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Daylight saving time will begin on Sunday, March 10 at 2 a.m.

Time to spring forward

BY EMILY NAVA
Staff Writer

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

The approach of spring means daylight saving time is about to begin, and those clocks will soon be set an hour ahead. This hour change results in the sun rising an hour earlier in the morning and setting an hour later in the evening.

In 1918, the United States adopted the Standard Time Act which established that standard time in the U.S. be divided into five time zones.

It also stipulated that on the last Sunday of March each year, clocks be advanced one hour and be returned to standard time on the last Sunday of October in an effort to save fuel. Later, in 1966, the Uniform Time Act came along, establishing the switch between standard time and DST.

The topic of daylight saving time has been a hot topic within the U.S. Senate, where in 2022 the Sunshine Protection Act, introduced by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio,

was unanimously passed and sent to the House of Representatives for action. The bill would make daylight saving time the permanent standard time, bringing an end to the changing of clocks twice a year. The bill was never put forth to the House and expired at the end of the last session of Congress. It has since been reintroduced by Rubio in 2023.

In April 2023, the Texas House voted 138-5 to ap-

PLEASE SEE **FORWARD** | A3

Julia Pannell reflects on time as former Memorial Lane chairman



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Community leader Julia Pannell speaks during the USS Arizona Dedication & Remembrance Ceremony in December.

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer Ashley@hcnews.com

Community leader Julia Pannell may not be the Friends of Memorial Lane chairman anymore, but she still calls it her "baby."

Pannell officially stepped down as chairman during the USS Arizona Dedication & Remembrance Ceremony in December, naming Laura Fisher as her successor.

"She (Fisher) has been on the board for about six years, so she's very dedicated and very passionate," Pannell said. "I feel very comfortable of not being on the executive board, but I'm still going to remain on the board. As long as I can physically be

on the board, I'm going to choose to let other people be in charge of the event so that they can grow, learn, and we can expand our outreach."

Back in 2007, the late J.C. Campbell told Pannell he had planned to raise some money to build a fireman statue for the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park.

PLEASE SEE **PANNELL** | A7

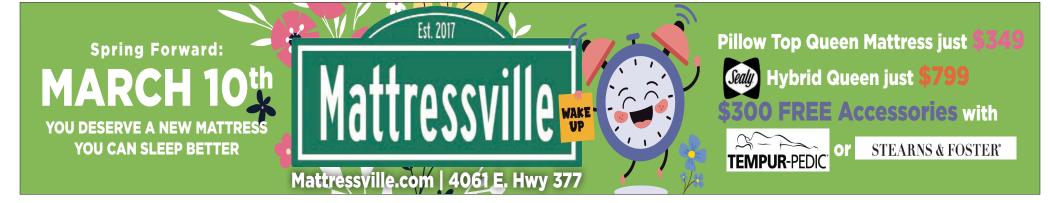


138TH YEAR, NO. 10

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 36 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 36 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Zed — A4 | Classifieds — A8-A10 | Obituaries — A13-A14 | Crossword Puzzle — A13-A14



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Granbury gears up for spectacular 50th anniversary of Hometown 4th of July Celebration

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

As the calendar inches closer to the nation's birthday, anticipation is mounting in Granbury for the grandest celebration yet. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Celebration, and we are pulling out all the stops to ensure it's a historic event to remember.

Scheduled over four days from July 4-7, the festivities promise something for everyone. From the traditional parade to live music, vendors, fireworks over the lake, rodeo and a 5k run/walk, there's no shortage of entertainment and family fun.

The theme for this monumental occasion is "50

Golden Years of Stars and Stripes," a nod to both the enduring legacy of the American flag and Granbury's own half-century of community pride and resilience.

WANT TO LEAD THE 4TH OF **JULY PARADE AS 2024 GRAND MARSHAL?**

The highlight of the cel-

ebration is undoubtedly the parade, and this year, we are on the hunt for the perfect Grand Marshal to lead the procession. We are seeking someone who embodies the spirit of Granbury, was born in 1974 (preferably in Granbury), and has deep roots in the community, having lived here for most or all of their life. Moreover, this person should demonstrate

a commitment to giving back to our community through volunteer work, organizing events, mentoring others and is deeply passionate about making Granbury a better place to live and work. We are looking for someone who not only represents our town's rich history but also symbolizes its bright future. This person should be a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

WANT TO BE A PARADE PAR-TICIPANT, ARTS AND CRAFTS **OR FOOD VENDOR?**

In addition to the search for the Grand Marshal, parade applications and vendor applications are now open, welcoming businesses and organizations to participate and showcase what makes Granbury so special. Whether vou are a local vendor wanting to share your crafts or food, or a community group eager to march in the parade,

granbury

we encourage everyone to join us in celebrating this milestone.

WANT TO SPONSOR THE **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMETOWN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION?**

With expected crowds of more than 15,000 people, the Hometown 4th of July offers a unique opportunity for businesses and individuals to become sponsors and contribute to the success of this landmark celebration. Sponsorship packages range from exclusive naming rights for specific events to prominent branding opportunities and acknowledgment in promotional materials.

By becoming a sponsor, you're not only supporting a cherished community tradition but also gaining valuable exposure to thousands of attendees. It's a win-win situation that allows sponsors to demonstrate their commitment to Granbury while enjoying significant visibility.

The significance of commemorating Granbury's 50th anniversary cannot be overstated. It's a testament to the resilience, unity and spirit of this close-knit community. Through decades of challenges and triumphs, Granbury has remained a beacon of Southern hospitality and charm, attracting visitors and new residents alike.

As the countdown to July begins, excitement builds, and residents eagerly anticipate coming together to honor their town's past, celebrate its present and embrace its promising future. Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Celebration promises to be a jubilant affair, marking a half-century of cherished memories and countless reasons to celebrate.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this historic celebration. Whether you're eager to sponsor, be a vendor, be a parade participant, be the 2024 Grand Marshal or volunteer, seize the opportunity now. Contact the Granbury Chamber of Commerce at 817-573-1622, visit our website at www.granburychamber.com, or email us at info@ granburychamber.com to get involved and make this 50th anniversary 4th of July Celebration one for the ages!

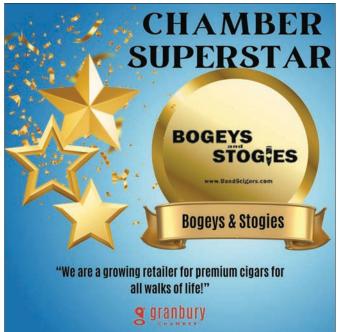
Drum koli Please... As we gear up for one of the most cherished celebrations in our community, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the theme for this year's 4th of July festivities: "50 Golden Years of Stars and Stripes." Join us as we commemorate half a century of unity, freedom, and the patriotic spirit that makes our nation areat. Let's make this Independence Day a shining testament to the values that have defined our nation for the past 50 years. We look forward to seeing you there!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

g granbury Member Spotlight Tell It Like It Is With J Loren **Norris** "I have a real passion for helping my clients learn how to craft their expertise into a compelling presentation, convey their passion, connect with their audience and lead with the influence of strong relationships.

COURTESY GRAPHIC

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR



COURTESY GRAPHIC

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY GRAPHIC

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TELL IT LIKE IT IS WITH J LOREN NORRIS

"Loren delivers an inspiring, entertaining, and empowering message through his unique leadership and communication methodology known as StoryPower. Loren has a real passion for helping his clients learn how to craft their expertise into a compelling presentation, convey their passion, connect with their audience and lead with influence of strong relationships." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR: BOGEYS & STOGIES

"Bogeys & Stogies is based out of Granbury, TX and provides Premium Cigars for all walks of life to Golf Courses, Restaurants, Wineries, Pubs, and more. Providing retail cigars for your business, event, or personal use! Our passion for excellence has driven us into the future. The team at Bogeys & Stogies knows that every product counts."

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: ERIN SANDERS

It's... Thankful Thursday! We are thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Erin Sanders with Somervell Floors! Erin has been an Ambassador for eight months! When asked why she loves being an Ambassador, she said "I love supporting the local businesses and being involved in giving back to the community." Fun Fact: My family is number one in my life. I love wildlife, vacationing, jeeping and being outdoors in general. My husband and I also have a Jeep club here in Granbury "Jeep Junkies Off-Road". Our jeep club loves to help and support fundraisers and supporting other events. We love to be there for the community in any way that we can. Thank you, Erin for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Learning to tie your shoes



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

y older sister has a birthday this month, and this past weekend while I was sitting out on the deck enjoying some sun, I reflected on our lives as children. God blessed me with a wonderful mother, and she instilled a lot of very positive attributes in my sister Cynthia. With me being five years younger, her name was nearly impossible to pronounce. About the best I could do was to call her "Tia" and so a nickname was born.

It's hard to express how good Tia was to me. While a lot of sisters, especially one five years older, would have

wanted to distance themselves from a little annoying "goober boy," she made sure I was always included. When

I was on the playground, she made sure to have me be a part of whatever she was doing. When it came time for me to start my formal education, she would walk with me to and from school. She gave me my first nickname, "Bo" which was short for Sambo, a popular children's story at the time. She was a safety net and perhaps could even be described as a "second"

As a kindergarten enrollee, I felt 10-feet-tall sitting on the bench with the fifthgrade boys when they were playing softball. Of course, I could not participate in their game because I was just too little, but Tia made it clear to the "big guys" that it was cool for me to be there. My chest would swell with pride

with being included. I would pick up the bats and hand the "guys" their gloves when it was time to take the field. It wasn't until the upper grades of elementary school that I realized my sister's good looks had a definite effect on her male classmates and why they were more than willing to accommodate her requests to allow a little pest to be in their midst. Admittedly, it made me feel very special when all the other kids in my grade expressed their jealousy for my being accepted by the older kids. It all happened because

I'm not sure how old I was - 4 or 5, I would think when Tia was the one who taught me how to tie my shoes. Everyone probably remembers the angst of being young and having your shoe come untied, and not being able to fix the problem by yourself.

Tia sat me down with my pair of black Keds, and carefully explained to me the process. How to loop the shoelaces, pull everything tight and then loop and tighten again. She was patient and understanding, and when I would screw up, she never made me feel incompetent, but rather would simply start me over again until I finally got it right. I'm not sure how long it took, but I have a vague memory of seeing Tia's excitement when I finally got it right. She was as excited as I was.

In the forthcoming weeks I would tie my shoes without

help, and of course after that it became second nature. Tia never helped me with my shoes again. She didn't need to. She had helped me grow and she knew I now needed to take responsibility for myself. That's another lesson I learned that day and many times over as I grew up. It seems like nowadays there are a lot of folks who never learned that lesson and applied it to other lessons in life. Perhaps they were not fortunate enough to have a "Tia." Thank God I was.

Thought for the day: To the outside world, we all grow old, but not to brothers and sisters. We know each other as we always were.

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

FOKS



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Richard and Carol Hoefs!

Richard and Carol Hoefs

Richard Hoefs and his wife Carol were tired of living in a big city. When their search for a retirement home near Fort Worth proved unsuccessful, Carol suggested Granbury, which she was familiar with from Weatherford author Lori Wilde's Twilight, Texas book series. After a visit to Granbury, Richard and Carol fell in love with our unique combination of small-town charm and abundant amenities. They moved to Granbury in early 2017 when Richard retired after 32 years as a manager with The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta. The best thing about living in Granbury and Hood County is all the amazing people who make Granbury a very special place for residents and visitors by supporting local businesses, charities, and events. Passionate about education, Richard and Carol have established five endowed scholarships at Texas Christian University, where Richard serves on the Clark Society Board of Directors, assisting in recognizing and inspiring the generosity of university supporters. Richard and Carol love to travel in their spare time, having visited 32 countries and taken 51 cruises, making many friends all around the globe. Richard enjoys reading the Hood County News for its fair and balanced coverage of local issues, and appreciates solid coverage of local organizations that do so much for our community.

City of Granbury Economic Development department recognized for excellence

Staff Reports

The City of Granbury **Economic Development** department has been honored with the Economic **Excellence Recognition** by the Texas Economic Development Council.

To receive this recognition, economic development organizations must meet specific criteria, including maintaining a high level of professionalism, ensuring the governing council and professional staff undergo relevant training, and demonstrating certifications and organizational effectiveness. The qualifications also encompass the professional activities of the economic development staff.

"This recognition represents the hard work of the City's Director of Economic Development, Lance LaCour. The ongoing efforts of the Economic Development Department is making a positive change in the business climate in the City of Granbury and surrounding areas," said City Manager Chris Coffman in a press release. "It equates to new investments and new jobs, which benefit the entire



EMILY NAVA | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lance LaCour, director of economic development for city of Granbury and Michael Ross, deputy city manager for city of Granbury pictured together at a Granbury City Council meeting on March 5.

community."

Established in 1961, TEDC serves over 1,000 members by providing information, educational resources and legislative services. Of numerous economic development organizations, Granbury is among the distinguished 72 enti-

ties recognized for their economic excellence.

The department was recognized during a city council meeting March 6.

FORWARD

FROM PAGE A1

prove House Bill 1422 which would end the practice of changing the clocks. Gov. Greg Abbott has voiced his support for this, but Congress is still required to enact a law granting states the authority to observe DST all the time.

According to Sleep Foundation, humans are most vulnerable to sleep deprivation in early March due to DST. One study found the

average person receives 40 minutes less sleep on the Monday after we "spring forward." In addition to sleep loss, people are at greater risk of mood disturbance, suicide and being involved in traffic accidents. The Farmer's Almanac found that the time change can affect sleeping and waking patterns for five to seven days.

Many Hood County residents voiced their favor for doing away of the time changes. Many also voiced wanting the time to spring forward and stay, without returning to standard time in October. Some voiced their dislike for the end of DST being the darker mornings and nights in November.

"We prefer standard time as it matches our natural circadian rhythm of wake and sleep," Judy Schreiber shared. "(We're) much better rested on standard time."

"Hate it being dark outside when the kids are waiting for the school bus," Mike Moltz said.

"Choose one and

stick with it," LaFond Commander shared.

"I wish the government would do away with the time change," Zbell Wilson said. "There are still only 24 hours in a day regardless of what your clock says."

Some tips to help mitigate the change include going to bed 15 to 20 minutes early for a few days before the time change and begin transitioning the timing of other routines such as a slightly earlier dinner.

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emily@hcnews.com HILARY MCALLISTER

Staff Writer ASHLEY TERRY eden@hcnews.com WADE BLAKE

tographer/Designe LAYTH TAYLOR

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

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

Master gardeners to host annual plant sale

Staff Report

Rise and shine! It's time for the 2024 Lake Granbury Master Gardener (LGMG) spring plant sale. This event never fails to lure plant lovers and experienced shoppers know that favored plants sell quickly. People line up early! Shoppers should know the sale will end early if all plants are

This year's plant sale takes place Saturday, April 20, from 8 a.m. until noon (or when plants are all sold) at the group's demonstration garden located at the rear of the parking lot behind Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St. The 2024 sale includes hundreds of plants cultivated in the protection of the group's onsite greenhouse.

Shoppers may choose from myriad plants known to thrive in North Central Texas. Selections include Texas natives, perennials, pollinator and butterfly plants, heat and drought tolerant species, shade plants, herbs and succulents.

Although serious buyers should arrive early for the sale, no purchase is necessary to browse, visit the demonstration garden or talk to master gardeners who will be happy to answer gardening questions.

Monies raised will fund scholarships and community education programs. For more information, call the Texas AgriLife Extension in Hood County at 817-579-3280.



This year's plant sale takes place Saturday, April 20, from 8 a.m. until noon (or when plants are all sold) at the group's demonstration garden located at the rear of the parking lot behind Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report



MARY VINSON I HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Feb. 27-March 4. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

FEB. 27

7:25 a.m.: criminal mischief reported on Acton Highway

8:39 a.m.: theft reported on S. Morgan Street 9:21 a.m.: suspicious ac-

tivity reported on Clifton

3:04 p.m.: stalking reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 3:12 p.m.: harassment reported on Penrod Drive

5:50 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on Walters

11:59 p.m.: suspicious person or circumstance reported on E. Pearl Street

One major accident, a minor accident and 18 traffic stops were reported on this day

FEB. 28

7:22 a.m.: loose livestock reported on Paluxy Road

MOM WANTS

HEALTHIER,

US TO

10:34 a.m.: sexual assault reported on Crossland Road 1:44 p.m.: driving while

intoxicated reported on S. Crockett Street 3:14 p.m.: found child re-

ported on N. Meadows Drive 4:06 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on N. Plaza

5:39 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

8:09 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on N. Plaza Drive

10:24 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on E. U.S. Highway 377.

**One major accident, three minor accidents and 14 traffic stops were reported on this day*

FEB. 29

ZED by Duane M. Abel

12:54 a.m.: loose livestock reported on Paluxy Highway 12:32 p.m.: forgery reported on N.E. Loop 567

1:33 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on S. Morgan Street

2:21 p.m.: found property reported on Waters Edge

3:43 p.m.: possession of a

SHE SAYS

GOOD FOR

US!

controlled substance report- jor accidents, two minor aced on S. Harbor Court

5:05 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377 11:32 p.m.: intoxicated

driver reported on E. Pearl Street

Warrant served; two major accidents, two minor accidents and 19 traffic stops were reported on this day

MARCH 1

9:51 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. 377

10:37 a.m.: lost property reported on Summerhill Court

10:54 a.m.: theft reported on N. Jones Street

11:30 a.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377. 12:44 p.m.: found property reported on Waters Edge Drive

2:44 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

3:56 p.m.: theft of property reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:16 p.m.: shots were heard on Old Granbury Road

**Warrant served; two ma-

THE WASHING

PIZZA

STAINS

MACHINE MISSES

cidents and 37 traffic stops were reported on this day**

MARCH 2

12:49 a.m.: search warrant executed, possession of a controlled substance reported on Panama Court

8:43 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on S. Morgan Street

1:52 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Harbor Lakes Drive

3:03 p.m.: road rage reported on S. Morgan Street 3:11 p.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377 8:01 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377 9:39 p.m.: intoxicated

driver reported on Quiet 10:14 p.m.: reckless driver

reported on Walters Drive 11:13 p.m.: loud music re-

ported on N. Crockett Street **Warrant served; one minor accident and 14 traffic stops were reported on this day**

MARCH 3

2:04 a.m.: intoxicated driv-

er reported on Twine Street 9:26 a.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

12:48 p.m.: theft reported on N. Meadow Drive

2:02 p.m.: assault reported on Rolling Terrace Circle 2:31 p.m.: animal bite reported on Rob Drive

2:30 p.m.: found property reported on E. U.S. Highway

3:17 p.m.: assault report-

ed on James Road 6:29 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on E. Pearl Street

Warrant served; one major accident and 14 traffic stops were reported on this day

MARCH 4

ME TOO!

5:53 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on Crawford Court

11:52 a.m.: disturbance reported on Paluxy Road 4:07 p.m.: hit-and-run reported on Pirate Drive 9:20 p.m.: theft reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377 **Warrant served; one major accident, three minor accidents and 30 traffic stops were reported on this day**

CALENDAR

ONGOING

FORWARD TRAINING

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

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.ncentexcwrt. 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 check payable to SAWA. RSVP to Linda 817-964-5166.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

BLUEGRASS JAMMING at 2 p.m. Show at 5 p.m.

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose. 254-897-2321.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

HOSPITAL BOARD meeting to discuss the hospital tax. Meeting at noon, second floor of the courtroom at 100 E. Pearl St., Granbury. 817-579-3200 for informa-

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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Warren's Backyard hosted the Unify Hood County election watch party.

PRESIDENT

KESIDEITI
Donald J. Trump11,136
Ryan L Binkley14
Ron Desantis200
Vivek Ramaswamy43
Asa Hutchinson44
Nikki Haley2,165
Chris Christie37
David Stuckenberg11

US SENATOR

JENAION	
Holland "Redd" Gibson	953
R.E. (Rufus) Lopez	526
Ted Cruz	12,062

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 25

Roger Williams	9.465
Mathew Lucci	
Vince Crabb	,

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Christi Craddock	7,229
Christie Clark	1,034
Corey Howell	
James "Jim" Matlock	2,764
Petra Reyes	

JUSTICE SUPREME COURT PLACE 2

_				 ~
	Jimm	y Blackl	ock	 11,079

JUSTICE SUPREME COURT PLACE 4

John Devine	5,842
Brian Walker	5.309



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS Rodger Deeds celebrated his reelection with some Fellow hood County Folks at Warren's Backyard Tuesday March 5.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

JUSTICE SUPREME COURT PLACE 6

Jane Bland	 10,50

PRESIDING JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS David I Schenck

David J Schener	1,011
Sharon Keller	3,753

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 7

Barbara Parker Hervey	4 , 410
Gina Parker	6 713

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 8

Michelle Slaughter5,	279
Lee Finley 5,	750

MEMBER. STATE BOARD OF

EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 11 Pat (Patricia) Hardy4,875

Brandon Hall6,640

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 59 Shelby Slawson 10,748

CHIEF JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

Bonnie Suddeth10,482

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 4 Wade Birdwell 10,784

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 5 Dabney Bassel......10,346

JUSTICE, 2ND COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 6

DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 355TH

JUDICIAL DISTRICT Ryan Sinclair 10,494

Mike Wallach.....10,373

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Matt Mills10,849

COUNTY SHERIFF

Johnny Rose1,028

Roger Deeds8,597 Scott London......3,770

COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Andrea Ferguson.....10,836

COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Zachary Maxwell......4,219 Melanie Jensen.....2,003 Greg S, Harrell......5,335

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 1

Morris Duree	00
Kevin Andrews1	,743

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Сши пеаа	1,021
Dean Armstrong	518
Sissy Freeman	1.048

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1

Chad Davis......2,295

PRECINCT 107 CHAIR

Roger Gaines	130
Lee McKeller	147

PRECINCT 112 CHAIR

-			
	Roger Granger	15	3
	Orville Johnson	95	

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2	

John D Shirley......2,344

PRECINCT 202 CHAIR Zeb Ullom216

Craig Mayberry	533

PRECINCT 211 CHAIR Paula McDonald.....197

SHallion Woll	490
Ericka Grim	38

PRECINCT 216 CHAIR

•	MECHICI ZIO CHAIN	
	Tim Bolton	718
	Jim Lilly	389

PRECINCT 218 CHAIR

Matt Westlund359 Clinton R. Helton.....584

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Nathan Criswell 1,176

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3

Randy Ellis2,006

PRECINCT 310 CHAIR Zane Hatch......327

Brian O Gaffin461

PRECINCT 313 CHAIR

Stephan Erickson507

Earl Erdmann 517

PRECINCT 314 CHAIR Gary Merritt......505

Bret Deason......416

PRECINCI 317 CHAIR	
Cathy Hays	358
Jason Gore	308

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 4 Dub Gillum2,241

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Marianne Williamson	.48
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Dean Phillips	.17
Armando "Mando" Perez	.4
Frankie Lozada	.2
Cenk Uygur	.9

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A "Robert" Hassan	5
Meri Gomez	29
Colin Allred	749
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RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	

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Bill Burch28	6

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 2

Dasean Jones	482
Randy Sarosdy	411

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT PLACE 4 Christine Vinh Weems887

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT PLACE 6	
Joe Pool	242
Bonnie Lee Goldstein	675

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jack Wilson watching the results come in and Celebrating his reelection at the Warren's Backyard election watch party March 5.

PRESIDING JUDGE,	COURT OF	CRIMINAL	APPEALS
Holly Taylor		895	

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 7

Nancy Mulder......892

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 8

Chika Anyiam 869

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 59

Hannah Bohm 845

COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Adrienne Quinn Martin...... 899

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PRECINCT 404 CHAIR

Alejandra Munoz15	5
Mark A. Jackson23	7

PRECINCT 409 CHAIR

Rachel Reed	459
Brad Yarborough	640

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2024 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1

Texas should eliminate all property taxes without increasing Texans' overall tax burden.

FOR	10,20	7
AGAINST	2 252	

PROPOSITION 2

Texas should create a Border Protection Unit, and deploy additional state law enforcement and military forces, to seal the border, to use physical force to prevent illegal entry and trafficking, and to deport illegal aliens to Mexico or to their nations of origin.

FOR12	,708
AGAINST98	39

PROPOSITION 3

The Texas Legislature should require the use of E-Verify by all employers in Texas to protect jobs for legal workers by preventing the hiring of illegal aliens.

FOR12	,440
AGAINST1,1	27

PROPOSITION 4

The Texas Legislature should end all subsidies and public services, including in-state college tuition and enrollment in public schools, for illegal aliens.

FOR	12	,297
AGAINST	1.2	55

PROPOSITION 5

Texas urges the United States Congress not to grant any form of amnesty or a pathway to legalization for illegal aliens.

FOR	11,744
AGAINST	1,752

PROPOSITION 6 The Texas Legislature should prohibit the deployment of the Texas National Guard to a foreign conflict unless Congress first formally declares war.

FOR11	1,396
AGAINST1,	996

The Texas Legislature should establish authority within the Texas State Comptroller's office to administer access to gold and silver through the Texas Bullion Depository for use as legal tender.

	. I	,		
FOR	•••••	•••••	•••••	9,787
AGAINS	T		•••••	2,757

PROPOSITION 8

The State of Texas should ensure that Texans are free to give or to withhold consent for any vaccine without coercion.

FOR	2,47
AGAINST	,074

PROPOSITION 9

The Republican Party of Texas should restrict voting in the Republican primary to only registered Republicans.

FOR10	,393
AGAINST2,	902

PROPOSITION 10

The Texas Constitution should be amended to restore authority to the Texas Attorney General to prosecute election crimes.

PROPOSITION 11

Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student.

FOR1	0,182
AGAINST3	,362

PROPOSITION 12

The Texas Constitution should be amended to require proof of citizenship before any individual can be registered to vote.

FOR	.13,333
AGAINST	272

PROPOSITION 13

Texas should ban the sale of Texas land to citizens, governments, and entities from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

FOR1	3,11	ľ
AGAINST5	14	







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CANCER

FROM PAGE A1

The Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park is a place dedicated to the memory of those lost in the line of duty and honors all those serving or who have served, according to the city of Granbury website. The park is situated on the Hike & Bike Trail at the North Travis Street Intersection.

To add to the momentous occasion, Campbell asked Pannell if she could write a poem to honor the fireman statue.

"I said 'Well, I need to meet some firefighters. I don't know who they are," Pannell said. "So, I sat around the table and found out they're all volunteers. I mean, I did not know that at the time, and I literally put my head down on the table and cried. I mean, volunteers giving their lives for me?"

After writing the poem, she asked Campbell if there was anything else she could do to help. He suggested she serve as the fundraiser chair and \$252,000 later, the lone fireman statue was dedicated to the park.

"Underneath that statue is J.C.'s handprint and my handprint, so I loved it," Pannell said.

But deep down, Pannell felt there was still something missing in the park. It wasn't until she was driving back from a trip to Branson, Missouri, however, that the idea finally came to light.

"At almost every restaurant, every place you go, they'll say, 'Would you like to make a donation to our veterans?'" Pannell said. "They are really veteran-orientated and really support the veterans. I was coming home, and it was raining and I was crying and Bob (Pannell's husband) said, 'OK, what's the matter?' I said, 'We don't do enough for our first responders in Hood County.""

Pannell then met with City Manager Chris Coffman and told him about her idea to expand the park, with all the details written on a napkin.

Coffman told Pannell to "get her act together" and form a plan — and that's exactly what she did.

Pannell had originally planned to only add a military dedication to the park, but she later decided to include law enforcement as well.

After she brought the idea to Granbury City Council in early 2016 and it was approved, the Granbury community joined together to make Pannell's idea a reality by raising funds and volunteering their time and labor, according to the city of Granbury.

"Every single penny for that entire park has been



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

After serving as Friends of Memorial Lane Chairman for several years, Julia Pannell officially stepped down as chairman during the USS Arizona Dedication & Remembrance Ceremony in December. She is pictured with Lloyd and Gloria Lietz from the Military Officers of America Greater Granbury (TX) Chapter.

raised by citizens, grants and fundraisers," Pannell said. "That park would not be here today if it was not for Aaron McLain (parks and recreation director) and his team. But as far as dollars, every flag, every event we put on, everything over there is through the citizens' participation."

On May 16, 2016, the community celebrated the groundbreaking, and the site was officially dedicated on July 1, 2017.

Pannell said she came up with the name, Memorial Lane, when she was walking around the park one day during construction.

"I was going over there watching them getting ready to pour cement and I said, 'You know, this is just like a sacred lane,' and then it just came to me. I said, 'Memorial Lane,' and the city approved it," Pannell said. "So, it became known as the Memorial Lane located at the Jim Burks Firefighter Park."

According to the city of Granbury's website, renowned artist Mike Scovel developed one-of-a-kind life-size statues to honor law enforcement and the military.

Within the law enforcement section, there is a statue of a young girl with her head bowed, holding a folded flag. The statue is called "Tears for the Fallen."

The military section is enriched with the figure of a service dog bowing at the military cross for fallen military. The statue is named



Julia Pannell poses with Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and his wife, Brenda.

"Homage to a Compatriot."
"You'll see little kids run-

"You'll see little kids running up to the dog, and they get on that dog and just love on that dog and it's wonderful," Pannell said. "It just makes your heart (melt). People say, 'Well, do you tell them to get off?' I say, 'No. I'm not gonna tell the little kids to get off.' It's become a place that people go to. It's used by the community and I'm glad."

Pannell said thanks to the efforts of Kay and Stan Wasielewski, Friends of Memorial Lane received a piece of the ship's hull from the USS Arizona. This piece will be permanently displayed in a prominent spot at Granbury City Hall, safe from the elements.

"We're the only entity that has received a piece of the USS Arizona. Most have gone on to big museums or big organizations like that, so I'm just very honored to play a small part in all of that and to be able to see all that blossom," Pannell said. "We are proud to be able to label ourselves as the only known park in the world

that has all three entities, plus a Space Force, plus a USS Arizona in one park, so that's quite a destination. I always tell people we are now a true destination."

While Pannell will miss being involved with Memorial Lane, she said she is excited to start celebrating her wedding anniversary again.

"Our anniversary is 9/11 and we've not celebrated that anniversary outside of being at home since we started having 9/11 events," she explained. "And so, with me not being on the

executive board, we have nine events. I can miss one. I don't have to be the one that makes sure we have insurance. I have Laura Fisher that I have great confidence in, there's a board that's all willing to still work, and when you have that, it makes it easier for you to step back.

"I would like to take on a supporting role, and that feels really good. I've been honored to be in that position, but at the same time I'm 82 and it's time for us to do some traveling."





Above: Julia Pannell is pictured with Aaron McLain, parks and recreation director. She said Memorial Lane "would not be here today" if it was not for him.

Left: Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley gives a side hug to Julia Pannell during the USS Arizona Dedication & Remembrance Ceremony in December.

Deadline: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

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of the Hood County Commissioner's

For additional Information, contact

Hood County Purchasing Agent at 817

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

CAUSE NO. P10265

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NOTICES

Public Notices

LEGAL AD

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

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.

HOOD COUNTY BRUSH YARD WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING THURSDAY MARCH 7th, 2024 FOR REPAIRS/ MAINTENANCE UNTIL FURTHER NO-TICE.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-INDEPENDENT EXECUTORS Notice is hereby given that on February 28, 2024, Letters Testamentary as Independent Co-Executors upon the Estate of ANNE MONTGOMERY ARTHUR, Deceased, were issued to IL-LAYNA ARTHUR MILLER A/K/A ILLAY-NA ARTHUR, who resides at 4000 Hulen Place, Apt. 145, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, and GARRETT TOMLIN-SON ARTHUR, who resides at 4301 Charlemagne Court, Austin, Texas 78727, by the Honorable Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, in Cause No. P10283, pending upon the Probate Docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is now being administered are hereby required to present same to the Executors' attorneys, NORMAN & NORMAN P.C., at the address shown below, within the time prescribed by law.

Respectfully submitted, NORMAN & NORMAN P.C. BY: /s/ Catherine M. Norman CATHERINE M. NORMAN State Bar No. 00791358 NORMAN & NORMAN P.C. Attorneys 3200 RIVERFRONT DRIVE SUITE 100 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107 Phone: 817-335-5000 Fax: 817-335-5013 catherine@normanestatelaw.com ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTOR

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Todd Wolf, Cause No.PRCC10329, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Julie Wolf 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 Todd Wolf. deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this

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,

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 1st day of March, 2024 KATIE LANG **Hood County Clerk** P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BARBARA HELEN PETTY, Deceased, were issued on February 14, 2024, in Cause No. P10288 pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: ROSALEE PETTY MANNING.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being ad-Notice is hereby given that Original ministered are required to present them to the undersigned w John Edward Shawen, Deceased, were time and in the manner prescribed by issued on February 14, 2024, in Cause

c/o: Representative, Estate of BAR-

No. P10265, pending in the County BARA HELEN PETTY The Hvde Law Firm 827 West Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED March 1, 2024 /s/ Ashley Gale Vaughan Ashley Gale Vaughan Attorney for ROSALEE PETTY MAN-Bar no: 24115896

Office Phone: (817) 579-5997 Fax: (817) 573-4933 Email: ashleygale@hydefirm.com

LEGAL AD

has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

MILO'S CREEK ADDITION, LOTS 1R - 3R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, April 9th, 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:

LAKEWOOD HILLS ESTATES, SECTION ONE, LOT 2-R, BLOCK 1

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Hood County Commissioners' Court Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lorraine Johnson Schmitz a/k/a Lorraine J. Schmitz, Deceased, were granted on February 28, 2024, in Cause No. P10293, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Daniel Blanchette.

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

1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 DATED the 28th day of February 2024. The Reid Firm, P.C. Attorneys for Daniel Blanchette Bv:/s/ Samuel I. Reid Steven J. Reid State Bar No.: 16747900 Samuel I. Reid State Bar No.: 24105702 1840 Acton Highway Granbury, TX 76049 Telephone: (817) 573-3718 Facsimile: (817) 573-9732 E-mail: steve@reidfirmpc.com samuel@reidfirmpc.

Attorney at Law

CLASSIFIEDS

Public Notices

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PERMIT NO. WQ0014211001

APPLICATION. Acton Municipal Utility District, 6420 Lusk Branch Court, Granbury, Texas 76049, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014211001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0105163) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 930,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 4300 Cimmaron Trail, in Hood County, Texas 76049. The discharge route is from the plant site to McCarty Branch; thence to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on December 19, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Acton Municipal Utility District Office, 6420 Lusk Branch Court, 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=-97.6975,32.436666&level=18

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

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 <u>www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep</u>. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Acton Municipal Utility District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Richard English at 817-326-4720.

Issuance Date: February 29, 2024

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Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the Estate of
SHIRLEY ANN HOOKS, Deceased, were
issued on February 28, 2024, in Cause
No. P10300 pending in the County
Court of HOOD County, Texas, to:
KATHERINE KAUFFMAN.

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

c/o: Representative, Estate of SHIRLEY
ANN HOOKS
The SoRelle Law Firm
5008 Wedgefield Rd.
Granbury, Texas 76049
DATED March 5, 2024
/s/ Jeremy SoRelle
Jeremy SoRelle
Jeremy SoRelle
Attorney for Katherine Kauffman
Bar no: 24056352
Office Phone: (682) 786-5767
Fax: (682) 786-5818
Email: jeremy@sorellelaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DONALD BUREN WRIGHT, Deceased, were issued on February 28, 2024, in Cause No. P10268, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: CAROLL. WRIGHT.

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

c/o: Steven G. Kuban
Attorney at Law
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED the 29th day of February, 2024.
Steven G. Kuban
Attorney for Carol L. Wright
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
UNDER EXECUTION
BY VIRTUE OF an ORDER OF SALE is-

sued out of the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County on a judgement rendered in said county on the 6TH day of December 2023 in Cause No. C2022274. GRANBURY ISD, ET AL

VS RICAHRD W.TRUAX, ET AL

I did on the 13TH day of February 2024 at 3:53P.M. levy upon the following property of RICHARD W. TRUAX TEXAS VIZ:

TAX ACCOUNT # 11220.000.0057.0 (R000001712)

LOT 57, BLUE WATER SHORES, A SUB-DIVISION IN HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN SLIDE A-238-B, PLAT RECORDS OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 4978 Blue Water, Granbury, Texas 76049

On the 2ND day of April 2024, between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M., offer the said land for sale for cash to the highest bidder, at the Hood County Courthouse, said location being the 2nd Floor Courtroom in the Hood County Courthouse, located at 100 E. Pearl Street, in the City of Granbury, Texas.

Dated at Granbury, Texas this 13th day of February AD, 2024

Chad Jordan Constable Pct. 4 Hood County, Texas

ORDINANCE NO. 24-16
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS,
AMENDING THE UTILITY FUND FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-17 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BE-LOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 0.913 ACRE TRACT OF THE MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 348 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVID-ING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-18 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL OF GRANBURY TEXAS DESIGNATING A CERTAIN AREA AS A REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL TAX ABATEMENT: NAMING THE TAX ABATEMENT AREA GRANBURY REIN-VESTMENT ZONE NUMBER FOUR; DE-SCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR FLIGIBILITY REOUIRE-MENTS FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITHIN SAID ZONE; PROVIDING TERMS FOR ABATEMENT WITHIN THE ZONE; PRO-VIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS; PROVID-ING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND MAKING AN OPEN MEETING FINDING.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on March 5, 2024, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

Public Notices

Notices - Civil Rights For City of Lipan

Policy of Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Lipan does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The City Secretary has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part

Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice (required)

The City of Lipan has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Texas Community Development Block Grant Programs (TxCDBG). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at City Hall, 105 E Lipan Drive, Lipan, TX 76462 between regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling City Secretary, at (254)646-3345. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about TxCD-BG activities.

A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the TxCDBG project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the City Secretary, at 105 E Lipan Drive, Lipan, TX 76462 or may call (254)646-3345. The City of Lipan will make every effort to respond fully to such complaints within fifteen (15) working days where practicable.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

The City of Lipan does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

Fair Housing Public Service Announcement

Public Service Announcement: Fair Housing, It's the Law

To promote fair housing practices, the City of Lipan encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. Form more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Matthew Price, Cause No.P10332, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Michael Price 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 Matthew Price, 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 5th day of March 2024 KATIE LANG Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048

By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

The Hood County News



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Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL CITY OF TOLAR

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

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

PROPOSAL PROCESS:

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

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

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

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

Public Notice Q&A

What is a public notice?

It's information about important government activities. Notice in the newspaper is required for a good reason — to make sure it's NOTICED. It's crucial to government transparency...and government accountability.

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New Custom Home on 1.5± Ac, Gilmer, TX, March 28. Selling at or above \$450k. TargetAuction.com, 800-476-3939.

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COURTESY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS JORDAN JENNINGS, NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Petty Officer 1st Class Nicholas Gilchrist, a native of Granbury, serves the U.S. Navy aboard USS Tripoli operating out of

Granbury native serves aboard Navy warship in San Diego

Staff Report

Petty Officer 1st Class Nicholas Gilchrist, a native of Granbury, serves the U.S. Navy aboard USS Tripoli operating out of San Diego.

Gilchrist graduated from Granbury High School in 2008.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Granbury.

"Being able to say no and resist peer pressure made me stand on my own two feet and be a strong man," Gilchrist said. "Having that courage and confidence has helped me during my time in the Navy."

Gilchrist joined the Navy 15 years ago. Today, Gilchrist serves as a hospital corpsman.

"I joined the Navy to be part of something bigger than myself and give back to the country that has given me everything," Gilchrist said. "There were some negative influences in my hometown and I didn't want to get involved in that. The Navy offered me an alternative

Tripoli is an amphibious assault carrier that provides presence and power projection as an integral part of Joint, Interagency and Multinational Maritime Expeditionary Forces. It supports Marine Air/Ground Task Force requirements, from smallscale contingency operations to Expeditionary Strike Group operations to forcible entry missions in major theaters of war.

"The sailors who make up Team Tripoli really are the best the Navy has to offer," said Capt. Gary Harrington, commanding officer of Tripoli. "We say it all the time, our Navy is nothing without the men and women who serve on the deckplates each and every day. I truly

believe that the continued success of our Navy, and Tripoli specifically, is due in no small part to the contributions of our sailors."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

"We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American people every day," said Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs."

Gilchrist has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"Being able to help and care for all of my sailors and be part of the medical team to keep our sailors safe and healthy is something that gives me pride," he said. "I test and run any blood or bodily fluid you could think of."

Gilchrist serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means that I can go to work every day and have pride in what I do, knowing that I am making a difference in a positive way," Gilchrist said.

He said he is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like (to thank) the Barnet family for their continued support during my time serving," Gilchrist added. "They make it possible for me to be able to do what I need to."

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Hood County Sheriff's Office mourns passing of jailer Dusty Wren

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

he Hood County Sheriff's Office is mourning the loss of a "long-time member of its family," following the passing of Hood County Jail Corrections Officer Dusty Wren Thursday, Feb. 29.

Wren, who had served as a Hood County jailer for 16 years and nine months, passed away surrounded by family after fighting a long battle with cancer. He was 42.

Jacob Shelly, administrative lieutenant at the HCSO, said Wren held several positions while he was employed at the sheriff's office, including shift sergeant and shift lieutenant.

"He was a cared for and loved member of our family, and he was very involved in his church, Brazos Covenant Ministries," Shelly told the HCN. "His priorities in life were family, church, and the sheriff's office. He will be missed by all."

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds told the HCN he didn't meet Wren until after he became sheriff, but said he was a hard worker.

"Some people have come and gone but Dusty has been here for a long time," Deeds said. "He trained a lot

of people and helped a lot of people. He never had any problems or issues other than with his health."

Deeds said Wren was diagnosed with a type of brain cancer about 10 years ago and underwent several surgeries.

"When he got that bad, he was off work for a period of time, but then he'd come back," Deeds said. "But then on this last time he went downhill pretty fast. It started affecting his memory, so we knew it was affecting his brain again."

Although Wren was constantly having problems with his health, Deeds said he always seemed to be a "real happy and hard worker."

"He never let anything slow him down," Deeds said.

Wren's wife, Diane, took to Facebook following her husband's passing and said her family doesn't "mourn for him," because he is "whole and restored with Jesus" and "no longer suffering."

"We mourn because we lost an amazing husband, father and friend. He will be deeply missed by many for a very long time," Diane's Facebook post reads. "His brothers and sisters from the sheriff's office are making sure my family is cared for with an unbelievable amount of support and compassion."

The Hood County Sheriff's Office made a similar post March 1, saying Wren will be "missed but not forgotten."

"If you know his family, please send your love and memories their way to help lift them up and guide them through this tough time," the HCSO's Facebook post reads.

Wren is survived by his wife, Diane, and five children: Hayden, Brett, Ethan, Zachary and Hunter.

A visitation was held from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Granbury Church of Christ, 1905 Pearl St., in Granbury. Funeral services celebrating his life followed at 2 p.m. Thursday, at the church. The burial was private.

Memorials in Dusty's name may be made to the Isaiah 61 ministry, c/o Plains Capital Bank.



In Loving Memory

Hood County Jail Corrections Officer Dusty Wren passed away on Thursday, Feb. 29, after fighting a long battle with cancer.

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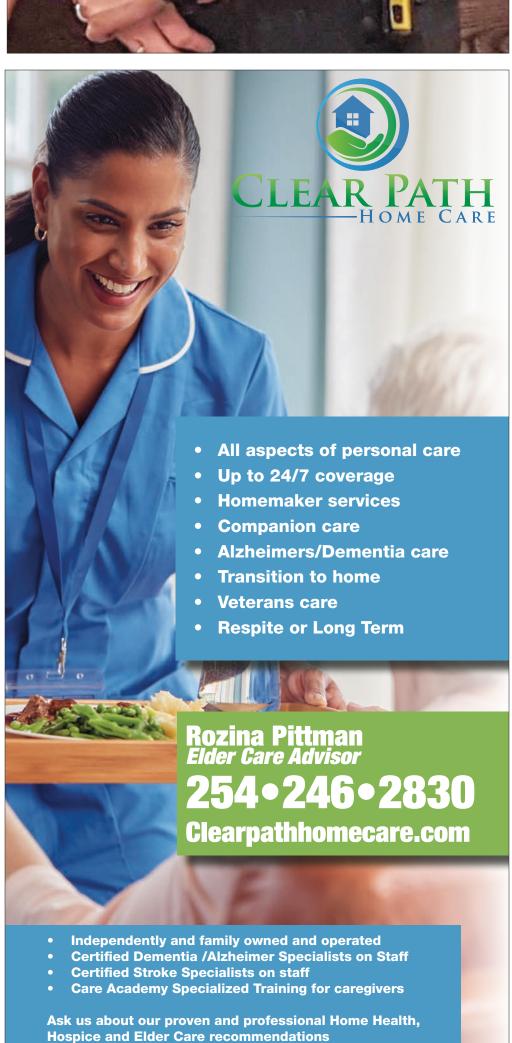
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OBITUARIES

Herman Hollis (Herby) Waldrup

February 19, 1935 - March 1, 2024

principle project engineer

transmission, and engines

of the Model 222. When he

for all dynamic compo-

nents, rotors, controls,

left Bell in 1980, he was

in charge of developing

certification.

principle project engineer

the Bell Model 222 for FAA

He then worked for a

small plastics company as

vice president of engineer-

ing. While in this job he

became a consulting Fed-

eral Aviation Administra-

tion Delegated Engineering

Representative (FAA-DER)

for aircraft structures. He

then started his own man-

ufacturing company HELI-

PLEX making aircraft plexi-

glass enclosures and doing

other aircraft modifica-

tions. During that time in

designed and certified the

first roof mounted person-

conjunction with Bell he

nel rescue hoist for the

Bell 412 and the Florida

Dade County Police. In

1991, he sold HELIPLEX

and started a consulting

Structural Designs (HSD)

designing and approving

copters until he fully re-

Herb and Glenda were

married for 68 years. They

Canada, England, Scotland,

traveled extensively to

France, Denmark, Monte

Carlo, Netherlands, Nor-

way, Italy, Australia, New

Zealand, Hong Kong, and

He is survived by his

wife Glenda and children

Kimbry Phillips and husband James, Kari Baum

Waldrup and wife Miho,

band Will and grandchil-

York, Wade Phillips of

wife Ann of Grapevine,

son, the twins Amanda

1 - 2 p.m., Wednesday,

March 6, 2024 at Wiley Fu-

neral Home. A service was

held at 2 p.m., Wednesday,

March 6, 2024 at Wiley Fu-

neral Home with burial fol-

lowing at Granbury Ceme-

of Wiley Funeral Home,

Granbury, Texas.

Services under the care

and Jacob Whitley of

son Liam Baum.

Ashley Baum of Richard-

and Kelly Whitley and hus-

dren James Phillips of New

Austin, Mathew Baum and

Keller, Beric and wife Erika

Bearnson, and great-grand-

Visitation was held from

and husband Steve, Russell

firm called Helicopter

modifications to heli-

tired in 2012.

Singapore.

Herby (Herb) or Papa was a long time resident of Arlington and Keller, He was born in Granbury Texas on Feb. 19, 1935 to Hollis (Chick) Waldrup and Martha Florence Russell. He never lived outside of Hood and Tarrant counties except during WWII when he lived in San Antonio where his father worked at Kelly Field repairing returning bombers from the European and Pacific theaters of war. Herb was the third great grandson of Amon Bond, one of the earliest settlers of Hood

After graduating from Granbury High School, Herb started college at Texas Tech but soon realized he needed to be closer to home and his high school sweetheart, Glenda Faye Moore. They were married in 1955 after she graduated from Granbury High School. In 1957, Herb had a job with Bell Helicopter as an engineer-intraining but later that year he was laid off; however, he realized engineering was his thing and he had to have the college degree. Glenda went to work to support them and worked three years for General Dynamics (Lockheed).

Herb attended Arlington State College from 1957 until 1959 part time, mostly at night while working several jobs. He was recalled by Bell in 1959 and worked on the second shift in the Engineering Liaison Group. This allowed him to attend college full time during the day. From 1959 to 1962 he attended Arlington State College (later becoming UTA) while working full time on the night shift. In 1962, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering. At ASC he was a member of the Phi Kappa Theta honor society and the Epsilon Nu Gamma Engineering Honor Association (at that time the equivalent of Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society).

He then went to work as structures engineer for Bell Helicopter in the Fatigue Group and later as a project engineer. During this time, he also attended SMU working on his master's degree. He was assistant project engineer on the Bell Model 206A when it was introduced to the aviation world and was responsible for many of the later developed features on it as well as investigating the first six major accidents involving that model. Then he was project engineer on the Australian Model 206B-1 and achieved the first type certificate ever issued by Australia for a helicopter. In 1974, he was appointed



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gap narrows

even though this



July 19, 1935 - February 27, 2024

G.T. Nelson (Gayle Thomas Nelson) passed away Feb. 27, 2024. He was born July 19, 1935 in Borger, Texas to Gage and Audy Lea Nelson. Gayle's family moved to Comanche and he graduated from Comanche High School in 1953. Working at Higginbotham's in Comanche in high school, he moved into heavy trucks at International Harvester, starting in the parts department, then selling trucks for over 50 years for International Harvester and Ford.

Gayle married Billie Ruth Martin Dec. 5, 1957 in Fort Worth, Texas. They raised three children; Greg, Cathy and Joe in Longview and Fort Worth. He came from a musical family. He was an accomplished upright bass fiddle player. Gayle played with a country music band in the 1950s and continued entertaining folks for the next 65 years with fellow musicians and friends. Jimmy Walker and Hardie

Moore. Gayle loved baseball and coaching his boys in baseball. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and hunting with his kids and grandkids. GT was an excellent cook and his ribs, dressing, and fried chicken couldn't be beat! He also enjoyed antique tractors, and restoring tractors and old engines. He once restored a 50s Power Track that pulled a sully for all the grandkids to ride in and a 1950 John Deere MT trac-

In his later years, he taught himself wood turning on a wood lathe. Gayle made some beautiful pieces for family and friends. He enjoyed break-



fast with his Whataburger buddies as often as he could make it. Gayle received his 65-year Masonic Service pin in 2023.

Gayle is survived by his wife Billie of 66 years, his children Greg Nelson (Sandra) of Houston, Cathy Longley (Chris) of Santo, and Joe Nelson (Laura) of Stephenville. He leaves a brother Mark Nelson of Stephenville, Don Nelson of Jacksboro, and many cousins. He is survived by grandchildren; Michelle Atwood (Kelly), Jennifer Martinez (Mateo), Johnny Loftis, Natalie Reed, Kristin Galindo (John), Gage Nelson (Christina), Cayla Limas (Abel), Clint Longley (Meagan). He is also survived by 21 greatgrandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and so many friends that meant the world to him including a lifelong friend, Robert Williams of Comanche. He was preceded in death by his closest ally, brother Dan Nelson. He is also preceded in death by his mother and father Audy Lea and Gage Nelson, and brother Ioe Nelson.

Services will be Saturday March 9, 2024 at 10 a.m. at the Stephenville Funeral Home in Stephenville, Texas. Officiating will be Mike Redd.



Braden Chase Black, 20, beloved son and brother, left this earth for the arms of Jesus on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024.

Braden Chase Black

June 4, 2003 - February 26, 2024

A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church Granbury.

Braden was born on June 4, 2003, in Midland, Texas. He and his family moved to Granbury, Texas in 2009, where he attended Acton Elementary, homeschool co-ops (LBA, HOPE, and F.A.I.T.H), and Bluff Dale High School, where he graduated in 2021. As a child, Braden was in Boy Scouts and Trail Life, danced Hip-Hop at Dance Dreams Academy, and played soccer and basketball with Upwards Sports. He enjoyed going on mission trips with his church to Costa Rica, New Orleans, and Rockport, Texas. He ran several 5k's, placing first in his age-division every time. Braden was an avid reader, checking out stacks of books from the library to consume in mere days, and had quite a collection of his own. He loved video games and fast cars, listening to bass-boosted music, playing with his puppy and two kittens, and hanging out with friends and family. He dreamed of becoming an underwater welder.

Braden was an affectionate young man, and he loved his family and friends deeply. He was the



kind of friend you could call on, no matter what, and he'd be there. He had a contagious smile that lit up the room, and he enjoyed making people laugh. Braden will be missed dearly, but his family has peace knowing he believed in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, and they will see Braden in Heaven one day.

Braden is survived by his parents, Kevin and Jennifer Black; sisters, Emily Black and Olivia Black; grandparents, Randy and Karen Bradford of Granbury, and Rocky and Dorothy Black of Mount Vernon, Texas; greatgrandparents, Maryann Young of Waco, and Ken and Nan Black of Odessa; aunts and uncles. Blaine and Lorina Bradford, Melanie and Aidan Thompson, and Joyce and Shannon Finigan; cousins, Bethanie, Natalie, Savannah, Caleb, Mary, and Micah; and more friends than

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.

TEXAS

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS 1 home to giant cat-

fish in east Texas: 5 TXism: like

and spit out" 6 TXism: "sounds (bad singer)

on a pig' 8 TX Charley Pride's Then Who

Rice: "vexillology (study _

18 refuses to follow accepted doctrine great TCU lineman

22 Texas or Nevada town

24 building face 30 O. Henry story: "A

35 Ranger Juan was

36 big party at the

slate clean' gold in Texas (2 wds.)

43 TXism: "knocked

Pines'

I was chewed up

7 TXism: "useless as

9 a question in 1991 College Bowl won by

16 a Texas pond

Charles " " Aldrich

23 "The Turtle Lady," TX Loetscher

Fog 34 TXism: "chompin' the bit" (eager)

in 1999 governor's mansion

TXism: "wipe the 39 once a source of

(amazed me)

close this gap:

45 Texas soda: __ Pepper 46 ERA to TX Nolan Ryan 47 in Upshur County

44 event at Luling's

"Watermelon Thump":

on U.S. 259 (2 wds.) 49 a fancy speech 52 TX Cassidy ("Lurch") of "The Addams Family"

53 TXism: "__ could strut

sitting down" (big ego)

54 TXism:

55 "the gorge in Mexico 58 TXism: "he'd be to his own

"skunk egg"

funeral" (unreliable) Grande 60 flightless bird

61 TXism: "I reckon" **DOWN**

1 TXism: "at the drop_ 2 lake between Texas and Oklahoma 3 TX Browing won

gold in diving in 4 Gen. Robert_

9 TX Roy Orbison's Pretty Woman 10 San Cathedral is oldest

12 Carson successor

11 worry

20 up-to-date 25 in Smith County on highway 135

27 TXism: "hot as

13 makes amends

U.S. Army (abbr.)

15 TX Roddenberry's

17 TX Gene Autry:

14 a Texan in the

genre:

26 ex-Cowboy Aikman once owned dealership that sold these cathedral in Texas

Cowboys" 19 person from the biggest state by area 28 TX Greer Garson film Worth, TX (abbr.)

29 spliced a film 31 Mr. Houston 32 this fighter beat TX Foreman in 1974

33 problem along

have zagged" 48 TXism: "war hoop" 50 TXism: "beats thing I ever saw' 51 a King Ranch Kleberg

41 TXism: "_

56 Macdonald in 1949 film "Streets of

40 gunslinger Holliday

was any better, I

couldn't stand it'

when he should

42 TXism: "he zigged

Laredo" the Texas coast _ Historic Site TXism: "many _ in Hood County " (often)

How Can Women Bridge the Retirement Ga to the Census are some moves that can help

TONY MOBLY Edward Jones Financial Adviser

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

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



considerably at higher educational levels, it's Mobly still a source of concern.

Women who earn less than men will likely con-tribute 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, com- pared 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 old-er 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

CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS

POSSIBLE TO RETIREMENT PLANS

Try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employersponsored 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 emergen-

cy 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.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 26 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. If you, or someone you know, is suffering from the loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19, 2023. We are Christian based, nondenominational, and welcome all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the parish hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

EVERY MONDAY

PROMISES AL-ANON

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

EVERY TUESDAY

PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S

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

GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK

seminar Sept 13.-Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWater-Church.com or call 817-579-

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEFSHARE RECOVERY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S

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

FIRST MONDAY

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

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

FIRST TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIV-

ERS support group, 10:30-11:30 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 CAREGIV-

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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

It's not history, it's herstory

BY DARREN CLARK

arch has been designated National Women's History Month. It's a month to celebrate the contributions of women throughout our nation's history, and those contributions are numerous. We all know the stories of Betsy Ross, Susan B. Anthony, Sally Ride, Rosa Parks and many other women who broke barriers, overcame hardships and faced challenges to create turning points in the path of our country

What we often fail to realize, and by "we" I am referring to men like me, is the significance to women that this month holds. As a husband of one woman and father of another, my perspective has drastically shifted when it comes to the significance of the accomplishments of women in our

As a man, growing up in a male dominated world in the late '70s, '80s, and '90s, I saw the world through the male perspective. My own

efforts, intelligence and dedication were the only things that held me back in society. All doors were open to me, provided I could meet the minimum qualifications. The curriculum for my history classes was dominated by the accomplishments of men and the failures of other men.

Women are, in a historical sense, relatively new to the workforce, new to the voting booth and new in political offices. Despite the accomplishments of

some women, many women still face the male-centric viewpoint in television shows, movies, school curriculum and policies within the workplace and other organizations.

In the workplace, women are paid roughly 84% of what their male counterparts are making, according to the National Women's Law Center. The NWLC also states that mothers working full time are paid roughly 74% of what fathers make.

Suffice to say, women still face battles for equality in all arenas. While laws have changed to reflect their equality, standard practices and belief systems have been slow to embrace these changes. It is way past time for our society to truly treat women as the equals they are in our world.

Yes, we have made strides in our society. A woman sits as vice president of the United States. We have women in the Senate, House of Representatives, State



Women are, in a historical sense, relatively new to the workforce, new to the voting booth and new in political offices. Despite the accomplishments of some women, many women still face the male-centric viewpoint in television shows, movies, school curriculum and policies within the workplace and other organizations

legislatures, county commissioners courts, city councils, and school boards. We have women judges at every level of our court system. Women are excelling as CEOs, board members, entrepreneurs and in many other fields.

One of the struggles many women face is the expectation to be more like men in the workplace. Our various workplace cultures have unwritten rules that dictate the behavior of employees.

These cultural guidelines tend to be more masculine in nature. Many businesses and corporations could benefit from a feminine influence in the boardroom, breakroom and showroom.

Throughout my lifetime, I have seen many women with different personalities excel in the workplace. They have been powerful leaders, compassionate coworkers and highly productive members of their respective organizations. I have admired many of my female supervi-

sors for their natural leadership skills, but I have also seen them admonished for not being "tough enough."

We must even the playing field to the plethora of ideas, notions and styles that we welcome in the workforce. After all, there is a lot of diversity among American and Texan consumers. When businesses recognize their customer base is diverse and seek to serve those customers in their diversity, they will only find increased success.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

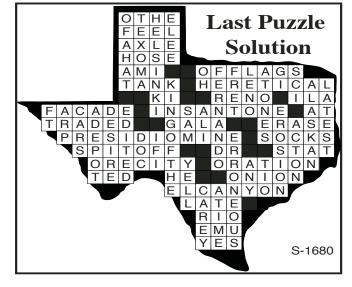
Are you ready for Spring Break?

BY KYLE LEWIS

BRA Project Manager/ Program Coordinator

Whether you have children itching for some school-break fun or are just planning to get out on the water this spring, there are a few things you should think about before you head

First, if you're fortunate to have a watercraft to



enjoy on Lake Granbury, think about the health of your craft before you head out. Does it need servicing? Visually inspect the hull for cracks or blistering. Check the battery and fuses. Store an extra fuse onboard, just in case. Change the oil and filter and check the belts for

What about necessary onboard items? Don't forget:

tension and fraying.

- Life jackets for everyone
- onboard, including infants. • A throwable flotation device, in case someone goes
- overboard. • A fire extinguisher.
- Visual and sound signaling devices such as flares and a horn.

Most importantly, don't forget a first aid kit, cell phone, boat registration and proof of boater safety courses. And remember to take lots of water to fight dehydration on warmer days.

All these things are within your control to manage. Now, let's take a look at those things beyond your control — like the lake itself.

Has it rained lately? If so, be aware that storms bring increased river flows into Lake Granbury, usually moving a great deal of debris along with the water. Debris, including everything from trash to patio furniture to full-sized trees, can injure you, your watercraft or your family and friends if they are in the water skiing or tubing. Waterlogged debris often floats just below the surface, so slow down when traveling through debris fields. Be sure to also

watch for the ever-present

stump fields on the lake by staying close to center-line buoys. The weather may be

warmer, but the temperature fluctuations have not allowed the water in the lakes and rivers to fully warm yet. Be careful if you take a leap from a boat or dock. The change in temps could take your breath away and quickly put you into a drowning situation. Remember, no matter how skilled a swimmer, you should always wear a personal flotation device (life jacket). After all, that's why such events are called "accidents" — no one wants them to happen, but some-

times they do. Plan ahead. If you're planning to ski or tube, don't forget to designate a spotter and be aware of the area of the lake you're



enjoying. Again, watch out for those stump fields.

And, yes, your speed and the wake you generate matters. Remember to *Watch* Your Wake while on Lake Granbury, especially near docks, marinas and other boats.

Finally, leave the alcohol at home or choose a designated driver. Boating while intoxicated is a punishable offense in Texas.

At the end of the day, we just want everyone who enjoys the lake to head home safely. If you have questions, please email us at information@brazos.org.

Hood County women who paved the way for the county

BY EMILY NAVA Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

arch is Women's History Month, offering an opportunity to celebrate women who made history.

It began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California.

The Education Task Force of Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978 and chose the week of March 8 in coordination with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country, leading other communities to celebrate their own women's history.

WOMEN WHO PAVED THE WAY

One woman in Hood County made statewide history as the first woman elected to the office of county attorney in Texas. Nellie Robertson graduated from Granbury High School in 1912 and attended the University of Texas at Austin that fall. She earned a law degree in 1918 and ran unopposed for Hood County Attorney in 1918; she was elected at the age of 24.

She served as the Hood County Attorney from 1918 to 1925 and was appointed by the commissioner's court to fill an unexpired term in

In 1925, Robertson made history again, becoming the first woman appointed Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. However, because since she was three months shy of having been licensed for the required seven years, she was unable to serve in the position.

She served as the Grand Matron of the Granbury

chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. This group is made up of men and women who are affiliated with Freemasonry.

Robertson retired from practicing law in 1948 and died in 1955. She is buried in the Granbury Cemetery, and a historical marker was erected in her honor at the Historic Courthouse in 2015.

Another history-making woman was Mabel McFall of Lipan. McFall became the first woman in Texas to receive a license as a pharmacist in 1910.

Eva May Williams was a teacher who taught at the "new" school for African American students. Williams was the only teacher hired before schools began integration in 1914, when 13 African American students were admitted to the GISD's main campus, according to Preserve Granbury.

Mrs. A B Crawford was the prominent publisher of Granbury News after she and her husband bought the paper in 1937 from A. W Crockett. In 1964, the widowed Mrs. Crawford moved the paper into its current building located at 1501 South Morgan St.

WOMEN OF MORE RECENT TIMES

Leta Andrews was selected for the 2023 Texas Women's Hall of Fame by Gov. Greg Abbott. Women inducted are recognized for outstanding achievement in their fields and for changing the course



COURTESY PHOTO

March is Women's History Month.

of Texas history.

Andrews holds the record for most wins by a high school basketball coach with 1,416 victories. Her career, spanning from 1978-80 then 1992-2014, was a memorable one. Not only was she a successful coach but also a successful player. She was inducted into the High School Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995, Women's Basketball Hall of Fame of 2020, and was named the National High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2007. She received the Morgan Wooten Lifetime Achievement Award the following year. She is a five-time finalist for the Naismith Memorial Hall of

Not only has Andrews had a successful basketball career both on the court and as a coach, she was also named the Walt Disney National Teacher of the Year in 1993.

A documentary of her life titled, "It's All in the Game: The Leta Andrews Story" was released in 2017 and narrated by NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton.

Someone else who put Granbury on the map in the athletics world is Olympic Gold Medalist Dana Vollmer who grew up in Granbury. She was the youngest swimmer in the 2000 Olympic trials at the age of 12. Vollmer has won a total of 28 medals in major international competitions including 16 golds, eight silvers and four bronzes spanning the Olympics, the World Championships, the Pan American Games, the Pan Pacific Championships

and the Goodwill Games.

Vollmer also set a world record in the 100-meter butterfly final in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London with a time of 55.98 seconds. Vollmer announced her retirement from competitive swimming in 2019.

Vollmer's mother, Cathy, owns the Dana Vollmer Municipal Swim Center, a public pool facility located at 301 N. Park Street.

Another female athlete who put Granbury on the map is Jia Perkins. Perkins played for Texas Tech University before being selected by the Charlotte Sting in the third round of the WNBA draft in 2004. In 2005 she was chosen by the Chicago Sky in the WNBA Expansion Draft and then was acquired by the San

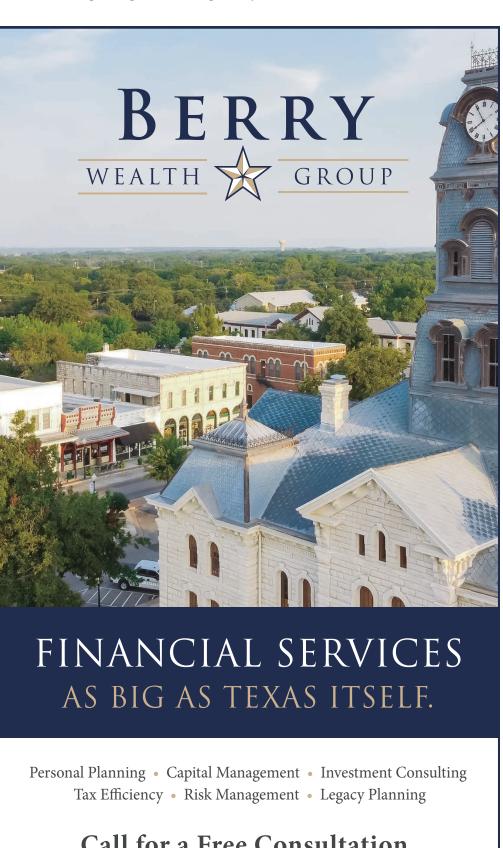
Antonio Stars in 2011. She stayed with San Antonio until 2015 where she was traded to the Minnesota Lynx.

On Sept. 20, 2023, Perkins joined the Salt Lake City Stars of the NBA G League as an assistant coach.

Over Perkins' 15-year career as a player, she was named Eastern Conference Player of the Week in week 1 in both 2007 and 2008, 2009 Eastern Conference All Star, WNBA All-Defensive Second Team in 2013 and played on the WNBA Championshipwinning team in 2017.

This Women's History Month, reflect on these women and the many more who contributed to Hood County, and celebrate the impact they had within the community.





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Texas Department of Transportation and students team up to prevent drunk driving More than half of alcohol-related crashes during Spring Break 2022 involved young drivers (17-30 years old)

Submitted Item

WACO — As spring break approaches, TxDOT is teaming up with college students to make sure their celebrations don't have catastrophic consequences. The Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is traveling to college campuses and spring break hot spots across the state to spread the message that there is always a safe and sober way to get home. TxDOT is partnering with campus-based U in the Driver Seat and student leaders across Texas to reinforce this message with their classmates.

"Every death due to drunk driving is preventable," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We want students to understand that it's easy to celebrate spring break safely. By finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a rideshare, or simply staying put after drinking, students can make sure their families gather for graduation and not a funeral."

In 2022, there were 810 DUI-alcohol-related traffic crashes during the spring break period, killing 44 people and seriously injuring 90 others, all because someone chose to get behind the wheel while impaired.

Throughout March, TxDOT will show the real consequences of driving after drinking as it brings its mobile "DUI Not So Fun



COURTESY PHOTO

The Drive Sober. No Regrets. TxDOT is partnering with campus-based U in the Driver Seat and student leaders across Texas to make sure their celebrations don't have catastrophic consequences.

House" and video exhibit to college campuses and key spring break locations. The mobile exhibit lets people

experience the effects of alcohol and the dangers associated with driving under the influence.

TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-ofmouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the

wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.











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GRANBURY ★ CRESSON ★ TOLAR ★ LIPAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

Mom's battle inspired Pirates hoops star



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

BY RICK MAUCH Special to the Hood County News

Anyone who's ever seen Kensington Colston on a basketball court knows what a fierce competitor he is. Whatever the situation calls for, he's the go-to guy, be it scoring a clutch basket, grabbing a key rebound, dishing out an assist, making a steal or simply making the night miserable for an opponent.

He learned it from his

When he was young he watched as she battled breast cancer and won, going on to watch her son do great things on the basketball court.

"It taught me how to have a tenacious mindset, which translated into basketball and what is a big reason for my success throughout my career," Colston said.

Like her son, she was also an athlete, a state-qualifying high jumper.

FROM GRIDIRON DREAMS TO HOOPS SUCCESS

For someone with aspirations of playing football,

PLEASE SEE COLSTON | B2

Godley ISD school board calls May bond election

Staff Report

Godley ISD board of trustees called a bond election for the May 4 ballot during a special meeting Feb. 7, at Godley High School. If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the district will build a new elementary school, renovate and expand Godley Middle School and build a new auditorium.

Registered voters residing within Godley ISD boundaries will be asked to consider a \$365,000,000 proposal that will provide funding for: new facilities, repair and maintenance of existing facilities, safety and security upgrades, technology

infrastructure, and expanded space for students to participate in fine arts and agriculture programs.

Kensington Colston during the game against the Rider Raiders Jan. 1 at Granbury High School.

All projects in the proposal are planned to meet the needs of a growing student population. Conservative estimates suggest Godley ISD's enrollment will increase from 3,000 students to more than 4,000 students in the next five years. The bond proposal calls for a new elementary school and an addition at the middle school to create space for more than 1,000 additional students.

In May 2023, voters rejected an \$889 million dollar proposal that would have provided space for an additional 5,000 students. Last October, the ISD's Long Range Facility Planning Committee went back to work developing a new proposal. Its new recommendation addresses imminent growth in middle and elementary grades and critical maintenance and renovations of existing facilities. The recommendation also includes a new transportation center and buses, a district-wide auditorium to be constructed at Godley High School and an expansion of the Ag Project Center. Financial experts have con-

firmed GISD will be able to repay \$365 million in bonds with no change to the \$0.50

debt service tax rate. "I am grateful for the action our school board took to address the growing population in the Godley community," Superintendent Dr. Rich Dear said. "Some people don't realize that the boundaries of our district cover more than 122 square miles in three counties. This plan will help us stay just ahead of the growth that is coming our way."

Godley residents will vote on the propositions during early voting, set for April 22-30, and on Election Day,

Saturday, May 4.

BOND PROJECTS PROPOSED

- Build a new elementary school (740 student capacity)
- Renovate and expand Godley Middle School (increase capacity from 550 to 1.200 students)
- Renovate R.B. Godley Elementary School
- Renovate Legacy
- Elementary School • Build a new transportation facility
- Purchase new school
- Improve safety and secu-
- rity infrastructure Improve technology

- Build a special education classroom addition at Godley High School
- Pave The WILD parking
- Replace major building components at Godley Sixth Grade Campus
- Build a new district-wide auditorium at GHS
- Expand the Ag Project Center to include more animal bays and restrooms for ag and tennis
- Purchase land for future schools

Project details are available for review at www.godlevisdbond.com.

A 'turning point' in local history

Student History Fair results in record number of entries

BY ASHLEY TERRY Staff Writer

ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County students showed their pride in Texas with a record 171 entries for the Student Texas History Fair this year.

The Student Texas History Fair is an event held every year around Texas' Independence Day to promote Texas education and appreciation in the local community.

The annual event is sponsored by the Texas Heroes Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the mission to educate individuals of all ages about the history of the state of Texas in order to preserve its accuracy, encourage appreciation for its richness, and raise funds to accomplish these goals, according to texasheroesfoundation.org.

"For the past 11 years our foundation has held a Student Texas History Fair to celebrate Texas' Independence Day for students across North Texas in grades 3-12," Student History Fair Coordinator Heather Flannery told the Hood County News. "Over the years we have awarded over \$40,000 to students who have entered and won."

Flannery explained that this year, the theme was "Turning Points in Texas History." Students created projects in five categories (artwork, exhibit, research paper, creative writing and performing arts) with themes spanning Texas history from the Caddo Indians and the Texas Rangers all the way to the Astrodome and Lady Bird Johnson.

After working on their

projects for the past several weeks, the students attended the Student Texas History Fair Award Ceremony Friday, March 1, where awards were given for first, second and third place in each category, along with a cash prize.

The award ceremony kicked off with a message from Texas Heroes Foundation President Gary Foreman, who commented that he could feel the energy and love for Texas history as students were bringing their projects into the Acton United Methodist Church.

'I ran into a number of kids and parents in the several days that the exhibits were coming in, and I have to tell you, I'm so proud of all of you for your efforts," he said. "Our mission is to bring history to life. Our mission is to get you excited about the Texas you live in, so every-



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Students with entries in the exhibit category pose with their award certificates from the Texas Heroes Foundation's Student History Fair on Friday, March 1.

thing that we do at the Texas Heroes Foundation is to create more awareness of the great legacy of what we've left behind. But we don't want to just have you know about the past; we want the

past to have an impact on you as you move into the present and the future."

Foreman then introduced Judge Bryan Bufkin, who served as the master of ceremonies for the award

ceremony.

'This is my third time hosting this event, and I love this event," Bufkin said, dur-

PLEASE SEE TEXAS | B4



GRANBURY ISD JOB FAIR

Saturday, April 6, 2024 • 9 AM - 1 PM GISD Administration Building - 217 N. Jones St. Learn more at: granburyisd.org/jobfair



Brawner teachers recognized at national level

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Three Brawner Elementary School teachers were recognized for their classroom practices at the National Best Practices Conference in

"This conference brings the "Best Instructional Practices" for all educators and programs such as bilingual, ESL, gifted and talented, special education, core content, early childhood and technology," the NBPC website states. "The conference provides an opportunity for teachers, administrators and support staff to unite and discover effective strategies not only within their specific programs but also through cross-pollination of ideas among different education domains."

Third grade teacher Veronica Barragan, fourth grade teacher Mary Hernandez and fifth grade teacher Karina Rodriguez presented their practices using the Gomez and Gomez Dual Language Model based on Dr. Richard Gomez' 29 best practices. These practices outline that all instruction should be challenging, interactive and authentic.

"It is a lot of hard work and dedication to follow the Gomez and Gomez Model. You have to have specific requirements to meet this model such as content boards, writing journals, student-generated alphabet, word wall, and follow language of the day and instruction. The components for this model are not easy to follow with fidelity," the teachers shared. "Some of



Pictured left to right is Veronica Barragan, Mary Hernandez and Karina Rodriguez who were chosen to present at the National Best Practices Conference in Dallas.

the challenges that students in the dual language program face are them learning their second language, while still maintaining their native language. Dual language is not a program that will replace their first language, but instead will help them become proficient in their second language while still maintaining their first language."

The dual language program at Brawner works to help students be bilingual, biliterate and bicultural. English, language arts and math are taught in English, while social studies, Spanish language and science are taught in Spanish. Once a bilingual and biliterate student learns new concepts in a language, they are able to transfer the information in the opposite language learned.

The teachers were selected by both the GISD administration and Gomez to present at the conference. This was the first time for the teachers to present at this conference.

"Based on his last visit to our campus, the three of us showed exploratory growth by following his dual language model in our classrooms," Rodriguez shared. "Basically, our classrooms are student or teacher generated. For example, our students create our alphabet walls in Spanish and English twice a year. Each letter has a small drawing and a handwritten paragraph about the word which represents each letter of the alphabet. Our word walls are also in Spanish and English. We add five words per day in each language," the three teachers shared.

Gomez gave Barragan an exemplary rating after his visit while Hernandez and Rodriguez received honorable designations.

An exemplary rating means the Gomez and Gomez model is being followed 100% in the areas of Dual Language Classroom Environment and Instructional Process and Student learning. Honorable designation means you are following the model nearly

100%, with one or two things needing improvement.

Barragan had been given an Honorary Mention status, which was unexpected, after he visited her classroom last vear.

"This year I worked hard not to lose my Honorary Mention status," Barragan shared with the HCN. At the start of each new school year, I have been comparing my previous observations to working on my weak spots. Last November, Dr. Gomez put his little star on my observation sheet again. I was very excited! I had reached my goal to maintain it, but that wasn't final."

He then wrote on her sheet naming her classroom exemplary, which Barragan says is an honor.

Barragan, who was born in California and moved to Mexico at the age of 14, had to do her best to learn the language.

'I know the struggles these children go through because I lived it," Barragan noted. "I found myself in a sink or swim situation and I chose to swim... As a student of a dual language program, it is important that they make progress in squaring the English language as level as possible with their native language in reading, writing, listening and speaking."

Rodriguez, who is teaching dual language for her first year, has been attending Gomez and Gomez training for the last three years.

"It means a lot to me to get an honorable designation," Rodriguez shared. "I felt proud of my students to know their teacher was going to a convention to present our best practices with their student work."

Rodriguez shared that previously, she was the only Spanish speaker at her former district and was able to help countless students grow. It was from this she pursued certification in bilingual education.

"I love empowering students and helping families be more involved with the school," Rodriguez shared.

Hernandez, a second-year teacher and first year dual language teacher, shared that the designation "not only honors the work that I do but also the hard work my students put in my classroom," Hernandez said. "Without them, this recognition would not have been possible to achieve."

COLSTON FROM PAGE B1

Colston turned out to be a great basketball player.

Colston recently wrapped up his senior season with the Granbury Pirates, leading them to back-to-back postseason appearances. That's something the Pirates had not accomplished in many years.

"I began playing basketball at the age of 4. Originally my dream was to play football for the University of Oklahoma, but when I first picked up a basketball I was instantly drawn to the game," Colston said.

It's understandable why he was drawn to football. After all, his father won a high school state championship playing quarterback in Oklahoma.

But the basketball court is where Colston knows he belongs. And he has a good chance at playing in college, having been recruited by several schools, including the likes of Abilene Christian University, University of Texas Arlington, Texas A&M Commerce and Lamar University.

"As of right now I'm still undecided, but hope to make a decision fairly soon," he

Colston's senior season included a major milestone. He surpassed the 1,000-point mark in scoring in his high school career.

"That was very important to me, because not many people get to accomplish such a thing," he said. "I found out after playing Justin Northwest from coach (David) Breazeale and the rest of the

Colston also became the Pirates' all-time career assists leader this season with 494.

TRAVELING MAN

Colston's high school career started at Tolar. He played his freshman season there.

Competing in the same district as perennial state power Lipan and always tough Poolville, he helped the Rattlers reach the second round of the Class 2A playoffs. They tied with Poolville for second in district to earn the postseason berth.

But with the family living in Granbury and a desire to face larger competition, he transferred to GHS as a sophomore and has been making an impact ever since.

"The reason I transferred

was ultimately to play for a bigger school, and having lived in Granbury throughout my time in Tolar we believed it was easier on the family as a whole to limit the drive," he said. "I am still close with a few people (in Tolar), some who I will never forget and still talk to on a regular

Breazeale welcomed him with open arms. Together, they guided the program to its best pair of seasons in quite a while, sending the now retired coach out in memorable fashion.

basis."

"KC is one of those obsessive guys. He studies video, watches a ton of games on TV, works constantly to improve his play," Breazeale

The results of that intense study have been evident on the court.

"I feel like my role on the team has been to lead the guys through the journey, be the second coach on the court and continue to score the ball like I have throughout my career," Colston said.

COLLEGE

Breazeale believes Colston can take his game to the next level and is smart enough to know it will be an adjustment. However, making adjustments has been a part of his success and leadership.

"He is knowledgeable enough to know that college play is a different animal. I think if he can land somewhere, and if he still maintains his drive, he can find himself in some team's rotation," Breazeale said. "Fortunately, for him, he is aware of parts of his play that would need to improve to play at any college level.

"We talk to kids all the time that think playing at the college level can't be that big of a leap. KC knows it is, even at the NAIA or D-3 level.

"So, I'm hoping he's given a shot. Then, it's his job to outwork everybody."

That's something Colston has never had a problem with. Colston plans to major in either political science or business.

SAYING GOODBYE

Like all seniors, an end to high school does arrive. Colston looks forward to seeing where the road to the next chapter in his life leads, however.

He expects it to include basketball in some form. After all, it's the only sport he's ever really played



PHOTO BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** I HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Colston Playing in the Granbury High School Versus Azle High school game in azle on Jan. 19.

competitively.

"I am very goal oriented, so basketball is in my life all through the year. I do not play any other sports and really never have," he said. "I am sad that my career is coming to an end, but I am optimistic as for what the fu-

ture holds. My faith runs deep knowing God's plan never fails.

"I have to give the glory and thanks to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He's pulled me out of very dark times and made me into the man I am



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Lady Rattler Softball

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lady Rattlers took on the Lady Pirates Tuesday March 5 in Tolar.



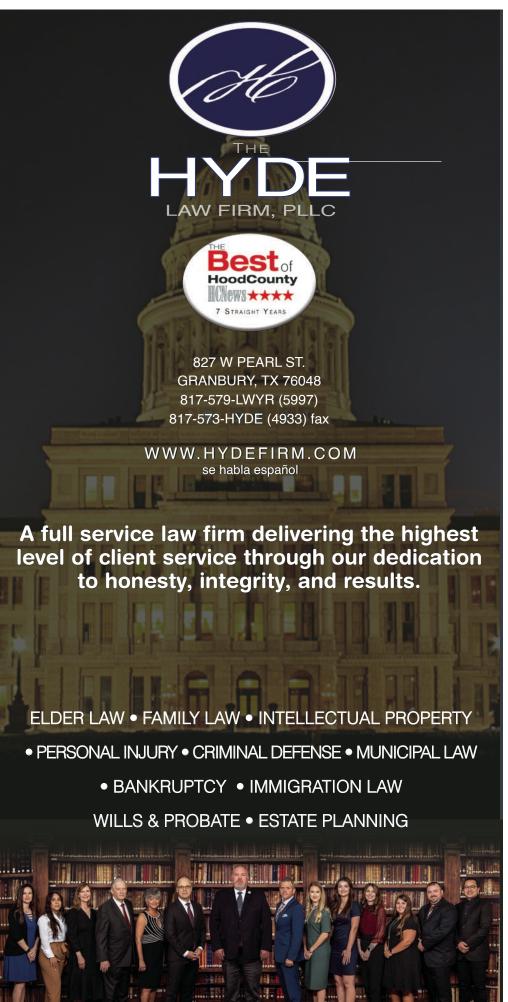














201 E. Pearl St.



Hood County teachers among finest teachers across region

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Several Hood County teachers were awarded the prestigious Jack Harvey **Exemplary Teacher Award** for the 2023-24 school year. Awardees included 45 recipients across the region, including Hood County's own Kristin McClain from Bluff Dale ISD, Mary Peters from Cornerstone Christian Academy, Micheal Beauchamp from Granbury ISD, Kim Castillo from Lipan ISD and Cathy Crawford from Tolar ISD.

The award honors the memory of Professor

Emeritus Jack Harvey who taught at Weatherford College for 23 years and was considered a "master teacher" among his peers, according to Weatherford College.

The Feb. 29 event brought together the recipients for its 28th year where Naveen Cunha was the featured keynote speaker. Cunha was recently selected as the Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the 45 teachers across the region who were honored with the Jack Harvey award. Some of Hood County's very own received this honor.



ing the ceremony. "Part of what I love about it so much is that it's open to everybody that's a student in this area. Whether you're in homeschool, private school, public school, or co-op, if you care about studying Texas history and you're a student, we want to have that here."

Bufkin added that he loves seeing people come together to celebrate history. He said he believes when students research a project, they're never going to forget what they learned.

"Maybe it's my optimistic viewpoint but I believe that one day in the future, some of the kids who worked on these projects will be in the history books for the things they have done based on the inspiration they took from the projects they worked on," he said.

Following his speech and a presentation of "Texas, Our Texas," from Acton Elementary School students, Bufkin introduced the keynote speaker for the evening: Hyde Media Group Chief Operating Officer Sam Houston.

Houston launched into a tale about "The Great Challenges for Texas," as viewed by his namesake, the American general and statesman. Sam Houston.

"It's easy to remember the heroes in (the Battle of) San jacinto, the Crocketts, the Rusks . . . but I assure you, the everyday man and woman who faced declining environment, the weather, the settlers, and Santa Anna, they are the true heroes," Houston said, as he started to conclude his speech. "As

I leave you today, especially young people, I want you to pause and reflect on the brave men and women who fought and died to keep Texas. Remember forever that the heritage, the blood of those brave men and women are part of you. And most of all, always remember, of all the people on God's green earth, you have the honor and the privilege of saying that you are a Texan. God bless you and God bless our sacred Texas."

Bufkin then introduced the award presentation and explained that the judges — Dan Vanderburg, Ron Sutton, Kathy Hanlon and Barbara Sutton — were selected by a committee from historically-minded groups in the surrounding community and region.

"Tonight, we're proud to recognize and honor those deserving students whose work has been selected by our panel of judges based on the rubric for their particular category," Bufkin said. "I can tell you that our judges take this very seriously and that they worked very hard. I can also tell you that our judges are very impressed, and that all the students made it very hard for them to choose the winners of these candidates because you all did such a great job."

When Bufkin introduced Flannery, she started off by saying how it's been an honor to serve as the committee chairperson of the Student History Fair for the past six

"As a teacher, I know how important it is to engage students in learning so they can find the joy and the independent drive to want to learn more," she said. "I've seen

how excited these kids get when they are working on a fun project, and I've enjoyed speaking to them during the intake and learning about how they develop their projects. Students, thank you for having the courage and taking the time to participate in this year's history fair. Regardless of whether you win an award, you should all feel rewarded for learning more about our state's rich history and gaining knowledge about turning points that changed who we are and where we're from. I hope you will feel inspired to continue learning about what makes Texas so wonderful."

The winners for each category were announced, with Flannery explaining that in each category, project entries are judged on the same overarching merits of historical quality in relation to this year's theme, clarity of the presentation, and compliance.

Third place in each category received \$50, second place received \$75, and first place received \$100. The group award given to students in each category and level received \$50. Senior scholarship winners received \$500, and the People's Choice Award winner received \$100.

The Student History Fair winners are listed below according to category and grade level:

RESEARCH PAPERS:

• ELEMENTARY:

1. Jonathan Gibson, Home-school

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Noah Gibson,

Home-school

2. Erin Huebinger, Acton



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

During the award ceremony, Sam Houston, chief operating officer for Hyde Media Group, launched into a tale about "The Great Challenges for Texas," as viewed by his namesake, the American general and statesman, Sam Houston.

Middle School

3. Gavin Sullivan, Acton Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Emma Farrell, Granbury High School 2. Victoria Brown, Legacy

Christian Academy **CREATIVE WRITING**

• MIDDLE SCHOOL: 1. Claire Dieterichs.

Trinity Faith Academy 2. Julie Benton, Acton Middle School 3. Sofia Ferguson, Acton

Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Elizabeth Long, Trinity Faith Academy

2. Elaina Brown, Legacy

Christian Academy 3. Christianna Brown,

Legacy Christian Academy

ARTWORK

• ELEMENTARY:

1. Liam Burnell, Oak Woods Elementary 2. Avari Logsdon, Oak

Woods Elementary 3. Livi Gordon, Trinity Faith Academy

• MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Jackson Fischer, Trinity Faith Academy

2. Isabella Rice,

Home-school

3. Abigail Sullivan Group: Avery Oelschig, Haley Smith, and Brylee Brooks

HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Erin Clary, Bluff Dale High School

2. Abigail Beatty, Home-school

3. Elaina Brown, Legacy Christian Academy

EXHIBIT

• ELEMENTARY: 1. Lily Fowler

2. Katie Hinton, Oak **Woods Elementary**

3. Dillon Ford, Oak Woods Elementary

Group: Emma Whitten and Kami Croy, Acton Elementary

• MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Liam La Plant, Acton Middle School

2. Annabel Ross,

Granbury Middle School 3. Sofia Ramirez, Granbury Middle School

Group: Xiadany Palacios and Angelique Tovar

• HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Hailey Hensley, Premier High School

2. Christianna Brown, Legacy Christian Academy 3. Fiona Doss, Granbury

PERFORMING ARTS:

High School

ELEMENTARY: 1. Daniel O'Dell, Oak

Woods Elementary 2. Joshua Brown, Legacy Christian Academy

3. Timothy Bean, Oak Woods Elementary

• MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Rainn Sherwood, Granbury Middle School

2. Claire Dieterichs, Trinity Faith Academy 3. Alonna Brown, Legacy

Group: Shae Sailer and Kizzie Fleming, Acton Middle School

Christian Academy

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

Elizabeth Long, Trinity Faith Academy and Christianna Brown, Legacy Christian Academy

CROCKETT FAMILY AWARD:

Jake Gill and Tripp Watson, Acton Elementary

CROCKETT FAMILY SENIOR SCHOLAKSHIP:

Hailey Hensley, Premier High School

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: Liam La Plant, Acton Middle School and Emme Layne Williams, Oak Woods

TEXAS TEACHER AWARDS:

Elementary

Mrs. Tamera Hatfield and Mrs. Kervn Herbold of Oak Woods Elementary; Coach Kyle Sentel and Coach Aaron Wright of Acton Middle School.

"The students took their time to research their projects and create something that will stick with them forever," Flannery told the HCN. "This year we had the most entries I have seen and lots of new ideas. It's my hope that they all enjoyed the experience and will continue to learn more about Texas' rich history."

PLEASE SEE **TEXAS** | B5



Students with entries in the artwork category pose with their award certificates from the Texas Heroes



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Students with entries in the performing arts category pose with their award certificates from the Texas Students with entries in the research paper category pose with their award certificates from the Texas Heroes Foundation's Student History Fair on Friday, March 1. Heroes Foundation's Student History Fair on Friday, March 1.

Texas History Fair

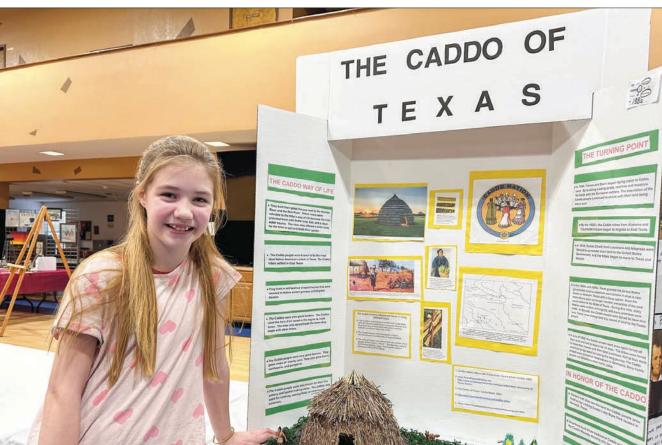
COURTESY PHOTO

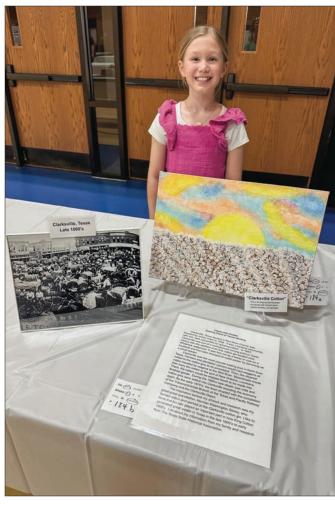
Hood County students in grades 3-12 showed their Texan pride with a record 171 entries for the Student Texas History Fair, hosted by the Texas Heroes Foundation. Students created projects in five categories (Artwork, Exhibit, Research Paper, Creative Writing, and Performing Arts) with themes spanning Texas history from the Caddo Indians and the Texas Rangers all the way to the Astrodome and Lady Bird Johnson.

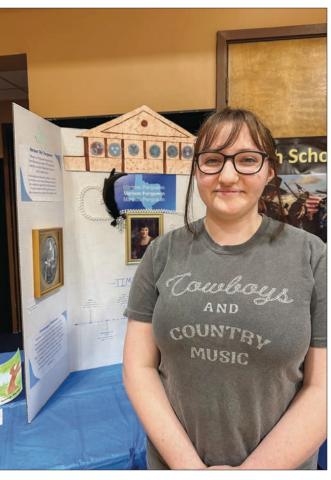








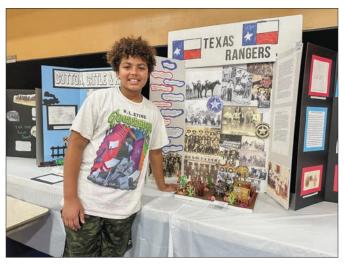














Juinor Halle Carr putting at the Harbor Lakes Golf Course during the Lady Pirate Spring Classic on Friday, March 1.

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

Lady Pirates qualify four lifters for state

Pirates have another strong tourney

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Estrella Diaz remained perfect this powerlifting season and led four Granbury Lady Pirates who qualified for state this past weekend in the Class 5A Division I Region II Meet in Elgin.

The Lady Pirates finished third out of 15 teams.
Diaz lifted 950 to-

tal pounds (squat, bench press, dead lift) to win the 181-pound division, her fifth win in five meets this season. She was an alternate to state last season.

Three other state qualifiers placed as regional runners-up in their weight classes. Deysi Villegas lifted 570 for second at 97 pounds, Bella Garcia's 825 was second at 220 and Kat Goodner lifted 785 for second at 242.

Also qualifying for regionals were Jessica Aguado, sixth at 97 (alternate to state in 2023); Jazmynn Torres, ninth at 105; Angelica Perez, 12th at 105; Karmyn Williams, 11th at 181; Harmony Burns at 198; and Madison Crawford at 242.

The Girls State Powerlifting Meet will be March 15-16 in Frisco.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Granbury Pirates' (9-2) strong start to the 2024 baseball season continued as they won four of five games in the Mike Thompson Tournament played at Southwest and Arlington Heights High Schools in Fort Worth this past weekend.

Their performance included a no-hitter thrown by pitcher Hunter Jones in an 11-0 victory against Arlington Oakridge. The team's lone loss was 2-1 to Arlington Heights, which ended a nine-game winning streak for the Pirates.

streak for the Pirates.
Granbury 10, Dallas
Skyline 2: Hunter Jones three
hits, two triples, two RBIs;
Levi Martinez double, triple,
three RBIs; Kyler Crites two
hits, walk, RBI. Pitching
leaders: Hudson Hamilton
four innings, four hits, one
earned run, six strikeouts,
two walks; Cooper Brown
two innings, three hits, no
runs, two strikeouts, one
walk

walk.
Granbury 11, Oakridge
0: Martinez two hits, walk;
Blake Bramlett triple, two
RBIs; Crites two hits; Jackson
Arnett double; Brazos
Cornelison two double, four
RBIs; Jones home run (grand
slam), hit by pitch, five RBIs.
Pitching leader: Jones four
innings, no hits, five strikeouts, three walks.

Granbury 7, Cleburne 2: Bramlett two hits, triple, hit by pitch, RBI; Martinez two hits, double, two walks, RBI; Easton Bleeker two hits, two RBIs; Jones two hits, two RBIs. Pitching leader: Noah Maderais five innings, two hits, no earned runs, three strikeouts, three walks.

Granbury 15, Southwest 0: Hamilton three hits, triple, five RBIs; Cole Bradley two hits, home run, two RBI; Cornelison double, walk; Crites triple, two RBIs; Murphy Page two hits, triple, RBI. Pitching leader: Caiden Carroll 3.1 innings, two hits, three strikeouts, no walks.

Arlington Heights 2, Granbury 1: Braxton Heffernan two hits; Martinez double, RBI; Jones double. Pitching leaders: Bleeker one inning, one hit, no runs, one strikeout, no walks; Heffernan five innings, four hits, no earned runs, four strikeouts, two walks.

The Pirates are playing in the Northwest Tournament this weekend. They open District 5-5A play at Azle March 12 at 6:30 p.m. and host the Hornets March 14 at 7 p.m.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates came up short in a wild 25-24 loss at Brewer to open District 5-5A play Tuesday, March 5. The teams combined for 42 hits (Granbury 20, Brewer 22).

Lady Pirate Preslee Carnes reached base seven times with a handful of hits and a pair of walks, along with four RBIs.

Also for Granbury:
Montana Bowshire three hits,
walk, RBI; Carli Carlton two
hits, two walks, two RBIs;
Hannah Dafoe two hits,
two walks, two RBIs; Rachel
Venable two hits, two RBIs;
Amanda Periman two hits,
two RBIs; Brenlee Haynes
two hits, double, three walks,
two RBIs; Karmyn Williams
double, walk, three RBIs.

Ellis County Tournament Duncanville 6, Granbury 2:

Williams double, RBI.
Granbury 4, Midlothian
Heritage 1: Williams two
hits; Carnes triple, walk,
RBI; Abby Stone home run,
RBI. Pitching leader: Allison
Dafoe six innings, six hits,
one earned run, eight strikeouts, no walks.

Granbury 10, Arlington
Lamar 0: Williams three hits,
triple; Morgan Johnson three
hits, two RBIs; Bowshire
three hits, triple, RBI.
Pitching leader: H. Dafoe five
innings, three hits, six strikeouts, one walk.

Prosper 4, Granbury 0: A. Dafoe and Haynes one hit

Granbury 8, Highland Park 1: Carnes two hits, walk; Bowshire two hits, double; A. Dafoe double, RBI; Carlton double, RBI; Venable double. Pitching leader: A. Dafoe six innings, four hits, no earned runs, nine strikeouts, one walk.

The Lady Pirates (7-12, 0-1) travel to Wichita Falls Rider for a District 5-5A game March 13 at 3 p.m.

GRANBURY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Led by senior Ella Garner, the Defensive Player of the Year, the Lady Pirates had five players honored by the league's coaches on the All-District 5-5A Team.

Junior Kate Hamlin garnered first-team honors. Second-team accolades went to junior Fayth Frye and sophomore Jayla Hayes, while senior Brionna Johnson is an honorable mention.

The Lady Pirates finished third in District 5-5A and advanced to the second round of the playoffs

for a fourth straight season.

GRANBURY BOYS BASKETBALL

Pirates Senior Isaiah Trejo was named the District 5-5A Defensive Player of the Year by coaches in the league. He is one of six Pirates honored.

Seniors Kensington
Colston and Dylan Couto
joined junior Daylon Webb
on the first team. Senior
Jenaro Reyes and sophomore
Miller Schenewark were selected for the second team

The Pirates finished third in district and advanced to bidistrict.

TOLAR SOFTBALL

Eula Tournament Tolar 7, Cross Plains 0: Senne Imel three hits, triple. Pitching leader: Lillie Uselton three innings, two strikeouts, one walk.

Haskell 11, Tolar 2: Lane Gardner double, RBI.

Tolar 9, Christoval 8: Jorgia Reed three hits, double, two RBIs; Jaylyn Miller two doubles; Imel double; Allyson Dobbs double, two RBIs.

Tolar 6, Borden County 4: Imel one hit, RBI; Dobbs one hit, walk. Pitching leader: Uselton four innings, seven hits, one earned run, two strikeouts, three walks.

Following the tournament, the Lady Rattlers fell 5-4 at home to Glen Rose March 5. Imel had two hits with an RBI, while Dobbs and Kanyn Deaver each had a double and an RBI.

The Lady Rattlers (8-5) host Benbrook March 9. They then open District 11-2A at home against Lipan March 12, both games starting at 11 a.m.

TOLAR BASEBALL

Rattlers coach Lance Alford recently won the 100th game of his career in the Bangs/Early Tournament. The team returned to action this past

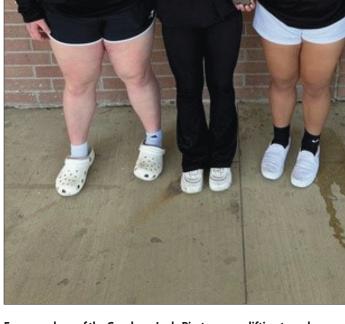


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISC ified for the Class 5A State Meet

Four members of the Granbury Lady Pirates powerlifting team have qualified for the Class 5A State Meet in Frisco March 15-16. They are (from left) Kat Goodner, Deysi Villegas, Estrella Diaz and Bella Garcia.

weekend in the Glen Rose Tournament.

Waxahachie Life 11, Tolar 3: Hunter Michels one hit,

Maypearl 12, Tolar 2: Talan Brown two hits, double; Cutter Cain two hits, walk, double.

LaGrange 8, Tolar 0: Drake Owens double, walk; Michels double.

The Rattlers (2-3-1) are playing in the Walker Stallcup Tournament this weekend, host Krum March 15 at 7 p.m. and host Cistercian Prep March 16 at noon.

LIPAN BASEBALL

The Indians (1-2) fell 2-1 to Meridian on Feb. 29, seeing a 1-0 lead slip away in the final inning. Hunter Mills had two hits for Lipan and Trew Phillips doubled. Phillips pitched 5.2 innings, gave up five hits, no earned runs, struck out eight and walked three.

Lipan will at Cisco and Perrin-Whitt March 12 and 15, each game starting at noon.

GRANBURY TRACK

Azle Hornet Relays Many events canceled because of lightning Varsity boys

3200 meter run: 1. Jaxon Glenn, 9:56.18; 2. Bryan Hailey, 10:15.38.

4x100 relay: 2. Caden Davis, Eliajh Johnston, Jadon Rogers, Kaleb Johnson, 44.06. Varsity girls

4x100 relay: 1. Tamea Busby, Julia Crum, Jayla Hayes, Baylee Goodman, 51.62.

JV boys

3200: 1. Samuel Valdez, 10:57.00; 2. Jacob Wolfe, 11:05.00.

JV girls 800: 2. Portia Dodd,

2:46.15.

Brock Invitational

JV boys Team score: 115 points,

2nd.

3200: 1. Sam Valadez, 11:08.92; 3. Jacob Wolfe. 1600: 1. Valadez, 5:07.55;

2. James Barber. 800: 3. Luis Morales. 400: 3. Andy Debello. 4X100 relay: 2. (A. Debello,

Conner Vanquill, Tahj Clayton, Tony Debello). High jump: 1. Christian Paddack, 5-6; 2. Cade Moody. Discus: 2. Ryler Kersh.

JV girls Team score: 50 points, 6th. Pole vault: 1. Eden Stone,

400: 1. Kennedy Laviolette, 1:05.2. 3200: 2. Kambry

Zschiesche. 100 hurdles: 2. Jina Kim.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

The Pirates (9-9-1, 2-7-1 in 5-5A) lost a home shootout to Wichita Falls Rider arch 1 after ending regulation in a 3-3 tie. Weston Cantrell, Kevin Espinosa and Mauricio Lopez each scored a goal, while Habram Espinosa had an assist.

That was followed with a 4-0 loss at Northwest March

The Pirates and Lady Pirates host Aledo March 19, girls starting at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:30.

GRANBURY GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pirates (7-11, 2-8 in 5-5A) fell 3-0 at home to Wichita Falls Rider on March 1, followed by a 3-0 loss at Northwest on March 5.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates varsity competed in the Bearcat Brawl at Squaw Creek and Split Rail in Aledo Feb. 23-24, finishing in sixth place with 647 (313-334). The Pirates were led by Jacob Reagan's 158 (80-78) and Landon Womack's 161 (80-81).

The Pirates JV captured

second place in the Buzzy Invitational at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle recently, shooting 383. Individually, the Pirates were led by Grady Molder with an 83, second place individually, with Hunter White and Aiden Edwards each shooting 98.

GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF The Lady Pirates Purpl

The Lady Pirates Purple shot 712 (364-348) for sixth at the Bearcat Brawl. They were led by Halle Carr's 171 (90-81) and Akyah Ditto's 172 (89-83).

The Lady Pirates Orange placed ninth with an 878. Emily McGuire led with a 214 (104-110) and Ryli Lewis was next at 216 (110-106).



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITYTM

Tarleton State ties program record with 15 conference wins after victory at Southern Utah

Tarleton State University

CEDAR CITY, Utah
— Tarleton State Men's
Basketball concluded its
final road trip of the regular season a perfect 2-0 to
complete its quest of knocking off each WAC team this
season Saturday, March 2
against the Southern Utah
Thunderbirds in America
First Event Center.

The Texans (22-7 overall, 15-3 WAC) extend the nation's second-longest active winning streak to 10 games. Following a pair of losses by Merrimack and St. Mary's, the Texans 10-game streak is tied with James Madison and behind only South Florida's 14-straight wins. With the victory over the Thunderbirds (9-20, 4-14), Tarleton State ties its pro-

gram record for most conference wins in a season in any league, 15.

"It's a great honor to have won 15 conference games and it has been a successful season so far," commented acting head coach Joseph Jones. "I am proud of our team for working hard and coming out on top when we have been faced with adversity. However, the job is not done yet. We have two more home games this week and we want to keep it up. We want the fans to come and show the appreciation for our guys and how hard they worked this year."

Jakorie Smith extended the Texans' streak to 13 games with at least one player scoring 20-plus. Smith ended the night with 22 points, led the team with three steals and pulled down three boards.

The Texans had four score in double figures. KiAndre Gaddy posted 18 points and a team-high eight rebounds. The WAC's leading offensive rebounder pulled down five on the offensive glass. Lue Williams notched 15 and Adam Moussa scored 13 off the bench. Moussa led the squad with six assists, a game high. The senior has scored at least 10 points in two of the last three games.

ties and four lead changes, the Texans faced an obstacle in the early part of the first half. Southern Utah's Zion Young scored the Thunderbirds' first 23 points in the first nine minutes of action. Young remained in the game for the remainder of the half but did not score

In a half that saw two



COURTESY PH

Tarleton State Men's Basketball concluded its final road trip of the regular season a perfect 2-0 to complete its quest of knocking off each WAC team this season Saturday, March 2 against the Southern Utah Thunderbirds in America First Event Center.

in the final 11 minutes. All five Texan starters scored during the SUU run, ending with a Thunderbird 23-19 lead with 11:11 remaining. Traivar Jackson sparked momentum for the Texans converting on an alley-oop off an inbound pass from Moussa to cut the deficit to 28-26 with 7:50 remaining.

Texans dispatch Thunderbirds in home finale, on doorstep of WAC Tournament berth

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State is on the verge of a WAC Tournament berth after taking care of business on Senior Day Saturday, March 2, dispatching Southern Utah 69-63 in a crucial conference game.

This was the home finale for the Texans (9-18, 6-12 WAC), who entered the contest tied with the Thunderbirds (7-20, 5-13 WAC) in the WAC standings at seventh. Tarleton State now sits in seventh place alone in the standings, a full game up on Nos. 8 Southern Utah, UTRGV and Seattle U at 5-13, and two games up on No. 11 Utah Valley at 4-14. Eight teams make the tournament in Las Vegas, and due to multiple tiebreaking scenarios,

the Texans are in great position if it comes to that. The Texans can officially clinch a berth Thursday with a win and losses by UTRGV and Seattle U.

Tarleton swept the week after beating Utah Tech Thursday. This marks the first winning streak by the Texans this season, as they finish 5-8 at home.

It was another solid crowd at Wisdom Gym Saturday who helped celebrate Tarleton's lone senior student-athlete Teresa DaSilva at halftime. As for the game itself, Tarleton led most of the way, although it was a fairly competitive affair throughout the 40 minutes. The Texans held the lead for 30 minutes compared to just five minutes that the Thunderbirds were

ahead.

"I thought our team showed toughness and determination today as we had to battle through early foul trouble and played most of the first half with our two starting post players on the bench," head coach Bill Brock said. "Our guards did a good job of handling the ball again today and we made good basketball decisions on the offensive end of the floor. These two victories this week put us in the conversation for the postseason conference tournament. Now we have to prepare and get ready for our last road trip next week."

Southern Utah jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead, and Brock saw enough, calling a timeout to regroup his team. It worked, as the Texans settled down and proceeded to go on a 13-2 run, seven points by Elise Turrubiates and five by Lexi Bull. The Thunderbirds closed the gap from there and ended the first quarter up a point, 20-19.

Tarleton won the second quarter 18-12, forcing Southern Utah to go 0-of-7 from distance. Jakoriah Long led with seven points in the frame, and the Texans had just two turnovers, heading to the break up 37-32.

In the middle of the third quarter, Tarleton turned a six-point lead into a 15-point advantage with an 11-2 run over three minutes of action, with five points from Turrubiates and four from Faith Acker. Acker played just 59 seconds in the first half as she picked up two quick

fouls, proceeding to play the entire third quarter and dominating, shooting 5-of-6 in the frame for 10 points with four rebounds.

In the fourth quarter, the Texans held a double-digit lead most of the way, although Southern Utah didn't give up. The Thunderbirds cut it to eight with two minutes left, but Tarleton was never in danger. Southern Utah drained a three at the

buzzer to lose by six.

The Texans had consecutive games shooting well, going 26-of-59 (.441) to Southern Utah's 25-of-62 (.403) clip. They also had just 10 turnovers, a combined 16 over their past two games.

Turrubiates led the team in scoring for a second straight games, pouring in 16 points on 5-of-8 shooting. Acker finished with 14 points on 7-of-11 shooting, adding six rebounds, two assists and two steals. Long totaled 13 points, five rebounds and three assists. Bull led the reserves with nine points and six rebounds. Da Silva, on her Senior Day, returned to the starting lineup and finished with six rebounds and two steals.

The Thunderbirds used a seven-woman rotation and had three score in double figures. Ava Uhrich had a gamehigh 17 points, adding five rebounds. Daylani Ballena finished with 16 points and four rebounds. Shiho Isono came off the bench to tally 13 points (6-10 FG), five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Women's Golf rounds up final day of the GCU Invitational

Tarleton State University

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Tarleton State Women's Golf concluded its first of two events in Arizona this spring, the GCU Invitational at the GCU Golf Course Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Tarleton finished 18th in the 22-team field ahead of fellow WAC member Southern Utah. TSU finished third of the four participating WAC teams.

The highlight of the first round was Mathilde Brogens' eagle on the 18th hole. The junior from Denmark carded a three on the par five for her first eagle of the spring and third this season.

Lou Deltombe led the Texans and carded a two-under, 70, in the first round. The sophomore transfer finished in a tie for 42nd place carding a 220 (+4), 70-76-74. Brogens turned in a 73 in the final round, her best of the week, to finish with a nine-over par,

After not playing in the Texans' first event of the spring, Rebeca Fernandez shot a pair of two-over pars on the first day. Fernandez finished 12-over par shooting a 228 and finishing in a tie for 85th place. Elle Fox and Sofia Rodriguez rounded out the Purple and White's five carding a 232 and 233, respectively to finish tied for 96th and tied for 104th place.

Quedesha Golledge turned in her best performance as a Texan carding a 77-79-74 (230), to be 14-over par and finish in 90th, competing as

an individual.

New Mexico State took
home the team title shooting
16-under par, edging Grand
Canyon by a stroke (-15). Cal
State Fullerton rounded out
the podium with a 12-under

par performance.

NMSU's Emma Bunch
took home the individual
crown carding a 14-under
par. Montana State's Scarlet
Weidig finished second totaling a -11 and a three-way tie
occupied third place at nineunder par.

Tarleton State will play in a pair of events in March beginning at the HCU Husky invitational on March 11 and 12 in Sugar Land. The two-day invitational will be held at Riverbend Country Club.



COURTESY P

The Texans made quick work of the Panthers (2-13) in Stephenville, winning 6-1 to remain perfect at

Texans make quick work of Panthers, remain perfect at home

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE -- If someone wasn't actively watching all courts at once, they might have missed a chance to see some Texans in action, as Tarleton State zoomed by Prairie View A&M Friday, March 1.

The Texans (8-1) made quick work of the Panthers (2-13) in Stephenville, winning 6-1 to remain perfect at home, now 4-0. They also avoided back-to-back losses, something they haven't suffered since the first two matches of 2023.

The doubles point quickly went to the Texans as they swept the Panthers 3-0. Martha Makantasi and Maretha Burger won 6-1 at No. 1 over Victoria Castillo and Andrea Pascual Blanca.

Then Noelia Lorca and Clarra Sobius dispatched Amaya Bobadilla and Cierra Garcia 6-2 on Court 3. Elsa Boisson and Ximena Morales finished the doubles sweep on Court 2 6-4 over Ainara Rodriguez and Francesca Duca.

The Texans are now 22-5 (.815) across doubles play, as Burger and Makantasi improved to 8-1 together. The other two pairs played for the first time together, starting 1-0 each.

In singles action, two Texans shut out their opponents, and the five Texans who won did so in straight sets.
Burger rolled through Garcia on Court 6 to start things off, winning 6-0 6-0 to improve to 6-3 on the year. Makantasi followed suit with a 6-0 6-0

win of her own on Court 2

over Duca to improve to 8-1. Sobius then clinched the team victory with a 6-1 6-2 win over Pascual Blanca on Court 4, improving to 6-3. Tarleton's Adeliya Mukhutdinova played her first singles match of the season and won in convincing fashion, knocking off Bobadilla 6-1 6-2 on Court 5. Boisson took the lone loss for Tarleton State in her first ever match on Court 1,

Castillo. Lorca cemented the day for the Purple and White with a 7-5 6-4 win over Rodriguez on Court 3 to remain perfect in singles play on the year, now 9-0.

falling 3-6 6-2 0-1[6-10] to

Across 54 completed singles matches as a team, Tarleton now sports a 40-14 (.741) record



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton finished 18th in the 22-team field ahead of fellow WAC member Southern Utah.

Congressional Institute to sponsor annual High School art competition

Staff Reports

The Congressional Institute will sponsor its annual Congressional Art Competition which celebrates the artistic achievements of the nation's high school students.

Each Member of Congress may choose to host the program in their individual districts. Many offices ask a panel of local artists, such as artists-in-residence, art teachers, or gallery owners to act as judges.

The winning artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the United States Capitol for one year. The tunnel is the most highly traveled access point between the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Capitol. Every day, Members of Congress, distinguished visitors, and tens of thousands of tourists walk through the tunnel and admire the artwork.

The competition is now in its 43rd year. Each year, a republican and democratic member of the House are selected to serve as

co-chairs. The 2024 competition will be co-chaired by Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24) and Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV-01). The competition is truly bipartisan and one of the highlights of the congressional calendar.

At the beginning of the summer, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol begins the process of removing the previous year's winners and displaying the new pieces to be showcased. That work takes place over the course of about a month. Each picture is carefully hung and labeled with the name of the artist, the title of the work, and the

congressional district. The artwork is organized alphabetically by state and then numerically by district.

The Congressional Institute has sponsored the art competition since 2009. Each congressional office is responsible for getting the winning artwork to Washington, DC, and the Congressional Institute facilitates the process of handing the pieces over to the Architect's Office for hanging. The institute also oversees the annual awards ceremony, which features a prominent artist from the district of each congressional co-chair. The winning artist from each district is

invited to attend the awards ceremony with one parent or guardian. It is their first opportunity to see their artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel.

High school students must enter the competition for the congressional district in which they live. If you do not know your Member of Congress, visit the website and use the Find My Representative tool in the upper right corner of the webpage.

To enter in the competition, complete the following tasks:

Contact your representative to confirm your district's participation and obtain specific guidance. Review the 2024 Rules for Students and Teachers. Complete the 2024

Student Release Form. Submit the Student Release Form and any other required materials to your representative by the deadline specified on their website.

A digital edition of this year's exhibition catalog will be sent to you after the signup process is completed.

For any questions, email info@conginst.org.

For further details, visit www.congressionalinstitute.org.

HOOD OUTDOORS

Golden algae is back again



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.

Unfortunately, Lake Granbury has been experiencing a minor golden algae bloom on several areas of the lake since late January. The impact looks small right now with only some baitfish and a few other fish seen dead or dying. However, if you should see any dead or dying fish, report it immediately to the Texas Parks and Wildlife or the Brazos River Authority.

Evidence of a golden algae-related fish kill is often difficult to track. Large numbers of small fish may be killed. Predators such as birds and raccoons may eat larger dead fish before they are observed or counted. Also, dead fish quickly sink below the surface, which interferes with counts. Estimates of numbers killed are only as good as the evidence available on the scene. The public is asked to report dead or dying fish and wildlife as soon as possible to TPWD's 24-hour communications center at 512-389-4848.

Reports indicate the bloom has moved through the center of the lake and is on the lower ends. The

area in town and north in the river appears clean. Possum Kingdom is also experiencing a minor bloom as well. While the current bloom appears to be minor, it could escalate. A serious bloom could devastate the fishery. Generally, the algae is most prominent in the February to April time frame. The Texas Parks and Wildlife last report on Jan. 31 indicated Lake Granbury had low densities of P. Parvum (golden algae) cells and were classified as moderately toxic to fish.

Fishing reports vary as areas with golden algae are reported to be slow. Other areas on the upper ends continue to report good catches of catfish and sand bass. The caution here is to identify it and report it as TPWD continues to learn how to deal with these blooms.

Golden algae started affecting the Brazos River chain in 2001 at Possum Kingdom. Since 2001, devastating blooms have occurred (not every year) on Lake Granbury, Possum Kingdom, Lake Whitney and numerous other bodies of



Robin Jackson caught this new record Yellow (flathead) catfish weighing 56.16lbs on Lake Granbury while fishing with guide Mike Watkins this past weekend.

water in west Texas and in other southern states. Some years are worse than others, but we do get some golden algae year-to-year. Lake Granbury is not the only body of water with golden algae. You can do a search on golden algae bloom reports on the TPWD website.

Golden algae is a plant that prefers salty "brackish" water (most west Texas water bodies have a relatively high salt content). It apparently does not affect water bodies that are more acidic. For example, the Trinity River basin bodies of water which include Lake Bridgeport, Lake Benbrook, Lake Ray Hubbard and Lake Lewisville have never had golden algae that I am aware

Golden algae is a naturally occurring algae that typically blooms in the winter when the normally dominant green and blue algae are not as dominant. Golden algae in a bloom emits toxins that are deadly to gill breathing animals. It is not known to affect other wildlife that drink from the affected body of water.

It is advised by the TPWD that you should not eat any dead or dying fish found in the lake whether it is due to golden algae or any other

Apparently, our best recourse to avoid the fish kills is a good heavy rain, where water moves or breaks up the concentrated blooms. Golden algae is a plant that requires sunlight, therefore

a muddy lake after heavy rainfall would prevent its development.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures continue to hover in the middle to upper 50s. Fishing continues to be excellent for large blue and yellow catfish fished on the upper ends using cut drum/ shad. Striped bass are fair to slow to 11 pounds on jigs and live bait fished in town north. Crappies continue to be good on small jigs/minnows fished near deeper structure like bridge pilings. White bass are fair on spinners and minnows fished near Indian Harbor and in the river near Tin Top. Largemouth bass continue

to be good in numbers on soft plastics fished in the river above Granbury and near main lake points.

Comanche Creek black bass fishing continues to be good on soft plastics. The warm water on this power plant lake continues to bring in anglers from across the state. Channel catfish limits are common on prepared baits and cut shad fished on many areas of the lake. Comanche Creek will close to the public on March

Possum Kingdom stripers to 17 pounds are good on slabs and 5-inch swim baits from Broadway to Costello Island. White bass are excellent on slabs near Bone Bend, Peanut Patch and in the back of Cedar Creek.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on March 2 (Puzzle 72).

5	9	6	4	3	2	8	1	7
1	4	2	7	6	8	5	9	3
7	3	8	1	9	5	6	2	4
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				Pu	zzle b	v web	sudok	u.com

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Lady Pirate Golf

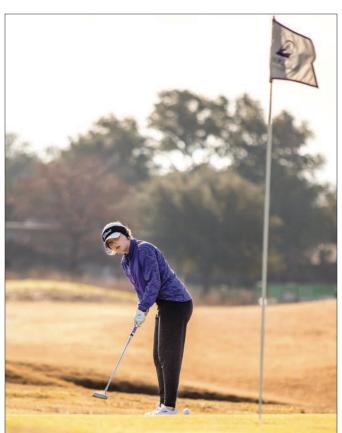


PHOTOS BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

 $The \ Lady\ Pirates\ hosted\ their\ Spring\ Classic\ Golf\ Tournament\ March\ 1, at\ Harbor\ Lakes\ Golf\ Course\ in\ Granbury.$













NATIONAL Meatball

March 9, 2024

ooray for National Meatball Day on March 9th! It's a day to celebrate the scrumptious and roll-y goodness of meatballs. These tasty little wonders come in all shapes and sizes, making them the superstar of dinner tables worldwide.

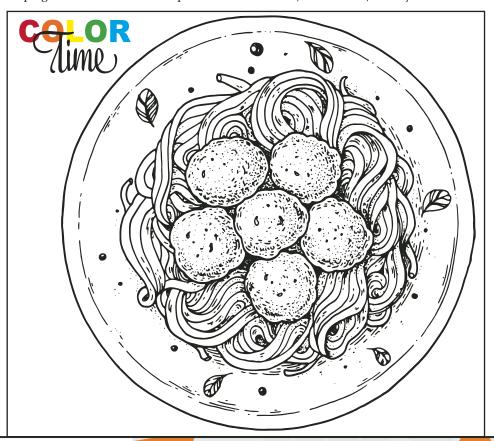
Kids can join the fun by helping make meatballs

with their families. From mixing ingredients to shaping the perfect balls, it's a hands-on adventure in the kitchen. Whether they prefer classic meatballs or veggie versions, National Meatball Day is a chance to explore new flavors and enjoy a delicious meal together.

Restaurants may offer special meatball dishes,

giving families the opportunity to taste unique creations. Teachers can turn this day into a learning experience, exploring the cultural diversity of meatball recipes around the globe.

So, on March 9th, let's savor the joy of National Meatball Day, where every bite brings a burst of flavor and a celebration of the beloved, bouncy meatball





MEATBALLS WERE BORN OF NECESSITY

The truth about meatballs is that they are a clever way to dress up tough, cheaper cuts of meat. Meatballs also use stale bread, extending the meat portion of the recipe. And so, the meatball was traditionally a great way to stretch ingredients and serve a hungry family. Waste not, want not.



Easy to Make Meatballs

Ingredients:

· 2 TBSP Parmesan cheese · 1/2 cup bread crumbs

• 1.5 lbs. ground beef

1/2 tsp salt2 tsp dried oregano

· 2 eggs beaten

Instructions

- 1. Preheat Oven to 350 degrees.
- 2. In a large bowl, mix Parmesan cheese, salt, oregano and bread crumbs. Add eggs and meat and combine, being careful to not over-mix.
- 3. Using an ice-cream scooper (or even a spoon), form meatballs, aiming for the size of a golf ball. Place about 1 inch apart on a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes; flip and cook for 5-7 more minutes, or until crispy on the outside.



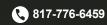
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LIFESTYLE

The 2024 equilux and equinox phenomena in Hood County

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

As the Earth dances around the sun, it brings forth a symphony of light and darkness, day and night, crafting the rhythm of our lives here in Hood County. Among these celestial events, the equinox and equilux stand out, each marking a unique moment in our journey through the cosmos. But what exactly are these phenomena, and how do they differ? More importantly, when can we, the residents of Hood County, expect to witness these events in 2024?

THE EQUINOX: A BALANCING ACT OF DAY AND NIGHT

The term "equinox" is derived from Latin, meaning "equal night," and occurs twice a year, around March 20 and Sept. 23. It's the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator, making day and night approximately equal in length. This astronomical event heralds the beginning of spring and autumn, a time of change and renewal.

In Granbury, with our coordinates firmly placed at 32° 26' 31.488" N, the equinox invites us to celebrate the transition of seasons. In 2024, mark your calendars for March 20 and Sept. 23, as these dates approximate the spring and autumn equinoxes, respectively. These days symbolize a balance, a momentary pause in the Earth's tilt, neither leaning toward nor away from the sun.

THE EQUILUX: WHEN DAY AND NIGHT TRULY EQUAL

EACH OTHERWhile the equinox might be



COURTESY PHOTO

March 20 and Sept. 23. It's the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator, making day and night approximately equal in length. This astronomical event heralds the beginning of spring and autumn, a time of change and renewal.

the more familiar term, the equilux is its lesser-known cousin, yet equally fascinating. The word "equilux" combines Latin roots for "equal" (equi) and "light" (lux), referring to the days when we experience exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. Unlike the equi-

nox, the equilux dates vary significantly depending on

one's geographical location.
For us in Granbury, the equilux occurs slightly before the spring equinox and just after the autumn equinox. Given our latitude, the 2024 equilux is anticipated to fall March 16 for the

spring and Sept. 26 for the autumn. These are the days when the sun's disk, from its first morning ray to its last evening glow, spans an equal duration to the night.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

The distinction between

the equinox and equilux lies in how we measure the start and end of the day. The equinox considers the moment the sun crosses the equator, while the equilux takes into account the actual hours of sunlight we receive, influ-

enced by the Earth's atmo-

sphere bending the sun's

rays. This bending, or atmospheric refraction, extends the day slightly beyond what we'd expect, leading to the equilux occurring on dates different from the equinox.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR GRANBURY?

For the residents of Granbury and Hood County, these celestial events are not just markers of time but opportunities to connect with the natural world. The equinox reminds us of the Earth's endless journey around the sun, a cycle of life, growth and renewal. The equilux, on the other hand, offers a moment of perfect balance, a day of reflection on the equality of light and darkness in our lives.

As we approach these dates in 2024, let's take the time to observe the sky, to feel the change in the air, and to celebrate the celestial dance that brings us together under the sun and stars. Whether you're a stargazer, a photographer capturing the changing light, or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of our universe, the equinox and equilux in Hood County are events not to be missed.

ENGAGE WITH THE COSMOS

As we continue our journey through 2024, let these celestial events inspire us to look up and wonder, to learn more about our place in the universe, and to find harmony with the natural rhythms of our planet. The equinox and equilux are not just astronomical terms but symbols of the balance and beauty that surround us here in Hood County as we spin through the vastness of space.



COURTESY PHO

Gabriellah Willis was born 24 weeks prematurely on July 8, 2021, weighing only one pound. She was so small that her father, Chris Willis, was able to place his wedding ring around her wrist.

'We're gonna keep fighting': Granbury couple lifted by community during daughter's cancer battle

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer ashley@hcnews.com

Gabriellah Willis only weighed one pound when she was born prematurely — at 24 weeks — July 8, 2021.

Described by father, Chris, as his "little miracle baby," Gabriellah was so small that his wedding ring was able to fit around her tiny wrist.

"They didn't think that she would live," Gabriellah's mother, Emily, said. "The doctor had told me I might be having some complications as far as getting nutrients to her, but they said they were gonna do an ultrasound in another week. By the time the other week had rolled around, my feet had swollen up and I was having trouble breathing.

I ended up being diagnosed with severe preeclampsia."

with severe preeclampsia." Severe preeclampsia is a serious blood pressure condition that can develop during pregnancy. People with preeclampsia often have high blood pressure (hypertension) and high levels of protein in their urine (proteinuria). Preeclampsia typically develops after the 20th week of pregnancy. It can also affect other organs in the body and be dangerous for both the mom and her developing fetus, according to Cleveland

"The body was rejecting the baby," Chris said. "There was also a growth issue."

"There was a growth restriction to the baby where basically the placenta couldn't get the nutrients, so she was smaller than she was supposed to be," Emily said.
"With the preeclampsia, it was causing a health syndrome to where all my organs were shutting down so they life-flighted me over to Plano and told me, 'You're having a baby."

Once Gabriellah was born, she was kept at Medical City Plano for the next 230 days, where she underwent several surgeries to treat everything from kidney failure to blood diseases.

"She had open heart surgery, and they went in and cut her chest open," Chris said. "I remember it was the craziest thing for me as a father. I got to actually see her chest open and see her heart actually beating. That was just a very weird experience for me to see. But for her to come through that..."

"They said she wouldn't be able to cry because she was so small and her lungs would collapse, but she did cry," Emily said. "They didn't think that she would live multiple times, but she overcame everything."

Unfortunately, the worst was yet to come for young Gabriellah.

After being discharged from the hospital, she was later diagnosed with a rare liver cancer called hepatoblastoma.

According to the National Cancer Institute, hepatoblastoma is a cancer that forms in the tissues of the liver. It is the most common type

PLEASE SEE **CANCER** | C2

Frying up fish for local Hood County charities

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men that started in the 1800s as a way to help Italian immigrants provide for widows and their families. The Hood County Council, Knights of Columbus 9748, is under St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church located in Acton.

During the 40-day period of lent, where Catholics prepare for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection, the Knights of Columbus Hood County Chapter hosts a fish fry each Friday. According to Ted Cook, president of the chapter, this event has been going on for over 30 years.

The fish fry allows for the chapter to raise money to give back to local charities within the county such as the Brazos Pregnancy Center, Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, People Helping People, Habitat for Humanity, Mission Granbury, Ruth's Place, Seal Swim Team and Special Olympics.

The event, run by 30 to 35 volunteers, is looked forward to by many community members and is a highlight for many.

"We tend to serve somewhere between 250 and 280 people every week," Cook shared. "There are people who reserve tables there every week and they have their friends that get together. It's a social event as much as it is a charity event. It's serving the community, and we really enjoy doing it. It's a labor of love."

Cook, who has been president for nearly four years, joined after he and his wife moved into the town after retirement. His wife, who was attending mass at St. Francis Cabrini, was asked if Cook was a Knight (of Columbus), which he was not at the time. After she volunteered him to help with a luncheon for a golf tournament, Cook ended up having a good time and joined the chapter.

"It's important to give back," Cook expressed. "When you're retired, you always want to find something to do and it's even better when you can do something, and it positively impacts the community that you live in."

Some other events the Knights of Columbus 9748 chapter does includes Coats for Kids, where the chapter donates coats to kids in need to help with the cold winter season. They also help with the local annual golf tournament in Granbury that supports kids.

The fish fry features fried catfish, baked tilapia, hush puppies, baked potatoes, french fries, mac and cheese, coleslaw and dessert. The event started Feb. 22 and runs each Friday through March 22 at 2301 Acton Highway from 5 to 7 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15 and kids 12 and under are

For those interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, contact the St. Francis Cabrini Church at 817-326-2131. Office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chapter meetings are monthly on the third Thursday of the month. An application and interview is required to become a member.

Memorial ride will honor life of young Texas girl

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

Granbury motorcyclists and Jeep drivers are coming together to celebrate and honor the life of 11-year-old Audrii Cunningham who's missing body was found in the Trinity River near Houston Feb. 20.

The medical examiner's office shared Feb. 22 that Cunningham died from homicidal violence that included blunt head trauma.

According to several Polk County Sheriff's Department press conferences, Audrii had been missing since Feb.15, when investigators said she

didn't make it on the school bus that morning. Sheriff Byron Lyons shared that Don Steven McDougal, a family friend, was named a person of interest early in the investigation.

Lyons said McDougal admitted leaving the house with Cunningham the morning of her disappearance. He has since been charged with capital murder in connection with the girl's death.

A memorial ride hosted by Rogue22 MC Granbury, is scheduled for March 30 where motorcyclists, Jeep drivers and anyone wanting to participate will ride in a paradestyle ride through Granbury

decked out in purple. Rogue 22 is a nonprofit club whose goal is to take

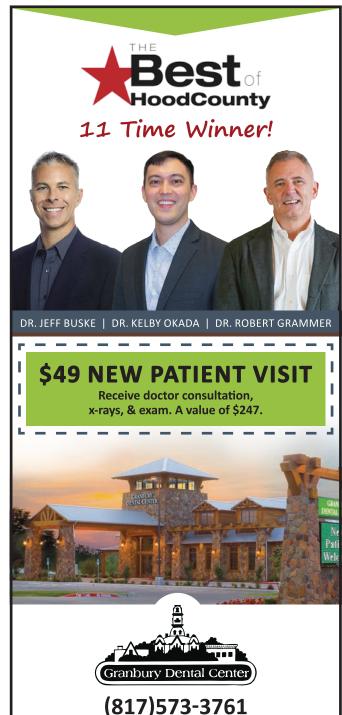
care of the community. 'We are a brotherhood of likeminded individuals, whose goal is also being a part of something that's bigger than ourselves." Aaron Gentry, a Rogue22 member shared. "The idea is just one of many that we try to take care of our community in the State of Texas. The purpose is to bring awareness on child abuse, child endangerment or the loss of a child. The goal is to get out, bring awareness and celebrate a life that was taken away from this world

Participants in the parade will meet at the parking lot of the Benbrook Walmart at 10 a.m. with kickstands up at

The nonprofit has been a part of hundreds of benefits in the past but was heavily involved in the Athena Strand case. Athena, 7, was abducted in 2022 from her home in Parker County by a delivery driver: he was charged with murder after her body was found on a bank of the Trinity River a few miles from her

"It showed us that there's always more we can be part of and help however we can," Gentry shared.

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CANCER FROM PAGE C1

of childhood liver cancer and usually affects children younger than 3 years of age.

"When we first heard of it, we didn't know anything about it," Chris said. "But come to find out, it's a very, very rare cancer that happens in premature babies. There's less than 1,000 cases, I think right now, so it's extremely rare.'

Hepatoblastoma is so rare, in fact, that it is diagnosed in fewer than one in a million children, according to St. Jude's Research Hospital.

"We had finally gotten to the point where we had put her in daycare for about a month, and she got the cancer diagnosis of hepatoblastoma, so that was really hard for us because we were looking forward to somewhat normalcy of at least getting her to where she would have a place to be around other children,' Emily said. "It's definitely been a process."

Once the couple received the cancer diagnosis, they traveled to several local hospitals like Cook Children's

Medical Center in Fort Worth and Children's Medical Center of Dallas but were unable to find the help they needed.

"We did the same process in Houston, and there they were able to tell us that basically the chemo had broken up some of the cancer but there's still some left in the portal vein of her liver which cannot be removed," Emily explained. "Basically, they can't just surgically remove it and it goes down a little bit past her liver, so they can't just do a liver transplant because there'll be some remaining outside the liver."

Currently, Emily and Chris are searching for hospitals out-of-state that can perform small bowel and liver transplants. Unfortunately, most hospitals across the country would require Emily and Gabriellah to be treated out-of-state for at least six months — and even longer for other hospitals.

"Right now, it's been a little bit of a process with the cancer, so it set us back a little bit," Emily said. "But she's done about eight rounds of chemotherapies, different ones, and we're hoping this will be close to the last ones;

it's brought her cancer down quite a bit."

way too soon."

Although Gabriellah is not out of the woods yet, both Chris and Emily believe wholeheartedly that she will pull through stronger than ever before.

"I think our whole story of Gabriellah is sharing a story of hope," Chris said. "It's her story. You know, it's this little girl who was born premature, who really shouldn't have lived.'

"She's a fighter. I mean, she's overcome so much, and at this point, I mean, after everything she's overcome, I think she'll get through this,' Emily said. "It's been a process. We're almost three years in, and I think we're ready for her to be well, at this point. I think that's just the biggest thing is for her to get to that point where she can be a little girl, where she can go to daycare, she can make friends, and you know, just be a kid."

The extra "H" on the end of Gabriellah's name. Emily said. also serves as a symbol of hope and the "breath of God."

She wants to live, and we're trying to help her have that life," Emily said. "I think we're almost there. I think if we can push through this vear, and she gets through the transplant process — she'll still have to have two more chemos — but if she does well after that, she can go back to being a kid."

The biggest help for the Willis family throughout Gabriellah's fight has been the constant and unwavering love and support from the local community.

"The Bridge was a huge support for our family in the beginning and so was Granbury ISD, along with Kudo Homes and MK Homes," Chris said.

"I don't really like asking people for funds," Emily said. "So, we've had people that have just decided on their own that they want to (help) and we're really appreciative of that. The whole community has come together for us, and it means a lot."

Last year, Chris said they also had T-shirts made with the phrase "Ellah's Fight," along with several fundraisers to help raise money for Gabriellaĥ's medical expenses.

"We're trying to get some fundraisers going now for this next step of (Gabriellah and Emily) moving, so our family will actually separate," Chris said. "I'll have to stay here to help run our business.'

Chis and Emily are the owners of Willis & Co. RV, an RV dealership they opened in 2022 and that has since become a successful business even against all odds.

"Our entire family said that we would shut down and that we would go bankrupt, and we would not make it," Emily said.

"We were two 20-year-olds who didn't have a whole lot of family support, and at the exact same time as we were having this premature baby that was really sick — that probably should have passed away we were starting our own business, too," Chris said. "But God has blessed us."

Chris describes Emily and himself as being "ministry-focused and ministry-minded." He said their goal is to open a foundation to help other families who have gone through a similar situation as theirs.

"We love helping people," he said. "Before this, I actually worked a full-time ministry and I was a youth pastor, and she was a youth pastor too, and then she worked for a nonprofit for Pecan Valley (Centers for Behavioral & Developmental Healthcare). We've always had a big emphasis on helping people, and out of this, we want to help more people that are involved with chemo, who have had a blastoma and who were born premature."

While future fundraisers are still in the works, residents can donate to Chris and Emily's GoFundMe at shorturl.at/xAFO9.

"We're not done," Chris added. "This fight is not done. But we want to say thank you for how far we've come already. She still has a long journey."

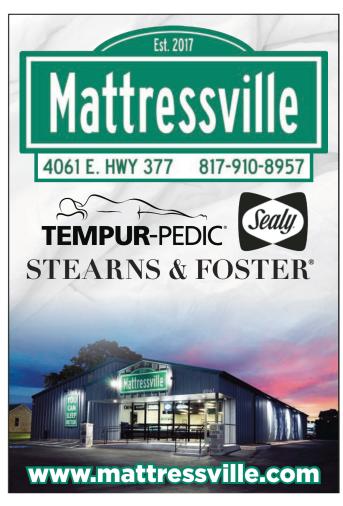
"She smiles. I mean, she's the happiest little girl, and to me, that keeps me going, that keeps me fighting," Emily said. "I get discouraged. I have days that I'm like, 'We're not gonna make it. I don't know what the next month's gonna look like,' but then I see her smile, and I'm like, 'We're gonna make it. We're gonna keep fighting.' To me, that's been the biggest thing is just seeing her smile through it all and being a happy baby.



COURTESY PHOTO

Emily and Chris Willis are pictured with their now 2-and-a-half year old daughter, Gabriellah.







Under the Texas Stars Gala





The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center hosted the "Under the Texas Stars Gala" after months of planning. Volunteers, board members, and staff worked tirelessly to make the event a success, despite their already full workload. The attendees of the event helped the Advocacy Center in achieving their goals and furthering their mission to promote the healing of child abuse victims, one child at a time. It was a night to remember for everyone involved.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS























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Texans on state wildfire response efforts

Submitted Item

Gov. Greg Abbott held a briefing March 5 with state and local officials and provided an update on Texas' continued wildfire response efforts at a press conference.

"As Texas experiences the largest wildfire in the history of our state, we remain ready to deploy every available resource to ensure communities in the Panhandle have the help they need to stay safe and work their way toward recovery," Abbot said. "The wildfires are not over yet, and until they are, it is essential that Texans in atrisk areas remain weatheraware to maintain the safety of themselves and their property. Thank you to everyone across the state and country who have generously extended a helping hand to the many families who have been impacted by these devastating wildfires. We will continue to work around-theclock to ensure Texans who have lost everything have the support they need to rebuild and recover.'

At the press conference, the governor highlighted resources the state of Texas has provided to impacted communities as state and local emergency personnel continue responding to historic wildfires in the Texas Panhandle. Additionally, Abbott emphasized the increasing need for livestock resources such as fencing materials, cattle cubes and hay in the Panhandle. The governor also honored Fritch Volunteer Fire Chief Zeb Smith who lost his life while responding to a structure fire in Hutchinson County for his heroic service, as well as the many firefighters who continue to risk their lives in the line of duty to protect their fellow Texans.

The governor was joined at the briefing and press conference by Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd, Hemphill County Judge Lisa Johnson, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Director Dr. Rick Avery, Sen. Charles Perry, Sen. Kevin Sparks, Rep. Ken King, Rep. Four Price, Rep. John Smithee, Canadian Volunteer Fire Department Chief Scott Brewster, and other state and local officials.

The following active wildfires have state ongoing sup-

PLEASE SEE **FIRE** | C5



COURTESY PHO

Gov. Greg Abbott held a briefing March 5 with state and local officials and provided an update on Texas' continued wildfire response efforts at a press conference.

Granbury gearing up for Founders Day Jubilee and cookoff

BY EMILY NAVA

Staff Writer emily@hcnews.com

The annual Founder's Day Jubilee and cookoff is around the corner, and the community is getting ready for the three-day event filled with fun activities. This free event began more than 40 years ago and is loved by the community.

This year's event will feature over 60 vendors, live music from local artists, a street dance, karaoke, and of course, the famous cookoff. There are 15 cooks signed up who will compete for the "best beans" title.

There will also be a ribs and brisket competition.

Last year's Best Bean Queen was Tammy Dooley, director of Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Mike Dooley was named King of Ribs.

"The cookoff is the star of the show," Ken Hackett, president of the Historic Granbury Merchants Association shared. "It's going to be a big event."

The event will also celebrate the birthday of General Granbury at the gazebo located at Granbury City Hall. Granbury was born March 1, 1831, in

Copiah County, Mississippi. It wasn't until the 1850s that Granbury moved to Waco. He was killed at the Battle of Franklin Feb. 29, 1864.

The celebration begins Friday, March 15 from 4-7 p.m. with festivities continuing March 16 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and March 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All events will take place across the Granbury Plaza, Bridge

For more information on the festivities and a full schedule, see the Visit Granbury website at visit. granbury.com.



OURTESY PHOTO

The celebration begins Friday, March 15 from 4-7 p.m. with festivities continuing March 16 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and March 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All events will take place across the Granbury Plaza, Bridge Street and Langdon Center.

Granbury Opera Guild gives assistance



COURTESY F

The Granbury Opera Guild recently assisted with expenses totaling \$5,850 for the Granbury Theatre Academy during its two competition trips. Pictured is Granbury Theatre Academy President Micky Shearon, Opera Guild President Gari Wise and Granbury Theatre Academy Manager Matt Buetner during the check presentation last month.

Granbury Opera Guild presents scholarships



COURTESY PHOTO

During the Granbury Opera Guild meeting Tuesday, March 5, scholarships were presented to preteens and teenagers who are enrolled in classes at the Granbury Theatre Academy. The scholarships will pay for three classes per student as well as summer camp for 12 students. The expenditure for the scholarships totaled \$8,150. Receiving merit scholarships were front row L-R: Blaire Stanfield, Elliot Hayes, Bella Silva, Tanner Stanfield, Elly Thorne. Second row L-R: Clark Nuttall, Shayla Nuttall, Julia Huggins, Megan Murray, Colby Jones, Lauren Murray, Sandy Strittmatter.

www.hcnews.com

GARDEN PATCH

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners



BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Phvllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.

Despite the calendar, spring begins in North Central Texas with the first appearance of flowering bulbs. Typically, the warmest days of February trigger bulbs to begin their emergence, first sending up green shoots, then sprouting flowers. In March, area gardens are filled with colorful daffodils, iris and more.

This year, 500,000 spring blooming tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other bulbous plants are on display at the annual Dallas Blooms, which continues through April 8. This floral festival inspires countless gardeners to try to duplicate these glorious displays. However, these

types of formal gardens are difficult to maintain.

Tulips, for example, rarely perennialize in area gardens. The bulbs require adequate "chilling hours" to bloom, and they are not well suited to Texas weather extremes. The Arboretum's displays are replanted yearly using bulb varieties that fare best in their trial gardens.

Perhaps the best way to incorporate bulbs into your home garden is to mix them amid other flowering perennials, shrubs and annuals. Plant bulbs in clusters or drifts rather than in rows for a more natural and appealing look. Spring flowering bulbs are best planted in

fall while summer and fall blooming bulbous plants may be planted in spring.

First, select a sunny or partially sunny, well drained site. Never plant bulbs in areas that hold excess water. Wet soil leads to bulb death and disease. If in doubt, raise the bed height and/or add organic soil amendments to promote drainage. To test before planting, dig a hole, fill it with water and watch to see how quickly the water drains. If the hole is slow to drain, select another site. Spring blooming bulbs may be planted beneath deciduous trees where bare branches let in winter sun and leafy branches provide shade in summer.

Follow the recommended depth and spacing guidelines for each bulb variety. In general, plant bulbs at a depth that is three times their height. Allow space for spreading between plants. Set bulbs in holes pointy end up, cover with soil and press

the soil firmly. Water bulbs immediately after planting to trigger growth. Keep the planting beds moist during the growing/blooming season. Otherwise, do not add water. Bulbous plants are proven drought survivors.

Allow the foliage on bulbous plants, such as daffodils, day lilies and iris, to remain on the plants until it browns and withers, which allows plants to absorb essential nutrients. Afterward, remove spent foliage to tidy landscape beds.

Summer blooming bulbous plants such as cannas retain their colorful foliage throughout the growing season. Wait until after freezing temperatures take a toll on the plants to cut the foliage to the ground, making way for spring growth.

Want to learn more about gardening with bulbous plants? Ask a master gardener your questions at the group's Annual Plant Sale to be held 8 a.m.- noon,



This year, 500,000 spring blooming tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other bulbous plants are on display at the annual Dallas Blooms, which continues through April 8.

Saturday, April 20 at the LGMG Demonstration Garden.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please

call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

FROM PAGE C4

port as of March 5:

- Grape Vine Creek Fire, Gray County — 34,882 acres, 60% contained
- Smokehouse Creek Fire, Hutchinson County est. 1,059,570 acres, 37% contained
- Windy Deuce Fire, Moore County — 144,206 acres, 55% contained
- Roughneck Fire, Hutchinson County — 355 acres, 80% contained

Abbott continues to take action to provide all available resources to help support local communities and protect Texans from these devastating wildfires, including:

- Issuing a disaster declaration for 60 Texas counties in response to widespread wildfire activity. Additional counties may be added as conditions warrant.
- Holding a briefing with state and local officials and providing an update on the state's ongoing response to wildfires impacting the state.
- Granting waivers for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), and

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to support a swift state response in support of impacted Texans.

- Directing TDEM to deploy additional state emergency response resources and raise the readiness level of the **State Emergency Operations** Center to support the priority needs of communities facing impacts from these wildfires.
- Receiving approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) request for the Smokehouse Creek Fire and Windy Deuce

Fire, meaning that Texas will be eligible for 75% reimbursement from the federal government for costs associated with fighting those

Texans can visit agrilifeextension.tamu.edu for information on how to make a monetary or supply donation to communities in need.

Texans impacted by devastating wildfires are encouraged to complete TDEM's Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) self-reporting damage survey to help state and local officials identify damages and determine the state's eligibility for federal disaster assistance. The survey is available in both English and Spanish and can be accessed by visiting: damage.tdem.texas.gov.

Information provided in the self-reported damage assessment surveys help emergency management officials identify any immediate resource needs and understand the extent of damages that have occurred. Survey information also aids officials in determining the state's eligibility for various forms of federal disaster assistance. Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not

a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance agency. It does not guarantee disaster assistance.

Texans are encouraged to continue taking all measures to prevent wildfires, including making an emergency plan, avoiding activities that cause sparks, and following instructions from local officials. Texans can visit TexasReady.gov for wildfire tips, tfsweb.tamu.edu for safety information, and tdem.texas.gov to report wildfire damages.





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BY DON NEWBURY

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

We are among the dwindling few who still answer the doorbell when it chimes between sunup and sunset. (If we don't hear it, we can rely 100% on our new rescue dog, Archie, to "bark" an alert.)

Oh, it's not quite that simple. First, we use the peephole to see who is seeking entry. If the person is exceedingly short, the visitor may be a Girl Scout. I figure I can hold my own with her, knowing her mom is likely nearby, fading into the background after pressing the bell button.

When it rang recently, I was reading details of AT&T's "make it right" email, noticing an option in the small print to "accept all cookies."

Wouldn't you know it? A charming 8-year-old, smartly outfitted in her Girl Scout uniform, was there to lighten her load of Girl Scout cookies. Sure enough, there was her mother nearby, smiling broadly. Usually, I buy a couple of boxes of Thin Mints, feeling less guilty when chomping down on a snack with "thin" in its name. However, the AT&T

ad kicked in, and I thought of the "accept all cookies" option.

"Why don't I just take one of each flavor?" I suggested. "Great," she replied, "I'll need to get 'em from the car." I didn't realize there are a dozen flavors. At \$4 per box, that pretty much uses up a 50-dollar bill.

If you're curious, current flavors in our neck of the woods include Samoas, Thin Mints, Lemonades, Toffee-Tastic, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter Patties, Dosidos, Adventurefuls, S'mores, Lemon-Ups, Toast-Yay! and Trefoils. (Perhaps the AT&T "make it right" email softens my "budget blow.")

The AT&T apology, if you haven't heard, was offered to customers who may have been inconvenienced by a service breach that spanned

but a few hours. Viewed positively, the gesture goes well beyond what might be expected.

When's the last time you recall any reduction in billing by other utilities?

It's not even an "apples and oranges" comparison, but a century or so ago, most utilities — as well as companies of all sizes — gave little thought to token gifts, apologetic or not.

I can't shake the idea that

Cross Plains bank directors got into a minor scuffle more than a century ago when they argued over whether to provide paper cups for customers who "dipper-dipped" water from the bank lobby bucket. "A dipper and bucket are good enough at home, and they're good enough at the bank," one of the directors is said to have argued but was later outvoted.

On the subject of "free stuff," that's what Energy Worldnet Inc. (EWN) is offering to one lucky winner on the Internet. The lone prize is a "mystery box of swag." The contest has minimal requirements, merely asking participants to "follow us"... "like this post"... and "tag a friend."

Hundreds have entered, and entries continue to pour in. (I'm not sure what "swag" is, but the dictionary definition seems clear: "a noun identifying a curtain or piece of fabric fastened so as to hang in a drooping curve.")

For readers who don't know about Energy Worldnet, its website provides detailed information. "The company offers platforms for managing workplaces and accessing information — particularly for employee training, cer-

tifications, evaluation data, supply chain management, regulatory compliance, consulting and enterprise management — on a global scale."

COURTESY PHOTO

That's a mouthful, or perhaps better described, a "paragraphful." And, you, too, can enter. You may be running short on swag, or conversely, may have so much of the stuff that you need a box to put it in. After all, those old cigar boxes we used to store miscellaneous items in are hard to come by.

Whatever, I intend to enter the contest, as well as provide this free column publicity for a firm that seems to be spanning the globe.

Should I win, I'll brag about it — explaining, in detail, exactly what I have won. I can always use additional stuff to hang from drooping curves.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

The depth of grief



CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who recently moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky. She has had short stories published in eight editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks.

I especially enjoy writing columns that leave my readers feeling happy and lighthearted, but this column is of an entirely different nature, for we are approaching the holiday season. Those individuals who have lost loved ones find it difficult to cope with such a time of the year — whether their loved one has recently passed away or whether it has been eith own own is som of an entirely different nature, for we are approaching to has inguity in the property of the season. Those in the season is loved ones find it difficult to step year — whether their loved one has recently passed end away or whether it has been eith own own is som of an entirely different nature, for we are approaching to have lost in grieval.

a period of time. It is for this

reason I write these words, either to help soothe your own grief or the grief of someone you may know.

We use the word "stages" to help describe the grieving process, but this can be misleading. This process is not some type of systematic step-by-step procedure that has a definite beginning and end to each portion of the grief journey. The familiar phases of a grief journey

(which may not come in the listed order) include shock or denial, bargaining, anger or guilt, depression and confusion, and hope or acceptance. We are frequently taught that the first four of these phases are bad and not to be focused upon. Since these are self-explanatory, we will not deal with them further. Rather, we will focus on grief aspects of which many individuals may not be aware.

We think of "language" as either spoken words or body language. But in dealing with grief, there is another language — a silent language that expresses a

deep emotion when words simply will not come. This language? Tears — when there are no words to express one's feelings or define one's thoughts. The inability to verbally express oneself during this time may cause some people special concern — especially those with whom language has always come easily. However, this is a very normal response to a very abnormal situation. Tears are a form of communication, if only within

There is a profound solemness about tears, but there is also a strength about them — a strength that expresses

both a powerful heartache and an indescribable love. We may blot our tears from our cheeks or our clothing. But dealing with the blot tears leave on our heart can be much more difficult — if not impossible, at times. Someone once said the

journey of grief is like an unplanned journey into a foreign country because the person is thrust into completely unfamiliar territory that is frightening and unsettling. There are unseen curves, twists, and turns — and there is the feeling of complete unpreparedness in looking to the future.

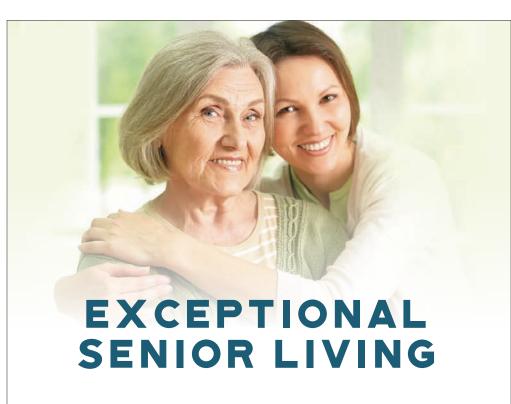
But unlike a journey into a

foreign country from which you will eventually return home, the journey of grief can be a lifelong one, and you will never return to where you began. No one can prepare you for this journey. You may not even be able to prepare yourself. You will have your own individual response based upon your personality, a faith upon which you can rely, the exact nature of the death, and your own personal coping skills for dealing with loss and grief.

COURTESY PHOTO

In closing, we must remember that grief is a messy journey, and there is no

PLEASE SEE **GRIEF** | C10



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Friday, 08 March 2024 - Thursday, 14 March 2024

Arthur The King (PG13) Thurs: 3:50PM, 6:30PM, 9:05PM

Cabrini (PG13)

Fri: 2:00PM, 5:15PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 1:15PM, 4:30PM, 7:45PM, 10:05PM. Sun: 10:05AM, 1:20PM, 4:35PM, 7:05PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, 1:15PM, 4:30PM, 7:45PM. Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:45PM, 5:00PM, 8:15PM

Dune: Part Two (PG13)

Fri: 3:25PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM, 10:35PM. Sat: 11:50AM, 3:25PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM, 10:35PM. Sun: 11:55AM, 3:35PM, 6:05PM, 7:15PM. Mon, Tues: 10:00AM, 12:45PM, 4:20PM, 7:55PM, 9:40PM. Wed: 10:00AM, 12:45PM, 4:20PM, 6:05PM, 7:55PM, 9:40PM. Thurs: 10:15AM, 1:50PM, 5:25PM, 9:00PM

Forty-Seven Days with Jesus (PG) Mon, Tues, Thurs: 7:00PM

How to Train Your Dragon - Kids' Spring Break (PG) Mon, Thurs: 11:00AM

Imaginary (PG13)

Fri: 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM, 10:00PM. Sat: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM, 11:00PM. Sun: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 4:30PM, 7:50PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM. Thurs: 11:25AM, 1:55PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM

Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)

Fri: 2:20PM, 3:30PM, 4:40PM, 7:00PM, 9:20PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 1:15PM, 2:40PM, 3:35PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.

Sun: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 1:20PM, 2:40PM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM,

Mon, Tues: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 1:35PM, 2:40PM, 4:05PM,

5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM.

Wed: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 1:15PM, 2:40PM, 3:40PM, 5:00PM,

Thurs: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 1:30PM, 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, 9:40PM

Madagascar - Kids' Spring Break Series (PG)

Sat, Wed: 11:00AM

Ordinary Angels (PG) Fri: 3:35PM, 6:20PM, 9:05PM.

Sat: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM. Sun: 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, 1:35PM, 4:20PM, 7:05PM, 9:30PM.

Penguins of Madagascar - Kids' Spring Break Series

(PG)

Sun: 11:00AM

Shrek - Kids' Spring Break Series (PG) Tues: 11:00AM

Thurs: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 9:35PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

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DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

European travel update



BY ZAC WILSON

www.hcnews.com

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www. Day dream Vacations. com

Travelers planning a trip to Europe in 2024 need to plan and prepare accordingly. Europe was the top destination in 2023 of all international travelers worldwide according to UNWTO. With 550 million visitors, Europe accounted for 56% of international travelers. 2024 is already seeing an increase and is expected to see even more visitors. There are several factors affecting 2024 travel in Europe. We are now truly experiencing a post pandemic return of tourists

throughout Europe — the summer Olympic Games are in Paris, and Taylor Swift's tour is in Europe May 9 through Aug. 20.

As a travel advisor, it's

easy to see the trends based on where major travel suppliers shift their focus. Already this year I have had meetings with Europe Express, Avanti Destinations and ALGVacations (the parent company of Apple Vacations, Funjet, Southwest Vacations,

United Vacations, Blue Sky Tours and Travel Impressions). Each of these meetings focused heavily on their European division and offerings. They have all upgraded their technology, increased hiring and training of their staffs, added more contracts for preferred hotels, tours and activities, air inventory, and more. This represents a huge investment in the European travel market.

But with so many travelers going to Europe, how will this affect your vacation? Airfare pricing is up, especially for a higher class of service. To stay on budget, I recommend flying economy class. Premium economy pricing is approaching higher rates akin

to business class; first class is now a high-end luxury item. Your best option to secure the best prices, seat selection and flight itinerary for either nonstop or best layover times for a connection is to book your flights 10 or 11 months in advance.

Hood County News **C7**

Top destinations in Europe include Barcelona, Budapest, Athens, Paris, Rome, as well as England, Ireland and Scotland. One way of enjoying a less crowded experience is to choose a destination off the normal itinerary. For example, instead of the usual Italian experiences in Rome, Florence or Venice, choose Naples, Italy instead. Naples is a great place to explore

PLEASE SEE TRAVEL | C9

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-

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

TUESDAYS

817-573-6677.

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

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

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.

SECOND MONDAYS

MEETING OF the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes husiness and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County

Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. 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.

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 hscaggies.org.

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

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

WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

LAST THURSDAYS

MEETING MONTHLY the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd. Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m.

CHECK IN and social at 10 – 11 a.m. Entertainment by Bobby Ray Adams. The short business meeting is at 11:30 a.m. The \$18 optional lunch will be pork medallions, roasted potatoes, broccoli, house salad, break, apple crisp and coffee/tea/ water. General membership is \$25 for single and \$35 for joint, business membership is \$35. Reservations are required no later than Friday, Feb. 2. Contact granburyog@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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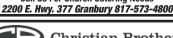
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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul. Psalm 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10



A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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

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254-646-9926 Bible Baptist 4804 E. Hwy. 377

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

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817-573-4943 **Granbury First Baptist** 1851 Weatherford Hwy.

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254-396-5773 Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa

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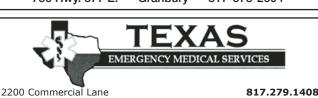
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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope

Jeremiah 29:11







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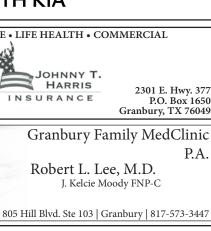


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BOOK REVIEW

Don't run with scissors

Be careful with that pocket knife; it'll cut you. That kitchen cleaver will slice your finger. So will paper, for that matter, but you never give it the same respect you do with something, as in the new novel, "Three-Inch Teeth" by C.J. Box, that sports a serious blade or sharp points.

Wyoming Game Warden Joe Pickett was glad his daughter, Sheridan, had no plans on marrying Clay Hutmacher Jr. — not that he didn't like Clay, but he knew Sheridan had big plans for her own future. She said later that if Hutmacher Jr. had asked, she would have been uncomfortable having to say "no" to the proposal. But that was something she never had to do, because young Hutmacher was killed by a grizzly bear before he could even ask.

Despite the activists who lobbied for the bear's life, the animal had to be dispatched. Twelve Sleep County couldn't afford to have a murderous grizzly bear running around at the beginning of elk hunting season and Joe Pickett knew it, much as he hated to kill the animal. A rogue bear would attack again, if it could.

And so would Dallas Cates, now that he was out of prison.

One by one, Game Warden Pickett had caused the deaths of each of Cates' family members in the worst way, and Cates had gotten prison tats to remind himself of his final mission in life: to get revenge. Pickett, his family, and more than a few people in Twelve

Sleep County would die this week, but Cates needed to do it in a way that wouldn't lead back to him. He reached out to the man he'd protected while they were both in prison.

Lee Ogburn-Russell was probably insane. For sure, he was something of an inventor with a murderous streak and he had an idea in mind that would kill in an instant.

And no one would ever connect him, or Dallas Cates...

For sure, you can say that "Three-Inch Teeth" is innovative. Other adjectives you might use: silly and farfetched. Fantastical. Eh.

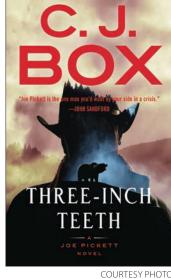
Without being a spoiler — although you'll probably have everything figured out quickly and early — author C.J. Box introduces readers



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Neligh

to a mad inventor and what is basically a deadly toy made with little more than fangs, baler twine and old wire. Yes, one of readers' favorite bad guys is back, but so is a new murderous maniac. Problem is, the latter is a caricature, and he belongs more in a steampunk novel than the thriller you've come to expect — and on that note, well, there's not more than a page or two of thriller. Instead, gruesomeness seems to replace it inside the plot, the end of which may have readers up



Three-Inch Teeth: A Joe Pickett Novel" by C. J. Box C.2024, PUTNAM, \$30.00, 371 PAGES

in arms. Heavy sigh.

If you're new to the Joe Pickett novels, "Three-Inch Teeth" is 100% absolutely not the one to begin with. The best advice for longtime fans, in fact, is to find this book on your TBR pile and cut it.

TRAVEL

FROM PAGE C7

Pompeii, Vesuvius and the Amalfi Coast.

Another way to enjoy unique experiences is to select private tours rather than the more budget friendly shared tours. Personalized and custom options are worth the extra cost.

My favorite way to explore Europe is by river cruise. You get to experience both unique, off-the-beaten-path

destinations and popular cities. I think it's the best value in travel, too. It's a seamless, hassle-free experience in luxury accommodations with all your dining and activities included with incredible itineraries.

Global entry is highly rec-

ommended to minimize or avoid long lines at Customs and Border Patrol when returning to the U.S. Due to demand, scheduling the interview to provide your fingerprints can take a few months, so allow plenty of time. You may need to

schedule the interview during your travel either before or after your trip while you're at the airport.

Be sure to renew your passports now. Turnaround time can be eight to 12 weeks. Currently, even if you pay for an expedited application, the process can take three weeks.

Lastly, I think the two most important components of your European vacation are the travel advisor you use and travel insurance.

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Pecan Art Guild to gather for meeting and art instruction



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.

Pecan's Breakfast Club

March 13 when attendees

author and local business

owner. Breakfast service

12: 817-573-2641.

SPRING BREAK

both gatherings.

READING TIME

EASTER ART

The Hood County

Bookmobile will be at the

PAC parking lot Wednesday.

March 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

An Easter Paint Party host-

ed by Kate Little is coming to

the PAC Saturday, March 16

from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Artists

this family friendly event. In

addition to painting on can-

of all ages are welcome at

will meet again Wednesday,

will hear from Melinda Ray,

begins at 8 a.m. and the pro-

gram at 9. Reservations are

due by noon Tuesday, March

Two happy events are hap-

pening this week at the PAC

March 13 brings a petting

zoo from 10 a.m. to noon,

and Friday, March 15 fea-

tures dodgeball from 2 to 3

p.m. All ages are welcome at

for spring break. Wednesday,

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC when Jim McDonald, an accomplished and awarded artist who resides in Bluff Dale, demonstrates his art techniques. Membership in the PPAG is open to Pecan residents interested in art; annual dues are \$35.

Guild members thank Barbara Brown for recently serving as interim president and welcome Doris Bernier now to the office.

For complete information on the guild and its presence in our community, visit www.pecanplantationartguild.com.

HOLIDAY BINGO

Pecaners may test their luck with Saint Patrick's Day Bingo Tuesday, March 12 with a traditional Irish "breakfast for dinner" buffet at 5:30 p.m. and bingo play at 6:30. Attendees are encouraged to wear green and call the clubhouse front desk to reserve a spot: 817-573-2641.

BREAKFAST CLUB

BY DIANE LONG vas, participants will enjoy games (with prizes!) and cupcakes. Spots are numbered, and signup is required: 817-573-7952.

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 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. Only golf carts and ATVs may hold spots in this parade.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will meet collectively Thursday, March 21 at the clubhouse with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. and President Sandy Hoelting calling the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Following the business meeting, ladies will enjoy a happy day of friendship while preparing for spring with Robin Blood

and Jeff Blumen from B Blumen Flower Farm as they give advice on how to get a garden growing. The tabletop charity for the day is Rancho Brazos Community Center. Reservations are due by noon Thursday, March 14 and may be made by sending email to ppwcres@gmail. com.

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 hold 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.myppwc.com. Attendees are encouraged to don western wear for the evening.

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.

MOVING UP

A new class has been added to the PAC's spring offerings. "Improve the Way You Move" focusing on stretching and mobility to increase strength and flexibility for all ages and fitness levels meets Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants will use a chair, mat and stretching strap to move joints, and the class is great for anyone who desires to move better. All equipment is provided, and attendees should wear comfortable clothing. Sign up at the PAC, and contact DeDe Lamont for more information: 503-572-8840.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

Pickleball in Pecan Plantation is a growing sport, and a beginner clinic two weeks ago brought new players to learn the "ins and outs" of the game." Six "newbies" joined three seasoned players and instructors, and I can say personally (since I was in the newbie group), the teaching was terrific, the play big fun and the company spectacular! In addition to the beginner clinic, the Pickleball Association's annual membership meeting also happened last week where new board members were elected and upcoming events discussed.

Memberships in the association are available for \$25 annual dues, and applications are available at the PAC front desk. Being a member affords participation in social events, tournaments, event planning and the guarantee of making new friends.

Hood County News **C10**

Four indoor courts at the PAC boast weekday morning hours, with a ladies only designation Tuesday mornings and family friendly pickleball Tuesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7:45 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. The PAC also has three outdoor courts that may be reserved from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from the PPOA app or website. The next beginner clinic is on the calendar for Monday, March 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sign up for a spot at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

GOOD EATS

Pecan's Executive Chef Jordan Ray has introduced a new spring menu at the 19th Hole adding both new items that are sure to become favorites as well as daily specials and happy hour pricing.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Fred Stallings who passed away Feb. 23.

dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

"right" or "wrong" way to travel it — that is, unless we attempt to hide or run from it. It will eventually manifest itself — physically, mentally, emotionally and/or spiritually. It can be an enemy that can destroy us if we do not conquer it.

The statement below is lo-

cated in the front of my book and is the tribute to my two children. You may find comfort in accepting it as your own as you journey into the

"I loved you with a love

that knew no depth or height,

and your death will not prevent me from loving you still."

NOTE: This column is a series of excerpts from my book titled "Losing Your Child — Finding Your Way," but this same information is equally relevant to the loss of any loved one. However, the death of a child is particularly heartbreaking

because it runs contrary to nature. For this reason, grief counselors tell us that losing a child is significantly more devastating than even the death of a spouse.



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