeker two hits, two RBI; Hunter Jones two hits, double, RBI; Jackson Arnett triple.

Granbury 6, Lubbock 1: Bleeker three hits, two RBIs; Tyler Crites two hits, two RBIs; Eli Sisco two hits. Pitching leaders: Arnett three innings, two hits, three strikeouts, two walks; Cooper Brown four innings, one hit, one earned run, eight strikeouts, five walks.

Granbury 9, Trinity Valley 1: Gavin Current four hits, double, triple; Bleeker two hits, four RBI; Arnett double, walk, RBI; Hudson Hamilton triple. Pitching leader: Hamilton six innings, three hits, one earned run, four strikeouts, one walk.

Granbury 7, Burseson 4: Current two hits; Sisco two hits, double. Pitching leader: Noah Madearis 4.2 innings, three hits, two earned runs, six strikeouts, two walks.

Granbury 6, Lubbock Coronado 3: Braxton Heffernan two hits, RBI.

Granbury 6, Birdville 5: Martinez three hits; Bleeker three hits, two doubles, walk, three RBIs; Heffernan two hits; Jones two hits. Pitching: Heffernan five innings, six hits, three earned runs, four strikeouts, one walk; Murphy Page one inning, one earned run, one strikeout, one walk, save.

Granbury will play in the Northwest Tournament March 7-9.

TOLAR BASEBALL

The Rattlers (2-0-1) competed in the Bangs/Early Tournament this past weekend to open the season.

Tolar 16, Bangs 3: Talon Brown two hits, hit by pitch, two RBIs; Cutter Cain two hits, double, RBI; Drake Owens two hits, two walks; Jesse Owen home run, walk, hit by pitch, three RBIs. Pitching leader — Owen five innings, three hits, one earned run, seven strikeouts, three walks.

Tolar 24, Goldthwaite 0: Owen three hits, two home runs, eight RBI; Brown two

hits, home run, walk, three RBIs; Owens double, walk, RBI; Rowdy Tryon double, RBI; Cain triple, hit by pitch, RBI; Hunter Michels home run, RBI. Pitching leader — Tryon three innings, one hit, four strikeouts, two walks.

Tolar 4, Early 4: Brown double, triple; Owen triple, two RBIs.

Tolar is competing in the Walker Stallcup Tournament March 7-9 in Bowie and Henrietta.

GRANBURY BOYS POWERLIFTING

The Pirates took third at district on Feb. 20. Winning first place were Davin Jones and Enrique Sanchez.

Gavin Osko, Moses Meis, Chase Cantrell and Jose Hernandez placed second, with Cameron James and Rylan Brenish taking third. Finishing fifth were Gary Osko, Nhat Hoang and Lucas Dimas.

The list of regional qualifiers will be released this week. Regionals are March 8 in Abilene.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates shot 523 in the Tall City Invitational in Midland Feb. 16-17. The second round was only nine holes due to cold conditions.

Leading the Pirates was Jackson Vaughn (81-43), Landon Womack (85-45), Parker Jones (86-47), Grady Molder (91-45), and Quinn Bradley (94-47).

The four lowest scores comprise the team total.

GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates competed in the Burseson Tournament Feb. 15.

Katie Childs, second, Girls A Singles.

McKenna Moreno/Jackson Folger, second in Mixed Doubles B.

Roland Krause, third, Boys A Singles.

Mandi Labelle, third, Girls B Singles.

Ava Hamrick/Paloma Sandoval, Girls Doubles A.

Justin Rios/Braxton Bailey, third, Boys Doubles B.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY

The Tolar Lady Rattlers celebrate pitcher Reese Tryon recording the 500th strikeout of her high school career.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY

The Tolar Rattlers basketball team celebrate winning their area round basketball playoff game to advance to the third round.

SAME PAPER

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

TSU Baseball sweeps Northern Colorado in 4-game series

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The Texans claim their fifth consecutive win of the season at home over the Northern Colorado Bears Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

Tarleton State (6-2, 0-0 WAC) closed out the four-game series with another win over Northern Colorado (0-8, 0-0 Big Sky) with a 7-6 final.

Braydon Risley started out on the mound for the Texans, pitching 5.2 innings, giving up four runs on eight hits, walking one and earning four strikeouts. Jake Storey took the bump for the Bears pitching 3.2 innings, giving up two runs on four hits and walking five.

Zach Poe (W, 1-0) got the win for the Purple and White, pitching 1.1 innings, giving up two runs on one hit, walking three and striking out one. Tanner Carter (S, 1) took the save in the ninth pitching 0.2 innings, giving up one hit, no runs, no walks and no strikeouts. Dylan Smith (L, 0-2) took the loss for the visiting team, pitching 1.0 inning, giving up three runs on four hits, walking two and striking out three.

Tarleton State claimed seven runs on nine hits. Cole Mears led the home team at the plate with a home run for his second on the season and the only double for the Texans. Tyson Drake led in stolen bases, claiming the only one of the game.

The Bears saw one double from the plate and two home runs.

The first two innings were scoreless for both sides but in the bottom of the third, Mears cranked the ball over the right center wall for the first run on the board.

The top of the fourth was kind to the visiting team with two runs to take the lead for UNC. With a runner on first, James Wright homered to left center to tally two for the Bears.

Drake walked and stole second to start the Texans off in the bottom of the fourth. Mason Hammonds walked and Mears took first after being hit at the plate to see the bases loaded. Brandon Howell walked, bringing in a run for Tarleton State to tie the game at 2-2. A ground out closed out the inning for the Purple and White, leaving three on.

In the sixth inning, Zain Zinicola singled to center



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans claim their fifth consecutive win of the season at home over the Northern Colorado Bears Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

field to see a runner on for Northern Colorado and a home run from Brandon Stricklin brought in two runs to see the visiting team retake the lead by two.

The Texans came in hot in the bottom of the seventh after a walk saw the home team immediately on base. Kooper Shook singled to third to put two Texans on and a single to right field from Morrison sent

Howell across home plate. Crews singled up the middle to see Shook come home and tie the game up at 4-4.

In the bottom of the eighth, Mears doubled to center-field to start the home team off strong. Howell took a hit at the plate to put a second Texan on. A pair of fly outs to right field saw Mears advance and then score to take the lead for Tarleton State.

With Morrison taking first after being hit at the plate, Sergio Guerra singled to left field to see Howell take home for the Purple and White for a 6-4 score. Russell walked and Drake was hit at the plate to bring in the final run for the home team.

Northern Colorado found a bit of fight in the top of the ninth after Caden Wagner took a hit at home, a pair of

walks loaded the bases for the Bears. With Carter coming in for Poe and one out on the board, Jackson Meier singled to right field to bring in the fifth run for UNC. Zinicola was next in the box and reached on fielder's choice to see Kenny cross home to make the final score 7-6. A groundout to first closed out the game, leaving two on for Northern Colorado.

Texans beat Lions in Commerce for first time since 2016, get revenge walk-off win over Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha

Tarleton State University

COMMERCE — Tarleton State will not give up and it showed more than ever on the weekend of Feb. 23-Feb. 25 with the Texan's two big wins.

The Texans, now 8-6 on the

season, took down the Lions of Texas A&M-Commerce (5-10) for the first time at their place since April 1, 2016. In game one of the day, the Purple and White took down Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha (9-6) with a 4-3 walk-off double by Katy

Schaefer.

"I thought we did a better job of grinding out our at bats today," said head coach Mark Cumpian. "Our pitchers pounded the zone with strikes and did a good job of keeping us within striking distance. I am proud of the

full team effort tonight. We will need the same energy going into tomorrow."

Tarleton State 4 Nebraska-Omaha 3

Game one of the day was just what the Texans needed to get things going again. After falling 9-0 on Friday, Tarleton State came out Saturday hungry for a win over the Mavericks.

The Mavericks got the scoring started plating three runs in the top of the fourth. The first run came off a double to left field by Sydney Ross scoring Ava Rongisch. The second and third runs were tacked on after Lynsey Tucker reached on an error and Alex Olson and Ross were able to cross the plate.

The Texans didn't wait long to get on the board scoring two in the bottom of the fourth. Austin Germain doubled to right center scoring Bella Hernandez who pinch ran for Schaefer after she reached on a fielder's choice, and Kelci Hill who reached base with a single up the

middle to open the bottom of the inning.

In the following inning the Texans tied things up at three as Schaefer doubled to right center scoring Avery Songer. Songer reached base after drawing a walk.

The score remained tied at three heading into the bottom of the seventh giving Tarleton State the opportunity to take the second matchup with Nebraska-Omaha in walk-off fashion. The Texans capitalized on the opportunity as Schaefer once again came through clutch as she doubled down the left field line, scoring Kayla Wallace and walking off the 2023 Summit League Champions.

Alexa Rehmeier went the distance for the Texans giving up just three runs (one earned) on seven hits, striking out two and walking four.

Tarleton State 2 Texas A&M-Commerce 0

After securing the first win of the day, the Texans attention turned to the host, Texas A&M-Commerce.

Baserunners and hits were a rarity for both teams during the nightcap as there was just a combined eight hits on the game.

The matchup with the Lions was a pitchers dual through seven innings before the Texans scored the go-ahead runs in the top of the eighth.

Kelci Hill got on base in the top half of the eighth inning as she singled to center. Tristyn Trull then flashed her muscles for the first time this season sending a two-run long ball over the left field fence. This marked the only scoring from either team in the first matchup in Commerce since May of 2019.

This is Trull's first home run of the season and the fifth of her career.

Hannah Blincoe went all eight innings for the Texans giving up just three hits, striking out seven and walking just a single batter. Her seven strikeouts mark a career-high and she now leads the team with 17 strikeouts on the season over 29 innings of work.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans, now 8-6 on the season, took down the Lions of Texas A&M-Commerce. In game one of the day, the Purple and White took down Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha (9-6) with a 4-3 walk-off double by Katy Schaefer.

Tarleton Beach Volleyball debuts, ends opening tournament with 1st win

Tarleton State University

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Tarleton State Beach Volleyball left its first tournament of the inaugural season with a win, finishing 1-3 overall at McNeese's Cowgirl Beach Bash in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The Texans (1-3) dropped their opening pair in the event Friday Feb. 23, 5-0 to No. 20 Cal Poly and 4-1 to the host McNeese. On Saturday, Feb. 24, Tarleton split the pair, enduring a 5-0 loss to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, then defeating Nicholls State 4-1 for its first win as a program.

"The McNeese Cowgirl Beach Bash was a great season opener to be a part of," head coach Tatyana Tuiali-Umi said. "We faced a lot of tough competition and I'm very proud of how quickly we were able to adjust and play to our strengths all across the board. Our Sandy Texans pushed back harder each

match as the tournament went on and really bought in to the idea of doing the little things right. I'm so proud of these girls for securing our first win in program history!"

Tarleton's first match in program history was about as tough as it could come, with the Mustangs slotted No. 20 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Coaches Poll, the official poll recognized by the NCAA. Cal Poly is ranked as high as No. 13 by CollegeBeachVB.com.

Cal Poly took all five matches in straight sets. At No. 1, Ella Connor and Izzy Martinez defeated Emma Halcomb and Allison Bryant 21-9 21-12. In the 2's, Piper Ferch and Erin Inskeep took down Grayson Schirpik and Breanna McDonough 21-15 21-11. In the 3's, Piper Naess and Quinn Perry beat Melina Maldonado Ortiz and Charlyze Ching 21-5 21-6. As for the Pair 4's, Emma Zuffelato and Sydney Terrell

took down Isabel Gonzaba and Tatum Busch 21-14 21-13. In the 5's, Julia Soeller and Katie Clevenger defeated Sydney Garrison and Rajini Fitzmaurice 21-12 21-12.

In Tarleton's second match of the day, it took on the host McNeese Cowgirls, who are also playing their inaugural season. The Texans got a win at Pair 5, as Garrison and Fitzmaurice won 19-21 22-20 15-7. McNeese won the other four matches, defeating Halcomb and Bryant 21-19 21-16 at No. 1, Schirpik and McDonough 21-18 21-19 at No. 2, Maldonado Ortiz and Ching 21-16 21-17 at No. 3, and Gonzaba and Busch 21-16 21-19 at No. 4.

On Saturday, the Texans first took on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to start. Last year, the Islanders advanced to the NCAA Tournament, finishing 21-13 overall. On Saturday, they knocked off the Texans 5-0, winning 21-11 21-10 over Halcomb



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Beach Volleyball left its first tournament of the inaugural season with a win, finishing 1-3

and Bryant at No. 1, 21-14 21-12 over McDonough and Schirpik at No. 2, 21-9 21-10 over Maldonado Ortiz and Ching at No. 3, 21-16 21-14 over Garrison and Fitzmaurice at No. 4, and 21-10 21-11 over Gonzaba and Busch at No. 5.

In Tarleton State's team win over Nicholls State, they won four pair matches at Nos. 1, 2,

4 and 5. At No. 1, Tarleton's Halcomb and Bryant won 21-14 21-14. At No. 2, McDonough and Schirpik won 22-20 21-19. At No. 4, Garrison and Fitzmaurice won 21-15 21-19. At No. 5, Gonzaba and Busch won 21-15 21-19. Nicholls State won at No. 3 21-12 21-19 over Maldonado Ortiz and Ching. Cal Poly left the tourna-

ment a perfect 4-0 and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi went 3-1. Tarleton State, McNeese and Nicholls State all beat each other, going 1-3 at the event.

The Texans host their lone home matches of the season March 22 against Texas A&M-Kingsville at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Tarleton Beach Volleyball courts.

GAME ON

Physics games

Fun games with real-world physics



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

Here are a couple of quick-to-play physics games that will keep you entertained for a few of hours.

'Physics games' usually assign physical properties to objects in the game, and the puzzle is learning how to manipulate those physical

properties to manipulate the object.

DONUT COUNTY

Meet BK, a hole-driving raccoon working for the local donut shop. His job is to deliver donuts (holes) to the citizens of Donut County. Every time he delivers a donut, he gets points in his game, and his raccoon employers get more trash.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY ANNA PURNA INTERACTIVE

The Honking Man gets a donut.

Each delivery starts with a little hole, and the task is to drive the hole around, finding tiny little things to swallow up. As the hole swallows more and more stuff, it gets bigger and bigger, until finally it's swallowing up cars, trees, rocks and even houses.

Finally BK falls into one of his own holes, and is confronted by Mira, his best friend, and the rest of the town, 999 feet underground. They want answers — and they want their stuff back.

Gameplay is two hours at most. I'm at three hours, and I played it through twice. It's a cute game! It's fun to move the hole around and find all the little things that will fall in it.

There's a little too much story in this game, in my opinion. They could have skipped some of the story and inserted another

puzzle, but it's still worth playing. The game, developed by Ben Esposito and published by Annapurna Interactive, retails at \$12.99 on SteamOS. Or grab it when it goes on sale, like I did.

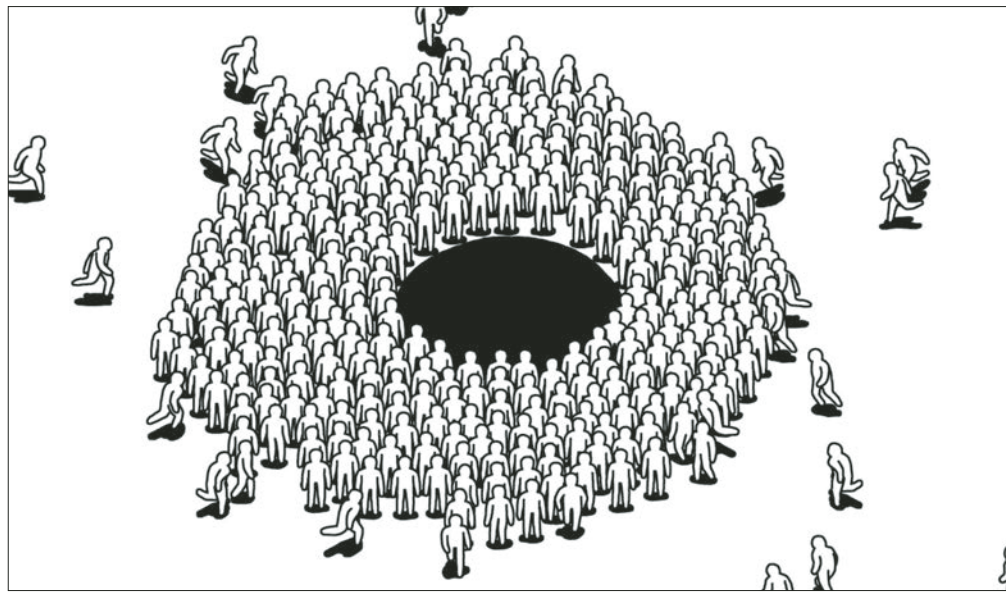
KIDS

KIDS is a short, interactive animation, drawn by Michael Frei and coded by Mario von Rickenbach. Gameplay is only about one-and-a-half hours. Each 'scene' starts with one or more of a generic human figure. Each figure has certain physical properties, just like matter. Sometimes they attract, sometimes they repel. Sometimes they move as if they're suspended in water. They are defined by how they relate to one another while at the same time being featureless.

From the KIDS website (<https://playkids.ch/presskit/>) "KIDS was made

using traditional 2D hand-drawn line animation in black and white. The animation was assembled, composited and choreographed using a game engine with a custom-made animation system in conjunction with physics simulations."

KIDS also exists as an art installation and a short movie. The installation premiered at the Museum of Digital Arts (MuDA) in Zürich, Switzerland in February 2018. It's toured around the world and has been exhibited at several gaming festivals and digital art galleries. The installation is divided into three parts: interactive scenarios, an installation of up to 50 puppets and a presentation of the production process.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY PLAYABLES

In this scene each figure will fall into the hole when clicked.

HOOD COUNTY OUTDOORS

Tilapia frenzy at Comanche Creek



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.

Sometimes invasive species show up unexpectedly. This has happened on Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) reservoir. Many anglers are concerned that the tilapia will hurt the largemouth bass species, and this is a valid concern. Tilapia are a non-native species typically used to control algae growth in farm ponds/tanks. They are also raised for food as many of you know. You can purchase tilapia fillets at most stores.

Tilapia are indigenous to Asia and Africa. They have established themselves in Texas and Florida probably as accidental releases from local landowners' ponds/tanks. Tilapia are typically put into farm and ranch ponds to control weed and algae growth in the summer. The tilapia species are primarily herbivores, but will occasionally consume zooplankton and small invertebrates. They thrive in the summer and die off in the winter in North Texas. These

are tropical fish that love water temperatures above 75 and typically die off each winter when the water temperatures fall into the 50s.

These tilapia have been thriving in many power plant lakes like Lake Fairfield and now Comanche Creek and are known to inhabit several southern bodies of waters, rivers, canals and streams. Tilapia have become established in the Rio Grande, San Antonio, Guadalupe and parts of the Colorado River drainages.

Tilapia look similar to large sunfish. There are several species but I am told the blue tilapia is the typical species found in Texas. Adult fish are generally a blue-gray along the back, fading to white on the belly. Sides may have vague irregular markings or be unmarked. Dorsal and caudal fins have reddish borders. The spiny dorsal fin is joined with the soft dorsal fin. Their life span is around five years. Fish over 20 inches and approaching ten pounds are possible.

Spawning occurs when the water temperatures near 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Large circular nests are dug by the males in shallow water over a sandy bottom. Males lead passing females to the nest for courtship. After the eggs are laid and fertilized, the female takes the eggs into her mouth and swims off. The eggs are hatched in the female's mouth, over a period of three weeks or so, the female releases the fry occasionally to feed. When threatened they return to her mouth. This is referred to as mouth-brooding.

It is my understanding that a female tilapia can spawn every four weeks and even at only 3-inches long they can start to spawn. They can reproduce quickly especially where conditions are right.

Being herbivores, catching these tasty fish can be a chore. I understand though that you can catch them with worms, hot-dogs and range cubes. They also will eat insects and many fly anglers like to catch this species. I hear also that some are being caught where the catfish remains are tossed back near the cleaning station on Squaw Creek. They prefer warm water, so fish the warmest spot.

These are classified as



COURTESY PHOTO

Tilapia are indigenous to Asia and Africa. They have established themselves in Texas and Florida probably as accidental releases from local landowners' ponds/tanks

an invasive species, so you are not to return these fish to the water (if you catch one). They are great table fare, so if you do catch some you may want to keep them anyway.

HOOD COUNTY

FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures on Granbury are in the middle 50s on the main lake and near 60 in the river above Granbury. The lake is rela-

tively clear. Some shad kills have been reported mid to lower lake and the TPWD is investigating. Spawning sand bass and crappie are starting to be caught in the river near Tin Top. Largemouth bass are also being caught in the backs of major creeks and in the river near Tin Top. Some good blue and yellow cat catches to 20 pounds are possible on the flats north of Hunter Park. Striped bass are reported as slow from DeCordova to Indian Harbor.

Crappie catches on submerged structure on small jigs are producing from mid-lake to the Peninsula and in the river above Granbury.

Comanche Creek continues to boast great catches of black bass to seven pounds on soft plastics. Channel catfish populations are great and are good on prepared baits and cut shad. Tilapia can be taken on worms or through the use of cast nets in the shallow.

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Solution for the puzzle on Feb. 24 (Puzzle 71).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Lady Pirate Soccer



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Friday Feb. 23 Granbury Lady Pirates traveled to Azle High School to take on the Lady Hornets. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



HCN Junior

Happy TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

March 2, 2024


Texas Independence Day, celebrated on March 2nd, is a day full of Lone Star pride and historical significance. It commemorates the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836, marking the birth of the Republic of Texas. This day is an opportunity for Texans to reflect on their unique heritage and the journey that led to their independence. Kids can delve into the exciting history of Texas Independence Day by learning about the brave men and women who played crucial roles in the fight for freedom. From the Battle of the Alamo to the decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, the story of Texas's struggle

for independence is filled with courage and determination. Celebrations often include events like parades, festivals, and educational activities that highlight Texas's rich cultural tapestry. Kids can participate by creating Texas-themed crafts, learning traditional Texan dances, or even enjoying a slice of pecan pie—a delicious treat associated with the state. Schools may organize special lessons, presentations, or projects to educate students about the significance of Texas Independence Day. Teachers can explore Texas history, discuss the state's unique symbols, and encourage kids to express their pride through art and storytelling. For families, it's a great

day to explore Texas's natural beauty, visit historical sites, or enjoy traditional Texan cuisine. Whether it's barbecue, Tex-Mex, or a classic bowl of chili, savoring the flavors of Texas is a tasty way to celebrate. Texas Independence Day is more than just a historical milestone; it's a day to honor the spirit of independence, resilience, and community that defines the Lone Star State. So, on March 2nd, let the Lone Star shine a little brighter as Texans of all ages come together to celebrate their unique history and the vibrant culture that makes Texas a truly special place.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1836:** THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS DECLARES ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO.



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Kay Dykes and Bedford visited the Hood County Library on Feb. 21.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Independence celebration reigns over the State of Texas

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

On March 2, 1836 — 188 years ago — Texas gained its independence from Mexico and adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence. This day is now celebrated annually across the state and serves as a day of remembrance and a day of education. In Granbury, the celebration will take place beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 2, in the jury room on the second floor of the Granbury Courthouse on the Granbury square.

The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed by 59 delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos, often called the “birthplace of Texas.” This document focused on the rights of citizens to life and liberty but also emphasized the property of a citizen.

“This declaration was issued during a revolution against the Mexican government that began in 1835 following a series of government edicts including the dissolution of state legislatures, disarmament of state militias, and abolition of the Constitution of 1824,” according to The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

After Texas declared its independence, 183 defenders were killed during the Battle of the Alamo, including several Mexicans who had fought for Texas’ Independence. The Republic of Texas later won its independence in October 1836 after the final battle along the San Jacinto River.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas David Crockett Chapter will host an event to celebrate the day with a presentation of the events that led to Texas’ Independence, including multiple exhibits from the Texas Revolutionary period. The exhibits will feature items from the Revolutionary Era.

The SRT David Crockett chapter works to preserve and promote Texas history. Each member of the chapter must have a direct bloodline to an ancestor who was from Texas. The chapter has six meetings a year that feature speakers such as Texas Rangers, former secret service members, authors and much more.

This is the sixth annual event, which began as a result of a brief synopsis about the revolutionary period of Texas history written by a chapter member. The first two years, the event was held outside the Hood County Courthouse before moving into Celebration Hall on the square the next two years. Hood County Judge Ron Massingill joined the group a couple of years ago and the chapter asked Massingill if the event could be held at the Granbury Courthouse. This marks the third year the courthouse has hosted the event, which will be in the jury room on the second floor.

Event attendance has grown from 60 the first year to now over 150 people. This year’s event will feature a number of flags flown in the Revolutionary Era. The chapter is partnering with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to provide exhibit items showing women’s lifestyles during those times.

A special fiddle performance by 12-year-old Whit Procter is sure to be a highlight of the day.

“The main goal of the event is to review with people and/or teach people about Texas history during the Revolutionary period,” Philip Harris Jr., president of the SRT David Crockett Chapter said. “There’s a lot of bad things that happened, but a lot of pride came out of that. And Texans are really proud of their Texas heritage and history. We’re trying to reach out to anybody who wants to listen or come learn about our Texas history of Texas roots. We welcome anybody that wants to come.”

The Granbury Courthouse doors will open at 10 a.m. and the celebration will follow at 11 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. There will be information available for those interested in learning more about the Sons of the Republic David Crockett Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Sons of the American Revolution and the Texas Heroes Foundation.

A poised pooch with a purpose

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

A local dog named Bedford is working toward becoming an asset for the Granbury community one visit at a time.

Bedford, the almost 3-year-old labradoodle, became a registered therapy dog through Pet Partners four months ago. He and his partner, Kay Dykes, are working to become an essential part of the community and made a stop at the Hood County Library for story time Feb. 21.

Diana “Cookie” Haun serves as the youth librarian/assistant director at the library and reads books to attendees to educate them and encourage them to

read.

During story time, attendees had a special visit from Bedford but before his appearance, Haun read a book to the kids about a dog who dreamed of being a service dog. The students also sang along to “Bingo was his Name-O,” encouraging both spelling and learning for the kids.

After some education, the students got the chance to meet Bedford and give him pets, treats and to brush his curly fur.

Bedford’s plan was not always to become a therapy dog, though. He had some training previously through a boot camp at Clover Pets in Granbury and did some agility training classes last year with Donna Allison. “He loved the agility training, but I realized about six months

into it that what he really enjoyed was going places and meeting new people more than the actual performance part of agility work,” Dykes told the HCN.

While on vacation last fall, Dykes met a woman and her dog on the beach; the dog had recently become a registered therapy dog through Pet Partners.

“I thought that might be the perfect fit for Bedford,” Dykes shared. “Because he had done a lot of obedience and education work previously, there were just a few things we needed to tweak for him to pass the testing (to become a registered therapy dog).

Dykes added there are many specific

PLEASE SEE **POOCH** | C3



Bedford received pets, brushing and treats during his visit to the Hood County Library on Feb. 21.

EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury resident goes ‘against the grain’ as creative window painter

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Andrea Taylor is adding some color to Hood County — one brushstroke at a time.

As the owner and operator of Against the Grain Studio, Taylor utilizes her artistic talents to create seasonal artwork and logos on business windows in Granbury, Acton, Stephenville and even Decatur.

“The benefit of painting windows is that it brings life to the business,” Taylor said. “And when you have vibrant colors and imagery and they’re changing, then the general public begins to notice that business. I hear so many positive things from customers of those clients. As I’m painting, they’re coming in and out and they’re like, ‘We just can’t wait to see what you’re going to do next,’ and ‘We just love what

you did. You’re so talented,’ so the patrons of these businesses are really excited when these small businesses get this done.”

Ever since she was little, Taylor was fascinated with window painting — even going as far as saying it’s what she wanted to do when she grew up.

“It might be my artistic side, but I remember as early as 5 (years old) just staring at windows as they were being painted,” she said. “In school, we had a career day, and everybody wanted to be teachers and firemen, and I wanted to be the person who painted the windows. But I didn’t know that was a real thing (career).” It wasn’t until she moved to Granbury that her young aspirations started to become a reality.

From her own art studio on the square to her laser engraving business, Taylor was constantly working to create

different products and allow others to express their creativity through art.

But after her studio sold, she was left wondering what her next venture would be — that is until she met Jack Fleming.

“My youngest daughter, Selah, she’s in swim on the (Granbury) SEALS team, and I was there to practice one day, and I got to talking to the parents,” Taylor said, reminiscing. “One father was there and he’s like, ‘I’m an artist,’ and I’m like, ‘Oh, I am too’ and he’s like, ‘I do pin-striping.’ We got to talking and he’s like, ‘I used to paint windows,’ and I’m like, ‘Oh my goodness, I would love to do that! That’s what I’ve always wanted to do!’ And he’s like, ‘Well, that’s funny because I’m actually looking to hand my business over to somebody.’ I was like, ‘Pick me,’ so he did.”

Fleming took Taylor

to paint the window at Morphine Cycles behind Walmart to teach her about his trade — and the rest was history.

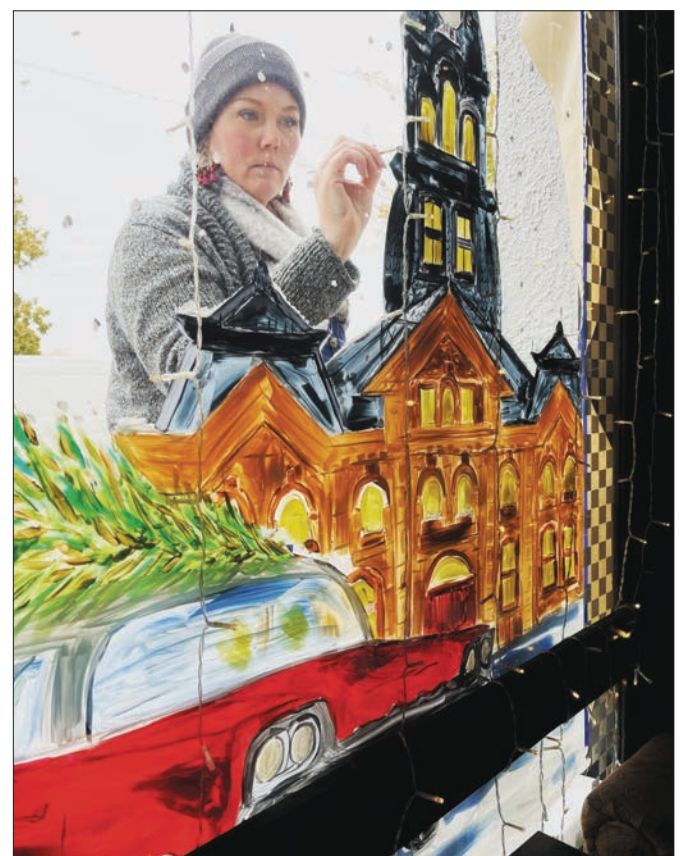
“He just loaded up all of his gear in my car and then, all of a sudden, I’m a window painter,” Taylor said.

Since then, Taylor has created several holiday and specific themed murals for businesses like Paradise Bistro & Coffee Co., The Frog Juice Co., Scents of Humour Candle Company, Firehouse Cafe, Silver Saddle Saloon, Bee Healthy, Budget Bookkeeping, KP Staffing, revIve Infusion Therapy, and C&J Butcher Shop.

PLEASE SEE **PAINTER** | C2

COURTESY PHOTO

Window painter Andrea Taylor is pictured hard at work painting a design for a local business in Granbury.



Rise in temperatures means a rise in active snakes



COURTESY PHOTO

A bucket full of venomous broad banded copper snakes was collected by the Hood County Snake Relocation team capturing nearly 30 snakes in one hour.

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer
emily@hcnews.com

Hood County residents should be on their toes as the rise in temperatures will likely lead to more snakes being out and about within the community.

Mark Pyle, president of the DFW Herpetological Society, shared that snakes don't generate their own heat and because of that they heavily rely on the sun to keep warm. When snakes cool down, they become inactive, and when outside temperatures start to rise, their bodies begin to warm up.

According to Pyle, who has been involved in reptile education for 28 years, the most common snake in Hood County is the west-

ern rat snake, also known as *Pantherophis obsoletus*. These snakes are non-venomous and are good for controlling unwanted rodents. He shared that the county also has a lot of water snakes, both diamond-backed and plain-bellied — both are nonvenomous. There is also the Brazos water snake, listed as a threatened species in Texas, which makes it illegal to kill. The Brazos water snake is also harmless.

Pyle said the most common venomous snake in Hood County is the broad banded copperhead. These are reddish orange banded snakes that average around two feet in length although they can be as long as three feet. Broad banded copperheads are most often seen



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Mark Pyle, a local reptile enthusiast and educator with a Coachwhip snake. Pyle works to relocate snakes around Hood County.

from May to September and typically come out around dusk. Pyle added that in one night, he found 28 of the snakes within one hour.

The western diamond-back rattlesnake can also be found in Hood County; Pyle called it the "iconic" rattlesnake often seen in western movies.

Pyle is part of the Hood County Snake Relocation group created last September.

"The goal is to keep people safe and to educate people

on how to minimize attracting snakes to their property," Pyle said. "The way to keep them out of your yard is to cut the grass short, trim bushes 10 to 12 inches off the ground, use very little mulch in flower beds and keep plants to a minimum, remove any clutter or ground cover, and also remove any rodent or food sources such as outside pet food and bird feeders."

Pyle noted there has never been a documented cottonmouth in Hood

County, but there are lots of misidentifications.

"If you encounter a snake, it's best not to panic. If you feel you're in danger, step back the way you came to reduce the chance of stepping on a different one you didn't see," Pyle shared. "Once you are at a safe distance, take a photo and post it in the Facebook group 'What Kind of Snake is This North Texas, Educational Group' (created by Pyle) for a quick identification. You can also ask questions and ask for help

relocating if needed."

He shared that many Hood County residents are familiar with this group; more than 190,000 people have joined it. He also has a website — texasnaekid.com — that shares tons of information on snakes across Texas.

Those who need a snake to be relocated can visit the Hood County Snakes Linktree at linktr.ee/hoodcountysnakes or call 682-500-1566.

The simple science of leap years

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

Have you ever wondered why February gets an extra day every four years? This phenomenon, known as a leap year, is a fascinating aspect of our calendar system designed to keep our clocks and calendars in sync with Earth's orbit around the sun. While the whole concept of leap years can seem a little convoluted, when you break it down into simple layman's terms, it's not quite so daunting.

THE BASICS OF TIME

To understand leap years, we first need to grasp how we measure time. A year, by definition, is the amount of time it takes for the Earth to complete one orbit around the sun. You might think this is a straightforward 365 days, but nature isn't quite so tidy.

In reality, it takes about 365.242189 days for this celestial journey. This fraction of a day might seem insignificant, but over time, it adds

up, causing our calendar to drift out of alignment with the seasons.

THE SOLUTION: LEAP YEARS

Enter the concept of the leap year. By adding an extra day to the calendar every four years, we can account for the additional time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun. This extra day is added to the month of February, making it 29 days long instead of the usual 28. This adjustment helps keep our calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year.

THE RULES OF LEAP YEARS

Not every year divisible by four is a leap year, though. There are a few rules in place to ensure our calendar remains as accurate as possible:

The Basic Rule: Any year divisible by four is typically a leap year.

The Century Rule: If the year can be evenly divided by 100, it is not a leap year unless...

The 400-Year Rule: If the year can also be evenly divided

by 400, then it is a leap year.

These rules help correct the fact that adding an extra day every four years is actually a slight overcorrection. The century rule helps balance this out, except in cases divisible by 400, to keep our calendar in line with the Earth's orbit as accurately as possible.

Why February?

You might wonder why February was chosen to bear the extra day. Historically, the Roman calendar added an extra month every few years to maintain alignment with the seasons. When the Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar, it simplified this system by adding an extra day to February, the year's shortest month.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEAP YEARS

Without leap years, our calendar would slowly drift away from the astronomical seasons. Over centuries, this would mean significant shifts, with the Northern

Hemisphere experiencing summer in December. By adjusting the calendar with leap years, we ensure that seasonal events and holidays remain relatively fixed in their traditional months.

FUN FACTS ABOUT LEAP YEARS

People born on Feb. 29 are often called "leaplings" or "leapers."

In some cultures, leap years are considered auspicious for certain events, like starting a business or getting married.

The chance of being born on a leap day is about 1 in 1,461.

ENGAGING WITH TIME

Leap years are a testament to humanity's ingenuity in timekeeping and our desire to live in harmony with the cosmos. By understanding and appreciating the science and history behind leap years, we can better appreciate the complexity and beauty of our calendar system.

Happy leaping, Hood County!

PAINTER

FROM PAGE C1

"It just depends on what the client is asking for," she said. "C&J Butcher Shop has a semi-permanent design of the butcher chasing the animals."

While Taylor still has her laser engraving business, window painting is the venture that she has fallen in love with — even describing it as being her "favorite job."

"I love the community," she said. "I love just being with people, listening to their stories, and just connecting to our community. And then I love the creative side of it because I get to change the design so often that it really stretches me. Firehouse wanted fireman leprechauns on the ladder, and then for Christmas, they wanted like 28 names included in their mural, so things like that are challenging and make me really stretch myself on how I'm gonna make it make sense for the customer and for everybody."

But it's because of her laser engraving business that she has found a way to make her window painting even better.

Taylor explained how in traditional sign making, a rotary tool called a pouncing wheel is used to perforate paper. However, instead of a pouncing wheel, Taylor uses the laser from her engraving business.

"I can design their logo and lettering on my program and then have my laser cut exactly to the specifications of the window size and that perforates it," she explained. "Then I just paint through that perforation, and it'll transfer that logo to the window. I use my laser to help me as a tool, so I'm taking traditional and kind of making it more contemporary with the tools I have at hand."

Taylor said a couple of Christmases ago, she used her laser to create a holiday design for Paradise Bistro and the customers loved the idea as they entertained the illusion that they were in a snow globe.

"I like to make things that are interactive — especially since we live in a high tourist area," she explained. "Visit Granbury used that window for their advertising through Christmas because it was something that people could take

PLEASE SEE PAINTER | C9

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Training to save lives: Hood County CERT

BY ALEXA GUADIAN
Special to the Hood County News

After spending decades working, the first thing the average person wants is a vacation, but the members of Hood County CERT are choosing to help save lives.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) was created in 1993 by FEMA to prepare residents and communities for emergency situations.

According to the Hood County CERT website, members are trained to assist first responders and victims and volunteer in non-emergency community projects.

Vickie DiGiovanni, training coordinator for CERT, began her community-oriented career as a flight attendant domestically and internationally for Trans World Airlines, and later became an early childhood educator in New Jersey.

After a rare tornado outbreak in Florida in 1998 caused DiGiovanni and her family to lose their home, the help they received motivated her to spend her time return-

ing the favor in Texas.

"Our driveway was covered with trees that had fallen; we couldn't even get out of our driveway if we wanted to. So, the spirit of our church family and some of our neighbors helped us to cut that tree up and move it," DiGiovanni said. "When we had to find someplace else to live, people offered. So being able to pay that forward and to educate people because you can't just assume that the power is always going to be on or that you can cook a meal."

Living in an entirely new environment and state, the DiGiovanni's had no support system or family other than themselves. Then Vickie saw a newspaper ad promoting Hood County's CERT courses and earned a position in the leadership team, where she found a sense of community.

"I have that service spirit, and the people I went through training with that are part of the leadership team are just really good people with really big hearts. So, it was like a no-brainer (to join). It keeps me occupied," she said.

As a trainer, DiGiovanni has taught Hood County resi-

dents how to be prepared in emergency situations, both physically and mentally.

Each unit in the course is focused on a specific purpose such as first aid, psychological preparedness, fire safety, terrorism and more. Trainees are encouraged to join all units to become CERT certified.

"We just want people to get trained and be prepared, not necessarily to join our team, but so that if there is ever an incident, you are prepared and know how to handle it and keep you, your family and your neighbors safe. And then, a lot of people decide, 'you know what? I want more,'" DiGiovanni said.

CERT training is open to the public March 12-23. Courses are offered from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturdays at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

After everything Hood County CERT has given to the community, the organization asks for more opportunities to educate and get involved.

"I think ultimately, we would like our people, our



COURTESY PHOTO

The Community Emergency Response Team was created in 1993 by FEMA to prepare residents and communities for emergency situations.

community, our neighbors to be prepared, and don't be afraid to call on us. We'll

help," DiGiovanni said. For more information contact Margaret Campbell at

mcampbell@co.hood.tx.us.

Granbury Opera House announces 2024 Children's Series

Staff Report

Granbury Theatre Academy announced its 2024 Children's Series at the historic Granbury Opera House.

The Children's Series will include four productions this year:

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (May 3)

"Disney's The Lion King KIDS" (May 4-5)

"Disney's The Little Mermaid JR" (July 19-28)

"Anastasia: Youth Edition" (November 22-24)

All tickets are \$15 for "The Lion King

KIDS" and \$20 for "The Little Mermaid JR" and "Anastasia." Online and box office processing fees apply.

The Shakespeare play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is free for admission to the single evening performance, but donations are welcome.

Sponsors for the series are Granbury Optimist Club, First National Bank of Granbury, Merry Jayne's Sweets, Hood County News and The Hyde Law Firm.

Additional information is available on the Granbury Theatre Company website at granburytheatrecompany.org/childrens-series.

COURTESY GRANBURY THEATRE ACADEMY

Granbury Theatre Academy announced its 2024 Children's Series at the historic Granbury Opera House that will feature four productions: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Disney's The Lion King KIDS," "Disney's The Little Mermaid JR," and "Anastasia: Youth Edition."



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POOCH

FROM PAGE C1

skills a dog must exhibit to pass the in-person credentialing evaluation. There is also an extensive behavior questionnaire and health form for Bedford that both Dykes and Bedford's vet have to fill out. She also took online classes before she and Bedford went for the team evaluation that lasted about an hour. "We went through a series of scenarios with several groups of people posing as clients/patients we would likely encounter in a therapy animal setting such as a school, hospital or nursing home," Dykes shared. "They also simulated stress situations to watch Bedford and (my) responses and interactions. It's a fairly

intense process because they want us safe, and after registering, Bedford is insured with a \$2 million liability policy." Every two years, Bedford and Dykes will be re-evaluated in person to keep both the credentials and liability policy current. "The human animal bond is powerful. The joy and acceptance therapy animals bring to everyday routines can be a tremendous boost for mental health," Dykes added. "There's nothing like a little unconditional love from a four-legged friend when you're having a difficult day." The duo has been volunteering in Fort Worth at JPS Hospital where they visit nurses and other hospital staff. The plan is for the two to get more involved within the Granbury

Community. Pet Partners has a program for children called "Read with Me" that allows kids struggling with reading or needing more practice to read to a therapy dog. This program allows for children's confidence to be built up. The two will soon start making more frequent visits to the Hood County Library for story time. They also hope to begin volunteering at Granbury ISD schools starting later this spring, but Dyke's ultimate goal is for Bedford to help kids and adults in trauma situations. To keep up with Bedford, follow him on Instagram at @BedfordtheLabradoodle. To learn more about Pet Partners visit petpartners.org.



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Bedford, the almost 3-year-old labradoodle, became a registered therapy dog through Pet Partners four months ago.

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Cedar fever strikes again: Navigating Hood County's pollen plague

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

If you're anything like me and what seems like half the population of Hood County right now, you are probably sick and tired of fighting and contending with one of the worst winter allergy seasons in recent memory. The runny nose, sneezing, itchy and watery eyes, and head congestion are just exhausting.

When I first moved to Hood County back in the mid-'80s, I had never had a single allergy-related health event in my life. Within six months of moving here, however, I was sitting in the office of my newly-acquired family physician, Dr. David Collins. Frankly, I thought I was dying. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I had a brain tumor or something and that I should immediately start getting my affairs in order.

Dr. Collins came into the exam room, looked in my ears, looked at my throat, and listened to my heart and wheezing lungs. He then took off his stethoscope and wrapped it around his neck, looked at my chart, then smiled and said, "Oh, you're new to the area!" Through bleary, itchy and watery eyes, I looked at him and, sounding like Harvey Fierstein, said, "Yes, I am."

Dr. Collins then explained to me that I was, in fact, NOT dying. I was just experiencing my first encounter with what is known colloquially as "cedar fever." My doctor went on to explain to me that this seasonal affliction is not really a fever at all but an intense allergic reaction to the pollen from the copious stands of Mountain Cedar trees around Glen Rose and Chalk Mountain southwest of Hood County.

Dr. Collins also explained to me that most of Hood County is situated in the Brazos River Valley basin — in other words, we sit in a bowl of sorts. When the cedars are pollinating, and the prevailing winds are blowing from the southwest to the northeast, all that cedar pollen blows right over into our little bowl and then just sits on top of us here in



COURTESY PHOTO

Health experts recommend staying indoors on dry, windy days when pollen counts are highest.

Hood County. Unless and until we get a significant wind blowing from another direction or a substantial rain to wash it from the air, it just hangs over us.

Mountain cedar, as it turns out, is sort of a vegetative Vietnam — it's hard figuring out the identity of the enemy. For example, not all cedar is cedar. The cedar that causes

our annual suffering is not a true cedar, but Ashe juniper, one of 17 species of the genus *Juniperus*, found mainly in the southwestern and western United States. It goes by several scientific names — *Juniperus ashei*, *Juniperus sabinoides* or *Juniperus mexicana* — and is commonly referred to as mountain cedar, post cedar, blueberry cedar, Texas ce-

dar, Mexican cedar, in addition to just plain cedar.

Unlike most trees that pollinate in the spring, the Ashe juniper unleashes its pollen load during the winter months, typically starting in mid to late November, peaking in December and January, and tapering off by the end of February. This timing means that for about four months, the air in and around Hood County is laden with cedar pollen, often visible in thick clouds that can make the trees appear as if they're smoking.

The symptoms of "cedar fever" are similar to those of a cold or flu, which can make diagnosis tricky, especially since the season coincides with the typical cold and flu season. Sufferers may experience sinus congestion, runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, coughing, fatigue, and yes, sometimes a low-grade fever can be present. Symptoms can persist for weeks or even months if left unmanaged. For individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, COPD or severe diabetes, the symptoms can be even more severe, leading to significant discomfort and health complications.

Management and treatment of cedar fever primarily focus on reducing exposure to the allergen and alleviating symptoms. Health experts recommend staying indoors on dry, windy days when pollen counts are highest, keeping windows and doors closed, and using air filtration systems to keep indoor air clean. Over-the-counter medications, including antihistamines and nasal sprays, can provide relief for many sufferers. For those with more severe symptoms, a visit to an allergist may be necessary for further evaluation.

As we navigate another challenging cedar fever season, understanding and preparedness are key to managing its impact. By staying informed about pollen counts, taking preventative measures, and seeking appropriate medical care, residents of Hood County and beyond can hope to minimize the discomfort of cedar fever.

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Civil War Round table to meet March 11



BY BILL DYESS

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

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. Charles Pendleton, owner and curator of the Vicksburg Civil War Museum, will bring the program. The first African American owner of a Civil War Museum, Pendleton, a Vicksburg native, is dedicated to preserving rare artifacts, offering immersive tours and highlighting Black history within the Civil War era. This last is an area all too often overlooked or ignored in studies of the Civil War, and this is a program you will not want to miss.

Kraig McNutt, director of the Center for the Study of the American Civil War, brought the program at the

Feb. 12 meeting of the round table. McNutt, who is perhaps the foremost authority on the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, spoke about that battle, with special attention given to Confederate Brig. Gen. H. B. Granbury, for whom the city of Granbury is named. Granbury was one of six Confederate generals killed in the battle.

MARCH IN THE CIVIL WAR

No doubt the most historically remembered event of March 1862 is the naval battle in Hampton Roads, near Norfolk, Virginia, between the U.S.S. Monitor and the C.S.S. Virginia, more commonly known as the Merrimack. The first battle between iron-clad ships lasted over two hours, with neither ship suffering any major damage. However,

the presence of the Monitor prevented the Virginia from leaving the harbor to attack other federal ships, and when the area was abandoned by the Confederacy, the Virginia was scuttled.

Other major events were the three-day Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where the Federal army, under Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, defeated a Confederate force under Gen. Earl Van Dorn. This victory generally assured the Union of control of Missouri. In the Eastern Theater, the First Battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, Virginia, opened Stonewall Jackson's famous Shenandoah Valley Campaign. And in the New Mexico Territory, a campaign that had opened promisingly for the South by the February victory at Val Verde ended in a defeat at the Battle of Pigeon's Ranch, in La Glorieta Pass, near Santa Fe. This defeat forced the Confederate forces to abandon Santa Fe and withdraw southward along the Rio Grande. The South would not again impose a major threat to the area.



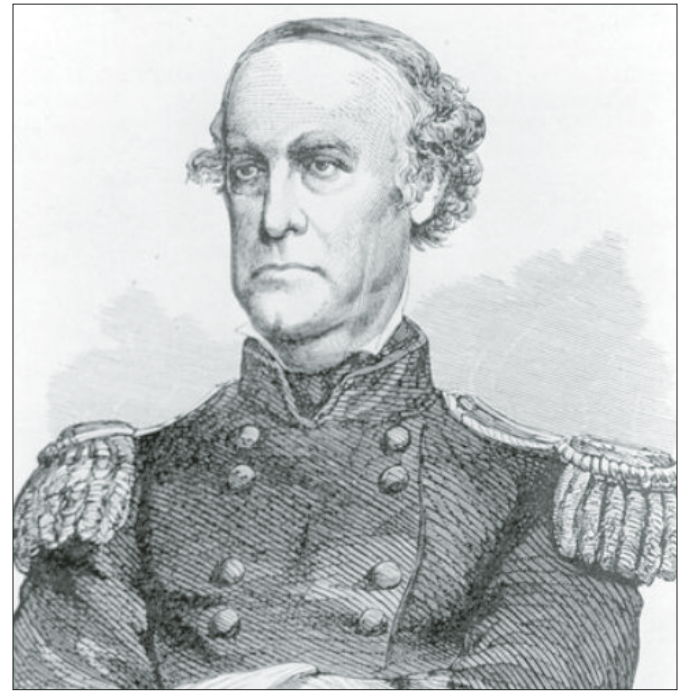
COURTESY PHOTO

Confederate General Earl Van Dorn.

DID YOU KNOW

At its peak, the Confederate government had more than 70,000 civilian employees.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. Guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first-time attendees. For more in-



COURTESY PHOTO

Union General Samuel R. Curtis.

formation, please see WWW.ncentexcwrt.com or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are indepen-

dent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.

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Jazz Fest 2024

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Folks attending the Granbury Jazz Fest 2024 on Saturday, Feb. 24, immersed themselves in the heart-thumping world of jazz with over 15 talented bands spanning various genres. A wide array of food trucks and vendors at all three stages were on hand for the crowd of thousands here to celebrate Historic Granbury's unique music, culture, and hospitality.



PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Spring pickleball play is strong in Pecan Plantation

BY DIANE LONG



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

BOARD UPDATE

Pecan's board of directors selected Bob Taber Jr. as its president for the upcoming year, at the community's annual membership meeting. His tenure in the position commences today, Saturday, March 2. Bob is beginning his second year of board service and fulfilled the role of treasurer in 2023. Additional recent board business consisted of approving several projects, among which are painting boat docks at the marina, replacing damaged roofs on Pecan buildings, and constructing a hydration station at the PAC.

ELECTION DAY

Primary election day for Hood County will find Pecaners casting votes in the PAC gymnasium Tuesday, March 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NET NEWS

A new session of junior tennis begins Wednesday, March 6 at 4:30 p.m. for players ages 6 to 9 and at 5:30 p.m. for players ages 10 to 12. All skill levels are welcome and may sign up in the tennis shop: 817-579-9412.

PAINT PARTY

"Pecan Paint Alongs" at the PAC with instructor Kathy Yoders are continuing with a workshop each second Sunday of the month, which puts the next gathering on the calendar for March 10. The session runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at which participants will receive step by step instruction on their work, and no painting experience is necessary. Register at the

PAC (817-573-7952); email Kathy for more information: kathylyoders@gmail.com.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Work crews will be demolishing and then rebuilding the fishing pier on the number 10 pond during the next few weeks. For safety reasons, folks should avoid the area during construction work.

Summer will arrive shortly, and the clubhouse pool has received repair on its steps, a new fiberglass bottom to fix leaks, and inspection of all completed work in anticipation of the pool's opening scheduled for Friday, May 24. Thank you to Daniel Van Patten and all the Pecan staff who work daily to maintain our facilities.

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Installation of a new irrigation system on Pecan's golf course continues, and as work on hole 1 comes to an end, crews are moving to holes 2 and 3. Golfers will want to be aware of workmen on the course as well as which holes are open for play. The golf shop will update players on alternate course routes.

IRISH DELIGHT

Pecan Plantation will turn a lovely shade of green Sunday, March 17 when neighbors are invited to the clubhouse for a celebration of Irish heritage. Festivities for the day will include a golf cart/ATV parade, bounce house and Irish themed food and drinks, in addition to games and live music.



The Pecan Plantation Pickleball Association is an active group and recently held a beginner clinic at the Pecan Activities Center. Pickleball play happens daily on either inside or outside (and sometimes both) courts, and the next beginner clinic comes on March 18. Pictured left to right are: Pickleball Association members and clinic instructors Jana Reeves, Miles Broughton, and Diane Hutto.

The celebration will run from 2 to 6 p.m. and is a family friendly event for members and guests of all ages. Folks desiring to participate in the parade should decorate their ride in festive attire and meet at the Nutcracker parking lot at 2:30 p.m. before the parade begins at 3 p.m. Only golf carts and ATVs may hold spots in this parade.

TAKE AIM

The Pecan Plantation Archery/Air Gun Association meets collectively the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the archery/air gun range, weather permitting, which means the group will gather again

March 5. Among activities on the group's calendar are a spring clean-up and target set-up day Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m., an open house Saturday, May 4, and camps for kids coming in June. For complete information on the Archery/Air Gun Association, send an email to topecanarcheryairgunclub@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Pecan's wildlife committee will hold a gun raffle and fundraiser benefitting the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kids Fishing Tournament. The committee is raffling six pistols with the proceeds used to stock the pond with more trout. Tickets went on

sale March 1, and members of the wildlife committee will be selling them at various locations around Pecan. For information on the tournament or another avenue to purchase tickets, send email to wildlifecommitteeppoa@gmail.com.

LIFE SAVING

CPR classes are available this spring at the PAC March 23, April 27 and May 18, with each day's hours running from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each class accommodates 20 students, and registration at the PAC is required. Pecan's EMS is partnering with the American Heart Association to offer both informational classes and certification

classes on these dates.

WESTERN EVENT

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club's annual "Boot Scootin" Boots and Bluebonnets charitable fundraiser is on the calendar for Saturday, March 23 with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. The night will feature dinner, dancing (with music from the Randy Tatarevich Band), a silent auction, a Big Tex auction and a cash saloon. The event is open to Pecan residents and guests, and tickets are on sale now at www.mypwpwc.com. Attendees are encouraged to don western wear for the evening.

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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 01 March 2024 - Thursday, 07 March 2024

Cabrini - 145 min (PG13)
Thurs: 6:00PM

Dune: Part Two - 166 min (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 3:10PM, 6:00PM, 6:45PM, 8:50PM, 9:35PM, 10:20PM.
Sat: 10:10AM, 11:50AM, 1:45PM, 3:25PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:55PM, 10:35PM.
Sun: 10:05AM, 11:50AM, 1:40PM, 3:25PM, 6:15PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:25PM, 5:30PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 3:05PM, 6:45PM

Kung Fu Panda 4 - 94 min (PG)
Thurs: 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM

Land of Bad - 110 min (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:10AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:40PM, 6:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 4:45PM, 7:25PM

Madame Web - 116 min (PG13)
Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Thurs: 2:05PM, 7:35PM

Ordinary Angels - 118 min (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:55PM, 3:45PM, 6:35PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:05PM, 4:50PM, 7:35PM.
Tues: 2:40PM, 5:25PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM

Private cinema event - 120 min (NR)
Sat: 12:45PM

The Chosen: Season 4 Episodes 7-8 - 153 min (NR)
Fri: 2:35PM, 5:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 10:25AM, 2:10PM, 5:30PM, 9:15PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 2:55PM, 5:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:30PM.
Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:30PM

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THE IDLE AMERICAN
Devil's workshop?



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Every now and again, someone comes up with suggestions for additions to the list of what to do when there's nothing to do.

As often as not, such "yawn fodder" winds up to fill holes — gaping or otherwise — just before newspapers go to press.

I have another thought concerning an item that should be forever deleted from the list — the mistitled annual "All-Star" basketball game foisted on us by the National Basketball Association and its TV cohorts. Any other suggestion

on the "what-to-do-list" is superior to this debacle which is no better than watching paint dry.

The "event" held a few nights ago featured true all-stars, but they might as well have been playing "H-O-R-S-E." In the Eastern All-Stars' "win" over the West, the score was 211-186. Obviously whatever semblance of defense brought to the game was checked at the door.

Should the wretched excuse for a "game" continue,

PLEASE SEE **DON** | C10



COURTESY PHOTO

The to do list is a list of what to do when there's nothing to do.

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 Barbeque, 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 Barbeque 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 SOMMERVILLE A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggis.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.

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Isaiah 41:13

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Psalms 94:18-19

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Isaiah 41:10

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 2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
 817-663-5384
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 817-565-9027
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 817-247-7209
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 5041 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-8968
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 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
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 254-897-2351
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 817-573-4943
- Granbury First Baptist
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Romans 8:28

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

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PAINTER

FROM PAGE C2

pictures of and tag Granbury and Paradise. I love doing interactive work — anything that can bring notoriety to a small business.”

Similarly, as Taylor continues to grow her own window painting business, she will always remember to thank the person who made her dream happen.

“Every artist struggles with their own imposter syndrome,” she explained. “Mural is kind of more fine art and window painting is a little bit more of a simplified, slash art type of feel, so thankfully, I’ve had some customers hang on to me

while I developed my style. At first, I was doing some pretty intricate windows, and I was able to kind of refine it by studying other window artists, being in a window artists group, and just learning the trade and developing my own style.”

Taylor explained that her business name, Against the Grain Studio, is derived from her belief that as a Christian, she may do some things differently in the world, but that she also thinks differently — especially when it comes to being creative.

“The studio was a really great thing for us to be integrated into the community of arts,” she added. “By far, Granbury is the best place I’ve ever lived. I have the best

friends, the best support system and the most creative people. It’s just a God-given thing to get us here and get established into this community that we love so much.”

When Taylor is not busy creating art, she spends time with her husband, Dillan. She has three daughters: Olivia, 21, Aurora, 17, and Selah, 11 — the latter of whom helps Taylor on many window painting jobs.

For more information about Against the Grain Studio, visit atg-studio.com online or on Facebook: facebook.com/AgainsttheGrainStudio/, Instagram: AgainstTheGrainStudio, or TikTok LaserLadyATG.



Top Left: C&J Butcher Shop asked Granbury resident Andrea Taylor to create a semi-permanent design of a butcher chasing animals.

Top Right: From fall to Christmas to St. Patrick’s Day, Andrea Taylor is constantly painting seasonal-themed window designs for businesses all around the area.

Left: For the past few years, Taylor has created several holiday and specific themed murals for businesses like Paradise Bistro & Coffee Co., The Frog Juice Co., Scents of Humor Candle Company and more.

COURTESY PHOTOS

GOOD FOR HOOD

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Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski.

BOOK REVIEW

How do you do?

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Howdy. Hey, there. Hello. Hi, how are you? It's polite to greet people when you meet them for the first time, and respectful, too. Furthermore, it's human nature to want to be liked, to find common ground and get along. Read the new book "How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi," edited by Dr. Chris Balakrishnam and Matt Wasowski, illustrations by Kristen Orr, and you can happily be a bit of a know-it-all, too.

Twenty-one years ago, a group of nerds got together to offer one another short "presentations" on esoteric topics and eventually, "Nerd Night" grew and spread around the world. Seriously, how could a nerdy knowledge gathering like that get any better?

Well, some of the presentations went up on YouTube. Others made it into this book.

If you've ever served in the deserts of Kuwait, for instance, you know that my-

thology about camel spiders is mostly an exaggeration. The creatures are big, but not all that big. They can't jump super-long distances. They aren't really even spiders. Oh, but they'll chase you — though not for the reasons you've heard.

Or take, for instance, a glass of moo-juice. You've been taught all your life that only mammals give milk, but that's not exactly a fact. By definition, birds, sharks, insects, even worms nourish their young with a form of "milk."

Trap-jaw ants and stomatopods can bring a world of hurt to your body. People who have misophonia can't tolerate the sound of your breathing; people with synesthesia might be able to taste it. There's a reason why some letters get lost in words we pronounce correctly. NASA is working on ways to recycle astronauts' solid waste for fuel, but you don't have control of your bladder. A real grizzly bear inspired the California state flag. Chances are, "you will

probably not survive the next mass extinction [but] spiders and gophers will."

And when that end finally happens to you, embalming won't preserve you forever...

When was the last time you had pure, light-hearted, smart-aleck, gee-whiz, smack-your-forehead, geeky goodness from a book? If it's been awhile, you'll want to find "How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi" now.

You won't be sorry you did, once you dip into the facts you didn't know you needed to know, offered to you informally here, and with a slice of sarcasm. Authors Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski break their book down into eleven basic categories, but the knowledge inside it runs from arthropods to World War Z and lots of other subjects in between. Each brief chapter comes from an expert on the topic at hand — or, at the very least, someone who had reason, for instance, to wander down a rabbit-hole of maggots, meteorites,

DON

FROM PAGE C7

it should be more accurately named. How about a feel-good scrimmage featuring the Washington Generals vs. the Washington Generals? (with apologies to the Harlem Globetrotters who invariably rack up "wins" over the Generals).

If all-stars of the major professional sports ever have a get-together, the NBA elite should be banned. Let them have their own party at a comedy club.

As youth, we were specialists in wasting time, but we could blame it on the young.

With much of my childhood in the 1950s, I recall two great time-wasters.

When soft-serve ice cream came to our town, one of our leading restaurants sold the cones at a "walk-up window." (This was several years before drive-in food joints appeared.) It was fun to watch the server's artistry in turning out cones with curls on top. Our parents usually sprung for nickel cones which we licked slowly, wishing for the much bigger 10-cent cones.

But, wait! There was more.

The restaurant also had an electric bug-zapper that produced sizzling sounds when bugs met their electronic end.

Sometimes we counted how many "zaps" we heard between cone-licks. Talk about minutiae.

That's not all, either.

Acceptable television reception was late getting to our town, what with the nearest station about 75 miles away. Before there were many TV sets in homes, they were often displayed in a downtown shop window. On many summer evenings, my dad would drive us slowly past the store, all of us hoping there'd be

discernible TV pictures emerging from the snowy screen. When there was, we'd stop, pressing noses against the window glass to get as close to the TV set as possible.

I suppose, then, that licking ice cream cones while hearing bugs get zapped and watching snowy TV pictures in a shop window might be akin to time wasted while watching the NBA circus. But remember, we were kids.

My ancient Uncle Mort claims he gave up on the game decades ago. He's not surprised that it continues its slide into meaninglessness. But, he admits to finding humor in circumventing the conventional, which is only a skosh different than purposely wasting time.

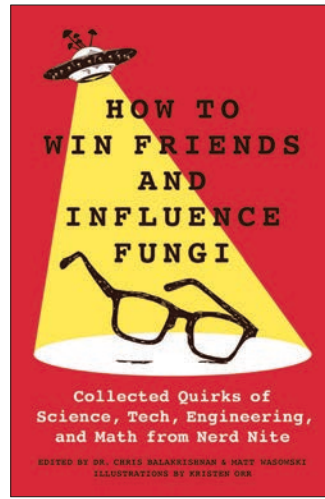
Specifically, he enlivens routine visits to doctors' offices by "poking fun" when he fills out the same papers completed during his previous visits. Office attendants "see him coming," knowing they'll have to ask him to return to their desk to correct his fake answers.

In the "answer blank" about contact in case of an emergency, he writes "call ambulance." And on the "age blank," he answers "digital."

A patriot to the core, he also enlivens "shopping humdrum" by checking labels of merchandise, always delighted when he finds "made in America" tags. Too often, he whines, "made in Taiwan" or "made in China" dominate.

He stopped abruptly recently, noticing bold print on a box encasing a TV set. It read, "Built in antenna."

"Now that's a place I've never heard of," he told the sales guy, "Where is Antenna?" Mort was satisfied with the answer that Antenna is a small community a few miles from Athens.



COURTESY PHOTOS

"How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi: Collected Quirks of Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math from Nerd Night" by Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski, illustrations by Kristen Orr. c.2024, St. Martin's Press, \$30.00, 320 pages.

romance-by-spreadsheet and zombies in your laundry room.

"How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi" is perfect for fun guys and gals ages 15 to adult. Expect to learn, expect to laugh, and expect to have your eyes opened. Get it and say "hello" to a good read.

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WATERFRONT WITH A POOL & DOCK



\$897,750

2329 River Road, Waters Edge

MAINBODY WATERFRONT W/ DOCK



\$1,850,000

1106 W. Baja Court, Granbury

CUSTOM WATERFRONT W/ DOCK



\$1,650,000

2319 Vienna Drive, Granbury



The Waterfront Experts
and The Authority on Real Estate.

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